

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Newsletter - Issue #76.8



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 11 Graduation

Wednesday saw one of the highlights of the 2024/25 year with our Year 11 Graduation. This is always a great opportunity for students, parents and staff to come together to celebrate students' achievements during their time at FPSS. On a very hot afternoon



in the Sports Hall I would like to thank all those who attended particularly our guests of honour, The Worshipful the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Councillor Mandy Brar, and our Chair of Governors, Hugh Steed, who joined me onstage.

Beyond the ceremony and the throwing of the mortar boards that occurred shortly thereafter, one of the joys is to see families, staff and students reminiscing on the field. It is one of those moments where you see the FPSS community together and reminds us of our purpose as a school. Thank you for being part of our community.



Year 11 Prom

The following day saw Year 11 once more centre

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UPCOMING EVENTS

TERM 6 EVENTS - WEEK 2

MON 23 JUNE	Year 5 Open Morning (1)	
MON 23 - WED 25 JUNE	Year 10 Work Experience	
THU 26 & FRI 27 JUNE	Year 12 Taster Days	
TUE 1 & WED 2 JULY	Year 6 Taster Days	
WED 2 JULY	Performing Arts Summer Showcase	
WED 2 - FRI 4 THUR 3 - FRI 4 JULY	- Silver DofE Assessment - Bronze DofE Assessment	
WED 2 - FRI 11 JULY	Year 10 trip to Greece	
THU 3 JULY	Art Show	4.30 - 7pm
TUE 8 JULY	Year 5 Open Morning (2)	
THU 10 JULY	Sports Awards	6.30- 7.30pm
FRI 11 JULY	'It's a Knockout' & Non-Uniform Day fundraisers for Thames Hospice	
SAT 12 JULY	PTFA Pre-Loved Uniform Sale	11am-1pm
SUN 13 - WED 16 JULY	Year 12 Geography trip to Nettlecombe	
FRI 18 JULY	Last Day of Term 6	Finish 12.30pm
WED 3 SEPT	Start of Term 1 for Year 7 and 12	
THU 4 SEPT	Start of Term 1 for Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13	

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2025-26

HAPPY VINTEGRITY ENDURANCE VERSATILITY EXCELLENCE

stage as they disembarked from their fancy cars in amazing outfits at Windsor Racecourse for their Prom. There was much glamour on show, and I hope that students had a fantastic evening celebrating the end of their exams and Key Stage 4 with their peers.

Big Bang Science Fair

This week a group of students from across Key Stage 3 enjoyed the Big Bang UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fairat the NEC in Birmingham. The event focuses on inspiring young minds in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). I hope the visit encouraged students to further pursue their studies in Science.

Examinations

With external examinations coming to an end, I would like to pay tribute to our Examinations Team for all their hard work in the preceding weeks. They work incredibly hard to ensure the exams run smoothly, following JCQ regulations while also ensuring exams are administered in as calm manner as possible to enable students the best chance of success. Many thanks to Sarah, Mel (pictured below enjoying ice creams on our recent 'Thank a Teacher' Day), our invigilators and all colleagues who contribute.

Take care,

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



A M BITIOUS COLLABORATIVE

NON-UNIFORM (MUFTI) DAY AND

'IT'S A KNOCKOUT' FUNDRAISING EVENTS IN AID OF THAMES HOSPICE CHARITY

FRIDAY 11TH JULY

Deadline for teams to book: today

This year, on Friday 11th July, we are bringing a version of an old favourite TV programme to Furze Platt – It's a Knockout! The 'We're a Knockout' company will transform our lower field into an inflatable arena full of obstacles, games, contests, puzzles and stalls.

Teams of students can participate; please see Parentmail for full details and how to enter.



In addition to the It's a Knockout fundraising activity, we will be operating a non-uniform (mufti) day on the 11th July, for which we would ask for students wearing non-uniform to make a £2 donation wherever possible. Those participating in our 'It's a Knockout' activity do not need to pay this unless they would like to.

Payments for both events should be made via Parentmail - Payments - Shop.

While students will be wearing their own clothes, please be aware that we do expect them to dress appropriately. There should be no offensive slogans, crop tops, onesies, costumes, backless/halter-neck tops or camisole style tops. Skirts/shorts should be of a suitable length to the knee and shoes or trainers (not flip-flops or open back sandals) should be suitable for a day at school. We request no fashion or cultural headwear should be worn, only religious head coverings as per our usual uniform policy.

