

Dear Parents and Carers,

March 2021

I would like to take this opportunity to be the first person to welcome you and your child into our school community, welcome to the Ferndown family.

I am very honoured to be the Head of FUS because I feel that we are a school that cares, where our students enjoy their learning and where they are developed to reach their full potential. We also have year groups that are the optimum size, which means that every student is treated as a person, rather than as a number, and we can provide each student with excellent support, as well as individual challenge. We also believe that we have an innovative and interesting curriculum, where students are given exciting opportunities for enrichment and where they can enjoy engaging lessons.

Ferndown is a school that is built upon relationships, it is the bedrock of our success and working together, our teachers will ensure that your son or daughter fulfil their full potential, thereby enabling excellent progress.

Testament to our success are the DfE's National Performance Tables, which were last published in 2020. As you can see, Ferndown Upper students achieved the best GCSE results in Dorset and our A Level students achieved the second best. This is also a regular occurrence, with Ferndown's combined outcomes being the highest in Dorset for the previous three years. Other highlights were; our maths faculty being the highest achieving at GCSE and A Level, with science coming a close second and English and the option subjects just behind in third place. The A Level outcomes for maths, sociology, fine art and textiles were also in the top 1% nationally.

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=default&table=schools&region=838&la-name=dorset&geographic=la&for=secondary&basedon=Progress%20%20by%20subject%20group&show=All%20pupils>

Showing 1 - 50 of 62 schools

1 2 Next

School name	Type of school	Number of pupils included in Progress 8 measure	Progress 8 score, description (overall) and confidence interval				
			Overall	English	Maths	Sciences, computer science, history, geography & languages	Additional approved qualifications
Ferndown Upper School	Maintained School	162	Progress score 0.63	0.43 (0.19 to 0.67)	0.68 (0.47 to 0.89)	0.6 (0.36 to 0.83)	0.77 (0.53 to 1)

So it can be seen that whatever your passion, Ferndown is the place to develop it to its full potential.

1. For 3<sup>rd</sup> year running - Best Progress Results in Dorset (GCSE, A Level & Applied A Level).
2. Best GCSE results in Dorset and top 4% nationally.
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> highest A Level and top 10% nationally.
4. Our 6<sup>th</sup> form has been rated as outstanding by ALPs.
5. [Best Upper School in England](#)

However, schools are not just about exams, the behaviour of our students is also exemplary, with students being both well behaved and fully engaged in their learning. We encourage our students to be whoever they want to be and to take a lead. Bullying is rare and always dealt with, because we believe that happy students will be motivated students.

Our last Ofsted inspection recognised these strengths and others besides, with some of the key quotes being:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “pupil behaviour is delightful”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “teachers have the highest expectations”</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “pupils feel extremely safe”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “there is a tangible, caring ethos around the school that is obvious to any visitor”</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “the school leads with ambition, vision and an uncompromising drive in the pursuit of excellence”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “the school is a very calm, welcoming and pleasant place to learn”</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “teachers ... engage and enthuse pupils”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “relationships between pupils and teachers are a real strength”</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “progress over time is rapid”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “pupils want to learn”</li> </ul>

I will be in contact again soon, in order to keep you up to date with key Ferndown Upper School news and events and I would like to also invite you all to our first virtual Y8 Transfer Evening, which is on the Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm.

This event will be a Teams ‘live’ meeting and you will be able to access it via the following link: [CLICK HERE](#), we will also send out a reminder nearer to the time.

This evening is a short introduction to FUS and is aimed at parents, with the opportunity to ask questions at the end.

We also have an active FUS Facebook page: [@ferdownupperschool](https://www.facebook.com/ferdownupperschool) and FUS Twitter Account: [@FerndownUpper](https://twitter.com/FerndownUpper), where you will be able to keep up with the latest Ferndown Upper news and events, so please make sure you and your family follow or subscribe.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the school at any point if you have any questions or queries: [transfer@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:transfer@fernup.dorset.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely,



**Philip Jones - Headteacher – Ferndown Upper School**