



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: LVS/TA

September 2024

Year 8

Dear Parent/Guardian

The New Academic Year – 2024/25

I wish you a warm welcome back to Year 8 and extend a personal thank you to those who attended my Information Evening on Monday 16 September. The year group made an excellent impression on the school community in Year 7 and I am keen for us to work together on continuing this positive mindset and approach.

Year 8 is an opportunity to cement the foundations laid in Year 7 and continue to grow as a person. We will continue to celebrate students' successes in classroom learning with subject certificates and badges, with so many blazers already adorned with recognition. We also continue with the merit system, looking to build on the vast number we collectively achieved last year, whilst introducing citizenship points in the coming weeks also, to acknowledge the little, thoughtful, and helpful things pupils do on a daily basis. This will launch in a PSHE session where I will be asking for ideas from the students on areas they think should be recognised. Two opportunities already open to them to demonstrate 'giving back' to our local community, is assisting at Open Evening and the opportunity to become a form or year representative. So many of the year group have leadership qualities that make them an excellent candidate for these prestigious roles.

Within PSHE this term, our topic is 'making the most of me'. We will explore some basic finance knowledge thanks to a series of sessions by HSBC, start to consider transferrable and interpersonal skills linked to employability and students have set their own 'SMART' targets for the year ahead.

I hope by now you are confident in using the 'My Child at School' app. All behaviour incidents are recorded on there and I ask that you please keep updated with these and have engaging conversations with your child about any concerns raised. Last year, lack of homework completion and general organisation was a common concern. Please encourage your child to use the VLE and their Homework Diary to ensure these opportunities to develop learning are not overlooked. Can I remind you that you can use the parent app to monitor your child's homework, more details can be found on the school website [William Farr C of E Comprehensive School - VLE](#).

Our collective attendance last year was good, this is something I wish to continue. At William Farr School pupils who maintained an attendance of over 90% achieved far better GCSE results than those below. Whilst we recognise that illness cannot be avoided, we strive for 95% attendance or above and kindly ask that holidays are not planned in term time. In similar vein, it is imperative that we instil good timekeeping, facilitating habits for life. Pupils who are routinely late to school, or lessons by just 5 minutes essentially miss up to 3.5 days of learning over the course of a year. Failing to attend school on time, can also result in a fixed penalty fine. All students should be in their form rooms by 8.55a. ready for a 9.00am start. Please can I also request that students do not arrive in school before 8.30am.

Students must attend school dressed appropriately. The full school uniform is available on the school website, however some pertinent points to remind you of are:

- Trousers should be grey, not chinos or jeans and not skinny. They should sit at shoe level.
- Shoes should be back, polishable and not have a logo. Trainers are not acceptable.
- Socks should be plain and black or grey.

William Farr Church of England Comprehensive School, Lincoln Road, Welton, Lincolnshire LN2 3JB

T: 01673 866900 E: wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk W: www.williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk

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- Skirts should be worn at a length approximately no shorter than 4cm above the knee. Students will be challenged and sanctioned if they roll their skirt up.
- One earring is permitted in each ear and no other piercings are acceptable, this includes nose piercings.
- Nails and make up should be natural. Please do not allow false or gel nails or polished nails or any excessive make up. False eyelashes are not permitted in school.

Your child's holistic wellbeing is very important to us. We continue with our mental wellbeing sessions on a Monday and are grateful for the Year 10 Ambassadors helping to deliver these sessions. If you have any concerns for your child's mental wellbeing, please do get in touch and I can help signpost you to further support. One aspect that I am keen on improving is pupils' engagement and actively encourage students to attend the vast number of extracurricular activities on offer.

This Autumn term is a busy and exciting one, with many opportunities in the calendar to note:

- Wednesday 25 October – Flu vaccinations
- Thursday 26 October – Open Evening
- Friday 15 November – Non uniform day
- Wednesday 27 November – Year 8 Parent Evening
- Wednesday 4 December – Christmas Concert.
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In addition to this, there is a planned reward bowling trip to arrange. To ensure smooth organising of events, please do support us in timely return of permission slips and paperwork adhering to the deadlines set out in any letters.

I look forward to working closely with yourselves again this year. If you every have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact me. My email is l.starbuck@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk. In line with school policy I shall endeavour to respond within 3 working days. For urgent issues, please do call the school on 01673866900. Mr Hillsmith, Assistant Head of Year can also be contacted, his email address is j.hillsmith@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk.

Finally, we have a number of students who suffer with severe nut allergies in school. In order to support our community, students are requested not to bring nuts into school. This includes nuts in packed lunches and snack bars.

Yours faithfully



Mrs L Starbuck
Head of Year 8