

# FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #63.3



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

### PTFA Events

Thank you to our PTFA who are continually supporting initiatives around FPSS through their fundraising. The next two weeks sees further chances for you to support FPSS and have some fun. If you can, please do support the following:



**TUESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY – ZOOM PTFA MEETING 8 -9PM**

**FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY – ZOOM QUIZ NIGHT 8 -9PM**

### Remote Learning

Thank you for all your continued support for our remote learning. We continue to have lots of positive comments and these are appreciated. I also understand from feedback that students and staff are benefitting from the mini-screen and toilet breaks introduced this week. I appreciate that parents and carers are doing a lot at home to help students with their learning and thank you for all your efforts.

### Exam Consultation

Last Friday saw the release of the consultation documents detailing proposals as to how examination grades will be awarded this summer. It is evident from the OFQUAL and government documents that the direction of travel is to replace exams with additional evidence students will have the chance to submit between now and the summer. The consultation suggests this evidence could take the form of coursework, in class assessments or smaller 'mini-tests' created by exam boards that are focused on parts of the course that students have studied (rather than those they may have missed through coronavirus disruption). This work would be completed in May and early June.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

[ALL EVENTS](#)  
[SPORTS CALENDAR](#)

**Some dates for our upcoming events may change due to the current situation. Full details will be sent out nearer the time of the specific event.**

### TERM 3 EVENTS

THU 4 FEBRUARY	Year 9F Parents' and Students' Virtual Consultation Evening	4.15pm - 7.15pm
THU 11 FEBRUARY	Year 9P Parents' and Students' Virtual Consultation Evening	4.15pm - 7.15pm
FRI 12 FEBRUARY	Year 9 Virtual GCSE Options	
END OF TERM (TERM 3)		
MON 15 - FRI 19 FEBRUARY	FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS	
MON 22 FEBRUARY	START OF TERM 4 (Week 2)	

Again, these proposals change the goalposts for our young people. Following announcements about later examinations then no examinations, they now need to readjust and re-motivate themselves for a new goal in May. This is the subject of this week's Newsletter Video.

## HEADTEACHER'S VIDEO MESSAGE

I know that for many this continuous change and uncertainty is unsettling. I therefore appreciate the efforts of staff, parents, carers and our community in helping students refocus on the months to come.

Mr Sheppard shared the detail and consultation documents with Year 11 and 13 students, parents and carers early in the week. Should any other parent or carer wish to view the proposals and comment, full information can be found here:

## ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

## CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Take care and keep safe.

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



is worth engaging with and will provide students with insights into work in various fields as well as being of general interest. Your son/daughter has a 'Rec' session every Wednesday where they have no timetabled lesson – this could prove to be a useful time to engage with this resource.

Please encourage them to make use of it and record their experience on Unifrog.

Mr A Colmer, Assistant Head of Sixth Form

## YEAR 9 GCSE OPTIONS

YEAR  
9

As you may be aware, this term Year 9 students will be choosing the subjects they wish to study for their GCSEs in Years 10 and 11. Due to the current situation, the process this year will be quite different to previous years.

Over the next four weeks, teachers will be delivering a taster lesson in their subjects remotely. This will give students a good idea what that subject is like when taken as a GCSE.

The parents' evenings on Thursday 4th and Thursday 11th February are fantastic opportunities to discuss GCSE courses your child may be considering with their teachers following the taster lessons as well as their progress in those subjects.

In a normal year there would be a subject information evening with a presentation to parents and students explaining the options process and each subject running information stands.

Instead this year, after the parents' evenings, the GCSE subject information guide will be released on the school website along with video presentations for each options subject and a video introduction to the options process. This will explain how the options process works in detail and I would appreciate you taking the time to watch the information and subject videos with your child.

