



# WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: CXF/TA

January 2024

## Year 8 – Spring Term 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

It with a sense of anticipation that I write to you at the start of this spring term, but also the start of a New Year. Resolutions may have been made and as thoughts go towards the future, I hope it is with a feeling of excitement and expectation.

The autumn term gave us an opportunity to celebrate the end of term with a Carol Service in the village church, which I feel very privileged for us to be able to do. I really do not know of any other schools that have this fantastic opportunity within their local community, these are the memories I hope we all will cherish. Looking back over the term it has been wonderful to see the students make such a positive start back to the new term, with Year 8 once again demonstrating their enthusiasm and their ability to thrive.

With the start of the new year, I would like to re-establish our expectations on punctuality and attendance and wish to remind you that attendance at school is mandatory. As mentioned previously, the school's Educational Welfare Officer and I will be supporting students and parents if there are any issues regarding attendance. All students should be in their form rooms for 9.00am registration. For health and safety, students should not be on site before 8.30am. On the rare occasion where students are late, students must ensure they sign in at Reception. As I am sure you are aware, this is of great importance from a safeguarding perspective. Punctuality is of paramount importance, with it being a key attribute needed to prepare students for life after school.

During the spring and summer term Year 8 will engage in Personal, Social and Health Education which is delivered by your child's Form Tutor. This term we continue Unit 2: Keeping Safe, with a focus on internet safety and having a safe social media presence, before moving on to Unit 3: Challenging Stereotypes, with a focus on challenging ignorance through lessons on racism, homophobia, biphobia and transphobia and a lesson centred around challenging prejudice and encouraging empowerment. Given the national picture regarding vaping and young people, we have also arranged to have some sessions in school regarding the implications of vaping. This was something that the students also wisely asked for more information about.

Online safety and bullying awareness remains a priority. The internet is an amazing place, and we want our students to get the most out of it, and to use it safely. The NSPCC have put together an easy guide to give you information and advice to keep your child safe online. It is called Online Safety for Parents NSPCC. [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#) Also, the LSCP, Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership, have videos on You Tube [The LSCP - YouTube](#) which cover issues on Staying Safe, online bullying, gaming, group chats and malicious communications amongst many others. They are short clips which are suitable for both adults and children which I am sure you will find useful. Can I ask that you discuss online activities and assist your child to navigate through social media in an appropriate manner, which will ensure they can get the most from it, in a positive and safe manner for all.

The spring term is due to be a busy one for careers at William Farr. During this term will be looking at the world of work, where students will listen to speakers from a cross section of industries. This will also be in conjunction with pupils exploring potential careers and how they may now begin to identify possibilities, through exploring what is out there and how they can progress their own journey to a fulfilling career.

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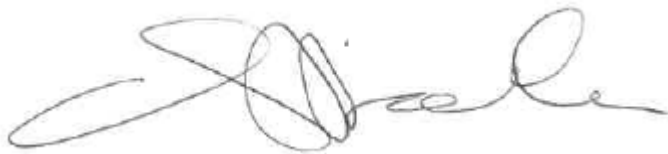
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We will of course continue to encourage students to take part in all aspects of school life, hopefully this will include some of the extra-curricular clubs we run at lunchtimes as well as some of the sports clubs run by the PE Department.

Finally, communication between you and I, has never been more important as we work together to support your child as they navigate Year 8. In order to see a child flourish, communication and support is needed from two of the most important areas in a child's life: school and home. As Head of Year 8, I will endeavour to respond in a timely manner, in line with the guidance given by the Headteacher in the Newsletter before Christmas.

Thank you for your support so far this year, I look forward to continuing to work with you in 2024.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Freckelton', written in a cursive style.

**Mr C Freckelton**  
**Acting Head of Year 8**