

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2022! I hope you had an enjoyable and restful break that gave you the opportunity to enjoy some time with friends and family.

Given the uncertainties and revised guidance created by the Omicron variant, it has been a relief to welcome students back to FPSS in 2022. As the local and regional statistics show, Omicron is prevalent, with several students and staff having not yet returned due to positive tests. Please help us keep FPSS open to all students by regularly testing and keeping students off school should they have symptoms. Please click below for a letter regarding further Covid vaccination information.



COVID-19 VACCINATION 2ND VISIT TO SCHOOLS

Welcomes

At the start of a new term, we welcome some new colleagues. I am sure that you will join with me in wishing Clara Allende (Teacher of MFL), Jo Latham Brash (Cover and Absence Administrator) and Carole Thompson (SEN Administrator) every success as they start their FPSS careers.

FPSS Ofsted Report

Parents and Carers will have received a letter from me with our Ofsted report on Tuesday. The report highlights many of FPSS's strengths and I hope made good reading, as well as reinforcing the reasons why so many parents and carers chose our school.

FPSS OFSTED REPORT 2021

Year 11 PPEs

Good luck to our Year 11 students as they finalise their revision in readiness for their upcoming examinations. These begin next Friday (14th January) with most running the following week.



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 2)

THU 13
JANUARY

Year 9F Parents' and Students'
Virtual Consultation Evening

4.15pm - 7.15pm

Forthcoming Events

MON 17
JANUARY

Sixth Form Admissions for
September 2022 entry close

9am

THU 20
JANUARY

Year 9P Parents' and Students'
Virtual Consultation Evening

4.15pm-7.15pm

WED 26
JANUARY

Year 11 Photos

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2021/22 & 2022/2023

Year 13 Upcoming Assessments

In his letter to Headteachers last weekend sharing news of face coverings and other COVID-19 related matters, the Education Secretary, Nadhim Zahawi, was adamant that January assessments and examinations would continue. The same is likely to apply to the summer examinations. I wish our Year 13 Media and Sport Studies students all the best with their examinations next Friday.

Take care,

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



**SIXTH FORM
ADMISSIONS FOR
SEPTEMBER 2022
ENTRY CLOSE AT
9AM ON MONDAY
17TH JANUARY**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Firstly and most importantly a happy new year from governors to all our Furze Platt community.

We hope that you had an enjoyable festive season and that we can all look forward to 2022 and a much needed eventual return to normality.



You will have heard the result of the recent Ofsted inspection and I would encourage you to read a copy of the report and see the many positive comments that were made about the school. This is a credit to the whole school community for all the ongoing hard work that is undertaken. There is no doubt that the Ofsted bar has been raised in terms of expectations so a 'Good' rating (with many outstanding features) is something we should all be proud of and gives us a solid base on which to build for the future.

I see an Ofsted visit as a useful external 'barometer' of the ongoing effectiveness of the school, it is a deep dive for a short period of time but those leading the school should know our strengths and weaknesses far better. It is the responsibility of the leadership team from an operational perspective and governors from a strategic one to ensure that we keep striving to improve every aspect of school life. We are on a continuing journey and need to make sure that we are doing the best with the resources we have available.

One aspect of School life that has been on the radar for many years now is the IT side of things. How do we embrace technology to ensure that our students learning is as effective as possible and they are best equipped for their eventual workplace? For the last 18 months or so a strategic working group has been looking at the feasibility of introducing a parental laptop scheme for our students. I can announce that after rigorous debate of the pros and cons (as many governors are current parents) it has been agreed to push ahead with the roll out of this from the start of the new academic year (September 2022) for Years 7 and 10. Details and full information will be made available in due course so that parents can plan ahead and budget accordingly. It is however imperative that no student will be excluded or prohibited from participating for financial reasons.

In other news we were delighted at our December full governing body meeting to appoint Nabeela Akhtar as a new governor and are looking forward to working with her.

Gavin Tisshaw



YEAR 9F PARENTS AND CARERS CONSULTATION EVENING

On Thursday 13th January there will be a consultation evening for Year 9F parents and students (details for those in Year 9P band will be sent out next week).

Due to current social distancing measures these events will be held virtually. Appointments with our Science department will be covered by one teacher under Biology for all three subjects.

Appointment slots for 9F students only are available now; we advise you to book as soon as possible as appointments are likely to book up quickly.

To identify if your child is in F 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, i.e. 9F/En3. This indicates the student is in Year 9, Band F.

To book (and for full instructions) either follow the link below or go to the Parents' Evening Bookings link under 'News & Events' on the school website. Appointments are booked online and are available from 4.15pm until 7.15pm (please note the last appointment is at 7.10pm).

PARENTS' EVENING BOOKINGS

If you need any help booking appointments for this Year 9F parents' evening please contact 01628 625308.

We look forward to seeing you.