If you do have specific questions on either the process or about specific subjects please email your child's Head of House. (Please note, if your child is in Eton House Miss Towell is the maternity cover contact in Mrs Sharp's absence.) You can find all the contact details here:

[CONTACT LIST](#)

## YEARS 12 AND 13 – SEMINAR SPEAKERS

YEAR  
12  
YEAR  
13

[SPEAKERS FOR SCHOOLS](#)

The link above has been shared with your son/daughter and provides recordings of some fantastic seminars and Q&A sessions with leading individuals in various fields. It

## YEARS 11, 12 AND 13 - MEET THE RUSSELL GROUP

YEAR  
11  
YEAR  
12  
YEAR  
13

**WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 12.00-19.00**

This free virtual event, in association with UK University Search, offers students and parents an opportunity to explore all 24 Russell Group universities and chat directly to their representatives and ambassadors. You will be able to view information and videos about each university, link directly to Virtual Campus Tours to explore university facilities and accommodation, download prospectuses and take part in 13 live webinars in the virtual auditorium.

The event will allow Year 13 students to explore and compare universities they may have received offers from in order to decide upon their Firm and Insurance choices. Meet the Russell Group will also support Year 12s as they start to make initial decisions about where they would like to study in 2022, and the courses they may be interested in. Year 11 students are welcome to join if they are interested in exploring their future options too. For the first time, they will be offering a live Parent Support webinar from 18:05 – 18:30 in the evening, with a chance to ask any further questions until 19:00.

To book a place, or for more information about the Russell Group universities, UK University Search and the 13 live webinars taking place throughout the event, go to:

[HTTPS://RUSSELLGROUP.VFAIRS.COM/](https://russellgroup.vfairs.com/)

## SIXTH FORM INTERVIEWS

YEAR  
11

Year 11 students who have applied to our Sixth Form will shortly be receiving details of their interview timings.

Interviews will be held virtually and all information needed to access interviews will be included.

We wish all students the best of luck.



## ENGLISH – THE JOY OF READING

The English department is excited to launch two initiatives guaranteed to engage and set free students' creativity.

### The Joy of Reading

Audible are offering a huge selection of audio books that you or your child can read when you are feeling bored. Listen to a story while walking your dog, taking that well-earned rest after a hard day of study or while drifting to sleep. There is something for everyone. Why not give it a try! It's free!

### Book Reviews

The hugely successful book review slot is back. Last year we received so many book reviews from students and staff, we were spoilt for choice. So pick up a book, read and let us know whether you recommend your latest read and why. The most interesting reviews will be published in the newsletter. Get reading!

Look out for emails explaining both initiatives from Mrs Byrne soon.

## AUDIBLE STORIES



### Stories help.

They entertain. They teach. They keep young minds active, alert and engaged.

### Free Virtual Library

In addition, please see the link below for free access to books for children:

## FREE VIRTUAL LIBRARY



## INTRODUCING OUR NEW PARENT SUPPORT WORKER

Furze Platt has been joined this term by our new Parent Support Worker Benvenuta Di Bartolomeo. We recognise that lockdown is not only a challenging time for young people but also for parents too and Ms Bartolomeo will be running a workshop on 'Parental Self-care' on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 4pm via Microsoft Teams. This is slightly later than originally advertised.

This workshop will include information, guidance and practical advice on:

- The importance of self-care
- How parental self-care can positively impact on young people
- How to seek support if feeling negative patterns of thoughts during lockdown
- Practical tips for maintaining self-care
- Any opportunity to virtually meet ask any questions of our Parental Support Worker

If you would like to book to attend this workshop or to find out more please email [Benvenuta.DiBartolomeo@furzeplatt.net](mailto:Benvenuta.DiBartolomeo@furzeplatt.net)



## PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

Year 7 have been learning about the life of Jesus in PR this term. Following a lesson about Jesus' miracles, Sophia Louw created a clay model of Jesus. Sophia says, "This model represents Jesus, as himself, and the wine glass represents the water turned into wine."

Well done Sophia!





Ellie MacNamara

## FOOD AND NUTRITION



### Year 7 – Pizza Toast

In Food and Nutrition, Mrs Crisford has been doing live lessons with some of her classes with students cooking at home.

This week 7P1 Te3 were making Pizza Toast, Mrs Crisford demonstrated how to make it, students at home cooked and our keyworker students joined in at school also.

Here are some of the delicious outcomes.



