

Farney Close School
Option Book
September 2026

CAREERS SUPPORT

All students have a planned programme of careers education, information, advice and guidance to include information on post 16 education courses, training opportunities, apprenticeships and types of job. This is on-going through PSHE, assemblies and talks. From Year 8 onwards planning begins as part of the annual review meeting where young people and their families are encouraged to think about their aspirations.

In Year 9 students are given individual guidance by an independent careers advisor facilitated by Farney Close. The advisor will attend annual reviews to meet parents/carers and potential options will be signposted. Farney Close presents an options evening for young people and their families sharing the KS4 courses offered for the following academic year.

In Year 10 young people begin their option courses and the careers advisor will conduct individual interviews with young people. They also receive further guidance from Farney Close on post 16 choices, receiving help from the Additional Learning Support Team to explore potential colleges and courses. Visits are encouraged to potential placements during weekend and evening open events with their families.

In Year 11 young people and their families will name their preferred placement at their annual review which will be held in September/October. Once placement is named the Additional Learning Support Team will assist young people in making applications to their preferred courses and prepare them for interviews with colleges or potential employers including apprenticeships.

During their time at Farney Close, students are encouraged to evaluate their individual skills, talents and qualities. Links are made between these and their potential for securing positive outcomes in their future education training and employment into their adult life.

Mandatory Subjects

(These are subjects that you will all be studying).

Maths at GCSE (Entry level where applicable)

English language and English literature at GCSE

(Entry level where applicable)

Science - GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy

(Entry level where applicable)

RE and PSHCE

Computing (Functional Skills)

Humanities and Work Skills

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award

ENGLISH—Literature and Language

WHAT is this subject about?

English is the subject that allows us to communicate with the world. It is a subject in which pupils develop skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing. The GCSE syllabus for English Language is made up of two papers. Paper one is “Explorations in Creative Writing.” Paper two is “Writer’s viewpoints and perspectives.” The units are linked to skills such as; comparing writer’s ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed, across two or more texts, and organize information and ideas, using structural and grammatical features to support coherence and cohesion of texts. Pupils will also be expected to use Spoken English effectively in speeches and presentations. The GCSE syllabus for English Literature, is made up of two Papers where pupils will study the Conflict poetry anthology, unseen poetry, An Inspector Calls by JB Priestly, Macbeth by William Shakespeare and A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. It is a springboard for learning about character, intention and themes. Key knowledge and context are inbuilt and revisited throughout the two years. Pupils will also develop their analysis of language and structure and learn to evaluate texts. We also encourage reading for pleasure. Our stand-alone reading sessions focus more on contemporary, socially focused novels, where we practice reciprocal reading skills.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

There are two routes pupils may take; Language and Literature GCSE courses are linear courses which means that examination takes place at the end of year 11. The assessment takes the form of four examinations totalling 7+ hours. The English Language Entry Level will be assessed at the end of year 10 or 11 for a few; it is assessed in the classroom through evidence and assessment takes the form of Topic Tests, an external exam and a spoken English viva voce exam.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

The English GCSEs and English Entry level are designed to help pupils leave school equipped with the knowledge and skills to enable them to make their next steps and to open up unlimited opportunities for them in the future. We recognise that this looks different for each student. We seek to promote personalised learning to maximise pupil progress and engage their interests, and instil a desire to continue lifelong learning.

MATHEMATICS



WHAT is this subject about?

Mathematics is the subject that makes sense of the world. It is an interconnected subject in which pupils develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts so that they can select and apply the correct mathematical techniques in order to solve problems. As pupils progress they will gain confidence in independent thinking skills so that they can make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions based on their mathematical reasoning.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

There are two pathways pupils may take; Mathematics GCSE course is a linear course which means that examination takes place at the end of year 11. The assessment takes the form of three examinations totalling 4½ hours. The Mathematics Entry Level will be assessed at the end of year 10 for a few, it is assessed in the classroom through evidence and assessment takes the form of four examinations. The examinations are a rigorous test to ensure that pupils can comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

The Mathematics GCSE and Mathematics Entry level are designed to help pupils leave school with a level of confidence and fluency that will provide a genuine foundation for the rest of their learning and working lives. Whether pupils enter a mathematics based career or not, a good Mathematics GCSE will give them many transferable problem solving and reasoning skills.



SCIENCE



WHAT is this subject about?

In Year 9, pupils will begin to study the foundation science course which will prepare them to excel in the AQA GCSE combined trilogy course. Pupils studying the combined science pathway will be taught Biology, Chemistry and physics enabling them to gain two GCSEs at the end of Year 11. The course will develop pupils' understanding of the key principles which govern science. It allows pupils to deepen their understanding of all three science disciplines. To enhance the student learning experience, there are a set number of required practical tasks in each science area, therefore developing a range of practical skills as well as improving subject knowledge.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

There are six papers: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas. The papers will consist of a written examination lasting 1 hour 15 minutes each.

