

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #68.6



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Open Evening

Ambition and Kindness

I would like to congratulate our students on all the ACHIEVE points they are achieving this term. Whether individually in lessons, or via House events like Tag Rugby or our House Quiz, it is great to see students so actively working to receive their points and subsequently the vouchers, lunch passes etc. that go with these.



Amongst the many students excelling we have been able to reward for individual acts. You will recall that one of the themes of my start of term assemblies focused on being kind. This week we were able to particularly praise one student, Arivu Ramesh (Year 11), who spent two hours helping a mother who had accidentally locked their child in the car. He stayed with the mother whilst she waited for a family member to try to unlock the car and whilst the fire service were called to get it open. I am sure that parents and careers would agree that this is an act of kindness we would hope for from our own children. Well done Arivu.

Parental Consultation Evenings

The fortnight before half term also sees the first Parental Consultation Evenings with our Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening last night and Year 11 Subject Evening next week. As ever, I encourage you to book appointments and attend with your children. The three-way dialogue between FPSS staff, students and parents/carers is important in identifying what is working successfully and how things can improve.

Take care,

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



UPCOMING EVENTS



Next week (Week 1)

MON 17 OCTOBER	PTFA Meeting and 200 Club Draw - all welcome. Venue: Large Reception meeting room	7.30pm - 8.30pm
THU 20 OCTOBER	Year 11 Parents' & Students' Consultation Evening	4.15pm - 7.15pm
FRI 21 OCTOBER	End of Term 1	Finish at 3.15pm

Forthcoming Events

MON 31 OCTOBER	Start of Term 2	8.40am
THU 24 NOVEMBER	Sixth Form Open Evening	6-9pm
FRI 25 NOVEMBER	Late start - 9.15am for all students	9.15am - 3.15pm
MON 28 NOVEMBER	INSET DAY - school closed for all students	

SCHOOL TERM DATES

Open Evening Feedback

"Thank you for an excellent open evening last night. I've never seen my daughter so keen to do chemistry! Your student tour guides did you proud."

INTRODUCING OUR 4 NEW HOUSES



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.

<https://support.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/article/801-video-parents-how-to-attend-appointments-over-video-call>

YEAR 7 INTERHOUSE RESULTS

Excellent effort from our Year 7 students in the Tag Rugby Interhouse with Eagles taking first place, narrowly beating Hawks.

Well done to all our competitors!

House	Place	Score	Points
Eagle	1st	8*	1000
Hawk	2nd	8*	600
Falcon	3rd	7	400
Osprey	4th	4	200

YEAR 11 PARENTS AND CARERS CONSULTATION EVENING

Thursday 20th October 4.15 - 7.15pm

On Thursday 20th October there will be a consultation evening for Year 11 parents which will be held virtually.

Appointments are booked online and are available from 4.15pm until 7:15pm. To book appointments and for full instructions, either follow the link below or go to the Parents' Evening Bookings link under 'News & Events' on the school website.

<http://www.furzeplatt.com/page/?title=Parents%27+Evening+Bookings&pid=32>

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

If you are unable to attend the consultation via video call, please let us know in the booking system comments section and we will arrange a time to contact you by phone about your child's progress.

Appointment slots will be available now.

We advise you to book as soon as possible as appointment are likely to book up quickly.

As you will know from parents' evenings in previous years, we always have a member of our Senior Leadership Team available should you have any additional questions or concerns you wish to raise. In order to continue to provide you with that opportunity during virtual meetings, one of the Senior Team will be on Zoom for the duration of Parents Evening.

Should you wish to speak to them between 4:15pm and 7:15pm, please follow the link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83432994271?pwd=VkI2ZVlEMnBuTm1SOTlFR0E5Mktodz09>

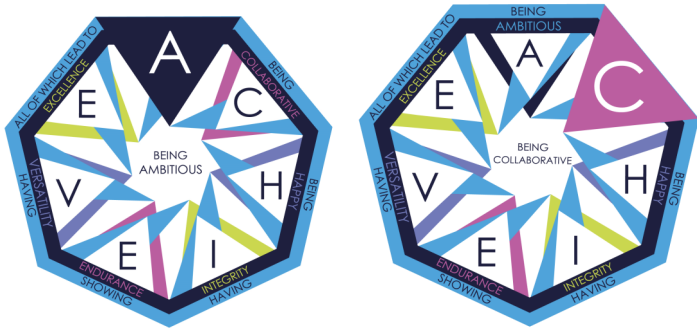
Meeting ID: 834 3299 4271/ Passcode: YS0s4E

This link is only if you wish to speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team, it will not take you to your child's teachers.

