

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #63.6

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Thank You

As we finish Term 3 I would simply like to thank all our parents, carers, students and staff for their efforts this term. Lockdown 3 has not been easy, but I have been delighted with students our have the way established and maintained a routine



that has enabled them to continue learning. While most of us would sooner be in a school bustling with life and learning, I would like to thank our community for supporting remote learning. In particular, I would like to thank our parents and carers who have been so helpful, as well as our staff who have once more adapted to a new way of working.

I hope that you are all able to enjoy a break to the routine over half term.

In the first week of Term 4 we are expecting two big announcements: one will centre on the result of the examinations consultation. Hopefully, after weeks of uncertainty our Year 11 and 13 students will have some clarity on how their grades will be awarded. The second announcement will surround when and how schools will reopen from 8th March. In preparation for the latter you will have received communication today asking you to consent to your child being tested on their return, something we expect to be asked to do. Please could you ensure this is completed.

Take care and keep safe.

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

HEADTEACHER'S VIDEO MESSAGE

YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING

A M BITIOUS COLLABORATIVE



The 2021 Year 9 GCSE options webpage is now live on our website. On these pages you will find an introduction video from Mr Morbey and Mr Molin as well as videos about all the different option subjects. These videos allow teachers to

HAPPY





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 & 4 EVENTS

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)					
WED 3 MARCH	Year 9 Progress Reports Published					
THU 4 MARCH	Year 8F Parents' & Students' Consultation Evening (Virtual event)	4.15pm - 7.15pm				
THU 11 MARCH	Year 8P Parents' & Students' Consultation Evening (Virtual event)	4.15pm - 7.15pm				
WED 24 MARCH	Year 10 Progress Reports Published					
FRI 26 MARCH	DofE Open Expeditions Training Day					
	Year 12 Progress Reports Published					
WED 31 MARCH	Year 7 & 8 Progress Reports Published					
THU 1 APRIL	END OF TERM (TERM 4)					

explain why students may want to study their subject. You can also find further details about the options process and each subject in the information booklet.

Once you have read the information booklet and watched as many videos as you need to help you make up your mind you can complete the online options form (sent via ParentMail). The deadline for the form to be completed is Monday 22nd February so students have plenty of time over half term to make their decisions.





50,000 streams and downloads so far!



Free Student Webinars:

STRESS TO SUCCESS - GCSEPOD TUESDAY 23RD FEBRUARY, 6.00PM TO 7.00PM

STUDENT EVENT - GCSEPOD WEDNESDAY 3RD MARCH, 5.00PM TO 6.00PM



YEAR 9 MUSICAL SOUNDTRACKS

A M BITIOUS COLLABORATIVE

Despite being online, we have managed to keep music as practical as possible through using online keyboards and a variety of music software. Year 9 students have been learning about the impact of music in films and have created their own soundtrack to a short clip using Bandlab Education. Click below to see some excellent examples of their work.

BIBORA FEKETE: BIRDS

BEN HEARSEY: DOG

CALLUM LLOYD: DOG

PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION – SPECIAL GUEST





This term in PR Year 10 students have been studying Christian Practices. Last week we were studying 'Street Pastors' and students were lucky enough to have a virtual visit from Rachel Mozley, the founder of 'Street Angels', High Wycombe. She offered students a first-hand account of the support they provide to people in our community. Students were also able to have a Q&A with Rachel. The meeting was a fantastic opportunity for our students. Thank you to Rachel Mozley for giving her time to our class.





HAPPY VINTEGRITY ENDURANCE VERSATILITY EXCELLENCE



PE – FITNESS CHALLENGES



We had 27 members this week for Wednesday morning Fitness Club and we welcomed some new faces making an appearance that I hope will continue to come once we are all allowed back in a group setting.



As always the students began with a joint warm up and then progressed to a pulse raiser closely followed by some mobilisation and priming movements to prepare them for the main workout.

This week's main workout was a 2 part scored workout. 1st phase involved students performing a set number of repetitions of an exercise every minute.

