



Farmor's School
AN ACADEMY

FARMOR'S SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

INTEGRITY, FELLOWSHIP & ENDEAVOUR

Welcome to Farmor's School

As a parent I want my children, first and foremost, to enjoy school and to do well. I want school to share my aspirations for them, to treat them as individuals and to recognise their talents and interests.

I ask that they are taught well, by teachers who are passionate about their subject, and that they are challenged to achieve their academic potential. I hope they will develop to be responsible, caring and courteous young adults and that the school will support me by insisting on the high standards of behaviour that I expect at home. Is that too much to ask? I think not. I suspect that my expectations are fairly common. You will no doubt add more of your own.

At Farmor's School we recognise that we have a great deal to live up to. We strive to deliver for your children what we would want for our own. Farmor's School offers something unique, which is why some of our students travel a distance to study here from Swindon, Cricklade and villages from miles around.

Founded in 1738, the school has a sense of history and tradition which few comprehensive

schools can lay claim to; this in turn structures our ethos and values. Set in the Cotswold town of Fairford and surrounded by beautiful countryside, the school is a calm and pleasant environment for learning. We are a proudly independent, principled and confident school. However, do not be fooled into thinking that Farmor's School is a sleepy retreat.

The school is equipped with excellent facilities including modern science labs, an emotional & academic wellbeing hub, sports facilities and a new Sixth Form Learning Resource Centre! The thriving arts culture, successful sports teams and outdoor pursuits activities ensure students are engaged in the wider life of the school.

It is this mix of traditional values combined with a forward looking and dynamic outlook that makes Farmor's School a great place to be. We are determined to build

further on what has already been achieved. Our greatest successes lie ahead. If you share our aspirations for your children and want to join with us in making Farmor's School an unrivalled place to work and learn, I welcome you and your child to our school.



Matthew Evans
Headteacher
mevans@farmors.gloucs.sch.uk

Our Heritage

Farmor's School opened as Fairford Free School on 24th November 1738. The school was originally established to educate 50 boys aged between 5 and 12.

The original schoolhouse, which still stands in the town centre, was funded through donations by Mary Barker, daughter of Andrew Barker, Lord of the Manor of Fairford, and his granddaughter Elizabeth Farmor. The school accepted girls for the first time in 1815, although boys and girls were strictly separated.

In 1922, the boys and girls schools were combined under one Headteacher, Herbert Hedges, and the school changed its name to Farmor's Free School. After the Second World War, Farmor's opened its doors to students from Lechlade and surrounding villages. Gloucestershire County



Council built a new school in 1961 on the site occupied by the school today; the new school took the name Farmor's School.

In 1966, Farmor's School became a comprehensive school, open to all regardless of ability, background or wealth. Over the next 50 years the school expanded, both in terms of buildings and student numbers.

Today it educates around 1000 students of age 11 to 19 from as far afield as Swindon, Oxfordshire and Cricklade. Whilst times have changed, the school's original mission to provide a good education to the young people who attend it still stands today. For further information about the school's history, see Fairford History Society's website.

When first opened, the school accepted only 50 boys from the town of Fairford. In 1815, the school began to accept girls in a separate section of the school.

Curriculum & Learning



As a comprehensive school, we believe that every child is entitled to a broad and challenging education.

We provide a strong academic core curriculum alongside a diverse range of other subjects which, as students get older, enable them to pursue their interests and talents.

We value the arts, technology, humanities, languages, sciences and the social sciences equally. This is demonstrated by the free choice of optional subjects we give students at GCSE and A-level. This diversity and choice is a strength, valued by students and parents.

“THANKS TO MY TEACHERS I FEEL THAT I HAVE BECOME A MORE CONFIDENT INDIVIDUAL.”

Year 11 Student

Art

The Art department is an integral part of Farmor’s school community and represents an exciting, vibrant and creative space for students, staff, parents and visitors alike. Although disciplined and focused in our teaching, the atmosphere within the department is warm and friendly. Our teachers are not only practitioners of their own craft but also experts across a wide variety of different art forms.

Our aim is to create a stimulating environment that inspires intellectual thinking and nurtures artistic skills. Our broad and balanced curriculum enables all students to achieve well and prepares them for future study. Students work on projects both individually and in groups throughout the key stages.

