

# FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #64.8



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

### Jordan Veira Memorial

I would like to start the newsletter by paying great credit to the students who attended our Memorial Event for Jordan last Monday. The many students who were present shared their memories of Jordan and these messages showed the impact he had on many of their lives, his character and reminiscences of his life that will live long in the memory. I must specifically thank those students and staff who spoke so eloquently with fondness and emotion about Jordan. They were a credit to FPSS and their families. Alongside our students and staff, we were also joined by members of the family and I was able to share all our condolences and best wishes at this really difficult time.



### FPSS Berkshire Schools Athletic Champions!

Congratulations to Edwin Isted (Inter Boys 400m), Hannah Britton (Inter Girls Triple Jump) and Jack Staunton (Inter Boys Pole Vault) on winning their respective events last weekend.

### Covid Changes to the School Day from Monday 21 June

Parents and carers will have had a letter from me this week concerning changes to break arrangements and face coverings from Monday. As ever, we aim to balance education with Covid-safety. Thank you for your support with this.

### Covid Testing

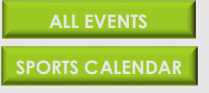
This week I learned about schools in the Thames Valley who have had to send whole year groups home due to Covid variant cases. Please keep your child at home should they have symptoms and test regularly.

Take care and keep safe.

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS



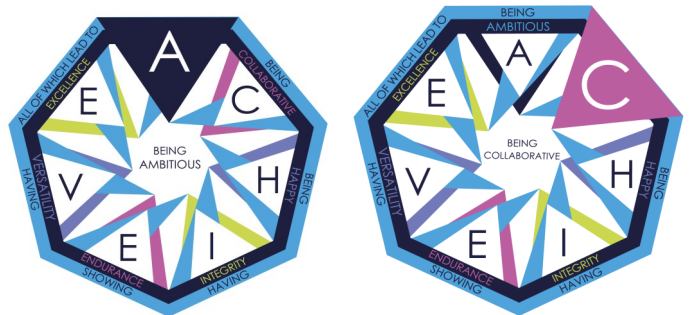
Some information for our upcoming events may change due to the current situation. Full details will be sent out nearer the time of the specific event.

### Next week (week 2)

TUE 22 JUNE	Virtual Sixth Form Taster Day (replaces Taster Days 22 and 23 June)
WED 23 JUNE	Year 11 Celebration Events - Bisham & Eton 4-5pm; Cookham & Windsor 5.30-6.30pm
THU 24 JUNE	Year 11 Celebration Events - Dorney & Marlow 4-5pm; Bray & Henley 5.30-6.30pm

### Forthcoming Events

MON 28 JUNE	*Cancelled* Year 5 Open Morning
TUE 29 JUNE	Virtual PTFA AGM via Zoom 8pm - 9pm
WED 30 - Fri 2 JUNE - JULY	DofE Year 10 & 11 Open Group Silver Assessment Expedition



MASKS TO BE WORN WHEN MOVING AROUND THE SCHOOL SITE

## MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNORS



Governors were shocked and saddened to hear the recent tragic news about Jordan Veira.

Whilst the loss of a life at any age is hard to bear when it is at such a young age as Jordan with his whole life ahead of him it is even harder and is a stark reminder to all of us about how precious life is. It was therefore humbling to see the recent statement in the Maidenhead Advertiser from Jordan's family looking for "meaningful change" over water safety at a time when they are grieving so deeply.



Only this week I was witness to scores of teenagers jumping off Sonning Bridge into the River, completely oblivious to any form of water safety.

As an RYA instructor myself at Maidenhead Sailing Club I am all too aware of both the fun that can be had on water but also the surrounding dangers that one has to be aware of.

As a community it is vital that we support this call from Jordan's family to educate our children over the dangers of the river and if one or more lives can be saved by doing so it will be a fitting tribute to Jordan.

