FERNDOWN | Sixth Form

Prospectus 2026

Achieving Excellence



Welcome from the

Head of Sixth form and Headteacher



A very warm welcome to Ferndown Sixth Form, an outstanding local sixth form with a track record of strong academic outcomes alongside a rich offer of character-building opportunities.

It is a place where all students can flourish and grow, whatever their interests or aspirations. Our dedicated sixth form team support, advise and guide our students to reach their full potential both in and out of the classroom. Ferndown Sixth Form is a happy place and the natural choice for many of our year 11 students who know they will continue to reap the benefits of excellent teaching in all subjects they choose to pursue. I look forward to welcoming you to our sixth form community in the near future.

C.Juddery

Head of 6th Form



Entering the Sixth Form marks an important stage in your education journey. A stage where important choices and decisions are made that will determine your future pathway. You will want to make a choice that gives you the best possible chances and we believe at Ferndown Sixth Form you will find this.

Our results are consistently amongst the best both locally and nationally and this has enabled our students to go on to their first-choice university/apprenticeships and careers.

We have aimed to keep our range of courses as broad and as varied as possible to meet individual needs. This is paired with excellent pastoral care, support and guidance from an experienced team that understand how to keep you motivated and make the most of your talents and abilities.

Sixth Form life should not just be about the academic growth but also about your personal growth in to adulthood. We offer a wide range of enrichment activities that help to broaden your mind and develop lifelong friendships.

P.Jones

Head Teacher

Achieving Excellence

Support



Within our close-knit sixth form family, we understand how important these final school years are — both academically and personally. I want to assure you that I am fully committed to helping our students reach their full potential through focused learning, encouragement, and guidance. My goal is to ensure the Study Centre remains a productive and supportive environment where every student feels confident in their studies, wellbeing, and personal growth.

My aim is to care for each student in the way you, as parents and carers, would wish, with kindness, respect, and a genuine interest in helping them thrive. I truly value your trust and welcome open communication so that, together, we can ensure every young person feels supported, understood, and ready for their next steps.
Please never hesitate to get in touch, I'm here to help and to work together in supporting your child's success.

Kerry Curchin, 6th Form administrator

- Wellbeing
- Financial Support
- Careers Support
- Learning Support
- Transition
- Student Services

At Ferndown Upper Sixth Form we value your wellbeing and have a dedicated pastoral manager to support you whilst you are with us in Sixth Form. Appointments can be booked, by students, with our pastoral manager or with a member of our Sixth Form Team who are committed to ensuring that you feel safe, happy and looked after.

Nadia Abdulgani, Pastoral Manager



Our Students



Sarah

FUS

↓

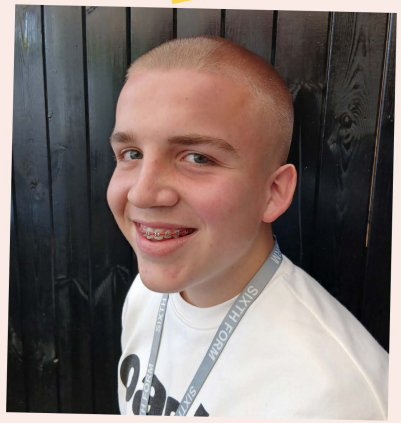
A-Level English Literature, English Language & Psychology.

↓

Work experience at
West Moors Middle School

↓

Aiming for:
A career using English



Dexter

FUS

↓

Triple PE BTEC

↓

Part time job as a
Football Coach

↓

Aiming for:
A career in sports



Matt

QE

↓

T-Level Software Development

↓

Work placement at
JP Morgan

↓

Successful appointment
at JP Morgan on a technology
degree apprenticeship

Our Students



Heidi

Oak Academy

↓

A-Level Chemistry, Art & Biology

↓

Work experience at Cats Protection

↓

Aiming for:
A career as a vet



Josh

FUS

↓

A-Level Biology, Chemistry & Maths

↓

Work experience at Parley First School & Moordown Medical Centre

↓

Applying to study medicine



Emily

FUS

↓

A level
Art, Product Design & Maths

↓

Year 14 Art & Design

↓

Successful application to study architecture at Oxford Brookes University

Opportunities



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The Student Leadership Team is made up of students who come together to generate and implement ideas within the community that they think would be beneficial for the student body. They are a voice for their peers and an advocate for what is important in their community. The team is led by our Head and Deputy Head Students, with other members able to bring initiatives to the agendas that they feel passionately about. This is an excellent opportunity for students to develop leadership and team working skills which they can then take with them on their next steps. Positions include Head and Deputy Head Students, Sports Lead, Charity Lead, Academic Lead and International Liaison.

