

Important attendance messages for all.

- Please remember to record your absence on Class charts by 8.45am so it can be picked up by attendance.
- If you are late to a lesson, it is your responsibility to tell the teacher you have arrived so that they can change your mark. This will help prevent you from getting a C4 DT.
- Too many students are leaving site unwell without following the Sixth Form policy. If you are unwell:
 - You must go to speak to the nurse.
 - The nurse will then assess you and decide if you need to go home. If they decide you need to go home, they will contact home so that we receive permission for you to leave school.
 - You **must not** leave site without permission as this is a safeguarding issue – we need to know where you are at all times.
 - We do not want to sanction students for not following these rules, but will do so if necessary.
- You **must** sign out and sign back in when you go of site. Again, this is a safeguarding expectation! If there is a fire, we need to know who is not on site - <https://forms.office.com/e/Qpe50V1LBj> to do this quickly!
- If you are late to form twice in a week, you will be issued a C3 DT by your form tutor.
- We require proof of medical appointments (dentist, GP etc.) when recording absence. If you do not provide this, it will be marked as unauthorised and you may be issued a truancy DT.



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.
- Form time is compulsorily for all students.
- 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. Detentions for truancy take place daily in P1 and P5. These are 30minute detentions. The consequence of missing this detention is isolation in your feed period the following day.

Upcoming dates:

11th December- Christmas Concert- 7pm

12th December- Year 13 Parents' Evening

20th December- last day of term- 12.30 finish

6th January 2025- first day back

13th January- Year 13 PPE week





Let's Do This!



We're in the final two weeks of term now and it is beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Despite this, it's still really important to keep going until the end of term. I would love nothing more right now than to ignore my pile of marking and planning and get into the Christmas spirit, but if I do this it'll come back to haunt me in those dark January days!

So here are some productivity tips to keep you going into the final two weeks of term:

- 1) Use a work log to direct your TSS – blank copies can be found here [Work Log](#)
- 2) Break down your week/fortnight so that you can see when you have free time. Plan your festive plans and then use the remaining time effectively!
- 3) Use post-its to flexibly plan your day – here's an article that can help with this [Post-it planning](#)

What should you do if you find yourself with no work to do and free lessons or TSS?

1. Super Curricular- this means going beyond what has been taught in class- reading articles, watching TED talks, completing an extra course on a specific subject or aspect of the subject
2. Revision of past work
3. Acting on feedback from past work
4. Answering an examination question
5. Creating a revision resource
6. Pre-planning for the next unit on the course

Habit No. 1:
Be
Proactive!

IF NOT
NOW!
WHEN?



UCAS

As it stands, we have 56 students who have sent off to UCAS and 55 left!

Between now and Christmas we 8 more people booked in. Meaning, there are 47 of you who have yet to book an appointment or be ready to send. I

URGE you to use this weekend to make the final changes to your application, personal statement and universities and be ready to book in an appointment. Even if you are not ready yet but know you will be by end of next week, get your form tutor to book in an appointment. We do not want to be working up to the deadline; remember, the university does not wait till all are in to make offers so the sooner you get yours in, the sooner you will get your offers. If

I know there is a lot this term. I know that everyone is telling you that things need to be done now but, get your self organized with your time. It doesn't need to be stressful, set aside an hour over the weekend to get it done.

If you are really stuck and do not have a clue what you want to do, then speak to us now. Don't wait until the 30th January. Book in a 1:1 with myself, your form tutor, Mrs Beale, Mrs Jennings or Mr Ging and we can work with you.



EXTRA APPOINTEMENTS

FRIDAY 13TH WE WILL BE HAVE AN AFTER SCHOOL SEND OFF SESSION FROM 3.30-5.30.

PLEASE BOOK THIS IN THROUGH YOUR TUTOR

Rewards



We are planning a trip to Windsor for some Christmas shopping on Wednesday 18th December during REC.

The top 15 students from each year group with the most reward points will be chosen to go.

Therefore...get pushing for those reward points!!





Furze Platt Magistrates Court Mock Trial

During period 1 on Thursday 14th November, the school was visited by a magistrate who operates at the Magistrates' Courts in Reading and Slough. The Magistrate spoke to the Criminology students in the hall and talked them through the day-to-day work of a Magistrate. As part of the visit, the students took part in a mock court trial, in which several volunteers played the parts of key personnel within a court trial. Archie took the role of the defence barrister and Ethan as the prosecution barrister, with Grae as the lead magistrate, and Mateo and Kacper as the additional two magistrates. The defendant in the dock was Charlie. The visit was an invaluable experience and supplied the students with a deeper understanding of the powers a magistrate has to deliver justice, alongside what crimes a magistrate deals with regularly and how these proceed to a prosecution.