Gavin Tisshaw, Chair of Governors

## MEET A GOVERNOR



### Jacqui Edwards – Parent Governor



I have been a Parent Governor at Furze Platt Senior School since 2015 and I have two children at the school. My background is in the science and engineering professions and I have also recently trained as a science teacher. I became a governor to support Furze Platt Senior School by helping to bring a parent's perspective to the governors' collective decision making. I

have particular interests in the governance of Teaching and Learning within the school and the governance of support provided by the school for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

## FPSS HAVE THREE BERKSHIRE SCHOOLS' ATHLETICS CHAMPIONS!



The domestic athletics season has gradually been able to open up and last weekend many counties held their schools' championships, with reduced numbers of athletes.

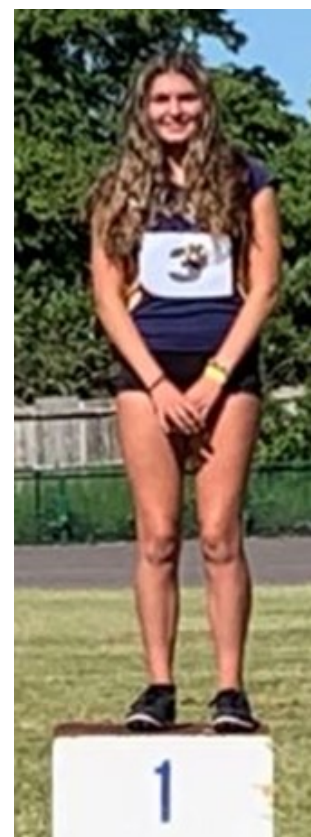


All three Year 11 students representing Furze Platt won their events – well done to them.

Jack Staunton won the Inter Boys Pole Vault with a height of 3.55m.

Edwin Isted won the Inter Boys 400m with a dip finish in 53.3 secs.

Hannah Britton won the Inter Girls Triple Jump with the last jump of the competition – 10.13m.



### MASK RULE UPDATE:

MASKS TO BE WORN WHEN MOVING AROUND THE SCHOOL SITE





## ENRICHMENT AFTERNOONS

One of the aspects of school that has been much missed over the last year has been our clubs and societies.

Due to Covid restrictions these have been limited as schools have focused on classroom learning. However, they are a vital part of the school experience and help make FPSS special. They offer students the opportunity to explore interests, try something new, as well as meet new people and build strong bonds with their peers and staff. We are keen to ensure all students, especially our Year 7 and 8 who are yet to experience our enrichment, have the opportunity to try some of our clubs and societies.

As a result, we are running Enrichment Afternoons in Term 6. In these two hour sessions students will be able to sign up to a range of activities. Some of the titles of these activities give you a sense of the diversity and include Prosthetic Theatre Make-Up, Escape Rooms and Gymnastics. These sessions will be run by our Year 12 with the support of staff. Social distancing guidelines will be followed. This will replace the normal Period 5 and 6 lesson.

Your child's Enrichment afternoon is on the following day:

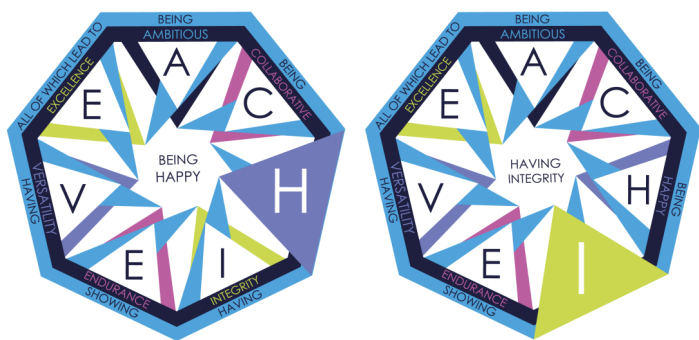
Year 7: Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June

Year 8: Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June

Year 9: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July

Year 10: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July

Students will be signing up for their chosen activity next week. We hope they enjoy their afternoon.



