

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Army Engagement Band

We were incredibly fortunate to have the incredibly talented Army Band at FPSS on Friday. They performed to Year 7 and 9 students, before working alongside a selection of Year 9 and 10 students.



For our students to play alongside the Band was a real honour and I would like to thank the Army and colleagues for organising such a fantastic day.

**Globe Visit**

Thank you to all parents, carers and staff for organising the Globe visit to. Approaching a hundred students had the chance to visit the Theatre and learn more about Shakespeare.

Good Luck Year 11 and 13

After the many lessons, PPEs and revision, external examinations are here! They start next Thursday and I, along with all members of our community, simply want to offer students every best wish as they begin the exam season.

Practical Examinations

Alongside the external examinations are also all the practical exams. Good luck to students who have sat or are

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

ALL EVENTS

SPORTS CALENDAR

TERM 5 EVENTSFRI 2
MAY

Charity Gig in aid of Thames Hospice

7-11pm

w/c Tuesday 6th May - Week 2MON 5
MAY

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

WED 8
MAY

Year 6 Parents' Induction Evening

6.30pm -
8pmMON 12
MAY

Year 13 Study Leave Begins

FRI 23
MAY

END OF TERM (TERM 5)

3.15pm
finishMON 25 - FRI 30
MAY

MAY HOLIDAY

MON 2
JUNE

START OF TERM 6 (Week 1)

SCHOOL TERM DATES

about to sit Textiles, Art, Travel and Tourism, Photography and Speaking Examinations.

Junior Maths Challenge

Well done to the 120 Year 7 and 8 students who sat the Junior Maths Challenge on Thursday and I look forward to seeing the results!

Year 7 Parent and Student Consultation Evening

Thank you to all Year 7 parents, carers and students who attended on Thursday. It was great to have the chance to talk through each student's progress at FPSS.

I hope you all enjoy the extended weekend.

Take care,

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

LANGUAGE OPTIONS



Thank you to all those parents and carers who have submitted the language option your child will continue to study as they progress to Year 9.

If you have yet to do this, we have extended the deadline to Monday 29th April; please ensure this is completed by Monday at the latest.

<https://forms.office.com/e/YHC5ARtGY3>

Thank you,

Miss L Stirling, Head of Options

ST GILES TRUST ASSEMBLIES



Dear parents and carers,

We will be running assemblies for your child's year group on Tuesday 6th May (Years 7- 10) and Wednesday 7th May 2025 (Year 12).

Last year Thames Valley Police secured funding for St Giles Trust to come into a number of local schools to raise awareness of Country Lines Exploitation. To continue the success of these assemblies and provide updated education to pupils they will be delivering further assemblies this year. As you will be aware, Maidenhead's proximity to London has meant TVP has seen an increase in Country Lines activity in recent year, within Maidenhead and neighbouring towns. St Giles Trust aims to provide education to young people about the risks, warning signs and impacts of County Lines exploitation.

The St Giles Trust is a well-respected provider of such education and the use the expertise and lived experiences of their staff to support those who are in similar situations. These assemblies support our wider PSHE curriculum and complement previous events such the County Lines Drama productions and Thames Valley Police commissioning of St Giles in 2024.

Miss L Lewis, Designated Safeguard Lead

Deputy Headteacher

SKI TRIP 2026: LA THUILE, ITALY



Information was sent out this week via parentmail for our Ski Trip 2026. Details have also been uploaded to our website (link below).

Please note that the deadline for deposits is **12pm on Friday 16th May 2025**.

SKI TRIP 2026

SOCIAL MEDIA SURVEY



Please could you complete the short survey via the link below to help us find out what social media our parents and carers use - or would prefer to use - so we can ensure our communications channels remain useful and relevant.

Thank you.

SOCIAL MEDIA SURVEY 2025

SCHOOL CLUBS - TERM 5



Parents and carers of students received invitations at the end of last term to book clubs for this term. You can see what clubs are running for the upcoming week via the link below.

