

# FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Update: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017

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## NEXT WEEK (WEEK 1)

<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	Year 7 Parents' and Students' Consultation Evening (4.15pm - 7.15pm): Eton, Henley, Marlow and Windsor Houses
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Late start: school starts at 9.10am</b> Sixth Form Mufti Day

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

<b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Year 13 Economics Trip to Fullham Broadway Shopping Centre (8.30am - 5.30pm)
<b>Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>End of Term 4 (12.30pm finish)</b>



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### LATE STARTS TO THE SCHOOL DAY

#### FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH - 9.10AM START

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March school will start for students at 9.10am. They will miss registration and assembly and go straight to Lesson 2.

This adjustment is in recognition of the fact that we have doubled the number of parents' evenings that teachers need to attend for students in Years 7 and 8. Parents' Evenings are so well attended that parents told us they were struggling to make appointments with all the teachers they wished to see.

We hope this arrangement will allow every parent to meet all their child's teachers.

Ms T White (Headteacher)

#### EARLY BREAK 2 - THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH

To accommodate the Year 11 Maths PPE we are moving Break 2 by an hour.

For Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March only, Break 2 will run from 12.45-1.15pm (rather than the usual 1.45-2.15pm).

Period 5 will then run from 1.15-2.15pm. The rest of the day will run as usual and the café will continue to offer its usual full range of hot and cold meals at both breaks.

### A VERY SIMPLE GUIDE TO THE NEW GCSE GRADES

Starting in 2017 with English and maths, new GCSEs in England will be graded from 9 to 1, with 9 being the top grade.

[PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR A SIMPLE GUIDE](#)

### SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT FUND

You may have seen in the news recently that schools are about to experience the first real time cuts in education costs. At Furze Platt we are always looking for ways to ensure our students have access to facilities that will further their learning and socialising here. The standard budget does not include extras that we believe are extremely important to facilitate your child's future education. Please see the letter and form for further information.

Ms T White (Headteacher)

[SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT FUND LETTER](#)

[SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT FUND FORM](#)

### AFTER-SCHOOL SUPERVISED STUDY

There are a limited number of places available every day for students who wish to complete work after school. These 'Supervised Study' sessions run from 3.30-4.30pm in IT4. Students will need to work silently and independently. In order for students to attend, parents must complete the form in the link below and return it to Reception, marked for the attention of Mrs Diane Flood. Students may come for any number of days, but need to commit to coming the same days each week.

Mr E Towill (Deputy Headteacher)

[SUPERVISED STUDIES LETTER](#)



### OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION STARTING IN YEAR 10



Please find the letter below from the local authority regarding opportunities for education starting in Year 10. It is a statutory requirement that this letter is distributed to all parents/carers with children in Year 9.

[YEAR 10 OPPORTUNITIES LETTER](#)



Please be advised that the Year 7 Progress Reports for your children are now available via our online reporting service.



**We advise all parents with children in Eton, Henley, Marlow and Windsor Houses to view their child's report before attending the Parents' and Students' Consultation Evening on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.**



The service is available either by going to our website [www.furzeplatt.com](http://www.furzeplatt.com) and clicking on the quick link 'Online Reporting', or by going directly to Go 4 Schools [www.go4schools.com](http://www.go4schools.com). Please click [here](#) for instructions to log on. Should you have any problems accessing your child's report please contact me at [reports@furzeplatt.net](mailto:reports@furzeplatt.net).

Ms S Watford, M.I.S. Manager

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER'S YEAR 7 REPORT

This report gives valuable information on your child's progress and on their attitude to learning.

### Progress

We have high expectations for students in Year 7. We look at how they have done in the past including in their Year 6 SATs exams to work out what they are capable of in every subject. We therefore have different baselines or benchmarks for each student. Students do a number of assessments in each subject. We then award the following progress descriptions:

**Excellent progress:** at present, your child is doing better than expected.

**Good progress:** at present, your child is doing as expected.

**Just behind:** at present, your child is doing slightly less well than expected.

**Cause for concern:** at present, your child is doing less well than expected.

### Attitude to Learning

We want students to focus well in school and at home. We award the following attitude to learning descriptions:

**Outstanding:** Consistently displays an attitude that promotes rapid and sustained learning.

**Good:** Consistently displays an attitude that enables them to make good progress.

**Requires Improvement:** Does not consistently display an attitude that enables them, or others, to make good progress.

**Cause for Concern:** Consistently displays an attitude that hinders them, or others, from making progress.

### Frequently asked questions

#### ***1. Why don't you give grades to students?***

Two reasons. Firstly, if you give a student a grade, they automatically ignore any feedback that is given about how to improve. And it is feedback that leads to progress, not grades. Secondly, there are no national tests or assessments for Key Stage 3 (Year 7 or Year 8), so any grades would be meaningless. Students will be given GCSE grades from Year 9 onwards.

