

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #78.6



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Parents and Carers,

We Will Rock You

What a show! Thank you to all members of our community who attended We Will Rock You this week; to our wonderful young actors and our fantastic behind the scenes crews, as well as our amazing Performing Arts team.



We were treated to a highly enjoyable quality production which brought the music of Queen to life on stage. Great credit needs to be given to all involved, from performers to stage and lighting crew, for bringing such an impressive production to our stage. Their stage presence was outstanding. A special mention needs to go to the singers who performed musically difficult Queen songs superbly.

A musical of this excellence was only possible thanks to the collaboration, endurance and versatility of our students and staff. Their dedication over weeks and months enabled us to enjoy a terrific evening. However, it was our performers' evident happiness as the curtain closed that was particularly noteworthy. Their delight at pulling off such an exceptional show and entertaining their audiences made us all proud to be part of the FPSS community.

Farewells

Sadly, We Will Rock You marked the last performance for the show's Director, Kate Kalinowski. She departs to take up a role as Head of Sixth Form and we wish her good luck in her new post.

Kay Southard, Head of Computing, will also be leaving us at February half term. I would like to thank Kay for her work at FPSS and am sure that you will join with me in wishing her all the best in the future.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL EVENTS

Upcoming Events (Week B)

MON 23 FEBRUARY	Start of Term 4 (Week B)	3.15pm finish
WED 25 FEBRUARY	Ski Trip Parents Evening	6.30- 7.30pm
THU 12 MARCH	Year 8 Parents Evening	3.45- 7.45pm
THU 12 MARCH	Early Finish for all Year Groups	2.45pm
FRI 13 MARCH	Late Start for all Year Groups	9.15am
MON 16 MARCH	Science Fair	
WED 25 MARCH	Spring Concert	
THU 26 MARCH	Year 10 Parents & Students' Consultation Evening	4.15pm- 7.15pm
FRI 27 MARCH	End of Term 4	12.30pm finish
MON 30 MARCH - FRI 10 APRIL	Spring Holidays	
MON 13 APRIL	Start of Term 5 (Week A)	8.40am- 3.15pm

SCHOOL TERM DATES

PAL-ENTINES

SIXTH FORM RAISE & GIVE SOCIETY

WE RAISED £344 FOR THE BABY BANK!

THE BABY BANK

THANK YOU!

Year 11 and 13 Progress Reports

The latest Progress Reports for our examination year groups were sent this week. Please talk to your children celebrating successes but also identifying areas to improve. There is a huge amount of support available within and beyond school so please do contact class teachers if required.

Pal-entines

Thank you to everyone who supported our Sixth Form Raise and Give Society's 'Pal-entines' Fundraising Initiative. This raised a significant amount of money for The Baby Bank. A special thank you goes to all students who are part of the Raise and Give Society and to the staff who supported them.

Happy Half Term

While We Will Rock you was the culmination of the term, much more preceded it. I would like to thank all members of our community for your support in Term 3 and wish you a good half term.

Take care,

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

YEAR 11 AND YEAR 13 REPORTS

Year 11 and Year 13 reports are now live on Go 4 Schools!

Stay up to date with your child's progress and celebrate their achievements as they continue to thrive at Furze Platt.



[VIEW REPORTS](#)

[GUIDANCE TO GRADING](#)

[HOW TO ACCESS GO4SCHOOLS](#)



GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD



We are delighted to let you know that we will be offering the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) to students in Year 12 this year.



The DofE is a great chance for your child to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and talents, have fun with friends, develop essential skills for their future and achieve an internationally renowned Award.

Please see Parentmail for more details.

SKI TRIP MEETING

**WEDNESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY
6.30-7.30pm**

Students, parents and carers are invited to a Ski Trip information evening on Wednesday 25th February for those students going away this Easter.

This will be held in the Theatre.

If you have not already done so, please complete the link found on the recent Parentmail message.

We look forward to seeing you there.



