

Sixth Form Weekly News - The Headlines:

- A reminder of the procedure for if the teacher is not in your lesson: the teacher will have set work to complete and unless another arrangement has been agreed, you are to remain in that lesson.
- A reminder that the library is a place to study. Please do not have food or drink in there.
- Uniform - It is a requirement to wear a suit for all students. If you forget a suit jacket, please go to Mrs Pasa. These should not be left in your car!
- Lanyards- these must be always worn. It is a safeguarding requirement. It is the same for staff.
- TSS – to reiterate:
 - 1) TSS is for Silent Study – this means that people in the booths also need to be quiet. If you want to chat, or work on a project together, please use the canteen or the common room.
 - 2) There is a seating plan in place for a reason. By now, you know who you sit with, so please stick to it and don't try to sit with other people. The actual location of the table may change where you sit BUT the people should remain the same.
 - 3) Sit in the seating plan immediately at the beginning of the session – treat this like any other lesson. You should not be socialising in the booths when the session has started
 - 4) Please sit in a professional manner – not with legs up on the seats or benches.
 - 5) You can't use the Booths when you have a free but you may ask to join TSS
- If you know you are going to be absent from a lesson for a test, trip or appointment, it is courteous to email the teacher and explain you will be absent. You will be expected to catch up on missed work.
- Please remember to record your absence on Class charts by 8.45am so it can be picked up by attendance
- If you have an appointment, you must report on Class charts with evidence of the appointment.
- Form time is compulsorily for all students.
- Microsoft Form for signing in and signing out can be found here - <https://forms.office.com/e/rYHXm0Z7pC>. Please remember that you must be signed in with your school email address. You also should go to Mrs Pasa to sign in.
- Please ensure that you answer your name when a teacher registers you for your lesson, otherwise it will come up as truancy and you will receive an after school detention.

Upcoming dates:

30th September – PSHE

3rd October- Open Day. Early finish of 12.30pm for set up. All students will be required to attend in the evening.

4th October- INSET day

4th October- 11am-12pm- Oxbridge workshops with Joe Organ in 6.4- workshop for Oxbridge students

11th October- Year 13 progress reports





Let's Do This!



Another week down and it was fantastic to celebrate your successes in this week's Rewards Assembly – we'll be looking to do this in different ways over the course of the year so keep up the good work!

The key focus at the moment remains effective study and working hard. As a reminder:

- Home learning: you are expected to be set and complete 9hrs per subject, per fortnight of home learning.
- Independent learning: this is outside of home learning and is where you might complete additional reading, consolidate your learning based on your needs or engage with the supercurricular.

Everything you put in now will pay off in the long-term – remember it is about the marginal gains on the way (the 1% extras!) that make all the difference.

The recommendations on the following page will help you ensure that you are as effective as possible. From the beginning of your studies. Give them a go and commit to them – it takes time to form a good habit.





After each lesson

- Review your lesson notes and make a note of anything that you don't understand so that you can ask about this in the next lesson/ study period.
- Locate and read the relevant material in the textbook and add anything extra to the notes you took in class that is missing or that helps you to elaborate. Your notes should contain precise examples that can be used in exam questions.

Before the next lesson

- Re-read your notes/ the relevant pages of the textbook to re-familiarise yourself with the content that you covered in the previous lesson.

Weekly

- Complete any home learning that is set.
- You should ensure that you are practicing your academic writing or testing your knowledge recall through:
 - Making and using flashcards (using the Leitner method to test your understanding of areas you find difficult).
 - Complete brain dumps/revision mindmaps/ summaries.

Fortnightly

- In your TSS sessions you will find it useful to set aside 2x periods (out of 6) for each subject to develop your understanding of what has been covered.
- Complete wider academic reading into the topics you are studying or topics you find interesting. You might find it useful to create summaries of key messages/information gained from this.
- Practice exam skills.

Termly

- Review your PLC to ensure that you know the areas of study that you need to target.
- Revise topics and issues that you studied in previous terms to strengthen your memory of these topics. You should use your PLC to direct your study here.
- Complete essay questions in timed-conditions without your notes and take this to your teacher for verbal feedback.

