

Dear Students and Parents,

I am pleased to announce that work will begin on the new sixth form study centre on the 12th July and that by the time you join us for enrolment in September you will receive the full benefit of our dedicated Sixth Form Study Centre. This will enhance your study experience and promote an environment for academic excellence.

As previously mentioned, our aim is to provide a high-quality study centre and actively promote the use of technology as part of everyday working life for FUS Sixth Form students. We are therefore very keen for all students joining us in September to have their own laptop or tablet device to work on, make notes on, store and save work. All students will have full access to *Microsoft Office 365*; this includes a full suite of Microsoft Office applications such as Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Teams, Excel, One Note etc. As the suite of software is web based there is no need to install any programmes onto any device.

We appreciate that tablets and laptops are costly items, and that not everyone has a laptop that they can bring to school. To help encourage the use of devices as your normal way of working in school, for homework and examinations, we have been looking at a range of ideas.

1. You may already have a good laptop already with all your favourite apps and short cuts and all you have to do is to make sure it's charged, bring it in, log on to the school Wi-Fi network and you are good to go. Many of our current year 13s do this and they find it a very straightforward process.
2. You may own a lap top but feel it's a bit tired or it might be shared with a sibling, in which case you may want to get your own and use it in sixth form and then take it off to university. In which case we can offer you the choice of purchasing a VAT free laptop (20% off) from the following three options.

Option 1 – Standard Spec Touchscreen:

HP Pavilion 14-dv0603na 14" Laptop - Intel® Pentium® Gold, 128 GB SSD, Silver

<https://business.currys.co.uk/catalogue/computing/laptops/windows-laptop/hp-pavilion-14-dv0603na-14-laptop-intel-pentium-gold-128-gb-ssd-silver/N743722W?from=category>

currently £315 ex VAT

Option 2 - Mid-Range Spec Touchscreen:

HP Pavilion 14-dv0511sa 14" Laptop - Intel® Core™ i3, 256 GB SSD, Silver

<https://business.currys.co.uk/catalogue/computing/laptops/windows-laptop/hp-pavilion-14-dv0511sa-14-laptop-intel-core-i3-256-gb-ssd-silver/N307337W?from=category>

Currently £457.50 ex VAT

Option 3 High Spec Touchscreen:

HP Pavilion 14-dv0564sa 14" Laptop - Intel® Core™ i7, 512 GB SSD, Silver

<https://business.currys.co.uk/catalogue/computing/laptops/windows-laptop/hp-pavilion-14-dv0564sa-14-laptop-intel-core-i7-512-gb-ssd-silver/N307339W?from=category>

Currently £749 ex VAT

Our IT teams have found these 3 options to be the best value and most suitable devices and as I have already said, purchasing the device through school will enable you to save the VAT of 20%. We can also arrange for you to pay for the device in 6 equal payments if that helps to spread the cost.

3. If you are a student who usually receives free school meals or is a pupil premium student then you will be eligible for a bursary, which can be used to purchase equipment and as part of that bursary you will receive a laptop. You just need to complete the online bursary application form <https://sixthform.fernup.dorset.sch.uk/16-19-bursary/> and your laptop will be purchased on your behalf. Click on the web site link to access the bursary page.
4. You might not meet the eligibility criteria for a bursary but also may not be in the financial position to purchase a laptop, then please do let us know by emailing Kerry Curchin on the link below and we may be able to subsidise the cost, or come up with an alternative payment plan. KerryCurchin@fernup.dorset.sch.uk
5. Alternatively, you might be thinking that now is the time to purchase a very high spec device such as a Windows Surface and are looking to spend £1000+ and saving the VAT is worth considering. Get in touch with us and we will work with you to offer technical advice, guidance and purchase the device on your behalf thereby saving the VAT – please use the following email address, colindean@fernup.dorset.sch.uk. Please put the following in the subject box “ *very high spec lap top*”

Our new study centre will be fitted out with power supplies on every desk so students can charge devices during their independent study.
In addition to this, the 6th Form Study Centre will have a supply of laptops, which can be borrowed if required.

Some students are naturally worried about damaging or breaking laptops, the reality of this is that many of our year 13s use lap tops every day in lessons and in independent study, and we have not experienced any issues with damage, breakage or loss of devices. We have also spoken to other schools who have done this and they have also reported that damage, loss etc. is not an issue.

We feel this new step forward will encourage the use of technology, will improve the quality of learning and will enable our students to take their exams on computer, which will give them an added advantage over written exams.

If you are interested in purchasing a laptop through school and saving the VAT complete the form

by clicking the link to the Microsoft form

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=eYQCv0bJkUe72J8CexEqpednqvJ2T5dOhMZby4V_j6xUOENNMUK5R1YwWkNKVFRGVEIZM1JOOUhZW4u

Your order must be with our finance team **ASAP**.

I hope you have been accessing the step up work that subject teachers have been posting via Teams as this will help prepare you for the step up to A level.

If you have any questions regarding the Laptop scheme, please email

Kerrycurchin@fernup.dorset.sch.uk

If you have any questions regarding starting year 12 please email

samuelling@fernup.dorset.sch.uk

Terms and Conditions – Laptop Purchase Scheme

- Once purchased FUS will only offer basic user support e.g. installing Office, accessing school email and WiFi access.
- *Recipient/Purchaser* of the laptops will agree to take full responsibility for the safe use of the device. FUS is not responsible for insuring the device

- A signed Laptop *recipient/Purchaser* Agreement Form will need to be signed by the parent.
- Devices will come with a limited one-year manufacturer warranty covering hardware failure but not accidental or malicious damage and as Ferndown Upper School are the *Original purchasers* of the devices, we may need to be intermediaries between the end user and the supplier.
- FUS will do our best to offer a substitute loan device (subject to availability) in the event of hardware failure.
- Devices will be issued without any additional peripherals (wireless keyboards or mice etc) and purchase of these peripherals will be up to the individual to procure themselves.
- We cannot guarantee that any of these devices will be compatible with high performance software packages, e.g. Photoshop / Premiere / 3D Design software and it will be up to the prospective purchaser to verify compatibility. It is the *recipient/purchaser's* responsibility to check the specs on the machine using the links provided.
- Ferndown Upper School will purchase your device as part of bulk order, which is dependent on the supply and demand in the global market place and as such cannot control when the delivery will take place. We will endeavour to get your device to you as close to the beginning of term as possible.