Mason Ward



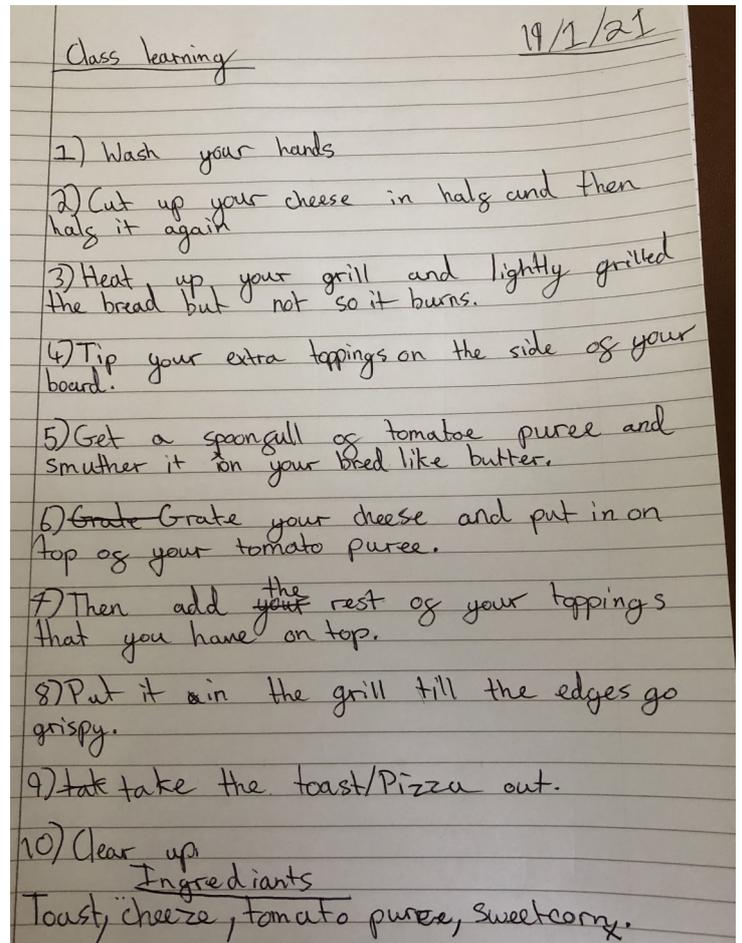
Chloe Willison



Savannah Lu



Ned Ogden



Cont. on page 5

## Year 8 – Chatterboxes and Savoury Rice

Year 8 Food and Nutrition created Nutritional Chatterboxes this week. They started with making the origami chatterbox, and then added the information about nutrients and their function in the body. They were also asked to make Savoury Rice:

### Savoury Rice Recipe

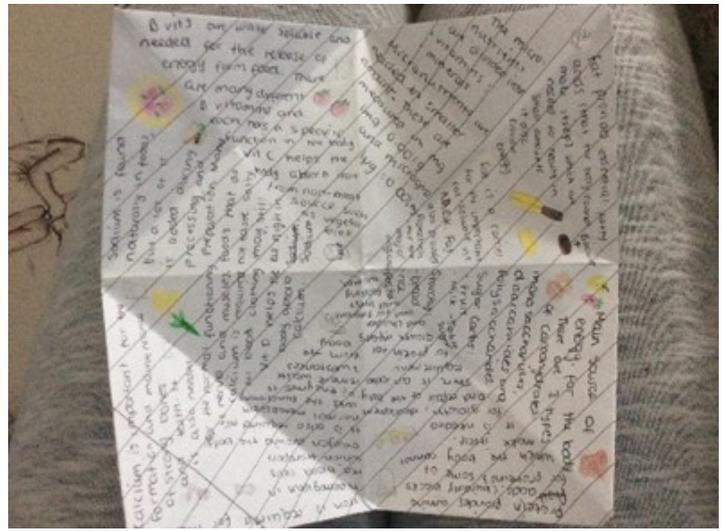
#### Ingredients

Half Onion  
 1 tbsp Oil  
 100g Basmati Rice  
 400 ml Vegetable Stock  
 25g Peas  
 25g Sweetcorn  
 1 Rasher Bacon  
 Pinch Curry Powder

