

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #69.2



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Year 9 Options

This week our Year 9 students had their Options Assembly where they learnt about the GCSE and vocational choices they will need to make over the next couple of months. Miss Stirling (Associate Assistant Headteacher), Mr Djaelani (Head of Year 9) and I emphasised the importance of students 'owning' the process; seeking advice from parents, carers and staff, but ultimately choosing subjects important to them.



The Options events continue over the next few weeks with Options Taster Fortnight, Year 9 Parents Evening next Thursday (19th January) and Options Evening the following Thursday (26th January) when parents will have the chance to hear about Options first hand.

Good luck to all students making their decisions.

Year 11 and 13 Upcoming Examinations

In my assembly this week I spoke to our Year 11 and 13 students about the next 14 weeks before external examination season begins (acknowledging there are various other examinations, practicals and coursework on the way). We focused on students using the team around them of parents/carers, staff and fellow students to gain the best possible grade through revision and exam practice.

We also talked about the next 14 weeks not being the normal pattern of term, then holiday. Instead, over the next 14 weeks students should be following their revision programmes knowing that from mid-June that they have an extended summer to relax and enjoy, hopefully in the knowledge that they have done the best they possibly could in their examinations.

Good luck to our Year 13 students in their PPEs next week.



TERM 3 EVENTS

ALL EVENTS

SPORTS CALENDAR

NEXT WEEK (WEEK 1)

THU 19 JANUARY	Year 9 Parents' and Students' Virtual Consultation Evening	3.45pm - 7.45pm
FRI 20 JANUARY	Late Start	9.15am

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

WED 25 JANUARY	Year 11 & 13 Photographs	
THU 26 JANUARY	Year 9 Options Evening	6pm - 8.30pm
FRI 27 JANUARY	Late Start	9.15am
WEDS 1 FEBRUARY	PTFA AGM and Meeting	7pm
MON 6 FEBRUARY	School Musical (matinee performance for selected local junior schools)	
TUE 7 - THU 9 FEBRUARY	School Musical	7pm
FRI 10 FEBRUARY	END OF TERM (TERM 3)	3.15pm finish
MON 13 - FRI 17 FEBRUARY	FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS	
MON 20 FEBRUARY	START OF TERM 4 (Week 1)	8.40am

SCHOOL TERM DATES

Late Starts - Friday 20th and Friday 27th January

Due to events taking place on the previous evenings, on Friday 20th and Friday 27th January students will start at 9.15am and should go to their first lesson (not form time).

