

# FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #65.2



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

### Key Messages at the Start of Term

This week I have led assemblies to all students. It has been fantastic to see our Theatre full each morning with two Houses at a time (around 350 students). Once again the advantages of our House system are evident as we are able break our school into smaller communities conveying messages and supporting students as individuals or within smaller groups.



Whichever Houses I have spoken to this week I have aimed to convey how (hopefully) Covid is fading into the background and how we can once again offer a range of learning inside and outside the classroom. In particular, I have encouraged students to be ambitious and take advantage of all the opportunities we can once again offer. For example, this term our staff are able to offer nearly 60 different clubs and societies for our students. This gives all our young people the chance to try out a wide variety of new and existing interests.

I am particularly keen that after nearly two years where social contact has been limited to households and relatively small age-based friendship groups, students of all year groups work with each other and adults within our community. Opportunities will include things like acting as Open Evening guides, mentoring fellow students, being a student leader and organising clubs and activities. We know that such activities help develop collaboration, versatility and integrity, all vital skills in every child's development. Please do encourage your child to try out new activities, step up to leadership roles and volunteer within and beyond school.

### Prepare to Succeed Evenings

It has been a pleasure this week to welcome Year 7, 12 and 13 parents and carers to school this week for their Prepare to Succeed evenings, not least as it sees a return of evening onsite events. Thank you to all those parents and carers who attended. Other year groups have their evenings over the next few weeks so please look out for details.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL EVENTS

SPORTS CALENDAR

If information for any of our upcoming events changes due to the current situation, full details will be sent out to parents and carers.

### Next week (week 1)

TUE 14 SEPTEMBER	Year 11 - Preparing to Succeed Evening	6.30pm - 7.30pm
THU 16 SEPTEMBER	Celebration Evening	7pm - 9pm

### Forthcoming Events

TUE 21 SEPTEMBER	Pixl Build Up Launch	6pm - 7pm
THU 7 OCTOBER	Early School Finish School Open Evening	12.30pm 6pm - 9pm
FRI 8 OCTOBER	INSET Day	All Day

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2021/22

### Covid

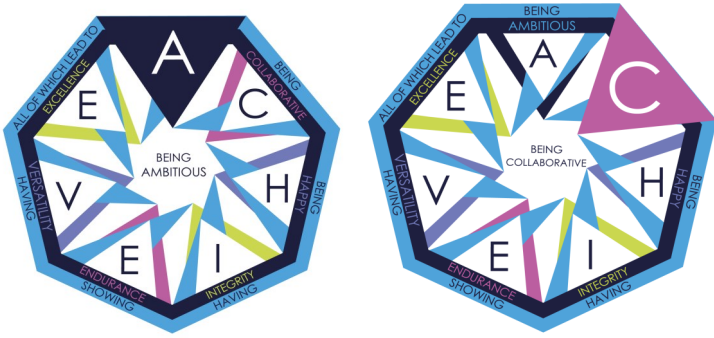
While we are back closer to a pre-pandemic FPSS, it is important to note that the number of positive cases in RBWM secondary schools remains high. Please do follow the guidance, in particular protecting the FPSS community by keeping students at home and getting a test should they have symptoms.

### The End of the School Day

As I wrote in last week's newsletter, we encourage students to walk and cycle to school. Currently the end of the school day is busier than normal at the front of school. Please could you help ease congestion by encouraging your child to use the gate at the end of the school field if possible. Should you need to pick your child up from FPSS please ensure you are considerate to other motorists and think about arranging a meeting point a short walk from the school gates.

I hope that you have a pleasant weekend.

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



## OPEN EVENING AND INSET DAY

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October: Open Evening – early finish

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October: INSET Day – school closed



Open Evening

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 6pm - 9pm

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



On behalf of Governors a warm welcome to any new students, staff and their respective families and welcome back to the remainder of you. It has been a strange time for all of us during the last two academic years and I remain hopeful that this year will be different and school life can be fully maintained in all its facets. Our students being able to make the most of their time here at Furze Platt is so important and they deserve to have the same opportunities available to them as their elder siblings and/or former students.



