

PROSPECTUS



MESSAGE FROM THE
HEADTEACHER, DR
ANDREW MORRISON

Thank you for your interest in this remarkable school. Our school is one of the country's large number of extremely high-achieving and fully inclusive comprehensive schools. The foundations of this are our passionate students and expert teachers, who embody the ethos that set Furze Platt apart. Our students and teachers aim to **ACHIEVE excellence**. They are **ambitious** to achieve academically having the **versatility** and **endurance** to learn new skills and knowledge across a wide variety of subjects. As importantly, our students are also **ambitious** to develop themselves as people. They have **integrity** and **collaborate** with each other within and beyond lessons. By living our Furze Platt values students learn in a **happy**, positive environment in which they look out for others as for themselves, are involved in the school and local community, and care for the world around them.

Furze Platt prides itself on the many opportunities it provides through its lessons and extra-curricular activities. We are also proud of the in-built challenge for all students including the very most able, coupled with the support and sensitivity shown to all. We consider ourselves very fortunate with our first-class teaching, sporting and drama facilities. You will find further information on these – and more – over the coming pages. I hope you feel inspired by what we do, offer and achieve. You are very welcome to visit and see this remarkable school for yourself during one of our many tours or open mornings.



Dr Andrew Morrison
Headteacher

FURZE PLATT IS A
HIGHLY **AMBITIOUS**,
HIGH-**ACHIEVING**
AND FULLY **INCLUSIVE**
SCHOOL PROVIDING
AN **OUTSTANDING**
EDUCATION FOR **ALL**.



'WE ARE DELIGHTED
WITH FURZE PLATT
AND WOULD HAPPILY
RECOMMEND IT TO
ALL.'

-PARENT SURVEY 2019



'THE QUALITY OF
TEACHING AND LEARNING
IS STRONG. TEACHERS'
STRONG SUBJECT
KNOWLEDGE AND GOOD
BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT
SKILLS HELP PUPILS TO
LEARN EFFECTIVELY.'

-OFSTED 2016

AMBITIOUS COLLABORATIVE HAPPY INTEGRITY ENDURANCE VERSATILITY EXCELLENCE



INSPIRATIONAL AND ASPIRATIONAL TEACHING

Lessons at Furze Platt are relevant, motivating and challenging. Teachers at Furze Platt are passionate and committed subject experts, with excellent degree qualifications in their subjects. They know students well and regularly go the extra mile to stretch or support students. They systematically develop in students the essential Furze Platt values which help ensure members of our community **ACHIEVE** excellence. Encouraged by our school values and ethos we aim for learners to be working hard and happily all of the time, and this is achieved through a philosophy we call 'Room at the Top.' We have high expectations of young people, and believe that by systematically encouraging students to be confident and believe in themselves, they can achieve even more. Our lessons are pitched high, and our expert teachers – supported where appropriate by learning

support assistants – provide support as necessary. Teachers are encouraged to use an appropriate range of teaching strategies, including technology-based learning, active or research-based learning, and 'flipped learning' – where learners find the facts out at home, and spend the lesson exploring and evaluating the implications of what they have learnt.

Home Learning is an integral part of the Furze Platt experience, since it teaches young people independence, research skills and organisational skills. The school runs both 'Supervised Study' sessions after school, for those who want to complete home learning in school, and a 'Home Learning Clinic,' where those who find home learning hard are given extra support.

OUR EXCITING AND CHALLENGING CURRICULUM

At Furze Platt we recognise that students are motivated and achieve well when they have an exciting range of rigorous and challenging subjects to study. Our curriculum is broad and rich at Key Stage 3, and allows increasing specialisation and choice at Key Stages 4 and 5.

Key Stage 3 – Years 7-9

In Key Stage 3 students take a wide range of subjects including English, Maths, three Sciences, three separate Humanities subjects, PE, Computing and IT, Art, Design Technology, Food and Nutrition, Drama, Dance and Music. In addition, all students take French, as well as either Spanish or German. This broad and exciting curriculum gives them an excellent foundation for taking their GCSE subjects from Year 10 onwards.

