

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #60.9







MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

W

Dear Parents/Carers

Sport Relief

Thank you to all students who have supported our Sport Relief events this week. It has been good to see so many students engaging with the aims of the charity.



Short Story Competition

Congratulation to our Year 10 student, Polly, for her exceptional winning entry to the short story competition. It was a pleasure to read and I am delighted to see all the writing talent at FPSS. You can read her fantastic story on page 2.

Coronavirus

We continue to receive daily updates from the Department for Education and will continue to share information on our website as information changes. Should there be significant change in the advice we will contact parents and carers directly. Sadly, students, parents and carers have learned this week about the cancellation of our Ski Trip at Easter. I know staff and students are disappointed but I am sure understand the reasons why.

Year 9 Parent Consultation Evening

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended yesterday evening. I know that many positives will have been shared along with areas for development. Now it is over to our Year 9 students to take on board that advice, be ambitious and achieve excellence.

And finally...

If you would like to join in the talk of our school at present please ask your child about Mr Djaelani's Murder Mystery House Challenge. We know the victim. We know the



ALL EVENTS
SPORTS CALENDAR

Next Week (Week 1)

TUE 17 MARCH	11A2 and 11D Geography Field Trip, Boots, Maidenhead	8.30am - 11.30am
WED 18 MARCH	11A1 Geography Field Trip, Boots, Maidenhead	8.30am - 11.30am
THU 19 MARCH	11B Geography Field Trip, Boots, Maidenhead	8.30am - 11.30am
	Duke of Edinburgh Awards Training	9am - 3pm
FRI 20 MARCH	Years 11, 12 and 13 Progress Reports	
	11C Geography Field Trip, Boots, Maidenhead	8.30am - 11.30am
	PTFA Quiz Night (POSTPONED)	

Forthcoming Events

TUE 24 MARCH	Year 10 Progress Reports	
THU 26 MARCH	Year 10 Parents' & Students'' Consultation Evening	4.15pm - 7.15pm
FRI 27 MARCH	Muffi Day in aid of New Hall/Theatre	All day

SCHOOL TERM DATES

SCHOOL CLUBS LIST



suspects. But who could the murderer be? Maybe you could help solve the crime.

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

MUFTI DAY

FRIDAY 27TH MARCH



Our next Mufti Day will be to raise funds for our New Hall / Theatre campaign. Your support is greatly appreciated. More details to follow.

YEAR 11 SUPPORT, REVISION & EXAM ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2020

As you will appreciate, this is a very significant time for Year 11. As their examinations approach, the end is in sight, and students realise the importance of working hard in order to achieve the grades of which they are capable. Parents and carers are providing a great deal of support and motivation at home. The attached letter is to let you know what extra support and revision we are providing in school, and to explain what will be happening in the weeks running up to and during the exam phase.

YEAR 11 - REVISION & EXAM SUPPORT LETTER



NEW HALL / THEATRE CAMPAIGN

One third left of target and just three weeks to make it happen!

Over a staggering £25,000 has been given towards our £34K target to give our school an amazing opportunity to let our children develop their confidence through staging plays, singing, playing music to a public. Plus, an income source through renting out the theatre within the local community.



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YEAR 9 VISIT TO BRASENOSE COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD MONDAY 27TH APRIL



We are planning to take a small group of Year 9 students to visit Brasenose College, University of Oxford on Monday 27th April. The purpose of the trip is to give students the opportunity to see the University of Oxford for themselves. The visit will consist of a talk about the benefits of going to university in general and to Oxford in particular, a tour of Brasenose College and a short walking tour of Oxford to see some of the other colleges.

This trip is a fantastic opportunity for ambitious students and we encourage students to apply who will most benefit from this trip. Numbers are strictly limited so students are required to apply for a place by writing 300-400 words expressing their interest in this opportunity and to outline why they should be selected for this trip. This must be submitted by Wednesday 18th March, including the permission slip. I will select students based on the quality of their response and their current approach to learning. Students will be notified if they are successful by Monday 23rd March.