This week has seen the resumption of face to face governor meetings and it is so refreshing to escape from the screen and meet up again. We have had to say goodbye to two of our governors recently, Jo Lakovic and Roberto Da Silva, and I would like to acknowledge and thank them for their work on the governing body. It is therefore an opportune time for me to invite any new or existing parents (or indeed members of our local community) to get in touch if you are interested in finding out more about becoming a governor (please email [jenny.knight@furzeplatt.net](mailto:jenny.knight@furzeplatt.net)).

Apart from being interesting, fun, rewarding and helping with career and personal development you can make a real difference and help to shape the school's future.

Whilst we would particularly welcome interest from those with legal or project management skills we are also keen to become more diverse in our make up so that we can better represent the community we serve.

Governors are really looking forward to being at school events this year and seeing and meeting many of you at these.

Gavin Tisshaw

We will be holding our Open Evening on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October, school will finish at 12.30pm. Parents do not need to book to attend this event and all are welcome.



We will also be holding Open Mornings for parents of children in primary schools which start from next week. These must be booked in advance and do need to book if they wish to attend an Open Morning by calling Main Reception on 01628 625308. To keep our students, staff and visitors safe please adhere to the following:

- \* No more than two adults per family
- \* Numbers of families per tour will be limited
- \* All adult visitors must wear a face mask; any adults who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons must inform reception at time of booking
- \* Anyone showing any COVID symptoms must cancel their reservation until they have completed their testing / self isolation

Cont. on page 3

\* All visitors will be required to sanitise their hands on arrival (the school will provide this, although parents may wish to bring their own)

\* Please could all visitors aim to arrive 5 minutes before the start of their tour.

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October we have an INSET day and school will be closed for all year groups.

## PREPARING TO SUCCEED FOR YEAR 11

TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 6.30pm

This event will take place in the school Theatre and is designed to provide you with information regarding Year 11 and some tips on how you can help your son/daughter be successful.

We very much look forward to seeing students and parents in school for this presentation which run from 6.30-7.30pm.

## PREPARING TO SUCCEED IN THE SIXTH FORM

It was fantastic to see so many of you at this week's Success in the Sixth Form Evening. I hope you found the information useful.

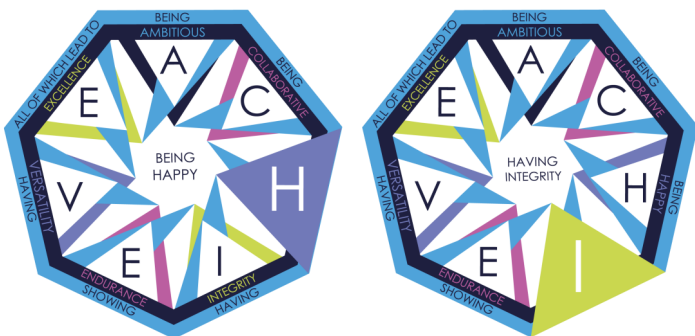
We have now uploaded the presentations to the website and these can be found via the link below so if you were unable to attend the event, you will be able to access the slides from the presentations:

[YEAR 12 PREPARE TO SUCCEED](#)

[YEAR 13 PREPARE TO SUCCEED](#)

Miss Stirling, Mr Colmer and I are incredibly grateful to all of our Sixth Formers parents and carers for their support and we look forward to helping your children over the coming academic year.

Mr P Ging, Head of Sixth Form



## SCHOOL MUSICAL AUDITIONS

NEXT WEEK – ALL YEAR GROUPS

We are delighted to announce that our hugely popular and highly entertaining School Musical returns this year.

The Performing Arts department are very excited to announce that this year's school musical will be Matilda Jr!

Auditions will be held next week from 3.30 - 5.30pm.

Auditions for Years 7 to 9 will be on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September

Auditions for Years 10 to 13 will be on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September

All students must prepare a song, even if they are hoping for a non-singing role (ideally a song chosen from Matilda – all suitable backing tracks can be found here:

FP Cloud > Information > Core information for students > Documents > Matilda tracks

Good luck to all students who audition.



## INVITATIONS TO CLUBS

Parents and carers of students in all year groups will have received invitations to attend clubs for their son/daughter.

The emails will be headed Furze Platt Senior School with the email address [evolve.furzeplattsnvisits@edufocus.co.uk](mailto:evolve.furzeplattsnvisits@edufocus.co.uk) and the links are safe for you to click on to confirm your child's attendance.

If you have not yet received an email please check your junk / spam folders.

