

# FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #68.1



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

### Welcome Back

I hope that you all had an enjoyable summer. Talking to students and colleagues this week it has been apparent that many of you have had some fun adventures and experiences away from school. That said, there were also many students (and I am sure parents and carers) delighted to be back after the long break.



In particular, it has been lovely to welcome our new students as well as their parents and carers. While these students are mainly in Year 7 and Year 12, we also welcome students within every year group who have relocated to join our community.

### My Start of Year Messages

I have delivered the first assemblies of the term to each year group. In these I have focused on six key messages:

1. Building a strong relationship with their Tutor. Their tutors are their champions and the people they meet each morning.
2. Getting involved in House competitions. We are excited to be launching the new Houses within the next fortnight (complete with new ties). More details to follow...
3. Winning prizes and meeting our expectations. With us all able to track rewards and consequences on Class Charts it is important students do their best.
4. Working hard on their education. Each year students can show their new teachers just how great they can be. For certain year groups, for example Year 9 about to choose their options, or Key Stage 4 and 5 students on examination courses, this is essential. I have set all students the challenge of beating the excellent results our students achieved in 2022.

Cont. on page 2



## UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL EVENTS

SPORTS CALENDAR

### Next week (Week 2)

<b>TUE 13</b> SEPTEMBER	Preparing to Succeed in Year 11 Evening	6.30pm - 7.30pm
<b>WED 14</b> SEPTEMBER	Preparing to Succeed in Year 10 Evening	6.30pm - 7.30pm
<b>THU 15</b> SEPTEMBER	Preparing to Succeed in Year 7 Evening	6.30pm - 7.30pm
<b>THU 6</b> OCTOBER	Main School Open Evening School closes for students at 12.30pm	6-9pm
<b>FRI 7</b> OCTOBER	INSET Day	

## SCHOOL TERM DATES



In Memoriam

Her Majesty  
**Queen Elizabeth II**

1926 - 2022

We were all saddened to hear the news that Queen Elizabeth II died yesterday at Balmoral. Our thoughts and condolences are with her family and all those affected by her death.

Queen Elizabeth II has been our monarch for over 70 years and members of our community will have different memories of her reign. Many of these will be shared at FPSS in future days and weeks. As we learn more about the plans for national commemorations, we will consider how to adjust our calendar to reflect these events.

Our Pastoral team are available during school hours for students who may wish to talk about yesterday's events.

Furze Platt Senior School



5. Trying something new. One joy of our school is that there is so much going on. Students should try something different whether that be in lessons or via the enrichment programme.
6. Being Kind. Whether on a day-to-day basis around FPSS, at home or in the community, or by helping others further afield, for example impacted by the floods in Pakistan, I emphasised the value of kindness and the happiness it can bring. This includes on social media as well as in person.

### New Colleagues

As we start the new academic year, we welcome new faces to FPSS. You will also notice some familiar names who have trained with us or returned to our school:

Christina Raducan, Dan Brown and Omar Barman (Teachers of Maths), Dan Tipp, Nicki Cochrane, Keele Richardson, Chris Gill, Jade Honke (PE), Hannah Burton, Simon Markham (English), Kate Kalinowski (Head of Performing Arts), Selinah Ashraf, Tom Constable (History), Louise McSweeney (Parent Support Advisor), Bettina Siddiqi (LSA), Marc Gomiz (LSA in Shine), Sarah Harris (Art and Photography), Sue Owen (Technology), Stuart Forster and Mark Swindell (Music), Frederik Green-Nikel (Head of Psychology), Marijana Milicevic (Drama), and Kelly Holloway (Raising Achievement).

I am sure that you will join with me in wishing these new colleagues all the best for their FPSS careers.

Take care,

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

'The curriculum is broad and personalised. It is designed well to meet the needs of all pupils.'

*Ofsted 2021*

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

On behalf of the Governing Body, I'd like to welcome back our students and staff and to extend a warm welcome to all new members of the Furze Platt Senior School community. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer, soaked up some sunshine and is refreshed and recharged for the academic year ahead.



