



# FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #78.7



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Parents and Carers,

### Welcome to Term 4

I hope that you and your families had a great half term with the chance for some rest and relaxation, as well as a few adventures.



As we start Term 4 there is much to look forward to, including lessons, trips and activities including Geography Fieldwork, Science Fair, House Competitions and Ski Trip. I look forward to seeing students achieve much in Term 4.

### Upcoming Examinations

While many of us were able to have a break over half term, for some of our students the next few weeks are less about relaxing and more about revising in readiness for upcoming examinations. Formal written examinations start in around seven school weeks and preceding these we have a variety of practical examinations.

For example, good luck to our Year 11 students with their upcoming Food and Hospitality assessments and well done to our Year 13 on their Drama pieces this week.

In addition, we have our Year 10 PPEs starting next week. It has been great to hear about some of their revision programmes, and I wish students all the best with these exams.

### House Captains

Towards the end of last term I had the chance to meet with some of our House Captains to thank them for their fantastic leadership.

They are responsible for running mini competitions across the school and working together to develop ideas for our ACHIEVE tutor time activities.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**ALL EVENTS**

### Next week (Week A) - Upcoming Events

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



We are really proud of their commitment and creativity.

### Welcome

As the new term begins, I would like to welcome Sonia Kumar who joins our English team.

Take care,

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

**YEAR 8 PARENTS' EVENING  
THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**



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

**EARLY FINISH AND LATE START**



In preparation for Year 8 Parents' Evening school will close at 2.45pm on Thursday 12th March and open at 9.15am on Friday 13th March for all year groups (students should go straight to their first lesson).

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT...

**WORKEXPERIENCE**  
**@FURZEPLATT.NET**

**YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE**

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

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

How to add your placement:

- Agree the placement with the employer first
- Log in to Unifrog ([www.unifrog.org](http://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**



## SPARX MATHS TERM 3 CHAMPIONS

### KEY STAGE 3

Congratulations to our Key Stage 3 Sparx Maths winners for Term 3! These students have shown fantastic commitment, completing their weekly homework consistently and striving to improve their skills with every task.

Their effort, resilience and positive learning habits are a great example of our school values of ambition, integrity and excellence. We are incredibly proud of their achievements.

Keep up the brilliant work this term!



YEAR 7		YEAR 8	
1 HIRUN F	2 DIHAS R	3 AYAAN T	4 SANAV M
5 LIAM Z	1 ANNA B	2 ALIX H	3 ALICIA W
	4 NOUR S	5 MADDIE T	

YEAR 9	
1 MEYORA DE S	2 DIVITH G
3 VEANNE W	4 KAYLEY S
5 ISRA J	



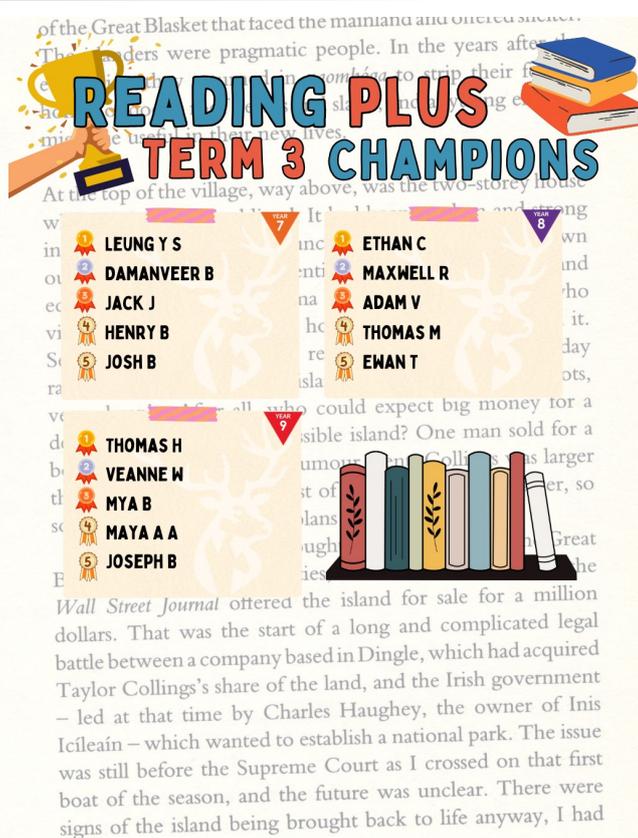
## READING PLUS TERM 3 CHAMPIONS

### KEY STAGE 3

We are delighted to share our Reading Plus achievements for Key Stage 3 in Term 3.

Our learners have shown dedication, improvement, and a love of reading embodying our school values.

Enjoy more reading in Term 4!