Please note:

- \* all bookings should be made through email invitations
- \* once in the list of clubs via the email, to book please click on the name of the club you wish your child to attend and confirm the dates

Cont. on page 4



\* please only book your son / daughter on for one club per session time

\* we always encourage students to attend a variety of clubs. In addition to the email invitation, we will be publishing a list of clubs each week via the link below and in our newsletters, and via email to students also.

\* students in upper years may see invitations to academic clubs that are not part of their specific academic programme; emails are sent to year groups so please only choose sessions that are appropriate to your son/daughter

\* if your son or daughter is unable to attend a club on a specific date, please email the Club Leader and provide as much notice as possible to allow time for that place to be allocated to someone on the waiting list.

\* we advise students bring water to their sessions in the warmer weather

If you have not received an email and have checked your junk mail without success, please email [catherine.johnstone@fuzzeplatt.net](mailto:catherine.johnstone@fuzzeplatt.net) for assistance.

Thank you.

## FACILITIES FOR HIRE AT FPSS – NEW LETTINGS STOREFRONT

Did you know we have some fantastic facilities which we hire out to community groups?

This not only provides valuable spaces for exercise and leisure activities but also generates additional income to support our school budget.



We hire out our Theatre, Main Hall, Drama Studios, Library, Meeting Rooms, Classrooms, Sports Fields etc. at very reasonable rates.



Please visit our new website page and Lettings Storefront for more details:

**VISIT OUR NEW LETTINGS STOREFRONT**  
**LETTINGS AT FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL**

### LINK TO CLUBS LIST

#### HOME TESTING

WHERE DO I NEED TO REPORT THE HOME TEST RESULTS?



Negative



Positive



Invalid

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

**REPORT RESULT TO THE NHS**

**REPORT RESULT TO US**



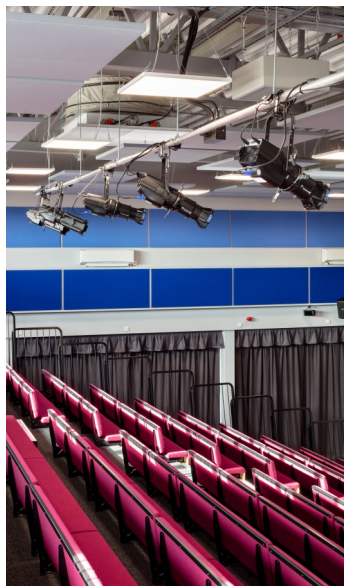


## THEATRE PERFORMANCE HIRE

Our state of the art Theatre is available to hire by Theatre groups, Choirs, Orchestras, Bands etc. for productions of all types. The Theatre has tiered seating with a capacity of 384 with additional loose seats available. We now have a Theatre Performance Hire Pack setting out the process to hire this facility.



Organisations will be able to hire the Theatre including lighting, sound and stage management equipment, dressing rooms and the Main Hall as a bar area.



For performance hire, the school will supply two theatre technicians to support with the productions.

### THEATRE PERFORMANCE HIRE INFORMATION



## MEET A GOVERNOR

### Roger Smith

I am a Chartered Quantity Surveyor and part own an international dispute resolution practice based in central London. I have lived in the Royal Borough for 40 years; initially in Cookham, when my parents moved here in 1979, and subsequently I moved to Maidenhead in 1988 and still live in the town. My passion for Furze Platt Senior School emanates from the fact that I was a pupil at the school many years ago. I left the Upper Sixth Form in 1983 and during my final year was Head Boy at the school. I was elected as Governor in 2017 after being asked to consider the role by a friend and fellow governor who was also in my year at the school 'back in the day'! It's great to be involved with the school again.



## YEAR 7 LOCKERS

If you have requested a locker for your son or daughter they should know where theirs is but if not, please ask them to check with either their form tutor or in the library.



Lockers for all other year groups will be given out next week.

### FULL AWARD

We are delighted to let you know that we will be offering the Bronze, Silver & Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards (DofE) to students in Years 9, 10, 12 & 13 this academic year. The DofE is a great chance for your child to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and talents, have fun with friends, develop essential skills for their future and achieve an internationally renowned Award.

Please note- for those who did not complete their expedition but would like to progress to the next level, current DofE flexibilities allow for the expedition section for a previous level to be completed at the same time as the practice expedition of the next level. Please indicate this on the application form if you intend to choose this option.



