

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #73.11



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Parents and Carers,

Election 2024

Congratulations Joshua Reynolds MP

I would like to start this week's newsletter by congratulating our new MP for Maidenhead, Josh Reynolds. To have an ex-FPSS student become our MP is a fantastic inspiration to our students showing the impact they can have on their community.



I wish Josh well as he takes up his new role in Parliament.

Since the election was announced our staff and student teams, led by Mr Colmer, Head of History and Politics, have been enthusiastically educating our community on the election. This has included our recent Hustings with the Maidenhead candidates, election videos and cumulated on Thursday with students voting.

I would like to thank all staff and students involved in educating and modelling how our democracy works, as well as highlighting the various positions of the political parties. In five years most of our students will be eligible to vote and I know that they are better prepared to take that responsibility.

Welcoming our new Year 7

This week we had the pleasure of welcoming our new Year 7 students to FPSS on Tuesday and Wednesday. It was a delight to see how well they managed the two days, mixing with students from other schools and getting to know our staff. They made a great impression on our staff, and we look forward to them starting in September.

Performing Arts Showcase

On Wednesday I had the joy of watching Dance, Drama and Music performances from our Key Stage 3 students. Alongside the classics of Antigone and Macbeth, there were various comedies and beautiful pieces of music. Thanks to everyone who supported the Showcase.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL EVENTS

Forthcoming Events

SAT 6 JULY	PTFA Second Hand Uniform Sale	11am-2pm
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Next Week (Week 2)

MON 8 JULY	Track Events Sports Day	
TUE 9 JULY	INSET Day	
WED 10 - FRI 12 JULY	DofE Silver Assessment Expedition	
TUE 11 - FRI 12 JULY	DofE Bronze Assessment Expedition	
THU 11 JULY	Art Show	6-7.30pm

SCHOOL TERM DATES

Year 9 and 10 Enrichment

Building upon last week's events for Year 7 and 8, this week we had our Enrichment Afternoons for Years 9 and 10. Walking around site there was a tremendous array of activities. Thank you to the many staff who led these sessions as well as our students for trying something different.

Next week

Good luck to all our student competing in Sports Day on Monday, as well as embarking on their Duke of Edinburgh Silver and Bronze expeditions later in the week. A reminder that Tuesday 9th July is an INSET day and the school will be closed for all year groups; and our PTFA second hand uniform sale takes place this Saturday, 6th July from 11-2.

Take care,

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

YEARS 8, 9 AND 10 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 directly to Go 4 Schools www.go4schools.com and selecting Parents or by clicking the link below which takes you to our website and includes our latest Guidance to Grading document.

[CLICK HERE FOR INFORMATION ON REPORTS AND GUIDANCE TO GRADING](#)

Mrs K Avery, Data Manager

ART AND TECHNOLOGY

GCSE AND A LEVEL END OF YEAR EXHIBITION

THURSDAY 11TH JULY 6-7.30PM

You are warmly invited to attend our End of Year Art and Technology Exhibition which showcases work from our very talented GCSE and A-Level students.

We look forward to seeing you there.



No photography permitted at the event.

ATTENDANCE FOCUS



EVERY DAY COUNTS

Thank you for all your efforts in support with medical appointments following our previous correspondence.

ATTENDANCE PROTOCOLS

Heading towards the final weeks of this school year, consistent attendance enables our students to build upon their knowledge, academic progress and form positive relationships with their peers and teachers. Thank you for your continued efforts.

We look forward to acknowledging our 'Attendance Superstars' in the end of year celebration assembly.

The Attendance Team

YEAR 6 TASTER DAYS

YEAR 6

This week we welcomed two hundred and sixty Year 6 students from thirty-three different primary schools who will be joining our Furze Platt Senior School community in September as our new Year 7 cohort.

Across the two days, students were given the opportunity to meet new staff and fellow students, participate in taster lessons and complete a tour of the school, as well as competing in our ACHIEVE House competition. Students were also fortunate enough to be welcomed by Berkshire Music Trust for an afternoon workshop in our theatre.

