

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER**Rewards and Celebrations**

This week as Term 1 ends we have been enjoying celebrating the fantastic achievements of our students since September. Whether in the classroom, clubs, on activities or simply in how they have conducted themselves around school there has been much to praise and congratulate students about. I look forward to an equally positive Term 2 and celebrating with more students at Christmas.

**Year 11 Progress Reports and Parents Evening**

We know that a core focus for Year 11 are their examinations next summer. This week it has been good to share with students and their families the most recent Progress Reports as well as speak in detail on Thursday at Parents Evening. There are areas to celebrate. However, as we would expect with 7 months to go before the first exams there is much to do in terms of learning knowledge and skills, as well as examination technique. Our young people have a task ahead and I would like to thank parents, carers and staff for supporting them with that workload.

Sixth Form Parliament Visit

On Monday our Sixth Form students were lucky enough to tour the Houses of Parliament, viewing the Houses of Commons and Lords, as well as meeting our local MP and ex-FPSS student, Joshua Reynolds. I hear it was a fantastic experience with even a fleeting glimpse of the Prime Minister included. Thanks to all for supporting the visit.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your families a wonderful half term.

Have a lovely weekend.

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

(Week A)

ALL EVENTS

MON 2 NOVEMBER	Start of Term 2	8.40am-3.15pm
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

SCHOOL TERM DATES

**SIXTH FORM
OPEN EVENING**
 Thursday 26th November 2026
 6-9pm
 No booking required.





Introducing our newly refurbished Sixth Form Centre.



START OF TERM 2: MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

Term 2 will start on Monday 2nd November.

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.

CAREERS & HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR:

WEDNESDAY 2ND DECEMBER

Further details of this event will be sent out in due course.



YEAR 11 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](#)

A REMINDER ABOUT BEING READY FOR LEARNING

As we continue to support students in making the most of their learning at Furze Platt, we would like to remind parents and carers of the importance of ensuring their child arrives at school fully equipped each day.

Please ensure your child brings their laptop to school every day, and that it is fully charged.

We have also noticed that some pencil cases are in need of replenishment. Having the correct equipment is a key part of being prepared for learning. Please take a moment to check your child's pencil case and top up any missing items during the half term break.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.





Term 2: November to Christmas

Parents and carers of students in all year groups have been sent e-mail invites for next term's clubs. The email will be 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 do not receive an email please check your junk / spam folders.

CLUBS LIST FOR NEXT TERM

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



As Year 11 students prepare for their PPE examinations, our Raising Achievement (RA) team has delivered a series of revision skills sessions through PSHE. The sessions focused on helping students develop effective revision habits, including active recall, flashcards, mind maps, condensing information, self-testing and creating personalised revision resources. The key message was that revision is about revisiting and practising knowledge already learned, rather than simply re-reading notes.

Students were encouraged to start early, revise regularly and test their knowledge frequently, while making use of the wide range of revision support available through RA, including revision resources and after-school revision clinics.

Parents and carers are encouraged to talk with their child about the revision strategies covered in these sessions and to support them in establishing positive revision routines ahead of their PPEs and GCSE examinations.

For students who would like additional support, the Raising Achievement team is available before school, at break times and after school. They will also be delivering sessions to Year 11 students on revision timetables.

[CLICK HERE FOR OUR HOW TO REVISE PRESENTATION](#)



PARENTS' EVENING DATES 2026–2027

SAVE THE DATE



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 12: Thursday 19th November 2026
- 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.



SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL



At Furze Platt Senior School, we are committed to providing students with the very best opportunities, facilities and learning experiences. While we make every effort to use our funding efficiently and maximise resources, government funding does not always cover everything we aspire to offer.

Through our Support Our School (ACHIEVE Fund), parents, carers, families and friends can help enhance the educational experience of our students through either a one-off or regular donation. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us invest in resources, enrichment opportunities and facilities that benefit our school community.



If you are a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid allows us to increase the value of your donation by 25% at no additional cost to you, and you may also be eligible for tax relief. If you would like to support Furze Platt Senior School, please visit our Support Our School page via the link below to find out more and make a donation. Thank you.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE ON SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL](#)

HALLOWEEN BAKE SALE SUCCESS



A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Sixth Form Raise & Give Society's Halloween Bake Sale and Tuck Shop.

