

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #71.11



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Careers Fortnight and Our Career and **Higher Education Fair**

Currently, we are in the middle of Careers Fortnight with staff across the school sharing careers information and helping students in Years 9 to 13 identify potential

future pathways. Each of our lessons offers a myriad of career opportunities and it is great to talk to students about these.

The highlight of our Careers Fortnight is the Career and Higher Education Fair next Tuesday 28th November. We will have an amazing array of employees, apprenticeship providers, colleges and universities on hand to talk to students and share careers information. It is normally a very busy evening and I look forward to seeing you there.





CHEF PROGRAMME

Sixth Form Open Evening

Many thanks to all of who either vou attended or supported our Open Evening on Thursday. We were delighted be to





UPCOMING EVENTS

Term 2 Events

TUE 28	Careers and Higher Education	6pm - 8pm
NOVEMBER	Fair (CHEF)	opin - opin
THU 30	Year 12 Parents' & Students'	4.15pm -
NOVEMBER	Consultation Evening	7.15pm
WED 6	Year 9 & 10 Performing Arts	4.30pm -
DECEMBER	Theatre Trip	10pm
THU 7	Year 13 Parents' & Students'	4.15pm -
DECEMBER	Consultation Evening	7.15pm
WED 13	Christmas Concert	7.30pm - 9pm
DECEMBER		
FRI 15	End of Term 2 - Early finish	12.30pm finish
DECEMBER		
MON 17 - TUE 2	Christmas Holidays	
DECEMBER - JANUARY		
WED 3	INSET Day - School closed for all	
JANUARY	year groups	
THU 4	Start of Term 3	8.40am start
JANUARY		

SCHOOL TERM DATES

inundated by our own students, as well as those from other schools. It was great to meet so many new faces as well as all our current students and their parents/carers.



SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS 2024

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A M BITIOUS COLLA BORATIVE HAPPY INTEGRITY **F**NDURANCE **V**ERSATILITY **E**XCELLENCE If you have any news items you wish to feature in our newsletter please email: media@furzeplatt.net

Year 12 Parents Evening

We look forward to seeing many Year 12 parents and carers, together with their children, next week at our Parents Evening. This is a great opportunity to talk to staff and learn how Sixth Form has started including successes and areas for development.

Autism in Girls

Thank you to the many staff, parents and carers who attended the talk by Cathy Wassell on Tuesday. I know many of you found her insights and the questions afterwards very insightful.

MFL Speaking Exams

Finally, good luck and well done to all those Year 11s who have been having their practise Speaking Exams this week. I have written before about how daunting I find such conversations and I have great admiration for our students doing this in exam conditions.

Take care,

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

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 directly to Go 4 Schools <u>www.go4schools.com</u> and selecting Parents or by clicking the link below which takes you to our website and includes our latest Guidance to Grading document.

VIEW REPORTS

'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

YEAR 12 PARENTS' EVENING



Thursday 30th November 4.15-7.15pm

On Thursday 30th November there will be an opportunity for the parents/carers of Year 12 to meet their child's subject teachers at Furze Platt Senior School. Face to face appointments will be available between **4.15-7.15pm** in the Theatre and Main Hall.

Parents' Evenings are very important events that allow you to gain helpful insights into your child's progress, discuss upcoming assessments and find out how families can support students with revision, therefore we would you encourage you to attend the appointments with your child.

School Cloud is a platform whereby you will have an opportunity to book your appointments with your child's subject teachers in advance. In order 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 front page of the school website. A short guide on how to add an appointment can also be found via the link.

PARENTS' EVENING BOOKINGS

The appointments are available to book now and will close on Thursday 30th November at 2pm.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday 30th November.

Miss R Lake, Deputy Headteacher



YEAR 13 GEOGRAPHY COURSEWORK DEADLINE



Our Year 13 Geographers deserve to be congratulated on their hard work that they have been putting in on their Geography coursework; it has been wonderful over the last term to go through their coursework with them and to see all the brilliant pieces of work that they are producing.