Please note: · Bookings must be made through the original email invitations sent on Friday 4th April.

Clubs for Term 6 will be sent out on Friday 23rd May.

CLUBS LIST FOR NEXT WEEK



'Teachers' subject knowledge is particularly strong.'

Ofsted 2021

It was so great to see so many year 11 students attend our Easter Revision Holiday sessions over the past couple of weeks. As you will appreciate, this is a very significant time for Year 11. As their examinations approach, the end is in sight, and students realise the importance of working hard in order to achieve the grades of which they are capable. Parents and carers are providing a great deal of support and motivation at home. This letter is to let you know what extra support and revision we are providing in school, and to explain what will be happening in the weeks running up to and during the exam phase.

Revision Packs

As mentioned to you previously, revision resources for each subject are on FP-Cloud under Raising Achievement and Year 11. Within this site there are links to subject-specific revision websites, revision guides, how to revise tutorials, and past papers with their associated mark schemes and examiners' reports etc. In addition, students are welcome to pick up paper copies of any revision tools, i.e. workbooks, past papers etc from our Raising Achievement department.

Exam Timetables

While students already have access to their exam schedule online via examsassist.co.uk. It is important that students check these thoroughly, so they know when their exams are. Making a copy of this timetable is often a good idea. A public exams handbook for Students and Parents is available to download from the school website for guidance on all aspects of the exams season, as are the official JCQ exam regulations. We recommend that you discuss these with your son/daughter to ensure that they are absolutely clear about expectations of how they conduct themselves during exams.

Exam Phase 1 - Thursday 8.5.25 – Thursday 22.5.25 (inclusive)

The main body of exams starts in full on Thursday 8th May. There will be a full revision / final preparation programme throughout the exam period, with subject-specific preparation sessions as short a time as possible before the exam. (This will normally be the afternoon before a morning exam or the morning before an afternoon exam – where it does not clash with another exam.) During *Exam Phase 1*, students will either be in an exam, a revision session for that exam or in their normal lessons. When in normal lessons, students will have a choice of either working with their

teacher for that subject or to revise for another subject – quiet study will be expected. However, students will not be expected to attend tutor time and will thus not be required in school until 8.45 if they have a 9.00am exam or 9.10 if they are going to normal lessons or a revision session. When students have an afternoon exam they will be permitted to leave the school site as soon as the exam finishes.

Exam Phase 2 – Friday 23.5.25 – Wednesday 18.6.25 (inclusive)

From Friday 23rd May *Exam Phase 2* starts. During this phase students will attend their exams and the associated revision sessions. When they are not in an exam or a revision session they will have Home Study, where they will be expected to be working at home preparing for their next exam. Access to the library to study during phase 2 is possible for limited number of students, however permission will need to be given by myself or Mr Djaelani in advance. Please contact us if you would like your child to be considered. Mr Wellard-Jeffs and Mr Djaelani will be opening classrooms H4 and H8 each morning for Year 11 students who want to come in early to study before their exams.

Details of the revision programme that will run during Exam Phases 1 & 2 will be published shortly and will be shared with you.

Please take a few moments to review this letter with your child, along with the Year 11 revision resources. If you have any queries, then please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr Djaelani – either by phone (01628 625308) or email (james.dollery@furzeplatt.net and christopher.djaelani@furzeplatt.net).

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Dollery, Assistant Headteacher

ENDURANCE AND EXAM STRESS ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Year 11 students had an assembly this week focussing on advice and guidance during their exams, as well as access to support resources. Please see the presentation below.

Kind regards,

Mr J Dollery, Assistant Headteacher

ENDURANCE / EXAM STRESS ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

THE WEEK AT FURZE PLATT

This week has seen a number of trips with students out and about in all year groups!

On Sunday, Greenpower Club students had a memorable day out at Goodwood for their first race of the season.



Thank you to everyone at Greenpower Education Trust for this fantastic opportunity.

