

# FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #75.3



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Parents and Carers,

### Heathrow Experience

Many thanks to all our guests from Heathrow who visited us on Tuesday and Wednesday to provide a fabulous insight into working at Heathrow, together with some fun team activities involving programming a robotic vehicle. Year 8 seemed to thoroughly enjoy the experience, and I hope that it opened their eyes to future career options. Photos from this visit can be seen on page 6.



### Cross Country

Many congratulations to all our runners who represented FPSS in the Berkshire Schools Cross Country Championships last weekend. Particular congratulations go to our Under 15 boys who came second in the team event and to Joe and Archie (U15), Fabien (U17) and Ben (U19) who qualified to represent Berkshire. See page 5 for full details.

### Sports Leaders

Thank you to all our leaders who supported the Primary Sports Festival on Tuesday. It was fabulous to see how students being role models to younger students.

### Duke of Edinburgh

Last Sunday over 100 students participated in their training day at FPSS in readiness for their bronze award. I am delighted to see so many students in Year 9 seeking to obtain the award this year. Thank you to our staff for providing this fabulous opportunity and to students, parents and carers who have embraced it.

### Year 9 Options

Thank you to parents for attending the Parent Consultation Evening on Thursday. We look forward to also seeing you at the upcoming Options Evening. Students have now had the Options Process shared with them, so I am sure that there are many conversations occurring about Key Stage 4



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Week (Week 1)

ALL EVENTS

MON 27 - FRI 7 JANUARY - FEBRUARY	Inter-House Sports Week 3	
THU 30 JANUARY	Year 9 Options Evening	6pm - 8pm
FRI 31 JANUARY	Late Start	9.15am

### Forthcoming Events

TUE 4 FEBRUARY	PTFA Meeting	7.30pm - 9pm
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SCHOOL TERM DATES

choices. We look forward to continuing them in the forthcoming weeks.

### Maths Challenge

Finally, good luck to all those students participating in the Maths Challenge next week.

Take care,

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

CLICK HERE TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS!

THURSDAY 30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January, we will be holding our 2025 Year 9 Options Information Evening. This important evening is for students and parents to find out about the options process and to talk to different subject teachers about the wide range of courses that we offer at Furze Platt. There will be two talks explaining the options process, one at 6.00pm and the other at 6:45pm, with 2 Houses attending each talk (details of House timings below). After the talks have finished which should last for approximately 30 minutes, you will then be able to visit each subject stall in the English block where you can ask any questions you may have and find out more about how different subjects are taught and assessed.

The timings for the talks are as follows:

6.00pm: **Eagle** and **Falcon** Houses

6:45pm: **Hawk** and **Osprey** Houses

I look forward to welcoming you on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January, in the Theatre. The evening is due to end at 8:00pm.

Miss L Stirling, GCSE options lead

**SAVE THE DATE!**

FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

**SCIENCE FAIR**

MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JULY 2025

Let's celebrate Science!

We want you to come up with your own project! Then email Dr WYATT with your proposed idea by the **14<sup>th</sup> of February**.

[marina.wyatt@furzeplatt.net](mailto:marina.wyatt@furzeplatt.net)

- You can work in groups of 2 BUT no more.
- The presentation will take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July! More details to come via parentmail.
- Open to Years 7, 8 & 9. You can pop in to the Science Club for help!

SCIENCE CLUB TUES 15:20-16:20 \$10

LAMDA LESSONS AT FURZE PLATT SCHOOL

I am very excited to announce that we have some spaces for 3 new students for Lamda lessons after February half term. These will run in a similar way to Music Peripatetic lessons; weekly lessons where students will come out of lessons on a rotated basis for a 30minute Lamda lesson. There is the offer of solo, paired or group sessions.

What is Lamda?

Lamda is one of the UK's oldest and most respected London Drama Schools and awarding bodies. Lamda have been offering practical exams in communication & performance subjects for over 130 years.