By the end of year 9 students should have knowledge and experience of the formal elements of art. Students will have an understanding of working in a variety of media, techniques and processes which are further developed at GCSE. Art A-level continues to be a popular subject, with many students going on to post 18 courses and artistic careers.



Business

Business Studies is first offered at Farmor's as one of the optional subjects at GCSE level. It is an engaging, relevant subject which provides students with skills and knowledge that will be invaluable to them in their everyday lives and in the world of work.

Students are given the opportunity to explore all different aspects of how businesses are run and study a range of topics including marketing, accounting and human resources. Throughout the course students develop a range of skills including data analysis, team-working and creativity. By making extensive use of case studies, students are taught to apply the theory they learn to real life companies.

In the Sixth Form the department also offers A-levels in Business Studies and Economics, both of which are subjects many students go on to study further at university or through apprenticeships.

Computing & IT

In our constantly changing world of technology, we provide a curriculum which delivers both positive learning and preparation for the future.

Our intent at Farmor's is not only to encourage our students to problem solve using a variety of modelling techniques, but to provide them with the capability of becoming creators of technology as well as competent consumers.

Students will learn to program, design and create workable solutions as well as networking, digital imaging and movie making. All year 7 to 9 students study Computing and can pursue this at both GCSE and A-level.

Design & Technology

The Design & Technology curriculum is rich and varied; the department specialises in product design in all material areas including electronics, plastics, wood, CAD/CAM and paper and card. A broad design curriculum is valued here at Farmor's and there is the opportunity to study D&T at GCSE and Product Design at A level.

Students have the opportunity through a variety of theory, creative and practical activities to engage in an iterative process of problem solving, designing, making and evaluating. They are encouraged to think differently about their ideas the impact on individuals, society and the environment.

"I AM EXTREMELY IMPRESSED WITH THE SCHOOL. MY CHILD ENJOYS SCHOOL AND IS DOING WELL."

Year 7 Parent

Drama & Theatre

Drama is a flourishing and popular subject at Farmor's. All students in years 7 to 9 take part in a weekly Drama lesson and can progress to our GCSE Drama and A-level Drama and Theatre courses. Our rich and varied curriculum engages and encourages students to become confident individuals with the key knowledge and skills they need for a bright and successful future.

At Farmor's we aim to provide opportunities for students to develop communication, negotiation, compromise and self-assertion skills. Students develop confidence when speaking and their vocabulary is extended when they adopt roles and characters. Our students also acquire critical and subject-specific vocabulary through reflecting on and appraising their own work and that of others.





English

The English department at Farmor's is dedicated to ensuring that students become confident and accomplished readers, writers and speakers, regardless of their prior ability. In years 7 to 9 we study a range of texts and themes, offering numerous opportunities for students to develop their vocabulary, cultural awareness and creativity.

At GCSE all students go on to study both English Language and English Literature where they have the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills further.

In our Sixth Form students can choose one of two A-levels: English Literature or English Language and Literature, both of which are highly regarded by universities and recognised as 'facilitating subjects.'

What makes Farmor's English department special is the passion for literature that our specialist team have.

Food and Nutrition

Food and Nutrition in our school will equip students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. Our curriculum will encourage students to cook and enable them to make informed decisions about a wide range of further learning opportunities and career pathways as well as develop vital life skills that enable them to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.

At KS3 we cook most lessons, allowing us to teach a variety of skills and concepts which can be applied to a vast number of other dishes. We embed theory teaching into the practical lessons to allow us to maximise time spent cooking, and we believe this approach helps instil a love of cooking in our students. They look forward to their Food lessons, and to eating their creations!

Geography

In Geography we aim to inspire curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with our students for the rest of their lives. We equip students with knowledge about people and places, together with an understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes.

Our students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

Field work is an integral part of Geography at Farmor's as it makes the subject come to life. We provide field work for all age groups - local, regional, national and international experiences ranging from visits to the local countryside to trips to Iceland!

Health & Social Care

We offer Health & Social Care as an option choice at GCSE and A-level which offers students the chance to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in Health & Social Care. As well as being invaluable for anyone considering a career in the sector, the course also covers some very transferable knowledge and skills, including communicating effectively with individuals, researching, planning and presenting.