SCHOOL CLUBS - TERM 4

- Due to the recent network issues, more clubs will be added at the start of next term
- At present, Academic Clubs are for Years 8 and upwards

How can...
...my child take part in clubs and activities at FPSS?



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.furzeplattsnrvisits@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.

SCHOOL CLUBS LIST

GCSE OPTIONS FORM

DEADLINE MONDAY 23RD FEBRUARY

The GCSE option form sent to Year 9 students' school email address must be completed by Monday 23rd February.

For more about Year 9 Options, please click the link below:

CLICK HERE FOR MORE ABOUT YEAR 9 OPTIONS



LIBRARY ACTIVITIES 2ND - 6TH MARCH TO CELEBRATE WORLD BOOK DAY

- Students are invited along at any break time to play our Cluedo game: over the course of the week clues will be revealed so that by Friday the students can make their accusations. Will it be Mr Tipp in the careers room with the (very heavy!) dictionary? Or maybe Dr Graham behind the desk with the stapler? All will be revealed!
- We will be running a book swap in the library all week (please bring along a book from home to swap) as well as a book-themed quiz.
- Look out for World Book Day book vouchers coming home soon.
- We're delighted that Year 7 students will have an author visit from David Barker on Friday 6th March. More information to follow. Thank you very much to Maidenhead's Big Read for the opportunity.



WHAT WILL MY CHILD LEARN AT FURZE PLATT?

Don't forget to explore our 2025–2026 curriculum plans, with subject-by-subject overviews of what students will be learning 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

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.

SAVE THE DATE

Year 8 Parents' Evening
Thursday 12th March 2026
3.45-7.45pm
In person in the Theatre & Main Hall

FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

MON 22 - WED 24 JUNE 2026

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT...

WORKEXPERIENCE @FURZEPLATT.NET

unifrog DEADLINE TO ADD YOUR PLACEMENT TO UNIFROG: FRIDAY 27TH MARCH 2026

WWW.UNIFROG.ORG

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

DEADLINE TO ADD PLACEMENTS - FRIDAY 27TH MARCH

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

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.

CLICK HERE FOR HELP WITH WORK EXPERIENCE



YEAR 11 REVISION TIMETABLES AND HOW TO REVISE SESSIONS

YEAR 11

The Raising Achievement Department has been into every tutor and PSHE lesson over the past few weeks to deliver sessions on 'Setting up a Revision Timetable' and another on 'How to Revise'.

This has given every Year 11 student the opportunity to set themselves up with an adaptable plan on when revision sessions will take place as well as walk and talk them through a revision session from highlighting key words to producing a mind-map or cue card, through to checking their learning with questions.

If you would like to find out more, presentations are attached – the links below also shows videos which can be used for students who may have missed the session or for any parent/carer who wants to know more. These can be accessed via student's accounts.

[CLICK HERE FOR PRESENTATIONS](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR 'HOW TO REVISE' VIDEO](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR 'TIME MANAGEMENT' VIDEO](#)

Mrs D Feather, Raising Achievement Manager

SPARX MATHS TERM 3 CHAMPIONS YEARS 10 & 11

A huge congratulations to our Term 3 Sparx Maths winners!

Your dedication to strengthening your maths skills and taking responsibility for your learning truly reflects our values of ambition, integrity and excellence. We are incredibly proud of every one of you.

Keep up the fantastic work next term — you're achieving great things!



- YEAR 10**
- 1 GRETTEL A
 - 2 ROBEL T
 - 3 EZRA T
 - 4 NATHAN T
 - 5 OLIVER L

- YEAR 11**
- 1 MILEY K
 - 2 SIMON L
 - 3 ALI EL G
 - 4 LEXI W
 - 5 ABTIN M R

KEY STAGE 4 STAR STUDENTS

Congratulations to our Key Stage 4 Star Students for Term 3!

We are so proud of the commitment, resilience and dedication you've shown throughout the term. Your hard work and positive attitude truly reflect our school values as you continue to achieve your best and thrive in your learning. Well done — keep aiming high!

