FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #80.11

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Sixth Form Open Evening

Next week sees one of the big events on the FPSS calendar, our Sixth Form Open Evening. This is the chance for students in Year 11 to visit and see what we have to offer.

The evening starts with a presentation from Sixth Form students and staff at 6pm followed by subject presentations and the chance to learn all about the courses we offer. More details can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

As always, you are the best advocates for FPSS so please do share with friends and family. I look forward to welcoming you to the evening.

A reminder that following our Sixth Form Open Evening there will be a late start for all students on Friday 27th November. Details are on page 2 of this newsletter.

Year 11 PPEs

Many congratulations to all our Year 11 students who completed their PPEs this week. It has been great to talk to students about how each examination has gone and hear the lessons learned from the experience. Of course, there will be more to learn about revision and examination technique as the papers are marked and results returned. I hope students get the results their work deserves.

We look forward to seeing students back on Tuesday 24th November after the INSET days tomorrow (Friday) and Monday.

Take care,

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

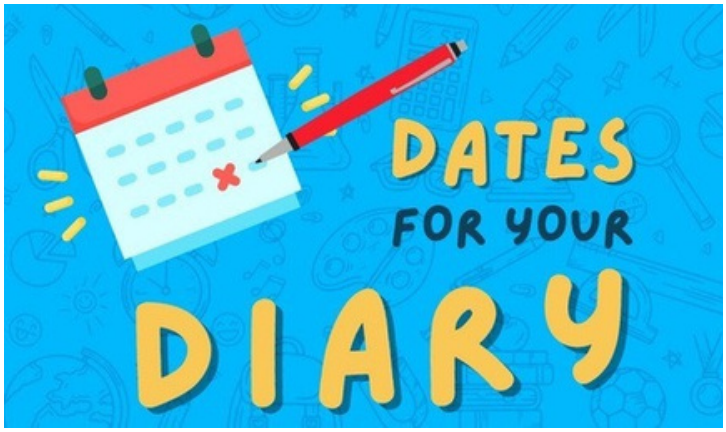
UPCOMING EVENTS (Week B)

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)	3.30-5.30pm
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





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.



LATE START
9.15am: FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

Following our Sixth Form Open Evening (more details on that event can be found on the next page), students will go straight to their first lesson.

YEAR 12

YEAR 12 PARENTS' EVENING - TONIGHT

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

- 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.

YEAR 13

SAVE THE DATE – YEAR 13 PARENTS' EVENING

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers to our upcoming Year 13 Parents' Evening.

- In Person
- Thursday 10th December 2026
- 4.15pm – 7.15pm

This is an opportunity to discuss your child's progress, achievements and plans for the year ahead with their teachers.

Please save the date. Full details, including booking information, 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.



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

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.

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.

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 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

Mr P Ging, Head of Sixth Form

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CAREERS AND HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR WEDNESDAY 2ND DECEMBER

Students in Years 9-13 are invited to attend our Careers & Higher Education Fair on Wednesday 2nd December, from 3.30pm to 5.30pm in the Main Hall and Theatre. To enable pupils to attend this event, we will be cancelling clubs for students in those year groups for this date only.

With more than 20 universities, colleges and training providers attending, the event offers a fantastic opportunity for students to explore future pathways, ask questions about courses and careers, and gain valuable advice from experts. Whether students already have a clear plan or are still considering their options, the fair provides useful insight into the many routes available after school and Sixth Form.

No booking is required - students can simply come along and speak directly with exhibitors to help inform their future choices.



FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

CAREERS EDUCATION INFORMATION ADVICE GUIDANCE

YEAR 8 CULTURAL CAPITAL CLASSES

This week saw Year 8 students from our Cultural Capital classes out helping with bulb planting in the Learning Support Garden as part of their 'Community' unit.



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

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!



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





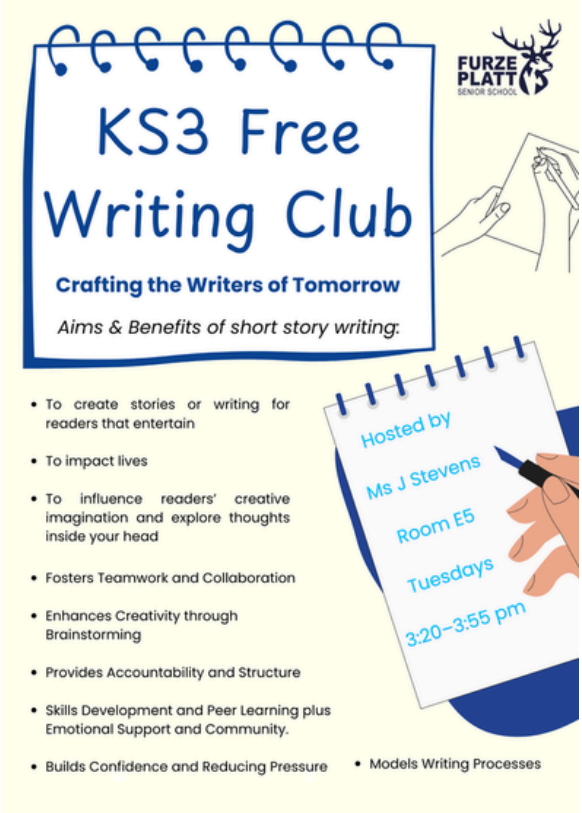
Getting green-fingered at Gardening Club!

