



## Options Booklet 2026-2028

### Information for Students

**Please read this document carefully as it gives you information on:**

Which subjects are still compulsory to study in Year 10 & 11.

Which subjects you can choose in Year 10 & 11.

Advice to help you make your choices.

How to complete the options form.

### **Important Dates:**

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January- Options launch to students P1-3

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January- Options Evening for parents and year 9 students- 6.30-8.30pm

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January- Year 9 Online Consultation Meeting 4-7pm

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Deadline for complete the options form

# Contents

Important Dates: .....	1
Introduction to the Option Process.....	3
How do I choose the right courses? .....	4
FUS Core Curriculum.....	4
Examinations and Assessments in Options .....	5
Careers Advice .....	5
Beyond GCSE .....	6
Completing the Options Form .....	7
Option Blocks.....	8
How to complete the options form on Bromcom .....	9
Frequently asked questions for parents.....	12
The Ferndown Curriculum.....	13
English Language GCSE .....	14
English Literature GCSE.....	15
Maths GCSE .....	16
Biology GCSE .....	17
Physics GCSE.....	19
Ethics and Philosophy GCSE .....	20
GCSE Art and Design: Fine Art .....	21
GCSE Art and Design: Photography .....	22
GCSE Art & Design: Fashion and Textiles .....	23
Business Studies GCSE .....	24
Computer Science GCSE .....	25
Product Design GCSE .....	26
Drama GCSE .....	27
Food and Nutrition GCSE .....	28
French GCSE.....	29
Geography GCSE.....	30
Health and Fitness VCERT.....	31
Health and Social Care VCERT .....	32
History GCSE.....	33
Math Statistics GCSE.....	34
Media GCSE .....	35

Music GCSE .....	36
PE GCSE .....	37
Sociology GCSE.....	38
Spanish GCSE .....	39

## **Introduction to the Option Process**

For the first time in your education, you are able to have some choice in the subjects that you study in Years 10 and 11. Part of the curriculum is fixed; the remainder of your timetable will be made up of subjects that you choose which could include GCSEs or vocational qualifications.

The aim of this information and the GCSE options presentation is to help you to make the most appropriate choices for your future. It is important that you seek advice and talk to people who can help you with these decisions. They include your subject teachers, subjects' leaders, Heads of House, Heads of Year, tutors as well as your parents and older students who are taking the course already.

We are committed to ensuring that you enjoy your experience of learning in years 10 and 11 and that you strive to achieve the best that you can be. You should aim to choose courses that suit your needs and that will challenge you and help you to develop life skills to prepare you for your future after Ferndown Upper School.

Below you will find:

- An outline of the curriculum structure in years 10 and 11 and the subjects which all students will study.
- A summary of the options subjects which students can choose from.
- A timescale of when you need to make your decision by.
- Details of how to complete the options form.
- Details of how your choices will affect opportunities during their time at FUS and beyond.

## **How do I choose the right courses?**

Sometimes the choice is easy; sometimes it comes after a lot of careful thought and discussion. Find out as much as you can about each course from subject teachers before making your decision.

### **Do a course because:**

- ★ You enjoy the subject
- ★ You are good at the subject
- ★ It is a new subject that excites or interests you
- ★ It will help you with your future beyond year 11
- ★ It will give you a good balance of subjects

### **Don't choose a subject because:**

- ✗ You want to be with your friends
- ✗ You like the teacher- there is no guarantee that you will get the same teacher for GCSE
- ✗ You think it will be easy

## **FUS Core Curriculum**

The subjects shown below are subjects which all students must take. These form the Core Curriculum.

English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Core PE.

PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education which includes Citizenship and Religious Education) and Careers are taught through the tutor program in Years 10 & 11.

In addition, during year 9, all students have been studying GCSE Ethics & Philosophy. They will take the exam in Summer 2027 at the end of year 10.



## **Examinations and Assessments in Options**

Different qualifications have different assessments requirements for Key Stage 4 (GCSE and GCSE equivalent courses). Many qualifications have coursework elements that contribute towards the final grade whereas some courses are 100% examined via external examinations in Year 11.

We advise that you look at your options carefully and consider your personal strengths and the workload requirements with various coursework/ examinations combinations. Please feel free to ask our staff via email or at the Year 9 consultation evening about this.

## **Careers Advice**

It is vital that students are aware of all the options available to them post-16 and their choices in Year 9 play an important part in this. Our Careers staff offer advice and guidance to students on a range of issues including their plans for the future.

There are a number of ways to access high-quality careers guidance:

1. FUS Careers Advisor- Careers advice is available at the Options Evening, from our careers adviser, Miss Giles. For further information about how to get careers advice and our outstanding careers programme go to: <https://fernup.dorset.sch.uk/information/careers-programme/>
2. Our teachers- Our school is also fortunate to have over 60 graduate teaching staff who are experts in their fields, who come with a range of invaluable experience and careers knowledge. Please contact our Heads of Subject using their emails on their associated option pages where they are more than happy to advise and support you.
3. UNIFROG- This is a one stop shop where students can easily explore their interests and successfully apply for their next best step after school. You have been sent a log in via school email to access this resource and one of your sessions on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January will enable you to start exploring the resources on Unifrog.

## **Beyond GCSE**

<b>The FUS Sixth Form (16-19)</b>	<p>The majority of students will join the Sixth Form for two or three years to study at Advanced Level or Technical Levels (T Levels). Many continue in Higher Education after leaving school at eighteen; others proceed directly into employment/apprenticeships. You should be aware that students are now required to be in education/training until age 18. Some of the courses offered continue into the Sixth Form, others may be taken up in the Sixth Form. We also run an Art Foundation Course after A Levels. We are proud of our Sixth Form offer as we offer over 20 subject routes and in the most recent published league tables have the highest Value Added Sixth Form achievement in the County.</p> <p>The Sixth Form Prospectus can be accessed on our Sixth Form website: <a href="https://sixthform.fernup.dorset.sch.uk/">https://sixthform.fernup.dorset.sch.uk/</a></p>
<b>T-Levels</b>	<p>As a regional leader in digital education, FUS is the first centre in Dorset to offer T-Level Qualifications. We begin by launching two Digital T-Level routes where students will study in new facilities in our Computing and Robotics Centre. Students will leave at 18 as qualified and experience software developers or IT support technicians ready for the world of work. For more details please see the Computer Science or Digital IT options. From September 2023 we also began to offer Education &amp; Early Years T Level.</p> <p>To see the government website on T-Levels please see: <a href="https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/">https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/</a></p>
<b>Universities and Higher Education</b>	<p>If you are interested in higher education routes then there is no better place to look than the UCAS website: <a href="https://www.ucas.com/">https://www.ucas.com/</a></p> <p>Packed full of advice, course requirements, and information from creative and humanities degrees, to digital and science-related fields. We advise you to give this a look as in some cases GCSE choice may be important for particular routes.</p>

<b>Apprenticeships</b>	UCAS also provides information on certain apprenticeship routes. Apprenticeships come at many levels and in a variety of career routes. See <a href="https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/">https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/</a> for more info.
------------------------	--

## **Completing the Options Form**

**Students are required to complete their option choices on the Bromcom student portal by Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.**

**You have a choice of THREE option subjects. You must choose ONE subject from each block.**

**Students must make ONE reserve choice in each block** in case subjects are not available due to timetable restrictions or small numbers opting for their first choice making the subject available to run. **If subjects are over-subscribed, students' career aspirations will be taken into account along with their behaviour and attendance record.**

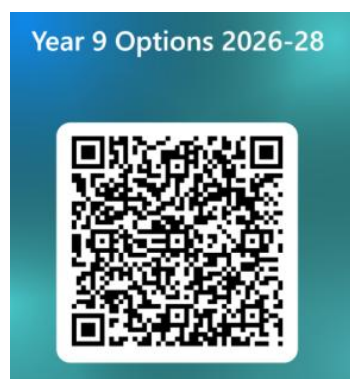
There are some restrictions with regards to subjects. Students can:

- Choose Either PE GCSE or Health & Fitness (Vocational) – not both

Students can only choose maths statistics (Block C) if they are currently in maths groups X1, X2, Y1, Y2. This is due to the high mathematical content of these courses. Please speak to your child's maths teachers if you have any queries about this.

## Option Blocks

Block A	Block B	Block C
Computer Science	Art & Design	Art & Design
Drama	Business Studies	Geography
Food & Nutrition *	Health & Social Care	Health & Fitness
French	History	Maths Statistics
Geography	Media Studies	PE
Health & Fitness	Music	Photography
Health & Social Care	Photography	Textiles
History	Product Design	Food & Nutrition
PE	Spanish	
Sociology	Textiles	
Spanish	Sociology	



To enable us to understand your choices better and how these link to your career aspirations, please complete the form which can be accessed via this QR code.

