



Farmor's School
AN ACADEMY

FARMOR'S SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

INTEGRITY, FELLOWSHIP & ENDEAVOUR

Welcome to Farmor's School

I am delighted to welcome you to Farmor's School, an educational setting that offers a rich, stimulating and rewarding learning experience.

As a fully comprehensive 11-18 school, we support young people to be the best they possibly can, regardless of their background. We aspire for our students to make great progress in terms of academic outcomes, which is why our approach in the classroom starts with "Every Student Thinking Hard".

We also believe that our central role is to develop character, so that our students become responsible, proactive citizens. We are therefore driven by a set of core values, which form the basis of everything we do: **Integrity** – we act with a moral purpose, with respect, with honesty and, as a result, build trusting relationships.

Fellowship – we are open, inclusive, tolerant and kind. Working together, we engender a sense of belonging and shared purpose.

Endeavour – we approach challenges with tenacity and creativity. We learn from our failure and come to understand ourselves better.

Farmor's School offers something unique, which is why many of our students travel some distance to study here, from Swindon, Cricklade, and villages from miles around. Founded in 1738, the school has a sense of history and tradition to which few comprehensive schools can lay claim. Set in the Cotswold town of Fairford and surrounded by beautiful countryside, we offer a calm and pleasant environment.

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, sports facilities and a dedicated 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, building character and resilience on their journey through Farmor's.

I am determined to build further on what has already been achieved. As a parent myself, I know how much trust and faith is placed in our school. If you share our aspirations and want to join us in making Farmor's School an unrivalled place to learn and work, then we hope to welcome you soon.



Mark Surowiec

Headteacher

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Our Heritage

Pupils are proud to attend the school. They have positive relationships with their peers and staff. For instance, many pupils describe the school as being 'one big family'.

Ofsted 2026

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



The original schoolhouse

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.

“ Pupils consistently demonstrate the school’s ‘habits of success’, such as cooperating well in lessons. ”
Ofsted 2026

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

Library

Farmor's Library is a vibrant and inclusive space, nestled in the heart of our school, within which a lifelong love of reading is nurtured.

Our Library is a haven for fiction lovers with a diverse collection of over two thousand titles catering to all tastes, interests and reading abilities. Students can use our library website to browse from home and reserve books to collect the next day. Our Library is also home to a selection of current and curated non-fiction titles, with smaller subject specific satellite libraries situated in classrooms. This encourages our students to learn about the world through reading.

Throughout the year we host a range of exciting events including our annual Readathon, World Book Day, National Poetry Day, Shakespeare's Birthday Party, PRIDE, May the 4th and many more! We also promote reading in assemblies and creative writing workshops led by best-selling authors. During their time at Farmor's, students can apply to be student librarians or library prefects in Lower School and then reading ambassadors in Sixth Form. Lots of our students enjoy volunteering to help decorate and bake for our popular reading events.





The proportion of pupils securing the qualifications that they need in English and maths is consistently above the national average.
Ofsted 2026



Author, Simon James Green, signing books in our library

STEM

Pupils learn a broad and balanced curriculum. Leaders ensure that the curriculum builds on what pupils already know and can do. Teaching builds pupils' knowledge and skills well over time.
Ofsted 2026



Computing

In a rapidly developing world, it has never been more important for our students to be technologically aware. During their time at Farmor's, students will study the design, development and analysis of software and hardware used to solve problems in a variety of business, scientific and social contexts. They will learn how to stay safe online, develop their coding skills and improve their computational thinking, critical thinking, analysis, and problem-solving skills. Post KS3 we offer both GCSE and A level Computer Science.



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.

We run a weekly Mathsteaser Contest open to years 7-11, the UKMT Maths Challenge and we offer trips to Bletchley Park and Silverstone.

We offer GCSE Statistics and Further Maths at Key Stage 4. A large number of our students go on to study maths after GCSE.



