

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening

Next Thursday is normally one of our big events of the year, Sixth Form Open Evening. With a rich curriculum on offer and large Sixth Form we would normally have several hundred parents, carers and students from FPSS and other schools learning about life in our Sixth Form and all the courses they can study. Sadly, we are not able to do this onsite next week but our staff have put together a huge range of information which will be available from 26th November using the link from our website front page:



SIXTH FORM VIRTUAL OPEN EVENING

Please do go and explore and see why FPSS is such an excellent and popular choice for Sixth Form students.

Year 11 PPEs

I would like to congratulate Year 11 on the excellent way they have conducted themselves in their PPEs this week. They have gone very smoothly with Year 11 having a very focused approach. I know lots of revision happened in preparation for the PPEs and I hope this is reflected in the results.

Individual Self-Isolating Students

One of the difficulties with Covid and home learning has been providing work for individual students who are self-isolating. You will appreciate that having whole bands or year groups working in school or online means we can ensure students maintain curriculum learning at a common pace. When individual students are at home it is very difficult for staff to manage setting work for many individuals, or for those individuals to keep pace with the work in class. To

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UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL EVENTS

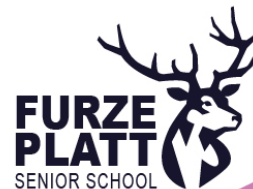
SPORTS CALENDAR

Some of our upcoming events may change due to the current situation (eg virtual or adjusted events). Full details will be sent out nearer the time of the specific event.

NEXT WEEK (WEEK 2)

TERM TWO

THURS 26 NOVEMBER	Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening Information will be uploaded to our website on Thursday 26th November	
MON 30 NOVEMBER	Year 10 Progress Reports Published	All Day
TUES 1 DECEMBER	Year 12 Progress Reports Published	All Day
	PTFA AGM (Zoom meeting)	8pm
MON 7 DECEMBER	INSET DAY	All Day
THURS 10 DECEMBER	Year 12 Parents' and Students' Consultation Information will be sent to parents/carers	
FRI 11 DECEMBER	Years 9 & 13 Progress Reports Published	All Day
WEDS 16 DECEMBER	Years 7, 8 & 11 Progress Reports Published	All Day
FRI 18 DECEMBER	End of term	



**VIRTUAL
SIXTH FORM
OPEN EVENING**

THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

support these students, we have therefore created a plan that Andrew Morbey, our Assistant Headteacher, will share with you. This has a different approach for KS3, KS4 and KS5 and includes resources to ensure students can get on independently at home. I hope that students, parents and carers find this useful.

Take care and keep safe.

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



INSET DAY

Monday 7th December

Please note there is an INSET Day on Monday 7th December for all year groups.

IMPORTANT NEWS



We are moving to ParentMail for online payments and communications!

From Tuesday 1st December we will be using +Pay on ParentMail, instead of WisePay, for online payments (including lunch money) and communications.

ParentMail is used by thousands of schools across the country, has great functionality and is simple to use.

You'll be able to login to ParentMail on your computer, tablet or smartphone. If you have an Android or Apple smartphone, you can download the free ParentMail App so that you can make easy, online payments on the go. More details to follow.

All remaining monies on your child's WisePay account will be transferred over to ParentMail on December 1st.

You should have received a message with a link to register with ParentMail. Registration is quick and simple and we'll need all parents to register by the end of November to ensure you can top up lunch money and make payments online by 1st December.

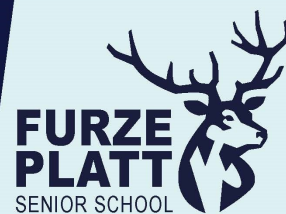
If you have any queries please see the link below:

[CLICK HERE FOR PARENTMAIL QUERIES](#)

FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

SIXTH FORM VIRTUAL OPEN EVENING

OPEN EVENING MATERIAL WILL
BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE
FROM THE MORNING OF
THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER



Come and visit us virtually to experience a welcome and address by Mr Ging, Head of Sixth Form; subject information videos from our Sixth Form teachers; and lots of student information from Sixth Formers themselves.