Details and timings of the trip can be found on the letter below.

Miss K Inwood, More Able and Talented Coordinator

YEAR 9 - UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD VISIT LETTER

SHORT STORY WINNING ENTRY



A life for a life

By Polly Clements, Year 10

A life for a life

The words played over in his head, the writer running his hands through a mass of grey hair and sighing. So he did what he always did; drove around for hours until his mind unclogged.

Bailey and Liv are on the mountain. They have the stone. They're waiting for Meg... no, Holly and Scott to... uhm...

He was stuck between worlds, plots writhing in his head; confusing them with what was happening now. How could it be so hard to write a book?

His mind wandered and his fingers tapped the steering wheel, interrupted by a deafening screech of metal on metal, and smashing glass; blood dripping from his nose, and blinding light, and then nothing...

Cont. on page 3

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

Bailey woke with a jolt, squinting his eyes in denial of a headache. He groaned as he sat up, pinching the bridge of his nose with scraped fingers. With great difficulty, he opened his eyes, scanning the empty mountainous area whilst trying to maintain a steady composure. Try and try as he might, Bailey could not for the life of him remember where he was or what he was supposed to be doing, but he knew it was critical. From the corner of his eye, he spotted a second person, lying in a heap on the cold rock; Liv!

He scampered over to her, still dizzy as ever, and kneeled at her side, shaking her shoulders slightly.

"Liv? Are you alright?" he mumbled as she groggily rolled over, dark hair fanning out around her pale face.

"What happened here?" she asked, eyebrows furrowed as she took Bailey's hand and they stood up.

"I've no idea," he admitted to her, "I was kind of hoping you'd remember."

Liv thought for a moment, staring into the abyss above the clouds.

"We were supposed to meet someone here," she stated shortly.

"Who?" Bailey asked her, snapping his long fingers in front of her face to bring her attention back to him.

"Holly and Scott!" they shouted together, faces lighting up before the pounding headaches returned once again.

"That's us... I think," a gruff voice came from behind them, they turned to see two similarly dishevelled people; Holly's ginger hair wilder than usual.

"So, do you have it?" Scott spoke again, swivelling to gaze expectantly at Bailey. "Have...what?" Bailey questioned, a feeling of unexplainable guilt crawling into his stomach.

"The stone." Holly stated, as if she was speaking to a child. There was no recollection from either of the two being questioned and the red-head's stare hardened; striding towards Bailey and prodding her finger into his chest.

"You're supposed to have the stone!" she shouted, pushing him backwards until he was pressed against the jagged rock of the mountain.

"What stone? I don't know what you're talking about!" he defended, but not daring to look her in the eye.

"The one that's going to save us all, remember?" Holly continued lifting a stern eyebrow. Once both Bailey and Liv shook their heads, she backed away, switching her disbelieving stare from one to the other. Scott opened his mouth to talk before being interrupted by a new voice.

"Looking for this?"

The four teens turned to see a tanned skinned girl, leather clad and hair pulled back, and holding in slender fingers a luminous orange stone.

"Who are you and how did you get that?" Scott questioned, taking a few steps towards the girl.

"I'm Meg." She stated, smiling sweetly, too sweetly to look

trustworthy. No one said anything; they only stared into the surface of the strange orb.

"I found this beauty just in the bushes over there," she motioned over to the clump of dying leaves, "Neat, right?"

"Wait a second, how did that get into the bushes?" Holly asked, turning once again to Bailey, who squeezed his eyes shut in irritation.

"It must've fallen out of my pocket when I passed out." he admitted, grimacing at the others.

"Oh yeah, about that, did you all know that we're actually book characters?" Meg asked condescendingly, dimples popping out menacingly from her grin.

Jaws dropped, eyes were vacant and breath was lost. Silence invaded the group as Meg nodded understandingly.

"Yeah, crazy, right?" Meg continued.

