

YEAR 8 PARENTS' INFORMATION EVENING

**FURZE
PLATT**
SENIOR SCHOOL



WELCOME

**Mr Andrew Wyles –
Assistant Headteacher KS3**

Meet the team

Dr Andrew Morrison *Head Teacher*

Mr Andrew Wyles *Assistant Head (KS3)*

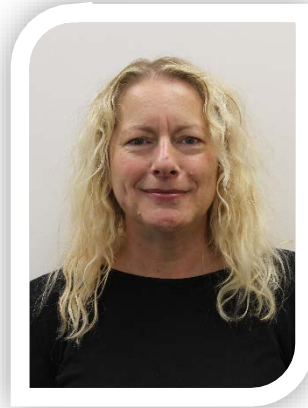
Mrs Ridgley *Head of Progress Year 8*

Ms Holloway *Pastoral Manager Year 8*

Pastoral Team



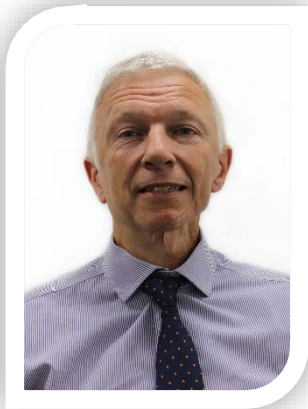
Head of Progress – Year 8
Mrs Ridgley



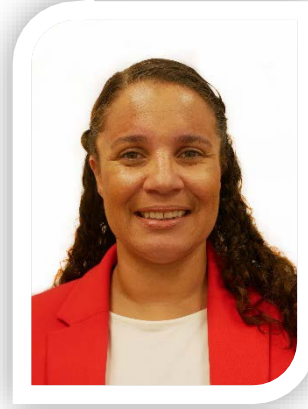
Pastoral Manager– Year 8
Miss Holloway



Designated Safeguarding Lead
Miss Lewis (Deputy Headteacher)



Assistant Headteacher
Mr Wyles (KS3)



Deputy Headteacher
Ms Lake

Pledges

I/we will not allow anyone to make you feel unsafe.

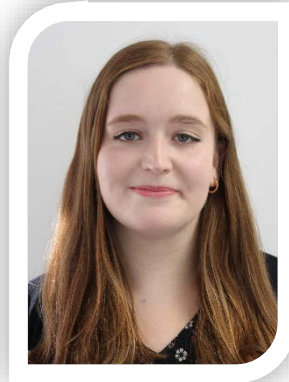
I/we will not allow anyone to disrupt your learning.

I/we will always do my best to help you reach your potential.