These students all demonstrated our core values as a school and took every opportunity in their stride, and at the end of Day 2, we announced the winners of our ACHIEVE House competition:

1st Place – Hawks * 2nd place – Ospreys

3rd Place – Falcons * 4th Place – Eagles



We also announced our top students who received the most reward points. Many congratulations to:

1st Place – Immy R * 2nd Place – Poppy S

Joint 3rd Place – Kavin P / Millie C

4th Place – Jamie M * Joint 5th Place – Freddie R / Mason N



We are thrilled with the way Year 6 participated in the transition days and we look forward to welcoming all our new Year 7 students in September.



CHESS COMPETITION WINNERS

Congratulations to our Year 9 Chess team who won the Slough Schools' Chess Championship this week!

Held at St Joseph's Catholic High School in Slough, the boys swept the board(s) to victory with a final score of 3 1/2 - meaning they won 13 games and drew one, a really brilliant result.

The team:

- Mavrick Yu
- David Yakubovich
- Joshua Ritchie
- Alfie Mabe



SPORTING SUPERSTARS

This week we had more talented students competing at sporting events. Four of our Year 7 students went to Palmers Park in Reading to represent RBWM in the Berkshire Athletics trials.

Alice Greenland won the 150m finals by a massive margin.

Katie Ellis came second in High Jump. Both girls should now go through to represent Berkshire.

Amy Shuttleworth came fifth in her Long Jump.

Raffa Parracino ran a fantastic race in the 1000m after running 1500m already at sports day earlier on in the day.

Well done to all our competitors - these are excellent results!

Pictured: Katie and Alice.



Mr Greenhalgh, Teacher of English (and Chess!)



To the teaching teams – including teachers, cover teachers, teaching support staff, SEN staff and administrators for Year 8 and Year 10, our family would like to express their deepest gratitude for all of the hard work and support that you apply to 'go the extra mile', and all of the pupils at Furze Platt Senior School. Your work and your input truly make a difference. Thank you!

– Parents of students in Year 8 and 10

Thank a Teacher



CURRENT YEAR 7 STUDENTS

TRIP TO ST DAVIDS BUNK BARN, 9TH-12TH JUNE 2025

Following the success of this year's trip to St Davids Bunk Barns in Wales, we are delighted to invite our current Year 7 students (Year 8 by the time of the trip) to next year's trip to St Davids. Details have been sent out to parents, a deposit of £50 is required at time of booking.



CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Password = wales



YEAR 9 AND 10 ENRICHMENT

This week it was the turn of our Year 9 and 10 students to enjoy some time off the curriculum for enrichment activities.

As with our younger year groups, there was a huge range for students to choose from.

We hope they enjoyed it!



To all staff at Furze Platt, our daughter leaves Furze Platt after seven very happy years. She arrived a shy little girl and leaves an adult. The teaching staff that have been part of her journey have had a vast input to that. She has been so happy, felt valued, she has been very much a part of a community that has given her security, a purpose and a routine that she'll find hard to leave.

I'm forever grateful that her time at FPSS has given her lifelong friendships and happy memories. Thank you to you all.

- The family of a Year 13 student



YEAR 12 SPORTS DAY



Our Year 12 students were fiercely competitive for their Sports Day this week!

Results will be out once all year groups have completed their events.





'To all staff at Furze Platt Senior School,
Thank you very much for everything you do.
We appreciate you and all the time and effort
you put in to making our son's school life a
happy and successful one.'

- The family of a Year 10 student

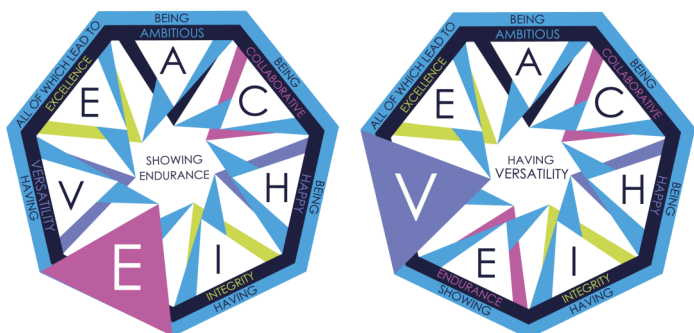


TRIP TO READING FOOTBALL CLUB

Students had a very interesting visit to Reading Football Club this week to learn about the club's history and much more.



Thank you to everyone at RFC for their time.



