



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Sixth Form Handbook For September 2023 Entry

6WFS
SIXTH FORM





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Welcome to William Farr School Sixth Form

At William Farr, we are exceptionally proud of our Sixth Form and our Sixth Form students. We have a reputation for excellence in teaching A Levels and for the wider opportunities we offer our students to prepare them for further study and future careers.

The aim of this booklet is to provide our Sixth Form students with comprehensive advice and information about our Sixth Form and its ethos. We have answered included topics that are normally asked about life in the Sixth Form, to highlight to you the high quality of education you can expect and to give you an insight into the exciting potential of our Sixth Form and the part you can play in its continued success.

The school website contains all current information about Sixth Form applications and subject information. If you have any further questions, then please do not hesitate to contact the school.

A Level study will be two years of dedication, hard work, achievement and enjoyment. We look forward to you taking advantage of everything that it has to offer and working towards success, both here and in the future.

Mr J Knowler
Headteacher





It is my great privilege to be Head of Sixth Form at William Farr. As someone who grew up locally, I am driven by the desire to give young people in Lincolnshire the best possible opportunities to be ambitious, successful and happy.

William Farr Sixth Form is evolving all the time as we continue to build on our success and reputation for academic and pastoral excellence. As a Sixth Form student, you will be supported by a team of specialist, expert tutors and teachers.

Of course, to be successful requires commitment, drive and ambition from you – the student. The information contained in this handbook will equip you with the knowledge required to be a highly successful A Level student.

As Sixth Form students, I know you will be exceptional role models who care deeply about the world around you. You will lead by example and you will be great ambassadors for the school's core values, which continue to underpin school life in the Sixth Form: compassion, friendship, perseverance, respect, responsibility and wisdom.

By choosing to study here, we will support you in providing the highest quality teaching and learning, as well as exceptional support in your own personal development to ensure this vision will be realised.

Mr R Noon
Head of Sixth Form

School Vision Statement

William Farr (C of E) Comprehensive School's vision is to provide all members of the school community with the opportunities to engage with 'life in all its fullness' through the highest quality of education, encouragement and endeavour. We are committed to striving for excellence and ensuring that all students are known, valued and can achieve.

Values

Our core values are:

Compassion
Friendship
Perseverance
Respect
Responsibility
Wisdom





Introduction

William Farr School is acknowledged as one of the top 11-18 comprehensive schools in the country. The Sixth Form enhances and develops the ethos of our school and contributes fully to its reputation for a broad and balanced curriculum of the highest standard.

It may not be for everyone; we have clear expectations of all members of our community that we believe are vital for success and we are very proud of our Sixth Form students; our future reputation depends on them and we have no doubt that they, and their teachers, will rise to the challenge of ensuring that the school continues to be one of the very best. We are delighted that you have chosen to become part of this community. By making that choice, you accept the school's expectations, rules and regulations, as set out in relevant policies available on the website.



Welcome to our Community!

William Farr Sixth Form offers a range of well-regarded and relevant academic qualifications that will open a wide range of opportunities for your future. These qualifications can lead to further study through university or through high quality apprenticeships or employment and training. Sixth Form life will help you to develop your social skills, broaden your range of interests and make a positive contribution to the community.

In the Sixth Form, you will gain in maturity and, as a result, be better equipped to face the world of Higher Education and work. William Farr School has an enviable reputation for educational attainment and excellence, as well as for its well-rounded and mature students.

We pride ourselves on the quality of our teaching and our support systems for students. The staff know you and will be working very hard on your behalf to prove that both they and you can achieve the highest standards. Continuing your education here will prove a stimulating challenge. Your success will be our success.



Being a Sixth Former at William Farr is more than studying A Levels

We offer many opportunities other than the purely academic and will encourage you to give much to our school community and play a major part in its further achievement and success. Sixth Form students continue to have a vital role in being positive role models for younger students, modelling aspiration, endeavour and citizenship and working to improve the whole school community.