CHARITY

At Ferndown Sixth Form we are committed to supporting our local community, which is why we run dedicated charity events throughout the year. A great example of this is the Cardboard Campout, in association with John Thornton Young Achievers Foundation, which has raised over £17,500 in the last two years. Alongside this, students are actively encouraged to support charitable causes through tutor fundraisers and other events.

CARDBOARD CAMPOUT
john thornton
young achievers foundation

john thornton
young achievers foundation







Culture

Ferndown Sixth Form is a place where not only can you thrive academically, but also socially; creating memories for life.

When you choose to study with us you will experience a fun tutor programme full of careers advice and guidance to help you towards your next step, alongside fun inter-tutor competitions.

We have a designated culture team who work with our students to create a fantastic range of experiences from running a range of competitions and social events such as:

- Bowling
- Valentine and Horror Movie Nights
- London shopping trips
- Disney Paris trip
- Ski Trip
- Thorpe Park Fright Nights
- Cardboard Campout
- Winter Ball
- Quiz Nights
- Year 13 Graduation Ceremony and Prom

It is an important part of sixth form life to get involved with wider extra-curricular opportunities and enrichment as it not only brings fun, but it provides you with a wealth of experiences to help you stand out when writing personal statements, job applications or applying to universities, showing them that you have participated in to something extra. Our culture team work closely with the student leadership team to put in place what our students want so they feel valued and have a voice to bring about change and create experiences.





Enrichment






Our students' well-being is of great importance at Ferndown Sixth Form and we believe that a full and varied enrichment programme is one step to reminding our students to focus on areas outside of their academic studies and prepare them for life post -18.

Students may choose from a range of options such as sport, film club, arts/crafts, money management, digital skills or cooking, as a way to unwind and learn new skills.

Other options such as our teaching assistant program and compulsory digital skills classes allow our students to gain work experience and develop skills required for employment





Your Future



Stepping into Sixth Form is the start of an exciting new chapter.
Whether you're continuing from Year 11 at Ferndown Upper or joining us from another school, this is your chance to build on your achievements, explore new opportunities and shape your future.
At Ferndown Sixth Form, we'll support and challenge you to reach your full potential. Through UniFrog, you'll explore university courses, apprenticeships and career pathways, helping you plan your next steps with confidence. You'll also attend the UCAS Discovery Fair in Bournemouth to discover post-18 options and opportunities. Students with a GCSE point score of 7.5 or above can join our Oxbridge Programme, designed to stretch and inspire you through admissions guidance, interview preparation and super-curricular activities.

You'll gain real-world experience through a week of work experience in July, a mock interview day during Careers Week, and ongoing mentoring with your tutor to guide your decisions. We also provide tailored support for those exploring degree apprenticeships.
To ensure families are part of the journey, we offer parent workshops on using UniFrog and supporting post-18 choices at home.
At Ferndown Sixth Form, your future is full of possibility — and we'll be with you every step of the way.x
Katie Raisbeck, Head of 6th Form Destinations & Opportunities

- Progression Day
- 1:1 Mentoring
- Oxbridge Programme
- Mock Interview Day
- Uni Frog
- Work Experience

Choosing your Subjects

At Ferndown Upper School Sixth Form we offer a wide variety of courses for you to choose from.

Whatever you decide to study we strongly believe that these choices must be yours and so would encourage you to consider what you are passionate about, the subjects you are currently doing well in and also if you have a particular area that you would like to pursue as a career.

We would also advise that you research specific subject requirements or combinations that may be required for further education..

