

# FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #69.4









# MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

#### **Rotary Youth Speaks Competition**

It was a pleasure for FPSS to host the Youth Speaks competition this week and welcome other local schools. Many congratulations to our teams who won both the Intermediate and Senior competitions with debates on industrial cities versus eco-cities, and the potential impact of A.I. on creativity and innovation. They performed brilliantly



and I wish them every success in the next round in early March.



Pictured: Alp Kose, Oliwia Drozdzowska, Ethan Burtt (all Year 8) and Anna Gambrill, Keith Cory and Matt Deutschmann (all Year 13) with Miss Dowell (Debate Club Leader), Mr Ging (Head of Sixth Form) and Mr Earle (Head of IT & Computing).

#### **Year 9 Options**

It was a pleasure also to meet Year 9 students and their families yesterday evening for our Options Evening. I was delighted to see so many Year 9s asking thoughtful questions and considering their choices in depth. I am sure that these conversations will continue in school and at home in the next few weeks and wish students well with their decisions.

YEAR 9 OPTIONS WEBPAGE



ALL EVENTS

#### **NEXT WEEK (WEEK 1)**

<b>WED 1</b> FEBRUARY	* SCHOOL PARTIALLY CLOSING * Please see Dr Morrison's letter dated 27.1.23 for full information	
<b>WED 1</b> FEBRUARY	PTFA Meeting / AGM (Library)	7pm

# **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

MON 6 FEBRUARY	School Musical (matinee performance for local junior schools)	
TUE 7 - THU 9 FEBRUARY	School Musical	7pm
<b>FRI 10</b> FEBRUARY	END OF TERM (TERM 3)	3.15pm finish
MON 13 - FRI 17 FEBRUARY	FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS	
<b>MON 20</b> FEBRUARY	START OF TERM 4 (Week 1)	8.40am

#### **SCHOOL TERM DATES**

#### **NEU Strike Action**

All parents and carers will have received a letter from me today concerning the strike action next Wednesday 1st February. I hope this provides the information parents and carers require.

#### Sister Act

Finally, if you are yet to book a Sister Act ticket, please do so. This promises to be a highlight of our year and a very entertaining evening!

# **BOOK YOUR TICKETS TODAY!**

Take care,

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

**A**MBITIOUS  $^{f V}$ COLLABORATIVE  $^{f V}$   $^{f H}$  APPY  $^{f V}$   $^{f I}$   $^{f V}$   $^{f E}$   $^{f V}$   $^{f E}$   $^{f X}$   $^{f C}$   $^{f E}$   $^{f X}$   $^{f C}$   $^{f E}$   $^{f X}$   $^{f C}$   $^{f E}$   $^{f X}$ 

#### **YEAR 12 REPORTS**



The above reports have now been issued and are available online as usual via Go 4 Schools. The service is available either by going to our website www.furzeplatt.com and clicking on the quick link 'Online Reporting', or by going directly to Go 4 Schools www.go4schools.com and selecting Parents.

Should you have any problems accessing your child's report please contact me at reports@furzeplatt.net.

Mrs K Avery, Data Manager

#### **GUIDANCE TO GRADING DOCUMENT**

#### **VIEW REPORTS**





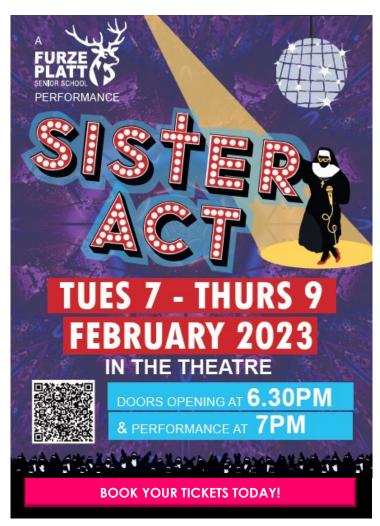
### YEAR 11 HOW TO REVISE SESSIONS

The Raising Achievement Department has been into every PSHE lesson over the past week and continuing into next week to deliver a session on 'How to Revise'. This has given every Year 11 student the opportunity to walk and talk through a revision session from highlighting key words to producing a mind-map or cue card through to checking their learning with questions. If you would like to find out more, the PowerPoint presentation used is attached - the link below also shows a video which can be used for students who may have missed the session or for any parent/carer who wants to know more.

