



FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #70.2

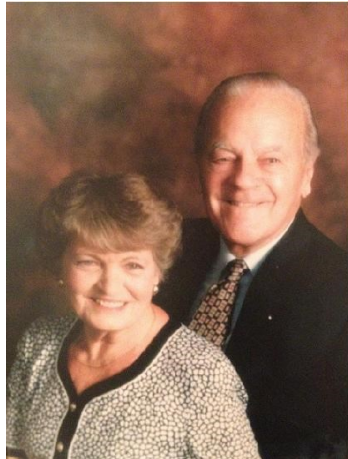


MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Happy 60th Birthday FPSS!

FPSS first opened its doors on 23 April 1963 and on Tuesday we celebrated with a trip down memory lane and some cake. Back in 1963 students lined up in their new uniforms to experience FPSS for the first time overseen by our first Headteacher Denis Whitaker. During the last 60 years, there has been much success, laughter and joy, as well as occasional sadness and tragedy. Throughout that time, FPSS has aimed to make sure all our young people are equipped with the knowledge, skills and personal qualities to help them ACHIEVE as adults. During those 60 years our school has massively developed and we are lucky to have some tremendous facilities, be able to teach a huge range of subjects and offer a wide range of experiences through clubs, activities and visits.



Over 60 years, thousands of students and staff have studied and worked at FPSS. We are proud of all our students who, thanks to FPSS, have gone on to achieve so many successes and lead fulfilling lives. Our current staff and students are the next generation and we have challenged them to shape the start of our next 60 years.



TERM 5 EVENTS

ALL EVENTS

Next Week (Week 1)

MON 1 MAY	BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY	
TUE 2 MAY	STRIKE DAY (SCHOOL PARTIALLY CLOSED)	
THU 4 MAY	Year 7 Parents' & Students' Consultation Evening	3.45pm - 7.45pm
FRI 5 MAY	Late Start	9.15am

Forthcoming events

MON 8 MAY	BANK HOLIDAY FOR THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III	
WED 10 MAY	Year 6 Parents' and Students' Induction Evening	6.30pm - 9.00pm
WED 24 MAY	Lower School Drama Production	
FRI 26 MAY	END OF TERM (TERM 5)	3.15pm finish

SCHOOL TERM DATES



LZ7 and Saintz

Adding to the birthday party, on Tuesday we also welcomed the bands LZ7 and Saintz to play to Years 7, 8, 9 and 10.

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This is the third time the groups have returned with their mixture of songs and positive messages. Our students seemed to have a very enjoyable time and I am sure that many will be attending the concert at Braywick on Friday (link for tickets below). I would like to thank LZ7, Saintz and Wayne Dixon for bringing the show to FPSS.

ILLUMINATE - BOOK TICKETS



NEU Strikes – Tuesday 2 May

All parents and carers should be aware that the next NEU strike day is on Tuesday 2nd May and have received a letter explaining arrangements for that day.

Good luck to our Greenpower Club who are at Goodwood on Sunday. To all our parents and students, have a good weekend and enjoy your Bank Holiday on Monday!

Take care,

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

YEAR 7 PARENTS' CONSULTATION EVENING



On Thursday 4th May there will be a consultation evening for Year 7 parents which will be held virtually. Appointments are booked online and are available from 3:45pm until 7:45pm. To book appointments and for full instructions, either follow the link below or go to the Parents' Evening Bookings link under 'News & Events' on the school website.

Guidance on how to use our virtual parents evening system can be found below.

PARENTS' EVENING GUIDANCE

Please ensure you read the below guide as this system works very differently to other platforms such as Zoom. You will need to log into the Parents' Evening booking system on the night in order to access your appointments. We would advise using a desktop or laptop for your appointment and to use Wi-Fi rather than mobile phone data. This guidance

includes information on how parents/carers can join from two different locations if required, please note in order to do this the parent booking the appointments is the only person who has the ability to invite another parent to the appointment.

HOW TO ATTEND APPOINTMENTS OVER VIDEO CALL

If you are unable to attend the consultation via video call, please let us know in the booking system comments section and we will arrange a time to contact you by phone about your child's progress.

