

## FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #71.10



#### MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

#### **Natural History Museum Trip**

This week I have met many students buzzing about the visits to the Natural History Museum where they have been enhancing their Science and Geography studies. Students seem to have thoroughly enjoyed learning beyond FPSS. I hope that the final group of Year 8s enjoy their visit on Monday and thank you to all parents and carers who supported the event.



#### **Globe Theatre Visit**

Today, I hope that our students are equally enthused when they return from the Globe having learnt more about Shakespeare and the Theatre itself. Such experiences can only happen thanks to the willingness of staff to organise them, and I would like to thank colleagues for providing such opportunities for our students.

#### Sixth Form Apprenticeship Talk

On Wednesday we welcomed Max McGarvie from the firm Zenopa into FPSS to talk to our Year 12 students. Max described how apprenticeships offered an alternative to college and universities, providing a paid route to qualifications and a career. I hope that the event encouraged many students to investigate apprenticeship opportunities.

#### **PTFA Quiz**

Last Friday saw our annual PTFA quiz and I would like to thank all those who supported the event and helped raise money for FPSS. I would particularly like to express my appreciation for the PTFA members who regularly volunteer to help support the school.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**ALL EVENTS** 

#### Term 2 Events

<b>TUE 21</b> NOVEMBER	Autistic Girls Network - talk	7-8pm
THU 23 NOVEMBER	Sixth Form Open Evening	6pm - 9pm
<b>FRI 24</b> NOVEMBER	Late Start	9.15am
<b>TUE 28</b> NOVEMBER	Careers and Higher Education Fair (CHEF)	6pm - 8pm
<b>THU 30</b> NOVEMBER	Year 12 Parents' & Students' Consultation Evening	4.15pm - 7.15pm
<b>WED 6</b> DECEMBER	Year 9 & 10 Performing Arts Theatre Trip	4.30pm - 10pm
<b>THU 7</b> DECEMBER	Year 13 Parents' & Students' Consultation Evening	4.15pm - 7.15pm
<b>WED 13</b> DECEMBER	Christmas Concert	7.30pm - 9pm
<b>FRI 15</b> DECEMBER	End of Term 2 - Early finish	12.30pm finish
MON 17 - TUE 2 DECEMBER - JANUARY	Christmas Holidays	
<b>WED 3</b> JANUARY	INSET Day - School closed for all year groups	
<b>THU 4</b> JANUARY	Start of Term 3	8.40am start

**SCHOOL TERM DATES** 

#### Year 11 PPEs

Congratulations to our Year 11 students for completing their written PPE papers this week. There were a lot of nerves but also a great deal of focus. I hope that students see the result of all their efforts when they get their results.

#### Sixth Form Open Evening

A reminder that next week sees our Sixth Form Open Evening on 23<sup>rd</sup> November giving students and their families the chance to meet our Sixth Form team and students, as well as hear about the various subjects and courses we offer.

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#### **Career and Higher Education Fair**

Another exciting upcoming event happens the week after, when, on Tuesday 28th November, we will welcome many employers and higher education institutions to FPSS to talk to our students. This is an important evening to help students, parents and carers consider the world of work, employment, apprenticeships, colleges and universities. I look forward to seeing you there.

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





6.00 - 6.20pm: Welcome meeting for guest students, who are new to Furze Platt – Main Hall

6.30 - 6.55pm: An introduction to the Furze Platt Sixth Form – Theatre





## LATE START: FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 9.15am START FOR THE WHOLE SCHOOL

Following our Sixth Form Open Evening, we have a late start on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November. All students will go to their first lesson (instead of Form) that day and start at 9.15am.





## VISIT TO THE MIGRATION MUSEUM AND BRICK LANE



#### BY Lena Holmes, Year 12

Recently, both Year 12 English classes had the amazing opportunity to visit the Migration Museum in Lewisham, London. We began our trip at Maidenhead station and took the underground to the museum, where we all took part in a workshop. In the workshop we discussed reasons for migration, and types of migrants. Personally, I found this extremely relevant to our current course as it gave more insight to the books we are reading, which navigate immigrants and their experiences in new countries. After the workshop, we explored the museum, which was exclusively open only to us, and discovered more about migration. There was a variety of displays to learn from, including migrants in fashion, how certain foods enter our country and the jobs that migrants pick up. Overall, the museum was fascinating and catered perfectly to our age group.