The Sixth Form Team

Head of Sixth Form	Mr Noon	
Assistant Head of Sixth Form	Mrs Munro	Veterinarian and Medicine University Applications
HE and EPQ Coordinator	Mr Brittain	Oxford/Cambridge and other specialist University Applications. EPQ course Coordinator
Administration	Miss Luther	
Tutor Team;		Key Role
Tutor	Mr Aston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Charitable activities - Alumni
Tutor	Miss Bates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study Skills Programmes - Revision strategies
Tutor	Miss Brown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student Wellbeing programmes and initiatives
Tutor	Mrs Charman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sixth Form Enrichment
Tutor	Mrs Hoddinott	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Careers Support
Tutor	Mrs King	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student Subject Ambassadors
Tutor	Mr Mort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sixth Form Enrichment
Tutor	Mrs Pailing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Charitable activities - Alumni
Tutor	Mr Petts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STEP support programme - AEG (apprenticeships, employment, Gap Years) support
Tutor	Miss Simons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mentoring
Tutor	Miss Whiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sixth Form newsletter - Charitable activities
Tutor	Mr Woodhouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oxbridge support - EPQ support - Scholarship programmes



All Sixth Form students are allocated to a tutor group and, more importantly, to a tutor whose task, in conjunction with your Head of Year and the Higher Education Coordinator, is to advise, assist, monitor your progress and guide you through this vital stage in your education.



Your tutor and Head of Year are available daily. They will help you develop good study habits, look out for your welfare, maintain contact with your parents and help you when you need it. Wherever possible, your form tutor will stay with you throughout your time in Sixth Form.

You will be taught by well-qualified specialist subject teachers and because each will have a particular specialty, interest and expertise, you may have more than one for each subject.

We will enter into a student-school agreement with you that sets out exactly what we expect of you and what we guarantee to provide in return.

Daily routines

Attendance and Punctuality

You have chosen to attend a Sixth Form that will work hard to support you to make the best possible academic progress and preparation for life afterwards.

Attendance and punctuality are very important contributors to progress, as well as to developing a positive work ethic. Important information, including some PSHE-related topics, is often shared during tutor time and so it is important that all students are in their form rooms ready to start the day at 9.00am. Therefore, the advice is that students arrive in school no later than **8.50**, in order to have a prompt 9.00am start. Punctuality is monitored and the school will act if a student's punctuality becomes an issue.

We expect student attendance to be 100%, to ensure they can maximise progress. To help maintain high attendance, please ensure, where possible, any appointments are made outside of school hours. We do understand that some absences are unavoidable and we wish to work with students and families to minimise this. In Sixth Form, it is the expectation that students catch up any missed work due to absence and should see their teachers for support in this.



The Government describes an overall attendance level of 90% or below as 'Persistent Absence.' We, obviously, would like to work with students and families before any attendance issues can impact progress. If you or your parents wish to discuss attendance matters, please contact Mr Noon or the Education Welfare Officer, Mrs Chatterton.

First Day Calling

Any planned absence should be phoned into school, preferably before 8.00am, using the 01673 866900 number and following the prompts. If absences go beyond one day, the school should be contacted on each subsequent day of absence.

Term Time Holidays – planned absence

Current Government regulations do not permit the school to authorise any holiday requests during term time, unless in rare, exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the school).

We would ask that holidays be taken in the 175 days of the year when students do not have to be present in school.

Any absence requests (for holidays, compassionate leave, university open days, etc) should be made using an 'absence request form' (available from reception) and returned to the Attendance Officer **before** the planned event.





Term Dates for 2023-24 (For Students)

Term 1 First Day	Wednesday 6 September (not year 12)
Year 12 First Day	Thursday 7 September
INSET Day 2 (school closed to students)	Friday 29 September
Term 1 Last Day	Friday 20 October
Term 2 First Day	Monday 30 October
Term 2 Last Day	Wednesday 20 December
INSET Day 3 (school closed to students)	Wednesday 3 January
Term 3 First Day	Thursday 4 January
Term 3 Last Day	Friday 8 February
Term 4 First Day	Monday 19 February
Term 4 Last Day	Thursday 28 March
Term 5 First Day	Monday 15 April
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 6 May
Term 5 Last Day	Friday 24 May
Term 6 First Day	Monday 3 June
INSET Day 4 (school closed to students)	Thursday 20 June
Term 6 Last Day	Friday 19 July

Safeguarding and Student Lanyards

If you have any safeguarding concerns, you should find an adult in school to talk to. This would normally be your tutor or Head of Year, however all adults that work in the school are safeguarding trained. We have a 'Designated Safeguarding Lead' (DSL) in school and contact details are available on posters around the school.

