

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #63.5



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Sixth Form Interviews

This week, Senior Leadership Colleagues and I have had the pleasure of virtually interviewing students for places in our Sixth Form. It is incredibly uplifting to hear many describe plans for the future beyond our current circumstances. It is also great to hear so many students want to stay at FPSS to pursue their interests and shape their careers. I look forward to more interviews next week.



University Applications and Offers

With the UCAS deadline having been extended to the end of January we are now at a key time for students applying for university. It is very encouraging to hear that offers are coming in and good luck to all students with impending interviews. At a time where there is a lot of press coverage about the impact of the pandemic on young people, I am delighted to see our students shaping their future.

Update on Examination Consultations

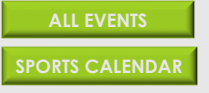
We heard this week that the outcome of the 2021 exams consultation is expected in the week commencing 22nd February. I appreciate that this means continued uncertainty but my message to those students remains the same; keep working and preparing yourself for whatever materialises from the consultation.

Year 9 Parents Evening and Option Choices

On a very similar theme, thank you to all those parents, carers and students who attended yesterday's parents evening. I hope that you gained insight into what your child may select to study at Key Stage 4. The second parents evening is next week and this will be followed by the release of all our virtual options materials, including subject videos.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Some information 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

FRI 5 FEBRUARY	PTFA Virtual Quiz Night	7.45pm - 9pm
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 24 FEBRUARY	START OF TERM 4 (Week 2)	

Remote Learning and School Day Changes

Thank you to all students, parents and carers who have organised themselves ready for the new school day that started last Monday. This seems to have been well received and will remain our pattern until we have a part or full reopening of FPSS onsite.

Take care and keep safe.

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



PHONE CALLS FROM TUTORS



If you have received a missed call from school between 2.50pm and 3.15pm it will be your child's tutor calling as per Dr Morrison's letter last week. Tutors will call your child again at their earliest convenience so there is no need to call the school back. If you have had an email asking which is the best number to contact your child on, please do reply and let us know the preferred contact number or you can email your child's tutor with this information. Thank you.

ALL YEAR GROUPS - REVISED PROGRESS REPORT SCHEDULE FOR TERMS 3 AND 4

As a consequence of National Lockdown 3 it has been necessary to review and amend our progress report schedule.

Please find the revised progress report schedule which takes us up to the Easter holidays.

Year	Report Publication
Year 7	31/3/21
Year 8	31/3/21
Year 9	3/3/21
Year 10	24/3/21
Year 11	Progress report postponed until we know what will be replacing GCSEs
Year 12	26/3/21
Year 13	Progress report postponed until we know what will be replacing A-levels

I will be in touch with you next term to update you with the progress report schedule for terms 5 and 6.

For further information regarding reports please click on the link below:

FSS REPORTS WEBPAGE

Apologies for any inconvenience that these changes may cause.

Thank you all very much for your ongoing support of the school during these challenging times.

Please do get in touch with me via email: james.dollery@furzeplatt.net if you have any questions.

Mr J Dollery
Assistant Headteacher



Last Friday was the end of the UCAS application cycle for this year. Throughout this year we have supported well over 100 students in their application to universities and higher education.

At the time of writing, there have already been over 300 individual offers made to our Year 13 students from universities such as:

- Cambridge
- King's College
- Warwick
- York
- Southampton
- Exeter
- ...and many more

This is a superb achievement for so many of our students and we are thrilled to see that their hard work is resulting in such great offers from so many fantastic universities.

We can't wait to see more offers come in for our Furze Platt Sixth Form. Congratulations everyone!



Congratulations also to Adam Gibbon (Year 13), who has been offered a place at Girton College, Cambridge to study Natural Sciences. He is currently taking 4 A-levels in Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

YEAR 11 LEAVERS' HOODIES

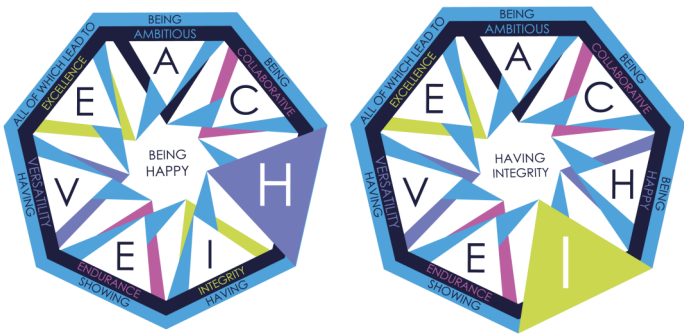
Information has been sent out to Year 11 parents and students on how to order Leavers' Hoodies via ParentMail.

Orders must be paid for at the time of ordering and the deadline to place an order is Friday 26th February.

