

# FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #72.4



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Parents and Carers,

### A Royal Air Force Treat

On Friday afternoon, Furze Platt's Music students in Years 10 and 12 plus all our Year 9 pupils enjoyed a fantastic show as the RAF Military Band were in our



Theatre performing as well as discussing music and non-music careers in the RAF. It was a superb spectacle from one of the best military bands in the world. I hope that our Year 9, 10 and 12 students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and shared it with their families at home.

My only regret was that I was at a conference in London and missed the performance. However, I would like to extend a massive thank you to the RAF for visiting FPSS.

### Year 9 Options Evening

On Thursday, we held our Options Evening for students, parents and carers of Year 9. Following Parents Evening a fortnight ago, this was a chance for our Year 9s and their families to learn about the Options process and start finalising their choices.

I enjoyed talking to many Year 9 students about their options, hearing from them how they had taken on the advice from family, friends and FPSS staff, but ultimately were making their own decisions about their future.

[CLICK HERE FOR OPTIONS BOOKLET, PRESENTATION AND GCSE OPTIONS FORM](#)

### Guys and Dolls

Finally, we are fast approaching a highlight of the school year, our musical Guys and Dolls. If you are yet to purchase your tickets, please do so as they are selling fast!

Take care,

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

[ALL EVENTS](#)

### Forthcoming Events

TUE 30 JANUARY	Year 8 Preparing to Succeed Evening	6.30pm - 7.30pm
WED 31 JANUARY	Intermediate Maths Challenge	
	UCAS Entry Deadline	6pm
MON 5 - THU 8 FEBRUARY	Guys and Dolls (Matinee only on Monday 5th for local schools)	7-9pm
FRI 9 FEBRUARY	End of term	3.15pm finish
MON 19 FEBRUARY	Start of Term 4	8.40am - 3.15pm

## SCHOOL TERM DATES

# GUYS & DOLLS JR.



[BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW](#)

**TUE 6 - THURS 8 FEB 2024**

**7PM - 9PM, DOORS OPEN 6.30PM**



## YEAR 8 - PREPARING TO SUCCEED

Tuesday 30th January 6.30pm

Next Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January, we will be holding a Preparing to Succeed evening at school for Year 8 parents and carers.

The event will start at 6.30pm and conclude at 7.30pm, we will confirm the specific room location nearer the time.

There will be a 30 minute presentation from Mr Wyles (Assistant Headteacher Key Stage 3) and Ms Towell (Head of Progress Year 8), followed by an opportunity for parents with specific questions to speak with Mr Wyles, Ms Towell, Ms Lake (Deputy Headteacher) and a senior member of the SEN team for 30 minutes.

The purpose of this event is to welcome Year 8 parents back into school for the first time since the Year 7 Meet the Tutor evening in October 2022, and to give parents information and guidance that will enable them to provide more effective support for their Year 8 child.

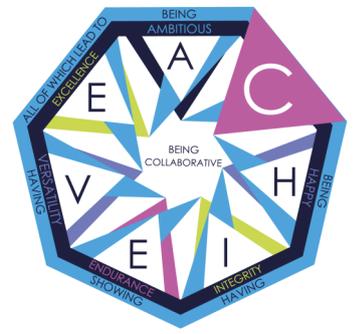
Please click on the link to the Microsoft Form below to inform us if you are able to attend. Thank you to all parents and carers who have already done so.

[YEAR 8 PREPARING TO SUCCEED RESPONSE FORM](#)



YEAR 13

**IMPORTANT REMINDER: Students who are applying to universities must submit their completed UCAS applications before 6pm on Wednesday 31st January.**



## YEAR 12 REPORTS

The above reports have now been issued and are available online as usual via Go 4 Schools.

The service is available either by going directly to Go 4 Schools [www.go4schools.com](http://www.go4schools.com) and selecting Parents or by clicking the link below which takes you to our website and includes our latest Guidance to Grading document.

[GUIDANCE TO GRADING](#)



## YEAR 9 HISTORY TRIP TO IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

MON 19<sup>TH</sup> – WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY

The History department have organised a museum trip to the **Imperial War Museum**, London. This trip will be challenging, informative and engage students outside of their classroom environment.