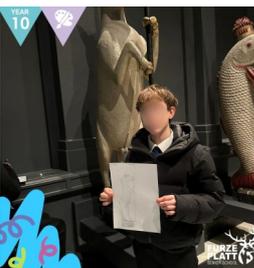


YEAR 10 GCSE ART & DESIGN TRIP TO THE V&A MUSEUM

Last Thursday, our Year 10 Art students headed to the Victoria and Albert Museum for an inspiring day of creativity and cultural exploration. Students gathered first-hand research for their GCSE coursework—completing observational sketches, photographing artefacts and exploring the V&A's incredible permanent collections to deepen their understanding of art and design.

The trip offered a brilliant opportunity to broaden their artistic knowledge, spark new ideas and experience real-world inspiration beyond the classroom. Our students represented FPSS wonderfully, showing enthusiasm, focus and our school values throughout the day.

A fantastic day of ambition, creativity and excellence in action!



V&A

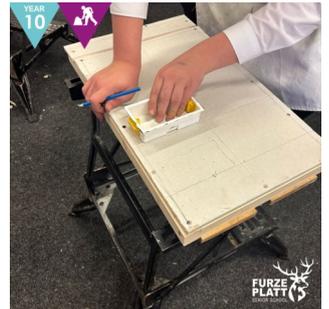


YEAR 10 CONSTRUCTION HANDS-ON ELECTRICAL SKILLS

Last week, our Year 10 Construction students worked hard preparing plasterboard for electrical circuits, using both surface-mounted and sunken circuit boxes.

This practical lesson was a fantastic opportunity for students to demonstrate ambition in developing new technical skills, integrity through careful and safe working, and excellence in the quality of their finished work.

Brilliant effort, Year 10 — you're building strong foundations for the future!



elevate[▲]

education

ELEVATE EDUCATION - FREE WEBINARS

Spring Term, 2026 Webinars

- 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)

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

SPARX SCIENCE CHAMPIONS OF THE WEEK



Brilliant Science work from this week's champion top ten scientists!

**SPARX
SCIENCE
CHAMPIONS**

**OF THE
WEEK**

1. VIVAAN P
2. HEND A
3. MUSTAPHA T
4. SULAIMAN Z
5. BEN E
6. MEYORA D S
7. LOIS S
8. ALI E G
9. KARAM A
10. DENZEL N

They also had the opportunity to talk to a few universities including Southampton Solent, The University of Essex and The Fashion Retail Academy.

A huge thank you to everyone who made this trip possible.



NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP SHOW



On 11th February, 71 students along with Mrs Beale, Mrs Jennings and Ms Palocsai attended the National Apprenticeship Show where we discovered all about the vast range of apprenticeships on offer in the South East.

Students enjoyed meeting staff and current apprentices from organisations and companies such as Pfizer, British Airways, The Army, The Metropolitan Police, Eko, OTIS and Honeywell.

Our very own Mrs Jennings even tried repairing a lift using a VR headset!



SIX NATIONS



We take the rugby very seriously at Furze Platt - here's starting rugby star Ieuan Cox reluctantly wearing the England rugby top after losing this week's Six Nations challenge!



More PE photos on the next page.



SAFER INTERNET DAY 2026 – EXPLORING THE SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF AI



This week, our school joined others nationwide to celebrate **Safer Internet Day 2026**, the world's largest online safety campaign. This year's theme, *"Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI,"* focuses on helping children use AI safely and responsibly.



AI tools such as voice assistants, chatbots and algorithms are increasingly part of everyday life. It is important that we talk with children about how AI can influence the content they see, how they work (including homework), and potential risks, such as scams or misuse.

We encourage families to continue these conversations at home. Helpful resources include:

You can complete the UK Safer Internet Quizzes with your child:

[CLICK HERE FOR UK SAFER INTERNET QUIZZES](#)

Read the UK Safer Internet Centre's top tips for parents and carers below.