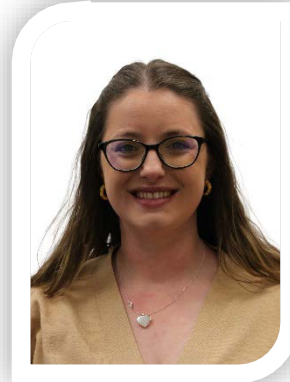
The Form Tutors



8.1 – 8LEB
Mr L Borthwick



8.2 – 8ERD
Ms E Dickens



8.3 – 8AMH
Mrs A Harper



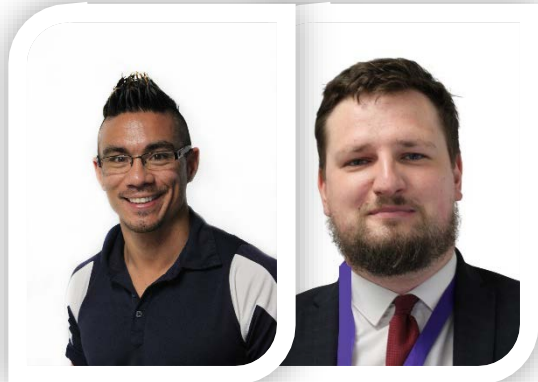
8.4 – 8VJL
Miss V Liles



8.5 – 8GM
Mr G Melville



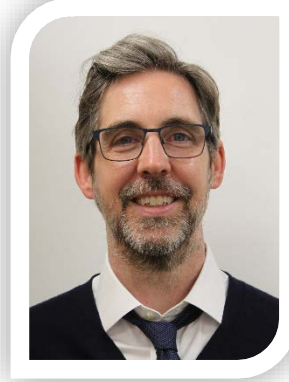
8.6 – 8MJR
Mr M Ryan & Mr D Randall



8.7 – 8CD
Mr C Djaelani & Mr K Sankey



8.8 – 8KAS
Mrs K Southard



8.9 – 8JJY
Mr J Yonker

Pastoral Team



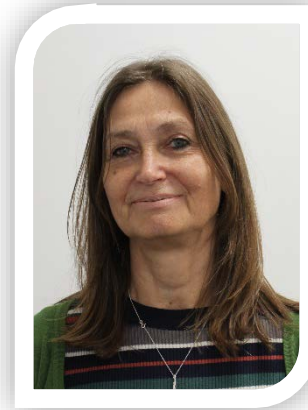
**Attendance
Officer**
Mrs Couling



**Attendance
Officer**
Mrs Craker



**Student Support
Administrator**
Mrs Fung



**Student
Counsellor**
Caroline Rossiter



**Parent Support
Worker**
Mrs McSweeney

Inclusion: SEND Team

Currently on
maternity leave



**Assistant Head for
Inclusion**
Mrs Stiles



**SENCo and Head of
Learning Support**
Mrs Jack



SENCo
Mrs Cook



Head of SHINE
Mrs Stimson

Supporting SEND

- Students with SEND are supported by all members of staff within the school
- Specialised interventions are organised through the SHINE team (resource base led by Julia Stimson) or Learning Support Team (mainstream led by Debbie Jack)
- Examples of support on offer include: Reading intervention, Spelling intervention, EAL support, KS3 Raising Achievement, ELSA, Zones of Regulation, In-class LSA support, Connect lessons

Supporting SEND

Exam Access Arrangements

- During KS3, teachers will be trialling different exam access arrangements with young people who may need them in their subject.
- There are **no** designated exam access arrangements for any student, even if they had arrangements at primary school. It is up to the teacher's discretion whether to give an arrangement.
- We collect evidence from teachers as to whether this is effective in our setting
- All students will be assessed for exam access arrangements in Year 9. The results of this and feedback from teachers will be used to dictate arrangements for Y10 and Y11.

Stretch and Challenge

All students should be stretched to meet their full potential, including more able students.

We provide unique opportunities to develop **academic, creative** and **leadership** skills both inside and out of the classroom.



Opportunities Beyond the Classroom

- Science Fair
- Young Enterprise 
- Essay Writing Competitions  
- Oxford University Workshop (KS4) 
- Peter Jones Foundation Tycoon Competition (KS3)
- UK Maths Challenge 
- Young Writers 



Who to contact?

- Form tutor: Please see slide with contact details
- Pastoral Manager Year 8: Ms Holloway
- Head of Progress Year 8: Mrs Ridgley
- Assistant Headteacher Key Stage 3: Mr Wyles

The above colleagues will liaise with other relevant members of staff.

Contact information

Tutor Contact details:

8LEB: lewis.borthwick@furzeplatt.net

8ERD: ellie.dickens@furzeplatt.net

8AMH: amy.harper@furzeplatt.net

8VJL: victoria.liles@furzeplatt.net

8GM: grant.melville@furzeplatt.net

8MJR: matt.ryan@furzeplatt.net / david.randall@furzeplatt.net

8CD: christopher.djaelani@furzeplatt.net / karl.sankey@furzeplatt.net

8KAS: kay.southard@furzeplatt.net

8JJY: john.yonker@furzeplatt.net

Year 8 Pastoral Team :

charlotte.ridgley@furzeplatt.net

Kelly.holloway@furzeplatt.net

ParentMail



- All school information goes out via ParentMail.
- You should have received an email asking you to signup. If you have not, please speak to one of us at the end, so we can arrange for this to happen.
- You can also top up your children's canteen account via ParentMail and pay for trips.



