


2024/25

SIXTH FORM

PROSPECTUS



SIXTH FORM
FRAMWELLGATE SCHOOL DURHAM

 [FSD - Sixth Form](#)

 [@FSDSixth](#)

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WELCOME

Welcome to Framwellgate School Durham Sixth Form. I would like to thank you for considering us at what is undoubtedly an important stage in your life. We understand that entering post-16 education is a significant milestone, and we are very proud of the inclusive, supportive and vibrant environment that we provide our sixth form students with.

Whether you are aiming to go on to higher education, an apprenticeship or employment after sixth form, we offer a range of courses to suit your needs. FSD offers a post-16 education that is focused on the individual; we pride ourselves on building enrichment opportunities around the students who are studying with us, whilst supporting them in their pursuit of academic excellence.

At FSD, our sixth form students benefit from small class sizes, high-quality, evidence-informed teaching, and intensive academic and pastoral support. I strongly believe that students succeed when they take responsibility for their own learning. Being self-motivated, self-disciplined and resilient are all key to success, and our personal development programme engenders these qualities in our students, helping to prepare them for their post-18 steps, and for the challenges of the wider world.

We're delighted that in July 2021, for the second inspection running, Ofsted rated our Sixth Form as 'good'. Inspectors commented that:

- The curriculum caters effectively for pupils' personal development. Content about staying safe, anti-bullying, relationships and equalities is woven across the curriculum. Pupils are taught about the importance of democracy, respect and tolerance. Pupils speak knowledgeably about the negative impact of derogatory and racist language. The school has an active lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) group. (July 2021)
- Teachers have high expectations of students (May 2018)
- The school offers a broad range of academic and some vocational courses for post-16 students (July 2021)
- Students and parents commented positively on the impact of interventions when students are falling behind in their studies (May 2018)
- The most recently available examination results from 2019 showed that students achieved highly (July 2021)

You can read the full report on www.framdurham.com

I hope that you will join us during this exciting part of your life.

Mrs Emily King
Head Of Sixth Form

WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN US?

“

As a student at FSD sixth form I find the environment very friendly and supportive with the staff always happy to help. Lessons have been well structured and encouraged both my team and independent skills. Outside of the classroom I have been given numerous subject related opportunities including a STEM internship and many geography field trips. Work experience and enrichment have also been particularly helpful in deciding what is next for me.

Current Sixth Form Student

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My time at FSD sixth form has been great! The staff are really friendly and there is always someone there when you need them. The other students here are very accepting and there is a huge level of support from everyone that you meet. The teachers will do everything that they can to make sure you achieve your goals and aspirations, and support you in the decisions that you make. There is a very welcoming atmosphere and everyone is incredibly approachable. The sixth form offer a great level of range when it comes to subject choice, meaning there will likely be a subject that you are passionate about studying.

Current Sixth Form Student

“

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a student at FSD sixth form. The atmosphere is friendly, supportive and encouraging. Although there is a big leap in work load and independent study from GCSE to A Level, which can be challenging, the teachers and pastoral staff work hard to help students through the transition. I believe FSD sixth form plays a big role in preparing students for the world of work and will support you no matter what Post 18 path you choose. They provide a wide range of opportunities, including internships and extra-curricular trips and activities. Students help to support each other and create friendly inclusive environments that can be enjoyed by all.

Current Sixth Form Student

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FSD is a safe environment where academic progress is actively encouraged and achieved. The teachers are dedicated to the students, putting in the extra effort to help us achieve our best. The classes are small enough for direct teaching and to ensure that you get the individual support when need. The Sixth Form is particularly skilled at supporting your future aspirations, where a number of visitors and speakers come into school to talk about your options Post 18.

Current Sixth Form Student

THE SIXTH FORM CENTRE

The Sixth Form Centre is a designated suite of rooms for Sixth Form students to use. First and foremost, it is a place of learning. It is designed to support independent learning and act as a base for the Sixth Form pastoral team. It consists of:

- 🔇 • A silent study area and computer suite
- 💻 • A forum area with additional computer facilities
- 📖 • The Sixth Form Office
- 👤 • The Guidance Manager base
- 👥 • A quiet group study area
- ☕ • A café style study area/break and lunchtime facility





COURSE OVERVIEWS

Framwellgate Sixth Form is pleased to offer a broad curriculum that allows students to gain the qualifications necessary, academically challenges and gets them to their next steps.

It is a requirement that all students need to achieve a grade 4 in either GCSE English language or English literature to study in the Sixth Form. Any student not achieving a grade 4 GCSEs in Maths will be required to re-sit the exam until they do so.

