

Transfer process- Frequency asked questions

**The Admissions Booklet contains detailed information to answer all your questions. This will be issued to parents by Easter 2022 and will be put on the school website.*

The following questions were asked during the virtual 'Welcome to FUS' evening held on Wednesday 16th March.

1. Are we setting for English?

No – English is taught in the teaching groups which are mixed ability groups. Majority of lessons are taught in teaching groups eg Geography, History, Art etc

2. My child's best friend is at a different school. Can they be together?

They will be in a mixture of groups with people they know and don't know, but we do not guarantee any one being together. There are several opportunities to be grouped together however; Tutor group, teaching Group, PE class, Maths class & Science Set. Students can be together at before school, break, lunch and after school in social spaces.

3. With our larger intake this year and the two extra classes is there provision for GCSE options that accommodate these extra pupils?

In the options process with the current year 9 this year we have given students a free choice of subjects. From this we have created option blocks. We are finding with bigger numbers it is easier to allow a free choice as there will be more classes.

4. Do we have homework in the summer holidays?

There will be suggested tasks for students to do. This will help them feel comfortable with the level of work they will receive in year 9, though it is not official homework.

5. Start and end time of the school day.

8.30am – 2.40pm

We are trying to change the end of the school day now that we are a reading school. We currently finish at 2.40 but we would like to extend this by 10 to 20 minutes. Dorset are working with the bus companies to facilitate this. We will keep you updated.

6. Where can we find information regarding the school buses?

Details regarding buses can be found in our admission booklet. Transport is arranged by Dorset County Council and not FUS. Therefore you will need to contact Dorset directly. County are obliged to provide spaces in September for all students so more buses may be provided by Dorset.

7. Do students have to study a language in Year 9

Yes – We feel it is important to study a language. We will ask parents / carers on the admission form which language they would like their child to follow, French or Spanish. Students will follow one language not both. We advise that you follow the language your child follows at middle school but this is not a requirement.

8. Are we running an activity week in the summer holidays, similar to last year?

9. Recap the Childcare course and T Levels please.

We are running T levels for year 12 from September – To begin with this will be digital, a network engineer strand and a programming strand. Degree apprenticeships are becoming very popular and T levels will key into this. September 2023 - Childcare will be the next strand, early years strand and a teaching assistant strand. Ultimately, we will offer Engineering as well.

10. Are there early morning clubs for students?

We do not run clubs in the morning, but we do open the school. We encourage students to go to the café where they can purchase breakfast if they wish.

11. Do students go to their middle school first on transfer day?

Please come straight to Ferndown Upper school on transfer day for 8.20 and finish at 2.30. Please wear your middle school uniform.

12. Pupil premium

Information regarding this will be on the admissions form. Also if you provide your National Insurance number on the admission form we can check if you are eligible for free school meals.

13. Where do students go on Transfer day and will they be met?

Yes. There will lots of staff to welcome students on transfer day and they can enter straight into the hall. This will be clearly marked so no student needs to worry. A number of our sixth formers will be available throughout the day to help the year 8s too.

14. What is the earliest time a student can arrive at school?

From around 7.45 students can access school. Before this time we cannot guarantee that there are enough staff on site to ensure that students are adequately supervised.

15. What is the SEND provision at FUS?

We have a very strong team at FUS that will work with both you and your child. There is an opportunity on the Admission form for you to tell us of any specific need that your child has which we may not already be told by their current school.

16. Is it free for students to use the sports centre after school?

Students use the sports centre during their PE lessons and planned after school clubs. However, a student will need to pay if they choose to use the sport centre after school.

17. Do you get to pick subjects?

In year 9, students can pick their language choice only.

In January we launch the options process which is where students can choose their GCSE options. This will include their core subjects and four choices that students can take.

18. What support do FUS have for mobility issues?

We work with students for any specific needs and during the transfer process we will meet and discuss individual requirements.



19. What support for child who struggle with confidence?

Our tutor programme works with students to help them with confidence. For those students who need more we have an experience pastoral team, Elsa, Small group work with organisations eg Shine, and the Jon Egging programme.

20. Are students allowed mobile phones?

Students can carry phones but they must be off. If a member of staff sees a phone then it will be confiscated. Students may collect their phones at the end of the day. If a student has their phone confiscated more than once then parents/carers will need to collect it at the end of the day.

21. Are there bike sheds available

We have a number of bike sheds. The main bike shed is locked after tutor and unlocked at the end of the school day.

22. Where do I drop my child at the beginning of the school day?

If you are dropping your child off by car then the top carpark can be used as a drop off zone

23. Do you use Biometrics for registering?

We currently only use Biometrics for payments in the cafeteria.

24. My child is on a residential trip when Transfer day is being held. What provision will be in place for these students?

We will liaise with the middle school to arrange an extra visit. Unfortunately we cannot hold another transfer day.

25. Will tutor groups be vertical ie have students from other years in them?

We currently do not have vertical tutor groups. Your child's tutor group will have only year 9 students.

26. If my child is currently eligible for PPG does the transitional protection carry on into the Upper school under the current protection March 2025?

Yes

27. Are there school buses for after clubs?

We currently run one late bus but are working towards running two in the future.

28. Do you have stock second hand uniform?

Yes, we have second hand uniform. This will be made available to those who receive free school meals and then it will be open to all. There will be an opportunity to purchase uniform around transfer day. We will let you know nearer the time.