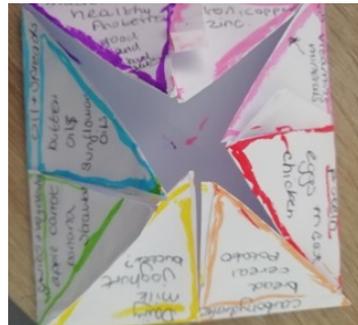


#### Method

1. Prepare all ingredients. Finely chop the onion. Chop the bacon. Make your vegetable stock in a plastic jug.
2. Add 1tbsp oil to a medium saucepan. Heat the oil, add the onion and bacon fry until lightly browned.
3. Add the rice and curry powder. Stir for 1 minute to coat in oil.
4. Add the stock and stir. Bring to the boil.
4. Reduce the heat to low. Simmer for about 10 minutes until the rice is almost tender, stirring occasionally.
5. Stir the peas and sweetcorn into the cooked rice. Cook for a further few minutes until the vegetables are cooked.
7. Pour your Risotto into a foil container.



Summer Rawbone



Gabriela Kedziora



Emmy Ionescu



Peter Nicholas



Elena Reina



Manuel Mizik



Edward Foxton

Thank you to everyone who sent in pictures and well done to Years 7 and 8 who worked hard on these tasks.



## PE – FITNESS CHALLENGES

### Recreating Famous Sporting Challenges

This lockdown, our Year 9 students have been completing a range of ACHIEVE challenges in their Games lessons. Lesson 1 saw students collaborate to run, cycle, row - and we even had someone skateboard - to complete some significant UK distances. Together, our students completed 458km which means they have crossed the British Channel (34km), covered the length of The River Thames (346km) and completed the length of the M25 (370km). Great work!

Lesson 3 saw students put their versatility to the test and recreate a famous sporting moment. We had some fantastic drawings, Lego sculptures and even some pets winning gymnastics competitions. Below are some of our favourites. Well done to everyone for their fantastic efforts!

**Florence Leo – Marlow – Mo Farah winning his 5,000m race at the London 2012 Olympics!**

[CLICK TO WATCH](#)

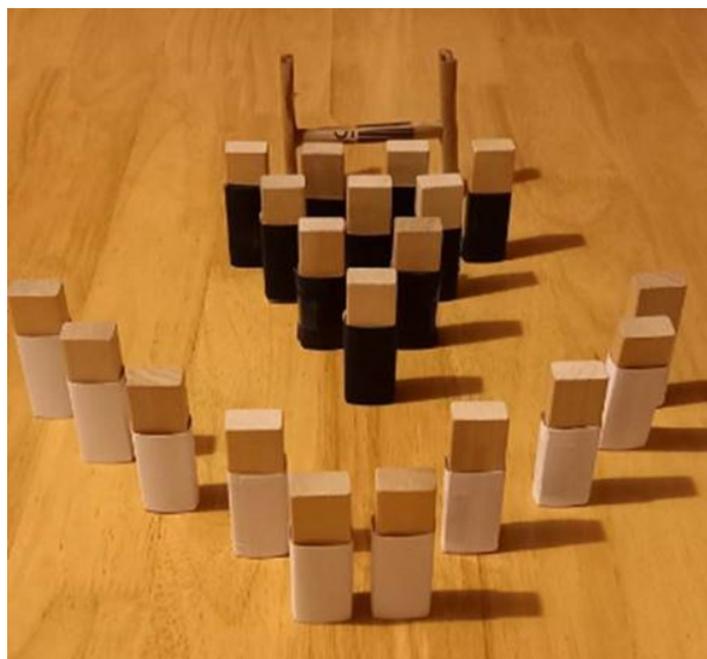
**Fatima Habbouli – Cookham – The first perfect score in Gymnastics:**



**Ben Harsey – Bray – Troy Deeney scoring in Watford vs Leicester play-off Finals:**



**Rhys Vann – Henley – England faces the New Zealand Hakka in rugby:**



## RANGE MUG SHOT CHALLENGE



The PE staff team were challenged this week to throw a teabag into a mug from a 3 metre distance... You can see their efforts here along with their attempts at recreating famous sporting moments:

## FITNESS RESOURCES AND CHALLENGES



## MARKS AND SPENCER

### £20 FOR BREAKFASTS AND LUNCHES

Marks and Spencer have devised this guide to feed two children for breakfasts and lunches for £20.

If you are eligible for free school meals your vouchers will be topped up by M&S to be worth £20 instead of £15.

