

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. How many students are external applicants?

Farlingaye Sixth Form warmly welcomes external applicants and each year approximately 25% of our year 12 students have completed their GCSEs at another high school. We have students which join us from anywhere up to 20 different schools and so there are lots of new students who you will get to know as well as the many Farlingaye students who will look forward to meeting you as well. We normally expect to have around 207 students in year 12 and 220 in year 13. This has enable us to have a vibrant Sixth Form student body.

### 2. How many students are in each tutor group?

Each tutor group is formed of Year 12 and Year 13 students who spend morning registrations together. Each tutor group has roughly 25 students in. During registration, you will take part in a range of activities including assemblies, quizzes, personal development activities. There are currently 18 tutor groups in total.

### 3. Settling in to a New School

We want students new to Farlingaye to feel part of their Sixth Form as quickly as possible. Your tutor and the Sixth Form team will ensure you become an integral part of their form group and work hard to allow you to find your way around school and start to get to know your fellow students. All students are invited to complete our induction sessions in July, where you will have a lesson in each of your chosen subjects and get to spend time with you peers. On your first day only Years 7 and 12 are on site to help with the settling in process and students will have an extended period of time with their tutor groups taking part in a range of activities getting to know one another. Your Head of Year will also hold breakfast morning meetings to get to know the external students as quickly as possible.

### 4. How many subjects do I choose?

Students are asked to select 3 subjects from the 5 available pools. In Year 12, you also have one period of Additional Studies. Each subject has a set of entry criteria and the Sixth Form has a range of 37 different courses, which you can study. Core Maths can be taken as a 4<sup>th</sup> subject choice.

### 5. Why do students have Additional Studies on their timetables?

Additional studies is one of the key elements of our enrichment programme, which we are very proud of. It will cover a diverse range of topics and we want to foster positive debate and understanding of the world around us. This lesson also provides the essential next steps support at the end of year 12 and beginning to year 13 when we provide excellent support for the university applications and apprenticeship career paths.

### 6. Transport to and from school

Students in Sixth Form need to make their own travel arrangements. Students can travel on school buses but need to apply for a space through the local authority transport services or private bus providers. Unfortunately, free school transport is not provided to those in 16-19 education. A bursary is available to support with the cost of transport, please see our bursary policy.

Students must formally ask for permission to bring cars or motorcycles to school. If you wish to do this, you must see the Director of Sixth Form to obtain a permit, however, parking space at school is very limited and we only have 40 spaces allocated for Sixth Formers.

### 7. What happens if I would like to change a subject choice?

After you have applied there is still an opportunity to change subject. Students will be given the opportunity on results or enrolment day to make any necessary changes pending availability in those

subject classes. After this students need to complete a full two week cycle of the timetable before making any changes. There is a designated day known as 'swap not drop' where requests can be made. Changes are still dependent on entry requirements.

## **8. What are the timings of the school day?**

The current timings are:

<b>Morning registration</b>	8.55am to 9.20am
<b>Period 1</b>	9.20am – 11.00am
<b>Morning Break</b>	11.00am – 11.20am
<b>Period 2</b>	11.20am – 1.00pm
<b>Lunch</b>	1.00pm – 1.45pm
<b>Period 3</b>	1.45pm- 3.25pm

## **9. What pastoral support is there if a student needs some help?**

We

pride ourselves in the quality of the pastoral care we provide to our students at Farlingaye. We have a highly experienced Sixth Form team who are experienced supporting students who experience difficult times during their time in Sixth Form. We are fully aware that mental health is an ever increasing challenge and our young adults can also face many personal and academic pressures that require careful and sensitive support. Along with our safeguarding team we are able to provide mentoring support as well as seeking support from external organisations to help our students. Our experience tutor team provide the daily contact with students and are an additional and important support network. We work with both students and their families to provide the appropriate support for each individual.

## **10. Do you have students that get into Oxford & Cambridge?**

Yes. Every year we have many students who secure interviews to study at Oxford and/or Cambridge and then a few who gain the incredibly high grades (typically at least A\*A\*A) in their own results. It is an incredibly competitive process which we support the students through, however we also have well in excess of 120 students each year who secure university places, including many at Russell Group and other prestigious institutions.

## **11. Do you support Medical Sciences?**

Absolutely. We have an incredibly successful track record of Farlingaye students securing medical, dentistry and veterinary science places. Similarly to Oxbridge applicants we have a very structured approach to support students through a very complex and highly competitive process.

## **12. What if I'm not interested in going to university?**

Then our Sixth Form will provide you advice, guidance and support to pursue your career ambitions. There are so many excellent apprenticeship and degree apprenticeship opportunities these days of which our students are securing fantastic roles. We work closely with national agencies supporting apprenticeships and have links with local business and as well as many ex-students who want to help through their own experiences.

## **13. Do I have study periods?**

Yes. You will typically have 5 study periods per week but it is dependent on the number of subjects studied. These lessons will be spent in the library or study areas. Unless there are exceptional, pre-approved circumstances Year 12s are not allowed to study at home during non-contact periods. In Year

13 students will then be allowed to take home studies once agreed with school. The library and study room will be supervised by staff for most timetabled periods and these areas provide areas to work quietly and individually. There are also computer facilities in these areas to support your studies.

#### **14. Can I use study periods for driving lessons?**

In year 12 students must arrange driving lessons outside of the school day. However, the theory test and driving test may necessarily need to be taken during school hours but every effort must be taken to avoid lesson times. We do also appreciate that some students are unable to secure lessons outside of the school day so we can be flexible.

#### **15. Where can I buy food?**

Sixth Formers have their own café in the common room which is open during morning break time and lunchtime where coffee, cakes, soft drinks can be bought in addition to a selection of hot and cold snacks. The main dining room is also available which has a wider selection of cooked food and meals. However, many students bring their own packed lunch with them and use the common room to eat in.

#### **16. Can I go offsite?**

Sixth Formers may go offsite at break time and lunchtime but must ensure they are in their lessons on time. Some students choose to go offsite and have an option to purchase food at the local Co-op supermarkets.

#### **17. Are there Sixth Form Sports Teams?**

We find that most Sixth Form students who participate in sport do so in their local clubs although we have many students who perform at county level and then onto regional and national level. However, there are Sixth Form Netball, Football and Rugby teams who play against other schools. There are also new clubs forming each year, so if you are keen to get a club started I am sure that the PE department will be willing to support. We also have a well-equipped gym that students are able to use during supervised sessions.

#### **18. Are the clubs and activities for Sixth Formers?**

There are many activities for Sixth Formers to get involved with. These include Charity Committee, Green Council both of which have an instrumental role in the success of the school as a member of the local community. There are other clubs and societies that are completely dependent on Sixth Form student involvement such as buddy mentoring, reading club, homework club where students support younger students in the school. These can be incredibly rewarding activities as well as enhancing the current skills and experiences of the Sixth Formers, which will ultimately support them in the future. Farlingaye is renowned for the huge diversity of creative arts activities and there is a huge range of musical groups (choirs, orchestras, big band) as well as annual senior drama productions. These are open to all students regardless of the subjects they are studying.