If you do not have ParentMail or have any issues with placing an order, please email catherine.johnstone@furzeplatt.net



Please note, only primary contacts will receive the form to avoid duplicate orders. Thank you.



YEAR 9P PARENTS' CONSULTATION EVENING

On Thursday 11th February there will be a consultation evening for Year 9P parents. Due to the current social distancing measures in place this event will be held virtually.

To identify if your child is in P band please look at their timetable either in their planner or on Go4Schools. You will notice underneath the subject and teacher name is a code, ie 9P/En3. This indicates the student is in Year 9, Band P.

Appointment slots are now available. We advise you to book as soon as possible as appointment are likely to book up quickly. Please note that one teacher will cover the three sciences (and will appear under Biology).

Appointments are booked online and are available from 4.15pm until 7.15pm. To book (and for full instructions) either follow the link below or go to the Parents' Evening Bookings link under 'News & Events' on the school website.

PARENTS' EVENING BOOKINGS

Guidance on how to use our virtual parents evening system can be found below. **Please ensure you read the below guide as this system works very differently to other platforms such as Zoom.** You will need to log into the Parents' Evening booking system on the night in order to access your appointments.

We would advise using a desktop or laptop for your appointment and to use Wi-Fi rather than mobile phone data.

This guidance includes information on how parents/carers can join from two different locations if required, please note in order to do this the parent booking the appointments is the only person who has the ability to invite another parent to the appointment.

VIDEO APPOINTMENTS: PARENTS - HOW TO ATTEND APPOINTMENTS OVER VIDEO CALL

If you have any problems, please contact the school office on 01628 625308.

We look forward to seeing you.

Miss L Lewis, Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral)

THANK YOU TO OUR GUEST SPEAKERS

On Monday 25th January, it was a pleasure to welcome the Rt Hon. Theresa May to the Politics department (via Zoom) and for our students to have the opportunity to listen to her about her experiences as a politician.

Fraser Quin (Year 12) writes:

"Theresa May gave us a wonderful insight to what it is like to be an MP, from winning the local election, to being the Prime Minister. She clearly outlined very useful information on the challenges that she has faced over the years, especially with controversial topics being so prominent during the course of her Prime Ministerial career. She was able to coherently answer a wide range of questions expanding over many issues, domestic and international, as well as her opinions on certain matters. She helped visualise what the role of Home Secretary and Prime Minister has on the day-to-day life in the UK and was very easy to speak to and understand. Overall, we all massively appreciated her going out of her way to have a discussion with us students and she has really helped us understand more about the UK side of the topic as a whole."

Our Politics students showed maturity and intelligence during this session and they have modelled what we strive to achieve at Furze Platt. They had the following to say about the session:

"It was an unforgettable experience that left me speechless. I was amazed that Mrs May contacted the school and it was enlightening being able to ask our MP topical questions and get responses in a level of detail that we would otherwise not have had."

"I wasn't expecting that! It was a truly amazing experience hearing my classmate's opinions and thoughts alongside Mrs May's views. It's not every Monday morning that you get to talk with a person who has led our country and it is a morning that I look forward to telling my family about!"

"Mrs May answered the questions very well, showing her ability to compose well developed answers on the spot. She mentioned that she is prepared for hard to answer questions but that she was challenged by the diverse range that we asked about. I'm glad she was able to give us some good answers."

"This talk reinforced my faith in contemporary politics."



Cont. on page 4

YEAR 7 PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

This February in the Philosophy and Religion department we have been really lucky to have Wayne Dixon join our online lessons to teach Year 7 about 'People Jesus Met'. Wayne has worked in a vast number of schools in the Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead area as part of making Christian Connections in Schools (CCiS).

Year 7 are currently learning about the life of Jesus which allows students to explore the key events of Jesus' life and ministry, focusing on Christian beliefs about Jesus and the importance of these today. Wayne's fantastic lesson has allowed students to ask honest questions about the Christian faith and the importance of Jesus to Christians.



Thank you so much Wayne on behalf of the Philosophy and Religion department and Year 7!

CAREERS UPDATE



National Apprenticeships Week

Next week, 8th-14th February, is National Apprenticeships Week. This year's theme is 'Build the Future', aiming to encourage everyone to consider how apprenticeships help individuals to build the skills and knowledge required for a rewarding career. Here is a selection of sources of information about apprenticeships.



