

# FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #75.7



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Parents and Carers,

### Welcome Back

Welcome to a busy term with numerous activities within and beyond the classroom. We have got right back to business this week with Hospitality and Catering examinations, as well as GCSE Music performances. There is much more to follow notably the Year 10 PPEs next week and our Easter Ski Trip for which the parent information evening was held on Wednesday. As ever, FPSS is offering a huge range of activities so please do encourage your child to try new experiences, as well as working hard.



### Williams F1

This week our second group visited Williams F1. I hear the group had a great time accomplishing STEM challenges and enjoying the simulators. Many thanks to Rebecca Lake for securing these visits and to all the staff who have accompanied them.



### New Colleagues

At the start of the new term, we welcome several new colleagues to FPSS. Miss Michelle Barraclough joins us as Head of Music, Ms Erin Dunbar joins our PE team, while we also welcome new Technology technicians, Ms Jenni Costello and Miss Lara Vellas.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT WEEK (Week 1)

ALL EVENTS

<b>WED 26</b> FEBRUARY	Ski Trip Parents Information Evening	6.30pm - 7.30pm
<b>FORTHCOMING EVENTS</b>		
<b>SAT 8</b> MARCH	Silver DofE Training Day	8am - 1pm
<b>THU 13</b> MARCH	Year 8 Parents' and Students' Consultation Evening	3.45pm - 7.45pm
<b>FRI 14</b> MARCH	Late Start	9.15am start

SCHOOL TERM DATES

### Fond Farewell

Finally, today we say goodbye to Steve Atkins who has been our fantastic Technology technician since 2009. Steve has supported many students over his years at FPSS helping them create the fantastic products we see made in the department. What is impressive is that Steve has provided this help at a time many of us will be retired. Steve turns 80 next week and we wish him all the best for his future retirement.

Take care,

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



## YEAR 8 PARENTS' EVENING



### Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Students will begin their day with **Period 1 at 8:45 am** instead of their usual form time. To ensure a prompt start, all students should arrive on the school site by **8:40 am**.

The day will follow the regular five-lesson schedule, concluding at **2:45 pm**. This adjustment has been made to support preparations for the upcoming **Year 8 Parents' Evening**.

#### Thursday Schedule:

- Period 1: 8:45–9:45 am
- Period 2: 9:45–10:45 am
- Break 1: 10:45–11:15 am
- Period 3: 11:15 am–12:15 pm
- Period 4: 12:15–1:15 pm
- Break 2: 1:15–1:45 pm
- Period 5: 1:45–2:45 pm

The Year 8 Parents Evening will commence at 3.45 pm in the Theatre and Main Hall.

We kindly ask that you make arrangements for any end-of-day collection for your child to ensure a smooth dismissal at 2:45 pm.

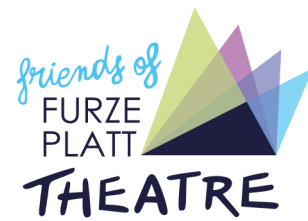
### Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March

There will be a late start on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Students should arrive on the school site by 9:05 am and go straight to their first lesson.

Best wishes,

Miss Rebecca Lake (NPQH)

Deputy Headteacher



## 'WE'VE GOT IT COVERED' LIVE CHARITY GIG IN AID OF THAMES HOSPICE - FRIDAY 2ND MAY, FPSS THEATRE. 7PM - 11PM

Put on your dancing shoes and come and enjoy a fantastic evening of music from across the decades with Panic Lounge and Crazy Donkey. And it's all for charity! Every penny from every ticket AND all bar profits will go directly to Thames Hospice.

Venue capacity is limited, so get your tickets early to avoid disappointment. Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.

The link for booking is here <https://app.goodhub.com/thameshospice> and there's a QR code on the graphic

We will have a street food van and an alcohol licence. Tokens for these can be purchased with the ticket on the above link.

[www.paniclounge.com](http://www.paniclounge.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/crazydonkeyband/>

**PANIC lounge**

**FRIDAY MAY 02**

**WE'VE GOT IT COVERED**

**CHARITY CONCERT**

**LIVE AT FURZE PLATT THEATRE**

IN AID OF **Thames hospice**

SPECIAL GUEST SUPPORT: **CRAZY DONKEY**

LICENSED BAR • STREET FOOD

**TICKETS £10 / £5**

OPEN AT 7 PM TILL END

FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL  
MAIDENHEAD, SL6 7NQ

PRINCIPAL SPONSORS: **FURZE PLATT & Blue Sky**

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR DETAILS AND TO BUY TICKETS IN ADVANCE



## EQUIPMENT & PUNCTUALITY

We kindly ask you to take a moment to ensure your child is well-equipped for their learning. It is crucial that your child arrives at school prepared with a complete pencil case containing pens, pencils, ruler, eraser, sharpener, and a scientific calculator. Additionally, please ensure they bring their laptop along with its charger, enabling them to fully engage in their learning activities.

