



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 in to thinking that Farmor's School is a sleepy retreat.

The school is equipped with excellent facilities including modern science labs, a business conference centre, 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

Headmaster

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 60 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 Headmaster, 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 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 as students can pursue their interests and goals.

‘WELL BEHAVED AS A GROUP AND UNIVERSALLY DELIGHTFUL.’

Guest speaker

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 KS3 students should have knowledge and experience of the formal elements of Art. Students will have an understanding of working in a variety of mediums, 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 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 will 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. We also engage with the local business community and host guest speakers who provide the students with valuable insights into how they set up their own businesses.

Computing & IT

In our constantly changing world of technology; we provide a curriculum which delivers a positive learning and rewarding experience, regardless of a student's prior experience.

Our intent is not to only 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, networking, digital imaging, movie making and many more.

All Year 7 to 9 students are given the opportunity to experience both Computing and Information Technology, as two separate subjects which are aimed to provide necessary knowledge and experience to pursue either or both discrete subjects at Key Stage 4 and 5.

We also provide a range of enrichment opportunities:

- Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge
- STEM Computing Roadshow
- and CyberFirst Girls

Design & Technology

The Design Curriculum is rich and varied; the department offers a range of four subject specialisms in KS3 across Food, Paper and Card, Textiles and Wood, Metal, Plastics. There is the opportunity for further study of these at GCSE level for Textiles and 3D Design incorporating wood, metal, plastics, and fabrics. Food is an option to study Level 1 and 2 Hospitality and Catering. A broad Design curriculum is valued in Farmor's and successful courses run these options in further study to A level.

Students have the opportunity, through a variety of creative and practical activities, knowledge and understanding to engage in an iterative process of designing and making. They are encouraged to think differently about their ideas and developments in design and technology, its impact on individuals, society and the environment.

'STUDENTS WERE VERY ENGAGED AND HAVE BEEN A PLEASURE TO TEACH.'

Supply teacher

Drama & Theatre

Drama is a flourishing and popular subject at Farmor's. All KS3 students take part in a weekly Drama lesson and can progress to our GCSE Drama and A level Drama & Theatre courses. Our rich and varied curriculum engages and encourages students to become confident individuals with the key skills they need for a bright and successful future.

The collaborative nature of Drama provides 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. We provide a safe environment for students to explore a rich variety of stimuli, working creatively together and problem-solving in groups of various sizes. These skills, along with flexibility, empathy and risk-taking, are intrinsic to our drama practice. We strive to equip students with a toolkit of transferable skills that are recognised as vital in the workplace and throughout adult life.





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. At Key Stage 3 we study a range of texts and themes, offering numerous opportunities for students to develop their vocabularies, cultural capital and creativity.

At Key Stage 4 all students go on to study both English Language and English Literature GCSEs where they have the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills further, building upon the work they have done at Key Stage 3.

At Key Stage 5 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.'

Geography

At Farmor's School we understand that fieldwork makes Geography come to life and puts everything into context in glorious 3D. At every key stage to give as many fieldwork experiences as possible at various scales – local, regional, national and international.

We inspire curiosity and fascination about the world and its people, that will remain with 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. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

'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

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 a range of political, social, economic and cultural history and cover many of the key moments in our and the world's 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 should be able to build up a coherent narrative of the past. With secure knowledge of the past, students are also able to learn about the discipline of history. Students will use their knowledge to engage with valid historical questions and learn how historians make sense of the past.

At GCSE students study the Edexcel curriculum. The units we have chosen are Crime and Punishment through

Time; Germany 1919-39; International Relations 1943-1991; and Anglo-Saxon and Norman England. Students who chose to continue to A level study Communist States – the USSR 1917-91 & East Germany 1949-1990; The British Empire 1763-1914 and also a historical enquiry on any historical controversy that interests them.

We run a range of trips such as Warwick Castle in Y7, WWI Battlefields in Y9 and Berlin in Y11.