A Foundation for Excellence

- ▶ Exceptional range of A Level and Level 3 Applied Courses, taught in small classes by subject experts.
- ▶ Impressive results put many students' progress at Furze Platt Senior School in the top 20% nationally.

'The Sixth Form is a strength of the school' – Ofsted 2016

Furze Platt Senior School, Furze Platt Road, Maidenhead SL6 7NQ

Tel: 01628 625308 • www.furzeplatt.com

YEAR 13 CRIMINOLOGY

IMPRESSION TRACES

Year 13 Criminology are continuing with their fascinating forensic workshops. This week's focus was on impression traces.

Working in smaller groups, students have learnt how to prepare the shoeprint casts. The method takes around 30 minutes and the final effect reveals not only the overall size of the foot, but also microscopic detail, such as pressure put on a single toe and any damage to the shoe sole that would be unique to that shoe.

It was a fun and effective way of understanding Unit 3 that deals with crime scene investigation.

Miss R Paradowska

Head of Criminology and Psychology



Please can parents sign up for ParentMail if they have not already done so, as information will be sent regarding the application for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, as well as a link to pay the deposit.

The deposit covers the cost of the registration and admin fees. You will be contacted at a later date about the expedition fees.

Once we have received this, your child will receive their welcome pack and will be able to log their activities. For now, please encourage your child to start their physical, skills and volunteering activities asap, as they can be backdated. Suggested lists of activities are on our website, link below. You can also find details of virtual sessions offered by the DofE during November and December there.

I hope this helps, and I look forward to sending application packs this term.

Please feel free to contact us on dofe@furzeplatt.net if you have any questions.

Miss D Carty, DofE Manager

D OF E AWARD SCHEME AT FURZE PLATT

MANAGING COVID SAFELY – ENGLISH AND MEDIA



This week: SANITY IN SANITISER

Within these sessions our main aims were to inform and empower our students with the knowledge to understand the school measures for COVID 19 and to act safely in and outside of school, whilst also giving students a creative and reflective outlet during these challenging times – a safe space to discuss and think about how they are feeling.

We have a different focus each week and will include these in the upcoming newsletters.

This week students were asked to take part in a practical task shown below:

TASK

- Draw round your hand and decorate it with facts about using sanitizer and having good hygiene habits.
- In the middle, make a pledge to remind you who you are sanitizing for?



Careers interviews for Year 11:

One-to-one careers guidance interviews with Year 11 students are continuing. If any student would particularly like an interview, please email Mrs Bubb, at the email address shown below. After students have had a careers guidance interview, they receive (by email) a careers action plan which includes a summary of the points covered, links to websites, dates of open evenings if relevant and, most importantly, agreed action points. If your child has a careers interview, please encourage them to read the action plan and to follow the action points.

Careers programme on school website:

Our careers programme is published on the school website and has recently been updated. It contains information about the opportunities we provide for students to learn about careers and the world of work and to plan their next steps ready for when they leave FPSS. It also contains links to some useful websites about careers and higher education.

Parents are invited to view the programme, it can be found here <https://www.furzeplatt.com/page/?title=Careers+programme+information&pid=467> . If you have any comments or questions about the careers programme, please contact Mrs Bubb (see below); we welcome your feedback.

Apprenticeships with the Armed Forces:

On 25th November at 3.30pm, Amazing Apprenticeships will be hosting a webinar with the Armed Forces to explore the apprenticeship opportunities available within the British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. Students and parents/carers are invited to join the webinar, which will be of interest to any student considering joining the Armed Forces.

For further details and to book your free place, see <https://mailchi.mp/amazingapprenticeships/aaa-february-1644081?e=028a80a10b>

For more information of any of the above please contact Mrs Bubb, Careers Leader, on judith.bubb@furzeplatt.net





Sophia Louw, Year 7

Year 7 are considering 'what makes us human?' this term. Following a lesson where the class discussed human worth, Sophia created this beautiful painting, saying the individuals holding hands have both positive and negative characteristics, but that believes all humans have worth and are valuable.