The event was a fantastic success, with 26 students and 5 members of staff generously baking and donating a wide variety of spooky treats. Thanks to the enthusiasm and support of our school community, we raised an impressive £620 for the World Care Foundation, helping to support orphanage projects around the world. We are incredibly grateful to all those who helped promote the event, donated baked goods, and purchased treats on the day. Your generosity and community spirit made a real difference.

Thank you!

The Raise & Give Society was delighted with the success of the fundraiser and is already looking forward to its next event.

Mrs Beale, Mrs Jennings and the Raise and Give Society



YEAR 13 VISIT TO HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

YEAR 13

Our Year 13 A Level Politics students had a fantastic opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament on Monday. After an early start, the Sixth Formers even managed to unexpectedly catch a glimpse of our Prime Minister boarding a train at Paddington before they took the Tube to Westminster and the Houses of Parliament.



The Year 13 students were given a tour of the House of Commons and the House of Lords before taking part in an educational workshop where they were challenged to create their own political party and produce a manifesto.

During the hustings, we were joined by local MP and Furze Platt alumnus Joshua Reynolds who listened to our students' speeches before hosting a lively Q&A session. Students took the opportunity to ask about life as an MP, who he had been most surprised to get along with during his time in Parliament, and even who the most famous person in his phone contacts was (we are still waiting for an answer to that last one!).

A huge thank you to Joshua Reynolds for taking time out of his busy schedule to support and inspire our students during their visit.



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 help in any of the following ways?

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.

Can you help? Please contact Miss Stirling at workexperience@furzeplatt.net.

Year 10 parents and carers: Further information about the programme, including next steps and expectations, will be shared in November via Arbor and a dedicated student assembly.

Thank you for helping us create valuable opportunities for our students as they explore their futures and prepare to thrive!



TERM 1 STAR STUDENTS



As we come to the end of Term 1, we would like to celebrate our Star Students, who have consistently demonstrated a positive attitude towards learning, shown excellent effort and perseverance, and embodied our FPSS values in their everyday actions.

We are incredibly proud of their achievements and the way they represent our school community. Well done to all our Star Students, and we look forward to seeing them continue to shine in Term 2!



**KEEP UP
THE
GOOD WORK**

SPARX MATHS WINNERS – TERM 1!



It's time to celebrate our Top Five Sparx Maths students in each year group at the end of Term 1!

These students have shown outstanding commitment, consistency and perseverance in their weekly maths homework, demonstrating a fantastic attitude towards developing their mathematical skills.

Regular practice makes a real difference, and we're delighted to recognise the hard work and determination of our top performers.

A huge well done to all our Sparx Maths stars! Keep up the fantastic work as we head into Term 2!



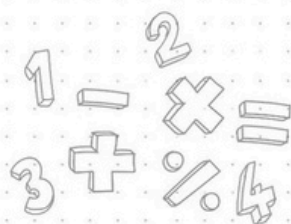
1	BRYSON DE S
2	SHAH S
3	FAIZAN T
4	JIMMY S
5	ZEEL S

1	RISITH K
2	ISMAIL F
3	MITHUN VIJAYA K
4	SUBHAN W
5	HIRUN F

1	ALICIAN W
2	ALIX H
3	LIBBY W
4	SETH N
5	JOSHNI JOHN C

1	MEYORA DE S
2	MUSTAFA AL-J
3	VEANNE W
4	ZARIFUDDIN M
5	TUSHARADRITA B

1	JOE B
2	FIFI W
3	DANIYA H
4	WARREN H
5	LUKE P



READING PLUS CHAMPIONS – TERM 1!

As we reach the end of Term 1, it's time to celebrate our Top Five Reading Plus students in each year group!

These students have shown fantastic commitment to developing their reading skills, demonstrating consistency, perseverance and a positive attitude towards improving their reading fluency and comprehension.

Reading regularly and challenging ourselves helps us grow as readers, and we're delighted to recognise the hard work our students have put in this term.

A huge well done to all our Reading Plus champions! Keep up the fantastic work and continue to thrive and ACHIEVE!



1	GEORGE I
2	NATTY C
3	DAMIAN G
4	AIDEN L
5	BRYSON DE S

1	YUI S L
2	RISITH K
3	ZOEY N
4	OSCAR C
5	HIRUN F

1	MATTHEW C
2	ADAM V
3	EWAN T
4	DUNCAN B
5	JOSHNI JOHN C



TERM 1 SPARX SCIENCE CHAMPIONS

These students have shown consistent work over the term with Sparx Science - brilliant work and well done to them all!