You can share the UK Safer Internet Centre's Top Tips with your child:

[CLICK HERE FOR UK SAFER INTERNET TOP TIPS](#)

You may also like to use one of these prompts to start a conversation with your child:

- What's your favourite thing to do online?
- Have you ever used an AI tool? How did it make you feel?
- What do you like about AI technology?
- Do you have any worries about AI technology?
- What advice would you give to your friends about using AI?
- Who would you talk to if you saw something worrying online?
- What more can I do to help you feel safe online?

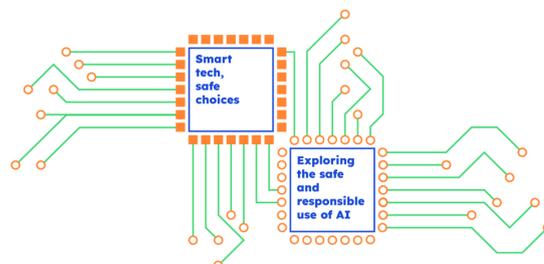
A key part of protecting children and young people from online harms is through preventative education. By talking about this in school and at home, we can all work towards keeping children safe when they are online. Celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great

opportunity for you to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year.

If you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online, please do get in touch with your child's form tutor, myself or Miss L Lewis, Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Miss R Lake (NPQH)

Deputy Headteacher



VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORKS (VPNS)

What is a VPN?

A VPN is an app or program that lets someone connect to the internet through a special private connection, sometimes known as a 'tunnel'. It hides their location and can make them harder to identify online. This usually makes their online activity more private.

Since the Online Safety Act 2023 introduced age restrictions on adult content, social media sites and other sites/apps that might cause harm, there's been an increase in downloads for VPN apps and programs. VPNs are not permitted a VPNs can help someone bypass these restrictions and blockers.

You can get VPNs in the form of:

Downloadable apps from the Apple App store and Android Google Play store

Plugins/extensions for web browsers (e.g. Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge)

Desktop apps/programs on your computer

This means your child could use VPNs on their computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone.

Many VPN services require a one-off or monthly payment, but there are a lot of free VPNs too.

What are the risks?

Your child might use a VPN to access adult and/or harmful content by bypassing the age gates. They can

use the VPN to change their location to another country with no or fewer restrictions and access content that might be harmful to them, like pornography or social media sites.

Some VPNs (especially free VPNs) might also collect information about your child's browsing history and sell the data. These VPNs might:

- Track your child's browsing history
- Sell your child's data
- Contain malicious software that could reveal their device and personal information to someone who shouldn't have it

How to spot if your child is using a VPN

This isn't always easy to do, but you can:

Keep an eye on your child's download history on their computer, phone or tablet. Look out for any apps or programs you don't recognise, and look them up to see what they are. See below for instructions on how to do this:

Google Chrome (computer/laptop) – type 'chrome://downloads' into your address bar

- [Microsoft Edge](#) (computer/laptop)
- [Mozilla Firefox](#) (computer/laptop)
- Safari (computer/laptop) – open 'Finder', select 'Go' and then 'Downloads'
- [Apple app store](#) (iPhone/iPad)
- [Google Play Store](#) (Android smartphone/tablet)

Look out for secretive behaviour, especially if your child is hiding their device's screen from you or keeping the entire device hidden from you

Where possible, look at the adverts that pop up on your child's device. If they're using a VPN to pretend to be in another country, adverts might show foreign currencies or languages

Pay attention to their phone's display, especially for key or shield icons in the top corners (usually next to the Wi-Fi, mobile data, or battery symbols) – this can indicate that a VPN is active

What can you do at home?

