



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 9 Parents Evening and Options

Thank you to all our Year 9 students, parents and carers who attended Parents Evening on Thursday. The next few weeks are a really important time for the year group. On Wednesday in assembly Year 9 students learnt about the options process and some of the new subjects that are available. Over the next two weeks, their current subjects will share details of the Key Stage 4 options choices they offer. Then, on Thursday 25th January we have our Options Evening to which all Year 9 parents, carers and students are invited.

While students must study core subjects, Science, Maths and English, they have various choices to make. These need to be informed by their research into the subjects on offer, their current progress in school and their developing thoughts about the next steps they may take to Sixth Form or College at the end of Year 11.

Our students have a variety of advice open to them. I would like to thank parents and carers for the guidance they will offer. Similarly, there are many FPSS staff who are keen to help, so please do encourage students to have conversations with Form Tutors and Subject Teachers.

That said, ultimately it is the individual student who will study that course for two years and (hopefully) use it to help springboard into their next courses, apprenticeship or employment. It is important that Year 9 'own' their decision and can articulate what they have chosen and why. I look forward to talking to Year 9 about the reasons behind their choices.

Year 13 PPEs

Heading towards the end of their time at FPSS, Year 13 are looking towards apprenticeships, employment and universities beyond school. While I know that the ultimate UCAS deadline is a few weeks away, some students are already receiving offers, including for Oxbridge. Congratulations to all those who have so far achieved an offer for next year.



UPCOMING EVENTS

[ALL EVENTS](#)

Forthcoming Events

THU 25 JANUARY	Year 9 Options Evening	6pm - 8.30pm
FRI 26 JANUARY	Late Start for all year groups	9.15am
WED 31 JANUARY	Intermediate Maths Challenge	
	UCAS Entry Deadline	6pm
MON 5 - THU 8 FEBRUARY	Guys and Dolls (Matinee only on Monday 5th for local schools)	7-9pm
FRI 9 FEBRUARY	End of term	3.15pm finish

SCHOOL TERM DATES

To reach that goal, good results are clearly essential and next week our Year 13 sit their PPEs (mocks). Good luck to all our students.

Take care,

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

YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING



THURSDAY 25th JANUARY

On Thursday 25th January, we will be holding our 2024 Year 9 Options Information Evening. This important evening is for students and parents to find out about the options process and to talk to different subject teachers about the wide range of courses that we offer at Furze Platt. There will be two talks explaining the options process, one at 6.00pm and the other at 6.45pm, with 2 Houses attending each talk (details of House timings on page 2). After the talks have finished, which should last for approximately 30 minutes, you will then be able to visit each subject stall in the

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English block where you can ask any questions you may have and find out more about how different subjects are taught and assessed.

The timings for the talks are as follows:

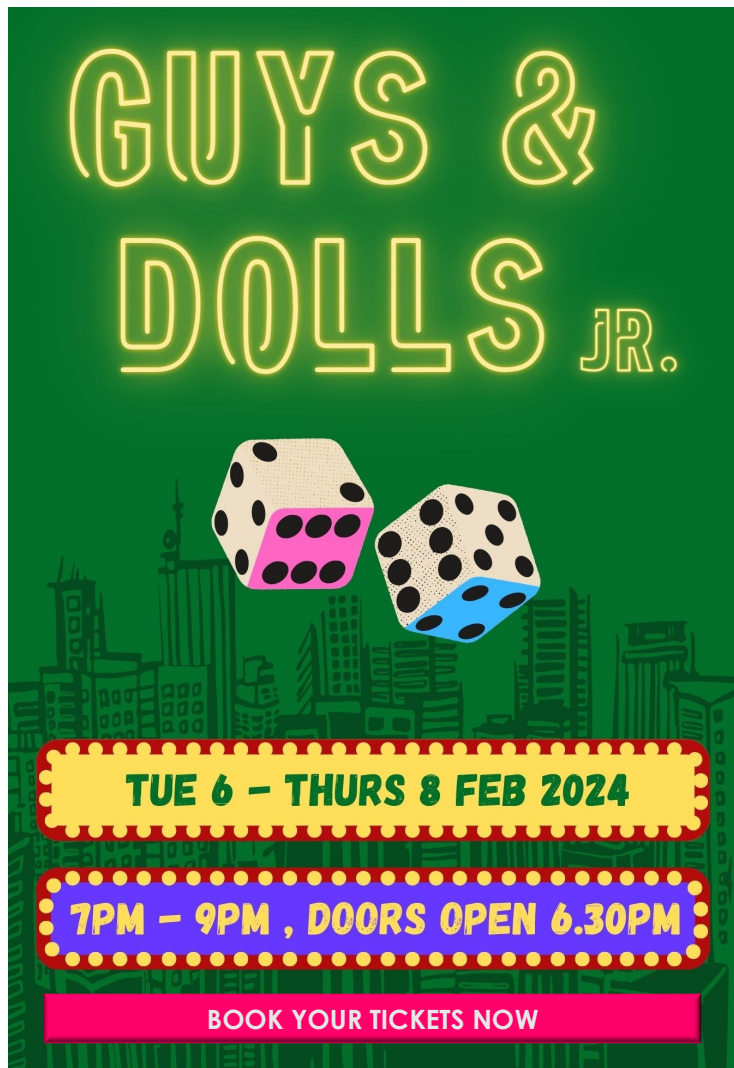
6.00pm: Eagle and Falcon Houses

6:45pm: Hawk and Osprey Houses

I look forward to welcoming you on Thursday 25th January, in the Theatre.

Miss L Stirling

* A reminder that this event will be followed by a 9.15am start for all students on Friday 26th January.



GUYS & DOLLS JR.

TUE 6 – THURS 8 FEB 2024

7PM – 9PM , DOORS OPEN 6.30PM

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW

GUYS AND DOLLS JR

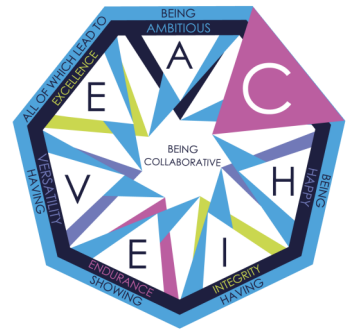
We are delighted to announce our next school musical production is 'Guys and Dolls Jr', which will be performed by our talented students in the school Theatre between Tuesday 6th and Thursday 8th February 2024. In addition,

there will be a matinee performance for students of local primary schools on Monday 5th February. Break 2 that day will change to 12.45-1.15pm to accommodate this showing.

Tickets cost £12 for adults, £5 for under 18s. A range of refreshments will be available on the night.

Be transported to the gambling dens of New York and the clubs of Cuba as our students perform Guys and Dolls Jr!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!



RAF MILITARY BAND VISIT FRIDAY 26TH JANUARY

We are hosting the RAF Military Band on Friday 26th January after a successful application.

This is an exciting opportunity which will give our Year 9 students and KS4 (Year 10) and KS5 (Year 12) Music students the opportunity to learn about careers in the RAF both music related and non music related.

The performance will take place in the Theatre in the afternoon and we hope our students enjoy hearing and seeing a professional band in action.



PAYMENT DEADLINES - REMINDERS

BRONZE, SILVER AND GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS:

Final instalment due Wednesday 31st January

YEAR 8 CONSERVATION TRIP TO WALES:

Final instalment due Friday 9th February



REMINDER – LOST PROPERTY

We have a number of unnamed items in our Lost Property area waiting to be claimed. If you recognise any of these items please do let us know or ask your son / daughter to collect them.



Items that are named are far more likely to be reunited with their owners; if you have not done so already please can you ensure students' names are on each item of clothing (including coats, hats etc), PE kit, water bottle, pencil cases, bag and anything else they may bring to school.