Well done Sophia.

Charlie Myall, Year 11

Many congratulations to Charlie, who has been selected for the London Irish RFC U16s Academy. He was one of just 30 boys selected across various counties. This is a huge achievement and we wish him the very best of luck.



Sam Mansfield



On the other side of the world, alumni Sam (24) is a Tik Tok star! With over half a million followers, Sam's clips, called '15 Second English', showcase brief tips for those interested in learning English.

15
SECOND
ENGLISH

Sam studied Applied Business, - which gave him an insight into entrepreneurship - Economics and Geography A levels along with an EPQ (extended qualification).

He left Maidenhead in 2018 and is currently working in the mine sites of Western Australia. To our students he says, "I would...recommend travelling solo at some point after leaving school. It will push you out of your comfort zone and you will make friends from across the world. Try setting up a business with your passion. It has never been easier to start something." Keep in touch Sam!

MAIDENHEAD ADVERTISER ARTICLE FEATURING SAM





Our students have new seating areas in our Café...



...and our Main Hall...



and our Theatre is ready for lights, camera, action!





Parents, Teachers & Friends Association

Contact us

Email: ptfa@furzeplatt.net | Facebook: facebook.com/fpsptfa
Charity Number 287878



OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

WILL BE HELD ONLINE THIS YEAR

TUESDAY 1ST DECEMBER 8PM

(login details to follow so keep an eye out!)

200 CLUB DRAW TAKING PLACE ON THAT DAY ALSO...so if you haven't purchased your numbers yet, you only have just over a week!

As you are aware Charities are missing out on vital funds due to the current climate and our school is no different.

We all want our children to do well, so why not give them every chance?

Please allow us to earn donations online and fundraise with your fingertips, by choosing Furze Platt Senior School PTFA via:

200 CLUB: ANNUAL PAYMENT (£57 PER YEAR)

200 CLUB: MONTHLY PAYMENT (£5 PER MONTH)

SMILE.AMAZON.CO.UK

EASYFUNDRAISING.CO.UK

What's coming up?

A virtual online Family Quiz, a 200 Club Draw, Amazon Wishlists and PTFA meetings are in the pipeline before Christmas, although please get in touch with your ideas and

thoughts by email: ptfa@furzeplatt.net or message us through facebook.com/fpsptfa

Gotta be in it to win it! Draw being made soon so join



The 200 Club today

This Club is the easiest way to fundraise for the PTFA. The Club runs 4 draws per year and you could win £200 cash per number. Your winnings are made by bank transfer very soon after each draw so there's no hanging around. The PTFA and school could earn £6000+ per year if everyone joined paying £5 per month. You're in control of the payments by direct debit, there's no contract (like your energy or phone!) and there's no spam emails either (we haven't got time to send them!). So it's a Win Win situation and we sorely need to you click through here now to join:

200 CLUB: ANNUAL PAYMENT (£57 PER YEAR)

200 CLUB: MONTHLY PAYMENT (£5 PER MONTH)

Anyone shop online? Then you could Donate for FREE wherever you shop.....

Given there are hundreds of 'deal days', social distancing requirements and Christmas is fast approaching, please, please, please, register Furze Platt Senior School PTFA as your Charitable Organisation with Smile.Amazon.co.uk and Easyfundraising.org.uk



SMILE.AMAZON.CO.UK

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When first visiting smile.amazon.co.uk, please select our organisation, Furze Platt Senior School PTFA.

Amazon will give us 0.5% of your net purchase price (excluding VAT and other shipping fees) of eligible AmazonSmile purchases.



Plus when you shop on Amazon, eBay, Argos, M&S, John Lewis & Partners, Compare The Market and thousands of other retailers, the PTFA will earn a percentage of your shop. Register NOW with your email address, it'll take just 2 minutes and it's a winning situation for both of us...what's not to like?!

