

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Welcome to our newsletter. These bumper editions are only happening thanks to the fantastic contributions of staff, students, parents and carers. Please do keep your stories and news coming.

Once again, my written words are accompanied by a video as we try to keep lines of communication as face-to-face as possible. We return to the garden this week with an authentic breeze.

**VIDEO MESSAGE FROM HEADTEACHER****The Future**

There has been huge speculation this week about what Boris Johnson may announce on Sunday in terms of easing the lockdown. Schools are clearly an important part of this discussion. We are all keen to return to normality but how soon and in what form this takes is uncertain.

I have been asked several times this week when we will return. It is important to say that I know no more than you do. When government announcements have been made, for example when schools are closing or students not sitting examinations, I have heard at the same time.

Whenever such announcements have been made we have aimed to communicate with students, staff, parents and carers as soon as possible, normally on the same day. However, when discussing reopening there is much to consider as we aim to ensure FPSS is safe for whichever staff and students may return. I aim to let you know as soon as we are able.

Home Learning

I hope that Year 10 students have found their online seminars useful this week. I appreciate all the efforts of our community in supporting learning at this time.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

ALL EVENTS

SPORTS CALENDAR

All events are postponed until schools reopen.
Further information will be sent out in due course.

Keyworker and Vulnerable Childcare Arrangements

Please do email keyworker@furzeplatt.net if you need to know more about our provision for vulnerable and keyworker children.

Support for You

Please do remember that there are groups out there should you need specialist support. Please see the updated Counselling and Support Services document available on our Covid-19 webpage <https://www.furzeplatt.com/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=1535> for further information.

Happy Bank Holiday – Remembering VE Day

Given the circumstances, the VE Day celebrations will not be as planned. However, it is important we remember the purpose of this Bank Holiday. As a child many of the adults reading this newsletter will have heard first-hand experiences from grandparents. For example, my Nan was in the Land Army, one Grandparent was manning anti-aircraft guns and the other in tank battles through Italy. Unless they are exceptionally lucky to have great (or great-great) grandparents, our students do not have this first hand connection unless we share such memories or they catch the VE day coverage. Please do share this with them.

Take care and keep safe.

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

Headteacher



VE DAY 75

To commemorate VE day, students will find various activities that they can complete on SMHW should they wish to. We hope that they enjoy them. Please do encourage them to submit any photos of your VE day celebrations to their History teachers. You can see a range of our school celebrations at the end of this newsletter.



THANK YOU FROM FURZE PLATT

Thank you to all parents and carers who have donated food for our Food Share box; to everyone who has emailed their support in the past few weeks; and to the kind parent who delivered cupcakes to the school recently. It is all very much appreciated.

CAN YOU HELP?

YEAR 11 / YEAR 13

I appreciate that the end of the year has not occurred as any of us would have expected it to. However, before discarding any revision or textbooks you may have bought, please could I ask that you consider donating them to the school, so that we can continue to make use out of them. Likewise, before throwing away uniform ie ties, good condition blazers and PE kit, trainers etc for the lower school, and/or Sixth Form suit jackets (female), suits (male), blouses/shirts, lanyards (no badges) please could you consider saving them for us if no longer needed? Hopefully, I am not too late in writing this and there haven't

been any bonfires of work or any fashion overhauls of uniform.

If you are interested in helping, we would gratefully welcome any donations as soon as non-essential travel is allowed again. We will keep you updated.

Thank you,

Miss E Satterthwaite, PP Champion

TASKMASTER HOUSE CHALLENGE



This term, students have been competing in the TaskMaster House Challenge with their families at home to win points for their Houses and show off their creativity and ability to think outside the box.

The first challenge was to build a human figure out of inanimate objects. The challenge for Week 2 was to create the best shadow puppet. Top three places for these rounds can be seen below. We now go into Week 3 with Dorney House in the lead; participants have been asked to recreate a famous movie scene using themselves, their families or household objects. Bonus points to be awarded if we can guess the film! We cannot wait to see what students produce and see if anyone will knock Dorney House off the top of the leaderboard...

