

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #78.4



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Trips, Visits and Fixtures

Students have enjoyed a range of trips out this week, including to the Natural History Museum for our second Year 8 group, a National Theatre Live acclaimed production of 'Hamlet' for Sixth Form English students, and a visit to Brasenose College, University of Oxford, for an in-depth look at higher education and university life.



Before the end of term, Year 10 Art students are going to the V&A; in addition, Sixth Formers will attend the National Apprenticeship Show and for those studying Media, a trip to Warner Bros Studios. There have also been a number of sports fixtures in football, netball and basketball.

Thank you to everyone involved for helping to provide our students (and staff) with some really special memories.

Remembering the Holocaust

On Tuesday Year 9 History and Art students visited Norden Farm for Holocaust Memorial Day, with a film and workshops for students. Thank you to all who supported this visit. Well done also to all our young people who engaged so well with these sessions on an important but emotionally difficult subject.

Year 9 Options

Thank you also to the many parents and carers who attended the Options Evening this week. Students learnt about the broad range of courses on offer as well as learning about the Options process.

Students now have a few weeks to finalise their choices and to look at their potential future subjects - this will be easy for some but advice is on hand for those who may need it. Options forms have been sent to students today.

[CLICK HERE FOR OPTIONS CHOICES 2024](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

[ALL EVENTS](#)

Next Week (Week B): Upcoming Events

TUE 10 - THU 12 FEBRUARY	School Musical Matinee (Tues) & Evening Performances (Tues- Thur)	
FRI 13 FEBRUARY	END OF TERM (TERM 3)	3.15pm finish
MON 17 - FRI 21 FEBRUARY	FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS	
MON 23 FEBRUARY	START OF TERM 4 (Week 2)	

SCHOOL TERM DATES

PTFA

Our PTFA held their AGM on Monday. We are grateful to everyone who attended and supported this valuable school resource and to the PTFA team.

We Will Rock You

Rehearsals for the show are progressing well and we have had a taste of exciting performances to come. Tickets can be purchased via the link below.

Take care,

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



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

WHAT WILL MY CHILD LEARN AT FURZE PLATT?

Curious about what's ahead? Explore our 2025 - 2026 curriculum plans to see what students will be studying in each subject throughout the year.

What will my child learn?

FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

Curious about what's ahead?
Explore our 2025-2026 curriculum on our website.

CLICK HERE TO SEE OUR CURRICULUM PLANS

HOW DOES FPSS SUPPORT MY CHILD'S PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT?

At Furze Platt Senior School, personal development is at the heart of everything we do.

We support students in building character, resilience and a strong understanding of the wider world through meaningful experiences, opportunities and positive relationships.

In January, our tutor-time personal development sessions have focused on:

- New Year's Resolutions
- Vaping
- Holocaust Memorial Day
- Sustainability

Alongside a rich programme of enrichment activities, trips and strong pastoral support, we help students thrive both in and beyond the classroom, preparing them to become confident, well-rounded individuals.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

How does...

FPSS support my child's wider personal development?

SAVE THE DATE

YEAR 8 PARENTS' EVENING
THURSDAY 12TH MARCH

We are holding our Year 8 Parents Evening for parents and carers of students in Year 8 on Thursday 12th March.

This event will be held in school from 3.45-7.45pm.

This is an important opportunity to meet teachers and discuss your child's progress. More details about booking appointments will be sent nearer the date.

YEAR 8

SAVE THE DATE

Year 8
Parents' Evening

Thursday 12th
March 2026

3.45-7.45pm
In person in the
Theatre & Main Hall

IF YOU HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS,
CONTACT...

**WORK EXPERIENCE
@FURZEPLATT.NET**



**YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE
IMPORTANT REMINDER**

**DEADLINE TO ADD PLACEMENTS - FRIDAY 27TH
MARCH**

Year 10 Work Experience will take place from Monday 22nd – Wednesday 24th June 2026.

The deadline to add your placement to Unifrog is Friday 27th March. Placements added after this date may not be approved in time for Work Experience Week.

How to add your placement:

- Agree the placement with the employer first
- Log in to Unifrog (www.unifrog.org)
- Scroll to 'Placements' and click 'Add a placement'

Once submitted, Unifrog will automatically email the employer, parent/carer and school to collect permissions and key information. Please ensure all details are entered accurately for the process to run smoothly.