Other study tips:

- Speak to your teachers as soon as you can to gain clarification. Don't be shy – ask for help. Level 3 exams are hard and your teachers would rather you be honest about how you're doing!
- Utilise the study handbook available in the Sixth Form and on Furzeplatt.net (Sixth Form area)
- Plan when you are going to complete your revision/home learning – use a study timetable.
- Purchase and use revision guides available to you – your departments might have some in school.
- Watch lectures/ revision videos on:
 - Gresham College
 - Youtube
 - Yale Courses online



If Not Now, When? If Not You, Who?

As we settle into the rhythms of the term, it is easy to forget those promises you made yourself at the start of term. 'This year I'm going to...' 'This year I will always...' But then the term kicks in and old habits reappear (I'm talking about myself here too) so, as we approach halfway through the first term, reflect on how it is going- are you making a better use of your time? Have you adopted those good study habits? As the quotes above say, if not now, when? If not you, who?

Early Entry:

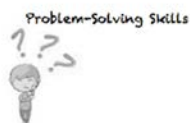
Students who are wanted to apply for Early Entry need to make sure they have finished their application, statement and been through with their form tutors before 8th October. This is to ensure that we can book meetings with each candidate and have their application sent off before Friday 13th October (the final school day for sending off applications).

Managing workload:

Students around the Sixth Form will be beginning to feel the pinch (if they haven't already!) with regards to expectations for study in Year 13. It can often feel quite overwhelming and so I'd encourage the following tips to help keep on top of things:

- Identify where you have time (you'll realise that you have more than you thought!)
- Break down the big projects into short and meaningful tasks.
- Use your time effectively. It might be worth reflecting on whether or not you are working in the best environment or whether or not your peers are distracting you. Make wise choices that enable you to be successful and get to the end of the week having done what needs to be done!

If you are struggling with balancing things and would like to talk to someone about this, then please don't forget to seek help. We're here to help.



In assembly this week we also discussed failure and how important it is to fail but learn from it and use it to pick yourself up and move forwards. Resilience is key!

Notice Re-sits

An e-mail has been sent home to students who are re-sitting PPE papers. The re-sit will be at 9.30am on Friday 4th October in the Sports Hall.

Personal Statement reminders

This should be your second draft. However, I know some of you are on your first draft. Some of you are not sure what you want to do yet. Please spend this weekend making progress with your future choices and get the personal statement finished so you can get feedback on how to improve. Don't bury your head in the sand- these personal statements are not going away. If you need help, speak to us! Here is the same advice that I give to you last year:

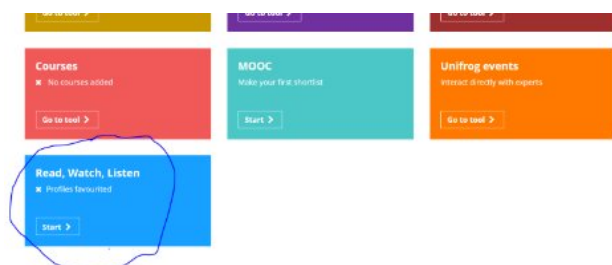
TOP TIPS

To show interest in the course you are applying for is one of the most important things in your personal statement. You need to show how you are engaging in academic super-curricular work. This might be an interview you have watched, a theorist you have researched, an article you have read or a debate in the field. This is why we are giving you a form time a week to engage in super-curricular work. This is NOT EXTRA CURRICULAR. Super-curricular is the engagement with an academic aspect of your course which is above and beyond what you are doing in lesson.

There is a wealth of super-curricular work on FP cloud here:

Super Curriculum

There is also work on Unifrog here:



Something else you could do is look at the reading list for the courses you are applying for and read some of the work.

If you still are not sure on the course or area of apprenticeship you want to do, remember, UCAS Hub has taster sessions to try.

Places you can go for help:

- UCAS: <https://www.ucas.com/explore/search/advice?query=personal%20statement> (loads of guides and support on this page)
-
- The Uni Guide: <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/personal-statements/writing-your-personal-statement>
-
- Specific universities (this example is from Aston university): <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/study/advice-on-applying-to-university/examples-of-personal-statements>

Early Entry Candidate for UCAS?