What skills will I need to succeed on this course?

You will need to be well organised with a good understanding of how to 'work scientifically' as well as being able to work well independently and as part of a group. You will also need good literacy and numeracy skills to help you communicate your scientific ideas and explanations effectively. Many of these skill will be taught alongside the content. Most of all, you need an enquiring mind with a passion for science

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

The science course is designed to enable students to leave school with an all round general knowledge in science. This will build confidence for those wanting to peruse a career with a science background. There are many careers you could pursue such as an electrician, engineer, sports scientist, beautician, veterinarian or other animal welfare specialist, as well as a wide range of careers in the agricultural, medical and health & social care sectors.



GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

This GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing your practical cookery skills to give you a strong understanding of nutrition.

Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance.

Upon completion of this course, you will be qualified to go on further study, or embark on an apprenticeship or full time career in the catering or food industries.

You can find out more about this course by following this link - aqa.org.uk/food-preparation-and-nutrition

Sharon Owens



MEDIA

This is an exciting new opportunity for you to learn about film and photography, both in front and behind the camera. You will use professional kit and software which will prepare you for media or technical courses which could lead to employment in film, television, theatre, music or advertising.

What will I be learning?

This is a flexible course that allows you to study some or all of the following:

Media– learn about film and how to make short films, operate lights and sound, design advertising and CD/DVD covers, create scripts and storyboards.

Animation and green screen– learn the magic of using a green screen to make the impossible, possible! Bring objects to life using animation software.

Photography- learn how to use a digital SLR camera to take creative photos and edit them using professional software. This is a creative media course, so there may also be the option to join some art units, such as pottery and printmaking.

Who would enjoy it?

Those who are technically minded, who enjoy using computer software, or cameras. Pupils who have a creative mind and would enjoy making or performing in a film.

What happens when I finish?

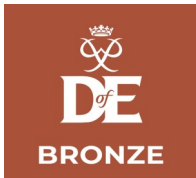
You will achieve a Level 2 Diploma programme. This may assist in moving you into employment or a further course.

Gerard Holden

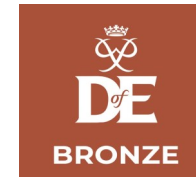
What to know more?

Visit: <https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/creative-media-and-performance-arts/17532.pdf>





Duke of Edinburgh



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a youth awards programme founded in the United Kingdom in 1956 by Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. It has three levels of award Bronze, Silver and Gold and is open for 14-24 year olds.

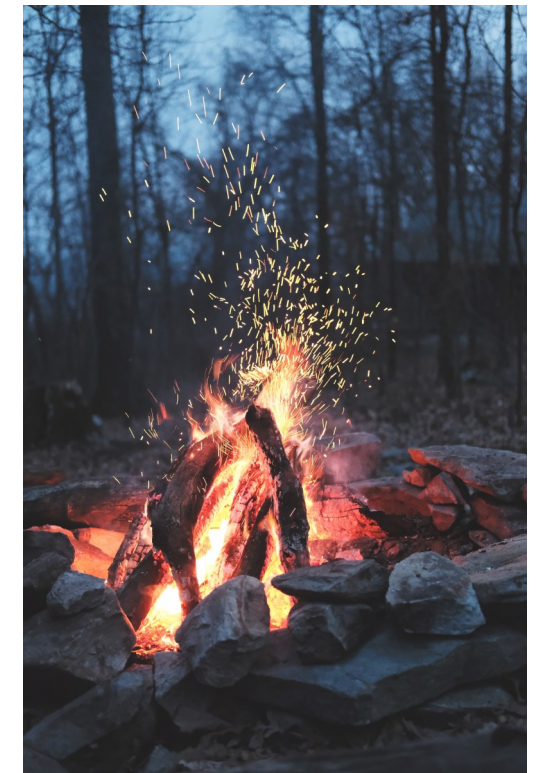
The aim of the course is to build self-esteem, resilience, confidence and to develop team working skills. The course is broken down into the categories highlighted below.

During the course you will learn navigation and camping skills, Archery and volunteer within the community. All of the training you will be given will lead you to the final assessment which is the expedition where you can put the skills you have learnt into practice.



BRONZE

Volunteering 3 months	<i>PLUS a further 3 months in the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section.</i>
Physical 3 months	
Skills 3 months	
Expedition 2 days 1 night	



Vehicle Maintenance

This is an exciting new opportunity for you to learn about Vehicle Maintenance and experience what it is like to work as Mechanic. You will learn the skills needed in the trade preparing you for an apprenticeship in the workplace and possible employment.

