

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

### A Fabulous Insight into FPSS

Our Virtual Open Evening is now on our website:

**VIRTUAL OPEN EVENING 2020**

While it was intended with prospective students, parents and carers in mind, what has been created is a lovely insight into FPSS.

This includes [accounts from our students](#), [introductions to each of our subjects](#) and also to other key areas of school like [Careers](#), [Raising Achievement](#) and our [House System](#). I hope that it offers existing parents and carers, as well as visitors to our website, a sense of what is offered at FPSS.

Take care and keep safe.

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



## MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



Since my last article in this newsletter so much has happened, but the most important is that the school has re-opened to welcome back existing students as well as new ones.

The School has done an amazing job of making this re-opening work effectively and had to adapt to a very new way of operating amidst challenging circumstances.



## UPCOMING EVENTS TERM 1

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.

	School Virtual Open Evening	Online now
THU 8 - FRI 9 OCTOBER	DofE Year 10 Closed Group Expedition - Hurley	All Day
FRI 9 OCTOBER	INSET Day	All Day
	Year 10 Progress Reports Published	All Day
TUE 13 OCTOBER	Year 7 Progress Reports (A2L only) Published	
	Preparing to Succeed in Year 9 Information will be uploaded to our website	
	Preparing to Succeed in Year 10 Information will be uploaded to our website	
THU 15 OCTOBER	Year 7 Head of House/Parents' Consultation	
	Information will be uploaded to our website	
FRI 16 OCTOBER	Years 8,9 & 11 Progress Reports Published	All Day
MON 19 OCTOBER	Year 13 Progress Reports Published	All Day
THU 22 OCTOBER	Year 11 Parents' and Students' Consultation	
	Information will be uploaded to our website	
FR 23 OCTOBER	Year 12 Progress Reports Published (A2L Only)	All Day
	End of Term 1	



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Full credit for this goes to Dr Morrison, the SLT and all the teaching, support staff and site personnel.

Our students have missed out on so much since lockdown earlier this year and it was so important for their mental and physical wellbeing to get them back to the school environment.

It is of course frustrating and disappointing for them that the school's great selection of extra-curricular clubs and activities remain curtailed for the moment but I know the school will start to re-open these as soon as it is safe and prudent to do so.

I usually have the opportunity to welcome new parents in person, particularly for Year 7, and always look forward to this event. Unfortunately, circumstances have conspired against being able to do this face to face so I am afraid for now I will have to stick to the medium of the written word.

Firstly, to all new FPSS parents - whichever year group - thank you for choosing Furze Platt and entrusting us with your son or daughter's education.

We never forget you have a choice or take it for granted, every student matters and by joining the school they and you have become part of a great community. A community which is committed to helping them learn; students develop, grow, try new things and leave the school well equipped to seize life's opportunities and make the most of their potential.

For Year 7 students and parents the change from a Junior/Primary school environment to a Senior school one is huge. Moving from a smaller school where you know everyone to a much larger campus and knowing probably only a handful of people from their previous school is daunting for the whole family.

Parents/carers in particular, please do take the opportunity to get involved when you can and covid rules allow. Our fantastic team of parent volunteers on the PTFA always need more help and support and do an excellent job of raising much needed funds and would love to hear from you.

If you are interested at any stage in becoming a governor do get in touch with me through the school and we can talk further about the role and what is involved.

## MEET THE GOVERNORS

### FPSS PTFA

I also usually have the opportunity to welcome new staff to the school, congratulate them on their excellent choice and wish them well with their careers here. So a warm welcome to you all from Governors, we hope you really enjoy your time here and make a real difference to our

students and your careers.

School Governance has of course continued throughout the lockdown and we have had to adapt to Zoom meetings instead of face to face ones. Our agendas have remained as full as ever and we have been kept in the loop on the day to day operational issues and the impact of covid on them. Following Hugh Boulter's recent departure from the governing body after many years of excellent service another Hugh, Hugh Steed (or Hugh 2 as we often refer to him!) has kindly stepped up to replace him as Vice Chair of the governing body. Hugh Steed certainly has a hard act to follow but I know he will do a great job and am looking forward to working with him in his new role.

