

# FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #63.9

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

#### Welcome Back

It has been a pleasure to welcome students back to FPSS this week. There is a vibrancy and energy to the school that has been missing for a number of months. Touring the site this week it has been great to see students undertaking experiments, holding debates and being active in PE, all things that have been hard to do at home.



I would like to thank all students, parents and carers who have supported our return ensuring students are on time for tests and supplying face coverings. Students have shown they understand the importance of following the new protocols around site.

By the end of the week we will have conducted over 2,500 tests. This is a massive effort and I would like to thank everyone involved. At present we have had no positives.

#### **Staying Vigilant for Covid Symptoms**

While I am reassured that students have returned without Covid, now students are back together any cases in our community could impact FPSS. This week there has been a slight increase in cases in Furze Platt and Pinkneys Green. Please stay vigilant and help prevent the spread of coronavirus and isolations by keeping your child at home should they have symptoms.

#### Year 11 and 13 Students

A considerable amount of work has been undertaken in recent weeks by our curriculum teams identifying how they will determine grades for our Year 11 and 13 students. This includes chances for students to show what they are capable of between now and 21<sup>st</sup> May. We are sharing this information with students, parents and carers so that we all

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL EVENTS
SPORTS CALENDAR

Some information for our upcoming events may change due to the current situation. Full details will be sent out nearer the time of the specific event.

#### **TERM 4 EVENTS**

WED 24 MARCH	Year 10 Progress Reports Published
FRI 26 MARCH	Year 12 Progress Reports Published
<b>WED 31</b> MARCH	Years 7 & 8 Progress Reports Published
<b>THU 1</b> A PRIL	END OF TERM (TERM 4)
THU 1 - FRI 16 APRIL	Spring Holiday
MON 19 APRIL	START OF TERM 5 (Week 2)

know how the shape of the remaining nine weeks in school.

#### Take care and keep safe.

Dr Andrew J Morrison (BA Hons, PGCE, MA, PhD)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Governors are delighted that the Students are now back at school and can begin (albeit through face masks, covid tests and social distancing) to get a degree of normality back in their lives.



The lockdowns have undoubtedly been a tough time for all parties and we remain hopeful that this return is not in any way premature and enables us

Cont. on page 2



all to follow the roadmap and put this all behind us.

Some students, staff and parents will undoubtedly be reticent about the return to school life particularly if they have lost loved ones to covid and/or are struggling with financial pressures as a result of the pandemic.

We can but hope that the ongoing rollout of the vaccination programme leads to a speedy economic recovery enabling us to get back to near full employment as a country as soon as possible.

In the meantime, the School Personnel continue to do an amazing job, particularly on the logistics side of things, and are doing the very best they can for our students.

Our Governor committees remain involved in some very exciting developmental work for the future of the school and despite lockdown have made good progress despite the constraints of Zoom meetings (which I for one will not miss!).

We are looking to further strengthen our Governor team in the next Academic year and I will be providing further information on this in due course. In the meantime I would like to introduce you in this newsletter to Michael Clayton as part of our 'Meet a Governor' series.

I very much look forward to when we can meet up again face to face and are able to make use of our fabulous new School Hall/Theatre.

Gavin Tisshaw

#### **MEET A GOVERNOR**

#### **Michael Clayton**

I have been a governor at FPSS since 2016, joining the school prior to my daughter, who is currently a pupil. Since joining I have acted as Pupil Premium Governor and Chair

of the Resources Committee. My career has ranged from an officer in the Merchant Navy, the design of GSM and 3G. project management and now Cyber Security. I also deal with regulatory issues with cyber security and GDPR. I am honoured and pleased to give something back to the school and the local community.







#### **BIG BATTERY HUNT**

As part of one of our targets as an eco-school, the ecocommittee are hoping to undertake the Big Battery Hunt.

'This is a nationwide battery recycling initiative funded by Duracell. Young people in schools across the UK are encouraged to think about the importance of recycling, and then challenged to collect as many used batteries as they can. The aim is for each pupil to contribute to an overall total of 4 million batteries being recycled.'



Any student who wishes to take part can come and collect a pack from Miss Holmes in the Art department to fill up at home.

Students who collect batteries can be entered into a prize draw as long as their packs are returned to Miss Holmes prior to April 26<sup>th</sup> 2021. Prizes available are:

- A class trip to the Sustainability Centre
- 3-year MyMaths subscription
- Up to £4,000 worth of school equipment vouchers
- iPads
- and more!

More information about the scheme can be found here:

#### THE BIG BATTERY HUNT

I look forward to seeing as many students taking part as possible!

