# FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #80.10

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Remembrance Day



Amongst our very busy - and at times, noisy - school, a poignant silence fell at 11am on Wednesday as FPSS remembered those who have died in conflict. I would like to express my appreciation to all students and colleagues who marked the occasion with such respect.

Year 10 and 11 PPEs

Congratulations to our Year 10 students who completed their first PPE (mock) examinations in Maths and English this week. It was very positive to see the level of focus and effort on show.

Our Year 11s are roughly halfway through their fuller set of PPEs covering their range of courses. I am sure there will be continued revision this weekend and, as ever, thanks for your support at home.

More Able Assembly

On Wednesday I had the pleasure of joining around 150 students in the Hall for their assembly. It was great to hear the range of activities, competitions and events students can involve themselves with to really stretch and challenge themselves. I must also congratulate students for their success. To explain, in a game similar to The Chase and in the roll of 'the Chaser' I failed to catch up with the students leading to them winning ACHIEVE points.

Year 12 Parent Consultation Evening

We look forward to seeing our Year 12 students and their parent and carers next Thursday for parents evening.

Finally, a reminder that there are two upcoming INSET days on Friday 20th November and Monday 23rd November.

Take care,

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS (Week A)

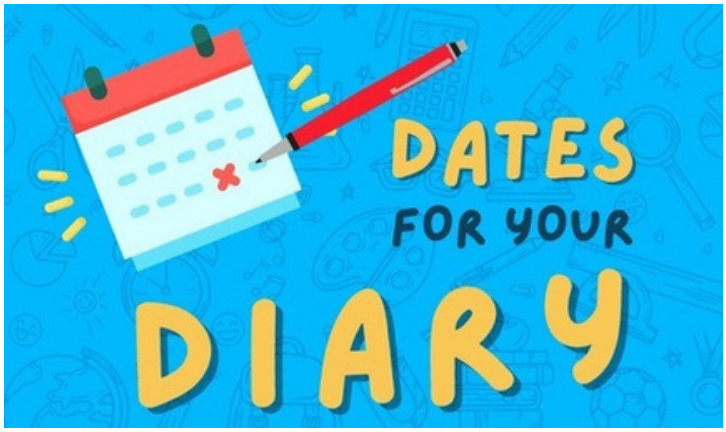
ALL EVENTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| THU 19 NOVEMBER | Year 12 Parents and Students' Consultation Evening | 4.15-7.15pm |
| FRI 20 NOVEMBER | INSET DAY - school will be closed for all year groups | |
| MON 23 NOVEMBER | INSET DAY - school will be closed for all year groups | |
| THU 26 NOVEMBER | Sixth Form Open Evening | 6-9pm |
| FRI 27 NOVEMBER | Late Start for all year groups (straight to first lesson) | 9.15am |
| WED 2 DECEMBER | Careers and Higher Education Fair (CHEF) | |
| WED 9 DECEMBER | Christmas Concert | |
| THU 10 DECEMBER | Year 13 Parents and Students' Consultation Evening | 4.15-7.15pm |
| FRI 18 DECEMBER | End of Term 2 | 12.30pm finish |
| MON 4 JANUARY | Start of Term 3 | 8.40am-3.15pm |

SCHOOL TERM DATES

## MORE ABLE ASSEMBLY






**INSET DAYS: FRIDAY 20TH & MONDAY 23RD NOVEMBER**

Friday 20th November and Monday 23rd November are both INSET Days and school will be closed for all year groups.




**SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING:**

**THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER**

This event will take place from 6-9pm and will be followed by a 9.15am start the next day for all students.