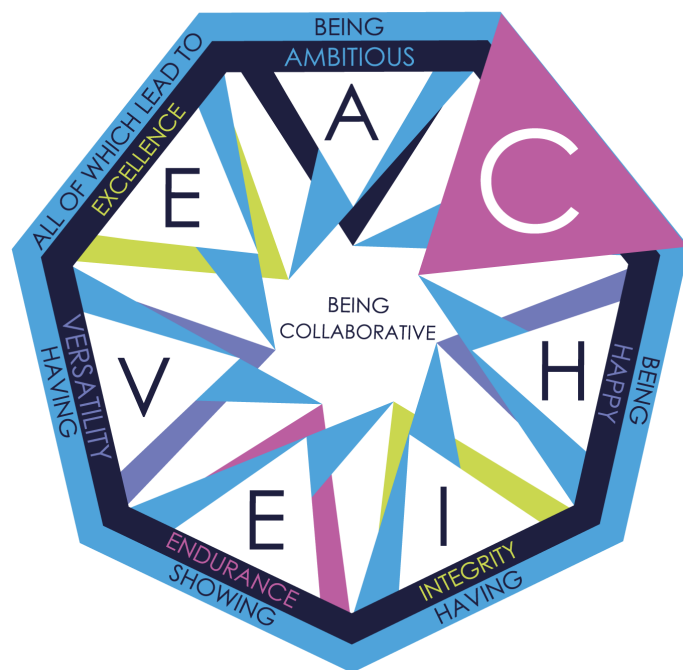
WEEK 1

3rd place – Jade & Brayden Winsor



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2nd place – Oscar Tisshaw and family



WEEK 2

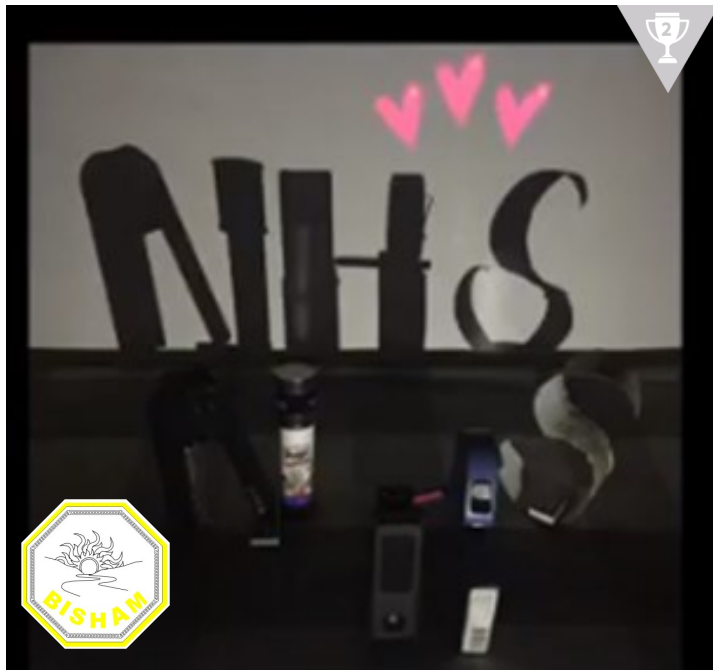
3rd place - Sophie McLachlan 'A moose with a handbag'



1st place - Amy Barker and family



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1st place - Jack Gulliver 'A rollercoaster ride'



SCIENCE LOCKDOWN EXPERIMENT

Well done to everyone who took part in the Parachute Lockdown experiment in school set by our Science Department. You can see the video on our Facebook page:

PARACHUTE LOCKDOWN EXPERIMENT VIDEO

NEW HALL THEATRE - CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Thank you to all those who have generously donated to our crowdfunding campaign. And a special thank you to the PTFA for promoting the campaign, raising funds and enabling gift aid to be claimed on donations.

