Freman
COLLEGE

Freman
COLLEGE

Bowling Green Lane · Buntingford · Hertfordshire · SG9 9BT
Telephone 01763 271818

Email admin@freman.org.uk · Website www.freman.org.uk

Open Evening

Wednesday 23rd September 2026, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Headteacher speaks at 7:30 pm

Arrangements for tours

For tours of the college during the working day,

please contact the college office to arrange an appointment.

Co-educational comprehensive upper school · Age range 13 – 18
Headteacher: Mark Norman · Chair of Trustees: Jackie Martin

Senior Leadership Team
Mr W Abell, Ms S Hebditch, Mr M New, Mr M Shearn, Mrs Z Smith (DSL), Mr S Thornewill

The aims of the college

We want our students to leave Freman as kind, decent young people who are willing and able to play a full part in contributing to and shaping the world in which they live, and who are as well qualified as they possibly can be to achieve future success and happiness both in their careers and in their personal lives.

To achieve this, we believe it is our responsibility to provide:

- A safe, supportive and caring environment characterised by warm and respectful relationships and high expectations that enable students to be themselves and flourish.
- The highest quality curriculum and teaching to ensure students of all abilities and backgrounds achieve the very best of which they are capable and have the widest possible range of choices open to them for their futures.
- A diverse and rewarding range of opportunities for students to participate in, and contribute to, the life of the college and wider community.

The school invests a lot in pupils as individuals and treats them like adults as well as providing a nurturing environment for the challenges of the teenage years. **Parent, May 2025**

What makes the college unique?

Freman College is a successful and high achieving school with results that place it consistently amongst the top schools nationally. It is a standalone academy, enjoying the autonomy which motivated its decision to convert in 2011.

- Our vertical pastoral system brings students together twice a day from across the whole age range and provides a 'family unit' for every student in the college. Older students act as mentors and role models for younger ones.

- Our House system fosters a sense of collective responsibility and provides a wealth of house activities including sport, drama and music.

- Our status as an upper school means that we are staffed with teachers with outstanding experience in teaching their specialist subjects to GCSE and A level.

- Our relationship with our partner middle schools is extremely close, enabling us to ensure a smooth transition from middle school to the college.

- Our range of extra-curricular opportunities is exceptional, offering students a remarkable number of lunchtime and after school activities as well as exciting extended educational trips.

Visitors to the college often remark on the warmth of the relationships they see both between students themselves and between staff and students. This lies at the heart of Freman. Respect for the individual underpins all that we do and as a result students and staff feel an enormous sense of loyalty and commitment to each other and to the college.

Joining Freman College

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

The number of places for entry to Freman College in September 2026 was 210.

There were 268 applications received for September 2026.

The total number of allocations was 252.

The college operates its own Admissions Policy which is outlined in the booklet: Moving on to Secondary School: Information for Parents and is also available on the college website.

TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

We believe that it is very important that a student's transition to the college is as smooth as possible.

We work closely with our partner middle schools to ensure that the curriculum we all offer allows students to move seamlessly from one school to the next.

We put a lot of time and care into talking with children's current teachers, whether they are joining us from our partner middle schools or from other middle and secondary schools in the wider area. This ensures that we know as much as possible about each of our new students' particular interests, strengths, needs and areas for development before they arrive at Freman.

Before they join the college in September our new students all spend a full day at the college, getting to know their way round, meeting teachers and new classmates. There is also an evening for new students and their parents at which they meet their Head of House and Tutor.

We believe that our transition arrangements really help our new students to settle in well and make their move to the college successful.

Pastoral care

Students and parents tell us that they really like the way the college's pastoral system is organised and the support it provides. Ofsted agreed with them.

> *Openness, support and a genuine care for others and their well-being.*
> **Parent Survey, 2025**

When they join the college, each student becomes a member of one of our four Houses, Butler, Hepworth, Mills and Moore. Siblings are always placed in the same House.

