



## FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #77.13



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Parents and Carers,

**Careers Fortnight**

It has been a pleasure to tour classrooms in the last fortnight and hear talk of how the skills in each subject can directly or indirectly lead to a particular career. I hope that this information has helped students consider potential options for the future.



Careers is an area on which we rely on our community to become involved, sharing their knowledge and experience of the world to the benefit of our students. Thanks once again to all those members of our community who assist with events like our Careers and Higher Education Fair or by offering talks and experiences to our students. For example, just last Monday we were delighted to welcome Carwyn Cox to FPSS on Monday who spoke about his work as a Barrister and Judge.

If you would like to share your experiences, please do get in touch with our Careers Team here at FPSS via our Careers Leader: [judith.bubb@furzeplatt.net](mailto:judith.bubb@furzeplatt.net)

**Christmas Concert**

As we build towards the Christmas break, we start to have festivities in school. I am looking forward to Christmas Jumper days and other events in the last week of term. More details on those to follow. Before that, we have our fabulous Christmas Concert next Wednesday and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

**CLICK THIS LINK TO PURCHASE TICKETS**

Have a lovely weekend.

Take care,

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



## Term 2 (Week B)

ALL EVENTS

WED 10  
DECEMBER

Christmas Concert



7-9pm

THU 11  
DECEMBER

Year 13 Parents &amp; Students' Consultation Evening

4.15pm-7.15pm

THU 18  
DECEMBER

Christmas Jumper Day (1)

FRI 19  
DECEMBER

Christmas Jumper Day (2)

End of Term 2

12.30pm finish

MON 5  
JANUARY

INSET DAY - School closed for all year groups

TUE 6  
JANUARY

Start of Term 3

8.40am - 3.15pm

## SCHOOL TERM DATES

**FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL**

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2025**

**7 PM START IN THE THEATRE**

SCAN ME

BOOK YOUR TICKETS HERE:  
[WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/FURZEPLATTTHEATRE](http://WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/FURZEPLATTTHEATRE)

ADMISSION: £5 ADULT; £3 CHILDREN 18 & UNDER; CHILDREN UNDER 2 FREE OF CHARGE

## Careers Fair Feedback!

"Thank you so much for organising the event – it was a lovely evening! Your students were phenomenal: it was brilliant to chat to them, learn about their interests and answer some fantastic questions."

– Careers Fair Attendee



## YEAR 13 PARENTS' EVENING

THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER

4.15-7.15pm

We're looking forward to welcoming parents and carers to our Year 13 Parents' Evening on Thursday 11th December, from 4:15pm to 7:15pm. Bookings can be made via the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK PARENTS EVENING](#)

# SAVE THE DATE

**Year 13**  
**Parents' Evening**  
**Thursday 11th**  
**December 2025**  
**4.15-7.15pm**  
In person in the  
Theatre & Main Hall

## FESTIVITIES AT FURZE PLATT

Our Christmas trees have been delivered courtesy of Stubbings Nursery (you can see their Christmas offers on page 9 of this newsletter) and beautifully decorated by Mrs Bartram, Mrs Curtis-Logan and Ms Rashid - thank you to them. In addition, our House Christmas tree has been decorated by students and looks very colourful in its House colours of red, blue, orange and green!

In the last week of term the café will be serving a Christmassy menu and we will also be raising money for charity with two Christmas Jumper Days, details to follow.



15-19 DECEMBER

## CHRISTMAS TAKEOVER

MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING 15TH DECEMBER

### Monday

Sage & onion chicken Wrap

### Tuesday

Christmas burger pop up

### Wednesday

Roast turkey dinner

### Thursday

Turkey, Gammon Or Brie Panini with Cranberry Sauce

### Friday

BBQ glazed pigs in blankets wrap



Ce = Celery  
Cr = Crustacean  
E = Eggs

F = Fish  
G = Cereals containing Gluten  
L = Lupin

Mk = Milk  
Mo = Molluscs  
Mu = Mustard

N = Nuts  
P = Peanuts  
Se = Sesame Seeds

So = Soya  
Su = Sulphur Dioxide

## MEET A GOVERNOR

This month we introduce Rob Olliff, Parent Governor:

### Rob Olliff Parent Governor



"I was honoured to be appointed a Governor at Furze Platt Senior School in 2024. My wife is a teacher and my son attends primary school in Windsor where we live.

I am a chartered accountant and have worked in the banking sector for more than 20 years both in the UK and overseas. I hope my skills and experience are of benefit to Furze Platt.

In my spare time we like to travel as a family and spend as much time as possible in the great outdoors. When I get time to myself I am a keen runner and golfer.



"I am passionate about the difference a good education can make to people's lives and proud that I can contribute to the school and local community."

