

# FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #59.6







## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



# **Working Together**

This week saw the end of our Prepare to Succeed events with evenings for Year 9 and 10 parents following those for other years. Each of these events emphasises the importance of the adults in our



children and students' lives working together to support our young people. Hopefully parents and carers found much of the information useful in helping you support what is happening in school.

Importantly at each parental event, alongside assemblies and activities in school, we emphasise the importance of students owning their studies and utilising the adult support around them. Rather than the traditional adult 'nagging' the child to study, learning becomes far more powerful if our students recognise how we can help them study. This can be achieved in a number of ways: Most simply they include providing a quality environment to study or food and drink in between sessions to give our children a break. At a more detailed level parents and carers can engage with what students are learning, reading examiners reports, identifying topics they are learning and marking tests or exam papers (using mark schemes available online). I hope that the evenings at the start of this academic year have given parents and carers some ideas as to how you can engage with your child's learning.

Notes from these evenings are available online. As ever, should you want to discuss your child's education please contact their tutor or Head of House. Thank you to our Year 7 parents who left very positive comments for us at their Head of House meetings yesterday.

# **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme**

It was with great pleasure that I awarded more students their DofE certificates. I was delighted to hear their enjoyment of working at Bike Hub along with their (less



# Forthcoming Events (Next week is Week 1)

<b>THU 24</b> OCTOBER	Year 11 - Parents' & Students' Consultation Evening	4.15pm - 7.15pm
FRI 25 OCTOBER	End of Term 1	3.15pm finish
MON 28 - FRI 1 OCTOBER NOVEMBER	Half Term Holidays	
<b>MON 4</b> NOVEMBER	Start of Term 2 (Week 1)	

# **SCHOOL TERM DATES 2019/20**

than fond) memories of the expedition. Once again congratulations to so many of our students for gaining the award.

## Year 11

I have spent part of this week visiting some of our Year 11s in their lessons. I was struck by students' confidence in discussing complex ideas. Even more so I was impressed by how many knew their current grade in each subject and more importantly could dissect their strengths and weaknesses, as well as what they need to do to improve.

It is this latter part that now requires attention in the form of revision and I am looking forward to leading sessions at next Friday's Revision Conference. As Year 11 students' recent PSHE lesson highlighted, procrastination needs to stop so please encourage them to 'crack on' with small chunks of revision.



# **FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL ARE IN THE** LIMELIGHT!



Our New Hall Theatre campaign 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%!

### **DONATE**

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 co-ordinating the campaign (<a href="mailto:lynne.moore@furzeplatt.net">lynne.moore@furzeplatt.net</a>).



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).

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.

Thank you.

# YEAR 11 REVISION SESSIONS



# Friday 18th October

These will be held during the school day by our Senior Leadership Team and will last for an hour. Please ask your son/daughter to bring in their annotated English Literature Anthology books and if possible, their Biology revision guides. Students who do not have access to these will have work provided on the day but we do encourage them to bring in their own books.

# YEARS 9 AND 10 PREPARING TO SUCCEED EVENING



There was a large turnout at both these events; thank you to everyone who came. For those who could not make it, here is the link to the presentations on our Supporting Learning page.

Mr J Dollery and Mrs D Feather

### YEARS 9 AND 10 PRESENTATIONS





## YEAR 12 PSYCHOLOGY TRIP

A group of Year 12 Psychology students visited Royal Holloway Psychology department after school on Wednesday (9th October), accompanied by their teachers Mr Marris and Miss Paradowska. Students were treated to mini-lectures on psychopathology and comparative psychology; the former examined the case study of Hans Breivik, the Norwegian mass murderer, in order to discuss whether his actions were due to his being 'mad or bad'; the latter compared how vocalisations in different species (but focussing on birds) were subject to cultural influences which varied through time and space. Both lectures were delivered by experts in their respective fields.



# **SPORTS NEWS**

Well done to all our sporting stars this week and to our Year 11 Rugby team who beat Windsor Boys' last night.

# Girls' Rugby at Windsor Rugby Club Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October

Girls experienced contact rugby for the first time. They thoroughly enjoyed it and ended up rather muddy by the end of the session. Pictured is Lily Bushell, Bella Powell, with Alexia Monk at the bottom of the ruck!



# ESAA Cross Country, Wednesday 9th October

We had three teams competing at the Inter Schools event in Reading. All students performed brilliantly.

Junior Boys – 5<sup>th</sup> team – Isaac Cozens, Connor Fitzgibbon, Ryan Hughes, Lennon Moore, Lucas Norton.