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 offered various trips through the Science department, such as the Year 7 Cheltenham Science Festival and the Year 12 Physics Trip to CERN in Switzerland.

“

Leaders have established a calm, orderly school environment. They have high expectations of pupils' conduct. Pupils consistently live up to these expectations.

”

Ofsted 2026



English



English

In English we aim to instill a love of language and literature that will inspire our students to become confident readers, writers and speakers. Students will encounter high-quality texts from a range of different genres and styles and will develop their knowledge and hone their skills, guided by a dedicated team of subject specialists. In lessons students explore ideas and engage with texts in a way that sparks their creativity and equips them with skills for life. Students enhance their learning with experiences such as the Year 7 Stratford trip and GCSE Poetry Live. From Year 7 to A' Level, English is a thriving subject that is accessible to all students.



Humanities



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, teamworking and creativity. In the Sixth Form the department also offers A-levels in Business Studies and Economics.

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

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.

Fieldwork is an integral part of Geography at Farmor's as it makes our subject come to life. Students get to see the things we study in lessons in real life and it helps them to understand both the beauty and the complexity of our interconnected world.

We provide field work for all age groups – local, regional, national and international experiences.

History

History lessons at Farmor's 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.

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

“ 100% of year 7 parents agree that their child is encouraged to participate in lessons and the teaching at Farmor’s is good. ”



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 contributes to their own personal development



Social Science

Sociology at Farmor’s is available at both GCSE and A-level. Psychology is available at A level. Taking either or both subjects develops valuable skills such as analysis of evidence, reasoning and evaluation. In Sociology students develop a critical approach to understanding the social behaviour of small groups and wider societies. Whilst looking at our changing society through the lens of health, education, crime and global development.



The Arts



Art

The Art department is an integral part of Farmor's school community and is an exciting, vibrant and creative space. 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.



Textiles

Our GCSE and A-Level Art Textiles courses play an important role in creating an exciting and experimental environment within Farmor's Art Department. Our students flourish and explore design through a series of practical projects using a wide range of materials and fabrics which develop essential skills needed for textile design within the creative industry.



Music

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

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. Outside of their lessons, extra tuition is available with a range of different instruments.

We offer a range of extracurricular music including choir and orchestra and provide facilities for students to practice with their own bands. We perform at Voice in a Million in Wembley Stadium and hold wonderful concerts at Christmas and in the Spring in St. Mary's Church, Fairford.

“ 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



Photography

In years 7 to 9, photography is incorporated into students’ art projects where they can then develop their practice and study photography at GCSE as an option choice.

Students learn and develop digital technical skills and techniques through a wide range of topics. Students learn the history of photography, analyse the work of others and further expand their technical and artistic skillset.

An educational day trip enriches their studies and students benefit from plenty of outdoor practical work and studio-based photography.



Drama & Theatre

Theatre is not just about acting. It’s an amazing way to connect with each other and tell stories. Through drama we can explore stories from different cultures and contexts, develop empathy, become better thinkers, creative problem solvers and confident communicators. We have opportunities to learn practical performance skills, design sets, make costumes and see a range of live theatre productions.



Vocational Subjects



Design & Technology

The Design & Technology curriculum is rich and varied; the department specialises in product design in all material areas including electronics, plastics, wood, paper, card and CAD/ CAM. 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.



Food & 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.

At Key Stage 3 we cook most lessons, allowing us to teach a variety of skills and concepts which can be applied to many 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!



Child Development

We offer Child Development as a GCSE-equivalent vocational qualification at Key Stage 4. This gives students the opportunity to develop applied knowledge and practical skills related to child development. As well as being invaluable for anyone looking to work with children (or raise them), the course is also relevant for students interested in a career in health and social care more generally. In the Sixth Form we offer Health and Social Care as an A-level equivalent which is an obvious progression route for those who study Child Development.