As students are aware, the first deadline for the coursework is fast approaching. Their first submission date is **10.15am Monday 27th November 2023**, which is in approximately 1 week.

Cont. on page 3



When this is submitted as **final draft in February 2024**, it is worth **20% of their final A Level grade** and therefore should be to an extremely high standard and level of completion.

Parents have been sent a letter this week with more details, please check ParentMail for further information.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS



Deadline for deposit: Friday 1st December 2023

Bronze Award – Year 9 Silver Award – Year 10 Gold Award – Year 12

We are delighted to let you know that we are offering the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) to students in Year 9 this year, the Silver Award to our Year 10 students and the Gold Award to students currently in Year 12.

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.

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they can choose what they'd like to do for their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections, and most activities can count. Completion of these sections will primarily be the responsibility of the students taking part and students can either choose to continue an activity they already do or discover something completely new. Activities should be selected as soon as possible. The activities pack or the DofE page on our website can provide suggestions for the sections.

For more information please click below.

Miss D Carty, DofE Manager



THE GLOBE THEATRE TRIP – FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2023



Review by Seb Sutehall, Year 8

It was a sunny day in mid-November when 80 people in Year 8 went on the trip to the Globe Theatre in London. The coach had turned up promptly at 8am at the school and I was excited and keen to see what the day would bring.

For those of you that don't know, the theatre is a realistic reconstruction of an Elizabethan playhouse for which William Shakespeare wrote his plays with the original theatre being built in 1599. It is located in central London on the south bank of the River Thames and hosts productions or plays.



During the coach journey to the theatre, we were lucky enough to see some of the most prominent central London landmarks, such as: Big Ben, London Eye and the Houses of Parliament. I had only seen these in pictures before, so it was nice to see them in real life!

Upon arrival at the theatre, we met our guide, Jack. Jack took us on a tour of the theatre and told us some interesting facts along the way and made the tour fun and enjoyable.

The theatre is constructed entirely of English Oak wood (sourced from England and Scotland) with no metal used in the construction. The seats are simple benches (with no cushions) to watch the plays. The theatre is also covered with a straw or thatch roofing, so they need to be careful with any fire hazards in the theatre!

During the 1600s many people used to leave work early in the afternoon to come and see the plays and on the second and third floors balconies there were barriers to stop them falling over the edge, especially when they had drunk too much!

The pit has a concrete surface as opposed to an earth covered (muddy) floor from the original theatre and there are hidden trapdoors on the wooden stage. If you entered from the bottom of the stage trapdoor you were

Cont. on page 4



likely to be a villain or bad character in the play and were nick named the 'trapdoor from hell'. Similarly, there were also trapdoors in the upper balconies, and they were named 'trapdoor from heaven' as angels would appear from these.



Unfortunately, the day came to an end all too quickly and it was an extraordinary experience. It will definitely help me in my GCSEs, and I wanted to say thank you to everyone who was involved in organising it, especially our guide Jack!

VIEW VIDEO

HOUSE QUIZ CHALLENGE



We have our House Quiz for all year groups during the week of 4^{th} — 8^{th} December:

Monday 4th December – Year 11, 12 and 13 Tuesday 5th December – Year 10 Wednesday 6th December – Year 9 Thursday 7th December – Year 8 Friday 8th December – Year 7

Prizes:

- 10 points for each finalist
- 50 points for the 4 winners of each Year group
- Sweet treats for the 4 winners of each Year group
- 1000 points for the winning House of each Year group;
 600 for 2nd place, 400 for 3rd place, 200 for 4th place

Good luck to all students!



EARLY BREAK 2 TUES 5TH DECEMBER



12.45-1.15pm

We will be moving to an early Break 2 (12.45-1.15pm) on Tuesday 5th December. This is to accommodate a Transition STEM Event, Girls in Space where we will be welcoming a number of students from Furze Platt Junior School for a fun and fascinating session on the wonders of Space.



ELEVATE EDUCATION'S PARENT WEBINAR SERIES

Elevate deliver high impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing and exam preparation. Parents can learn how to better support their children at home through reinforcing the skills they learn at school.



