



# WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: KXE/TA

January 2024

## Year 9 – Spring Term 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

I would like to extend a warm welcome back after the Christmas holidays and a Happy New Year. The spring term is an exciting and busy term for Year 9, starting with the GCSE options process. You should have already received the initial letter alongside the option blocks; this information is available on the school website in the “KS4 Options Tab” under “Students”.

Key dates for the options process are:

- **Options Forms Released – week commencing 8 January.**
- **Year 9 Options Morning – Tuesday 30 January** (this is the perfect opportunity for students to get more information about five of the courses they are considering choosing).
- **Individual Tutor Mentoring – February** (students will get a meeting with their Form Tutor to discuss their ideas and thought about their GCSE option choices) .
- **Year 9 Parents’ Evening – Tuesday 6 February.**
- **Options Forms Earliest Submission – Monday 4 March.**
- **Careers Fair – Friday 8 March.**
- **Options Forms Final Deadline – Monday 11 March.**

This term’s PSHE lessons compliment the options process by focussing on careers education. We will be looking at personal qualities and skills, students will write a Career Action Plan, produce, and deliver a presentation on a specific job family, look at interview skills, part time jobs and equal opportunities. As well as starting to learn how to revise effectively and build on their study skills in preparation for next year. Your child can access a wealth of resources within school and has signed up to an excellent interactive website “KUDOS” which enables students to explore potential career pathways and option Post 16 and beyond. All students will attend our Careers Fair, where they will have the opportunity to talk to a wide range of employers, colleges, and universities. They can also make an appointment with the school’s Careers Advisor, through the School Librarian, Form Tutors, or myself.

Other key dates to put in your diaries:

- **Bake Sale – Friday 9 February** (our Mental Wellbeing focus this term is ‘keep learning’. We are hoping students will find a new passion by trying out different extra-curricular clubs, either in or out of school, and finish the term off by trying out new recipes to raise money for charity).
- **Film and Pizza Night – Tuesday 27 February.**
- **Reward Trip to Playzone – Thursday 9 May** (after the success of our last reward trip, we are hoping even more students are going to earn an invite to our next fun filled evening by achieving an average Attitude to Learning of a B+ in the March data point and having excellent attendance and punctuality).

Excellent attendance, punctuality and organisation are crucial for students to be successful, especially this year where they are laying the foundations for their GCSEs. Please ensure your child is in school, fully equipped, before 9.00am every day, and if there is a day where your child is not able to attend, please contact the school. Can I also ask for your support with our uniform policy. Ensuring students come to school in appropriate school shoes, wearing the permitted amount of jewellery or make-up, wearing the correct school tie, and having no nail varnish or fake nails will help us to maintain our high standards and parity across the school. The full policy is on the school website.

Social media continues to be an area of vigilance for parents. I would request that you still monitor your child's devices closely. 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 a straightforward guide to give you information and advice to keep your child safe online - 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 covers issues on Staying Safe, online bullying, gaming, group chats and malicious communications amongst others. They are short clips which are suitable for both adults and children which I am sure you will find useful.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries, my email address is [k.ewing@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:k.ewing@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk). As part of our commitment to supporting staff workload and wellbeing, I will endeavour to respond to emails within 3 working days. Emails should be written in line with the Parent Code of Conduct as shown on the school website under the Governors' section.

Thank you for your support so far this year.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K. Ewing". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

**Miss K Ewing**  
**Acting Head of Year 9**