“A LOT OF SCHOOLS DO NOT HEAR CHILDREN. FARMOR’S REALLY HEARS THE STUDENTS. KEEP ON DOING WHAT YOU DO BEST. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOU DO.”

Year 11 Parent

History

In years 7 to 9, we cover a wide range of British, European and World History from the Anglo-Saxons to the 9/11 and 7/7 terrorist attacks in a roughly chronological way. We teach political, social, economic and cultural history and cover many of the key moments in national and world History. We want to pay meaningful attention to the diversity of past societies, represent the lived experiences of different groups, and explore the interconnectedness of British and wider world history.

Students build up a coherent narrative of the past. Students will use their knowledge to engage with valid historical questions and learn how historians make sense of the past.

We run a range of trips such as Warwick Castle in year 7, WWI Battlefields in year 9 and Berlin in year 11.

Learning About Language

This subject is unique to Farmor’s, taught in years 7 and 8.

The subject teaches students about the rich history of the English language, from Old English to the modern day. Students learn how and why language evolves and about the diverse range of influences on how we speak.

The subject also promotes a love of reading and encourages students to take pleasure in where language can take your imagination.

Mathematics

At Farmor’s we firmly believe that mathematics is for all and we endeavour to stretch all students regardless of their prior achievement. For those who have previously found maths a challenge we have small groups with dedicated teaching assistants whose support allows students to progress at their own rate. For high attaining mathematicians, we provide a stretching curriculum and competitive extra-curricular opportunities.

There are a number of enrichment opportunities including:

- a weekly Mathsteaser Contest open to years 7-11;
- the UKMT maths challenge papers in years 7 to 10;
- and the UKMT team challenge competitions for students in years 8 and 9, and the senior competition for years 11 to 13.

After their GCSEs a good proportion of our students continue their maths studies choosing either the traditional A-levels of Maths and Further Maths, or a significant number study Core Maths which focusses on how maths is applied in the real world including business and the statistics behind the sciences.





Modern Languages

Communicating with others in their own language has always been an invaluable skill. Now more than ever, getting on with others, understanding their culture and being able to articulate one's own needs are vital.

In our Languages department, we help our students become confident communicating in French or Spanish. Our aim is to make language learning an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

We offer a variety of visits to France and Spain to enable our students to practise their knowledge in an authentic context.

Music

Music has traditionally been strong at Farmor's with many students taking part in a wide range of music-making opportunities both in school and in the community.

In years 7 to 9 all students take Music, equipping them with the skills and knowledge to continue the subject at GCSE and A- level.

Students learn basic musical theory, how to read notation and play instruments. They learn about a wide range of musical styles from Beethoven through to the Beatles, Blues and Reggae.

Our department offers a range of extracurricular activities including choirs and orchestra, and provides facilities for students to practise with their own bands.

Students can also learn to play a musical instrument with many different instrumental lessons on offer.

PE & Sport

Students at Farmor's are encouraged to develop an appreciation of the importance of all aspects of Physical Education including: their physical skills and fitness; their cognitive ability through decision-making tasks and their emotional approach to activities. We emphasise resilience and a growth mindset through a rich curriculum.

We are extremely proud of the success we achieve in extra curricular sport and pride ourselves upon high standards of performance and conduct. We have a strong tradition of house competitions in many sports to encourage participation. Many of our students take part in a different sports club every day of the week.

Clubs are offered to all year groups in a vast variety of activities throughout the year and we compete successfully in many local and national sports competitions ranging from cross country to softball.

We also run sports tours - recently we have been to Cardiff and South Africa!



Photography

Photography plays an important role in all key stages at Farmor's and is based within the Art department. In years 7 to 9 students will take photographs to use alongside their projects and then at GCSE it is offered as an option choice.

Students learn the full use of a digital camera and builds upon camera skills and techniques through a wide range of mini topics.

Students learn the history of photography, analyse the work of others and learn a wide variety of new skills. We offer an educational day trip alongside their studies and there is plenty of outdoor practical work as well as studio based photography.

The A-level includes a fantastic trip to a professional photography studio in London, where students are able to work alongside a team of photographers and their extensive equipment.