Details of top-up voucher scheme:

#### TOP-UP VOUCHER SCHEME DETAILS

## Kids' breakfast & lunch planner

Plan five days of tasty, balanced breakfasts and lunches for two children for less than £20 – with leftovers – all developed by M&S Food senior nutritionist Laura Street.

MONDAY	SHOPPING LIST
<b>BREAKFAST: DIPPY EGG AND SOLDIERS</b> Boil 2 eggs to your liking and serve with toasted Best of Both bread, topped with your kids' favourite spread and cut into soldiers. <b>LUNCH: EASY, CHEESY PASTA</b> Cook a couple of large handfuls of pasta and stir in half a jar of tomato and basil sauce. Serve with Cheddar cheese grated on top. <b>SNACK: BANANA 'ICE CREAM'</b> Freeze two bananas, then blitz until creamy for a healthy banana 'ice cream'.	<input type="checkbox"/> 500g penne pasta <input type="checkbox"/> 1 jar tomato & basil pasta sauce <input type="checkbox"/> 8 white tortilla wraps <input type="checkbox"/> 1 loaf (750g) Best of Both medium sliced bread <input type="checkbox"/> 1 tin tuna <input type="checkbox"/> 2 peppers <input type="checkbox"/> 250g mature Cheddar slices <input type="checkbox"/> 4 bananas <input type="checkbox"/> 6 pack fromage frais <input type="checkbox"/> 9 chunky breaded cod fish fingers <input type="checkbox"/> 500g carrots <input type="checkbox"/> 6 round tomatoes <input type="checkbox"/> 6 free-range mixed size eggs <input type="checkbox"/> 500g traditional porridge oats <input type="checkbox"/> 6 ripen at home conference pears <input type="checkbox"/> 1 pint M&S Select Farms milk <input type="checkbox"/> 500g raisins <input type="checkbox"/> 300g white mushrooms
<b>BREAKFAST: BANANA TOAST</b> Toast two slices of bread and top each with one sliced banana and your little ones' favourite spread from the fridge. <b>LUNCH: TORTILLA PIZZAS AND SALAD</b> Spread the remaining pasta sauce over two wraps, top with a sliced pepper and cheese slices. Grill until melted. Serve with a salad of three grated carrots and two sliced tomatoes.	
<b>BREAKFAST: THREE BEARS PEAR PORRIDGE</b> Cover 250g porridge oats with milk and a splash of water, then simmer until creamy. Top with two chopped pears. Mix any leftover porridge with 50g raisins and spoon into cupcake cases, then bake at 190°C fan for 30-40 mins. Save for tomorrow's breakfast. <b>LUNCH: INDOOR PICNIC</b> Cook two handfuls of pasta and toss with a tin of tuna and two quartered tomatoes. Serve with crunchy chopped carrots and peppers, and a pot of fromage frais and a pear each. Don't forget to invite the teddy bears!	
<b>BREAKFAST: PORRIDGE MUFFINS</b> Enjoy the porridge muffins you made yesterday with some sliced pear. <b>LUNCH: SPEEDY CHEESE AND TOMATO TOASTS</b> Arrange sliced Cheddar and tomatoes on top of two slices of bread (like all M&S bread, it contains vitamin D). Grill until bubbling and enjoy with a pot of fromage frais each.	
<b>BREAKFAST: SUPERHERO OMELETTES</b> Slice 250g mushrooms and fry in 1tsp oil and 1tsp butter until golden. Add 4 beaten eggs and cook to your liking. <b>LUNCH: FISH FINGER SANDWICHES</b> Cook the fish fingers according to the pack instructions and serve in four slices of bread. Serve with your kids' favourite condiments from the fridge, if you like. Enjoy with a pot of fromage frais and a sliced pear each.	

5 lunches + 5 breakfasts for 2 for £20



Get your H<sub>2</sub>O!  
 Staying hydrated is super important, so don't forget to serve a glass of water with each meal.

Please note – if you're feeding smaller children, reduce the portion sizes.

## REMINDERS

### EQUIPPED FOR LEARNING

Please could parents and carers encourage students to have equipment next to them as they attend our online lessons. If students have pens, pencils paper etc. next to them it helps maintain the flow of the lesson. Thank you!