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Later on, we got the DLR to Brick Lane, where we were free to explore, stretch our legs and grab lunch. The hipster vibe of Brick Lane was different to anything many of us had seen before, with so much to see and experience. Everyone ended up having very different meals, some had chicken and chips whilst others tried traditional Bengali food, famously cooked by the strong South Asian communities of the area. There were many vintage markets and shops that were vibrant and full of life, tempting many of us with jewellery, jackets and football shirts. After an hour or so of exploring, we made our way back to Maidenhead via the train. Both parts of the trip were fantastic and such a unique experience.







'The safety, welfare and well-being of the whole school community form a priority for leaders at the school.'

Ofsted 2021

#### YEAR 7A TEAM - NETBALL LEAGUE



Brilliant play by our Year 7A team who played Newlands A and B teams and Charters A and B teams. The girls played amazingly and are finding their feet within the team. They all enjoyed the 4 matches they played and tried new positions within the team and are looking forward to future matches.

#### The team:

Abbie Connell Katie Ellis Alice Greenland Florence Jones Simran Bhamra Bella Hill Grace Stroud Bessie Wright





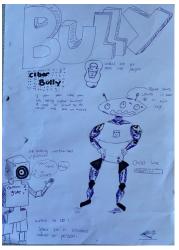
## ANTI-BULLYING WEEK (Part 1) YEAR 7 PSHE

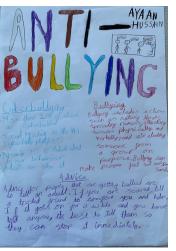


As part of anti-bullying week 2023, Year 7 students have been creating posters in PSHE to raise awareness about the importance of kindness, respect and inclusivity. These posters have allowed students to express their thoughts about the topic and to encourage empathy, fostering a

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positive school environment where we are actively opposing bullying; more details are on the next page.









#### **CAN YOU HELP (1)?**



Thank you so much to everyone who donated sweet tubs for our Food and Nutrition department. We are now asking for your help on behalf of our Art department!

Please can you save any cardboard Amazon envelopes and big cereal boxes. They are needed for a whole year so please drop them to main reception when you have no



further use of them. We are also looking for old light bulbs - the more unusual the better.

#### Thank you.



#### CAN YOU HELP (2)?



If you have any French, German or Spanish newspapers or magazines you no longer need, please could you donate them to the MFL (Modern Foreign Languages) department?



Thank you.





#### **TERM 2 CLUBS 2023-24**

Clubs for next term were sent out at the end of last term, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October. Please do not delete this email as new clubs may be added throughout the term and you will need to book via the original link.

#### **SCHOOL CLUB LIST**





#### **ANTI-BULLYING WEEK (Part 2)**



Our Heads of Progress marked Anti-Bullying Week by delivering an assembly on the crucial theme 'Making a Noise about Bullying' and the importance of promoting kindness.



In addition to the assembly, our dedicated tutors took the opportunity to delve deeper into the theme during tutor time. Through interactive activities and open discussions, students explored the various aspects of bullying and its impact on individuals. These sessions served as valuable opportunities to reinforce the importance of creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all students. We encourage you to continue these conversations at home, reinforcing the positive messages shared during the assembly and tutor time.

Please find a link to the Anti-Bullying Alliance advice for parents and carers. By working together, we can ensure that our school remains a safe and nurturing space for every child.



#### UNIFORM

Our students are our ambassadors in the community and beyond. As we prepare them for life after school, we expect them to wear their uniform with pride, on the way to school, in school and on the way home. By setting professional standards, they give themselves a great sense of belonging and are ready to take on a career where they will be expected to dress professionally. Please work with us to make sure your child has dressed appropriately before leaving for school. Please find the link to our Furze Platt Uniform expectations as a reminder.



Now that the climate is changing and the dark days are approaching, please could you ensure that your young person dresses appropriately in rainy and cold weather. A warm coat (ideally waterproof) and an umbrella will see them through the many downpours that seem to happen just as they arrive and leave school. This will hopefully save them arriving to school, and getting home, drenched.

Thank you all for your ongoing support.

#### **FURZE PLATT JUNIOR SCHOOL**



Students from the Junior School will be joining us on Tuesday 5th December for a Girls in Space session, we look forward to seeing them!



#### **HOUSE POINTS UPDATE**

W

Well done to everyone in Hawk House for their fantastic collection of positive points this week!