Lamda qualifications are graded. The graded system begins at Entry Level up to Medal Level (Grades 6-8). **Medal levels also have UCAS points.** Lamda exams are about achievement, recognising and rewarding success and developing vital life skills for every individual.

Lamda offers a range of courses, but the most popular courses are Verse and Prose, Public Speaking, Acting and Musical Theatre.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

How will Lamda lessons run at Furze Platt?

Our Lamda teacher is called Jane Trainer (see full biography on page 3). She will be offering 30 minute lessons to students on a Friday. These can be a solo lesson, paired lessons or a group lesson (up to 4 students). In lessons, depending on the chosen course, students will choose their performance pieces or public speaking topic and Jane will coach and direct them with their performances. There is also theoretical aspect to the qualification which will extend their analytical skills and understanding of Dramatic theory. Students will then take an examination in the grade before moving up to the next grade.

What is the cost?

Jane is a highly experience and well qualified Lamda teacher who has taught at a range of schools which you can see from her biography. The cost of her lessons are:

Solo lessons- £24 per 30mins

Paired lessons- £16 per student per 30 mins

Groups (max 4) £15 per student per 30 mins

If you are a Pupil Premium student, then your lessons can be partly subsidised by the school. Please contact Mrs Kalinowski for more information.

Cont. on page 3

## How do I sign my child up?

Please complete the form in the link below. You will be contacted in due course with arrangements for starting after February. Places will be issued on a first come-first served basis.

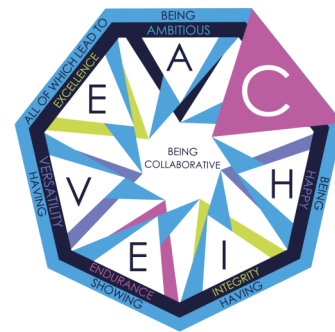
[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to e-mail me on [kate.kalinowski@furzeplatt.net](mailto:kate.kalinowski@furzeplatt.net)

Kind regards,

Kate Kalinowski

Head of Performing Arts and Assistant Head of Sixth Form.



## Biography

### Jane Trainer ALAM LLAM Hons RADA Hons

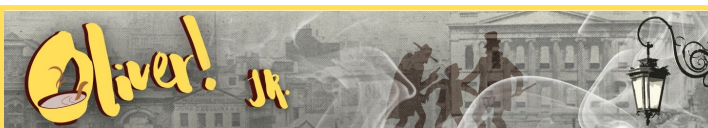
Jane trained at RADA (Royal Academy of Dramatic Art) after being awarded the coveted Dalziel Scholarship. She has acted professionally around the world on stage, TV, films, on radio & commercials, together with directing and producing, namely at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2019.

Jane currently teaches LAMDA and Trinity examination syllabus & has taught and led workshops at St Edward's School, The Beacon School, Pipers Corner School, CentreStage, Redroofs School for Performing Arts, Sir William Borlase's Grammar School, Great Marlow School and Holme Grange School, where all of her students have achieved high Merits and Distinctions across all grades and syllabus.

She is proud that many of her students are members of the National Youth Theatre and in full time training at drama schools including Bristol Old Vic, Royal Central, Arts Educational, GSA, Juilliard and Berklee in the US and that many are now performing professionally in the industry.

Jane has sat on the RADA audition panel, has taught at Cambridge University preparing students for drama school auditions and coaches young people for drama scholarships, interviews & auditions. Jane is Artistic Director of LifeStage and District64, with specialist acting classes across Bucks and Berks.

Jane is absolutely passionate about working with young people in developing their acting and performing arts skills, helping them to build confidence, communication skills, a love of theatre and a myriad of essential transferable life skills, which come through working on the LAMDA syllabus and examination process.



## CAN YOU HELP?

**"Please, sir, I want some more" ... metal tankards?!**

For our 'Oliver Jr' school musical we would like to kindly ask for any donations / borrowing of metal tankards similar to the one pictured. We need about 10 in total for the production.



Thank you for your help!