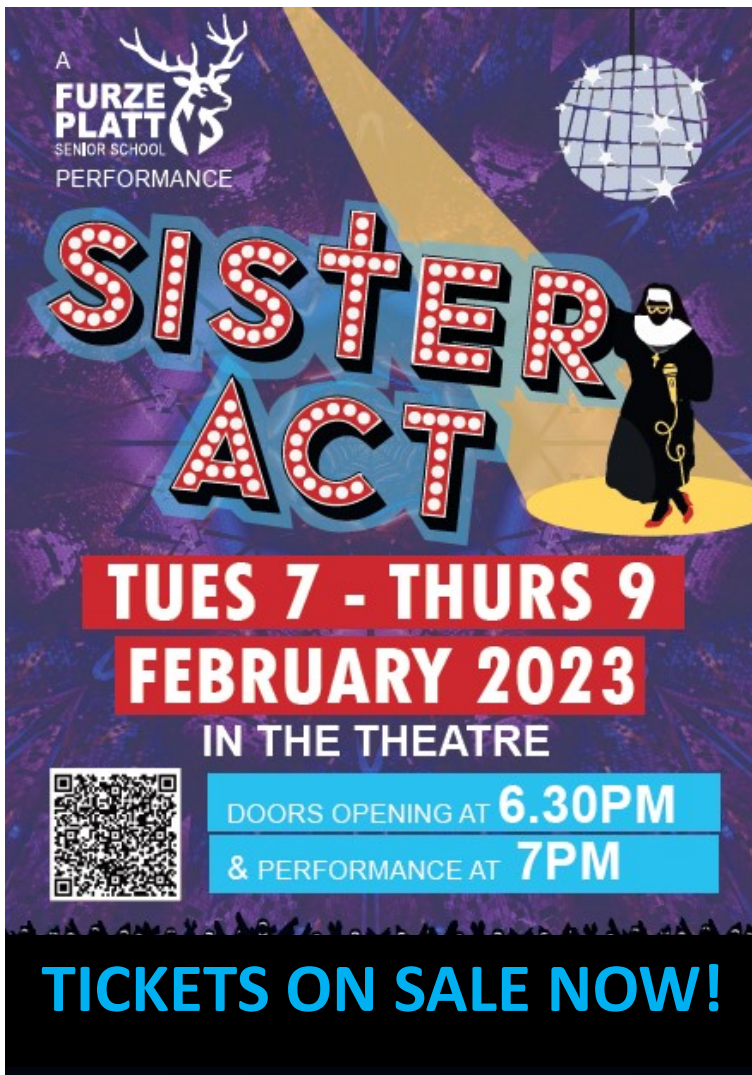
Sister Act

Over the next few weeks, we are building up to one of the highlights of the FPSS year, our school musical, Sister Act. Tickets are now on sale so please come along, support our students, and have a very entertaining evening.

Link: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/furzeplatttheatre/e-dbgglb>

Take care,

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



A poster for the school musical 'Sister Act'. At the top left, it says 'A FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL PERFORMANCE'. The title 'SISTER ACT' is written in large, colorful, marquee-style letters. To the right, a nun in a black habit stands on a stage under a spotlight. Below the title, it says 'TUES 7 - THURS 9 FEBRUARY 2023 IN THE THEATRE'. There is a QR code and a blue box with the text 'DOORS OPENING AT 6.30PM & PERFORMANCE AT 7PM'. At the bottom, it says 'TICKETS ON SALE NOW!'.

Link for tickets:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/furzeplatttheatre/e-dbgglb>

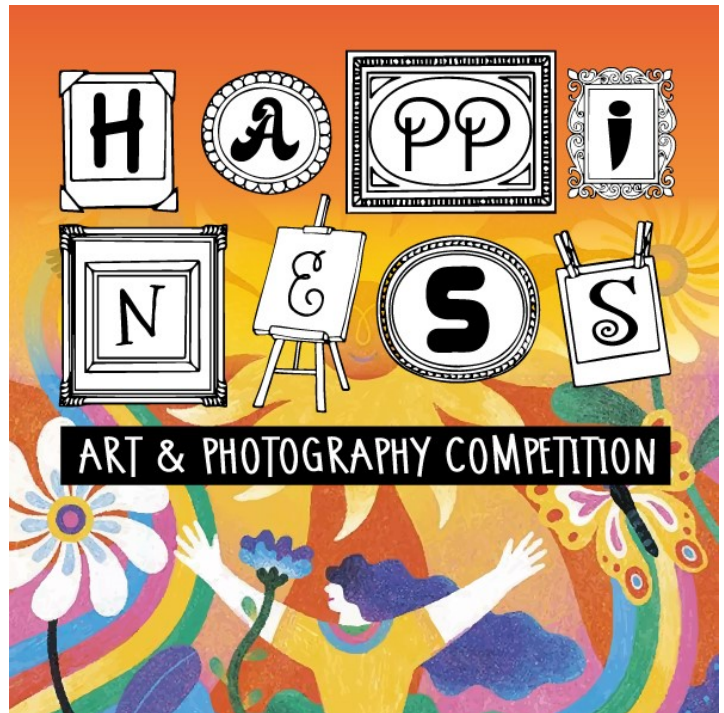


HOUSE COMPETITION

ACHIEVE – HAPPINESS

Deadline Friday 24th February

Students have been asked to produce and submit either a piece of artwork or a photograph that centres around their personal interpretation of Happiness. Entries for each key stage will be narrowed down by the House Captains and Heads of House with Head Judge Dr Morrison awarding the final placings.



