

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Meet the Tutor Evenings

It has been a pleasure to host two evenings this week in which all parents and carers have had the chance to meet their child's Tutor and discuss the start of term. I know that a range of actions have emerged from these conversations and hope they help home and school work even more effectively together.

We look forward to welcoming Year 11 parents to their subject parents evening next Thursday (24 October).

### Inter House Quizzes

There was some lively quizzing each morning this week as students competed in the House Quizzes. Within each year group, House have competed to show their knowledge of a range of subjects and topics. Many congratulations to all who took part.

### Good Luck Year 12 and 13 Dramatists

Finally, best wishes to our Sixth Form dramatists ahead of their performance next week, especially our Year 13 whose devised piece contributes to their examination grade.

Take care,

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

Headteacher



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Week (Week 2)

ALL EVENTS

THU 24 OCTOBER	Year 11 Parents' and Students' Consultation Evening	4pm - 7pm
FRI 25 OCTOBER	End of Term 1	3.15pm finish
FRI 28 - FRI 1 OCT NOV	Half Term Holiday	
MON 4 NOVEMBER	Start of Term 2	

## SCHOOL TERM DATES



2024  
SIXTH FORM  
OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER  
6PM - 9PM



No booking required, all welcome.




**Open Morning School Tours**

Tours at 9.05am & 10.05am on the following dates:  
Mon 7<sup>th</sup>, Mon 14<sup>th</sup>, Tues 15<sup>th</sup>, Mon 21<sup>st</sup> & Tue 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct

SEN Specific Tours at 9.30am on:  
Tues 15<sup>th</sup> & Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct

Please call **01628 625308**  
to book a tour

office@furzeplatt.com | www.furzeplatt.com




## YEAR 11 PRE-PUBLIC EXAMINATION (PPE) ARRANGEMENTS - NOVEMBER 2024

YEAR  
11

I hope you and your families are well and your sons and daughters feel that the start of Year 11 is going well. I just wanted to write to you to share the arrangements for our up-and-coming Year 11 Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs), starting on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November and running through to Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November. During the PPE period, all GCSE subjects are running Pre-Public exams and English, Maths and Science will run as a whole year group. Students will sit their option subjects' papers according to which option block they are in. Thus, any subject appearing in more than one option block will have pupils sitting the same paper on different days. Tight security will be maintained through ensuring that students cannot take papers, notes etc out of the exam hall.

Please also note that there will be no study leave for students during this period and that all students will be in an exam or their normal lessons. Not all exams fit neatly into lesson slots - so on occasions students will finish an exam and join their normal lesson midway through a lesson this may well be the case during period 2 lessons in particular. Students will go home as soon as their afternoon exams finish, which may mean students will be finish school earlier than usual.

Please find further information regarding Year 11 PPEs on the link below.

### YEAR 11 PPE ARRANGEMENTS NOVEMBER 2024

I hope your child's half term PPE revision goes well!

Best wishes

Mr James Dollery  
Assistant Headteacher

## YEAR 11 AND 12 REPORTS

YEAR  
11

YEAR  
12

REPORTS

The Year 12 reports have now been issued and are available online as usual via Go 4 Schools. Year 11 reports will be released on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October. The service is available either by going directly to Go 4 Schools [www.go4schools.com](http://www.go4schools.com) and selecting Parents or by clicking the link below which takes you to our website and includes our latest Guidance to Grading document.

### VIEW REPORT & GUIDANCE TO GRADING



## THAMES HOSPICE - OUR CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP

Last week, Mrs Phillips and Mr Sheppard, along with our student leadership team, visited Thames Hospice for the unveiling of the FPSS plaque on their wall alongside the charity's other top donors, following our amazing efforts back in March.

We are clear that the £20,000 we raised earlier in the year is just the start of what we hope will be a long-running relationship with the Hospice. Our students, along with Mrs Phillips and Mr Sheppard, are looking at a range of other fundraising activities we can do. More will follow on this, but Reindeer Runs, wing walks and FPSS does 'It's a Knockout' are all on the cards....



## YEAR 9 GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO WEST WITTERING BEACH, WEST SUSSEX

This is a reminder of the Year 9 field trip to West Wittering Beach, West Sussex taking place next week.