Tuesday 5th September - Friday 8th September 2023



FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #71.1



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the 2023/24 Academic Year

I have been delighted to welcome students to FPSS this week. I would particularly like to welcome new parents and carers to the FPSS community.



As we begin a new year, we have emphasised to all students the importance of identifying and repeating past successes. The new start also offers the students the chance to change what has not worked so well and we have encouraged students to take up that challenge, as well as try some of the range of fantastic opportunities



UPCOMING EVENTS

Next week (Week 2)

[ALL EVENTS](#)

TUE 12 SEPTEMBER	Year 10 - Preparing to Succeed Evening (Theatre)	6.15pm - 7.15pm
	Year 11 - Preparing to Succeed Evening (Theatre)	7.30pm - 8.30pm
WED 13 SEPTEMBER	Year 12 - Preparing to Succeed Evening (Theatre)	6.15pm - 7.15pm
	Year 13 - Preparing to Succeed Evening (Theatre)	7.30pm - 8.30pm
THU 14 SEPTEMBER	Years 7, 10 & 12 School Photos	
	Year 7 - Preparing to Succeed Evening (Theatre)	6.15pm - 7.15pm

Forthcoming Events

Website



**FURZE
PLATT**
SENIOR SCHOOL

NEWSFLASH

PARKING: Parents must not drive onto the school site to drop off or pick up their children. There is a limited amount of parking space available outside the school with restrictions at certain times. <https://www.furzeplatt.com/page/?title=Cycling+and+Parking&pid=587>



Home > Parents > Reports

- In This Section**
- > Attendance
 - > Year 6-7 Parents and Carers
 - > Laptops for Learning
 - > Useful Information for Parents and Carers
 - > ACHIEVE Rewards
 - > Our House System
 - > Exam Information
 - > Reports

Reports

Go 4 Schools

School reports are available via 'Go 4 Schools', our online reporting service. Please find instructions for logging on in our guide below.

Passwords for the new service are generated by Go 4 Schools directly and sent to you by email. If you have not received your password, please check your junk/spam mail in the first instance.

['Go 4 Schools' Login Guide](#)

['Go 4 Schools' Login Page](#)

[Please click here for Guidance on Grading](#)

Studybugs

Studybugs 



Studybugs for Parents and Carers

A better, safer way to report when your child is sick and will be absent from school (including all medical appointments)

Studybugs is integrated with our registration system, so once registered you will be prompted to add your child/children to Studybugs, so that you can report their absence or send other messages regarding their attendance.

With a few quick taps or clicks, you can update the school on your child's absences and appointments

Get the app or register now (<https://studybugs.com/register>)

Y8 'Meet' the Tutors

- **Year 8 Tutor – Parents' Consultation Evening**
Thursday 16th October – 16:30 – 19:00
- Appointments made electronically and held remotely
- This will be an opportunity to 'meet' the tutor.
- They will be able to give you feedback on how they are settling into school, if there are any issues – and it is your opportunity to share anything with us that you think would be useful for us to know.

Y8 Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening

Thursday 12th March 2026 15:45- 19.45pm

Appointments made electronically and held in person.

Reporting



There will be a progress report at the end of each long term:

October 2nd, 2025 (ATL)

December 16th, 2025

March 25th, 2026

July 3rd, 2026

Reports will be available on Go4Schools

ACADEMIC SUCCESS



Examination Results

As it happened: A-level results day in Maidenhead, Windsor and Slough 2025

Photos by Ian Longthorne, Mike Swift, and the schools

Written by staff reporters Jade Kidd, Sam Leech and Anaka Nair. Live blog by Ava Hone-Smith and Adrian Williams.

