



# FEARNHILL SIXTH FORM

GROWING EXCELLENCE EVERY DAY



Sixth Form Prospectus 24/25

# Welcome to Fearnhill Sixth Form



Welcome to the Fearnhill Sixth Form course guide. We hope it gives you the information you need as you plan your next steps after Year 11. The Sixth Form is a source of great pride here at Fearnhill; it represents the very best of our ethos and approach and we are proud of the high quality teaching and the excellent results our students achieve.

The Sixth Form experience is, of course, a time of personal growth, exploration and enrichment as well as hard work. Students at Fearnhill consistently achieve well and secure places at Russell Group universities, colleges, apprenticeships or in the workplace. What they all have in common is that they are well-rounded, confident and articulate young adults who are ready to make their contribution to society.

I know you are excited and nervous about what comes next. At Fearnhill we will support and guide you to be ambitious and achieve your very best. Whatever your plans for the future, at Fearnhill you will be known, valued and supported for who you are and what you bring. We look forward to working with you!

*Tim Spencer Headteacher*



# Welcome to Fearnhill Sixth Form

Sixth Form is a fantastic stepping stone for any student's future. It will install serious study skills and provide opportunities for personal development, within the stability of a school structure which can really build confidence, resilience and aspirations within young people. Fearnhill students are enthusiastic, determined and happy and they leave our Sixth Form as versatile young adults eager to take their place in, and contribute to, society.

Obtaining excellent qualifications is fundamental to Sixth Form life, but at Fearnhill this is balanced with the aim of developing essential personal qualities. Our students are involved in sport and performing arts, as well as giving back to our school and local community, which equips them with leadership skills needed for the future. This experience takes place in a nurturing and supportive environment where we guide you to better yourselves as learners and individuals.

You will be encouraged to develop intellectual curiosity, to read around your studies and to challenge theoretical ideas. These essential study skills, alongside time management and organisation, are the qualities that lead to the success of our Fearnhill Sixth Form.

Alongside The Highfield Sixth Form, we offer an exceptionally wide range of stimulating and dynamic subjects which allows you to pursue your passions, and facilitates entry to the highest quality universities and apprenticeship schemes. We offer the Extended Project Qualification which stretches and challenges students and is a wonderful preparation for future independent study, plus Core Maths, an additional Level 3 qualification which supports the practical use of mathematics.

Students in the Sixth Form have fun, work hard and make lifelong friendships. In joining us, you will become part of our Fearnhill Family, in which everyone settles quickly and where there is a shared desire to succeed, and to help and support others.

I look forward to receiving your applications to our Sixth Form.

*Mr Thomas Marlow, Director of Sixth Form*





# Why I chose Fearnhill Sixth Form



Fearnhill School has always been so welcoming with teachers who are incredibly supportive. This has played a huge part in the quality of learning in the Fearnhill Sixth Form.

In Year 11 I had looked around a few other Sixth Forms, attending induction lessons, but I still chose Fearnhill. One of the main reasons were the class sizes. Across all three subjects I am in classes of below ten. This is important to me as it allows the teacher to have more individual time with each student, making sure that all students will be supported as individuals. All of my teachers have pushed me to do my best and have helped me endlessly in seeing my aspirations. I feel confident that they will continue to do so until the end of year 13.

Fearnhill Sixth Form has offered me countless opportunities and staff members are always keeping their eyes out for experiences beyond the classroom. They send out regular emails to students about work experience placements across a variety of careers, and encourage us to explore what life could be like post Year 13.

These experiences have helped me to decide what I want to do, have given me guidance on how to apply to university, explained the knowledge and qualities required for certain lines of work and the confidence to do what it takes to get there.

*Sarah - Year 13 - Chemistry, Philosophy & Ethics and Psychology Applying to study Forensic Psychology at University*



The reason I chose Fearnhill Sixth Form is the immense support provided by teachers and staff for subjects and support in general. The class sizes are smaller than other Sixth Forms in the local area, allowing students to get even more support and the chance to showcase skills in lessons. The Sixth Form community is really great; Year 13 students are friendly, helpful, and focused. This creates a friendly and calm environment, making the learning environment really comfortable. Fearnhill Sixth Form staff support what you want to do in the future and gives you a tremendous amount of opportunities and websites to help you to explore what interests you, such as Widening Participation experiences at universities.