Furthermore, we were taught much about the process of a generic trial within a magistrates' court, giving students a glimpse into the types of cases magistrates typically handle.

The mock court trial included a charge, against our volunteer defendant Charlie, for a motoring offence of going 10 mph beyond the area's speed limit, where the speeding offence took place. The penalty began as an £85 fine plus a £30 added charge, with 3 points on the defendant's driver's licence. Archie defended Charlie against Ethan's charges, but ultimately our magistrates' made sure order was maintained in the court trial, giving the finalised charge to Charlie's motoring offence.

A memorable moment in the trial was when Grae told off the defendant and the defence barrister for causing a disruption within the court room! The trial was an amazing insight into the typical processes and types of crimes dealt with by a magistrate on a daily basis. The magistrate was asked what the most common types of crimes brought to court are, or what's the most severe sentence a magistrate can grant. Many topics were covered. The visit was a brilliant experience for the students as they learnt much about trial processes, rules within a court and how being a magistrate generally works, not to forget understanding the consequences too for breaking laws. It was an amazing educational experience for everyone involved!



Apprenticeships with the BBC



At the BBC, there are apprenticeships in five main areas:

- ❖ Business
- ❖ Digital
- ❖ Data & Technology
- ❖ Engineering & Operations
- ❖ Journalism and Production

In terms of local opportunities, there is currently a Level 6 Degree Apprenticeship in London for a Broadcast & Media Systems Engineer: <https://tinyurl.com/3yv6b3ar>

To find out more about other vacancies around the country, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/3hpeyysp>

I also highly recommend following the BBC Careers on Social Media so you hear about future opportunities:

For Instagram: @BBCGetIn and **for TikTok:** @LifeAtTheBBC



Taster Days with the BBC

At a 'GET IN' Taster Day, you'll have the chance to:

- Learn about the media industry and a professional workplace environment
- Find out about the wide range of job roles they have to offer
- Develop some hands-on skills
- Spend time in a BBC studio
- Have a closer look at the apprenticeship application process and get some tips for applying.

To find out more and register your interest, visit this page:
https://careers.bbc.co.uk/content/EC_Get-In/?locale=en_GB



Career opportunities with EY

Ernst & Young Global Ltd offer insights and services to their clients in the following areas: Finance, Private Equity, Government & Infrastructure, Advanced manufacturing & mobility, Consumer, Energy and resources, Health and Telecommunications. To find out more about what they do, visit their website: https://www.ey.com/en_uk

Degree apprenticeships for Year 13s leaving Sixth Form this year:

There are currently vacancies for degree apprenticeships in Tax, Audit, Entity Compliance & Governance, Turnaround & Restructuring Strategy, Business Leadership & Management, Digital & Technology. Find out more and apply here: <https://tinyurl.com/348xeh3r>

Applications to their 2025 opportunities are open and will close when filled, so we encourage you to submit your application early to avoid any disappointment.

Career Starters – 2 day programme for Year 12s

Did you know that EY also offer a 2 day insight programme for you to find out more about apprenticeships and decide if they are right for you? They are currently advertising a 2 day Career Starter programme in April 2025 in Reading or in London:

- for those thinking of working in Finance female students: <https://tinyurl.com/mu3vebtb>
- for those who identify as female, who are interested in a career in Technology: <https://tinyurl.com/y5mxfn3u>

Smart Futures – 2 week paid work experience for Year 12s

EY also offer a programme called Smart Futures. However, please check the eligibility criteria before you apply. To apply, you must be:

- Eligible for free school meals at any time in the last two years. You can see if you are eligible using [this tool](#)

Or

- Eligible for a college bursary or Education Maintenance Allowance (where household income is less than £24,421)

Plus

- Achieved a minimum of an English Language Grade 4 or English Functional Skills Level 2
- Studying any combination of A-level and BTEC Level 3s
- A minimum of Grade 6 in GCSE Maths for London based programmes or a minimum of Grade 5 in GCSE Maths for all other locations
- On track for 112 UCAS points

If you meet these criteria, please check out the local opportunities and apply here:

https://www.eyfoundation.com/en_uk/apply/i-m-a-young-person/smart-futures-how-to-apply



Study Days at St John's College, University of Oxford

St John's College, The University of Oxford, offer Study Days (both in-person and online) where you can:

- ✓ attend seminars led by tutors
- ✓ find out more about the courses at Oxford
- ✓ Discover what tutors are looking for
- ✓ Meet current St John's students.

St John's College
Oxford



To apply, you need to be predicted to achieve at least AAB at A-level.