08:21AM, Thursday 14 August 2025



Anaka Nair
@AnakaN_BM · Follow

Peter Ging, assistant head and head of sixth form at @Furze_Platt has shared the varied destinations his Year 13s are heading to 🇯🇪



9:06 AM · Aug 14, 2025

Furze Platt School
@Furze_Platt

From Mr Ging: Working alongside our wonderful students during their 6th Form journey has been a privilege. I know I speak for the entire team in saying congratulations to our brilliant students who will, I am sure, continue to exhibit the same verve and dynamism in their futures.



Students ACHIEVE at GCSE

Outstanding results at GCSE – close to record results

- Over 150 students have joined the 6th Form.
- 40 new students from other schools have joined our 6th form to study a range of A-Level and other Level 3 courses.
- Students have gone to BCA, Reading College or to complete apprenticeships.

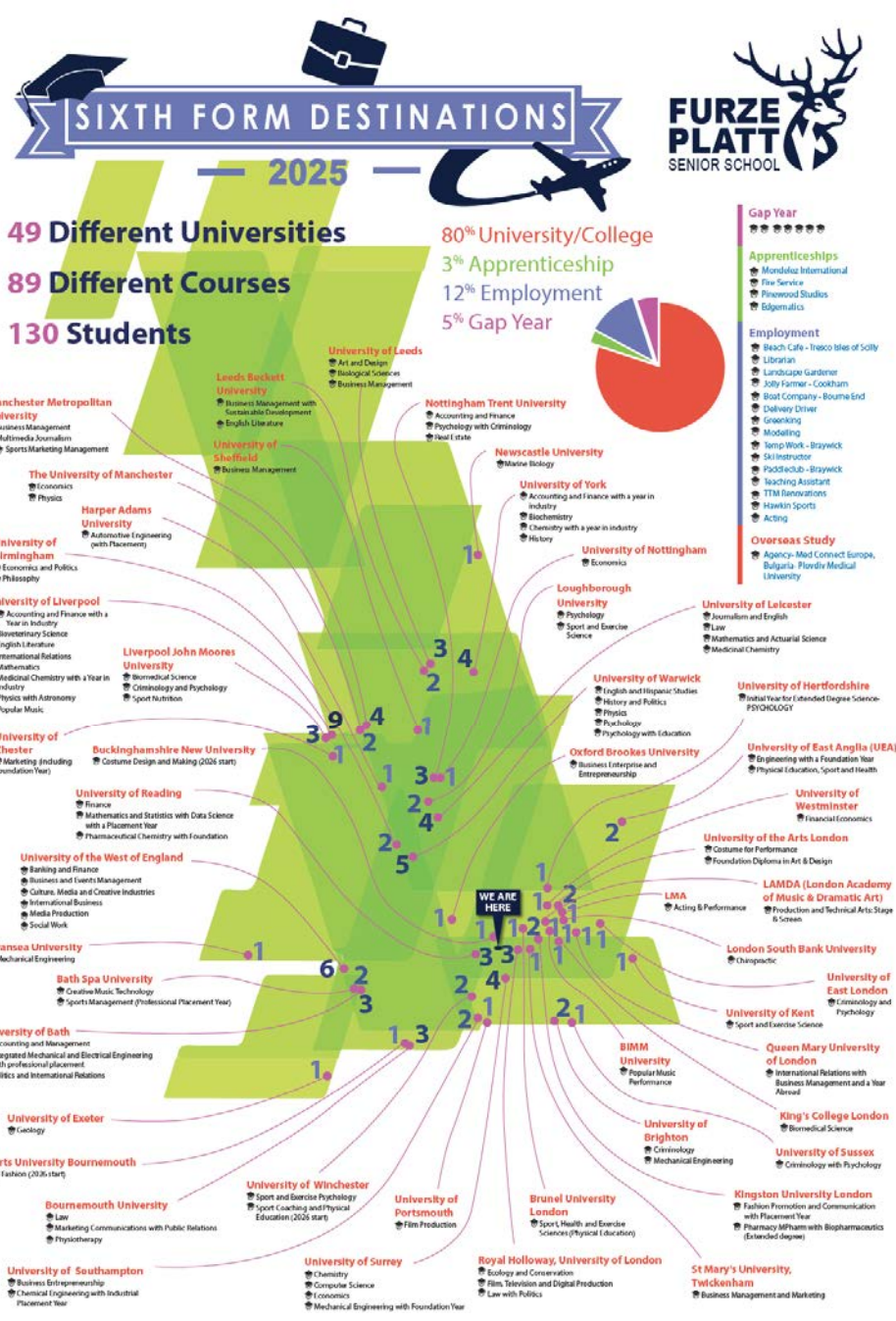


Destinations

- Loads of uni!
 - Portsmouth
 - Southampton
 - Exeter
 - Manchester
 - Warwick

- Some great apprenticeships
 - Zenopa
 - Softcat
 - Jaguar Land Rover

- And some other brilliant stuff!:
 - Bayer
 - Leading Edge Aviation
 - Sports Coaching



CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT AND PERSONAL GROWTH



Our Values

*Above all, our vision is that members of the Furze Platt community consistently **ACHIEVE**, through:*

*being **A**mbitious*

*being **C**ollaborative*

*being **H**appy*

*having **I**ntegrity*

*showing **E**ndurance*

*showing **V**ersatility*

*All of which lead to **E**xcellence*



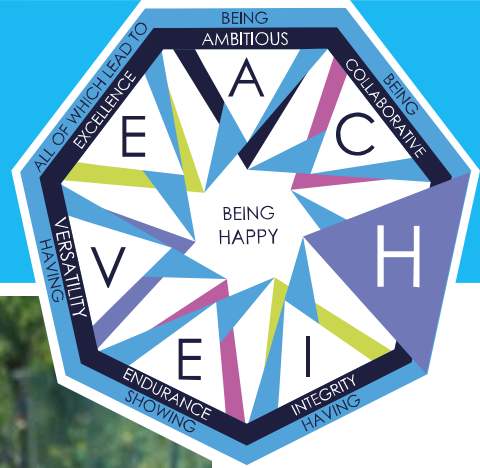
AMBITIOUS



COLLABORATIVE



HAPPY



INTEGRITY



ENDURANCE



VERSATILITY



EXCELLENCE



YEAR 8



Year 8