Key Stage 4 – Years 10 and 11

In Key Stage 4 students take GCSEs in English Language and Literature and Maths. Students choose between three separate Science qualifications (Biology, Physics and Chemistry), and 'Combined' Science, which counts for two qualifications. Students then take four further subjects, from a wide choice including two different Computing and ICT qualifications, three different Humanities subjects, all three languages, and Business Studies. Additionally, we offer

a wide variety of practical and creative subjects, including Music, Dance, Drama, Art, Product Design, Food and Nutrition, along with four vocational subjects – Child Development, Travel and Tourism, Construction and Health and Fitness.

Key Stage 5 – Years 12 and 13

The significant majority of students continue their studies in the Sixth Form. In Years 12 and 13 students choose from over 30 different courses across three different pathways.

'THE PRIZES THAT SCHOOL GIVES FOR MERITS OF WORK ARE VERY EFFECTIVE. IT ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO CONTINUE STRIVING.'

-PARENT SURVEY 2019



AMBITIOUS COLLABORATIVE HAPPY INTEGRITY ENDURANCE VERSATILITY EXCELLENCE



'PUPILS' PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND HEALTH NEEDS ARE PROMOTED WELL THROUGH A BROAD RANGE OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. PUPILS ENJOY MANY SPORTING AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES. SOME ACTIVITIES ARE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO CHALLENGE PUPILS AND DEEPEN THEIR LEARNING, ESPECIALLY THE MOST ABLE PUPILS.'

-OFSTED 2016

THE WIDER CURRICULUM AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

For many at Furze Platt, the school day ends not at 3.15 but nearer 5pm. Each week over 50 extra-curricular activities are on offer. These include an array of music groups, from boys' choirs to percussion, from ukulele band to full orchestra, and culminate in concerts held throughout the year. The quality of extra-curricular drama is similarly exceptional, with many after school performances for students of all years, plus the annual school musical. The school is rightly proud of its sporting success, with football, rugby, hockey and netball practice and matches in the winter, and athletics and tennis in the summer, while students benefit from the stunning Furze Platt Leisure Centre facilities until 4.30pm each day. Students can also attend one of the cooking and baking clubs or one of the subject-based revision classes.

Each May and June Year 7 students have the opportunity to spend three days at Osmington Bay in Dorset, learning skills, making friends, and showing kindness and consideration to those around them. The school also runs a major programme of evening, day and residential trips in Britain and abroad. These include theatre visits, Geography and History fieldwork visits, and Biology and Geography research visits to Nettlecombe in Somerset. Furze Platt students also enjoy ski trips to Italy, battlefield tours to France and Belgium, language visits to France, Germany and Spain, and still more adventurous tours to Iceland, Mexico, Indonesia and Borneo. Parental income is no barrier; where appropriate the school funds or subsidises educational visits to ensure that all can benefit.

'TEACHERS KNOW THE DIFFERING NEEDS OF PUPILS, AND GIVE THEM THE EXTRA SUPPORT THEY NEED TO SUCCEED. PUPILS VALUE KNOWING THAT TEACHERS WILL GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO HELP THEM.'

-OFSTED 2016

GIFTED AND TALENTED PROVISION AND OPPORTUNITIES

Furze Platt has a very significant number of highly able students. Their aspirations are to join the ranks of Furze Platt alumni and attend Oxbridge or Russell Group universities, and to embark upon the most challenging careers, including engineering, medicine, law, dentistry, computing and veterinary science. Our very able students benefit, as do all students, from top-quality teaching. Significantly more students gain the top grade 9 in English and Maths GCSE at Furze Platt than do nationally, while a third of students gain A/A* at A-Level. The school runs a wide range of extra-curricular challenges and events for the most able, including Psychology GCSE which students take in Year 9, after-school Chinese classes, entry to the Maths Olympiad and Linguistics Olympiad, attendance at regional and national Science and Maths challenges, as well as national poetry competitions.

