

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Dropping Off/Picking Up

Over recent weeks, the start and end of the school day has sadly been marked by a cacophony of car horns due to the impatience and/or poor driving of people dropping off or picking up children.



We have had cars blocking our parking lanes and subsequently the main highway, parking on double yellow lines as well as pavements, as well as reversing and even driving the wrong way through the one-way system. Such behaviours are a danger to our children, and I request that all parents and carers are considerate when driving near the school site.

There is only a limited number of parking spaces at the front of school. If you are unable to park in a space, please move up the lanes and circulate around to allow cars behind you to move through. Please do not stop on the yellow lines as you turn into school as this blocks the main highway and poses a risk to those leaving our site.

Please also consider arranging a meeting point beyond the front of school to ease congestion.

Thank you for your support with this.

Year 9 Options

It has been a pleasure to talk to so many Year 9 students about their potential option choices this week. They are clearly giving it some serious consideration and weighing up the information that has been shared by teachers.

A reminder to all Year 9 students, parents and carers that our Options Evening is next Thursday 25th January.

Year 13 PPEs

Finally, well done to our Year 13 who have conducted themselves very well around PPEs this week. Good luck with the results.

Take care,

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

**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

GUYS & DOLLS JR.

**BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW****TUE 6 - THURS 8 FEB 2024****7PM - 9PM, DOORS OPEN 6.30PM**

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 our 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.

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!

Information about the duties of Ushers or Technical Team was sent out to parents of those students today, please do check ParentMail for more information if your son/daughter has volunteered to help out.



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 below). After the talks have finished, which should last for approximately 30 minutes, you will then be able to visit each subject stall in the 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:

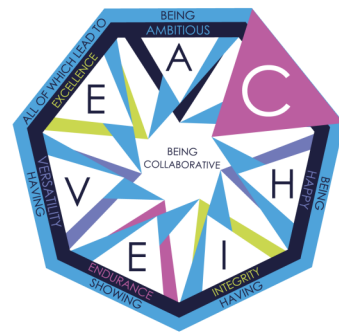
6.00pm: **Eagle** and **Falcon** Houses

6:45pm: **Hawk** and **Osprey** Houses

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

Miss L Stirling

*Students in Years 10 and 11 are invited to help out at Options Evening, if you are happy for your son/daughter to take part please fill in the link sent via ParentMail earlier this week. Thank you.



LATE START – FRIDAY 26TH JANUARY

Following our Year 9 Options Evening, there will be another 9.15am start for students in all year groups. Students should go straight to their first lesson instead of Form that day.

YEAR 9 HISTORY TRIP TO IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

MON 19TH – WEDNESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

The History department have organised a museum trip to the **Imperial War Museum**, London. This trip will be challenging, informative and engage students outside of their classroom environment. It will allow students to explore History in a real-world context and will help consolidate knowledge learnt this year, particularly the First World War unit. It is designed to help students gain real world understanding that cannot easily be taught in a classroom, strengthen their knowledge of the world around them and to generally enrich their school experience.

This year the trip will run on three separate days. Your son/daughter will need to attend only one day. Each class and student will be informed which days he or she needs to attend:

• **Monday 19th February 2024** – 9F/Hi1 (Mr Constable), 9F/Hi2 (Mr Wyles) and 9F/Hi3 (Miss Dempsey)

• **Tuesday 20th February 2024** – 9P/Hi1 (Mr Constable), 9P/Hi2 (Mr Wyles) and 9P/Hi3 (Mr Cattle)

• **Wednesday 21st February 2024** – 9S/Hi1 (Mr Constable), 9S/Hi2 (Mr Cattle) and 9S/Hi3 (Miss Dempsey)

We will be travelling to and from the location by private hire coach. The total cost of the trip will be **£14** including travel to and from the centre and activities. **We ask that this be paid in full by Monday February 5th, 2024.**

Payment for the trip can be made via your ParentMail account no later than Monday February 5th, 2024. If your emergency contact phone number has changed recently,

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please ensure you email studentdetails@furzeplatt.net with the correct information. Please provide a packed lunch for your son/daughter as there will be no opportunity for students to get food at the site.