Minute 1: 18 x "weighted ground to overheads"

Minute 2: 30-40 second "weighted squat hold"

Minute 3: 8/12/15 x "hand release push ups"

Minute 4: 20 x "weighted alternating lunges"

Minute 5: full rest

(repeat for 3 full rounds)

The students then all took a 2 minute rest and then completed the below workout as quickly as possible:

- 25 x weighted alternating lunges
- 20 x weighted ground to overhead
- 15 x weighted squats
- 10 x hand release push up
- 5 x burpee over the weight

Great to see so many faces on camera and see that the desire to keep fit, well and involved in group settings has not diminished and the energy and community felt very familiar to our in-person school sessions.

New members are always encouraged and welcomed so please email me if you would like to attend.

Mr C Djaelani, Teacher of PE



YEAR 9 BURGER PROJECT



In Food and Nutrition, our Year 9 students have been working on the Covid Burger Project. Students use the Gourmet Burger Builder to design a product suitable for selling from a pop up restaurant. As home learning, students have been cooking and presenting their burgers to their families. The results are mouth-watering, and students have worked hard to produce some excellent results. See the finished burgers on the next page.

If you are tempted by the photographs, the website is free for all, fun and easy to use.

BURGER BUILDER

Cont. on page 4

EXCELLENCE

A MBITIOUS COLLABORATIVE HAPPY INTEGRITY ENDURANCE VERSATILITY









Oskar Matuszynski

Ruby White

Lucas Norton

Freddie Astrup McGuiness



Manoli Antonas

Holly Bray

BI

9

YEAR

Dylan Williams-Lock

PROJECT



Eloise Downes



Seanna Varma



URGFR



Sam King



Ryan Hughes

A M BITIOUS COLLABORATIVE



Harry Fitzgerald

HAPPY



Hazel Bidmead

INTEGRITY **E**NDURANCE **V**ERSATILITY

Raahi Singh

4

EXCELLENCE

YEAR 10 BAKING

AMBITIOUS

These are photographs of the delicious looking muffins the Food and Nutrition GCSE class cooked at home in their lesson this week. The brief was to bake a muffin, using oil as the fat, and it could be savoury or sweet.





Thank you to those who have enrolled of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme. We are pleased to let you know over 120 new participants enrolled on the Bronze & Silver programmes through our curriculum and extracurricular groups this academic year.

Bronze

We are delighted to share some photos of evidence some of our newest Year 9 bronze participants have uploaded; Caitlin Bennett is making masks for the NHS for the volunteering section of her award, and Thomas Hancock is cooking for his skills section.



Masks by Caitlin

Cooking by Thomas

Silver

Many congratulations to Charlie Chadwick (Year 12) who has now completed his Silver D of E, despite the hurdles with Volunteering being impacted by the COVID lockdowns. Charlie's sections included litter picking (as his original volunteering of helping in a charity shop was closed due to lockdown); playing badminton for his sport and creating an impressive piece for the piano which you can see him playing here:

WATCH & LISTEN TO CHARLIE CHADWICK PLAY



Cont. on page 6

Excellence

If you have any news items you wish to feature in our newsletter please email: media@furzeplatt.net

INTEGRITY **E**NDURANCE **V**ERSATILITY

Η Α Ρ Ρ Υ

C OLLABORATIVE

If you have not already done so, please can I remind you to upload your activities and evidence as soon as possible. Your user name and password has been sent directly from the DofE, and resources to help you log onto EDofE have been emailed to you, and is available on the Teams channel named Open DofE 2020-21.

Please feel free to contact us if you need any support.

We are very much looking forward to sharing your success!

Miss Carty

DofE Manager



VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS



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 experience anger:

- 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

HALF TERM FITNESS CHALLENGES FOR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES



Berkshire Schools Virtual Cross Country Championships



This half term students are challenged to compete in the competitive Berkshire Schools Virtual Cross Country Championships. Deadline 28th February, details overleaf.



