



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: LVS/SXG

October 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

May I take this opportunity to formally welcome you and your child to William Farr School. Five weeks into the new school and new routines, I am hopeful that any feelings of anxiety, worry or nerves have subsided. I could not be happier with how the 2022 cohort have settled into life as Year 7 students.

Students started their WFS journey with the Founder's Day Service at Welton St Mary's church. All students were impeccably behaved, with some even volunteering to read short pieces. Here we learned the school values of Friendship, Responsibility, Perseverance, Respect, Compassion and Wisdom, which will underpin not only our ethos, but also student conduct over the next five years.

Your child's Form Tutor will become a vital part of everyday life at William Farr. Each day they meet the students for 20 minutes at 9am where students will undertake various activities in these sessions, including assemblies, quizzes and mentoring activities to ensure they start the day positively. The Form Tutor will also have a weekly overview of the homework diary where students are required to record all their homework. Can I please ask that you check this regularly and sign it weekly to confirm that all homework is completed. In turn, the Form Tutor will do the same. There is also a space for parents and teachers to comment, therefore the diary is a key communication tool.

Your child is encouraged to be proud of their achievements and always strive to be the best they can be. The rewards system in Year 7 is an excellent way of recognising students' endeavours and achievements. Students will receive merits from their teachers for deserving efforts or work and I will award commendations for every ten merits they achieve. Each week we hold a rewards assembly where we are able to celebrate the achievements of Year 7 students. I am always delighted to hear about students' achievements, both in and outside of school and encourage you to share these with me so I can celebrate them with you and the rest of the year group.

Once a week, every student in school has a PSHE (Personal Social and Health Education) lesson. The Year 7 programme covers a range of topics; this term we are learning about British Values, Citizenship, Internet Safety, Bullying, as well as an introduction to Sexism, Misogyny and Empowerment. Students will also have the opportunity through this programme to become a form representative or become a candidate for a role on the school council by running for year representative.

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of our students 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.

We are often asked about what age a child can be left home alone. The NSPCC have launched a campaign to support parents with this decision. The NSPCC website offers advice and they have also developed a quiz to help make that decision. Can I also remind you that we are an Operation Encompass school, which means we are alerted, confidentially, if the police have been involved with a domestic abuse incident at the home



of one of our students. If you would like any further information on this, or any other safeguarding matters, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead - Mrs Bates, Assistant Headteacher, or Miss Griffiths, the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, in school.

There are a number of opportunities for your child to engage in extracurricular activities at school. A full list can be found on the website and is also advertised daily to your child via the bulletin.

To ensure your child has the best chances of success in all aspects of school life, positive attendance is required. Please remember to report any illnesses or absences daily to Mrs Smith, Attendance Officer. If you wish to discuss any issues with attendance, please do not hesitate to contact me sooner rather than later, and I, or one of my colleagues, will be able to offer advice or assistance.

I actively encourage parents to develop links with myself as Head of Year, Mrs Parry as my Assistant Head of Year, but also your child's Form Tutor. The first formal opportunity will be at our 'Meet the Tutor Evening' on Thursday 13 October. In the meantime, if you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Please do be aware that I also have teaching commitments and, therefore, will not always be able to return contact immediately.

Finally, please feel free to follow our dedicated twitter account @WFS_2022intake where I shall tweet news, updates and celebrations from the year.

I wish your child every success in their first year and I look forward to working with you in partnership this year.

Yours faithfully

Mrs L Starbuck
Head of Year 7