As with any school trip, good behaviour is important to its success. Parents and students should be aware that if a student's behaviour or attendance becomes unacceptable prior to the trip, then the school reserves the right to exclude them from the trip. This could in turn jeopardise any refund of monies paid to that date.

Itinerary:

Meet by the main entrance to school at 8:30am, outside reception in full school uniform for an 8:45am departure. We will be taking a coach from Furze Platt Senior School directly to London. We will be returning to school at **4:00pm** at the latest.

Students will be required to wear school uniform and are expected to uphold their appearance and school ethos throughout the trip.

Students may want to bring a **refillable water bottle** to sustain them throughout the day. There will be no opportunity to get food at the site.

If you have questions in the meantime, please contact Thomas.Constable@furzeplatt.net

Mr T Constable, Teacher of History

this paper the Geography Department will run a one-day fieldtrip to Maidenhead town centre for all year 11 GCSE Geography students. The aim of the trip is to provide a framework for students to collect primary data on their local area. The fieldtrip will also equip students with unique experiences of fieldwork that they should be able to link to their wider geographical understanding and ability to follow the geographic enquiry process.

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

The fieldwork will be on the following dates:

- 11A/Gg1 – Mr Wellard's Class – Monday 26th February
- 11B/Gg1 – Mr Harrison's Class – Tuesday 27th February
- 11C/Gg1 – Mr Green's Class – Wednesday 28th February
- 11D/Gg1 – Mr Jones's Class – Thursday 29th February

Itinerary:

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

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

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

Students will need to bring a refillable water bottle and a packed lunch to sustain them throughout the day and a Pen and Pencil.

There will be no cost for the trip.

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

Mr Wellard-Jeffs, Head of Geography

GCSE GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK – FEBRUARY 2024

FIELDWORK RELATING TO STUDENTS COMPONENT 3 EXAM PAPER (WORTH 30% OF FINAL GRADE)

Fieldwork and investigation forms a core part of the GCSE Geography course. As part of the GCSE course students are **required** to sit an exam paper focused on Fieldwork and UK Geography, which **totals 30% of their final grade**. This year's focus are Methodical approaches of **Change Over Time** (covered at FSC Juniper Hall) and Conceptual framework of **Mitigating Risk** (to be covered on the Maidenhead fieldtrip).

To support students in producing high quality answers in

PAYMENT DEADLINES - REMINDERS

- BRONZE, SILVER AND GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS: Wednesday 31st January
- YEAR 8 CONSERVATION TRIP TO WALES: Final Instalment due Friday 9th February

DRAMA CLUB TRIP TO ELIZABETH HOUSE, COOKHAM

Drama Club students in Years 7 and 8 finally managed to put on their delayed Christmas Show for the residents of Elizabeth House in Cookham today.



In addition, students (and our Performing Arts staff) were able to spend time with the residents afterwards which they really enjoyed.

Thank you to all at Elizabeth House for making us feel so welcome!

YEAR 7 FOOTBALL

Our Year 7 Football team took on The Piggott School in Wargrave for an exciting U12 away match on Tuesday evening in which they displayed all our ACHIEVE values. They played fantastically well in their first game and fought back from 2-0 down to draw the game 2-2.

Among the highlights, Lewis Garrett saved a penalty in the opening half to keep the score close. Standout performances from Pablo Chicote Amigo, Patryk Kurenda and Thomas Ling kept the game tight and creative, which featured goals from Henry Harding and Patryk.

The team:

Pablo Chicote Amigo	Dom Terry
Jordan Parkinson	Freddie Faires
Rhys Harris	Thomas Ling
Lewis Garrett	Henry Eckersley
Ethan Garrett	Jude Lyne
	Clay Hart
	Patryk Kurenda

YEAR 7 HANDBALL

Great collaborative work this week from the class of 7SGa2 led by Clay Hart in defensive structures for Handball.



SPELLING BEE HOUSE COMPETITION

STUDENT FINALS NEXT WEEK!

- Monday - Year 7
- Tuesday – Year 8
- Wednesday – Year 9
- Thursday – Year 10
- Friday – Year 11 and 6th Form
- 10 Happiness points for finalists
- 25 Happiness points for winning team members.
- 1000 points and treats for the winning House, 2nd: 600 points, 3rd: 400 points, 4th: 200 points.
- The top speller in each year will get a £10 Amazon voucher.