Some time ago I started introducing a governor to you with each newsletter article as a way of you slowly getting to know the governing body. Today I thought it appropriate to continue this 'meet a governor theme' featuring Hugh Steed.

I recently sneaked a preview of the new Theatre and it is a fantastic space and facility which will make such a difference to the school community. I am very much looking forward to seeing it being used and us being able to get together again as a community.

In the meantime, I hope you and your families are managing and continue to stay safe and well.

Gavin Tisshaw, Chair of Governors



## MEET THE GOVERNORS

### HUGH STEED - VICE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

I have two children at FPSS, now in Years 11 and 9, and live close by so have a strong parental and community interest in the school. I joined as a governor in September 2018 and as well as being Vice Chair, also chair the Resources and Governance committees.

I work in technology so wanted to bring that business expertise to the governing board and help grow the



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school's already strong focus on STEM.

I'm an enthusiastic quizzier and help run the twice yearly PTFA quiz nights (in non-covid times!) to raise much needed funds.

## MUFTI DAY

### FRIDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October we will be doing our bit for David Attenborough and the world by hosting a Mufti Day for 'Just One Tree'.

For each £1 students donate the organisation will be able to plant one tree.

Students will need to give their £1 to their first lesson teacher on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October please. This should preferably already be placed into an envelope or similar so staff and other students do not have to touch the money.

Thank you.

## JUST ONE TREE

"I am new to this school and I have settled in amazingly. Everyone has been so kind and I really feel at home."

*Student Survey 2019*

## UNIFORM AND PE KIT CHANGES FROM MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

**Please read our letter on page 7 of this newsletter**

## TUTORIAL TIMES (ALL YEAR GROUPS)

These are for all year groups unless indicated.

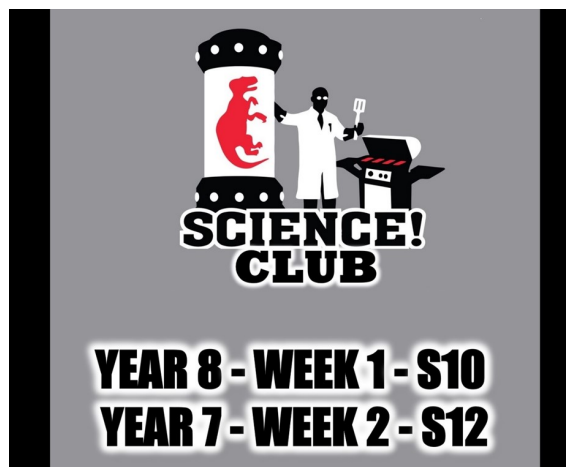
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October (Week 2) P5
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November (Week 1) P5 except Year 11
- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December (Week 1) P4



## SCIENCE CLUB - STARTS NOVEMBER 2020

Science club is starting back up after October half term for our Year 7 and 8 students. We will be alternating the year groups each week.

Starting on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, Week 1 will be Year 8 students at 3.15pm in S10 and then Week 2 on a Monday, our Year 7 students at 2.45pm in S12.



## WISEPAY UPDATE

Parents and carers should have received a message from us this week about the issues with WisePay.



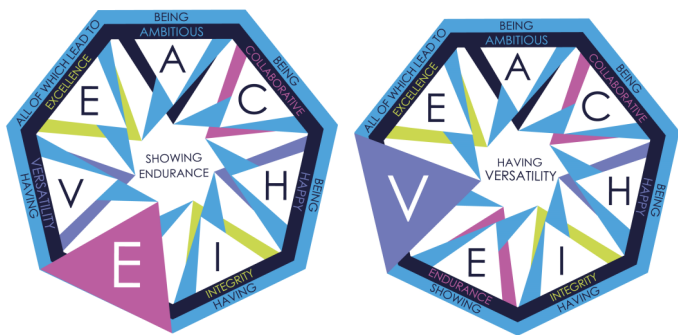
On Monday, the whole WisePay platform was taken down affecting hundreds of schools across the country.