This visual subject really explores a wide range of skills and is an all-round, enjoyable experience.

Science

Our Science curriculum at Farmor's is designed to be stimulating and accessible to all. It aims to capture the enthusiasm and curiosity of students, motivating them to study Science further. Our lessons provide students with many opportunities to explore science through a range of activities that allow them to continually develop key practical skills that will support their journey from year 7 right through to A-level

Here at Farmor's students will encounter new knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science and learn to appreciate how these affect the world around them.

Students are also offered a variety of trips through the Science department, for example, the Year 8 Big Bang Trip and the Year 12 Physics Trip to CERN.

We have a suite of excellent science labs, supported by a team of science technicians to ensure students get significant laboratory experience.

Sociology & Psychology

Sociology at Farmor's is available at GCSE and at A-level. Psychology is available at A level. Taking either or both of these subjects can develop valuable skills such as analysis of evidence, reasoning and evaluation.

In Sociology students develop a critical approach to understanding social behaviour of small groups and wider societies. We look at our changing society through the lens of health, education, crime and global development.

Psychology is another fascinating and popular area of study at A-level; students develop an understanding of human behaviour and the mental processes explaining how people think, act and feel.

Religious Studies

Religious Studies at Farmor's School helps students to understand the complex, multi-faith and multicultural world in which they live. It allows them the opportunity to explore the beliefs of the main faith systems and consider how such beliefs help people to make sense of the world and of their own lives. Students engage with challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. It helps enable them to discern what is of value within and outside religious traditions and contribute to their own personal development.

“ONCE YOU STUDY SOCIOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY YOU REALLY BEGIN TO NOTICE WHAT IS GOING ON AROUND YOU - BOTH AT SCHOOL AND IN SOCIETY”

Dan Year 13

Textiles

Textiles is based within the Art department and plays an important role in all key stages at Farmor's. A highly creative subject, Textiles allows student to explore design through a series of practical projects using a wide range of materials and fabrics. Textiles is also a popular GCSE and A level subject where individual creativity can flourish.

“EXCELLENT! I WATCHED THE STUDENTS ARRIVING FOR ASSEMBLY, THEY WERE WELL ORGANISED AND RESPECTFUL OF EACH OTHER. I HAVE ATTENDED SEVERAL ASSEMBLIES THIS WEEK THE STUDENTS WERE AGAIN POLITE AND RESPECTFUL AND ENGAGED. FULL MARKS FROM ME!”

Visiting Primary School Headteacher



Support & Advice



Pastoral Care

All our students at Farmor's have a form tutor who they see every morning. They look after the well being of their tutees and give them academic support.

Tutors take time to get to know the students in their tutor group and they stay with them as they progress through the school. They help each student in their tutor group to develop good study habits, they listen to them when they need it, care for them and celebrate their successes with them. Our Form Tutors are also the first contact point for parents.

Each year group has a Head of Year who oversees the pastoral care of the students.

Learning Support

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) is a whole school approach including high quality teaching and additional interventions.

Teachers closely monitor progress, development and attainment of all pupils with SEND including where students access support from teaching assistants or any other specialist staff. The identification of SEND is built into our whole school approach to assessment.

"WE WORK IN MANY SCHOOLS AND THE STUDENTS HERE ARE SO POSITIVE AND QUESTIONING, IT'S A PLEASURE TO SUPPORT THIS SCHOOL."

Social worker

Careers

Careers is a thread which runs through the whole school. Our Careers Lead is available for individual careers interviews in addition to the taught programme of sessions. Work experience in Year 10 is a valuable week for testing interests and introducing the work place. As students keep the same Head of Year and tutor through years 7 to 11, pastoral staff are well-placed to know students well and support them with their ambitions.

Library

Farmor's Library is situated in the heart of our school. Our aim is to make our Library as welcoming as possible and to instil in all our students a lifelong love of reading.

Our Library's resources have an important function at Farmor's with each resource carefully selected to stimulate the scholastic requirements of our school community and to support intellectual enquiry, learning and thought. Regular promotional displays and reading lists inspire a questioning and independent approach to learning and students are encouraged to exploit the full range of resources our Library has to offer. We provide books that are as wide-ranging as possible and help each individual find something that interests them.