In charge of each House is a Head of House assisted by ten group tutors. Each tutor has care of a tutor group of students drawn from all year groups. Students remain in the same vertical tutor group throughout their time at the college and it provides a 'family' unit within which they grow and develop. When they join the college they are mentored by the older students in their tutor group, who provide positive role models for them. As they grow older, they too take on responsibility for the younger students and organise tutor group and House activities.

We place great emphasis at Freman on the importance of respecting others and we believe this is reflected in the positive and caring relationships to be found between staff and students and between students themselves. Neither staff of the college nor the students tolerate bullying or unkindness.

> *Pupils are consistently kind and respectful towards each other. They show high levels of tolerance and understanding of each other's differences. Pupils act in a manner that ensures their peers feel included and welcome.*
> **Ofsted, June 2024**

We have high expectations of how students behave in college, whether in lessons or at other times. We believe all students have the right to learn in a calm, orderly environment. We have a clear Code of Conduct (available on the college website) which is displayed in all teaching rooms and we enforce this strictly. We believe this creates an environment in which students feel happy, safe and free to be themselves.

> *Pupils' behaviour is calm and orderly, in classrooms and during social time. They want to do well.*
> **Ofsted, June 2024**

Safeguarding students' welfare

The college is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Safeguarding procedures are built into the college's recruitment, induction and training of all staff and volunteers and our Child Protection Policy is available on the college website.

The Curriculum

> *Staff have high expectations for how well pupils should achieve and behave. Pupils know this. They appreciate that their teachers challenge and support them to do well.*
> **Ofsted, June 2024**

One of the great advantages of an upper school is that all our teachers really enjoy teaching their subject at the highest level and are passionate about their specialist area.

Admission Year (Year 9)
Students joining the college from our partner middle schools have completed the National Curriculum for Key Stage 3 in Year 8. Consequently, as soon as students join Freman the focus is on preparing them for their GCSEs. The Year 9 curriculum is a foundation year for GCSEs. Students begin to develop and practise the skills required for each subject. In the Spring Term students make their option choices and embark on their courses in the final half-term of the academic year. All assessment is done using GCSE criteria from the outset and students' progress is measured against GCSE target grades which they receive within the first half term.

Pupils study a wide range of subjects throughout Year 9 before selecting their GCSE option subjects. They have a rich and varied curriculum experience before beginning to specialise in their preferred areas of study.
Ofsted, June 2024

All students study art and design, design technology, drama, English, French, geography, history, ICT, mathematics, music, personal development, physical education, religious education and science. Citizenship and personal, social and health education are taught through various curriculum areas and through PSHCRE days. Students with a particular aptitude for languages also study Latin. The students are taught much of the curriculum in mixed ability learning groups, although they are grouped by ability for the teaching of mathematics.

Has a good atmosphere full of students who enjoy learning and work hard. And teachers who help them to learn.
Student survey, May 2025

Intermediate and Examination Years (Years 10 and 11)
In March of the Admission Year all students make decisions about the subjects they will be studying at GCSE level in the following two years. Plenty of guidance is available for both students and parents when it is time for them to make decisions about which GCSE or Cambridge National subjects to opt for. This includes an evening for parents and also individual meetings with a senior member of staff for every student and their parents.

In Key Stage 4, all students take English, mathematics, physical education and science. Some students take a combined GCSE in science while others take three GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics.

In addition, most students take four of the following GCSE or vocational subjects: art and design, business studies, child development, computer science, design technology (resistant materials), drama, food preparation and nutrition, French, GCSE PE, geography, history, ICT, Latin, music, photography, religious studies, sport studies. Citizenship and personal, social and health education are delivered through various curriculum areas and through PSHCE Days, rather than as separate timetabled subjects.

The whole school ethos is great, my daughter is just sitting her GCSEs and I can honestly say she has had a great experience for the last three years.
Parent survey, May 2025

The Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form offers a broad range of A level subjects, offering students a high level of flexibility. The following subjects are offered at A level: fine art, biology, business studies, chemistry, computer science, drama, English language, English literature, French, further mathematics, geography, history, mathematics, media studies, music, photography, physical education, physics, psychology, religious studies, sociology and 3-D product design.
We also offer Cambridge Technical Foundation Diplomas in Sport and Physical Activity, Business and Health and Social Care, as well as a Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma in Sport.