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 TAs whose support allows students to progress at their own rate. All students will build their knowledge of mathematics gradually to achieve a deeper understanding of how the topics of mathematics are linked and are used in the real world.

There are a number of enrichment opportunities including:

- A weekly Mathsteaser contest open to years 7 to 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 the 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 Foreign 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 the MFL department, we help our students become confident communicators who can hold their own in the workplace, in a social setting or travelling for pleasure.

Our aim is to make language learning an enjoyable and rewarding experience. We offer a variety of visits and exchanges to France and Spain to enable our students to practise their knowledge in an authentic content.

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

Social worker

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.

During KS3 all students take Music in a very progressive curriculum equipping them with the skills and knowledge to continue the subject at GCSE and A level.

They learn basic musical theory, how to read notation and play a keyboard. The music classroom contains the very latest Apple Mac music technology which means it is inclusive for all students. They learn about a wide range of musical styles from Beethoven and the Beatles to Blues and Reggae.

The department offers a range of extracurricular activities including two choirs, orchestra, jazz band and provides facilities for students to practice with their own brands, students can also learn to play a musical instrument with many different instrumental lessons on offer. Music at Farmor's is fun and for everyone.



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, approach behaviours and a growth mindset through a rich curriculum.

We are proud of the success we achieve in extra curriculum 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. Clubs are also offered to all year groups in a vast variety of activities throughout the year and we compete in many local and national competitions in sports ranging from Cross Country to Softball.



Photography

Photography plays an important role in all key stages at Farmor's and is based within the Art department. At KS3 pupils will take photographs to use alongside their projects and then at KS4 it is offered as an option choice. The GCSE engages pupils to 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. At KS5 Photography is explored in more depth and camera skills are further enhanced. 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.

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.

Science

Our Science curriculum 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. Our GCSE Combined Science or Separate GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics courses are all suitable for students wanting to study Science further at 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.

Sociology & Psychology

Sociology 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.

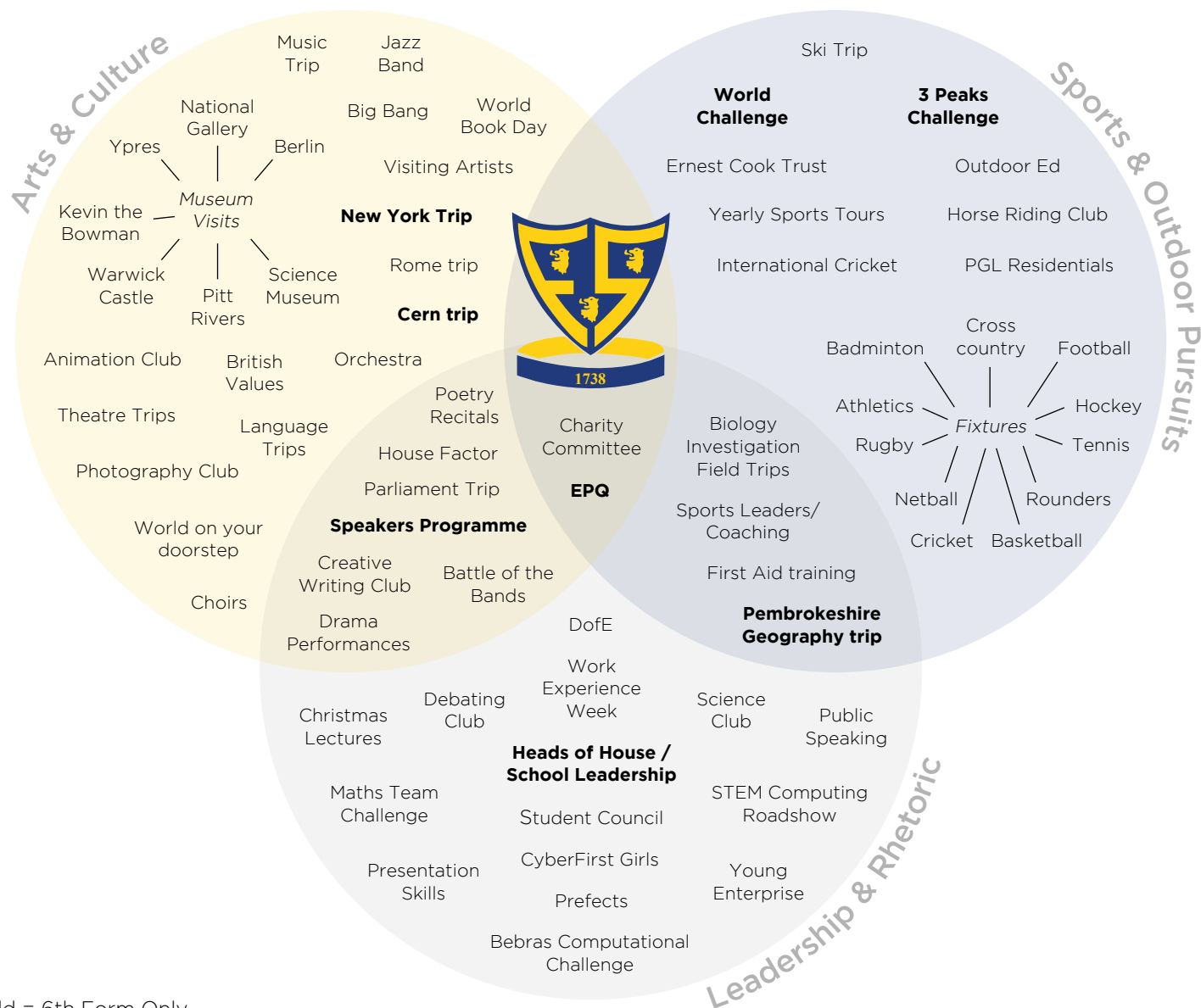
In Sociology students develop a critical approach to understanding social behaviour of small groups up to societies. The main focus is on how culture and living arrangements can influence individual behaviour.

