

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #69.8



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Rotary Youth Speaks Competition

Many congratulations to our two Youth Speaks teams who competed in Reading yesterday evening.

Having won the local round, the competition was greater, but our teams performed exceptionally despite not progressing further.

Congratulations to all the students involved and many thanks to the staff and parents who supported this event.



Strike Action

Thank you to our parents and carers who made alternative arrangements on Thursday due to the NEU strike action.

In school, we were able to run several activities including the Year 11 Revision Conference, Year 10 PPEs and Sixth Form lessons.

I will be in touch again with arrangements for 15th and 16th March should the strikes continue.

Year 10 PPEs

Well done to our Year 10s who finished their first week of exams today. Speaking to students, I know there are many lessons to learn, including about examination technique, revision and simply the experience of preparing for and sitting that many exams in school.

What is vital is that students reflect and learn from this experience for the future.

Thank you.

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



TERM 4 EVENTS

ALL EVENTS

NEXT WEEK (Week 1)

TUE 7 MARCH	Non-Uniform Day in aid of Turkey -Syria DEC Earthquake Appeal	
THU 9 MARCH	Year 11 Geography Fieldwork (Maidenhead) - Day 4	
FRI 10 MARCH	Year 8 Parents' & Students' Consultation Evening	3.45pm - 7.45pm
	Late Start (9.15am)	9.15am- 3.15pm

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

THU 23 MARCH	Year 10 Parents and Carers Information Evening (online)	4.15pm - 7.15pm
FRI 24 MARCH	Non Uniform Day in aid of Cystic Fibrosis Trust	
WED 29 MARCH	Spring Concert	7pm - 9.30pm
FRI 31 MARCH	End of Term 4	12.30pm
MON 17 APRIL	Start of Term 5	8.40am- 3.15pm

SCHOOL TERM DATES

NON UNIFORM (MUFTI) DAY

TUESDAY 7TH MARCH



We will be holding a non-uniform (mufti) day on Tuesday 7th March 2023 in aid of the Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal from the Disasters Emergency Committee.

All donations to the charity's fantastic work are greatly appreciated and we would ask for participating students to make a £2 donation wherever possible. Students should please give their donations to their tutor in registration on the day.

While students will be wearing their own clothes, please be aware that we do expect them to dress appropriately.

YEAR 8 PARENTS AND CARERS' CONSULTATION EVENING



THURSDAY 9TH MARCH

On Thursday 9th March there will be a consultation evening for Year 8 parents and carers which will be held virtually.

Appointments are booked online and are available from 3:45pm until 7:45pm. 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.](#)

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 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.parenteveningsystem.co.uk/article/801-video-parents-how-to-attend-appointments-over-video-call>

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.

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 a member of SLT between 3:45pm and 7:45pm, please follow the link:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/5527100646?pwd=QjFHL3BwUk5KWkIhWGNmUES4S3VWQT09>

Meeting ID: 552 710 0646 Passcode: A0NtYL

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

INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE



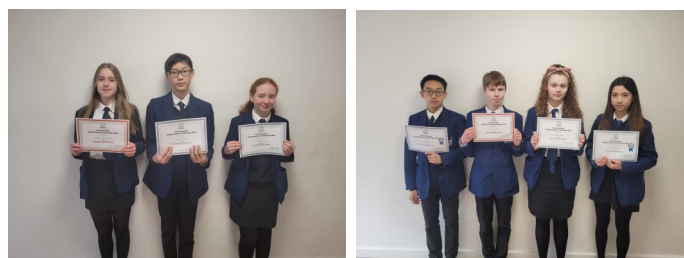
On Wednesday, 1st February 2023, a number of our Year 9, 10, and 11 Maths students participated in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. As usual our students did very well and many of our students achieved either a Gold, Silver or Bronze award.

Noah Moss and Gordon Yiu, both in Year 9, did exceptionally well in their year group, qualifying for the Grey Kangaroo Maths Challenge on 16th March 2023. We wish both of them the very best in this competition.

Jacob Hobson in Year 10 achieved Best in School, Austin Ka and Sophie Wong both Best in Year 11 and Noah Moss Best in Year 9. We as a Maths department are extremely proud to offer our students these enrichment opportunities and are equally proud of their excellent achievements in these competitions.

In the pictures are some of our award winners.