Appointments can be booked now and we advise you to book as soon as possible as appointments are likely to book up quickly. As you will know from parents' evenings in previous years, we always have a member of our Senior Leadership Team available should you have any additional questions or concerns you wish to raise. In order to continue to provide you with that opportunity during virtual meetings, one of the Senior Team will be on Zoom for the duration of Parents Evening. Should you wish to speak to them between 3:45pm and 7:45pm, please follow the link:

JOIN THE MEETING

Meeting ID: 552 710 0646/ Passcode: A0NtYL

This link is only if you wish to speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team, it will not take you to your child's teachers. Having started Zoom, you will then go into the Waiting Room and will be admitted as soon as possible. Please note that there may be a few minutes wait while in the Waiting Room as there may already be another parent present (only one set of parents will be 'admitted' at any time). If you have any problems, please contact the school office on 01628 625308.

Kind Regards

Miss L Stirling, Associate Assistant Headteacher

UNIFORM

Dear Parents and Carers,

The vast majority of our students continue to wear the correct school uniform. We are grateful for parental and carer support with our uniform standards to help us reinforce the importance of wearing uniform with pride and in accordance with our rules. The principle of following the rules and expectations of an organisation is an important life lesson and an example of personal integrity.

A couple of areas of uniform clearly need further

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clarification and reinforcement:

1. Earrings and piercings – only one single stud in each ear and no additional piercings
2. Eyelashes – must be natural without any lash extensions or false eyelashes
3. Nails – only clear nail varnish, no false nails, acrylics or gel nails.
4. Make up – no lipstick, blusher, eyeliner, or eyeshadow
5. Jewellery – no rings, necklaces, or bracelets
6. Skirts – must be Furze Platt skirts and without any additional hemming, sewing of pleats or rolling up.
7. No hoodies or tracksuit tops are allowed on site.
8. Students should wear their school blazer to every lesson.

Thank you in advance for your support. This week we have reinforced our expectations with a 'soft' challenge. This will involve a clarification and reminder of our rules. From next week, students can expect an instant C2 (break time detention) for not meeting the expectations set out above.

A C1 will be issued for any straightforward uniform infringement. This involves having the correct school uniform, but not wearing it correctly, for example not wearing a blazer. A C2 is for failing to have the correct item, for example not having a blazer, or wearing items that are not permitted such as a trainers or jewellery. Staff will also have the discretion to award a C2 for any student who repeatedly picks up a C1.

Students who refuse to correct their uniform can expect further sanctions. Staff will continue to be asked to give an ACHIEVE point at the start of every lesson for every student who is ready to learn and wearing the correct school uniform.

Yours sincerely,

Miss L Lewis, Assistant Headteacher Key Stage 3

Mr J Dollery, Assistant Headteacher Key Stage 4



SKI TRIP 2024

Vallnord, Andorra: Saturday 30th March – Saturday 6th April 2024

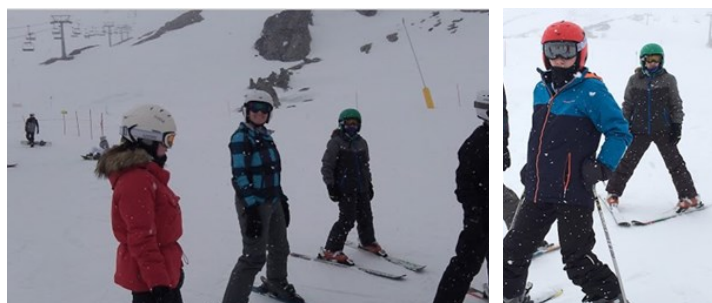
Arrangements for our 2024 ski trip are now confirmed. We will depart on Saturday 30th March and return on Saturday 6th April. After the success of previous year's trips we will again be travelling with Interski. For 2024 we are once again visiting the mountain ranges of the Pyrenees, in the country Andorra. Students will receive five hours of tuition per day, with a supervised lunch hour. Instruction will be provided by Interski's own BASI (British Association of Ski Instructors) qualified instructors.



We recognise that skiing and snowboarding is an expensive pastime, and sadly costs have risen significantly over the past 18 months. To minimise cost increases as much as we can, the 2024 trip will be 5 days' skiing. Although the cost may seem high, anyone who has been on a ski holiday will know that the price represents great value. The cost of the 2024 holiday is £1265 to ski, £1300 if you wish to snowboard, and includes: - travel to and from the resort on a luxury coach, including breakfast in both directions - an extensive 5 day lift pass that covers the full Vallnord resort - five nights' accommodation at Hotel Patagonia, only a short walk from the ski lift system - full board accommodation (half board in the hotel / (hot) lunch voucher on the mountain) - five hours of instruction per day with plus a supervised lunch hour. - an exciting après ski programme. - a fully comprehensive winter sports insurance package. - a full week's ski equipment hire (Includes skis or snowboard, ski poles and boots). (Please note - Not included is the hire or purchase of any ski clothing or helmet hire). The trip is open to all current Year 7-12 students who will still be at the school in April 2024. All who wish to come on the trip should pay a deposit of £100 (for skiers) or £135 (for snowboarders). Please could all deposits be paid by 12 noon on Friday 12th May 2023.