In order to enrol on sixth form courses, applicants will need to have achieved 5 x 9-4 grades at GCSE level or equivalent - including English Language or Literature.

Some subjects may require higher grades. All courses are two-year courses.

Level 3 Applied Science

The AQA Level 3 Applied Science course will allow you to study how science is applied in many different types of professions and industries. The focus of the course is scientific usage, concentrating on how scientists and others use science in their work. You will learn how science contributes to our lifestyle and the environment in which we live.

Art and Design

Art and Design allows the development of creativity and artistic expression, and is one of the only subjects to be almost entirely practical. Art and Design is vital in today's ever-changing world, where aesthetics are equally as important as function. Indeed,

art surrounds us in our everyday living environment; from the buildings we live in, the mobile phones used to text, and the clothes on the high street.

Biology

Biology literally means “the study of life”. Biology examines the structure, function, growth, origin, evolution and distribution of living things. The course includes studies at the molecular level, through to the cellular level, on to whole organisms and finally ecology and investigating organisms’ interactions with their environment.

Saving threatened species, feeding people, genetically modified organisms, stem cell research and curing diseases—the 21st century offers many challenges to a

biologist. Which ones are you interested in meeting head-on?

BTEC National Extended Certificate – Business

There are many different career paths for those who wish to work within the business sector. These include management, HR, finance, marketing and business information management, with the opportunity to work both in the UK and internationally. The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education.

Chemistry

Ever wondered who was behind developing the latest shampoo or painkiller? Ever thought

about the people who discovered treatments for cancer or AIDS? Well, chemists are behind these discoveries and developments that will shape our lives in the future. Chemistry is all around us, in the air we breathe, the food we eat and the stuff that makes our lives easier.

Computer Science

Computer Science is a practical and rewarding subject to study at A’ level, preparing learners to employ creative problem-solving techniques to real-world systems and situations. Organisational, analytical and programming skills developed throughout the course, together with a sound understanding of computer systems theory, are highly valued by universities and employers alike.

English Literature

Sir Richard Steele, a politician born in 1672, once said that "Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body". He was right, of course, but it's not only the reading which exercises the brain, it's the thinking, discussing, arguing and writing about what we read that keeps our most vital organ in shape. Students with an interest in people and in the way they behave, think and feel will enjoy this course. There will also be the chance to develop the skills of analysis, or argument, persuasion, and of discussion, sometimes working independently but also in groups.

French

As society becomes increasingly globalised, so language study becomes increasingly important. Studying French opens doors

not only to Europe, but also to French speaking countries throughout the world.

Further Mathematics

Further Mathematics is an enjoyable, stimulating and rewarding subject to study. It offers the opportunity to explore new and more sophisticated mathematical concepts, whilst consolidating learning in A' level Mathematics. Students intending to study a mathematics related degree will find Further Mathematics a huge benefit as it makes the transition to university easier.

Geography

Geography provides a strong foundation for understanding both the human and physical aspects of Earth, and the interaction between natural forces and mankind. Human

geography deals with how people and the environment interact and the way in which they coexist. It also looks at how people and groups live (and move) in the world around us. Physical geography is concerned with the scientific aspects of the world, with the emphasis being upon how these can be managed. Geography students will be equipped with a diverse range of skills such as: undertaking research and analysis, teamwork on practical projects, investigating global issues and the ability to interpret natural phenomena.

BTEC Health and Social Care

The qualification develops a deep, common core of knowledge, understanding and skills in the sector through mandatory content. The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with higher education to ensure it

supports progression to higher study. Employers and professional bodies have also been involved in order to confirm that the content is also appropriate for those interested in working in the sector. In addition to the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin study of the health and social care sector, this qualification gives learners experience of the breadth and depth that will prepare them for further study in the sector.

History

History enables us to understand the society in which we live today. It helps us to appreciate the civil rights we can easily take for granted such as democracy and freedom of speech. Historians are in demand in professions where a knowledge of politics and citizenship are vital such as law, journalism, the civil service and in education. Historians have analytical minds and love to

talk, discuss and argue. They think logically and critically and are confident in their own opinions while respectful of others.

Mathematics

Mathematics plays an important role in a lot of what we do each day, even though it may not be obvious. Listening to a CD, watching the weather forecast, playing the latest computer game, using the internet or making a call on a mobile phone all rely on knowledge of a range of branches of Mathematics. Along with the practical applications, Mathematics has a beauty of its own which can be seen in nature and our environment.

Music

Music permeates our everyday lives. From concert halls to the

cinema, Spotify to social media, podcasts to live performance, music is more diverse and readily available than ever before. Through the interrelated disciplines of analysis, composition, and performance, we encourage pupils to appreciate, understand, and think critically about the music around them.