We'll talk to pupils about harmful material online in school, but this is more effective if you speak to them about it at home as well:

Have an open, zero-judgement conversation with your child about what they do online

If they are using a VPN, explain to your child why

certain content is restricted and the dangers of using a VPN to access it (see 'What are the risks?' above)

Set clear rules with your child about the apps they can use and the sites they can go on

If your child a smartphone, tablet or laptop, consider setting up parental controls so you can monitor and limit their activity. See how to do this on:

- [Apple](#) (iPhone/iPad)
- [Android](#) (restricts downloads on Google Play)
- [Windows](#) (computer/laptop)

Miss L Lewis, Deputy Headteacher

HOUSE POINT TOTALS THIS WEEK



As we go into half term, our House Points winners this week are the Falcons! Well done the reds!



Look out for lots more House activities next term...





Get into Teaching with the Institute of Education Partnership

Wednesday 4 March, 17:15–19:00

London Road campus, University of Reading

Discover your path to teaching at this drop-in event.

Speak to Institute of Education staff and education professionals from our partnership schools.

Find out about the early years, primary and secondary courses available and how to apply.

reading.ac.uk/education-events



HELP SHAPE A NEW PARENT CARER FORUM IN SLOUGH

Do you care for a child with additional needs?

You can help improve services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Have your voice heard | Influence decisions
Connect with parent carers | Make a difference!

The parent carer forum will work to share the collective views and experiences of families with the local authority and health to help improve services for children and young people with SEND

Together, we can shape better services for our children

Call or text Catherine on 07990 643977 or email catherine.ratcliffe@contact.org.uk

contact *For families with disabled children*

Contact is a trading name of Contact a Family. Charity registered in England and Wales (284912) and Scotland (SC039169).



GEMS
Autism & ADHD Support Service
East Berkshire



1 on 1 Support Sessions

An online or over the phone, 60 minute session offering support and advice.

Suitable for Parents and Carers whom:

- Has a child/young person who may have, waiting assessment or has been diagnosed with Autism or AuDHD (Autism & ADHD).
- Require strategies for a new presenting issue.
- Attended workshops/courses previously and need further advice.
- Want to talk confidentially or uncomfortable with group sessions.
- Are neurodivergent themselves or have access needs.

Available for families residing in, or have a registered GP in East Berkshire.

To book your place contact GEMS:



Gems.4Health@nhs.net



0800 999 1342

Sign Up Today!



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In partnership with
LEISURE FOCUS

THINKING OF CAREER OPPORTUNITIES?



Must be 16 years and over
Swim pre-requisites apply.

NPLQ LIFEGUARD COURSE – 16TH FEBRUARY

- Recognised by the Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Develop leadership, responsibility and lifesaving skills
- Excellent employability and career pathways
- **Earn 8 UCAS points**

LEVEL 3 DIPLOMA PERSONAL TRAINING – 13TH MARCH

- No experience required
- Blended – Online and in person training
- Level 2 & 3 combined
- Fully accredited and industry recognised
- **Earn 10 CPD points and 32 UCAS points**



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throughout the year.
Spaces fill fast.



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register your interest

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HENLEYARTSTRAIL 2026

ARTSPARK

TALENTED ARTISTS WANTED

Open call for years 11, 12 & 13

WIN
£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**



Girlguiding Maidenhead Gang Show

22.02.2026

Time: 5pm-7:30pm
Location: Furze Platt Senior School, SL6 7NQ

Join us on 22nd February 2026 as we celebrate 'Friendship' and 100 years of World Thinking Day!. We are commemorating the day with a Gang Show featuring performers of all ages from across Maidenhead Division.

Come and enjoy an evening that celebrates friendship and the spirit of guiding.



Get your free tickets here



<https://www.girlguidingmaidenhead.org.uk/>




Year 11-13 FPSS

Drama

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To Assist the Girl Guides with their 100 Years of Thinking Day Gang Show on Sunday 22nd February in our FPSS Theatre.

This would be an ideal opportunity to develop your directing, coaching and leadership skills, gain practical work experience and build hours towards the Arts Award

For further details contact
 Mrs Bartram, FPSS Theatre Manager
jennifer.bartram@furzeplatt.net