This theme can be interpreted in a variety of ways:

- It could be of an object, person, animal or place which illustrates students' idea of happiness such as favourite football teams, kit, best friend, pet or film.
- It could illustrate a hobby which brings them a lot of happiness
- It could be a piece of artwork which they hope will make others happy by looking at it.
- Or perhaps it could illustrate changes that they think need to happen in our society/world which they believe will bring about further happiness.

This task is expected to be completed throughout this half term but in their own personal time in order to ensure high quality outcomes.

If they intend to use people in their photographic outcome then they first of all must ensure permission is given to be in the photograph. (This will be checked by Heads of Houses).

We ask that students only use either themselves, family

members or other students from FPSS as subject matter due to data protection and permissions.

For artwork outcomes - please submit these directly to the Head of House with full name and year group is present on the back of submissions.

For photographic entries, students should email digital versions directly to the Head of House with name and year group included in the subject line.

All students that submit a design will receive 10 happiness points from their HOH.

If selected for the shortlist = 25 House points.

Winning designs will receive an extra 25 House points alongside a £30 Amazon voucher. Their House will also be awarded with points dependent on the ranking of their outcome:

1st:1000 2nd:600 3rd:400 4th:200 points



Good luck!

WOOLLY FIRS - A-LEVEL BIOLOGY TRIP

Wednesday 15th March

We have arranged for all A-Level Biology students to attend Woolley Firs Environmental Centre in Maidenhead to complete the field work which is part of the practical requirement of their syllabus. This will give them experience of using a range of field work equipment and methods of sampling to obtain data, which they will then use back in school to carry out statistical tests.

The trip will take place on Wednesday 15th March 2023 and is £10 per student, which can be paid by logging into your ParentMail account. It will be led by the environmental staff at the centre, accompanied by Dr Walker and Mr Barrett. All students will need to go straight to the centre on the day for 9.15am and will be dismissed from the centre at 3pm. The address is Woolley Firs Environmental Education Centre Cherry Garden Lane, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 3LJ.

Students will need to bring a packed lunch and a water bottle and wear suitable clothing to be outside for the day. If your child has asthma could you please remind them to have their inhaler with them should they need it during the day.

The itinerary for the day is shown below, please do contact katie.mcelligott@furzeplatt.net if you have any further questions.

- 9.15am Students arrive
1. Introduction including a health and safety briefing
 2. Introduction to fieldwork and sampling techniques
- BREAK
3. Random sampling
- LUNCH
4. Stratified Sampling
 5. Conclusion
- 3pm End of day – students leave to go home

A-LEVEL PHYSICS

TRIP TO CERN

Friday 24th – Sunday 26th February 2023

If your son or daughter is going on the CERN trip, please can you complete all sections of the Google form linked below by **Monday 16th January**. Thank you.

GENEVA 2023 - STUDENT INFORMATION

YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO BOX HILL - various dates

As you may be aware, the first part of our Year 11 field trip took place last term to FSC Juniper Hall, Box Hill. Fieldwork and investigation forms a core part of the GCSE Geography course. As part of the GCSE course students are required to sit an exam paper focused on Fieldwork and UK Geography, which totals 30% of their final grade. This year's focus are Methodical approaches of Use of Transects (covered at FSC Juniper Hall) and Conceptual framework of Inequality (to be covered on the Maidenhead field trip).

To support students in producing high quality answers in this paper the Geography Department will run a one-day field trip to Maidenhead town centre for all Year 11 GCSE Geography students. The aim of the trip is to provide a framework for students to collect primary data on their local area. The fieldtrip will also equip students with unique experiences of fieldwork that they should be able to link to their wider geographical understanding and ability to follow the geographic enquiry process.