"You've got to be joking." Holly scoffed.

"My entire being is meaningless." Liv sighed.

"That explains a lot, actually," Scott added.

"How can we trust you?" Bailey asked, stepping towards Meg resuming his position of alpha male. Meg raised an eyebrow in offence, moving around him to stand in the centre of the group.

"Because I can explain why you all passed out. The writer, our writer, he got into some sort of accident and now he's in a coma. It's up to us now to save him." Meg stated, a mischievous glint back in her amber eyes.

"How do we do that?" Liv questioned, face now regaining colour again.

"We need to take the stone to the top of the mountain, fit it back into the wall it was crafted from and from there, our writer will remain alive."

They had been walking for days. Following Meg to the top of the mountain, and still, it seemed they weren't close enough. It was a steep trot, and steeper still, the path becoming narrower each metre they strode. But they were dedicated, determined to help the man who gave them life, a story to carry out. Even if it was not what they expected.

"How much further?" Scott whined.

"I'd say we'd get there by tomorrow. But let's stop here for the night, it's getting late." Meg instructed.

Bailey lay for hours awake, thinking everything over. How was it that this girl just so happened to be near enough to find the stone? How did she know everything that was going on? And then it clicked.

He stood up suddenly, causing the others to stir and squint their eyes at him.

"She's the villain." Bailey accused, pointing at an unapologetic Meg.

"What are you talking about?" Holly questioned looking between the feuds.

Cont. on page 4

"You said we're characters in a book. Every story has a villain. She's trying to sabotage the entire plan."

"Bailey, don't be ridiculous. There's no way - "

"He's right."

"Excuse me?"

"You've finally figured it out, then. Yes, I'm the villain, and I have a good cause, too. I'm going to kill the writer and none of you can stop me."

She moved to crush the stone under her foot, pushing down and cracking the surface. Air was pushed out of their lungs, leaving the five gasping and choking for air. But Meg would not stop.

"Why are you doing this to the man that gave you life?" Liv choked out, face red and puffy.

"Life? Some life I've had. Every time he creates a new story he drafts me in. And then as soon as it comes to it, I'm removed. Thrown in the corner and not looked at until it happens again. And then when he finally does put me in this story, I'm the villain! It's cruel. And deserves what he's going to get-"

Meg's rant was cut short due to another crack cascading down the sides of the stone, and everyone fell gasping and wheezing to the floor. A third crack chipped silently down the sides, but this time, drawing Bailey in closer, almost as if it was whispering to him. To take it. Being the hero was in reach...

A life for a life

Meg hit the floor, passed out from a lack of air, leaving the stone unoccupied and murmuring to Bailey.

A life for a life

As pressure was taken off the orb, the group found they could breathe again, heavily and rapidly.

Bailey gathered himself before racing to the injured stone. Looking behind him, he could see Meg had the same idea, so he ran. He ran faster than he knew he could go, the mountain underneath him rumbling and seemingly collapsing under itself. The writer was dying, and fast.

Bailey rounded the corner, reaching a flat top, surrounded by storming clouds, Meg only inches behind him.

"You can't do this, please." She begged, leather now blanketed in dust.

"You can get better. If you destroy the stone everything will die, you too. It's not worth it." He bargained. He didn't know what use it was, when the same words rounded in his head, words he knew so well, yet didn't quite know where they came from.

"A life for a life." He spoke suddenly, backing away until he met with the stone's wall, a ringing in his ears and growing louder as the stone drew nearer to its home.

"Bailey, if you put that back. You'll die. It's too powerful." Meg stated, moving closer under the wild storm of navy blue.

"I know. But I've had my story. It's your turn."

And with that, he pushed the stone into its craft, a blinding white, a scream and then nothing.

The writer found himself awake, smelling of hospital and seeing cool colours of green and grey, when it hit him.

He turned his head slowly to smile at the anxious woman next to him, bags under hazel eyes and wrinkles forming on her forehead, same as him.