Students with sporting, musical, theatrical and other talents are also particularly well catered for at Furze Platt. The school is especially strong in tennis, rowing, football and, more recently, swimming, and students regularly continue their chosen sport either at university in Britain or the US, or professionally. Many students also combine school study with participation in amateur or professional regional and local productions. These talented students are supported through strong school-home partnerships and regular mentoring from teaching and other staff.



SUPPORT AND CARE AT FURZE PLATT

This is a kind and caring school. We know that sometimes the journey from primary school to secondary school can seem daunting, so we do everything we can to ease that transition. We meet Year 6 students and their teachers in their primary schools and we have transition days in July, along with an induction day in September. Our students spend the first 25 minutes of each day in mixed-age 'vertical' tutor groups, where older students help and mentor younger students. And all students are members of one of our eight houses, named after towns on the Thames. Year 7 students are taught some of their lessons by their Head of House, ensuring that our new students are instantly known well. The house system develops the Furze Platt values of aspiration, motivation, confidence and consideration. Students participate in regular house

challenges, from rowing to fitness, cooking to flag naming, spelling bees to countdown. These foster pride in the house and school, and encourage students to work with and support each other.

We are also exceptionally proud of the diversity of our students. We recognise that some will find lessons challenging, and have a comprehensive support programme including a highly successful catch-up reading programme, and highly-trained learning support assistants who help break down barriers to students' learning. We are proud to host the Royal Borough's service for supporting autistic students, and recognise the great contributions that our autistic students bring to our community and our lessons.

AMBITIOUS COLLABORATIVE HAPPY INTEGRITY ENDURANCE VERSATILITY EXCELLENCE



'I AM NEW TO THIS SCHOOL AND I HAVE SETTLED IN AMAZINGLY. EVERYONE HAS BEEN SO KIND AND I REALLY FEEL AT HOME.'

-STUDENT SURVEY 2019





'WE WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE SMOOTH TRANSITION FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY - THE STAFF MANAGED THAT VERY WELL, FROM THEIR SUPPORT OF THE STUDENTS TO THE EXCELLENT INFORMATION EVENING FOR PARENTS WHICH COVERED EXACTLY WHAT WE NEEDED TO KNOW AT THAT STAGE. OUR SON SETTLED QUICKLY INTO YEAR 7 AND STEPPED UP IN INDEPENDENCE AND CONFIDENCE.'

-PARENT SURVEY 2019

AMBITIOUS COLLABORATIVE HAPPY INTEGRITY ENDURANCE VERSATILITY EXCELLENCE



THE FURZE PLATT COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

Furze Platt is a community-minded school, and students regularly support and work with their peers, and with the outside community. The mixed-age 'vertical' tutor group system enables older or more experienced students to share their wisdom, while Sixth Form students offer a focused programme of subject mentoring to younger students, including paired maths and paired reading. Students take assemblies, run all the technical aspects of school productions, design and produce school brochures and publications, and run breaktime clubs. The school offers the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme for students from Years 9-13 and this provides further opportunities for students to develop new skills and to offer their services, as well as to work with others

in planning and running their own expedition. The school has many local and regional education partners, including Eton College (debating and summer schools), Beaconsfield High School (Oxbridge entrance), University of Reading (Science competitions and School Direct teacher training), and Brasenose College, University of Oxford (Oxbridge preparation, Year 9 onwards). The school received a bursary from Norden Farm Arts Centre and works regularly with Microsoft, Three and Acer. The school has a particularly strong partnership with John Lewis, who provide business talks, internships, and training days for students at GCSE level and in the Sixth Form.



FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

We know that students are more motivated and enjoy their studies more when they have an excellent learning environment. Furze Platt students are perhaps uniquely fortunate in the high-quality facilities and resources they enjoy. Over the past decade the following new additions have been made to the school: a purpose-built Maths block, state of the art Drama theatre and adjoining rehearsal studio, professional standard, floodlit AstroTurf, three new, floodlit tennis / netball courts, and the enviable Furze Platt Leisure Centre, which the school has exclusive use of until 4.30pm. The Computing centre and the Sixth Form centre have been fully refurbished as has the Music centre, which now houses a separate professional-standard recording studio. In the last year we have also been fortunate to open a new three-storey teaching block incorporating Science laboratories and English classrooms. In autumn 2020 we will finish our new theatre which will stage performances and events for audiences of over four hundred.

'TEACHERS AND PASTORAL LEADERS HAVE CREATED A HAPPY COMMUNITY WHERE PUPILS ARE RESPECTFUL OF EACH OTHER'S VIEWS AND OPINIONS.'

-OFSTED 2016





MOVING ON FROM FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

Furze Platt prides itself on taking in children in Year 7, and helping produce aspirational, motivated, confident and considerate young adults who leave at 16 or 18. The school has a comprehensive and targeted support system to ensure all understand and can realise their dreams, including university visits starting in Year 9, regular career advice interviews, work experience in the Sixth Form, and a Careers and Higher Education Fair, attended by 30 universities and 60 businesses. Our alumni take their places as mature, active citizens, having secured high-level apprenticeships or university places. They act as an inspiration to our current students.

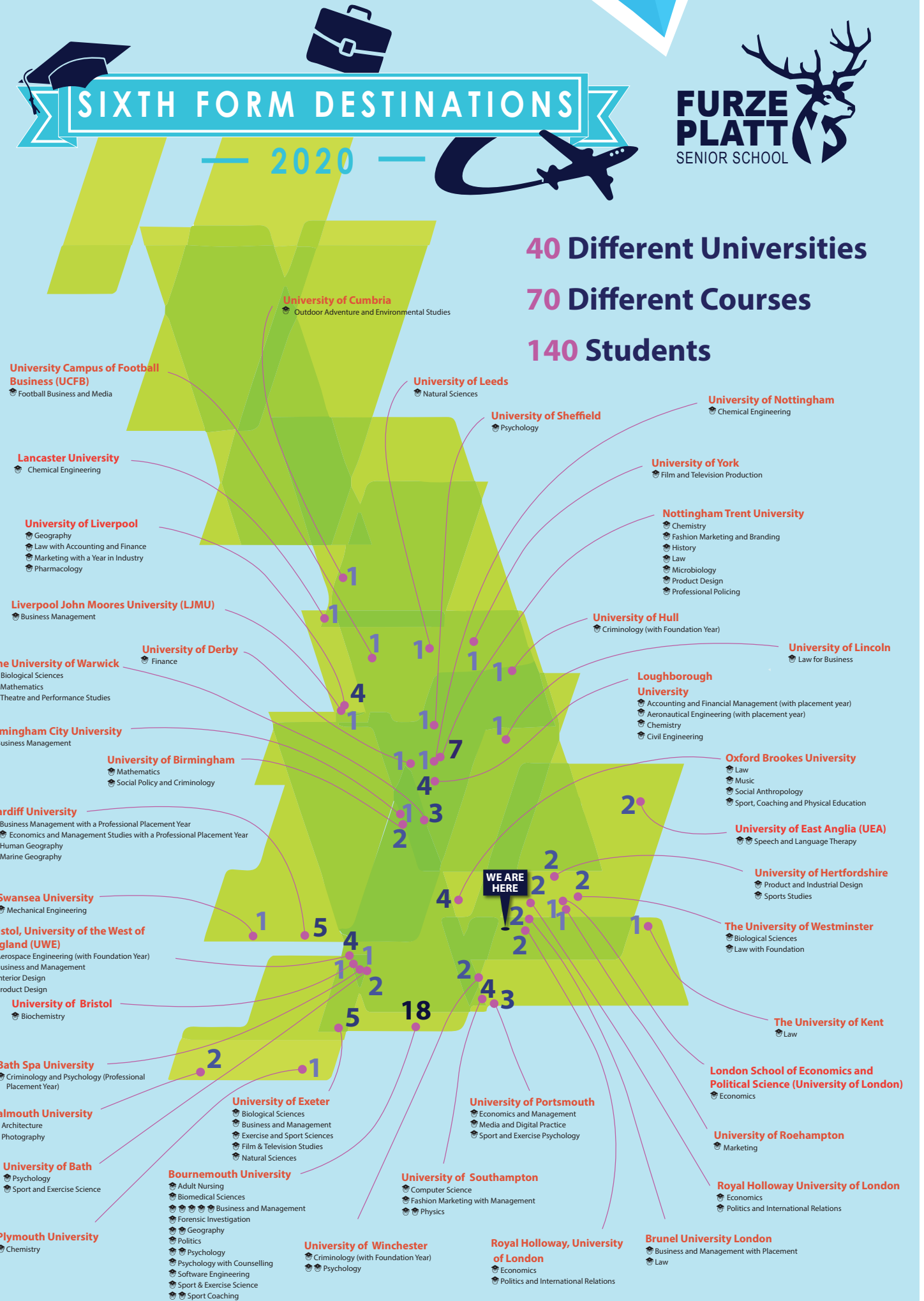
Our recent alumni include:

- A top-10 British tennis player who has taken up a scholarship to a prestigious American university;
- A rower who has taken up a scholarship to a prestigious American university;
- A psychologist who has just been awarded First Class honours by Oxford University;
- A Premiership footballer who played for Wales in the Euro 2016 semi-finals;
- An actor who is training with RADA (the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art);
- An actress who appeared as Lady Sybil Crawley in Downton Abbey, and as Ophelia in the Almeida's production of Hamlet;
- A comedienne who recently toured at the Edinburgh Fringe;
- A radio producer for Capital Radio;
- A software consultant who was nominated for the UK IT Industry Awards Young Professional of the Year.



'PUPILS ARE ABLE TO PURSUE THEIR NEXT STEPS WITH CONFIDENCE BECAUSE CAREERS INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE ARE WELL MATCHED TO THE NEEDS, INTERESTS AND ABILITIES OF PUPILS.'

-OFSTED 2016



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information can be found on our website www.furzeplatt.com under the 'Welcome to Year 7' section. Here you will find information on:

Overview of the School

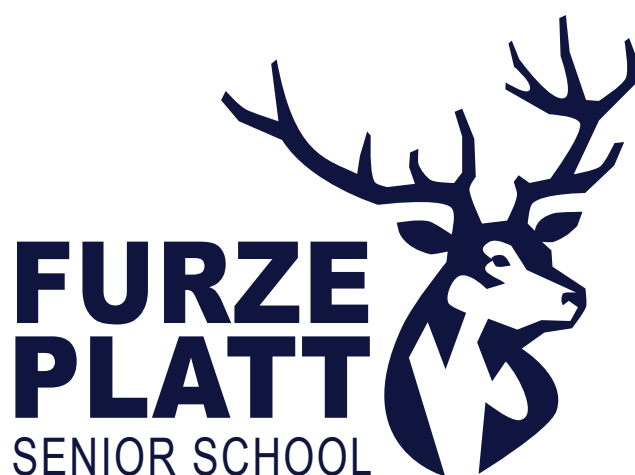
- Our Values and Vision
- Examination results
- Student destinations

Teaching and Learning In Year 7

- Our Curriculum
- Home Learning and Supervised Study
- Summer holiday reading
- Learning Support and the Pastoral System
- Reporting to parents
- Extra-Curricular Clubs and Sports Schedule

Practical Information

- Times of school sessions
- Uniform
- Holidays in term time
- Charging Policy
- Admission arrangements



Headteacher: Dr A Morrison

CONTACT US

✉ Furze Platt Senior School, Furze Platt Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7NQ

☎ 01628 625308

@ office@furzeplatt.com

🌐 www.furzeplatt.com

HOW TO FIND US