**\*Food & Nutrition** - Students who wish to choose Food & Nutrition **must** complete the Microsoft Form which can be accessed via the QR code above.

**\*\* Maths Statistics** – students who choose this subject will also be given additional science lessons on their timetable. These lessons will be used to give students an extra lesson in each of the three science disciplines- Biology, Chemistry and Physics. These classes will focus on grade 7-9 and prepare students for A Levels in these subjects. **Students who are likely to take maths or a science subject at A Level are strongly advised to opt for maths statistics at GCSE.**



## How to complete the options form on Bromcom

**Step One** – Open your Bromcom Portal and find the OPTIONS tab

The screenshot shows the Bromcom Portal dashboard with a sidebar on the left containing a list of names. The main content area is divided into four colored sections: News (purple), Attendance (green), Calendar Events (orange), and Exam Results (blue). The 'Options' section is highlighted in blue and contains a table with the following data:

Name	Timeframe	Status
Year 9 Options	06/01/2025 - 03/02/2025	New

An arrow points from the 'More' button in the 'Options' section to the next step.

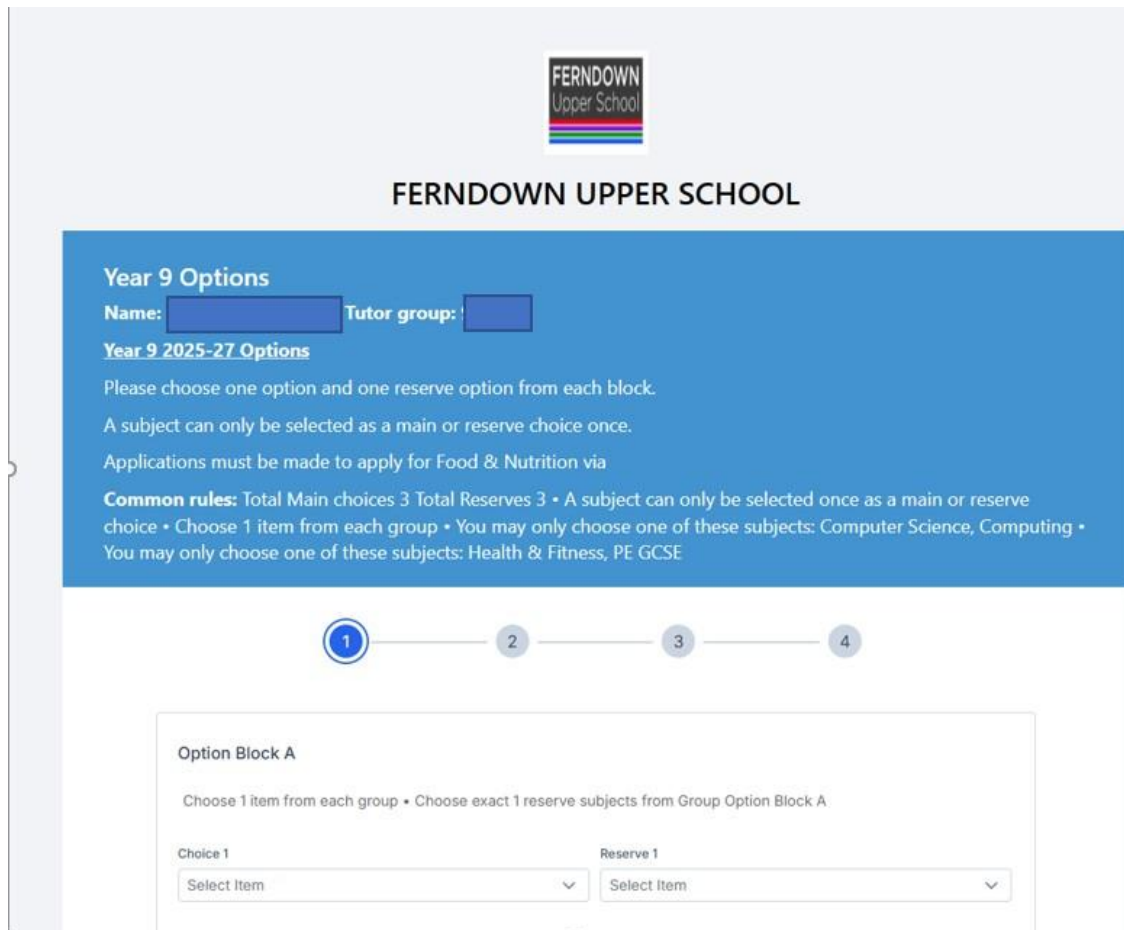
**Step Two-** Click on MORE- click on the form

The screenshot shows the 'Options' form in the Bromcom Portal. The form has a search bar and a table with the following data:

Name	Timeframe	Status
Year 9 Options	06/01/2025 - 03/02/2025	New

An arrow points to the 'Year 9 Options' entry in the table.

**Step Three-** Complete the form using the drop down menu for each block. You need to choose a reserve for each block. You can only choose each subject once.



**FERNDOWN**  
Upper School

**FERNDOWN UPPER SCHOOL**

**Year 9 Options**

Name:  Tutor group:

**Year 9 2025-27 Options**

Please choose one option and one reserve option from each block.

A subject can only be selected as a main or reserve choice once.

Applications must be made to apply for Food & Nutrition via

**Common rules:** Total Main choices 3 Total Reserves 3 • A subject can only be selected once as a main or reserve choice • Choose 1 item from each group • You may only choose one of these subjects: Computer Science, Computing • You may only choose one of these subjects: Health & Fitness, PE GCSE

1 — 2 — 3 — 4


**Option Block A**

Choose 1 item from each group • Choose exact 1 reserve subjects from Group Option Block A

Choice 1 Reserve 1

Select Item Select Item

**Step Four-** You will be asked to review your choices.



③ Please check your subject order of preference before submitting. [Set Preference](#)

**Option Block A** Choose 1 item from each group • Choose exact 1 reserve subjects from Group Option Block [Edit](#)

- ☒ French [Preference 1](#)
- ☒ Food & Nutrition [Reserve](#)

**Option Block B** Choose 1 item from each group • Choose exact 1 reserve subjects from Group Option Block [Edit](#)

- ☒ Health & Social Care [Preference 2](#)
- ☒ Media Studies [Reserve](#)

**Option Block C** Choose 1 item from each group • Choose exact 1 reserve subjects from Group Option Block [Edit](#)

- ☒ Ethics & Philosophy [Preference 3](#)
- ☒ Sociology [Reserve](#)

A form can only be submitted once and cannot be changed later. If you would like to modify it, use the Save for later button. If you go back, the preferences will be reset. You may need to check the preferences again

[Previous](#)

**Step Five** – Order your preferences. This will help us if we have to select reserve choices.

Order of Preference - Year 9 Options [×](#)

③ You can sort preference by dragging and dropping the subjects.

French	1
Health & Social Care	2
Ethics & Philosophy	3

[× Cancel](#) [Save](#)

## **Frequently asked questions for parents**

### **1. What if my child is not interested in any other subject for a reserve choice?**

*We advise that you write in the comment box in the Microsoft form to explain why, but it is important you consider this as you may not get all your first choices*

### **2. What is the reasoning behind not having a language as a compulsory option?**

*At FUS we believe in offering a full range of choices to our students. We offer two different languages in our options allowing our students to pick up to two if they are passionate about this. If your child is a keen linguist and is interested in taking this forward, we highly recommend learning an additional language as this opens many futures options.*

### **3. How will we be notified of what options have been given /granted and when will this be also will there be time from notification to GCSE course starting?**

*We will give final confirmation of options in Early Summer 1 half term just after Easter. However, before this point, many conversations led by our Curriculum Manager, Mrs. Milsom or Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Chater will happen with students to ensure their choices, course demand and student aspirations are considered before final decisions are made. If reserve choices are required all parents and students will be communicated with before course confirmation.*

### **4. What is the difference between a vocational qualification and a GCSE qualification?**

*Vocational qualifications AND GCSEs are 'Level 2' Qualifications. Vocational qualifications generally have a higher coursework component compared to their GCSE equivalent. These courses are less academically demanding in terms of terminal or final exams. In some cases, higher university entries may not consider vocational options at GCSE, though this view is restricted to the most competitive universities like Cambridge and Oxford. Most universities accept vocational qualifications at GCSE and Sixth Form level. We offer two vocational qualifications- Health & Social Care and Health & Fitness.*