**Miss Holmes** 

If you have any news items you wish to feature in our newsletter please email: <u>media@furzeplatt.net</u>

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#### **STUDENT REVIEW - DRAMA**

Swamp Motel's 'Plymouth Point' Written by Alex Wilson, Year 12

On Wednesday afternoon, in spite of the current lockdown, the Year 12 drama students were given the opportunity to experience a new and innovative style of drama. It takes full advantage of the video calls we've gotten so integrated with over the past few months, to create a gripping and memorable event. Mrs Bradley was kindly given group tickets by an exstudent who wanted to share the experience of Swamp Motel's immersive theatrical thriller 'Plymouth Point'.



It follows the story of Ivy Isklander and her sudden disappearance from her residence watch. Participants must work together to follow a trail of video links, Facebook profiles and fine details, to unearth a long line of secrets that builds up



to a truly chilling reveal that goes far deeper than meets the eye.

It created plenty of enjoyable moments such as the realization that the answer to a clue was intricately hidden in the detail and we'd just glanced over it multiple times without taking notice or the smug feeling when you get ahead of a clue and are told it's irrelevant at that current stage.

Overall, it was a joy to be involved in such an experience. It had us guessing from beginning to end and was very eye opening to this new style of drama.

#### **STUDENT REVIEW - BOOKS**

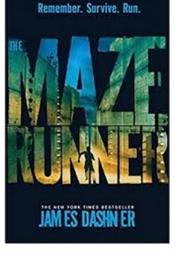
Maze Runner by James Dashner

Written by Laura Harrit, Year 9

#### Genre: Science Fiction

#### General Rating: 5/5

Plot: Dozens of boys get their memory taken away (apart from their name) and when they wake up, they are trapped inside tall stone walls and with some trees. On one side of the wall there was an opening into а dark mysterious maze with vines hanging down and



at night the walls close up, sounds of walls moving is happening and monsters called grievers live in the maze during the night. One day, a boy called Thomas enters the maze. After that, everything changed. Every month a new boy shows up but 2 days after Thomas shows up,

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a girl comes up and no one is going to come after her. Will they make it out of this place called the Glade? A disease has taken over the world and they need to find a cure. Who are 'they', that's for the boys to find out.

*What I loved about this book:* I loved the creativity and suspense of this book. The friendships and love is very catching and getting attached to the characters is intriguing.

*Who I would recommend the book to:* I would definitely recommend it for anyone, mostly those who are interested in monsters.

for self-reflection and understanding how fortunate most of us are.

*Who I would recommend the book to:* The novel is at the same time heart-touching and adventurous. Furthermore, there are moments of violence, peril and sadness, however the book isn't unnecessarily extreme or drastic. I wouldn't recommend the book to children below 14 years old due to those aspects and historic events, but 14 and over should enjoy and understand the book as much as I did by far!

My Rating: 10/10



VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS:

'Health and Families' Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March – 4pm

#### 'Overcoming Anger – Responding with Peace' Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March – 4pm

We continue to recognise the current times are not only a challenging time for young people but also for parents too. Our Parent Support Worker will be running virtual workshops on 'Overcoming Anger – Responding with Peace' and 'Health and Families' via Microsoft Teams.

#### Health & Families Workshop – (19<sup>th</sup> March at 4pm)

 An informative discussion for parents and carers to explore the best approach supporting a family member diagnosed with a learning condition, physical disability,

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My Rating: 10/10



#### **STUDENT REVIEW - BOOKS**

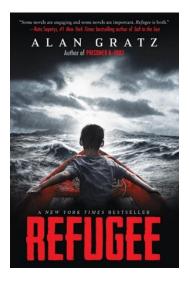
Refugee by Alan Gratz

Written by Lars Cheli, Year 9

#### Genre: Historical Fiction

*General Rating:* 5/5-Common Sense Media, 4.5/5-Goodreads

Plot: Refugee is а historical fiction novel that features three stories in one: Josef, a Jewish boy escaping Nazi Germany in 1930s, the Isabel, a Cuban girl escaping Castro's regime in 1994, and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy fleeing from the conflict in Syria in 2015.



All three of them embark on distressing journeys in search of protection and joy as well as discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together...

What I loved about this book: I came to know this book, thanks to the recommendation of my English teacher. The front cover and the blurb intrigued me, and after finishing this novel, it turned out to be one of the best books that I have ever read. This striking novel is about survival and courage from the point of view of a refugee, with the main characters stepping up and making a change. The circumstances of all three kids and families are unspeakable, and their journeys are filled with incoming danger. The three stories focus on the detailed struggle, despair and risk that refugees went through and still do today, making this an incredible book

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mental health illness, long health conditions and/or the terminally ill

- To promote dialogue, honesty and inclusiveness in families
- Awareness of where families can access further support, information & guidance

#### Overcoming Anger – Part 2 – (26<sup>th</sup> March at 4pm)

- Following on from the Overcoming Anger Workshop this will be specifically tailored for parents & carers on how to deal and support their child/children experiencing emotions of anger
- Exploring Boundaries and the impact on the rest of the family
- Learning how to implement de-escalating skills through peaceful strategies
- Returning to the calm
- Support links

If you would like to book to attend either workshop or to find out more please email <u>Benvenuta.DiBartolomeo@furzeplatt.net</u> - if you cannot make these sessions please do contact her and she will arrange a one to one session.

