

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back

I hope that you all had a good Easter break. We return this week following the latest easing of Lockdown restrictions and are able to re-start more aspects of 'normal' FPSS life that Covid has restricted, notably assemblies (albeit reduced in size) and after school clubs. I am also delighted that we are planning for a return to a normal school day in Term 6 and events like our Duke of Edinburgh expeditions to happen before the summer break.



Covid 19 - Still Reasons to be Cautious

While it is great that we can do more in and out of school, I do need to share a note of caution. We still have Covid cases in our community and we must maintain the preventative measures we have had in place since March. This includes our separate areas for different year groups, cleaning and hygiene regimes as well as face coverings. Please also maintain home testing.

Respect, Tolerance and Experiencing Alternative Viewpoints - My Assemblies this Week

I have led assemblies with Years 7-10 this week. In these assemblies I thanked students for all their efforts with testing, looked forward to clubs and other activities returning this summer but explained that Covid had not gone away. I also reiterated that now we are six weeks into our return there is no reason why uniform and equipment should not be perfect.

I finished by talking about respect and tolerance. I am incredibly proud to lead a comprehensive school which includes students from a massively diverse set of backgrounds and experiences. It is important that our school celebrates this diversity. Sadly, as appears to have happened nationally in Lockdown, there has been some polarisation of viewpoints as individuals have simply mixed with friends or accessed social media agreeing with their



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 5 EVENTS

WED 28 APRIL	Spring Concert (Online)	7.30pm
THU 29 APRIL	Year 7F Parents' & Students' Consultation Evening	4.15pm - 7.15pm
MON 3 MAY	BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY	
THU 6 MAY	Year 7P Parents' and Students' Consultation Evening (Online)	4.15pm - 7.15pm
FRI 7 MAY	PTFA Quiz Night - on Zoom	8pm - 9pm
THU 13 MAY	Year 7S Parents' and Students' Consultation Evening (Online)	4.15pm - 7.15pm
FRI 21 MAY	Year 13 Last Day in School	
FRI 28 MAY	Year 13 Leavers' Morning	
MON 31 - FRI 4 MAY JUNE	END OF TERM (TERM 5)	
MON 7 JUNE	MAY HOLIDAY	
MON 7 JUNE	START OF TERM 6 (Week 2)	

perspectives. It is vitally important for our students' growth and development, as well as the success of our school, that students respect and are tolerant of others. I challenged our students to broaden their horizons using an example of how I had broadened mine over Easter with regard to race and gender. I look forward to our students meeting this challenge in the terms ahead.

Take care and keep safe.

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





YEAR 7F PARENTS' CONSULTATION EVENING

THURSDAY 29TH APRIL

Please note this is for Year 7F only. Year 7P and 7S will be contacted with dates for their meetings.

On Thursday 29th April there will be a consultation evening for Year 7F parents. Due to the current social distancing measures in place this event will be held virtually.

To identify if your child is in F, P or S band please look at their timetable either in their planner or on Go4Schools. You will notice underneath the subject and teacher name is a code, ie 7F/En3. This indicates the student is in Year 7, Band F.

Appointments are booked online and are available from 4.15pm until 7.15pm. To book appointments and for full instructions, either follow the link below or go to the Parents' Evening Bookings link under 'News & Events' on

PARENTS' EVENING BOOKINGS

the school website. Appointments are available now.

Guidance on how to use our virtual parents evening system can be found below. **Please ensure you read the below guide as this system works very differently to other platforms such as Zoom.** You will need to log into the Parents' Evening booking system on the night in order to access your appointments.

We would advise using a desktop or laptop for your appointment and to use Wi-Fi rather than mobile phone data. This guidance includes information on how parents/carers can join from two different locations if required, please note in order to do this the parent booking the appointments is the only person who has the ability to

HOW TO ATTEND APPOINTMENTS OVER VIDEO CALL

invite another parent to the appointment.

If you are unable to attend the consultation via video call, please let us know in the booking system comments

section and we will arrange a time to contact you by phone about your child's progress.