Mr J Langenhoven, Teacher of Maths





NOUGHTS AND CROSSES - DRAMA TRIP

TUESDAY 7TH MARCH

Please note later time of departure

There has been a small timing change to this event; students should meet outside Main Reception at 5.30pm.



GENEVA TRIP 2023

Written by Olivia Wojas & Tilly Connolly

Olivia Wojas (Year 12): 'Spending the weekend in Geneva was a rousing new experience that showed me the Swiss culture, architecture and way of life. Over the weekend, we got to see The United Nations, The Red Cross Museum and even spent our Saturday evening in a bowling alley!

The day we arrived was instantly thrilling as we first visited the UN, which shared with us considerable information on current political events and tensions as well as showing well-known meeting rooms that have previously been where ground-breaking decisions about the United Nations have been made. I found that as we took a tour around some of the building, not only did I get to learn a lot about politics (which I don't usually take an interest in), but it also opened our eyes to opportunities if we wanted to go in the direction of fighting for human rights in the future - using our scientific knowledge.



Following the visit to CERN, we headed down to a spectacular night playing bowling and finishing off our trip with the Red Cross Museum, which was filled with prodigious and inspired art exhibitions - showing us an extensive selection of stories of impacted countries, ranging from the first World War to recent years of conflict.'



Tilly Connolly (Year 12): The Saturday of our trip was the main reason we went to Geneva, and as A-level Physics students, we were eager and ready to ask lots of questions. We were very lucky to walk around CERN's remarkable science facility, The Large Hadron Collider (which is to thank for today's extraordinary development in particle physics) whilst having a well-educated tour guide who knew the machinery and the complicated science behind it. During the tour, we learnt fascinating facts that fuelled our passion for physics, and gained helpful knowledge about the Large Hadron Collider which linked back to our A level Physics course.

The day was an exciting insight into what our subjects can lead to; it was an honour to be amongst physicists who have played a part in discovering what we learn at school.



SHORT STORY COMPETITION RESULTS



A huge well done to everyone who submitted a short story for our recent competition in English, we were so impressed with the standard this year!

After some intense discussion, here are the final results:

WINNER:

Nicole Mizikova (Year 9 Hawk House)

SHORTLISTED:

Valeria Tarasov (Year 7 Ospreys)

Princess Adebuseye (Year 7 Hawks)

James Maher (Year 7 Eagles) and Alex Fennell (Year 8 Eagles)

You can read Nicole's fantastic winning entry on page 4 of this newsletter.

Mrs V Byrne, Teacher of English

SHORT STORY COMPETITION WINNER

'OTHER VOICES'

BY NICOLE MIZIKOVA

YEAR 9

'My grandmother loved to tell me this story because it would teach me a lesson. My horrifying screams seemed to fuel her to go on and by the time she had finished, my mum would have to come pick me up off the floor where I was bawling my eyes out and praying it wouldn't happen to me. She would always get scolded by the end but that never stopped her.

Neverea, that's what she called it. Some random historic word I never had the pleasure to translate. But that doesn't matter, the story is what leaves chills down your spine and gives you sleepless nights. You see, we live in a small, off grid village where everyone knows each other and no one speaks of its history. Our little village is cast as the outcast's hub spot, since the mayor from the town over sends all his rejects to us. One specific reject changed history forever. Her name was Noritcia. Rumors had it that she was a witch; but not your standardized, boring, hag like witch you see in October, no, she dealt with the underworld. The underworld we were specifically told not to mess with or summon. But she did. All because of love.

One moody, foggy night she had arrived in a black gravers car. Everyone thought it was another coffin to bury but as she came into sight, we realised that the mayor had sent over his monthly delivery. My grandmother had told me I was still in the womb, safely tucked away from this twisted deliverance. She had come with no luggage and barely any clothes on her bare, pale body that resembled one of an 80 year old on their death bed. But she looked only past a 14-year-old. Maybe she was sick? No one knew because she spoke rarely and only in whispers as if she was constantly in a trance of prayer or curse. She was put into a spare shed-like house at the far end of the village where they thought she would get her senses back together and begin to speak as to why she was sent here. They only got her name on an off chance of a woodchuck cutting wood nearby and hearing her singing 'Noritcia' over and over again. They just assumed it was her name but oh how they were wrong.

