

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Term One

Thank you to all our community for your support at the start of the 2025/26 academic year. Having welcomed students back in September it is great to see them engaging with their academic studies as well as participating in so many clubs and activities. I know that the visits to West Wittering (pictured below) and Longridge were enjoyable for many, as was our It's a Knockout fundraiser for Thames Hospice and the numerous sporting fixtures we have seen played this term. Whatever their personal highlight of Term One, I would like to thank students for their hard work, participation and efforts.



This week has seen a series of celebration and House events, and I would like to congratulate the many students who have participated, been recognised and won awards. I look forward to seeing their continued excellence in Term Two.

As ever, I am also grateful for the support of our families. I would particularly like to thank you for supporting our drive to improve punctuality to school each morning. I know it is not always easy to get teenagers out of bed and ready for school. Lates have noticeably decreased, and I appreciate your support with this.

Year 11 Parent and Student Consultation Evening

It was a pleasure to see so many students, parents and



UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL EVENTS

Term 2 (first week back - Week A)

MON 27 - FRI 31 OCTOBER	Half Term	
MON 3 NOVEMBER	Start of Term 2	8.40am-3.15pm
THU 20 NOVEMBER	Year 12 Parents & Students' Consultation Evening	4.15-7.15pm
TUE 25 NOVEMBER	Careers Fair	6-8pm
THU 27 NOVEMBER	Sixth Form Open Evening	6-9pm
FRI 28 NOVEMBER	Late Start for all year groups (straight to first lesson, no form)	9.15am
WED 10 DECEMBER	Christmas Concert	7-9pm
THU 11 DECEMBER	Year 13 Parents & Students' Consultation Evening	4.15pm-7.15pm
FRI 19 DECEMBER	End of Term 2	12.30pm finish

SCHOOL TERM DATES

carers on Thursday. There was lots of praise for students' efforts, but also some reality checks as we focused on developments required to ensure examination success next summer. I am sure we will see students working on these in the build up to their PPEs after the break.

Whatever the highlights of Term One, there will be much more for our young people to get involved with in Term Two and I look forward to seeing students back on Monday 3rd November. In the meantime, have a lovely half term.

Take care,

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

KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS

- HOW IS MY CHILD DOING?

We understand how important it is for parents and carers to stay informed about their child's learning and progress.



Reports for Year 11 have been published on Go 4 Schools. Staying up to date is a great way to support your child throughout the year and celebrate their successes.

Please find the links below to help you access your child's report.

[VIEW REPORTS](#)

[GUIDANCE TO GRADING](#)

[HOW TO ACCESS GO4SCHOOLS](#)



SCHOOL CLUBS

CLUBS AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT CLINICS

Term 2: up to the Christmas holidays

Parents and carers of students in all year groups have been sent e-mail invites today to attend clubs for their son/daughter. The email is headed Furze Platt Senior School with the email address evolve.furzeplattsnrvisits@edufocus.co.uk and the links will be safe for you to click on to confirm your child's attendance. If you have not received an email please check your junk / spam folders.

[CLUBS LIST](#)

POPPY APPEAL

Poppies are available now from our Main Reception to support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal or you can donate via the link below.

Thank you.

[POPPY APPEAL - DONATE HERE](#)



'School leaders are ambitious for the school. They enjoy positive relationships with the rest of the staff and work with them to ensure the success of the school.'

Ofsted 2021



STAR STUDENTS

Here are our Year 8 Star Students of the term - great work everyone!



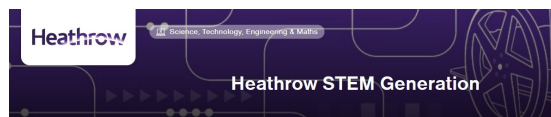
Mrs Ridgley and Miss Holloway spent Friday morning celebrating the birthdays of anyone in Year 8 that has had a birthday this term. They were awarded with a written birthday card and a slice of chocolate birthday cake.

This is a new initiative in the year group that we have started this year to ensure every student is celebrated and gets to spend some quality time with their Head of Year and Pastoral Manager.



