



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: JMK/SXG

18 September 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome to our new academic year

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our students to a new academic year, especially our Year 7, who are joining us for the first time as they start their William Farr journey.

It has been wonderful to see all of our students returning to full-time education again in what are very unusual circumstances. I know many students were understandably apprehensive about returning to school, having been absent for up to 6 months. However, I am very pleased to say that they have settled back into school incredibly well and I have been very impressed by how they have adapted to the new routines and expectations. It has been a delight to see smiling students again, who are clearly happy to be back in school. This has been reflected in the excellent attendance rate over the last 2 weeks, averaging above 90%.

Of course, their successful return to school would not have been possible without your support, encouragement and guidance, together with the commitment from William Farr staff in providing care and guidance support. Staff have been working incredibly hard over the summer to ensure that your child continues to receive the highest quality educational provision upon their return.

Since reopening, we have received some questions from parents asking about student absence for Covid-19- related issues. In response to this, I have produced a *Parent Guide on Student Absence for Covid-19*, which I hope you will find useful and will answer many of the questions asked – [Covid-19 A Parent Guide to Student Absence September 2020](#)

The school is continually reviewing and adapting its reopening arrangements in response to changes in local and national circumstances surrounding Covid-19. An updated Risk Assessment is now available on the school website - [September 2020 Updated Risk Assessment Full School Reopening](#), which explains the protective measures we have put in place since September to minimise the risk of transmission of Covid-19 and to protect our school community. The Department for Education continues to emphasise the importance of personal hygiene, regular washing/sanitising of hands, social distancing and the wearing of a face covering in areas of the school and on buses to reduce the risk. Please read the Risk Assessment if you have any questions regarding our reopening arrangements.

You will shortly receive a letter from your child's respective Head of Year explaining key information for the academic year.

Finally, I would like to thank parents for the emails we have received since coming back to school offering your support for the educational provision we have put in place – it makes a real difference.

We look forward to working in partnership with you during this academic year. Should you have any questions regarding your child, please do not hesitate to contact their respective Head of Year.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Knowler
Headteacher

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