WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: SXW/TA

September 2026

**Year 10 New Term**

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you and your family had a restful and good summer break.

This is an important year for the pupils as they start their GCSE journey and further focussing on post 16 options during PSHE lessons. We start our PSHE journey with our Health Unit, moving onto Law and Finance in January, and finishing with Careers towards the summer term. A full overview is available on the VLE.

I am delighted to announce that we are re-starting the Year 10 Work Experience Week programme this year. **Year 10 Work Experience Week – 5 July 2027.** We are excited that our Year 10 students will have the opportunity to take part in a five-day work experience placement during the week commencing 5 July 2027. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to experience the world of work, try something new, develop valuable skills, and explore careers they may be interested in. Students and their parents/carers will be responsible for arranging a suitable placement, and we encourage families to start exploring opportunities as soon as possible. **Please note:** that all placements will need to be approved by the school, with the final decision regarding the suitability of a placement resting with the school. Further information will be shared with students and parents/carers at a later date. We are looking forward to seeing our students embrace this exciting experience.

Along with Work Experience Week I am going to be actively looking for opportunities to further enrich the pupils experiences at school. The launch of the **World Challenge** is a highlight, however there are many clubs, trips and further external provided opportunities that I would encourage pupils engage in over the coming academic year.

The impact of missed school days can affect any pupil's confidence in lessons. In a year when your child will be studying for their GCSE's, attending school every day is even more important. I want to take this opportunity to remind you that it is mandatory for your child to attend school. Myself and the school's Educational Welfare Officer, Mrs Chatterton, will be supporting pupils and parents if there are any issues regarding attendance. Please ensure you contact the school if there is a day where your child is not able to attend.

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:

- Mobile phones are not allowed in school.
- Vapes and e-cigarettes are banned items.
- Pupils should always bring basic equipment to school – pen, pencil, rubber, ruler, coloured pencils, highlighter, calculator, French dictionary (if appropriate), correct PE kit (if appropriate).
- Pupils must remain seated at all times when travelling on the school bus and wear seat belts if provided.

Pupils must wear the correct school uniform at all times. They will be required to borrow our spare uniform if they arrive to school incorrectly dressed. You will also be contacted and requested to bring into school the correct uniform. The policy can be found on the school website. In summary:

- Skinny trousers/jeans are not permitted.
- School shoes must be black, of a solid construction, polishable and suitable for a busy school environment. No logos. No adornments of any kind. Low heels (5cm or less). Platform soles are not acceptable, neither are flimsy fashion shoes, canvas shoes or trainers. No sling backs or stiletto heels. Boots are not acceptable unless in severe weather conditions. Where a pupil is forced due to legitimate medical reasons to wear trainers or boots instead of shoes, a medical note is required.
- Skirts must not be rolled or held up by a hair band.
- Only 1 earring is permitted in each ear (there should be no other visible body piercings including nose and tongue – no clear studs or plastic retainers allowed), and these must be a small stud or sleeper earring.
- Nail varnish, fake nails, fake tan, excessive make up or fake eyelashes are not permitted.

Your child's behaviour in school (both positive and negative) can be tracked on the MCAS app. I would ask that you use MCAS to help support school with your child's progress through their school journey.

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of our pupils this 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. Pupils' online behaviour also continues to be a priority and we do a lot of work educating pupils 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. If you would like any further information on this, or any other safeguarding matters, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead – Mr Muir, Assistant Headteacher or Miss Griffiths, the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, in school.

We have a number of pupils who suffer with severe nut allergies in school. In order to support our community, pupils are requested not to bring nuts into school. This includes nuts in packed lunches and snack bars.

For concerns and queries for subject areas please contact the relevant Head of Faculty and I would encourage you to use your child's Form Tutor as your first point of contact for pastoral concerns. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if needed, however. My email s.willett@wfarr.uk. As part of our commitment to supporting staff workload and wellbeing, I will endeavour to respond to emails within 3 working days. Emails should be written in line with the Parent Code of Conduct as shown on the school website under the Governors' section. Mr Butcher, Assistant Head of Year, can also be contacted, his email is josh.butcher@wfarr.uk .

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



**Mr S Willett**
**Head of Year 10**