**Destination: West Wittering Beach, PO11 0AS**

**WEST WITTERING BEACH WEBSITE**

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 21st October 2024** – 9f/Gg1 (Mr Jones), 9f/Gg2 (Mr Wellard-Jeffs) and 9f/Gg3 (Mr Ryan)
- **Wednesday 23rd October 2024** – 9f/Gg4 (Mr Brandt), 9p/Gg1 (Mr Wellard-Jeffs) and 9p/Gg2 (Mr Ryan)
- **Friday 25th October 2024** – 9p/Gg3 (Miss Clowson), 9p/Gg4 (Mr Jones) and 9p/Gg5 (Mr Brandt)

## Geography trip itinerary:

**Meet by the main entrance to school at 8:10am, outside reception, in outdoor/casual clothes, for a 8:30am departure.** We will be taking a coach from Furze Platt directly to West Wittering Beach, West Sussex. We aim to return to school at 17.15pm.

Students **will not** be required to wear school uniform. However, are expected to uphold their appearance and school ethos by wearing appropriate clothing on the trip. This includes covered shoulders, length-appropriate short, sturdy shoes (there will be walking to do), a warm/raincoat and hat/sun cream (weather dependent).

Students will also need to bring a **packed lunch**, snacks, and 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 do get in touch as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Wellard-Jeffs  
Head of Geography

**YEAR 9 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP LETTER (SENT 8TH OCTOBER 2024)**

## NORTHERN LIGHTS AT FURZE PLATT

Last Friday there were some sightings of the Aurora Borealis. Thank you to Mr D Barrett for sending us a photo capturing the spectacular cosmic display from the top of our English/Science building.



## HOW TO KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE

As part of our online safety work Furze Platt purchases an online safety support platform for parents.

### YOU CAN ACCESS IT FOR FREE HERE

The Online Safety Hub is a online resource with lots of expert advice and guidance to help you manage your child's safety online as a parent.

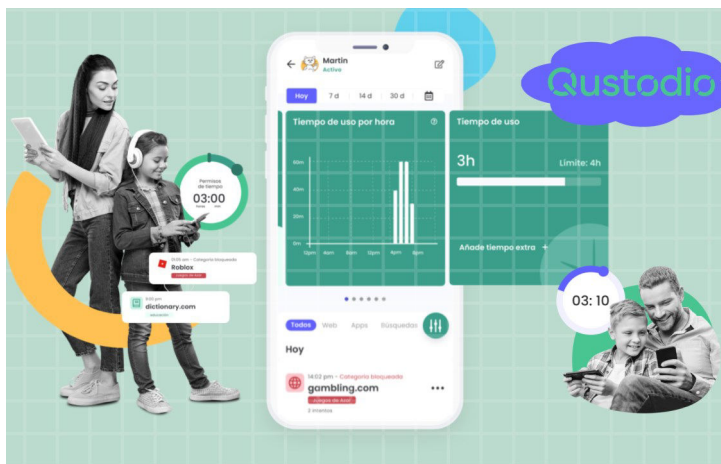
It includes information on the latest hot topics when it comes to keeping children safe, such as how to manage your child's screen time, understanding the latest gaming platforms, what they mean for your child's safety and lots more.

Furze Platt families are offered, a free Qustodio account facilitating parental controls on any 2 devices and free premium access for 30 days. This will allow you to gain more visibility on what's going on in your child's online world. You will have the ability to block dangerous content, introduce screen-free schedules, receive alerts for inappropriate content, keep tabs on their location and more.

### CREATE FREE QUSTODIO ACCOUNT

Miss Lewis

Designated Safeguarding Lead



## INSPIRE CRITICAL THINKING FOR YEARS 9-12

Inspire Critical Thinking 2024/25 is a free digital programme made up of 4 workshops, that will be released each month between January- April 2025. This year's theme is 'Why is language so powerful?'

Each workshop is filled with articles and videos from University of Oxford researchers and students, exploring each question from a range of subjects and perspectives. There is something for everyone, from Computer Science to Art! There are also opportunities to cast your vote and share your opinions in our online forum to questions posed throughout the programme. In addition to learning about the power of language, there are also self-guided critical thinking skills activities, helping you to develop your communication, problem-solving, creative thinking and evaluation skills. These are skills you can add to your CV as well as helping you with your school subjects! Once registered, we will email you the link and password to access the first workshop at the start of January.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER \(CLOSES 7TH NOVEMBER\)](#)

LOGICAL REASONING - PROBLEM SOLVING - EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION - CREATIVE THINKING

## INSPIRE CRITICAL THINKING 2024/25

This Year's theme...

'Why is language so powerful?'