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.





More than Study



Bold = 6th Form Only

Duke of Edinburgh (DofE)

The DofE award gives you the chance to do something completely new and improve on things you're already doing. It takes you out of your comfort zone into a place where you'll push yourself and have amazing new experiences.

You'll build confidence, resilience and skills for work. And you'll have a brilliant time doing it.

Looking forward, the DofE can help you to carve out a better future. Colleges, universities and employers regard a DofE Award highly so it will help to open the right doors for you.

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

Many of you will already be doing something currently to fill these sections and there are many different options that you can choose from.

We offer Bronze, Silver and Gold levels of the award here at Farmor's School, starting in year 9 through to 6th form.

International Links

Here at Farmor's we are proud of our international dynamic. Each year we run successful trips to many destinations in Europe and beyond. Over the last two 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 a KS5 educational visit to Auschwitz.

Regular yearly trips include the KS5 trip to Cern, Year 11 Berlin History, Year 10 PGL sports week in France, Year 9 Belgian Battlefields plus a Year 8 cultural tour of Rome. The ever-popular February Italy ski trip is open to all year groups.

Specific languages trips in years 9 and 10 to Spain and France involve spending a week in each country learning about their ways of life and experiencing their differences in schooling. Culture is an important part of our language teaching and we aim to include cultural elements as often as possible, be that with music, food or trips abroad.

Enrichment

External 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. At Farmor's we nurture an ethos of learning both in and out of the classroom; these co-curricular experiences that create life-long memories are as important as the learning in examined subjects.



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.

‘THE SCHOOL WAS VERY WELCOMING, STAFF VERY ACCOMMODATING. LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS WERE LOVELY. THE STUDENTS IN OUR CLASS WERE REALLY ATTENTIVE AND SEEMED TO BE ENGAGED AND ENJOYING THE SESSION.’



