

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Water Safety

This half term marks the second anniversary of Jordan Veira's tragic passing. For new parents and carers, Jordan was one of our Year 11 students who went into the Thames on a hot day over Summer Half Term 2021 and was later found drowned.

The death had a significant impact on the Furze Platt community, and we have been keen to try and stop future tragedies by remembering Jordan and sharing water safety messages. Again today, on the last day of Term 5, all our staff reminded students of Jordan's sad passing and reiterated the water safety messages from Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service who have held assemblies with all year groups in recent years.

Our key message is for students to enjoy themselves but recognise the dangers of water and stay safe.

Drowning Prevention Assemblies

Alongside our own work on water safety, we have also been keen to support others. It was therefore good to host the Leisure Focus Drowning Prevention Assemblies for primaries in our Theatre on Monday.

Laptops for Learning

Thank you to those parents and carers who attended the information evening on Monday. We are excited to be moving to a school where all students have a laptop and the benefits this can bring to learning.

Examinations

Once again, well done to all our students who are so focused on their examinations. Thank you also to all staff,



Forthcoming Events

[ALL EVENTS](#)

TERM 6 EVENTS

MON 5	START OF TERM 6 (Week 1)	
TUE 20 JUNE	PIXL Build Up Celebration Evening	6-7pm
WED 21 JUNE	Year 11 Graduation	4-6pm
WED 21 - FRI 23 JUNE	DofE Assessment Expedition: Year 10 Silver (Open & Closed)	
THU 22 JUNE	Year 11 Prom	7-10.30pm
FRI 23 JUNE	Year 9 Bronze DofE Assessment Expedition (Thursday and Friday)	
MON 26 JUNE	Non uniform day in aid of Alexander Devine Children's Hospice	
TUE 27 JUNE	Year 5 Open Morning	8.40am - 12.30pm
WED 28 JUNE	Year 7 Enrichment Afternoon	1.45pm - 3.15pm
THU 29 - FRI 30 JUNE	Enhanced Transition Day	8.40am - 3.15pm
TUE 4 - WED 5 JULY	Year 12 Taster Days	
TUE 4 JULY	Year 6 Taster Days	
SUN 9 - WED 12 JULY	Year 6 Parents' Q&A / Drop In Evening	6.30pm - 8pm
MON 10 - FRI 14 JULY	Year 12 Geography Fieldtrip - Nettlecombe	
TUE 11 JULY	Year 12 Work Experience Week	
WED 12 JULY	INSET Day - School closed for all year groups	6.30pm - 8pm
THU 13 JULY	Year 9 Enrichment Afternoon	
MON 17 JULY	Year 10 Enrichment Afternoon	
TUE 18 - THU 20 JULY	Art Show	
WED 19 - THU 20 JULY	Sports Award Evening	6.30pm - 7.30pm
FRI 21 JULY	Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition Assessment	
	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition Assessment	
	END OF TERM (TERM 6)	12.30pm finish

SCHOOL TERM DATES

parents and carers for their support. While the rest of us enjoy half term, they will still be working but with the knowledge that they have only a month left before their long summer break. Good luck to all our students with their revision.

Key Stage 3 Drama Showcase

Finally, on Wednesday we saw our emerging Drama talent perform in the Theatre. It was fantastic to see excerpts from students in various years show casing what they study in class and exams, as well as pieces they had created in after school clubs. Performances varied from the emotional to thought provoking to humorous. Many congratulations to all involved.

Have a lovely Half Term.

Take care,

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



JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

At the end of April many of our Year 7 and 8 students participated in the Junior Maths Challenge (JMC) competition. As usual our students did very well; 9 of our students received Gold, 14 students Silver and 22 students Bronze awards. Fraser Roberts in Year 7 achieved Best in School and Aleks Koziak Best in Year 8. Fraser Roberts, Harry Davis, Nor-Aldeen Hejaze, Elliot Taylor, Josh King, Aleks Koziak and Alexander Fennell qualified for the Junior Kangaroo Challenge in June as they performed excellently in the JMC.

All participants embraced all the ACHIEVE values of FPSS in preparing for and doing the actual JMC. We, as a Maths department, are extremely proud to offer our students these enrichment opportunities and are equally proud of their excellent achievements in these competitions.



Pictured are some of our Year 7 and 8 award winners.