For more information please see Parentmail.

DONATE HERE

EXCELLENCE



If you have any news items you wish to feature in our newsletter please email: media@furzeplatt.net

HAPPY INTEGRITY ENDURANCE VERSATILITY



OUTSTANDING NEW TEACHER OF THE YEAR

BRONZE AWARD WINNER

Celebrating Karen Barnes – Bronze Award Winner at the Pearson National Teaching Awards!

We are delighted to share the exciting news that Karen Barnes has been recognised nationally as a Bronze Award Winner in the Outstanding New Teacher category at the Pearson National Teaching Awards.



Since joining our school, Karen has made a significant and lasting impact. She has taken a leading role in setting up a new course within the Design & Technology Department, specifically an engineering course that is bringing STEM to life for our young people and broadening the opportunities available to them.

Beyond the classroom, Karen has shown a deep commitment to the wider school community. She led a fundraising initiative for Thames Hospice through a charity gift sale featuring mugs and ceramics she personally designed.

Most recently, Karen helped to bring our school values to life through a vibrant mural, creating a lasting piece of art that reflects the spirit of our school and can be enjoyed by all.

Karen's creativity, compassion and dedication embody everything we value in education. This national recognition is a testament to her outstanding work, and we couldn't be more proud to have her as part of our Furze Platt Senior School team.

Congratulations, Karen and thank you for all that you do!

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Next Monday to Wednesday is our work experience week for 242 of our Year 10 students. As a school we are really excited for this fantastic opportunity for our young people, as they experience the world of work, either in-person or virtually.



If you are completing an **in-person work experience** please make sure to check Unifrog and that permissions have gone through. It would be great to email the placement prior to Monday to check dress code and time of arrival if you haven't already.

If you are completing a **Virtual Work Experience** with Speakers for Schools. Students have all been sent an email from me today with some pre-placement forms to complete, and the IT guide for logging on. I will have a copy of all emails and passwords for the Google classroom login, should there be any issues on the day.

They do take attendance, and Mrs Barney and I will automatically be emailed should you not login.

We hope next week will be a fantastic experience for Year 10 and we can't wait to hear all about the brilliant opportunities they have had.

Miss L Stirling, Work Experience Lead

NEXT WEEK'S MENUS



Students can find the menus for next week's lunches under Core Information for Students / Canteen in FP Cloud.



HAPPY INTEGRITY ENDURANCE VERSATILITY EXCELLENCE



YEAR 8 VISIT TO THE GLOBE

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On Thursday, over 80 of our Year 8 students visited the Globe Theatre in London. The trip aimed to deepen our students' knowledge of Shakespeare and his impact on the literary world with a range of activities including workshops and theatre.

We had a brilliant day out – if rather warm – so well done to all our students who were a credit to the school.



Thank you to Mrs Byrne for arranging this trip.

A M BITIOUS COLLABORATIVE





YEAR 9 TRIP TO BUCKINGHAMSHIRE NEW UNIVERSITY



Some of our Year 9 students had an inspiring trip to Bucks New University this week, where they explored university life and started thinking about their futures! This experience supports their personal development and aligns with Gatsby Benchmarks, helping them understand the opportunities ahead. We're proud to help them take the next step on their journey!











VERSATILITY WINNERS – Fortnight 1

Individuals

Whole school Year 8 Year 9 Year 10 Sixth Form **Tutor Groups**

Dylan Nkrumah 7KAS Summer Hayes 8DAB Eliza Cannon 9TAS Lucas Velasco 10VOJ Sara Nazir 6GSB

Whole school 7KAS Year 8 8ELF Year 9 9TAS Year 10 10VOJ Sixth Form 6HPH



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SCIENCE SUCCESS!



Alexandros Antonas, Divhya Vishnukumar and Daniel Gibbon (all Year 12) have won first place in the school's RSC Analyst Competition!

They tackled every task with sharp thinking, teamwork, and calm precision - true chemistry stars.

Well done to them all.



REMINDER: FPSTEM Spark Science Fair!

Get ready for an evening of innovation, creativity, and discovery!

When? Monday 7 July Time? 5:30 PM Where? The Theatre

Fresh from our exhilarating trip to the **Big Bang Science Fair**, we're buzzing with ideas and can't wait to showcase the brilliance of our budding scientists and engineers. Expect exciting projects, hands-on experiments, and plenty of WOW moments!