TERM 6 CLUBS 2024

Clubs for this term were sent out on the last day of last term (Friday 24th May).

Please note:

- * once in the list of clubs or academic support clinics, click on the name of the activity or session you wish to book and press confirm
- * please do not duplicate club bookings per session
- * students in upper years may see invitations to academic clubs that are not part of their specific academic programme; emails are sent to year groups so please only choose sessions that are relevant to your son/daughter

SCHOOL CLUB LIST

GARDENING CLUB

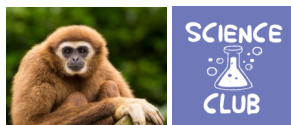


Gardening Club learnt about the leafcutter solitary bee (an important and more efficient pollinator of crops than the honey bee) and then spent some time harvesting our new potatoes and broad beans.

We look forward to seeing you back in two weeks' time as next Tuesday is an INSET day.



SCIENCE CLUB



In an exciting collaboration, our Science Club members have embarked on a mission to safeguard the future of gibbons through creativity and innovation.

Partnering with New Scientist and The LEGO Group's Build the Change program, our students have risen to the challenge of designing solutions to help gibbons thrive in their increasingly fragmented habitats.



Gibbons, known for their acrobatic tree-dwelling lifestyles and melodious calls, face numerous challenges due to deforestation and habitat fragmentation. The Science Club students dove headfirst into the task of devising practical and imaginative solutions to these complex problems.

Armed with ambition, pencils, paper, and boundless imagination, they crafted drawings that showcased their understanding of the gibbons' needs. From creating canopy bridges to facilitate safe travel, to developing innovative ways to restore and protect their natural food sources, each idea was a testament to their commitment to conservation and problem-solving.

The stakes are high as the top designs will be selected as finalists, earning the opportunity to collaborate with LEGO Master Builders at New Scientist Live 2024. This prestigious event will not only showcase their designs but also inspire future engineers from Imperial College London to turn their visions into reality.

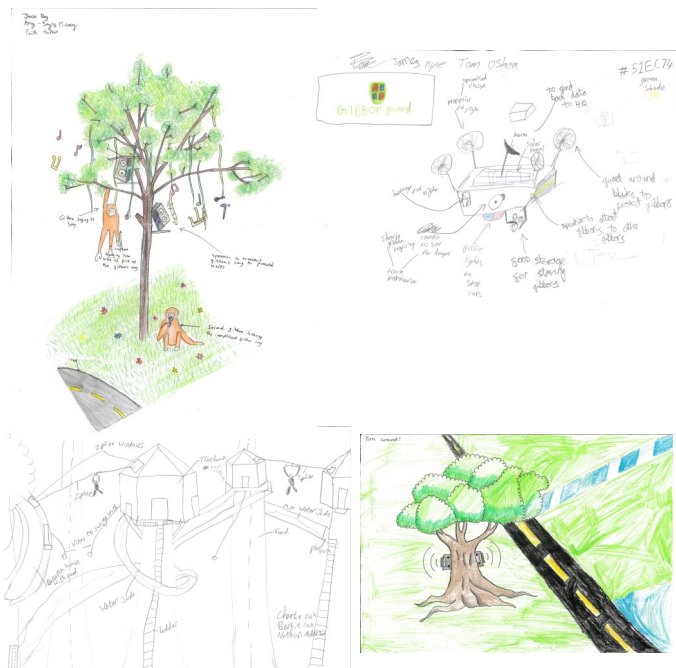
NewScientist

Moreover, the Science Club finalists and their peers will enjoy exclusive access to New Scientist Live's Schools' Day, where they can immerse themselves in the latest scientific advancements and discoveries. This experience underscores the importance of versatility in learning, encouraging our students to adapt, explore, and integrate knowledge from various scientific fields.

As our students await the results, we celebrate their dedication, creativity, and passion for making a positive impact on our planet. Their efforts not only highlight the importance of STEM education but also demonstrate the power of young minds coming together to build a better future for all species, big and small.

Stay tuned as we cheer on our Science Club finalists and eagerly anticipate the unveiling of their winning design at New Scientist Live 2024!