3,962

4,058

4,137

3,886

#### Winners Fortnight 1 - Collaboration Points

#### **Individuals**

Whole School: Alfie Wetherall

(9SVJ) (£10 Amazon Voucher)

Year Groups: Year 7 – Riley Maskell

(7EED) – All to get chocolate bar

Year 8 - Akeeb Hussain (8RJW)

Year 10 – Andreea Timotin (10CRR)

Year 11 – Lizzie Johnstone (11ARL)

6th - Alia Hitschmann (6AEB)

#### **Tutor Groups**

Whole School: 9SVJ – Biscuits and front of queue pass

Year Groups: 7EED – All to get biscuits; 8TAS,

10CRR, 11AMN, 6AEB

#### SPARX Maths – Biscuits for each

Year 7 - Hayden Appleyard 7JHL

Year 8 - Seb Sutehall 8TAS

Year 9 - Eleanor Copping 9CED

Year 10 - Eddie Suiters 10DAT

Year 11 - Connor Fitzgibbon 11JOH







## AUTISTIC GIRLS NETWORK, TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER, 7PM, SCHOOL THEATRE

We are joined by Cathy Wassell, who runs the charity, Autism in Girls Network, to talk about how girls are often diagnosed much later than boys due to misconceptions about how autism presents itself.

Cathy is the mother of a child with autism, who was only diagnosed aged 13 after a mental health crisis.

She can talk both personally and professionally and personally about the challenges of getting a diagnosis and gives practical tips and techniques for those who care for children and teenagers.

Ticket prices are £5 (to cover the cost of hosting Cathy at

our theatre) and can be purchased via the link or QR code below.

For any other enquiries contact theatre@furzeplatt.net

#### **BUY TICKETS**

Mrs M Holden

Theatre Manager





Contact us Email: ptfa@furzeplatt.net facebook.com/fpssptfa Website: click here to access



### THE BIG QUIZ 12 - FUNDS RAISED £1500!!!!

16 teams made up of 96 parents/carers/friends gathered in the hall last Friday evening to pit their wits against each other in the BIG QUIZ 12. Congratulations to the winning team: Six of the Best: L to R - Anton Russell, David Browitt, Paul Thompson, Sheila Attenborough, Emma Craig and Steve Craig.





Ten school subject rounds were created by masterminds Hugh Steed and Gareth Ebenezer over the last few months. They included PSHE - In The News; History -What Was The Year; Music -Saxophone Solos; Picture rounds -Name the Home Computer and Before They Were Famous.

An enrichment workshop in Art, to create the Statue of David from modelling clay, was held during lunch time over a delicious giant pan-cooked meal.





The timetable resumed with Media Studies - Harry Potter eliminator and concluded with the Final Exam - general knowledge.

Thank you to parents: Laura, Mari, Grant, Mark and science teacher: Ms Malanchuk for running the bar with the PTFA committee volunteers Gill and Carina, and for staying on to clear up.

SO, NOW IT'S TIME FOR REFLECTION: WWW (what went well), EBI (even better if), NS (next step). Please email us your feedback: ptfa@furzeplatt.net



### MATCHED FUNDING SCHEMES

FREE FUNDS FROM EMPLOYERS FOR REGISTERED CHARITIES, LIKE US - TALK TO US TODAY!

Now is the perfect time to apply to your employer to match or contribute to our fundraising efforts, e.g. the Quiz and/or 200 Club. This is a simple way to maximise the fundraising efforts of your PTFA volunteers.

Generally speaking, banks and building societies, insurance companies, supermarkets, utilities providers, phone companies and car manufacturers are known to offer match-funding schemes.

A match funding scheme can be adopted by any company no matter how big or small. Barclays, for example, offers its employees the opportunity to match funds they raise for their chosen charity.

Please let us know the details your company require by emailing us: <a href="mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net">ptfa@furzeplatt.net</a>

Below excerpt from the website of Hutchinson 3G UK: https://www.three.co.uk/social-commitment/community

#### **Community Fund**

The Community Fund aims to help the organisations and groups that mean a lot to our people. That's why each month, our employees nominate up to 5 local charities to receive £500 from us. Since the Fund launched in 2012, we've donated over £250,000 to organisations nationwide.

Volunteering is a great way to support the causes we're passionate about. That's why at Three, our people can take 3 days' paid leave to volunteer, every year.

### ONLINE FUNDRAISERS

Easyfundraising.org - Free cash to the PTFA - it won't cost you a penny, just 3 minutes on your device.

These donations really mount up, so please watch this video of how to sign up and click through to support Furze Platt Senior School PTFA:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/furzeplattsenior/?utm\_campaign=raise-more&utm\_medium=email&utm\_content=rm-en-n1

#### Anyone need uniform or have a 200 Club query?

- \* Email Carina on <a href="mailto:PTFAUniform@furzeplatt.net">PTFAUniform@furzeplatt.net</a>
- \* Email Gill on PTFA200Club@furzeplatt.net



St John's College, Oxford. are delighted to open registration for Inspire Critical Thinking for 2023/24! Inspire Critical Thinking is open to all non-selective state school pupils across the UK in Years 9, 10 & 11.