Product Design

Virtually everything you buy is designed or engineered. This course could be the pathway to many exciting and rewarding career paths in a rapidly changing technological society. From engineers to technicians, high-level manufacturing in the UK needs a skilled, highly-trained workforce which you could be part of. As well as developing knowledge and skills in technology-based topics, this subject is one which naturally develops transferable skills such as team work, problem solving and

communication skills - all of which are vital in the 'world of work'.

Politics

Politics is about who gets what and how they get it. In that sense it is about everyday life—conflict, argument and compromise. Aristotle described politics as the “master science” as it is the essence of everything. The course itself aims to widen students’ understanding of the key issues in modern society. It investigates where power now lies, how people are represented and the opportunities for change. This includes for example, debates over whether we should go to war, civil liberties, the influence of Europe, the United States and rising powers like China, the obstacles facing minorities plus the role of political parties and pressure groups. Politics is an intellectually challenging and rewarding subject. It opens

our eyes to what is really going on in the world in which we live.

Physical Education

Physical Education allows the development of a wide range of sporting roles. Firstly, it will allow further practical progression in your leading activities, as well as developing coaching and officiating skills in those fields. Aside from the practical aspect of the subject, it will develop a range of transferable skills in subject areas such as psychology, physiology, applied science and sociology.

Physics

Physics is the subject that provides you with the Theory of Everything and answers the most important question of all:

Why?

Physics will take you on a journey from the fundamental building blocks of matter to the forces that hold galaxies and the whole universe together. It will give you grounding in general physics concepts, dealing with forces and motion plus the more abstract concepts involved with electricity, waves and WIMPs. It may delve deeper into the realms of astrophysics or take you back in time to the important experiments that have enhanced our lives today.

Psychology

Research in Psychology seeks to understand and explain thought, emotion and behaviour of humans and animals. Psychologists use scientific methods in an attempt to understand and predict behaviour, to develop procedures for changing behaviour, and to evaluate treatment strategies. Psychology is a combination of science and practice. Psychologists are interested in how people act, react and interact as individuals and in groups. Applications of psychology include mental health treatment, performance enhancement, self-help, ergonomics, and many other areas affecting health and daily life. The common factor linking people who study psychology is curiosity and the search for knowledge.

Sociology

'Sociology lifts the lid on the ordinary and extraordinary, digs around in the hidden meanings and contexts of our lives, and shows that what we take for granted rests on complex and dynamic social processes'. (Tony Bilton et al 1996).

Sociologists study people in society. Put simply, Sociology is the attempt to understand how society works. It provides description and analysis of the patterns and structures in human relationships, and it encourages us to see the world through the eyes of other people. The need to understand the society in which we live is a pressing one. We all have a personal stake in this as we try to make sense of our own lives, as well as a wider responsibility to contribute to public debates about the way our society is organised and how it relates to other societies. Sociology helps us to do this.

BTEC Sport

BTEC Sport allows the development of a wide range of sporting roles. Firstly, it will allow further practical progression in your leading activities, as well as developing coaching and officiating skills in those fields. Aside from the practical aspect of the subject, it will develop a range of transferable skills, useful for subject areas such as psychology, physiology, applied science and sociology.

The skills developed in these areas are sought after by many employers, in a wide variety of careers such as physiotherapy, psychology, media, professional athletics and the ever-increasing health and fitness sector.

Personal Development Award

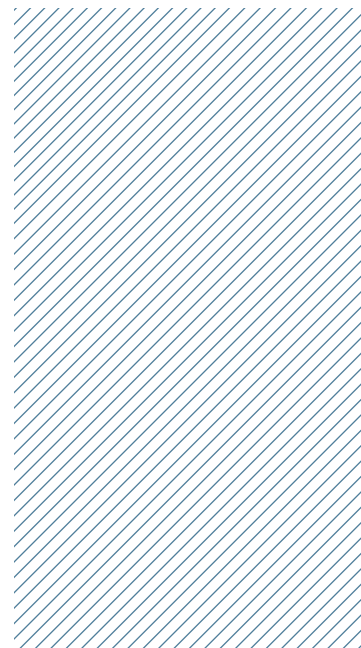
The Personal Development Award encourages students to go beyond their studies, try new things, reflect, and record their experiences. Students will not only earn valuable life skills and experience but be better prepared for their future, boost future job and university applications, practise good physical and mental health and feel a sense of achievement.

Activities that students will take part in will cover the following sections:

- Public Speaking
- Academic Curiosity
- Balance and Wellbeing
- Community Action and Student Leadership
- Exploring the Future

All Students are expected to complete five compulsory activities from each of the above sections, earning them a Bronze Level award. Students are encouraged to go the extra mile however, and achieve silver and gold level awards by completing additional activities per section.