This year the trip will run on three separate days. Your son/daughter will need to attend only one day. Each class and student will be informed which days he or she needs to attend:

- **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024** – 9F/Hi1 (Mr Constable), 9F/Hi2 (Mr Wyles) and 9F/Hi3 (Miss Dempsey)
- **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024** – 9P/Hi1 (Mr Constable), 9P/Hi2 (Mr Wyles) and 9P/Hi3 (Mr Cante)
- **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024** – 9S/Hi1 (Mr Constable), 9S/Hi2 (Mr Cante) and 9S/Hi3 (Miss Dempsey)

We will be travelling to and from the location by private hire coach. The total cost of the trip will be **£14** including travel to and from the centre and activities. **We ask that this be paid in full by Monday February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

**Payment for the trip can be made via your ParentMail account no later than Monday February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.** If your emergency contact phone number has changed recently,

Cont. on page 3

please ensure you email [studentdetails@furzeplatt.net](mailto:studentdetails@furzeplatt.net) with the correct information. Please provide a packed lunch for your son/daughter as there will be no opportunity for students to get food at the site.

As with any school trip, good behaviour is important to its success. Parents and students should be aware that if a student's behaviour or attendance becomes unacceptable prior to the trip, then the school reserves the right to exclude them from the trip. This could in turn jeopardise any refund of monies paid to that date.

#### Itinerary:

**Meet by the main entrance to school at 8:30am, outside reception in full school uniform for an 8:45am departure.** We will be taking a coach from Furze Platt Senior School directly to London. We will be returning to school at **4:00pm** at the latest.

**Students will be required to wear school uniform** and are expected to uphold their appearance and school ethos throughout the trip.

Students may want to bring a **refillable water bottle** to sustain them throughout the day. There will be no opportunity to get food at the site.

If you have questions in the meantime, please contact [Thomas.Constable@furzeplatt.net](mailto:Thomas.Constable@furzeplatt.net)

Mr T Constable, Teacher of History



## GCSE GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK – FEBRUARY 2024

### FIELDWORK RELATING TO STUDENTS COMPONENT 3 EXAM PAPER (WORTH 30% OF FINAL GRADE)

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 **Change Over Time** (covered at FSC Juniper Hall) and Conceptual framework of **Mitigating Risk** (to be covered on the Maidenhead fieldtrip).

To support students in producing high quality answers in

this paper the Geography Department will run a one-day fieldtrip 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 Wellard's Class – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February
- 11B/Gg1 – Mr Harrison's Class – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February
- 11C/Gg1 – Mr Green's Class – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February
- 11D/Gg1 – Mr Jones's Class – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February

#### 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](mailto:joe.wellard-jeffs@furzeplatt.net)).

Mr Wellard-Jeffs, Head of Geography

#### PAYMENT DEADLINES - REMINDERS

- BRONZE, SILVER AND GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS: Wednesday 31st January
- YEAR 8 CONSERVATION TRIP TO WALES: Final Instalment due Friday 9th February

Subject	When	Times	Where
Maths (Foundation)	Monday and Wednesday after school	3.15 to 4.15	M1
Maths (Higher)	Monday and Wednesday after school	3.15 to 4.15	M2
English Language	Wednesday after school	3.15 to 4.15	E4
English Literature	Monday after school	3.15 to 4.15	E3
Biology	Wednesday after school	3.15 to 4.15	S12
Chemistry	Monday after school	3.15 to 4.15	S1
Physics	Tuesday after school	3.15 to 4.15	S11
Business	Monday after school	3.20 to 4.20	BS2
French	Wednesday BR2	1.45 to 2.15	MFL4
German	Monday BR2	1.45 to 2.15	MFL4
Spanish	Monday after school	3.15 to 4	MFL1
Music	Monday Tutor-time and break-times (composition)	8.45 or 11.15	MU2
Drama	Monday after school	3.15 to 5pm	DS1
Philosophy & Religion	Tuesday after school	3.15 to 4.15	P2
Geography	Wednesday after school	3.15 to 4.15	H3
History	Tuesday after school	3.30 til 4.30	H7
Art – catch up clinic	Friday after school	3.15 to 4.15	Art
Product Design – catch up clinic	Monday after school	3.15 to 4.15	TEC1

The Raising Achievement department has been into every tutor and PSHE session over the past few weeks to deliver sessions on 'Setting up a Revision Timetable' and another on 'How to Revise'. This has given every Year 11 student the opportunity to set themselves up with a an adaptable plan on when revision sessions will take place as well as walk and talk them through a revision session from highlighting key words to producing a mind-map or cue card, through to checking their learning with questions. If you would like to find out more, the PowerPoint presentations used are below. In addition, the links below show videos which can be used for students who may have missed the session or for any parent/carer who wants to know more.