INSPIRE CRITICAL THINKING 2023/24 Thinking is for you!

#### HAT IS INSPIRE CRITICAL THINKING?

#### HOW DOES IT WORK?

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN **UNTIL 13TH DECEMBER** 2023



#### THIS YEAR'S WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

#### WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

- Learn about crime & punishment from a range perspectives
- Develop critical thinking skills • Win prizes for completing challenges
- Improve your literacy
   Discuss and debate online with pupils across the UK Find out about life at Oxford University
- Invitation to the St John's College Virtual Summer School
- . Guidance on careers and subjects

#### HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Scan the QR code to register, or visit www.sjcinspire.com for more information.







Last year, we had over 1000 pupils from across the UK take part in our programme, and this year we are inviting even more Critical Thinkers to join in!

Inspire Critical Thinking is a free online course run by St John's College and Somerville College in collaboration with Oxford for South East, and open to all pupils at non-selective UK state schools in Years 9, 10 & 11.

The course focuses on a central theme which is approached from a variety of subject viewpoints, and each virtual workshop includes articles, interviews, recorded lectures, and challenges developed by University of Oxford academics and students!

#### The theme for Inspire Critical Thinking 2023/24 is 'Does Crime Always Deserve Punishment?'

By taking part in the programme, pupils will have the opportunity to explore their interests in depth, discover new and exciting topics which they might not have studied before, and develop confidence in their ability. Pupils will also have the chance to submit responses to each class's challenges to be in with a chance of winning prizes!

This year's Inspire Critical Thinking includes a range of exciting and engaging resources, with articles ranging from Al and crime to the use of DNA in evidence. We also include interviews with current researchers and students, and further links to help pupils hone their critical thinking skills and develop their CVs.

The aim of Inspire Critical Thinking is to develop pupils' ability to think critically about the world around them by encouraging them to advance their analytical, reflective, and creative abilities, all while having fun and learning more about the world around them.

#### **Inspire Virtual Summer School**

#### Chance to attend a Free Inspire Residential Summer School

Following the online classes, all registered pupils will be invited to attend our Inspire Virtual Summer School. For pupils in Year 11, there is also a competitive application process for a free Inspire Residential Summer School at St John's College!

You can read all about our Inspire Summer Schools by following this link.

The course takes place on our website, Inspire Digital. You can access the course homepage by following this link



## **Online event**

### What is Kooth?

Kooth is a free, safe, online, anonymous counselling and emotional support service for young people aged 10 - 25 in East Berkshire.





### Find out more about Kooth

Join Kooth on this 1 hour information session for parents and carers. The session will cover the following:

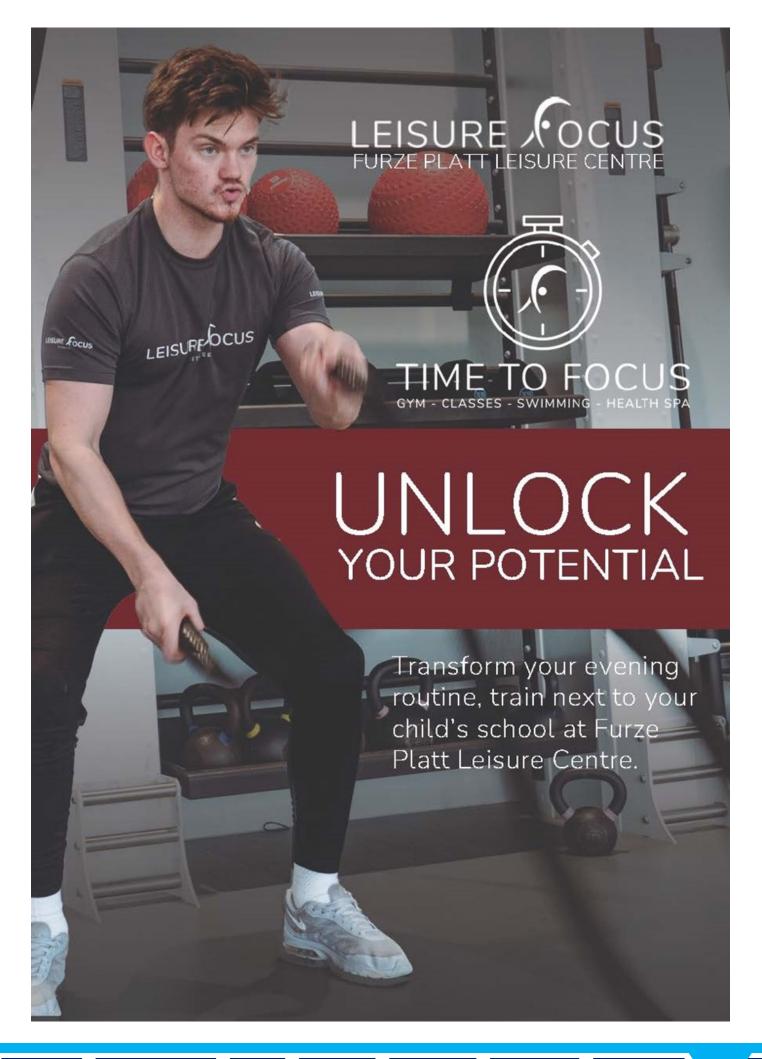
- Information about the Kooth service
- How to support young people to register
- Kooth support features
- Live website tour
- Q&A