Paula's Two-15 Challenge

This is a concept devised by Paula with the aim of offering an opportunity for the whole family to enjoy a safe, fun and competitive activity as a unit together.

In a nod to her former World Record Marathon time of 2 hours 15 (25 secs), Paula will challenge children and their

Cont. on page 7

A MBITIOUS COLLABORATIVE HAPPY INTEGRITY ENDURANCE VERSATILITY EXCELLENCE

families to complete a MINIMUM of 2 hours 15 minutes of exercise TOGETHER across the week of half term.

Key information...

- To challenge families to complete 2 hours and 15 minutes of physical activity together over half term. 2h15.25 is her World Record marathon time.
- Can be any type of activity, to be completed as a family unit (min 2 people)
- School with the greatest % engagement win!
- Participation certificates awarded.
- Winning school receive a virtual visit from Paula herself.
- Submit scores via google form below by 22nd February

PAULA'S TWO-15 HALF TERM CHALLENGE: SUBMIT SCORES HERE

PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR FULL DETAILS OF BOTH EVENTS



CAREERS UPDATE

On Saturday 27th February, GT Scholars are holding an Online Careers Day aimed at students in Years 8 to 13 and their parents. There will be a number of workshops and speakers over the day, from 9.30am to 4.30pm. Workshops cover topics such as CVs, interview skills and finding work experience placements and the speakers are from a wide range of companies including PWC, Goldman Sachs, E-ON, Lloyds Banking, EY, Atkins Global, BT and many more.

Further information, to register for the event and choose the sessions you would like to attend can all be found via the link:

GT SCHOLARS CAREERS DAY



REMINDERS

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 <u>catherine.johnstone@furzeplatt.net</u>



Please note, chest size measurements are for $\frac{1}{2}$ chest sizes:



JH001 College Hoodie

JH001 College Hoodie											
MEASUREMENTS	xs	s	м	L	XL	XXL	3XL	4XL	5XL		
1/2 CHEST	49cm	51cm	56cm	61cm	65cm	69	73cm	78cm	83cm		
BODY LENGTH	64cm	67cm	70cm	73m	76cm	79cm	82cm	86cm	90cm		
SLEEVE LENGTH	57.5cm	59cm	60.5cm	62cm	63.5cm	65cm	66.5cm	68.5cm	70.5cm		



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

A MBITIOUS COLLABORATIVE HAPPY

INTEGRITY ENDURANCE VERSATILITY EXCELLENCE



To highlight Apprenticeship Week, Furze Platt Alumn Jamie Wilson has written about his experience.

Data Analyst Apprenticeship at Virgin Media

How I applied

In order to find an apprenticeship, I used the government website (<u>https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship</u>) to search for apprenticeships that I thought I would enjoy and started applying for a few in the local area. Although the application process can be time consuming, I found it best to apply for more than one apprenticeship, as 1000's of people can apply for just one role at a company.

The application process often involves an online assessment, followed by a short telephone interview and finally an assessment centre. The assessment centre is the last stage of the application process and entails a number of applicants going into an office for a few hours to perform group tasks and be interviewed individually.

Advice to anyone applying

The most valuable advice I could give to anyone applying for an apprenticeship would be 'to be yourself' and be honest. I understand this sounds very clichéd, but during my assessment day, I was definitely not the most qualified person in the room. I had not yet received my A level results, whilst some of the people around me had university degrees – as I'm sure you can imagine, this was very intimidating! Throughout my 18 months at Virgin Media, I have also had the opportunity to be involved in the process of hiring new apprentices. During this time, it became evident to me that the personality of applicants had a much larger influence on whether they were successful than any other factor.

So to summarise - if you manage to get through to an assessment centre or interview, my best advice is to be polite, make sure to engage in conversation with other applicants and don't be afraid to ask questions!

What I love about it

I was in two minds throughout Sixth Form as to whether I wanted to go to university or become an apprentice. After being an apprentice for 18 months, I feel I made the right choice for me.