During their Geography fieldwork experiences, students will conduct research and later produce a brief report after their

trip based on their data collection and further research.

The fieldwork will be on the following dates:

- 11A/Gg1 – Mr Green’s Class – Monday 27th February
- 11C/Gg1 – Mrs Brennan’s and Mr Green’s Class – Tuesday 28th February
- 11B/Gg1 – Mr Wellard’s Class – Wednesday 1st March
- 11B/Gg2 – Mr Harrison’s Class Thursday 2nd March
- 11D/Gg1 – Mr Wellard’s Class – Friday 3rd March

Itinerary:

Students will need to meet their teachers at 9.15am outside the school theatre. Once all together students and teachers will walk down to Maidenhead town centre together.

Students will need to register in school that morning. Their class teachers will register them on arrival. We will be returning to school together by break 2 (approx. 13.30pm). Students will be returning to their normal period 5 lesson after returning to school. For any lessons that they miss, it is their responsibility to find out what work they have missed from speaking to their class teachers.

Students will be required to follow the normal School Uniform dress code, and are expected to uphold their appearance and school ethos. We recommend a warm/rain coat (weather dependent).

Students will need to bring a refillable water bottle and a packed lunch to sustain them throughout the day and a PEN AND PENCIL.

There will be no cost for the trip.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (joe.wellard-jeffs@furzeplatt.net).

Mr J Wellard-Jeffs, Head of Geography



BRONZE, SILVER AND GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH 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 and 12 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.

Your son or daughter had an assembly regarding this last term. If they are interested in participating in the award, please see next steps below:

- Read the attached ‘DofE 2022- 23’ letter for information about the award
- Open the attached ‘DofE parent info sessions 2023’ letter and choose a date to attend the virtual meeting
- Log into parent mail to pay the registration fee by Tuesday 31st January 2023.
- Complete the DofE application form using this link

DOFE APPLICATION 2023

- Please note students will only be enrolled if the application form as well as the deposit has been received
- Help your son or daughter to select and begin suitable activities for their volunteering, physical or skills section using the attached ‘Activities Pack’.

Our enrichment clubs also offer a range of options to help students achieve each section. Please note that any suitable activities they are currently participating in can be backdated from 1st September 2022.

Please feel free to contact us on dofe@furzeplatt.net if you have any queries, and we very much look forward to supporting your son or daughter through their Award.

Miss D Carty, DofE Manager

ACTIVITIES PACK

BRONZE DOFE 2022-23

SILVER DOFE 2022-23

GOLD DOFE 2022-23

PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS 2023





SPORTING SUCCESS

Frank McGrath (Year 13) has been selected to represent Ireland in the World Athletics Cross Country Series Lotto Cross Cup De Hannut in Belgium on January 22 2023. Frank gained selection after finishing 3rd in the All Ireland cross country championships. He will be competing as a member of the 4-man Under 20 team, an impressive achievement for a 17 year old.



Well done Frank!

INVITATIONS TO CLUBS FOR JANUARY

Parents and carers of students in all year groups were sent new clubs lists at the end of last term via the EVOLVE email system for their son/ daughter for next term (January to February half term).

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:



'HOMES FOR WILDLIFE' EVENT

Saturday 4th February 10:00am – 12pm



The wildlife visiting your garden in the Spring will be on the lookout for shelter from the cold and a place to breed - and you can help.

Wild Maidenhead and Bisham Nest Box Group are teaming up for this special annual Homes for Wildlife event at Braywick Nature Centre, Hibbert Road Maidenhead SL6 1UU on Saturday 4th February 2023. There will be a range of boxes to see and buy for garden birds, owls, kestrels, swifts, hedgehogs bees and bats.

There will also be advice about helping bees in your garden.

This is a great event for families - the Bisham Nest Box Group will be running a tit box assembly operation, so there will be lots of hammering going on, and there will be a nature table where you can test your wildlife knowledge.