All parents and carers have been informed of what steps to take to protect their payment card details. WisePay have now implemented additional security measures designed to prevent a recurrence of such an event and are working with the ICO, Action Fraud and the National Cyber Security Agency.

You can read more on the links below from WisePay and the additional article which appears on the BBC.

**LETTER FROM WISEPAY**

**LINK TO BBC ARTICLE**



“We are delighted with Furze Platt and would happily recommend it to all.”

Parent Survey 2019

## A REMINDER OF SCHOOL WEAR EXPECTATIONS



Compulsory	
White Shirt	May be purchased anywhere, but must have top button that can be done up. Must be worn tucked in to skirt or trousers.
School Tie	House colours, Lower School (Years 7-£5, Upper School (Years 10-11) £8. Available from School Reception only.
School Blazer*	Blue with school crest.
School Skirt*	Must be purchased from Hawkinsport; our official school skirt is the only style that is permitted. Must reach to just above the knee.
Trousers	They should be plain black, straight leg and smartly tailored. Denim, cotton jean style, skinny leg or flared trousers are not permitted.
Shorts	These should be plain, black, straight leg and smartly tailored. They should be knee length.
Socks	Dark only.
Tights	Black or natural only.
Shoes	Black only: smart style shoes. No logos, no trainers, trainer styles, no canvas, no heels, no boots, no backless shoes.

Optional	
V-neck sweatshirt*	Optional, but the only sweat-shirt permitted and must be worn under the school blazer. Tie must be visible beneath the collar.
Coat	Coats can be of any colour. However, they should not be denim or leather. Hoodies of any sort (except the official school hoodie, which is only for use in PE lessons) are not permitted.
Scarf	Scarfs can be of any colour and should be taken off when indoors. Students who wish to wear a headscarf as part of religious dress should wear black or navy.
Hat/Cap	Hats should not be worn inside the school buildings at any times. Caps and hats should not have offensive logos.

### Further requirements

Jewellery	Jewellery is inappropriate for school. A wristwatch and single stud in each earlobe is the only jewellery permitted. Any other kind of jewellery will be confiscated. Any other piercings are not permitted and must be removed for school
Hair and make-up	Make-up should be discrete. Nail varnish should be clear. Nail extensions/false nails or false eyelashes are not appropriate for the school environment and indeed are dangerous in certain situations e.g. PE lessons. Hairstyles should be sensible and appropriate to the working environment. No extreme styles are permitted including shaven head, shaven patterns and unnatural hair colours.

\*Stocked by Hawkinsports





## FURZE PLATT TEACHER IS TV 'QUIZZER'

**My experience on 'Only Connect' by  
Patrick Winterbottom, FPSS Maths Teacher**



"On Mondays at 8pm, on BBC2, is Only Connect. Hosted by Victoria Coren-Mitchell (also pictured), the show describes itself as a "quiz show in which connections must be made between apparently unconnected things". This week's episode featured me and two friends, brought together back in 2011/12 when searching for London Olympic tickets, hence our team name, the Ticket Collectors.

This is the fifth time I have been on a TV quiz show, after appearances on Trivial Pursuit, Win Lose or Draw, The Common Denominator, and Eggheads, but Only Connect is without doubt my favourite quiz on TV.

If you haven't seen it before, the show features four rounds. In Round 1, teams are given up to four clues and must try to figure out the connection between them. In Round 2 each set of clues is now a sequence, and teams must try to figure out the fourth item in the sequence. Round 3 is the Connecting Wall, where each team receives a wall of 16 clues and must figure out a perfect solution, consisting of four groups of four connected items. The final round is called Missing Vowels, where teams must spot words or phrases with the vowels removed and the spaces shifted to disguise the original words. Here is an example

**FR ZPLT TSN RSCHL**

Did you get it?

If I am honest, we have auditioned for the show a few times in the past, and never been successful, and this year was no exception. We thought the audition went quite well, but later heard that we hadn't quite made the cut. Then out of the blue, the producers got in touch to say a couple of teams couldn't take part as team members were shielding, and we were in.

