

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #66.8



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Term 4

I hope that you and your families had a good Half Term and enjoyed some rest and relaxation. It has been a pleasure to welcome students back to FPSS this week as we start Term 4.



For our examination students we are now moving into the 'business end' of the year. Our Year 11 students came back to a PPE in English on Monday. In the forthcoming weeks they have a series of activities that count towards their final grades, for example their language speaking assessments and Drama practical examinations in the very near future.

I know that this will be an emotional and, at times, stressful period for students in Year 11 and 13.

I would like to thank all the staff, parents and carers who will offer support over the next few months. From experience, students' concerns and worries tend to decrease if they take control of this period. Year 11 and 13 students should have planned and be following their revision programme. This regular remembering of facts, along with opportunities to practice examination technique via questions, helps give students confidence in what is to come.

Please do encourage them to be regularly studying and revising. More information can be found via the link below.

HOW TO REVISE

All of this is still to come for Year 10. However, over the next couple of weeks they too embark on their PPEs. It is time to adopt some good habits and practise revision techniques ready for these examinations.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL EVENTS

SPORTS CALENDAR

Next week (Week 2)

SUN 6-THU 10 MARCH	DofE Gold Practice Expedition
MON 7 MARCH	Year 8 and Year 9 HPV Vaccinations
THU 10 MARCH	Year 8F Parents' and Students' Consultation Evening 4.30pm - 7.00pm
TUE 15 MARCH	Secondary Schools Offer Acceptance Deadline
THU 17 MARCH	Year 8P Parents' and Students' Consultation Evening 4.30pm - 7.00pm
THU 24 MARCH	Year 8S Parents' and Students' Consultation Evening 4.30pm - 7.00pm
THU 31 MARCH	Year 10 Parents' and Students' Consultation Evening 4.15pm - 7.15pm
WED 6 APRIL	Sixth Form Photographs
FRI 8 APRIL	END OF TERM 4
SAT 9 - THU 17 APRIL	Ski Trip
MON 11 - FRI 22 APRIL	Easter Holiday
MON 25 APRIL	START OF TERM 5
SCHOOL TERM DATES 2021/22 & 2022/2023	

Clubs and Activities

Well done to our Year 7 Football team for their 5-2 win against Desborough College this week (more on page 4).

With every new term comes more opportunity to take part in activities beyond the school day.

Please do encourage your children to sign up to the wide variety of clubs and activities we offer (via the EVOLVE emails sent at the end of last term). This includes Duke of Edinburgh Awards and good luck to our Gold group who will shortly be embarking on their practice expedition.

Take care,

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

**YEAR 8F PARENTS' EVENING
THURSDAY 10TH MARCH**

Next Thursday 10th March there will be an online consultation evening for Year 8F parents and carers.

Details will be sent out in due course for parents and carers of students in 8P and 8S bands. To identify if your child is in F, P or S band please look at their timetable either in their planner or on Go4Schools.

Appointments are booked online and are available from 4.30pm until 7.00pm. 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.

BOOK APPOINTMENTS

You will need to log into the Parents' Evening booking system on the night in order to access your appointments.

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

Mrs S Crisford, Assistant Headteacher (Student Support)

WORLD BOOK DAY FUN AT FURZE PLATT

Our amazing English teachers looked fantastic as their chosen characters to celebrate World Book Day!



**HPV IMMUNISATIONS - YEARS 8 & 9
MONDAY 7TH MARCH**

On Monday, Year 8 students will have their first HPV vaccination and Year 9 will have their second vaccination.



INVITATIONS TO CLUBS FOR TERM 4

Bookings for Term 4 Clubs

Parents and carers of students in all year groups should have received invitations last term to attend Term 4 clubs for their son/daughter. The email was headed Furze Platt Senior School with the email address evolve.furzeplattsnrvisits@edufocus.co.uk and the links are safe for you to click on to confirm your child's attendance. If you have not yet received an email please check your junk / spam folders.

Please note:

- * all bookings for Term 4 (March-April) must be made through the original email invitations
- * once in the list of clubs or academic support clinics, click on the name of the activity or session you wish to book, choose the dates and press confirm
- * please do not duplicate club bookings per session
- * students in upper years may see invitations to academic clubs that are not part of their specific academic programme; emails are sent to year groups so please only choose sessions that are appropriate to your son/daughter
- * if your son or daughter wishes to be removed from a club completely, please email catherine.johnstone@furzeplatt.net and provide as much notice as possible to allow time for that place to be allocated to someone on the waiting list.