All told we raised a fantastic £25,584 from the generosity of parents, local businesses, school supporters and from the creative fundraising efforts of our staff, students and PTFA.

If you donated over £50, you will be eligible for a 'reward' ranging from a 'thank you' in the Opening Event programme, through to an Invite to the Champagne Reception and Theatre Sponsorship for larger donations. Please contact our Head of Operations, Mrs Moore, for more details lynne.moore@furzeplatt.net.

Unfortunately, the Covid19 outbreak prevented us from having a final push on crowd fundraising, so we didn't manage reach our target of £34,000 by the closing date of 31st March. However, we are still expecting some matched funding to come in and will be trying other avenues to reach the target. So, if you would still like to donate it is not too late, please let Mrs Moore know.



Despite the current situation, work on the New Hall construction is still progressing and the contractor, Beards, are doing a great job moving things forward whilst complying with new safe site operating measures. However, works have understandably been impacted by Covid19 and the actual completion date is therefore still not confirmed.

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The installation of our retractable seating and theatre equipment will follow on from the construction work.

All being well, we can all look forward to the opening of Furze Platt's New Hall Theatre this autumn. This will be a fantastic asset for our school and the fully functioning theatre will provide wonderful opportunities for our students and the whole community.

ENGLISH MINI-SAGA WINNER

Well done to the winner of this week's mini-saga, Ellie Gavin, Year 10 (Marlow) with her piece 'Finally Freedom'. The teacher's submission is from Mrs Byrne and the topic was 'The Tricky One Hour Lockdown Walk'.

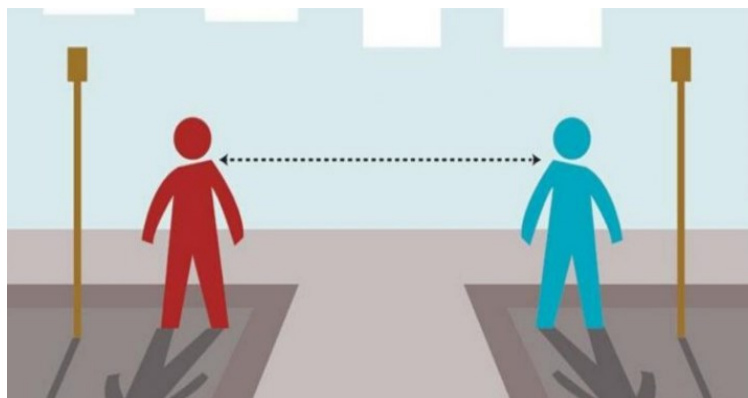
Finally Freedom

That time again, the door handle allowed us to open it and we were hit by a cascade of fresh air. Ghost town, nobody was seen apart from a rare blob in the distance. Timers were counting down our time, we'd have to be back soon. Stuck inside once more.



The Awkward Walk

Duck, dodge, move aside - as if people weren't distant enough. Letting passerbys pass by with a polite smile that says 'stay safe', 'I understand' and 'Isn't this awkward?' Some maintain a 'who cares!' look. The dogs couldn't care less - freely running towards another wagging tail - sniffing, panting, joyful. I'm jealous.



GONE – MICHAEL GRANT

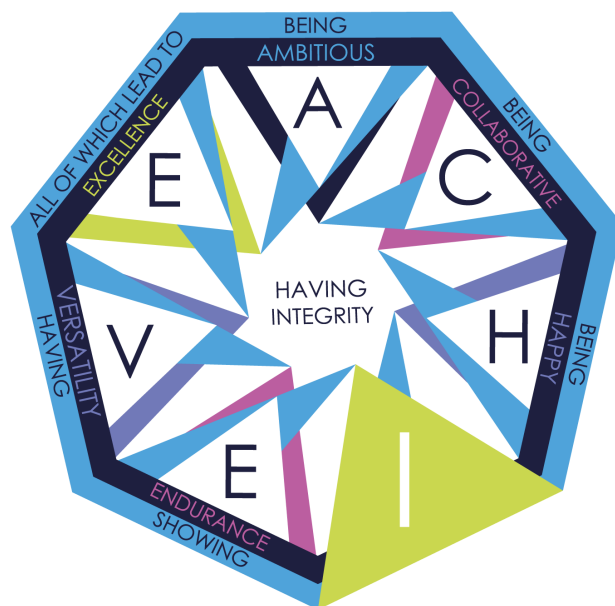
REVIEWED BY OLIVER FARRELL
(YEAR 9)