#### YEAR 9 - FOOD AND NUTRITION



Food styling and presentation was the theme for the first week back in school for our Year 9 students. They had to style a Tunnock Teacake on a plate. Here are the photographs of the teacakes as presented by the students.

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# SIXTH FORM UPDATE

Dear Year 12,

It has been brilliant seeing you all this week and I know all of your teachers have loved having you back in class eager to learn.

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A reminder of the **testing times** for your third test next Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March:

- Bisham/Eton 1:50pm
- Bray/Henley 2:10pm
- Cookham/Marlow 2:30pm
- Dorney/Windsor 2:50pm

If you are poorly or off for any reason you MUST have a parent or carer phone the Sixth Form absence line, before 8:30, on 01628 625308 ext 650

Next week is Green Skills Week - Speakers for Schools has partnered with Britain's most environmentally focused employers to tackle the unemployment crisis. Take a look at the virtual talks and work experience below, there is definitely something for everyone.



New Virtual Work Experience Opportunities Recruiting Now:

#### **BRITISH AIRWAYS VIRTUAL INSIGHT DAY - SUSTAINABILITY** WORKSHOP

Dates: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021

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Eligibility: 14 - 19 year olds keen to find out more about a career in the airline industry. Application Deadline: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021

#### **KEEPING NOTTINGHAM GREEN THROUGH SUSTAINABLE** TRAVEL

Dates: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 Eligibility: 15 - 19 year olds considering a career in government. Application Deadline: Wednesday 7th April 2021

For a full list of placements click on the link below, sign in here to search and apply - some brilliant placements available and really worth a look.

#### HTTPS://WWW.S4SNEXTGEN.ORG/



This is the same company as above but they are explicitly to do with Green industries. Again a brilliant opportunity for those interested.

**Green Skill Week Virtual Work Experience Opportunities:** 

> **GREEN CAREERS IN THE BUILD ENVIRONMENT -MORGAN SINDALL**

Green Careers in the Build Environment - Morgan Sindall Dates: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 9.30am – 5pm. Eligibility: 16 – 19 year olds interested in a career in environmentally friendly engineering. Application Deadline: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021



This is Paid Work Experience this summer. Take a look and see if this is applicable to you.

#### Interested in Paid Work Experience?

#### Calling Year 12 and Year 13 students

Apply for work experience with PwC this summer!

To find out more please click the button below.

#### **FIND OUT MORE**



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**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March**: 4-4:45pm – Lisa Holland, Climate Change Correspondent, Sky News. She will be hosting a Green Skills Week broadcast. You will hear from Lisa as well as be introduced to Sky's The Edit: Be the Change, Shape It competition. The Edit is a unique opportunity for budding reporters to learn more about climate change and use their digital storytelling skills to take action.

#### **CLICK HERE TO JOIN**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March:** 5-6pm – Patrick Hutchinson, Cofounder of UTCAI, Personal trainer, Athletics coach and author. This is an interview focussing on his work in the community and what we can all do to have an impact and create positive change.

#### **CLICK HERE TO JOIN**

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March:** 5-6pm – Experience Nursing Broadcast – Professor Dame Donna Kinnair DBE, Chief executive and General secretary, Royal College of Nursing. Donna will be reflecting on her impressive career journey, highlighting key misconceptions about nursing and the importance of protecting our nurses.

#### **CLICK HERE TO JOIN**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March:** 4-4:45 – Lord Mayor of London, Alderman William Russell. His mayoral theme for the year is Global UK: Trade, Innovation and Culture, aiming to grow global trade, champion innovation and promote a rich and vibrant cultural and creative economy. Alderman Russell has over 30 years' experience in the financial and business City including holding senior positions in the national and international Banking sector.

#### **CLICK HERE TO JOIN**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March:** 5-6pm – Experience Nursing Broadcast – Millie Banerjee CBE, Chair of NHS Blood and Transplant. Millie is a UCL Zoology graduate who has spent most of her working life in telecoms and programme management with companies such as BT. She has extensive experience in corporate governance having held a number of non-executive appointments including nonexecutive director of the Cabinet Office, Channel 4 TV, the Prisons Board, Ofcom and Barts Health. She will be sharing her career journey, experiences of working for the NHS and will reflect on the importance of transferable skills.

#### **CLICK HERE TO JOIN**

#### Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March

This is in partnership with CNN. The day is about standing against human trafficking.