On Monday, Year 9 students were kindly treated to a free pop up stall with delicious healthy treats following a PSHE presentation about physical wellbeing from our school caterers Accent Catering.



For more information on the services provided by Accent in our school please see the link below.

ACCENT CATERING

On Tuesday, Year 12 and Year 13 Physics students heard a series of talks at the University of Oxford Physics department's 'Quantum in a Flash' event, from people at the cutting edge of quantum computing and quantum industries.

We learnt about how individual atoms can be isolated and manipulated, uses of quantum computing in the fields of encryption and fertiliser production, along with the challenges of making a quantum computer with no external interference.

Here's hoping that some of the best and brightest at Furze Platt can make the "quantum leap" to be at the forefront of this technology!

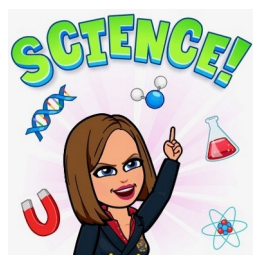


From Physics to Chemistry... Congratulations also this week to Maria Carrascosa Vasco Silva, Jake Foster, Jack Gulliver, Fatima Habbouli, and Oscar Lane on their success this year in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Olympiad competition. Approximately 16,000 students took part this year, with fewer than 1,500 receiving the Gold Award. Our cohort did fantastically well, achieving 3 Gold awards, 1 Silver award, and 1 Bronze award.

Designed to challenge and inspire, the UK Chemistry Olympiad is a unique opportunity for year 13 students to push themselves further and excel in the chemistry field. Young chemists develop their critical problem-solving skills, learn to think more creatively, and get a chance to test their knowledge in new, real-world situations. This year's problems included questions on the synthesis of epoxy plastics, the structure of carbon nanotubes and how they were discovered, the aroma of agarwood, and the radioactive half-life of bromine astatide, BrAt, allowing students to calculate just how long the BrAt summer lasted.

The RSC Olympiad runs every year for chemistry students in year 13 and current Year 12 students will be able to sign up in the coming Autumn term. The photos show Jake Foster (left), Jack Gulliver (Centre), and Maria Carrascosa Vasco Silva (right), and Oscar Lane.





🚀 SCIENCE SPARKS 🚀

YEAR 7,8 & 9 PROJECT UPDATE

(AND A SNEAK PEEK AT OUR BIG BANG TRIP!)

Experiments are GO!

Our budding scientists have picked their topics, from “How clean is the Thames?” to “Does orange juice lose its vitamin C in the fridge?”

Now it's time to turn curiosity into data.

1 LOCK IN THE BASICS

- **Question:** one clear sentence.

Hypothesis: your best “I think...” guess (keep it short).

Example: “Vitamin C in orange juice will drop each day it's stored.”

2 VARIABLES – THE SCIENCE SUPER TRIO

Change It (Independent)	Measure It (Dependent)	Keep It Same (Controlled)
Days in the fridge	Vitamin C level	Same juice, same fridge

in your own trio before you touch a test strip!

3 MATERIALS & METHOD CHECKLIST

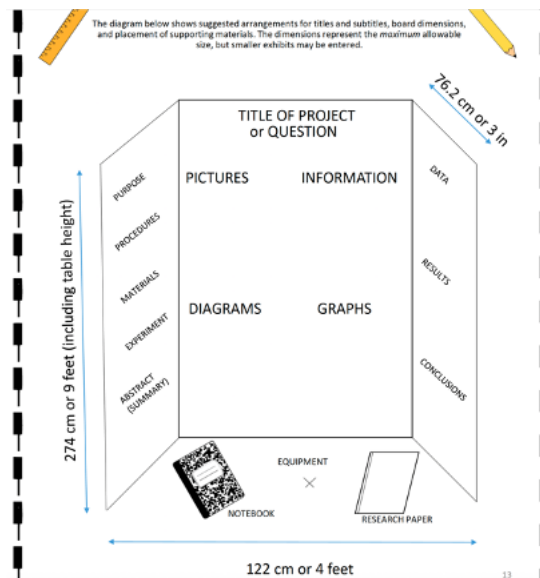
- Gather **all gear** by **this Friday** (test strips, stopwatch, jars...).
- Number every step so a friend could repeat it.