HEATHROW STEM PROGRAMME

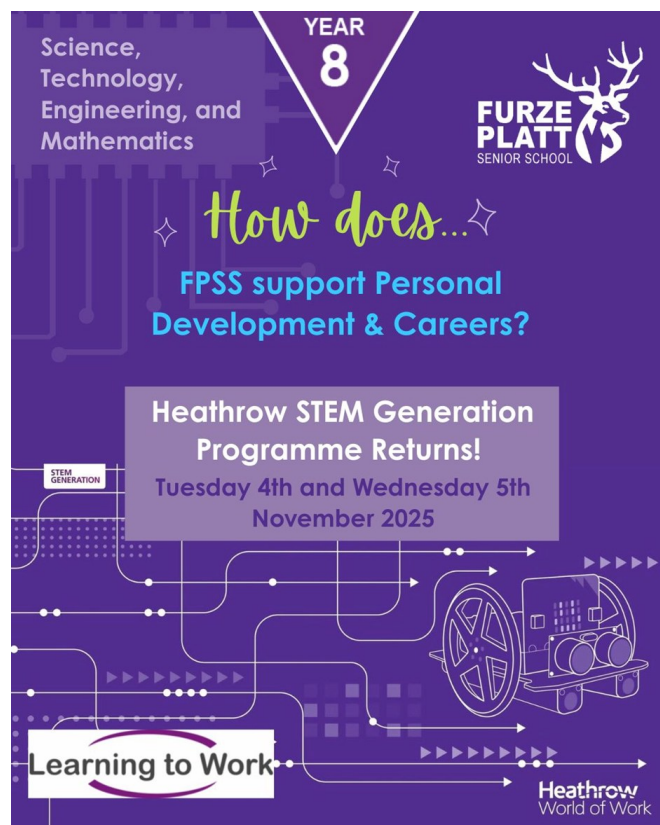
We're delighted to announce that Heathrow and Learning to Work will once again be delivering the **Heathrow STEM Generation Programme** to our **Year 8** students.



This fantastic **Personal Development** activity will take place on Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th November. The cohort will be split into three groups, with each group spending two hours with Heathrow and Learning to Work completing a challenge.

This challenge revolves around a 2-hour experience which is delivered by education partner Learning to Work and supported by Heathrow colleagues. They will use real-life scenarios to inspire and excite, students will learn about the many different career paths available at the airport and, using a variety of skills, will take part in a hands-on **Micro: Bit robot workshop**.

The workshop will be a collaborative challenge that utilises the skills of each member of the group, and allow them to practice coding, presentation skills, and designing a robot.



TERM 1 STAR STUDENTS

We are delighted to announce our Term 1 Star Students! Each of these individuals has demonstrated outstanding effort, dedication, and achievement across their subjects. They have truly embodied our school values of Ambition, Collaboration, Happiness, Integrity, Versatility, and Excellence (ACHIEVE). We are incredibly proud of their hard work and commitment – well done to all!

YEAR 7

FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL *Star Students*

Zoey N 7ROA	Matti G 7IMT	Jessica R 7PAH	Logan R 7SAM
Julia C 7ISW	Skye E 7TEF	Lily T 7DEN	
Finn A 7PEB	Stanley B 7SQM	Fraser H HoP	

Mr Bates
Head of Progress



YEAR 8

FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL *Star Students*

Freddie C 8LEB	Nate S 8ERD	Gabriel R 8AMH	Ali K 8VJL
Jamie C 8GM	Evie W 8MJR	Thehan K 8CD	
Max J 8KAS	Katie H 8JY	Ayda R HoP	

Mrs Ridgley
Head of Progress



YEAR 9

FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL *Star Students*

Darcey E 9CMT	Amy S 9YMH	Eden H 9JAK	Zac J 9GCD
Grace S 9JHL	Eddy B 9JNS	Thomas L 9KEB	
Nathan A 9NAA	Stephanie E 9TEA	James S G HoP	