### Online event timings

1pm, Thursday 7th December, 2023, online.

Please email <u>GEMS.4Health@nhs.net</u> to book your space.

Please kindly be punctual for a smooth and timely start. To prevent disturbance to fellow participants, unfortunately, we will not be able to accept latecomers past 1.05pm.





### HLTA (Inclusion) - To start as soon as possible

Full time/Part time/Job Share considered for the right candidates. Minimum 22 hours per week Monday, Wednesday, Friday with full time considered with additional responsibilities. If full time - 37 hours a week, start time 8.30am, finish time 4.30pm – Monday to Thursday, 8.30am to 4.00pm on a Friday (includes a half hour unpaid break). Term time only plus two INSET days.

Actual salary £31,400 - £33,700 pa based on above (would vary if part time) depending on experience

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

We offer a friendly and harmonious campus, and we support the physical and mental wellbeing of all our staff. Discounted membership is available for the use of a fully equipped and well-maintained gym on-site. 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 through various social events including a Christmas party, sports after school and various House competitions. Parking is free, as are tea, coffee, and edible treats to help you through the week! Our Senior Leadership team recognises the value of our support staff attending whole school training, job specific training and opportunities to learn about students they may be supporting, hence our commitment to their attendance on our September INSET day and one other INSET day during the academic year. A free lunch is also provided giving staff the chance to welcome new members of staff and share news and ideas.

We are looking for someone to develop and manage our KS3 Raising Achievement (RA) intervention, ensuring that the young people identified for this intervention can access academic learning, develop organisational, study and life skills and make good progress towards achieving personalised targets.

For further information about this role and in order to complete a **Support Staff Application Form** please refer to our school website <a href="www.furzeplatt.com">www.furzeplatt.com</a>. Application forms should be returned to **Kiran.smith@furzeplatt.net**. Only applications submitted on the school application form will be considered.

Furze Platt Senior School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and we expect all staff to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced disclosure via the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Closing date: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November Interviews will take place: As soon as can be arranged

**CURRENT VACANCIES** 



# Learning Support Assistant in Shine To start as soon as possible

Permanent, Part time, 12 hours a week, over two days, 6 hours per day. Start time usually between 8.45/9.15am, finish time between 3.15/3.45pm (includes a half hour unpaid break). Monday to Friday, term time only plus two INSET days) Actual Starting Salary £7,260 pa

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We are looking for enthusiastic and reliable individuals to join our Core Learning Support team who provide targeted support to our students with Special Educational Needs within the mainstream school, or our Shine team, providing targeted support to our students with an autistic spectrum condition diagnosis in the ASC Resource Base.

You would be working under the direction of the SENCO or Shine teachers, and classroom teachers to provide support for individual students across key stages 3 to 5, in line with any agreed SEND or other specialist plans. Supporting small groups of students for interventions and mentoring nominated students is also a part of this role. You will help students develop their organisational, social and communication skills and help them gain access to the curriculum by ensuring effective use of differentiated instructions and tasks.

We are looking for team players, who can communicate sensitively and confidently with staff, students and parents/carers. This role would suit someone who is able to use their own initiative and who has strong organisational and time management skills. We would love to receive applications from anyone who is working with or has worked with students in a school setting and gained experience or knowledge of SEN (Special Educational Needs) or ASC (Autistic Spectrum Condition).

For further information about this role and in order to complete a **Support Staff Application Form** please refer to our school website <a href="www.furzeplatt.com">www.furzeplatt.com</a>. Application forms should be returned to **Kiran.smith@furzeplatt.net**. Only applications submitted on the school application form will be considered.

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Closing Date: ongoing Suitable applicants will be interviewed as soon as possible

**CURRENT VACANCIES** 

AMBITIOUS COLLABORATIVE HAPPY INTEGRITY ENDURANCE VERSATILITY EXCELLENCE