What will I be learning?

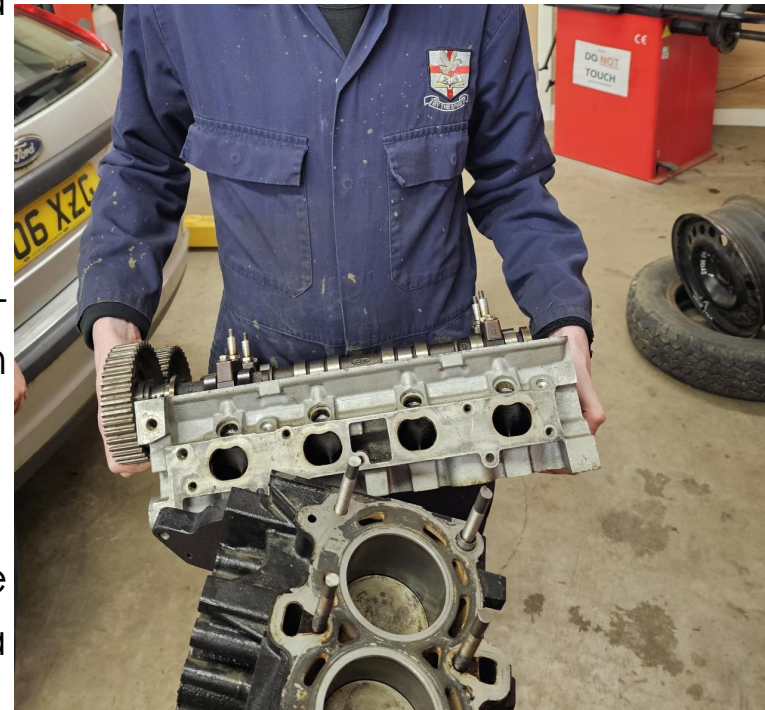
This course introduces students to the various roles available in the retail motor industry, providing the essential knowledge required to service motor vehicles and diagnose non-complex faults.

Who would enjoy it?

Those who like cars, enjoy practical subjects, would like to become a Mechanic, or involved in the motor industry or just learn life skills to save money in the future.

What happens when I finish?

You will achieve a Laser LEAP Entry Level 3. What you have learned will help entry into employment/ apprenticeship or onto a Motor Vehicle/ Mechanics course at college.



Music (course pending)

Introducing a new course for student wishing to study Music in Year 10 and 11 will involve the core activities of performing, listening and composing and will include musical technology. Whilst the exact course to be studied is to be decided depending upon the strengths of those students taking part these core activities form the rudiments of all music courses at this level though the exact nature may be subject to alteration.

Performing: students will develop their instrument or voice performance skills leading to two performances of around 4 minutes in total length; 1 solo performance, 1 group performance.

Listening: There will be a wide range of different music genres, styles and cultures studied. Students will be able to place music in context and to analyse the music they listen to. Developing an understanding of key terminology and an awareness of written music is essential to this aspect of the course.

Composing: Music technology will support this aspect of the course where students will be expected to have developed two completed compositions. One of the compositions is related to the listening activities and one of the compositions is the students' own choice.

What would I be learning?

Studying GCSE (9–1) Physical Education will open your eyes to the amazing world of sports **performance**. Not only will you have the chance to perform in three different sports through the non-exam assessment component, you will also develop wide ranging knowledge into the how and why of Physical activity and sport .

Who would enjoy it?

ANYONE!

This is not about taking away from other subjects, it is because what PE provides is a necessity for future generations. **PE has the capacity to bring about lifelong healthy lifestyles**. And a life filled with enriched experiences is the result of being physically active.

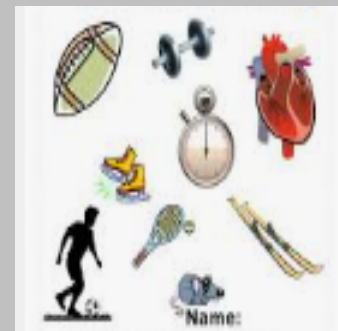


What happens when I finish?

You will achieve a GCSE in PE and be able to go on to study PE related subjects at college.

Want to know more?

If you would like to know more, speak to Chris Miller



GCSE in ART & DESIGN (Fine Art)

What will I be learning?

This course explores art and design through a range of 2D and 3D techniques, these include: Fine Art: painting, drawing, Digital Media: photography, graphics, 3D Design: clay, wire, relief. You will explore resources relating to art and design to aid the investigation and making process, and critically respond to the work of artists, demonstrating an understanding of different styles, genres and traditions.



Who would enjoy it?