Mr Corbett
Head of Progress



YEAR 10

FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL *Star Students*

Matthew L 10CHP	Zack R 10RAM	Lexi Bond 10MAR	Jibraeel I 10NGY
Milly M 10OSB	Veeran R 10RJW	Pieush K 10SH	
Nor-Aldeen H 10TAS	Jack A 10TJC	Warren H HoP	

Mr Gill
Head of Progress



YEAR 11

FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL *Star Students*

Ayesha G 11AND	Juan P 11CRB	Hend A 11ACG	Rhea B 11DMS
Ethan H 11DNE	Frayne P 11LED	Lexi W 11VOJ	
Kayla W 11SVJ	Leo R 11SVR	Annabel S HoP	

Mr Jones
Head of Progress





YEAR 12 PARENTS' EVENING

THURSDAY 20TH NOVEMBER, 4.15-7.15PM - SAVE THE DATE!

We are looking forward to welcoming parents and carers to our upcoming Year 12 Parents' Evening to discuss your child's progress and achievements.

Full details will follow in due course.



SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

This event will take place from 6-9pm and will be followed by a late start the next day for all students.



**SIXTH FORM
OPEN EVENING**

THURSDAY 27th NOVEMBER

HOW DOES FPSS SUPPORT PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAREERS?

At Furze Platt Senior School, we are committed to helping every student explore their ambitions, develop new skills, and prepare for life beyond school. A fantastic example of this is a recent trip where a group of our Sixth Form students attended Create Your Future London 2025: The Creative Career Showcase at the London ExCeL.

This *free* event brought together universities, colleges, conservatoires, and employers to showcase the wide range of opportunities within the creative industries – from art, design, journalism, and music to drama, fashion, and beyond.

During the day, our students:

Spoke with universities and conservatoires about creative degree courses

Learned about apprenticeships and career routes in the creative sector

Heard from current students and professionals sharing real-life experiences

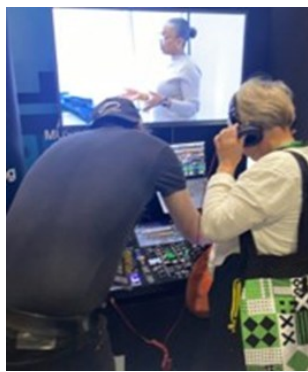
Took part in hands-on workshops and live creative sessions

Enjoyed performances from current creative arts students

Events like this help our students gain inspiration, build confidence, and explore how their talents can shape their futures.

Mrs C Beale, Careers Advisor





CAREERS AND HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

CAN YOU HELP?

On the evening of Tuesday 25th November from 6-8pm, we will be holding our annual Furze Platt Careers & Higher Education Fair (CHEF). This is a fantastic opportunity for students and parents/guardians to meet potential colleges and universities, employers and apprenticeship providers.

We always love to welcome new people, so if you would be interested in having a stall at the event to tell others about what you do and what career prospects are like in that industry please do fill in the form below:

[CLICK HERE TO HELP WITH CAREERS FAIR](#)



INDEPENDENT STUDY

Some of our Year 11 students have been developing their independent study skills this week by learning how to make Cornell Notes, a structured note-taking method that helps them organise information clearly, review key ideas, and summarise their learning effectively.



STAFF APPRECIATION

At Furze Platt Senior School, we value the dedication and hard work of our staff immensely. As part of our ongoing efforts to show appreciation, we kindly request your feedback. Your insights will contribute to recognising and celebrating the exceptional efforts of our staff.

Please take a moment to share your thoughts on how our staff have positively impacted your child's educational journey in term one. Your feedback means the world to us!



[CLICK HERE FOR STAFF FEEDBACK](#)

One of our Careers Fair attendees this year will be Janet Lacey who will be happy to talk about her career in travel as a personal travel agent. We look forward to seeing her - come along to hear more about her experiences!

You can see more about what Janet offers on page 13 of this newsletter under the heading 'Travel with us!'.



Well done to our top ten students this week!



Furze Platt Science Fair Igniting Curiosity and Competition!