**LATE START**
**9.15am: FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER**

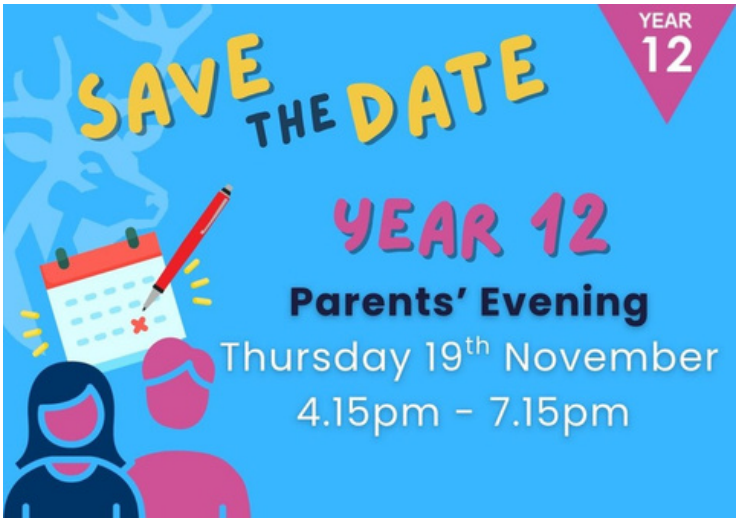
Students will go straight to their first lesson.

**SAVE THE DATE – YEAR 12 PARENTS' EVENING!**

A reminder to parents and carers that our Year 12 Parents' Evening will take place on:

- Thursday 19th November 2026
- 4.15pm – 7.15pm
- In person at school

We look forward to welcoming you into school to discuss your child's progress, achievements and next steps. Further details will be shared soon.




Below is a reminder of our Parents' Evening schedule for the 2026–2027 academic year. These evenings provide an important opportunity for parents and carers to meet with subject teachers, discuss their child's progress, celebrate successes, and identify areas for further development.

Please make a note of the following dates:

Year 13: Thursday 10th December 2026
Year 9: Thursday 21st January 2027
Year 8: Thursday 11th March 2027
Year 10: Wednesday 24th March 2027
Year 7: Thursday 22nd April 2027

Information regarding appointment booking and timings will be shared with parents and carers nearer to each event.

## YEAR 12 REPORTS

The above reports have now been issued and are available online as usual via Go 4 Schools. The service is available either by going to our website www.furzeplatt.com and clicking on the quick link 'Online Reporting', or by going directly to Go 4 Schools www.go4schools.com and selecting Parents.
Should you have any problems accessing your child's report please contact me at reports@furzeplatt.net.

Mrs K Avery, Data Manager




**VIEW REPORTS**

**GUIDANCE ON GRADING**




### CLUBS UPDATE FOR CAREERS FAIR DATE
### For Years 9-13

On Wednesday 2nd December our Careers and Higher Education Fair will be running straight after school for students in Years 9-13. To enable pupils to attend this event, we will be cancelling clubs for students in those year groups for this date only.

We hope your child enjoys the opportunity to meet a range of employers and educational institutes to help them think about future careers.

## YEAR 11 PRE PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you and your families are well, and your sons and daughters feel that the start of Year 11 is going well. We wanted to write to you to share the arrangements for our Year 11 Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs), which started this week and will be running through to Wednesday 18th November.

During the PPE period, all GCSE subjects are running Pre-Public exams and English, Maths and Science will run as a whole year group. Students will sit their option subjects' papers according to which option block they are in. Thus, any subject appearing in more than one option block will have pupils sitting the same paper on different days. Tight security will be maintained through ensuring that pupils cannot take papers, notes etc out of the exam hall.

Please also note that there will be no study leave for students during this period and that all students will be in an exam or their normal lessons. Not all exams fit neatly into lesson slots - so on occasions students will finish an exam and join their normal lesson midway through a lesson this may well be the case during period 2 lessons. Students will go home as soon as their afternoon exams finish, which may mean students will finish school earlier than usual.

Emails have been sent to parents and carers regarding 'Year 11 Pre-Public Exam Arrangements' and students should refer to their personal timetables on Exams assist, the link to which has already been emailed to all students.

PPEs run to JCQ exam regulations, and all students have been sent this link to ensure they are familiar with them Please signpost them to read the written exams section: JCQ Information for Candidates.

We wish them all the very best of luck!
Kind regards,

Mr C Gill, Year 11 Head of Progress
Mr J Dollery, Assistant Headteacher and Head of KS4




**CLICK HERE FOR 'HOW TO REVISE' PRESENTATION**

**SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING**
**THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER**

We're delighted to invite prospective students and their families to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 26th November from 6pm, for students looking to join us in September 2027.