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Each webinar is run live online from 6pm – 7pm where the presenter will share Elevate's key research and skills, and will conduct a live Q&A so you can ask questions directly.

Webinars can be watched at any time and are suitable for parents of students in all year groups, however some webinars such as 'Exam Preparation' may be more relevant to students in exam years.

REGISTER

Parent Webinars for Autumn Term 2023

- Tuesday 28th November, 6:00pm How You Can Build Resilience in Your Child
- Tuesday 12th December, 6:00pm How To Help Your Child Alleviate Stress

HAPPY VINTEGRITY ENDURANCE VERSATILITY EXCELLENCE

BLOCK PRINT WORKSHOP



On Thursday, four students visited Norden Farm to attend a block print workshop. Their work shows the range of new skills they learnt during the session.





AMBITIOUS





WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2023 | 7 PM START | THEATRE



COLLABORATIVE

GCSE ART, PHOTOGRAPHY AND TEXTILES



A fantastic selection of the GCSE Art, Photography and Textiles work currently on display in our Art department. Students' hard work and dedication to these subjects is clear in the array of fantastic work exhibited.







INTEGRITY **ENDURANCE VERSATILITY EXCELLENCE**

If you have any news items you wish to feature in our newsletter please email: media@furzeplatt.net

HAPPY

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FEEL GOOD FRIDAY



Last Friday breaktime, we were treated to a delightful surprise by our incredibly talented Year 9 students. The melodious notes of a piano echoed through the halls, capturing the attention and hearts of everyone nearby. What made this musical interlude truly special was the spontaneity with which it unfolded. A group of our Year 9 students, with passion and enthusiasm, took it upon themselves to create a joyous atmosphere for their peers. Their impromptu piano performance not only showcased their musical talents but also lifted the spirits of the entire school community. It's moments like these that remind us of the incredible talents and camaraderie within our student body, making Feel Good Friday a celebration of the unexpected and the wonderful. Cheers to the Year 9 musicians who turned an ordinary break into a harmonious and heart-warming experience for all!





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

COLLABORATIVE

AMBITIOUS

Ofsted 2021



TERM 2 CLUBS 2023-24

Clubs for next term were sent out at the end of last term, Friday 20th October. Please do not delete this email as new clubs may be added throughout the term and you will need to book via the original link.

SCHOOL CLUB LIST

YEAR 12 AND 13 GEOGRAPHY DROP IN SESSIONS



Monday, 3.15-4.30 in H4

As part of the Geography Department's ongoing support for A Level students, Mr Jones, Mr Green, Mr Wellard-Jeffs and Mr Harrison would like to invite Year 12 and 13 Geography students to attend our drop-in Geography sessions. The clinic will run every Monday, 3.15-4.30 in H4 (Mr Wellard's classroom).

The clinic will support students in three main areas:

- 1. Exam content (Both year 12 and 13 topics, Human and Physical)
- 2. Exam skills (Particularly 12 and 20 mark exam questions)
- 3. Revision skills
- 4. Coursework Support

The Geography clinic will help support students not only prepare for their final A Level examinations but also for their upcoming PPEs that will take place later this academic year.

Currently, the clinic will **operate on a drop-in basis**, where any student who wants support with their Geography studies is welcome to turn up and work independently with the support their Geography teachers.

Your sons/daughters have already been informed about this opportunity.

The Geography Department

(Mr Wellard-Jeffs, Mr Harrison, Mr Green, and Mr Jones)

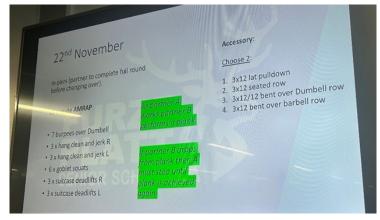
HAPPY VINTEGRITY ENDURANCE VERSATILITY EXCELLENCE

MORNING FITNESS CLUB



Furze Platt's Morning Fitness team once again meeting the challenge in a collaborative pairs workout. These students come in early each week to start their day with fitness programmes to keep them motivated and inspired designed by Mr Djaelani, a previous sporting World Champion.