[CLICK HERE TO SEE OUR GOVERNORS' PAGE](#)





We're excited to announce that we'll be taking part in the GCHQ Christmas Challenge released on Wednesday 10th December!



Our students will have the opportunity to tackle seven clever puzzles to uncover a hidden message, and the first 50 correct entries will be entered into a prize draw.

This challenge is a brilliant opportunity for students to stretch and challenge their thinking, apply problem-solving skills, and think creatively. To succeed, they'll need to embody our school values by showing ambition, endurance, and integrity throughout.

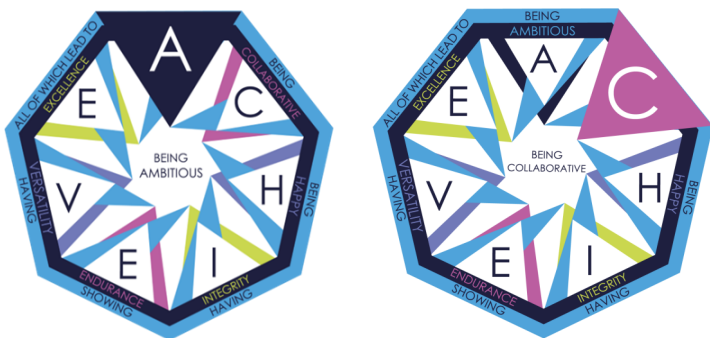
Why not give it a go at home too? The Challenge will be available to download from the GCHQ website from 10 December.

### GCHQ CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

## Careers Fair Feedback!

"It was really lovely to be invited as an ex-pupil to talk about our industry. Would love to return in future."

– Careers Fair Attendee



A huge thank you to guest speaker, Carwyn Cox, a Judge and Barrister who gave our Sixth Formers an inspiring and insightful talk. A fantastic personal development opportunity that showcases many different career strengths.



Over in Art, students were thriving by using a range of watercolour experimentation techniques to build a lifelong love of art and design.





Staying in Art, our talented students from Years 10 and 12 took part in a super Lantern Making Workshop with Norden Farm on Friday - look at what they achieved! Great outcomes from a true collaborative effort.



Careers Fortnight pictured in full swing!



### Williams F1 Racing

Students and staff had a fantastic day out at Williams Racing F1 in Wantage on Monday.

The aim of the trip was to present the importance of STEM subjects, by showcasing career possibilities and options within Williams Racing and the motor racing industry as a whole.

Beyond the speed and engineering on show, the real highlight was the sense of belonging - students learning together and supporting each other.

Thanks to Miss Lake for organising the trip and for Mr Bahra, Miss Hills, Ms James and Mr Major for supporting this trip.



### PE AT FURZE PLATT

Stunning shots of a hockey game taken in this week's foggy weather!

We are very lucky to have fantastic facilities in which our students can thrive at a range of sporting activities each term.

You can see more of the week's sports pictures on the next page.









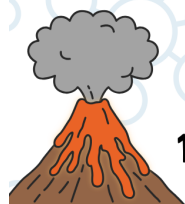


Well done to our top ten Sparx Science students this week!

# SPARX SCIENCE CHAMPIONS



1. MUSTAFA ALI
2. ALICE REES
3. THOMAS MADDEN
4. ALICIA WITZKI
5. HUSSAIN ASGHAR
6. YVAN WILSON
7. EISA ALI
8. TOM O'SHEA
9. MUHAMMAD ABDULLAH
10. SIMRAN VADHER



## Can you help?

We would love your support to make the evening of our Christmas Concert on Wednesday extra special.



Our fantastic PTFA will be running a refreshments stall during the event, and they are seeking parent volunteers to help serve drinks and snacks. If you are able to spare some time before or during the interval, it would be greatly appreciated.

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO HELP WITH THE CONCERT](#)



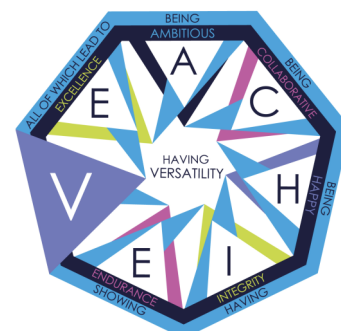
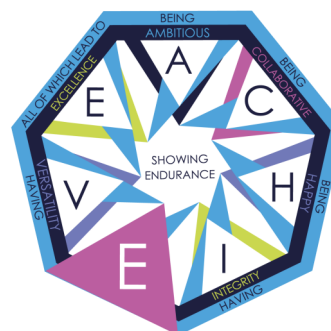
## SECONDARY SCIENCE FAIR

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March,  
5pm - 7pm**

**OPEN TO YEARS 7, 8 & 9**

We want you to come up with your own amazing projects! Once you have your idea please email them to [katie.mcelligott@furzeplatt.net](mailto:katie.mcelligott@furzeplatt.net) before the Christmas half term with confirmation of your attendance.