Gov.uk

Website for general information about apprenticeships for both apprentices and employers:

WWW.APPRENTICESHIPS.GOV.UK

Finding an apprenticeship

This website is the main place to search for apprenticeships:

[FIND AN APPRENTICESHIP](#)



Amazing Apprenticeships

They are holding a series of events over the week and have a wealth of information and resources on their website, including:

- Details of events over the week: [AMAZING APPRENTICESHIPS: EVENTS](#)
- A quiz: [AMAZING APPRENTICESHIPS: QUIZ](#)
- A video: [A-Z OF FEMALE AND MALE APPRENTICES](#)
- An information pack for parents: [INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS](#)



Activate Apprenticeships

This website has information about apprenticeships and a series of live events over the week. For details and to register for the events:

[ACTIVATE APPRENTICESHIPS](#)



UCAS Discover Apprenticeships

UCAS is putting on a week of live sessions covering everything you need to know about apprenticeships. For details and to book:

[DISCOVER APPRENTICESHIPS ON UCAS](#)

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Berkshire Healthcare's Virtual NHS Careers Evening

On Tuesday 9th February, 17:00 – 19:00, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust are holding a virtual careers evening. This event will take place on Microsoft Teams and feature a range of careers available within the NHS including IT, Nursing, Business Management, and Health Visiting / Public Health Nursing. For further information and to sign up for the event, click the link below.

BERKSHIRE HEALTHCARE'S VIRTUAL NHS CAREERS EVENING



PE – FITNESS CHALLENGES

Mr Djaelani's Boot Camp / Fitness Club

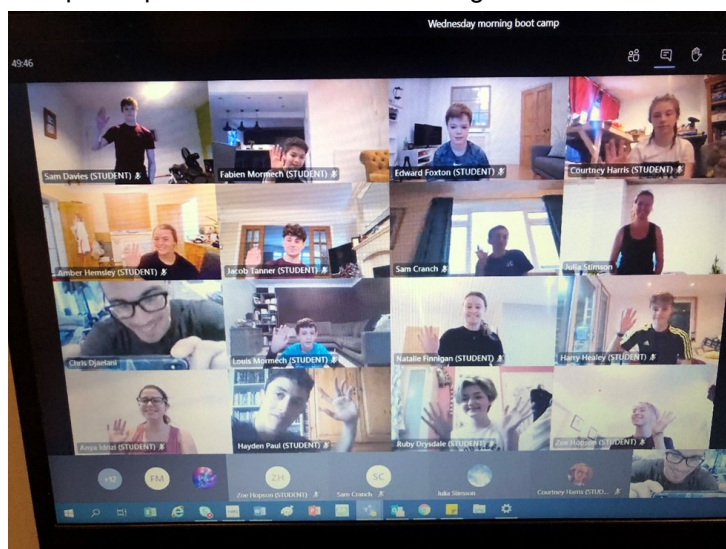
Furze Platt's Fitness Club arrived back Wednesday 3rd February with 17 students (and 2 staff) attending for the Lockdown 3.0 edition.

In the first instance students were invited if they had been part of Fitness Cub before to ensure a swift and seamless transition into an online session. The club is now open for new members so please email Christopher.djaelani@furzeplatt.net if you are interested so he can send you the invite link and add you to the group. The fitness club will continue on Wednesdays in term time throughout lockdown.

This week the team worked through:

- 5 minute chat and welcome
- 5 minute pulse raiser
- 5 minutes mobility
- 5 minutes to prime their major muscle groups
- 5 minutes to practice the movements they would perform in the main workout
- 10 minutes for the main workout
- 5 minute cool down stretch

This week the main workout was 21-15-9 repetitions of weighted squats, weighted push press, burpees over the weight. All students worked to their full ability and scored some impressive times. Those with dumbbells, kettlebells, or barbells used those and anyone without simply filled a backpack up and used that as their weight.



We are looking for more members so please get in touch if you would like to be part of things.

Mr C Djaelani, Teacher of PE

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

SKETCH FOR SURVIVAL ART COMPETITION



Students of all ages are invited to take part in a global art competition, Sketch for Survival:

'Sketch for Survival is a global art initiative celebrating the beauty and colour of the natural world while also highlighting the threats posed by human activity.'

Cont. on page 6



By submitting artwork students will help raise awareness about threats facing wildlife and wild spaces while also helping to raise funds for conservation through the sale of artwork.

Every artwork submitted will be displayed in the Sketch For Survival 2021 online gallery, and in addition a tree will be planted for every single submission received through their Carbon for Conservation scheme.

The top 100 finalists will receive the following:

- Artwork to be exhibited at London's prestigious gallery@oxo
- Artwork to be sold via online auction
- Complimentary one year's membership to our Explorer Club

If you are interested and want to find out how to apply please follow the link to the website:

[APPLY HERE](#)

If you want any help or advice then please do speak to one of your art teachers. We would love to see any submissions before they are sent off.

Closing date for entries is Wednesday 30th June so you have plenty of time to start creating.

Good luck!

The Art Department Team



Well done to Year 9 student Bibora Fekete for completing this pastiche (direct copy) of a piece of work by Iain MacArthur.