We advise you to book as soon as possible as appointments are likely to book up quickly.

Details of how to speak to a member of our Senior Leadership Team were sent out with the original information.

If you have any problems, please contact the school office on 01628 625308.

We look forward to seeing you.

Miss L Lewis, Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral)



YEAR 9 IMMUNISATIONS

Dear Parent/Guardian,

YOUR CHILD'S Meningococcal ACWY & Diphtheria and Polio Booster immunisations are NOW DUE

Your child is due to have the above vaccines on **Wednesday 30th June 2021** in school. Please follow the link below to the letter from the School Immunisation team which contains the link to complete the online consent form. It is vital you complete this form to ensure your child gets vaccinated on the day. If you **DO NOT** want your child to have the vaccine please do complete the online form to

IMMUNISATION CONSENT FORM

indicate that you do not consent.

Please submit your form as soon as possible as the closing date is **12pm on 29th June 2021**.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school medical officer on 01628 625308 x 165 with any queries.

Kind regards,

Mrs M Bowen, School Medical Officer



CAFÉ UPDATE

Our café is now open after school, students have a daily limit of £6 on their accounts. If you wish to increase or decrease this amount please email furzeplatt@impactfood.co.uk

BIG BATTERY HUNT

As part of one of our eco schools targets the eco-committee 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 26th 2021. Prizes available are:

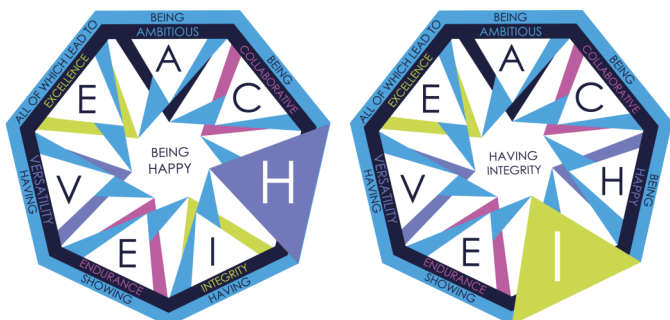
- A class trip to the Sustainability Centre
- 3-year MyMaths subscription
- Up to £4,000 worth of school equipment vouchers
- iPads
- and more!

More information about the scheme can be found here:

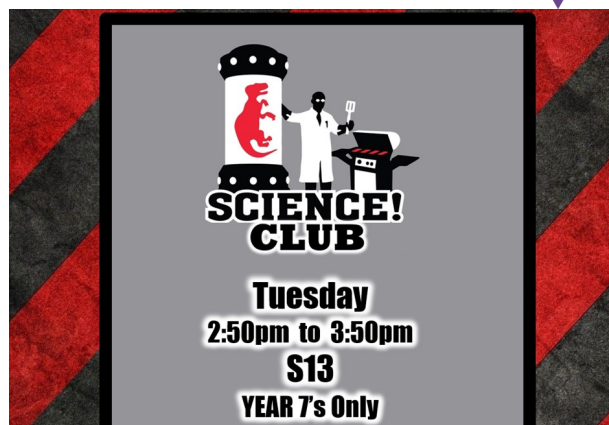
BIG BATTERY HUNT FAQ'S

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

Miss E Holmes, Head of Eco-Committee



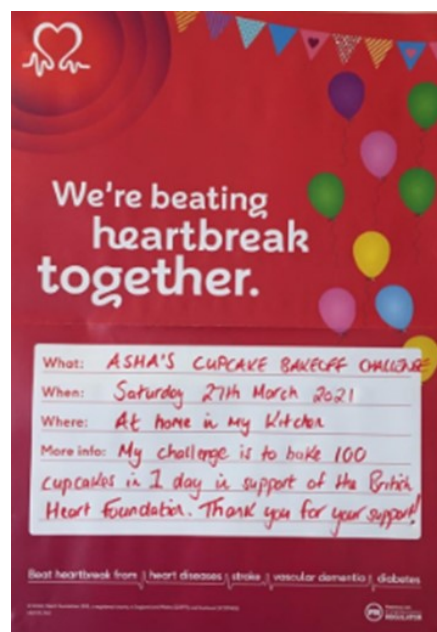
YEAR 7 SCIENCE CLUB - STARTS TUESDAY



STUDENT RAISES £200 FOR CHARITY

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

Congratulations to Asha Blundell (Year 9) who baked 100 cupcakes in one day and raised £200 for the British Heart Foundation. Her bake sale completed the end of her skills and volunteering section of her Bronze DofE Award. A fantastic achievement for a worthy cause - the effort you put into practicing baking and organising the event clearly paid off! Well done.



EXPLORING & UNDERSTANDING THE BENEFITS OF A THERAPEUTIC SPACE

THURSDAY 29TH APRIL 4 – 5PM

Guest speaker Professional Counsellor Melissa from Number 22

We recognise the current times are challenging for all members of a family, so it's vital that families are supportive to one another. We know each one will have different ways of coping to keep family unity – but what happens when individuals are no longer coping or responding supportively? What are the barriers? How do we restore communication that has broken down? Or emotions that are difficult to express? Children can be powerful mirrors for parents/carers, but the initiative lies with us to create a positive change through self-realisation.

Let's ask ourselves honestly if there is anything from our past or present life that is stopping us from moving forward? If you're really stuck you may want to consider counselling.

Melissa is a lovely and cheerful soul, experienced in understanding the hearts of others and counsels both adults and young people. She will give an informal chat to explain what counselling is, the benefits, process, etc. Melissa will also explain the best approaches if you feel your children may need counselling support. There will be a chance to ask her questions.

To book or for more information please email: Benvenuto.DiBartolomeo@furzeplatt.net

Self-Care, Cares Better for Others

"Thanks for taking the time to create and deliver these workshops. Whilst we always tend to think "I already knew that" or "that's common sense anyway", I always find it very helpful to be reminded - and a few of the things you shared with us yesterday were really enlightening!"

"It was well presented and very informative. When my child was at their worst I would regularly react to the chaos and still do. It reminded me to be more aware of my reactions and behaviour, centre myself and listen more"

Overcoming Anger – Responding with Peace (Part 1)

"It helped us to better understand to cope with the anger at home in a peaceful way, keeping strong as a couple and family. It was also a good opportunity for our own internal analysis and to better understand our own behaviours."

"It was a great workshop, we learnt, we felt listened to, we got the opportunity to share our feelings, we opened the door to further explore and understand our behaviours and ultimate by understanding us to better support our child."

"It was informative, well-structured, nicely presented and, most importantly, delivered with care, humility and respect. The topic is a sensitive one (anger) and the background was very well researched."

"My takeaway was "peace" and the calm in the centre of the storm. The image of the eye of the storm was helpful, I can visualise it when I need to."

Health & Families

"Hugely beneficial - to know how best to manage health/chronic illness within the family. The importance of self-care & time out, so you can be strong for the family. Learning to feel emotionally ready in order to break bad news to our children."

Supporting our Children Overcome Emotions of Anger (Part 2)

"Wait for a time of calm on all sides to discuss the outbreak so that whatever triggered the anger can be discussed without rage so that everyone can see everyone's perspective even if they don't agree with it."

"Keeping calm, do not take our child's anger personally, understanding our child is suffering, it is inside them, it is not about us, we are actually the ones who could be helping them."

"It gave me some tips to improve as a father. Taking time, finding the correct time to speak to my child."