A significant number of students complete an Extended Project which is equivalent to half an A level.

Every year, the majority of students stay on in the Sixth Form. We also have new students who join Freman to take advantage of our wide range of courses. As a result, we have a large and very successful Sixth Form.

Students have their own Sixth Form building, the Pavilion, which comprises a large common room with a canteen in addition to a study area equipped with a computer suite.

> *The school has ensured that there is a wide range of different courses available to students in the sixth form. This means that students study courses that are highly appropriate to their needs.*
> **Ofsted, June 2024**

Careers guidance

From the Admission Year through to the Sixth Form, students have access to individual careers guidance and regular careers talks to help them make the right choices for their future. In addition to the individual interviews mentioned above, students may book an appointment with a Careers Advisor who regularly visits the college. Sixth Formers also benefit from the wide experience of the Sixth Form staff to help them with their post-18 Higher Education, employment and training choices.

> *There is a comprehensive programme in place to support pupils with their personal development and careers education. Adults teach pupils about the different jobs available to them. Pupils learn about university and apprenticeship courses.*
> **Ofsted, June 2024**

Support for students with additional needs and disabilities

The college believes that all students have the right to achieve to the best of their ability. Many students, at some point in their educational career or sometimes throughout their time at school, will need additional support.

We work closely with our partner schools to ensure we have detailed information about the individual needs of students so we can make their transition to Freman as smooth as possible. Our Special Educational Needs Coordinator liaises with the relevant staff at other schools to make sure we have all the information we need and that teachers are fully informed about the particular needs of their students when they arrive and throughout their time at Freman.

The college's policies and procedures, available on the college website or from the office, detail how students with additional needs are supported and how their progress is monitored and reviewed.

Our SENCo manages a team of teaching assistants and provides information and training for all teachers.

The college also has a disability equality scheme which details our commitment to ensuring that the college is accessible to all. This is also available on the college website or from the office.

Homework

Homework is an important part of students' studies and supports their academic progress. In A to E Year, it is set in accordance with a homework timetable, which is displayed in students' tutor rooms and is available on the college website. Developing effective private study habits from the outset is essential if students are to cope with the demands of coursework, revision and other aspects of GCSEs, Cambridge Nationals and A levels as they progress through the college. We strongly encourage parents to take a close interest in their sons' and daughters' homework.

Both parents and students can log on to Satchel: One to check what homework has been set and when this is due in.

Homework can involve a variety of tasks including some which involve internet based research and resources such as MyMaths and Seneca. If students do not have internet access at home, they are able to use computers in college before and after college and at break and lunchtimes.

College sport

Freman College operates traditional team sports: basketball, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rounders, rugby, as well as athletics, badminton, tennis and trampolining.

In addition to our fantastic four court sports hall, our sporting facilities include sports fields, a fitness suite, a gymnasium and tennis/netball courts. We also regularly use the all-weather pitch located adjacent to the college. Groups within the local community make extensive use of Freman College's facilities during the evenings and weekends.

A full range of inter-House events operates throughout the college year and Freman College competes effectively in the local area and within the County.

House activities

Throughout the year there are a host of inter-House competitions. These include House Drama, Music, Chess, University Challenge and Baking in addition to many sporting competitions. All students are expected to take part and can win House Colours for doing so. Points are accrued throughout the year, culminating in July in the award of the Sainsbury's Cup to the winning House.

Other extra-curricular opportunities

Freman has an enormous range of extra-curricular activities. These include activities before and after college and at lunch time but also encompass an enormous range of educational visits. We expect students to take full advantage of these opportunities.

Education is not just about what takes place in the classroom but is much wider than this: it is about being part of the college community and playing a full part in the wider life of the college.

In addition to the extensive programme of sports activities, the college has many groups and societies, including an Amnesty International group, brass group, chess club, choir, drama, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, jazz band, orchestra, vocal ensembles and wind band.

There are many annual performances and events for students to take part in, including the Christmas concert, the college play or musical, the Spring concert, Amnesty Live Lounge and The Event.

