

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #68.2



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Welcome Evenings

Over the last couple of weeks, it has been a pleasure for colleagues and me to meet Year 7, 10, 11 and Sixth Form parents and carers at our welcome evenings. These evenings have allowed us to set the scene for the coming year with a focus on starting FPSS, examinations, careers and further education.



I hope parents and carers found these useful. Your child's tutor is the first port of call for all queries, so please do get in touch should you have questions.

Queen Elizabeth II

Following last week's sad news and our two minutes silence on Friday, we have continued to remember the Queen via tutor activities (which continue into next week).

Bank Holiday Monday 19th September

Along with other schools across the country FPSS will be shut on Monday for the Bank Holiday.

Laptops for Learning

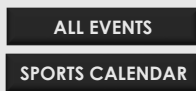
After many hours planning, Monday saw our Year 7 and 10 students bring their laptops into school. It was great to walk around and see students in both years using them to enhance their learning.

I know that our subjects are planning various ways to use the laptops and I look forward to seeing activities build during the term and year.

As parents and carers will recall from newsletters in the summer, depending on progress this year we intend to broaden the initiative to other year groups next September. Details will be forthcoming in the spring.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Next week (Week 1)

MON 19 SEPTEMBER	Bank Holiday - School closed for all year groups
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Forthcoming events

THU 6 OCTOBER	Main School Open Evening School closes for students at 12.30pm	6-9pm
FRI 7 OCTOBER	INSET Day	

SCHOOL TERM DATES



Would you like to become a Parent Governor?

One way in which parents and carers can support FPSS is by becoming a governor, helping shape the strategic direction of the school. Our Governing Body currently has a Parent Governor vacancy.

If you are enthusiastic and have a keen interest in schools, please consider standing as a Parent Governor.

You must be able to attend the five full governing body meetings a year, these start at 5.15pm on a Thursday and, preferably, join one of our committees which meet between four and six times a year, normally on a Monday.

While everyone is welcome to apply, ideally our

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Governing Body aims to include a broad range of skills and currently would welcome people with teaching and learning skills experience.

If you wish to stand for election as a parent governor, you should:

- Complete the nomination form on our website (link below)
- Have your nomination countersigned by another parent with a child attending the school (or you may nominate yourself)
- Insert a brief personal election statement for circulation to voters
- Return the form to the school clearly marked for the attention of the Returning Officer, Jenny Knight jenny.knight@furzeplatt.net by 9am on Wednesday 28th September.

HOW TO APPLY TO BE A PARENT GOVERNOR

If the number of nominations received does not exceed the number of vacancies, all those nominated will be appointed without a ballot.

If there are more nominations than vacancies, a secret ballot will be held.

After the election the new governor will require a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

Take care,

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



YEAR 7, YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11 PRESENTATIONS

'PREPARING TO SUCCEED AND ACHIEVE AT FURZE PLATT'

Thank you to parents and carers who attended our sessions this week, it was lovely to meet so many of you.

If you could not attend, please see links to our presentations below which can also be found on our website:

YEAR 7 - PREPARING TO SUCCEED

YEAR 10 - PREPARING TO ACHIEVE

YEAR 11 - PREPARING TO ACHIEVE



STUDENT PASTORAL MANAGERS

At Furze Platt Senior School staff seek to respond to communications within two working days. Should a matter require longer to resolve we will acknowledge your email and reply in more depth thereafter. If your issue is urgent (for example affecting the health and safety of a student) please telephone the Student Pastoral Manager for your child's year.