#### ***2. My child has better attitude to learning than progress. How is this possible?***

Progress information is based on how your child has done in school assessments. If you are concerned about your child's progress, then talk to their teacher and find out exactly what let them down in their assessment. Be aware that students are given feedback at the mid points of their assessments. The better students are at acting on their feedback, the better their progress will be.

#### ***3. My child got very high SATs results in Year 6 and is doing really well in Year 7, but his progress is only coming out as good rather than excellent. How is this possible?***

Our expectations are based on how students did in the past. We have very high expectations of those with high SATs grades. Sometimes our expectations are so high that students struggle to exceed them so their progress comes out as good rather than excellent. If your child continues to make good progress, they are likely to get the very highest grades at GCSE.

Mr E Towill (Deputy Headteacher)



## SUPPORT, REVISION & EXAM ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2017



As you will appreciate, this is a very significant time for Year 11. As their examinations approach, the end is in sight, and students realise the importance of working hard in order to achieve the grades of which they are capable. Parents and carers are providing a great deal of support and motivation at home. Please find in the link below a letter that details the extra support and revision we are providing in school, and to explain what will be happening in the weeks running up to and during the exam phase.

Please do get in touch with me ([james.sheppard@furzeplatt.net](mailto:james.sheppard@furzeplatt.net)) if you have any questions.

Mr J Sheppard (Assistant Headteacher)

SUPPORT, REVISION & EXAM ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2017

## SAFE PARKING / DROP OFF ZONE

Please be aware that cars can park on the left and right hand sides of the slip road outside school to drop off students in the morning and after school. This would help students safe from vehicles driving through the main gates into school as well as keeping traffic moving outside school.

Thank you for your consideration.

CLICK TO APPLY HERE

**'The Sixth Form is a strength  
of the school'**

– Ofsted 2016



## SCHOOL NEWS



### SCIENCE COMPETITION - ENGINEERING CHALLENGE



Teams of students from Years 9 and 10 were challenged to design and build a bridge across a river to link two previously warring cities.

Guest visitor Isabel Mostyn, a Chartered Civil Engineer who is currently project managing a £60 million extension to the Emergency Department and Maternity Unit at Wexham Park Hospital, helped give valuable feedback to the teams. Students were given strict criteria and had to pitch their design to a UN panel of experts. Having built and tested their designs, the winning bridge was decided on the bases of cost of construction, its overall stability and the mass that it could hold. The students worked really well and Isabel gave them fantastic feedback on their teamwork, their design and the overall quality of the construction. She also talked about her career path, from studying engineering at Bristol University to flying Sea King helicopters in the Royal Navy and then to Project Management.

Well done to all the keen participants and congratulations to the Year 9 team who were victorious: Amber Hemsley, Holly Bird, Caitlin Murray, Rajveer Notay, Joseph Stimson, Kai Drenski, Bailey Knott and Sam Williams. A special mention should also go to Sophie Caldwell, Meg Batstone, Georgina Woodcock and Charlotte Williams in Year 10 for the best pitch/presentation.



Photo: Cameron Aird (Year 13)

### FURZE PLATT'S DEBATE CLUB VISIT ETON COLLEGE

In the last of the three debates at Eton, students debated on diverse topics such as 'Should we have complete freedom of speech?'

Other topics included 'Should conscription be introduced?' and 'To what extent is social media a reliable source of information?'

Thank you to Eton College and to Mr Towill, Ms Paradowska and Dr Scott for their help, we hope to continue the debating next year.







### SATRO Prefects

Congratulations to Max Welland-Billam who has been made the first SATRO Construction Prefect and to Zac Hudson-Clark, Furze Platt's first Year 9 Construction Prefect.



### Table Project

Well done to Jay Paine (Year 10) for making the tiled table pictured below in construction.