Parents, Teachers & Friends Association

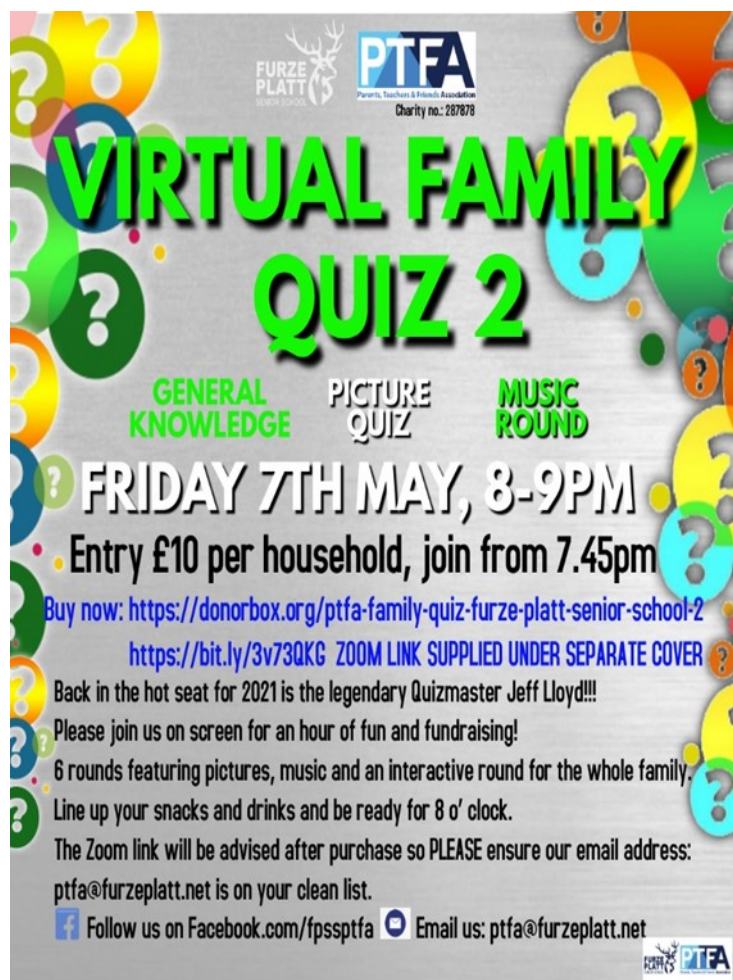
Contact us

Email: ptfa@furzeplatt.net | Facebook: [facebook.com/fpssptfa](https://www.facebook.com/fpssptfa)

Charity Number 287878

SPRING IS HERE!!!

VIRTUAL FAMILY QUIZ VIA ZOOM – 14 DAYS TO GO



VIRTUAL FAMILY QUIZ 2

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE PICTURE QUIZ MUSIC ROUND

FRIDAY 7TH MAY, 8-9PM

Entry £10 per household, join from 7.45pm

Buy now: <https://donorbox.org/ptfa-family-quiz-furze-platt-senior-school-2>
<https://bit.ly/3v73QKG> ZOOM LINK SUPPLIED UNDER SEPARATE COVER

Back in the hot seat for 2021 is the legendary Quizmaster Jeff Lloyd!!!

Please join us on screen for an hour of fun and fundraising!

6 rounds featuring pictures, music and an interactive round for the whole family.

Line up your snacks and drinks and be ready for 8 o'clock.

The Zoom link will be advised after purchase so PLEASE ensure our email address: ptfa@furzeplatt.net is on your clean list.

Follow us on Facebook.com/fpssptfa Email us: ptfa@furzeplatt.net

FRIDAY 7TH MAY, 8PM - 9PM

Join from 7.45pm

£10 PER HOUSEHOLD

ENTER NOW!

Calling all Students, Carers/Parents, Grandparents, Friends...

Back in the hot seat for a second time this year is the legendary Quizmaster Jeff Lloyd!!!

6 fast paced rounds featuring general knowledge, pictures, music and an interactive round, suitable for all the family.

Line up your snacks and drinks, and be ready for 8 o'clock.

The Zoom link will be advised after purchase so check your 'junk' mailbox and ensure our email address ptfa@furzeplatt.net is on your clean list.

CORPORATE SUPPORT/MATCHED FUNDING/GIVE AS YOU EARN



What does this mean? Simply, it is where your employer contributes to a Charity's fundraising efforts when an individual has participated in an activity or event. We raised £14k this way in 2019-2020. If you have donated directly to the School Development Fund, joined the Virtual Family Quiz Night or bought uniform, then you could be eligible to apply for funding from your employer. Plus, as an individual you are entitled to claim Tax Relief and the company will pay less Corporation Tax – even Sole Traders too!