Year 7: Miss S Gumbs

Year 8: Mrs J Barney

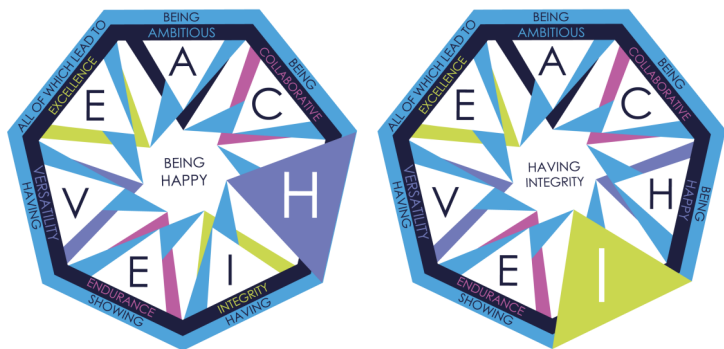
Year 9: Mrs B Harper

Year 10: Miss L Barney

Year 11: Mrs M Carpenter

Sixth Form: Mrs M Pasa

CONTACT DETAILS FOR STAFF CAN BE FOUND HERE



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 6TH OCTOBER 6-9pm

Early finish for all students – 12.30pm

Our annual Open Evening is being held on Thursday 6th October for prospective students and their parents. All current Furze Platt students will finish at 12.30pm that day; helpers will be invited back before the event starts. More details will be sent out in due course.

INSET DAY

FRIDAY 7TH OCTOBER

School will be closed for all year groups.

Please note the future INSET days for this academic year are on Friday 7th October, Monday 28th November 2022, Tuesday 3rd January and Tuesday 11th July 2023.

FURZE PLATT NATURE GARDEN

Our new Nature Garden is really taking shape following the tree sapling planting and beautiful wildflowers in spring. Over the summer Landmark Tree Surgery kindly donated wood chips and tree stumps and we now have a network of paths through the garden and tree stump seats.



We are now awaiting our solar feature and water butt and we hope to continue improving the garden as a calm and tranquil space for all students, staff and visitors to enjoy in the future.



TERM 1 CLUBS (SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER HALF TERM 2022)

We hope students have enjoyed their first week of our clubs and activities. If you registered interest for your son or daughter but were not successful with your booking, please do check each week as places often become available during the term. Additional clubs have been added this week such as Year 7 and 8 Drama Club, Sixth Form Netball, Maths and Criminology Academic Support Clinics, Infinity Club and more! Please note there will be no clubs on Monday due to the Bank Holiday.

Parents and carers of students in all year groups should have received invitations last Friday 9th September 2022 to attend 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 will be 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.

MY EVOLVE

In addition, parents and carers may wish to sign up to My EVOLVE for an overview of clubs, what's on etc – you can do this from the club or academic support clinic emails sent to you in two easy steps:

1. Click on the link in the email as usual to see clubs/clinics
2. Click 'create account' button.

PLEASE NOTE:

- * All bookings for Term 1 (September/October 2022) 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 and scroll down to press confirm
- * Please do not duplicate club bookings per session
- * If you have emailed the school to request a place for your child, please note these will not constitute a booking and you will need to book their space through the EVOLVE email links instead

* Bookings for Fitness Club - these have been limited to 30 students at a time per session. This will be rotated but please be aware that your son/daughter may not have a place each week. You will be notified when they are to attend

* 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 relevant 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.

A list of clubs is updated every Friday afternoon on our website here:

SCHOOL CLUBS LIST

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS



We are delighted to announce that our School Musical for this academic year will be 'Sister Act'!

Students can see the cast list for Sister Act in the window of the theatre from second break today. Around 75 students auditioned for the musical from all year groups - well done to everyone who took part.



Extra-Curricular Music Clubs:

There is always a wide variety of Music clubs on offer for students throughout the year. Students perform at the Christmas and Spring Concerts as well as our School Musical.

If you have any questions regarding our extra-curricular offering please contact Mr Swindell (Joint Lead Teacher of Music) at mark.swindell@furzeplatt.net

Piano lessons:

Piano lessons are taught by Mrs Celia Armstrong who offers 20 or 30 minute lessons. For further information about signing up, please email your details to stuart.forster@furzeplatt.net and he will put you in touch with Mrs Armstrong.