## STRING INSTRUMENT TASTER DAY

MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE

Max 25 spaces so book soon!

We have an exciting opportunity for Year 7 students to experience playing the violin, viola and double bass on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June, 08:45-09:45. The session will begin with a demonstration from Mrs Christensen, a string teacher from Berkshire Maestros. Students will then be given the opportunity to play these instruments. If your child is



interested in taking part, please sign them up on Evolve clubs, or send an email to [Rhiannon.bailey@furzeplatt.net](mailto:Rhiannon.bailey@furzeplatt.net). Places are limited to 25 due to the number of instruments available, so please make sure to sign up as soon as possible.

## HOMEWORK SUPPORT CLINICS

YEARS 7, 8, 9 AND 10

We now have more availability for Homework Support. If your child is interested in attending you can sign up using Evolve Clubs, or email Miss Gorton ([sophie.gorton@furzeplatt.net](mailto:sophie.gorton@furzeplatt.net)).

Students may bring a bottle of water and a snack, and are expected to follow the A2L rules.

Day	Year	Where	When
Monday	9	E6 (English Computer Room)	3.15pm - 4.30pm
Tuesday	8		
Wednesday	7		
Thursday	10		



## INVITATIONS TO CLUBS

In addition, parents and carers of students in all year groups will have received invitations to clubs for their son/daughter. If you have not received an invitation please make sure you have saved [evolve.furzeplattsnrvisits@edufocus.co.uk](mailto:evolve.furzeplattsnrvisits@edufocus.co.uk) to your safe senders list and check your spam / junk folders. If you need further guidance please email [catherine.johnstone@furzeplatt.net](mailto:catherine.johnstone@furzeplatt.net).

Please see below a list of clubs for next week for your information (these should be booked via the online invitation system which will be sent out on Monday – to book Monday's clubs please see previous email). Please note: we advise students bring water to their sessions in the warmer weather. Some clubs may not apply to all students as they are sent out by year group.

[LINK TO CLUBS LIST](#)



**MY MASK PROTECTS YOU, YOUR MASK PROTECTS ME.**

**MASK RULE UPDATE:**  
MASKS TO BE WORN WHEN MOVING AROUND THE SCHOOL SITE

## YEAR 9 ATHLETICS CLUB AND SPORTS DAY

Students have been busy in their House groups signing up for their Sports Day events.

Sports Day activities will run on the following days and times (weather permitting)...

Day	Event	Year	Period
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Field & 1500m	9	2 & 3
		7	4 & 5
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Field & 1500m	10	2 & 3
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Field & 1500m	8	4 & 5
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Track	9	2 & 3
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Track	10	2 & 3
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Track	7	2 & 3
		8	4 & 5

Students were developing their leg power through resistance training at athletics club in preparation for the Sports Days activities.



## CAREERS UPDATE

### Apprenticeships with Active Security

Active Security, a local company that installs and maintains security systems ((including the school's systems) has vacancies for two apprentices. They take on apprentices every year and last year one of our Year 11 students successfully applied. If any Year 11 or Year 13 student is interested in finding out more, please contact Mrs Bubb for further details [judith.bubb@furzeplatt.net](mailto:judith.bubb@furzeplatt.net)

### Virtual Work Experience at Heathrow Airport

Heathrow Airport is running a free week-long Virtual Work Experience programme in July for students in Years 11, 12 and 13. The school has been offered 25 places on the programme. If your son/daughter is interested in taking part, please let Mrs Bubb know as soon as possible as places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please email [judith.bubb@furzeplatt.net](mailto:judith.bubb@furzeplatt.net)

The programme runs from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and covers areas such as construction, engineering, marketing, IT and business at the airport. It is a fully-online experience using videos, quizzes and activities, enabling students to learn about the airport and bring to life their studies with real-world industry examples. Overall there are around 10 hours of content which can be fitted around other commitments.