Please note that if the trip is over-subscribed names will be drawn from a hat. Please pay your deposit via your Parentmail account (Ski Trip 2024 deposit will be found in the Shop in the Payments tab). This deposit is non-

refundable if your child secures a place on the trip. If the trip is over-subscribed, unsuccessful applicants will have the choice of remaining on a waiting list or having their deposit refunded. (All deposits for anyone who does not secure a place on the trip will ultimately be refunded). Should a student wish to withdraw from the trip after having secured a place, a refund of the deposit (subject to an admin fee) may only be available in the event of a replacement being found.



Current Year 11 Furze Platt Senior students who plan to stay at FPSS for 6th Form will not be required to pay any further instalments (beyond the deposit) until their place in Year 12 is confirmed. You will be contacted in June, confirming whether or not your child has a place on the trip, and when the remaining payment instalments will be due. Final payment will be due in December 2024.

Please note that, due to decreasing uptake, Interski has warned us that snowboarding groups may not run – with students being asked to switch to skiing. This is not specific to Furze Platt – Interski has always merged snowboard groups with other schools in the resort wherever possible. There are, simply, increasingly few opting to snowboard across all school groups. As an example, Furze Platt had 11 snowboarders (in comparison to 50 skiers) signed up for our 2023 trip.



Your child must have their own passport. Under current rules, any non-EU citizens must have at least 3 months to run from the date of our expected return (expiry date of at least 7.7.24), while EU citizens merely need to be valid until the date of return (6.4.24). If your child requires a new passport, please allow plenty of time for their application to be processed and notify us well in advance of our date of departure. Please be aware that no refunds can be made if your child is unable to travel due to an irregularity with their passport. If your child holds a non-EU passport they may also require a visa: the website www.ukpa.gov.uk is a useful source of information. Your son/daughter will also require a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). This can be obtained by calling 0300 330 1350 or via the website:

EUROPEAN HEALTH INSURANCE CARD (EHIC)

Please Note - The school reserves the right to remove a pupil from the trip at ANY point for unacceptable behaviour up to the trip departing. In this case it may not be possible to refund all of the money that has been paid.

Mr N Jones, Ski Trip Leader



YEAR 9 MUSIC



Our Year 9 students have been developing their skills in music with some instrumental workshops. Students have been learning new instruments including drum kit, acoustic guitars, ukulele and keyboards. The picture is

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one of our Year 9 groups working collaboratively to learn the guitar. The students are developing a performance of Hanz Zimmer's Pirates of the Caribbean theme. We look forward to hearing their final performances at the end of this term.

GCSE MUSIC

Congratulations to our GCSE music students who worked with endurance to complete their coursework on Thursday. They celebrated with cake and treats at the end of a fantastic day of music making. They have spent the whole year preparing two pieces for a variety of instruments and in many different styles. Well done Year 11!



Drama Summer Showcase

WEDNESDAY 24TH MAY 2023
7PM IN THE THEATRE

A range of work being performed by Years 7-12

Book your free tickets here:
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/furzeplatttheatre/t-nodjpzl>

FREE ENTRY



Parents and carers of students in all year groups will have received invitations at the end of last term to attend clubs for their son/daughter for this term (Term 5). The email was headed Furze Platt Senior School with the email address evolve.furzeplattsnrvisits@edufocus.co.uk and the links are safe for you to click on to confirm your child's attendance. If you have not yet received an email please check your junk / spam folders.

More clubs have been added this term so please do check the link if your child would like to attend **Gardening Club, Computing, Coding, A Level Computing Clinic, GCSE Computing Clinic and D&D** which are all now available to book for this term.

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 5 must be made through the original email invitations (sent out on Friday 31st March)
- * once in the list of clubs or academic support clinics, click on the name of the activity or session you wish to book and press confirm
- * please do not duplicate club bookings per session
- * 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

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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 and provide as much notice as possible to allow time for that place to be allocated to someone on the waiting list.

Thank you.

[LINK TO SCHOOL CLUBS LIST](#)



WARHAMMER CLUB TOURNAMENT WINNER

Well done to Evan Smith (Year 8) who was crowned overall winner of the Warhammer Club tournament with his Ork army. Congratulations Evan!