Other instrumental / vocal lessons:

If you have been taught by Berkshire Maestros in the past, please contact them directly as you may still be on their system. They can be contacted on: 0118 901 2370 or hello@berkshiremaestros.org.uk



For new starters please go to this website <http://ukberkshire.speedadmin.dk/registration/> or scan the QR

code. Select Furze Platt Senior School to see the lessons on offer. All lessons can be 20 minute group lessons or 20/30 minute individual lessons. Berkshire Maestros also offer a free trial lesson and instrument hire.

If you have any questions regarding instrumental lessons please contact Mr Forster (Joint Lead Teacher of Music) at stuart.forster@furzeplatt.net

Berkshire Youth Training Choir

On Saturday 17th September there will be an open rehearsal for Berkshire Youth Training Choir. The rehearsal will begin at 2pm and finish at 5pm and will take place at The Reading Music Centre (Stoneham Court, RG30 4EZ).

BYTC is for pupils in Years 7 – 9 and normally rehearses every other Wednesday evening in term time from 7pm – 8:30pm at the Reading Music Centre. The choir sings a huge range of repertoire from classical to musical theatre to pop, with concerts at Luckley House School, Reading Town Hall and The Great Hall at Reading University. The aim of BYTC is to act as a training ground for our senior County Choir; Berkshire Youth Choir.

There is therefore no audition required for BYTC, just a love of singing and a willingness to work as part of a team. We will do the rest!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards

We are delighted to let you know that we will be offering the Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards (DofE) to students in Years 9, 10, 12 & 13 this academic year. The DofE is a great chance for your child to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and talents, have fun with friends, develop essential skills for their future and achieve an internationally renowned Award.

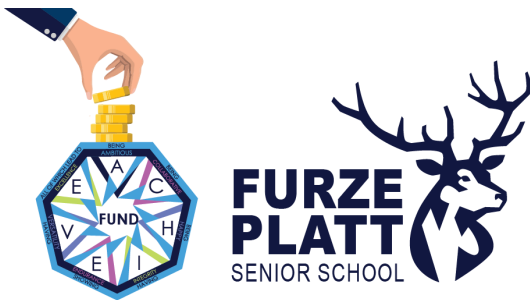
Please note the meeting this term has been postponed and full details of the Awards will be sent out in Term 2.

VACANCIES AT FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

We have a variety of exciting opportunities for support staff here at Furze Platt. Perks include discounted membership for the use of a fully equipped and well-maintained gym on-site. We reward long service and encourage community spirit and staff involvement through various social events with free tea and freshly brewed coffee available in the main staff room at break times with edible treats to help you through the week!

[CLICK HERE TO SEE OUR JOB OPPORTUNITIES](#)

ACHIEVE FUND UPDATE



Our ACHIEVE fund is now a year old and we are incredibly grateful to parents and friends of the school who make one off or regular donations. These additional funds help to buy a whole range of enriching resources and activities for all our students to enjoy.

For example, recently, parental donations have funded:

- A new laser cutter machine for the Tech department
- IT robots for the enrichment afternoons and to be used in the IT department
- Plants and features for the new nature garden
- A water bottle filler for the Maths block which was requested via the student sustainability survey
- 50% funding of our Grand Piano in the Theatre.

Just a few pounds each month will build up over time and make a significant difference. Even better, you can gift aid your donations to increase them by 25%.

If you would like to join the growing number of parents who make regular donations to the ACHIEVE fund, please visit our website:

[OUR ACHIEVE FUND](#)

Thank you.

REPORTING ABSENCE



Please report any Absence for your child via ClassCharts. If accessing on a phone, please scroll along the line at the top with an orange dot at the end (marked 'behaviour', 'on report cards' and 'homework') near the top of the screen and you will see additional options further along including 'report absence'.

A letter from Mr Sheppard with information and your login details was sent via Parentmail on 7th June 2022; Year 7 parents will have recently received an email with login details.