Booking is not needed for this event.

The evening is designed to give you a clear understanding of what is available to you here when you finish your GCSE courses in the summer.

We are very proud of our Sixth Form and would like to help you make the excellent choice of joining the Sixth Form in September 2027 to continue your successful education at post-16. The open evening will provide you with the information you need to make informed choices when selecting your courses.

There is no need to register, you will just need to arrive at 5.50pm and make your way to the Theatre as the presentation will start promptly at 6.00pm.

**Programme and Presentations**

The programme for the evening is outlined below. The main presentation will be followed by the possibility of attending up to FIVE talks on various A-Levels and Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualifications.

| Time | Event |
|---|---|
| 6.00 – 6.20pm | Presentation in Theatre |
| 6.30 – 6.40pm | Moving time from Theatre to |
| 6.40 – 8.40pm | Subject presentations |
| 8.40pm | End of the evening |




The presentations are designed to give you a deeper understanding of subject content and delivery of courses in the Sixth Form and will allow you to ask questions of subject specialists.

The subject presentations will be the same in each session, so you need only attend one for each subject you are interested in during the evening.

We do recommend you see five subjects, even though you will only pick three subjects as standard (in rare cases, some students may complete four A-Levels) as we are eager for you to be as fully prepared and enthused as possible with the options available to you in Sixth Form.

I do hope to see all of you at our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 26th November and I look forward to speaking to you further about the exciting prospect of post-16 study.

We look forward to meeting you at this event!

**Prospectus**

Our 2027 Sixth Form Prospectus will be published shortly before the Open Evening.

**Key Dates**

- Applications deadline – 9am Wednesday 6th January 2027
- Conditional Offers sent from - Monday 8th March 2027
- Sixth Form Taster Day - Friday 25th June 2027
- GCSE Results and Sixth Form Registration Day (in person) - Thursday 19th August 2027
- Year 12 Induction Day – Friday 3rd September 2027




**SECOND-HAND SCHOOL UNIFORM AVAILABLE**

A little reminder to parents and carers that second-hand school uniform is available through our PTFA.

If your child needs any uniform items, or you'd like to find out what's currently available, please get in touch with the PTFA directly via the link below.

Buying second-hand is a great way to save money and give pre-loved uniform a new home.

Thank you for supporting our PTFA!




**SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL**




Please donate via the link below to support the learning opportunities, enrichment and facilities of the school. Gift Aid will apply to eligible donations.

Thank you.

**CLICK HERE FOR MORE ON SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL**

**YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE 2027**
**SAVE THE DATE!**

Our Year 10 students will be heading out into the world of work from Monday 21st to Wednesday 23rd June 2027, and we need your help to make it happen!




**Parents and carers – can you help?**
We're looking for businesses and employers who could offer one of our students a work experience placement next June.
**Could you ...**

- Offer a student a placement at your workplace.
- Put us in touch with a business or employer who might be able to help.

Work experience is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop confidence, learn new skills and gain valuable insight into different careers and working environments.

**PLEASE CLICK HERE TO EMAIL MISS STIRLING**

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT AUDITIONS

Do you have a musical talent to share?

We're looking for talented musicians, singers and performers to take part in this year's FPSS Christmas Concert on Wednesday 9th December!

Student auditions will take place on:

- Monday 16 November
- From 3.30pm
- Room MU1
-

We're welcoming a wide range of musical talents and performances, including solos, duets, groups and bands! If you'd like to perform, please prepare a musical act that you'd love to share with our audience should you be selected.

For further information, please speak to Miss Wong or Miss Carr-Austin.

We can't wait to see and hear the fantastic talent we have here at FPSS!