All students will be having an assembly about the award from the week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> September; We would like to invite you to an information evening on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September, in the Theatre, at 6pm. Staff from BXM and the DofE will be in attendance to provide further details about the DofE programme and answer any questions you may have.

If you are interested in enrolling your child on the Award programme, please read the attached letter, pay the deposit and complete the google form. The deadline to complete the form and pay the deposit is Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

**DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD APPLICATION FORM 2021**

We look forward to seeing you at the information evening on the 27<sup>th</sup> September but please feel free to contact us on [dofe@furzeplatt.net](mailto:dofe@furzeplatt.net) if you have any queries.

Miss Carty, DofE Manager

### YEAR 10 CONSTRUCTION

Our new Year 10 Construction class have completed a bird table for our school garden. Pictured - Oliver Eason presenting it to Lisa Selby who has been planting with a variety of beautiful plants.



### JEANETTE CHIPPINGTON – BRONZE PARALYMPIC AWARD

Many congratulations to Jeanette Chippington, who has won her 14<sup>th</sup> Paralympic medal in her 7<sup>th</sup> Paralympic Games.

Jeanette has been kind enough to come and speak to our students previously about her incredible achievements under both the Para Swim and Para Canoe categories over the years.

Well done to her and we wish her all the best.



### AND FINALLY – NEW BABY BOY

This summer we welcomed a new addition to our Performing Arts Department – Alexander Oscar Andrews, a son for Miss Satterthwaite and her partner. Alexander arrived earlier than expected during the summer holidays but we are delighted to say that mum and baby are both doing well and we send them our very best wishes.





**Parents, Teachers  
& Friends  
Association**



TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

Contact us

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

Charity Number 287878

## FIRST WEEK ACHIEVED!

NEW STARTERS KNOW THEIR WAY AROUND SCHOOL NOW,  
NO DOUBT – IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG, DOES IT?

Learning to Succeed Evenings - hope you gleaned some great information and met a few other parents and staff this week. Sorry the PTFA were unable to attend but self-isolation and work commitments tipped the scales against us.



Our fundraising activities are predominantly online rather than physical events. Our main scheme is the **200 Club**. Here's the 'low down' on what you need to know:

### Who can play?

Any adult (16+) connected with the school can enter so that's parents, carers, family and staff.

### How does it work?

It's a simple quarterly draw (Numbers 1-200) where the winners and school share the money raised that quarter.

Your number(s) are allocated once receipt of payment is confirmed and you keep the same number(s) for the year.

Dates of draws and results are advertised in the weekly newsletters and on the PTFA Facebook page: [Facebook.com/fpsstfta](https://www.facebook.com/fpsstfta)

Winners are notified by email from the 200 Club mailbox (check your junk mailbox after the draw, you could be a winner!).

### How much does it cost?

Cost is £5 per month per number and we ask that you commit to a minimum of 12 months.

You can pause or stop donations at anytime because there is no contract, unlike your energy or phone provider.

There are no spam emails because we hate them and realistically, we haven't got time to send them!

You can pay a one-off annual donation of £57 (saving £3) or 12 monthly donations of £5. Please click through here to join us!



**ANNUAL PAYMENT (£57 PER YEAR)**

**MONTHLY PAYMENT (£5 PER MONTH)**

# WHAT'S COMING UP

We are beginning to plan activities for the coming year and have a few dates for you to chalk up:

## Open Night

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021

5pm – 8pm

Refreshment sales

Volunteers required to setup and serve soft drinks & snacks.

## PTFA Meeting

Week Commencing 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021

7pm – 8pm

All parents, carers, friends and staff welcome to meet us. We'll discuss fundraising ideas, requests, plans ahead and how to achieve them.

## Big Quiz and Hot Buffet Dinner & Bar

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 7.30pm

Tickets purchased online nearer the time.

Volunteers required to setup, serve bar drinks and run raffle.