Junior Girls – 8<sup>th</sup> team - Holly Cannon, Sophie McLauchlan, Amelia Russell, Annabelle Stratford.

Inter Boys – 3<sup>rd</sup> team - Callum Bleazard, Nick Holdsworth, Edwin Isted, Frank McGrath, Charlie Shervell.



# Year 8 Girls' Netball, Wednesday 9th October



Our Year 8 Girls' netball team played in the RBWM netball league on Wednesday evening through all the rain showers without letting it dampen their spirits! Pictured – Laura Harrit, Kirsty Steed, Bre Siyawareva, Sylvie Dominte, Natasha Harris, Charlie Arnold, Jess Thomas, Florence Leo.

# FURZE PLATT STUDENT SELECTED FOR U15 LONDON IRISH AND BERKSHIRE ELITE SQUADS

Last week Charlie Myall, Year 10, attended trials with London Irish RFC, and has been selected as a member of their U15 Academy for 2019-20. He has also been selected for the Berkshire Rugby Elite U15 Squad for the 2019-20 season, with games against other counties during January and



February. A fantastic achievement - well done to him.





JOIN OUR CROWD AND MAKE A DONATION



# **DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS SCHEME**

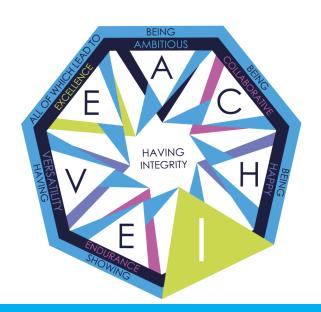
Congratulations to our Year 11 Construction group who have recently completed their well earned Bronze Award. Pictured, the group being awarded their certificates and badges by Headteacher Dr Morrison.



# **MUFTI DAY**

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Mufti Day today, we have raised over £1,200 and still counting.

Our next Mufti Day in Term 2 (date to be confirmed) will be raising money for the Helen & Douglas House charity. They support children who have disabilities and terminal illnesses as well as their families, especially siblings who find it hard to cope.



Jolene Gardner, Year 13, writes: 'The charity helps my younger brother Libby who has Duchenne muscular dystrophy which disables him from walking. The charity has continually offered him respite care in their fantastic adapted facilities for a variety of disabled children. The charity has also offered opportunities for me and my two other younger brothers (Gary in Year 10 and Aaron in Year 9) to meet other siblings of disabled children that the charity care for, allowing us to go on team building weekends away. I believe that the Helen & Douglas Charity deserve funding because of their extensive hard work and help with my family, in particular not to mention the hundreds and thousands of other families they continue to support. Without Helen & Douglas my brother Libby would not have the opportunity to meet children with his disability or allow him to have time away from home, knowing that he'll be able to join in all of the activities the charity offer.'

Due to their work with this charity, Jolene and her family have had the opportunity to meet ex Prime Minister David Cameron and Camilla Parker Bowles, Duchess of Cornwall, amongst other dignitaries.

Pictured, Jolene with her brothers.



# **BALANCE CHECKER**



Students can now check how much they have on their lunch accounts with our new Balance Checker, situated in the Main Hall near the double doors to the Café.

Pictured, Roxanne Ogden Year 12.



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# **CAFÉ SPECIALS**



Our café celebrated National Curry Day by offering a delicious range of food to our students and staff.





# **CAREERS EVENT**



Pilot Live Careers, at Heathrow on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November (at the end of half term) is for anyone who is interested in a career in aviation and aerospace, from aero engineering and flight deck positions to maintenance, airport operations, management, air traffic control or flight ops.

There is lots of information, including how to book and pay online:

PILOT CAREERS LIVE - LINK FOR INFORMATION

# E

# **GREEN REDEEM**

Please bring in your plastic bottles for our Reverse Recycling Machine in the café.

Thank you.



# scan. recycle. earn.

Your school is taking part in an exciting recycling initiative. By bringing in and recycling your plastic bottles, you can help us receive up to \$2,000!

### How does it work?







Deposit them into the recycling klosk.

money your school earns.

# **SANTA DASH**



# BOURNE END JUNIOR SPORTS CLUB



The Sports Hall, New Road, Bourne End SL8 5BW

# **OPEN DAY**

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.

at

Bourne End Junior Sports Club
The Sports Hall, New Road, Bourne End
Free Entry.

Come and join us for sampler sessions of various sports plus information and children's activities

For details call us on 01628 528110 (24 hour answer phone)



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