## SCHOOL CLUBS

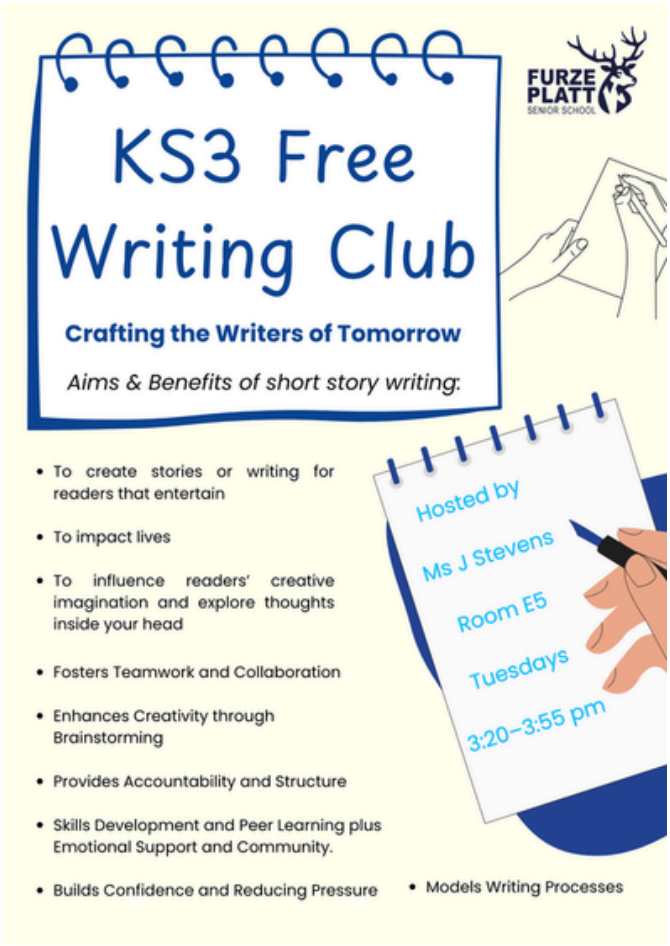
**Term 2: November to Christmas**

At the end of last term, parents and carers of students in all year groups were sent e-mail invites for this term's clubs. The email was headed Furze Platt Senior School with the email address evolve.furzeplattsnrvisits@edufocus.co.uk and the links will be safe for you to click on to confirm your child's attendance.
If you have not received an email please check your junk / spam folders.

**CLUBS LIST FOR NEXT WEEK**






## Gardening Club – Growing Together!

Our Gardening Club has been busy again this week, continuing to weed the quad beds, planting spring bulbs and even harvesting some home-grown carrots!

Next week, we're hoping to get stuck into some jobs in the Nature Garden. With the colder weather arriving, please remember to bring your coat – and perhaps a woolly hat too!




## YEAR 8 RUGBY VICTORIES

A fantastic set of wins for our Year 8 rugby teams!

Our Furze Platt boys secured an impressive 45–20 home victory against Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School.

Congratulations to J, Max, Jamie, Tom, Logan and Rory, who all crossed the try line.




Year 8 also defeated local rivals John Hampden Grammar School 8 tries to 0 this week, with a classy performance against a well organised opposition.

Both teams produced promising rugby with FPSS working well in small units to create a fantastic performance.

Sam Antony scored a hat trick with Chayce Cunningham scoring his first ever try in his second ever game.



**Keeping Active in PE at FPSS!**

Since returning from half term, our Year 7 students have been enjoying a mix of activities, developing their skills through table tennis and football lessons on our All-Weather Pitch.

Meanwhile, Year 8 have been making the most of the field, putting their rugby skills into practice during their lessons.

A special mention goes to Year 8 student and rugby centre Sam Antony, who has been taking the lead in the class warm-ups before guiding his classmates through an Auckland Grid activity to develop their ball-handling skills. Great leadership, Sam!

It's fantastic to see our students staying active, building confidence and developing their sporting skills.



















**Forge Athletes – Back in Training!**

Our Year 9 and 10 Forge athletes are back into their training routines following half term!

Year 9 are realigning their focus with their personalised training programmes, while Year 10 are working on mobility as they prepare to move into their building phase.
Great to see our athletes continuing to develop their strength, fitness and performance!