A huge thank you to our amazing PTFA - their generous funding has made this event possible. Your support helps spark curiosity and fuels future

innovators!

Let's keep the curiosity alive and the ideas flowing. See you there - bring your enthusiasm and #STEMinspired spirit!

SCIENCE FAIR MAGIC – 17TH JUNE TRIP SPARKLED WITH DISCOVERY!

What an incredible day we had at the Science Fair on the 17th of June! From the moment we arrived, the buzz of innovation and discovery was in the air. Students were wide-eyed with excitement, darting from stall to stall, exploring everything from robot dogs to 3D-printed body parts.

One Year 8 student beamed to his parent upon return, *"It was all great!! I just wanted more time there."* And honestly, we couldn't agree more!

"I never thought I'd learn how to edit a news video – now I want to be a broadcaster!" said another student, proudly showing off their clip from the BBC Broadcast Experience, where students had the chance to film mock interviews, trim their footage, and practice presenting just like real journalists.

"The AR sandbox was insane – I changed the landscape with my hands!" added one student, fascinated by the interactive technology that responded in real-time to their sculpting.

From robot dogs to Hydro Jules and even talks on the Volatile history of science, the day was packed with hands-on fun and future-forward thinking. The 3D printers that produced body parts wowed everyone, and the National Trust's water contamination puzzles made us rethink how we protect the planet.

There were STEM professionals everywhere, sharing their journeys in marine biology, aerospace, programming, energy innovation, and future-focused engineering. We designed rockets, tackled coding challenges, and explored how to make the world better through technology and ideas.

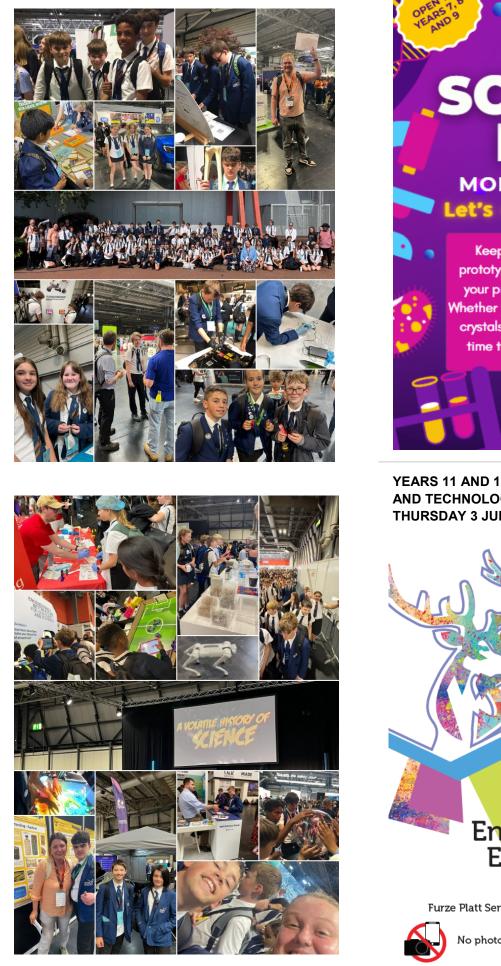
And let's not forget the STEM Careers Quiz, where students discovered the range of roles they could explore – from tech and design to environmental science and aerodynamics.

To top it off, we saw winning projects from other schools' science fairs—a great inspiration for what's to come. This experience has only fuelled our excitement for July 7th, when we'll be selecting *our own school's winner* to go forward and represent us at The Big Bang Fair next year!

Dr M Wyatt, Head of KS3 Science

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PICTURES FROM KS3 SCIENCE TRIP



MONDAY 7TH JULY Let's celebrate Science! Keep refining your experiments, prototyping your models, and sharing your progress with your classmates. Whether you're building circuits, growing crystals, or coding a robot, now's the time to push those ideas forward. 1 YEARS 11 AND 13 END OF YEAR ART 13 AND TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION, THURSDAY 3 JULY 4.45-6.30pm Det Product Design Art Food Textiles Engineering Photography GCSE and A Level End of Year Exhibition

> Thursday 3rd July 4.45pm - 6.30pm Furze Platt Senior School - Art Block

> > No photography permitted at the event.