Languages



Learning about Language

In Learning about Language, which is unique to Farmor's, students develop an understanding of language that will improve their reading and understanding in every subject.

Whilst learning about the rich history of the English language, students discover why language evolves and the diverse range of influences on how we speak.

An understanding of how our wonderful English language works is important, because 90% of key terms used in science and maths have roots in Latin or Greek. Equipping students with the skills to succeed, whatever their interests.

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



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 practice their knowledge in an authentic context.



Team Farmor's



Team Farmor's is more than just PE and sport. Team Farmor's is the branding we have given our sports teams to help create a cohesive ethos amongst our athletes, individual sports people and team players. It allows students to develop strong friendships, and a sense of belonging. Many of our Team Farmor's students have gone on to pursue professional sports careers and have represented their university in a sport that they played here. We are proud of the many successes of our sports on offer, as both a department and wider school community inclusivity is highly valued, and our practices are available to all students.

Team Farmor's gives students many opportunities including extra-curricular competitive sport, entry to national competitions, entry to district competitions and opportunities to tour! Team Farmor's touring party has visited a huge range of designations including South Africa, Sri Lanka, Jersey, Malta, Devon, Cardiff and more!

“ We have seen our girls stretched and challenged during lessons and in extra-curricular in an array of competitive fixtures that has pushed their desire to achieve. Year 9 parent ”



Enrichment



Co-curricular experiences

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, fieldwork and museum and cultural experiences. These events give children excellent opportunities to develop, extend and succeed beyond the classroom and leave them with lifelong memories. Whether through teambuilding activities, developing stronger peer relationships, or pushing their perceived physical and mental boundaries, we see our students grow in confidence before our eyes.



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.



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.

This programme helps 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. 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

“ *Excellent! I watched the students arriving for assembly, they were well organised and respectful of each other. Full marks from me!* ”
Visiting Primary School Headteacher

Girls' Tennis

Warhammer

Dungeons & Dragons club

Open Tennis Skills Training

Quiet Space

Athletics

Choir

Cookie Jar

Rounders Club

Indoor Rowing

Debate Club

Silent Book Club

Cricket

Boys' Tennis

Concert Band

Rock School

Ukelele Band

Coding Club

Softball

Rugby

Crafts Club

Card Games Club

STEM Club

Eco Club

Carnegie Awards Book Club

65 trips

run in a typical school year



30 clubs

run during lunch
every week!



Support & Advice

“Leaders are ambitious for pupils who face barriers to their learning or wellbeing.”
Ofsted 2026



“We work in many schools and the students here are so positive and questioning, it’s a pleasure to support this school.”

Social worker

Pastoral Care

During their time at Farmor’s, students have a form tutor, that they see every morning and head of year. Both of which stay with them as they progress through school. This helps staff to get to know students and look after their wellbeing. Whilst guiding them in developing good study habits, listening to them when needed and celebrating their successes with them. Form tutors also provide a first contact point for parents and carers.

100% of year 7 parents agree that their child is encouraged to participate in lessons and the teaching at Farmor's is good.

Year 7 parent survey



Learning Support

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

Teachers closely monitor students' progress, development and attainment of all pupils with SEND including where students access support from teaching assistants or other specialist staff.



Careers

Careers is a thread which runs through the whole school. Our Careers Lead is available for support, guidance and individual careers interviews which complement career sessions within PSHE and a variety of other activities throughout the year. Students in year 10 take part in a work experience week followed by a mock interview with a volunteer employer - helping to introduce the world of work and build confidence and interpersonal skills. We work closely with our Head of Years and tutors, who are well-placed to know students well and support them with their future ambitions.

"Overwhelmingly positive on both counts; we have loved having your student. He has been open to learning, got stuck in, and been offered a summer job. He has done a variety of tasks, been sensible with machinery and really grafted on jobs. A fantastic experience!"

Work experience employer

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.

“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

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 of Sixth Form Alumni





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AN ACADEMY

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