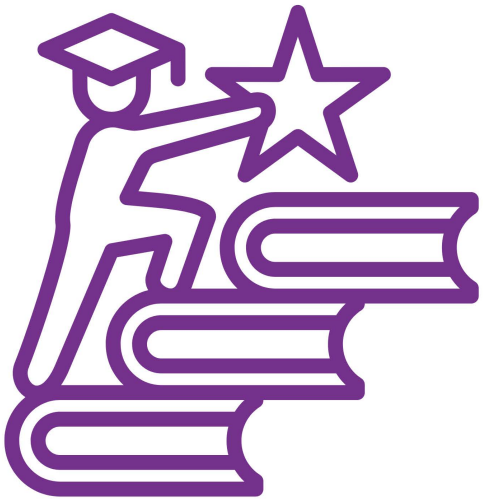
The 6th Form Team

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A Levels

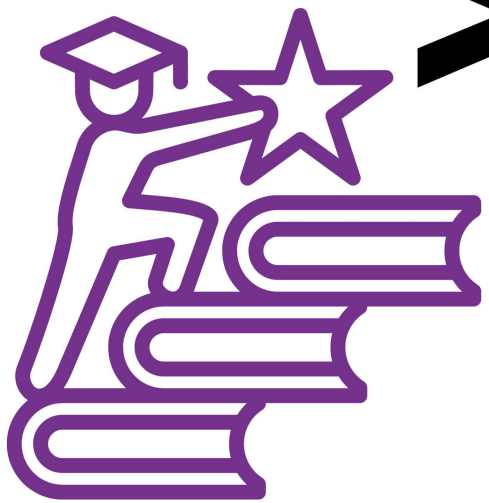
Subject
A level Art
A level Biology
A level Business Studies
A level Chemistry
A level Computer Science
A level Economics
A level English Language
A level English Literature
A level Ethics & Philosophy
A level French
A level Further Maths
A level Geography
A level History
A level Law
A level Maths

Subject
A level Media Studies
A level Music
A level Photography
A level Physics
A level Politics
A level Product Design
A level Psychology
A level Sociology
A level Spanish
A level Textiles and Fashion
A level Theatre Studies
Core Maths (Level 3 Mathematical Studies, equivalent to an AS qualification)



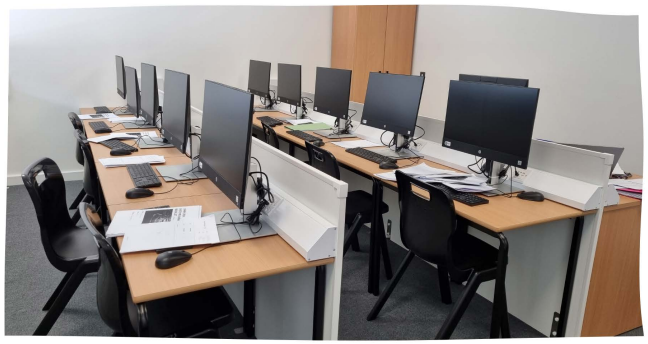
Vocational

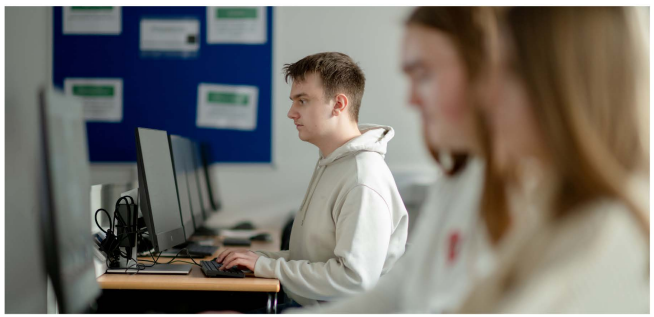
Subject
Criminology Level 3 Applied Diploma
Health & Social Care (Cambridge Technical Level 3 Certificate/Diploma)
Public services (NCFE Level 3 Cert.)
Single/Double/Triple Sport (Cambridge Technical Level 3 Certificate/Diploma)











80% CLASS CLASS CLASS

20% WORK WORK WORK WORK WORK

1 T-LEVEL = 3 EQUIVALENT A LEVELS

T-Level in Software Development

Take your firsts step to entering software development or digital careers. We are proudly Dorset and BCP's first T-level provider and are proud of our 100% pass rate at Merit and Distinction for all of our students to date.

Equivalent to three A-levels you spend your time focused on developing your skills and knowledge in your chosen area alongside general work skills development, mentoring sessions and presentations from external providers and work experience.