This is a great book that I have read more than once. Imagine a world where everyone in the town above the age of 15 suddenly disappears? What would you do if the entire town was suddenly stuck in a dome? It elaborates into a story of mystery and intrigue and it will make you want to read more and more.



The main character/ protagonist is a boy called Sam Temple. He is a surfer with not many friends. However, throughout the book, people begin to look up to him as a leader – even though he didn't want to be one.

I would definitely recommend reading this book; I was invested from the very first sentence! It has many relatable characters and the story is very well thought out.





DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FURZE PLATT ALUMN

EMILY-JANE SHAW

My name is Emily-Jane Shaw, I am an ex Furze Platt student (left in 2015), and since then I've continued training and working as a Dancer and Performer after graduating with a 1st Class Honours degree in 2018.



Furze Platt opened many doors for me, especially in Sport and the Arts, and I was grateful to have supportive teachers who pushed me to aim high and explore my career options. I studied Dance, Psychology and English Language and Literature A levels, and continued dance training at the University of Winchester, studying Choreography and Dance for 3 years. University gave me the opportunity to create work with performers who have learning disabilities and to visit James Madison University, USA, through the student led D@win. I also kept my Gymnastics training up by being a Winchester Spirit Cheerleader for two years, winning the BCA National Championships both times.



When I left University, I was filled with positivity, confidence and belief that I could do anything I wanted, I would find my dream job, dance every day and be paid for it - unfortunately, it is not that easy! Resilience and perseverance aren't the skills I thought I'd need the most in this industry, I thought flexibility, performance skills, precision and picking up routines would be ranked higher than these, but sometimes it is

down to not giving up, being in the right place the right time, and believing in yourself and the opportunities do come.

One of the jobs I've recently come back from was a four month contract in Mumbai working with TalenTree & travelling around India, working in the Bollywood Industry and I loved it! It was hard work, with lots of travel and not a lot of sleep, but I had amazing opportunities. I had the

chance to be in movies with the Bollywood stars, dancing on TV shows (Big Brother India, Dance India), live performances, music videos, corporate events and TV adverts. I gained friends from all over the world, explored an amazing country and lived and learnt about a completely different culture.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, I lost all of my jobs, including at Shining Star Productions teaching after school dance and drama classes which I loved; waitressing; events and weddings; as well as upcoming work for Pineapple Dance Studios and Panto.

The whole situation left me feeling a little deflated, so I decided to try and do something about this. A few weeks ago I set up an account on Instagram, called ejls_dance (or Emily-Jane Shaw on YouTube and look for my Dance Tutorials) to post weekly dance tutorials for children and adults who are also stuck at home and want to have 30 minutes of fun. The dances I choreograph are for all ages and abilities, no dance training required and are completely free. I would love to use this platform to get more people into dancing and trying a new skill. Please do take a look if you are wanting to learn something new, or just fancy a bit of fun in the garden.

INSTAGRAM: @EJLS_DANCE

YOUTUBE: EMILY-JANE SHAW





YEAR 7 HEALTHY EATING AND BAKING



Delicious looking results from our Year 7 students, who were set a task to create a Deli Salad Jar using an ingredient from each section of the Eatwell Guide plate.



Luca Dance



James Wilkinson

Zac King went one step further making a video which he has shared with family in Sweden, Turkey and France. Here it is for you to enjoy.