"I know how to finish my book."







ENGLISH STORY DOOR COMPETITION

The English Department marked World Book Day last week with their typical enthusiastic - albeit quirky style. The entire English department dressed up as a literary character on Thursday and Year 9 Language students were asked to write a narrative inspired by their teacher's character. The Year 7 and Year 8's off curriculum day saw students design and write their own book cover and blurb – which they then had to sell to their classmates! The winner, selected by our Year 13 Literature students, saw Elza Suiters crowned as the champion of the Furze Platt Book Off! On the day, students were asked to vote for the best teacher's costume, which saw Miss McDonnell as the lucky winner. It was truly fantastic to see the zealous attitudes from students and staff alike. In addition, each English teacher decorated their door as a book cover where our lovely Year 13 Literature students and Dr Morrison judged the winner to be Miss Brookling and her form, Windsor 2. It has been an extraordinary week for the English department; it was made truly memorable by the outstanding efforts from the English department and the energetic response from students. Thank you so much to all of those involved in making World Book Day 2020 our very best one yet!









STUDENT ARTICLE BY YOUCEF AIT-KACI (YEAR 9)



This week at Furze Platt, the school invited Thames Valley Police to come in and teach students about the dangers of knife crime. They did this by putting on an enjoyable show, which was played in the Main Hall, and was about an hour long. Students took the message seriously, and have a better understanding about knife crime, and what to do if anyone they know may be involved in knife crime. The show was very exciting to watch, and overall it left a very memorable message about 'being part of the solution' to stop knife crime, and is a message that we will all remember.

All week many of our students and teachers will be completing a mile, for the benefit of charity. The charity is called Sports Relief, and the school's activities aim to benefit people in need, in a fun, collaborative way! Teachers and pupils can cover the mile however they want, meaning they can run, walk, jump, etc. The only rule is the mile has to be covered. This event is also beneficial to our physical health, but most importantly, it can help somebody out there in need! If you have any loose change you would like to donate to this worthwhile cause please do drop it into Reception. Thank you.

Furze Platt Senior School are in the limelight!

Together with The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. the school governors have been working on a plan to transform and improve the facilities at Furze Platt School for students and the local community. Our New Hall Theatre will 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.





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TECHNOLOGY SKILLS WITH READING UNIVERSITY

On 24th and 25th February, the Technology department welcomed eighteen PGCE students (post graduate certificate in education) from the Art and Technology courses at Reading University. Over the two days the student teachers learnt new and developed existing skills to take with them as they start their next school placements with Mrs Hawkins.



It was a rewarding few days and made even more exciting to welcome a film crew in to record what the PGCE students were up to!



YEAR 10 FOOD AND NUTRITION VISIT TO READING UNIVERSITY



On Friday, our Year 10 Food and Nutrition class visited the sensory analysis testing area in the Department of Food Science at Reading University.

They completed a number of tests including a preference test, the red lighting hiding the colour of the product which can influence opinion. They participated in sensory analysis on chocolate, and then looked at the data collected from their results compared to trained sensory testers. In addition, they took part in a research project on sweetness preference.

Finally, they all had to wear protective clothing to go into the Food Pilot Plant, a facility which recreates the conditions of industry and students can develop and analyse food products.

The interactive sessions linked directly to their GCSE, and allowed students to see how what they do at GCSE is used in industry. University students talked about what they did on their course, their year out in industry and the range of different jobs that students go on to following their degree.





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FURZE PLATT STUDENT COMPETING IN ENGLAND XC CHAMPIONSHIPS

12 A

Many congratulations to Ben Reynolds (Year 12), who has been called up to be in the Senior Boys Berkshire Schools team for the English Schools XC Championships in Liverpool this weekend. We wish him the very best of luck with the competition.