All Sixth Form students should wear lanyards whilst on the school site, so they can be easily identified as part of our community. It is strongly advised that lanyards should be removed when not in school.

We all have a responsibility to help safeguard our community. Students should report any adult on site without a lanyard to a member of staff immediately.



The School Week

You will have 5 one-hour lessons a week for each optional A Level subject. This is significantly more than at many other post-16 providers.

In addition, you will have 1 lesson a week for PSHE and 1 lesson a week for the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

Students studying languages will have an additional 30 minutes to 1 hour per week with the language assistant to practise their spoken language.

Students needing to improve their English and/or Mathematics GCSE to the nationally expected standard will also have one lesson per week of English and/or Mathematics.

In school, any time not allocated to lessons is your private study time. Your lessons should be spread throughout the week to give you some private study time each day. You will be expected to be in school during this time and use it to work on your A Level subjects, e.g. research, writing up notes and coursework. As part of your private study, you will have 2 hours of supervised study.

The School Day

Time	Activity
8.50	Prompt arrival at school
9.00	Morning Registration or Assembly
9.20	Lesson 1
10.20	Morning Break
10.35	Lesson 2
11.35	Movement time
11.40	Lesson 3
12.40	Lunch time
1.35	Afternoon Registration
1.40	Lesson 4
2.40	Movement time
2.45	Lesson 5
3.45	School Day closes



Lessons in the Sixth Form

Teaching groups in our Sixth Form are smaller than you have been used to in the main school. Lessons will promote the skills of discussion, research, empathy, and personal study, which have been developing in your earlier years. Practical work, course work, field work and background reading all represent vital areas of further development for all Sixth Form students.



Your teachers may well discuss an issue or concept with you and give you an outline of a task. It would then be up to you to go away and research on your own, or with fellow students, and draw up your own theories and conclusions within agreed deadlines. Detailed assessment, analysis and evaluation will follow to enable you to understand and develop your ideas.

Students are expected to contribute their ideas in class and seek support when they need it. This includes seeing staff outside of lessons to ask for help with work. It is not a sign of weakness to seek help and you are not being a nuisance. The best students are the ones who are keen to fully understand the ideas studied and who take a mature approach to their courses.

Academic Expectations

All students will study 3 A Levels and an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). The range of subjects, information about courses and entry requirements for subjects are available on the school website. All our A Levels are two-year linear courses, examined at the end of year two.

In discussion with the school, some students may opt to study four A Levels. In this case, then and only then, does the EPQ become optional. If in the rare circumstance a student drops from four A Levels down to three, the EPQ will be taken up at that stage.

All A Level courses will demand hard work. You may have fewer subjects to cope with than you did in Year 11, but the pace of work covered at A Level is quicker and more demanding.



In addition, it is important that you learn the topics as you study them as you can only revise so much at the end of the course. Typically, you should expect to do one hour's work outside of class for every hour taught.

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The EPQ is an A Level standard qualification, worth half an A Level's UCAS points. Whereas A Levels test short-term recall of knowledge in high-stakes examinations, under pressure of time, the EPQ rewards organisation, initiative, conscientiousness, resilience, flexibility and the ability to self-reflect - all attributes valued by universities, apprenticeship providers, and employers.

The EPQ allows you to pursue an interest of your own - academic, artistic, or practical - and gain a respected qualification. You'll have one EPQ lesson per week in Year 12 and Year 13, with a teacher to support you and monitor your progress. Your form tutor will also be someone you can turn to for advice. Like coursework, your EPQ will be assessed at school by EPQ teachers and Sixth Form tutors.

Academic Progress, Reporting and Monitoring and Intervention.

Assessment and Monitoring

We want to do everything we can to help you achieve your full potential and get the best results you possibly can.

Your subject teachers will be assessing your work constantly and giving feedback about learning. This occurs through questioning, discussions, marking and monitoring your day-to-day class contributions, informal quizzes and tests and homework submitted.

Teachers will comment informally on your progress to both you and your tutor/Year Head and you will be helped and encouraged to develop an effective dialogue and partnership with them throughout your time in Sixth Form.

Internal Examinations

There are two periods of more formal internal assessment in Sixth Form: Year 12 exams and then Year 13 mocks. (Please see the school calendar for specific dates.)