Fearnhill Sixth Form really gives you the chance to be treated like a young adult and flourish in your academic studies with an excellent community alongside you.

*John - Year 12 - Psychology, History and English Literature*



# Why I chose Fearnhill Sixth Form

I joined Fearnhill School in Year 8 and had quite a negative view on education; I didn't really want to learn, I had little to no determination to succeed and my behaviour negatively impacted my GCSE grades. I left Fearnhill School to study A Levels at college.

I wanted to have freedom, but I quickly realised that I was not entirely ready for it and needed my teachers to support and guide me. I moved to another local Sixth Form, but felt lost in the number of students. I made the decision to return to Fearnhill and enrolled in the Sixth Form.

Fearnhill Sixth Form helped me to change the way I viewed my education by providing me many opportunities to grow personally and academically. I made new friends and felt supported in an environment with like-minded individuals.

The teachers are all experts in their fields and they are caring, always ready to go above and beyond to support their students, giving one to one support outside of classes where required. The school is always advertising work experience and other opportunities to help students learn and grow beyond the classroom.

These experiences completely changed my perception of school, to the point where I wanted to give back to the school community. I am now one of the Head Students and take great pride in representing the school by being a role model and leader. The staff at Fearnhill School have helped me reach my full potential and taught me that anything is possible when you put your mind to it. I have worked hard to be the best version of myself that I can be.

I never thought my school would have such a positive impact on my life, but it really has!

*Chenai - Year 13 - English Literature, Media Studies, Sociology and Criminology*

*Applying to study Criminology at University*



My experience of Fearnhill Sixth Form has been really positive. I feel supported in my learning as well as my wellbeing. For instance, the designated study periods are really useful, and classes are really small which allows for more personal and tailored discussions, improving my learning and understanding. Smaller class sizes have led to peer collaboration, which I personally think is really helpful. There are several spaces provided during study periods that are useful and are always tidy and quiet.

The atmosphere in Sixth Form is so friendly, and it's been really nice to get to know new people.

*Lily - Year 12 - Fine Art, English Literature and History*



# Curriculum vision & Enrichment

Fearnhill offers a rigorous and transformational education, that delivers excellence and challenge through a curriculum determined by the students themselves, leading their own journey and being regularly held accountable for their progress.

Our vision is for all students to flourish in their learning and develop the knowledge and skills needed to progress with confidence.

For many that will mean obtaining fantastic academic qualifications to access some of the best universities and careers in the world.

For others it will mean developing a broader range of skills, preparing for adult life, so that they can lead full and productive lives as members of their own community.

We achieve this by providing our students with:

- A stimulating learning environment.
- An ethos in which everyone is valued, respected, motivated, supported and encouraged to strive for success.
- A high quality of teaching and learning, through a skilled, trained and dedicated staff team.
- A student-led, broad but balanced curriculum.
- Care, support and guidance through a caring and nurturing community, resulting in excellent high-quality personal development and behaviour.
- Preparation for adult life by enabling work-based opportunities.
- Where appropriate, the facility to gain the skills necessary for paid employment through work-related experiences.
- Enrichment opportunities through a comprehensive PSHCE program, delivering spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils.
- Working in partnership with students, their families, professionals and local authorities, to prepare leavers for life after Fearnhill.

## Enrichment Opportunities

We encourage our students to be involved in different areas at Fearnhill.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Mentoring of Key Stage 3 students                    | • Duke of Edinburgh Award Gold  |
| • GCSE tutoring  | • Work Experience in Year 12  |
| • Workshop leading and support with primary schools    | • External speakers   |
| • Leadership of whole school events such as Sports Day | • Involvement in our wide variety of school clubs such as School Production, Football, Cooking Club, Dungeons & Dragons etc |
| • Trips and visits, such as the London Christmas Trip  | • Wellbeing sessions every fortnight  |

# Support in Sixth Form

## Pastoral Support

Every student is allocated a form tutor, their first point of call for any concerns. The form tutor is equipped for both pastoral and academic support and meets with their tutees every morning.

Form times cover the PSHE curriculum, discussions on current affairs and study sessions. The time can also be spent getting to know people and build new bonds.

In Year 13, your form tutor oversees your university and apprenticeship applications.