- The middle year?
- The coasting year?
- The complacent year?
- The forgotten year?
- The year without meaning?



Year 8

- The middle year!
- The consolidation year!
- The confidence building year!
- The progress year!
- A meaningful year!



ACADEMIC PROGRESS



Academic potential

Old GCSE grades	New GCSE grades
A*	9
	8
A	7
B	6
	5
C	4
D	3
	2
E	1
F	
G	
U	U

Academic potential

Key Stage 2 scores	Estimated GCSE grades
80-99	1-3
100-109	4-6
110-120	7-9

Academic potential

What is your current Age-Related Grade (ARG) in each of your subjects? What grade did you achieve at the end of Year 7?

What is your Challenge Grade in each of your subjects?

Do you know how to make further progress in each of your subjects?

Ambition

95% of our respondents told us that they are determined to make more academic progress this year and develop their character.

SUPPORTING ACADEMIC PROGRESS AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Mrs Ridgley
Head of Progress



Curriculum Information

There is curriculum information on the school website to help you to reinforce and complement learning at home.



Laptops for Learning

Sparx
Maths

 Microsoft 365



reading  plus

 **CAROUSEL**
LEARNING


Educake

Year 8 – Home Learning Timetable

Year 8					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Subject	Maths (double home learning)	English	English	Geography	Performing Arts, Art, Technology and Computing projects. PE
		History	Science	Languages	PR (each fortnight)

For Year 8, each piece of homework should be between 25-35 minutes (total 50-70 mins per evening)

Drama, Music, Art, Technology, & Computing. These departments set one piece of project homework each half term.