8A NETBALL TEAM



This week our Year 8A Netball team competed in the final round of the netball league against neighbouring schools. The girls played at such a high standard, winning four of their six games and drawing one. The team consisted of Tia Mattingley, Lily Gibson, Sylvie Dominte, Megan Delahaye, Grace Gibson, Natasha Harris, Lena Holmes, Charli Arnold, and Rose Cullum. Player of the match went to Grace Gibson for great collaboration and motivation throughout the tournament.



YEAR 8 FOOTBALL



In February our Year 8 boys football team played against Reading Bluecoat School. The team played incredibly well together showing strong attacking and defensive skills. This paid off as they won with a score of 2-1. The boys were very proud of their performance as they beat this team, who

were the overall champions from the league last year. This victory means that our Year 8 boys go onto to play in the Quarter finals of the County Cup. Well done to them all.



YEAR 8 FOOTBALL AND HOCKEY



Before half term our Year 8 girls battled it out in football and our Year 8 boys played against each other in hockey. It was a lovely afternoon playing in the sun on the astro. The teams played very well and they showed great sportsmanship. A special well done to Year 8 students in Cookham House for winning both sporting activities. The results are as follows.

Girls' Football	Boys' Hockey
1 st Cookham	1 st Cookham
2 nd Marlow	2 nd Bray
3 rd Henley	3 rd Henley and Marlow
4 th Bisham	4 th Eton
5 th Bray	5 th Dorney
6 th Windsor	6 th Windsor
7 th Dorney	7 th Bisham

MAIDENHEAD ROWING CLUB ASSESSMENT DAY

 $8^{th}\,Eton$



Maidenhead Rowing Club are soon to hold an assessment day for this year's Learn to Row intake. We are looking for boys and girls in Year 7 or Year 8 who wish to join the club and become part of its future success.

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AMBITIOUS $^{f V}$ COLLABORATIVE $^{f V}$ $^{f H}$ APPY $^{f V}$ $^{f I}$ $^{f N}$ $^{f E}$ $^{f N}$ DURANCE $^{f V}$ $^{f V}$ $^{f E}$ $^{f X}$ CELLENCE

The first assessment day will be at the club on 28th March at 12pm.

Further details on the club website, or contact junior-membership@maidenheadrc.org.uk

CLIVEDEN STATUE TRAIL PROJECT 14TH – 16TH APRIL



We have a very exciting opportunity for students aged 8-18 to work with the National Trust and Cliveden Estate to create a 'Statue Trail Guide' for the visitors to Cliveden. This will happen over Easter break, specifically the 14th, 15th and 16th April from 10am to 3pm. We will leave 4 Marlow Road at 10am and be back for 3pm.

There is a huge variety of sculptures within the collection at Cliveden including a 5-metre-tall ornate fountain, sculptures of people who have lived on the estate, and a pair of 2500-year-old baboons which used to flank an Egyptian temple.



They need our help to create a guide to these statues which will be printed and shared with the half a million visitors to the estate every year! They need your thoughts, opinions and reactions: do you like them? Why? Why not?

You will visit Cliveden to explore the estate and the statues within it, spend time drawing, sculpting and putting together your ideas and thoughts so that we can produce a leaflet for the visitors.

You need to be able to attend all three of the days, full itinerary below. If you have any questions please let me know.

Places are limited.

Elaine Keating
Youth Engagement Officer

Email: elaine.keating@achievingforchildren.org.uk

Cliveden Statue Trail Project 14th - 16th April

At Cliveden, a National Trust garden and woodland estate just north of Maidenhead, we have an outdoor collection of statues around the grounds. There's a huge variety within this collection, including a 5-metre-tall ornate fountain, sculptures of people who've lived on the estate, and a pair of 2500-year-old baboons which used to flank an Egyptian temple.

We need your help to create a guide to these statues. We need your thoughts, opinions and reactions: do you like them? Why? Why not? There's no such thing as a wrong answer, and your views will be printed and shared with our half a million visitors per year.

You'll visit Cliveden to explore the estate and the statues within it, and spend time drawing, sculpting and putting together your ideas and thoughts so that we can produce a leaflet for our visitors.

