



Autumn 1 Newsletter 2025-2026



Key dates for upcoming half-term

Date	Event
6th November	6th Form Open Evening – Early finish for all year groups at 1:10pm
7th November	Non-uniform day – Christmas shoeboxes
13th November	Year 12 and Year 13 Parents Evening - ONLINE
18th November – 27th November	Year 11 Mock Exams
28th November	Inset Day
1st December - 5th December	Year 13 Mock Exams
10th December	Christmas Lunch
20th December	Last Day of Term – Early Finish – 12:10pm



Cardboard Campout

Well done to our Sixth Form students and local community for coming together to raise an outstanding £10,000 for the John Thornton Young Achievers Foundation.

A big thank you to our sponsors;
Hunt Forest Group
Custom Creations Fitted Furniture
Trek Bicycle Poole
John Pipe International
Peter Robbins Decorators' Merchants
Superior Seals
Screwfix Ferndown
Lidl West Parley
Asda Bournemouth
Tesco Ferndown



£10,000
raised for
JTYAF!

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS!

Student Successes



Well done to Carter in Year 10 for completing his Young Ambassador training and representing young people's concerns and views in his community.

Well done to Aimee in Year 10 for completing a training weekend in France with the French Pétanque team. She's now off to Spain to compete in the World Championships.



Congratulations to Noah in Year 10 for taking part in a Scouting GB competition.

Well done to Olivia in Year 10 for gaining a place on the Southampton Football Pathway as a Goalkeeper.



Well done to Lola in Year 10 who is raising money to go to India in order to raise awareness of period poverty.



T-Level Success

On September 29th our 3rd cohort of Year 13 Software Development T-Level students began their industry placement at JP Morgan, Bournemouth. Previous placements have created fantastic opportunities for our past students with several now on advanced apprenticeships at JP Morgan, One past student is now mentoring our current students. These placements have been invaluable for gaining fantastic knowledge in their chosen subject field as well as gaining the experience of a workplace environment within such a big corporation.



Sixth Form Berlin Trip



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YEAR 13 MUMMIFICATION CHALLENGE



130M



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Y12 Tutor Challenges



This half term @ Ferndown Sixth Form

Our Sixth Formers have enjoyed a busy and exciting half term filled with enrichment, teamwork and creativity – from the fascinating Berlin History trip that's truly brought classroom learning to life, to impressive performances and school spirit at the Burgate 7's football tournament.

Year 12 students have shown great enthusiasm and camaraderie through a series of fun and competitive tutor challenges, whilst Year 13 students have demonstrated their ingenuity and sense of humour in the unforgettable mummification challenge.



SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Thursday 6th November 6.30pm-8.30pm



Our students secure highly competitive degree apprenticeships at organisations such as **JP Morgan**



96% of students secured their first-choice university place. Universities last year included Cambridge, Winchester, Cardiff, Bath, Exeter, Manchester and Southampton



We offer outstanding post-18 destinations support for all students.
~ Higher Level Apprenticeships ~
~ University ~
~ Employment ~



Our students have raised over £30,000 for local charities including YMCA Homeless, John Thornton Young Achievers, Julia's House and food banks.



Nationally, the progress of Ferndown Sixth Form students ranks among the top quarter of all schools.

Students can take their free periods off site from day one! They each have a smart ID card which allows them to swipe in and out.



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Supporting Year 12 Futures: Unifrog Parent Workshop

In September, we were delighted to welcome parents of our Year 12 students to a UniFrog workshop hosted by Mrs Raisbeck and Mrs Curchin. The session was designed to empower parents with the knowledge and confidence to support their young person on their post-18 journey.

UniFrog is the powerful online careers platform used by all FUS sixth formers to explore future pathways — from university degrees and apprenticeships to employment opportunities. Students can compare courses, track their achievements, and draft key application documents such as personal statements and CVs — all in one place.

The session was incredibly positive, and we look forward to continuing to work in partnership with families to support every student in achieving their ambitions.

The logo for Unifrog, featuring the word "unifrog" in a lowercase, rounded, green sans-serif font.

TAG RESEARCH CENTRE

STAG Lecture 2025

University of Southampton

Entanglement, Topological Quantum States of Matter, and the "Second Quantum Revolution"

F. Duncan M. Haldane
Princeton University


- The new emphasis on entanglement as the key property of quantum mechanics
- The dream of quantum information processing
- "Topological" quantum states of matter
- "quantum materials" and the hope for a "topologically-protected quantum computer"

STAG Lecture – 6th Form Physics

On Wednesday the 22nd of October, 6th form physicists attended the public STAG lecture at the University of Southampton. The lecture was on quantum entanglement and was delivered by Duncan Haldane a Physics Nobel Prize winner.