Having started Zoom, you will then go into the Waiting Room and will be admitted as soon as possible. Please note that there may be a few minutes wait while in the Waiting Room as there may already be another parent present (only one set of parents will be 'admitted' at any time).

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

Miss L Stirling, Associate Assistant Headteacher



YEARS 7, 10 AND 13 REPORTS



The above reports have now been issued and are available online as usual via Go 4 Schools. Years 7 and 10 have an 'Attitude to Learning' report and Year 13 have a full report. The service is available either by going to our website www.furzeplatt.com and clicking on the quick link 'Online Reporting', or by going directly to Go 4 Schools www.go4schools.com and selecting Parents.

Should you have any problems accessing your child's report please contact me at reports@furzeplatt.net.

Mrs K Avery, Data Manager

GUIDANCE TO GRADING

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

This week we have been raising awareness and celebrating World Mental Health Day. Students have taken part in an assembly and some tutor activities in which this vital topic has been discussed.



World Mental Health Day is marked every year on 10th October to raise awareness about mental health around the world. The theme of 2022's World Mental Health Day is 'Make mental health and wellbeing for all a global priority'.

Our staff supported this by wearing yellow to represent their support for the Young Minds Charity who specialise in supporting young people and raising awareness of the importance of mental wellbeing. In my assemblies topics such as What is Mental Wellbeing? How can we help ourselves and others? What factors affect our mental health? were discussed.

A special thanks must go to Mr Djaelani, Head of Progress for Year 9 and five times World Kickboxing Champion, who spoke to the students about the importance of a healthy body/healthy mind, and the

positive effects keeping fit can have on you

If you or your children would like to discuss any issues around mental wellbeing please do not hesitate to contact myself Lucy Bull (Senior Mental Health Lead), tutors, Heads of Progress or Pastoral Managers.



CAFÉ REFRESHMENTS



Thank you to our Café Manager Debbie (pictured, right) and her team for the delicious displays laid on at recent events.



VIEW OUR NEW MAIN SCHOOL PROSPECTUS 2022



MAIN SCHOOL PROSPECTUS 2022



CROSS COUNTRY

Our Cross Country Team competed in The Berkshire Schools Cross Country Cup this week. All age group ran excellent races and we are awaiting the final results. The Junior Boys came 4th, Inter Girls and Inter Boys finished 5th.

Archie Charles in Year 7 ran an exceptional race finishing second as well as Sophie McLachlan who finished 4th. A huge well done to everyone who took part.

Junior Boys

Gerhard Ueckermann
Luke Rice
Alex Davidson
George Kemp
Archie Charles

Inter Boys

Fabian Mormech
Toby Holmes
Sam Cranch
Connor Fitzgibbon

Inter Girls

Sophie McLachlan
Annabelle Stratford
Lily Slater
Alice Parsons



SPORTING SUCCESSES

Year 8 Boys' Rugby beat Desborough College 12-0

Congratulations to the Year 8 Boys Rugby Team who played fantastically against Desborough College winning 12-0. This was the boys' first game together and it was fantastic to see them play so well! A special mention to Jenson Jones who was player of the match scoring six tries. Our team:

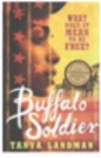












- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| James Balfe | Mac Paris |
| Riley Harris | William Spinks |
| Rhys Holmes | Daniel Sturgess |
| Jenson Jones | Luke Wise |
| George Kinder | Blake Cockram |
| James Maher | Tyler Magreehan |
| Oliver Murray | Casey Schuck |



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Here are a selection of books and music to highlight Black History Month.



