

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #78.2



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



UCAS Deadline

Many congratulations to our Year 13 students who have met the UCAS deadline for applications to universities this year. These take an enormous team effort from students, their families and our staff. I would like to thank everyone for their contributions.

We are always delighted by the number of FPSS students who gain places at university and I wish students every success with their applications this year.

External Examinations

Our students have also been busy in the last week taking external examinations in subjects like Creative Media, Travel and Tourism, Business, Sports Studies, and Human Biology. I hope students get the results they deserve.

Year 9 Options

Colleagues have also begun talking to students about their Key Stage 4 options with information shared in class, as well as taster lessons. We look forward to continuing this over the coming weeks with Year 9 Parents Evening and Options Evening.

We Will Rock You

Finally, tickets have gone on sale for one of the highlights of our school year, our musical, which is coming to the Theatre on 10, 11 and 12 February. Please get your tickets early to avoid disappointment!

[CLICK HERE FOR 'WE WILL ROCK YOU' TICKETS](#)

Take care,

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

[ALL EVENTS](#)

Next Week (Week B)

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| SAT 17 JANUARY | Duke of Edinburgh Awards Training Day | 9am-4pm |
| WED 21 JANUARY | Year 11 Photographs | |
| THU 22 JANUARY | Year 10 & 12 Performing Arts Evening | 4pm - 7pm |
| FRI 23 JANUARY | Early finish | 2.45pm |
| MON 26 JANUARY | Year 9 Parents' and Students' Consultation Evening | 3.45pm - 7.45pm |
| MON 26- FRI 6 JANUARY - FEBRUARY | Late Start | 9.15am |
| MON 26- FRI 6 JANUARY - FEBRUARY | PTFA Meeting - all welcome | 7.30- 8.30pm |
| THU 29 JANUARY | Inter-House Sports Week 3 | |
| FRI 30 JANUARY | Year 9 Options Evening | 6pm - 8pm |
| MON 9 FEBRUARY | Late Start | 9.15am |
| TUE 10 - THU 12 FEBRUARY | School Musical (Matinee to Primary Schools) | During day |
| FRI 13 FEBRUARY | School Musical Evening Performances | |
| MON 17 - FRI 21 FEBRUARY | END OF TERM (TERM 3) | 3.15pm finish |
| MON 23 FEBRUARY | FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS | |
| | START OF TERM 4 (Week 2) | |

SCHOOL TERM DATES



EARLY FINISH / LATE STARTS IN JANUARY



Early finish: Thursday 22nd January

Late starts: Friday 23rd and Friday 30th January

In preparation for our Year 9 Parents' Evening on Thursday 22nd January, we will be finishing school that day at 2.45pm. This will be followed by a 9.15am start on Friday 23rd January.

We will also have a 9.15am start on Friday 30th January. This is following our Year 9 Options Evening on Thursday 29th January (although school will close at the usual time of 3.15pm that day).

For the late starts, students should go directly to their first lesson for 9.15am; please note there will be no Form Time on these two Fridays.



YEAR 9 PARENTS EVENING



THURSDAY 22ND JANUARY 2026

We are holding our Year 9 Parents Evening for parents and carers of students in Year 9 on Thursday 22nd January. The event will be held in school from 3.45-7.45pm.

This is a key opportunity to meet teachers and discuss your child's progress. Appointments can be booked via this link:

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK YEAR 9 PARENTS EVENING](#)



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS



MANDATORY TRAINING DAY

Saturday 17th January 9am - 4pm

There is a mandatory Year 9 and 10 D of E training day for Open Bronze and Silver candidates.



We will meet at 8.50 am for a prompt 9am start on Saturday 17th January.

Students will need to bring a packed lunch and drinks. Some of the day will be outside so please dress accordingly.

Please note: this is only for students who do DofE as an Extra Curricular activity. Students that complete DofE as a curriculum subject with Miss Carty do not need to attend.



PTFA MEETING
MONDAY 26TH JANUARY



7.30PM
ALL
Welcome



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILDREN

Our next PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association) meeting will take place on Monday 26th January at 7.30pm in the Library.

Whether you're a regular supporter or new to the school, everyone is welcome! It's a great chance to hear about the PTFA's work, share your ideas, and find out how you can get involved - however much or little time you can spare.

Thanks to your support, the PTFA has funded a wide range of initiatives, from the Science Fair and Speech Day prizes to the new Sixth Form kitchen, prom night photobooths, and more. Regular fundraising activities like the Nearly New Uniform Sale and the 200 Club make a real difference to our students' experience.

