



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: SXW/TA

28 January 2026

Year 9

Dear Parent/Guardian

Spring Term

I would like to extend a warm welcome back after the Christmas holidays and a Happy New Year. This spring term is very busy for Year 9 with the start of the GCSE Options Process. You will have received a letter from Mr Gayfer regarding the Options Evening with more vital information given out then. Please do your best to attend this evening. The key dates are below but should you miss any documents you can find the "Year 9 Options" information on the Teaching and Learning section of the school website. This term's PSHE lessons compliment this 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. Your child can also access a wealth of resources within school and have been inducted into all of the career's resources including an excellent interactive website called Xello which enables students to explore potential career paths and options Post 16 and beyond. They also have the opportunity to make an appointment with the school's Careers Advisor. This can be arranged through the School Librarian, Form Tutors or myself.

Dates for your diary include:

- 1. Options Evening – Thursday 29 January**
- 2. Options Morning – Tuesday 24 February**
- 3. Year 9 Parents' Evening – Thursday 5 March**
- 4. Careers Fair – Friday 6 March**
- 5. Options Form released- Monday 9 March**
- 6. Deadline for Options – Monday 23 March**

Further to the specific Year 9 careers learning the Spring term is due to be a busy one for careers at William Farr. Over this term and into the summer students will have the opportunity to listen to speakers from Further Education Colleges and alternative education providers, as well as hearing from big local employers.

At the beginning of March, we are holding our Careers Fair, which all students will attend and where they will have the opportunity to talk to a wide range of employers, colleges and universities. We hope that students will take the chance to learn about possible future careers and broaden their knowledge of further and higher education opportunities.

Over the start of this term and continuing moving forward we are having a concerted whole school push on punctuality. There is a direct correlation between attendance and successful outcomes in school and this includes contact time with teachers in lessons. Pupils arriving late not only impact their learning but also that of others as late arrivals disrupt the lesson. Students have had an assembly and further information from me and tutors regarding punctuality so please talk to your child about this.

One of the key aspects of lessons at William Farr that I am grateful for, as a teacher, is that mobile phones are not permitted in school and this has always formed part of the Behaviour Policy. Pupils approach to school, their

compliance with the basic standards of manners, respect, uniform and effort continue to be key indicators of success. I will always look to support and praise those that follow the rules and put in the effort expected, I was delighted to be able to invite so many students to the Movie and Pizza Evening last term as recognition of their success. I will also continue to ask for your support when students fall below these expectations and your commitment to this is really appreciated.

Social media can be problematic in teenage children and issues that get brought into school or continue after school hours have ended can cause a lot of emotional distress. I would request that you closely monitor your child's devices closely and be aware that multiple social media accounts on a single platform and second (burner) devices are issues seen recently. Students are still only 13/14 and we all know from experience that sometimes teenagers do not always make good choices. 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 simple guide to give you information and advice to keep your child safe online. It is called Online Safety for Parents NSPCC. Also, the LSCP (Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership) have videos on You Tube 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.

<https://www.williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk/online-safety>

<https://www.williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk/students/it-access>

This online safety extends to the growing network of *manosphere* and *INCEL* websites, social media accounts and other online access. This is a concern within wider society, especially following the acclaimed 'Adolescence' series, and with schools being a microcosm of society we have to be mindful of what our young people are exposed to. If you have any concerns directly regarding misogyny or any other element of this online space, please feel free to get in contact.

I will try to respond to any requests as promptly as possible. As parents, it is essential that if you have any concerns about progress to contact subject teachers or Heads of Faculty directly. They will be much better placed to deal with any academic/subject specific worries.

I look forward to working with you and your child this term and I am working very hard to build positive and respectful relationships with all pupils in the year group.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Willett
Head of Year 9