



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: LVS/TA

January 2024

Year 7 Spring Term 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome back to a new term at William Farr School, and may I also take this opportunity to wish you a healthy and prosperous 2024.

The students have settled into Year 7 tremendously well, with most of the 'new school anxieties' conquered. One personal highlight of last term for me was the Christmas Disco and a very competitive inter-form quiz! We have so much talent in the year group our Friday celebration assemblies are always full of certificates and awards for achievements both in, and outside the classroom. Collectively, the year group has achieved nearly 24000 merits for their hard work, determination and effort. We ended last term on 96.3% attendance, well above the school average and something I hope we can keep going. As the weather looks like it is starting to change for the worst, can I please ask that all pupils attend school in a coat. I encourage all pupils to spend some time outdoors at break times and lunch times, the benefits of fresh air daily are vast to our overall health.

This term in PSHE we are looking at a number of ways to stay safe. This includes alcohol and drug education, the harms of smoking and vaping and onto personal hygiene and health. We also start to look at the topic of careers, with a Careers Fair planned for 8 March where pupils will get the chance to chat with different employees. Staying safe online is always a prevalent topic. Last term alone I had several reports of pupils being unpleasant online, including to each other. I am aware there are some large group chats and urge you to check these regularly and report to the Police or the app platform anything that is not right. It is easy for pupils to feel the need to 'join in', but as adults please support your child in muting conversations or blocking anything that is not right.

It was fantastic to see how well students have settled into their learning when the progress data was released at the end of last term. There will be two more reports similar to this throughout the year, as well as Year 7 Parents' Evening on Tuesday 30 April. More details will follow closer to the time, but if you ever have any concerns, please do get in touch.

The house system is integral to the care and guidance of your child at William Farr School. Last term we held House Performing Arts and cross country events. This term there are opportunities to be involved in an arts and crafts event, house badminton, football and netball and a chess-tournament. I really hope your child finds something to engage with. As a reminder, there is a vast number of extra-curricular activities on the school website.

As we look forward into this term, can I please ask for your support in setting pupils up for a successful start each day. They should be well equipped with stationery, their school diary and a suitable school bag. Issues this term have largely been centred around not having the correct equipment needed and not completing homework. As parents you should have access to the firefly app where you can check what homework is set. It is good practice to factor in some time each day to complete homework. I am a firm believer in getting the basics right, and ask for your support in ensuring that your child adhered to the policies pertaining to equipment and uniform (available on our school website). In particular can you please ensure that your child only comes to school with one set of stud or sleeper earrings and one ring per hand and natural, unpainted nails to avoid any sanctions.

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Thank you for all the support last term, the transition to secondary school is not always easy. I look forward to continuing working in partnership with you. As a reminder, I can be contacted via the school reception for urgent enquiries where I will endeavour to get back to you the same day, or via email on l.starbuck@wiliamfarr.linc.sch.uk.

Finally, I invite you to follow the year groups dedicated X (formally twitter) page: @WFS_2023intake.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'L Starbuck', written in a cursive style.

Mrs L Starbuck
Head of Year 7