Fiction Texts	Non-Fiction Texts	Poems
<p>Buffalo Solider (13+) Tanya Landman</p> <p>Plantation slave Charley Smith is eleven when America blows itself apart, with Abraham Lincoln's decision to prohibit slavery. Charley thinks a slice of heaven is coming her way. But it's a taste of hell.</p> 	<p>Black and British (13+) David Olusoga</p> <p>David Olusoga's latest edition of <i>Black and British</i> has been revised and rewritten especially for secondary school children, and explains and illustrates the much-overlooked history of Black peoples in Britain and beyond.</p> 	<p>A Change is Gonna Come (12+)</p> <p>Featuring poems and stories from 12 black, Asian and minority ethnic authors – including four previously unpublished writers – this absorbing book offers refreshing perspectives and thought-provoking questions about the meaning of change that will hit home with everyone.</p> 
<p>The Hate U Give (12+) Angie Thomas</p> <p>Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her best friend Khalil.</p> 	<p>The Extraordinary Life of Series (10+)</p> <p>Published by Penguin, this series explores the extraordinary life of many influential people such as Nelson Mandela, Serena Williams, Rosa Parks, Mary Seacole, Katherine Johnson and many more.</p> 	<p>Still I Rise (11+) Maya Angelou</p> <p><i>"You may write me down in history With your bitter, twisted lies, You may tread me in the very dirt But still, like dust, I'll rise."</i></p> 
<p>Crongton Knights (12+) Alex Wheatle</p> <p>McKay's life on the South Crongton Estate is rough. His Mum has died, his Dad works all hours of the day to keep away the Bailiffs, and his brother is always out looking for trouble. McKay never looks for trouble, but in one mad night everything changes.</p> 	<p>This Book is Anti-Racist (10+) Tiffany Jewell</p> <p>Often using personal anecdotes about her own schooling, family and experiences as a young mixed race girl, Jewell's fascinating, friendly and hugely relatable guide is essential reading for kids with questions about racism, politics and history as well as the current #BlackLivesMatter movement.</p> 	<p>What Stephen Lawrence Taught Us (12+) Benjamin Zephaniah</p> <p><i>"As we continue emptying our pockets on the pavements, And we continue to ask ourselves Why is it so official That black people are so often killed Without killers?"</i></p>
<p>The Crossover (10+) Kwame Alexander</p> <p>Josh and JB are basketball legends at their school. They also happen to be identical twins, but it's easy to tell them apart if you know how to look. As the boys build up the most important matches of their lives, tensions grow between them.</p> 	<p>Grown: The Black Girls' Guide to Glowing Up Melissa Cummings-Quarry (14+)</p> <p>Being a teenager and trying to understand who you are and what you stand for is hard. But if you're a Black girl and don't always see yourself represented in the books you read, the films you watch, the adverts you see or the history you're taught, it can be even tougher.</p> 	<p>Half Caste (12+) John Agard</p> <p><i>"but you must come back tomorrow Wid de whole of yu eye And de whole of yu ear And de whole of yu mind."</i></p> 
<p>How High The Moon (14+) Karyn Parsons</p> <p>In a small town in 1940s South Carolina, Ella has got some very exciting news. She'll be leaving her grandparents and cousin Henry behind, because her mother finally wants her to join her in the busy city of Boston. But can the reality ever live up to Ella's dreams?</p> 	<p>Timelines from Black History: Leaders, Legends, Legacies (9+)</p> <p>The lives and achievements of leading lights as diverse as Stormzy, basketball star LeBron James, poet and novelist Maya Angelou are chronicled in this excellent book that follows black history across many centuries to today's contemporary world.</p> 	<p>waiting on the mayflower (14+) Evie Shockley</p> <p><i>"I, august 1619 arrived in a boat, named and unnamed, twenty, pirated away from a portuguese slaver, traded for victuals."</i></p>


CELEBRATING BLACK COMPOSERS

In music there is a full display on black performers and composers ranging from classical to modern day.

We are encouraging students to move away from their usual listening habits to try some of these artists with the help of our 'Black History Month Calendar of Listening'. Here students can scan the QR code and enjoy an eclectic range of music all at the touch of a button.