If you require your login details to be re-sent, please email jacky.phillips@furzeplatt.net



GCSEPod - Support for Parents and Carers

To ensure maximum impact from the resource before mocks, GCSEPod have released a video and free webinar on how parents can support their child with GCSEPod: <https://unicorntrainingvideos.wistia.com/medias/m4g4h2yje9>

Parents can also register for the free informative and interactive webinar here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/>

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR SUPPLYING THEIR CONTACT DETAILS THIS WEEK. WE'LL BE IN TOUCH BY EMAIL SO PLEASE CHECK ALL YOUR MAILBOXES.

PTFA ROLES TO FILL – YOUR COMMITTEE WILL BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY HELP OFFERED

200 Club Administrator – 1 or 2 hours per week at home on your own computer.

Media Secretary – 1 or 2 hours per week for Facebook updates, Newsletter pieces, advertising.

Uniform co-ordinator – 1 or 2 hours a week to pack orders, check donations, update inventory.

Refreshments & Bar Team – to run and sell hot, cold soft and alcoholic drinks during Concerts.

Theatre Bar Crew – dedicated casual staff for performances in the Theatre.

Committee Members 2022/2023 = Chair: Lorraine Hughes | Treasurer: Neil Wilson | Secretary: Katrina Sell

Feel free to get in touch, anytime, by email: ptfa@furzeplatt.net or message via [Facebook.com/fpsptfa](https://www.facebook.com/fpsptfa)

COMING UP

200 Club Draw – October, date to be confirmed

PTFA Meeting – October, date to be confirmed

Buffet hot dinner and Quiz – Friday 11th November, 7pm – 10pm.



UNIFORM

We are building stock and have room for more, so, please donate your logo'd uniform if you are clearing the cupboards. Please drop clean, undamaged, saleable goods into the containers in School Reception.

Please place your orders by email, anytime, ptfa@furzeplatt.net and we'll get back to you.

ONLINE, NON-EVENT, FUNDRAISING - Free cash up for grabs!

Register with [Easyfundraising.org](https://www.easyfundraising.org) and [Amazon-Smile](https://www.amazon-smile.com) or redirect your current cause to us, at no cost to you! Please use the links below:

<https://bit.ly/393NF8R+>



<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/287878-0>



We appreciate your feedback and welcome comments and ideas by phone call 01628 625308, by email ptfa@furzeplatt.net and through our Facebook Page [facebook.com/fpsptfa](https://www.facebook.com/fpsptfa)



National
Trust

Great Big Green Week Pinkneys Green – Litter Pick

24th September 2022 10:00 – 13:00

Come for a stroll around Pinkneys Green and the surrounding area for an hour or so, and help protect nature by picking some litter as you go. All ages are welcome to help us kick off Great Big Green Week. Meet at Pinkneys Green ranger shed. We will supply Bags, Grabbers and Gloves but please bring your own if available

Free event

For more details:

nationaltrust.org.uk/maidenhead-and-cookham-commons/whats-on

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TECHGIRL

THE FUTURE IN TECH COMPETITION

Are you a 16-18 year old girl that wants to change the world?

Want to be mentored by one of the UK's most influential female technology leaders?

Want to kickstart your career in tech?

Enter TechGirl 2022 and you will have the chance to do all three!

We want girls to submit their ideas on how technology can be used to improve schools.

The Prize

The winners will be invited to Tottenham Hotspurs Football Stadium, in London, on October 18th, where you will meet and be filmed with your mentor discussing your idea, after receiving training from a top TV Presenter!

Your mentor will then help to organise work experience to help you kick start your career.

TechGirl Mentors



Belinda Finch
CIO



Charlotte Baldwin
CIO



Christina Scott
CPO & CTO



Deborah Haworth
Director of Information Security



Jacqui Lipinski
CIO



About the Organiser

TechGirl is run by HotTopics.ht, a community of 15K global business leaders representing the worlds largest to the fastest growing companies in the world.

Together the community supports one another, creates premium thought leadership and looks to inspire the next generation.

Visit › TheStudio.Hottopics.ht/Tech-Girl-2022 Deadline Sept 30th