Dr M Wyatt, Teacher of Chemistry



TECHNOLOGY AND TEXTILES - POP ART

This term in the Technology Department one of the Textiles projects was looking at the influences of Pop Art and how we see it in everyday culture. Artists like Warhol were researched and students practiced design styles to produce bright and colourful layering of everyday objects and logos. These designs were then applied to vinyl and heat pressed onto T-Shirts with great success.

We challenged every student to produce their own unique design and as you can see from this group they all met the brief and have a garment to be proud of!

Well done to all the students this term, it is great to see so many at FPSS being creative!



WORK EXPERIENCE



Free Media Technology Summer School with Rise Academy

Rise Academy are running a one-day summer school for students in Years 7 to 13. Activities will include: building a TV studio, filming a TV show, creating graphics, editing content, exploring Virtual Production and live-streaming content.

The school lasts one day from 9am to 4pm and you need to sign up for **one** of these dates:

Mon 29th July: <https://tinyurl.com/mssf2su8>

OR Tues 30th July: <https://tinyurl.com/yhrw8e3a>

The location is the Old Vinyl Factory, 1 Record Walk, Hayes UB3 1DH. This is either a 30-minute drive from Maidenhead or very easily done by public transport, catching the Elizabeth Line from Maidenhead to Hayes and Harlington and then a 9 minute walk.



Gain work experience as a Young Leader this summer holiday at Norden Farm

If you are aged 14-17 and looking for work experience in the Arts, Norden Farm are looking for 2 leaders per week.

Tues 6th - Friday 9th August

OR Tues 13th - Friday 16th August

During the week, Young Leaders will assist with workshops and with Front of House as part of the Art Week holiday programme. They will work alongside professional artists and performers. They will also lead an end of week open workshop for local children and families.

Participation in this course can be used toward Bronze, Silver or Gold Arts Award and DofE Award.

For more information and to apply, please email jessica.thompson@nordenfarm.org

AIRBUS

Springpod 

Virtual work experience with Airbus on Springpod

Perhaps you were lucky enough to take part in the Year 9 workshops with Airbus last week?

Airbus is an international aerospace corporation and the world's largest airline manufacturer.

Aged 13 and above? You can complete the 7 hours+ virtual work experience in your own time and at your own pace. As you work your way through the various modules, you will learn about:

Commercial Aircraft

Airbus Defence & Space

Helicopters

Sustainability

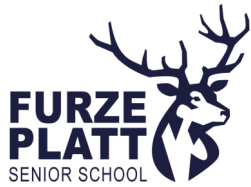
Careers Opportunities

Find out more and sign up here:

<https://www.springpod.com/virtual-work-experience/aerospace-work-experience/WEXP-00322>

'The school is rightly proud of its extra-curricular provision.'

Ofsted 2021



WE ARE HIRING

TEAM

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

Technician - Food and Nutrition

EDN/2024/FPSS/04356

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.

- 📍 Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 7NQ
- 🕒 Permanent | Part-Time
- 💷 £14,976.00 - £15,226.00 Annually (Actual)
- Part-time, 25 hours per week Mon-Fri. Term time only plus two INSET days

New • Apply by 09:00am, Wednesday 17th Jul, 2024 • Job start: 01/09/2024

Theatre and Lettings Manager

EDN/2024/FPSS/07177

We have an exciting opportunity for someone to join our team to further grow the range and number of events within our Theatre, maximising the benefits for both the school and the community. We are...

- 📍 Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 7NQ
- 🕒 Permanent | Part-Time
- 💷 £18,389.00 - £21,496.00 Annually (Actual)
- Part time, 22.5 hours per week. Term time only plus two weeks.

3 Days Remaining • Apply by 09:00am, Monday 8th Jul, 2024

Learning Support Assistant

EDN/2024/FPSS/39792

We are looking for enthusiastic and reliable individuals to join our core Learning Support team to provide targeted support to our students with Special Educational Needs. This role is term...

- 📍 Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 7NQ
- 🕒 Permanent | Part-Time/Full-Time
- 💷 £22,413.19 - £23,967.42 Annually (Actual)
- Part-time and/or Job Share considered. Term time only plus two INSET days.

3 Days Remaining • Apply by 09:00am, Monday 8th Jul, 2024 • Job start: September



Contact us Email:
ptfa@furzeplatt.net

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL?