*We would love to have the opportunity to answer your queries and extend our volunteers helpers list, so feel free to get in touch, anytime.*

We are registered to receive online donations through organisations offering our PTFA free cash, at no cost to you! We would be very grateful for your registration with [Easyfundraising.org](https://www.easyfundraising.org) and [Amazon.Smile](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

<https://bit.ly/393NF8R+>



<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/287878-0>



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/fpsstfta](https://www.facebook.com/fpsstfta)







Open Evening  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October  
6pm - 9pm



School Tours Available  
Please call **01628 625308**  
to book a tour

office@furzeplatt.com | www.furzeplatt.com

## Furze Platt Senior School offers:

- ▶ An inclusive school offering a broad, stimulating and rewarding education for all.
- ▶ Superb academic, sporting and arts facilities which create an enriching learning environment for students.
- ▶ A well-established House system offering a variety of challenging and engaging activities, as well as providing the basis for our fantastic pastoral care.
- ▶ Our eight Houses give students identity and belonging and includes dedicated staff, student mentors and leaders who will support and help with students' development.
- ▶ A wealth of extra-curricular interests, trips and visits.
- ▶ Students are able to ACHIEVE excellence and successfully progress to the next stage of their lives as well-educated young adults we are proud to know.



**'Pupils achieve highly at this school'**

- Ofsted

**'An increased number of pupils achieved top grades at key stage 4 [and] made very strong progress in both academic and vocational subjects. The most able make similar or greater progress than other pupils nationally.'**

- Ofsted

### How to find us:

Furze Platt Senior School,  
Furze Platt Road,  
Maidenhead,  
Berkshire SL6 7NQ

[WWW.FURZEPLATT.COM](http://WWW.FURZEPLATT.COM)

## Learning Support Assistant – to start asap

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: 20<sup>th</sup> September**

**Interviews will take place as suitable applicants apply**

CURRENT VACANCIES

## Lunchtime Controller – To start September 2021

Permanent, Part time, Term Time Only, 17.5 hours a week,  
Required to work Monday to Friday from 11 am to 12.45 and again from 1.30pm to 3.15pm.  
The successful candidate is welcome to use the school café and our school staff room  
during the unpaid break between the initial finish time and next start time  
Actual salary £7,670pa

We are looking for someone to join our school and support the Senior Leadership Team and other teaching and support staff in the supervision of secondary school students during designated break times. This includes but is not limited to maintaining the health, safety, welfare, good conduct and safeguarding of students. You would be responsible for supervising students, maintaining a clean environment and reporting incidents in line with school policies to teachers and members of the Senior Leadership Team. Between break times you would assist with wiping down tables and cleaning designated dining areas. You would also support the cleaning team with other duties such as litter picking and cleaning other areas if time permits.

It is important that you are physically fit and have good communication skills and are able to work independently. If you enjoy being in a community environment and being part of a team as well as working alongside young people we would love to hear from you.

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@urzeplatt.net](mailto:kiran.smith@urzeplatt.net). Only applications submitted on the school application form will be considered.

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CURRENT VACANCIES

## Exam Invigilator – to start as soon as possible

Term time only, casual contract. Actual salary £11.30 per hour

Furze Platt Senior School is looking to add to their bank of dedicated Exam Invigilators, who will be employed on a casual basis to supervise students taking both pre-public exams and actual GCSE/A Level exams, as necessary throughout the school year.

We are looking for individuals who:

- Are available to work on an ad hoc basis during exam sessions particularly during May/June.
- Are able to work individually and as part of a team
- Have good interpersonal skills
- Remain calm under pressure
- Are able to follow all instructions including those set by the Exam Board

Full training will be provided and staff will be contacted prior to the exam period to discuss the invigilation schedule in relation to their own availability.

Please visit our website [www.furzeplatt.com](http://www.furzeplatt.com) for an application form or contact Mrs Sarah Hemsley via [sarah.hemsley@furzeplatt.net](mailto:sarah.hemsley@furzeplatt.net) for further information. Only applications submitted on the school application form will be considered. All applications should be submitted to [kiran.smith@furzeplatt.net](mailto:kiran.smith@furzeplatt.net).