All Study Days are free of charge and if you do go to an in-person day, lunch is provided and they can help with a contribution towards travel costs

Applications will close **at midday 5 weeks** prior to each Study Day or Subject Exploration Day. You will be notified of the outcome of your application after the deadline for your chosen Study Day has passed.

- **Chemistry Study Day:** 26th February 2025 (**Deadline: 19th January**)
 - [To apply to the Chemistry Study Day, click here.](#)
- **History:** 12th March 2025 (**Deadline: 9th February**)
 - [To apply to the History Study Day, click here.](#)
- **Medicine and Biomedical Sciences Virtual Study Day:** 15th March 2025 (Deadline: 9th February)
 - [To apply to the Medicine and Biomedical Sciences Virtual Study Day, click here.](#)
- **Classics Subject Exploration Day:** 23rd April 2025 (**Deadline: 23rd March**)
 - [To apply to the Classics Subject Exploration Day, click here.](#)
- **Psychology Study Day:** 2nd May 2025 (**Deadline: 30th March**)
 - [To apply to the Psychology Study Day, click here.](#)
- **Maths & Computer Science Study Day:** 14th May 2025 (**Deadline: 13th April**)
 - [To apply to the Maths & Computer Science Study Day, click here.](#)
- **English Subject Exploration Day:** 16th May 2025 (**Deadline: 13th April**)
 - [To apply to the English Subject Exploration Day, click here.](#)
- **Politics, Philosophy & Economics Study Day:** 21st May 2025 (Deadline: 20th April)
 - [To apply to the PPE Study Day, click here.](#)



Super-curricular Lectures with Gresham College



SINCE 1597

Gresham College provides free educational videos and lectures at university level.

Why is it a good idea to do this?

- If you are thinking of studying a subject at university, doing a lecture with Gresham College can give you a taste of what it could be like and help you decide if that subject is really for you.
- It will boost your UCAS applications. *Yes – UCAS are changing the format of their personal statements but you will still need to write about motivations, qualifications, and extracurricular activities*

Currently, they have lectures on law, climate change, architecture, music, computing, and more.

You can also watch back previous lectures which include lectures on biology, psychology, astronomy and more.

To see what is on offer and sign up: www.gresham.ac.uk/



A Day In The Life Of...

It has been a few weeks since I have done this feature! Today you will get to know Lynda Carroll, an architect and director of her own company.



What is your job and what do you do?

I am an architect, and my work involves planning, designing, and overseeing the construction of buildings

Can you describe a typical day?

An architect's day can vary depending on the size and scope of the project. It often includes meetings with clients and contractors to discuss project progress and site visits to ensure construction is on track and address any issues. Additionally, I spend a lot of time working on designs using computer-aided design (CAD) software to create detailed plans for buildings.

What did you study? (From 16 and up)

For my A-levels, I studied Art, English Literature, and History & Appreciation of Art & Architecture. I then attended university, where I graduated with a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Architecture. Afterward, I pursued a two-year Master of Architecture degree. To qualify as a chartered Architect, I completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Practice in Architecture.

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

The current route to becoming a qualified Architect involves the completion of three qualifications - Part 1 (degree level), Part 2 (Masters), and Part 3 (Professional Practice Diploma) - and two years of practical experience. After completion of these components, you can register as an Architect with the Architects Registration Board (ARB) and join the RIBA as a Chartered Architect. This is the route I took.



What is your greatest achievement?

My greatest achievement so far as an Architect has been establishing my own business ten years ago.

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

The skills and qualities of an architect require a combination of creativity, technical skill, and practical knowledge. Architects must balance their clients' needs and desires with the realities of construction and regulations

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

One of the most rewarding aspects of being an Architect is witnessing your design come to life and being utilised by the people it was intended for.

The drawback of becoming an Architect is the extensive education required. We frequently work long hours and may encounter challenges from difficult clients and contractors.

Has Covid had an impact on your sector?

COVID significantly impacted the design and construction industry. Site closures, project delays, and increased material costs due to supply chain disruptions affected a high percentage of companies and clients.

Is AI impacting on your work?

I believe that AI cannot replace our profession because architecture is a blend of creativity and science. However, if regulated and used appropriately, AI can help us enhance certain aspects of design more quickly and improve our efficiency with more routine tasks.

What advice would you give to your younger self?

Don't be afraid to try new things and don't be afraid if you fail. By failing we learn how to overcome obstacles.

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

Yes, I would still choose to become an Architect, as I truly enjoy my job—most of the time! I was also accepted into art college after finishing my A-levels, and if I had chosen that path, I would have loved to pursue a career as a fashion designer.

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.

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!

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.