Examples of annual trips and educational visits include ski trips, classics visits to Italy and Greece, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, biology and geography field trips, French work experience in Loches, geography visit to Sicily and numerous visits to universities, galleries, museums, theatre performances and other places of educational interest.

Uniform

Admission, Intermediate and Examination Years

Students are expected to wear the correct uniform. This applies on their way to and from college as well as during college hours. A uniform list is sent to parents with other information in the summer term.

Sixth Form

There is no specific uniform, but the dress code states that students may not wear anything that offends or distracts other members of the college.

The college day

We have five one-hour lessons per day and operate a two-week, ten-day timetable.

8.40	–	9.00	Registration and assembly/tutor time
9.00	–	10.00	Period 1
10.00	–	11.00	Period 2
11.00	–	11.20	Morning break
11.20	–	12.20	Period 3
12.20	–	1.20	Period 4
1.20	–	2.05	Lunch
2.05	–	2.15	Registration
2.15	–	3.15	Period 5

General information

Absence

Apart from routine matters such as medical or dental appointments, prior permission for absence should be sought from the Headteacher in writing. Absence from college is likely to mean a student misses assessments and other activities which contribute a significant proportion of marks towards their final public exam results and cannot be completed at home. Parents are legally obliged to see that students are only absent from college for a very good reason. Family holidays should not be taken during term time. Students' attendance should not fall below 95%.

Charging policy

The college will charge for the cost of materials needed for subjects where the student will take home the finished product.

There will be a charge for activities and visits that take place outside the college hours and are not a compulsory part of the curriculum. Otherwise, a voluntary contribution will be requested; but if there are not enough contributions to make an activity possible, it will not take place.

First entries for GCSE and A level examinations are normally paid for by the college, but retakes of examinations and modules will be charged for.

Any student not attending an examination or not submitting coursework will be charged the full entry fee for that subject. A copy of the full Charging Policy is available on request.

Equipment
Pen, pencil, rubber, ruler, scientific calculator and a suitable bag.

Lunchtime
The college operates a cafeteria system in the Dining Area using biometric tills. Parents top-up their son or daughter's account online and can view the items purchased. PIN numbers are issued for students not registered to use biometrics.

If you are in receipt of certain benefits, such as Income Support, your son or daughter may be eligible for free school meals. Please visit Hertfordshire County Council's website to apply online at https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx. There is no differentiation between students who have free meals or those who pay, with student accounts being credited automatically.

All students except Sixth Formers must stay on the premises.

Music lessons

Music tuition for a variety of instruments is available including: guitar, violin, flute, trumpet, bass guitar, piano, viola, oboe, trombone, tuba, drums, cello, clarinet, French horn, tuned percussion, singing, double bass, bassoon, saxophone and euphonium. With the exception of guitar lessons, all peripatetic music lessons must be booked through Herts Music Service hertsmusicservice.org.uk. Guitar lessons should be booked via our website: https://www.freman.org.uk/student-life/curriculum/extra-curricular/music

Transport

Any queries or problems regarding transport for students entitled to free transport to college should be addressed to the HCC Passenger Transport Unit on 0300 123 4043. Any queries or problems regarding transport for students who travel to college by bus but are not entitled to free transport should be addressed to the relevant bus company.

Website

Our website is an important source of information. For example, details of uniform, examination arrangements, key dates and events and booklets for parents are available online at www.freman.org.uk.

Examination results

KEY STAGE 4
Year 11 students performed exceptionally against all the national measures.

> *Students complete Key Stage 4 having attained levels that are significantly higher than expected nationally.*
> **Ofsted**

Progress 8 – Excellent every year
* The Progress 8 measure is a secondary school accountability system. It aims to encourage schools to teach a broad curriculum and reward schools that teach all pupils well. It measures pupils' progress across 8 subjects from age 11 to 16. Freman's P8 scores have always placed us amongst the top schools nationally. Our most recent P8 score (for 2024) is 0.58. It is not possible for the DfE to calculate P8 scores for 2025 or 2026 due to the impact of the Covid pandemic.