Students learnt about quantum computing and electron spin during the lecture.

Motivational message to student audiences



My message: any of you potentially could end up here you don't need to be a special "genius" like Einstein

- you need LUCK! to stumble across something truly unexpected, that turns out later to have impact
- preparation, to recognize what you found, as something remarkable



Medicine Talks

Over the course of this half-term, we have been lucky enough to host a series of medicine talks with healthcare professionals;

- Dr Kiran Qureshi – GP
- Connor Freeman, a diagnostic radiologist
- Lauren Willson, a theatre nurse

Students had the opportunity to learn about a range of careers in healthcare through hands on activities.

Year 10 Spanish

Our Pen Pal Project with our partner school, IES Santa Eulalia, in Mérida (Spain) has begun!

Our Year 10 students will be writing and receiving letters from Spanish friends who are their age. Learning all about how Spanish teenagers live whilst making new friends and practising their linguistic skills.



GCSE Spanish Trip



On the 10th Of September, Mrs Moyano and Miss Giles took our GCSE Spanish students to watch an amazing Spanish flamenco dance show at The Lighthouse in Poole. Students were blown away and inspired by the talent showed by the musicians, singers and dancers.



As part of the experience, Daniel Martinez, main guitarist and the show's director, spoke to the audience about what it takes to be in the show business, which was fantastic careers advice.





Boys Theatre Programme

On Friday 10th October, Dan Boyden, an arts facilitator, came to Ferndown Upper School to work with our Year 9 boys. The day was spent getting the boys to work with each other and to find connections. The focus of the session was to build fundamental skills that are transferable, not only within a school setting, but in the wider community and their future careers.



Andrew Findley Boys Programme

We were able to kick-start the Boys' programme 2025-26 with a talk from Andrew Findley, an ultra-marathon runner who spoke to our Year 9 boys about his experiences in ultra-marathon running, exploring concepts such as resilience, high performance, failure and risk taking.

Our students engaged well and we are excited to welcome Andrew back later in the year to speak to the other year groups.

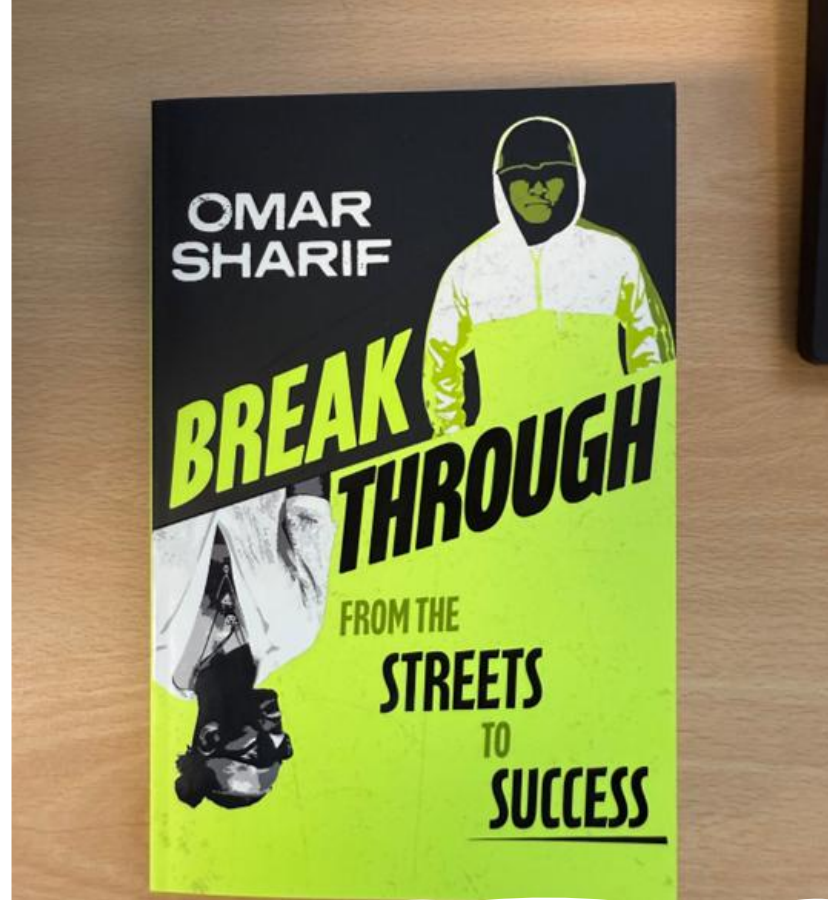


Dan Wilsher Boys Programme

As part of our continued Boys' Programme at Ferndown Upper School, we were visited by Dan Wilsher, Finalist from Channel 4's The Piano, who shared his own personal lived experience having lost his father at a young age and overcoming challenges and struggles in his education and in setting up his own businesses. The concept of 'hope' was the predominant focus of this session and helping our students to focus on their aspirations.