Please contact your Head Office/HR/Commercial department and ask about their Charity Support Scheme, it will make a huge difference to us and in turn, to your children in school.

Here are some links that are useful in explaining Matched Funding:

PTA FUNDRAISING

TAX RELIEF WHEN YOU DONATE TO A CHARITY

LIST OF COMPANIES WHO HAVE OPERATED MATCHED FUNDING SCHEMES

PTFA STOREROOM

Our storeroom is coming together nicely...it has been sorted, tidied and cleaned over the holiday (thank you, Maria ☺). Shelves have been fitted and rubbish has been disposed of by the Site Facilities Team (thanks to Kevin, Sam and Connor ☺). And fabric covers have been obtained to care for the blazers on the clothes rails. Teamwork in action!

The next job is to transfer the clothing into storage crates so we can securely contain the neatly folded clothing and ensure fulfilling orders is a swift process.

Have any feedback, comments and/or ideas? Please let us know by email ptfa@furzeplatt.net or through our [Facebook Page facebook.com/fpssptfa](https://www.facebook.com/fpssptfa)

SIXTH FORM UPDATE

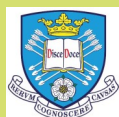


VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

YEAR
12

Some great sites include: www.speakersforschool.org and www.springpod.co.uk

Students have been sent the latest emails we have received from these two organisations that outline some work experience opportunities.



UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD FREE SUBJECT TASTER SESSIONS

YEAR
12

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD FREE SUBJECT TASTER SESSIONS



BRASENOSE COLLEGE OXFORD AND ST. CATHARINE'S COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE TASTER LECTURES

YEAR
12

YEAR
13

ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE OXBRIDGE TASTER LECTURES THROUGH APRIL

LUCY CAVENDISH SUMMER TERM YEAR 12 WEBINAR SERIES APRIL-MAY

FITZWILLIAM COLLEGE AFTER SCHOOL ENGLISH TASTER FRIDAY 23RD APRIL

THE FUTURE OF ROBOTICS FRIDAY 23RD APRIL

THEOLOGY, RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION OPEN DAY WEDNESDAY 28TH APRIL

CORPUS CHRISTI HISTORY TASTER DAY FRIDAY 7TH MAY

ISAAC PHYSICS MASTERCLASS SATURDAY 15TH MAY

THE REALLY POPULAR BOOK CLUB TUESDAY 20TH APRIL AND TUESDAY 25TH MAY

RESIDENTIAL COURSES

YEAR
12

Note if students wish to apply for any of the residential courses then they should make their subject teacher aware as a teacher reference is required (and a deadline applies to this too).

TRINITY COLLEGE LANGUAGES ONLINE RESIDENTIAL 28TH JUNE-2ND JULY. DEADLINE: 30TH APRIL

TRINITY COLLEGE WOMEN IN STEM ONLINE RESIDENTIAL 16TH-19TH AUGUST. DEADLINE: 30TH APRIL

COMPETITIONS

YEAR
12

Cottrell Essay Prize for Medicine and Veterinary Medicine

- Open to all students in Year 12 (or equivalent). Students are invited to choose one question from either Medicine or Veterinary Medicine and submit an essay of between 1,000-1,500 words. **The deadline for entries is midnight on 31st May.**

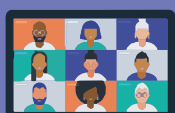
COTTRELL ESSAY PRIZE FOR MEDICINE AND VETERINARY MEDICINE

Cont. on page 7

The Libra Essay Prize

- The Libra Essay Prize offers a chance to prepare for the academic rigour required by university assignments and provides a great accomplishment to discuss on a personal statement or at interview. With inspiration from the admissions process at All Souls College, Oxford – known as ‘The hardest exam in the world’ – students are required to write an essay responding to one of the single-word essay titles below. **Deadline 25th June**

THE LIBRA ESSAY PRIZE



SPEAKERS FOR SCHOOLS
VIRTUAL TALKS

YEAR
12

LINKS TO TALKS

Tuesday 27th April 5-6pm – Dame Vivian Hunt, Senior Partner, McKinsey & Company.