There are three formal assessment points per academic year in the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms. Again, the dates for these can be seen on the school calendar, via the website.

The results of these assessments will be available to view via the MCAS online app.



Assessment Data at the three formal Assessment Points, will include:

- Predicted Grade
- Target Grade
- Attitude to Learning (including conduct, effort, preparation, Independent Learning and meeting deadlines)
- Attendance
- Punctuality.

In addition, there is a parents' evening each year, where online consultation appointments can be booked with teachers.

Intervention

We aim to reward and celebrate success to encourage progress wherever possible, to promote a positive student environment. This can happen within departments or wider across the Sixth Form community.

Progress can be affected by many factors, such as the understanding of the work or its requirements, or an ability to cope with the level of work. On occasions, it could be due to attendance, effort levels or behavioural issues.

Where progress is not as expected, departments and/or Sixth Form pastoral staff may feel extra support intervention is required. This can range from extra teacher or tutor support to Head of Department or Head of Year interventions. A list of potential intervention support is listed below:

- a. Resubmission of work
- b. Contact with home
- c. Referral to Head of Year
- d. Additional resources supplied/tasks set
- e. Student to attend additional lessons/study sessions
- f. Student mentor provided
- g. Staff mentor provided
- h. Other teacher/subject-based support or intervention.

The Head of Sixth Form and form tutor may also:

1. Invite parents in to discuss these issues with a member of the Sixth Form Team
2. Add additional compulsory supervised study periods to timetables
3. Place students on progress, effort or attendance monitoring
4. Alter timetables as subjects are added, removed or changed.

Where a student does not respond to interventions and is at risk of not succeeding in their A Level courses, the school may have discussions with both student and parent/s as to what alternative future pathways would be more appropriate.



How parents can offer support

Sixth Form is a time when students want to be treated more as adults, with increased independence and ability to make choices for themselves. These choices can be important life choices, academic or social choices and, obviously, future pathway choices.

We want students to take more responsibility for themselves and their choices as they progress through the Sixth Form, but they do still require the support of all of those around them throughout this time. To that end, you can offer support by:

1. Ensuring students get to the school by 8.50am every day
2. Have a copy of their timetable
3. Ensuring they are prepared for the day ahead: correctly dressed and with all appropriate equipment
4. Checking progress via the MCAS App after each progress point and discussing this with your child
5. Arranging where possible all appointments for outside of school hours
6. Making sure that any part-time work does not negatively impact schoolwork (part-time work cannot be undertaken during school hours)
7. Ensuring any absences are called in on the day and any subsequent days
8. Helping them to organise their independent study time and revision at home
9. Keeping a close eye on how they are coping during the high-pressure times of the year
10. Talk to them about their day and their experiences, both in and outside of the classroom
11. Support with next steps aspirations – including University visits, where possible.
11. Contacting the school if you have any concerns.





Parental access to 'My Child at School' (MCAS)

Parents of new students will receive an email invitation to use 'My Child at School' (MCAS). 'My Child at School' is a simple app for a smartphone, which will be the main means of communication from the school to parents. We strongly recommend that all parents/carers install the app on their phone and register to use it. The app will enable you to see information, such as letters specific to your child, whole school letters, your child's attendance, school reports, timetables, medical information, emergency contact details and receive all instant messaging communications from the school.

Once registered, you will need to complete the 'Admissions Form' and 'Parental Permissions' found in the left-hand tab. Please also check that we have the correct emergency contact details. Information explaining how to download and register for the app is available from the school reception or the school website.

Transport Information

Local authorities do not have to provide free or subsidised post-16 travel, however in certain circumstances, subsidised transport may be available.

For more information about home to school transport policy and online applications, please go to <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-college-transport>

Queries can be emailed to <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-college-transport>

Private Study Time

It will not take long for you to realise that making the most of your private study time in school really helps you manage your workload effectively and create time outside of school for you to pursue your hobbies and interests. Use it wisely and 'play the long game!'

The Sixth Form study room and the Resources area of the library are dedicated to students who wish to work quietly. The Dining Hall is available for students who wish to work in groups. Supervised study is timetabled into classrooms and gives dedicated silent time for study. It is allocated to ensure that there is not pressure on facilities in unsupervised study time.