So, one day in August, I headed to Cardiff to meet up with my teammates. Everything was very carefully done because of Covid, with temperatures taken on arrival, face masks when not on set, social distancing, and a skeleton crew. On the set, Perspex screens had been installed between each player, and we were each given a microphone and an earpiece, so we could discuss things with our teammates despite the barrier between us. After a few practice rounds, we filmed our first-round match, and later that day, a second-round match too. (Every team gets a second chance on Only Connect, even first round losers.)

I won't spoil the result in case you still want to watch the show, and our first-round match can be seen on iPlayer for about another four weeks...



All I ask is that you don't give me too much of a hard time if I happen to get a maths question slightly wrong. Our next match is due to be screened on Monday November 23<sup>rd</sup>, and I definitely get a maths question right in that one!"

**WATCH THE EPISODE**

Pictured, Patrick with his team. Photos courtesy of the Radio Times and the BBC.

## REMINDERS

### STUDENTS WITH APPOINTMENTS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

We recognise that occasionally students may need to leave site during the school day to attend appointments. Ideally appointments would be at the start or end of the school day to minimise learning missed. Where possible make any appointments after 1.45pm. When a student in Years 7-11

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has an appointment we request that parents please email [Attendanceofficers@furzeplatt.net](mailto:Attendanceofficers@furzeplatt.net) to notify our attendance team. Students in those years must sign in and out at Main Reception when leaving for/returning from appointments; Sixth Formers must do the same at Sixth Form Reception and emails should go to our Sixth Form Manager, Mrs Pasa at [mary.pasa@furzeplatt.net](mailto:mary.pasa@furzeplatt.net).

## DO YOU QUALIFY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS?



At Furze Platt Senior School, we know and appreciate that our growing teenagers need to fuel their body and mind to get through the school day, especially whilst we adjust to being back to school. We are also aware of the cost this will have on parents. If this is a struggle for you, it may be worth seeing if you are eligible for free school meals. For more details please visit:

### HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Any queries can be directed to our [fsm@furzeplatt.net](mailto:fsm@furzeplatt.net) email address.

## FURZE PLATT STUDENT RECEIVES LETTER FROM LIVERPOOL FC



One of our students, Lewis Balfe (Year 7), received a reply to a letter he wrote to Liverpool FC Manager Jürgen Klopp, Liverpool FC Manager.

The Maidenhead Advertiser has featured the article, here it is:

*"One of the biggest stars in the football world has written a letter to a Maidenhead schoolboy to help him with his anxiety."*

*Liverpool Football Club's manager Jurgen Klopp wrote a letter of encouragement to Furze Platt Senior School pupil Lewis Balfe when he found out he was nervous about starting at a new school.*

*Over the summer Reds fan Lewis, who sometimes struggles with nerves and anxiety, was worried about starting at secondary school, so the 11-year-old decided to write to his idol to ask if he gets nervous before matches, and what he does to deal with it.*