Are you a creative thinker? Are you full of ideas? Do you enjoy investigating a topic, or looking at different artists and styles? Do you like the making process?

If the answer is yes, then this course is for you. You will need to be an independent learner, developing your own ideas, to create original and exciting pieces of work.

What happens when I finish?

Careers in Art and design are very wide areas including: Film and TV work, Design– Theatre, Interior, Graphic Animation, Arts Centre Project Work, Art Therapy, Museums and Galleries-Curator, Historian, Journalism.

Want to know more?

Gerard Holden

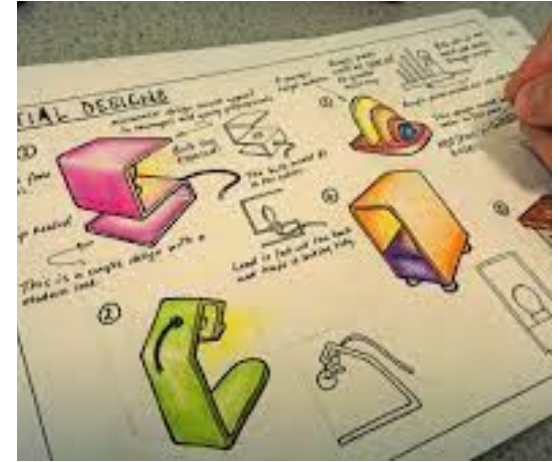


Visit: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206/subject->

GCSE in Design & Technology

What will I be learning?

Over the course of 2 years you will undertake a number of skills based design and make projects using different hand and machine based techniques. There will be plenty of opportunity to learn and sharpen your manufacturing skills. Alongside this you will learn to involve key Design Technology topics such as historical, cultural and environmental roles when you think about design. Your final GCSE grade will be determined from an exam board set project and one examination paper to show off what you really understand.



Who would enjoy it?

If you enjoyed Design Technology whilst in the lower school, and are ready to push yourself and your ability to reach an all important GCSE qualification, this is the next step. Learners will need to have high expectations of themselves and their work, be patient, creative but also realistic.

What happens when I finish?

You will be awarded a GCSE grade ranging from 1 to 9 to celebrate your achievements in Design Technology. The next step could be a Level 3 or an A-Level product Design or Engineering qualification to push your learning further. Alternatively you may consider other creative routes at College or a Sixth Form.



Want to know more?

Vish Vaja

Visit: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552>

Construction

This is an exciting new opportunity for you to learn about Construction and experience what it is like to work as a bricklayer and painter / decorator and experience what it is like to work in the trade.

Bricklaying is one of the traditional trades both in the UK and around the world—Sir Winston Churchill is known to have enjoyed laying bricks and building walls during his lifetime.

What will I be learning?

Those studying Construction will learn a variety of skills and techniques used in the industry, providing the essential knowledge required to work in the trade; to enable them to build, repair and maintain the country's housing stock.

Who would enjoy it?

This course is aimed at students wishing to learn some skills in brick-laying / painting and decorating. You may simply want to decorate your own home or build your own home.

What happens when I finish?

You will achieve a Laser LEAP Entry level 3. What you have learned will help you to progress on to becoming skilled in your chosen trade, or to progress through an apprenticeship or college and work towards becoming a master craftsman. Jon Thompson



History GCSE

GCSE History gives students an opportunity to hone their writing and critical thinking skills. It is an academic subject with a strong focus on writing skills. It will focus on analysing sources and creating strong arguments in your writing. The GCSE History curriculum provides students an opportunity to delve into multiple topics including both World Wars, Medicine and Health through time, and the Norman Conquest of England.

A GCSE History qualification can lead to further study and careers in politics and diplomacy, international relations, law, archaeology, museums, journalism, filmmaking, public policy and local government, teaching or research, and academics.

Making your choice

Correct reasons to choose....

- If you would like to study that subject in the future.
- If you enjoy and are interested in a subject.
- If you are achieving well in a subject.
- If the subject will help you in the future with your chosen career path.

Remember....

- You shouldn't make a choice based on what your friends have chosen - your options are personal to you.
- GCSE Courses last for 2 years - you cannot change your mind at the end of Year 10.
- You shouldn't select a subject just because you like the teacher/ instructor.

Next steps....

- Take the opportunity to seek advice or information from Farney Close staff and your family.
- Look carefully at the course information contained in this guide.
- Consider which subjects will best help you to pursue your intended post 16 course and check if there are any specific requirements for your post 16 study.

Your Choices

We would like you to choose three subject options (leave out Eng/Maths /Sci) and place in the order you would like to study them:

FIRST CHOICE

SECOND CHOICE

THIRD CHOICE

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THIS PAGE TO JAMES MILLS