# TEACH MAIDENHEAD

The best schools - The best pupils - The best teacher training



Career changers welcome, as are new graduates

PGCE and QTS after your training year, then local starting salary in London Fringe of £33k

[WWW.TEACHMAIDENHEAD.CO.UK](http://WWW.TEACHMAIDENHEAD.CO.UK)

## TEACH MAIDENHEAD: NEW YEAR, NEW CAREER?

Train to teach in Maidenhead secondary schools. New graduates or career changers. Tax-free government bursaries of up to £31K for your training year. Starting salaries of £33k + after qualification. For more information please visit the link below.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

## SCHOOL CLUBS

### Term 3: January - February

Parents and carers of students in all year groups will have received invitations at the end of last term to book clubs for their son/daughter next term.

The email was headed Furze Platt Senior School with the email address [evolve.furzeplattsnrvisits@edufocus.co.uk](mailto:evolve.furzeplattsnrvisits@edufocus.co.uk). If you have not yet received an email please check your junk / spam folders.

### SCHOOL CLUBS WEBPAGE



## FURZE PLATT KITCHEN MENU

Feast your eyes on our scrumptious Furze Platt kitchen menu for January 2025! Full details are on our 'Cafe and Dining Facilities' webpage, the menu is available to download below.

### CAFE AND DINING FACILITIES WEBPAGE



## YEAR 12 REPORTS

The above reports have now been issued and are available online as usual via Go 4 Schools.

The service is available either by going to our website [www.furzeplatt.com](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) and selecting Parents.

Should you have any problems accessing your child's report please contact me at [reports@furzeplatt.net](mailto:reports@furzeplatt.net).

Mrs K Avery, Data Manager

### VIEW REPORTS

**elevate**  
education

19 parents from Furze Platt Senior School attended our webinar on **note taking** on Tuesday night – along with 2500 others across the country.

### 'NOTE TAKING' WEBINAR RESOURCES

We have another webinar coming up, and it's always one of the most popular sessions that we run. Covering technology and focus, this session covers how parents can help their child break their addiction to social media and use productivity-boosting apps.

We're excited to announce that Elevate Education will be hosting their next free parent webinar for the term on technology and focus on February 4th.

Sign up for the session below to learn how you can turn technology from a distraction into an incentive to study.

**How You Can Make Technology an Ally (& Not the Enemy!)**  
**Tuesday 4th February 6:00-7:00pm (GMT)**

Here's what Elevate will be covering on the night:

- Reducing your child's dependence on technology
- Using apps to prevent your child procrastinating
- Using technology to enhance your child's learning

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR FREE**

## WINNERS FORTNIGHT 1

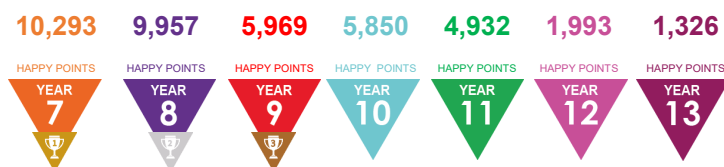
### HAPPY POINTS

Every term we focus on one of our School values. In term one we are concentrating on 'being happy'.

#### Our most HAPPY House so far...



#### Our most HAPPY Year so far...



### Individuals

#### Whole School

(Chocolate bar and lunch pass)

Felix Beard 8JHL

#### Year Groups

(All to get chocolate bar)

Year 7 – Alex Millington-Bush 7KJS

Year 9 – Chloe Spencer 9TAS

Year 10 – James Lill Carrero 10VOJ

Year 11 – Harley Banthorpe 11JNW

Sixth Form – Jacob Hopson 6MNW

### Tutor Groups

#### Whole School

(Biscuits and front of queue pass)

7KJS

#### Year Groups

(All to get biscuits)

9NJC

8JNS

10VOJ

11PEB

6MNW



### CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January, a group of students attended the Berkshire Schools Cross Country Championships representing Furze Platt and we had some excellent results with some runners progressing to the represent Berkshire at the Southeast Inter-counties championship on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February and our U15 boys finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> behind Reading Blue Coat in the team event!