A few weeks had gone by with no progress from her; by now the people, including my grandmother, were getting ready for the winter, ensuring supplies were up. People tried to help the new girl, but they gave up quickly when accounts were saying that all they could hear was the dreaded singing and could see her sitting in a hex circle with a cloud of red dust

seemed off about this one. Something that could cause serious damage and would later take the lives of many. They thought it was best to leave her alone and to hopefully not make it through the winter but that plan failed fast.

During many nights my grandmother would wake up with a start and look out the window to see the girl pacing the streets with urgency, hands raised screaming from an ancient, mud stricken book that belonged in the trash. My grandmother would one day decide to put on her little leather boots and wrap into a blanket, only to run after Noritcia. They were basically the same age and she wanted to make a friend but that would later result in a future spiral of trauma and down fall. Catching up to her fast, because she really wasn't pacing that fast, my grandmother knew no better than to shout her name over the singing. Despite how much noise there was going on the girl immediately turned and stared at my grandmother, her eyes glazing over red and her mouth foaming. Another word escaped my grandmother, and everything disappeared, the little girl's body hunching over and spitting in exhaustion. It was as if my grandmother had interrupted her trance of something.

Looking like a deer in headlights, the little girl stole one more glance at the villager that had taken her away from reaching her one lover and ran away deep into the forest behind her house. Once my grandmother had told her mum what had happened she was immediately taken to the priest where he made her pray over and over again, for they had thought she had been cursed.

Since then gossip began to spread in the village and no sign of the girl fuelled the rumours further. Had she finally gone? Had God taken its toll on her? They would never know until disasters began happening. People missing, houses burning, draughts, famine, you name it, the village was struck by it. No one knew what was happening.

Except my grandmother. She was the last one to see and speak to the girl, but she refused to spill what Noritcia had whispered incoherently. She was under a promise, one that could get her killed. So the town kept on suffering and she remained quiet until her family decided to leave the hell the place had became and start a new life in a new state. Seasons passed and years went on, until I was born and my grandmother had become frail. Given her circumstances she didn't have long left.

So, she told me the story. The full thing. With her secret that would cost her life. Because she sensed something was coming, another witch full of surprises. Our family was cursed forever. My grandmother was too stubborn that night. I can never sleep soundly again. Now I survive in constant fear. My grandmother will soon die, and I will be the one to carry her mistakes and burdens until death.

So, you see, believe whatever you want from this story, Someone will always be watching you.'

YEAR 10 AND 11 CONSTRUCTION

Our Year 10 & 11 Construction classes had the pleasure of being invited to visit a building site by BAM Construction. BAM Construction were contracted, by the DofE to build a new school for 900 students in Surrey for a new catchment area.

Prior to the tour, the students learned the processes involved in ensuring the ground was at the correct standard before the construction could begin. They were given information about the different roles of the employees as well as the 140 different trades involved in such projects.

There is a temporary structure on site, hosting current Year 7, until the school is ready for them to move into in September. The school is expected to eventually house 900 students. This visit gave the students an insight into a live construction site and showed them how the skills learned in their lessons could potentially be utilised in the work place.

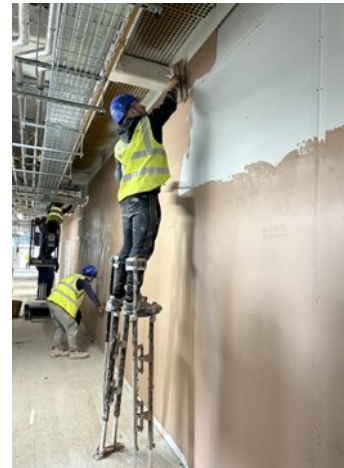
The visit was incredibly valuable and we are grateful to BAM Construction for the opportunity to visit.

Luke Maddox (Year 11): We went to Heathside school in Surrey to see a construction site. They were building a brand new school for 900 students. We learned about apprenticeships and what they are and how to get in touch with potential employers. On site, we learned how the workers schedule their day and what different trades do. I liked that we got to see a building being constructed, and a real life working environment. It benefitted me as it helps us in our lesson and we can use what we saw on the construction site as examples. I liked seeing what it would look and be like.



Jake Coomes (Year 11) : We went to Heathside School to see them build a school with different construction workers. We learned how to get an apprenticeship working on a construction site. The trip benefitted me because it taught me what it would be like to work on a construction site.