Mr J Langenhoven, Maths Enrichment Coordinator



YEAR 10 TRAVEL AND TOURISM – THORPE PARK VISIT

On Tuesday, our Year 10 Travel and Tourism students visited Thorpe Park. We had a fantastic time going on loads of rides as it was so quiet and sometimes we were really lucky as there was no queue at all. After lunch we split into two groups so those that prefer to go on the scarier rides could go on those whilst the rest chose more gentle options.

We attended a talk in the Angry Birds 4D Cinema about how Thorpe Park is promoted to the public and they showed us one of their new adverts. They talked about who they are in competition with and that their target audience is people aged 16 to 34. They told us they try to encourage people to visit more than once a year by having Annual Passes and special events such as the Mardi Grass celebration that was on when we went. They also told us that they are all about 'Feel Good Thrills' and they are opening a new ride in 2024 which is called Project Exodus.

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Thomas Bowater said, 'Of all the rides I went on I enjoyed the dodgems the most as it was a bit like driving and I got to try and crash into Mrs Stimson. The Rumba Rapids was also good as we got a bit wet, but not as wet as we did when we went past Tidal Wave.'

Mia Banks said, 'I had never been to Thorpe Park before, so I was a bit anxious about it, but excited as well. My best ride was Saw because it was so scary yet fun. I really want to go back again.'

Thank you to all at Thorpe Park for a memorable visit.

Mrs J Stimson, Teacher of Travel and Tourism



Pictured: Sixth Formers having fun whilst raising money!



DEMENTIA AWARENESS

ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY – HOW TO DONATE

ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH UK – HOW TO DONATE

'School leaders are ambitious for the school. They enjoy positive relationships with the rest of the staff and work with them to ensure the success of the school.'

Ofsted 2021

SIXTH FORM RAISE AND GIVE SOCIETY

By Emily Spooner, Year 12

On Wednesday 24th May 2023, the Sixth Form Raise and Give society raised over £200 in aid of Alzheimer's society and Alzheimer's research UK. Dementia is all around us. 1 in 2 get affected by it – either through diagnosis or someone we care about. Even reading this message and researching about it or donating to charity can help make this world a better place. For the bake sale we decided to support these charities help raise awareness, support, and money to dedicate to research that helps us understand this horrific disease.

Thank you to everyone who donated and brought something at the bake sale and any donations to these charities could help massively.

YEAR 11 GRADUATION TICKETS

Deadline today

If you would like to attend our Year 11 Graduation, please could you use ParentMail to reserve your tickets by Friday 26th May. *You can find the item by selecting 'Payments' from the main ParentMail menu and then 'Shop' from the bottom bar.*

There is no charge, but you must go through the full check-out process. Tickets are currently limited to two per student and please remember that you do not have to purchase a ticket for the graduating student. Any unclaimed tickets will be re-released after the deadline.

If your child has already earned enough points to attend Prom and you haven't yet purchased a ticket, you will also see this item available to buy in the ParentMail shop.





SIXTH FORM WINNERS – TURING CHALLENGE

Student	House	Position	Points
James Harper	Hawks	1	1000
Daniel Del Campo	Falcons	2	600
Klaudia Romasz	Eagles	3	400
Matthew Williams	Osprey	4	200

Well done to all our winners and to Emily Spooner, who came third.

WINNERS FORTNIGHT 2 – ENDURANCE

Congratulations to our latest winners:

Individual:

Year 9 Pablo Cruz-Domenzain 9GM, Hawk House

Year Groups

Year 7 – Charley Smith 7MEE, Osprey House
 Year 8 – Gerhard Ueckermann 8CHG, Eagle House
 Year 10 – Will Couling 10MAM, Falcon House
 Sixth Form – Kieran King 6DJ, Hawk House

Tutor Groups

Whole School: 9GM (Mr Melville)

Year Groups: 7MEE (Miss Ellor)
 8SEM (Mr Markham)
 10BUD (Miss Dube)
 6DJ (Mrs Jack)

Endurance by House



11174



11104



11551



11297



TERM 6 CLUBS AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT CLINICS:

Parents and carers of students in all year groups will have received invitations today for their son / daughter to attend clubs for their son/daughter for next term. 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.

SCHOOL CLUBS AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT CLINICS SCHEDULE 2023

MISS DENNY IS FUNDRAISING FOR ADDENBROOKE'S CHARITABLE TRUST (ACT)



Miss Denny, Teacher of English, writes: 'Next week I will be taking on the massive challenge of swimming 22 miles (the length of the channel) over 7 days.'