HOW YOU APPLY 2025 ENTRY



<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/admissions-timeline>

Opportunities to engage with



- Upcoming talks from Speakers4Schools can be found here - <https://www.speakersforschools.org/upcoming-broadcasts/>
- Upcoming careers and employment opportunities through Speakers4Schools can be found here - <https://www.canva.com/design/DAFgWrcGXkU/DtycRdW77kMpQi8TB9Qjrg/view#1>
- Sign up to <https://pathwayctm.com/student-register/> for free to engage with opportunities from the UK's top employers.
- Not sure what your goal or ambition is? Make use of the Unifrog subject search tool to find out more about careers linked to your current subjects

Law and Legal studies

+ In a nutshell

+ Getting in

+ Decisions

+ Statement

+ Reference

+ Geek out

+ Recommendations: Read

+ Recommendations: Watch

+ Recommendations: Listen

+ Explore

Save to Favourites? 

These are great for exploring in your study periods!



Volunteering & apprenticeships with the Magpies in the Community

Are you a keen footballer?

Maidenhead Magpies are offering apprenticeships in coaching or work experience as a volunteer. Look at their website:

<https://www.maidenheadunitedfc.org/home/> and get in touch with mark.nisbet@maideheadunitedfc.org to find out more



Apprenticeships (16 – 20 years)

We are on the lookout for anyone interested in a coaching career.

Email mark.nisbet@maidenheadunitedfc.org to express interest

Volunteering (14 – 16 years)

Any sporty students with ambition of one day being a sports coach. We give them the opportunity to volunteer at our holiday camps.

It is great work experience for them and gives them an insight into coaching but also gives them independence, leadership, behaviour management skills and confidence.

Email mark.nisbet@maidenheadunitedfc.org to express interest

Find out more about work experience and apprenticeships with Pfizer



Are you interested in a career which helps brings exciting developments to technology & medicine?
Did you know that Pfizer have a site just down the road in Marlow?

Their apprenticeship schemes range from Level 3 to Level 7, and last between 12 months and five years. You can choose one that's just right for you. Here are just some of the areas in which they offer apprenticeships:

- **Engineering**
- **Laboratory Scientist**
- **Finance**
- **Legal**
- **Marketing**
- **Digital Marketing**
- **Project Management**
- **Business Administration**

Find out more here: <https://www.pfizer.co.uk/careers/apprenticeships> and here: <https://tinyurl.com/ydww657n>

They also have a 6 hour virtual work experience that you can complete in your own time: always great to boost those UCAS or apprenticeship applications!

<https://www.pfizer.co.uk/careers/molecule-to-market-virtual-work-experience-programme>



Careers & Education Fair on Tues 26th November

On the evening of Tues 26th November, we will be holding our annual Furze Platt Careers & Higher Education Fair. This is a fantastic opportunity for students and parents/guardians to meet potential colleges and universities, employers and apprenticeship providers. We always love to welcome new people, so if you would be interested in having a stall at the event to tell others about what you do and what career prospects are like in that industry, please do contact me at claire.beale@furzeplatt.net



Local super-curricular activities and events

We often talk to you about engaging with super-curricular learning to enhance your studies. **Norden Farm** has a variety of events on this term which may interest you, from concerts to films and theatre performances. Do check out this list here: <https://tinyurl.com/8h84syvd>



Henley Literary Festival starts this weekend and runs until 6th October. Themes include History, Politics, Sport, Literature, Music and much more...

<https://tinyurl.com/26y45ftv>





A Day in The Life Of...
Becky Wade, Senior Editor for Pan MacMillan



What is your job and what do you do?

I'm a Senior Editor working on children's books. My title is what I do – I edit books. There are several components to this – making sure the story is as strong as possible, working on proposed designs to make sure they do what the book is trying to achieve, or going through the book with a fine-tooth comb to catch typos, errors or clunky turns of phrase. Then, working with a team to make sure they reach the audience they're supposed to and sell the most they can!

Can you describe a typical day?

