October half term 2026



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the half term break, I wanted to write again to say a big well done to the vast majority of students who have worked exceptionally hard this term and have consistently shown our year values.

Thank you to the parents/carers who made the trip out to attend our Information Evening on Thursday 15th October. Below is a copy of the revision sessions available at lunch and after school.

After school sessions:

MONDAY 1	TUESDAY 1	WEDNESDAY 1	THURSDAY 1	FRIDAY 1
English	Option C	Option B	Maths	

MONDAY 2	TUESDAY 2	WEDNESDAY 2	THURSDAY 2	FRIDAY 2
English	Science	Option A		

Lunch time drop-in sessions:

MONDAY L	TUESDAY L	WEDNESDAY L	THURSDAY L	FRIDAY L
Option B	English/Maths	Science	Option A	Option C

Revision information:

The first set of Mock exams are due to start in November, just after half term. We would really appreciate your support at home encouraging your child to revise so they are prepared for these exams. There are a few links shared at our information evening which I wanted to share with you.

- There is a PowerPoint full of useful revision strategies and resources available on our school website in the curriculum section. This has been put together by our Heads of subject so that it is specific for each subject. Please click curriculum and teaching then curriculum subjects and then scroll down to the GCSE information for Year 11 section. https://fernup.dorset.sch.uk/curriculum/
- There is also a lot of information on our exams page: https://fernup.dorset.sch.uk/exams/ including information about when exams are coming up and what is and isn't allowed into our exam hall and what to do if something happens on the day of an exam.
- Please don't forget we have access to SENECA and SPARX Science – both of which have independent learner sections and may be helpful for students wanting to test themselves or go over key content.
- If you have any queries about access arrangements and the JCQ requirements around students being given these please have a look at our exams section and our sendsupport@fernup.dorset.sch.uk email.
- Kooth is a great resource for helping or signposting if you or your child feels they are worrying more than normal or have any low mood https://www.kooth.com/. If you have any concerns about your child's mental health please reach out to your GP and let us know so we can look at supporting them in school.
- Student's have a worry button on our school website if they need to let us know something is upsetting or worrying them so we can help.

Preparation is key to success in Year 11, being ready for some hard work, being ready for when they need the resilience they built last year, being ready for tough choices and being ready to take on responsibility for their learning themselves.

However, there is more to year 11 than just preparing for exams, this is the culmination of their school career so far – a celebration of all they have achieved, all the skills and attributes that make them so wonderful. That also means being ready for the next chapter. It is really important that our wonderful young adults start thinking about what they want to do next, it might be college or 6th form. We naturally hope many of our wonderful year group stay with us at our 6th form but we also appreciate there are others they may wish to explore. We also know students may want to look at apprenticeships and training programmes. All we need is for them to have a plan and we are here to support if they really don't know what to do. Please help us at home by having these conversations and reaching out to their House Tutor (the one on Thursday and Friday) if you feel they need some extra help. If you want any more information please refer back to the letter Lucy Giles has sent about the various pathways and upcoming events which may be of interest.

Key dates:

Below are several key dates already scheduled in the school calendar for this academic year, we will update you with any additions as more events and opportunities are added. Our term dates and inset days can be found on the school website.

- **6th form open evening:** 4th November 6:30-8:30pm
- **November GCSE Mock Exams:** 16th November – 27th November
- **GCSE PE practical moderation day:** 27th November
- **Year 11 GCSE Mock results day:** 7th December
- **March GCSE Mock Exams:** 3rd March – 12th March
- **Year 11 Parent's evening, invite only:** 25th March 4pm-7pm in person
- **Study leave:** last day for year 11 in school will be 28th May TBC closer to the time.
- **Summer exams:** May to late June, with contingency set for 23rd June 2027
- **Leavers:** TBC
- **Prom:** Thursday 1st July
- **GCSE Results day:** 19th August - This will be the morning in which school will be open for the collection of results. Many staff will be in attendance, the FUS Sixth Form team will also be there to support with confirmation of places.

We hope you have a lovely half term break. Please do not hesitate to get in contact if you have any queries, however small, or even share with us any of their successes or achievements outside of school as they are often reluctant to do so! Remember the best way to reach us is through Headofyear11@fernup.dorset.sch.uk. We look forward to seeing the students back on **Monday 2nd November at 8.25am**.

Kind Regards,

Rachael Barrett

Mrs Rachael Barrett
Head of Year 11

FERNDOWN
Upper School

Head Teacher- Mr Philip Jones

01202 871243 www.fernup.dorset.sch.uk school@fernup.dorset.sch.uk Cherry Grove, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 9EY

Mr Philip Jones

EXAM POSTER
BEE PREPARED

1 **To arrive outside the examination room at least 15 minutes before the published start time.**

You are under examination conditions from the moment you enter the examination room and must not communicate with other candidates in any way. Any form of misconduct or inappropriate behaviour will be reported to the awarding body and may result in disqualification.

2 **To follow all instructions given by invigilators promptly and respectfully.**

You must not speak to, communicate with, or distract other candidates during the examination. You must not complete any details on the examination paper or booklet until instructed to do so.

3 **To attend examinations in full and correct school uniform.**

Writing or notes on hands, arms or any other part of the body are not permitted.

4 **To ensure that you arrive on time for all examinations.**

Candidates arriving after the published start time may not be permitted to sit the examination.

5 **If you arrive late with a valid reason, the school may permit you to enter the examination room; however, the awarding body may still decide not to accept or mark your paper.**

6 **Candidates arriving after the examination has finished will not be permitted to sit the paper.**

7 **The school is under no obligation to contact home** if you fail to attend an examination.

8 In the event of a **fire alarm** or **emergency evacuation**, you must **remain silent, stay under examination conditions** and follow the instructions of the invigilators at all times.

9 **To bring all equipment required for each examination,** including black **non-erasable pens**, pencils, calculator, **ruler,** protractor and any other permitted materials.

While a limited number of spare items may be available for emergencies or breakages, the school cannot guarantee replacement equipment for forgotten items. Correction fluid (e.g. Tippex) and correcting pens are not permitted.

10 **Calculators** used in examinations **must be suitable for desk use**, in working **order**, and **free from stored information.**

Calculators must not contain dictionaries, formula banks, text retrieval functions, internet access or communication facilities, and may not be borrowed from another candidate during the examination.

11 **To ensure that all unauthorised items**, including **mobile phones, watches** (digital or analogue), **earphones and revision materials**, are not brought **into the examination room unless specifically permitted** under **examination regulations.**

Any candidate found in possession of unauthorised items may be reported to the awarding body and could face disqualification, even if the electronic device is switched off and not in use.

Work hard • Stay focused • Bee your best