## Team Indonesia



Hi, I'm James Dunning, I am 15 years old and am part of the 2018 Operation Wallacea Indonesia group. We will be going to the jungle island of Sulawesi for two weeks to help with conservation work. The first week we will be deep in the jungle, sleeping outside in hammocks and gathering data from in the jungle. The second week we will be surrounded by four walls and will be scuba diving and looking at how the coral is fairing with warmer oceans.

Why help fund us?

There are a number of reasons as to why I think our trip is important enough to ask you to help fund our group all the way to Sulawesi. Climate change, deforestation and illegal poaching are all issues that plague the news headlines, but they are also issues that are ignored and pushed aside by people. World leaders and world citizens believe that these are huge problems and in the news it can seem like "project fear". Sadly, these issues are very real issues that no one seems to be able to sort out and until there is a very clear threat, no one will do anything about these issues.

This is why our group is going out to Indonesia; to try and collect data that will be used by influential people and will change our perception of these issues, make us all understand and act. I am not asking you to donate thousands of pounds. If anything I am expecting most of you to gloss over this and think how interesting and exciting this is but then to leave it alone, let that someone else who will surely donate get involved by donating instead. We as a group of 16 are asking you to help with the issues above and to help us get out to Indonesia and collect the data. Whether it be £5, £10, £50 or even just £1, every bit of money will go to help us gather the data and evidence needed to save the unique wildlife in our jungles and world.

We would love to hear from anyone with any possible ideas about how the team could continue to raise funds for the expedition. If so, please contact either

Mr. Molin [andrew.molin@furzeplatt.net](mailto:andrew.molin@furzeplatt.net)

Dr. Scott [michele.scott@furzeplatt.net](mailto:michele.scott@furzeplatt.net)

If you would like to make a donation you can either do so online into account sort code 309536, account 59194168 or by writing a cheque to Furze Platt Senior School and delivering it to School Reception. In both cases please ensure that you give the reference IND18.

Thank you.



## RESULTS FROM THIS WEEK



## Netball

The following Year 7 girls played in a Netball fixture this week, excellently coached/umpired by Mrs Ridgley. They played extremely well but a few forced errors meant they finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Well done to all the girls.



## OUR TEAM

Daisy Hellings  
Poppy Butler  
Alice Roberts  
Erin Huddleston  
Isabelle Annereau  
Eloise Peacock  
Hannah Britton  
Martha Garna  
Hannah Thomas

## INTER-COUNTIES CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Well done to the three Furze Platt students who represented Berkshire at the Inter-Counties Cross Country championships held at Loughborough at the weekend.

U 15 Boys Adam Gambrill, Sammy March (both Year 10)

U13 Boys Frank McGrath (Year 7)

Special mention to Adam who finished just outside the top 100 – a superb run.

## WINNER OF WJ15 QUAD AND FOUR JUNIOR INTER REGIONAL REGATTA TRIALS

Great result by Charlotte Williams (Year 10) rowing for Maidenhead Rowing Club, who performed really well on Saturday in the Junior Inter Regional Regatta Trials and won in the WJ15 quad and four. With her crew she will be representing the Thames Up River region at the Junior Inter Regional Regatta in Nottingham in April. We wish her all the best.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

## MICROSOFT APPRENTICE OPEN EVENING

WEDNESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

Microsoft are holding an Open Evening at their Reading campus on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March from 4 - 7pm.

Microsoft offer Level 3 Apprenticeships and Level 4 Degree Apprenticeships for both business and technical streams and the evening will be an opportunity to find out more about the scheme, meet current apprentices and hiring managers and have a tour of the campus.

The event is particularly suitable for Sixth Form students who are not planning to go to university.

If interested you will need to register in advance, please [click here](#) for details.

## GSK OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH

GlaxoSmithKline plc are holding an Open Evening at their Maidenhead site on 23<sup>rd</sup> March from 6-7.30pm. The event is for students aged 15 and over and their parents and will give an opportunity to see inside a high performing manufacturing site based in Maidenhead. Along with the chance to informally chat to apprentices and leaders, there will be short presentations talking about GSK apprenticeships, the courses on offer and the benefits that an apprenticeship can give to young people. The event is particularly suitable for Sixth Form students who are not planning to go to university. Please [click here](#) for further information and contact details to register your interest.