YEAR 7	
1 LEUNG Y S	2 DAMANVEER B
3 JACK J	4 HENRY B
5 JOSH B	

YEAR 8	
1 ETHAN C	2 MAXWELL R
3 ADAM V	4 THOMAS M
5 EWAN T	

YEAR 9	
1 THOMAS H	2 VEANNE W
3 MYA B	4 MAYA A A
5 JOSEPH B	



## CAR USE IN OUR COMMUNITY

In the last week we have received a couple of concerns about parents/carers driving. While we would encourage students to walk/cycle to school, we appreciate that sometimes you need to drive to pick up your children.

If this is you, please remember to:

- Drive courteously, not blocking driveways or roads for local residents
- Drive within the speed limit
- Move up the parking bays at the front of school to allow access for cars behind and not block the roadway
- Arrange to meet your child slightly away from school to avoid congestion
- Show patience and empathy for other drivers and pedestrians

Above all, please remember we are a school of over 1500 young people. Please ensure you drive safely and prioritise our students' safety.

Thank you.



**PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS**

## FURZE PLATT ALUMNI AND PARENT/CARER GUEST SPEAKER SIGN-UP



We are looking to provide opportunities for our students to hear from you. Visiting guest speakers play a vital role in supporting Gatsby Benchmark 5: Encounters with Employers and Employees.

To meet this benchmark, students should have at least one meaningful encounter each year with employers including guest speakers to help them better understand workplaces, career pathways and the skills required to succeed.

Engagements with alumni, employers, and FE/HE representatives provide invaluable industry insight and real-world context that truly inspires our students.



Whether you would be able to deliver a whole-school assembly or a more intimate talk with a smaller group, we would love to hear from you.

Please get in touch if you would be interested in supporting our students and sharing your journey.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP TO OUR GUEST SPEAKER PROGRAMME](#)

**WE ARE hiring!**

**SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER**  
TO START ASAP

35 hours per week, 8.15am-3.45pm term time only plus 2 INSET days  
£24,957 - £27,073 annually (actual)  
Closing date: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at midnight

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

Join our team!

## ALUMNI GUEST SPEAKERS

Thank you to Sam, Niall and Myles (pictured below with Mr Sheppard, Deputy Headteacher) who came in to speak to our Business and Economics students.



Students were fascinated to hear about their founding story, business advice and failures and lessons learnt.

Their whole food organ blend aims to provide essential nutrients.

You can find out more about their business 'Organised' via the link below.



[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT 'ORGANISED' HERE](#)

YEAR 9

## YEAR 9 POST-16 OPTIONS GUEST TALK

A huge thank you to Lauren from Activate Learning for delivering an informative and engaging assembly to our Year 9 students about Post-16 options, including apprenticeships and T Levels.

Supporting Gatsby Benchmark 7: By the age of 16, every pupil should have had meaningful encounters with providers across the full range of learning opportunities, including sixth forms, colleges, universities and ITPs.

We are proud to provide our students with valuable insights to help them make informed decisions about their future pathways.



## FURZE PLATT SCIENCE FAIR

**SATURDAY 16TH MARCH!**

Get ready to be amazed! Our Year 7, 8 & 9 students will be showcasing their incredible science and engineering projects - full of creativity, curiosity and innovation.

The Science Fair is a brilliant chance to celebrate their hard work, problem-solving and scientific thinking. From bold experiments to imaginative designs, there's so much to explore!

### Prizes & Rewards

- Trip to the Big Bang Fair for all participants
- Winners entered into the national competition with a chance to win £500
- Trophies, rosettes & house points up for grabs

Bring the family and support our young scientists!




## STAR SCIENTISTS

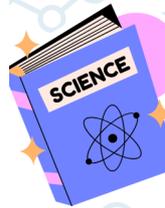
Great work from our Sparx Science Champions of the Week and for Term 3!



# SPARX SCIENCE CHAMPIONS



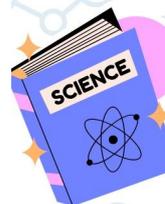
1. VIVAAN PATHAK
2. AYAAN TARIQ
3. MEYORA DE SOUSA
4. NATHAN TEKEBA
5. LOIS SELLMAN
6. ALI EL GUOSHI
7. JOSHUA RITCHIE
8. VERONICA BABINTSEVA SILVA
9. OWAIS ZAHEER
10. LILLY GIBBINS



# SPARX SCIENCE CHAMPIONS



1. ALI EL G
2. HEND A
3. AKEEB H
4. MUSTAPHA Z
5. NATHAN T
6. MEYORA D S
7. BEN E
8. LOIS S
9. VIVAAN P
10. MUSTAPHA T





We are very pleased that author David Barker will be coming to talk to the whole of Year 7 on Friday 6th March as part of our World Book Week activities. We are grateful to Maidenhead's Big Read for this opportunity.