If you have any questions, please contact us via the link below:

CLICK HERE FOR HELP WITH WORK EXPERIENCE

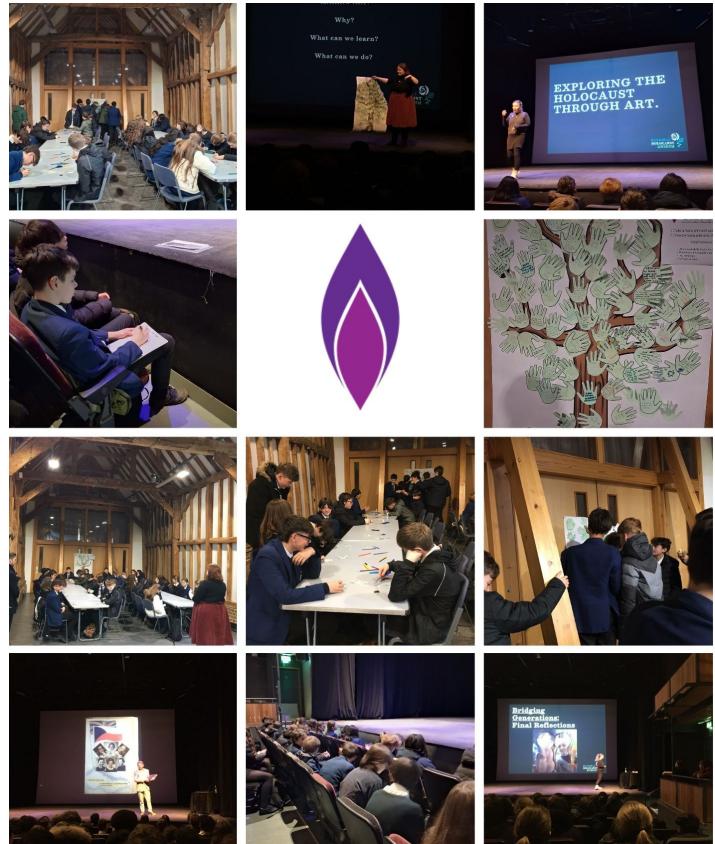
**OUT AND
ABOUT
THIS
WEEK'S
TRIPS AND
VISITS**

On Tuesday, our Year 9 History/Art students visited Norden Farm to understand more about the Holocaust.

We had almost 40 students take part in Holocaust Memorial Day activities, including the viewing of the film 'Nicky's Family' and a Q&A with Sir Nicholas Winton's son, Nicky Winton.



**HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST**



Norden Farm

At the start of the week, our second group of Year 8 students visited the Natural History Museum where they familiarised themselves with tectonic hazard theory and biological theory. It was very interesting to see all the museum had to offer.



A circular arrangement of letters H and M in a spiral pattern, with the center being blue and the outer layers being grey.

Natural History Museum

Year 12 visit to Brasenose College, University of Oxford



A number of students in Year 12 visited Brasenose College, University of Oxford, aimed at developing knowledge of higher education routes. Brasenose, with its magnificent set of historic buildings located in the heart of Oxford, offered a fantastic day for students to understand more about life at university.



Sophia Mormech, Hannah Peck, Izzy Keane (all Year 10) and Katie Ward (Year 9) who play for Maidenhead U15s won their quarter final of the Berkshire and Buckinghamshire County Cup against top of the league Henley to go through to the semi finals. They went through on penalties after a 3-3 thriller, with Sophia scoring a penalty and Izzy Keane saving the last penalty to send them through!

Thomas Ling (U15) and Joe Brooker (U17) both qualified to run for Berkshire in the South Schools Inter Counties Cross Country Championship in Chelmsford next Saturday. If they are in the top eight qualifiers for Berkshire they will go to the National Final in Liverpool.

Good luck to them all.

Here are some photos from PE this week:



RAISE AND GIVE SOCIETY

The Sixth Form Raise and Give Society is made up of students in Years 12 & 13, who work to raise money for local charities. They are currently raising funds for The Baby Bank which supports families from Furze Platt and across Berkshire.