As an apprentice, I have been treated equally to any other employee throughout the business, I am often presented with many opportunities to develop myself and am trusted to take on large projects that matter to the business, with plenty of support throughout, avoiding that feeling of 'being thrown in the deep end'.

A key benefit of being an apprentice is gaining qualifications and hands-on experience, as well as earning at the same time. I am currently a level four apprentice (proving me with a qualification equivalent to the first year of a degree), but have been offered the opportunity to pursue my full degree (a level six qualification) at the expense of Virgin Media. This is great because after four years of working at Virgin Media, I will have a degree and four years' worth of experience behind me (without the debt that going to university can bring). It can be a common occurrence for big companies to offer this level of training and can understandably benefit apprentices massively!

Challenges

Having no experience of working in an office before, the transition from a school classroom to a corporate workplace was daunting at first, but I soon felt comfortable with the support I had around me and settled in quickly.

As with starting many new jobs, the industry was new to me and I was unfamiliar with many of the words and abbreviations people used, but I started to pick it up over a matter of time, always having someone to go to if I got stuck.

Finally, the biggest challenge of all was pushing myself out of my comfort zone. Prior to starting my apprenticeship, I had very little experience in presenting, but after taking opportunities to present to large groups of over 300 people, I am now much more confident and feel this will benefit me greatly throughout my career.

Jamie Wilson



A MBITIOUS COLLABORATIVE HAPPY INTEGRITY ENDURANCE VERSATILITY EXCELLENCE If you have any news items you wish to feature in our newsletter please email: media@furzeplatt.net 8



Contact us

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

OUR FIRST EVER VIRTUAL FAMILY QUIZ HELD LAST FRIDAY!



Thank you to the 53 households who joined us for our first ever Virtual Family Quiz last Friday. Hosted by Jeff Lloyd, Quizmaster, it was an hour of fast paced questions consisting of 6 rounds using the whole family's eyes, ears, memory and scavenging skills! It wasn't easy!

We answered random questions of pictures, music, anagrams, visual memory, song title/body parts connections and an interactive round so there wasn't time for slacking. Congratulations to the Crawcour family who scored 106 out of 125 points!

Watch this space for the date of the next Quiz later in the year!

MATCHED FUNDING/CHARITY AWARDS/ COMMUNITY SUPPORT

A M BITIOUS COLLABORATIVE

The Family Quiz is looking for a company or an association to increase its fundraising effort. Can you help your children by making enquiries

HAPPY

regarding your employers' charitable scheme, please? From our experience <u>BIDDING STARTS</u> <u>NOW</u>! Don't forget there is a tax advantage for businesses to award funds to Charities before 5th April 2021. so please email us: <u>ptfa@furzeplatt.net</u> <u>and we will supply a lovely letter!</u>

STATISTICS



One new donor via the Direct Donation method, 2 new members with Easyfundraising.org plus 5 new members with Amazon.smile have been achieved since last Friday.

Thank you very much!

It doesn't have to cost you a penny by registering your Charity support with your employer and with Easyfundraising.org & Amazon.smile. A slogan says "every little helps"...

COMING UP...

PTFA MEETING – early March, 8pm, via Zoom. The date and link will be cascaded nearer the time.



We appreciate your feedback greatly and welcome comments and ideas by email <u>ptfa@furzeplatt.net</u> or through our Facebook Page <u>facebook.com/</u> <u>fpssptfa</u>

EXCELLENCE

If you have any news items you wish to feature in our newsletter please email: media@furzeplatt.net

INTEGRITY ENDURANCE VERSATILITY



NEW 4 WEEK STRESS LESS COURSE

For those aged 17-25 years old which aims to provide support around managing;

- Stress
- Thoughts & worries
- Low mood
- Building resilience

Talking Therapies is a free NHS service here to support the residents of Berkshire aged 17+ who may be struggling with difficulties including: low mood, anxiety and stress at this unprecedented time.