### **5. PE is a core subject; do they have to pick one of the PE options too?**

*No, students do not have to pick PE as an additional subject. However, all students will get one hour a week Core PE to ensure they complete physical activity/ exercise as required by the national curriculum in our fantastic sports facilities.*

### **6. How will I know if I enjoy a subject which I've not experienced yet (e.g. Business Studies, Sociology, Media). Are we able to change subjects if we change our minds?**

*Students have been given a presentation about these subjects by subject staff and more information can be found in the options booklet issued to students.*

*Students will have up to 4 academic weeks to decide whether a course is for them. If within this time they decide they may want to change, conversations will be had between them, parents and our*

*options team. It may not be possible during this period to swap to another course which is already full so decisions need to be taken carefully in the first instance.*

*Before taking on the subject, why not talk to students who may already take it in other year groups? Or talk to the teachers who deliver it to informed as much as possible?*

#### **7. My child is in a top maths group, should they do maths statistics in option C?**

*We would strongly advise that if your child is in maths groups x1, x2, y1, y2, that they take GCSE maths statistics in option C. The course has proven very successful for our able mathematicians for some years now and is an excellent qualification for those students who are likely to pursue an A Level in maths, biology, chemistry, physics, geography and psychology. We will have individual conversations with all those students who are in X1, X2, Y1, Y2 who do not choose maths statistics to check that they have chosen subjects wisely in line with their career aspirations. It is important to still choose a reserve choice as set changes following year 9 maths end of year assessments, may mean your child is no longer eligible to take maths statistics.*

## **The Ferndown Curriculum**

The following pages contain the courses taught at FUS. The following courses form the core curriculum and all students study them:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Ethics and Philosophy

The remaining courses are options. Student choose three options.

## English Language GCSE

Topics include:

<p><u>Paper 1 Explorations in Creative Writing and Reading</u></p> <p>Analysing and writing fiction inspired by a range of genres such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science Fiction</li> <li>• Dystopian</li> <li>• Adventure</li> <li>• Detective</li> <li>• Gothic</li> </ul>	<p><u>Paper 1 Explorations in Creative Writing and Reading</u></p> <p>Analysing extracts from famous novels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins</li> <li>• Harry Potter by JK Rowling</li> <li>• Life of Pi by Yann Martel</li> <li>• Stone Cold by Robert Swindells</li> <li>• The Rest of our Lives by Patrick Ness</li> <li>• Frankenstein by Mary Shelley</li> <li>• Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier</li> </ul>
<p><u>Paper 2 Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives</u></p> <p>Writing a range of non-fiction texts focusing on a different purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articles</li> <li>• Letters</li> <li>• Speeches</li> <li>• Essay</li> <li>• Blog</li> </ul> <p><i>To persuade To advise To inform</i></p>	<p><u>Paper 2 Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives</u></p> <p>Reading and Analysing a range of non-fiction texts which cover a wide range of topical issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HeForShe Campaign</li> <li>• The Grenfell Inquiry</li> <li>• Hunting Animals</li> <li>• Black Lives Matter Movement</li> <li>• Technology and Innovation</li> </ul>

**Assessment:** Two written examinations at the end of year 11 (each worth 50%). 1 hour 45 each.

### Career Opportunities:

A GCSE in English Language opens up a diverse range of career opportunities, as strong communication skills are highly valued in virtually every field. It can lead to roles in creative industries, such as journalism, marketing, online content writing, or publishing, where writing and editing are key. English Language skills are also crucial for careers in law, politics and education, where clarity and persuasion are vital. English Language at GCSE equips individuals with essential skills for success in many professions.

**Exam Board:** AQA <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-8700/specification>

**Subject Leader:** Miss M Pratt [meganpratt@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:meganpratt@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

# English Literature GCSE

Topics include:

<p><u>Paper 1 Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Novel</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare (Elizabethan play)</li> <li>• The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson (Victorian novel)</li> </ul>	
<p><u>Paper 2 Modern Texts and Poetry</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Inspector Calls by J.B Priestley (Edwardian play)</li> <li>• Unseen Poetry</li> <li>• Power and Conflict Poetry</li> </ul>	<p><u>Paper 2 Modern Texts and Poetry</u></p> <p>Poetry explored from a range of widely recognised poets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wilfred Owen</li> <li>• Percy Bysshe Shelley</li> <li>• William Wordsworth</li> <li>• Robert Browning</li> <li>• John Agard</li> </ul>

**Assessment:** Two written examinations at the end of year 11 (each worth 50%).

- Paper 1: 1 hour 45
- Paper 2: 2 hours 15

## Career Opportunities:

GCSE English Literature offers a gateway to careers that value critical thinking, analytical skills, and a deep understanding of human experiences. It is particularly relevant for creative industries, such as writing, publishing, and screenwriting, where storytelling is essential. Careers in education, academia, and research also benefit from the analytical and interpretative skills developed through studying literature. Additionally, roles in law and public relations often require the ability to analyse complex texts and argue complex ideas.

**Exam Board:** AQA <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-8702/specification>

**Subject Leader:** Miss M Pratt [meganpratt@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:meganpratt@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

## Maths GCSE

Topics include:

<b>Number</b> This covers arithmetic, number operations, fractions, percentages, and standard form. It also includes topics such as powers, roots, and indices.	<b>Algebra</b> This involves understanding expressions, equations, inequalities, and sequences. It includes solving linear and quadratic equations, manipulating algebraic formulas, and working with graphs.
<b>Ratio, proportion, and rates of change</b> This strand focuses on understanding and working with ratios, proportions, rates of change, and direct and inverse proportion.	<b>Geometry and measures</b> This includes properties of shapes, angles, perimeter, area, volume, and geometric transformations. It also involves understanding coordinate geometry and trigonometry.
<b>Probability</b> This strand teaches the principles of probability, including calculating the likelihood of events and using probability models to make predictions.	<b>Statistics</b> This involves collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data. Topics include data representation (such as graphs and charts), measures of central tendency (mean, median, mode), and measures of spread (range, interquartile range).

**Assessment:** Three examinations at the end of year 11 (each worth 33 1/3%). 1.5 hours each. The first assessment is non-calculator, and the second two assessments are calculator.

**Career Opportunities:** A GCSE in maths opens doors to a wide range of career opportunities. Strong mathematical skills are highly valued in fields like engineering, architecture, economics, and computer science. Careers such as data analyst, actuary, financial analyst, and software developer rely heavily on mathematics. Professions in healthcare, like medical research and pharmaceuticals, also demand mathematical expertise. Additionally, maths supports careers in fields like logistics, cybersecurity, and scientific research, where problem-solving and analytical skills are essential. A solid foundation in GCSE maths is key to countless exciting and rewarding career paths.

**Exam Board:** Edexcel

**Subject Leader:** Miss R Elliott [RebeccaElliott@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:RebeccaElliott@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)



# Biology GCSE

Topics include:

<p><u>Cell biology</u></p> <p>In this section we will learn about animal and plant cell structure and how cells differentiate to become specialised. For an organism to grow, cells must divide by mitosis producing two new identical cells. If cells are isolated at an early stage of growth before they have become too specialised, they can retain their ability to grow into a range of different types of cells. This phenomenon has led to the development of stem cell technology.</p>	<p><u>Organisation</u></p> <p>In this section we will learn about the human digestive system, the circulatory system and the respiratory system. We will learn about what happens when these systems are damaged and how we can treat diseases like CHD and reduce the risk of developing these diseases. We will also learn how the plant's transport system is dependent on environmental conditions to ensure that leaf cells are provided with the water and carbon dioxide that they need for photosynthesis.</p>
<p><u>Infection and response</u></p> <p>Pathogens are microorganisms that cause infectious diseases in animals and plants. We will learn how different pathogens make us feel ill and how the human body defends itself against disease. We will also learn about how we can prevent disease through vaccinations and how the use of monoclonal antibodies are used to identify disease but also treat disease.</p>	<p><u>Homeostasis and response</u></p> <p>In this section we will learn that cells in the body can only survive within narrow physical and chemical limits and in order to do this the body requires control systems that constantly monitor and adjust the composition of the blood and tissues. In this section we will also explore the structure and function of the nervous system and the hormonal.</p>
<p><u>Inheritance, variation and evolution</u></p> <p>In this section we will compare sexual and asexual reproduction. We will explore the effects of variation generated by mutations and sexual reproduction in terms of evolution, We will also explore how scientists can use selective breeding and genetic engineering to our benefit.</p>	<p><u>Ecology</u></p> <p>In this section we will explore how humans are threatening biodiversity as well as the natural systems that support it. We will also consider some actions we need to take to ensure our future health, prosperity and well-being.</p>

**Assessment:** Two written examinations at the end of year 11 (each worth 50%). 1 hour 45 minutes each.

**Career Opportunities:** Studying biology can help to develop skills such as analytical skills, attention to detail, numeracy and maths, observational skills, planning, problem-solving, research, scientific techniques and time management. Biologists are working to solve the biggest challenges currently faced by people and the planet – fighting disease, protecting the environment and feeding our growing population. You will find biologists working all over the world in almost every setting imaginable. The employment opportunities are vast with jobs including Accountant, Bioengineer, Clinical technician, Doctor, Epidemiologist, Geneticist, Librarian, Neuroscientist, Patent lawyer, Press officer, Publisher, Teacher, Zoologist.