TURING CHALLENGE HOUSE COMPETITION



- This half term's House competition is a Turing Maths Challenge, in honour of Alan Turing.
- Within each year group, the four Houses will compete against each other in teams of 4.
- The Turing Challenge will take place during tutor time in a classroom with one of the Heads of House.
- There will not be an audience.
- The winners will win prizes and lots of House points:
 - Selected finalists will all get 10 points each.
 - Winners of the final will all get 25 points each.
 - Winning House will get 1000 points, 600 points for 2nd place, 400 points for 3rd place and 200 points for 4th place.

The winning team will also win some sweet treats!

- The individual with the highest score in each year group will win a £10 Amazon voucher, + 60 House points.

[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE WORK OF ALAN TURING](#)

**FURZE PLATT
SENIOR SCHOOL**

60
years of excellence
1963 - 2023

MORNING FITNESS CLUB



Tom Atkinson (Year 10) coaching Liam Fitzgibbon (Year 12), Joshua Tucker (Year 9), Noah Thomas (Year 9) and Sam Cranch (Year 10) in the collaborative 4 man press up at Fitness Club on Wednesday morning.



FURZE PLATT STUDENT SIGNS TO QUEENS PARK ROVERS U18s



Congratulations to Jake Coomes, Year 11, who signed his 2 year scholarship with QPR. He will be playing for the under 18s team.

At the end of the scholarship, Jake will gain a BTEC in Sports as well as a number of coaching badges. This could potentially lead to a pro contract or a pathway to coaching, sports science and other football related opportunities.

We wish him the very best of luck!



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

'The school is committed to careers education. It aims to ensure that pupils and students are ambitious in their career aspirations, as well as having the versatility to adapt to the modern-day job market.'

Ofsted 2021

HOW AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO MANAGE STRESS

By Ella Clark and Sabrina Lee, Year 12



What is stress? Stress can be defined as a state of worry or mental tension caused by a difficult situation. It's a natural human response prompting us to address challenges and threats in our lives. Some stress is healthy but left unchecked it can grow and reach levels that are overwhelming and difficult to deal with. During exam season, stress and anxiety can be very high, which can negatively impact your health and wellbeing- therefore it is important to keep it under control.

Everyone experiences high stress levels at some points of their life, but if this is not managed appropriately it can have detrimental effects. Bad stress, is the kind that wears you out, leaves you jittery and is harmful to your health. Some of the effects of high unmanaged stress include:

- Substance abuse as an unhealthy coping mechanism.
- Irregular sleep/insomnia.
- Unhealthy eating habits such as a reduced appetite which if prolonged can cause malnutrition or deficiencies, or overeating/binge eating.
- Depression or anxiety.
- Decreased motivation and the inability to focus, which is especially important for people dealing with exams.

However, there are different kinds of stress, and it can be used beneficially. Good stress is short-term, inspires and motivates you, enhances your academic performance. Learning how to manage stress with healthy coping mechanisms can help improve your overall mood, relationships with your family and friends, lead to less muscle tension which can improve headaches and pain, and improve your mental and body's health. Stress management is a lifelong skill and will allow you to achieve a happier mentality and reach goals. Overall, management can ease the stress related symptoms mentioned above.

The first step to stress management is learning to recognise it, such as difficulty breathing in response to a stimulus, consistent headaches, difficulty reacting to a problem or

overreacting, and irritability. Some techniques include:

- Planning ahead to prevent getting overwhelmed by leaving things to the last minute.
- Breaking tasks down into smaller, manageable chunks and organising them into a priority order.
- Creating healthy stress outlets such as exercising or journaling.
- Socialising and asking friends/ family for help when needed.
- Taking break away from working to prevent burnout.
- Developing breathing techniques.

To further this, there are some websites you can access that can help, or if you're struggling mentally at the moment. These include <https://www.kooth.com>, <https://www.mind.org.uk>, <https://www.stress.org.uk> and some apps like "Calm" to promote healthy stress strategies.

Ella and Sabrina are students in Year 12, currently working towards the RSPH Level 2 Award for Youth Health Champions. They would be grateful if you could provide feedback on their article below.

ELLA & SABRINA - GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK

YEAR 10 CONSTRUCTION

Our Year 10 Construction classes were invited to attend SATRO CONSTRUCTIONFest on Thursday 20th April along with a number of other schools. During this interactive event, students were introduced to innovative companies within the construction sector, learned about different pathways to access the industry, practiced valuable team building skills and network with a range of companies and tradespeople.