We would also like to take a moment to emphasise the importance of punctuality in ensuring your child's success at Furze Platt Senior School. Arriving on the school site no later than 8:35 am is crucial to instilling punctuality in your child's routine.

Your support in reinforcing positive routines and habits for your child's learning journey is invaluable. Together, we can ensure they have the tools they need to thrive academically and make the most of their educational experience.

Thank you once again for your continued support and cooperation.

Warm regards,

Ms R Lake

Deputy Headteacher

**elevate**  
education



### FREE PARENT WEBINAR: HELPING YOUR CHILD PREPARE FOR EXAMS

It was great to see such a high turnout for our last webinar - we had over 2300 parents join us, with **79 parents** from Furze Platt Senior School!

Our next live webinar is perfect for those parents looking for some more exam-specific advice. Focusing on exam preparation, we'll be walking attendees through some easy-to-action strategies to help their child face assessments with confidence.

We're excited to announce that Elevate Education will be hosting their next parent webinar on exam preparation on March 11th.

Elevate works with our students, delivering high-impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series, you'll learn how you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.

Sign up for the session below to learn how you can maximise your child's marks in exams by helping them to prioritise the work that really matters over the next few weeks.

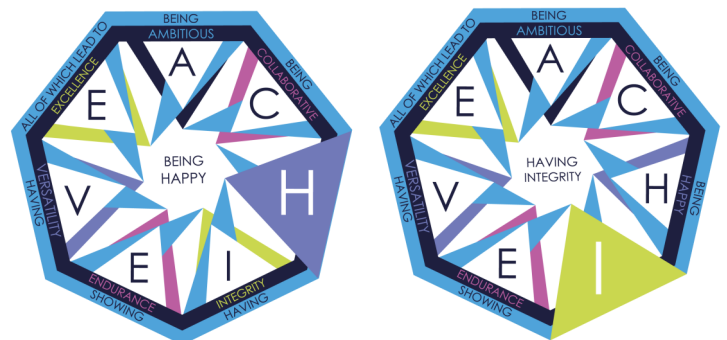
#### How You Can Help Your Child Prepare for Exams Tuesday 11th March 6:00-7:00pm (GMT)

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

- Prioritising your child's high-impact work to maximise marks
- Improving your child's time management to avoid last-minute preparation
- Helping your child study effectively using past papers

We hope to see you there!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR FREE](#)



## FURZE PLATT TEN BE READY TO LEARN



1. Black Pens

2. Pencils

3. Ruler

4. Eraser

5. Pencil Sharpener

6. Scientific Calculator

7. Highlighter

8. Maths Set

9. Glue Stick

10. Fully Charged Laptop

PUT THEM ALL IN  
A PENCIL CASE



## DOFE

We have been delighted to give recognition to the 169 students who gain either their Bronze, Silver or Gold DofE certificates and badges recently. This is a fantastic achievement and embodies our **ACHIEVE** values.

Can we take the opportunity to thank all staff involved by running expeditions, providing assessor reports or opportunities for students to complete sections as well as generally keeping students motivated.





## WILLIAMS FORMULA 1 STEM RACE DAY – YEAR 7 ENRICHMENT TRIP

YEAR  
7

Some of our Year 7 students recently had an exciting opportunity to visit Williams Racing F1 for a STEM Race Day, designed to bring science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to life in the world of motorsport. The day included hands-on activities such as the Williams Composites Challenge, an Esports simulator experience, and a guided tour of the Williams Racing Museum. One of the highlights was the chance to try out the racing simulators, where students had great fun experiencing the precision and skill required to drive like a professional. This unique experience helped them see how STEM subjects are applied in real-world settings, making their learning even more engaging and relevant.

Beyond the exciting activities, the trip was a valuable personal development opportunity, encouraging students to think about their futures and explore career possibilities within motorsport and engineering. A Q&A session with Williams Racing professionals gave insight into the diverse roles within the industry, from engineering and aerodynamics to data analysis and esports. Many students left feeling inspired, with a greater appreciation for STEM subjects and the career pathways they can lead to. It was a fantastic experience, and we look forward to providing more enrichment opportunities like this in the future.

Miss R Lake

Deputy Headteacher



YEAR 7 YEAR 8 YEAR 9

SAVE THE DATE!

FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

# SCIENCE FAIR

MONDAY 7TH 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

**28 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 7th 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 S10

## SCIENCE CELEBRATION AT FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL: AN EXCITING UPDATE FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Mark your calendars for our **Science Celebration on July 7**—open to all students in Years 7, 8, and 9! Whether you're a curious student ready to dive into a project or a supportive parent cheering from the sidelines, we want everyone involved in this fantastic event. We already have four proposals on the go and plenty of brilliant ideas buzzing about—so let's keep that momentum going!

### New Extended Deadline for Project Submissions and Weekly drop-in sessions

- Good news! In response to numerous student requests, we have extended the submission deadline to **February 28**, right after half-term. This gives students extra time to refine their ideas or kick-start new projects.
- Weekly Drop-In Sessions:** Starting **February 25**, Dr. Wyatt will host a lunchtime drop-in **every Tuesday in Room S4**. Come along if you need extra guidance or want to bounce ideas off classmates.

Cont. on page 6

## Why Your Participation Matters

- **For Students:** This is your chance to let your creativity shine and showcase your scientific discoveries. From designing experiments to presenting results, you'll learn valuable skills—and have fun along the way!
- **For Parents:** Your involvement can be as simple as asking about your child's progress, helping them source safe materials, or encouraging them if they hit a roadblock. This support not only builds confidence but can spark a lifelong passion for science.

## How You Can Support and Prepare

- **Ask Questions & Brainstorm:** Students, talk through your ideas with friends and family. Parents, ask how their project is going—sometimes a simple question can unlock fresh insights.
- **Gather Resources:** Make sure you have any materials or resources you need. Parents can help track down safe, affordable supplies.
- **Celebrate Progress:** Keep track of each milestone. A quick check-in or a "Well done!" can go a long way in keeping motivation high.

## Get in Touch

If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact me at [marina.wyatt@furzeplatt.net](mailto:marina.wyatt@furzeplatt.net). We look forward to seeing what incredible projects you'll bring to life. Let's come together as a science community to explore, discover, and shine!



## ALUMNI NEWS

### Fantastic news from two of our ex students this week!

Craig Johnston is in the semi-finals of the Roux Scholarship to find Britain's best young chef. Already crowned 'Masterchef: The Professionals' winner in 2017, he subsequently worked at The Boathouse at Boulton's Lock and the former Royal Oak in Paley Street (now The Braywick) before becoming Head Chef at Marcus in 2021. He currently works at London's Michelin starred Angler Restaurant as Head Chef.



In a previous interview Craig said: "I first became interested at an early age but I didn't really click in my head as something I'd want to do as a career, until I was cooking at [Furze Platt Secondary] School and realised I was good at it. I was always quiet at school but encouragement from my Food Tech teacher led me into this career."

Sporting superstar Frank McGrath won a Silver medal in the English National Cross Country Championships with PB Racing Squad last week. This adds to a fantastic tally of medals this season as Frank has also recently won Gold at the South of England Championships and Silver at the All Ireland Cross Country Championships.

You can read more about Craig and Frank in this week's Maidenhead Advertiser.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE ARTICLE ABOUT CRAIG](#)

[READ MORE ABOUT HIS WORK HERE](#)

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE ARTICLE ABOUT FRANK](#)

[FOR MORE ALUMNI NEWS PLEASE CLICK HERE](#)

## SCHOOL CLUBS

### Term 4

Parents and carers of students in all year groups will have received invitations on Friday 14th February to book clubs for their son/daughter for this term.

[SCHOOL CLUBS WEBPAGE](#)





## GETTING INTO THE ANIMAL FLOW

Animal Flow is a ground-based movement system that uses animal poses, crawling patterns, and transitions to improve strength, flexibility, and mobility. Students were fully engaged in their animal flow introduction morning with Mr Tipp earlier this week.



## BASKETBALL

In another morning club, the students were expanding their Basketball techniques with Mr Tipp, exploring the driving phase of a lay up.



## HANDBALL

Handball is one of our many sports on offer to our students. This week's focus, expertly explained by Mr Corbett, was the art of "driving" to the goal in handball for Years 7-9.



## GARDENING CLUB

Gardening club was out planting wildlife friendly hazel trees by our new security fences this week. In fact this term we will be out planting lots of trees as our woodland trust order arrives next week! Please encourage students to join us every Tuesday after school, meeting in room S12. Duke of Edinburgh volunteers are very

welcome and we are always happy to complete the assessor report.



## TRAVEL & TOURISM - WINDSOR CASTLE VISIT

Our Travel & Tourism group had an incredible visit to Windsor Castle, diving into royal history and gaining valuable insights for their course. This hands-on experience enhances our understanding of heritage tourism and visitor engagement!