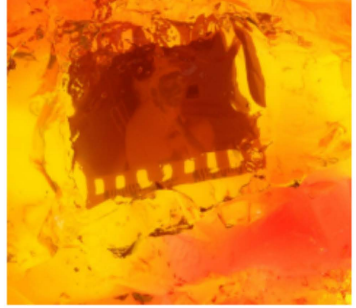
A compulsory 315 employer facing hours form part of the course, at Ferndown we do this as a 9 week employer placement. Our dedicated T-Level Manager will find and support you through the placement process, something most other T-level providers do not do. We have established links with companies such as JP Morgan, NHS, BAE, Curtiss Wright, Nourish Care and Telesoft to name but a few.

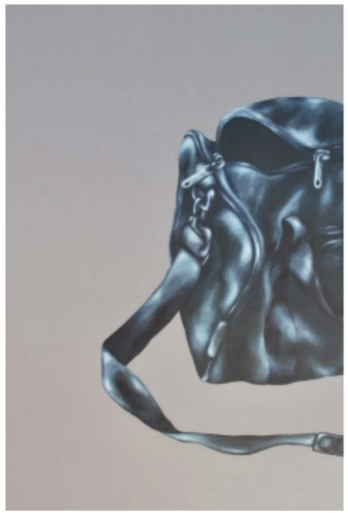
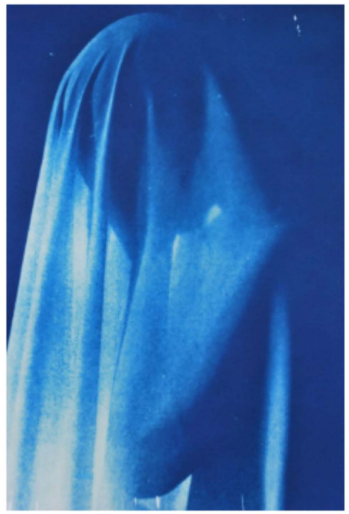
Our teaching team is made up of industry experienced experts and provide a supportive and welcoming environment for all, you do not have to have taken Computer Science or IT at GCSE you just need to have the right attitude to succeed.

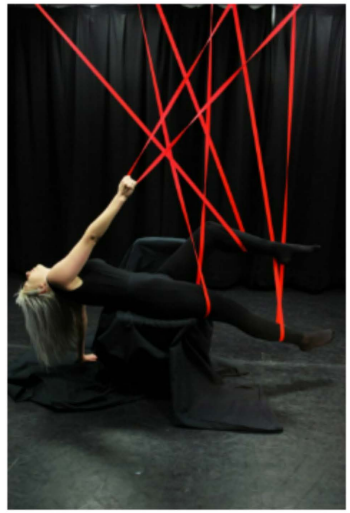
Many of our previous students have secured highly competitive advanced apprenticeships as well as others going on to study at university in a range of subjects including Software Development, Computer Science and Cybersecurity

T Level








"The exhibition featured some outstanding displays of work, demonstrating that the course is delivered to the highest standards, comparing very favourably with other well-established Foundation Art courses across the UK and internationally." 2025 Moderator comment

The Foundation Art and Design course is a stepping stone between A levels and university study.

We were the first school based provider of the course in the country and have been running it with great success since 1999.

We have an established department with a wide range of expertise in different areas to ensure the best possible support for all of our students.

Ferndown Sixth Form is proud to be rated as one of the leading providers of this course nationally for progression leading to degree courses.

To see some of our previous students work and find out more click here or visit our dedicated page on the sixth form website.

'I was conscious of choosing an environment where I felt comfortable to explore and push my creativity. Ferndown immediately felt supportive yet ambitious in their students achieving to their highest ability.'
Foundation Art Student, Year 14