Below are the names of all students and their results. Congratulations to all who took part, this is a fantastic achievement!

#### U13 Boys (106 runners)

- Matthew Winton 14th
- Finnlay Annetts 39th
- Freddie Comrie 92nd

#### U13 Girls (125 runners)

- London-May Morrison 125th

#### U15 Boys (109 runners)

- **Joe Brooker 4th = Qualified for county**
- **Archie Charles 8th = Qualified for county**
- Thomas Ling = 19th
- Hayden Pearce = 70th
- Ethan Winton = 85th

#### U15 Girls (94 runners)

- Katie Ellis = 25th
- Zoe Davies = 65th

#### U17 Boys (55 runners)

- **Fabien Mormech = 5th = Qualified for county**
- Toby Holmes 17th

#### U19 Boys

- **Benjamin Kelly 16th = Qualified for county.**

A big thank you to Mr Jackson for giving up his Saturday to act as team manager!

Miss Boseley

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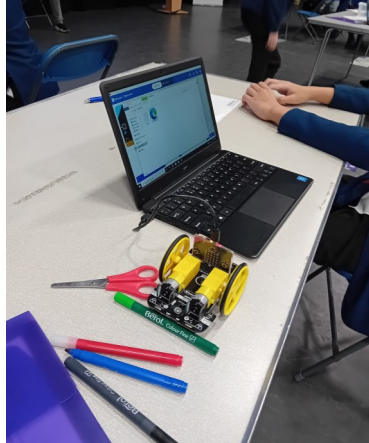
## WEDNESDAY ART CLUB

Wonderful to see the creativity of our talented young artists in action at the Key Stage 3 Art Club, which takes place every Wednesday, 15:15-16:00 in AR1. Proud moments for our school community!



## HEATHROW EXPERIENCE

On Tuesday and Wednesday this week our Year 8 students enjoyed a workshop given by the Heathrow World of Work group.



## GARDENING CLUB

This week we created some open, mini terrariums with tiny cacti.

Hopefully, next week we'll be outside planting! Duke of Edinburgh volunteers welcome! Meet Tuesday after school in S12.



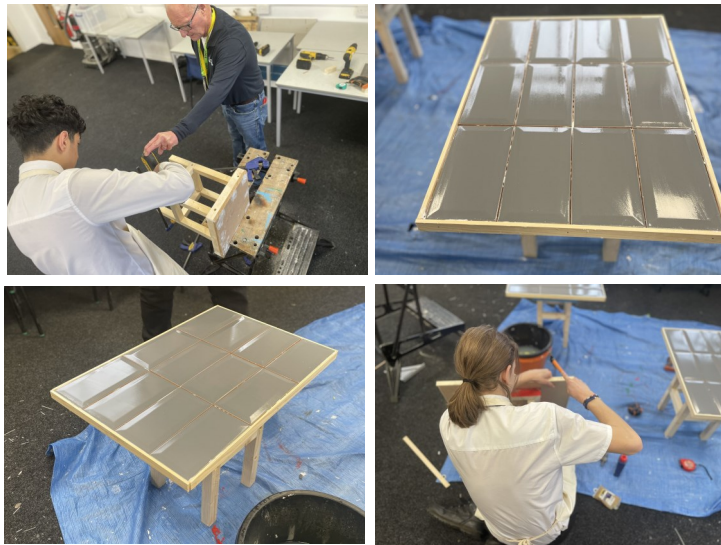
## COOKING UP A TREAT

We had a delicious start to the today in the Food Tech room with our Year 9 students! Amazing aromas and impressive food preparation skills on display.



## FRIDAY CRAFTSMANSHIP

Our Year 10 Construction students are making fantastic progress on their tables! Precision, skill, and hard work all coming together. Great job, everyone!



## TOOLS OUT FOR PRACTICALS ON FRIDAY

Today our Year 11 students also have their tools at the ready, working hard on their individual projects in Product Design. Creativity and determination are shining through every step!



