



# WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: SXW/TA

September 2025

## Year 9 – New Term

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you and your family had a restful and good summer break.

This is an important year for the pupils as they will be selecting their GCSE options and focussing on career options during PSHE lessons. We start our PSHE journey with Sexual Health, moving onto Careers in January, and finishing with Hate Crime and the Justice System. A full overview is available on the VLE. We are continuing with our Mental Wellbeing Programme this year, with some of the pupils kindly volunteering as “Wellbeing Ambassadors”, who will be going into Year 7 forms to deliver parts of the programme. This term’s focus starts with ‘connecting to others’ and moves to ‘giving to others’.

I know pupils should already be starting to think about which options they want to select for next year. It is important to highlight that these options do not start until Year 10; pupils are required to fully engage with the broad curriculum during Year 9, to ensure they are wholly prepared for Year 10. Pupils will receive support in the lead up to making their choices. In January, the option choices information will be available on the school website and pupils will have individual tutor mentoring to discuss their thoughts. Pupils will have in a Year 9 Options Morning on **24 February 2026** which follows the Information Evening for parents on **29 January**. Both these events will provide an opportunity for pupils and yourself to ask questions to individual Faculty Heads and teachers of subjects. The Year 9 options forms will be released on **25 February 2026**, with the hand-in deadline being **23 March 2026**. During this time there is also the Year 9 Parents’ Evening, which will take place virtually on **5 March 2026**.

The impact of missed school days can affect any pupil’s confidence in lessons. In a year when your child will be preparing for GCSE’s, attending school every day is even more important. I want to take this opportunity to remind you that it is mandatory for your child to attend school. Myself and the school’s Educational Welfare Officer, Mrs Chatterton, will be supporting pupils and parents if there are any issues regarding attendance. Please ensure you contact the school if there is a day where your child is not able to attend.

This year we are launching our new rewards system. All your child’s success at school will be rewarded with House Points. This system is being rolled out across all year groups at school so there is now parity between year groups. As well as the certificates and other tangible rewards that can be achieved as a year group, we will also be rewarding positivity at school with a selection of events. More details of these will be released as we move through the year.

I would like to remind you of some of the basic expectations of William Farr School, which help us to create an outstanding climate for learning:

- Mobile phones are not allowed in school.
- Vapes and e-cigarettes are banned items.
- Pupils should always bring basic equipment to school – pen, pencil, rubber, ruler, coloured pencils, highlighter, calculator, French dictionary (if appropriate), correct PE kit (if appropriate).
- Pupils must remain seated at all times when travelling on the school bus and wear seat belts if provided.

Pupils must wear the correct school uniform at all times. They will be required to borrow our spare uniform if they arrive to school incorrectly dressed. You will also be contacted and requested to bring into school the correct

uniform. The policy can be found on the school website. In summary:

- Skinny trousers/jeans are not permitted.
- School shoes must be black, of a solid construction, polishable and suitable for a busy school environment. No logos. No adornments of any kind. Low heels (5cm or less). Platform soles are not acceptable, neither are flimsy fashion shoes, canvas shoes or trainers. No sling backs or stiletto heels. Boots are not acceptable unless in severe weather conditions. Where a pupil is forced due to legitimate medical reasons to wear trainers or boots instead of shoes, a medical note is required.
- Skirts must not be rolled or held up by a hair band.
- Only 1 earring is permitted in each ear (there should be no other visible body piercings including nose and tongue – no clear studs allowed), and these must be a small stud or sleeper earring.
- Nail varnish, fake nails, fake tan, excessive make up or fake eyelashes are not permitted.

Your child's behaviour in school (both positive and negative) can be tracked on the MCAS app. I would ask that you use MCAS to help support school with your child's progress through their school journey.

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of our pupils this is of paramount importance. With this in mind, I would like to remind you that we will not tolerate any child-on-child abuse, which can include bullying, physical abuse, sexual violence and harassment and misogyny. We do not accept excuses such as 'banter', 'part of growing up', 'it was for a laugh'. We do not accept body shaming, sexting (consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude images and semi-nude images and videos). All reports of any of the above will be investigated and dealt with in line with school policy. Pupils' online behaviour also continues to be a priority and we do a lot of work educating pupils on keeping themselves safe, but we would appreciate parents and carers monitoring their child's online presence and to report to the Police any concerns. If you would like any further information on this, or any other safeguarding matters, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead – Mr Muir, Assistant Headteacher or Miss Griffiths, the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, in school.

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

I am absolutely delighted to be working with the year group as their Head of Year having taken over last Term. There is a huge amount of potential in the year group and I am very encouraged by the positive start the majority have made. This coming term I would encourage you to use your child's Form Tutor as your first point of contact. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if needed, however. My email is [s.willett@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:s.willett@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. Mr Butcher, Assistant Head of Year, can also be contacted, his email is [josh.butcher@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:josh.butcher@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and I look forward to working with you in partnership again this year.

Yours faithfully



**Mr S Willett**  
**Head of Year 9**