YEAR 7 YEAR 8 YEAR 9

Get ready for an explosive display of creativity and innovation at this year's FP Science Fair, scheduled to dazzle us this March! Our young scientists in Years 7, 8 & 9 are gearing up to showcase projects that not only stretch their imagination but also sharpen essential academic and life skills.

Why a Science Fair?

Participating allows students to engage deeply with scientific inquiry and engineering design processes. It nurtures curiosity, encourages methodical research, and fosters an understanding of scientific principles. Beyond the science, students develop invaluable skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and public speaking, as they prepare to present their projects to an audience of peers, parents, and teachers.

Exciting Prizes Await!

All participants will get the chance to go on a school trip to the Big Bang Fair in Birmingham.

Winners will be entered into the Big Bang Fair with the chance to win £500.

Winners will receive trophies and rosettes.

There will be lots of house points for all participants!

Prepare to be amazed by the wonders of science and the brilliance of our students. We can't wait to see you there!

COUNTY FOOTBALL

Year 9 students Joe Moss and Henry Harding started the match on the bench. It was a fairly even game in the first half but Surrey capitalised on their chances and scored twice.

Henry and Joe came on at the start of the second half and had an immediate impact. Joe played in centre midfield and Henry was in central defence. Berkshire dominated for long periods and eventually got the goal they deserved to make it 2-1. They pressed hard for an equaliser and really deserved one, but unfortunately they missed a few chances. Then, in the very last minute, Surrey hit them on the break and scored to make the final score 3-1.

Overall, it was a very good performance by Berkshire against a strong Surrey side, and both Furze Platt boys should be very proud of their performances.



**FURZE PLATT
SENIOR SCHOOL**

SECONDARY SCIENCE FAIR

**Monday 16th 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 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.



Outside for rugby game and debrief...



...and on the astro for Interhouse...



...and inside for morning fitness and learning activities!





15275



16267



15338



15039



HOUSE POINT WINNERS THIS WEEK...

IT'S FALCON HOUSE!

Great work Falcons!

Well done also to our House Communications Student Katie Stratton for her hard work designing House news, you can see more of her work on the next page.

'What's in the Box' results!

Recently 159 brave students took part in the What's in the box challenge to win points for their House.



1st- Falcon with 61 points

2nd- Hawk with 49 points

3rd- Eagle with 47 points

4th- Osprey with 39 points

Congratulations Falcons and thank you to everybody who took part as well as House Captains who helped run this event 🍌



	Eagle	Falcon	Hawk	Osprey
Year 7	8	8	15	9
Year 8	16	18	14	10
Year 9	9	10	9	11
Year 10	4	4	2	0
Year 11	5	7	4	4
Year 12	5	14	1	2
Year 13	0	0	4	3

PUMPKIN TOSS CHALLENGE

Year 7 were very competitive in their Pumpkin Toss Challenge...which House will win once all year groups have competed??!

Year 7 Pumpkin Toss Challenge



Pumpkin contest winners!



Thomas Loveridge
from Eagle !



Casey McCulley
from Osprey !



Liam Zgorzalek in
Eagle !

All photos submitted were judged by Head of Art, Mr Bhara and we had 65 talented students take part across all houses and year groups.



Participation award!



Logan Tyler
from Falcon !

Thank you to all the students who submitted their impressive and scary halloween pumpkin carvings !

HOW DOES FPSS SUPPORT MY CHILD'S WIDER PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT?

This term in Personal Development (PSHE) at Furze Platt our students have been exploring key topics that support their wellbeing, character, and life skills:

Year 7: British Values – understanding democracy, liberty & respect.

Year 8: Ethical Consumerism – how our choices impact people & the planet.

Year 9: Drug Education – staying safe & making informed decisions.

Year 10: Social Media – influence, image & online wellbeing.

Year 11: Mental Wellbeing – managing stress & building resilience.



Conversation starters with your child:

- Year 7: Which British Value means the most to you?
- Year 8: How can shopping habits help the planet?
- Year 9: What's the best way to support a friend?
- Year 10: How does social media affect how you feel?
- Year 11: What helps you manage stress?