More than Study

Enrichment

We are passionate at Farmor's about the benefits of a wide ranging enrichment programme for our students. Trips and activities provide learning opportunities that we can't offer on-site, such as outdoor pursuits, group residentials, field-work and museum and cultural experiences. These events give children excellent opportunities to develop, extend and succeed in a way they may not in the classroom.

Whether this is through team-building activities, developing stronger peer relationships, or pushing their perceived physical and mental boundaries, the students grow in confidence before our eyes. These co-curricular experiences that create life-long memories are as important as the learning in examined subjects.

International Links

Here at Farmor's we are proud of our international links. Each year we run successful trips to many destinations in Europe and beyond. Over the last few years our foreign trip offer has included Geography trips to Iceland and Croatia, a cultural tour of New York, a sports tour to South Africa, World Challenge to Kenya and an educational visit to Auschwitz.

Regular yearly trips include the 6th form trip to Cern in Switzerland, Year 11 Berlin History trip, Year 9 Battlefields trip, and the ever-popular ski trip is open to all year groups.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Award gives our students the chance to do something completely new and improve on things they are already doing. It takes students out of their comfort zone into a place where they push themselves and have amazing new experiences.

Students build confidence, resilience and skills for work.

The programme can help students to carve out a better future. Colleges, universities and employers regard the Award highly so it will help to open the right doors.

To complete the Award, students will need to do one activity for each of the Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections, plus an expedition, and the Gold Award includes an additional residential.

The Award is extremely popular at Farmor's. We offer Bronze, Silver and Gold levels, starting in year 9 through to 6th form.

Charity Committee

We support a number of different charities within school ranging from small local charities to larger national charities like Help for Heroes.

Any pupil can suggest a charitable activity within school with support from the Charity Committee. The Charity Committee is run by Sixth Form students. Previous activities have included bag packing, sponsored cycles, bake sales and non uniform days.

"FARMOR'S IS A HAPPY SCHOOL... PUPILS ARE COURTEOUS, POLITE AND HAVE A STRONG SELF-BELIEF AND CONFIDENCE."

Ofsted Report, 2021

Eco Club

In response to the growing concerns regarding the environment by students and staff alike, some of our Sixth Form students have established an Eco Club for students right from year 7 all the way to year 13.

The club aims to improve the school's existing environmental policies, provide more in depth curriculum links to the environment, and represent the Farmor's School response to the current climate crisis. We have recently been awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award recognising our efforts to go above and beyond to protect our planet.



Sixth Form

We extend a warm welcome to all students who come to study with us from Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and beyond.



Personalised advice, guidance and pastoral support is available to all students.

Independence is vitally important as you prepare for the next steps of your life after A-levels.

Therefore, we will treat you as an adult from day one, responsible for your choices from how you dress to the targets you set yourself. We have a unique balance of freedom and academic rigour, of independence and support, of routine and choice.

This, coupled with the breadth of our offer of both A-levels and Enrichment Programmes, attracts students from many different schools. New entrants make up over 20% of the cohort each year.

Excellence. We are one of the top performing Sixth Forms, not only in Gloucestershire, but in the country. In fact, in our recent student survey 100% of respondents rated the Sixth Form as good.

Outstanding purpose-built facilities complement the quality of A-level teaching that you will enjoy. Our staff regularly 'go the extra mile' with one-to-one tutorials and mentoring to ensure students reach their potential.

"HIS SCHOOL HAS TAUGHT OUR CHILDREN THE REAL VALUE OF FRIENDSHIP, HOW TO BE INDEPENDENT AND TO FIND THAT CONFIDENCE TO ACHIEVE. I KNOW THEY WILL ALWAYS LOOK BACK AT SCHOOL FONDLY AND THEIR SCHOOL FRIENDS WILL BE THEIR FRIENDS FOR LIFE. THERE REALLY IS A SPECIAL SOMETHING ABOUT FARMOR'S SCHOOL THAT MAKES YOU FEEL PROUD THAT YOU HAVE BEEN A PART OF IT. WE WILL ALWAYS BE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO YOU ALL."

Parent whose third child recently left Sixth Form





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AN ACADEMY

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