Wednesdays

7.40 - 8.30 Fitness Suite Years 7-11





We were fortunate to welcome Max McGarvie from Zenopa who came in to talk to Sixth Form students last Wednesday. The presentation covered a variety of subjects relating to Degree Apprenticeships including the benefits and drawbacks, how to apply and what makes your profile stand out.

Thank you to Max and the team at Zenopa for taking the time to come and share business knowledge with our students.



AUTISTIC GIRLS NETWORK, TUESDAY 21ST NOVEMBER, 7PM, SCHOOL THEATRE

SPOTLIGHT ON AUTISM IN GIRLS

Furze Platt Senior School's Theatre turned its spotlights onto autism in girls this week. (Tuesday 21st November)



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A MBITIOUS COLLABORATIVE HAPPY INTEGRITY ENDURANCE VERSATILITY EXCELLENCE If you have any news items you wish to feature in our newsletter please email: media@furzeplatt.net Around a hundred people from the local area heard a talk by Cathy Wassell, from the Autistic Girls Network, with an insightful question and answer session afterwards.

Cathy spoke about how autism in girls often presents itself differently from how it is seen in boys, with the consequence that girls are, on average, diagnosed two to three years later than their male peers. The implications of this for their mental health and happiness can be severe and can lead to a range of issues.

Cathy said: 'The main differences are that girls tend to mask and internalise their feelings more, to help them fit in, and to avoid the stigma of being autistic. However, masking comes with a high cost in terms of mental health and keeping a strong sense of identity, and it's no coincidence that children and young people who present in an internal way are being diagnosed autistic because there is a crisis.'



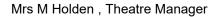
The school invited Cathy to give this talk to help the wider community gain insights into this often-misunderstood neurodivergence, and to help parents, guardians and school staff better understand the nuances of how autism presents itself in different people, including some boys and nonbinary young people.

Cathy is the mother of an 18-year-old girl with autism, who was only diagnosed after a mental health crisis. She now leads the charity to help promote better understanding and to push for earlier diagnosis to avoid similar mental health problems in others.

After the hour long talk parents and guardians asked Cathy questions, sharing their experiences and asking for advice on how better they could support their young people.

Headteacher Dr Andrew Morrison said: 'We've had a very positive response from those attending this talk, and it's great to be able to host community events that help support both our parents, school staff, and the wider community of Maidenhead and Windsor.'

Thank you to Mrs Wilson, Sixth Form Administrator, for suggesting Cathy as a speaker.



A M BITIOUS COLLABOR ATIVE



This school is proud to be a MUSIC MARK SCHOOL In recognition of a commitment to providing a high-quality music education for all children and young people 2023 - 2024 BUSE ABRSN



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HAPPY VINTEGRITY ENDURANCE VERSATILITY EXCELLENCE



Contact us Email: ptfa@furzeplatt.net facebook.com/fpssptfa Website: click here to access



MATCHED FUNDING

Matched funding is achieved when a parent/carer/friend has donated to and/or helped at a charity event or activity and their employer/company operates a 'community charity support' scheme. The employee completes a form/applies to the company for a contribution towards the funds raised. It's also tax effective and can be deducted from the business corporation tax, plus, the employee can use it for their own tax advantage too.

If your employer offers this please email us: ptfa@furzeplatt.net

THANK YOU TO ALL MEMBERS IN THE 200 CLUB AND SIGNED UP TO EASYFUNDRAISING - YOU MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE.

THERE'S SPACE FOR MORE MEMBERS SO CLICK THROUGH NOW





EASYFUNDRAISING ON FACEBOOK

Uniform Co-ordinator is Carina Charles (Year 8 parent). Please email your requests to: <u>PTFAUniform@furzeplatt.net</u> and Carina will get back to you. Please add this email address to your 'safe senders list'.

Scretary and 200 Club Administrator is Gill Healey (Year 10 parent). Notifications will be emailed from: <u>PTFA200Club@furzeplatt.net</u> Please add this email address to your 'safe senders list'.



