

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #59.10





MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers



Considerate Driving

I apologise to the many considerate parents and carers for having to raise the following but almost every week the school gets one or more complaints about the driving of parents and carers. Examples include:



Blocking the highway as people turn into the school and parking bays.

Not moving up the parking bays to give other cars space to pull in and park.

Dangerously pulling out onto the main road in front of other vehicles.

I am sure that parents and carers will recognise that answering complaints about our parents and carers' drivers means that we are not able to be more productive. Please be considerate when coming onto and leaving our site.

New Science Labs

Following the opening of our English classrooms after half term, the Science laboratories opened this week. They are large state of the art places for teaching Science. Our students are very lucky to have such facilities and I hope they have shared this experience back home.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Week (Week 1)

FRI 15 - FRI 22

Year 11 Pre Public Examinations

Forthcoming Events

MON 25 NOVEMBER	Microsoft DigiGirlz (by invitation)	8.15am - 4.30pm
WED 27 NOVEMBER	Sixth Form Open Evening	
	(6.30pm for current students)	6-9pm
	Year 13 - Computer Science in ACTION	8.15am - 3.30pm
THU 28 NOVEMBER	Late School Start	9.10am
THU 29 NOVEMBER	Hazards Conference (Years 12/13 Geography)	Details on letter
	Muffi Day (in aid of Helen and Douglas House)	All day
TUES 3		
DECEMBER	Duke of Edinburgh Awards Meeting (BXM)	6-7pm
THURS 5 DECEMBER	Year 10/11 Drama trip - Kneehigh's Ubu	4-11.30pm
THURS 5 DECEMBER	Year 7 Disco	6-8pm
WEDS 11 DECEMBER	Christmas Concert	7.30- 9.30pm

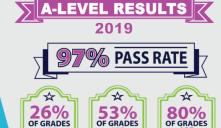
SCHOOL TERM DATES 2019/20 & 2020/21



SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING 2019

Wednesday 27th November

'A FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE'





County Lines

Last Tuesday Year 8 watched a hard-hitting play about County Lines. This play has toured across RBWM schools this week in order to raise awareness of the issue to students. For parents and carers interested in the issue and wishing to learn more you may wish to watch the Channel 4 Dispatches programme that was broadcast on Wednesday called 'Britain's Child Drug Runners'. Information is also available on government websites including https:// www.gov.uk/government/collections/county-lines-criminalexploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults. Please contact us at school should you wish to share any information.

Year 13 Parents Evening

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended on Thursday evening. I know many of our staff were keen to share news of your child's progress and what needs to happen between now and the end of their BTEC and A Level courses. There is much to do and I thank parents and carers for supporting us as we aim to maximise what students achieve next summer.

Primary Netball Tournament

Earlier in the week the courts were alive with 110 primary netballers as they competed to gain a place in the School Games. Thank you to all our students and staff who made this such a successful event.

Good Luck Year 11

Best wishes to all our Year 11 who have their written PPEs next week. I have seen many students busy revising and I hope they achieve excellence in their examinations.

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

YEAR 11 REVISION SKILLS



SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING WEDNESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER



Dear Year 11 students,

I am delighted to be able to invite you to the Furze Platt Sixth Form Open Evening 2019!

The evening is designed to give you a clear understanding of what is available to you here when you finish your GCSE courses in the summer.

We are very proud of our Sixth Form and its record of high achievement and would like to help you make the excellent choice of joining the Sixth Form in 2020 to continue your successful education at post-16. The evening will provide you with the information you need to make informed choices when selecting your courses.

You will need to arrive at 6.20pm, as the presentation in the Main Hall will start promptly at 6.30pm.

The new prospectuses will be available on the evening for you to browse and take away.

The programme for the evening is outlined below. The main presentation will be followed by the possibility of attending up to FIVE talks on various A Levels and Level 3 Applied courses.

6.30pm – 6.50pm Main Presentation in the Main Hall with introductory talks from:

- Gemma Higley, Daniel Juden, Hollie O'Neill, Daniel Brant (Student Senior Leadership Team) - Welcome.
- Mr P Ging, Head of Sixth Form and Dr A Morrison, Headteacher – The Admissions Process: Curriculum; Induction; Tutorial Programme; Academic Monitoring/Reporting; Preparation for Careers and Higher Education.

7.00pm - 9.00pm Subject presentations for each course will be available at the following times:

7.00pm - 7.20pm

7.25pm - 7.45pm

7.50pm - 8.10pm

8.15pm - 8.35pm

8.40pm - 9.00pm

These presentations are designed to give you a deeper understanding of subject content and delivery and will allow you to ask questions of subject specialists who teach courses here at Furze Platt Sixth Form. The subject presentations will be the same so you need only attend one for each subject you are interested in during the evening.