Secondhand Uniform for Sale – who needs spares or replacements?

We still have a healthy stock of very good condition uniform (daywear and PE) plus some footwear at very reasonable prices. Payment can be made by bank transfer or by cash. Please email or message us your sizes and we'll get your order bagged up, ready for collection:



email: ptfa@furzeplatt.net
or message through [facebook.com/fpssptfa](https://www.facebook.com/fpssptfa)

easy2name



We know there's a Lost Property Mountain building. During the difficult circumstances, the only clean, safe and secure way of retrieving your property is by naming EVERYTHING! Therefore, if you're buying labels (not just clothing ones) we would greatly appreciate your purchase from Easy2name because the PTFA will earn commission. Just choose 'Furze Platt Senior School PTFA SL6' at the checkout – there's no special code to remember either!

Can you help us access fundraising from
your employer with
MATCH FUNDING
schemes?



Do you recognise your employer? If so, please make enquiries regarding their charitable scheme. We were awarded £14,000 last year from various companies. Our registered charity, Furze Platt Senior School PTFA and number 287878 will be required, plus some other details so please contact us: ptfa@furzeplatt.net or message us through [facebook.com/fpssptfa](https://www.facebook.com/fpssptfa)

Should you or anyone you know wish to make a donation without joining our '200 Club' or purchasing lots of second hand uniform or labels, then we would be delighted and enormously grateful to receive your electronic payments.

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There is no contract or regular debit unless you specify otherwise. For our bank details please email us: ptfa@furzeplatt.net or message us through [facebook.com/fpsptfa](https://www.facebook.com/fpsptfa)

Gift Aid – as if by magic, every £1 becomes £1.25!



We are a Registered Charity, number 287878, and entitled to reclaim thousands of pounds from the HMRC, so please always tick 'Yes' when asked (if you meet the eligibility criteria).

CHRISTMAS IS COMING...

BERKSHIRE ESTD 1957 ENGLAND
COPAS
VERY VERY SPECIAL TURKEYS

*Up to £10 donated
to the PTA
for every turkey ordered*

Simply select our school
when you order!

BRITISH POULTRY AWARDS 2019 WINNER

SLOWLY GROWN | TRADITIONALLY PRODUCED | A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS

COPASTURKEYS.CO.UK

WWW.COPASTURKEYS.CO.UK

REMINDERS:

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

NAMING UNIFORM

Please can we ask you to ensure ALL items your child brings to school are named. If items are not named the chances of them being reunited with their owner are far less likely. If your child has lost any items, please ask them to visit Lost Property. Due to the current situation we have emailed parents and students as we have a wide range of lost property, much of it named. We also have a number of sports bags and hoodies with initials on that need to be collected.

Please can you remind your son/daughter to come and collect items as a matter of urgency if you have received an email with details of where to pick up from.



SKATE PARKS CLOSED

We have been asked to let parents and students know that during the current national lockdown all skate parks have been closed by RBWM council as per government guidelines.

AND FINALLY... WONDERFUL NEWS!

Many congratulations to Miss Pound, Technology teacher, who welcomed a healthy son, Arthur James Craven at 5:38 on 11th November.

Family are doing well and looking forward to spending lots of time together as a family of three!



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SIXTH FORM VIRTUAL OPEN EVENING

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BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE
FROM THE MORNING OF
THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

**FURZE
PLATT**
SENIOR SCHOOL



Come and visit us
virtually to experience a
welcome and address
by Mr Ging, Head of Sixth
Form; subject information
videos from our Sixth
Form teachers; and lots of
student information from
Sixth Formers themselves.

A Foundation for Excellence

- ▶ Exceptional range of A Level and Level 3 Applied Courses, taught in small classes by subject experts.
- ▶ Impressive results put many students' progress at Furze Platt Senior School in the top 20% nationally.

'The Sixth Form is a strength of the school' – Ofsted 2016

Furze Platt Senior School, Furze Platt Road, Maidenhead SL6 7NQ

Tel: 01628 625308 • www.furzeplatt.com

TEACH MAIDENHEAD



Interested in training to teach?