Types of home learning

1. Completing classwork
2. Practising to embed knowledge and skills
3. Applying knowledge from lessons
4. Reviewing learning, researching and preparing for next lesson
5. Revising for assessments

Marking and Feedback

- Some pieces of work will receive feedback and / or marks and grades from the teacher
- Some will be self-marked in class
- Some will be peer assessed
- Some will get verbal feedback

Assessment Feedback

- WWW
- EBI
- Next step
- Student Comment

Assessment



Assessment will be throughout a term.

Departments may use the cumulative marks through a term from a range of pieces of work and tests.

Departments may use a final test.

Reporting



Age Related Grade

Challenge Grade

Attitude to Learning

Sample Report



Subject	End of Year 7 Challenge Target	Age-related Grade	Classwork and Engagement	Home and Independent Learning	Conduct and Attitude	Teacher
Art & Design	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Mr L Borthwick
Computing	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Miss V James
Drama	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Mrs M Milicevic
English	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Miss E Dickens
French	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Mr H Hayward
Games	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Mrs C Ridgley
Geography	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Mr M Ryan
History	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Mr T Constable
Maths	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Mr D Brown, Ms N Angyiembe
Music	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Miss S Wong
Philosophy & Religion	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Mr H Hayward
PSHE	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Miss E Dickens
Science	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Mr H Curnow, Mr R Wright
Spanish	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Miss E Fletcher
Technology	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Ms P Jessop



Age-Related GCSE Grade in Key Stage 3

- Students are assessed according to their progress throughout Years 7 & 8 & 9.
- Towards the end of Terms 2, 4 & 6, assessments will be set in each subject that are marked against 'Age-Related GCSE Grades'.
- These grades indicate what your son/daughter is likely to achieve in Year 11 if they continue at their current level of effort and progress.
- These grades do not tell you what a student would get if they took a GCSE at that moment in time.
- Assessments get harder from term to term and year to year, so that a grade 6 in Year 8 represents a higher standard than a grade 6 in Year 7.
- Staying at the same age-related grade as a student moves through Year 7 into Year 8 and year 9 is making progress.



Challenge Grade in Key Stage 3

- This is the minimum grade your teacher believes you should be achieving based on your performance in your Key Stage 2 SATs and your ongoing performance and progress at Furze Platt

Attitude to Learning AtL

Approach to Learning – Classwork & Engagement

1 – Always meets expectations

2 – Almost always meets expectations

3 – Meets most expectations

4 – Sometimes fails to meet expectations

5 – Often fails to meet expectations

Furze Platt students are expected to display:

- Excellent attitude and ambition, by always trying their best.
- Work collaboratively and effectively with others.
- Happy and versatile approach to learning.
- Sustained learning through endurance.
- Unwavering integrity.
- High levels of motivation.

Attitude to Learning AtL

Approach to Learning – Home & Independent Learning

1 – Always meets expectations

2 – Almost always meets expectations

3 – Meets most expectations

4 – Sometimes fails to meet expectations

5 – Often fails to meet expectations

Furze Platt students are expected to:

- Submit home learning on time.
- Complete homework to the best of their ability.
- Be organised with coursework and projects.
- Read around and research their subjects.
- Demonstrate evidence of independent learning (such as extra notes or through insight shown in lessons).

Attitude to Learning AtL

Approach to Learning – Conduct and Attitude

1 – Always meets expectations

2 – Almost always meets expectations

3 – Meets most expectations

4 – Sometimes fails to meet expectations

5 – Often fails to meet expectations

Furze Platt students are expected to:

- Be punctual to lessons.
- Follow the uniform policy and have a smart appearance.
- Arrive at lessons with all the required equipment.
- Ensure they are ready to learn.
- Be respectful towards all staff, students and guests.
- Be safe in their actions and choices.