Microsoft



GlaxoSmithKline

**2017 PTFA MEETING  
DATE FOR YOUR  
DIARY:**

**Tues 13<sup>th</sup> June**

**Starts 7.30pm in the  
library, all welcome.**

**Upcoming events:**

- Big Quiz (No.4) on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April (food, bar and raffle available). Tickets £15 a head.
- 200 Club – only £5 per month, cash prizes available.

**Can you help?**

- Two more volunteers required for our Indoor Table top sale. (Any parent who has a stall at the event and is willing to assist in the set up and set down will receive 50% off their stall fee)
- Does your company offer Match Funding? We are keen to hear from parents whose companies offer this. If you have any other ideas that may support our PTFA please do get in touch.
- For further details on any PTFA related queries please email: [jeff@iifa.co.uk](mailto:jeff@iifa.co.uk)

**TABLE TOP SALE**

Thank you to everyone who came and supported our PTFA Table Top sale on Sunday. We had a good turnout and everything was sold!

Our next sale is on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May from 9-12pm, buyers and sellers welcome. Tables bookable in advance at £10 per table space or £12 on the day. Sellers can arrive from 7.30am, buyers from 9am.

**THANK YOU TO THE PTFA**

This term the PTFA kindly bought the Drama Department a Theatre-in-a-Box. It is exactly what it says on the tin – a portable metal box which transforms into a stage or performance area. The box contains pieces such as rostra block of various size, ramps, cylinders and steps, a beautifully made working lighting rig which provides further authenticity. The Theatre in a Box has been an extremely useful resource, supporting GCSE and A Level students with their visions of their practical coursework.



Abdallah El-Guoshi using the Theatre in a Box



Some of the new staging shown in a scene from His Dark Materials

Sixth Form have used the Theatre in a Box to experiment with their set design ideas for their study of A Servant to Masters by Carlo Goldoni. Year 9 students (who are currently creating their own ghost stories after seeing Woman in Black) have used the Theatre in a Box to explore how they can create tension through their staging and Year 11 students have adapted their staging ideas after trying out different staging formations. One student (shown in the photo), is being assessed in Set Design this term for his GCSE in Drama. The Theatre in a Box has been invaluable to him, allowing him to try out his many staging ideas and will also use the box in his practical moderation.

The PTFA have also supplied the Drama Department with additional staging for our many performances. With the extra sections, we will be able to stage performances in different, more exciting configurations. It also gave us the flexibility to experiment with different levels in this year's performance of His Dark Materials.

We would like to thank the PTFA for funding these two resources.

Mrs Bradley (Head of Drama)



## MAIDENHEAD CYCLE HUB - THANK YOU

A huge thank you to everyone who voted for us/the Maidenhead Cycle Hub funding request via the Youth Voice Youth Choice competition. We are delighted to say that we won £1500, which will enable the charity to continue their extremely valuable work with us through various projects.

## FREE STARGAZING EVENT

### MAIDENHEAD ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

In conjunction with the BBC's Stargazing Live 2017, Maidenhead Astronomical Association invites you to attend our stargazing event on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April at White Waltham Airfield from 6.45pm onwards. MAS members will set up their telescopes for public viewing and talks will be held throughout the evening in the clubhouse. This public event is free but donations to the society are welcome. Further information can be found on our [website](#) or on our Facebook page.



## REMINDERS



### REPORTS OUT LAST WEEK



Please be advised that the Year 10 Progress Reports for your children are now available via our online reporting service.

The service is available either by going to our website [www.furzeplatt.com](http://www.furzeplatt.com) and clicking on the quick link 'Online Reporting', or by going directly to Go 4 Schools [www.go4schools.com](http://www.go4schools.com). Please click [here](#) for instructions to log on. Should you have any problems accessing your child's report please contact me at [reports@furzeplatt.net](mailto:reports@furzeplatt.net).

Mrs Watford (M.I.S. Manager)



### CAREERS WEEK AND WORK EXPERIENCE JULY 2017



In the week beginning Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017 we have our annual Work Experience Week. On the following Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> July, we will hold a Careers Day, where we will run workshops, mock interviews, lifestyle and finance talks. For the rest of the week we encourage all our Year 12 students to take part in work experience in order to enhance their education and prepare them for the world of work.

Please see the letter below for full details and reply slip.

Mr J Dollery (Head of Sixth Form)

### YEAR 12 CAREERS WEEK AND WORK EXPERIENCE LETTER