We'd love to see as many of you as possible - please do come along, even if it's just to listen in.



YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING THURSDAY 29TH JANUARY

On Thursday 29th January, we will be holding our 2026 Year 9 Options Information Evening. This important evening is for students and parents to find out about the options process and to talk to different subject teachers about the wide range of courses that we offer at Furze Platt.

There will be two talks explaining the options process, one at 6.00pm and the other at 6:45pm, with 2 Houses attending each talk (details of House timings below).

After the talks have finished, which should last for approximately 30 minutes, you will then be able to visit each subject stall in the English/Science block where you can ask any questions you may have and find out more about how different subjects are taught and assessed.

The timings for the talks are as follows:

6.00pm: **Eagle** and **Falcon** Houses
6:45pm: **Hawk** and **Osprey** Houses

I look forward to welcoming you on Thursday 29th January, in the Theatre. The evening is due to end at 8:00pm.

Miss L Stirling



Our Year 9 students are taking part in subject taster sessions and assemblies this fortnight, helping them make informed and confident option choices for next year.

These experiences encourage ambition, versatility and excellence, giving students the chance to explore their interests and strengths as they plan their next steps.

A big thank you to Ms Yousef for delivering an engaging Business Studies assembly as part of this programme.

ELEVATE EDUCATION - FREE WEBINARS

How You Can Make
Technology an Ally

Tuesday 27th January 6-7pm

Elevate Education will be holding the next of their free webinars 'Making Technology an Ally' on Tuesday 27th January at 6pm.

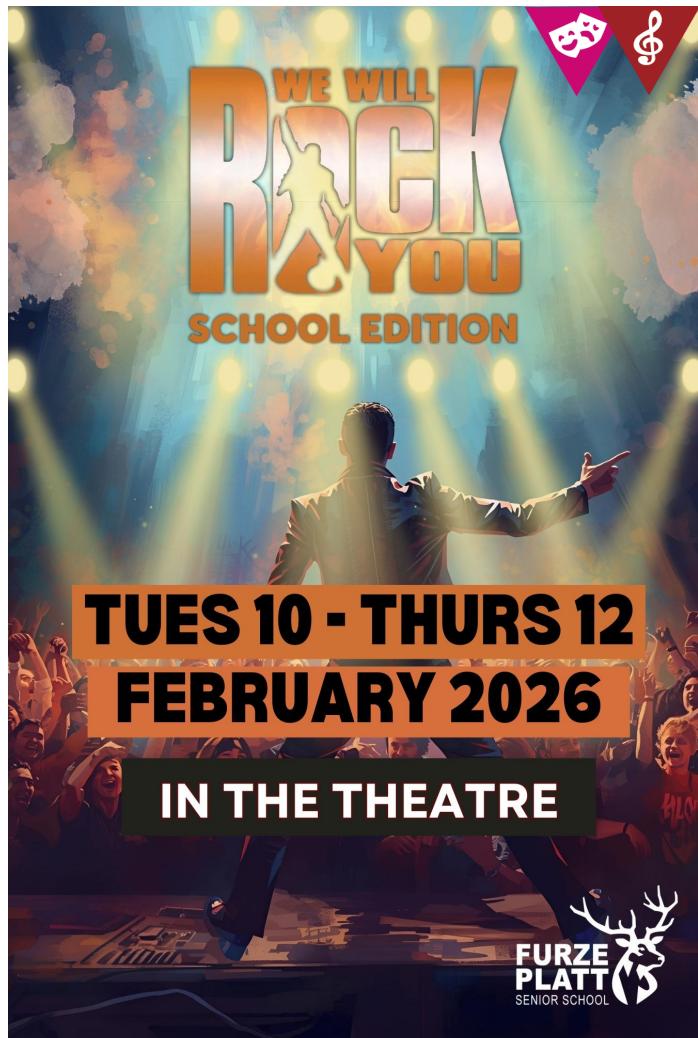
[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR FREE WEBINAR](#)

Spring Term, 2026 Webinars

- How You Can Help Improve Your Child's Memory
February 10, 6:00-7:00pm (GMT)
- How You Can Help Your Child Prepare for Exams
March 3, 6:00-7:00pm (GMT)
- How You Can Support Your Child During Exams
March 17, 6:00-7:00pm (GMT)

You can also catch up on their previous session on Note Taking via the link below for the next two weeks:

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH NOTE TAKING WEBINAR](#)



[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS!](#)

Our talented students would like to invite you to this year's production in February - **We Will Rock You** - a high-energy, feel-good musical that celebrates individuality and the power of live music, set to the iconic songs of Queen.