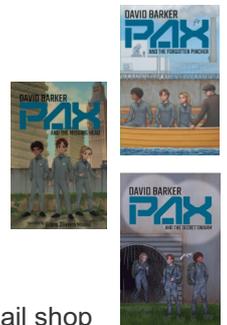
David is the author of the 'London Falling' trilogy. These are adventures set during a dystopian future vision of Britain where citizens of New London hide behind a giant wall. Pax is offered the chance to join a prestigious school set in the old Houses of Parliament where he'll make new friends and enemies and discover not everything is quite what it seems in New London. David will be talking to the students about how he became an author, his books and the importance of 'three' in stories.

All three of David's books are available to pre-order, for him to sign on the day. The books are £8 each, or you can order all three for £21.

Pax and the Missing Head (Book 1)

Pax and the Forgotten Pincher (Book 2)

Pax and the Secret Swarm (Book 3)



Books can be ordered via the Parentmail shop (please click on shop to view the purchase options)

The deadline for ordering is Wednesday 4th March and books will be distributed at the talk on 6th March.

**Cluedo at Furze Platt**

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!

**Book Swap**

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.

**World Book Day vouchers**

Look out for World Book Day book vouchers coming home soon!

Mrs A Sweetland and Mrs T Allanson

School Librarians

**SCHOOL CLUBS - TERM 4**

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 at the end of last term to book clubs for their son/daughter this term.

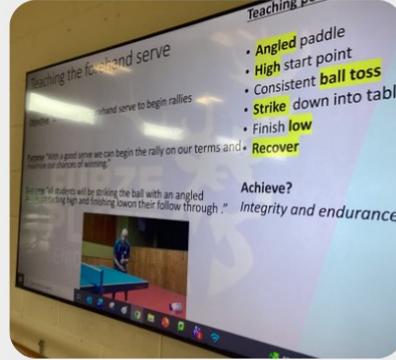
The email was headed Furze Platt Senior School with the email address [evolve.furzeplattsnrvisits@edufocus.co.uk](mailto:evolve.furzeplattsnrvisits@edufocus.co.uk).

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.





## GARDENING CLUB ORCHARD



Gardening Club is delighted to announce the creation of the first FPSS orchard which has been planted in the meadow.

We have apple trees - Christmas Pippin and Scrumptious, a Stella cherry, a Conference Pear and a Victoria plum.

Many thanks to the Tree Council for supplying our new trees.



## FREE WEBINARS



### Future Pathways:

#### A Parent's Guide to Apprenticeships

**When:** Tuesday 3rd March 6-7.30pm

**Where:** Online (virtual)

This session will give parents clear guidance on apprenticeships, what they involve, and how they can support their child's next steps.

Employers will be on the panel, including the BBC, giving parents first-hand insight into real career opportunities.

For further information and to register please click the link below.

[CLICK HERE FOR FUTURE PATHWAYS' WEBINAR](#)



### How You Can Help Your Child Prepare For Exams

**Tuesday 3rd March 6-7pm**

Elevate Education will be holding the next of their free webinars 'How You Can Help Your Child Prepare for Exams' at 6pm on Tuesday, 3rd March. Please click here to register: <https://go.elevateeducation.com/ukparentwebinar>

Here's what Elevate will be covering on the night:

- Prioritising your child's high-impact work to maximise marks
- Improving your child's time management to avoid last-minute preparation
- Helping your child study effectively using past papers

### Spring Term, 2026 upcoming free Webinar

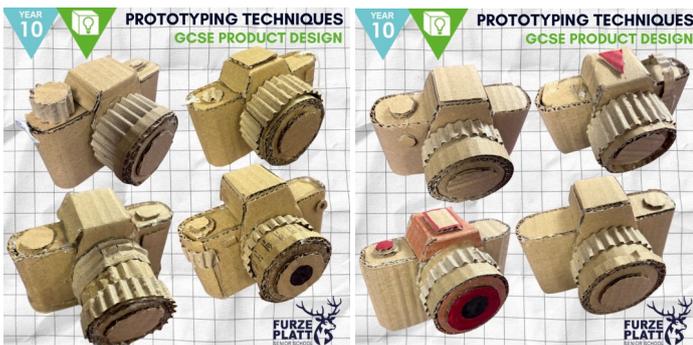
- How You Can Support Your Child During Exams March 17, 6:00-7:00pm (GMT)

[CLICK HERE FOR ELEVATE EDUCATION'S WEBINAR](#)

### Year 10 Product Design

Our Year 10 Product Design students have just completed their unit on communicating design ideas.

This has been a fantastic module where they explored a range of drawing and prototyping techniques.





2430



2060



2200



2160

### HOUSE POINT TOTALS THIS WEEK



In the first week of Term 4, Eagles are the winners - well done to them!

Will they win next week as well...?!