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Subject Leader:** Mrs N Bailey [NicolaBailey@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:NicolaBailey@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

# Chemistry GCSE

Topics include:

<p><b>Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table</b></p> <p>In this topic you will learn how the periodic table provides chemists with a structured organisation of the known chemical elements from which they can make sense of their physical and chemical properties.</p>	<p><b>Bonding</b></p> <p>You will learn how chemists use theories of structure and bonding to explain the physical and chemical properties of materials. Scientists use this knowledge of structure and bonding to engineer new materials with desirable properties.</p>
<p><b>Chemical Changes and Electrolysis</b></p> <p>You will learn about different chemical changes discovered by scientists over many years and how to predict exactly what new substances will be formed when different substances react. You will also learn how scientists use this knowledge to develop a wide range of different materials and processes.</p>	<p><b>Energy Changes</b></p> <p>Energy changes are an important part of chemical reactions. The interaction of particles often involves transfers of energy due to the breaking and formation of bonds. These interactions between particles can produce heating or cooling effects that are used in a range of everyday applications. Cells and batteries use these chemical reactions to provide electricity.</p>
<p><b>Rates of Reaction</b></p> <p>Chemical reactions can occur at vastly different rates. Whilst the reactivity of chemicals is a significant factor in how fast chemical reactions proceed, there are many variables that can be manipulated in order to speed them up or slow them down. You will learn what these variables are and carry out experiments to investigate each of these.</p>	<p><b>Organic Chemistry</b></p> <p>The chemistry of carbon compounds is so important that it forms a separate branch of chemistry. A great variety of carbon compounds is possible because carbon atoms can form chains and rings linked by C-C bonds. These carbon compounds include fossil fuels which are a major source of feedstock for the petrochemical industry. Chemists are able to take organic molecules and modify them in many ways to make new and useful materials such as polymers, pharmaceuticals, perfumes and flavourings, dyes and detergents.</p>
<p><b>Analysis</b></p> <p>You will learn how chemists have developed a range of tests to detect specific chemicals. The tests are based on reactions that produce a gas with distinctive properties, or a colour change or an insoluble solid that appears as a precipitate.</p>	<p><b>Atmosphere</b></p> <p>You will learn how the atmosphere has developed over time and some of the problems caused by increased levels of air pollutants and how we can develop solutions that help to reduce the impact of human activity.</p>

**Assessment:** Two written examinations at the end of year 11 (each worth 50%). 1 hour 45 minutes each.

## Career Opportunities:

Studying chemistry can help to develop skills such as analytical skills, attention to detail, numeracy and maths, observational skills, planning, problem-solving, research, scientific techniques and time management. Chemists are currently involved in researching new medicines to help cure cancer, in battery design to improve the lifespan of electric batteries in phones and vehicles and in providing solutions to global warming eg carbon capture. The employment opportunities are vast with jobs including Accountant, Art restoration, Biochemist, Clinical technician, Doctor, Drug development and sales, Librarian, Patent lawyer, Pharmacist, Physiotherapist, Teacher, Vet.

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Subject Leader:** Miss H Neal [hellenneal@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:hellenneal@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

## Physics GCSE

Topics include:

Paper 1	Paper 2
<b>Energy:</b> Students will learn how energy can be stored and transferred between different stores. They will develop their mathematical skills in order to calculate the different manifestations of energy that we experience in the world around us. They will also explore ideas around efficiency, insulation, and sustainability.	<b>Forces and Motion:</b> This topic addresses the fundamental properties of forces and how they can cause objects to move and deform. Students will explore scalars and vectors, moments, pressure, speed, velocity, and many other ideas pioneered by Isaac Newton and other famous minds from the past.
<b>Electricity:</b> Students will explore ideas about electrostatics and electrical circuits. They will build on their mathematical skills and practical experience working with a range of electronic components. They will also examine the differences between direct and alternating current	<b>Waves:</b> We live in a world permeated by waves, and in this topic, students will examine their curious properties. They will compare transverse and longitudinal waves, explore electromagnetic, sound, and seismic waves. They will also work with lenses and mirrors to develop their practical skills
<b>Particles:</b> Students will use the particle model to explain the properties of materials, and their behaviour in different states of matter. They will also build on the numeracy skills developed in earlier topics.	<b>Electromagnetism:</b> Magnetism is a phenomenon that has puzzled humans for centuries. In this topic, students learn how magnetic fields and electromagnetic devices are fundamental to the infrastructure of our modern world, from transport, to scrap yards, to energy transmission.
<b>Atoms and Radiation:</b> This topic journeys inside the atom to unlock the secrets of the nucleus. Complex ideas around ionising radiation and half-life will be explored. We will also study the potential for energy and disaster that has been unleashed in the nuclear age.	<b>Space:</b> We are only just beginning to understand the place of our pale blue dot in the vast universe. This topic covers some of the ideas that form the building blocks of astronomy. Students will learn about the contents of our solar system, the lifecycle of stars, and the scientific evidence for the big bang theory.

**Assessment:** Two written examinations at the end of year 11 (each worth 50%). 1 hour 45 mins each.

**Career Opportunities:** Good physics qualifications indicate that a student has developed fantastic numeracy and analytical skills that are invaluable in a wide variety of employment sectors. These include, but are in no means limited to: Finance, Law and Management, the Armed Forces, Astronomy/Space Industries, Computer Science, Dentistry, Electronics, Engineering of all disciplines, Materials Science, Medicine, Medical Physics, Pharmacy, Product Design, Physiotherapy.

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Subject Leader:** Miss Ashleigh Baker [ashleighbaker@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:ashleighbaker@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

# Ethics and Philosophy GCSE

## Why study Ethics and Philosophy?

Studying GCSE Ethics and Philosophy will allow you to investigate ultimate questions such as “why does evil exist?” And “what is the purpose for life?” You will study topics that explain the diversity of life and religion in the modern world. You will improve philosophical thinking skills and the ability to think outside of the box. This will be through looking at understanding contemporary ethical and religious issues such as medical ethics and religious fundamentalism. This will allow you to develop communication skills and you will learn to clearly express your views and increase your self-confidence.

## Topics include:

<u><b>Judaism</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jewish beliefs e.g The covenant, Mitzvot</li> <li>• Jewish Practices e.g Bar Mitzvah, Weddings.</li> </ul>	<u><b>Themes</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religion &amp; Life</li> <li>• Religion, War &amp; Peace</li> <li>• Religion, Crime &amp; Punishment</li> <li>• Human Rights</li> </ul>
<u><b>Christianity</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christian Beliefs e.g The Trinity, The Incarnation</li> <li>• Christian Practices e.g. Baptism, Reconciliation.</li> </ul>	

**Assessment:** Two written examinations at the end of year 11 (each worth 50%). 1 hour 45 minutes each.

## Career Opportunities:

As an Ethics student, you will have gained skills highly valued by employers, such as analytical and critical reasoning and evaluation, oral and written communication and research skills as well as an understanding of the world around you, developing empathy for others. Past students have gone on to a variety of careers, including law, medicine, the public sector, management, finance and journalism to name a few. As the subject is about relating to people so many careers want to know about your Ethics!

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Subject Leader:** Mrs E Goldbey [ErinGoldbey@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:ErinGoldbey@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

## GCSE Art and Design: Fine Art

### Why study Fine Art?

Creativity through art can lead to a new world of personal discovery, not just in the end result, but in the journey you go on to produce it. By discovering more about the process of making art you will find out a lot about who you are and how you view the world. Creativity is about thinking differently and finding ways to visualise that unique, personal idea. The aim of the course is to encourage students to look at themselves and the world around them with a thoughtful, personal, creative eye. They will gather visual and written research, produce a series of observational drawings, paintings and digital images that explore and refine the use of a range of art materials and techniques. Fine Art is taught by a team of highly skilled artist teachers.