We have a NEW 4 week Stress Less course for those aged 17-25 which you can access via the comfort of your own home. Please see attached leaflet for more information. If you would like to book onto the next available course please click on this <u>link</u>.

To find out more about the services offered by Talking Therapies please <u>visit our website.</u>



To find out more and sign up to the Stress Less programme:

- https://talkingtherapies.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/17-25-stress-less-workshops/
- Ø 0300 365 2000 and quote 'Stress Less'
- Access to Psychological Therapies



10



Outreach Team Worker – to start as soon as is practicable

Part time, 30 Hours a week, start time 8.45am, finish time 3.15pm (includes a half hour unpaid break). Monday to Friday, term time only. Actual salary $\pounds 16,340 - \pounds 17,680$ pa depending on experience

Furze Platt Senior School is proud to host the Shine Department, which helps young people with autism thrive and succeed in a mainstream school environment. We have an exciting opportunity for someone to work with the outreach team and provide support and training to schools within the Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

The successful applicant will be responsible for managing a caseload of students with a diagnosis of autism in mainstream education settings. This will involve working collaboratively with school staff to provide strategies and skills and enable them to improve their understanding of autism to allow them to support ASD students with their progress and attainment. You would also deliver targeted programmes to students either on a one to one basis or in groups, observe and record your observations and attend multi-agency meetings to provide advice and support in relation to students' needs within their school.

If you are a Learning Support Assistant or have experience of working with students with ASD we would welcome your application. Specialist training will be provided to the successful candidate. Use of a car is essential for this role as it requires visiting other schools in the Windsor & Maidenhead area (expenses will be covered).

For further information about this role and in order to complete a Support Staff application form please refer to our school website **www.furzeplatt.com**. Application forms should be returned to **Kiran.smith@furzeplatt.net**. Only applications submitted on the school application form will be considered.

Furze Platt Senior School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and we expect all staff to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced disclosure via the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Closing date: Monday 1st March at 9am Interviews will take place during the first or second week of March

A MBITIOUS COLLABORATIVE HAPPY INTEGRITY ENDURANCE VERSATILITY EXCELLENCE



Learning Support Assistant – to start after Easter

Part time, 30 Hours a week, start time 8.45am, finish time 3.15pm (includes a half hour unpaid break). Monday to Friday, term time only. Actual salary Scale 2c, £13,670 - £13,940 pa depending on experience

We are looking for an enthusiastic and reliable individual to join the core Learning Support team and provide targeted support to our students with Special Educational Needs.

You will work under the direction of classroom teachers and, in line with any agreed special needs and other specialist plans, provide support to individual students in the completion of a wide range of learning activities at all key stages. You will support small groups of students for interventions and mentor nominated students. You will help students develop their social and communication skills and gain access to the curriculum by ensuring effective use of differentiated instructions and tasks provided by teachers.

We are looking for a team player, who is able to communicate sensitively and confidently with staff, students and parents. This role would suit someone who is able to use their own initiative and who has strong organisational and time management skills. This role might suit someone who is working with or has worked with students in a school setting with experience or knowledge of SEN (Special Educational Needs).

For further information about this role and in order to complete a Support Staff application form please refer to our school website **www.furzeplatt.com**. Application forms should be returned to **Kiran.smith@furzeplatt.net**. Only applications submitted on the school application form will be considered.

Furze Platt Senior School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and we expect all staff to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced disclosure via the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Closing date: Monday 1st March Interviews will take place during the first or second week of March

A MBITIOUS COLLABORATIVE HAPPY

INTEGRITY ENDURANCE VERSATILITY

12

EXCELLENCE

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?

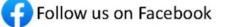
Imagine how you could develop their knowledge of the fascinating worlds of science, arts, technology, languages or humanities when you become an inspiring teacher.

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

Find further advice for prospective applicants on the Get into Teaching website.

In partnership with the Institute of Education







@TeachMaidenhead

EXCELLENCE

A MBITIOUS COLLABORATIVE HAPPY



13