

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #68.12



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Careers and Higher Education Fair

Many thanks to all students, parents and carers who attended our Careers and Higher Education Fair on Tuesday. Speaking to many of you, I know that the evening was really useful, with lots to learn from speaking to employers, universities and colleges, as well as hearing about apprenticeships.



A particular thanks to Judith Bubb, our Careers Lead, and all the visiting businesses, colleges and universities who supported the evening. Many of our employers had connections with FPSS and your support is much appreciated.



IF YOU ATTENDED, LET US KNOW HOW WE DID

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



**WEDNESDAY 7TH
DECEMBER 2022**

7.30PM - 9.30PM



UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL EVENTS

SPORTS CALENDAR

Next week (Week 1)

WED 7 DECEMBER	Christmas Concert	7.30pm - 9.30pm
THU 8 DECEMBER	Year 13 Parents' & Students' Consultation Evening	4.15pm - 7.15pm

Forthcoming Events

TUE 13 DECEMBER	House Talent Show	5-6.30pm
THU 15 DECEMBER	Christmas Jumper Day	All Day
FRI 16 DECEMBER	End of Term 2	12.30pm finish
MON 19 – MON 2 DECEMBER JANUARY	Christmas Holidays	
TUE 3 JANUARY	INSET DAY	
WED 4 JANUARY	Start of Term 3 (week 1)	

SCHOOL TERM DATES

Christmas Concert - Wednesday 7th December

I look forward to welcoming many of you to FPSS next Wednesday for our Christmas Concert. It promises to be a great evening.

BOOK CHRISTMAS CONCERT TICKETS

House Talent Show - Tuesday 13th December

The following week also sees our House Talent Show. Having been asked to be a judge, I am looking forward to seeing a wide variety of acts. See page 2 for more details.

Sixth Form Parent Consultation Evenings

Over this fortnight our Year 12 and Year 13 teachers meet with parents, carers and students. For Year 13 the evening is important in setting students up for their impending PPEs and subsequent A Level and BTEC examinations. There is much work to do and hopefully the

evenings helped highlight areas of focus, as well as current successes. With Year 12, colleagues will be focusing on establishing good study habits in readiness for future success. I hope that you enjoyed the evenings.

Take care,

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

YEAR 10 AND 13 REPORTS

The above reports have now been issued and are available online via Go4Schools or our website through the 'Online Reporting' link.

Mrs K Avery, Data Manager

FURZE PLATT TALENT SHOW

TUESDAY 13TH DECEMBER 5-6.30pm

Furze Platt is putting on a Talent Show!

We are looking for 3 performances (single or in groups) from each House to compete in our Talent Show on Tuesday 13th December in the Theatre, after school from 5-6:30pm. Tickets will be available to book online for free but donations will be collected on the door and the money will go to the winner's House Charity.

Eliminators will be held during tutor time w/c 5th December in DS1. There will be no audience, only Heads of House and Mrs McElligott selecting the finalists.

Students can perform in a group or individually and can be from different Houses.

Auditions (in DS1 at 8:45am):

- Monday – Eagle
- Tuesday – Hawk
- Wednesday – Falcon
- Thursday – Osprey

Come straight there and we will register you.

There are points and prizes up for grabs:

- 10 points for any students who audition
- 25 points for the 3 finalists from each House
- £30 Amazon voucher for the winner
- 1000 points for the winning House, 600 for 2nd, 400 for 3rd, 200 for 4th place.
- Eliminators will be held during tutor time w/c 5th December. More details will follow soon.
- Students can audition in a group or on their own.
- Their talent could be singing, playing an instrument, dancing, comedy, a drama performance, or anything else you can think of.

- Sign up is via student's tutors.

Judges:

- Dr Andrew Morrison, Headteacher
- Kate Kalinowski, Head of Performing Arts
- Wayne Dixon, CCiS Lead (Christian Connector in Schools).
- Sam Williams – Ex-student and London-based comedy writer and stand-up



Our 2023 Sixth Form Prospectus and Course Guide is now available...



SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS & COURSE GUIDE 2023

APPLICATIONS TO SIXTH FORM

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY
THURSDAY 15TH DECEMBER



On Thursday 15th December we will be hosting Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children. Students who wish to wear a Christmas jumper on these days may do so but must still be in their smart uniform of school shirt and tie, trousers/shirt and school shoes. All Christmas jumpers need to be appropriate for school in their imagery and language.

Christmas Jumper Day is Save the Children's annual event which raises money for children in the UK and across the world. This year, the UK government's promised to give the same amount as you give. Every time you give £2 to Save the Children, [they give £2.](#)

Donations should be made straight to Save the Children if you would like to contribute, we will not be asking for cash donations on the day:

CHRISTMAS JUMPER FUNDRAISING



CAREERS AND HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

A huge thank you to everyone who attended to this year's Careers and Higher Education Fair to see the many options students have after their school years. A special thank you to all our stallholders, who took time to



talk to our students and their parents about career choices, university pathways, apprenticeships and much more, and also to Mrs Bubb, School Careers Leader for organising this important event.



DRAMA



Blood Brothers

Students in years 10, 11 and 13 had a fantastic trip out to see Willy Russell's long running musical 'Blood Brothers' at the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre. As a set GCSE text, seeing the production live helps with exam questions and deeper understanding as well as being a truly brilliant show with fresh direction and beautiful singing. Students were a credit to the school and everyone enjoyed themselves enormously.



YEAR 12 PARENTS EVENING - FEEDBACK

Thank you for attending the Year 12 parents evening before half term. We are always keen to receive feedback and would be grateful if you could complete the following survey:

<https://forms.office.com/e/CDjpQXVmCE>



SISTER ACT

Congratulations to our wonderful 'Sister Act' cast, crew and choreographers who are working tirelessly, up to three times a week in rehearsals, arranging the technical aspects and creating dance sequences to ensure the show is coming along nicely! Our Technical theatre club (pictured below) have been working on designs for the show which will be displayed on opening night on 7th February (tickets will be available nearer the time). Local primary schools have also been invited to watch our matinee on 6th February. A shout out to the lead - Tia Groom (Year 13) - who has been outstanding in rehearsals and is stepping up wonderfully to the main role.

Well done everyone!



INVITATIONS TO CLUBS FOR TERM 2 (NOVEMBER TO CHRISTMAS 2022)

MY EVOLVE

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.

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



BASKETBALL – 62:37 TO FURZE PLATT

Written by Dilraj Rooprai (Year 9)

This week's basketball match was against LVS and started off with a fierce opener from Furze Platt gaining 20 points in the first quarter and LVS closing in. The score for the first quarter was 20:10. Within the second quarter of the game we gained 18 more points but LVS gained only a mere 6 points. 38:16 the second quarter. In the third quarter the points were at a standstill for the majority of the quarter, until the end when LVS gained 10 points. Towards the last quarter we gained a large lead having



Cont. on p.5

a 25-point lead leaving Furze Platt victorious against LVS (62:37) but LVS played really well and had an extremely good defence. Our top scorer was Aaran Hitchman scoring an outstanding 30 points.



GARDENING CLUB

This week students at Gardening Club learnt about the tradition of wreath making and had a go themselves. Well done to them all for their brilliant wreaths!



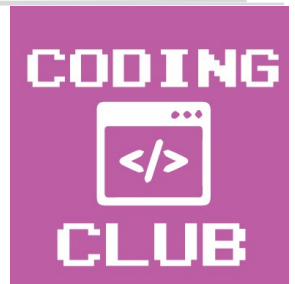
Fifi Loveridge
Lily Smith
Mert Mutlu
Gerhard Ueckermann
Harry Holdway
Tillie Logie
George Longville

Fred Fletcher
Harry Blackwell
Olly Mallinson
Kaylie Lau
Henry Camano
Frayne Pinho

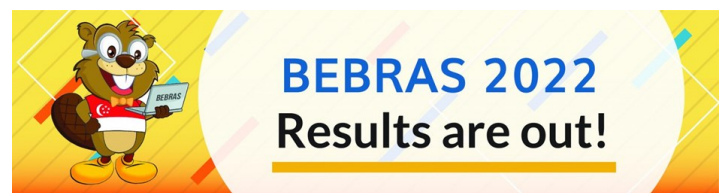
IT & COMPUTING

CODING CLUB

11 of Furze Platt's Coding Club students entered November's Bebras Computing Challenge (<https://bebras.uk>) and we are delighted to announce that:

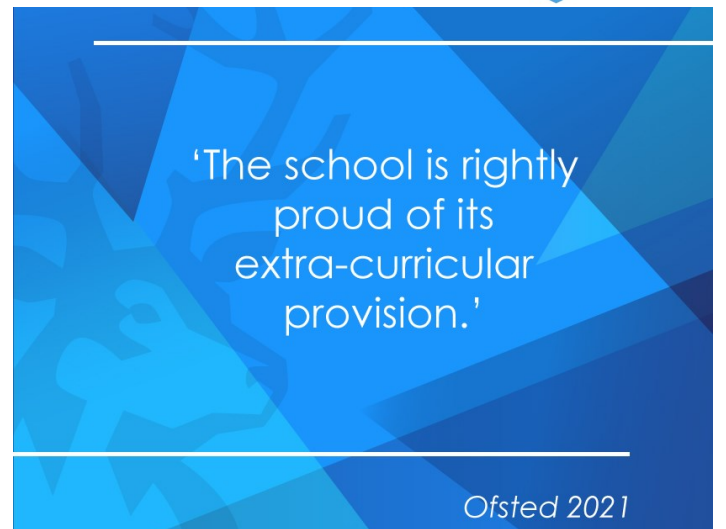


- Anna Donaldson (Year 11) & Mitchell Holmes (Year 9) scored in the top 10% of their age bracket nationally, automatically qualifying for the Oxford University Computing Challenge
- Ian Scott (Year 13) & Will Tarbit (Year 12) scored in the top 25% of their age bracket nationally.
- A further 6 students scored in the top 50% of the country.



The results were scored out of a possible 200 and students competed in age brackets with our youngest entered into the 12-14 age bracket, 2 in the 14-16 age range and 8 students aged between 16 and 18.

The OUCC takes place the week of 16th January. Best of luck to Mitchell and Anna if they choose to compete. Well done to all our students for their achievement so far!



MISSION SPACE LAB

A team of Year 12 computer scientists qualified to take part in the European Space Agency's Mission Space Lab. Their code will run on a Raspberry Pi on the International Space Station for 3 hours, collecting data on how conditions on the ISS impact magnetometer readings of the Earth's magnetic field.



Girls in STEM – Computing

Girls in STEM – Computing begins after Christmas. Female and non-binary students who attend will be learning about Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence including

- training image recognition programs
- learning about how machines learn to play games
- using artificial intelligence to produce works of art



Mr Earle, Head of IT & Computing

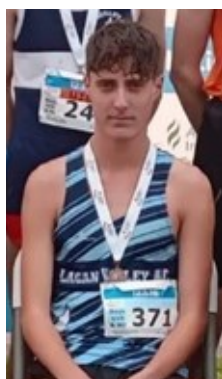
ALL IRELAND CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to Frank McGrath, Year 13, who recently competed in the All Ireland Cross Country championships in Donegal and finished 3rd in the Under 18 group, ahead of many international athletes.

He was only 24 seconds off an automatic selection for the Under 20 Ireland team at the European Cross Country Champs in Turin (December) despite being two years young for that age group. This success came after another top performance at the English National Cross Country Relays where Frank finished first on his leg.

Frank is now on the Athletics Ireland Endurance Performance Pathway programme which nurtures talent for future championships.

We wish him the very best of luck for the future.



MUSIC LESSONS AT FURZE PLATT



Do you want to be in the next number one pop band, a performer in the best classical orchestra in the world or you just want to be a better hairbrush singer?

The Music Department are giving you the opportunity to let your dreams come a reality!

At Furze Platt Senior School we offer a huge range of lessons through our specialist instrumental teachers. From violin and flute to electric guitar and drums we have it all available to every Furze Platt student.

To find out more about lessons please see Mr Forster or drop him an email stuart.forster@furzeplatt.net

AND FINALLY...