Students record their progress on the Kloodle website/app and receive feedback and advice on how to showcase their activities within a CV and personal Statement.



ENRICHMENT

The enrichment programme is designed to complement and extend academic studies. It provides opportunities for students to demonstrate qualities and develop skills that will prepare them for their next steps. It consists of a range of accredited qualifications which can enhance university applications as well as allowing students to tailor their academic and personal profiles.

Universities and employers often use personal statements to differentiate between applicants and view this wider engagement with learning very positively. Coupled with good grades at BTEC and A' Level, the right enrichment course distinguishes individuals from the crowd and shows future employers what type of person they really are.

Student Opportunities Include:

- Extended Project Qualification
- Community/Higher Sports Leaders Award
- Sports Teams
- Internships
- Paired Reading
- Numeracy and Literacy Buddies
- British Sign Language Short Course
- First Aid Course
- Music Groups





MAKING AN APPLICATION

You don't have to attend the school in order to apply to the Sixth Form. Students from other schools can request an application form by contacting the school by telephone or emailing enquires@framdurham.com. Every year we have a number of students who join us from other school.

Current Framwellgate School Durham students will have an options interview with a member of the leadership team in February to discuss course choices and suitability for studying them. Students who are expected to meet the grade criteria for their course choices and have a positive academic and attendance record will receive a letter offering a conditional place in the Sixth Form. The interviewer will use your predicted grades given in the January data collection which follow your first set of mock examinations. Students will select **THREE** options for which they are currently predicted to meet the entry requirements

Following GCSE results, students who do not meet the minimum entry requirements for the Sixth Form, will be offered an appointment with the Head of Sixth Form in August to discuss alternative courses or other options.



WHERE TO FIND US



Phone:
0191 386 6628



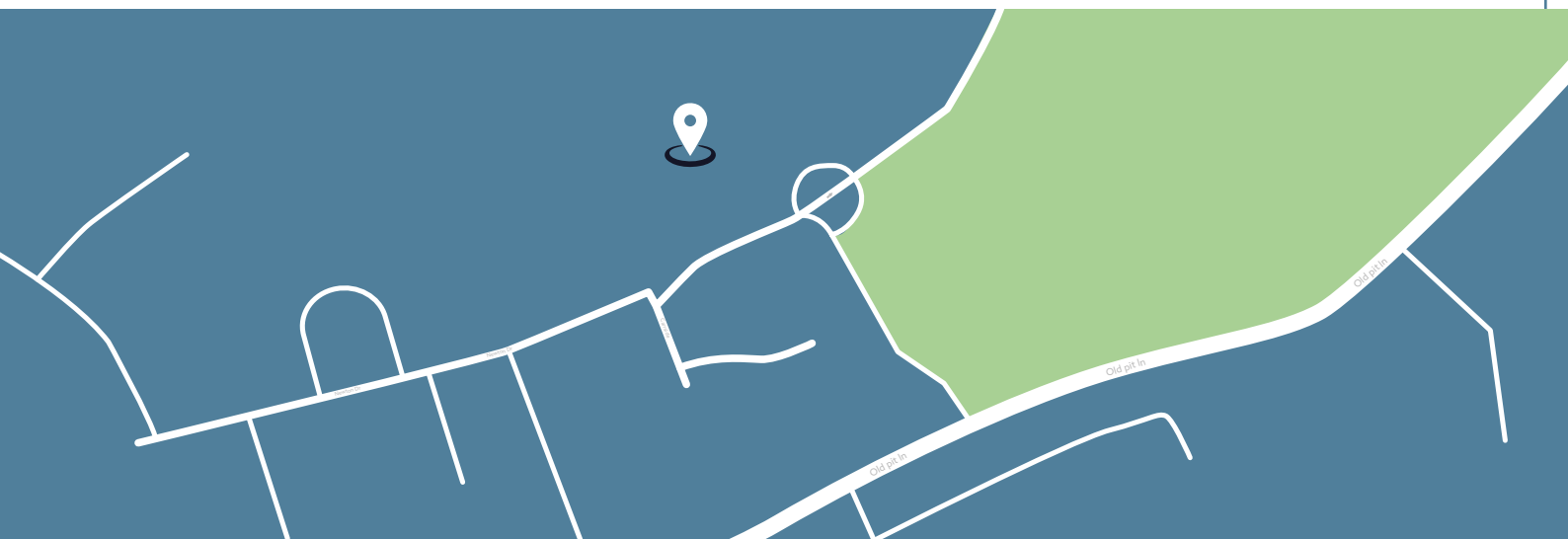
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