GRAND UNIFORM SALE - SATURDAY 6th JULY 11AM-2PM IN MU2

The PTFA annual Preloved Uniform Sale will be offering logo'd PE kit and daywear at reasonable prices. Bring your children to try on the clothing and your carrier bags. Arrive from 11am to grab a few bargains; cash and bank transfers accepted.



We encourage the recycling, reuse and repurpose of goods so this event is ecologically, economically and environmentally friendly. All funds raised go towards supporting your child's school experiences.

Thank you so much to everybody who responded to our appeal for help with the sale.

We can always use more helpers, especially on the day of the sale itself, so there's still time to sign up - please email ptfasecretary@furzeplatt.net

TO APPLY FOR THESE ROLES PLEASE CLICK HERE





Join GCSEPod for 2024's Olympic themed SummerPod. A fun programme to help you prepare and get ahead for next academic year.

We'll be helping you to sprint to success, with two weeks of learning fun and interactive webinars to help you start next academic year in first place.

Simply use the registration links below to register your place.

Live Events: Students

11am, Monday 29th July

Olympic Mindset: Train your Brain

Helping to prepare current Year 9 students who are moving into Year 10 and beginning their GCSE journey.

[Watch](#)

Students

11am, Monday 5th August

Going for Gold

Prepare to move into your final GCSE year by learning good habits and looking after your wellbeing.

[Watch](#)

Parents

5pm, Wednesday 31st July

GCSEPod Essentials: A Parent Introduction

Learn about how GCSEPod can support your child on their GCSE journey.

[Watch](#)

Parents

5pm, Wednesday 7th August

GCSE Insights Unplugged

Join our easy-going chat with 3 parents to delve further into the world of GCSEs from a parent's perspective.

[Watch](#)

If you have any queries about GSEPod please contact debbie.feather@furzeplatt.net

LEISURE FOCUS

GET FIT

THIS SUMMER

£28 for 28 days of
gym access at :

- Cox Green Leisure Centre
- Furze Platt Leisure Centre
- Charters Leisure Centre



SCAN
ME!





Roots and branches

Building the community together

Maidenhead PCN Roots and Branches proudly present a Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Seminar.

Tuesday 16th July 10-12

St Marks Hospital Maidenhead in the large conference room. (Head to the Courtyard café and a member of the team will meet you there)

Speakers include: Getting Help Team (CAMHS, Low Mood and Depression), Kooth (Online Counselling Support), No 22 (Local Counselling Service) and our CYP and Families Social Prescribers

If this is of interest, please respond to this poster via email with confirmation that you would like to attend to

be-pct.socialprescribing@nhs.net

If for any reason you cannot make this seminar, please give 48 hours' notice so we can offer your place to another parent in the community.

We look forward to seeing you there.



JUL 13TH: JAZ DELOREAN

Pianist and singer with touring band 'Tankus the Henge' Jaz Delorean joins us for an evening of soulful music!

He'll pull at your heartstrings, and get you dancing to the rhythms of his fingers and forgetting your worries with his charismatic music.

JUL 18TH: CABARET NIGHT

Local talent Rob Castell presents his Cabaret Night with special guest Daisy Wood-Davis.

Daisy is a dazzling performer who has starred in many theatre productions, including Dreamboats and Petticoats, Hair The Musical, Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, and The Rocky Horror Show.



AUG 22ND: ANDREW BOURN

Singing sensation Andrew Bourn joins us with his 5 piece jazz ensemble. This will be a splendid evening of swinging jazz standards and show tunes from Sinatra to Buble!

Andrew has performed on the world's biggest stages including the London Palladium, The Royal Albert Hall and London's Hyde Park as well numerous TV performances.

GIGS & EVENTS LIVE MUSIC & BAR PRE-BOOKING REQUIRED

MORE EVENTS ONLINE!

dawkes.co.uk/live



YOUNG LEADERS

Join Norden Farm over the Summer
Holidays for hands on experience of Arts
Leadership!

We are recruiting two young leaders per week aged 14 - 17
Tuesday 6 - Friday 9 August
and
Tuesday 13 - Friday 16 August

For more information: www.nordenfarm.com

jessica.thompson@nordenfarm.org



Norden Farm
Centre for the Arts, Maidenhead