Thank you.



VISIT TO 'BEAUTY AND THE BEAST'

By Fred Fletcher, Year 11

On behalf of the staff and students of Shine, Furze Platt Senior School

On December 21st, two staff and twenty three students were treated to tickets to see 'Beauty and the Beast' at the Braywick Leisure Centre. We all really enjoyed the performance.

The acting was phenomenal. All the characters were very funny, but a clear favourite was 'Valerie Patisserie'. For another student, best actor award went to the pantomime dame: "My favourite was Dolly".

All the usual pantomime expectations were fulfilled. The audience interaction was great throughout. It was very enjoyable to take part in some scenes. There was a ghost looming 'behind' a befuddled character. There was a spectacular, energetic and unconventional version of the 12 Days of Christmas! And students said they loved the flour

chucking scene and the bouncy beach balls thrown into the audience.

We found the jokes really hilarious, and as usual, we loved the incorporation of local culture and areas into the panto. Another student said, "The jokes were very funny", and the favourite for most of us was the "cooking scene with the eggs".

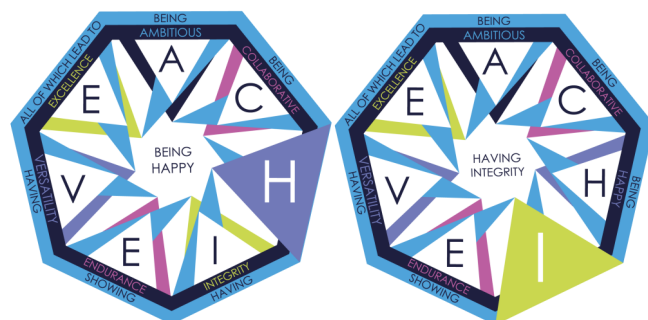
A final thoughtful touch was the opportunity to have your photo taken with some of the cast – which more than one of our students did.

The whole panto had a great atmosphere and was truly enjoyable to attend; everyone had an amazing time. Oh yes we did!

Thank you Kevin Cruise Foundation!



Pictured, Thomas Butler and Maryam Mohsin



REVISION RESOURCE COMPETITION COMPETITION WINNERS

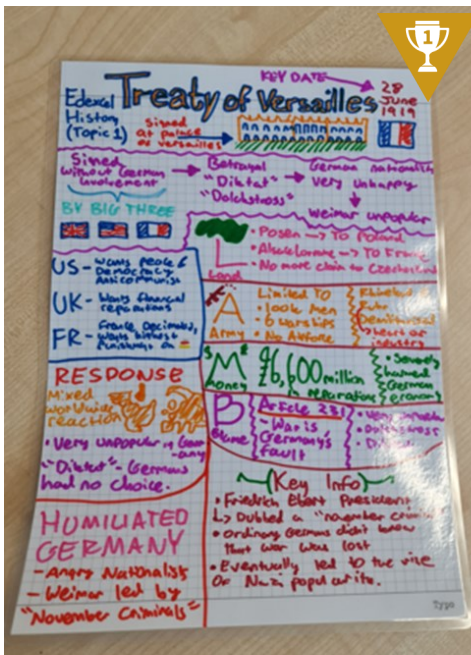
Many congratulations to the winners of the Year 11 Resources competition!