One of my favourite things about publishing is that there is very rarely a typical day – depending on my workload and the types of books I'm working on, it can be very varied. Most days I'll have some meetings with design, marketing, or sales to see where we're at with a particular project. I'll do some editorial work on one or several books – whether that's writing back cover copy, commenting on layouts (drafts of what the book will look like), editing the book text itself, or brainstorming new ideas. I'll probably also be doing some prep work for division-wide meetings – as an editor, you need to be an advocate for your books within the company as well as outside it and really convince people that this will sell and is right for the current market.

What did you study? (From 16 and up):

For A Level I studied English Lit, History, French and Spanish. I went on to do languages at university: French and Spanish, with a bit of Catalan in my second year.

How do people usually get into that field/industry? Is that how you got into it?

I started as an Editorial Assistant in 2017, and became an Editor in 2020, although I've hopped around quite a few different types of books, which can require different skillsets. People hoping to become editors usually will go for editorial assistant roles, but I think if you're interested in this career path I would apply for any entry level role (rights, sales, publicity and marketing are all good), learn all you can, and try and step over once you're in.



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What other jobs have you had?

I've worked as a freelance copyeditor, proofreader, and done translation freelance since I was a student, been a copywriter for a travel company, as well as random jobs at / between uni including waitressing and working at the toastie bar.

What is your greatest achievement?

When I was at university, I won a scholarship that allowed me to go to the International Journalism Festival in Perugia, Italy. I met a lot of interesting people, including newspaper editors and the then Senior Vice-President of Amazon, and the entry I submitted was published in The Guardian. I would also consider breaking in and staying in publishing to be an achievement I'm proud of, as it definitely wasn't easy.

What are the skills and qualities you feel you need in this role?

In publishing, obviously you need to be passionate about books, but I would say the most important thing is to be a people person. It's such a collaborative industry that you need to really enjoy working with different types of people, and have a healthy appreciation for different eccentricities. It takes a whole team of people to get a book to print, and each are vitally important!

You definitely also need to be organised and able to cope with lots of different things at once. It's perfect for me, as I prefer working on lots of varied tasks, but it can be difficult if you've got your head in something and then get yanked away to work on something more urgent – and there's always something urgent.

An eye for design and an ability to pick up on small details is needed in editorial, but that's a skill you'll learn along the way. So I would say the most important things you'd need are great people and organisational skills, the ability to keep a cool head in a crisis and a passion for books.



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What are the good things about your job? Any downsides?

I love the people I work with, they're probably the best thing about my job. I've met many close friends through my work in publishing, and it's always incredible getting to work with so many highly creative, talented people who care so much about the work that they do. It's great seeing something you had a direct impact on, too, that I can then see in the shops – I feel really proud that I'm involved in something that brings joy to lots of people, sometimes around the world.

One big downside, probably the biggest for me, is that publishing isn't as well paid as other careers. Similar to other jobs in the arts and culture sectors, there's a lot of prestige associated with working in publishing so the salary is lower. It doesn't help that publishing is based in London primarily (although this is changing slowly), the most expensive city in the UK. So I would definitely be aware of this as you go in, as editorial assistant salaries are not in line with other graduate roles and it can take a while to be promoted.

Has Covid had an impact on your sector?

People were definitely worried when it first hit, but it turned out that people looked to books more than ever before. Books were such a valuable source of escapism, pleasure and joy for many people that it really reaffirmed how important the arts are to our lives. That trend has continued upwards after the pandemic, so great news for me! I would say the most important crisis that's impacted on my sector is the cost of living crisis – books are a luxury.

Is AI impacting on your work?

I definitely worry about AI on an existential level! There have been a couple of controversies recently about publishing houses using AI-generated cover art, or copy – obviously this has really rattled many creatives, as if it becomes widespread, it will have a huge impact on their career opportunities and salaries. This is now changing, and publishing houses are introducing AI policies: which I think is good, as for me it's so important to safeguard the work of creatives that gives meaning to the human experience. There's a bigger chance we'll have to start using AI for more tasks in the future, which I'm not opposed to, but in my opinion it should be kept quite separate from the work of authors, illustrators, designers and editors as I truly don't think that human touch within books can be replicated.