### Topics include:

<u><b>Vanitas; Still Life</b></u> Still life; a historical context Working with clay Observational drawing, materials & techniques Learning about symbolism	<u><b>Portraiture; Identity</b></u> Proportions of the face Exploring identity Portraiture through history What is a Portrait? Abstraction & Realism
<u><b>Environment</b></u> Narrative art Developing photography for Art Current events Thinking about the world around us	<u><b>Mock exam</b></u> Past Art exam paper Selection of theme Development of project Final piece

**Assessment:** 60% coursework. 4 units of work- sketchbooks and final piece  
 40% exam. Sketchbook and 10 hour (2 day) final piece, exam conditions.

### Career Opportunities & links:

The growth rate of UK-based creative industries is already providing many vocational pathways for FUS students. We are proud of the range and quality of creative pathways that our students have accessed via our leading Level 4 BTEC Foundation Diploma- Art, Design and Media Practice course. From Fine Artist, Illustrator, Set Designer, Animator, Games Art Design, Architect, Graphic Communication, Photographer, Interior Design, web designer, advertising, creative marketing, the range of careers where AI cannot compete with lateral, creative thinking is continuing to grow and our students are at the forefront of this. As an Art student, you will have gained skills highly valued by employers, such as analytical and critical reasoning, oral and written communication, and research skills, and thinking outside of the box.

**Exam board:** AQA <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8202/specification>

**Subject Leader:** Mrs. Martha Chengadu [marthachengadu@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:marthachengadu@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

## GCSE Art and Design: Photography

**Why study Photography?** Studying GCSE Photography will help you to develop your ability to communicate through expressive, experimental and narrative images. It will help you to understand the basic concepts of visual language and enable you to learn a wide range of photographic processes and techniques. It will help you to look at the world around you more critically and encourage you to look at the work of other photographers. You will be given an opportunity to work with a wide range of photographic processes and techniques both in terms of taking your own photographs and the more technical processes of printing them in the dark room. You will have a project brief and will select appropriate subject matter, viewpoints and lighting. You will develop an understanding of the working practices of other photographers through detailed visual and written analysis of their work. *(It is important to note that there is a large written element to the course as contextual studies accounts for 25% of the GCSE grade)*

**Topics include:**

<b><u>IDENTITY (Year 9)</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History of photography</li> <li>Darkroom induction (photograms, pinhole camera photography)</li> <li>Adobe Photoshop induction</li> <li>Introduction to analysing the work of other photographers using specialist key words</li> <li>Exploration of 'Hidden Identity'</li> </ul>	<b><u>SPACES (Year 10)</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shoot your first 35mm b/w film</li> <li>Darkroom printing from negatives</li> <li>Explore 4 sub-topics ('Hidden Spaces', 'Evidence of human presence', 'Leading lines' and 'Fantasy landscapes')</li> <li>Extend Photoshop skills / knowledge</li> <li>Greater understanding of surrealist and conceptual fine art photography</li> </ul>
<b><u>NARRATIVE (End of Year 10 into Year 11)</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narrative photography – telling stories with layered images, text and image or sequences.</li> <li>Music CD design – using your own photos to create CD graphics and packaging for a song of your choice</li> </ul>	<b><u>EXTERNALLY SET EXAM (Year 11)</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>January – March of Year 11</li> <li>Choose your exam question from a list of 7-8 choices</li> <li>10 weeks preparatory period</li> <li>10-hour practical exam (over 2 days) to produce final piece/s</li> </ul>

**Assessment:**

- 3 coursework projects (Identity, Spaces and Narrative) worth 60% of the GCSE grade.
- 10-hour practical exam at the end of the spring term in Year 11 worth 40%.

**Career Opportunities:** As a photography student, you will have gained skills highly valued by employers, such as strong written analytical skills, effective research skills and competent IT skills. You will also be confident in using Adobe Photoshop to edit photographs and create graphics. Studying photography is a good launchpad for a wide range of careers, including commercial photography, film and media production, magazine features editing, website design, graphic design, animation and photojournalism amongst others. Course leads onto A Level and potentially BTEC Level 4 Foundation.

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Subject Leader:** Miss Fiona Liddiard [fionaliddiard@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:fionaliddiard@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

## GCSE Art & Design: Fashion and Textiles

### Why study Textiles?

Textiles offers a creative curriculum which allows students to learn a diverse range of practical skills relevant to future careers in the fashion and textile industry. Exploring a range of media, expressing ideas, recording observations, and generating a personal response to contemporary themes enables learners to evolve into conscientious, empathic artists, designers, and craftspeople. Students learn to make dynamic fashion and textile outcomes; innovate and engineer with materials, think freely; working independently and collaboratively. Sustainable practice and current industry considerations underpin the curriculum, delivered by highly skilled specialist subject staff. Visiting artists, theatre and museum trips and loans.

### Topics include:

<b><u>Unit 1</u> Fashioned from Nature</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual and design elements</li> <li>• Surface pattern and textile design</li> <li>• Constructed textiles: weave</li> <li>• Illustration- digital and stitched</li> </ul>	<b><u>Unit 2</u> Upcycle</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repurposing and refashioning</li> <li>• Customising garments</li> <li>• Sustainability- material exploration</li> <li>• Embellishment and design</li> </ul>
<b><u>Unit 3</u> Narrative: Personal choice</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pattern cutting and construction</li> <li>• Costume and corsetry</li> <li>• Fashion history- Victorian to present</li> <li>• Theatre, film, performance research</li> <li>• Diverse textile techniques</li> </ul>	<b><u>Externally set assignment: Exam unit</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sketchbook research</li> <li>• Material experimentation</li> <li>• Recording ideas and observations</li> <li>• Personal response: Final piece</li> <li>• 10 hour practical exam</li> </ul>

Assessment: 60% coursework; 3 units of work- sketchbooks and final piece  
40 % exam. Sketchbook and 10 hour final piece, exam conditions. Exam Board: AQA

### Career Opportunities:

The UK's creative industries are growing rapidly, offering diverse pathways for FUS students. Our Level 4 BTEC Foundation Diploma in Art, Design, and Media Practice prepares students for careers in areas like textile design, fashion illustration, costume, theatre, photography, fine art textiles, interiors, and creative marketing. These fields value lateral, creative thinking where AI cannot compete. As a Textiles student, you'll gain bespoke making skills, alongside analytical reasoning, communication, and research abilities. Equipped with these, you'll engineer your own future, embracing innovation and thinking outside the box to lead in this dynamic and expanding sector.

**Subject Leader:** Ms. Lisa Robson [lisarobson@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:lisarobson@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

# Business Studies GCSE

## Why study Business?

Studying GCSE Business teaches you about the real world of business, providing you with a practical understanding of the functions that make up any business. You will study different ownership types, influences on business activity, operations, marketing, finance and human resources. Whether you strive to be a business owner, business analyst, effective employee or just an informed consumer business is a great option for you. Business will help you develop critical thinking skills, problem solving, decision making and communication skills

## Topics include:

- 3.1 Business in the Real World
- 3.2 Influences on Business
- 3.3 Operations
- 3.4 Human Resources
- 3.5 Marketing
- 3.6 Finance

**Assessment:** Two written examinations at the end of year 11 (each worth 50%). 1hr 45 mins each.

## Career Opportunities:

As a business student, you will have gained a broad range of knowledge and skills which are highly valued by employers, as well as giving you a good understanding of a range of business activities. Business studies applies to any job you may do but can also take you on a more specific path from retail assistant to accounting, marketing manager to project management, human resources to logistics and as broadly as IT and Digital roles. You will develop your analytical and critical reasoning as well as your oral and written communication skills –studying business can be a great start to a career in almost any field you wish.

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Subject Leader:** Miss A Costello [AniCostello@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:AniCostello@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)



# Computer Science GCSE

## Why study Computer Science?

Studying GCSE Computer Science offers several important benefits, whether you're interested in pursuing a career in technology or simply want to develop valuable skills for the modern world. From critical thinking and problem-solving skills to understanding how computers work and the ethical & social implications such as data privacy and artificial intelligence, GCSE Computer Studies can give students the confidence and foundational knowledge to excel in more advanced studies in computer science or related fields at A-level, T-Level and university. **Only students who are in maths groups X1, X2, Y1 and Y2 are eligible to take this course.**

## Topics include:

- 3.1 Fundamentals of algorithms
- 3.2 Programming
- 3.3 Fundamentals of data representation
- 3.4 Computer systems
- 3.5 Fundamentals of computer networks
- 3.6 Cyber security
- 3.7 Relational databases and structured query language (SQL)
- 3.8 Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy.

