



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: LSS/TA

September 2026

Year 7 – New Term

Dear Parent/Guardian

May I take this opportunity to formally welcome you and your child to William Farr School. Three weeks into the new school and new routines, I genuinely could not be happier with how the 2026 cohort have settled into life as Year 7 students. I am hopeful that any feelings of anxiety, worry or nerves have subsided, however if your child is still struggling with any element of transition, please do get in touch.

Students started their William Farr School journey with the Founder's Day service at Welton St-Marys Church. Here we learned the school values of Friendship, Responsibility, Perseverance, Tolerance, Respect, Compassion and Wisdom which will underpin not only our ethos, but also our expected behaviour over the next five years.

Your child's Form Tutor will become a vital part of everyday life at school. Each day they meet the students for 20 minutes at 9.00am where pupils will undertake various activities in these sessions, including mental wellbeing activities, collective worships, quizzes, topical discussions and mentoring activities to ensure they start the day positively. The Form tutor will also have a weekly overview of the Homework Diary where Year 7 students are suggested to record all their homework, in addition to the schools VLE. This can also be used as a communication tool, therefore please do also check it regularly.

As a pupil at William Farr School, 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 pupils' endeavours and achievements. Pupils will receive house points from their teachers for deserving efforts or work and I will award certificates in celebration assemblies to celebrate milestones. 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. Already pupils have collectively achieved nearly 32000 house points which is phenomenal.

Once a week every student in school has a PSHE lesson. The Year 7 programme covers a range of topics, this term we look specifically at British Values, Protected Characteristics, Citizenship, Internet Safety, Bullying as well as an Introduction to Sexism and Misogyny. In addition, this year we will focus on the lessons we can apply from the book 'A fish in a tree', which a large number of our pupils read at Primary School as part of our wider transition programme. Pupils will also have the opportunity, through PSHE to become a Form Representative or become a candidate for a role on the School Council by running for Year Representative.

There are a number of opportunities for your child to engage in extracurricular activities at school, a full list can soon be found on the website and is also advertised daily to your child via the bulletin. In addition, the school's Open Evening is an ideal time for Year 7 pupils to volunteer their time to help showcase the school. The Art Department have launched an early opportunity for pupils to engage in the wider life of the school with their 'design a Christmas card' competition, I cannot wait to see the entries.

To ensure your child the best chance of success in all aspects of school like, positive attendance is required. Please remember to report any illnesses or absences daily on the MCAS app. As a year group we are currently at 98%. 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.

Hopefully you are becoming familiar with the 'my child at school' app. An important feature of this is your overview of any negative behaviour incidents that your child might have encountered. These are few and far between as it stands, however a few early issues I wish to highlight to you, and ask that you reiterate at home please:

- Chewing gum is not allowed in school. Please ensure that your child does not bring this into school.
- Students should take pride in wearing their school uniform, and as such I have high expectations on standards. Shirts should be tucked in, skirts should not be rolled, and school shoes should be worn at all times. For more information, please refer to the school website.
- We have a complete ban on mobile phones in school. If you wish to contact your child for any reason, please contact the school office on 01673 866900 where a message can be passed on.
- Some students are struggling with the organisation of their PE kit. A full list of the kit required is on the VLE and should also be recorded in their Homework Diary. It is good practice to pack school bags the night before to support positive organisation.
- Finally, students are encouraged to be active at lunch time, and many are choosing to play football. Whilst doing so, students should ensure that they are playing nicely, I do not condone any physicality including slide tackling to ensure everyone can play safely.

I actively encourage parents to develop strong lines of communication with me as Head of Year, Mrs Townsend as Assistant Head of Year, and your child's Form Tutor.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to our **Meet the Tutor Evening on 1 October 2026**. This will not only give you the opportunity to put a face to a name but will also help establish effective lines of communication.

Form Tutors will be available for an informal drop-in session in their form rooms between **4.00pm and 6.00pm**, giving you the opportunity to meet them in person. Whilst this is not an opportunity to discuss academic progress or specific concerns, you will be invited later in the year to discuss these matters at a Parents' Evening.

To assist with the organisation of the event, you will need to book an appointment by visiting <https://williamfarr.schoolcloud.co.uk/>. Appointments will appear as two-minute slots; however, these are simply used for booking purposes. Please attend during your allocated 20-minute drop-in window shown below:

4.00pm -4.20pm- 4.40pm-5.00pm-5.20pm-5.40pm

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.

Yours faithfully



Ms L Starbuck
Head of Year 7