The Governing Board were delighted to see the hard work of pupils and staff pay off in the fantastic exam results this summer – all the more impressive given these marked a return to formal examinations after the two-year hiatus. Recognition and thanks must go also to the families of our students who provide year-round support and should share this celebration of achievement.

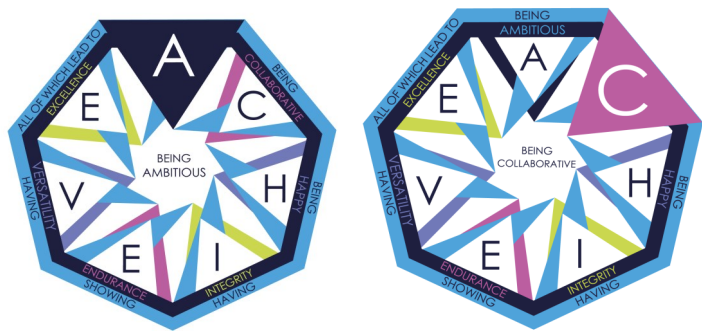
I am privileged to have been elected to the role of Chair following the remarkable tenure of Gavin Tisshaw, who has served Furze Platt for eighteen years as a Governor, including seven years as chair, and is now stepping down.

Gavin oversaw some incredibly significant changes at the school, including the appointment of Dr Morrison as Head and the significant site development. This not only includes the new teaching block and state of the art theatre but also many much-needed refurbishments. Gavin also stewarded the school through the dramatic disruption of Covid and our recent OFSTED inspection and for all of this, plus much, much, more, we owe him a huge debt of thanks.

We have also had to say goodbye to governors Lucy Naylor and Emily Tomalin, 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).

The Governing Body is determined to continue to build upon the hard work and success of recent years and we appreciate your continued support. We are looking forward to meeting many of you at upcoming school events so please don't hesitate to make contact!

Hugh Steed



## STUDENT PASTORAL MANAGERS

At Furze Platt Senior School staff seek to respond to communications within two working days. Should a matter require longer to resolve we will acknowledge your email and reply in more depth thereafter. If your issue is urgent (for example affecting the health and safety of a student) please telephone the Student Pastoral Manager for your child's year.

Year 7: Miss S Gumbs

Year 8: Mrs J Barney

Year 9: Mrs B Harper

Year 10: Miss L Barney

Year 11: Mrs M Carpenter

Sixth Form: Mrs M Pasa

CONTACT DETAILS FOR STAFF CAN BE FOUND HERE

## PREPARING TO SUCCEED EVENINGS

Our Preparing to Succeed Evenings are taking place for Years 7, 10 and 11 next week. Each event will run from 6.30pm – 7.30pm and will be held in the School Theatre:

**Year 11 - Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm**

**Year 10 - Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm**

**Year 7 - Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm**

Please arrive from 6.15pm onwards for a prompt 6.30pm start. Parents and students are welcome to attend but as this is an information evening for parents, Year 7 students need not attend (however, Year 10 and Year 11 students will find it beneficial to hear the information along with their

parents and carers).

Timetables, behaviour points and home learning can be accessed via the ClassCharts app; details on how to sign up have recently been sent out to Year 7 parents and carers.

We hope to see you at the upcoming Preparing to Succeed evenings.

Miss A Towell, Head of Progress (Year 7)

Mrs L Bull, Head of Progress (Year 10)

Mrs Laura Sharp, Head of Progress (Year 11)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

### OPEN EVENING

**THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 6-9pm**

**Early finish for all students – 12.30pm**

Our annual Open Evening is being held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October for prospective students and their parents. All current Furze Platt students will finish at 12.30pm that day; helpers will be invited back before the event starts. More details will be sent out in due course.



### INSET DAY

**FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

School will be closed for all year groups.

Please note the future INSET days for this academic year are on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October, Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023.