### WHAT IS INSPIRE CRITICAL THINKING?

- Free online programme, between January - April 2025
- For Year 9 -12 (non-selective schools in the UK)
- Complete challenges, win prizes

### DEBATES INCLUDE...

How has language affected court cases?

Why bother learning dead languages?

How does language affect the brain?

Why is Maths a universal language?

### OXFORD SPOTLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Oxford's influence on Philip Pullman and J R R Tolkien  
The Ashmolean Museum - 'Money Talks' exhibition  
Student journalism at Oxford University

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**  
until 7th Nov 2024



SCAN HERE!

Further details scan or visit [www.sjcinspire.com](http://www.sjcinspire.com)



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW HOUSE CAPTAINS

Earlier this term all students in our school were given the opportunity to apply to be a House Captain to help support their Head of House.

We are happy to announce the following students are our House Captains for 2024-25:



## TERM 1 CLUBS (SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER HALF TERM 2024)

**Clubs for Term 1 2024-25 (September - October half term) invitations from Evolve were sent out on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**

Full details about our school clubs and academic support clinics can be found on our website under 'News & Events', 'School Clubs'. A quick link to this webpage can be accessed through the link below.

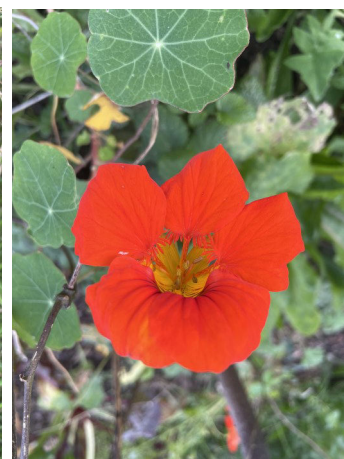
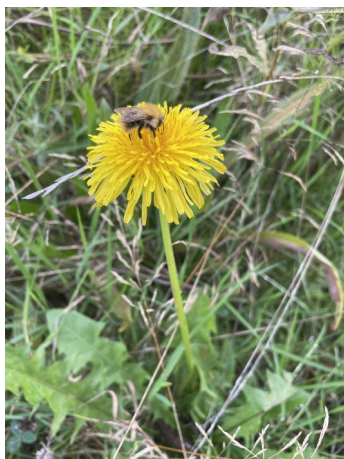
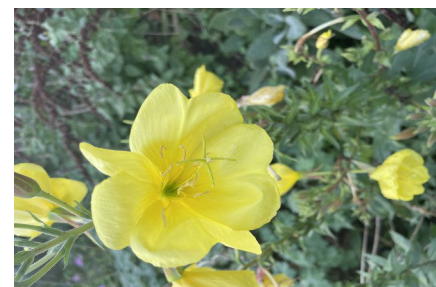
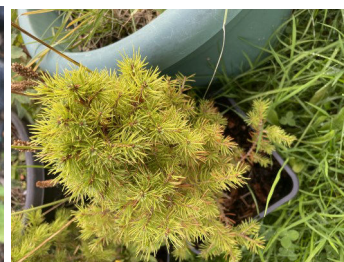
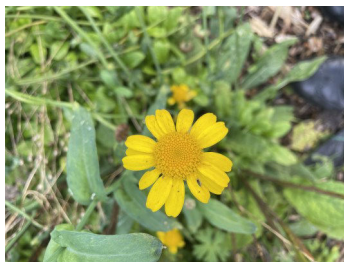
### SCHOOL CLUBS WEBPAGE

## GARDENING CLUB NEWS

This week we took part in the Hidden Nature Challenge activity.

This is where children and young people can take photos of their findings. Throughout this year, a selection of images will be chosen to be displayed in RHS Gardens and the Natural History Museum in London for their visitors to see during summer 2025. There are also prizes, hope we win!