Mrs D Feather, Raising Achievement Manager

**HOW TO REVISE PRESENTATION** 

LINK TO VIDEO





## YEAR 11 ART AND DESIGN HALF-TERM **SUPPORT SESSION**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February

9.15am - 3.15pm in Ar2

We are holding a one-off session provided for Year 11 in order for them to catch up with any outstanding coursework pieces or to develop their exam component.

This is an opportunity available to all students in the Year 11 Art and Design class. As you will be aware students are currently working on the final outcome for their GCSE 'Strange and Fantasy' coursework and will shortly be starting the preparatory work for their Art and Design exam which will take place towards the end of April.

I would like to run an extra catch-up session during the February half term for all students to attend and use in order to develop, improve or complete pieces of their coursework or preparatory work for their exam.

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The session will be held in Art 2 from 9:15am to 3:15pm with two breaks as per a normal school day. As this will be during the school holidays the cafeteria will be closed so all students are asked to bring in their own food and drink for the day. Students will not be allowed to leave the school site during the course of the day.

Whilst it is not compulsory for students to attend, I cannot stress enough how important this opportunity will be for students to have those extra few hours developing their

If your child is able to attend please can you sign up via the link on EVOLVE sent to out yesterday which is titled as 'Year 11 Art and Design Half-term Catch-up'.

If you have any difficulties accessing the site please do not hesitate to contact me.

Miss E Holmes, Teacher of Art and Design



#### **INVITATIONS TO CLUBS FOR JANUARY**

Parents and carers of students in all year groups were sent new clubs lists at the end of last term via the EVOLVE email system for their son/ daughter for next term (January to February half term).

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:

SCHOOL CLUBS AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT CLINICS **SCHEDULE 2023** 



#### TRIP REMINDERS

### **WOOLLY FIRS - A-LEVEL BIOLOGY TRIP**



# Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th March

We have arranged for all A-Level Biology students to attend Woolley Firs Environmental Centre in Maidenhead to complete the field work which is part of the practical requirement of their syllabus. This will give them experience of using a range of field work equipment and methods of sampling to obtain data, which they will then use back in school to carry out statistical tests.

The trip will take place for students on either Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 (details have been sent as to who is on which session) and is £10 per student, which can be paid by logging into your ParentMail account. It will be led by the environmental staff at the centre, accompanied by Dr Walker and Mr Barrett. All students will need to go straight to the centre on the day for 9.15am and will be dismissed from the centre at 3pm. The address is Woolley Firs Environmental Education Centre Cherry Garden Lane, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 3LJ.

Students will need to bring a packed lunch and a water bottle and wear suitable clothing to be outside for the day. If your child has asthma could you please remind them to have their inhaler with them should they need it during the day.

The itinerary for the day is shown below, please do contact katie.mcelligott@furzeplatt.net if you have any further questions.

- 9.15am Students arrive
- 1. Introduction including a health and safety briefing
- 2. Introduction to fieldwork and sampling techniques **BREAK**
- 3. Random sampling

LUNCH

4. Stratified Sampling; 5. Conclusion 3pm End of day - students leave to go home

# YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO BOX HILL



As you may be aware, the first part of our Year 11 field trip took place last term to FSC Juniper Hall, Box Hill. Fieldwork and investigation forms a core part of the GCSE Geography course. As part of the GCSE course students are required to sit an exam paper focused on Fieldwork and UK Geography, which totals 30% of their final

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**grade**. This year's focus are Methodical approaches of **Use of Transects** (covered at FSC Juniper Hall) and Conceptual framework of **Inequality** (to be covered on the Maidenhead field trip).

To support students in producing high quality answers in this paper the Geography Department will run a one-day field trip to Maidenhead town centre for all Year 11 GCSE Geography students.

The aim of the trip is to provide a framework for students to collect primary data on their local area. The fieldtrip will also equip students with unique experiences of fieldwork that they should be able to link to their wider geographical understanding and ability to follow the geographic enquiry process.

During their Geography fieldwork experiences, students will conduct research and later produce a brief report after their trip based on their data collection and further research.

The fieldwork will be on the following dates:

- 11A/Gg1 Mr Green's Class Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February
- 11C/Gg1 Mrs Brennan's and Mr Green's Class Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February
- 11B/Gg1 Mr Wellard's Class Wednesday 1st March
- 11B/Gg2 Mr Harrison's Class Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March
- 11D/Gg1 Mr Wellard's Class Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

### **Itinerary:**

Students will need to meet their teachers at 9.15am outside the school theatre. Once all together students and teachers will walk down to Maidenhead town centre together.