I'm doing it to support ACT, the hospital which has lead breakthrough research into rare cancers among many other things.

Please follow the link below to read the story of why this is so important to me.'

To donate, please click on the link below:

SUPPORT MISS DENNY'S FUNDRAISING FOR ACT

Thank you.



PERFORMING ARTS – DRAMA

Arts Award

The Performing Arts department is now offering an Arts Award Qualification to Year 7, 8 and 9 students. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to receive an accreditation for all the work they do in Performing Arts. There was a letter sent out via Parentmail explaining all the details but if you should have any questions, please e-mail Mrs Milicevic who is leading the Arts Award. Drama Club will still run for students who do not wish to do the Arts Award.



PERFORMING ARTS – MUSIC

Music lessons at Furze Platt

Here at Furze Platt Senior School, we are lucky enough to have a number of music providers for our students to learn singing, instrument and playing either solo or as part of a group.



We are delighted to introduce Totally RAD to that list.

Message from Totally Rad:

RAD believe that whatever the skill level or budget, all children deserve access to exceptional music tuition.

Our highly skilled network of professional musicians provide next-level tuition for the next generation of talent, no matter the location, budget or capability.

Provided on-site, within school hours and at a highly-competitive rate; with RAD, students can experience expert music tuition that helps them sharpen skills, express creativity, and dream BIG, with no disruption or stress – all from the very best in the business.

For more information, and to sign up your child to RAD lessons, just use the following link; we'll do the rest.

SIGN ME UP



GARDENING CLUB



Students at Gardening Club have been showing ambition growing carrots!



(pictured, Frayne Pinto).



ALL YEAR GROUPS

TUESDAYS

15.20 - 16.20

IN ROOM S12

THANK YOU TO FURZE PLATT STUDENTS



Following last week's piece on Dr Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka at the Uganda High Commission, Sarah Parfitt and the organisers would like to thank our Head of Media, Josh Beavis and the following students:

- Maddie Tittley
- Olivia Leedham
- Ruby Sanderson
- Ben Roberts

You can find out more about Dr Gladys's phenomenal work here:

CHAMPION OF THE GORILLAS: THE VET FIGHTING TO SAVE UGANDA'S GREAT APES

FURZE PLATT ALUMNI SCORES CUP FINAL WINNER AT WEMBLEY



Many congratulations to Kai Walters (at Furze Platt from 2008-2015) who fulfilled a childhood dream by scoring the winner in a Cup Final at Wembley. Midfielder Kai plays for Ascot United and was competing against Newport Pagnell Town in the FA Vase final.



Well done to him and we wish him the best of luck for the future.



Summer volunteering opportunity at The Royal Opera House in London.

For students interested in the arts, you can volunteer to be Welcome Hosts this summer at The Royal Opera House in London where you will:

- Welcome and greet visitors
- Share information and answer questions
- Give directions
- Accompany Tour Groups
- Help manage queues at busy times
- Assist Front Of House Staff

You will need to commit to 6 to 8 sessions (each session is 2-4 hours long) between 3rd July and 31st August between the hours of 9.45am and 8pm.



To apply, send an email to volunteers@roh.org.uk and they will send you an online application form which must be submitted **by 9am on Tues 13th June**. After shortlisting, there will be interviews. Successful applicants will have an Induction Day.

[TO FIND OUT MORE, CLICK HERE](#)



Pinewood Studios Free Career Festival:

There is a FREE careers festival at Pinewood Studios on Fri 24th and Sat 25th November, where you will get the opportunity to:

- Find out more about careers in TV and film
- Meet employers and industry professionals
- Take part in workshops

[TO FIND OUT MORE, CLICK HERE](#)

Even though it is months away, it is likely to be very popular so do book your tickets in advance. You book in for a 2h30 minute session.