The session was attended by boys in Years 10 - 13 and also our Girls in 6th Form. This was followed by workshops on the second day that encouraged small groups of students to explore further their own aspirations and goals, writing letters to future versions of themselves. The sessions and workshops provided our students with spaces to engage with the topics discussed and have given a lot of food for thought.





Omar Sharif Boys Programme

This term we have heard from some amazing speakers as part of Ferndown Takes Boys Seriously and this continued with a visit from Omar Sharif. Omar came and spoke to our boys in Years 11, 12 and 13 about his experiences growing up on London and introduced our boys to his book 'From the streets to success'.

There were some fantastic messages around self-belief, building courage and finding success by making small changes each day.

Blood Brothers

On Thursday 9th October - our music and drama departments took 50 students to see the West End hit Blood Brothers on their UK tour at the Poole Lighthouse.

Students were visibly overwhelmed by the experience and reported that it 'never had a dull moment', that 'the whole experience was very enjoyable and the songs are still stuck in my head!'

A good night was had by all and just goes to show that theatre is still a powerful medium enjoyed by students.



Salisbury Cathedral Visit

On Wednesday 15th October, our Year 11 Ethics & Philosophy students had the opportunity to visit Salisbury Cathedral. They had the chance to tour the building and ask questions to the priest who talked them through a Eucharist service.

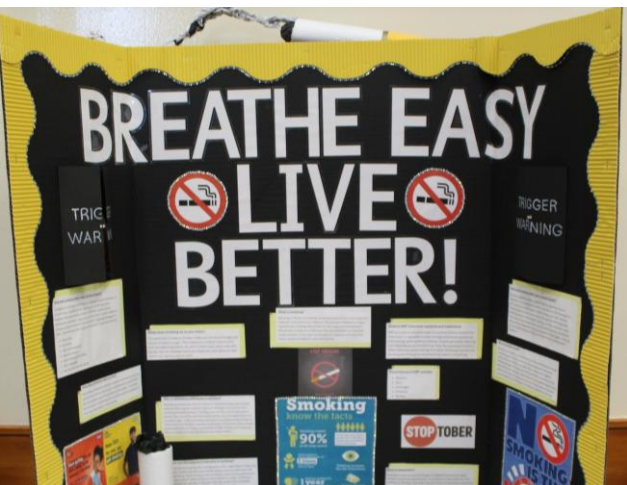
Students said: 'The knowledge and architecture were stunning and learning the history of the building made it even more incredible'.



Health & Social Care Promotions

Huge shoutout to our amazing Year 10 Health and Social Care students! They worked incredibly hard planning, creating and delivering powerful health promotion campaigns on flu & virus prevention and smoking cessation.

From concept to execution, their dedication and creativity truly shone through.





Year 10 Music Trip

A group of GCSE music students went to Dorchester for the Careers Expo "Routes into Music", where professionals from several areas of the music industry shared their experiences and gave our students valuable career advice for those who aspire to work in the industry.



Important Notice – Contacting the right member of staff

To help us respond to your queries more efficiently, we kindly ask that you use the relevant email address when contacting the school about matter relating to your child.

Using the correct email address ensures your message goes directly to the appropriate Year Team, rather than being delayed through the main school inbox. Please see below for the reminder of the appropriate email addresses;

Year 9 Team – headofyear9@fernup.dorset.sch.uk

Year 10 Team – headofyear10@fernup.dorset.sch.uk

Year 11 Team – headofyear11@fernup.dorset.sch.uk

Student Absence – studentabsence@fernup.dorset.sch.uk

Sixth Form Team – sixthform@fernup.dorset.sch.uk



Student success stories

We love celebrating our students' achievements and sharing the fantastic things they're involved in, both in and out of school!

If your child has done something you'd like to see featured on our school's Facebook & Instagram pages or in our half-termly parent newsletter – please send details and photos to socialmedia@fernup.dorset.sch.uk. From sporting successes to creative projects and community involvement, we're always keen to showcase the amazing talents and efforts of our students!

Follow us here:



Ferndown Upper School & Sixth Form at Ferndown Upper



FerndownUpper & FUS6th