THE BABY BANK

They have organised a 'Palentines' event where students can order a small gift, sweets, key ring or squishy and select a message to be delivered to a friend or teacher during Form Time on 12th – 13th February.

Orders cost £1 or £1.50 and will be taken in school next week, cash or card. (All sweets are halal.)

Please support our raise and Give Society with their event. Thank you.

SIXTH FORM 'RAISE & GIVE' IN SUPPORT OF THE BABY BANK PRESENTS

Pal-entines

Show Your Appreciation for a Bestie, Colleague or Pal

ORDER A GIFT & YOUR CHOICE OF SECRET MESSAGE TO BE DELIVERED DURING FORM TIME 13th-14th FEBRUARY

CARD, LOLLY & SWEETS £1
CARD, SWEETS & SQUISHY £1.50
CARD, SWEETS & KEYRING £1.50

ALL MONEY RAISED WILL GO TOWARDS THE BABY BANK, SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN FURZE PLATT & BERKSHIRE

ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN BREAK 2 IN H8

WEDNESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY

THURSDAY 5TH FEBRUARY

FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY

CASH & CARD ACCEPTED

AVAILABLE WHILE STOCKS LAST



FURZE PLATT TRANSITION ROADSHOW

The Furze Platt Transition Roadshow will be out and about on Wednesday 4th February to visit Cookham Rise Primary School. The pupils will be learning Monster Typography from our fantastic Art and English teams.



More Roadshow visits to follow to other local primaries in the coming months.



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:

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

CYCLE SAFETY

We have been made aware of some pupils putting their safety at risk whilst riding to school.

We advocate for the health and environmental benefits of cycling but we do ask parents and carers to ensure their child travels safely.

Please ensure your child:

- Has an appropriate helmet
- Has a bike fitted with lights for darker days
- Is not undercutting vehicles

Thank you for your support.

Miss L Lewis

Deputy Headteacher

DSL



[CLICK HERE FOR MORE BIKE SAFETY ADVICE](#)

TIME TO TALK DAY

THURSDAY 5TH FEBRUARY

Next week marks **Time to Talk Day** on Thursday 5th February 2025. Time to Talk Day is the nation's biggest mental health conversation. Talking openly and honestly can be the first step towards better mental health for everyone. It can reduce stigma and help people feel comfortable enough to seek help when they need it. Children's Mental Health Week also follows on 9th – 15th February.

time to talk day
05/02/26

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE ON 'TIME TO TALK' DAY](#)

To mark these important events we will be reminding pupils of the importance of supporting our mental health and the support on offer both in and out of school.



Kooth will be in school reminding pupils of their free online counselling services and wider support.

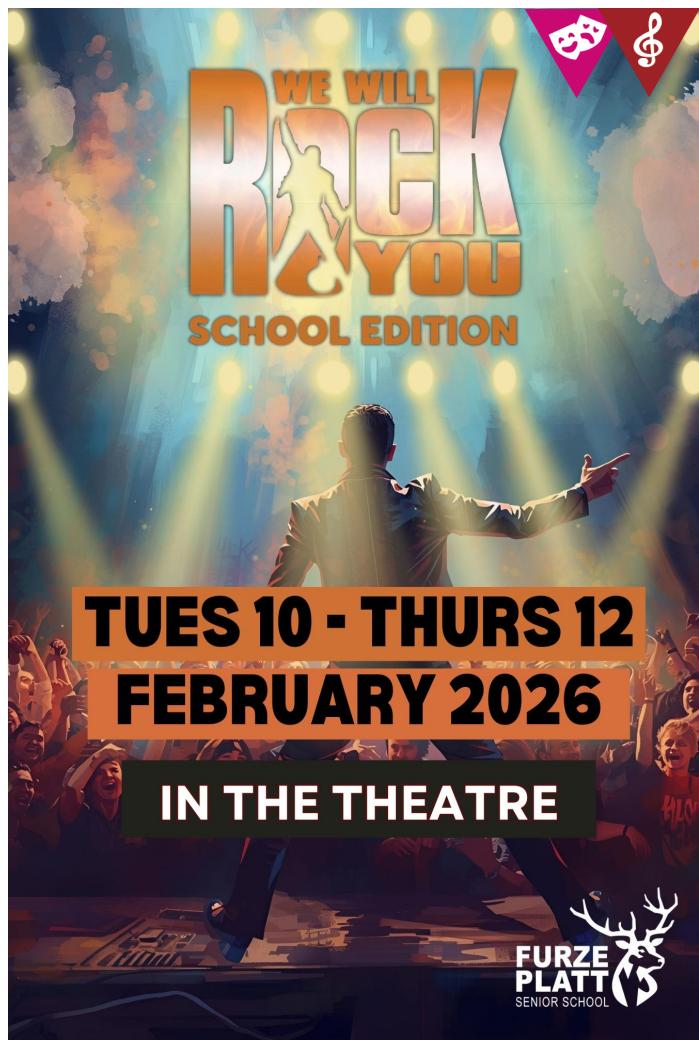
[CLICK HERE FOR KOOOTH](#)