## ELIZABETH HOUSE – SIXTH FORM CHRISTMAS VISIT

Each year a group of Sixth Formers, supported by Mrs Pasa (Sixth Form Manager), visit Elizabeth House to help put up Christmas decorations. A special belated thank you to the Sixth Form Students who spent their time helping the community and in return, staff and residents loved seeing the decorations up.



## FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL CURRENT VACANCIES

### Design and Engineering Technician/Assistant

EDV/2025/FPSS/24775

We are looking for an enthusiastic and reliable individual to join our Design and Technology Team. This role is term time only plus two INSET days, 25 hours per week, Monday to Friday.

📍 Furze Platt Road, Berkshire, SL6 7NQ

🕒 Permanent | Part-Time

💰 £15,948.00 - £16,998.00 Annually (Actual)

Part-time, 25 hours per week Mon-Fri. Term time only plus two INSET days

8 Days Remaining • Apply by 09:00am, Friday 31st Jan, 2025 • Job start: 03/03/2025



Apply Now

### Technician - Food and Nutrition

EDV/2025/FPSS/00093

We are looking for an enthusiastic and reliable individual to join our Food and Nutrition team. This role is term time only plus two INSET days, 25 hours per week, Monday to Friday. Fixed term...

📍 Furze Platt Road, Berkshire, SL6 7NQ

🕒 Fixed Term/Maternity Cover | Part-Time

💰 £15,453.00 - £15,698.00 Annually (Actual)

Part-time, 25 hours per week Mon-Fri. Term time only plus two INSET days. Fixed term until August 2025.

8 Days Remaining • Apply by 09:00am, Friday 31st Jan, 2025 • Job start: 24/02/2025



Apply Now

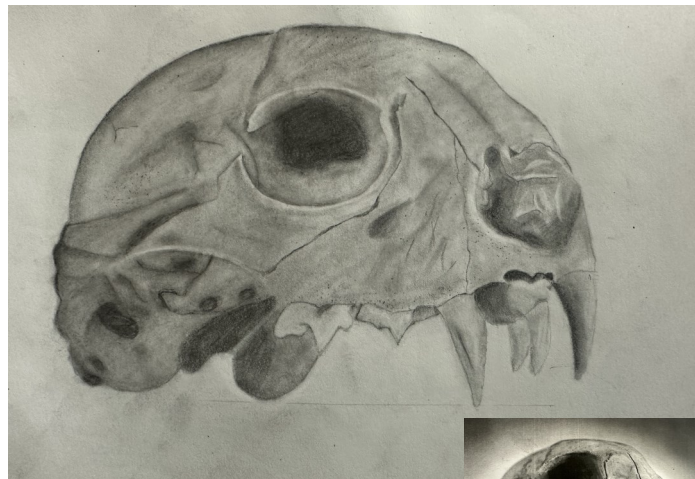
# Creative Spotlight



**Amelia Russell**

**Year 13**

In Amelia's work, she explores the works of artists Dana Ellyn and Charles Willson Peale to understand the concept of the animal saviour complex and how it relates to animal cruelty and justice. She examines how animals have been perceived in religion and culture, particularly the societal beliefs that rank animals as superior or inferior. Amelia chooses these artists because of their contrasting approaches to the theme of animal cruelty, with Ellyn's modern, confrontational style challenging viewers' moral views on animal rights, and Peale's traditional, tone-driven works, like Noah and His Ark, highlighting the human desire to dominate and classify animals. This study influences Amelia's own art, inspiring her to experiment with Ellyn's thought-provoking compositions and Peale's tone contrasts. Overall, her research provides valuable insights into how different artistic styles and historical contexts address animal cruelty, while also prompting further questions that deepen her understanding of the complex human-animal relationship.