**Assessment:** Two written examinations at the end of year 11 (each worth 50%). 1 hr 45 mins each.

## Career Opportunities:

**Technology-Driven Job Market:** In today's world, technology is everywhere. Studying computer studies provides a solid foundation for careers in fields such as software development, cybersecurity, data science, game development, IT support, and more.

**Versatility:** The skills gained in GCSE Computer Studies can be applied to many different sectors, including finance, healthcare, entertainment, engineering, and education. Digital literacy is increasingly valuable in almost every profession with many employers actively looking for these skills.

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Subject Leader:** Mrs Kirsty Holloway [KirstyHolloway@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:KirstyHolloway@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

# Product Design GCSE

## Why study Product Design?

In Product design (this is the AQA Design and Technology GCSE) the students study how to design and manufacture products. This is the process of identifying a market opportunity, clearly defining the problem, developing a proper solution for that problem and testing the solution with potential customers. Students will learn to deliver their thinking and design skills through iterative design processes that allow them to 'explore, create and evaluate' following practices and strategies used by the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries. This is a subject that encourages students to apply knowledge that they have gained from many other areas of the curriculum to the solving of practical problems.

## Topics include:

<u>Approaches to designing:</u> Design strategies Designers and design movements The work of companies such as Dyson, Alessi and Apple Ecological, environmental and social issues	<u>Designing products</u> Researching, designing and modelling Computer Aided Design (2D and 3D) Computer Aided Manufacture (laser and 3D printing)
<u>Materials and tools and their processes</u> Making products in wood, metals, plastics, textiles and electronics Safe working practices in a workshop Use of hand and machine tools Use of 'smart' materials Mechanical systems	<u>New and emerging technologies</u> Technology push and market pull Robotics and automation in manufacturing The impact on industry, society and employment

**Assessment:** Non-Exam (coursework) assessment (NEA): 30 – 35 hours approx. 50% of GCSE  
 Exam assessment: Written exam: 2 hours 50% of GCSE

## Career Opportunities:

Design and Technology is a practical and valuable subject. There are many employment routes that use the skills learned, for example creativity, problem solving, planning, and evaluation skills. In addition, students will learn how to take risks and so become more resourceful, innovative, enterprising and capable. ([Success at school: careers in D&T](#))

Exam Board: AQA

Subject Leader: Mr A Dolman [adamdolman@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:adamdolman@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

# Drama GCSE

## Why study Drama?

Drama develops your **confidence** and teaches you to communicate with **imagination** and **expression**. Through **performance** your **self-esteem** grows when you hear the applause of the audience. Though you might not know it now, you have the ability to use your voice and be heard. Storytelling, theatre and film can and have changed the world. On your drama GCSE journey, you need to work productively with others and **leadership** skills emerge that will make you feel proud of what you have achieved. **Performance skills** are the key to getting our ideas across so by studying drama you learn how to **connect**, **compromise** and **negotiate** with others. Above all acting and devising expands our **thinking**, we begin to understand people, their feelings, situations, life and the world in which we live.

## Topics include:

<b>Component 1:</b> The study of the set text – Blood Brothers that looks at the effect of economics on two brothers growing up – funny and tragic Live Theatre evaluation – which means school trips to the theatre.	<b>Component 2 – Devised Theatre</b> Create a whole class performance on a community issue – previous topics have been about - global warming, local rioting & refugees. Make up your own play from a given stimulus in small groups.
<b>Component 3 – Scripted Theatre</b> Interpret and perform the words of a playwright in an outdoor summer performance Perform extracts from a play - choose a monologue, pair or group work to perform to an examiner	<b>Learn about</b> The Theatre Practitioners and their acting styles – Stan, Brecht and Artaud The historical, social, political and cultural context of the drama

Assessment: C1- Written Exam 1hr45 - C2 – Performance and Devising Log - C3- Performance

## Career Opportunities:

To have confidence and to communicate expressively in a way that engages an audience will open many career doors for you. While some drama students want to be an actor, director, playwright or work in technical support; lighting, sound, costume or set design, the study of drama is not limited to the field of theatre. The skills developed in drama support the demands of most creative careers. Just think about how performance skills are used in a commercial and competitive world; in a boardroom, on a committee, competing for promotion, doing a sales pitch – the examples are endless.

Exam Board: AQA

Subject Leader: Ms M Pereira – [mariapereira@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:mariapereira@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

## Food and Nutrition GCSE

### Why study Food and Nutrition?

A GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition equips students with the knowledge, understanding and skills to be able to feed themselves and others better. Students develop practical cookery skills and techniques as they explore the underlying principles of food science, nutrition, food traditions and food safety. Heston Blumenthal's support will inspire students to be inquisitive, creative and confident cooks.

Topics include:

<b>Section A: Nutrition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The relationship between diet and health</li> <li>• Nutritional and dietary needs of different groups of people</li> <li>• Nutritional needs when selecting recipes for different groups of people</li> <li>• Energy balance</li> <li>• Protein, Fat, Carbohydrate</li> <li>• Vitamins, Minerals, Water</li> <li>• Nutritional content of the main foods</li> </ul>	<b>Section B: Food (provenance and choice)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food provenance: source and supply</li> <li>• Food processing and production</li> <li>• Food security</li> <li>• Technological developments to support better health and food production</li> <li>• Development of culinary traditions (students study British cuisine and a minimum of two international cuisines)</li> <li>• Factors influencing food choice</li> </ul>
<b>Section C: Cooking and food preparation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food science</li> <li>• Sensory properties</li> <li>• Food safety</li> </ul>	<b>Section D: Skills requirements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knife skills</li> <li>• Preparation and techniques</li> <li>• Cooking methods</li> <li>• Sauces</li> <li>• Set a mixture</li> <li>• Raising agents</li> <li>• Dough</li> <li>• Sensory properties</li> </ul>

**Assessment:**

1x Written exam 100 Marks, worth **50%**, 1 hour 30 min

1x Food science investigation task, (45 Marks) **15%**, - non-examined coursework assessment

1x Food preparation task (105 Marks) **35%**, - non-examined coursework assessment

**Career Opportunities:** Baker, Butcher, food scientist, food safety, product development, chef, hospitality and catering, food stylist, environmental health, nutritionist

**Exam Board:** OCR

**Subject Leader:** Mr. A Jones; [andyjones@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:andyjones@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

## French GCSE

### Why study French?

Studying GCSE French will develop not only your vocabulary and grammatical knowledge, but it will help you understand more about different cultures and traditions across the French-speaking world. GCSE French will give you the opportunity to use language detective skills to decode texts and audio in a foreign language, alongside giving you the chance to use language more creatively in speaking and writing tasks. Discovering another language and culture is the perfect way to learn more about your own.

### Topics include:

Theme 1: People and Lifestyle	-Identity and relationships with others -Healthy living and lifestyle -Education and work
Theme 2: Popular Culture	-Free-time activities -Customs, festivals and celebrations -Celebrity culture
Theme 3: Communication and the world around us	-Travel and tourism, including places of interest -Media and technology -The environment and where people live

### Assessment:

There are 4 exams at the end of Year 11. One for each of the 4 skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each exam is worth 25% of the overall GCSE. There is no coursework in French GCSE.

### Career Opportunities:

Through learning about French language and culture, you will have gained many skills highly valuable skills, including oral and written communication skills, tolerance and understanding of other cultures, and problem solving. Studying French will open doors to numerous careers, including teaching, translation and interpreting, journalism, hospitality, travel and working abroad. Even if you may not be considering a career directly related to French, many employers and higher education institutions value an awareness of another language and culture.

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Subject Leader:** Miss A Uphill [ameliauphill@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:ameliauphill@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

# Geography GCSE

## Why study Geography?

Studying GCSE Geography will help you understand the world around you, and your place within it. Understanding how our planet is structured, why different countries have different wealth and growth, why some areas are at more risk from others and the overall impact of climate change are just some of the key areas you will study and learn. Geography helps you to understand our ever-changing world, and what those changes might bring. It allows you to explore our planet fully and how to protect it as well.