- She is a globally recognised thought leader on productivity and skills, leadership, and diversity topics.
- She was previously named ‘the most influential black woman in Britain’ by the Powerlist Foundation and The Financial Times identified her as one of the ‘European Women to Watch’ and most recently as one of the 30 most influential people in the City of London.

Wednesday 28th April 5-6pm – Rory Sutherland, Vice Chairman, Ogilvy & Mather.

- Interested in behavioural science and economics?
- Rory works with a consulting practice of psychology graduates who look for ‘unseen opportunities’ in consumer behaviour.

Thursday 29th April 2-3pm

- WRAP Panel event with Julie Hill (Chair), Emma Hallett (Team manager collaborative change programme), Maria Stapleton (Behaviour change project manager) and William McManus (Sector specialist – food).
- To register for this event, please email

Thursday 29th April 4-5pm – Sarah Breeden, Executive

INSPIRATION@SPEAKERSFORSCHOOLS.ORG

Director, Bank of England

- Sarah is currently responsible for supervising over 500 UK banks, building societies and credit unions and she also leads the Bank of England’s work on climate change.

- She has worked on issues such as; COVID, Brexit, managing the Great Financial Crisis and the policy response to that crisis.

Tuesday 4th May 2-3pm – MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU – Celebrating Diverse Careers in Visual Effects

- This is a special webinar with the VFX company Industrial Light and Magic in celebration of May the Fourth.
- They will be discussing different careers in visual effects as well as insight into some of their artist’s personal career journeys, and tips for getting into the industry.

BOOK REVIEW by Alex Wilson, Year 12

‘The Midnight Library’ by Matt Haig

Suitable for readers 14 years and above

Genre: Science fiction/Science fantasy

Rated: 5/5 Waterstones | 4.2/5 Goodreads

Brief description: You’re introduced to a woman who’s at an unbearably low point in her life. All relationships with her friends, family and work are falling apart. She decided to take her own life as a means to escape but upon overdosing on a handful of pills, she was not dead, but instead transported to ‘the midnight library.’ It’s a surreal place and she meets the librarian who gives her a book and explains that on each page is a choice or decision that was made by her that was critical to her life. (e.g staying in or out of a relationship, joining or leaving a band etc) and she can go and live in a life where that decision was altered. If she likes the new reality she’s entered, she can stay there and live happily. Otherwise, she can return to the library and try again but she only had 24 hours to decide.

What did you love about this book? It’s such an interesting concept and it’s oddly humorous too for a book based on suicide and depression. It’s like multiple stories all stitched into one as each timeline is wildly different and it makes me wonder what potentially life changing decision have been made in my life already.

Why would you recommend it? It’s good food for thought and I often found myself just naturally bringing it up in conversations. It’s quite gripping as you want this woman to fix her life but all the alternative realities have imperfections. In addition, it’s quite an easy book to read, as in it has an omniscient narrator so you’re told every detail and the narration even makes comments about the things characters say. Almost as if it’s a character itself which I found quite funny.

My rating: 8/10. Worth the read and even a reread.



Mental Health/CAMHS

An overview of the East Berkshire CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) early intervention mental health and wellbeing services.

Don't miss our Mental Health workshop.

Join us on **29th April at 10 -11 am on Zoom.**

Meeting ID: 926 5831 6356

**Passcode: please email:
contact@pacip.org or FB message**



The presentation will cover the Mental Health Support Team and Getting Help Team offer in Windsor and Maidenhead and information on how parents/carers, schools, and other partners can access the services.

There will be a brief introduction to the **SHaRON** online platform and the presentation will also include information on **Kooth** Online Counselling Services which is available to Children and Young People.

There will also be time for Q&A



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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