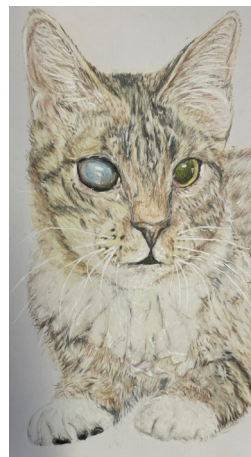
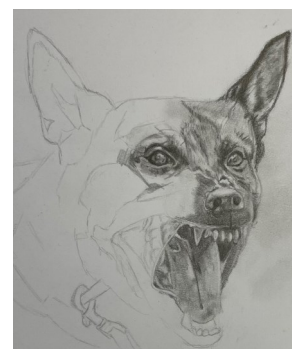


**Andra Suru**

**Year 9**

Andra has been working hard in Art & Design, showing a real passion for her creativity and challenging her skill! She has been coming in during her break times to work on her latest skull observation for her 'Extinction Rebellion' project inspired by the artist ROA! Well done with mastering the measuring technique and understanding how to turn shape into form using tonal depth. Keep up the great work Andra!

## CREATIVE SPOTLIGHT GALLERY





Contact us Email: [ptfa@furzeplatt.net](mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net)

[facebook.com/fpssptfa](https://facebook.com/fpssptfa) Website: [click here to access](#)

Dear Parents and Carers.

Our AGM will now take place on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm for 7.30pm start, in School.



**PTFA AGM new date:  
 Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7pm**

If you are interested in the role of Chair or Secretary, please complete the Nomination Form and return it to [ptfa@furzeplatt.net](mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net) ASAP. Or email us if you would like to learn more about what is involved!

**AGM NOMINATION FORM**

We always welcome new ideas and suggestions to raise funds for our children, so please get in touch by email or through Facebook as soon as possible.

We will also be making the 200 Club draw at the meeting - the good news is that now you still have time to sign up using the link below.

**200 CLUB - MONTHLY DONATION**

Please also don't forget easy fundraising when you shop on line and access the websites via the easy fundraising portal - literally free money for us at no cost to you:

[WWW.EASYFUNDRAISING.ORG.UK](http://WWW.EASYFUNDRAISING.ORG.UK)

**BAR HELPERS REQUIRED  
 FOR SCHOOL MUSICAL,  
 OLIVER JR!**

**WE NEED  
 YOUR HELP**



**3 evenings:**

**Tuesday 11th, Wednesday 12th,  
 Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February**



Doors and bar open from 6.30pm.

Setup from 5pm. Clear up from 9pm

No maths required (we use an electronic till!)  
 (Shopping and admin being covered by PTFA committee)

Even if you can only volunteer for part of an evening we would still love to hear from you.

**Get in touch with your availability by email:**

[PTFA@FURZEPLATT.NET](mailto:PTFA@FURZEPLATT.NET)

**or message us on Facebook:**

**PTFA FACEBOOK**

Have a good weekend  
 Your PTFA



# RA

## Call for entries

An exciting opportunity for students aged 4–18, who are living and studying in the UK, to exhibit their artwork on site or online at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Open for submissions  
6 January – 5 March 2025

Find out more and enter  
[royalacademyofarts.org.uk/youngartists](https://royalacademyofarts.org.uk/youngartists)  
#RAYoungArtists

# Young Artists' Summer Show

# 2025

If you would like to enter, please see Mr Bahra in Ar1 for more information.

Royal Academy of Arts



Made possible by Robin Hambro



Elevate Education's Spring Term

## Parent Webinar Series

Elevate Education delivers high-impact workshops to our students that help to develop their study skills, motivation, and exam preparation. Over the next term, you're invited to join their parent webinar series, where you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.

### ***How to Help Your Child Improve Their Note Taking***

21st January 6:00pm

### ***How You Can Make Technology an Ally (& Not the Enemy!)***

4th February 6:00pm

### ***How You Can Help Your Child Prepare for Exams***

11th March 6:00pm

### ***How You Can Support Your Child During Exams***

25th March 6:00pm

Register today at: <https://go.elevateeducation.com/ukschoolwebinar>

LITTLE FISHES  
PRESCHOOL

# QUIZ NIGHT

LITTLE FISHES FUNDRAISING QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 8th March 2025

Doors and bar open at 7pm

Quiz starts at 8pm

Finished by 10.30pm

With special guest  
Quizmaster Mr. T from  
Furze Platt Primary  
Federation

Furze Platt War  
Memorial Hall

Teams of  
up to  
6 people

Licensed  
Bar

Please feel free to  
order a takeaway  
too!