## Topics include:

<b><u>Paper 1 – Living with the Physical Environment</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Challenge of Natural Hazards (including earthquakes, tropical storms and climate change)</li> <li>• The Living World (Tropical rainforests and Cold Environments)</li> <li>• Physical Landscapes – Coast and Rivers</li> </ul>	<b><u>Paper 2 – Challenges in the Human Environment</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban Issues and Challenges (cities around the world)</li> <li>• The Changing Economic World (Development and HIC vs. LICs)</li> <li>• The Challenge of Resource Management – Food, Energy and Water</li> </ul>
<b><u>Paper 3 – Geographical Applications – Part A</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive a booklet of information 12 weeks before the exam, questions about the issues raised in the booklet, which you get a copy of in the exam.</li> </ul>	<b><u>Paper 3 – Geographical Applications – Part B</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions on the field trips completed at the end of Year 10.</li> <li>• Unseen fieldwork questions and skills</li> </ul>

**Assessment:** Three written examinations at the end of year 11 (Paper 1 and Paper 2 worth 35% each, Paper 3 worth 30%). All are 1 hr 30 mins each.

## Career Opportunities:

Geography is a highly respected subject by colleges and universities. Geography is classed as both a humanities subject and a science subject, as it demonstrates a lot about the skills and knowledge you have developed, including using data, being able to critically evaluate and understanding people and places across the world. Skills like these are valued in professions such as law, finance, business and politics, as well as within the sciences and arts. It naturally lends itself to environmentally linked careers as well such as conservation, planning and construction, meteorology, energy production and local government.

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Subject Leader:** Mr. P. Crossley [phillipcrossley@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:phillipcrossley@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

# Health and Fitness VCERT

## Why study VCERT Health and Fitness?

Studying VCERT Health and Fitness will help you understand the science of your body and how our bodies work and change in relation to exercise and training. If you study Health and Fitness, you will learn how to benefit from different training methods, how to lead an active, healthy lifestyle and understand how diet impacts on our overall health and well-being. Students will also learn how to plan fitness programmes.

## Topics include:

<u>External exam – 40%</u>	<u>Synoptic Project – 60%</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Body systems – Skeletal, muscular, circulation &amp; respiratory</li> <li>• Training – Principles, methods &amp; components of fitness</li> <li>• Lifestyle – Diet, lifestyle choices</li> <li>• Warm up/cool down</li> <li>• Goal Setting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All teaching content from the exam unit.</li> <li>• Includes practical element leading a fitness programme and carrying out fitness tests</li> </ul>

**Assessment:** One external exam (1 hour & 30mins) and a synoptic project (coursework – controlled assessment)

## Career Opportunities:

As a Health and Fitness student, you will have gained skills highly valued by employers, such as leadership skills involving teamwork, problem solving and verbal communication, but also written communication, research skills and the ability to evaluate and justify the content studied – studying Health & Fitness allows you to have the insight into a range of careers such as a fitness instructor, personal trainer, working in the leisure industry or becoming a dietician.

**Exam Board:** NCFE

**Subject Leader:** Mr Ellis [ryanellis@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:ryanellis@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

## Health and Social Care VCERT

### Why Study Health and Social Care?

A career in health and social care offers job security, advancement, and over 350 distinct roles. This course introduces students to the sector's impact on health and well-being and equips them with essential skills for diverse care settings. With growing demand due to an aging population, the course prepares students to provide specialised care to vulnerable individuals while fostering an understanding of proper treatment within care environments. It encourages critical, logical, and creative thinking, building independence and confidence in transferable skills. With 60% coursework assessment, students who excel in project and research activities may achieve higher grades. This qualification provides a strong foundation for careers in health and social care or other fields, supporting your child's success in both academic and practical areas.

### Topics include:

<b>R033: Supporting individuals through life events</b> <i>This unit is assessed by a Set Assignment.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life stages</li> <li>• Impacts of life events</li> <li>• Sources of support</li> </ul>	<b>R035: Health promotion campaigns</b> <i>This unit is assessed by a Set Assignment.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current public health issues and the impact on society</li> <li>• Factors influencing health</li> <li>• Plan and create a health promotion campaign deliver and evaluate a health promotion campaign</li> </ul>
<b>R032: Principles of care in health and social care settings</b> <i>This unit is assessed by an exam.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The rights of service users in health and social care settings</li> <li>• Person-centred values</li> <li>• Effective communication in health and social care settings</li> <li>• Protecting service users and service providers in health and social care settings</li> </ul>	

**Assessment:** Two coursework units 60% (2 x 30%) and one externally assessed unit (exam) at the end of year 11 (40%).

### Career Opportunities:

Possible careers (some require additional qualifications at level 3) are Nursery assistant, Care assistant, Ward assistant, Residential care assistant, Day center carer, Occupational therapist, Speech and Language therapist, Youth offending team officer, Ambulance / Paramedic, Activities worker or coordinator, Drug and alcohol worker, Social Worker Counsellor, Operating Theatre worker, Physiotherapist, Midwife, Teacher, Nursing and so many more.

**Exam Board:** OCR

**Subject Leader:** Miss L Gillett [leanneshuttleworth@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:leanneshuttleworth@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)



# History GCSE

## Why study History?

Studying GCSE History will help you understand the present and provide you with a basis for your role as a responsible citizen by allowing you to develop skills to be an independent learner and a critical thinker. GCSE History will give you the opportunity to deepen your understanding of how the past has been represented or interpreted. Understanding the connections between past and present is of absolute importance for a good understanding of the condition of being human. That is why history matters. It is not just 'useful', it is essential.

## Topics include:

<u>America, 1920–1973: Opportunity and inequality</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>American People and the 'Boom'</li> <li>Americans' Experiences of the Depression and New Deal</li> <li>Post-War America</li> </ul>	<u>Conflict and tension in Asia, 1950-1975</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conflict in Korea</li> <li>Escalation of Conflict in Vietnam</li> <li>The Ending of Conflict in Vietnam</li> </ul>
<u>Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medicine Stands Still</li> <li>The Beginnings of Change</li> <li>A Revolution in Medicine</li> <li>Modern Medicine</li> </ul>	<u>Elizabethan England, c1568–1603</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elizabeth's Court and Parliament</li> <li>Life in Elizabethan Times</li> <li>Troubles at Home and Abroad</li> <li>The Historic Environment of Elizabethan England</li> </ul>

**Assessment:** Two written examinations at the end of year 11 (each worth 50%). 2 hours each.

## Career Opportunities:

As a history student, you will have gained skills highly valued by employers, such as analytical and critical reasoning, oral and written communication and research skills – studying history is a good launchpad for a wide range of careers, including law, the public sector, business management, finance and journalism to name a few. However, if you are passionate about history you may wish to explore careers opportunities in an area more directly related to History such as Conservation Officer, Museum Curator, Archaeologist or Archives Manager.

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Subject Leader:** Mr. C. Martin [chrismartin@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:chrismartin@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

## Math Statistics GCSE

### Why study Math Statistics?

Statistics are everywhere, from predicting the weather, deciding on how much traffic there will be on a motorway to monitoring workflow in the office. It is a huge part of everyday life, careers, and further study. This GCSE will enable you to acquire transferable skills to support you in progressing beyond GCSE in a range of subjects. An understanding of data in the real world and how it can be used (or misused) can empower you and is relevant to everyone. GCSE Statistics incorporates numerous examples of real-life data and contexts, which build skills that students will use in other subjects. Students gain a rounded understanding of how to interpret and apply data in the real world. **Only students who are in maths groups X1, X2, Y1 and Y2 are eligible to take this course and are strongly advised to do so.**

### Topics include:

Collecting Data (Types of Data, Sampling, Hypotheses, Petersen capture-recapture, Designing Investigations)	Processing and Representing Data (Histograms, Comparative Pie Charts, Population Pyramids, Choropleth Maps)
Summarising Data (Averages, Standard Deviation, Weighted Mean, Skewness, Comparing Data Sets)	Probability Distributions (Binomial Distribution, Normal Distribution, Quality Assurance)

**Assessment:** Two written examinations at the end of Year 11 (each worth 50%) One hour 30 minutes each. The papers contain short, medium and extended response questions. There is no Coursework in this course.

### Career Opportunities:

Being confident in the use of Statistics is a crucial skill in many subjects and careers. These include but are not limited to: Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Government and Politics, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Business Studies, Economics. We have seen how advantageous it is for students to take GCSE Statistics as they move on to further study. It helps them in a number of different A Level courses. It has been noticeable how students in A Level Mathematics classes comment on how beneficial they have found the GCSE Statistics course.

**Exam Board:** Edexcel

**Subject Leader:** Subject Leader: Miss R Elliott [RebeccaElliott@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:RebeccaElliott@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

# Media GCSE

## Why study Media?

The study of the Media is wholly relevant to the contemporary world and continues to grow in its relevance. The media has a powerful overt and covert influence on our lives in all aspects from the hidden messages within a media product to the influence it has on industry and technology. Have you ever wondered why audiences are led to believe that certain values are the preferred choice? The media can influence us all in every aspect of our lives. We study products in all areas from TV, to radio, to magazines to social media. Alongside this we will understand what is typical about the media landscape and how media producers use this to share their own messages.