1. RISITH KALPAGE
2. MITHUN VIJAYA KUMAR
3. ETHAN HAMMETT-BREGER
4. TUSHARADRITA BARUA
5. SUMMER FOSKETT
6. MATTIE KINRADE
7. ALICIA WITZKI
8. MEYORA DE SOUSA
9. HIRUN FERNANDO
10. GIDEON AU

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.

FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

SECONDARY SCIENCE FAIR

Thursday 25th February, 4:30 - 6pm

New Science Block (Ground Floor)

Awards will be announced at 5:45pm

OPEN TO YEARS 7, 8 & 9

We want you to come up with your own amazing projects! Once you have your idea please email them to katie.mcelligott@furzeplatt.net before the Christmas half term with confirmation of your attendance.

You can work in groups of no more than 3 people or if you'd rather, on your own. Should you want to discuss your idea, please either email Mrs McElligott or drop into Science Club which happens every Tuesday at 3:15 in S10 to discuss with Mr Wright & Mr Barrett.

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.

Getting started

- Read the Science Fair student guide sent via email.
- Decide on a question you would like to investigate.
- Research your topic using books, websites and other reliable sources.
- Consider the science behind your prediction and planned experiment.
- Watch similar investigations and experiments to develop your ideas.
- Speak to your science teachers or attend Science Club every Tuesday during term time in S10 for support and guidance.

Students should submit their proposed project idea to Mrs McElligott before the Christmas holidays.

Whether you're interested in biology, chemistry, physics, engineering or environmental science, this is your chance to discover something amazing and compete on a national stage!

Good luck to all our scientists!

SPARX SCIENCE CHAMPIONS OF THE WEEK

Great work from our top ten scientists this week!

SPARX SCIENCE CHAMPIONS

1. ETHAN HAMMETT-BREGGER
2. ANNA JONES
3. RISITH KALPAGE
4. MOHAMMED-MOOSAH AKHTAR
5. MIZELL MCINTOSH-EDWARDS
6. ADAM AHMED
7. EMMA RHODES
8. FLORENCE KEMP
9. BERNA SMAIL
10. MEYORA DE SOUSA

OF THE WEEK



We are delighted to be offering both the Bronze (Year 9) and Silver (Year 10) Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Awards next year. The DofE is a nationally recognised programme that helps young people develop confidence, resilience, leadership, teamwork and independence through a range of rewarding challenges and experiences.



Participants complete four sections of the award: Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition, providing valuable opportunities to learn new skills, support their community, challenge themselves and gain experiences that are highly regarded by employers, colleges and universities. As places are limited, we encourage families to carefully consider the commitment required before registering. Students are expected to complete all sections of the award and attend all compulsory training and expedition dates.

Bronze Award (Year 9)

Cost: £300

Payment Schedule

- £150 deposit by Friday 20th November 2026
- £150 final payment by Friday 5th February 2027

Mandatory Dates

- Expedition Training Day: Saturday 16th January 2027, 9.00am-4.00pm, Furze Platt Senior School
- Practice Expedition: Thursday 20th May-Friday 21st May 2027
- Qualifying Expedition: Thursday 17th June-Friday 18th June 2027

Silver Award (Year 10)

Cost: £450

Payment Schedule

- £150 deposit by Friday 20th November 2026
- £150 second payment by Friday 5th February 2027
- £150 final payment by Friday 5th March 2027

Mandatory Dates

- Expedition Training Day: Saturday 16th January 2027, 9.00am-4.00pm, Furze Platt Senior School
- Practice Expedition: Wednesday 19th May-Friday 21st May 2027
- Qualifying Expedition: Wednesday 16th June-Friday 18th June 2027

Please note that transport to and from expedition venues is not provided by the school.

Further information, including registration details, will be shared next term. We will also be holding a Microsoft Teams information session for parents and carers, providing an opportunity to learn more about the programme, ask questions and understand the commitment involved before sign-up.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is an excellent opportunity for students to challenge themselves, develop lifelong skills, build friendships and create lasting memories. We look forward to welcoming the next cohort of Bronze and Silver participants to the DofE programme.