TEACH
MAIDENHEAD

are now recruiting for September 2021 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.

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

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

In partnership with the
Institute of Education



Follow us on Facebook



@TeachMaidenhead

Wondering what subject to apply for at university?

If you're in Year 11-12 / Grade 10-11 and starting to think about what you want to study when you leave school or college, this series of free Subject Discovery webinars is for you! Academics and university admissions staff from the most shortlisted subjects on Unifrog will explore what it's really like to study that subject at university level. They'll also discuss potential career pathways, and how to know whether a subject is a good fit for you.

Sign up now via the shiny new [Webinars tool](#) on your Unifrog homepage.

**Liberal Arts
& Sciences**

**Monday 23
November
4-5pm**

Law

**Tuesday 24
November
4-5pm**

**Business &
Management**

**Wednesday 25
November
4-5pm**

**Creative
Arts &
Design**

**Thursday 26
November
4-5pm**

Hospitality

**Friday 27
November
4-5pm**

**Computer
Science**

**Monday 30
November
4-5pm**

Engineering

**Tuesday 1
December
4-5pm**

Medicine

**Wednesday 2
December
4-5pm**

Psychology

**Thursday 3
December
4-5pm**

What is a webinar?

Unifrog webinars are free online presentations that take place on Zoom. When you join, your camera and microphone will be turned off.



PARENT NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020

Welcome to our parent newsletter. This issue, we are sharing details of a very exciting event that your school can get involved in, and information about what Berkshire Maestros offers in your school and for your children

INSTRUMENT LESSONS

Earlier this term, you may have received a flyer from us all about the musical instrument and singing lessons we currently offer in your school.

Thank you to everyone who has responded to this - we are delighted (and also a little overwhelmed!) that there are so many children keen to try a new instrument. If you haven't booked an instrument taster session, but would like to, please [click here](#).

We are busy organising tasters for everyone who has requested one - in the current circumstances this is taking a little longer for some instruments, but please bear with us and we will be in touch as soon as we have matched your child with their perfect teacher.

If you need to get in touch with us in the meantime, please email us and we will be happy to help.

If your child is interested in trying an instrument that isn't currently on offer at your school, we may be able to offer lessons at your local music centre instead. Our music centres also host all our ensembles, which are a great opportunity for group music making at all levels.

The email address for all enquiries is admin@berkshiremaestros.org.uk

PLAY YOUR HEART OUT - LIVE EVENT



On Friday 11 December, our *Play Your Heart Out* event will be live on YouTube, from 10am to 9pm (11 whole hours of music and entertainment, including some surprises!)

We are hoping to involve as many schools and pupils as possible, with a mix of live and pre-recorded songs, interviews and fun, to celebrate the amazing things your children have achieved in music despite the extra challenges of this year.

Play Your Heart Out will be accessible to everyone – so friends and relatives from all over the world will be able to watch, and you can watch your children perform at school from the comfort of your home.

We will be fundraising on the day, to bring live music into schools in Berkshire – we need funds to put together a live band that will tour schools and bring the magic of live music to thousands of children, some of whom may have never heard instruments played live.

We hope you will be inspired to support us – by watching, inviting friends and family, and pledging whatever you can afford (we appreciate finances may be tight this year, but every pound really does make a difference).

