

2nd March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

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 which cares, where our students enjoy their learning and where they are challenged to reach their full potential. Every student is treated as a person, 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 will fulfil their full potential.

Evidence of our students' success are the DfE's National Performance Tables. As you can see, Ferndown Upper School students achieved the best GCSE results in Dorset in 2019 and 2022 (there were no league tables in 2020 and 2021) 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 six years (four years of published results). 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. For A Level outcomes; maths, sociology, fine art, sport and textiles were also in the top 1% of national results.

[Search results for Dorset - Find school and college performance data in England - GOV.UK \(find-school-performance-data.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/find-school-performance-data)

So it can be seen, that whatever your passion, Ferndown is the school to help you to fulfil it:

1. For the 6th year running - Best Progress Results in Dorset (Combined GCSE, A Level & Applied A Level).
2. Best GCSE results in Dorset for the 2nd year running and top 3% nationally – 2019 & 2022.
3. 2nd highest A Level and top 10% nationally.
4. Our 6th form has been rated as outstanding by ALPs.
5. Best Upper School progress results in England for the 2nd year running – 2019 & 2022.

However, schools are not just about exams, the behaviour of our students is also excellent, with our students being both well behaved and fully engaged in their learning. We encourage our students to be whoever they want to be. 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 the inspectors experiencing just how special a place to learn Ferndown Upper School really is. The inspectors commented upon our excellent extra-curricular and pastoral provision - they were amazed at just how much opportunity our students have available to them. They were also impressed with our students' behaviour and our calm learning environment, where students are allowed to be themselves, as this is quite a unique environment for an upper school. We are particularly pleased that the inspectors praised our ambitious curriculum. Our students now have access to triple science for all (being the first non-selective state school in the UK to do this), we offer a Foundation Art course (usually delivered by universities), we are the first deliverer of T Levels in Dorset and BCP and most importantly we encourage personal choice. We are extremely proud of our four completely 'free' GCSE option block choices (the most comprehensive offer of any local school).

Some of the key quotes being:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The lessons had no disruption, students were attentive and calm" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Students work incredibly hard"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "There is a well lead and inclusive culture and attitude across the school" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Teachers at FUS have strong subject knowledge"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "highly skilled teaching" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "pupils want to learn"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The leaders know their school and have high expectations, they lead with a high moral purpose and passion" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "relationships between pupils and teachers are a real strength"

I will be in contact again, in order to keep you up to date with key Ferndown Upper School news and events and I would also like to invite you all to our virtual Y8 Transfer Evening, which is on the Tuesday 14th March at 6.30pm.

This event will be a Teams 'live' meeting and you will be able to access it via this 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](#), FUS Insta: @ferndownupper and FUS Twitter account: [@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 via transfer@fernup.dorset.sch.uk

Yours faithfully,