Miss D Carty (DofE Manager)

Mr J Wellard-Jeffs (Educational Visits Co-ordinator)

Mr A Wyles (Assistant Headteacher - Enrichment)

SUPPORTING POSITIVE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH



"Students are very well supported in developing positive physical and mental health." – Ofsted, 2026

This week, during our Personal Development tutorials, students have been learning about breast cancer awareness and the importance of getting to know their bodies.

Using resources from CoppaFeel!, students have explored the facts about breast cancer, the signs and symptoms to look out for, and how to check themselves, regardless of gender.

CoppaFeel!
breast cancer awareness

These important conversations help empower our young people with the knowledge and confidence to recognise changes in their bodies and understand when and where to seek advice.

Parents and carers: You can help continue these conversations at home. For further information, advice and support, visit CoppaFeel!

At FPSS, supporting our students' health and wellbeing is an important part of helping them thrive and ACHIEVE.

[CLICK HERE FOR COPPAFEEL!](#)

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week marked World Mental Health Day on 10th October. 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

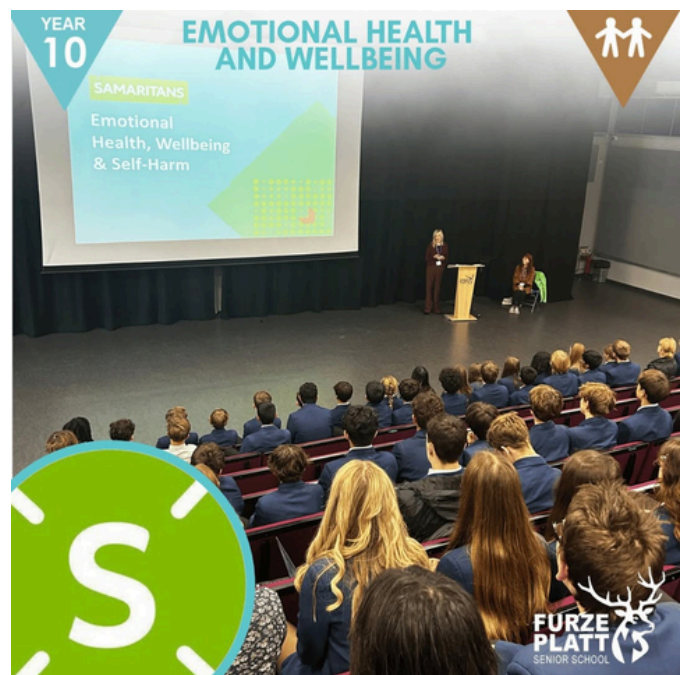
SAMARITANS VISIT

A huge thank you to the volunteers from the Samaritans who visited our school this week to speak to our Year 10 students about emotional health and wellbeing during PSHE.

The visit linked closely to this half term's Personal Development topic, exploring social media and the impact it can have on our mental health and wellbeing.

The Samaritans approached this important and sensitive subject with great care, providing students with valuable insights into emotional wellbeing, the importance of seeking support and the vital work carried out by the charity.

We are extremely grateful to the volunteers for giving their time and sharing their knowledge with our students, helping to raise awareness of such an important topic and encouraging young people to look after both themselves and one another .



GARDENING CLUB: SPOOKY CREATIONS AND CHRISTMAS CRAFTS AHEAD!

Our Gardening Club had a spooky time carving pumpkins this week! It was fantastic to see students getting creative and enjoying some seasonal fun together. We're already looking forward to welcoming everyone back after half term for another term of gardening, creativity and outdoor adventures!



Next term will include Christmas crafts, as well as getting outside whenever the weather allows.

Top tip: Bring a coat! We'll be making the most of the outdoors whenever we can.



Gardening Club is open to all year groups – whether you love getting creative, enjoy being outdoors or simply want to try something new, come along and join us!

Sign up through EVOLVE.

START YOUR DAY THE ACTIVE WAY!

Our Morning Fitness Club students are getting their days off to a great start, with push-ups, sit-ups and plenty of determination!

This Wednesday, the focus was on strengthening those abs.

The best part? We can adapt the sessions to suit your needs, helping everyone work towards their own fitness goals. Fly-half Henry has been adapting his exercises and keeping himself fit. Great show of endurance, Henry!

Fancy joining us?

- Wednesdays
- 7.30–8.30am
- Fitness Suite
- Open to all year groups

Sign up through Evolve!

Come along, get moving and start your day feeling energised!