The Bisham Nest Box Group team are all local volunteers and their boxes are sold at cost price.

There will be experts on hand to answer your questions

FURZE PLATT THEATRE



What would you like to see at Furze Platt Theatre?

We have a state-of-the-art theatre space at our school, and we're keen to hold more events outside school for people to enjoy – while also raising more funds for the school. So, what would you like to see?



Please click on the link to give us your feedback, so that we can plan more things for our community. This survey is anonymous and we greatly appreciate your help.



Thank you.

Mrs M Holden, Theatre Manager

about siting, observing and maintaining boxes and also about our local wildlife in general.

Refreshments including homemade cake will be available. There will be a suggested £3 donation from all those coming (refundable if you buy a box!) to support the work of Wild Maidenhead.

Please sign up here: <https://www.meetup.com/wildmaidenhead/events/290677880/>



Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to give notice of the **AGM of the Furze Platt Senior School Parent, Teacher & Friends Association** to be held on Wednesday 1st February, 7pm for 7.30pm start, to be held in the school library.

We would very much appreciate your attendance because to meet the Quorum and for votes to be carried, we require a minimum of 6 non-committee individuals to attend.

The PTFA plays a vital part in the school community and all parents/carers, friends, and staff, as members of the PTFA, are invited to support the AGM. This is your chance to see and hear how the funds you have helped raise have been spent for the benefit of your children at school.

The AGM is also an opportunity for you to elect the PTFA Committee, who will represent the Association throughout the forthcoming year, September 2023 to August 2024.

Owing to the Chair, Lorraine Hughes, and Secretary, Katrina Sell, stepping down, we are welcoming nominations for the roles right away. Replacement Officers are required this term for a smooth handover in terms of managing the admin, steering events/activities and meeting our Charity obligations. Job descriptions for each role are available, upon request, so please get in touch.

If you are interested in the role of Chair or Secretary, please complete the Nomination Form that accompanies this letter and return by email to ptfa@furzeplatt.net by Monday 30th January.

Your current Committee Officers are as follows, who have agreed to stand for 2022 to 2023 and hope to stand in 2023 to 2024.

Chairperson	Lorraine Hughes	Stepping down	Vacant in April 2023
Treasurer	Neil Wilson	Standing	Neil Wilson
Secretary	Katrina Sell	Stepping down	Vacant in February 2023
200 Club Admin	Gillian Healey	Standing	Gillian Healey
Uniform Co-ordinator	Carina Charles	Standing	Carina Charles

The Committee welcomes new ideas and suggestions to raise funds for our children, so please get in touch by email or through Facebook as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing you, face-to-face, on Wednesday 1st February 2023.

Kind regards,

Lorraine Hughes

Chair, Furze Platt Senior School PTFA

Tel: 01628 625308

Email: ptfa@furzeplatt.net

(PFTA News continues on page 7 of this newsletter)

CONSULTATION ON NEW SEND PROVISION IN THE ROYAL BOROUGH



The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead is carrying out public consultation on new provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The proposals are for:

an Early Years School Readiness Hub, at The Lawns Nursery School in Windsor.

up to four new Resource Bases, attached to schools in Maidenhead and Windsor, for children and young people with special educational needs.

You can find out more about all of the proposals, and give us your views, at <https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/council-and-democracy/consultations/education-consultations/new-provision-children-special-educational-needs>. Please take the time to read about the proposals and let us know what you think.

The consultation is open until midday on Friday 24th February 2023.

GETTING BACK INTO A ROUTINE...

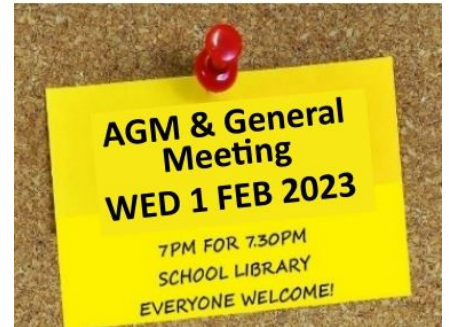
WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY – 7PM FOR 7.30PM

PTFA AGM AND GENERAL MEETING - IN SCHOOL

ALL PARENTS/CARERS AND STAFF WELCOME!