We do recommend you see five subjects, even though you will only pick three subjects as standard (in rare cases, some students may complete four A-Levels) as we are eager for you to be as fully prepared and enthused as

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possible with the options available to you in Sixth Form.

I do hope to see all of you on Wednesday 27th November and I look forward to speaking to you further about the exciting prospect of post-16 study.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Ging

Assistant Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form



YEAR 7 DISCO THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER 6-8PM

I am writing to inform you of the date for the re-scheduled Year 7 Disco arrangements, which was originally planned for 8th November.

The Year 7 Disco will now be held on Thursday 5th December 2019 from 6-8pm. The disco will take place at school using the Main Hall. A tuck shop will be available in the school café so that students are able to buy refreshments and snacks.

The tickets will be £5 per person and we have a limited number of 120 available so it will be on a first come first served basis. If you would like your son/daughter to come please make payment and give consent via Wisepay. If you have paid already and are intending to attend on the new date, no further action is required.

The event is being coordinated by the Sixth Form Leadership Team. Should you have any queries, please email me Peter.Ging@furzeplatt.net and I will be happy to relay them to the students.

Mr P Ging, Assistant Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form



EARLY BREAK 2 MONDAY 18TH – FRIDAY 22ND NOVEMBER



In order to accommodate the Year 11 Pre Public Exams (PPE) our Break 2 will run an hour earlier than usual for the week of the 18th-22nd November. For all students, Break 2 will therefore be from 12.45 -1.15pm with P5 moving back to 1.15pm – 2.15pm. The rest of the day will run as normal.

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS FOR STUDENTS



We are delighted to be able to offer a huge range of clubs to our students, some for individual year groups and some for all those who are interested. Our Year 7 students have a range of clubs especially to help them make friends and enjoy new challenges or activities at this early stage of their life at Furze Platt.

SCHOOL CLUBS LIST

YEAR 7 SCHOOL CLUBS LIST



FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL ARE IN THE LIMELIGHT!



We are excited to announce that we have launched a crowdfunding appeal to raise the final funds needed towards the installation of equipment into our new main hall building – The New Hall Theatre. The PTFA are supporting The New Hall Theatre campaign which will provide enhanced opportunities for students in the performing arts, music and public speaking as well as offering a teaching arena for stage management and all levels of production. It promises to be a flexible space for assemblies, open evenings, productions, lectures and PE activities, plus a major community asset available for hire to local arts and theatre societies, orchestras and schools.

We believe this multi-use space would be a fantastic addition to our wonderful school so we really hope that you can get behind the project and help us to raise the necessary £34,000 to make it happen!

Our crowdfunding page has a lot more information about the project and makes it simple for you to make a donation. We can also collect Gift Aid boosting eligible donations by 25%!

Please take a look and donate but also share news of the appeal with your family and friends and even local businesses and other local organisations who might be able to help. If you know of businesses who can be approached for a donation, please contact Mrs Lynne Moore, Head of Operations, who is coordinating the campaign (lynne.moore@furzeplatt.net).

As a thank you for making larger voluntary donations, the school and PTFA have designed a 'Patron' reward scheme.

Rewards range from a 'Thank you' mention in the opening event program (£50), a VIP invitation to the opening event with champagne reception (£200), right through to Theatre sponsorship for businesses (£5,000).

We have raised over £3,000 since we launched the campaign – a huge thank you to everyone who has donated already but we have a long way to go to reach our target, so please do help if you can. Just £20 per student would raise the remaining money for a top class theatre!

Thank you.

HTTPS://DONATEMYSCHOOL.COM/FURZEPLATT

NATIONAL SCHOOL AND COLLEGE LEAVERS' SHOW WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER



Usually at this time of year we hold a Careers and Higher Education Fair at school, where students and their parents can meet and talk to representatives from a wide range careers, universities and local colleges. Unfortunately, we are unable to hold this event this year as, due to our building programme, we do not currently have a suitable location for it. Instead, we are offering students the chance to go to an offsite careers and higher education event, on Wednesday 4th December.

The event is the National School and College Leavers Show at Ascot Racecourse. There will be over 80 employers, FE Colleges, Universities and GAP providers participating; for further information about the event please see https://www.nsclshow.co.uk/

This is a compulsory event for all Year 12 students and we would also like to offer it to Year 13 students who do not plan to go to university next year and who would like the opportunity to find out about the variety of options available to them. We will travel by coach, leaving school at the end of period 2 and returning by the end of period 5. There is no charge for this trip.