VIDEO BY ZAC KING

Some lovely biscuits baked by Peter Nicholas, Year 7:



BIRTHDAY BAKING

We were delighted (and very impressed) to see the cake that Emma Astrup McGuinness (Year 7) made independently for her Year 8 brother Freddie's 13th birthday. Fantastic effort Emma and happy belated birthday Freddie!

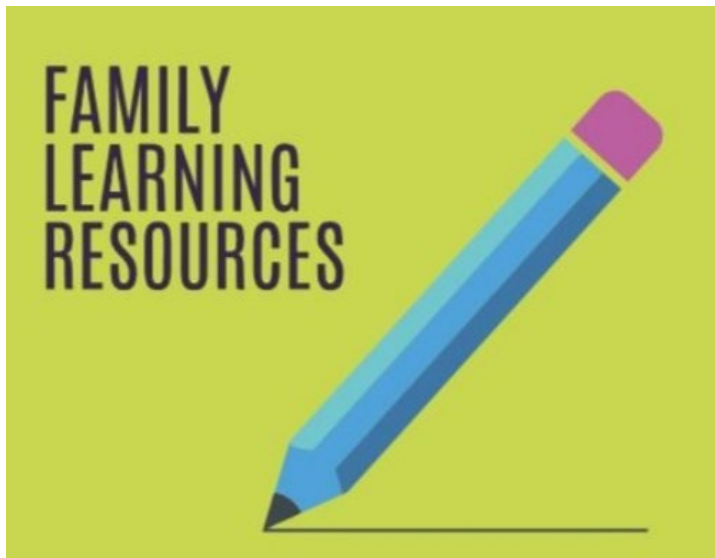


LEARNING AND FITNESS RESOURCES

Home learning can be found here:

FAMILY LEARNING RESOURCES

Including links to Mr Djaelani's Multiple Phase Workout Booklet for an all round fitness programme and a list of Counselling and Support Services Resources.



Please help me by making a donation to tearfund and together we can help support people who are facing this crisis around the world."

DONATE

A WHEELCHAIR MARATHON

Those of you who attended our Christmas Concert will recall Andrew Johnston, the father of Katie, our former music teacher who sadly died of cancer, talking about his fundraising efforts. Undeterred by lockdown and a 'Vulnerable Person' letter, Andrew is completing a marathon by wheeling up and down his house. In doing so he is raising funds for various charities:

NHS CHARITIES TOGETHER

COMBAT STRESS, THE VETERANS' MENTAL HEALTH CHARITY

WESSEX MS THERAPY CENTRE, WARMINSTER, WILTSHIRE

La Folia, a Salisbury-based music charity – Andrew and Catherine and the charity are collaborating with Furze Platt Senior School in Maidenhead on a long-term music project in memory of their late daughter Katie, who was an inspirational Head of Music until her death in May 2018.

LA FOLIA



CONNOR'S CLIMB 2020

BY CONNOR FITZGIBBON, YEAR 7

"I'm fundraising for Tearfund so that people living in poorer countries like South Africa will be better equipped to deal with the devastation of corona virus.

I will be climbing the height of Kilimanjaro by climbing the stairs in my house. I will need to go up and down 2128 times to reach the required height. I'm not setting myself a time limit.

STAFF COMPETITIONS AND CHALLENGES

As many staff are at home during the lockdown we are also taking the opportunity outside work to learn new skills, whether that be via online courses, staff quizzes, new cookery recipes or fitness challenges. For the quiz, some staff played individually and some as households and the winner of the first week was Mrs Moore's (Head of Operations and Business Development) household. In the staff cookery challenge, awards are given based on the school's ACHIEVE standards. Mrs Phillips, Headteacher's PA won the



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overall Excellence award for the Savoury Scone week, with her delicious looking Caramelised Onion, Bacon and Gruyere scones but there was strong competition from many staff, not least Mrs Hutchison (LSA) and family who submitted what can only be described as works of art for their entries!



In Choux week, despite a number of competitors having to make multiple attempts to get it right, there were some fantastic submissions. Miss Avellano, Assistant Headteacher, won the Excellence award for her Salted Caramel choux with Almond Praline.