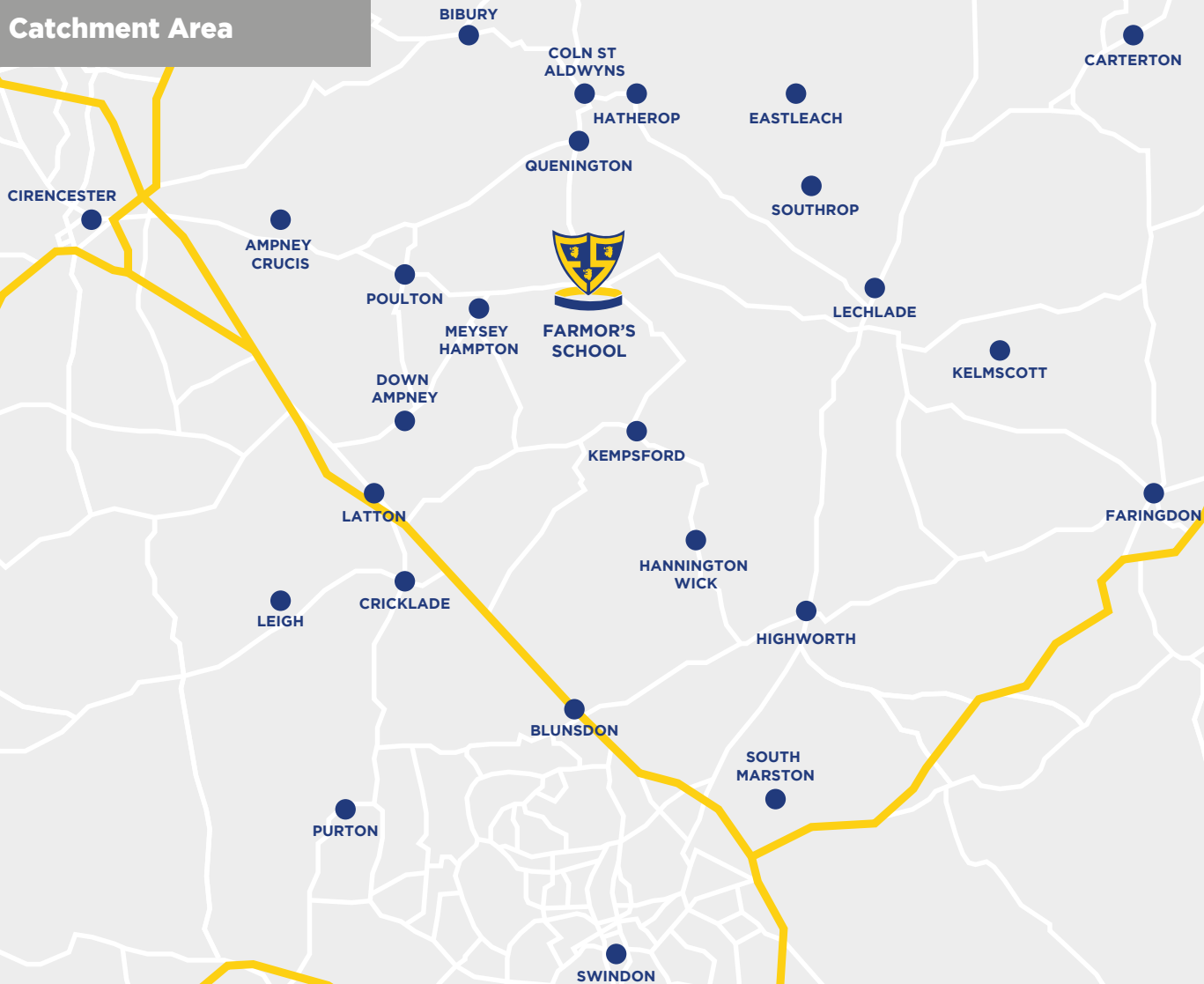
Location

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. 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 in to thinking that Farmor's School is a sleepy retreat. The school is equipped with excellent facilities including modern science labs, a business conference centre, 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.