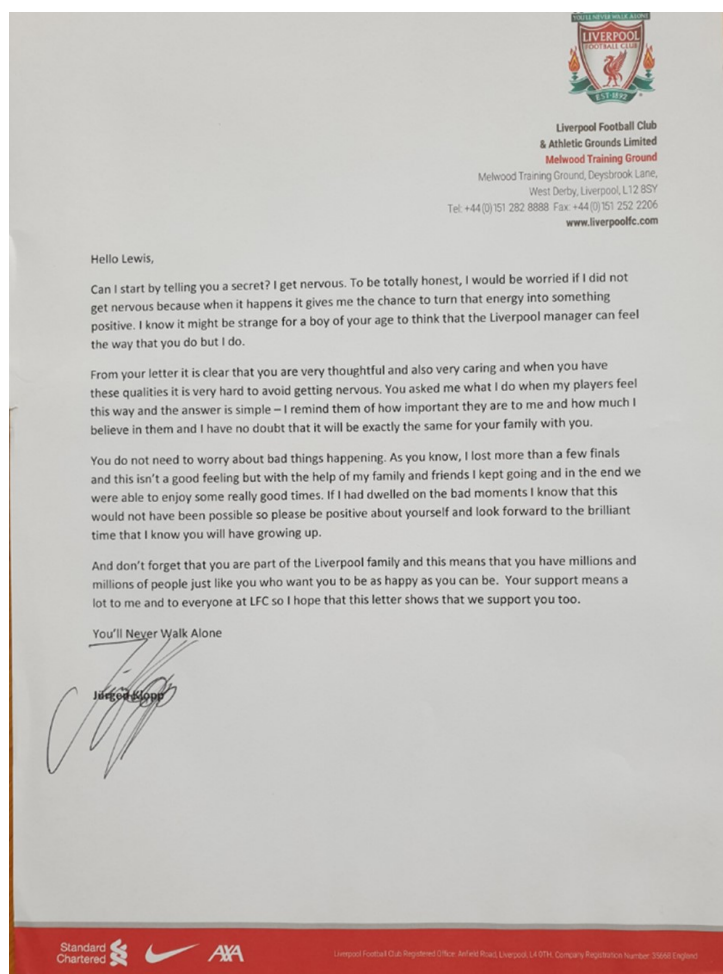
*At the weekend, Lewis received a touching letter from the Liverpool boss explaining how he handles the nerves he feels before a football match.*

*The letter said: "Hello Lewis, can I start by telling you a secret? I get nervous."*

*"To be totally honest, I would be worried if I did not get nervous because when it happens it gives me the chance to turn that energy into something positive."*

*"You asked me what I do when my players feel this way*

*and the answer is simple – I remind them of how important they are to me and how much I believe in them and I have no doubt that it will be exactly the same for your family with you."*



### LINK TO FULL MAIDENHEAD ADVERTISER ARTICLE

*"The prizes that school gives for merits of work are very effective. It encourages students to continue striving."*

Parent Survey 2019

## IMPORTANT UPDATE:

### UNIFORM AND PE KIT CHANGES FROM MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

When students returned to school in September it was decided that students would wear their PE kit on days that they have PE lessons to minimise the requirements for students to change and begin lessons more quickly. This was in keeping with our plans to return to school as safely as possible.

Recently, we have revisited our Risk Assessment and are now able to put in place new measures that enable students to change safely for their PE lessons.

These include:

- Being able to use more changing rooms. Prior to lockdown students were using two changing rooms each lesson. The PE department will now be splitting classes between four changing rooms every lesson and will be operating zones to ensure that students can change safely.
- Students will only be changing within their 'bubbles' and mixing with students they would otherwise be sitting next to in classrooms.
- We will be sanitising the changing rooms between each 'bubble' to ensure they are safe and hygienic.
- We have employed additional cleaning staff since September who will be cleaning the changing rooms during the school day.

This change will be put in place from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October. From then students should be in their normal school uniform every day. When they have PE lessons they need to bring their correct PE kit.

Thank you for your support with this. These new measures will enable our students to keep safe while enabling them to benefit from a more extensive range of sports and activities in PE lessons.

Andrew Morbey

Assistant Headteacher

Katie Tomlin

Head of PE



Our school will be taking  
part in the  
**JUST ONE Tree**  
non-uniform day

**OCTOBER 16TH**

Each child will be  
encouraged to bring in  
£1 to plant a tree -  
uniting children, parents  
and schools across the  
world in taking positive  
action for our climate.

**JUST ONE Tree** is a non-profit  
Community Interest Company  
removing CO2 from the  
atmosphere through global  
reforestation.

### **JUST £1 plants 1 Tree**

On average a tree absorbs  
48lbs of carbon dioxide from  
the atmosphere every year.



**JUST ONE Tree** supports  
reforestation projects in  
Madagascar, Haiti, Indonesia,  
Mozambique, Nepal, Kenya and  
Zambia where the deforestation  
has been devastating.

And in the process helps to  
provide training, agricultural  
education and sustainable  
incomes....



...alleviating extreme poverty  
within local communities.

*Together let's plant a  
future for our children.*

[www.justonetree.life](http://www.justonetree.life)