Roles to fill this term: Chair and Secretary

At least 6 participants are required to attend the AGM so Nominations are constituted as Chair and Secretary. To stand as an Officer or to Nominate someone, please get in touch before Monday 30th January: ptfa@furzeplatt.net



HERE'S A QUICK REMINDER HOW THE PTFA RAISE FUNDS

1. Online quarterly draw: 200 CLUB. This is our primary fundraiser and we actively invite you to join. For a little as £5 a month (less than 2 Costa coffees a month!) you could win £200 four times a year. There is no contract (like your mobile or energy supplier) so you are in full control. 4 draws are held per academic year. 3 winners are drawn every time – could it be you?

200 CLUB MONTHLY DONATIONS



2. Online non event schemes: Amazon Smile and Easyfundraising. Donate for free while shopping from your sofa. This quarter we have raised **£50.91 through 97 supporters** from Amazon.Smile and **£124.63 through 166 supporters** from Easyfundraising.

smile.amazon.co.uk

If you have not registered already, then please click through now. Plus, if you sign up with Easyfundraising and raise £5 in donations, then they will give us a bonus £5 donation.



EASYFUNDRAISING

AMAZON SMILE

3. Physical Events: Uniform Sales, Bar and Refreshment Sales, The Big Quiz bar, Matched Funding.

Uniform – please donate your logo'd uniform to benefit our community and maintain our Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose spirit. 'Locate My Kit' and 'Click & Collect' services on offer, email us:

ptfauniform@furzeplatt.net

Bar and Refreshments – please offer your help to run our tables for Theatre Performances.

Matched Funding – if you have helped with any of our fundraisers, then free funds may be claimable from employers. **With thanks to Neil Wilson, Barclays Bank have awarded us £383.33 for the Quiz.**

WE CAN'T RUN THESE EVENTS WITHOUT YOU! EMAIL US YOUR AVAILABILITY

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

TEACH MAIDENHEAD



Interested in training to teach?

TEACH
MAIDENHEAD

is now recruiting for September 2023 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](#)

In partnership with the
Institute of Education



Follow us on Facebook



@TeachMaidenhead

Finance Manager To start at the earliest opportunity

Permanent 37 hours a week full-time, or part-time hours

We will consider applications from candidates looking for flexible working, a full year-round post or term-time only plus some work during the school holidays.

Actual salary depending on experience £38,342 - £42,307 FTE

We have an exciting opportunity for a Finance Manager to join our small and friendly finance team.

Ideally, you will be a qualified accountant or have a strong background in financial management. Experience of working in an educational environment would be advantageous but is not essential. The successful person will line manage two finance support staff and report to the Head of Finance and Operations.

As Finance Manager, you will be a confident communicator and enjoy working collaboratively. You will have excellent attention to detail, be proactive and proficient in IT skills, especially with Microsoft Excel.

In addition, if you have strong organisational skills and are self-motivated, can work independently to meet deadlines and key deliverables, we would love to hear from you!

The role includes:

- Responsibility for preparing budgets and financial and management reports for the school.
- Fulfilling statutory accounting functions for year-end audit.
- Dealing with the management accounts and budgets
- Co-ordinating the annual audit.
- Overseeing bank accounts, petty cash and credit cards.
- Managing a finance team of two.
- Dealing with the expenditure in relation to the school's budget and producing monthly management reports.
- Checking and reconciling the payroll reports; the payroll service is contracted-out.