## REPORTING ABSENCE

Please report any Absence for your child via ClassCharts. If accessing on a phone, please scroll along the line at the top with an orange dot at the end (marked 'behaviour', 'on report cards' and 'homework') near the top of the screen and you will see additional options further along including 'report absence'.

A letter from Mr Sheppard with information and your login details was sent via Parentmail on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022; Year 7 parents will have recently received an email with login details.

If you require your login details to be re-sent, please email [jacky.phillips@furzeplatt.net](mailto:jacky.phillips@furzeplatt.net)

Thank you.

Well done to Joshua Rowe, Year 8, for correctly guessing the musical which will be announced soon.

## AUDITIONS - THE DETAILS

### Who can audition?

Students in all year groups are encouraged to try out and audition

### When are the auditions?

Tuesday 13th September at 3.15pm - 5.15pm in DS1

### What do students need to do?

Prepare a few verses from a song of your choice either as a solo or a group; come along and you will be given an extract of a script to perform.

Good luck!

## SCHOOL MUSICAL - AUDITIONS (ALL YEAR GROUPS)

Tuesday 13th September 3.15pm - 5.15pm in DS1

Students were tasked with trying to work out what this year's School Musical was from a number of clues throughout Form time this week. Can you guess what it is...?



## MESSAGE FROM OUR MATHS DEPARTMENT

### YEARS 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11

Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 should bring a scientific calculator to every maths lesson. The department recommend the Casio fx-83GTx which are widely available to purchase on the high street, including WH Smith, Ryman, Argos and Wilko, usually costing around £12 or less.



### YEAR 12

Maths and Further Maths students can purchase a calculator from school via their ParentMail account.



## LAPTOPS FOR LEARNING - YEAR 7 AND YEAR 10

Thank you to all parents and carers of students in Years 7 and 10 – our first year groups in the scheme - who have supported Laptops for Learning and enabled us to launch this September. You are doubtlessly using the instructions sent earlier this week to set up laptops ready for starting next **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September**.

While the vast majority of our students now have laptops, we are aware that a minority of students, parents and carers are still sourcing a laptop (for example, because a student has moved school or was previously on our waiting list). Like other parents and carers you are welcome to source a laptop yourselves (please refer to the minimum specification on our website using the link below).

### LAPTOPS FOR LEARNING INFORMATION

However, several parents and carers have asked if they could join the school scheme. The purpose of this mail is to let you know that we will shortly be re-opening the ordering portal and will send out further details once we have finalised everything with our supplier. In the meantime, teachers will make allowances for those students awaiting laptops in lessons.



### TERM 1 CLUBS (SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER HALF TERM 2022)

Parents and carers of students in all year groups should have received invitations today (Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022) to attend clubs for their son/daughter. The email was headed Furze Platt Senior School with the email address [evolve.furzeplattsnrvisits@edufocus.co.uk](mailto:evolve.furzeplattsnrvisits@edufocus.co.uk) and the links will be 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.

Students have also been sent a copy of the clubs available but parents and carers will need to book the clubs your son or daughter would like to attend. We do encourage them to try as many as they are interested in – with over 60 clubs and academic clinics this term alone we are sure they will find a number of activities they really enjoy!

## MY EVOLVE

In addition, parents and carers may wish to sign up to My EVOLVE for an overview of clubs, what's on etc – you can do this from the club or academic support clinic emails sent to you in two easy steps:

1. Click on the link in the email as usual to see clubs/clinics
2. Click 'create account' button.

### PLEASE NOTE:

- \* All bookings for Term 1 (September/October 2022) must be made through the original email invitations sent out today
- \* Once in the list of clubs or academic support clinics, click on the name of the activity or session you wish to book, choose the dates and scroll down to press confirm
- \* Please do not duplicate club bookings per session
- \* If you have emailed the school to request a place for your child, please note these will not constitute a booking and you will need to book their space through the EVOLVE email links instead
- \* Bookings for Fitness Club - these have been limited to 30 students at a time per session. This will be rotated but please be aware that your son/daughter may not have a place each week. You will be notified when they are to attend
- \* Bookings for Open Gym: Students wishing to attend Open Gym should see Mr Djaelani with their training programme; he will then register them once he has approved their programme
- \* 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 relevant to your son/daughter
- \* If your son or daughter wishes to be removed from a club completely, please email [catherine.johnstone@furzeplatt.net](mailto:catherine.johnstone@furzeplatt.net) and provide as much notice as possible to allow time for that place to be allocated to someone on the waiting list.