STAFF SUPER SPELLERS



It's not just our students taking part in House competitions...here are the results of our Staff Spelling Bee House Competition:

House	Place	Points
1st (joint)	Hawk	800
1st (joint)	Falcon	800
3rd	Eagles	400
4th	Osprey	200

A special well done to the winning teams:

Hawk – Mr Bahra, Mrs Feather, Ms Malanchuk, Miss Fletcher, Mrs Budgett

Falcon – Miss Dowell, Miss Carty, Mr Clarke, Ms Herrick



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:

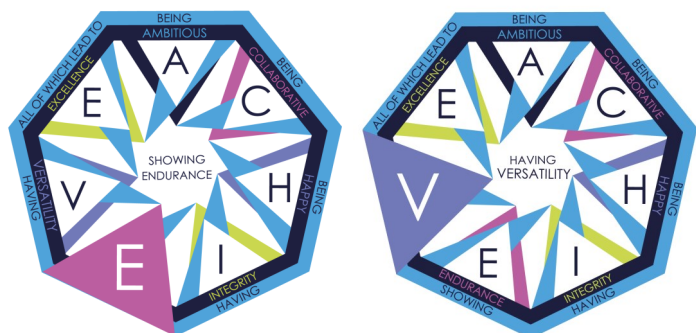
QUSTODIO: PARENTAL CONTROLS MADE EASY

This will enable parents to:

- 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 Lewis, Deputy Headteacher
Safeguarding and Interventions



TERM 3 CLUBS 2024

Clubs for this term were sent out on, 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.

SCHOOL CLUB LIST



Tuesdays

15.20 - 16.20

\$12

All Years

This week Gardening Club have been delighted to start a mini-orchard by the Year 7 playground by planting a jubilee plum tree.

We thank Clare Matheson from Little Green Change who arranged the donation of the tree:

[HTTPS://LITTLEGREENCHANGE.COM](https://littlegreengchange.com)

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We hope to plant more fruit trees in the near future! If students are interested in joining us please sign up on Evolve and come to S12 on Tuesday after school. Remember we also count as part of the volunteering section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.



Gardening Club Team:

Jack Taylor	Fred Fletcher
Alfie Wetherall	Harry Blackwell
Frayne Pinho	Abigail Holmes
George Longville	Aleksandra Gunia

MORNING

FITNESS

Wednesdays

7.40 - 8.30

Fitness Suite

All Years



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. 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.

CREATING REVISION TIMETABLES

HOW TO REVISE

FIND OUT MORE

FIND OUT MORE

ACE YOUR EXAMS!

YEAR
11

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



elevate
education

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OLIVER EASON

It was lovely to see alumnus Oliver Eason here working with Active Electrical Services, where he successfully applied for an apprenticeship.

Great to see you enjoying your work Oliver!



**Active Electrical
Services**



Apprenticeships



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

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL?

1. JOIN THE 200 CLUB

Sign up here for our PTFA 200 Club - Monthly Donation:

200 CLUB - MONTHLY DONATION

200 CLUB

Winning numbers for Draw 26
on Tuesday 9th January 2024



2. REGISTER WITH EASY FUNDRAISING

REGISTER TODAY!

3. LET US KNOW IF YOUR COMPANY OFFERS MATCHED FUNDRAISING

ptfa@furzeplatt.net

TEAM
TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

Exam Invigilators – to start as soon as possible

Term time only, casual contract. Actual salary £14.15 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

CURRENT VACANCIES

Cover Supervisor- To start as soon as possible

Usually, 32.5 hours a week, start time 8.30am, finish time 3.30pm (includes a half hour unpaid break). Monday to Friday, term time only plus two INSET days
Part time/Job Share/Flexible Working considered for the right candidates,
Permanent or fixed term contract
Actual salary (32.5 hours) £19,600 - £21,000 pa depending on experience, pro rata would apply for any hours that differ from the above

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 Cover Supervisors to join our support staff team. You would be supervising classes during the short-term absence of the assigned teacher working in a classroom environment alongside students at Key Stage 3 and 4. Your main responsibility would be to instruct students about the work set by the teacher and assisting them to stay on task and complete the work set to the best of their ability. The provision of cover will be varied: you might introduce the work by talking through a Power Point, showing video clips, or reading through texts with students. You may be asked to lead a class discussion, organise group work or supervise PE and Drama activities. You would also learn about school policies and how they are implemented including the school's Behaviour for Learning Policy.