Private study is an essential for success in A Levels and teaches you good study habits for the future. There is more to private study than just completing homework! These are some of the things students ought to use this time for:

- Making summaries of class notes
- Engaging in further reading and note making from alternative textbooks or journals
- Reading novels and other books which support the learning in your A Level subjects
- Looking ahead of the course – at topics coming up



- Making revision cards, mind maps or other revision aids
- Producing essay plans prior to writing the essay
- Planning answers to exam questions
- Doing further questions beyond those set for homework
- Working for University entrance exams, STEP papers, correspondence courses, etc.

General Advice for Sixth Form Study

Being a Sixth Form student requires self-discipline and personal responsibility. Remember to take control of your own learning. Be organised!

- Invest in a bag large enough to carry all equipment required.
- Have ring binders for each subject, use dividers to separate them into 'subject topics or sections' and store your notes and materials in a logical and organised fashion. This will make revision much easier!
- Bring the correct equipment to school – pens, pencils, rulers, etc, as well as any specialist equipment required for individual subjects.
- Keep up to date with your work. (It's a lot easier and less stressful than playing 'catch up' later!)
- Use supervised study sessions productively – you won't get the time back later!
- Attend all lessons punctually and with the correct equipment.
- Ask your teacher if you don't know! They are here to help!





16-19 Bursary

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to help students overcome specific barriers to participation so they can remain in education.

There are 2 types of 16 to 19 bursaries:

1. bursaries for defined **vulnerable groups**.

The defined vulnerable groups are students who:

- are in or recently left local authority care
 - get Income Support or Universal Credit because you're financially supporting yourself
 - get Disability Living Allowance (DLA) in your name and either Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) or Universal Credit
 - get Personal Independence Payment (PIP) in your name and either ESA or Universal Credit.
2. **discretionary bursaries**, which institutions award to meet individual needs. This must be used for course-related costs, for example, help with the cost of transport, meals, books and equipment, school trips or travel to universities, apprenticeship and job interviews.

To be eligible for support, a student must meet the age and residency criteria in the ESFA funding document, as per the school website.

Institutions may make discretionary bursary awards to students to help them overcome the individual barriers to participation they face, such as those above.

Payment of the bursary is subject to William Farr's high expectation of behaviour, progress and attendance and can be withdrawn if students fall below those expectations. For example – an attendance of 90% or above. Should the student leave school during the academic year, they may be required to repay some of the bursary.

How to Apply for a bursary

Students should apply via the application form available from school and include any evidence to support their application (All information submitted will be dealt with sensitively and confidentially.) After processing, students will receive written notification about whether their application has been successful.

If successful, money will be paid directly into the student's bank account in intervals during the school year, however on occasions, it may be administered directly to student or as payments on behalf of students by the school.

Students can apply at any time should there be a change in circumstances.

For more advice go to www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund



Sixth Form Responsibilities

William Farr Sixth Form has high expectations of you. You must be prepared to do a great deal of hard work, to study seriously and to make the most of the opportunities available. You will be expected to follow all school rules regarding behaviour, including no mobile phones and appropriate use of electronic devices. You will be expected to dress appropriately in line with the Sixth Form dress code.

The school reserves the right to sanction any student, in line with the whole school 'Behaviour and Sanctions' policy.

Sixth Form Privileges

You may bring personal music systems into school and use them in the study room. It will be your room so you will be responsible for caring for it. In terms of electronic devices, like Kindles, iPads, etc., the school would like to allow students to use these to support their learning. These devices must be used as a learning tool and must not be used for social media, gaming, instant messaging or as a telephone in any way, which would include texting and video conferencing. The school will accept no responsibility for such items and they are brought at your own risk.

Students may leave the school site to walk into the village at lunchtime provided they **sign out and back in again at Reception**. This is a safeguarding must, as we need to know who is on site at all times for emergency and fire regulations.

Sixth Form early access to the school canteen starts from 12.30, for those students who do not have a timetabled lesson Period 3.

All payments in the school canteen are contactless and students will be required to have a 'Squid account' which will be linked to student records via the school's 'Management Information System' – BROMCOM. When set up, students can deposit cash via the 'paying in' machine in school, or parents can register for an account and add funds online.