Students will need to register in school that morning. Their class teachers will register them on arrival. We will be returning to school together by break 2 (approx. 13.30pm). Students will be returning to their normal period 5 lesson after returning to school. For any lessons that they miss, it is their responsibility to find out what work they have missed from speaking to their class teachers.

Students **will be** required to follow the normal School Uniform dress code, and are expected to uphold their appearance and school ethos. We recommend a warm/rain coat (weather dependent).

Students will need to bring a **refillable water bottle** and a packed lunch to sustain them throughout the day and a **PEN AND PENCIL**.

There will be **no cost** for the trip.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (joe.wellard-jeffs@furzeplatt.net).

Mr J Wellard-Jeffs, Head of Geography

# BRONZE, SILVER AND GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH 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 and 12 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.

Your son or daughter had an assembly regarding this last term. If they are interested in participating in the award, please see next steps below:

- Read the attached 'DofE 2022-23' letter for information about the award
- Open the attached 'DofE parent info sessions 2023' letter and choose a date to attend the virtual meeting
- Log into parent mail to pay the registration fee by Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.
- Complete the DofE application form using this link

#### **DOFE APPLICATION 2023**

- Please note students will only be enrolled if the application form as well as the deposit has been received
- Help your son or daughter to select and begin suitable activities for their volunteering, physical or skills section using the attached 'Activities Pack'. Our enrichment clubs also offer a range of options to help students achieve each section. Please note that any suitable activities they are currently participating in can be backdated from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022.

Please feel free to contact us on <a href="mailto:dofe@furzeplatt.net">dofe@furzeplatt.net</a> if you have any queries, and we very much look forward to supporting your son or daughter through their Award.

Miss D Carty

DofE Manager

ACTIVITIES PACK		
BRONZE DOFE 2022-23		
SILVER DOFE 2022-23		
GOLD DOFE 2022-23		
PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS 2023		

#### **CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Over the weekend we had 10 students attend the Cross Country County Championships. These were: Archie Charles, Joe Brooker, Lukas McLachlan, Joshua Cookson (in the U13 Boys category); Luke Rice, Alexander Davison, George Kemp, Toby Holmes (in the U15 Boys category); Sophie McLachlan (in the U17 Girls Category) and Connor Fitzgibbon (in the U17 Boys category).

Well done to all of our runners for their dedication in the cold and thank you to our PE teachers Mr C Jones, Mr Gill and Mr Corbett for being their cheerleaders for the day!

A special mention to Archie and Joe for coming 1st and 2nd in the U13 boys category and who are through to the next round.









#### **FURZE PLATT THEATRE**

#### What would you like to see at Furze Platt Theatre?

We have a state-of-the-art theatre space at our school, and we're keen to hold more events outside school for people to enjoy - while also raising more funds for the school. So, what would you like to see?

Please click on the link to give us your feedback, so that we can plan more things for our community. This survey is anonymous and we greatly appreciate your help.

Thank you.

Mrs M Holden, Theatre Manager

**FURZE PLATT THEATRE EVENTS** 

## FRANK MCGRATH YEAR 13 -INTERNATIONAL DEBUT

Well done to Frank, who finished an impressive 11th in international debut Belgium at the weekend despite being one of the youngest athletes in the (very cold!) U20 race.

He was chosen to represent Ireland in the World Athletics Cross Country Series Lotto Cross Cup De Hannut and was third scorer in the 6-strong Ireland team - a brilliant result.











Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to give notice of the AGM of the Furze Platt Senior School Parent, Teacher & Friends Association to be held on Wednesday 1st February, 7pm for 7.30pm start, to be held in the school library. We expect this to take place regardless of any proposed union action that day.

We would very much appreciate your attendance because to meet the Quorum and for votes to be carried, we require a minimum of 6 non-committee individuals to attend.

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

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have been spent for the benefit of your children at school.

The AGM is also an opportunity for you to elect the PTFA Committee, who will represent the Association throughout the forthcoming year, September 2023 to August 2024.

Owing to the Chair, Lorraine Hughes, and Secretary, Katrina Sell, stepping down, we are welcoming nominations for the roles right away. Replacement Officers are required this term for a smooth handover in terms of managing the admin, steering events/activities and meeting our Charity obligations. Job descriptions for each role are available, upon request, so please get in touch.