Bookings for Fitness Club Years 7,8 & 9

Parents/Carers should acknowledge their child's interest in the club for the term once through the EVOLVE system. They will then receive an email on the Friday before the club to confirm if they have a space for the following week only or not. This confirmation is for the following week only - new emails will be sent each Friday.

Where students aren't successful there is always an alternative activity for them to participate in during the same time frame and evening.

Cont. on page 3

My EVOLVE

You may wish to sign up to My EVOLVE for an overview of clubs, what's on etc – you can do this from any of the club emails sent to you in two easy steps: 1. Click on the link in the email as usual to see clubs 2. Click 'create account' button at the top of your screen.



GIRLS WHO CODE CLUB

Starts this Tuesday 3.30-4.30pm for Years 7-11 in IT2.

[LINK TO NEXT WEEK'S CLUBS LIST](#)



ECO CLUB

A huge thank you to Thames Valley Landscapes who helped our Eco Club students plant trees. Generously donated by TVL, we planted a silver birch, cherry and rowan.



Well done to all students - Anya Choudri, Oliwia Drozdowska (Year 7), Oscar Mastrilli (Year 8), Fred Fletcher (Year 9) and Nick Holdsworth (Year 12) and thank you to Mrs Moore,



Head of Operations, for her assistance.

Miss E Holmes,
Head of Eco Club

WILD SL6 WILDFLOWER WORKSHOPS



Wild SL6 are running a series of Wildflower Workshops open to all year groups here at school. To book a place for your son or daughter please do so via the EVOLVE clubs list for Term 4.

WILD SL6 wildflower workshops

WildSL6 is a local wildlife and conservation group run by young adults giving opportunities to young people in the SL6 area to volunteer in environmental projects.

We are working with the students and teachers of Furze Platt Senior School to run a series of Wildflower Workshops where we will teach students how to plant a wildflower meadow to create the school's first wild garden!

Join us on the 1st, 4th & 7th April at 3:30-4:30pm. No previous knowledge or experience required - just enthusiasm!

We will provide all the tools and equipment, but we recommend wearing clothes you don't mind getting dirty!

For more information, please contact Emily Holmes, emily.holmes@furzeplatt.net
To find out more about WildSL6, visit our website:
<https://wildsl6.wixsite.com/wildsl6>



NEWS FROM INNOVATE - PRICES



Innovate are putting their tariffs up on Monday 14th March owing to increased cost pressures.

The school will increase the free school meal allowance to £2.34 to enable FSM students to purchase some of the most popular items (such as the chicken shawarma).

For more information and details of the prices, please see our Café webpage here which has a letter and tariffs at the bottom of the page:

[CLICK TO SEE INNOVATE LETTER AND TARIFFS](#)

CATERING ASSISTANT REQUIRED

Term time only, 20 hours p/w, 11am-3pm Mon-Fri.

For more details please click on the link below:

[CATERING ASSISTANT - TERM TIME ONLY](#)



Fantastic result from our Year 7 Football team on Tuesday, beating Desborough College 5-2. They played incredibly well on a really wet afternoon. A special mention to Ethan Heywood who was player of the match.

The Team:

Finlay Briggs	Mohid Khurram
Luke Hodges	Tyler Lovett
James Balfe	Leo Russell
Ethan Sheikh	Ethan Terry
Alexander Davidson	Oliver Murray
James Maher	
Ethan Heywood	
Luke Wise	
Alfie Everson-Plant	



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

Best of luck to our Gold Award students out on their practice expedition from Sunday.

For Bronze and Silver Award participants, if you have not paid in full please visit your Parentmail account.

There is a payment item set up for the balance for Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. You will be able to pay by logging into Parentmail, going to the 'Payments' section and clicking on the shopping trolley icon at the bottom of the screen.

The Methodist Church

VACANCY FOR COMMUNITY YOUTH WORKER

An exciting new opportunity has opened up in the Thames Valley Methodist Circuit. Looking to start after Easter, reporting to the Superintendent Minister the prime focus of the role will be to engage with families and young people across the circuit, which covers Maidenhead, Slough and Windsor.

This is a part time appointment, averaging 20 hours per week, to include running an after school drop in club for year 7 and upwards from 3.30pm – 6.00pm term time in Maidenhead, and supporting a Toddler Group in the Lent Rise Church in Burnham one morning a week.

The successful applicant will have a real understanding of being with young people and helping them to be the best they can. They would be self-motivated and able to use their imagination and local knowledge to set up and run holiday activities across the Circuit.