Harrison Barry (Year 11): We went to a construction site where a school was being built. I learned many things such as how the site runs and some of the different trades involved in the project. We learned many skills such as the types of jobs we could get and how to get an apprenticeship. I liked how the trip showed us about what goes on in a live building site and how they function.





Parents and carers of students in all year groups will have received invitations at the end of last term for their son or daughter to attend clubs during February and March. 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.

Please note:

- * all bookings for Term 4 must be made through the original email invitations (sent out on Friday 10th February)
- * once in the list of clubs or academic support clinics, click on the name of the activity or session you wish to book 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 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 AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT CLINICS
SCHEDULE 2023**



WEDNESDAY 3.15PM
"What do Black Holes eat?"

If you are a girl or non-binary student in Years 7-10, come to Astronomy Club on Wednesday at 3.15 in S11 to find out!

Vicky Fawcett is a former student from Furze Platt, and is currently undertaking an Astronomy PhD at Durham University researching quasars.

"What do black holes eat?"
with Vicky Fawcett, Durham University Astronomy PhD
(and former Furze Platt student)

'Girls in STEM presents...'
Astronomy Club
For girls or non-binary students in Y7-10

Wednesday 8th March 3.20pm in S11

FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL ALUMNI

Spelling Bee Challenge

HOUSE COMPETITION

This half term's House competition is a Spelling Bee.

Within each year group, the four Houses will compete against each other in teams of 4.

The Spelling Bee will take place during tutor time in a classroom with one of the Heads of House.

There will not be an audience.

The winners will win prizes and lots of House points.

All students who reach the final will receive 10 Integrity points each.

The winning team members of each year group will win 25 Integrity points each.

The winner will win 1000 points for their House, 2nd place will win 600 points for their House, 3rd place will win 400 points for their House, 4th place will win 200 points for their House.

The winning team will also win some sweet treats!



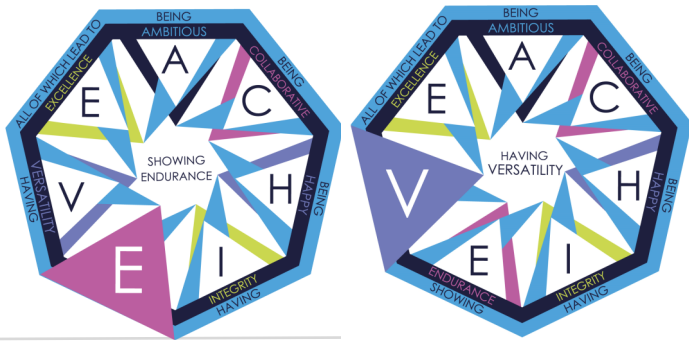
TRIP PAYMENT REMINDERS:

If payments are due for an upcoming trip they should be made via ParentMail:

Payments-Shop-Pay-Checkout.

Thank you.





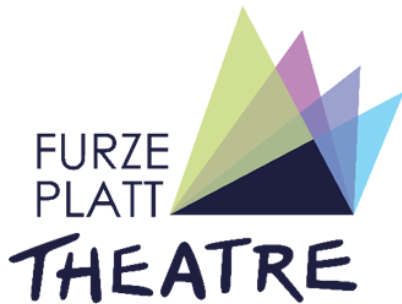
Let's Rock

Do you want to be in the next number one pop band, a performer in the best classical orchestra in the world or you just want to be a better hairbrush singer?

The Music Department are giving you the opportunity to let your dreams come a reality!

At Furze Platt Senior School we offer a huge range of lessons through our specialist instrumental teachers. From violin and flute to electric guitar and drums we have it all available to every Furze Platt student.

To find out more about lessons please see Mr Forster or drop him an email stuart.forster@furzeplatt.net



FUNDRAISING EVENTS – YOU ARE INVITED

In March, please join us for two fantastic, yet very different, events to raise money for our school. Tickets for both events will be going on sale from 12pm on 1st March via [ticketsource.co.uk](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk).