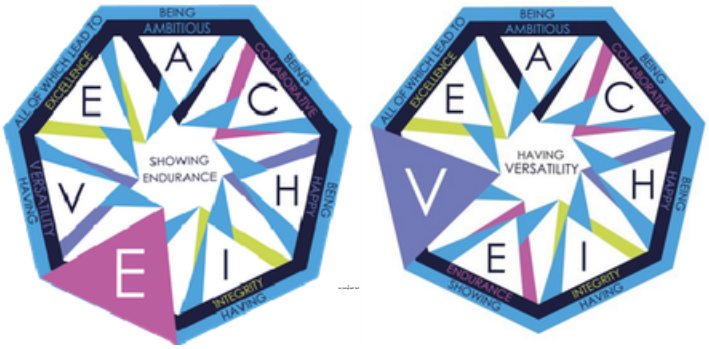











**Start your Wednesdays with a boost of energy!**

Our Morning Fitness Club is open to all year groups and runs every Wednesday from 7.30–8.30am in the Fitness Suite. Sign up for Term 2 via EVOLVE Clubs and get your day off to an active start!




**Keep Warm In PE In Winter!**

Finally from the PE Team, we would like to kindly remind parents that Games lessons here at Furze Platt continue to take place outdoors even in the winter months.

With the colder weather approaching and the Sports Hall often being used for PPEs and exams, please can we ask that you are ensuring your child is prepared for this and bringing appropriate clothing.

Students may wear black or navy plain tracksuit bottoms, if they wish to wear a hoody it must be the FPSS branded one but we also encourage black/navy base layers for additional warmth.

Thank you.



## SCIENCE FAIR

Do you have a question you've always wanted answered? Then you have a Science Fair project!

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are invited to take part in our Science Fair, which forms part of the prestigious National Science & Engineering Competition. This is a fantastic opportunity for aspiring scientists, engineers and innovators to explore a topic that fascinates them and showcase their discoveries.




Taking place on Thursday 25th February, the Science Fair encourages students to investigate a scientific question, carry out research and experiments, and present their findings to judges and visitors. Projects can be completed individually or in groups of up to three students.




**Why take part?**

- All participants will have the opportunity to attend a school trip to the Big Bang Fair in Birmingham.
- Winners will receive trophies and rosettes.
- Lots of House Points are available.
- Winning projects will be entered into the National Science & Engineering Competition at The Big Bang Fair, with the chance to win £500.







**SPARX SCIENCE CHAMPIONS OF THE WEEK**

Great work from our top ten scientists this week!



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME 2026-27

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware, we will be running the Bronze (Year 9), Silver (Year 10) and Gold (Year 12) Duke of Edinburgh's Award programmes this academic year.

We would like to invite you to attend an online Teams Parent Information Evening, where we will share further information about the Award, explain what is involved and outline what participants and parents can expect throughout the programme.

The meeting will take place on Tuesday 17th November at 6.00pm. Please find the Teams meeting link below to join us. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Microsoft Teams meeting**
Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/3302360330778162?p=WIDaTjxCeCpbHtOGyE
Meeting ID: 330 236 033 077 816 2
Passcode: wT7me6NT

We would also like to remind you that the deadline for payment of the deposit is Friday 20th November. Please ensure payment is made by this date to secure your child's place on the programme.




FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

Well done to all our Bronze Award achievers, and good luck to everyone starting their DofE journey!

Miss D Carty (DofE Manager)
Mr J Wellard-Jeffs (Educational Visits Co-ordinator)
Mr A Wyles (Assistant Headteacher - Enrichment)









## INSTRUMENT, SINGING AND LAMDA DRAMA LESSONS

We are delighted to be able to offer various instrument, singing and LAMDA drama lessons for all year groups, both individually and in small groups. Lessons take place during the school day and are provided by external, highly qualified teachers. Relevant lessons are subsidised for Pupil Premium students who are studying music or drama at school.