There is a wide range of services available to support children with their mental health, both inside and outside of school. The graphic below outlines local and national services for advice, guidance and support with young people's mental health.

The school also has two school counsellors who are available to support students. To refer your child to this service, or to discuss any other mental health concerns please click the link below.

[CLICK HERE FOR SAFEGUARDING TEAM](#)





[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?

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



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.furzeplattsnrvsits@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:

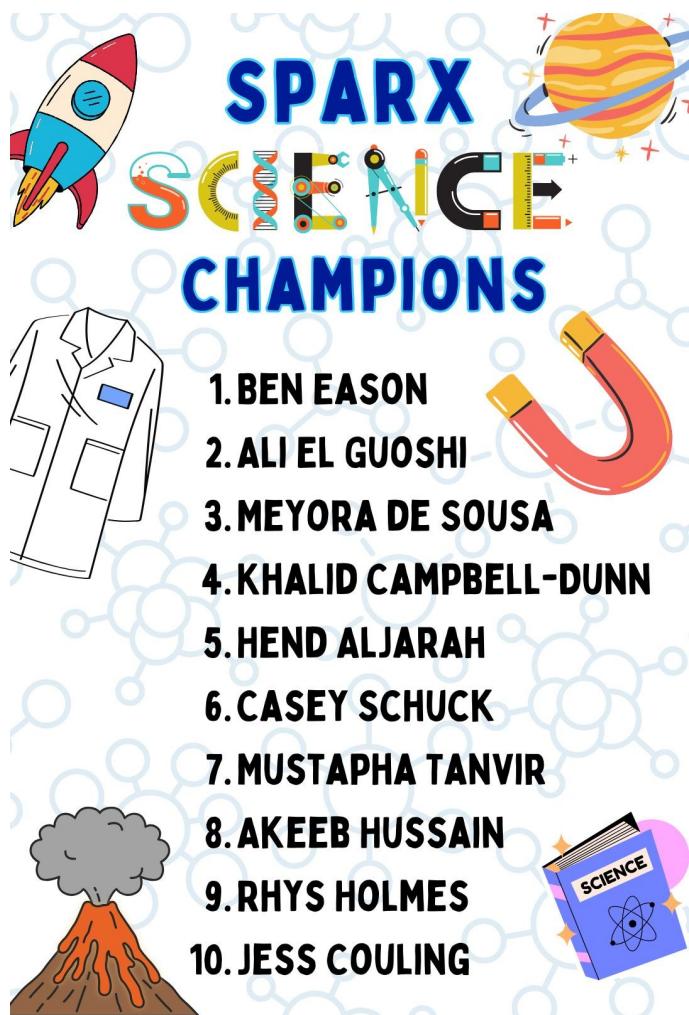
- * all bookings for Term 3 must be made through the original email invitations
- * once in the list of clubs or academic support clinics, click on the name of the activity or session you wish to book and press confirm
- * please do not duplicate club bookings per session
- * students in upper years 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

SPARX SCIENCE CHAMPIONS

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



9554



9218



10088



9279



HAWK

Congratulations to this week's House winners - it's the Hawks for the second week in a row!

Great work everyone!



HOUSE ACTIVITIES

TERM 3 EVENTS

- Humanities Quiz
- Taskmaster - Furze Platt style
- Year 7 - Penalty Shootout
- Year 8 - Kahoot
- Year 9 - Bottle Flip
- Year 10 - Head to Head Debate
- Year 11 - Chess Challenge

GARDENING CLUB UPDATE

Gardening Club were delighted to plant a cherry bush kindly donated by one of our neighbours from the Cranbrook Drive estate — thank you very much for your generosity!