Mr Marlow, Director of Sixth Form is a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, and is also available to support students where necessary.

Mrs Mackrell, our Sixth Form Administrator, is always in the office if support is required.

As a school, we have excellent links to local support networks, charities and groups to support our young people.



## Fearnhill Sixth Form uses these networks, charities and groups to support our students even further:

Zero Gravity is a free online platform that propels talented pupils into top universities and careers through one-to-one mentoring, masterclasses, and a community of ambitious members. All of our students apply for this mentoring at the start of Year 12.

The Sutton Trust is an educational charity which aims to improve social mobility and address educational disadvantage. Students in Year 12 can apply for work experience, Summer Schools and other opportunities to support them with future applications.

Fearnhill are an InvestIN partner school. InvestIN offer teenagers to test drive their dream career through a range of immersive career experiences. Students gain hands-on experience alongside top industry professionals, enabling them to make the right career decisions and maximise their potential. Students can apply for these courses in Year 12 and Year 13.





# The 16-19 Bursary Fund



The 16-19 Bursary Fund is paid by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) to Schools and Colleges so that they may provide financial help to students whose access to or completion of education might be inhibited by financial consideration.

Students wishing to claim from the 16–19 Bursary Fund will fall into two categories:

## 1. Vulnerable Student Bursary

Vulnerable students are defined as:

- Young people in care
- Care leavers
- Young people personally in receipt of income support or universal credit
- Disabled young people in receipt of Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in their own right as well as Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit in their own right

If you believe that you fall into this category of bursary, you may be eligible for a payment of up to £1200 for the academic year.

## 2. Discretionary Student Bursary

The 16-19 Discretionary Bursary is a government fund allocated to schools to help students to cover the cost of their education. This is available to students whose parents meet one of the following criteria:

- receiving Free School Meals
- receiving Income Support
- receiving income-based job seekers allowance
- receiving support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- receiving Child Tax Credits – provided the parent is not entitled to Working Tax Credit and their annual income assessed by the Inland Revenue does not exceed the maximum allowed (£17,005)
- receiving the guaranteed element of the state pension credit
- a resident in the UK/EU for three years (NB refugees are not required to meet the three-year residency rule if refugee status was confirmed in the three years prior to starting the course).

# The 16-19 Bursary Fund

The discretionary bursary can be used to contribute to the following costs:

- clothing, books and other equipment for your course
- transport and lunch on days you study or train
- one-off payments to cover study trips or travel for university interviews.

Students in receipt of this discretionary funding will not be eligible or granted any further financial support from the school in help towards these costs.

Funding may only be partial payment and to a limited amount available within the budget.

As the discretionary bursary is targeted for those students who most need financial help, we reserve the right to request evidence of need.

We will also take into consideration wider family circumstances:

- Whether a student is from a single parent family
- Distance to travel to and from school
- Whether there are a lot of other children in the family
- Where a student has additional responsibilities that may impact on the help they need, for example they are a young carer