Well done everyone.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

The most topical word of 2020 appears to be 'unprecedented', we are all learning that there still can be a first for anything. I can appreciate that right now we are all in uncharted territory and due to Covid-19 your status of employment may have unexpectedly changed. Whilst I appreciate this may be an incredibly difficult time for you all, I wanted you to know there is potential government funding to support your child. You can use the link below to check if you are eligible or please do email if you have any queries.

FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY CHECK

If you are eligible, you will receive £15 per week per child via the government's national voucher scheme. Please do however be aware that the response may not be immediate as the Borough are trying to cope with an increase of demands.

Take care and stay safe.

Miss E Satterthwaite, PP Champion

EMAIL: FSM@FURZEPLATT.NET



MAIDENHEAD FOOD SHARE

As members of our community will be aware, Maidenhead Food Share supports local families struggling with some of the basics. Indeed, each Tuesday during lockdown food parcels are being dropped at Furze Platt Senior School so

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that they can be collected by families close to the school. While we appreciate that many families are struggling, should you feel able to support the Food Bank your donations would be appreciated.

Thank you.

MAIDENHEAD FOOD SHARE WEBSITE

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD STUDY

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are inviting young people (aged 13-18 years old), and their parents/carers, to take part in an online study run by the University of Oxford. Your responses will help us understand how worry and resilience affect us during the challenges and uncertainties of COVID-19.

We will ask you to complete a survey each week for three months or until after social isolation measures are in place. The first one takes about 20 minutes and each follow up takes 10-15 minutes. We will then re-contact you monthly until 12 months from the start of the study for further 10-15 minute surveys.

Please follow this link for further information and feel free to contact us with any questions:

FURTHER INFORMATION

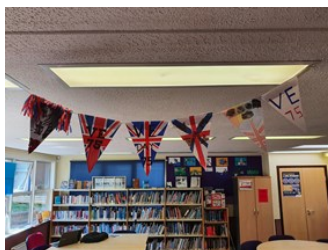
Every participant (adolescents and their parents/carers) completing the surveys will have a chance to win an Amazon voucher.

Thank you.

And finally...

Our students and staff had their own pre-VE day activity celebration in school today, with cakes being made and bunting strung up in the library.

Well done to all everyone who took part.



SUMMER INTERNSHIPS IN STEM-RELATED CAREERS

LIVE & ONLINE FOR AGES 15-18 - AUGUST 2020



Investment Banking. Medicine. Engineering.
Psychology. Computer Science. Architecture.
Entrepreneurship.

On these Internships, students can gain invaluable summer work experience from the comfort of their own homes; with successful Doctors, Engineers, Computer Scientists, Investment Bankers, Psychologists, Architects and Entrepreneurs.

All our 'Live & Online' Summer Internships last 4 days and take place in July and August.

The first 3 days are dedicated to immersive experiences of that career alongside top professionals and Q&A/virtual networking time with them.

Day 4 is dedicated to personalised career coaching - a sector recruitment expert will look at your credentials and create a bespoke development plan so you can maximise your chances of success.

You can choose to attend either all 4 days or just the first 3.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION



Interested in training to teach?

Teach Maidenhead are continuing our recruitment campaign for September 2020 in many subjects.

If you are passionate about working with young people and enriching their lives, then why not consider a career in teaching?

Imagine how you could develop their knowledge of the fascinating worlds of science, arts, technology, languages or humanities when you become an inspiring teacher.

Our introduction of remote interviewing allows us to provide a safe way to meet you and see your potential.

Information on the courses available can be found at:
www.teachmaidenhead.co.uk

[Find further advice for prospective applicants here on the Get into Teaching website.](#)

In partnership with the
Institute of Education



@TeachMaidenhead

FIND FURTHER ADVICE FOR PROSPECTIVE APPLICATIONS HERE ON THE 'GET INTO TEACHING' WEBSITE