Mrs S Crisford

Assistant Headteacher (Student Support)

YEAR 11 FRENCH, GERMAN, SPANISH

VOCABULARY REVISION AND PPE PREPARATION

All Year 11 students studying French, German or Spanish should have been completing regular vocabulary revision using Quizlet. A reminder that all details and a link to students' class Quizlet can be found on GO Home Learning pages.

Cont. on page 3

As discussed at parents' evening last term, students should be spending 10-15 minutes daily working through Quizlet vocabulary learning set by their class teacher – this is not only for the forthcoming PPEs but also ongoing revision for final exams later this year.



Quizlet: Learn languages and vocabulary
 Quizlet Inc. Education ★★★★★ 438,186
 PEGI 3
 Contains ads · Offers in-app purchases
 This app is available for your device
 Add to wishlist Install

Year 7, 8, 9 & 10 French, German & Spanish vocabulary learning

Quizlet is an interactive online resource enabling students to practise their knowledge and understanding of language. It also enables class teachers to monitor students' engagement and progress, maximising their potential. During the next week, the MFL Department will be checking that all students have signed up to their respective Quizlet class.

Weekly Home Learning tasks will include vocabulary revision and be reviewed in language lessons. All details will be posted in GO Home Learning, including the respective class Quizlet link. A little bit of language learning each day will guarantee positive results!

Please do contact your child's class teacher should you have any questions and thank you for supporting from home.

Mrs D. Jack, Head of Modern Foreign Languages



MEET A GOVERNOR

Emily Tomalin - Parent Governor

I am mum of Amy who is in Year 12. My son was at FPSS and now lives in Brighton. I have lived in Cookham for 25 years, but I grew up in London and lived in wild west Wales for many years. I am retired from a career in Renewable Energy. I used to work on wind farms in Wales and solar energy in Maidenhead. I am a member of the local Green Party and I am fascinated and concerned about how our society will adapt to the challenges of climate change and loss of biodiversity. Schools, like all our institutions, need to explore this challenge, but I think it can bring many positive opportunities. I enjoy walking my dogs, growing and cooking organic veg, and practising meditation.



LATE START FRIDAY 4TH FEBRUARY

Following our Year 9 Options Evening on Thursday 3rd February, students will start at 9.15am on Friday 4th February, going straight to their first lesson that day.



INVITATIONS TO CLUBS

You may wish to sign up to My EVOLVE for an overview of clubs, what's on etc – you can do this from any of the club emails sent to you in two easy steps:

1. Click on the link in the email as usual to see clubs
2. Click 'create account' button at the top of your screen.

Please note:

* all bookings for this term must be made through the original email invitation (sent out Friday 17th December); more clubs may be added to this invitation next term but all bookings need to be made through this email

Cont. on page 4

New clubs this term

- Flute choir on Mondays (Years 7-13)
- The Feel Good Club on Tuesdays (Years 7-13)
- Girls who Code on Tuesdays (Years 7-13)
- International Culture Club on Wednesdays (Years 7-13)
- English Literature Academic Support clinic on Tuesdays (Year 13)
- Year 7 Juggling Club has moved to Break 1 Thursday – all Year 7 students are welcome!



[LINK TO NEXT WEEK'S CLUBS LIST](#)



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

I am delighted to let you know we now have finalised the expedition dates for the DofE and will be reopening the registration process for those currently not enrolled.

BXM will be delivering expeditions on the dates below (Mr Ging has already given permission for students to do their expedition during the school term and I will forward an authorised absence form for those wishing to take part):

Practice expedition: Sunday 6th - Thursday 10th March 2022

Assessment expedition: Monday 4th - Friday 8th July 2022

As they are taking place during the school term, they will take place locally e.g. around Chiltern Hills.

I am sure students have all been doing activities that will count towards their physical, skill and volunteering sections, therefore anyone wishing to enrol can backdate activities to 1st September 2021.

There will be an information evening on Teams on Thursday 20th January between 6-7pm for students and parents. Liz Thornton-Harwood from DofE and Leigh Rose from BXM will be in attendance and we will provide all the information needed for students to enrol and successfully complete their Gold award. Please click the link below to join the meeting.

MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING

We already have a number of Sixth Form students enrolled on the Gold Award and we would love to extend this opportunity to those who have expressed an interest but missed the original deadline.

If students wish to discuss their award with me I can be found in the portacabin or Gen3 during break times, or please send me an email: Desrene.carty@furzeplatt.net

Regards,

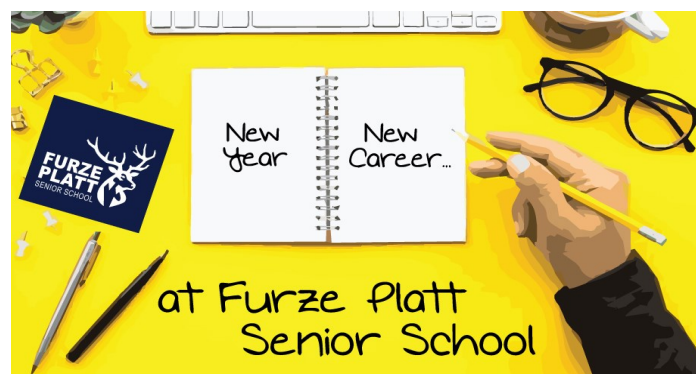
Miss D Carty, DofE Manager



PLANNING A TAKEAWAY THIS WEEKEND? NEARLY FINISHED THOSE CHRISTMAS CHOCOLATES?!