# COLLEGE TRANSITION

An informal session regarding what to expect for your young person with (SEND or an EHCP) when they transfer to college. We will be joined by Laura Peters from the Windsor Forest college Group a representative from the Preparing for Adulthood team, AfC.

TUESDAY  
25 MARCH

TIME  
10 -1130AM   
\*OPEN FROM 9.30 FOR A CUPPA

@ RIVERSIDE CHILDRENS' CENTRE,  
WEST DEAN, MAIDENHEAD SL6 7JB

Reserve your free place via [www.ias-rbwm.info/events](http://www.ias-rbwm.info/events)

IAS PDF LEAFLET



# PANCAKIE BAR STREET FOOD POP UP OF THE MONTH

## 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025



## PANCAKIE BAR - MENU -

Homemade Pancakes  
with sample accompaniment  
**(G,Mk,E)**

Lemon and Sugar  
Chocolate Sauce **(Mk,Su)**  
Berry Compote  
Marshmallows  
Cinnamon Sugar

All Served at £1.20

Ce = Celery F = Fish L = Lupin Ma = Mustard Se = Sesame Seeds  
Cr = Crustacean G = Cereals containing Gluten Mk = Milk N = Nuts So = Soya  
E = Eggs Mo = Molluscs P = Peanuts Su = Sulphur Dioxide

# ABBA

ABBA RE-BJÖRN LIVE

ULTIMATE DISCO NIGHT

FRI 21ST MARCH - 7PM-11PM

Experience the UK's ultimate ABBA tribute, ABBA Re-Björn Live, performing at the Baylis Theatre, Braywick Leisure Centre.

Get ready to dance the night away to your favourite ABBA hits and supporting disco DJs spinning decade hopping hits!

BOOK YOUR  
TICKETS NOW!



PROUDLY ASSOCIATED WITH

Braywick Leisure Centre  
LEISURE FOCUS

COPAS  
DURING HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA

EARLY  
BIRD  
TICKETS  
£15



# From dress sale

New and Preloved Dresses

25th February 2025  
6PM-8:30PM

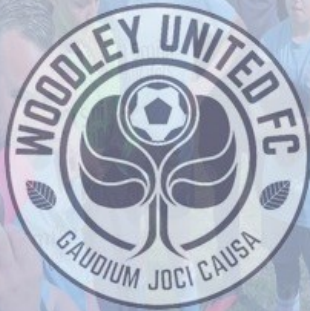
£30 AND UNDER

The Cowshed  
Rubra 2,  
Mulberry Business Park  
Fishpond Road  
Wokingham  
RG41 2GY  
0118 934 5120

THE COWSHED



## U13 GIRLS WANTED



WOODLEY UNITED U13 GIRLS (CURRENT YEARS 7 & 8) ARE LOOKING FOR NEW PLAYERS FOR THIS SEASON AND NEXT

WE PLAY IN DIV 1 IN THE BERKSHIRE COUNTY GIRLS LEAGUE AND CAN OFFER UEFA 'C' LEVEL COACHING

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND A TRAINING SESSION, PLEASE CONTACT

[gavin.cox@bookerretail.co.uk](mailto:gavin.cox@bookerretail.co.uk) OR 07879812957 FOR MORE INFORMATION

# 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 School  
Federation

Furze Platt War  
Memorial Hall



£10 per person  
Includes free  
drink token

Teams of  
up to  
6 people

Licensed bar  
available all evening.  
Bring your own  
snacks or order a  
takeout to be  
delivered.

## NEW TEEN PILATES

GIRLS AGE 13 -16

STARTING  
MARCH 6TH  
DAY: THURSDAY  
TIME: 16.15 - 17.05  
VENUE: ST PETERS  
CHURCH, FURZE  
PLATT, SL6 7QU

6 week course  
March 6th -  
April 10th

ONLY 8 SPACES

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



CLICK HERE TO BOOK TEEN PILATES OR CALL  
07938588029



LEISURE FOCUS  
OPERATING AGENT FOR

GRAND COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

CALLING ALL LOCAL  
BUSINESSES

JOIN OUR FESTIVITIES

SCAN HERE

FURZE PLATT LEISURE CENTRE

JOIN THE TEAM

APPLY TODAY

EMAIL:  
FURZEPLATT@LEISUREFOCUS.ORG.UK

elevate  
education

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>

URBAN STRIDES

**Inspirational Urban Strides Street Dance classes at Furze Platt School!**

**Wednesday Nights:**  
7:00pm-8:00pm (Beginners)  
8:00pm-9:00pm (Intermediates)

Contact us to book your place:  
[classes@urbanstrides.com](mailto:classes@urbanstrides.com)  
(All places must be booked before attending)

**PASSION . POSITIVITY . PROGRESS!**