This has been created if you would like to get involved:

#### DIGITAL PLEDGE

You may see this promoted on social media with the hashtag #myfreedomday on March 16<sup>th</sup>.



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE (CORPUS CHRISTI) SUBJECT MASTERCLASSES

(open to everyone, regardless of where they intend to study):

#### MASTERCLASSES



**To explore subjects in different ways** (virtual museum tours, computing challenges, keeping up to date with what academics are doing in your chosen field, etc):

#### **DIGITAL RESOURCES**



OXBRIDGE/MEDICINE/DENTISTRY UPDATE (KEEP AN EYE ON EMAILS FROM MISS INWOOD)

 Oxbridge Conference Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March:

#### **OXBRIDGE CONFERENCE**

Subject Exploration Webinar with Q&A, Fri 26th March, 6-7pm: We hear of super-curricular research all the time – and that it can help students gain a fascination for a subject and bolster university applications. But what exactly is a super-curricular activity and how is it done? Find out more in this session by Oxbridge staff which covers where to find inspiration at home, at school, and, once pandemic restrictions are loosened, at museums, art galleries and elsewhere. We will also cover thinking critically and building up intellectual ideas and arguments.

#### SUBJECT EXPLORATION WEBINAR

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• Medicine/Dentistry Online Courses: The programmes are made up of a series of events designed to support students with their applications to medical and dental school, as well as provide extracurricular opportunities to enhance their understanding of careers in the fields of medicine and dentistry. Events and activities include a three day Spring School in April, followed up by workshops on personal statements, UCAT, and interviews over the summer:

#### MEDICINE/DENTISTRY ONLINE COURSES

#### **COVID-19 WORK EXPERIENCE ALTERNATIVES**

 It gives some suggestions about alternative experiences in COVID world for those seeking medicine/dentistry courses.

#### Competitions for Humanities subjects:

LINGUISTICS COMPETITION PHILOSOPHY COMPETITION POLITICS COMPETITION

#### LAW COMPETITION

UNIQ virtual course applications are now open. This programme helps you explore subjects that interest you and to prepare for University. UNIQ will introduce you to students and academics from the University of Oxford. Eligibility applies.

#### **UNIQ 2021**

Thanks Year 12, have a brilliant weekend!

Miss L Stirling, Assistant Head of Sixth Form

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# MASK UP



If you have any news items you wish to feature in our newsletter please email: <u>media@furzeplatt.net</u>

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#### Contact us

Email: <a href="mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net">ptfa@furzeplatt.net</a> | Facebook: <a href="mailto:facebook.com/fpssptfa">facebook.com/fpssptfa</a>

Charity Number 287878



**SECOND-HAND UNIFORM** – We have stock of games kit and day wear so please email ptfa@furzeplatt.net or message us through our Facebook page fpssptfa with your orders.



## STILL LOOKING FOR 3 VOLUNTEERS TO RUN THIS FUNDRAISER

Due to your phenomenal support in donations and purchases, it's become too much for one person!

Tasks: to receive goods once a week, sort and

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quality check, record stock, communicate with buyers, pick & pack orders.

**Offer:** flexible hours, no experience necessary, home or school based and an ethical role within our PTFA, school and community.

 Email:
 ptfa@furzeplatt.net
 Facebook:
 facebook.com/

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Thank you for supporting us.

The School Development Fund has TWO new donors this week. This Fund is a savings account for large permanent structures. This year, a new Bike Shed and a new Canopy is on the Wish List. This is one of our Direct Donations methods – there are various other methods to support us, too. To fund these projects, we would like to appeal to everyone to inform us if you are able to 'Match Fund'. Contact us for more info, please email: <u>ptfa@furzeplatt.net</u> and/or message us: <u>facebook.com/fpssptfa</u>

COMING UP...



#### VIRTUAL FAMILY QUIZ FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 8PM - 9PM

Add to your diary/kitchen organiser/Google calendar & Outlook notes now!! Entry details will follow shortly.

We appreciate your feedback greatly and welcome comments and ideas by email <u>ptfa@furzeplatt.net</u> or through our Facebook Page <u>facebook.com/fpssptfa</u>



If you have any news items you wish to feature in our newsletter please email: media@furzeplatt.net

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# TEACH MAIDENHEAD



### Interested in training to teach?

#### TEACH MAIDENHEAD is now recruiting for September 2021 in many subjects.

If you are passionate about working with young people and enriching their lives, then why not consider a career in teaching?

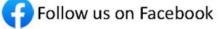
Imagine how you could develop their knowledge of the fascinating worlds of science, arts, technology, languages or humanities when you become an inspiring teacher.

Information on the courses available can be found at: www.teachmaidenhead.co.uk

Find further advice for prospective applicants on the Get into Teaching website.







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