How you can support your child

- Discuss aspirations and set ambitious goals together.
- Explore the world with them; visit museum, art galleries, get out in nature. Discuss what you see.
- Ask your child open-ended question about what they are studying in school.
- Encourage regular reading and writing of different types of texts, both fiction and non-fiction
- Encourage endurance; when they fail, try again.
- Watch, read and discuss the news together to promote critical thinking skills.
- Ask to see you child's schoolwork regularly. See if they have completed their 'Next Steps' work in purple pen.
- Have a routine and quiet space for homework.
- Encourage a healthy lifestyle; quality sleep, exercise, time away from screens, avoid sugary drinks etc.

ENRICHMENT





Enrichment



Term 1 – Year 8 Clubs



HOME OUR SCHOOL **NEWS & EVENTS** PARENTS ADMISSIONS PASTORAL CURRICULUM SIXTH FORM VACANCIES CONTACT US

~ RESOURCES

**FURZE
PLATT**
SENIOR SCHOOL

Home > News & Events > School Clubs and Academic Support Clinics Schedule 2022-23

In This Section

- > Latest News
- > Weekly Newsletters
- > Term Dates / Parents' Calendar / Sports Calendar
- > Parents' Evening Bookings

School Clubs and Academic Support Clinics Schedule 2022-23

On Friday 9th September, parents and carers of students in all year groups will receive invitations to attend clubs for their son/daughter. 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 have not yet received an email please check your junk / spam folders.



Evolve will have emailed you with sign up options

You can find the full list of after-school clubs on our website [here](#)

Clubs and Activities – 2024-25

Performing Arts

Choir
Flute Choir
Drama Club
Dance Club
Music Club
Design & Make a Puppet Club
Chamber Choir
Keyboard Orchestra
Ukulele Club
Orchestra

Humanities

Documentary Club
The Forgotten History Club
Ancient Myths & Legends Club
Orienteering Club

Raising Achievement

Supervised Study

Wellbeing

Confidence Club

English

Ancient Greek Club
Film Club
Warhammer Club
Cake Club
Latin Club
Anime Club

Philosophy & Religion

Philosophy in Film Club
Debate Club

Maths

Maths Support Club
Infinity Club
Board Games Club

MFL

Languages Club
Pentanque Club

Art & Design

Technology Club

IT & Computing

Computing Club
Dungeons & Dragons

Science

Greenpower Club
Science Club
Gardening Club
Chemistry Support Club
Physics Support Club
Biology Support Club

PE

Hockey Club
Rugby Club
Fitness Club
Netball Club
Dodgeball Club
Morning Fitness
Circuit Training

Technology

Cooking Club

Clubs and Activities – so far this year

Performing Arts

Technical Theatre Club
Drama Club
Junior Rock Star
Choir
Bronze and Silver Arts Award
Costume and Set Design Club

Raising Achievement

Supervised Study

Maths

Maths Support Club
Infinity Club
Board Games Club

Art & Design

KS3 Art Club

IT & Computing

Coding Club

Science

Greenpower Club
Science Club
Gardening Club

PE

Rugby Club
Fitness Club
Netball Club
Morning Fitness

Trips

- Wales trip
- Ski trip
- Geography trip
- Others to follow...

School Musical

Last year..



This year..



House System



House System

Inter-House PE Challenge each term

House Challenge each term (Spelling Bee, Talent Competition, Turing Challenge, Art and Photography, Quiz)

Students from different year groups working together

Look out for challenges involving parents

Rewards

HOUSE POINTS



Badges



Positive Rewards

Every Lesson, Every Day

Students will receive regular praise for good behaviour in line with FPSS values. Students will receive House points each time they go above and beyond to demonstrate the school values

Weekly and Fortnightly Rewards

Every week, staff will celebrate the successes of individual students and form groups. Every fortnight there is a new competition with House points reset to 0.