Please could we have any empty clean containers (plastic with lids that you get when you order a takeaway) or large chocolate tubs for our Food Tech Department?

Thank you!



**COME AND WORK WITH US - CHECK OUT OUR
CURRENT VACANCIES TODAY!**



COMING SOON

PTFA MEETING & 200 CLUB DRAW

Uniform – has your son or daughter outgrown their uniform? Have you had a clear out?

If so, we would be very grateful for your donation in order to fulfil outstanding orders and to meet our environmental objectives: Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose. Please leave your bag with the school Reception or contact us to drop off to a PTFA's home. Thank you to those who have donated over recent weeks.

We currently have some second-hand stock to sell so email or message us with the sizes of the items you require and we'll get your order bagged up, ready for collection: email us: ptfa@furzeplatt.net or message us: <https://www.facebook.com/fpsptfa>

Payment can be made by bank transfer, card or by cash.



Naming property – prevent it going AWOL!

easy2name

We know a Lost Property Mountain can be avoided. During the circumstances, the only clean, safe and secure way of retrieving your property is by naming EVERYTHING!! That means all clothing, PE socks, ties, all footwear, bags, water bottles and lunchboxes. We have registered ourselves with the [Easy2Name.com](https://www.easy2name.com) in order to claim 20% commission from each purchase, plus free delivery – use code **FR-FURZEPLATTSCHOOL-57**

YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND US!



ptfa@furzeplatt.net



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



Outreach Team Worker – to start as soon as possible

Permanent, part time, 30 Hours a week, start time 8.45am, finish time 3.15pm (includes a half hour unpaid break). Monday to Friday, term time only.
Actual salary £16,340 - £17,680 pa depending on experience

Furze Platt Senior School is proud to host the Shine Department, which helps young people with autism thrive and succeed in a mainstream school environment. We have an exciting opportunity for someone to work within our outreach team providing support and training to schools within the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

The successful applicant will be responsible for managing a caseload of students with a diagnosis of autism in mainstream education settings. Working collaboratively with school staff to provide strategies and skills and enable them to improve their understanding of autism to allow them to support ASD students with progress and attainment is an important aspect of this role. You would be responsible for carrying out individual observations of students in their school environment and the provision of a written report detailing recommendations of actions to help support them. You would also deliver targeted programmes to students either on a one-to-one basis or in groups and attend multi-agency meetings to provide advice and support in relation to students' needs within school.

If you have extensive experience of working with students with ASD we would welcome your application. Specialist training will be provided to the successful candidate. Use of a car is essential for this role as it requires visiting other schools in the Windsor & Maidenhead area (expenses will be covered).

For further information about this role and to complete a Support Staff application form please refer to our school website www.furzeplatt.com. Application forms should be returned to 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 24th January 2022
Interviews will take place week commencing 24th January 2022

CURRENT VACANCIES

Student Support Administrator To start as soon as possible

Permanent, full time, Monday to Friday, term time only

37 hours a week, start time Monday to Thursday 8.30am, finish time 4.30pm, Friday finish at 4pm (includes a half hour unpaid break). Flexibility of start and finish times may be considered for the right applicant

Actual salary £18,260 - £19,380pa depending on experience

Furze Platt is a highly successful mixed comprehensive school serving the children of Maidenhead. At Furze Platt, 1400 students of all abilities develop the skills and qualities to enable them to excel in the future. We are a highly ambitious, high-achieving and fully inclusive school in which our students are challenged and supported to achieve excellence.

This is an exciting new role supporting our school pastoral team who are dedicated to the safety and wellbeing of all students. The successful applicant will be providing high quality administrative support to our pastoral and safeguarding teams and Heads of Houses, helping ensure all pastoral, behavioural and child protection interventions are managed safely and effectively. This requires effective management of a central database of vulnerable students ensuring data is stored securely and is readily accessible. Another important role is managing "callouts" which involves taking calls from staff requiring behaviour support and ensuring they are effectively logged, triaged, and passed on to the relevant members of staff on callout duty. Other responsibilities include facilitating the organisation of annual student injections, organising the running of year group photo sessions, inputting parent evening data and managing Free School Meal applications.

We are looking for someone who has excellent communication skills, attention to detail, understands the importance of confidentiality and who would embrace the acquisition of new skills and acquiring new information in relation to the education sector and student well-being. If you have experience of working in an administrative role and enjoy working in an environment where no two days are the same, we would love the opportunity to consider your application.

For further information about this role and to complete a **Support Staff Application Form** please refer to our school website www.furzeplatt.com. Application forms should be returned to 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 24th January 2022 at 9am
Interviews will take place: week commencing 24th January 2022

CURRENT VACANCIES