Mrs R Cook & Dr M Graham



**EAGLE**

The sky belongs to the Eagles

**Key Stage 3**  
Mia Owens  
Henry Collins

**Key Stage 4**  
Josh Tucker  
Vaughn Robertson

**Key Stage 5**  
Chloe Wright  
Max Wibberley

**FALCON**

Birds of a feather stick together

**Key Stage 3**  
Aayan Shabir  
Evie Smith

**Key Stage 4**  
Joshua Mott  
Olly Makin

**Key Stage 5**  
Fatima Habbouli  
Sara Rendon

**HAWK**

Hawks all the way, we thrive every day

**Key Stage 3**  
Zoe Davies  
Amy Shuttleworth

**Key Stage 4**  
Jay Weaver  
Daniel  
Ghassemnejad

**Key Stage 5**  
Alice Parsons  
Maria Carrascosa  
Vasco Silva

**OSPREY**

Swooping to success

**Key Stage 3**  
Millie Cooke  
Reuben Cranch  
Charley Smith  
Mia Burke  
Abigail Holmes

**Key Stage 4**  
Amrutha Siddanathi

**Key Stage 5**  
Clarissa Brewer  
Talia Groszmann

**YEAR 12 - A-LEVEL MATHS & FURTHER  
MATHS CALCULATOR PURCHASE**  
( for those who didn't buy one last month)



Last chance to purchase a Graphic Calculator for A-Level Maths (for those who did not already purchase one last month).

A few students who did not purchase the fxCG-50 graphic calculator in September have now expressed an interest in purchasing one. We are therefore going to open the payment item for one final week to allow everyone who still wants one the opportunity to purchase at the discounted price.



**Please order by 22nd October 2024.**

(Email from 4<sup>th</sup> September with the original details)

We would like to offer all those students starting A-Level Maths / Further Maths the opportunity to purchase a calculator suitable for their course, at a discounted price. We are able to access reduced pricing for the: Casio Graphic Calculator fx-CG50 for £70 (RRP £139.99)

This calculator is suitable for A-Level Maths, and beyond, to University level study.

We have successfully used this very high specification graphic calculator in the department for the past several years.

(Other lower level spec calculators suitable for A-Level can be bought on the high street, including the Casio Advanced Scientific Calculator fx-991CW. RRP £35.99)

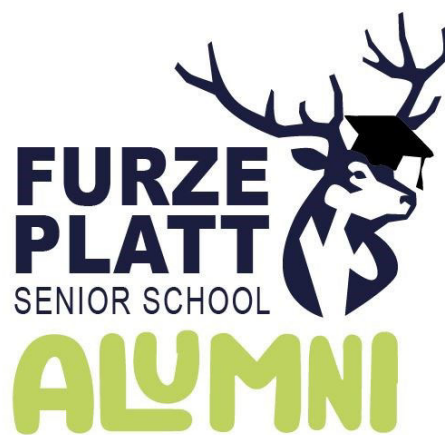
If you wish to order the fx-CG50 Graphic Calculator please pay using IRIS/ParentMail. You will find the payment item in Payments/Shop – (little shopping trolley icon)/ Stationery. (If you are having problems with IRIS/ ParentMail please email [ParentMail@furzeplatt.net](mailto:ParentMail@furzeplatt.net))

Further details of the calculator specifications can be found on the link below or students can discuss with their Maths teachers.

**CALCULATOR SPECIFICATIONS**

Kind regards,

Furze Platt Senior School Maths Department



Young tech prodigy and Furze Platt Senior School alumni, Max Bateson, 24, has been shortlisted for the Champion of Champions award from the Engineers in Business Fellowship (EIBF) for his invention, HYGGE. This portable living space addresses the challenges of caring for elderly individuals requiring complex medical care, allowing them to remain close to family.



Image from the Maidenhead Advertiser

Inspired by his grandmother's experience with dementia, Max aimed to find a solution that maintains dignity while alleviating the burdens on family caregivers. HYGGE integrates remote health monitoring and connects with NHS virtual wards to enhance coordinated care and reduce the strain on public health systems.

Winning the award offers a share of a £16,500 prize fund and valuable networking opportunities with business leaders. Max, a Bournemouth University graduate, sees this competition as a chance to highlight the pressing issue of elderly care. The event will take place at the Royal Academy of Engineering in London on November 8, featuring ten teams from UK universities.

Max has also recently won £80,000 from Innovate UK which is a government grant for start-ups. Congratulations on this marvellous achievement, Furze Platt Senior School wishes you the best of luck in the later stages of the competition.

**READ THE FULL MAIDENHEAD ADVERTISER ARTICLE HERE**





I wanted to inform you that CGP Science revision guides are now available to purchase from the science department. We have changed from our usual provider due to the improved quality and value for money offered by the CGP books. These will be extremely useful to help guide Year 11 students' revision for their upcoming PPEs – more details on the topics covered is set as 'Home Learning' on ClassCharts.