During the week, students will also have access to a number of live webinars with colleagues from across Heathrow including senior directors and apprentices who will give students an insight into their career and answer any questions.

### Other Virtual Work Experience Opportunities

Springpod have announced the next round of their virtual work experience placements, taking place during the summer holiday. These events are free and are for students in Years 10-13. The Placements are available in a wide range of careers and with some top employers. Students need to apply for the placements through the link below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO APPLY**



YEAR 11

## CHANGES TO PLANNED EVENTS AT FURZE PLATT

### SIXTH FORM TASTER DAYS

Following the decision taken by central government to postpone the final stages of releasing lockdown restrictions, we are unable to host our Taster Days as planned Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June and Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021. With over 50 students expected to attend from schools beyond FPSS, to hold the event onsite would be to mix students from various areas and schools. This clearly has the potential to spread coronavirus.

However, we are keen to ensure students receive as much support as possible with regard to their transition into Sixth Form. As such, we will host a **single Virtual Taster Day on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June** that students will be able to access from home on their phones, laptops or other devices.

Full details of this event were sent to parents earlier this week.

## Year 6

Following the latest government announcement unfortunately we have had to cancel our Transition Days on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July. We are disappointed to have to make this decision but following both the government announcement on Monday and conversations with our feeder schools, we feel it is the only safe option with the need to retain bubble integrity and consistent groupings for students in schools.

Please rest assured we will continue our transition work (including further resources on the website) and we will notify you of any further transition events.

For parents of students who will be joining us in September, we have a wealth of information that you can find via the link below:

## YEARS 5 & 6 IMPORTANT INFORMATION



## YEARS 5 AND 6 IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### INFORMATION FOR SIBLINGS IN YEARS 5 AND 6

#### Year 5

Unfortunately, due to the latest government guidance we will be unable to hold a Year 5 Open Morning this term due to the advice to retain bubble integrity. We understand that parents and Year 5 students will be disappointed, however if there is a relaxation in Covid guidelines we will hold Year 6 tours in September/October. We very much look forward to welcoming you then.

## FUNDRAISING

### JORDAN VEIRA

The family of Jordan Veira are overwhelmed by the love and support received from the Community and have decided to honour Jordan by placing a memorial at the Bourne End river.

This Go fund me has been created to allow anyone from the community to contribute.

Thank you.

## JORDAN VEIRA FUNERAL MEMORIAL FUND

### CIARA'S HAIR RAISING EVENT

Ciara Rainey, Year 12, has decided to donate 12 inches of her hair to the Little Princess Trust. The charity specialises in providing real hair wigs to young children

Cont. on page 6



suffering with different forms of cancer or other conditions.

Ciara is studying A levels in PE, Maths and Biology and plans to take a sports course at university, hopefully focusing on sports rehabilitation or physiotherapy.

Her hair is currently approximately 24 inches long as you can see from the attached photo. Each wig costs £550 (this covers the making, fitting and styling). She says:

*"I chose this charity because it's very well known for donating hair and they make wigs for children with cancer and other conditions. They help restore the confidence in so many children who have lost hair from their condition or from chemotherapy."*

*"During lockdown it was a tough time for everyone, and I was motivated to do something for others. Since I wasn't able to get to the hairdressers, I was inspired to continue to grow my hair and donate it for charity. It's a small act of kindness, and I hope I will inspire others. The support I have received is amazing and I am very grateful for the donations!"*

**CIARA'S HAIR-RAISING EVENT**

Even the smallest donations can make the biggest difference to these fundraising requests.

Thank you.