We also relocated a gooseberry bush to a better spot, so fingers crossed for a great harvest this year.

Next week, we're looking forward to taking part in the RSPB Big School Birdwatch alongside Science Club.

A reminder to students in Years 9, 10 and 11 that Gardening Club can be used towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award skills or volunteering section.



UPDATE FROM THE PTFA

Thank you to everyone who came to Monday's PTFA AGM.



We were delighted that the roles of Treasurer, Secretary, School Liaison, 200 Club Coordinator and Uniform Coordinator have all been filled for the coming year. However, we are still looking for a Chair or Co-Chairs, and without a Chair the PTFA's future is in doubt.

At the moment, the PTFA raises in the region of £12,000 a year. This money is of vital importance to the school. At Monday's meeting we were happy we could agree to all funding requests, which came in from departments across the school: PE, Technology, Music, Performing Arts and Year 11.

The Chair's role is to run the meetings (these happen once a term). It is very rewarding and not too time-consuming! If you'd like to learn more, please contact us via the link below. Thank you.

[CLICK HERE FOR INFORMATION ON PTFA CHAIR](#)

200 CLUB WINNERS

Many congratulations to our latest 200 Club winners, who have each won a substantial cash prize!

[JOIN OUR 200 CLUB](#)



200 CLUB
Winning numbers for Draw 31
on Monday 26th January 2026

18

77

81

Second-hand Uniform

A reminder that second-hand uniform is available to buy. Just email us with your requests, including size, and we'll check and get back to you as soon as possible.

We have most PE items in stock at the moment, with an especially large number of rugby tops. Grab yourself a bargain!

[CLICK HERE FOR PTFA UNIFORM REQUESTS](#)



ART STAR

Well done to our Year 13 Art student, Ayla Jane Brookes-Kellman, for completing her first paid commission as a practising artist. It's wonderful to see our students flourish and take their first steps into the industry they're so passionate about.

Mr G Bahra, Head of Art





EVERY DAY COUNTS

APPOINTMENT PROTOCOLS

Please can we remind all parents/carers, that we request that medical/dental appointments are ideally taken out of school time, however, the school recognises that it is not always possible.

When a student must attend an appointment during the school day, we ask that they are made where possible after 1.30pm, as to minimise the amount of lost learning.

If you are unable to make an appointment outside of school, please ensure that your child attends either prior to the appointment and/or after the appointment.

Full day absences for appointments will only be authorised with supporting medical documentation.

**GIVE IT
100%
TO GET
100%**

Thank you for your assistance and support moving forwards.

The Attendance Team

KINSHIP CARE AND ADOPTION



Are you caring for a child under Kinship Care or have an adopted child?

Kinship carers are family or friends who step up, often during an unexpected crisis, to care for a child when their parents aren't able to.

Kinship caring includes:

- informal kinship care care
- private foster care anship
- Child Arrangement Orders
- testamentary guardianship
- kinship foster
- Special Guardianship
- adoption

Furze Platt recognises the commitment of Kinship carers and Adoptive Parents.

There is a growing range of external support available to families include the below resources:

[CLICK HERE FOR INFORMATION ON KINSHIP](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR ADOPTION AND SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP SUPPORT FUND](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR ADOPTION SOUTH EAST](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR INFORMATION ON PACT ADOPTION SUPPORT](#)

If you live in the below Boroughs please find contact details for support:

RBWM

[CLICK HERE FOR ACHIEVING FOR CHILDREN KINSHIP SUPPORT](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR THAMES VALLEY ADOPTION](#)

Slough

[CLICK HERE FOR KINSHIP SUPPORT IN SLOUGH](#)

Buckinghamshire

[CLICK HERE FOR SUPPORT IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE](#)

For further support for your child please contact

Miss L Lewis, Designated Teacher/ Deputy Headteacher

Laura.lewis@furzeplatt.net



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.

**PLEASE NAME ALL
ITEMS**



TEACH MAIDENHEAD

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

WWW.TEACHMAIDENHEAD.CO.UK

FOR MORE DETAILS ON TEACH MAIDENHEAD SEE PAGE 12



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

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In partnership with the
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.

