



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: JZC/SXG

October 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

It is with great pleasure and expectation that I would like to extend a warm welcome to Year 8. The rearranged trip to Drayton Manor a few weeks ago was a fantastic day and we were fortunate with good weather for the 228 Year 8 students who attended.

As Year 8 continue their journey at William Farr, I think it fitting to remind both parents and students of our school vision:

'To provide all members of the school community with the opportunities to engage with 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).'

This vision statement reflects our continued commitment to excellence in education as a church school. We strive to equip young people with the knowledge, skills and understanding to be able to succeed in life and reach their full potential. Our 6 core values are **Compassion, Friendship, Respect, Perseverance, Responsibility and Wisdom**. These are embedded in all that we do and hopefully all students will feel safe and cared for.

Embedding high standards into the year group is of the utmost importance to me as Head of 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:

- Homework should be recorded in diaries and signed by parents weekly.
- Students should always bring basic equipment to school – pen, pencil, rubber, ruler, coloured pencils, calculator, French dictionary (if appropriate), apron. Equipment should not be shared at this time and only equipment for that day should be brought in. All belongings must be taken home daily.
- Students must remain seated at all times when travelling on the school bus and wear seatbelts if provided.
- Term-time holidays cannot be authorised unless in exceptional circumstances.
- Mobile phones are not allowed in school.
- Students should be educated on the potential dangers in using social media and that it is a criminal offence to distribute indecent images.
- Students must wear the correct school uniform at all times. Years 7-11 students will carry a Uniform Card in their blazer pocket at all times, which will be used to record any uniform infringements. As a reminder, skinny trousers/jeans are not permitted, nor are trainers or boots unless accompanied by a doctor's note. Skirts must not be stretchy fabric or rolled up – they should be worn approximately 4 fingers in depth above the knee. School shoes must be black, of a solid construction and polishable. Only 1 earring is permitted in each ear (there should be no other visible body piercings – nose and tongue). Nail varnish is not permitted, nor is excessive make up.

The rewards system in Year 8 is an excellent way of recognising students' endeavours and achievements. Students will receive merits from their teachers for outstanding work, exceptional effort or for positive acts around the school. Certificates are awarded for every ten merits received. In addition, students will be

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introduced to our Citizenship awards, which are given out during Year 8. The aim of these is to build on the positive start made by the students in Year 7 and encourage them to be good role models in school and demonstrate good citizenship. The awards will be presented in our regular celebration assemblies. 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 the rest of the year group.

Once a week, every student in school has a PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) lesson with their Form Tutor. The Year 8 programme this term covers a range of topics including citizenship, SMART targets, finance, careers and employability, as well as consent and a session on sexism and misogyny. On **Tuesday 13 December** we are planning to take the students to watch a panto in Lincoln as we were unable to do that in Year 7. As in Year 7, students will have had the opportunity to become a Form Representative, Charity Representative or Year Representative with a role on the School Council.

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.

Students' online behaviour continues to be a priority and we do a lot of work educating students 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. 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.

We have a number of students who suffer with severe nut allergies in school. Therefore, students must not bring nuts into school. This includes nuts in packed lunches and snack bars.

As Head of Year, I will endeavour to respond to phone calls the day they are made. However, I do also have teaching commitments and, therefore, returning your call the same day may not always be possible. If your query is regarding a specific subject, please contact the relevant Head of Department so that they are able to assist you.

Please feel free to also contact me via email: j.clark@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk

Finally, I hope your child enjoys their first term of Year 8 at William Farr School and takes advantage of all the opportunities available to them. I am looking forward to continuing to support you and your child throughout their time at William Farr.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Clark
Head of Year