A CELEBRATION OF BLACK COMPOSERS

PLAYLIST Scan here to listen to our Celebration of Black Composers Playlist OR go to www.icancompose.com/BlackHistoryMonth



1. QUINCY JONES
Soul Bossa Nova
1933 - PRESENT
Main theme from The Colour Purple

2. FLORENCE PRICE
Symphony no.1 in E minor
1887 - 1963
Fantasie Nègre

3. DUKE ELLINGTON
Ko Ko
1899 - 1974
Cotton Tail

4. ERROLLYN WALLEN
Peace on Earth
1968 - PRESENT
Woogle Boogie

5. GEORGE WALKER
Sinfonia no.5 "Visions"
1922 - 2018
Lyruc for strings

6. ALEXIS FRENCH
Walk With Us
1970 - PRESENT
Dreamland

7. MARGARET BOND
Troubled Water
1913 - 1972
Bright Star

8. UNDINE SMITH MOORE
Afro-American Suite for flute, cello & piano
1972 - PRESENT
We shall walk through the valley in peace

9. WILLIAM GRANT STILL
Symphony no.1 "Afro-American"
1898 - 1978
3 Visions

10. STORMZY
Crown
1993 - PRESENT
Blinded by Your Grace

11. LAURYN HILL
When it hurts so bad
1975 - PRESENT
The Misadventure of Lauryn Hill

12. HANNAH KENDALL
Spark catchers
1984 - PRESENT
Processional

13. JOSEPH BOLOGNE
Symphony no.1 in G major
1745 - 1799
String quartet no.1 in C major

14. SAMUEL COLERIDGE-TAYLOR
Deep River
1875 - 1912
Symphonic variations on an African Air

15. DOLORES WHITE
Blues Dialogues for Solo Violin
1932 - PRESENT
Sometimes I'm Not Myself

16. ELEANOR ALBERGA
Suite from Dancing with the Shadow
1949 - PRESENT
String Quartet no.1

17. JAMES BROWN
I Feel Good
1933 - 2006
Papa's Got a Brand New Bag

18. WYNTON MARSALIS
At the Octobon Balls
1961 - PRESENT
Blues Symphony

19. YOLANDA BROWN
Tokyo Sunset
1982 - PRESENT
Fine Lines

20. JON BATISTE
It's All Right (from Soul)
1986 - PRESENT
We Are

21. AYANNA WITTER-JOHNSON
Movement - Variation II
1986 - PRESENT
Rise Up

22. FELE SOWANDE
African Suite for String Orchestra
1967 - PRESENT
Jubilate

23. CELESTE
Love is Back
1994 - PRESENT
Stop this Flame

24. NINA SIMONE
Revolution
1933 - 2003
Backlash Blues

25. LAURA MVILA
Sing to the Moon
1986 - PRESENT
Green Garden

26. MILES DAVIS
So What
1926 - 1991
Love for Sale

27. JESSIE MONTGOMERY
Banner for string quartet & string orchestra
1961 - PRESENT
Starburst

28. JOHN COLTRANE
Alabama
1926 - 1967
Giant Steps

29. TRACY CHAPMAN
Fast Car
1954 - PRESENT
Give Me One Reason


30. RAY CHARLES
What'd I Say
1930 - 2004
I Got a Woman

31. JULIA PERRY
Study for Orchestra
1924 - 1979
Stabat Mater

Black History Month is dedicated to celebrating and learning about Black heritage. It gives everyone the opportunity to recognise the achievements of and share appreciation of those with African or Caribbean backgrounds.

This calendar is a celebration of black composers and is intended to inspire everyone to explore the lives and works of these great musicians.

www.icancompose.com





WE ARE RECRUITING!

Do you want to work at a successful and flourishing secondary school in Maidenhead? We currently have some exciting opportunities at Furze Platt Senior School.

Take a look at our website for more information on these vacancies and details on how to apply:

TERM 1 CLUBS (SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER HALF TERM 2022)

We encourage students to try as many clubs as they are interested in – with over 75 clubs and academic clinics we are sure they will find a number of activities they really enjoy!