FIND OUT MORE
WWW.TEACHMAIDENHEAD.CO.UK
TEACH.MAIDENHEAD@FURZEPLATT.NET

Now Recruiting for
2026-27
Subjects available:

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

PLAYGROUND TO PODIUM & BEYOND

JOIN NAOMI RICHES MBE AND FORMER TEAM GB PARALYMPIC ROWER (GOLD AND BRONZE MEDALLIST) AS SHE SHARES HOW SHE WENT FROM BEING LABELLED 'THE BLIND GIRL' TO BECOMING A PARALYMPIC CHAMPION... A POWERFUL JOURNEY BUILT ON RESILIENCE, TRUST AND CHALLENGING LIMITING BELIEFS.



19TH FEBRUARY 2026

7:30 PM ONWARDS

Location: Maidenhead Rugby Club, SL6 1BN Tickets: £15 Each +booking fees

Sign up using the following Eventbrite link or scan the below QR code:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-evening-with-naomi-riches-mbe-tickets-1980549641292?aff=odddtcreator>



NAOMI IS SUPPORTING
YOUR LOCAL MAIDENHEAD
BASED CHARITY, THE
SEQUELA FOUNDATION

RAFFLE PRIZES
TO BE WON & A
SILENT AUCTION

IF YOU CANNOT MAKE IT
PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU
WOULD LIKE TO
CONTRIBUTE BY MAKING A
RAFFLE DONATION



FOUNDATION
Registered Charity Number 1148465

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Visiting Angels
QUALITY AT HOME CARE

HENLEYARTSTRAIL²⁰²⁶

ARTSPARK

TALENTED ARTISTS WANTED

Open call for years 11, 12 & 13

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**£100 OF ART SUPPLIES
+ 1-TO-1 TUITION
WITH A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST**

Choose from:

- Silver Jewellery
- Oil Painting
- Wheel Thrown Pottery
- Photography
- Sculpture
- Watercolour
- Life Drawing



Apply at www.henleyartstrail.com/artspark

DEADLINE: 1ST MAR 2026

Thank you to our generous sponsors



DALER Rowney



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



Parenting
Special
Children

NHS
Frimley
Clinical Commissioning Group

FEB HALF TERM

WITH LEISURE FOCUS
AT FURZE PLATT



25% OFF

BADMINTON BOOKINGS
WEEKDAYS BEFORE
4PM

**SCAN HERE FOR
MORE
INFORMATION**



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT AND
GETTING HELP TEAMS



LIVE WEBINARS

2026

FOR
PARENTS
AND CARERS



TO SIGN UP, SCAN THE QR
CODES

- Dates: Various
- Time: 6pm - 7pm
- Microsoft Teams

for more information about the Royal
Borough of Winsor and Maidenhead
Mental Health Support Team please
scan the QR code.



21/01/26
Supporting Low Mood



05/02/26
Supporting with Sleep
Under 11's



26/02/26
Supporting with sleep
over 12's



24/03/26
Building Positive
Relationships at Home



22/04/26
Exam Stress
Under 11's

Scan the QR code to book your place



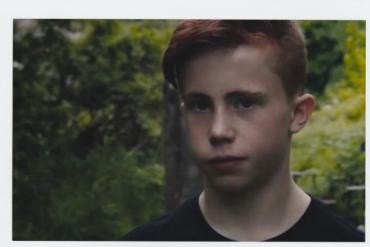
Discover our FREE rail safety
videos and keep your children
safe by visiting
railsafefriendly.com

THE RAIL SAFE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

The Rail Safe Friendly programme has
educated over 3 million young people
on the dangers of the railways.



DON'T LET YOUR
CHILDREN BECOME
THE NEXT
STATISTIC



"I implore you to listen to
Harrison's story"

Simon Frazer, Principal,
Guilsborough Academy

According to the [ORR Report](#), April 23 – March 24 on UK railways:

12

people died in accidents
while trespassing

58%

were struck by a train
or tram

42%

were electrocuted

According to [Rail Safe Friendly](#), July 25:

120+

companies support the
programme

11,000+

schools in the UK have
engaged

20,000+

UK schools still need to
be reached