Picture a dystopian future, where originality, free thought, self-expression and live rock music are forbidden. How will the Bohemians - a rebellious group of young people - change this world? Dare they believe that music holds the power?

Come and join them on their quest to rediscover the lost art of real music, challenge authority and prove that imagination, creativity and standing up for who you are truly matters!

With a live band and outstanding student performances, we can't wait to welcome you!

To whet your appetite, please see a taster rehearsal video below:

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH REHEARSAL VIDEO](#)



SCHOOL CLUBS

Term 3: January - February

Parents and carers of students in all year groups will have received invitations to book clubs for their son/daughter next term.

The email was headed Furze Platt Senior School with the email address evolve.furzeplattsrvsits@edufocus.co.uk. If you have not yet received an email please check your junk / spam folders.

Parents and carers may wish to sign up to My EVOLVE for an overview of clubs, what's on etc - you can do this from the club or academic support clinic emails sent to you in two easy steps:

1. Click on the link in the email as usual to see clubs/clinics
2. Click 'create account' button.

Please note:

- * all bookings for Term 3 must be made through the original email invitations
- * once in the list of clubs or academic support clinics, click on the name of the activity or session you wish to book and press confirm
- * please do not duplicate club bookings per session
- * students in upper years may see invitations to academic clubs that are not part of their specific academic programme; emails are sent to year groups so please only choose sessions that are relevant to your son/daughter
- * if your son or daughter wishes to be removed from a club completely, please email enrichment@furzeplatt.net and provide as much notice as possible to allow time for that place to be allocated to someone on the waiting list.

Thank you.

[SCHOOL CLUBS LIST](#)

FANTASTIC DESIGNS AT FURZE PLATT

Our Year 10 students showcased fantastic technical skill earlier this week, producing beautifully laminated puff pastry. The Danish pastries look absolutely delicious, a great example of precision, patience and creativity in action!



Our Catering & Hospitality students have been showcasing their pasta-making skills. Through hands-on learning, they're building confidence, developing practical expertise and demonstrating real ambition and excellence in their work. Fantastic effort from everyone involved.



SHINE PANTO TRIP

We are grateful to The Kevin Cruise Foundation for generously providing a number of tickets for our Shine Resource staff and students to attend a relaxed performance of Cinderella at the Theatre Royal, Windsor. We had a great time!



[CLICK HERE FOR MORE ABOUT THE KEVIN CRUISE FOUNDATION](#)

YEAR 10 NETBALL

We are so proud of our Year 10 netball team who represented the school brilliantly at the Borough Netball Tournament this week

The team showed fantastic ambition, collaboration and integrity throughout the competition, demonstrating our school values both on and off the court. A great example of excellence in action.

Well done everyone!







LOST PROPERTY

If your child has come home without their belongings please ask them to come to lost property.

If items are named we can get them back to their owners but we have a lot of unnamed clothing including PE kits, trousers, white shirts, lots of coats, shoes, trainer, hats and scarves.

If you have not done so already please can you ensure all the above are clearly marked with your child's name.

Thank you.



SPARX SCIENCE CHAMPIONS

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



8152



7791



7845



9671

HOUSE WINNERS THIS WEEK



Congratulations to this week's House winners - it's Osprey House!

Great work Ospreys.



YEAR 7 TASKMASTER

Challenges and fun in our Taskmaster competition!



VOLUNTEERING AT FURZE PLATT JUNIOR SCHOOL

Our students volunteer with Years 3 and 4 at FPJS each week, showcasing collaborative working and continuing an excellent and long standing partnership with our valued local primary schools.

Thank you to all at FPJS for giving our students these opportunities.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very proud of our school and of our students, and we firmly believe that high standards of uniform, behaviour, being properly equipped and regular attendance give every student the very best opportunity to learn well and achieve their full potential.

Unfortunately, over recent weeks, some of students have not been meeting our high expectations regarding school uniform. In particular, we have noted students wearing false eyelashes, trainers, skirts that are too short and jewellery that is not permitted.

Time that should be spent focusing on learning and celebrating achievements is currently being taken up reminding students of basic uniform expectations.