Previous experience of working with or interacting with children or young people is required for this role as well as good communication skills, an ability to work with minimum of supervision and to manage students in a classroom setting. Confidence using a laptop as well as good organisational skills are important for this role.

In addition, if you are a graduate with an interest in a career working with young people in education and you would like this opportunity to gain some experience working in a classroom environment before considering teacher training, we would be delighted to receive your application. For further information about teacher training please refer to www.teachmaidenhead.co.uk

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

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Closing date: Ongoing
Interviews will take place: as soon as is practicable

CURRENT VACANCIES



GEMS

Autism & ADHD Support Service
East Berkshire

Parent and Carer Autism Online support session

Friday 2nd February 10am – 11.15am

Join our online session to:

- learn and discuss, how to have meaningful communication with your child
- how to support your child with communicating with other people

How to communicate
with your **Autistic** child



**Sign Up
Today!**

**Available for families
residing in, or have a
registered GP in East
Berkshire**

**To book your place contact
GEMS:
Gems.4Health@nhs.net
0800 999 1342**

Please provide your full name, email address,
phone number, child's pathway
(suspected/waiting assessment/diagnosed)
and local authority

HOLIDAY SPORTS CAMP



Fun and Inclusive!

Learn New Skills!

Build Confidence!

Led by Teachers!

We are a small and friendly holiday camp for children aged 8-13.

Fun and inclusive sessions, led by Qualified PE Teachers.



- Rock Climbing
- Football
- Dodgeball
- Basketball
- Cricket
- VR Game Room
- And more!

February Half-Term

12.02.24 - 16.02.24

08:00 - 17:00

**LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE!
BOOK ONLINE**



Location: Berkshire College of Agriculture
Hall Place, Burchetts Green Rd, Burchett's Green,
Maidenhead SL6 6QR



Email: info@empowerandelevate.co.uk

Phone: 0118 227 4950



FIRST DAYS CHILDREN'S CHARITY

Heart Trail

10th-18th February

**A family event at Lightwater Country Park this
February half term**

**Purchase a map for £3 from
Lightwater Adventure Golf or the Country Park Café**

**Follow the trail around the lakes and take part in the
Fitness Trail at the same time (approx 1km)**

Find the letters that spell out the secret word

**Learn fun facts about your heart and spot all
the hanging crocheted hearts**

**Once completed, take the map back to Lightwater Adventure Golf
or the Country Park Café and receive a sweet treat**



Massive thanks to the Barkham
Hookers for creating beautiful
hearts for this trail.

**LIGHTWATER
ADVENTURE GOLF**

Free Parking



FIRST DAYS
CHILDREN'S CHARITY
www.firstdays.net

First Days Children's Charity reg number: 115 7855



PAVEMENTS ARE FOR PEOPLE



Would you like it if **YOUR** part of the road was blocked?

Obstructing the pavement can cause serious problems for pedestrians, people with disabilities, older members of the community and those with small children and pushchairs.

Rule 242 of the Highway Code states; “You **MUST NOT** leave your vehicle in a dangerous position or causing an unnecessary obstruction of the road.”

You could be fined and your vehicle removed.





NEW YEAR NEW YOU

NEW **P**ARKING RESOLUTION

Safer Parking checklist

- ☐ **Get active**
Park further away from school and walk the last 5-15 minutes of the journey.
- ☐ **Be more considerate**
Don't block driveways or dropped kerbs even for a few minutes.
- ☐ **Always park away from junctions and corners**
Parking 10 meters away increases the visibility for pedestrians and drivers and reduces risks for everyone.
- ☐ **Keep ALL children safe**
Parking, stopping or dropping on SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR zigzags, even just for a minute, endangers other children. Keep it clear.
- ☐ **Keep yourself within the law**
Never park on a single yellow line, double yellow line or zig zag line during restricted times. This could lead to a fine.

Share the roads, Share the responsibility