If you are interested in the role of Chair or Secretary, please complete the Nomination Form that accompanies this letter and return by email to <a href="mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net">ptfa@furzeplatt.net</a> by <a href="mailto:Monday">Monday</a> 30th January.

Your current Committee Officers are as follows, who have agreed to stand for 2022 to 2023 and hope to stand in 2023 to 2024.

Chairperson	Lorraine Hughes	Stepping down	Vacant in April 2023
Treasurer	Neil Wilson	Standing	Neil Wilson
Secretary	Katrina	Stepping down	Vacant in February 2023
200 Club Admin	Gillian Healey	Standing	Gillian Healey
Uniform Co-ordinator	Carina Charles	Standing	Carina Charles

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

We look forward to seeing you, face-to-face, on Wednesday 1st February 2023.

Kind regards,

Lorraine Hughes

Chair, Furze Platt Senior School PTFA

Tel: 01628 625308

Email: ptfa@furzeplatt.net

**AGM NOMINATION FORM - FEB 2023** 

#### MESSAGE FROM THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION



Dear Parents and Carers,

You may have seen the new public awareness campaign, launched by the Electoral Commission, highlighting that voters in England will need to show photographic ID in order to vote at polling stations going forwards, starting with the local elections this May.

May's elections may seem a distant thought, but it is worth voters taking note of the changes now, and checking they have appropriate ID. That way, when polling day arrives, all they have to do is remember to bring it along to the polling station. If a voter doesn't have accepted photo ID, they can apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate.

Please see the Electoral Commission's website for full details.

#### **ELECTORAL COMMISSION'S WEBSITE**



#### HOUSE COMPETITION - STAFF WELLBEING

Staff members were invited to submit pictures of themselves taking care of their wellbeing.

Thank you to everyone who showed us their wellbeing activities and well done to Osprey House for winning this House competition!

House	Position	Points earned
Osprey	1	1000
Hawk	2	600
Falcon	2	400
Eagle	4	200

# AND FINALLY... **BABY BOY JOY**

Many congratulations to English teacher Mrs D Sharp and the Sharp family, who recently welcomed Louis George, born at 9.15am on 23/1/2023 weighing 9lb 7oz

The family are doing well and Harry is very excited to be a big brother!







Contact us

Email: ptfa@furzeplatt.net | Facebook: facebook.com/fpssptfa

Website: click here to access

AGM & General Meeting

WED 1 FEB 2023

7PM FOR 7.30PM

SCHOOL LIBRARY EVERYONE WELCOME!

# WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

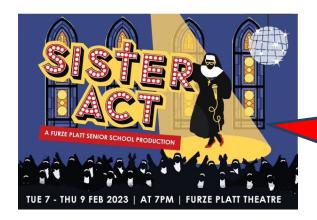
PTFA AGM AND GENERAL MEETING 7PM FOR 7.30PM - IN SCHOOL LIBRARY

## ALL PARENTS/CARERS WELCOME!

Come along and hear how we manage your donations and participate in decisions being brought to the table.

Roles to fill ASAP: Chair and Secretary.

At least 6 participants are required to attend the AGM so Nominations are constituted as Chair and Secretary. To stand as an Officer or to Nominate someone, please get in touch before Monday 30th January: ptfa@furzeplatt.net



Email: ptfa@furzeplatt.net

200 CLUB DRAW BEING MADE DURING SISTER ACT MUSICAL - JOIN NOW OR RENEW BEFORE SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY.

# Would anyone like a £200 Cash Prize? If so, please join our 200 Club!

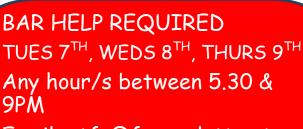
Are you aware of this Club? We ask since this is our primary fundraiser. Here's an overview:

The Club runs 4 draws per year and you could win £200 cash per number.

Your winnings are made by bank transfer very soon after each draw so there's no hanging around. You're in control of the payments by direct debit, there's no contract (like your energy or phone!) and there's no spam emails either (we haven't got time to send them!). So it's a win win situation and we hope you'll click through here to join: You've got to be in it to win it!

200 CLUB - MONTHLY DONATION

We appreciate your feedback and welcome comments and ideas by phone call 01628 625308, by email <a href="mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net">ptfa@furzeplatt.net</a> and through our Facebook Page <a href="mailto:facebook.com/fpssptfa">facebook.com/fpssptfa</a>



**200 CLUB** Winning numbers for our next draw









# Cleaners required to start as soon as possible

Permanent, full time, up to 37 hours a week, term time only Additional hours may be available during the school holidays Available shifts: 6.00am -9am/3.00pm -7.30pm Monday to Friday (early finish on a Friday) Starting salary £18,415pa

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.