The wet weather brought us indoors this week for a cosy afternoon of potting up plants and taking cuttings from spider plants, snake plants and Cuban oregano.

It was lovely to see so many students getting involved!

Next week is National Tree Week, so we're hoping to get outside for some tree planting, weather permitting. Please remember to bring a coat and a warm hat!



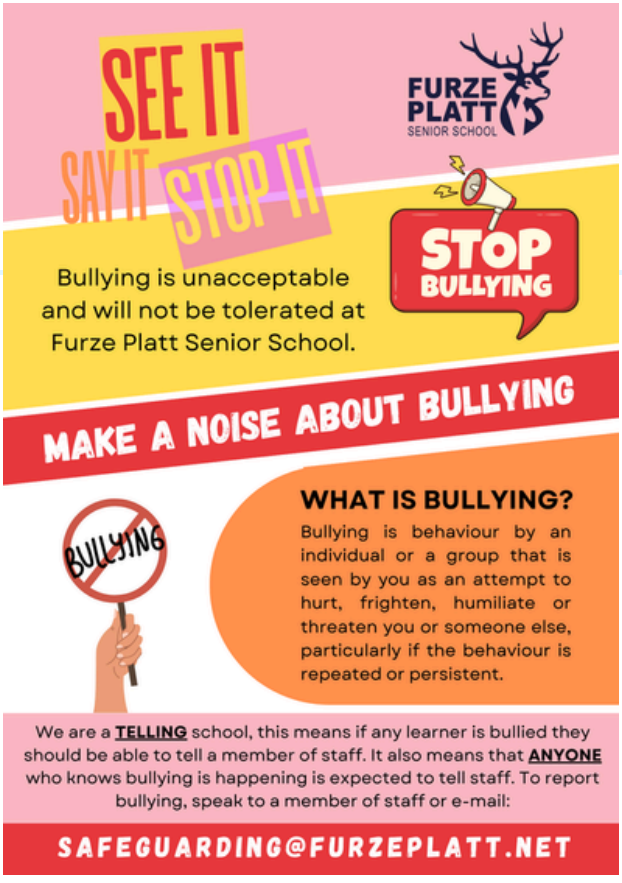




CLICK HERE TO EMAIL FOR UNIFORM







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
















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

















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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.

Please see the below link, where you will find our recent presentation for parents and carers:

CLICK HERE FOR DOFE PRESENTATION

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.

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

FURZE PLATT SUPPORTS MOVEMBER

Movember update – Week 3!

Our FPSS team are into week three of growing their moustaches and raising awareness and funds for men's health. A big thank you to everyone supporting the team so far.
There's still time to donate and help make a difference. Every contribution is appreciated!

PLEASE CLICK HERE TO DONATE TO TEAM FURZE PLATT



WEEKLY HOUSE POINTS

EAGLE	FALCON	HAWK	OSPREY
8210	7950	8250	7675

This week our Hawks are the winners again!

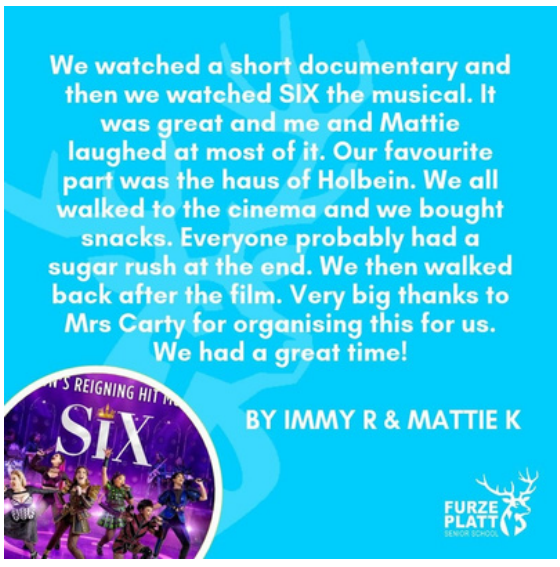
But followed closely by the Eagles, with only 40 points separating first and second place...

Reward Trip for House Engagement!

Our House Reward cinema trip took place on Tuesday, with students enjoying a screening of Six the Musical.

Well done to everyone who earned their place on the trip!







SUPPORTING MAIDENHEAD FOODSHARE 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 on the following Thursdays: 26th November, 3rd and 10th December











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





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

JUNIOR FUTSAL SESSIONS

JOIN OUR YOUTH FUTSAL ACADEMY TODAY!

ENJOY WEEKLY SESSIONS WITH OUR QUALIFIED COACHES!



MONDAY	
UNDER 9-10s	7-8PM
UNDER 13-14s	8-9PM
WEDNESDAY	
ADVANCED U7s	5-6PM
SKILLS SESSION	6-7PM
UNDER 11-12s	7-8PM
THURSDAY	
UNDER 15-16s	7-8:30PM

BERKSHIRE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE SL6 6QR

TO BOOK ON PLEASE CONTACT:
RYAN.WALSH@MAIDENHEADUNITEDFC.ORG