We need to know how many Year 13 students are interested so we can book the correct number of places at the event and organise coaches. Places are limited and will be offered on a first come first served basis. If your son/daughter is interested, they need to let Mrs Pasa know by **Monday 18**th **November**.

If you have any questions about this, please contact me at Mary.Pasa@furzeplatt.net

Mrs. M Pasa, Sixth Form Manager





ALLING BUDDING WRITERS! **SHORT STORY** NMPFTITIN

Announcing the launch of our enrichment programme

The English department is kickstarting its enrichment calendar with the launch of the first of its choicest activities - a short story competition for students in Year 9 and 10 only. The best story will receive a prime slot in the school newsletter and the writer's talent will be acknowledged by the Headteacher with a Certificate of Excellence. Word Count: 1000 words

Award – a best selling novel of your choice

Best story published in the School newsletter

> **Headteacher's Certificate of** Excellence

Head of Department's recommendation

Closing date: Friday 22nd November

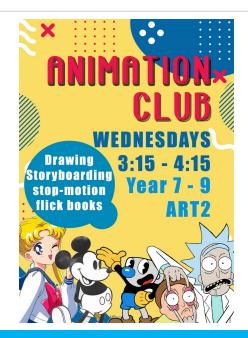
Hand your stories in for tlisting to your English achers by this date.

We would like to make all parents/carers aware that there are several cases of mumps reported amongst our Year 10 and Year 11 students. Please click on this link: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/mumps/

for information in relation to symptoms, how mumps is spread and also how it can be prevented.

Mary Bowen, School Medical Officer

MEDICAL ADVICE - MUMPS



MICROSOFT VISIT

By Tom Clarke, Year 10



I really enjoyed the trip to Microsoft, they had a friendly team of assistants ready to attend to any of our specific needs. The talks helped me discover all the different job roles within the company, and realise that I didn't have to be a coding wizard to be an important part of the team. They also made me aware of their further education programmes and how I can get a degree

whilst still in work. It was interesting to use the Microsoft HoloLens, which is a large pair of glasses that project holograms on screen, and which my movements and gestures



control the headset's apps. Overall, I enjoyed the trip and it has made me consider Microsoft as an employer later in life.



DUKE OF YORK AWARD

Well done to Sam Mizik (Year 10) who was recently awarded a Bronze Duke of York inspiring Digital Enterprise Award (iDEA).

Sam gained the Entrepreneurship award for Video Game and Coding Online.



YEAR 12 PSYCHOLOGY / CRIMINOLOGY TRIP TO LONDON MONDAY 3RD FEBRUARY

Please note this trip is to the Emmanuel Centre in London.



A M B I T I O U S C O L L A B O R A T I V E HAPPY INTEGRITY **ENDURANCE VERSATILITY E**XCELLENCE

STUDENT RAISES FUNDS FOR CHARITY





Fantastic effort from Year 9 student and Young Leader Pippa Largey who completed the Maidenhead Boundary Walk as part of her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, raising £150 for 1st Cookham Guides.

(pictured with her cousin from California)



YEAR 7 - ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE IN **TECHNOLOGY**



Congratulations to our first two Year 7 students to have completed their Year 7 Entomology Bag.

Bradley Ing and Shay Webb are the first students to complete their project with our brand new sewing machines which were awarded to us by the PTFA.

On behalf of our students. I would like to thank the PTFA for their wonderful contribution and I hope they can see the enrichment that it will give our department.

Thank you again and well done to Bradley and Shay!

Mrs L Hawkins, Head of Technology



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS





We are delighted to let you know that Bronze, Silver and Gold participants have now been enrolled on the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme. Hopefully you have received the Confirmation pack that was emailed this week.

I would be grateful if you could encourage your child to log this information onto EDofE as soon as possible. Activities can be backdated to early September. Please contact us if your child needs support finding something to do.

Welcome packs will then be posted to their home address. The DofE now have an app for participants to download on phones and tablets. This app is user friendly and a much easier way to enter information and upload evidence.

We enjoyed meeting the new Gold participants and hearing about their chosen activities.

For those working towards Silver, your log in details should be the same. Please let me know if you need your user name, but please click the 'Forgot my Password' button for a link to be sent to your school email address if you need your password resetting.

For those starting Bronze, the log in details were placed in their tutor trays this week. If this is not there, please ask your child to see me on Monday. There should be a sticker attached for them to record their login details and keep it in their planners.

Arrangements will be made for your child to meet me, or one of our student Ambassadors regularly, however they know that I am available by email or during lunch times if they need support.