We are looking for someone who is interested in working up to 37 hours a week following a cleaning rota. You would be given sufficient training to enable you to operate domestic and industrial cleaning equipment and materials in a safe and sensible way. You would be required to clean specific areas of the school, refill and replace soap, towels and other consumables and collect and dispose of waste in and around the school site. We would also expect you to work in line with health and safety and COSHH regulations and make the Cleaning Supervisor aware of any hazards.

This role requires someone who is physically fit and able to bend and do light lifting or moving of furniture. In addition, good communication, organisational and time management skills are required with the ability to work independently and as part of a team. You must be trustworthy and able to demonstrate high levels of integrity.

For further information about this role and in order to complete a **Support Staff Application** Form please refer to our school website <a href="www.furzeplatt.com">www.furzeplatt.com</a>. Application forms should be returned to <a href="kiran.smith@furzeplatt.net">kiran.smith@furzeplatt.net</a> 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 Suitable applicants will be interviewed as soon as is practicable

**CURRENT VACANCIES** 







# Interested in training to teach?



is now recruiting for September 2023 in many subjects.

If you are passionate about working with young people and enriching their lives, then why not consider a career in teaching?

Imagine how you could develop their knowledge of the fascinating worlds of science, arts, technology, languages or humanities when you become an inspiring teacher.

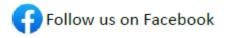
Information on the courses available can be found at: www.teachmaidenhead.co.uk

Find further advice for prospective applicants on the Get into Teaching website.

To apply for teacher training Click Here

In partnership with the Institute of Education









# 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 <a href="www.furzeplatt.com">www.furzeplatt.com</a> for an application form or contact Mrs Sarah Hemsley via <a href="mailto:sarah.hemsley@furzeplatt.net">sarah.hemsley@furzeplatt.net</a> for further information. Only applications submitted on the school application form will be considered. All applications need to be submitted to <a href="mailto:kiran.smith@furzeplatt.net">kiran.smith@furzeplatt.net</a>.

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 suitable applicants apply

**CURRENT VACANCIES** 

# **Have Your Say**



### Have Your Say on the Future of Your Fire and **Rescue Service**

We're consulting on our Corporate Plan and Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2023 - 2027.

If you live, work or travel in Berkshire, please have your say on our plans for the next four years. The closing date for the consultation is 5pm on 27

If you require assistance with accessing the information in an alternative format, please contact us using any of the methods below.

#### **ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY**



rbfrs.co.uk/haveyoursay



0118 945 2888



Newsham Court. Pincents Kiln, Calcot. Reading, Berkshire, **RG31 7SD** 





#### Royal Berkshire Fire Authority is consulting on your Fire Service's funding for the next year.

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service provides protection, prevention and response to the people of Berkshire. Currently, the average Band D household pays £73.95 per year. The Fire Authority is proposing a small increase of £5 per year to help maintain an efficient service in the future. Read more

The consultation closes at 5pm on Monday, 30 January 2023. If you require assistance with accessing the information in a different format or language, please contact us:



rbfrs.co.uk/haveyoursay



precepting@rbfrs.co.uk

Newsham Court, Pincents Kiln, Calcot, Reading, Berkshire, **RG31 7SD** 

0118 945 2888



# **PB RACING ACADEMY**

#### GET INTO MIDDLE DISTANCE RUNNING

Calling all keen runners....we are recruiting for our newly formed academy which will provide top coaching for beginners by DPS-checked and England Athletics coaches who are also ex-international athletes. If you have done a few parkruns or school races and want to take the next stride forward, join a thriving and successful squad. Members of our elite PB Racing Squad compete for Cookham RC and Windsor, Slough, Eton and Hounslow AC and include county champions and international athletes





#### **FNGLAND ATHLETICS** QUALFIED COACHES

**PROVEN TRACK RECORD: FROM BEGINNER RUNNERS TO INTERNATIONAL** LEVEL ATHLETES

FROM SCHOOL **YEARS 5-13** 

WEEKLY SESSIONS IN FURZE PLATT/ MAIDENHEAD/ **COOKHAM AND AT** MARLOW ATHLETICS TRACK

#### CONTACT US

