



# The Cornerstone Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

We invite you to apply for The Cornerstone Academy Grammar Stream to join in September 2026 for the Class of 2031. With the majority of spaces already having been filled, only six remain and your application is encouraged.

A grammar stream is a group of approximately 30 highly academically able students. They will be taught a more challenging and in-depth curriculum from year 7 onwards, as well as having access to a programme of extracurricular opportunities that will put them on the path to the world's best universities.

Our aims:

- To ensure high prior attaining students make excellent academic progress
- To develop our students' culture and character to stand out from their peers
- To facilitate our students to enrich the world

We expect all our grammar stream students to leave with a suite of GCSEs achieved at the very highest grades. However, rather than just leaving with excellent grades, we want them to leave as fully rounded individuals, achieving success across the sports field, the dance studios, the theatres and concert halls, or whichever fields our young men and women have the talents and interests in. We will work with students to raise their aspirations to performance at the highest level in their chosen areas, facilitating them to become future leaders.

At each assessment point (mid-year and end of year) there will be opportunities to enter or leave the Grammar Stream. We see this movement as a positive thing for all of our students. For children who begin Year 7 in the Grammar Stream, their situations may change, which mean it is no longer the best option for them. Similarly, children who at age 11 were not ready for the rigour of the Grammar Stream, or perhaps for reasons beyond their control were not in a position to perform well, may, later on, become ready for it – often, in our experience after a period of the high-quality education we offer here their 'true' ability is revealed and their aspirations rise.

Since our inaugural year, our Grammar Stream students have had workshops with the University of Southampton, created their own political parties with Dorset Council, visited the University of Oxford, accessed Sparx Reader Gold, taken weekly Spanish and Latin classes, completed the NaNoWriMo challenge amongst many more challenges and opportunities. This will grow year on year.

We invite you to apply for your child to sit the Grammar Stream entrance exams on the morning of **Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026**. This will consist of the NGRT (a standardisation test which measures reading skills) and MidYis testing (which measures aptitude, potential and progress).

To apply, please complete the following form by **Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026**: [The Cornerstone Academy Grammar Stream Application Form: September 2026 Entry – Fill in form](#)

Yours faithfully

Victoria Hinks-Sleep

Grammar Stream Coordinator

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The Cornerstone Academy

Blandford Close

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Poole

Dorset

**Principal: Mr C Phillips BSc (Hons)**

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