We tend to send emails, providing information about the award, therefore I would be grateful if you and your child can check regularly to keep updated.

Please see below a link to our website. You can find a wealth of information to help you support your child and a link to the DofE page on YouTube where you can access some training videos to complete EDofE, if needed.

Please can I remind you that we will be having an Expedition Information Evening, hosted by BXM on Tuesday 3rd December. Attendance for this is mandatory.

I very much look forward to working with your child on their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Please feel free to contact us on dofe@furzeplatt.net if you have any questions.

Miss D Carty, DofE Manager

D OF E WEBPAGE

D OF E TRAINING VIDEOS

YEAR 13 PSYCHOLOGY

RESEARCH AND STUDIES



In Year 13 Psychology, students are entrusted to conduct their own research for the topic of their choice. This year we had some amazing examples of collaboration. Students had to come up with their own idea for a study, derive hypothesis and variables, prepare equipment and props, delegate tasks and collect the results. The data had to be calculated using Mann-Whitney U test, which requires a great understanding of inferential statistics. I was very impressed with some of the investigations conducted this year, including:

- Gender differences in tasting chocolate
- Perceived intelligence based on whether a model is wearing glasses or not
- Attractiveness scores of a person with blond or dark hair
- Effect of colour on the perceived sweetness of a drink
- Gender differences in general knowledge quiz
- Memory effectiveness based on whether the student would use a yellow or purple highlighter
- Speed of neural responses of a person based on their ethnicity
- Gender difference in gaming proficiency tested on Mario Kart

A big thank you to all participants taking part in our studies, especially to the teachers who kindly offered the use of their classes – apologies for any disruption to learning but, as they say, it's all in the name of science!

Miss R Paradowska

Head of Department



Pictured: Kyna McCall taste testing chocolate



BOROUGH NETBALL TOURNAMENT

We hosted the Borough Years 5/6 Netball

Tournament on Tuesday. It was run and umpired by our Young Ambassadors and Sports Leaders. All 11 primary schools that attended praised our students for their excellent leadership qualities and integrity.



Young Sports Ambassadors

Bella Powell

Martha Garner

Hannah Britton

Sports Leaders

Phoebe Forward

Maya Ciesielska

Hannah Thomas

Macey Yazdi

Ashlyn Fray

Tilly Adaway

Daisy Hellings



Congratulations to Oldfield Primary School who were the winners of the tournament.



YEAR 9 BADMINTON - COUNTY GAMES

A great team effort saw our Year 9 badminton team progress through to represent Berkshire in the County Games.

Well done Kate Lee, Balraj Kaur, Amy Matthews and Olivia Wojas.





SW REGIONAL ROUND OF ESAA XC CUP

Our Year 9 and 10 XC runners came 8th in the SW regional round of the ESAA Cross Country Cup in a very wet Taunton on Saturday.

By the time the boys ran the rain had stopped, but by then we were all soaked!



Our team: Frank McGrath Edwin Isted Nick Holdsworth Callum Bleazard Charlie Shervell

Well done to them all and thank you to Mrs Brennan, Team Manager and to Cookham Running Club for the photo.

READING UNIVERSITY MERL LECTURE

You never know who you might meet at a lecture for the annual Museum of English Rural Life (MERL). Held at Reading University, the speakers were Jimmy Doherty of TV fame, and Paul Kelly who farms KellyBronze turkeys and has two Guinness World Records for turkey plucking and turkey carving.

(Pictured with Mrs Crisford, Head of Food and Nutrition)



LEVEL CROSSING CLOSURE



As you may be aware, Network Rail will shortly be carrying out essential maintenance to the railway track in the Furze Platt area leading to Cookham. The impact of this is that from Sunday 17 November until Monday 2 December, the level crossing will be completely closed, trains will still be running but there will be no access for traffic or pedestrians. Access for those taking trains will be from the west side of the station only.

Barriers will be in place to protect pedestrians but please can we urge you to remind your young people of the potential dangers of climbing these barriers during the crossing closure period. Network rail have estimated the detour for pedestrians will add 20 minutes to their journey so please encourage your children to adapt their travel times accordingly.

For further information on the closures please see networkrail.co.uk/furze-platt



CLICK HERE TO MAKE A DONATION

Cont. on page 9





Good luck to everyone attending tonight's sold out Quiz and to those in the 200 Club Draw. Winning numbers will be drawn tonight.