Catchment Area



Alumni



Enrichment

There is no doubt that A levels are important, but employers, universities and colleges are looking for well-rounded, confident and skilled individuals. They are looking beyond grades on a certificate to select their candidates. With the rapidly changing world, we are preparing you for careers and opportunities that may not yet exist. What is equally important to us therefore, is the range of opportunities that we offer you to develop your portfolio of skills and create a growth mindset that views new challenges positively.

We encourage all of you to make the most of these opportunities.

Aspire Programme

If you are aspiring to apply to Oxford, Cambridge or for a Medicine course you are welcome to join our Aspire Programme. There is a range of trips and speakers as well as support with the preparation of the application including reading seminars and tutorials. You will be offered an interview which is filmed for you to keep and review later. This is a highly successful and valued programme tailored to the needs of each individual.

'CLEAN, FRIENDLY AND WELCOMING, A VERY ENJOYABLE DAY.'



Student Profile: Gabe Fryer-Eccles

Previous School
Sir Thomas Rich

Studied Fine Art,
Maths, Geography
& EPQ

Achieved AAAA*
and is now studying
Architecture at UCL



Student Profile:
Annabelle Foley

Previous School
Kingshill

Studied Spanish,
Psychology and
Biology

Achieved BBC and
is now studying
Psychology at
university



Student Profile:
Harry Palmer

Previous School
Farmor's

Studied Media, Psychology,
Business Studies, Economics
(AS) and EPQ

Achieved ABCBA and is
studying Communication,
Media and Culture at
Oxford Brookes University



Student Profile:
Lydia Nuttall

Previous School
Farmor's

Studied Further
Mathematics, Mathematics,
and Physics

Achieved ABC and is
studying Architecture,
Urbanism and Building
Sciences at Eindhoven
University of Technology,
Netherlands



Student Profile:

Fin McClellan

Previous School

Kingshill

Studied Business,
English Language
and Literature and
Psychology.

Now a junior
broker at DeVere in
Switzerland.



Student Profile:

Harry Waite

Previous School

Farmor's

Studied Chemistry,
Biology, Maths
and Physics

Now studying
medicine at
Southampton



Student Profile:

Sophia Baker

Previous School

Farmor's

Studying English
Literature, Drama,
History and EPQ.

Now studying
English Literature at
Birmingham University

A Level Subjects

Art & Design: Digital Photography
Art & Design: Fine Art
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Computer Science
Core Mathematics
Design & Technology:
Fashion Design
Design & Technology:
3D Design
Drama & Theatre Studies
Economics
English Language and Literature
English Literature
Extended Project Qualification
Food and Nutrition
French
Further Mathematics
Geography
History
Mathematics
Media Studies
Music
Physical Education
Physics
Psychology
Sociology
Spanish



Sixth Form Open Evening

SIXTH FORM

We extend a warm welcome to all students who come to study with us from Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and beyond. See our website for more details.

Personalised advice, guidance and pastoral support is available to all students. This unrivalled support includes the Aspire Programme for Oxbridge and Medicine students and we are successful in supporting students onto these paths every year.

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 2015 we were fifth highest in England and Wales for the progress our students make from GCSE to A level.

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.

- Receive full course details
- Meet the teaching staff
- Talk to current students
- Discuss the A level courses and other options available

Head of Sixth Form:

Emma White

ewhite@farmors.gloucs.sch.uk

Head of Y12:

Laura Hubbard-Miles

lhubbard-miles@farmors.gloucs.sch.uk

Head of Y13:

Claire Andrews-Alsaigh

candrews-alsaigh@farmors.gloucs.sh.uk

**Sixth Form Pastoral
Administrator:**

Clare Orgill

corgill@farmors.gloucs.sch.uk

'THANK YOU FOR ALL THE HELP YOU'VE GIVEN ME OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS. MOVING TO FARMOR'S WAS THE BEST DECISION I'VE EVER MADE AND YOU HELPED SO MUCH WITH THE TRANSITION AND EVERYTHING AFTER'

Esme Gourlay, 2015 leaver





Farmor's School

AN ACADEMY

Farmor's School

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