BRITISH VALUES

As part of our commitment to students' Personal Development, we actively promote British Values. These are the shared principles that help everyone live and work together respectfully in modern Britain.

The aim is to help young people understand how society works and to encourage them to become responsible, caring, and active citizens.

The five Fundamental British Values are:

1. **Democracy** – understanding that everyone has a voice and a say in decisions, whether that's through school councils, voting, or class discussions.
2. **The Rule of Law** – learning why rules and laws are important, how they protect us, and how they help communities stay safe and fair.
3. **Individual Liberty** – knowing that we all have rights and freedoms and learning to make safe and responsible choices for ourselves.
4. **Mutual Respect** – showing respect for ourselves and others, even when we have different opinions or backgrounds.

Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs – understanding and celebrating diversity and appreciating that others may have beliefs or lifestyles different from our own. Through lessons, assemblies, and everyday school life, we help our students see these values in action – preparing them to contribute positively to their communities and to society as a whole.

FAMILY LIVES SUPPORT



If you need to talk, we're here to listen

Families are facing many struggles and it may feel like it is coming in at every angle. Trying to manage this and parenting children can be really difficult. Our trained family support workers can give you the space to talk, helping you to explore your situation and identify the way forward.

Call us on 0808 800 2222, message us via WhatsApp on 07441 444125, email us at askus@familylives.org.uk or visit our website to use our live chat service <https://www.familylives.org.uk/>



WE ARE hiring!

HLTA IN SHINE REQUIRED TO START ASAP

📍 Location	Furze Platt Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 7NQ
📅 Contract Type	Permanent
🕒 Contract Term	Part-Time
£ Salary	£17,103.00 - £18,275.00 Annually (Actual) 21.75 hours per week (3 days, must include Fridays). Term-time only plus two INSET days.
📅 Closing Date	9:00am, 3rd Nov 2025
📅 Start Date	ASAP

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

Join our team!

Maidenhead Secondary Schools Exhibition

Wed 22 Oct - Sat 8 Nov

Norden Farm are pleased to invite you to our judging evening for students, staff and parents from BCA, Furze Platt Senior School, Holyport College and Newlands Girls' School.



Zuzanna I Furze Platt Senior School

Friday 24 November 4.30pm

Norden Farm are delighted to present the return of our schools exhibition created by local students.

Gallery Opening Hours
Tuesday - Saturday
5pm - 10pm

Norden Farm
Centre for the Arts, Maidenhead

01628 788997 / nordenfarm.org
Altwood Road, Maidenhead SL6 4PF

Prizes kindly donated by: **DALER ROWNEY**

double trouble
enterprises

Feathers and Fur
Falconry Centre



Maidenhead Lions
Saturday 8th November
**Christmas
Gift Market**

Christmas Gifts, Craft Stalls,
Tombola, Mystery Gift Bags,
Tasty refreshments



St. Joseph's Parish Hall
Cookham Road, SL6 7EG
11.00 - 3.30pm

No entry fee
donation only
Parking available

St John's
inspire
programme

CRITICAL THINKING
SERIES



YEAR 9

**WHY IS LANGUAGE
SO POWERFUL ?**

YEAR 10

**DOES CRIME
ALWAYS
DESERVE
PUNISHMENT ?**

YEAR 11 & 12

**WHAT DOES
THE FUTURE
HOLD ?**

**REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN**

until 7th Dec 2025

What Is Inspire
Critical Thinking?

- **FREE** online programme run between January - April 2026
- For Years 9 -12 (non-selective schools in the UK)
- Develop your **critical thinking** skills through a range of **subject perspectives**
- Made up of **4 workshops** linked to a central question for different year groups
- Complete **super challenges**, vote on polls, **win prizes!**
- Access to a virtual summer school

How do I sign up?

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



SCAN HERE!