Full details of the Role and Person specification can be obtained from Pauline Poole, Circuit Administrator. tvmc6off@btconnect.com or 07875 717730

Closing date for applications: 11th March.

Interviews will be held fourth week of March.



**ROYAL BERKSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

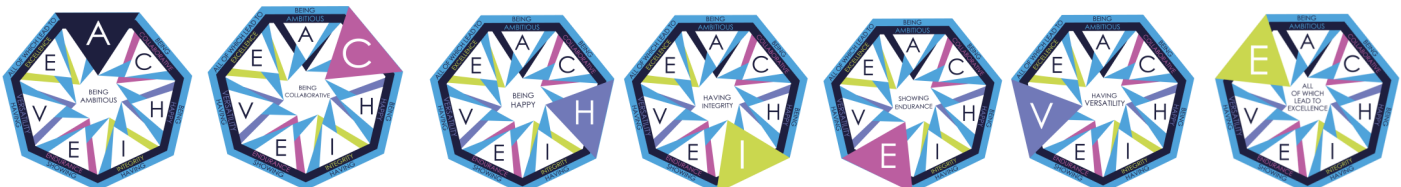


YEAR 7 WATER SAFETY TALK

On Wednesday 2nd March we were fortunate to have the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service back in school to deliver their water safety talk.

Neil Whitemann delivered the session to our Year 7 students exploring practical tips to keep safe in the water, as well as information about cold water shock and how to deal with an emergency. Year 7 were an excellent audience and asked fantastic questions of Neil. He was particularly impressed with the year group's maturity and engagement - well done Year 7!

Miss L Stirling, Head of PSHE





Parents, Teachers & Friends Association

Contact us

Email: ptfa@furzeplatt.net | Facebook: [facebook.com/fpsstfta](https://www.facebook.com/fpsstfta) Website: [click here to access](#)

Charity Number 287878

NEARLY NEW UNIFORM

DONATIONS REQUIRED PLEASE

Reuse, recycle, repurpose...



Donations Welcome!

Our stock of saleable uniform needs topping up!

Please donate your child's outgrown logo'd uniform to the PTFA so we can sell and earn funds to fulfil funding requests.

All sizes of games and daywear are welcome.

A few instructions though...

- Current logo'd uniform only
- Clean and freshly laundered = we don't want to see pockets full of pens, rulers, paint brushes, keys or tissues (and add to our own washing mountains!)
- Very good condition to sell = intact so no torn pockets or sleeves, no holes, no stains (we've received plenty of unsaleable goods previously!).
- Footwear in good, clean, saleable condition = Astro boots, trainers and/or daywear shoes that are uncreased in nearly new condition (we have an abundance of muddy football boots to rehome already!).

- Drop off to a PTFA household so contact us by email: ptfa@furzeplatt.net or message us through [Facebook.com/fpsstfta](https://www.facebook.com/fpsstfta) for an address or leave a bag in school reception.



Donations Welcome!

Would anyone like a £200 Cash Prize? If so, please join our 200 Club!



This Club is our primary fundraiser. Here's an overview:

The Club runs 4 draws per year and you could win £200 cash per number. Your winnings are made by bank transfer very soon after each draw so there's no hanging around.

The PTFA and school could earn £6000+ per year if everyone joined paying £5 per month. You're in control of the payments by direct debit, there's no contract (like your energy or phone!) and there's no spam emails either (we haven't got time to send them!).

So it's a win win situation and we hope you'll click through here to join:

MONTHLY PAYMENT (£5 PER MONTH)

ANNUAL PAYMENT (£57 PER YEAR)

You've got to be in it to win it!

TEACH MAIDENHEAD



Interested in training to teach?

**TEACH
MAIDENHEAD**

is now recruiting for September 2022 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.](#)

To apply for teacher training [Click Here](#)

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CURRENT VACANCIES

Learning Support Assistants To start asap

Permanent, Part time, 30 hours a week, start time usually between 8.45/9.15am, finish time between 3.15/3.45pm (includes a half hour unpaid break). Monday to Friday, term time only

Salary Scale 2c - Actual salary £13,670 - £13,950pa (pay award pending) depending on experience

Furze Platt is a highly successful mixed comprehensive school serving the children of Maidenhead. At Furze Platt, 1400 students of all abilities develop the skills and qualities to enable them to excel in the future. We are a highly ambitious, high-achieving and fully inclusive school in which our students are challenged and supported to achieve excellence.

We are looking for enthusiastic and reliable individuals to join our core Learning Support team to provide targeted support to our students with Special Educational Needs, and our Shine team who support students with ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder).