These are available to purchase via Parentmail in 'Payments' and then 'Shop', and they can be collected from the main science prep room. Prices are listed below:

- Combined science – one revision guide costing £6.50
- Separate science – Biology, Chemistry, Physics separate revision guides = £10.00 total

Please note that your child will only require one of the book options. If necessary, please check with them before purchasing to find out whether are studying combined science or separate science.

Other revision guides are available to purchase elsewhere, but will need to cater specifically for the **AQA exam board**. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact me via [huw.curnow@furzeplatt.net](mailto:huw.curnow@furzeplatt.net), or encourage your child to ask their teacher for assistance.

Kind regards,  
Huw Curnow  
(Joint Head of Science)



Yesterday evening 48 music students from Years 9-11 attended the Barbican Centre to watch the Netflix documentary 'Life on Our Planet' narrated by David Tennant. The documentary told the early beginnings of single cell life forms all the way to the present day with a poignant message of the damage the human race is causing. This was accompanied by a live performance from the London Symphony Orchestra who were outstanding with their impeccable timing and sound quality. There was also chance to see an instrument even Mr Forster nor Miss Wong could name! A horn which towered over the orchestra with a dragon shaped bell.

The concert was a fantastic opportunity for our Year 11 music students to get some inspiration for their brief composition and to support both Year 10 and Year 11 with their film music area of study.

The students loved the opportunity to see something so spectacular and were full of awe of what they had just been part of.

Thank you to Miss Wong for organising such a successful and inspiring trip.





**OFSTED REGISTERED**



**BRACKNELL  
COBRAS**

**HALLOWEEN HALF TERM**

**CAMP 2024**

# BASKETBALL

**£35  
A DAY**

NON-MEMBERS  
WELCOME

October Half Term  
**Tuesday 29th &  
Wednesday 30th October**

**Ages: 5 - 16 Years**

**10AM  
-  
4PM**



**SPECIAL GUEST  
COACHES**

**PLEASE BRING SNACK,  
LUNCH & WATER**

**BRACKNELL & WOKINGHAM COLLEGE, RG12 1DJ**

**TO BOOK PLEASE VISIT: [www.cobrasbasketballclub.com](http://www.cobrasbasketballclub.com)**



# What's on at Woolley Firs



Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
& Oxfordshire  
Wildlife Trust

Photo: David Tipling/2020Vision

## Halloween Special Bewitching Bat Trail



**Monday 28 Oct, Thurs 31 Oct and Friday 1 November**

Activities are suitable for ages 4-11 years but younger / older siblings are welcome to accompany.

Join us on our bat trail and travel into the 'bat cave', through the dark forest and around the eerie pasture and become bewitched by brilliant, bewitching bats. Collect knowledge, relics and ingredients along the way, make an enchanting concoction and learn how to save our marvellous creatures of the night!

**£5 per child, accompanying adults free. Booking essential**

Children must be accompanied by an adult.  
Check our website for more events for younger and older at our centre this autumn

**Visit our website to book or for more info:**

- [bbowt.org.uk/events](https://bbowt.org.uk/events)
- 01628 829574 or [berkshireeducation@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:berkshireeducation@bbowt.org.uk)

[bbowt.org.uk](https://bbowt.org.uk)

More nature everywhere

# Youth Activities Survey

Closes 1st November

## CALLING ALL 13 - 18 YR OLDS IN RBWM! WE NEED YOUR VIEWS!

We are conducting a survey to find out what young people aged 13 - 18 or up to 25 with SEND think about youth activities in the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead.

- Parents/carers are also able to submit their views -

Scan the QR code or [click on this link](#) to complete the survey.

You could be entered to win one of three £20 Amazon vouchers



ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
**WINDSOR &  
MAIDENHEAD**  
WWW.RBWM.GOV.UK



**achieving  
for children**





Elevate Education's Autumn Term

## Parent Webinar Series

Elevate Education delivers high-impact workshops to our students that help to develop their study skills, motivation, and exam preparation. Over the next term, you're invited to join their parent webinar series, where you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.

### ***How to Get (And Keep!) Your Child Motivated***

17th September 6:00pm

### ***How You Can Help Your Child Manage Their Time***

1st October 6:00pm

### ***How You Can Help Your Child Set Up for Success in Exams***

15th October 6:00pm

### ***How You Can Help Improve Your Child's Memory***

19th November 6:00pm

### ***How You Can Build Resilience in Your Child***

3rd December 6:00pm

### ***How You Can Help Your Child Alleviate Stress***

17th December 6:00pm

Register today at: <https://go.elevateeducation.com/ukschoolwebinar>