Snap photos of each test—phones out, science hats on.

4 DATA TIME!

Create a simple table (Day 0-7, result, notes). Use “n.d.” if nothing is detected. Aim for a tidy bar chart to show your final trend.

5 BOARD LAYOUT – 3 PANEL MAGIC



Tip: **18 pt** text minimum; judges read from a metre away! Keep background colour neutral; mount each section on one accent colour only!

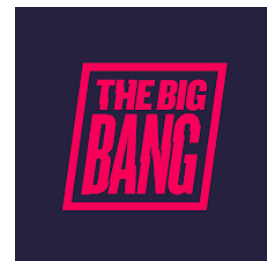
THIS WEEK'S ACTIONS

- * Write Q & Hypothesis
- * Finish variables list
- * Do one practice run
- * Start real data collection Monday

Bring your logbook to lunchtime Science drop in every Tuesday if you'd like a quick sense check.

🌟 SAVE THE DATE – 17 JUNE

We're heading to the **Big Bang Science Fair** (yes, the massive one with exploding ping pong balls and robot dogs!). Seats are limited - permission slips will land in form rooms **after half term**.



Sign up for the Science Fair and your seat on the Big Bang trip is guaranteed! First come, first fizz!

Let's make some noise in the lab *and* on the road. Ready, set, EXPERIMENT!

And finally, you can see our Year 12 Chemistry students with their Iodine Clock demo on our Facebook page (link below - will it change before you can say 'exam revision'?!

IODINE CLOCK EXPERIMENT

Dr Wyatt - The Science Department 🧪



CHARITY GIG ON TONIGHT



We are proud to continue our support for Thames Hospice by hosting a Charity Cover Band Gig on Friday 2nd May in our Theatre.

The evening will feature two fantastic cover bands – *Panic Lounge* and *Crazy Donkey*. And because no great night is complete without amazing food and drinks, we've got street food from Cuzza Wallah, and Tommy's Caribbean Bar will be serving real ale, wine, prosecco, and soft drinks all night long.

We want to do all we can to support Thames Hospice and their incredible work helping patients and families in our community. Many of us have seen firsthand just how vital their care can be—so let's come together and make a difference.

Tickets must be booked in advance and are just £10 for adults and £5 for students. Or why not go all out and book a table, which includes two bottles of prosecco? Every penny of the proceeds will go directly to the hospice.

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK TICKETS](#)

Don't miss out!

Mrs J Bartram
Theatre & Lettings Manager

YEAR 11 HOODIES



Due to a number of requests from parents and carers, Hawkinsport have extended the deadline for Year 11 Leavers' Hoodies to 9am on Tuesday 6th May. Orders for the hoodies, which come in a range of sizes and colours, can be placed via the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER A YEAR 11 LEAVERS' HOODY](#)

PTFA 200 CLUB

WINNERS THIS TERM

Three lucky 200 Club winners are each £200 richer this week - many congratulations to the holders of numbers 69, 102 and 104.

The Club, organised by our brilliant Furze Platt Senior School PTFA team, runs 4 draws per year and you could win £200 cash per number - for more details and to sign up:



[CLICK HERE TO JOIN OUR 200 CLUB](#)



200 CLUB

**Winning numbers for Draw 29
on Tuesday 29th April 2025**



[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE ABOUT OUR PTFA](#)



THE LONGEST RUNNING COMEDY IN THE WEST END

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG

NOT
ACTUAL
SIZE →



DUCHESS THEATRE



Over 60 Drama students in Years 9, 10 and 12 had a fantastic night out at the Duchess Theatre this week. This trip was especially beneficial for Year 9 as they are studying this style of comedy in their lessons but all students really enjoyed their night out!