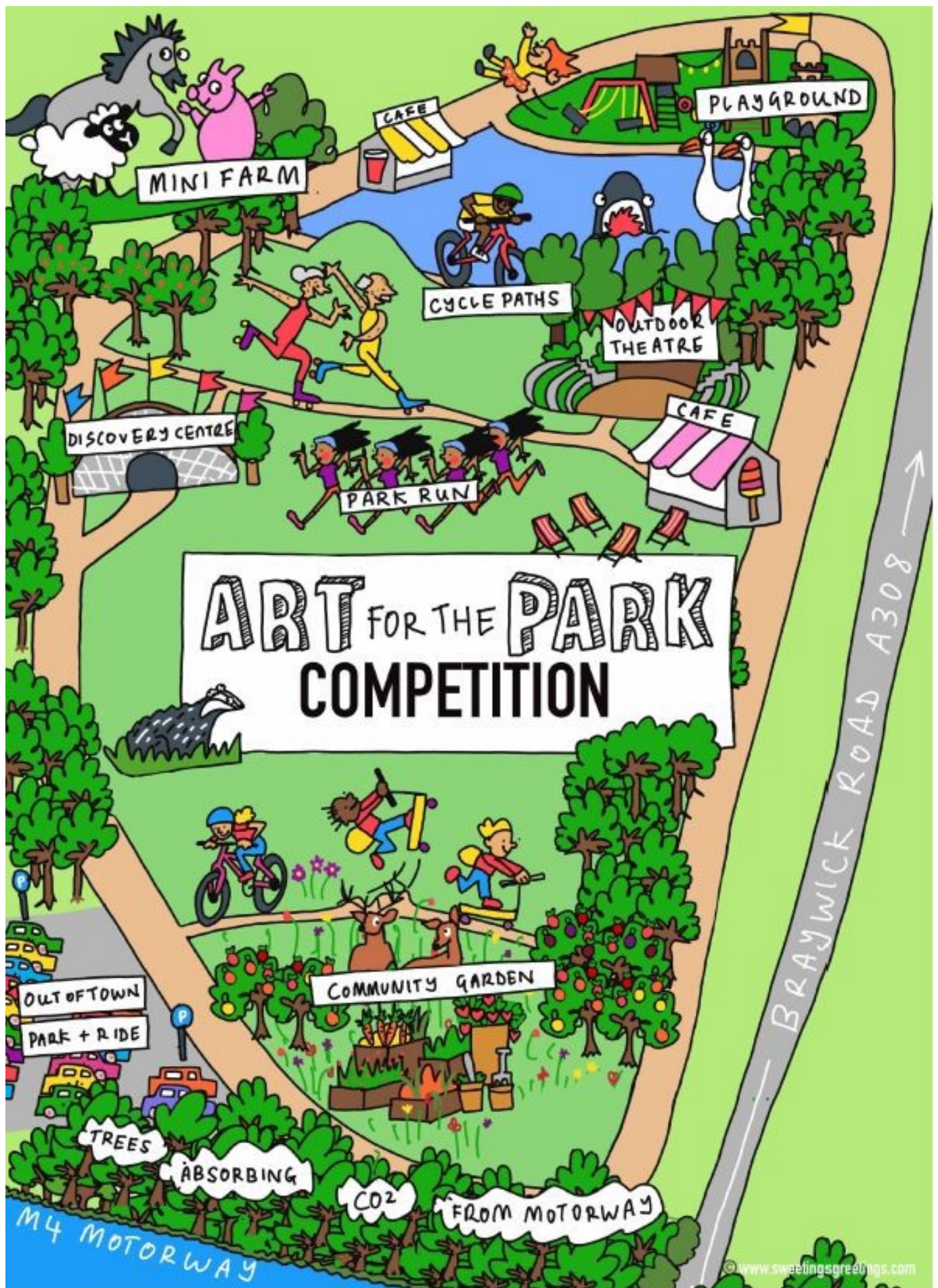
Follow us on social media #BerkshirePYHO for sneak peeks and more...

SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS

Do you have a Sixth Former applying to study music at university? We are offering a course of one-to-one zoom sessions which will include mock interviews alongside detailed feedback and interview coaching, at a cost of just £60.

The programme will be bespoke to the student's needs but will encompass harmonic analysis, discussion of musicology, aural tests, and questions on the candidate's personal statement. This mini course of two 1-hour sessions should give candidates the skills, knowledge, and experience to build confidence so that the interview itself is seen as a positive opportunity.

For more information, email JosephCowie@berkshiremaestros.org.uk



Visit www.sweetingsgreetings.com for competition details