Driving Lessons and Tests

It is recognised that driving lessons are sometimes difficult to arrange and long waiting lists can exist. As part of the privileges of being a Sixth Form student and as part of the 'wider education and enrichment curriculum', driving lessons can be booked during the school day, but **MUST NOT** take place during timetabled lesson time. This privilege must take place with prior notice to your form tutor, and the school reserves the right to deny permission if academic, attendance or behavioural issues are a concern. The school recognises that Driving Test dates may be 'allocated' and so the timings are out of control of the student.

Students wishing to bring a car or motorcycle onto the school site must complete the appropriate paperwork, giving parental permission. Students may be driven to school by other students only if they provide written permission from their parents. Any student vehicle brought to school should only be parked in the **rear car park** and not in the front car park, to reduce congestion.



Your commitments

You have chosen to be a Sixth Former at William Farr School and must recognise that whilst there is a distinct difference and identity from the lower school, we are still all one community. All Sixth Formers are expected to undertake some form of Leadership role within the wider school community. This can include:

- acting as departments ambassadors
- as part of the School Council Executive
- through the House system as House Leaders
- helping and or leading on extra-curricular events, productions and performances
- through organising and leading on charity events
- supporting younger pupils both academically and pastorally
- by helping to maintain a positive and calm community.

All students in our community are expected to have respect and consideration for others. You will have more freedom as a Sixth Former, but always remember that '*with increased freedom also comes increased responsibility*'.





Sixth Form Dress Code

We do not expect Sixth Form students to wear a school uniform, but there is a Sixth Form Dress Code that all students must adhere to.

Our Sixth Form students are required to wear suitable dress for a working school environment.

They should be aware that they are role models and ambassadors for the school, particularly for younger students and visitors.

Dresses and skirt length, if worn, must be at least to the mid-thigh. If tights are worn, they should be of a continuous fabric.
Jeans may be worn, but should not be ripped.
Tops should have thick shoulder straps (at least 10cm wide). They should not be low cut. Students' backs, midriffs or underwear should not be visible.
Footwear should be appropriate to offer support and protection in the varied school environment. Flip flops are not appropriate for school, even in the summer.
Ear piercings are permitted, but must not be bolts or spacers. A maximum of one nose piercing is permitted. No other visible piercings are permitted. Students should not have visible tattoos.
Extreme hairstyles are not permitted and the school reserves the right to advise on what it considers to be extreme. Only natural hair colour is allowed.
Makeup, nail varnish and jewellery may be worn, but should not be excessive.
Sportswear (track suits and jogging bottoms, sports shirts) should not be worn in school apart from when taking part in physical activity or in other permissible school events.
Shorts may be worn in Term 6, in line with the whole school summer uniform coming in. Shorts should be tailored and not sports/football shorts and if worn should be at least to the mid-thigh in length.

The school reserves the right to advise students and parents on what is and is not acceptable, within these guidelines.

If students in the Sixth Form are unsuitably dressed, as determined by the school, then we reserve the right to ask students to return home to dress appropriately.



Enrichment and wider Sixth Form life

It is your responsibility as a Sixth Former to develop a thriving Sixth Form social committee. Activities regularly organised include balls, performances, charity events and sports events. You can be assured of guidance from your tutors who are there to support what we know will

be a lively, energetic and talented group of people. It is your Sixth Form, get involved, and make it happen!



The participation of Sixth Form students raises the quality and standard of all school activities.

William Farr has an enviable reputation for music and drama. Our performances and productions are always of a high quality with Sixth Formers often taking centre stage.

There are a wide range of different subject trips, sporting events, expeditions and residential visits offered in the Sixth Form. There are also opportunities to visit universities and attend conferences.

Work Experience in Year 12

We believe that work experience is an essential part of the programme of employability and transferable skills that we offer in Year 12, boosting confidence and allowing students to experience a work environment, many for the first time.

All students will complete work experience by the end of Year 12 and we pride ourselves on our innovative hybrid approach, which offers students the choice of face-to-face or virtual work experience – or a combination of both.

While face-to-face placements have obvious benefits, the wide variety of virtual work experience programmes offered by most major companies means that this kind of placement can have many advantages, especially in competitive sectors, such as Finance or Media.

Students can book work experience at any time of the year, for a duration of between one and five days (or longer if they are doing placements in their own time). This approach offers flexibility to employers and so increases the variety of placement opportunities.



Students are encouraged to approach employers themselves and to organise their own work experience, promoting independence, organisation skills and proactivity. The school uses an external agency to vet all face-to-face placements before approving them.