- [CREATING REVISION TIMETABLES](#)
- [HOW TO REVISE](#)
- [FIND OUT MORE](#)
- [FIND OUT MORE](#)

**ACE YOUR EXAMS!**



We have added a link on our website to a presentation from Elevate Education called 'Ace Your Exams'.

All Year 11 students will be involved in these upcoming workshops. Please click the link below for more details.

**'ACE YOUR EXAMS' PRESENTATION**

You can access webinars from Elevate on a number of useful topics.

For more information please see their advertisement on page 9 of this newsletter.





Congratulations to our Year 10 & 11 Construction classes who have gained an AQA Unit Award Scheme for Developing Carpentry Skills (pictured, with Kevin at Satro).



**AQA**  
Realising potential

**TERM 3 CLUBS 2024**

Clubs for this term were sent out on Friday 15th December. There were two emails, one for clubs and one for Academic Support Clinics. Please do encourage your son or daughter to attend those of interest. Students in exam years are especially invited to attend any academic clinics in their chosen subjects.

Please do not delete emails as new clubs may be added throughout the term and you will need to book via the original link.

**SCHOOL CLUB LIST**

**SCIENCE AND GARDENING CLUBS  
'BIG SCHOOLS' BIRDWATCH'**



**DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS  
EDoFE - USEFUL VIDEOS**



Please see below some links to videos that can be used to help with EDofE. I would be grateful if you could ensure that all activities are logged onto EDofE by the end of the week to ensure they are suitable.

**HOW TO LOGIN TO EDofE FOR THE FIRST TIME**

**HOW TO USE THE DofE APP**

**HOW TO COMPLETE A SECTION**

**HOW TO SUBMIT A REPORT TO COMPLETE A SECTION**

On Tuesday there was much excitement as Science and Gardening club combined to take part in the annual RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch.

Over 50 students scoured the school grounds for birds! Despite the rain, our winter visitors pied wagtails (14) and starlings (38) put on a good show with the starlings (who roost in a tree on site), even treating us to a mini murmuration. We also spotted robin, woodpigeon, red kite, carrion crow, magpie, house sparrow, blackbird and black headed gull (who also visit us every winter - there are at least 31 B.H.Gs on site this year which is great as their population has sadly been affected by bird flu). No big flocks of goldfinches or redwing this year!

Miss D Carty, DofE Manager





This year Furze Platt has purchased access to an online safeguarding information platform for all parents. Our Online Safety Hub provides parents with a wealth of information including in the following areas:

- How to keep your child safe online
- How to ensure best safety features are implemented on social media platforms
- Understanding different social media platforms and their potential risks
- How to manage screen time with your child
- How to safeguard your child from online predators
- How to monitor your child's online activity

This platform can be found here:

[HTTPS://FURZEPLATT.ONLINESAFETYHUB.UK/](https://furzeplatt.onlinesafetyhub.uk/)

As part of this platform parents also all have free access to parental controls on 2 devices within your home. These devices are advised to be mobile phones and/or home laptops, the company advise against placing on laptops bring brought into school as it may conflict with the filtering and monitoring systems used on the school network.

This can be accessed via the link below:

**QUSTODIO: PARENTAL CONTROLS MADE EASY**

This will enable parents to:

- Filter content
- Monitor your child's online activity
- Set time limits for online use

We hope you find these resources useful for supporting your child with their use of the internet.

Miss Lewis, Deputy Headteacher  
Safeguarding and Interventions



Contact us Email: [ptfa@furzeplatt.net](mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net)  
facebook.com/fpssptfa Website: [click here to access](#)

**HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL?**

**1. JOIN THE 200 CLUB**

Sign up here for our PTFA 200 Club - Monthly Donation:

**200 CLUB - MONTHLY DONATION**

**200 CLUB**  
Winning numbers for Draw 26  
on Tuesday 9th January 2024



**2. REGISTER WITH EASY FUNDRAISING**

**REGISTER TODAY!**

**3. LET US KNOW IF YOUR COMPANY OFFERS MATCHED FUNDRAISING**  
[ptfa@furzeplatt.net](mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net)