Will Mellor, Year 10 parent and currently top of the leaderboard in Strictly Come Dancing's competition, is impressing us week after week. With his partner Nancy, he completed a stunning Charleston which the judges awarded first place, a feat he also achieved in the very first week. This week is Musicals week and he will be performing a foxtrot to 'Sun and Moon' from Miss Saigon.



The Mellor Performing Arts School is holding a show to celebrate all things musical at Furze Platt Senior School in December. Tickets can be purchased via their website www.mpaschool.co.uk or by clicking the link below

[BOOK TICKETS](#)

MELLOR

Performing Arts School

PROUDLY PRESENTS

LET'S
CELEBRATE

www.mpaschool.co.uk

FURZE PLATT SNR SCHOOL

Furze Platt Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7NQ

4pm Saturday 10th Dec '22

2pm Sunday 11th Dec '22

WWW.MPASCHOOL.CO.UK

BOOK TICKETS

Know what to do when your child is unwell



Advice on when you should:

Self care at home or visit your pharmacy

111 Visit your GP or call NHS 111

Go to the nearest A&E



[Frimley-HealthierTogether.nhs.uk](https://www.frimley-healthier-together.nhs.uk)



Are you struggling with the rising cost of living?

If you're struggling due to the rising cost of living and facing difficult decisions around food, rent or heating, please remember to seek support before you reach crisis point.



The Royal Borough's 'Here to Help' campaign is continuing to highlight the latest local and national support that can help residents struggling with the rising cost of living, including support from community partners.

'Here to Help' first launched in May and brings together a range of cost of living support from the council and various partners onto [one dedicated webpage](#), covering **energy and water bills, rent, council tax, food, childcare, school meals, benefits and more.**

If you are struggling financially, please check out the dedicated 'Here to Help' webpage as soon as possible, contact the council, your landlord and energy supplier, to see what help might be available to you. If you don't have online access, you can also use the public-access computers at local libraries or call 01628 683800.

Safe, warm spaces for the community

Did you know that there is an emerging network of safe, warm spaces within the borough where people in need can go this winter for advice and support? Visit <https://rbwmttogether.rbwm.gov.uk/warm-safe-spaces-map> for a map of locations and further details.

In addition, all local libraries are safe places for the community. You are welcome to visit to use library facilities, explore the 'Here to Help' website on the public-access computers and speak with a librarian for advice around cost of living support and/or getting online.

'Here to Help' is run with the support of key partners including social landlords Abri and Housing Solutions, NHS Frimley, and voluntary and community sector partners, Foodshare Maidenhead, Windsor Foodshare, Driven Forward, The Baby Bank, Age UK, The Spore, Merry and Rixman Foundation, Re:Charge R&R, Cranstoun, Citizens Advice, All Soul's Church in South Ascot, and Wraybury and Horton Warm Winter Initiative.



**Parents, Teachers
& Friends
Association**



TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

Contact us

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

Website: [click here to access](#)

Charity Number 287878

Following our success in raising funds through the Quiz and Dinner night 4 weeks ago, we're taking on another 'job' – offering warm Mulled Wine and Mince Pies during the Christmas Concert, next Wednesday.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Wednesday 7th December

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start

**BAR & HOT DRINKS AVAILABLE FROM 7PM
– CASH AND CARD PAYMENTS ACCEPTED**

BEAT THE QUEUES DURING THE INTERVAL AND PRE-ORDER YOUR DRINKS FROM 7PM ON THE NIGHT.

3 slow cookers needed – can you lend us one?

Let us know asap: ptfa@furzeplatt.net and <https://www.facebook.com/fpssptfa>

MATCHED FUNDING/COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Do you recognise your employer here? Did you know you could claim a sum that contributes or matches the profit of the events we run? It's a tax advantage to your company to donate to a charity, like us. Give As You Earn through Payroll Giving is very well known, so follow this link and read up: <https://www.gov.uk/payroll-giving>

We were awarded a total of £14,000 between Oct 2019 and early March 2020 from various companies and individuals. Let us know what documents and data your company needs, by emailing us: ptfa@furzeplatt.net

Can you help us access fundraising from your employer with **MATCH FUNDING** schemes?