Previous students have undertaken placements in the NHS, Police, YMCA, local primary schools and colleges, engineering companies and solicitors to name a few. Virtual placements included programmes run by LNER, Channel 4, Heathrow Business, Barclays and the British Film Institute.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

We have one of the largest centres in the county with upwards of 100 students working at various award levels. In Sixth Form, you have the opportunity to continue on to your Gold award!



Life after Sixth Form

Students will be prepared for life after the Sixth Form through our enrichment programme, including PSHE lessons. Students will be supported through the university applications process or in applying for further education, apprenticeships or jobs.

Whatever your final choice; to be attractive to admissions tutors or employers you will need to show that you have maintained a record of hard work and commitment in pursuit of your studies. By joining the Sixth Form, you will find that you are in a much better position to access a wide range of different and interesting career opportunities.



University and UCAS

We have developed strong relationships with universities and colleges. Admissions tutors and lecturers visit the school to help us make sure you have the most up-to-date information and the best advice on the huge number of opportunities, alternatives and courses available to you.

We organise a visit to a UCAS Higher Education Exhibition and guide you through the UCAS process, starting in the spring term of Year 12. We have expert and experienced staff to help at all stages, from beginning, to crafting your personal statement, to completing your application and pressing the all-important 'send' button.

This includes targeted support from experienced staff for those students wishing to apply for Oxford or Cambridge University, as well as in preparation for specialist courses, such as Medicine and Law.

Ultimately, the success of your application will rest on your A Level results so consistent hard work throughout your two years in the Sixth Form is the key to getting into your firm choice university.

University Open Days

Visiting Universities and the surrounding town/city is a very important part of the decision making process, when choosing where to study. Students are encouraged to investigate the dates of open days, via the individual university websites. Lots of these occur at weekends, however there are always situations when students cannot make these dates, and week day open days are the only option. Students are welcome to visit on these days, for universities they are keen to look at, but these decisions should be balanced with lost time in school. Requests for time out of school should be e mailed in advance to Mr Noon, in line with the normal school procedures.

Apprenticeships, Employment and Gap Years

The majority of our students apply to university with many being offered places by all five of their course choices. However, as the profile of apprenticeships has been raised, a number of our students have applied for and secured Apprenticeship places with renowned national companies, including Siemens, Rolls Royce, Jaguar Land Rover, PricewaterhouseCoopers and the National Grid, as well as local names such as Lindum Construction.

Employment opportunities exist in the armed services, commerce and banking, retail management, manufacturing and public services, such as county councils, the police, etc. There is already a very large database of information for you to use in our library.

More and more students are taking a year off between Sixth Form and going on to the next stage of their careers (the Gap Year). Opportunities exist for a variety of exciting activities, including Camp America, Operation Raleigh, Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) and a whole range of community work in the UK.



Your legacy

The William Farr School Sixth Form is a high-performing, lively and vibrant community that we are very proud of. All members of this community are challenged not only with achieving personal success, but with helping to develop our community and making a positive contribution to improving it for those still to come.



Alumni

One area we are keen to continue to develop is our Alumni (former students' network). We aim for you to look back on your Sixth Form years at William Farr School fondly, as the period when you laid the foundations for your future success.

It would be great to keep in touch with you and let you know how your Sixth Form has developed in the years after you have left; to allow you a forum to keep in contact with former students and staff, who may well develop into lifelong friendships and to create opportunities to meet back up socially to 'reminisce'.

It would also be great for some of you to share your experiences and successes with current students to guide and inspire their future choices and aspirations.

We are keen for our Alumni to develop into a thriving community that builds in strength and numbers, year on year.

Details of how to join can be found on the school website, within the Sixth Form section. I would encourage as many as possible to join when moving on from our community, in order that we can keep in touch.



Finding your way around!



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School



GROUND FLOOR
ROOM PLAN



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School



FIRST FLOOR
ROOM PLAN



A Distinctive Vision

William Farr Church of England Comprehensive School's vision is to provide all members of the school community with the opportunities to engage with life in all its fullness through the highest quality of education, encouragement and endeavour. We are committed to striving for excellence and ensuring that all students are known, valued and can achieve.

Our values - Compassion, Friendship, Respect, Perseverance, Responsibility, Wisdom.



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