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SPORTS DAY MONDAY 30TH JUNE

We are pleased to announce that this year's Sports Day is scheduled for <u>Monday 30th June</u> (weather depending).

To accommodate the event, the shape of the school day will change and will result in the **school finishing** at **3pm**.

Please also find below some other key information:

* Pupils may all wear PE kit but this must be the correct school PE kit (image attached for reference, plain navy skort or shorts are also acceptable); those not in school PE kit should be in full school uniform. Leggings and grey joggers are not permitted.



* Pupils may opt to wear a T-Shirt in their House colour. There should be no offensive slogans or logos on such items.

* Students will receive an email from their Head of House (HoH) by **Tuesday 24th June** if they have been selected to take part. If they do not want to take part, they need to communicate with their HoH so that a replacement can be

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selected.

* Students are advised to bring plenty of water/ snacks for during the event.

* Water points and toilets will be available during the event.

Unfortunately, we are unable to invite parents to join us for this event but we look forward to a fantastic day of sport for our students.

Best wishes,

Furze Platt PE Department

BERKSHIRE SCHOOLS TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS



Having successfully qualified through the first round of trials a few weeks ago, on Saturday 14th June seven of our best athletes represented RBWM at the Berkshire Championships in Bracknell. This is a huge event and students who finished in the top 3 of their events are now eagerly awaiting to hear if they have been selected to go to English Schools.

To produce the outstanding results as below is incredible.

• Thomas Ling - 6th in 800m Junior boys with a time of 2.20.2

• Archie Charles - 7th in 800m Junior boys with a time of 2.20.3 (there was a sprint finish between the two)

• Joe Brooker - 8th in the 1500m Junior boys with a time of 4.50.4

• Fabien Mormech - 2nd in the 800m Inter boys with a time of 2.09.6

• Jack Britton - 2nd in Long Jump Senior boys with a distance of 6.42m

• Connor Fitzgibbon - 1st in High Jump Senior boys with a height of 1.76m

• Sophie McLachlan - 2nd in 400m Hurdles Senior girls with a time of 68.3

Alongside these 7, Jenson Jones (Year 10 200m) and Jack Hawkes (Year 12 100m) also qualified but were unable to attend.



HAPPY INTEGRITY ENDURANCE VERSATILITY EXCELLENCE

FITNESS CLUB

Fitness club students working through their Wednesday morning hinging routine with various forms of deadlifting in our Fitness Suite...







...and outside, Tennis in the sun was very hot - endurance at its fullest!

RESIDENTIAL TRIPS 2026



TUESDAY 24TH JUNE: PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS

Come along and meet our partners from Flooglebinder to learn more about the adventures on offer next year.

Wales 2026 residential: 6pm – 6.45pm in the School Theatre, open to all current Year 7 students.



Greece Turtle Conservation Project 2026: 7pm – 7.45 pm in the School Theatre, open to all current Year 9 students.

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We look forward to seeing you at these events. Mr D Randall Outdoor Education and Enrichment Leader

PERFORMING ARTS SUMMER SHOWCASE WEDNESDAY 2ND JULY 7-8PM

Ticket bookings open today at 4pm

This years' Performing Arts Summer Showcase will be an evening featuring a range of performances from over 60 students.

Some work has been produced as part of their drama and music lessons and others in extra-curricular clubs in drama, music and dance. The whole evening will be run by Technical Theatre Club who will be the lighting, set and costume designers plus Front of House and Stage Managers.

Tickets are £3 per adult and are free for children/students and can be purchased via the link below from next Friday at 4pm.



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NATIONAL THANK A TEACHER DAY

This week we thanked all our teaching and support staff with free ice creams as a gesture to show how much we appreciate all the work they do every day.







We are so fortunate here to have the most brilliant people at Furze Platt, from our support staff including pastoral managers, site team, admin, attendance officers, Sixth Form team and many more; to all of our teachers and educational leaders!





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Maidenhead at the Musicals: A Les Mis Singing Experience!

Sunday 29th June 2025, 14.00 - 17.00



All voices welcome. Under 18 musical theatre lovers welcome accompanied by a guardian





JK Musicals **'Ancient Greece the Musical'** Musical in a week (ages 7-12) Join us for a week of singing, acting and dancing Date: 18-22nd August Time: 9am-4pm Location: Furze Platt Senior School Show: 22nd August 6pm Corturber information please contact us on: admin@kmusicals.co.uk Check out our website at: www.jkmusicals.co.dt

Looking for a Summer Holiday Camp?