## **Timing, Amount of Payments and other information**

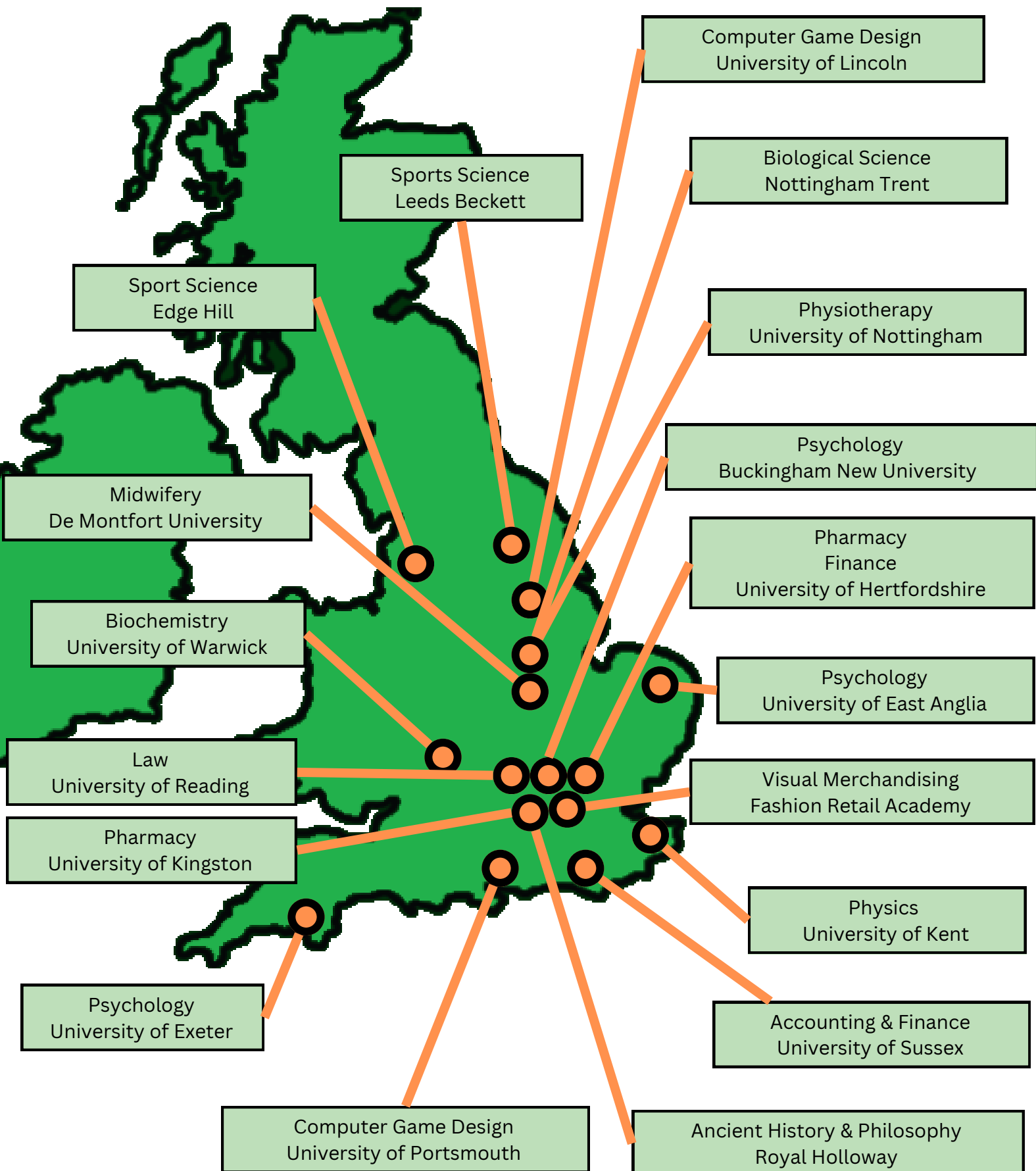
Students are only eligible for payments if they are legitimately enrolled and attending as defined by the criteria.

- The Vulnerable Student Bursary will be paid in equal instalments via cheque in the name of the student
- The Discretionary Bursary payment will be made at point of claim via cheque in the name of the student. Students are required to show receipts to prove reimbursement
- Students in receipt of a bursary must have satisfactory attendance and attitude to learning
- We are unable to make payments to anyone other than the student
- Students should ensure they have a bank account in their name through which to receive funds

**Please see Mr Marlow for information on how to apply.**



# University Destinations 2023





# University, Apprenticeships, Employment & Gap Years

Fearnhill Sixth Form provides an excellent and supportive environment for guiding students through to the next stages of life after school. Throughout their two years, students use the platform **Unifrog** to stretch their aspirational thinking and open their eyes to career pathways and how they can successfully get there. Students also have regular meetings with Form Tutors, the Head of Careers (Ms Balchin) and the Director of Sixth Form (Mr Marlow) to put plans of action in place.

The Unifrog logo, featuring the word "unifrog" in a green, lowercase, sans-serif font, enclosed within a black rectangular border.

## University

The majority of our students in Fearnhill Sixth Form go to university after they complete their studies. Some students will study a foundation course, an additional year to gain and solidify knowledge further. Students are supported with their UCAS (University applications) in school and can use Unifrog to help them choose the right courses and universities for them. All Sixth Form students attend the UCAS Exhibition in London, an opportunity to meet with different university and apprenticeship representatives to talk about applications. Fearnhill Sixth Form work closely with the local University of Hertfordshire to deliver workshops, talks and events for our students. We also have links with neighbouring the University of Cambridge and the University of East Anglia.