[BOOK HERE](#)

For Year 12 students interested in going into law, there are two on-line conferences (via Zoom) on Sat 10th June OR Sunday 11th June from 9.30am to 2pm

Tickets are £15. Judge and Chief Mentor for Law, Emma Serrano, will provide her insight and information about:

- Life as a law student, solicitor, barrister and judge
- Legal myth busting
- Application timeline
- CV, extracurricular activities and transferable skills needed to go into law
- UCAS process
- Personal statements
- Interviews
- Entrance exams: LNAT, Cambridge/Oxford Law Exam

If you want to find out more before booking a place, you can call 01530 417 299 or look at the website <https://lawmentor.org.uk/get-into-law/>

[TO BOOK A PLACE CLICK HERE](#)

SEND VOICES RBWM / ACHIEVING FOR CHILDREN



SEND Voices RBWM and Achieving for Children Education Team would like to invite you to their first engagement workshop.

This will be a termly meeting, jointly run, aimed at parents and carers of children and young people with special needs and disabilities (SEND).

As this is their first session, they would like you come along to share your thoughts on how these sessions can be shaped.

TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST PLEASE CLICK HERE

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL WELLBEING



Our mental health and wellbeing can change all the time. Because of this, it can help to check in regularly and be available for your children and teenagers to talk about how they're feeling. You don't have to wait until they're struggling.

There is a lot of specialist support out there to help your child or teenager better manage their emotional reactions and feelings to avoid critical incidents happening.

Existing local and national support:

FRIMLEY HEALTHIER TOGETHER

An NHS Frimley website for parents/carers offering advice and support on a range of issues including mental wellbeing.

ACHIEVING FOR CHILDREN WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD

Family Hub Service run by Achieving for Children, offering advice and support for parents on a range of issues including mental wellbeing.

KOOTH

A free, safe, and anonymous space for young people to find online support and counselling. It also has contact details for Childline and the Samaritans.

THAMES VALLEY SUICIDE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE (AMPARO)

Tel: 0330 088 9255

Provide practical and emotional support for anyone (adults, children/young people, and families) affected by suicide in the Thames Valley. A confidential, free service, offering short and long-term support.

For telephone support:

Shout

Provides free, 24/7 text support for young people across the UK experiencing a mental health crisis. Simply text 'SHOUT' to 85258. It also has a website:

SHOUT

Parents Helpline

National service offering detailed advice, emotional support and signposting about a child or young person up to the age 25. Call 0808 802 5544 (Monday – Friday, 9:30am- 4pm).

Childline

ChildLine offers free and confidential support for children and young people up to the age of 19. This is a 24/7 service. Call 0800 1111.

Papyrus HOPELINE

For young people who may be experiencing thoughts of suicide. Parents can also contact it if they're unsure how to start a conversation with their child about suicide and would like advice from a specially trained adviser.

Call 0800 068 41 41 or text 07860 039967.



Staff Communication and Human Resources Manager To start July/August 2023

Permanent, Full time, All Year Round. 37 Hours per week. Salary £38,342 to £42,307 (pay award pending)

We are seeking a dynamic leader who can foster a positive and collaborative staff culture. The successful candidate will be highly personable and an excellent communicator, keen to recruit and retain the very best staff to ensure all our students get an inspiring and rewarding education. The person appointed will have a background in Human Resources management and the skills to advise and support colleagues, including Senior Leadership Team and governors.

This is an exciting opportunity to make a significant difference to the education of many hundreds of young people, as well as support colleagues to develop and progress their careers.

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.

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. 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 through various social events including a Christmas party, sports after school and various House competitions. Parking is free, as are tea, coffee, and edible treats to help you through the week! Our Senior Leadership team recognises the value of our support staff attending whole school training, job specific training and opportunities to learn about students they may be supporting, hence our commitment to their attendance on our September INSET day and one other INSET day during the academic year. A free lunch is also provided giving staff the chance to welcome new members of staff and share news and ideas.

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: Wednesday 14th June at 9am
Interviews will take place: as soon as is practicable

CURRENT VACANCIES



BRAND NEW STUDENT MEMBERSHIP



GYM ACCESS FOR £9.99 A MONTH

Our brand new fixed membership will grant students between the ages of 13 to 16 access to our gym between 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm.

*Please note this membership will only be available during term time and on weekdays only.

CONTACT US

www.leisurefocus.org.uk

furzeplatt@leisurefocus.org.uk

101 Furze Platt Rd,
Maidenhead SL6 7NQ

01628 965754



Applicants
should ideally
be 176cm (f) or
188cm (m) tall
or over

Rowing Taster Sessions

Finding the next generation of talent

Marlow Rowing Club

Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th June

For more information or to apply, email ben.reed@britishrowing.org





Information Evening

Tuesday 4th July
5:30pm-8:00pm