Please contact the following for costs and further details:

- **Singing and Piano** - Elin.Davies@furzeplatt.net
- **Guitar** - Max.Randall@furzeplatt.net
- **Drums, Brass, Strings** – provided through Berkshire Music Trust
- **LAMDA drama** – Jane.Trainer@furzeplatt.net







## YEAR 7 GET INSIDE THE ORCHESTRA!

Last Thursday, our Year 7 students enjoyed a fantastic musical experience at Blackheath Halls, attending Symphony of Secrets, an orchestral concert and workshop hosted by Trinity Laban Conservatoire.




Students had the unique opportunity to experience the orchestra from the inside, discovering the layers and secrets behind orchestral music. They explored conducting, developed their musical knowledge, listened to the orchestra in action and even had the chance to play one of its largest instruments – the double bass!




A brilliant opportunity to spark curiosity, explore new sounds and experience live orchestral music from a whole new perspective. Well done to everyone who took part!

## ANTI BULLYING WEEK

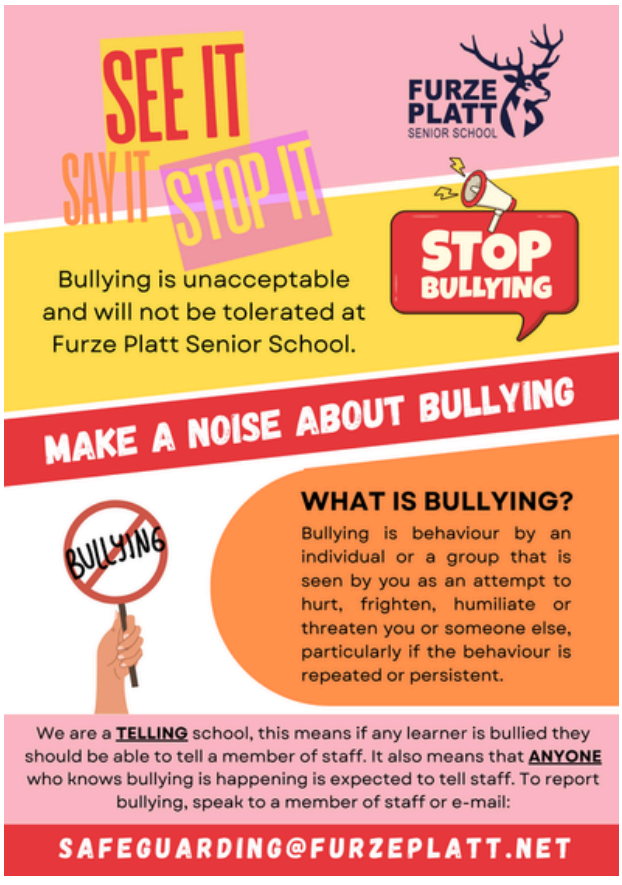
Next week, Furze Platt Senior School will proudly take part in National Anti-Bullying Week.

This year's national theme is "Break the Silence". The campaign encourages children and young people to speak out about bullying, reach out for help when they need it, and support one another. Throughout the week, we will remind our students about the importance of listening carefully, taking concerns seriously, and standing together against unkind behaviour during our Year Group Assemblies.




**How You Can Support at Home:**

Talk to your child: Ask them about Anti-Bullying Week and discuss what kindness and respect mean to them. Listen and reassure: Let your child know they can always talk to you, their tutor, their Pastoral Manager, their Head of Progress, or another trusted adult if they ever feel worried or unsafe.




If you have any questions, or if you ever have concerns regarding your child's wellbeing at school, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's teacher or our safeguarding team.
Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us maintain a safe, kind, and inclusive school community.

**PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR PARENT AND CARER PACK**

## FURZE PLATT SUPPORTS MOVEMBER

Throughout November, members of the Furze Platt community are taking part in Movember, the global movement raising awareness and funds for men's health, with a particular focus on mental health, suicide prevention, prostate cancer and testicular cancer.

MOVEMBER®

Students have explored these core themes in Personal Development tutorials this week as part of a focus on Men's Health.

We would be grateful for any support from our school community as we work together to raise money and awareness. (Pictured L-R: Dr Graham, Mr Gill, Mr Brown and Mr Corbett.)




