



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: RGN/TA

September 2023

Year 7

Dear Parent/Guardian

The New Academic Year – 2023/24

May I take this opportunity to formally welcome you and your child to William Farr School. Four weeks into the new school and new routines, I am hopeful that any feelings of anxiety, worry or nerves have subsided. I genuinely could not be happier with how the 2023 cohort have settled into life as Year 7 students.

Students started their WFS journey with the Founder's Day Service at Welton St Marys church. All students were impeccably behaved, with some even volunteering to read short pieces. Here we learned the school values of Friendship, Responsibility, Perseverance, Respect, Compassion and Wisdom which will underpin not only our ethos, but also our expected behaviour over the next five years.

Your child's Form Tutor will become a vital part of everyday life at WFS. Each day they meet the students for 20 minutes at 9.00am where pupils will undertake various activities in these sessions, including assemblies, quizzes and mentoring activities to ensure they start the day positively. The Form Tutor will also have a weekly overview of the Homework Diary where Year 7 students are required to record all their homework. Can I please ask that you check this regularly and sign it weekly to confirm that all homework is completed, in turn, the Form Tutor will do the same. There is also a space for parents and teachers to comment, this can be a key communication tool. Homework is also recorded on the VLE. I am hopeful that by now all pupils have access to the VLE, please let me know if there are still some outstanding issues.

As a pupil at WFS, your child is encouraged to be proud of their achievements and always strive to be the best they can be. The rewards system in Year 7 is an excellent way of recognising pupils' endeavours and achievements. Pupils will receive merits from their teachers for deserving efforts or work and I will award Commendations for every ten merits they achieve. Each week we hold a Rewards Assembly where we are able to celebrate the achievements of Year 7 students. I am always delighted to hear about students' achievements both in and outside of school and encourage you to share these with me so I can celebrate them with you and the rest of the year group. Already pupils have collectively achieved over 4000 merits which is phenomenal.

Once a week every student in school has a PSHE lesson. The Year 7 programme covers a range of topics, this term we look specifically at British Values, Citizenship, Internet Safety, Bullying as well as an introduction to Sexism, Misogyny and Empowerment. Pupils will also have the opportunity, through this programme to become a Form Representative or become a candidate for a role on the School Council by running for Year Representative.

There are a number of opportunities for your child to engage in extracurricular activities at school, a full list can be found on the website and is also advertised daily to your child via the bulletin

To ensure your child the best chances of success in all aspects of school life, positive attendance is required. Please remember to report any illnesses or absences daily to Mrs Smith, our Attendance Officer. As a year group we are currently at 98.1%. If you wish to discuss any issues with attendance, please do not hesitate to contact me sooner rather than later, and I, or one of my colleagues will be able to offer advice or assistance.

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Hopefully you are becoming familiar with the 'my child at school' app. An early theme seems to be occurring that some students are not organised with the completion of their homework, or ensuring they have the full equipment required each day including the correct PE kit. Please support your child with this. Should I have any specific behaviour concerns, I will be in direct contact with you.

I actively encourage parents to develop links with myself as Head of Year, Mr Hillsmith my Assistant Head of Year, but also your child's Form Tutor. In the meantime, if you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Please do be aware that I also have teaching commitments and therefore will not always be able to return contact immediately.

We have a number of students who suffer with severe nut allergies in school. Therefore, students must not bring nuts into school. This includes nuts in packed lunches and snack bars.

Finally, please feel free to follow our dedicated twitter account @WFS_2023 intake where I shall tweet news, updates and celebrations from the year.

I am looking forward to working with you in partnership this year.

Yours faithfully



Mrs L Starbuck
Head of Year 7