## Apprenticeships

At Fearnhill Sixth Form, we absolutely support students in applying for degree apprenticeships (Level 4-7). These allow for study alongside working for a company or organisation. These courses can take numerous years to complete and often result in full time employment as well as gaining a degree. Last year we had major success with one of our alumni gaining a degree apprenticeship in Software Development with MBDA and the University of Hertfordshire. We guided them with their application, as well as preparation for interview. Degree Apprenticeships are highly competitive, however, we encourage all students to consider them.

The MBDA logo, featuring the letters "MBDA" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, enclosed within a black rectangular border.

## Employment & Gap Years

We also understand that for some young people, education will end after Sixth Form. We know that some of our students will want full time work when they leave us and we support them in doing so. For one of our alumni, Level 3 qualifications opened the door for them to be a store manager for a bakery; the skills they gained from being in Fearnhill Sixth Form really held them in good stead above other applicants. Another alumnus gained a job working at Easy Jet, training to be cabin crew. Fearnhill Sixth Form supported them with applications and interview preparation.

Some of our students require more time to think about the future and take a gap year (a year to work, travel, improve their skills etc). We appreciate that these choices can seem huge to make so we stay in touch with alumni to support when they have left the school.

# Subjects available at Fearnhill Sixth Form

At Fearnhill Sixth Form our students are able to study three qualifications, comprising of A Levels and/or Vocational/alternative Level 3 qualifications. The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and Core Mathematics are considered additional subjects alongside three qualifications.

<u><b>A Levels</b></u>	<u><b>BTECs</b></u>
<b>3D Design</b>	<b>Applied Science (Level 3 National Extended Certificate)</b>
<b>Biology</b>	<b>Core Maths (Level 3 Certificate)</b> Can only be chosen as a 4th subject
<b>Business Studies</b>	<b>Criminology (Level 3 Applied Certificate)</b> Can only be chosen as a 4th subject
<b>Chemistry</b>	<b>Criminology (Level 3 Applied Diploma) (2 year course)</b>
<b>Computer Science</b>	<b>Business (Level 3 Diploma)</b>
<b>English Literature</b>	<b>Performing Arts (Level 3 National Extended Certificate)</b>
<b>Fine Art</b>	<b>Sport (Level 3 Diploma)</b>
<b>Geography</b>	<b>Extended Project Qualification</b> Can only be chosen as a 4th subject
<b>History</b>	<b>GCSE Resit English Language &amp; GCSE Maths</b>  If you do not achieve a grade 4 at GCSE in Maths or English Language, you will be expected to attend compulsory timetabled lessons in the relevant subject and to retake these exams.
<b>Physical Education</b>	
<b>Religious Studies</b>	
<b>Mathematics</b>	
<b>Media Studies</b>	
<b>Psychology</b>	
<b>Spanish</b>	

# Additional subjects available at Highfield

<u><b>A Levels</b></u>	<u><b>BTEC</b></u>
<b>Drama and Theatre Studies</b>	<b>Dance (Level 3 National Extended Certificate)</b>
<b>Economics</b>	<b>Health and Social Care (Level 3 National Extended Certificate)</b>
<b>English Language</b>	
<b>Film Studies</b>	
<b>French</b>	
<b>Further Maths (must have Maths as an option)</b>	
<b>German</b>	
<b>Graphics</b>	
<b>Government and Politics</b>	
<b>Law</b>	
<b>Music</b>	
<b>Photography</b>	
<b>Physics</b>	
<b>Sociology</b>	
<b>Textiles</b>	

*Please note that subjects offered by both schools will be finalised on results day and are subject to change depending on numbers of students.*





# Subject information

3D Design - [click here](#)

Art - [click here](#)

Applied Science - [click here](#)

Biology - [click here](#)

Business Studies - [click here](#)

Business Diploma - [click here](#)

Core Maths - [click here](#)

Computer Science - [click here](#)

Criminology - [click here](#)

English Literature - [click here](#)

Extended Project Qualification - [click here](#)

Geography - [click here](#)

History - [click here](#)

Mathematics - [click here](#)

Media Studies - [click here](#)

Performing Arts BTEC - [click here](#)

Physics - [click here](#)

Physical Education - [click here](#)

Psychology - [click here](#)

Religious Studies - [click here](#)

Spanish - [click here](#)

Sports Diploma - [click here](#)



# Choosing your subjects

**If you know what you would like to do as a career in the future, make sure you do your research and ask yourself some of the following questions:**

- What qualifications will help you in your choice of career?
- Do you know if you need specific qualifications?
- Do you need to go to University or is there an Apprenticeship route after Sixth Form?
- Is this career choice your only option or are you undecided? If so, should you broaden your selection of subjects?