Foundation Art & Design

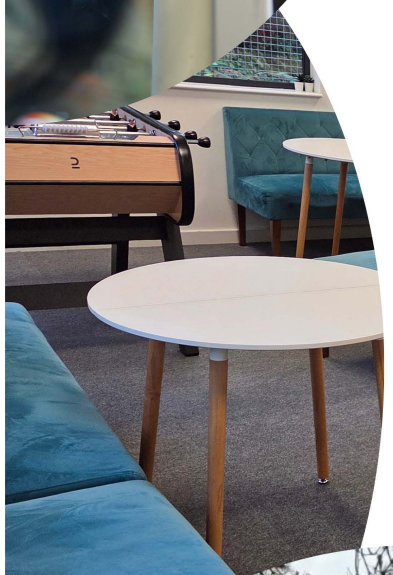
Sixth form life

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Tutor	Notices	Mentoring	Debate	Futures planning	Assembly/ Tutor Challenge
P1	Subject 1	Free	Study	Subject 1	Subject 2
P2	Study	Subject 3	Subject 1	Enrichment	Subject 1
P3	Free	Study	Subject 3	Enrichment	Study
P4	Subject 2	Subject 1	Subject 3	Subject 1	Free
P5	Subject 2	Subject 2	Free	Free	Free
P6	Free	Free	Subject 2	Free	Free

Exemplar timetable (week 1 of 2) for student studying three A level Subjects

Beyond lessons







Study centre

Our Sixth Form Study Centre is a highly purposeful positive learning environment set up to support our students in their academic studies. Fully equipped with ICT and a dedicated Study Centre Manager the area is highly valued by our Sixth Form students as a environment that allows them to thrive. These sessions are timetable for students alongside their subject allocations meaning that they are given the correct amount of study time for their subjects to manage their workload and succeed.

Vending machines

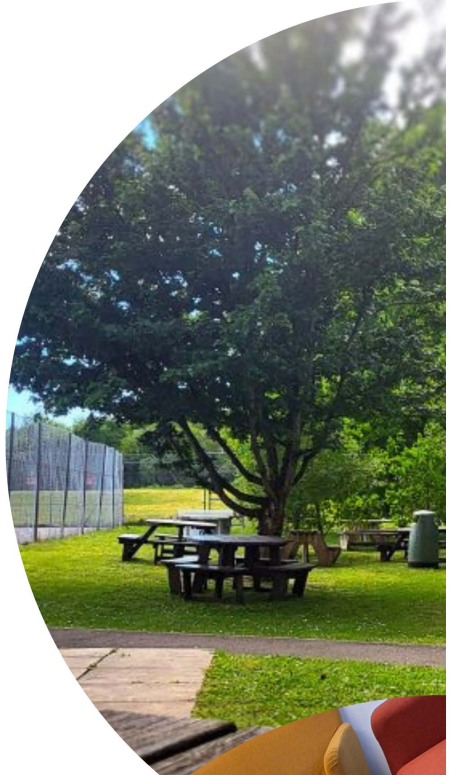
The study holds snack and hot drink vending machines for those peckish moments.

Canteen

Our multi award winning chef has created a sixth form specific menu. Watch out for more changes soon!

Take a walk to....

- The Slop Bog
- Ferndown Leisure Centre
- Ferndown Town Centre
- King George Recreation Ground

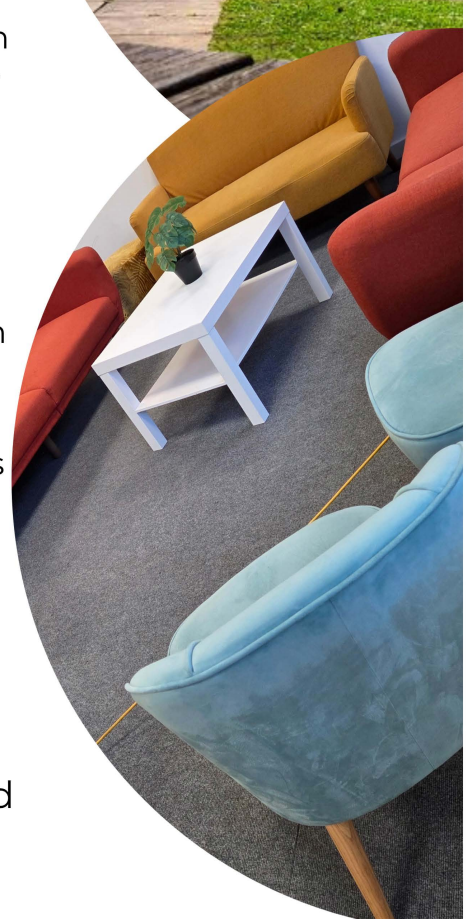


Green space

Sixth form students have their own dedicated green space with seating for an Al fresco lunch or work.