Message from Thames Valley Police

Deleting & Reporting Indecent Images

We have a joint responsibility to safeguard your children, one of the ways to do this is to ensure your image / your child's image is reported in an attempt to remove it and monitor it on-line. If the image has been uploaded or sent via social media or other chat platforms, the link below will advise you how to use the report & remove tool provided by the IWF (Internet Watch foundation).

DELETING AND REPORTING INDECENT IMAGES

Help and support is available, please take a look at the websites listed below:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.vodafone.co.uk/parents www.cybermentors.org

www.common sense media.org/advice-for-parents

www.childline.org.uk

www.nspcc.org.uk www.swgfl.org.uk/sextinghelp

EX FURZE PLATT STUDENT WINS PRESTIGIOUS CULINARY AWARD



Many congratulations to alumni Craig Johnston who is featured in the Maidenhead Advertiser this week following his achievement of being awarded the 41st Roux Scholar title. Craig came top in the competition based at the Alain Roux Culinary School at The Waterside Inn, Bray, beating a number of other professional chefs.



CLICK HERE TO
READ
MAIDENHEAD
ADVERTISER
ARTICLE

Pictured: Craig Johnston at work. Photo credit: Jodi Hinds.

Craig, who was inspired in his love of cooking whilst a student here at Furze Platt, won Masterchef: The Professionals at age 22 and has since gone on to work in two Michelin-starred restaurants as Head Chef.

Well done to him and we wish him every future success

ACADEMY 21

Academy 21 are offering live, interactive support to help students to succeed in their exams. In these 45-minute sessions subject experts will guide them through key topics, exam strategies, and tips to ensure students feel confident and ready for their GCSEs. Each session starts online at 4.15pm. Please click the link below for more information.

CLICK HERE FOR ACADEMY 21 EXAM SUPPORT SESSIONS





WE ARE HIRING!

Graduate PE Assistant

EDV/2025/FPSS/86506

Graduate PE Assistant – Fixed Term Contract until July 2026.
Commencing September 2025 (or from May 2025 if candidate available) Full time, 37 hours a week – 8.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday...

- 📍 Furze Platt Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 7NQ
- 🕒 Fixed Term | Full-Time
- 💷 £23,603.00 - £25,157.00 Annually (Actual)



[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

New • Apply by 09:00am, Monday 12th May, 2025

Site Manager

EDV/2025/FPSS/73205

Experienced Site Manager Wanted! Join Furze Platt Senior School to help maintain a safe, secure, and well-presented learning environment. Use your skills in maintenance, security, and site...

- 📍 Furze Platt Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 7NQ
- 🕒 Permanent | Full-Time
- 💷 £29,789.00 - £30,771.00 Annually (Actual)



[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

New • Apply by Midnight, Friday 9th May, 2025 • Job start: ASAP





SUMMER STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

6 WEEK MEMBERSHIP FOR £52

CONTACT US

www.leisurefocus.org.uk

furzeplatt@leisurefocus.org.uk

101 Furze Platt Rd, Maidenhead, SL6 7NQ

01628965754



Have you thought of joining a lively choir?

We need new members for September

Making music with us is fun and rewarding



Girls' Choir

(meets alternate Saturdays in term time 2.00-4.00 pm)
Girls Year 5 to Year 10

Open rehearsals for visitors: 10th & 24th May, 7th June

MIXED YOUTH CHOIR

(meets alternate
Saturdays
in term time from 4.30-
7.00 pm)

Girls Year 11 upwards;
Boys with changing
voices earlier

*Open rehearsals for
Visitors: 26th April,
10th & 24th May, 7th
June*



www.taplowchoirs.org.uk.

Visit a rehearsal

gillian.dibden@gmail.com or telephone Gillian Dibden
07799 413746