We're excited to announce that **JK Musicals** has chosen **FPSS** as the venue for their **Musical Theatre Camp** this summer!

Ancient Greece: The Musical — an original production by JK Musicals — promises a fun-filled week of **singing**, **acting**, **and dancing**. It's the perfect way to keep your children entertained and inspired.

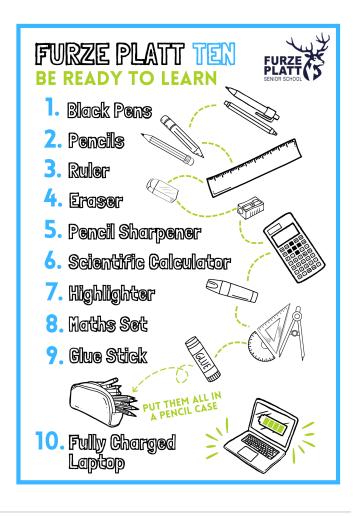
Dates: 18th–22nd August Time: 9am – 4pm daily **Final Performance:** Friday at 6pm in the FPSS Theatre (for family and friends!)

Spaces are limited — don't miss out on this theatrical summer adventure!

To book a space, visit: <u>https://www.jkmusicals.co.uk/</u> upcoming-camps

HAPPY

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WATER SAFETY

means higher risk!

With the warm weather now upon us, many families will be seeking to spend time outdoors and possibly travel to locations throughout the county and beyond that have open water, including lakes, rivers, canals, or even coastal waters - but unfortunately, higher heat

Latest research tells us that the risk of accidental drowning is five times higher when the air temperature is 25 degrees or higher, and every year we see a tragic spike in drownings during the hot weather. near and/or on the water.

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Please see the water safety poster on page 14.

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GARDENING CLUB

We enjoyed picking our strawberries and raspberries. We then created a bamboo wigwam support and planted some berlotti beans and more cosmos.



All years welcome. Meet in S12 after school on Tuesday.

Duke of Edinburgh volunteers very useful!







TERM 6 CLUBS

FILM CLUB - NEW THIS WEEK

Parents and carers of students in all year groups should have received invitations to book clubs for their son/daughter this term. The email was headed Furze Platt Senior the clubs your son or daughter would like to attend.

We do encourage them to try as many as they are interested in – with nearly 50 clubs and academic clinics we are sure they will find a number of activities they really enjoy!

A list of clubs is updated every Friday afternoon on our website here:

CLUBS LIST FOR TERM 6





Our Sixth Form Centre has now closed to students for the rest of this year while we make some refurbishments.

The new-look Sixth Form Centre will be ready for September with a revitalised Common Room, more spacious and modern study facilities and improved office spaces.

Year 12 students are still expected to be in school every day in the run up to their PPEs, which start on the 23rd June, and have had other rooms for study made available for them. Students are also aware of where they can find the members of the Sixth Form team whenever they need them throughout the day.

Works will continue throughout this term and, as we're sure you can imagine, we can't wait to see the finished product in September. To whet your appetite, there are a couple of 'sneak-peek' artist impressions of some of the new rooms for you here.

Best of luck to all of our Year 12 in the upcoming PPEs!



STUDENT WINS ROWING GOLD

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On Saturday, Year 10 student Jenson Jones took part in the Marlow Regatta featuring in the U15 quads.

Having qualified through the trials, the team were confident going into the final and despite the wavy conditions, managed to secure the win and bring home a gold medal.

Well done Jenson!

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PTFA PRE-LOVED UNFORM SALE SATURDAY 12TH JULY- Donations Needed!

We're gearing up for our annual Uniform Sale, taking place on from 11am-1pm on Saturday 12th July in the Music Block, and we need your help!