**PLEASE CLICK HERE TO DONATE TO TEAM FURZE PLATT**

## SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH

Please be aware of the support available for young people if they are struggling with their mental health.

The safeguarding team can be contacted on safeguarding@furzeplatt.net

For urgent CAMHS crisis support in Berkshire, call the Berkshire Integrated Hub at 0300 365 1234 (8am-8pm Monday-Friday) or 0800 129 9999 (out of hours).

Alternatively, you can report to your nearest Accident & Emergency who will have integrated CAMHS teams to provide assessment and support.

The below websites also offer support and advice 24/7
https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/supporting-others/childrens-mental-health/
https://www.youngminds.org.uk/
https://www.kooth.com/ - Free online counselling for children living in Windsor and Maidenhead.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the safeguarding team for support.

Miss L Lewis
Deputy Headteacher and DSL










The 200 Club is a simple way to support the school while having the chance to win a cash prize every month. Every membership helps the PTFA fund projects that make a real difference to our students and wider school community.

**Could you be one of our next winners?**

Join the 200 Club today via the link below or visit our website under Parents > The PTFA to find out more.

PTFA Parents, Teachers & Friends Association
Registered Charity No. 287878

Thank you to our PTFA and to everyone who already supports the 200 Club. The more members we have, the more we can give back to our students.

**CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE 200 CLUB**



## WEEKLY HOUSE POINTS

| EAGLE | FALCON | HAWK | OSPREY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6768 | 6920 | 7042 | 6866 |

This week our Hawks are the winners!

Great work from all our Hawks!

## SUPPORTING MAIDENHEAD FOODSHARE THIS CHRISTMAS

Students are being encouraged to support this year's Maidenhead Foodshare Donation Drive as we work together to help local families in need this Christmas. A huge thank you to everyone who has donated so far!

House Captains will come to each tutor group to collect donations from tutors and students:

- Thursday 19th November * Thursday 26th November
- Thursday 3rd December * Thursday 10th December







## JOIN OUR CATERING TEAM AT FURZE PLATT!

Accent Catering are looking for a friendly and reliable Catering Assistant to join their busy school canteen team. This is a great opportunity to work in a welcoming school environment, helping to prepare and serve meals to students and staff while supporting the smooth running of our catering service.

Key responsibilities include:

- Preparing and serving food
- Maintaining high standards of hygiene and cleanliness
- Providing excellent customer service
- Supporting the catering team during busy service times

If you enjoy working as part of a team and take pride in delivering a great service, we would love to hear from you.

**CLICK HERE TO APPLY OR FIND OUT MORE!**






## Christmas PTA Fundraiser!

**Order an award winning turkey from Copas and raise funds for Furze Platt Senior School**

Simply enter the code **FPS26** at checkout and Copas | Turkeys will donate 5% of your order value to the school PTA.

**WWW.COPASFARMSHOP.CO.UK**

**CALL: 01628 499 980**

*Raise funds and enjoy an award winning turkey!*

Thames hospice

Smart. Stylish. Sustainable

# A preloved sale like no other

Sunday 15 November

10am - 2pm




## All items just £1

Entrance £1

**Holyport Memorial Hall**
**Moneyrow Green, Maidenhead, SL6 2NA**

Quality preloved fashion

# CHRISTMAS FAIR

**SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER • 11:30AM – 2:30PM**

FURZE PLATT INFANT & JUNIOR SCHOOLS, OAKEN GROVE, MAIDENHEAD SL6 6HQ



**FREE ENTRY FOR ALL**

STALLS AND ACTIVITIES INCLUDE LUCKY DIP, SECRETS ROOM, TOMBOLAS, SANTA'S GROTTO, SILENT AUCTION AND MUCH MORE!

REFRESHMENTS INCLUDE TEA, COFFEE, CAKES, HOT FOOD, TUCK SHOP AND MULLED WINE

ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY FURZE PLATT JUNIOR SCHOOL CHOIR AND ST SEBASTIAN WOKINGHAM BRASS BAND

SPONSORED BY Oakwood Estates






If you have any news items you wish to feature in our newsletter please email: media@furzeplatt.net