A list of clubs is updated every Friday afternoon on our website here:

### SCHOOL CLUBS LIST



# Supervised Study

(Homework Club)

Do you need a place to

- Do homework
- Do schoolwork
- Revise?



Sign up on EvolveClubs or talk to Miss Gorton in RA

After School  
(3.15 – 4.30pm)

Monday - Friday

E6 Starts 12<sup>th</sup>  
September

## MUSIC AT FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

### Piano lessons:

Piano lessons are taught by Mrs Celia Armstrong who offers 20 or 30 minute lessons. For further information about signing up, please email your details to [stuart.forster@furzeplatt.net](mailto:stuart.forster@furzeplatt.net) and he will put you in touch with Mrs Armstrong.

### Other instrumental / vocal lessons:



If you have been taught by Berkshire Maestros in the past, please contact them directly as you may still be on their system. They can be contacted on: 0118 901 2370 or [hello@berkshiremaestros.org.uk](mailto:hello@berkshiremaestros.org.uk)

For new starters please go to this website <http://ukberkshire.speedadmin.dk/registration/#/> or scan the QR code. Select Furze Platt Senior School to see the lessons on offer. All lessons can be 20 minute group lessons or 20/30 minute individual lessons. Berkshire Maestros also offer a free trial lesson and instrument hire.

If you have any questions regarding instrumental lessons please contact Mr Forster (Joint Lead Teacher of Music) at [stuart.forster@furzeplatt.net](mailto:stuart.forster@furzeplatt.net)

## Extra-Curricular Music Clubs:

There is always a wide variety of Music clubs on offer for students throughout the year. Students perform at the Christmas and Spring Concerts, and can audition to be part of the school musical too. You will be able to see the clubs on offer via the EVOLVE email and on the school website.

If you have any questions regarding our extra-curricular offering please contact Mr Swindell (Joint Lead Teacher of Music) at [mark.swindell@furzeplatt.net](mailto:mark.swindell@furzeplatt.net)

DE

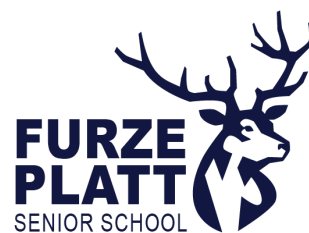
## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

### Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards

We are delighted to let you know that we will be offering the Bronze, Silver and 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 the meeting this term has been postponed and full details of the Awards will be sent out in Term 2.

## ACHIEVE FUND UPDATE



### OUR ACHIEVE FUND

Our ACHIEVE fund is now a year old and we are incredibly grateful to parents and friends of the school who make one off or regular donations. These additional funds help to buy a whole range of enriching resources and activities for all our students to enjoy.

For example, recently, parental donations have funded:

- A new laser cutter machine for the Tech department

Cont. on page 7



- IT robots for the enrichment afternoons and to be used in the IT department
- Plants and features for the new nature garden
- A water bottle filler for the Maths block which was requested via the student sustainability survey
- 50% funding of our Grand Piano in the Theatre.

Just a few pounds each month will build up over time and make a significant difference. Even better, you can gift aid your donations to increase them by 25%.

If you would like to join the growing number of parents who make regular donations to the ACHIEVE fund, please visit our website:

**OUR ACHIEVE FUND**

Thank you.

## **FUNKIN' SOULED OUT**

**FRIDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 7.30PM**

Further updates on this event will be sent out in due course.

'Pupils are friendly, courteous and polite. They say that they are happy and that they feel safe.'