### SCREEN AND TOILET BREAKS

With live online lessons in Lockdown 3, students (and staff) are spending long periods staring at screens. We have received several requests from students, parents, carers and staff to have a short break. Teachers have been asked to end lessons earlier in order to allow that break between lessons, rest eyes and have a chance to freshen up for the next one.

### ACCESSING MICROSOFT TEAMS

For details on how to access Microsoft Teams from either an Xbox or PlayStation please click here:

#### VIEW GUIDE



### COLOURED SCREEN OVERLAY

If a student requires a coloured overlay for remote learning, they can run a programme called ColorVeil for free from aurelitec.com which you can download for free here:

This could help with dyslexia, visual stress and reducing eye strain.

#### COLOURED SCREEN OVERLAY





# Parents, Teachers & Friends Association

Contact us

Email: [ptfa@furzeplatt.net](mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net) | Facebook: [facebook.com/fpssptfa](https://facebook.com/fpssptfa)

Charity Number 287878

## COMING UP...

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January – 8pm - PTFA MEETING VIA ZOOM. All current FP families, friends and staff are welcome.



[LOGIN HERE](#)

FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 8PM - VIRTUAL FAMILY QUIZ - £10 PER HOUSEHOLD

**VIRTUAL QUIZ NIGHT**

**FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL PTFA**  
**FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021**  
**8PM TO 9PM, JOIN FROM 7.45PM**  
**Entry £10 per household**  
 Buy now: <https://donorbox.org/ptfa-family-quiz-furze-platt-senior-school>  
 VIA ZOOM (LINK SUPPLIED UNDER SEPARATE COVER)

Back in the hot seat for 2021 is the legendary Quizmaster Jeff Lloyd!!!  
 Please join us on screen for an hour of fun and fundraising!  
 6 rounds featuring pictures, music and an interactive round for the whole family.  
 Line up your snacks and drinks and be ready for 8 o' clock.  
 The Zoom link will be advised after purchase so PLEASE ensure our email address: [ptfa@furzeplatt.net](mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net) is on your clean list.

Follow us on Facebook.com/fpssptfa  
 Email us: [ptfa@furzeplatt.net](mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net)

[ENTER NOW](#)

AMAZON.SMILE – FREE!!!! REGISTRATIONS STILL REQUIRED



FPSS SMILE AMAZON

EASYFUNDRAISING – FREE + CLAIM £5 BONUS TIL MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY



FPSS EASY FUNDRAISING

THE 200 CLUB – 2 NEW MEMBERS THIS WEEK, MORE WELCOME!

Question: Can you repurpose your coffee or commuting expenses and join our Club? If all our parents/carers joined paying just £5 per month (£1 a week) then the School could earn £6000+ per year. The PTFA may be able to claim Gift Aid as well so please ensure you tick the box. Hence, we need you to click here now to join:

200 CLUB: ANNUAL PAYMENT (£57 PER YEAR)

200 CLUB: MONTHLY PAYMENT (£5 PER MONTH)

200 CLUB

Winning numbers for our next draw



# TEACH MAIDENHEAD



## Interested in training to teach?

TEACH  
MAIDENHEAD

is 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](http://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



# Has your child or teen been feeling worried, stressed, sad or lonely recently?

If yes, this research project may be of interest to you.

We know that the pandemic has had a significant impact on the emotional wellbeing of young people. We want to find out whether a **FREE 30-MINUTE ONLINE PROGRAMME** can improve how young people feel and help them cope with difficult emotions and stressful situations.

## Who is this for?

**8 - 16 year-olds** who have been feeling stressed recently or who are struggling with symptoms of low mood or anxiety.

## What will taking part involve?

- > Both you and your child will be asked to complete some online questionnaires
- > Your child will be given access to one of two online programmes to complete
- > Taking part will take about 15 minutes for parents and 45 minutes for young people
- > Upon completion enter a prize draw to win 1 of 4 £25 Amazon Vouchers



To find out more please go to [bit.ly/32Me1Zi](https://bit.ly/32Me1Zi) or contact [Harriet.Clarkson.2018@live.rhul.ac.uk](mailto:Harriet.Clarkson.2018@live.rhul.ac.uk)

This research has been approved by the Royal Holloway, University of London Ethics Committee