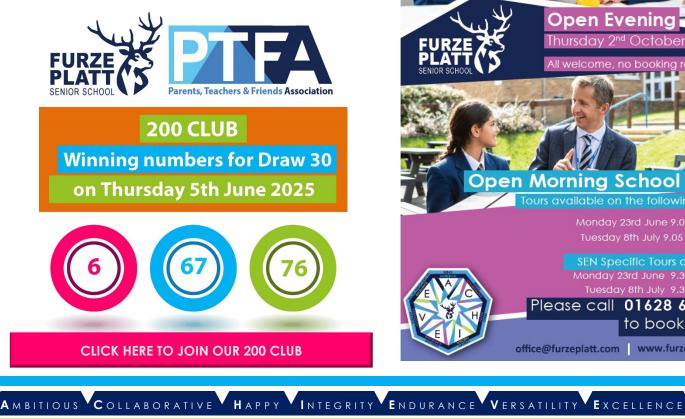
We're kindly asking for donations of school uniform, sportswear, and sports shoes in good condition, as well as GCSE and A-Level revision guides (not text books which should be returned to the relevant department). Please ensure all items are freshly laundered before donating.



Donations can be dropped off at Main Reception by **Thursday 26th June.**

.Your contributions make a big difference - thank you for supporting our school community!

Your PTFA Team



If you have any news items you wish to feature in our newsletter please email: media@furzeplatt.net

PLEASE BRING WATER TO SCHOOL

Please encourage your child to bring a refillable water bottle to school each day.

Staying hydrated is important for your child's health and well-being.





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Graduate PE Assistant

EDV/2025/FPSS/55513

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
- ④ Fixed Term | Full-Time
- £ £23,603.00 £25,157.00 Annually (Actual)



APPLY NOW

New • Apply by 09:00am, Wednesday 25th Jun, 2025 • Job start: September 2025

Learning Mentor

EDV/2025/FPSS/13722

Enthusiastic individual to support the progress and development of our students through high quality academic mentoring. One year fixed term contract.

- Furze Platt Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 7NQ
- O Fixed Term | Part-Time
- £ £22,456.00 £24,360.00 Annually (Actual)



APPLY NOW

5 Days Remaining • Apply by 09:00am, Monday 23rd Jun, 2025 • Job start: September 2025







Accidents are mostly preventable with the correct knowledge and judgment and here are our tips to staying safe in the water during the summer:

To enjoy the water safely and make the right call...

- Enter slowly and carefully
- Think carefully about your ability to splash or swim in cold outdoor water. 49% of those who lost their life were classified as swimmers*. Are you really a good swimmer?
- Stay within reach Don't go too far and stay within a standing depth.

Always be supervised

Over 70% of fatal accidents occur in the absence of professional supervision. Seek life guarded areas and always make sure some one is available to raise the alarm.



In an emergency...

• Call 999

If you are at the coast, call 999 and ask for the Coastguard. Don't enter the water to rescue.

• If you're in trouble FLOAT and call for help

Fall in or become tired - stay calm, float on your back and call for help. Throw something that floats to somebody that has fallen in.



CALL 999







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AMBITIOUS **Η** Α Ρ Ρ Υ INTEGRITY **E**NDURANCE **V**ERSATILITY COLLABORATIVE EXCELLENCE





The local rowing club for girls & boys at Comprehensive and Independent schools in Windsor and surrounding areas



Girls & Boys Years 7-13 (ages 11-18) Confident swimmers

TEAM WORK DISCIPLINE

AMBITIOUS

14 Maidenhead Road Windsor SL4 5TY

STRENGTH & FITNESS

Η Α Ρ Ρ Υ

boats@etonexcelsiorrowingclub.org ww.etonexcelsiorrowingclub.org/juniors

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FURZE PLATT LEISURE CENTRE

SUMMER STUDENT MEMBERSHIP £28 FOR 28 DAYS

15

EXCELLENCE



01628965754

furzeplatt@leisurefocus.org.uk 101 Furze Platt Rd, Maidenhead, SL6 7NQ

LIONS 2025 BOYS RUGBY RESIDENTIAL

Our residential camp gives your child the opportunity to develop as a player both on and off the pitch.

Immersing in three days of non-stop rugby, the residential includes:

3 Days & 2 Nights
3 Meals a Day
I Lions T Shirt
Player feedback forms

High Class Facilities

Comfortable boarding house rooms, perfect for winding down after a full day of Rugby.

- 𝗭 Technical and tactical Rugby practices
- ✓ Led by RFU qualified coaches
- 𝔄 Evening activities tennis, cricket, swimming etc.
- S Professional player guest appearance
- S Group discount available (4 or more)

 19th-21st August
 Only
 9-15 year olds

 Image: Construction of the state of the st

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