Furze Platt is a highly successful mixed comprehensive school serving the children of Maidenhead. At Furze Platt, 1500 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 offer a friendly and harmonious campus, and we support the physical and mental wellbeing of all our staff. Generous leave, 28 days holiday, rising to 29 days in April (including 3 days between Christmas and the New year) plus bank holidays, for a full year-round post. Discounted membership is available for the use of a fully equipped and well-maintained gym on-site and we have free onsite parking. All staff have access to an employee advice programme which offers information, resources and a counselling service. We reward long service and encourage community spirit and staff involvement through various social events. Tea and coffee are free, and freshly brewed coffee is available in the main staff room at break times with edible treats to help you through the week!

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: Ongoing

Interviews will take place as and when suitable applications are received

CURRENT VACANCIES

Exam Invigilators – to start as soon as possible

Term time only, casual contract. Actual salary £11.62 per hour (inclusive of holiday pay)

Furze Platt Senior School is looking to add to their bank of dedicated Exam Invigilators, who will be employed on a casual basis to supervise students taking both pre-public exams and actual GCSE/A Level exams, as necessary throughout the school year.

We are looking for individuals who:

- Are available to work on an ad hoc basis to cover pre-public exams which take place at various times during the academic year and official exam sessions during May and June.
- Able to work individually and as part of a team
- Have good interpersonal skills
- Remain calm under pressure
- Are able to follow all instructions including those set by the Exam Board

Full training will be provided, and staff will be contacted prior to the exam period to discuss the invigilation schedule in relation to their own availability.

Please visit our website www.furzeplatt.com for an application form or contact Mrs Sarah Hemsley via sarah.hemsley@furzeplatt.net for further information. Only applications submitted on the school application form will be considered. All applications need to be submitted to kiran.smith@furzeplatt.net.

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: Ongoing
Interviews will take place as suitable applicants apply

CURRENT VACANCIES



YOUTH THEATRE

Norden Farm Centre for the Arts, Maidenhead



- ✓ make new friends
- ✓ learn drama skills
- ✓ develop confidence
- ✓ perform a show

"Both our children attend Youth Theatre & since they started we have seen dramatic improvements in their ability, confidence, social awareness & expressiveness generally and specifically"

Alex - Parent

"I can say with certainty that the thing that my child enjoys the most is that she can be herself without being judged. So it is definitely a safe space for her. I think that is very important."

Rolien - Parent

"Norden Farm is my favorite after school club, it always keeps me moving and relaxed. It is a great place to go for drama and within a short time, I have become far more confident and expressive."

Timothy - Age 7

WEDNESDAYS

Junior Youth Theatre £85.00

Ages 7-11 Years - 4.55pm-5.55pm

Senior Youth Theatre £120.00

Ages 12-16 Years - 6.00pm-7.30pm

for more information visit the website & click 'Norden Farm'

Spring Term Starts

11TH

January 2023

www.littletanks.co.uk



WE'RE ON TOUR

Recruitment Roadshow 2023



Call Handlers



Ambulance
Crews



Patient
Transport

Coming to a town near you, it's the South Central Ambulance Service Recruitment Roadshow 2023. We're recruiting to a range of roles. Come and talk to us to find out more.

Visit us at the following locations:

Friday 13 January
Worthing, Sussex

Saturday 14 January
Godstone, Surrey

Saturday 21 January
Newbury

Saturday 28 January
Bicester

Milton Keynes
Otterbourne

Saturday 4 February
Whiteley, Fareham

Saturday 11 February
Oxford

Saturday 18 February
High Wycombe

Saturday 25 February
Milton Keynes



Find out more at scasjobs.co.uk





Join our Virtual Live Events

We're running a series of midweek virtual live events throughout January and February 2023

Wednesday 11 January, 6pm-7.30pm
Apprentice Emergency Care Assistant

Wednesday 25 January, 6pm-7.30pm
How to become a Paramedic

Wednesday 8 February, 6pm-7.30pm
A career in our call centres

Wednesday 22 February, 6pm-7.30pm
How to become a Paramedic



Find out more at scasjobs.co.uk