1st Prize = Fred Fletcher

2nd Prize = Sara Nazir

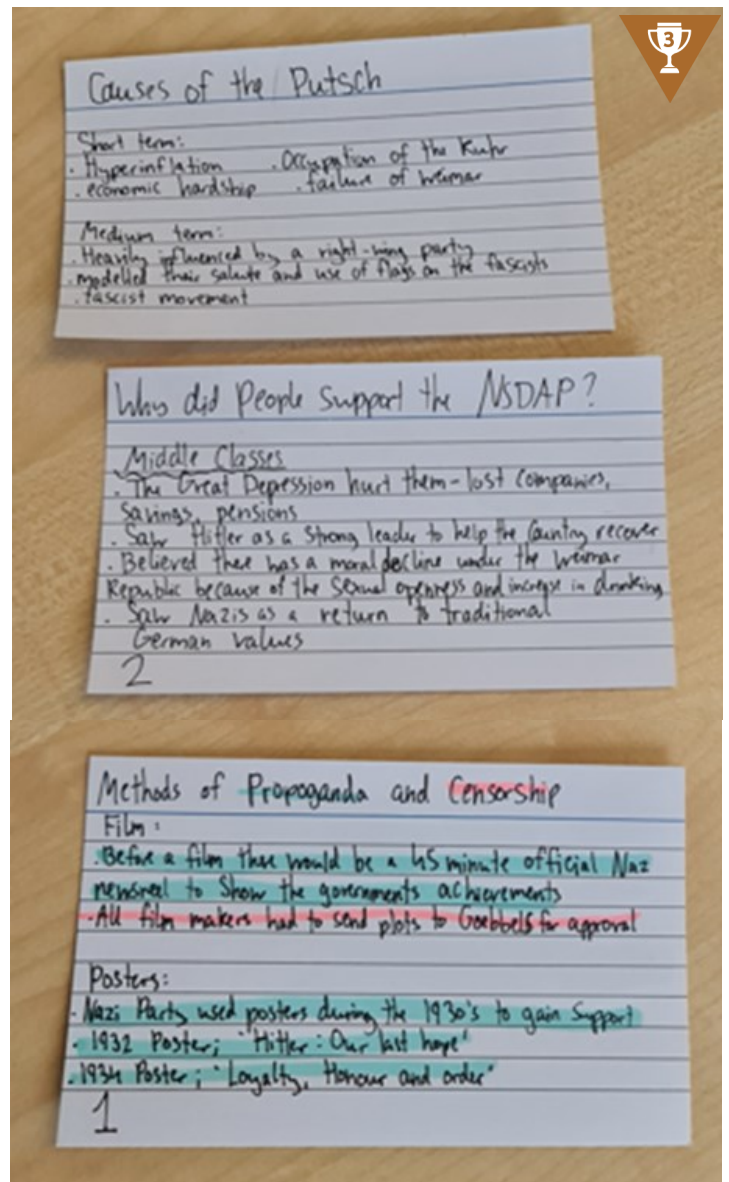
3rd Prize = Charlotte Sodden

Each student has been awarded their prize (and all other entries a consolation prize).

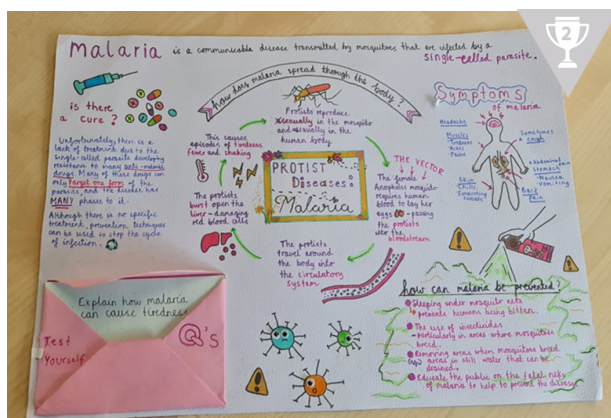


Fred produced this excellent resource about the Treaty of Versailles – he also included some questions (with answers) on this topic as part of the revision resource too.

He's shown that he is able to condense the words into a succinct and valuable tool.



Sara's work is beautifully presented and we particularly loved the envelope attached with questions and answers.



Charlotte has taken around 2-3 pages of the History text to condense the work onto one cue card. You can see she has used minimal words and these cue cards would serve as a great revision tool.

ACE YOUR EXAMS

We have added a link on our website to a presentation from Elevate Education called 'Ace Your Exams'. All Year 11 students will be involved in these upcoming workshops. Please click the link below for more details.