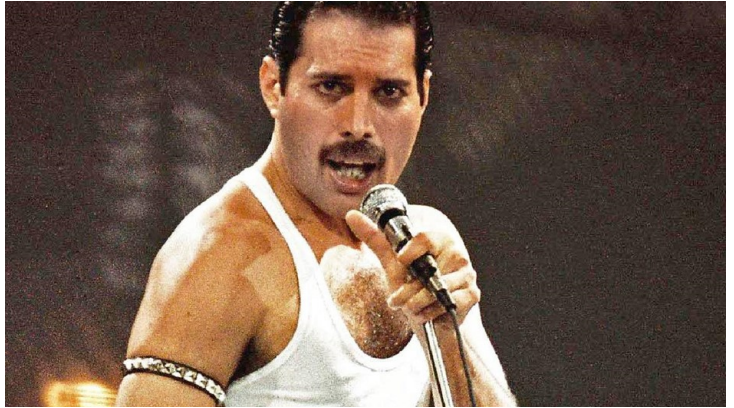


**JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH**

*'...LGBT Pride Month events attract millions of participants around the world. Memorials are held during this month for those members of the community who have been lost to hate crimes or HIV/AIDS. The purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that LGBTQ individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally.'*  
Youth.gov

**FREDDIE MERCURY - PERFORMER**

Born Frederick Bulsara in Zanzibar in 1946, Freddie Mercury (as he is better known) was the lead singer of the band Queen, formed in 1970. With a four octave range and a flamboyant stage presence, both Mercury and the band are probably best known for their show stopping performance at Live Aid in 1985 in front of 72,000 people at Wembley and millions more around the world, raising a staggering \$127 million for charity. Widely thought to be bisexual, he contracted HIV and died at just 45.



**MARSHA P JOHNSON – LEGENDARY GAY RIGHTS ACTIVIST**

Marsha P. Johnson (born and also known as Malcolm Michaels Jr) founded the first Gay Liberation Front which led to a number of other groups. Known for advocating gay rights and for being a well-known activist and a self-identified drag queen, Johnson also modelled for the famous artist Andy Warhol.

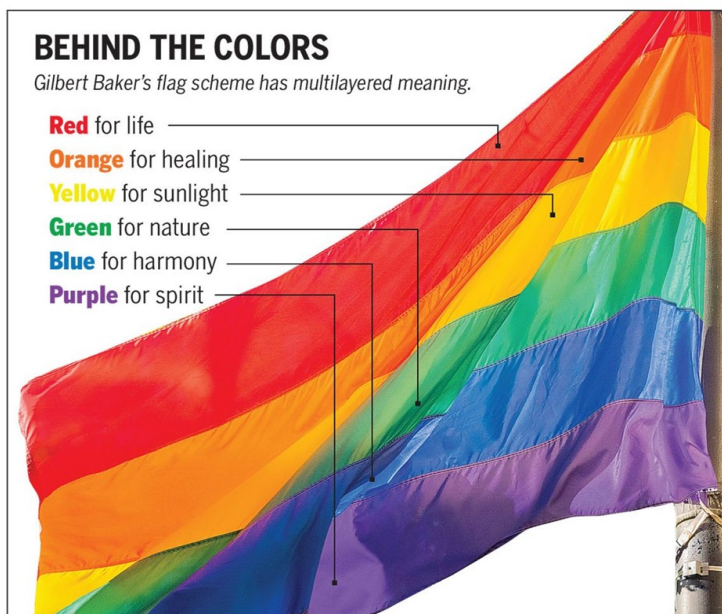


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## GILBERT BAKER - DESIGNED RAINBOW FLAG



Gilbert Baker. American artist and gay rights activist, is best known for his design of the rainbow flag in 1978 which has become a symbol of LGBT rights. Refusing to trademark the design by saying it was for everyone, he created what was at the time the world's largest flag to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stonewall riots.



Please click here for LGBTQIA advice for parents and carers:

[LGBTQIA ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS](#)

## REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCE

Absences should be reported via ParentMail using the Absence button as soon as you are aware your son/daughter will not be attending that day. In case of illness, this should be repeated each day they will be off school.