We would like to thank the many parents and students who consistently follow the Uniform Policy and take pride in their appearance. When we return in January, **regular uniform checks will be conducted**. We ask for your support in maintaining our high standards by ensuring that your child has the correct uniform and wears it appropriately every day. Please also ensure that all items are clearly named so that any lost property can be returned to its owner.

Please note that we reserve the right to confiscate items that do not form part of the school uniform, and students may be sent home to change if their uniform is deemed unacceptable.

We have worked closely with our suppliers to ensure that our school uniform is practical, affordable and of good quality, and we appreciate parents' support in maintaining these high standards. The guidance below is intended to help ensure that inappropriate items are not purchased. If you have any queries, please contact the school before making any uniform purchases.

Compulsory Uniform

- **White Shirt** May be purchased from any retailer but must have a top button that can be fastened. Shirts must be worn tucked into skirts or trousers.
- **School Tie*** House colours, Years 7–11. Must be purchased from Hawkinsport.
- **School Blazer*** Blue blazer with the school crest.
- **School Skirt*** Must be purchased from Hawkinsport. The official school skirt is the only permitted style and must reach to just above the knee.
- **Trousers** May be purchased from any retailer but must be plain black, straight-leg and smartly tailored. Denim, cotton jean-style, ribbed, skinny-leg or flared trousers are not permitted.

• **Shorts** Plain black, straight-leg and smartly tailored knee length shorts. Denim, cotton jean-style, skinny-leg or flared shorts are not permitted.

• **Socks** Dark colours only.

• **Tights** Black or natural only.

Shoes Black, smart-style shoes only. No logos, trainers or trainer-style shoes, canvas shoes, heels, boots, crocs or backless shoes are permitted.

*Items marked with an asterisk are available from **Hawkinsport, Bourne End**. [Click here to see the online shop](#). There are free weekly deliveries to school on Thursdays during term time. Please place your order and state the student's name and form at checkout.



We would also like to remind parents and carers that any **acrylic or false nails, coloured nail varnish or false eyelashes** applied over the holiday period must be **removed prior to students returning to school**. As outlined in our policy, nail varnish must be clear, and nail extensions or false nails and false eyelashes are not appropriate for the school environment and can pose a safety risk, particularly during practical lessons such as PE. We appreciate your support in ensuring that students return to school ready to learn and fully compliant with our policy.

Any student not meeting these uniform standards (for example, wearing inappropriate skirts, trainers, leggings or jewellery) will be asked to rectify this promptly. Your cooperation in ensuring that your child arrives at school in the correct uniform is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support.

REMINDER: LAPTOP-ONLY DEVICES FOR LEARNING

As a reminder, our school is a *laptop school* for learning. iPads and tablet devices are **not permitted** for use in lessons.

Please ensure your child leaves their iPad or tablet at home and attends school each day with their **laptop and charger**, fully prepared for learning.

Thank you for your ongoing reinforcement of our school standards which will help support your son/daughter in their lessons.



FOR MORE DETAILS ON TEACH MAIDENHEAD SEE PAGE 12



WORKSHOPS HOSTED BY THE AUTISM GROUP

The following two workshops are aimed at parents and carers of primary and secondary aged children. All available courses are also listed on the GEMS website:

GEMS WEBSITE

Autistic Burnout

Wednesday 4th February 7.30-9.30pm

This workshop explores what autistic burnout is, how it differs from general stress or exhaustion, and why it happens. Families will learn to recognise early signs of burnout in children and young people, understand the impact of masking and overwhelm, and explore ways to support recovery through rest, regulation, and realistic expectations.

BOOK HERE FOR AUTISTIC BURNOUT SESSION

Barriers to School - Can't go, not won't go

Wednesday 25th February 10am - 12 noon

To understand what EBSA/ERSA is. Recognising potential early signs in our children. Exploring strategies to support our children. Encouraging questions and sharing experiences.

Places are very limited and we can only allow parents and carers to attend whose child is experiencing school avoidance.

BOOK HERE FOR CAN'T GO NOT WON'T GO SESSION

SAFEGUARDING YOUR CHILDREN ONLINE

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

CLICK HERE FOR ONLINE SAFETY HUB

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 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 and will enable parents to:

Filter content

Monitor your child's online activity

Set time limits for online use

CLICK HERE FOR FREE ACCESS TO CONTROLS

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

Miss L Lewis, Deputy Headteacher - Interventions and Safeguarding



TEACH MAIDENHEAD

The best schools - The best pupils - The best teacher training

In partnership with the
Institute of Education

University of
Reading

TRAIN LOCALLY
TO BECOME A
SECONDARY
SCHOOL TEACHER



Thinking about a career in teaching?