## **Examples:**

- If you wish to become a lawyer, some universities and employers recommend that you study History rather than a Law degree.
- You could look at choosing History, English Literature and Sociology as your options, which will also work well in many other career paths if you should change your mind.
- If you wish to become a Midwife or Nurse, you will have to study for a degree at university. Subjects to choose could be Biology, BTEC Health & Social Care and Psychology.
- If you wish to become an Engineer, you could look at Physics, Maths and 3D Design.

**When choosing your options, consider the following questions:**

- Are these my strongest subjects?
- Will I enjoy these subjects?

**Remember, you need to be researching all the different career paths and subject options you can.**

- Talk to your teachers, your tutors, Ms Balchin and Mr Marlow
- Take a look at the UCAS website, for detailed advice use the website below:



<https://www.ucas.com/discover>



# Entry Criteria

Subject	Qualification	Entry Criteria
3D Design	A Level	5 in 3D Design GCSE or 5 in Art. (If neither subject have been studied at GCSE, please contact Mr Tim Rayner).
Art	A Level	5 in Art. (If subject has not been studied at GCSE, please contact Mr Tim Rayner).
Applied Science	BTEC	44 in Double Science and 4 in Maths.
Biology	A Level	6 in Biology, or 66 in Double Science and 6 in Maths.
Business Studies	A Level	5 in Business Studies. If Business Studies has not been studied at GCSE, a 5 in English, 5 in Maths and a 5 in a Humanities subject is required.
Business (Diploma) Double	BTEC	4 in Business Studies. If Business Studies has not been studied at GCSE, a 4 in English, 4 in Maths.
Core Maths	Level 3	4 in Maths.
Chemistry	A Level	6 in Chemistry, or 66 in Double Science and 6 in Maths.
Computer Science	A Level	5 in Computer Science and a 5 in Maths. If Computer Science has not been studied at GCSE, please contact Mr Andrew Hipperson.
Criminology	BTEC	4 in English and 4 in a Humanities subject.
English Literature	A Level	6 in English Literature.



# Entry Criteria

Subject	Qualification	Entry Criteria
Geography	A Level	6 in Geography GCSE and 5 in English. If you have not studied Geography at GCSE, you must have a 5 in another Humanities subject.
History	A Level	6 in History GCSE and 5 in English. If you have not studied History at GCSE, you must have a 5 in another Humanities subject.
Mathematics	A Level	6 in Maths GCSE.
Media Studies	A-Level	5 in Media Studies. If Media Studies has not been studied at GCSE, you must have a 5 in English.
Performing Arts	BTEC	4 in Music, Drama or Dance and 4 in English. If none of these subjects have been studied, please contact Mrs Hannah Landsman or Mr Mark Sheridan.
Physics	A Level	6 in Physics, or 66 in Double Science and 6 in Maths.
Physical Education	A Level	6 in PE or Level 2 Merit and 55 in Double Science
Psychology	A Level	6 in Psychology GCSE and 5 in English. If you have not studied Psychology at GCSE, you must have a 5 in another Humanities subject.
Religious Studies	A Level	5 in Religious Studies and a 5 in English. If you have not studied RS at GCSE, you must have a 5 in another Humanities subject.
Spanish	A Level	6 in Spanish.
Sports (Diploma) Double	BTEC	4 in PE or L2 Pass, 44 in Science and 4 in Engl



# How to apply

The application form for Fearnhill Sixth Form can be found [here](#). The applications will open at 9am on Thursday 9th November 2023.

The Application Form can be found using this QR code:



In the application, you will be asked for:

- your name
- your form (if you already attend Fearnhill School)
- contact details (if you are an external applicant)
- three subjects
- a reserve choice (or fourth subject)
- which additional subject you would consider choosing (EPQ, Core Maths or Criminology 1 Year BTEC).

## Application Timeline