## Exam Invigilators – to start as soon as possible

Term time only, casual contract. Actual salary £14.15 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 regularly during the official exam season during May and June and on an ad hoc basis to cover pre-public exams which take place at various times during the academic year
- Can work under pressure, remain calm and be empathetic to candidate's needs whilst remaining compliant with regulations
- Have good organisational, communication and interpersonal skills
- Are reliable, punctual with the ability to work as part of a team or independently as required

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](http://www.furzeplatt.com) for an application form or contact Mrs Sarah Hemsley via [sarah.hemsley@furzeplatt.net](mailto: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](mailto: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

## Cover Supervisor- To start as soon as possible

Usually, 32.5 hours a week, start time 8.30am, finish time 3.30pm (includes a half hour unpaid break). Monday to Friday, term time only plus two INSET days  
Part time/Job Share/Flexible Working considered for the right candidates,  
Permanent or fixed term contract  
Actual salary (32.5 hours) £19,600 - £21,000 pa depending on experience, pro rata would apply for any hours that differ from the above

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 Cover Supervisors to join our support staff team. You would be supervising classes during the short-term absence of the assigned teacher working in a classroom environment alongside students at Key Stage 3 and 4. Your main responsibility would be to instruct students about the work set by the teacher and assisting them to stay on task and complete the work set to the best of their ability. The provision of cover will be varied: you might introduce the work by talking through a Power Point, showing video clips, or reading through texts with students. You may be asked to lead a class discussion, organise group work or supervise PE and Drama activities. You would also learn about school policies and how they are implemented including the school's Behaviour for Learning Policy.

Previous experience of working with or interacting with children or young people is required for this role as well as good communication skills, an ability to work with minimum of supervision and to manage students in a classroom setting. Confidence using a laptop as well as good organisational skills are important for this role.

In addition, if you are a graduate with an interest in a career working with young people in education and you would like this opportunity to gain some experience working in a classroom environment before considering teacher training, we would be delighted to receive your application. For further information about teacher training please refer to [www.teachmaidenhead.co.uk](http://www.teachmaidenhead.co.uk)

For further information about this role and to complete a **Support Staff Application Form** please refer to our school website [www.furzeplatt.com](http://www.furzeplatt.com). Application forms should be returned to [hr@furzeplatt.net](mailto:hr@furzeplatt.net). Only applications submitted on the school application form will be considered.

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**Closing date: Ongoing**  
**Interviews will take place: as soon as is practicable**

**CURRENT VACANCIES**



Elevate Education's Spring Term

## Parent Webinar Series

Elevate Education delivers high-impact workshops to our students that help to develop their study skills, motivation, and exam preparation. Over the next term, you're invited to join their parent webinar series, where you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.

### ***How to Help Your Child Improve Their Note Taking***

23rd January 6:00pm

### ***How You Can Make Technology an Ally***

6th February 6:00pm

### ***How You Can Help Your Child Prepare for Exams***

5th March 6:00pm

### ***How You Can Support Your Child During Exams***

19th March 6:00pm

Register today at: <https://go.elevateeducation.com/ukschoolwebinar>



# GEMS

Autism & ADHD Support Service  
East Berkshire

## Parent and Carer Autism Online support session

**Friday 2nd February 10am - 11.15am**

### Join our online session to:

- learn and discuss, how to have meaningful communication with your child
- how to support your child with communicating with other people

### How to communicate with your **Autistic** child



**Sign Up  
Today!**

**Available for families  
residing in, or have a  
registered GP in East  
Berkshire**

**To book your place contact  
GEMS:  
Gems.4Health@nhs.net  
0800 999 1342**

Please provide your full name, email address, phone number, child's pathway (suspected/waiting assessment/diagnosed) and local authority

# HOLIDAY SPORTS CAMP



Fun and Inclusive!

Learn New Skills!

Build Confidence!

Led by Teachers!

We are a small and friendly holiday camp for children aged 8-13.

Fun and inclusive sessions, led by Qualified PE Teachers.



- Rock Climbing
- Football
- Dodgeball
- Basketball
- Cricket
- VR Game Room
- And more!

February Half-Term

12.02.24 - 16.02.24

08:00 - 17:00

**LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE!  
BOOK ONLINE**



Location: Berkshire College of Agriculture  
Hall Place, Burchetts Green Rd, Burchett's Green,  
Maidenhead SL6 6QR



Email: [info@empowerandelevate.co.uk](mailto:info@empowerandelevate.co.uk)

Phone: 0118 227 4950