You can work in groups of no more than 3 people or if you'd rather, on your own. Should you want to discuss your idea, please either email Mrs McElligott or drop into Science Club which happens every Tuesday at 3:15 in S10 to discuss with Mr Wright & Mr Barrett.



## ELEVATE WEBINARS

A range of resources can be found at Elevate Education's website if you missed this week's free webinar.



The next webinar will be on Stress and Wellbeing.

[REGISTER HERE FOR FREE WEBINAR](#)





**HOUSE POINT WINNERS THIS WEEK...**

**IT'S FALCON HOUSE!**

Great work Falcons!



### House Captain Reward Trip

Sixth Form House Captains had a wonderful reward trip this week to Longridge for Axe Throwing and Archery.

Thank you to Longridge for an extremely exciting afternoon out and to Miss Carty, Head of Falcon House, for organising it all.



## ARCHERY & AXE THROWING



### House Penalty Shoot Out

Results of this and the rest of this term's House activities will be revealed in our End of Term Assembly on the last day of term, where we also announce which House has won the House Cup this term!



Spread a little festive joy...



Design a Christmas card to send to your friends and teachers

1. Draw a design on the front of your card
2. Clearly state on the card who it is for
  - Please include your friend's tutor group!
3. House Captains will collect the cards on Monday



### Christmas Card delivery

- In the last week of term, the House Captains will be helping to deliver the cards.
- Keep an eye out for them!
- Merry Christmas and happy holidays!

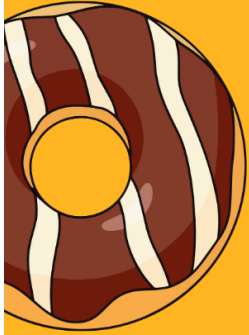




Raising money for



**THE COWSHED**



# DOUGHNUT SALE



**CASH PREFERRED!**

**BREAK 1 - FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DEC**

Doughnuts will be available  
to buy from the following  
area at Break 1 next Friday:

**WEST DRIVE**

**£1.50**

**PER DOUGHNUT**

**Please bring cash if  
possible, thank you!**





CHRISTMAS TREES & GIFTS ★ FESTIVE EVENTS ★ SEASONAL DISHES

# CHRISTMAS TREE BUYING GUIDE



  
**Stubbings**

STUBBINGS LANE, MAIDENHEAD, SL4 4QL

SUSTAINABLY  
SOURCED

LOCAL  
DELIVERY

INSTORE &  
ONLINE

[www.stubbingsnursery.co.uk](http://www.stubbingsnursery.co.uk)

See overleaf  
for our  
Christmas  
Offer

A fantastic array of shapes and sizes to suit your home...

## FIR



Our most popular tree, offered in Nordman, Fraser, Noble, Turkish & Lasiocarpa varieties. Soft needles with excellent retention.

## SPRUCE



The classic traditional tree, offered in these varieties: Norway, Blue & Serbian. A value tree with medium needle retention.

## PINE



A more unique option, our Lodgepole Pine have long, lush needles with good retention.



Bring your tree back to Stubbings in early January for recycling by our local council



## DINE & SAVE THIS XMAS

SPEND £30+ from our Café menu  
in a single transaction to enjoy

**20% OFF**

baubles, hanging decorations & festive lights.

offer runs from 23<sup>rd</sup> November - 31<sup>st</sup> December. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. Voucher valid for one time use. See website for more details.

**GARDEN CENTRE & CAFÉ - OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 9AM-5PM**

FIND US JUST OFF THE A404M TO THE WEST OF MAIDENHEAD

## CHRISTMAS TREE CARE



**PREPARATION** - Make sure you unwrap your tree outside and bang firmly on the ground to remove any debris and loose needles before bringing into your home.

**A FRESH CUT** - Make sure you take a fresh cut off the base of the trunk (at least 1 inch) before bringing the tree indoors. We can cut this for you if required.

**WATER, WATER, WATER** - your tree stand should have a water reservoir. You'll be amazed how much a tree will drink in the first few weeks indoors. Keep watering but note that the tree will drink less and less as the season progresses.

**STANDS** - Alongside the ability to provide sufficient water, you should also check your stand is suitable for the size of tree you wish to buy. Ensuring you have a solid stand is especially important if you have young children and/or pets.

**NEEDLE DROP** - As a fresh product, grown outdoors, trees will inevitably drop needles, the extent of which will depend on many factors.

**AVOID HEAT** - Don't forget that Christmas Trees are grown outdoors. Radiators are their worst enemy, so if possible turn off (or down) any radiators in close proximity to your tree.