1. Log into your ParentMail account

2. Click on the 'Absence' tab
3. Select 'Notify Absence'
4. If you have more than one child at the school, then select the child you wish to report as absent
5. Select a reason for your child's absence
6. Click add
7. Select an amount of time your child is likely to be off school
8. Add any additional notes/information for the attendance team. Please provide as much information as possible regarding this absence for our records.
9. Click 'Submit'

If you would prefer to notify the school of your child's absence via phone or email, then please use the below contact details and report absences where possible before 8.30am.

Email: [attendanceofficers@furzeplatt.net](mailto:attendanceofficers@furzeplatt.net)

Telephone: 01628 625308 then press 1 when advised

## HOME TEST REMINDER

WHERE DO I NEED TO REPORT THE HOME TEST RESULTS?



Results need to be reported both via the school's link and the NHS Test and trace site:

Students should complete a test twice a week and register to both of the following links:

1. NHS Test & Trace self-report website:

[REPORT RESULT TO THE NHS](#)

2. Furze Platt's link for reporting test results:

[REPORT RESULT TO US](#)

## AND FINALLY...

BEST OF LUCK TO YEAR 12 WITH THEIR PPEs NEXT WEEK!

Best of Luck



Parents, Teachers  
& Friends  
Association

**TEAM**

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

Contact us

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

Charity Number 287878

**SOOOOO...PLANS HAVE  
CHANGED SLIGHTLY BUT  
WE'RE STILL ON!**



**ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING – Tuesday  
29<sup>th</sup> June 2021, 8pm  
on Zoom**

**PLUS, A DOUBLE DRAW  
IN THE 200 CLUB**

**PLEASE REVISE YOUR CALENDAR AND  
FOLLOW THIS LINK:**

**ZOOM MEETING LINK**

<https://bit.ly/2Uc5L3w>  
Meeting ID: 914 4763 9932  
Passcode: FhMba0

This is a formal yearly meeting for all members of the association, where elections take place and the year's events are reported on. It's an opportunity for the committee to show that it's accountable for the decisions taken and that the committee members have acted in the best interests of the association. Please see below for our letter sent to parents and carers.

**NEARLY NEW UNIFORM SALE –  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July, 10am-3pm, in  
school.**

**STRICT DISTANCING MEASURES WILL BE IN  
PLACE.**

New starters and all year groups are welcome. Help to setup/clear up will be required so please get in touch asap.



We really appreciate your donations and happy to accept more. We'd like just logo'd uniform rather than shirts and trousers.

Please ensure it is all freshly laundered and intact! Message us for addresses if you'd like to leave a bag on a PTFA'ers doorstep (or drop into school reception during term time).



**IT'S DOUBLE DRAW TIME IN  
THE 200 CLUB**

Could you use £200 cash next month? To be in with a chance of winning on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June**, please see the links on page 9 and enter before Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June. If all our parents/carers joined paying just £5 per month (£1 per week) then our School could earn £6000+ per year. Currently there are 1406 students on roll, approx. 600 parents/carers on record and 106 members in the 200 Club. Please share this fundraiser and scheme with your friends and family and help us achieve a **target of 3 new members for Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June.**



**200 CLUB**

**Winning numbers**

**for our next draw**



*How it works: The Club runs 4 draws per year and you could win **£200 cash, per number**. Your winnings are made by bank transfer very soon after each draw so there's no hanging around. You're in control of the payments by direct debit, there's no contract (like your energy or phone!) and there's no spam emails either (we haven't got time to send them!). So, it's a Win Win situation for everyone. Hence, we need you to click here now to join:*

**ANNUAL PAYMENT (£57 PER YEAR)**

**MONTHLY PAYMENT (£5 PER MONTH)**

We appreciate your feedback greatly and welcome comments and ideas by email [ptfa@furzeplatt.net](mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net) or through our Facebook Page [facebook.com/fpsptfa](https://www.facebook.com/fpsptfa)



Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June

We would like to give notice of the AGM of the Furze Platt Senior School

Parent, Teacher & Friends Association to be held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June. Owing to the announcement by the Government that restrictions will remain in place until 19th

July, we have decided to hold the meeting via Zoom at 8pm, instead of in-person. We will greatly appreciate your attendance because to meet the Quorum we require 8 individuals to attend, so please logon with this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/91447639932?pwd=TWQvYTI1RUZvbk1oTnU0NmdEQnlwUT09>  
Meeting ID: 914 4763 9932  
Passcode: FhMba0

The PTFA plays a vital part in the school community and all parents/carers, friends and staff, as members of the PTA, are invited to support the AGM. This is your chance to hear and see how the funds you have helped to raise have been used for the benefit of the students at our school.

The AGM is also an opportunity for you to elect the PTFA Committee, who represent the association throughout the forthcoming year. Nominations should be sent in advance of the AGM (either via the link below or to [ptfa@furzeplatt.net](mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net)) for anyone wishing to stand as an Officer or Ordinary Committee Member, for the first time. Existing committee members wishing to stand for re-election do not have to be nominated again but should inform the PTA of their intention to stay in their role. Your current Committee Members are as follows:

Chairperson	Lorraine Hughes	Willing to stand
Treasurer	Caroline Golding	Willing to stand
Secretary	Jean Sutherland	Willing to stand
Secretary Specialised Funding	Juliet Stevenson	Unable to stand

If you would like any further information about being a Committee Member, please contact Lorraine via email or Facebook. As the PTFA is a registered charity, all Committee Members automatically become Trustees of the Charity. Before submitting your nomination form, please read the Charity Commission publication 'The Essential Trustee – What you need to know (CC3) <https://bit.ly/3clCweQ>'. A copy of the booklet can be found on the Charity Commission website <https://bit.ly/3cGAR9C>.

The Committee welcomes new ideas and suggestions to raise funds for our children, so please get in touch by email or through Facebook as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing you online, on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Kind Regards

Lorraine Hughes

Chair, Furze Platt Senior School PTFA

Tel: 01628 625308

Email: [ptfa@furzeplatt.net](mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net)

Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/fpsptfa>

**NOMINATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS HERE**

## Learning Support Assistant – to Start September 2021

Part time, 30 Hours a week, start time usually between 8.45/9.15am, finish time between 3.15/3.45pm (includes a half hour unpaid break). Monday to Friday, term time only. Actual salary Scale 2c, £13,660 - £13,940 pa depending on experience

We are looking for an enthusiastic and reliable individual to join either the core Learning Support team to provide targeted support to our students with Special Educational Needs, or our Shine team who support students with ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder).

You will work under the direction of classroom teachers and, in line with any agreed special needs and other specialist plans, provide support to individual students in the completion of a wide range of learning activities at all key stages. You will support small groups of students for interventions and mentor nominated students. You will help students develop their social and communication skills and gain access to the curriculum by ensuring effective use of differentiated instructions and tasks provided by teachers.

We are looking for a team player, who is able to communicate sensitively and confidently with staff, students and parents. This role would suit someone who is able to use their own initiative and who has strong organisational and time management skills. This role might suit someone who is working with or has worked with students in a school setting with experience or knowledge of SEN (Special Educational Needs) or ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder).

For further information about this role and in order to complete a Support Staff application form please refer to our school website [www.furzeplatt.com](http://www.furzeplatt.com). Application forms should be returned to [Kiran.smith@furzeplatt.net](mailto:Kiran.smith@furzeplatt.net). Only applications submitted on the school application form will be considered.

Furze Platt Senior School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and we expect all staff to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced disclosure via the Disclosure and Barring Service.

**Closing date: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 9am**

**Interviews will take place: as soon as possible after the closing date**



**CURRENT VACANCIES**