Tuesday 14th April

10.00am - Meet at 4 Marlow Road

10.30-10.45am: Arrival

10.45-11.15am: Introductions & ice breaker

11.15-11.45am: Introduction to the project (what and why etc) - Alicia & Katherine

11.45am - 12.45pm: Walk around estate & statues - Sophie & Oonagh

12.45 - 1.15pm: Break

1.15 – 2.30pm: Initial thoughts exercise: first reactions and choosing statue/s to explore further (individually or in groups) – Alicia & Katherine

3pm - Pick up from 4 Marlow Road

Wednesday 15th April

10.00am - Meet at 4 Marlow Road

10.30am: Arrival

10.30-11am: Re-cap and reflections on previous day

11am-12.30pm: Start to plan responses (historical/artistic information available if wanted)

12.30 – 1pm: Break

1-2pm: Back out to see chosen statue/s, or continue working inside

2-2.30pm: Come back together to share what they've done and thoughts on the day, what will they need in order to finish off tomorrow?

3pm - Pick up from 4 Marlow Road

Thursday 16th April

10.00am – Meet at 4 Marlow Road

10.30am: Arrival

10:30am-12:30pm: Opportunity to create (materials & historical/artistic information available), can go back to statue if they wish

12:30 - 1.15pm: Break

1.15 - 2pm: Finishing off creations

 $2-2.30 pm\colon Sharing and reflecting all together$

3pm - Pick up from 4 Marlow Road

Friday 17th April

Optional if needed?

FURZE PLATT ALUMNI CYCLING TO AMSTERDAM FOR CANCER CHARITY



Alex Atkinson (23) and James Hewitt (22), both alumni of Furze Platt Senior School, are aiming to cycle to Amsterdam

Cont. on page 9

to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. The journey of 433 miles is being undertaken by the pair to support Alex's mum Jane, who is halfway through her treatment.

MACMILLA CANCER SUPPOR



Photograph courtesy of the Maidenhead Advertiser.

If you would like to view Alex and James's fund-raising page please visit their webpage below.

DONATE



PTFA QUIZ / DINNER - FRIDAY 20TH MARCH ** POSTPONED **



Unfortunately the PTFA have had to take the decision to postpone the quiz. Refunds will be issued in the next few days.

Another date will be arranged so please keep an eye on the school newsletters and PTFA Facebook page for news: https://www.facebook.com/fpssptfa/

Cleaners Required as soon as possible

Flexible hours – from a few hours up to a maximum of 35 hours a week Between 7am and 8pm Monday to Thursday and 7am to 6pm on a Friday Hourly rate (inclusive of holiday pay) £11 an hour. Term time only although additional hours may be available during holiday time

Would you be interested in a term time only role helping to maintain a high standard of cleanliness at our expanding school?

We are looking for someone who is interested in working up to 35 hours a week (can be flexible) following a cleaning rota. You would be given sufficient training to enable you to operate domestic and industrial cleaning equipment and materials in a safe and sensible way. You would be required to clean specific areas of the school, refill and replace soap, towels and other consumables and collect and dispose of waste in and around the school site. We would also expect you to work in line with health and safety and COSHH regulations and make the Cleaning Supervisor aware of any hazards.

This role requires someone who is physically fit and able to bend and do light lifting or moving of furniture. In addition good communication, organisational and time management skills are required with the ability to work independently and as part of a team. You must be trustworthy and able to demonstrate high levels of integrity.

To discuss options and flexibility of hours please call Kevin Dandridge on 01628 625308 x137.

In order to complete an application form please refer to our school website www.furzeplatt.com. Application forms should be returned to Kiran.smith@furzeplatt.net. Only applications submitted on the school application form will be considered. **CURRENT VACANCIES**

Closing date: ongoing

Suitable candidates will be contacted regarding interview dates

INTEGRITY **E**NDURANCE **V**ERSATILITY