'ACE YOUR EXAMS' PRESENTATION



This year Furze Platt has purchased access to an online safeguarding information platform for all parents. Our Online Safety Hub provides parents with a wealth of information including in the following areas:

How to keep your child safe online

How to ensure best safety features are implemented on social media platforms

Understanding different social media platforms and their potential risks

- How to manage screen time with your child
- How to safeguard your child from online predators
- How to monitor your child's online activity

This platform can be found here:

[HTTPS://FURZEPLATT.ONLINESAFETYHUB.UK/](https://furzeplatt.onlinesafetyhub.uk/)

As part of this platform parents also all have free access to parental controls on 2 devices within your home. These devices are advised to be mobile phones and/or home laptops, the company advise against placing on laptops bring brought into school as it may conflict with the filtering and monitoring systems used on the school network.

This can be accessed via the link below and will enable parents to:

QUSTODIO: PARENTAL CONTROLS MADE EASY

- Filter content
- Monitor your child's online activity
- Set time limits for online use

We hope you find these resources useful for supporting your child with their use of the internet.

Miss L Lewis

Deputy Headteacher

Safeguarding and Interventions



TERM 3 CLUBS 2024

Clubs for this term were sent out on the last day of term, Friday 15th December. There were two emails, one for clubs and one for Academic Support Clinics. Please do encourage your son or daughter to attend those of interest. Students in exam years are especially invited to attend any academic clinics in their chosen subjects.

Please do not delete emails as new clubs may be added throughout the term and you will need to book via the original link.

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:

* 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 only choose sessions that are relevant to your son/daughter

SCHOOL CLUB LIST

DEBATE CLUB - NOW ON WEDNESDAYS

Debate Club

**After School
(3:15-3:45pm)**

Wednesdays in P1



Interested in: Current affairs, developing your debating skills, gaining confidence and friendly competition.

Then come and join us!



Tuesdays

15.20 - 16.20

S12

All Years

GARDENING CLUB

Gardening Club got off to a fine but cold January start under the scheme 'planting more in '24'. A hazel is now happily growing by Shine and Learning Support. Our broad beans are also growing strongly.

Fred Fletcher
Mia Banks
Frayne Pinho
Gerthard Ueukermann
Alfie Wetherall
George Longvill
Evan Smith

Alfie Mappley
Abigail Holmes
Lily Smith
Charley Smith
Kaylie Lau
Fifi Loveridge



YEAR 11 REVISION TIMETABLES AND HOW TO REVISE SESSIONS

YEAR
11

The Raising Achievement Department has been into every tutor and PSHE lesson over the past few weeks to deliver sessions on 'Setting up a Revision Timetable' and another on 'How to Revise'. This has given every Year 11 student the opportunity to set themselves up with a adaptable plan on when revision sessions will take place as well as walk and talk them 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 presentations used are below.

CREATING REVISION TIMETABLES

HOW TO REVISE

In addition, the links below show videos which can be used for students who may have missed the session or for any parent/carer who wants to know more.

FIND OUT MORE

FIND OUT MORE

?

CAN YOU HELP?

Message from Ms Chapman, Shine LSA

'This year, on the 23rd of February I will be spending the night in London, sleeping rough, like many people do every night of their lives.



The London Sleep Out is to raise money and awareness for the brilliant work that Centre Point are doing. It's a sobering experience to remind us how lucky we are and to put some support into a good cause.

Homelessness also influences so many other facets including suicide, mental health, risk of violence, drug abuse and generally devaluing the chances of living a good and healthy life and drastically shortening your life span.

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This is even starker when you consider young people who are homeless.

A few sobering reminders on homelessness include:

1. The average age of death for people experiencing homelessness is 45 for men and 43 for women.
2. People sleeping on the street are almost 17 times more likely to be victims of violence, and homeless people are over nine times more likely to take their own life than the general population
3. Core homelessness, including rough sleeping and living in unsuitable temporary accommodations, has been rising in England. By the end of 2021, 227,000 households across Britain were experiencing core homelessness, with projections suggesting this number could rise to 300,000 households by 2023

If you can spare anything, it's going to a great cause.