You would be working under the direction of classroom teachers and, in line with any agreed special needs and other specialist plans, to provide support to individual students in the completion of a wide range of learning activities at all key stages. Supporting small groups of students for interventions and mentoring nominated students is also a part of this role. 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 team players, who can 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. We would love to receive applications from anyone who is working with or has worked with students in a school setting and gained experience or knowledge of SEN (Special Educational Needs) or ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder).

For further information about this role and 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 14th March
Interviews will take place as suitable applicants apply

CURRENT VACANCIES



Child Trust Fund

OVER 50% OF ELIGIBLE YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE NOT CLAIMED THEIR GOVERNMENT-FUNDED CHILD TRUST FUND SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Almost every child born in the UK between 1 September 2002 and 2 January 2011 had a government-funded Child Trust Fund savings account opened for them, yet an astonishing 53% of young people who are now eligible to access their savings account have not done so.


The Share Foundation is a registered charity which works with the Department for Education (Children’s Services) and ensures that young people aged 16-19 are informed about their accounts (which are already open in their name) and provides information, help and support in claiming what is rightfully theirs.

The average value of unclaimed accounts is over £1,000 each, all adding up to around £1 BILLION waiting for the rightful owners to come forward and access their funds.


The Share Foundation have also developed a special [web search facility](#) in conjunction with the Child Trust Fund account providers and HMRC to help young people locate their account. We have also produced [three short videos](#) specifically designed for this age group.

Gavin Oldham OBE, Chair of Trustees, The Share Foundation Registered charity no. 1108068

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How can GCSEPod turn procrastination into productivity?

Failing:
Is failing bad and how does it help us succeed?

02 March @ 9am


03 March @ 5pm

23 March @ 9am


24 March @ 5pm

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EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITY DAYS, KAYAKING COURSES, £5 EASTER ACTIVITIES AND SO MUCH MORE!

Live and ready to book, our ever popular Holiday Activity Days for 8-12s, and Holiday Activity Day + for 12-16s are up on the website ready for any organised parents who want to get booked in before we sell out.

Both are a full day of four adventurous activities, 9am-5pm, with lunch included for just £50. You can book online here - [8-12](#), [12-16](#).

Please note that these will include water activities (weather conditions allowing, everyone keep their fingers crossed) so the young people need to be comfortable around water.

Bank Holiday Taster Days are also back for 2022! Our first Taster Day will be [April 18th](#), and we strongly advise booking early as these do tend to book up very quickly. Please note that anyone under the age of 18 must have an accompanying adult booked on with them.

We have also added [After School Kayaking](#) courses for the Easter term and onwards, as well as some weekend dates for [families](#) and adults, and [evening/weekend taster sessions](#).

We're looking for 500 people to each paddle a 6.5 mile course on the River Thames at Longridge, whether as part of a team, or with your family or friends.

This charity event, over the weekend of 22-24 April (so don't worry, it'll be warmer by then!), is in aid of Longridge and the RNLI, both of which promote, educate and provide support and safety on the water. The popularity of kayaking, paddle boarding, open water swimming and boating has risen steeply in past couple of years, but sadly, so too have the incidents related to people engaged in recreational pursuits.

Row the Atlantic (on the Thames) is the perfect opportunity to educate your family and friends on how to have fun, safely, in the water, whilst participating in an exciting event and raising money for two incredible charities.

The Challenge

The distance between Longridge's base on the Thames at Marlow and Boston harbour, USA is 3,241 miles. You, or your team, will only need to kayak a much more manageable 6.5 mile course on the river. Over the weekend of 22-24 April, it will take 500 people, as an individual participant or a team each rowing 6.5 miles to reach the target of the 3,241 mile distance across the Atlantic.

This is an all-abilities event so whether you're a kayaking club member or complete novice you can participate. All you need is basic fitness, be able to swim and the desire to take on a challenge to raise money in aid of the RNLI and Longridge's work in helping prevent people from drowning and saving lives on our rivers and at sea.

You choose when you would like to participate (subject to availability) between 10am Friday 22nd April and 3pm Sunday 24th April 2022.

There will be a £35 entry fee that will cover essential training, use of boats, paddles and buoyancy aids as well as Longridge's shore-based facilities and all entrants will be asked to pledge a suggested donation of £100 in sponsorship that will be split 70: 30 between the RNLI & Longridge.

Click [here](#) for more information and to take on the challenge of Rowing the Atlantic (on the Thames) in aid of Longridge.