On **Wednesday 22nd March** we are delighted to be welcoming two speakers who give an inspirational talk entitled 'Building Bridges'. The evening features Dr Noemie Lopian, the daughter of two Holocaust survivors, and Derek Niemann, the grandson of an SS officer in a Nazi concentration camp. These unlikely friends share their fascinating insight into their opposing backgrounds and how, despite it all, they have found positive lessons

into what happened in the 1940s. Doors open at 6.30pm, with the talk beginning at 7pm – 9pm. Tickets are £5 to attend, and the PTFA are kindly selling soft drinks: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/furzeplatttheatre/t-dvjonoo>

BUILDING BRIDGES
Two unlikely friends share their stories

Wednesday 22 March 2023
Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start

And on **Friday 24th March** we continue our Furze Platt Friday gig night with Panic Lounge – another local band who play a mix of 80s, 90s, 00s and recent cover tracks. Think Blondie, the Killers, Queen, Pink, with a bit of Abba thrown in. They are always a great night of dancing to fantastic live music and are not to be missed. There will be a bar onsite serving a range of drinks from 7pm in the theatre: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/furzeplatttheatre/t-nomgaej>

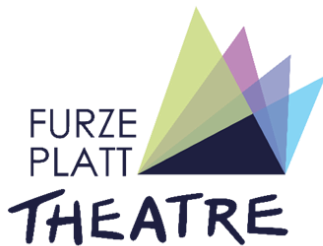
PANIC lounge

We've got it covered.

Take Me Out - Sit Down - Hard to Handle - Shut Up And Dance - I Saw Her Standing There - Marry You - Losing My Religion - The Power Of Love - Under The Bridge - Shine - Have A Nice Day - Shout - Don't Stop Me Now - Your Song - Livin' On A Prayer

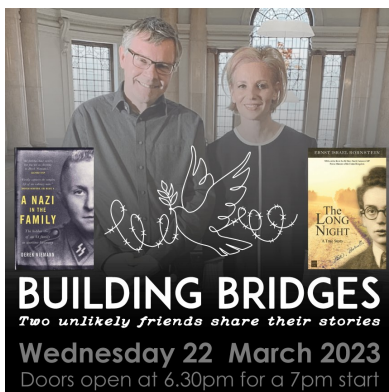
FRIDAY 24 MARCH 2023
Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start

COMING UP AT FURZE PLATT THIS MONTH...



FURZE PLATT THEATRE EVENTS

HELPERS REQUIRED – PLEASE EMAIL US WITH YOUR AVAILABILITY:
ptfa@furzeplatt.net



INSPIRATIONAL TALK 'BUILDING BRIDGES' Wednesday 22nd March

- * Setup from 5.30pm in the Theatre foyer
- * Tea, coffee and soft drinks being served
- * Cash and card payments accepted



We've got it *covered*.

FRIDAY 24 MARCH 2023
Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start



GIG NIGHT 'PANIC LOUNGE' Friday 24th March

- * Setup from 5.30pm in the Theatre
- * Bar serving Rebellion, wines and soft drinks
- * Cash and card payments accepted



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)

Aged 10-18 and looking for adventure? Join us!



ROYAL MARINES CADETS **ACHIEVE** **COURAGE** **LEAD**

SEA CADETS **LAUNCH** **ACHIEVE** **ADVENTURE**

ROYAL MARINES CADETS **ROYAL MARINES CADETS** **SEA CADETS** **SEA CADETS**

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SINGLE SITE MEMBERSHIP ALSO AVAILABLE

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Want to Get Active & Have Fun?



Come and Enjoy Girls Cricket at Boyne Hill CC

No kit or equipment required.



All Ages from Under 5 (Reception) up to U13 (Year 8)



Come and join our growing Ladies and Girls Cricket Section. "All Abilities Welcome"

Girls Training: **Fridays**
U5-U9 6.15pm-7.30pm (Softball)
U10-U13 6.00pm-7.30pm (Softball & Hardball)

Contact
Jack Spencer Jones
jackspencerjones@yahoo.co.uk 07595463584

[@BoyneHillCC](https://www.facebook.com/BoyneHillCC) [f Boyne Hill CC](https://www.facebook.com/BoyneHillCC) [boynehillcc1890](https://www.instagram.com/boynehillcc1890)

Address: BoynGrove, HighwayRoad, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 5AE

BBC

YOUNG REPORTER COMPETITION

Got a story to tell?

CLOSES FRIDAY 31ST MARCH 2023

Share it with the BBC and it could be seen or heard by people all over the UK!

If you're aged between 11-18 the BBC Young Reporter Competition wants to hear from you.

For full T&Cs, Privacy Notice and to apply:
bbc.co.uk/youngreportercompetition