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**Closing date: Ongoing**

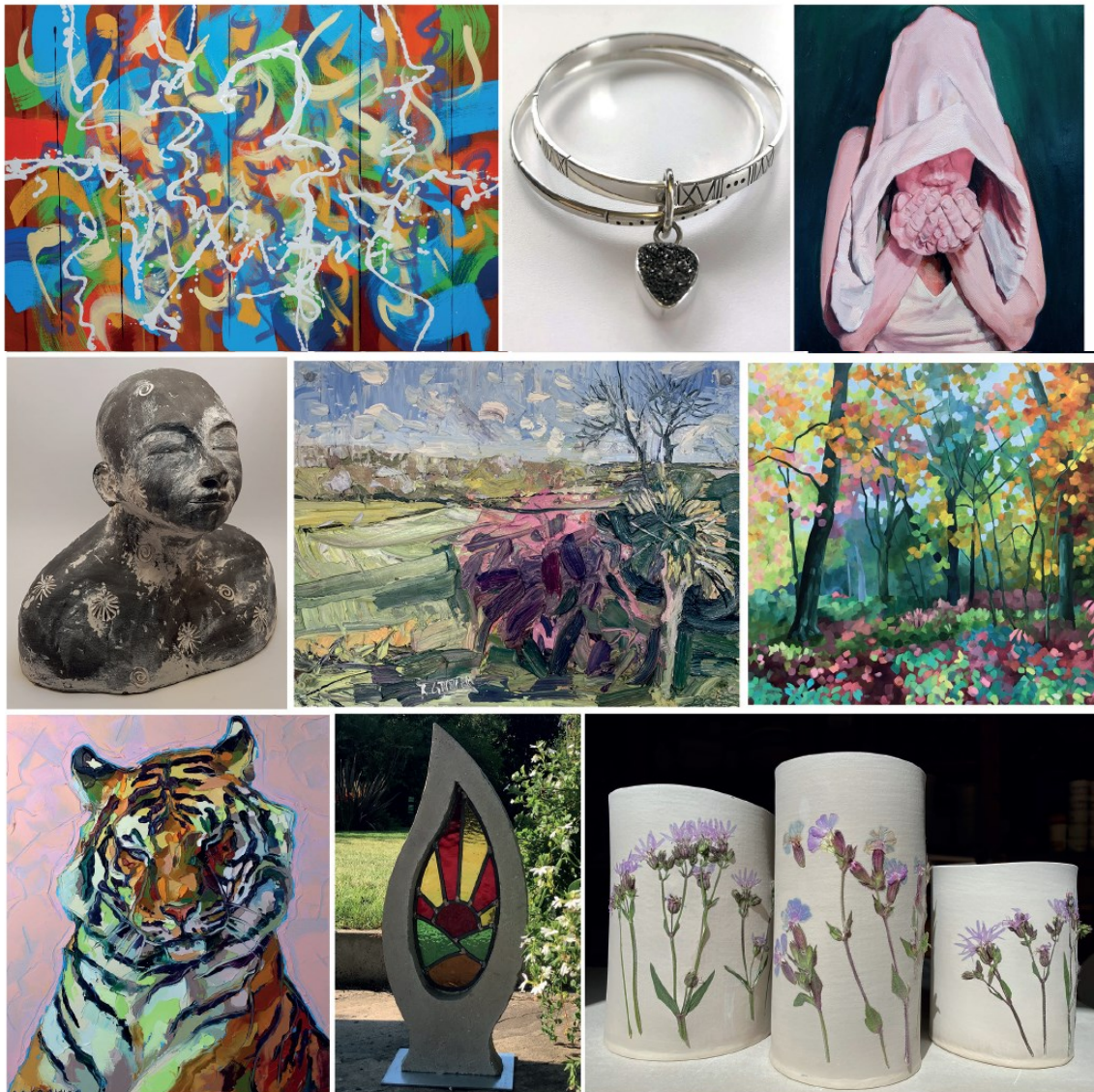
**Interviews will take place as suitable applicants apply**

CURRENT VACANCIES

COOKHAM &  
MAIDENHEAD  
**ARTS TRAIL**

Visit local artists in their studios  
with refreshments, demos and a  
range of original work for sale

Saturday 11th - Sunday 12th September, 10am - 5pm



### Group Exhibition, 2nd - 18th September 2021

The Gallery, Norden Farm Centre for the Arts, Altwood Road, Maidenhead, SL6 4PF

Wednesdays - Saturdays : 5pm-10.30pm

Brochures with trail map are available at Norden Farm Centre for the Arts & Maidenhead Library



Organisers of Maidenhead Town Show on 11th Sept



[www.camat.org.uk](http://www.camat.org.uk)



cookham and maidenhead arts trail



cookhamandmaidenheadartstrail



@camat\_artstrail

CAMAT 2021 - ART TRAIL MAP