ONLINE FUNDRAISING – RESULTS...

In one week, we have gained 5 new supporters with Easyfundraising and 5 new supporters with Amazon Smile – let's keep the momentum going and achieve another 5 new supporters

WHY NOT LET YOUR FINGERS DO THE DONATING?



START SHOPPING ON AMAZON SMILE

START SHOPPING WITH EASYFUNDRAISING

EAGLES FALCONS HAWKS OSPREYS

THE HOUSE

Talent Show



SCAN ME

13TH DECEMBER, 5-6.30PM

Furze Platt is putting on a House Talent Show!

- Get involved and showcase your talent!
 - 3 acts needed from each House
 - Tickets for the final are free!!
- Auditions week commencing 5th December

Scan the QR code to book tickets.

BOOK TICKETS TODAY

COPAS TURKEYS – POTENTIAL £10 DONATION PER ORDER

BUY ASAP TO AVOID DISSAPOINTMENT

Thanks again to our local independent farm, COPAS, for their generous offer. Please add our “PTA TURKEY CASHBACK” product to your basket when ordering: <https://www.copasturkeys.co.uk/our-shop/>

Steps to follow:

1. Add a Turkey product to your basket first
2. Scroll through the product list or search “PTA” for the “PTA Turkey Cashback” item
3. Select Furze Platt Senior School from the dropdown list & add to basket.
4. Navigate to checkout & complete your order.

EST. 1957

COPAS

VERY VERY SPECIAL TURKEYS

Up to £10 donated to the school for every turkey ordered.

Add “PTA Turkey Cashback” to your basket and select our school when you order!

COPASTURKEYS.CO.UK T: 01628 499 980

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



Senior Finance Manager

To start January 2023

Permanent, 37 hours a week

We will consider applications from candidates looking for either a full year round post or term-time only plus some work during the school holidays

Actual salary depending on experience £38,342 - £42,307 FTE

We are seeking a dynamic Senior Finance Manager to join our Senior Business Team. Reporting to the Head of Finance and Operations, and line managing a small finance team, you will provide effective and high quality financial management and support to the Head of Finance and Operations, the Senior Leadership Team, and the Governors.

Furze Platt is a highly successful mixed comprehensive school serving the children of Maidenhead. At Furze Platt, 1500 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.

You will be responsible for the provision of timely and accurate financial management information, statistical analysis and financial reports and recommendations on a variety of school projects. You will lead the year end audit and be responsible for the preparation and submission of DfE and ESFA reports. You will support the Head of Finance and Operations to develop the wider financial strategy for the school and the annual budgeting process linked to the School Improvement Plan. You will be responsible for maintaining effective reporting systems for budgeting, management reporting and year end accounting and you will take the lead on the financial aspects of curriculum efficiency.

You will be a qualified accountant or have a background in financial management, and experience of working in an educational environment would be an advantage. You need to have excellent communication skills and be competent at presenting information at a senior level. In addition you will be a good team player who can work in a high pressured environment with conflicting deadlines. If this sounds like you then we would be delighted to hear from you!

We offer a friendly and harmonious campus, and we support the physical and mental wellbeing of all our staff. Discounted membership is available for the use of a fully equipped and well-maintained gym on-site and we have free onsite parking. All staff have access to an employee advice programme which offers information, resources and a counselling service. We reward long service and encourage community spirit and staff involvement through various social events. Tea and coffee are free, and freshly brewed coffee is available in the main staff room at break times with edible treats to help you through the week!

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. 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: Ongoing
Interviews will take place as and when suitable applications are received

CURRENT VACANCIES

Exam Invigilators – to start as soon as possible

Term time only, casual contract. Actual salary £11.62 per hour (inclusive of holiday pay)

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 to cover pre-public exams which take place at various times during the academic year and official exam sessions during May and June.
- 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 for an application form or contact Mrs Sarah Hemsley via sarah.hemsley@furzeplatt.net for further information. Only applications submitted on the school application form will be considered. All applications need to be submitted to kiran.smith@furzeplatt.net.

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Closing date: Ongoing
Interviews will take place as suitable applicants apply

CURRENT VACANCIES