HLTA (Inclusion) - To start as soon as possible

Full time/Part time/Job Share considered for the right candidates. Minimum 22 hours per week Monday, Wednesday, Friday with full time considered with additional responsibilities. If full time - 37 hours a week, start time 8.30am, finish time 4.30pm – Monday to Thursday, 8.30am to 4.00pm on a Friday (includes a half hour unpaid break). Term time only plus two INSET days.

Actual salary \pounds 31,400 - \pounds 33,700 pa based on above (would vary if part time) depending on experience

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 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.

We are looking for someone to develop and manage our KS3 Raising Achievement (RA) intervention, ensuring that the young people identified for this intervention can access academic learning, develop organisational, study and life skills and make good progress towards achieving personalised targets.

For further information about this role and in order to complete a **Support Staff Application Form** please refer to our school website <u>www.furzeplatt.com</u>. 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.





Learning Support Assistant in Shine To start as soon as possible

Permanent, Part time, 12 hours a week, over two days, 6 hours per day. Start time usually between 8.45/9.15 am, finish time between 3.15/3.45 pm (includes a half hour unpaid break). Monday to Friday, term time only plus two INSET days) Actual Starting Salary $\pounds7,260$ pa

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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 and staff involvement through various social events including orienteering, murder mystery quizzes, sports after school and a Furze Platt fantasy football league. 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!

We are looking for enthusiastic and reliable individuals to join our Core Learning Support team who provide targeted support to our students with Special Educational Needs within the mainstream school, or our Shine team, providing targeted support to our students with an autistic spectrum condition diagnosis in the ASC Resource Base.

You would be working under the direction of the SENCO or Shine teachers, and classroom teachers to provide support for individual students across key stages 3 to 5, in line with any agreed SEND or other specialist plans. Supporting small groups of students for interventions and mentoring nominated students is also a part of this role. You will help students develop their organisational, social and communication skills and help them gain access to the curriculum by ensuring effective use of differentiated instructions and tasks.

We are looking for team players, who can communicate sensitively and confidently with staff, students and parents/carers. This role would suit someone who is able to use their own initiative and who has strong organisational and time management skills. We would love to receive applications from anyone who is working with or has worked with students in a school setting and gained experience or knowledge of SEN (Special Educational Needs) or ASC (Autistic Spectrum Condition).

For further information about this role and in order to complete a **Support Staff Application Form** please refer to our school website <u>www.furzeplatt.com</u>. Application forms should be returned to **Kiran.smith@furzeplatt.net**. Only applications submitted on the school application form will be considered.

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Free Bike Check-Ups at Windsor Leisure Centre



Together with Cycling UK, we're bringing Dr Bike to your area:

When? Sunday 26th November, 2023, from 8am Where? Windsor Leisure Centre, Stovell Rd, SL4 5JB

It's a free* basic bike service (tyres, brakes, gears etc.), so places will go fast!

Book now using this QR Code, or the link below:



bit.ly/3SIIle8

*See full details, including Ts&Cs, when booking.

Can't make the date? Don't worry, we're at The Swan every Saturday from 11am

@WindsorCycleHub



WindsorCycleHub.org





info@WindsorCycleHub.org

HAPPY

The Swan, Mill Lane, Clewer, Windsor SL4 5JG

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INTEGRITY **ENDURANCE VERSATILITY EXCELLENCE**

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COOKHAM CHRISTMAS STREET FAYRE 3 WEEKS TODAY!!

COOKHAM HIGH STREET

Sunday 3rd December 12-4pm

FABULOUS FOOD | CHRISTMAS COCKTAILS MULLED WINE | ARTISAN GIFTS SANTAS GROTTO FESTIVE FAMILY FUN

A MBITIOUS COLLABORATIVE HAPPY INTEGRITY ENDURANCE VERSATILITY EXCELLENCE If you have any news items you wish to feature in our newsletter please email: media@furzeplatt.net 13

LEISURE COCUS



une Focus

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL

FOCUS

Transform your evening routine, train next to your child's school at Furze Platt Leisure Centre.

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