



# WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: EKG/SXG

October 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

## The New Term - Autumn 2022

I cannot believe that I am writing to you as our students, your children, embark on their final year of Key Stage 3. To see them have grown (both in terms of maturity and in terms of height!) over the last two years has been a pleasure.

I can honestly say what a fantastic start Year 9 have had this September. The students seem focused, enthusiastic and ready to start another year on their journey. Writing of new journeys and beginnings, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for the many wonderful congratulations I have received in light of my announcement that I am having a baby. It truly is these personal messages that are a reminder of the wonderful community we have at William Farr. I am due to begin my maternity leave in January 2023 and I will confirm the temporary Head of Year in due course.

Firstly, I wish to inform you about Y9 Parents' Evening, which will take place virtually on **Tuesday 28 February 2023**.

This year, students will select the subjects they would like to study for GCSE. Students will partake in a Year 9 Options Morning, which will provide an opportunity to ask questions and experience taking subjects at a GCSE level. This is due to take place on **Tuesday 21 February**. The Year 9 options forms are due to be released on **Monday 9 January**, with the hand-in deadline being **Monday 20 March 2023**.

The impact of missed school days can affect any student's confidence in lessons and in a year when your child will be trying to decide which GCSE subjects to take, every day is important. With the current situation, I should remind you that attendance of children at school is mandatory. Myself and the school's Educational Welfare Officer will also be supporting students and parents if there are any issues regarding attendance.

The End of Year Trip at the end of Year 8 to Drayton Manor was a fantastic success, with students having an enjoyable experience with their friends, marking the end of Year 8. It is also the Year 9 team's intention to run an end of year celebration trip at the end of Year 9. In addition, it is tradition that Year 9 celebrate the end of Key Stage 3 with a Celebration Evening in the summer term, which will take place in July 2023. Students will be issued a folder to collate their certificates from the last few years, which should be achievements both in and out of school, reflecting on their journey in Key Stage 3 and the start of a new journey into Key Stage 4.

Writing about rewards, we have reinvigorated the Rewards System for Year 9. In Years 7 and 8, students were focused and enthused with collecting Merits and Citizenship Points. In Year 9, students are collecting Excellence Points, with each certificate awarded equating to a raffle ticket. This is for the opportunity to win prizes, in addition to receiving their certificate and badge. The prize draw will be drawn at the end of a Half and Full Term, with a chance to win a range of prizes, from a queue jump in the dining hall, to a Greggs voucher. The greater points collected, the more entries in the draw, the greater the chance of winning! It has been wonderful to see how excited students have been about this new rewards scheme and seem to have welcomed the new element of competition.

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.
- Students must remain seated at all times when travelling on the school bus and wear seat belts if provided.
- Term-time holidays cannot be authorised unless in exceptional circumstances.
- Mobile phones are not allowed in school.

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- Students must wear the correct school uniform at all times. Students will continue to 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 rolled up or held up by a hair band – 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.

In Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) this year, we will be learning about political parties within the UK, Hate Crime and the Justice System and this term's focus is on Sexual Health, before moving on to look at Careers in preparation for the options process in January. All students can access a careers interview by requesting one via their tutor or emailing Mrs Roberts: [c.roberts@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:c.roberts@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk)

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of our students is of paramount importance. 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 huge volume of lost property made up of unnamed items: Everything from prescription glasses to expensive winter coats and house keys. Please will you ensure that all items belonging to your child are named. This will ensure that we can return it to your child if it is misplaced. Lost property which is unnamed will be kept for 6 months and then taken to charity/jumble sale. Lost property is situated in a cabin outside the main entrance and is open on Monday/Tuesday/Thursday 8.45 – 9.00am and Wednesday/Friday 9.05 – 9.20am. If your child has lost any property in the summer term or since the start of this term, please encourage them to collect it during the above times.

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.

I will endeavour to respond to all concerns on the day they are made. However, due to my teaching commitments, in addition to my role as Head of Year, this may not always be possible. Please feel free to contact me via email: [e.garnett@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:e.garnett@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk) and I will respond at my earliest opportunity.

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

**Mrs E Garnett-Wilcock**  
Head of Year 9