MONTHLY PAYMENT (£5 PER MONTH)

ANNUAL PAYMENT (£57 PER YEAR)

DRONE FOOTAGE OF NEW ENGLISH/SCIENCE BUILDING
ON FACEBOOK



SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

WEDNESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

EXTERNAL STUDENTS ARE WELCOME FROM 5.50PM FOR A PROMPT 6.00PM START CURRENT STUDENTS ARE WELCOME FROM 6.20PM FOR A PROMPT 6.30PM START



IT Support Engineer - ASAP

Part time, 37 Hours per week – preferred start time no later than 8am - Monday to Friday, all year round - Scale 5 – Actual salary range £23,208 - £25,624pa

We are looking for a team player to join our IT team at Furze Platt Senior School and work with the IT Strategy Manager to support the delivery of the school's strategic IT plan.

Responsibilities will include:

- Provision of efficient and timely responses to incidents and requests for support, prioritising requests and managing workflow accordingly.
- Detection, diagnosis and resolution of computer network and peripheral device faults obtaining additional support where required.
- Setting up equipment such as computers, data projectors, sound systems and other specialist IT
 equipment ensuring they are ready for use.
- · Working with staff, vendors and service providers to ensure a productive IT environment within the school.
- Actively contributing to the IT related security of the school to minimise and mitigate potential hazards and risks.

We are looking for someone with strong technical ability as well as analytical and problem solving skills to solve IT hardware and software problems. You must have a competent knowledge and understanding of IT networks including in depth knowledge of Windows. The ability to communicate verbally and in writing is also important as well as strong organisational and time-management skills.

For further information about this role and in order to complete an application form please refer to our school website www.furzeplatt.com. Application forms should be returned to gill.dandridge@furzeplatt.net. Only applications submitted on the school application form will be considered.

Closing date: Monday 2nd December 2019, 9.00 am Interviews will take place: week commencing 2nd December 2019



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FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL ARE IN THE LIMELIGHT!

The PTFA believe that a creative mind and imagination help to develop emotional intelligence, language and communication skills so we're excited to be getting behind the school's New Hall Theatre campaign.

The school is benefiting from a New Main Hall as part of the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead expansion project and with the support of Governors the school will be creating a brand new theatre.



Our New Hall Theatre will be transformed into a multi-use space which can be converted from its daily use for assemblies etc., to a state-of-the-art theatre facility. Whilst governors have provided the majority of funding towards the equipment, the PTFA have been asked to raise the final £34,000 to create the high quality performance space that will provide maximum benefit to our students and community.



TO DONATE PLEASE VISIT: DONATEMYSCHOOL.COM/FURZEPLATT

Please support us by making a donation through our campaign page. This allows us to collect gift aid, boosting your support by 25%!



We believe this would be a fantastic addition to our wonderful school so we really hope that you can get behind the project and help us to raise the necessary £34,000 to make it happen!

Further information about the campaign can be found in the New Hall Theatre Details document which you can download from the campaign page.

To make a donation, please use the DONATE button on the campaign page.
Thank you for your support!



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AMBITIOUS $^{f V}$ COLLABORATIVE $^{f V}$ $^{f H}$ APPY $^{f V}$ $^{f I}$ $^{f N}$ $^{f E}$ $^{f N}$ $^{f U}$ $^{f E}$ $^{f V}$ $^{f E}$ $^{f X}$ $^{f C}$ $^{f E}$ $^{f X}$ $^{f E}$ $^{f E}$ $^{f X}$ $^{f E}$



Don't just feel local pride, teach it.





A M B I T I O U S





Make a difference with Teach Maidenhead.

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WWW.TEACHMAIDENHEAD.CO.UK

Parent Support Groups



Charity Number 1177138

Support Groups Options

Group 1- This group will run on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month 9.30am- 10.45am

Group 2- This group will run on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month 11.00am - 12.15am

Groups 1 and 2 run at: 4 Marlow Road, Maidenhead SL6 7YR

Group 3- This group will run on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month 1.15pm-2.30pm

Group 3 runs at: St Peter's Church, St Peter's Road, Maidenhead SL6 7QU

The support groups aim to provide a free, confidential, respectful environment for parents to be heard and supported with compassion and sensitivity.

The following are all integrated in to the work we do to help parents feel they are not alone:

Family/relationship breakdown; Mental health issues of both parents and young people; Impact of disability on family; Living in poverty/disadvantaged families; School refusal/Unhappy at school; Involvement with Social Care

If you would like to enquire or attend a support group, please contact the agency in the first instance for more details: Anne.Lang@wmcounselling.com

If you cannot attend a group but would like support, please visit our website for further information.

https://number22.org/info-for-parents/

Number 22 Counselling Services 4 Marlow Road, Maidenhead SL6 7YR Tel: 01628 636661