*Ofsted 2021*

## **STUDENT SPORTING SUPERSTARS**



What an amazing summer some of our students have had – a huge well done to the following pupils for their superb sporting achievements.

### **MIA LAWRENCE – 1ST AT BRITISH ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS**



Congratulations to Mia Lawrence (Year 12) who came 1st in the Women's Junior 16 Double (WJ16 2x) Category at the British Rowing Championships in Nottingham together with her team mate. Mia has been training extremely hard this last year which has really paid off, and has big goals for the next season.

### **LUCAS NORTON - GOLD MEDAL IN EUROPEAN TOUCH CHAMPIONSHIPS**



Lucas Norton (Year 11) competed in the European Touch Championships last weekend in France, winning a Gold medal in the Under 18's Boys age group who are the European Champions 2022. A brilliant team effort made up of very talented individuals – great work Lucas!

Cont. on page 8

## DEMARI GUMBS – PB AND A BRONZE MEDAL IN 400M HURDLES

Congratulations to Demari Gumbs, Year 12, who has just joined Furze Platt and is already impressing us with his winning sporting times. Demari not only won a Bronze medal in the recent English Schools' National Championships but also gained a great PB – well done to him.



'The school is rightly proud of its extra-curricular provision.'

*Ofsted 2021*

**PQA**  
THE PAULINE QUIRKE  
ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS  
MAIDENHEAD

PQA Maidenhead are recruiting for a teaching assistant to work with our youngest students aged from 4-6 years,

Ideally, you will have experience of working with early years children and be interested in working in a performing arts environment. The successful candidate will assist with classes, joining in activities and ensuring that all are fully engaged with the class.

Saturday classes from 9.15am.

The successful candidate will need to have an enhanced DBS check which can be arranged by PQA.

For further information and to find out more about the role, please call Liz on 07443 460390.

## CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL PYJAMAS – CHARITY REQUEST



Each year, the charity Children's Hospital Pyjamas collect donations of brand new pyjamas from new-born to age 18, which are then gifted to children in hospital on Christmas morning. In reality, they are also used in other situations where children may have had their clothes cut in A&E, in an emergency situation where there hasn't been time to pack essentials, or where families live a distance from the hospital and to save them from unnecessary travel.



Last year we collected over 15,000 pairs of pyjamas and donated them to 90 establishments. This year we will be supporting Wexham Park Hospital.

Our appeal begins September 1<sup>st</sup> and runs to the end of November 2022.

Please visit our website where you will find our registered charity details, pictures, stories, and much more. (Please note: donations should be made through the website address and not through school.)  
[www.childrenshospitalpyjamas.co.uk](http://www.childrenshospitalpyjamas.co.uk)



Dear all, especially New Students, Parents and Carers

On behalf of the PTFA we would like to welcome you and your child/ren to Furze Platt Senior School. The PTFA is a registered charity and run by a Committee of enthusiastic volunteers. We have been very active over the past few years raising funds through a variety of different means by running one-off activities and regular contribution schemes. For instance, we run Quizzes, Bars, claim Grants from Trusts and RBWM, hold Nearly New Uniform Sales, receive donations from Amazon.Smile, Easyfundraising, Matched Funding schemes and we operate The 200 Club.

The chief similarity with a primary or junior school PTA is that our main role is, and will always be, **FUNDRAISING**. However, there is a distinct shift away from large scale events that demand manpower, like fairs and raffles, to steady online fundraisers such as The 200 Club, Amazon.Smile and Easyfundraising.

If you'd like more information and/or how to be involved in an exciting new era for you, then please view our webpage: <https://www.furzeplatt.com/page/?title=The+PTFA&pid=41> follow our Facebook page: [Facebook.com/fpssptfa](https://facebook.com/fpssptfa)

Feel free to get in touch, anytime, by email: [ptfa@furzeplatt.net](mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net) or message via [Facebook.com/fpssptfa](https://facebook.com/fpssptfa)


## A FEW MENTIONS...

**Name ALL your property please** - clothing, ties, footwear, bags, water bottles, lunchboxes, glasses cases.

Thank you for your donations of uniform over the summer holidays, these have helped many families greatly. We intend to build stock again, so please donate your logo'd uniform if you are clearing the decks. Please drop clean, undamaged, saleable goods into the containers in School Reception.