Students' achievement in English and Maths GCSEs
The proportion of Freman students achieving high grades in English and in Mathematics exceeds the national average each year.

English Language results:

Grade	Freman 2026%	National 2026 %	Freman vs. National
5+	61	55	+6
4+	78	71	+7

Maths results:

Grade	Freman 2026%	National 2026 %	Freman vs. National
5+	60	54	+6
4+	80	72	+8

Sixth Form

Freman College Sixth Form consistently achieves results well above the Hertfordshire and national averages, and in the last two years our results placed us on average in the top 8% of schools nationally for student progress. Since 2024 almost **one in three** A Level results have reached **A or A* grades**.

Of those students who chose to move on to Higher Education **95%** took a place at their **first choice** university. Of the students who left us this summer to move on to university, 46% have taken places at one of the prestigious "Russell Group" Universities.

A Level results

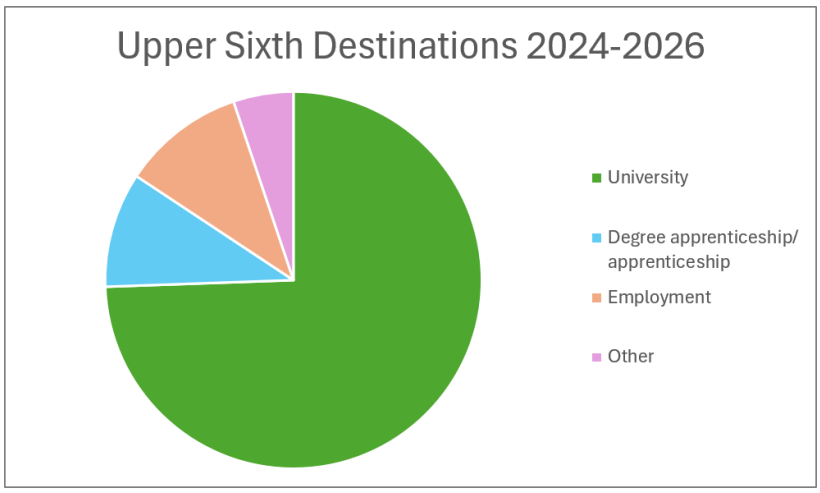
	2024	2025	2026
A Level: average point score per entry	**39.06**	**36.84**	**38.12**
A Level: average point score expressed as a grade	**B**	**B-**	**B-**
% A*/A grades	**36**	**28**	**30**

Cambridge Technical results

	2024	2025	2026
Cam Tec: average point score expressed as a grade	**Distinction**	**Distinction**	**Distinction**
% Distinction grades	**58**	**58**	**69**

Destinations

Having finished the Sixth Form, most Upper Sixth students move on to the university of their choice. The remainder of our students secure excellent apprenticeships or employment, or pursue further study at local colleges.



Among the exciting degree courses and apprenticeships Freman College Sixth Formers have gone on to in the last two years are …

- Medicine at University of Sheffield
- French & Italian at University of Cambridge
- Degree apprenticeship in Aerospace Engineering with BAE Systems
- Environment & Sustainable Development at London School of Economics
- Degree apprenticeship in Business with British Airways
- Physics at Imperial College, London
- Geography at University of Cambridge
- Medicine at University of Liverpool
- Neuroscience at University of Warwick
- History at University of Cardiff
- Sport & Exercise Science at University of Exeter
- Economics at University of Warwick
- Archaeology at University of York
- French & Portuguese at University of Cambridge
- International Law at University of Birmingham
- Chemistry at University of Durham
- Geography at University of Bristol
- Degree apprenticeship in Accountancy with Hardcastle Burton
- Creative Writing at University of East Anglia
- Veterinary Medicine at University of Nottingham
- Aeronautical Engineering at University of Loughborough
- Degree apprenticeship in Policing with the Metropolitan Police
- Chemical Engineering at University of Durham

Freman
COLLEGE

Bowling Green Lane • Buntingford • Hertfordshire SG9 9BT
Telephone 01763 271818

Email: admin@freman.org.uk • Website: www.freman.org.uk