### SPORTING SUPERSTAR

Great result from Year 13 student Ben Kelly who completed his first half marathon in Wokingham, finishing in 1 hour 30.

Well done Ben, keep it up!



### HOUSE FORTUNES

A huge thank you to our Heads of House and House Captains for bringing back an old-school classic as our year groups battled it out in House Fortunes!

A fantastic event full of energy, teamwork and house pride - a brilliant way to bring students together and strengthen our House spirit. Well done to everyone who took part!



Term 4

## WELCOME BACK

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026



WEEK B



Students are encouraged to arrive on site by 8.30am each morning.

- 🕒 Front Gate: Opens from 8:00 to 8:45 a.m.
- 🕒 Back Gate: Opens from 8:20 to 8:45 a.m.






## 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.

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

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

[reading.ac.uk/education-events](https://reading.ac.uk/education-events)

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Learn an instrument

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Email [cherrygardenmusic@hotmail.com](mailto:cherrygardenmusic@hotmail.com)

**REGISTER NOW**

Sessions at St Pirans and Furze Platt



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Please see sponsors' websites for more information:

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URBAN STRIDES



EVERY WEDNESDAY  
FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

# COME & JOIN US!!

**G** ★★★★★  
I would recommend this class to anyone!!!

**G** ★★★★★  
Daughter loves this class. Great fun and her dancing skills have improved well.

**G** ★★★★★  
My son has a great time. He can't wait for a Wednesday night. Everyone is so friendly and he comes out buzzing.

Places must be booked in advance. Contact [classes@urbanstrides.com](mailto:classes@urbanstrides.com) for information.



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# Dartnell Dance Academy



★ CONTACT US FOR A FREE TRIAL NOW ★

07727 105396

[info@dartnelldanceacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@dartnelldanceacademy.co.uk)



Every child gets a chance to shine whilst growing their confidence and dance technique.

Dancers get the opportunity to take British Theatre Dance Association examinations and medals, perform in various shows, compete in competitions and fully become part of our DDA family.

We offer classes in Ballet, Modern Jazz, Tap, Acrobatic, Lyrical, Musical Theatre and Speech and Drama for students from 3 years and upwards.

Classes are held at St Luke's Church hall Maidenhead



Please see sponsor's website for more information:



# FOOTBALL FITNESS SESSIONS

## ELEVATE YOUR GAME

### FOOTBALL FITNESS ACADEMY



## WHAT WE DO

Elevate Your Game at our Football Centre of Excellence. Our science-backed training programmes focus on strength, power, SAQ, and mobility, designed specifically for football performance. Suitable for players aged 7-17.

### More Information:

[www.footballfitnessacademy.com](http://www.footballfitnessacademy.com)  
07871 396 391



## OUR PROGRAM

-  Strength Training
-  Stability Training
-  Power Training
-  Fitness Training
-  SAQ Training
-  Plyometric Training
-  Small Group Sessions

 **MAIDENHEAD  
WOKINGHAM**

FOOTBALL FITNESS ACADEMY



## 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](mailto: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).



The rowing club for Windsor Girls' School and girls & boys at Comprehensive and Independent schools in Windsor and surrounding areas



John Collins  
EERC Head Junior Coach & Double GB Olympian

# EASTER LEARN TO ROW

12:00 - 15:00  
30 March - 2 April



**Book Here**

<http://tinyurl.com/LTREaster26>

<b>Day 1</b> Rowing technique Water safety tests	+	<b>Days 2-4</b> On-water rowing sessions
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<b>2 day</b> 30-31 Mar	<b>£95</b>	<b>3 day</b> 30 Mar - 1 Apr	<b>£150</b>	<b>4 day</b> 30 Mar - 2 Apr	<b>£175</b>
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Rowed before? Please email for alternative options



Girls & Boys  
Years 7-13 (ages 11-18)  
Confident swimmers

EERC Clubhouse  
14 Maidenhead Road  
Windsor SL4 5TY

**TEAM WORK DISCIPLINE FOCUS STRENGTH & FITNESS FUN!**

[boats@etonexcelsiorrowingclub.org](mailto:boats@etonexcelsiorrowingclub.org)  
[www.etonexcelsiorrowingclub.org/juniors](http://www.etonexcelsiorrowingclub.org/juniors)

# MAIDENHEAD SEED SWAP

**Sunday March 1st**  
**11.30am - 2.30pm**  
**ECO Action Hub**  
**Maidenhead**

FREE town parking available on Sundays

- FREE entry
- Bring seeds to swap with others - in labelled, sealed packets (can be dropped at ECO Action Hub prior to swap)
- Take seeds to start your growing journey
- Meet fellow growers
- Donations welcome
- For more info contact us!



Maidenhead Veg Growers and Seed Swap  
 MaidenheadVegGrowers  
 MaidenheadVegGrowers@outlook.com



**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!**