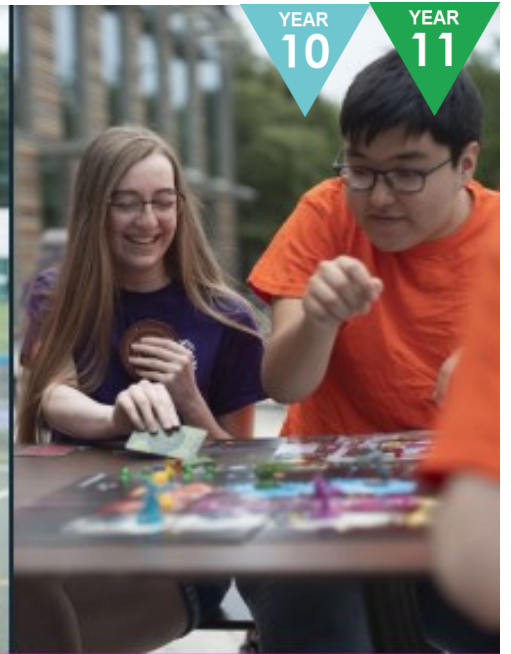
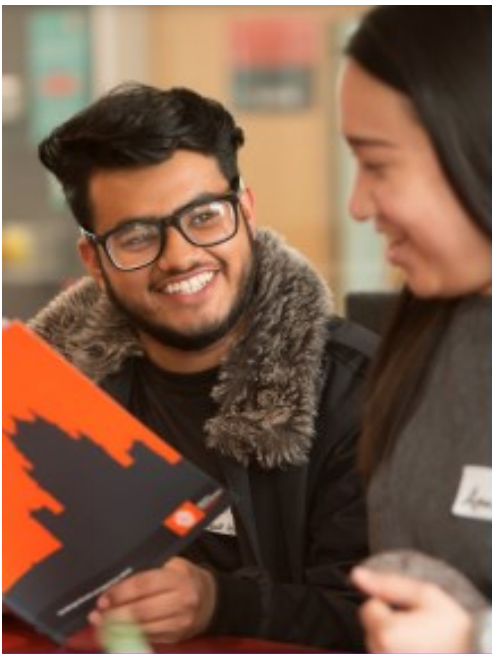
£10 per person  
Includes free  
drink token

Scan here to buy tickets



All proceeds to go to Little Fishes Pre-School

Registered Charity Number: 1070343



YEAR  
10

YEAR  
11

# Join us for Spring University at Royal Holloway



## Experience what university life is like

Wednesday 9 April – Friday 11 April 2025  
for Years 10 and 11

- Enjoy subject taster sessions and social activities
- Meet current Royal Holloway students and new friends from other schools
- Explore our campus, just a 40-minute train ride from London
- Stay in student accommodation



This opportunity is free  
to eligible students.  
Scan the QR code to  
find out more.

**Apply by 31 January 2025**

In partnership with



# TOM DEAN MBE SWIM SCHOOL

NEWLANDS LEISURE CENTRE  
SWIM LESSONS



[TOMDEANSWIMSCHOOL.COM](http://TOMDEANSWIMSCHOOL.COM)



[ENQUIRIES@TOMDEANSWIMSCHOOL.COM](mailto:ENQUIRIES@TOMDEANSWIMSCHOOL.COM)



FARM RD, MAIDENHEAD, SL6 5JB



SCAN THE QR  
CODE AND  
JOIN NOW

**NEW  
VENUE**





# TIME TO FOCUS

FURZE PLATT LEISURE CENTRE

# JOIN US TODAY

ENQUIRE NOW



SCAN THE QR CODE

Make a commitment to yourself in 2025. Our Single Site membership comes with brand-new perks to help you make the most of your fitness membership.