LEGALLY BLONDE JR. – REHEARSALS IN FULL SWING!

Our cast is working hard as rehearsals continue for our upcoming production of Legally Blonde Jr., coming to the stage in February!

These photos show our talented students perfecting their choreography for 'What You Want', bringing plenty of energy, enthusiasm and hard work to the Dance Studio.

There's lots more to learn before showtime, and we can't wait to see all their hard work come together!

Want to keep up with rehearsals? You can find the rehearsal schedule on our website.

Keep an eye out for more behind-the-scenes updates as we get closer to the show!



PTFA 200 CLUB



Could you be one of our next winners?

We're always looking for new members to join the 200 Club. Not only could you win a large prize every month, but you'll also be directly supporting projects and opportunities that benefit our students.

Join today or visit our website under Parents > The PTFA for more details about the PTFA at Furze Platt. Click the link or QR code below to join!

More members = bigger support for our school community. Thank you for getting involved!

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE 200 CLUB](#)

JOIN THE PTFA
Parents, Teachers & Friends Association

200 CLUB

Your entry helps the PTFA fund equipment and activities for our students

Organised by
FPSS PTFA

Numbers are drawn 4 times per year (once per quarter)

Three lucky winners of £200 each per draw

Help the PTFA fund great projects

SCAN ME

Please use the QR code to purchase your numbers:
Monthly payment (£5 per month)



WEEKLY HOUSE POINTS



10,425



9957



10,850



12,303



Congratulations to our Ospreys who are the winners of the last week of term!

Well done Ospreys, keep it up in Term 2!

HOUSE CHALLENGE RESULTS ARE IN: CORNHOLE CHALLENGE!

Our latest House Challenge saw students putting their aim to the test, throwing beanbags to score points for their houses in the Cornhole Challenge!

It was fantastic to see such a great turnout and brilliant engagement from all the students who took part. The enthusiasm, House spirit and friendly competition were wonderful to see!



Here are the Cornhole Challenge final scores:



A huge well done to everyone who participated and helped make the challenge such a success. Congratulations to the Hawks, who take the win this time!

Which House will come out on top in the next challenge? Keep earning those points and showing your House spirit!



ENJOY YOUR
HALF TERM
BREAK!



BIRKSHIRE ESTD 1957 ENGLAND
COPAS
VERY VERY SPECIAL TURKEYS

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!



Halloween Special!!! Creepy Creatures and 'Nasty Nature'

**Wednesday 28, Thursday 29 and Friday 30
October, 10am – 2pm**

We are very lucky to have some spectacularly spooky creatures living wild here at Woolley Firs. Find out what is 'creepy' about these creatures by following our trail and taking part in our games in the woods and activities, workshop and crafts indoors and out. (Price includes our BBOWT expert led workshop).

Activities may take approx. 2.5 hours, so please arrive in good time.

The trail and activities are outdoors and we recommend appropriate clothing for all weathers.

This event is suitable for families. Activities are aimed at 4-12 years (adults and children under 3 come for free).

£10 per participating child. Booking essential. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Visit our website to book or for more info:

- bbowt.org.uk/events
- 01628 829574 or learning@bbowt.org.uk

bbowt.org.uk

Registered charity no. 204330

More nature everywhere



WHY IS
LANGUAGE
SO POWERFUL?

WHAT DOES
THE FUTURE
HOLD?

IS SPORT
EVER FAIR?

DOES CRIME
ALWAYS
DESERVE
PUNISHMENT?

YEAR 9

YEAR 10

YEAR 11

YEAR 12

What's included ?

- **FREE** online programme between January – April 2027
- **Years 9-12** (non-selective schools in the UK)
- **Develop** your **critical thinking skills** through a range of subject perspectives
- **4 interactive ebooklets**
- **Vote** in polls and share your views in **discussion forums**
- **Competitions with prizes**

To register
scan the QR code



Registration closes 16th
November

CRITICAL THINKING SERIES



St John's
inspire
programme

FREE membership for ages 16 - 25 years

Benefits Include:

- Discounted £5 cinema tickets (excludes event cinema screenings)
- Bring a friend (aged 16 - 25 years) along for the same price
- Special offers and discounts on other select events
- Email updates so you don't miss out!



Sign up online through
the QR code or at
nordenfarm.org/membership



Norden Farm

NEON MEMBERSHIP