We are registered with Easyfundraising.org and Amazon.Smile to receive online donations, so please register or redirect your current cause to us, at no cost to you! Please use the links below:

 **easyfundraising**  
feel good shopping <https://bit.ly/393NF8R+>

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

**We appreciate your feedback and welcome comments and ideas by phone call 01628 625308, by email [ptfa@furzeplatt.net](mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net) and through our Facebook Page [facebook.com/fpssptfa](https://facebook.com/fpssptfa)**



National  
Trust

## Great Big Green Week Pinkneys Green – Litter Pick

24<sup>th</sup> September 2022 10:00 – 13:00

Come for a stroll around Pinkneys Green and the surrounding area for an hour or so, and help protect nature by picking some litter as you go. All ages are welcome to help us kick off Great Big Green Week. Meet at Pinkneys Green ranger shed. We will supply Bags, Grabbers and Gloves but please bring your own if available.

Free event

**For more details:**

**[nationaltrust.org.uk/maidenhead-and-cookham-commons/whats-on](https://nationaltrust.org.uk/maidenhead-and-cookham-commons/whats-on)**

When you visit, donate, volunteer or join the National Trust, your support helps us to look after special places for ever, for everyone.

© National Trust 2022. The National Trust is an independent registered charity, number 205846. Photography © National Trust Images.



# FUTURE TALENT SPORTS



## Coaching Athletics and keeping it fun!

We provide athletics sessions, for all abilities. They will get the chance to develop their running, throwing and jumping. Our goal is to keep things fun and engaging!

### **Sessions run every:**

Friday 5:00-6:00pm

Sunday 9:00-10:00am

**For ages:** 5-12 years old

For more information or to book email:  
[Futuretalentsports@gmail.com](mailto:Futuretalentsports@gmail.com)







For more information or to book email:  
[Futuretalentsports@gmail.com](mailto:Futuretalentsports@gmail.com)



@futuretalent.sports



@FutureTalent.Sports



Thames Valley Athletics Centre  
Pococks Lane, Eton,  
Windsor, SL4 6HN

## Gale Hubbard, Yoga Teacher

Gale is passionate about the well-being of young people. Her mission is to help them to enjoy and explore the world around them, and also have them realise their own agency and the contribution they can make.

An experienced yoga instructor and school teacher, she has spent over 10 years in education. Gale has worked with children from age 3 to 18 years both in and out of schools, in the UK, Ghana, Romania and New Zealand. She is also a certified children's mindfulness teacher.



Move Happy Fitness

Wednesdays, Term time

New courses begin 14th September

6.15pm - 7.15pm

7.30pm - 8.30pm

St Edmund Campion Parish Centre,  
Altwood Road, Maidenhead



## Yoga for Girls aged 11 - 16

- Supporting physical development by increasing flexibility and strength
- Helping to build emotional and mental resilience
- Breath work and other techniques to increase energy and decrease anxiety and stress
- A non competitive and fun environment
- Opportunity to get active, connect and engage with others, as well as step away from technology for a time
- A route to rediscover and reconnect with what it is to enjoy movement and activity

### DETAILS AND BOOKING

<https://www.movehappyfitness.co.uk/kids-yoga>

### Questions?

Contact: Nicola Porter  
[nicolamaryporter@gmail.com](mailto:nicolamaryporter@gmail.com)  
Phone: 07709 164778  
[www.movehappyfitness.co.uk](http://www.movehappyfitness.co.uk)  
[@movehappyfitness](https://www.instagram.com/movehappyfitness)

Feel strong  
from the inside  
out



### Silver Membership

*Train with us once a week*

### Gold Membership

*Train with us unlimited times a week*



Move Happy Fitness