MY EVOLVE

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.

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

SCHOOL CLUBS AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT CLINICS

FURZE PLATT'S NATURE GARDEN



This term the gardening club have been working in our new nature garden learning about wild flower meadow management. It is important that after it has flowered and set seed our meadow is cut and the 'hay' or top growth removed. This ensures that the next generation of plants will thrive as wild flowers don't like the soil to be too fertile (which it would be if the hay decomposed in the area). Traditionally hay would be used to feed animals like sheep or cattle over winter. We have put our hay crop on the compost heap where it will decompose and eventually we can use it to mulch our new woodland. More seeds will be spread soon to ensure we have a colourful display of yellow rattle, poppies, cornflowers and other wild flowers in the spring.



CURRENT VACANCIES



JOIN THE FURZE PLATT COMMUNITY

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE




DISCOUNTED GYM MEMBERSHIP ON SCHOOL PREMISES

3-day free trial.

FREE use before 8am and from 3.30 to 4.30pm.


APPLY TODAY
WWW.FURZEPLATT.COM

SCHOOL TRIP TRAVEL & EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES



STAFF PENSION SCHEMES
Excellent pension schemes for teachers and support staff.

FRESHLY BREWED COFFEE AT BREAK TIMES





LONG SERVICE AWARDS WITH A VOUCHER OR CHANCE TO DONATE TO CHARITY



CARE FIRST – EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME
Available 24/7 for all your work and personal needs.




BE PART OF OUR HOUSE SYSTEM



BE PART OF OUR HOUSE SYSTEM




PAPERLESS PAYSLIPS
Easy to access from home, no need to print, support a sustainable environment.

INNOVATE CAFÉ
Serving healthy tasty food. Easy to use Cashless System. Free lunch on first INSET day, Xmas lunch, and afternoon tea in the summer term.

BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED & EQUIPPED STAFFROOMS



STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY




FREE EYE TESTS
For staff using Display Screen Equipment.



GEMS AT WORK - REGULAR FREEBIES & PRODUCT SAMPLING



**Parents, Teachers
& Friends
Association**



TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

Contact us

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

Charity Number 287878

MEET YOUR VOLUNTEER PTFA TEAM



PTFA Meeting and 200 Club Draw

7.30pm – 8.30pm – join us from 7pm in School.

Please come along to meet us. We won't force you to commit to a job, PROMISE!

We'll discuss fundraising ideas, funding requests, plans ahead and how to achieve them. Plus we'll draw 3 winning numbers for those members in the 200 Club.



* TWO ROLES FILLED * HELP STILL REQUIRED THOUGH...

200 Club Administrator **FILLED**

Uniform co-ordinator - **FILLED**

Social Media Secretary

Bar Team

Theatre Bar Crew



UNIFORM REQUESTS

Please place your orders, with sizes, by email and we'll get back to you.

Would anyone like a £200 Cash Prize? If so, please join our 200 Club! YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!!!!

Don't forget to renew or join the Club by **Saturday 15th October**

***ANNUAL MEMBERS: PLEASE CHECK YOUR JUNK MAILBOX AND RESPOND ACCORDINGLY: PTFA@FURZEPLATT.NET**

MONTHLY PAYMENT (£5 PER MONTH)

Quiz and Hot Buffet Dinner

Friday 11th November, 7pm – 10pm. A social, informal, fun night, coupled with caterers cooking fresh French dishes in Giant Pans & bar – ticket app coming soon!

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

THE
BIG
QUIZ **11**

PTFA
Parents, Teachers & Friends Association

**FURZE
PLATT**
SENIOR SCHOOL

Friday 11th Nov 2022
7.30pm for 8pm start

At Furze Platt Senior School

Raising funds to enhance
our children's schooling



Tickets

online soon



MAX.6

people per table

But you can book in
any numbers from
1-6 and we'll find
teams for you.



FOOD

Incredible Big Pan
Catering

Fresh French Dishes
Three options (inc. veggie)
plus dessert!



PLUS

a bar!

SAVE THE DATE!