Common Room

Sixth formers have their own common space where they can relax or study, this includes access to comfortable seating, study areas and social activities such as Fuse ball



How to apply

1 OPEN EVENING

Come and join us at our yearly open evening in November. Date released early September. Don't worry if you miss it, get in contact and we can arrange a visit.

2 APPLICATION

Our applications open in November to coincide with our open evening. Any problems experienced when applying please contact us.

3 MEETING

You will be invited to a meeting where you will get the opportunity to discuss your current subject choices and ask any questions you may have about Ferndown Sixth Form

4 TASTER DAY

Our taster day is held in July and is a great opportunity to gain an insight into life here at Ferndown Sixth form, try out your possible teachers, meet the staff and make some new friends.

5 RESULTS

After collecting your GCSE results in August inform us of your results and we will confirm your place with us. If you haven't achieved expected grades please contact us to discuss.

6 ENROLMENT

Once we receive your results via Admissions+ we will confirm your place. Now is time to look at your step up tasks and enjoy the rest of your holiday.

7 INDUCTION DAY

We look forward to welcoming you on your first day as you step into the next part of your journey.

If you require any help or guidance with your application just SixthForm@fernup.dorset.sch.uk

Finding us

X6

From Poole

X6

Through Ringwood, Verwood, West Moors and Three Legged Cross

13A

From Bournemouth
incl. Bournemouth train station

13 & 13A

From Corfe Mullen

13A or 86

Through Wimborne

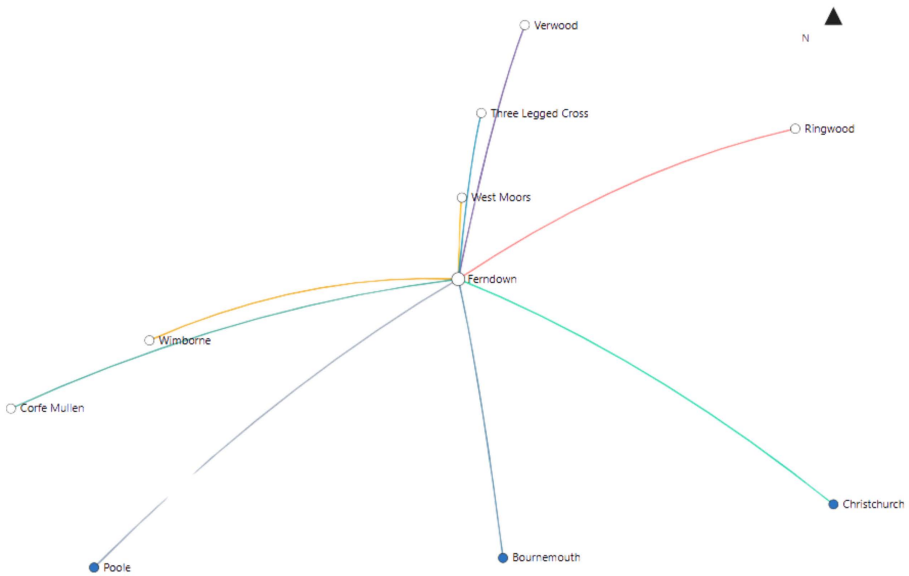
Poole 21 mins

Bournemouth 20 mins

Ringwood 14 mins

Wimborne 11 mins

Christchurch 19 mins



Any student who joins our Sixth Form and lives over 3 miles away can apply for a £300 travel bursary.

Student Feedback

‘Ferndown has allowed me to fully reach my potential. I feel ready for my next steps’
Year 13 student

'One of the best things about Ferndown Sixth Form is the welcoming atmosphere. I was a new student this year and I have never felt as welcome as I do here.'
Year 12 Student

At Ferndown Sixth Form every student matters and every opinion counts'
Year 12 Student

"I look forward to coming to Sixth Form everyday because the teachers make the lessons fun and enjoyable."
Year 13 Student

Achieving Excellence

fus6th

FerndownSixthForm

sixthform.fernup.dorset.sch.uk

For more information, including course information and entry requirements, please scan the QR code.