Student feedback:

The CONSTRUCTIONFest was a fun and educational trip. We learned about the different types of job in the construction industry- Connor Taylor

We went to CONSTRUCTIONFest and took part in loads of activities. We also met lots of people in the construction industry who told us about their jobs. It was

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really interesting and helped me decide if I want a construction related job- Aamina Ashraf



Many thanks to SATRO for organising such a fantastic event and for giving Year 10 the chance to find out about potential career opportunities.



YEAR 9 DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

Our Year 9 DofE groups love listening to Year 2 students read at Cippenham Primary School for their volunteering section.



Some wonderful relationships have been developed with the younger children, as well as improving their own communication and leadership skills.





Pareto
CHANGING THE FACE OF FM

An external company Pareto has kindly donated funds to buy a rose arch, willow structures and plants including 50 lavender plants for the nature garden. In addition, they helped us by moving a lot of soil and getting the lavender in/ preparing the ground for the roses.

“On Saturday 15th April, a team from Pareto Facilities Management spent the morning volunteering at our Senior School’s new wildflower garden.

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Everyone mucked in, (including the Vice Chair and his parents) preparing planters for the roses and planting the lavender, that Pareto had donated earlier on in the season."



Thank you to everyone involved.

PTFA

Parents, Teachers
& Friends
Association

TEAM

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

Contact us

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

Website: [click here to access](#)

Charity Number 287878

Thanks for coming
to our Meeting and
being part of the
200 Club Draw.

THANK YOU
for coming!

We're continually fundraising and couldn't do it
without your support. Thank you.

Congratulations to our 200 Club Winners!



200 CLUB

Winning numbers for Draw 23

on Thursday 27th April 2023

76

19

56

You can buy numbers for our next draw via the link
below:

JOIN THE 200 CLUB

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/
fpssptfa](https://facebook.com/fpssptfa)

Get your voice heard

The independent voice of families
representing their experiences to improve lives

What do we do?

We give a voice to families who, like ours, have a child or young person with SEND (Special Educational Needs or Disabilities). We work in partnership with the local authority and decision makers to ensure that these views and experiences are heard and understood. Our aim is to improve the lives of all our children and young people with SEND.

How do we do this?

By listening to our members and ensuring our membership is diverse. We do this through:

- Events
- Training Courses
- Consultations and surveys
- Information sharing

Join us, become a member

All **parents and carers** of children and young people (aged 0- 25 years) with any SEND, living or accessing services in the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, are welcome.

Professionals and practitioners who work with children and young people with SEND such as SENCOs, teachers and therapists are welcome to become associate members.

Membership is FREE

To become a member or for more info, email us at info@svrbwm.org.uk

Together we can improve lives

Exam Invigilators – to start as soon as possible

Term time only, casual contract. Actual salary £12.95 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 regularly during the official exam season during May and June and on an ad hoc basis to cover pre-public exams which take place at various times during the academic year
- Can work under pressure, remain calm and be empathetic to candidate's needs whilst remaining compliant with regulations
- Have good organisational, communication and interpersonal skills
- Are reliable, punctual with the ability to work as part of a team or independently as required

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.

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

EXAM INVIGILATOR - JOB INFORMATION

Cover Supervisor to start as soon as possible

Vacancy for Cover Supervisor to start as soon as possible

[Read Full Story](#)



Cleaner

Vacancy for Cleaner

[Read Full Story](#)



OTHER CURRENT VACANCIES

Exams Access Arrangements Officer

Vacancy for Exams Access Arrangements Officer to start May 2023

[Read Full Story](#)



Learning Support Assistant

Vacancy for Learning Support Assistant

[Read Full Story](#)



Want to Get Active & Have Fun?



Come and Enjoy Girls Cricket at Boyne Hill CC

**No kit or
equipment required.**

**All Ages
from
Under 5 (Reception)
up to
U13 (Year 8)**



**Come and join our
growing Ladies and Girls
Cricket Section.
"All Abilities Welcome"**



Girls Training: **Fridays**
U5-U9 6.15pm-7.30pm (Softball)
U10-U13 6.00pm-7.30pm (Softball & Hardball)

Contact

Jack Spencer Jones
jackspencerjones@yahoo.co.uk 07595463584



@BoyneHill CC



Boyne Hill CC



boynehillcc1890

Address: BoynGrove, HighwayRoad, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 5AE