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 PAN MACMILLAN

What advice would you give to your younger self?

Keep being curious, read absolutely everything you can, and enjoy yourself! I would also advise myself to get comfortable with change: it's possibly the most valuable skill you could have in today's job market. I would also advise me to keep going with the writing and journalism, as that opened so many doors that ended up opening more to the path I'm currently on. Find what you're interested in and follow it!

If you could go back in time, would you still do this job? What else were you tempted by?

Even though this job can be a bit stressful, I wouldn't want to do anything else – I feel incredibly lucky to be where I am. I did quite a bad job of thinking about the future at university, so I didn't apply for any grad schemes – but I don't regret taking the time I needed to properly consider my options while I had my first job as a copywriter. Don't worry if you don't know what you want to do straight away, as it's likely you'll do many different things - follow your interests and your skills and you can't go too far wrong.

Reminder- Rules for Sixth Form Students

Driving Cars to School



The following information can be found here: [Sixth Form Handbook](#)

Driving lessons must not be arranged during school time. Students may however arrange a lesson immediately prior to a test. You should notify the Sixth Form Manager Mrs Pasa (mary.pasa@furzeplatt.net) well in advance when you have a test during school time.

The following rules must be observed at all times:-

- Sixth Form students who wish to drive to and from school should apply for permission from the Sixth Form Manager. Driving permit forms are available from Mrs Pasa at Sixth Form reception. Permission is ultimately at the school's discretion and should generally be sought only if other suitable forms of transport are unavailable. We encourage students to use public transport whenever possible and to walk to the school if they live nearby.
- Any student driving to school must possess a current full driving license. Students' parents/carers must confirm that the vehicle authorised for use, is fully taxed, fully insured against all risks, and has a current MOT certificate. The relevant documentary evidence must be submitted to the Sixth Form Manager. Once this evidence is provided students will be able to have their personal ID badge upgraded to include vehicle gate access.
- Cars should be parked in the gravel car park near Humanities at all times. This is necessary to avoid congestion and parking problems and for pedestrian safety.
- Those students who are learning to drive should not drive on to the school site, even whilst under the supervision of an instructor.
- Sixth Form students are reminded of the importance of safe driving. The provisions of the highway code must be respected at all times, as must all legal and other provisions affecting drivers and passengers (including the use of mobile phones). No-one else's car is to be manhandled or interfered with in any way. It is specifically forbidden for any Sixth Form student to drive another student's vehicle.
- Year 12 students must not use their cars during the course of the school day. Cars must be used strictly as a means of transport to and from school. Year 13 students may leave site in their cars during free periods but may not leave site in their cars during break 1 or break 2 for safety reasons.
- Students may travel to an authorised activity with the permission of a member of staff and permission is subject to the provisions of rules 1 and 2 above. Before they travel to a school activity in another student's car, the passenger must give a letter giving permission to do so from their parents, to the teacher in charge of that activity.
- The registration number of any car which may be driven to school must be notified to the Sixth Form Manager on the pro forma provided. Any subsequent changes in the registration details of a student's car must be notified to the Head of Sixth Form in advance of it being driven to school.
- Eating in cars should be avoided, and car radios should never be left on at such a volume as to disturb others while cars are parked there. Any litter from parked cars should be deposited in the nearest rubbish bin.
- The speed limit on school grounds is 5 mph.

Any Sixth Form student who ignores and/or breaks the rules is liable to have permission to drive to school withdrawn.

Our school communication systems within the Sixth Form

The following platforms and systems are used across the school. Please get in touch (sixthform.admin@furzeplatt.net) if you have any issues with these systems.

- Parentmail – this is how information about the school will be communicated home and acts as a payment platform for trips etc.
- Classcharts – this is an attendance and behaviour monitoring tool and the only way to report absences. This must be done by 8.45am daily.
- Go4Schools – this is how reports will get home about working at grades, attitude to learning and predicted grades.
- Parents' Evening booking system – this will go live nearer the time of parents' evening and we will be in contact with regards to this.