Whether you're a **new graduate** or looking for a **career change**, Teach Maidenhead offers an excellent local route into teaching.

Gain classroom experience in **two of Maidenhead's secondary schools**, while earning your **PGCE** with our '*Outstanding*' (Ofsted, June 2024) partner – **The University of Reading**.

✓ What You'll Need

- A 2.2 honours degree (or higher) in the subject you wish to teach, or a closely related field
- A genuine **passion for working with young people**

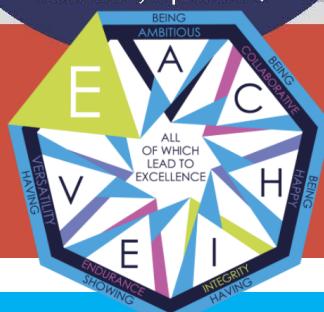
£ Tax-free bursaries and scholarships are available in selected subjects – worth £5,000 to £31,000 to help cover training costs.

Now Recruiting for

2026-27

Subjects available:

Art & Design • Design & Technology • PE • Biology • Chemistry • Physics • Maths • English • History • Geography • MFL (French, German, Spanish)



FIND OUT MORE

WWW.TEACHMAIDENHEAD.CO.UK

TEACH.MAIDENHEAD@FURZEPLATT.NET



In Year 11?

Are your vaccinations up to date?



As you get ready to leave school and meet new people, you might have a higher chance of catching preventable diseases if you haven't finished all your childhood vaccinations

Do you remember having your vaccinations in years 8 and 9?

If unsure, you can visit us at our next session at **Furze Platt Senior School** on

20 January 2026 and we can discuss this with you



0300 365 0077 (Mon to Fri 8am – 4pm)



@ Ssimms@berkshire.nhs.uk

www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk

CRICKET SESSIONS GIRLS



Join our Girls' Indoor Training for

Under 8s & up

No cricket experience
required

Fun and welcoming
environment

**FREE SESSION ON
25TH JANUARY**

Furze Platt Senior School

14:50 - 16:00

Contact Mark on
07818 403751

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Thames Valley Cricket Academy | Livewire Productions | Speakman Roofing



01753 373 244 / 0800 999 1342



weekdays 9am to 5pm



<https://www.gems4health.com>

gems.4health@nhs.net

GEMS works with parents and carers, sharing understanding of autism & ADHD and collaborating on strategies that respect each child or young person's ways of being in the home environment.

GEMS supports families living or has a registered GP in Slough, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Bracknell Forest.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

AuDHD - 7pm to 9pm
Tuesday 3rd February 2026

Autistic Burnout - 7:30 to 9:30pm
Wednesday 4th February 2026

Sleep - Autism and ADHD , 7-9pm
Wednesday 4th February 2026

Sensory Processing - 7 to 9pm
Tuesday 24th February 2026

Interoception - 7 to 9pm
Tuesday 3rd March 2026

Barriers to School, Can't Go, Not Won't Go - 10am to 12noon
Wednesday 25th March 2026

Visit our website to book your space - www.Gems4Health.com



Are you raising the child of a relative or a friend?

Whether you have a special guardianship order, child arrangement order or no legal order in place, you and your child are eligible for support and advice to help with education.

This could include:

- Pupil Premium funding
- advice and support from AfC Virtual School
- advice and support from other organisations



For more information, please contact Rebecca Lloyd at AfC Virtual School or the designated teacher in your school.

Email: rebecca.lloyd@achievingforchildren.org.uk

FREE FUN GIRLS SESSION

SUN JAN 25TH 2026

1.00-2.00PM

Bike and equipment will be provided and 10 girls can be accommodated, so places are limited. If it's successful we will aim to run more sessions throughout 2026.

Girls need to be able to ride an ordinary bike and stand up and pedal.

Girls also need to wear long trousers, ideally jeans. **NO** Leggings.

- ✓ Girls Only Session
- ✓ BMX exercises
- ✓ Skills & BMX techniques
- ✓ Fun games & mini laps



HAWKS
BMX
CLUB



HAYES HAWKS BMX TRACK

Lake Farm Country Park, Dawley Road, Hayes, UB3 1EJ

A
B
C
*Alexander Bmx
Coach*

Registration via email
hello@hawksbmx.co.uk

The Free Session will be run by a
Female Coach, Harriet Alexander