Help us to support Centre Point in its mission to end youth homelessness by 2037.

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)

Thank you.

MESSAGES FROM THAMES VALLEY POLICE

CYCLING AND E-SCOOTERS

Dear Parents/Guardians,

CYCLE SAFETY

The Maidenhead neighbourhood police team are completing work around cycle safety in order to make the town centre and streets of Maidenhead safer for cyclists and pedestrians.

As part of our work we will be focusing on areas that are pedestrianised in Maidenhead Town Centre. If anyone is seen cycling in an area where cycling is not permitted, or riding in an anti-social manner where cycling is allowed, we will be taking action and issuing Fixed Penalty Notices.

Please discuss cycle safety with your child/children and remind them to be aware of the signs, as well as re-iterating the importance of wearing protective equipment such as helmets, having lights fitted to their bicycles and having a good bike lock for when they are leaving it unattended.

Privately owned e-scooters are classed as a personal light electric vehicle and are only permitted on private land. Riding these anywhere in public, whether on the pavement, road or in parks is a road traffic offence. If you

are considering purchasing an e-scooter or your child or young person already owns one, please see the attached leaflet, which goes into further detail.

We are working hard to keep the town centre and the streets of Maidenhead safe and therefore this work is ongoing.

Regards,

Maidenhead Central Neighbourhood Team

ELECTRIC SCOOTERS

Did you know it's illegal to ride a privately owned electric scooter (e-scooter) in public?

That's because e-scooters are classed as motor vehicles in law. So, in theory, this means that you need an MOT, road tax and insurance to use one, however it isn't currently possible to register e-scooters in this way. Privately owned e-scooters can only be used on private land, with the permission of the landowner. You cannot use a privately owned e-scooter on the road, pavement or in a public space. If you do then you risk receiving a large fine, points on your driving licence and your e-scooter could be seized. Some parts of the UK are running government trials of rental e-scooters. If you're over 16 and have a full or provisional driving licence, then you can use these on public roads and cycle paths. Just check that your driving licence covers categories AM, A or B.

HENLEY COLLEGE INFORMATION EVENING

THURSDAY 18th JANUARY, 5:30PM-8PM

Visit The Henley College for the first open event of 2024, as we welcome prospective students and their parents/guardians to explore our impressive campuses after an enormous summer refurbishment, including new facilities and equipment such as:

- 3D Printers
- Virtual Reality Room
- VR Metaverse Headsets
- Data Network Cabinet for Computing Students
- Corporate style boardroom
- New study spaces

Hear from the Senior Leadership Team, meet enthusiastic teaching staff, and find out more about our high-achieving, diverse, and welcoming College located in the heart of the beautiful Henley-on-Thames. Learn about the varied qualifications we offer, including A-Levels, Applied A-Levels, BTECs, and the introduction of brand-new T-Levels

Cont. on page 8

in Health, Digital, Business, and Engineering.

We look forward to welcoming you.

For more information and to secure your place, please [click here](#).

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)



BOOK NOW!

**18TH JANUARY 2024
@ 17:30 - 20:00
THE HENLEY COLLEGE**

**INFORMATION
EVENING**



Contact us Email: ptfa@furzeplatt.net
facebook.com/fpsptfa Website: [click here to access](#)

NEW YEAR NEW WINNERS!

Thank you to everyone who attended our Annual General Meeting, it was lovely to meet so many of you.

We are delighted to announce the three lucky winners of the 200 Club Draw who have won substantial cash prizes – to enter the next draw please click on the link below.

[200 CLUB - MONTHLY DONATION](#)



200 CLUB

**Winning numbers for Draw 26
on Tuesday 9th January 2024**