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**NOT JUST
TRAVEL**

**RUN BY JANET
LACEY, TALK TO
HER AT OUR
CAREERS
EVENING HERE AT
FURZE PLATT
SCHOOL**

dawkes est 1966

Oct 12th: ANDY MEARS & THE DAWKES ALL STARS
Born out of the acclaimed Andy Mears Octet, this newly reimagined ensemble brings together some of the most in-demand jazz musicians in the UK under the banner of Andy Mears and the Dawkes All Stars.

ANDREW BOURN & FRIENDS : Oct 30th
Returning to the Dawkes Live stage is the singing sensation Andrew Bourn with his 5 piece jazz ensemble. This will be a splendid evening of swinging jazz standards and show tunes with lashings of style!

Nov 2nd: YOUNG MUSICIANS SHOWCASE
These 'Showcase Concerts' are held on the Dawkes Live Stage once per term, on a Sunday afternoon. Young musicians are nominated by their teachers to perform solo or with a small ensemble in an intimate setting.

BIG BAND REHEARSAL : Nov 3rd & Dec 1st
Ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes at a big band rehearsal? The Andy Mears Orchestra is throwing open the doors and inviting you to pull up a chair, grab a drink, and experience the magic of music-making in its raw, unpolished form. This event is on the first Monday of each month.

Nov 6th: WINE & SONG EVENING
After the roaring success of their summer soirée, singer-songwriter Rob Castell and wine educator Andy Birkby return with a night of bold wines, mischievous melodies, and fireside charm.

ALEXANDRA RIDOUT 'NEW YORK' QUARTET : Nov 16th
We are delighted to welcome the incredible Alexandra Ridout New York Quartet to the Dawkes stage. The Quartet has been formed thoughtfully with musicians who are each young prominent voices on the buzzing New York contemporary jazz scene.

Nov 22nd/23rd: CLARINET & SAX WEEKEND
We're hosting a weekend of Clarinet & Sax related workshops, masterclasses and live performances. Come and be inspired by a range of visiting professionals and enjoy some playing in our group ensembles.

AUTUMN '25 EVENTS BOOK NOW! → 

FREE LUNCH
Children will be provided lunch after parents attend a brief session aimed at shaping better local services.

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Family Fun Day!
Saturday 15 November 2025 10.30am-2.30pm
Salt Hill Activity Centre Bath Road, Slough, SL1 3SS

You can choose 3 of the activities below:

- **Soft play** For children aged 0-12
- **Bowling**
- **Trampolining** For children aged 5+ unless taking part in the toddler session
- **Virtual Reality** All users must be aged 8 and over.

For more information:
Event contact: Kulvinder Dhillon
Contact number: 07395 258266

Scan to sign up by 6 November, you must sign up to attend.
www.eventbrite.com/e/family-fun-day-tickets-1784168208139

Children must be accompanied by a parent/carer

SEND Local Offer

Slough Borough Council www.slough.gov.uk

RBWM Achieving for Children

TAKEOVER DAY 2025

Tuesday 25 November

Do you want to take over someone's role for a day?

We are inviting young people aged 13 to 18 to experience a role within RBWM/AfC for Takeover Day 25 November 2025
9am to 4.30pm starting at Maidenhead Town Hall.

Have your voices heard by changemakers

Experience real jobs

Learn and understand more about council roles

Scan the QR code to complete the application form



For more information, please contact Molly Bowyer,
Young Peoples Engagement Officer

E: molly.bowyer@achievingforchildren.org.uk

T: 07881 529176



achieving for children

GET IN FOCUS TRAINING

FIRST AID COURSES

At Braywick Leisure Centre

3 DAY FIRST AID COURSE

Cost **ONLY £199 per person** (Normally £320)
Quote SCHOOL3

- 13th - 15th October 2025
- 10th - 12th November 2025
- 24th - 26th November 2025
- 01st - 03rd December 2025

1 DAY FIRST AID COURSE

Cost **ONLY £99 per person** (Normally £150)
Quote SCHOOL1

- 21st October 2025
- 18th November 2025

Be prepared. Be confident. Be First Aid qualified

Scan here to sign up Or Email us down below

academy@leisurefocus.org.uk

LEISURE FOCUS OPERATING AGENT FOR