Half Termly Rewards

Every half term, FPSS will celebrate attendance and ACHIEVE House points with key individuals and form groups. Staff will also celebrate the achievements through 'Post Cards'

Cumulative Rewards

As students accumulate their House points, they will receive certificates and badges for the key thresholds.

Celebration Events

Opportunities will be taken throughout the academic year to celebrate student achievements. FPSS will incorporate additional rewards opportunities and events to encourage and celebrate key features of achievements with the school.

Building a sense of community

In year 8 we are a team. We are a result of each other's successes and failures. If one member succeeds, then we celebrate in that success together. If one member fails, we rally to build that member back up. We support one another to achieve to our best. We are a collective working towards the same end goal of excellence.

“In year 8 we are one team achieving greatness together.”

We are a rewards led community but..consequences

Break time detentions are break 1 for 20 mins. Students attend this detention the next day. Tutors and teachers will remind students.

After school detention is every Wednesday in the theatre – duration depends on the incident.

Daily detentions for truanting lessons, walking out of lessons, refusing to be hosted and arriving late to school.

SUPPORT FROM HOME



Attendance – get them here

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 Days Absence 1 week & 4 days of learning missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 Days Absence 3 weeks & 4 days of learning missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 Days Absence 5 weeks & 3 days of learning missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 Days Absence 7 weeks & 3 days of learning missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 Days Absence 9 weeks & 1 day of learning missed	Unacceptable

Punctuality – get them here on time



Be In SCHOOL

Be On TIME

8.35am


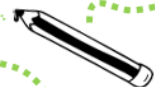




8.40.01am is late


Uniform - make sure they're looking smart




Equipment – load up their bag the night before

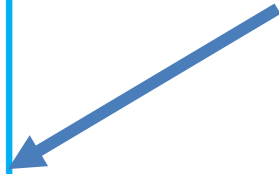
FURZE PLATT SEVEN

- 1 PENS** 
- 2 PENCIL** 
- 3 RULER** 
- 4 ERASER** 
- 5 PENCIL SHARPENER** 
- 6 CALCULATOR** 

PUT THEM ALL IN A PENCIL CASE 

- 7 FULLY CHARGED LAPTOP (YR 7 + 10)** 

..and charger



Check their home learning



ClassCharts

Ask, listen and support

- Be interested
- Help with organisation
- Check on Class Charts
- Look at their positive points
- Communicate
- Read the newsletter and talk about it
- Regulate – sleep, work, play

Trust us and talk to us.

- If you have concerns, please speak to us.

Mobile phones



AMBITIOUS

COLLABORATIVE

HAPPY

INTEGRITY

ENDURANCE

VERSATILITY

EXCELLENCE

Problems...

- Young people can be communicating with strangers.
- What they put online remains as a digital footprint forever.
- Cyber bullying
- The number of 'likes' they have can seem more important than their 'friends'.
- Young people are heavily influenced by media directed at them!

Some suggestions

- Encourage use of technology for learning
- Friends should be people they know and see
- Talk to them about platforms and influencers
- Follow / befriend your children
- Check their interactions on WhatsApp, Instagram and SnapChat
- Use data caps on mobile accounts and lock them

Who are the PTFA?

- The PTFA is a registered charity run by a highly motivated small group of volunteers.
- We are **ALWAYS** happy to add to our volunteer list to spread the load, in terms of participating, co-ordinating and promoting.
- **Can you spare us a small amount of your expertise to help?** If so, please let us know, as we're always looking for help. It can be a few hours folding uniform, taking money at the Quiz bar, coming along to our meetings and/or helping to explore potential fundraising opportunities.
- MYTH BUSTER: Your PTA days are NOT over once you leave Primary school! Your children at secondary school still need extra funds for all manner of things, they're just in smaller 'boxes' now at higher prices.



How to find us?

- Email us: ptfa@furzeplatt.net
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fpsstfta>
 - Join your Facebook year group because we post information regularly
- The School Web site: <http://www.furzeplatt.com/page/?title=The+PTFA&pid=41>