Topics include:

<u>Introduction to Media</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the media industry through investigation into existing media products.</li> <li>• Discover key media theorists and terminology to support your own writing.</li> </ul>	<u>Component 1 Exam 40%</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions based on set products studied in magazines, film promotion, radio, video games, newspapers or film.</li> </ul>
<u>Component 2 Exam 30%</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions based on set products studied in television or music videos.</li> </ul>	<u>Non Exam Assessment 30%</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Internally assessed coursework piece.</li> <li>• You will research and produce a media product using industry software.</li> </ul>

**Assessment:** Two written examinations at the end of year 11 (Paper 1 is 40% and Paper 2 is 30%). 1 hour 30 minutes hours each. Plus, an internally assessed NEA worth 20%.

**Career Opportunities:** As a media student, you will have gained skills highly valued by employers, such as analytical reasoning, oral and written communication and research skills. In addition to this you will gain skills in design, production and technical competency using industry software. You will also have a greater understanding of the media industries around you as a consumer. Studying media allows you to explore careers in film, radio or television production, script writing, journalism, advertising or promotion and marketing.

**Exam Board:** EDUQAS

**Subject Leader:** Mrs Sara Jackson Email: [sarajackson@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:sarajackson@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

## Music GCSE

### Why study Music?

Studying GCSE Music encourages you to engage in music making by developing skills in composition, arrangement, performance and appraisal. It is a comprehensive course that involves all styles of music and offers you the opportunity to complete the coursework in any way you desire, playing an instrument, singing, deejaying, or acting as a music producer. Music GCSE gives you a range of transferable skills are crucial to other studies and future work, not necessarily related to music.

### Topics include:

<u><b>Component 1: Performance</b></u>  Record 2 pieces of music, either a solo or as part of a group. This is not a live performance, but a private recording.	<u><b>Component 2: Composition</b></u>  Create 2 pieces of music in any style and using any means (instruments, computer apps).
<u><b>Component 3: Set works</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Africa (by Toto)</li> <li>• Badinerie (by J. S. Bach)</li> </ul>	<u><b>Other topics:</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AoS1 - Musical form and devices</li> <li>• AoS2 – Musical Theatre, Jazz &amp; blues</li> <li>• AoS3 – Film Music</li> <li>• AoS4 – Popular Music</li> </ul>

**Assessment:** Coursework (performances and compositions – 60%); written exam (40%)

### Career Opportunities:

As a music student, you will have gained skills that are highly sought after by employers and universities, such as collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, communication, listening, organisation, assertiveness, self-confidence, amongst others. Despite that, it is a fantastic hobby to have and one of best activities for mental health. However, if you are really passionate and aspire a career in music, GCSE will open possibilities for a vast array of careers, such as performing musician; composer for film, video-game or TV; arranger; producer; music teacher; sound engineer; recording engineer; music editor; music publisher; music manager; instrument technician; songwriter; content creator and dozens of roles in theatre venues and orchestras.

**Exam Board:** EDUQAS

**Subject Leader:** Mr R Gallo [robertogallo@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:robertogallo@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

## PE GCSE

### Why study PE?

Studying GCSE PE will help you understand the science of your body and how our bodies work and change in relation to exercise and training. We look in detail at the heart, the muscles and the mechanics of breathing and how they all work together. If you study GCSE PE, you will learn how to benefit from different training methods, how to lead an active, healthy lifestyle and understand the role drugs and the media play in sport. This would suit students who enjoy their Science and are actively participating in sport outside of school.

### Topics include:

<u>External Examination – Paper 1 (1hour &amp; 30mins)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Body systems – Skeletal, muscular, circulation &amp; respiratory</li> <li>• Training – Principles, methods &amp; components of fitness</li> <li>• Planes, Levers &amp; axis</li> <li>• Warm up/cool down</li> <li>• Drugs in sport</li> <li>• Sport injuries</li> </ul>	<u>External examination – Paper 2 (1hr 15mins)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lifestyle Choices &amp; consequences</li> <li>• Diet</li> <li>• Sport Psychology – goal setting, classification of skills, coaching guidance, and feedback</li> <li>• The relationship between Health, performance, and exercise</li> <li>• Commercialisation and the media in sport</li> <li>• Sporting behaviours</li> </ul>
<u>Practical assessment</u> Students must be assessed from 3 sports in any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A team sport</li> <li>• An individual sport</li> <li>• One other (could be another team or another individual)</li> </ul>	<u>Personal Exercise Plan (coursework)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students' complete coursework project on athletics and carry out fitness assessments</li> </ul>

**Assessment:** Two written examinations at the end of year 11 (60%), Practical assessment (30%) and a Personal Exercise Plan (10%). **Exam Board:** Edexcel

### Career Opportunities:

As a GCSE PE student, you will have gained skills highly valued by employers, such as teamwork, communication, leadership, collaboration, written communication, and the ability to justify and evaluate performance. GCSE PE gives an insight into a wide range of careers, including teaching, fitness industry, performance analysis, the business side of sport, coaching, sport psychology, dietician, and health professionals such as physiotherapy and sports therapy

**Exam Board:** Edexcel

**Subject Leader:** Mr Ellis [ryanellis@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:ryanellis@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

## Sociology GCSE

### Why study Sociology?

Sociology is the study of contemporary society and the individuals who inhabit it. Using a theoretical approach, Sociologists research various areas of society to develop an understanding of human behaviour and function. Sociology enables students to view the world from a unique perspective and to make sense of roles and structures within a society including how gender and ethnicity are learned constructs, and how political outcomes can impact areas of life such as family. Having an informed sense as to how and why society functions will help students engage with many kinds of people in the wider world of work.

### Topics include:

<u><b>Key Concepts in Sociology</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culture, norms, and values</li> <li>• Feral children</li> <li>• Social identity</li> </ul>	<u><b>Families and Households</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theoretical perspectives</li> <li>• Roles and relationships</li> <li>• Childhood</li> </ul>
<u><b>Education</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role of education</li> <li>• Social groups and attainment</li> <li>• Social policy</li> </ul>	<u><b>Research Methods</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantitative and qualitative methods</li> <li>• Sampling</li> <li>• Research ethics</li> </ul>
<u><b>Social Inequality</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty in the UK</li> <li>• Social groups and unequal life chances</li> <li>• Achieved vs ascribed status</li> </ul>	<u><b>Crime and Deviance</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social construction of crime</li> <li>• Social groups and criminality</li> <li>• The dark figure of crime</li> </ul>

**Assessment:** Two written examinations at the end of year 11 (each worth 50%). 1hr45 each.

### Career Opportunities:

The skills learned in sociology are marketable and having them on your CV shows that you understand the world around you. Sociology trains you to answer the 'what', 'how' and 'why' questions about human societies, giving you a competitive edge in the job market and providing a strong intellectual background for students considering careers in the professions or business. Many Sociology students pursue careers in Journalism, Business, Health and Welfare, Education, Policing, Public Relations, and Research.

**Exam Board:** Eduqas

**Subject Leader:** Mrs Katie Raisbeck [katieraisbeck@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:katieraisbeck@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

# Spanish GCSE

## Why study Spanish?

Studying GCSE Spanish will develop not only your vocabulary and grammatical knowledge, but it will help you understand more about different cultures and traditions across the Spanish-speaking world. GCSE Spanish will give you the opportunity to use language detective skills to decode texts and audio in a foreign language, alongside giving you the chance to use language more creatively in speaking and writing tasks. Discovering another language and culture is the perfect way to learn more about your own.

## Topics include:

Theme 1: People and Lifestyle	-Identity and relationships with others -Healthy living and lifestyle -Education and work
Theme 2: Popular Culture	-Free-time activities -Customs, festivals and celebrations -Celebrity culture
Theme 3: Communication and the world around us	-Travel and tourism, including places of interest -Media and technology -The environment and where people live

## Assessment:

There are 4 exams at the end of Year 11. One for each of the 4 skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each exam is worth 25% of the overall GCSE. There is no coursework in Spanish GCSE.

## Career Opportunities:

Through learning about Spanish language and culture, you will have gained many skills highly valuable skills, including oral and written communication skills, tolerance and understanding of other cultures, and problem solving. Studying Spanish will open doors to numerous careers, including teaching, translation and interpreting, journalism, hospitality, travel and working abroad. Even if you may not be considering a career directly related to Spanish, many employers and higher education institutions value an awareness of another language and culture.

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Subject Leader:** Mrs Fran Moyano [FranMoyano@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:FranMoyano@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)