It is an outstanding piece of work which has taken a lot of time, energy and patience!

OVERCOMING ANGER – VIRTUAL WORKSHOP



Dear Parents/Carers,

We continue to recognise that lockdown is not only a challenging time for young people but also for parents too. Our Parent Support Worker will be running a virtual workshop on 'Overcoming anger – responding with peace' on Thursday 4th March at 4pm via Microsoft Teams.

This workshop will include information, guidance and practical advice on supporting yourself and/or young people who may be experiencing anger:

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Understanding how to overcome emotions of anger rather than managing them

Exploring the different forms of anger and the impact they have on us, others and our wellbeing

Developing assertive and peaceful means to face the anger in ourselves and others - and the benefits it brings

Learning how to stay empowered and to successfully bring about the positive changes we want in our lives

We will also be running the previous 'Parental Self-care' workshop again on Thursday 25th February at 4pm via Microsoft Teams.

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 and ask any questions of our Parental Support Worker

If you would like to book to attend either workshop or to find out more please email

Benvenuta.DiBartolomeo@furzeplatt.net

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:

[ACCESSING MICROSOFT TEAMS ON XBOX OR PLAYSTATION](#)

BERKSHIRE

Maestros



BERKSHIRE MAESTROS

HALF TERM COURSES

Over half term, Berkshire Maestros are running a series of online courses. These will be running on Zoom at only £10 each. Some of the courses are aimed at complete beginners so no prior experience is required.

[BERKSHIRE MAESTROS](#)

MARKS & SPENCER

M&S has launched a series of free engaging online learning resources – spanning food, fashion and business studies – for parents, carers and teachers of primary and secondary aged children to download at home.



For full details please click here:

[M&S LEARNING RESOURCES](#)



Parents, Teachers & Friends Association

Contact us

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

Charity Number 287878

Further to the PTFA meeting on 26th January, a few of you asked for fewer points to be listed (becoming word blind!) and you'd like to see the number of members and supporters in the various Fundraising Schemes we offer, so here goes but first and foremost...

TONIGHT!! FAMILY QUIZ

- STILL TIME TO ENTER

PLEASE ENTER NOW: <https://bit.ly/3qlaPx6>

Guaranteed to be a great night in (instead of being out or out out!)

47 households now (last week 16) and so close to our target of 50...

7.45PM READY FOR 8PM START

- £10 per household
- Back in the hot seat for 2021 is the legendary Quizmaster Jeff Lloyd!!!
- 6 rounds featuring pictures, music and an interactive round for the whole family.
- Line up your snacks
- Zoom link will be advised after purchase so ensure our email address: ptfa@furzeplatt.net is on your clean list.

PTFA
Parents, Teachers & Friends Association
Charity No. 287878

VIRTUAL QUIZ NIGHT

FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL PTFA
FRIDAY 5TH 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 is on your clean list.

PTFA
Charity No. 287878

Follow us on Facebook.com/fpssptfa
Email us: ptfa@furzeplatt.net

Parentkind
Member Association

ENTER NOW

MATCHED FUNDING

SCHEME

The Family Quiz is looking for a 'MATCH'. Can you help by making enquiries regarding your employers' charitable scheme, please? From our experience **BIDDING STARTS NOW!** There is a tax advantage for businesses to award funds to Charities before 5th April 2021, so please email us: ptfa@furzeplatt.net and we will supply a lovely letter!

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



STATISTICS

Currently there are 1400 students enrolled at FPSS, so there are an estimated 600 families the PTFA are reaching by Newsletter, ParentMail and/or Facebook. Can we increase our supporters

in any of the below? 3 methods are cost free, albeit 3 minutes on the internet! A slogan says "every little helps" so can we actively try?

THE 200 CLUB	7 renewals and 2 brand new members in the last 7 days, 101 members in total, as at 3 rd Feb '21.
DIRECT DONATION	30 families donate to the School Development Fund. Zero new donors since Sept '19.
MATCHED FUNDING SCHEME	Zero achieved – the Virtual Family Quiz has potential to increase the total funds raised.
EASYFUND -RAISING	Increase of £7.63 and 4 new supporters in the last 30 days, 150 supporters in total, as at 3 rd Feb '21.
AMAZON SMILE	Zero achieved; 22 purchases in the last 7 days and 36 supporters in total, as at 3 rd Feb '21.

We appreciate your feedback greatly and welcome comments and ideas by email ptfa@furzeplatt.net or through our Facebook Page [facebook.com/fpsstfta](https://www.facebook.com/fpsstfta)

Thank you.



TEACH MAIDENHEAD



Interested in training to teach?



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

[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 or contact Harriet.Clarkson.2018@live.rhul.ac.uk

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

