



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School



Sixth Form Life
For September 2023 Entry



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Welcome from the Headteacher

At William Farr we are exceptionally proud of our Sixth Form and our Sixth Form students. We have a reputation for excellence in teaching A Levels and for the wider opportunities we offer our students to prepare them for further study and future careers.

The aim of this booklet is to provide prospective students with comprehensive advice and information about our Sixth Form and its ethos. We have answered the questions that are normally asked about life in the Sixth Form, to highlight to you the high quality of education you can expect and to give you an insight into the exciting potential of our Sixth Form and the part you can play in its continued success.

The school website contains all current information about Sixth Form applications and subject information. If you have any further questions then please don't hesitate to contact the school.

A Level study will be two years of dedication, hard work, achievement and enjoyment. We look forward to you joining the Sixth Form and seeing you take advantage of everything that it has to offer.

Mr J Knowler
Headteacher





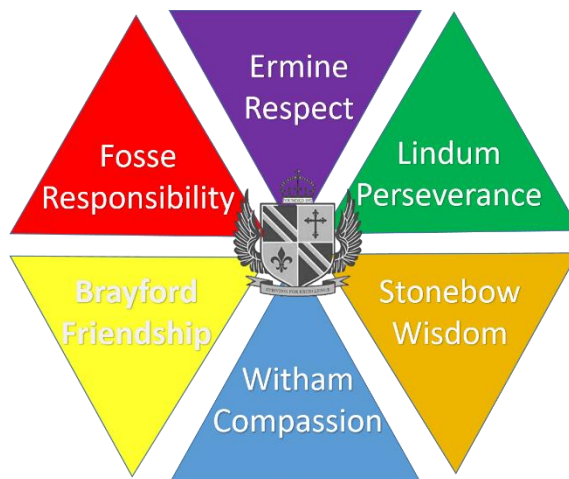
School Vision Statement

William Farr (C of E) Comprehensive School's vision is to provide all members of the school community with the opportunities to engage with 'life in all its fullness' through the highest quality of education, encouragement and endeavour. We are committed to striving for excellence and ensuring that all students are known, valued and can achieve.

Values

Our core values are:

Compassion
Friendship
Perseverance
Respect
Responsibility
Wisdom



Introduction

William Farr School is acknowledged as one of the top 11-18 comprehensive schools in the country. The Sixth Form enhances and develops the ethos of our school and contributes fully to its reputation for a broad and balanced curriculum of the highest standard.

We are very proud of our A Level students; our future reputation depends on them and we have no doubt that they, and their teachers, will rise to the challenge of ensuring that the school continues to be one of the very best. We invite you to become part of this community.





Why should I join the Sixth Form at William Farr?

We welcome applications from students currently in the school and from students who have studied for their GCSEs elsewhere but would like to study for their A levels with us.

William Farr Sixth Form offers a range of well-regarded and relevant academic qualifications that will open up a wide range of opportunities for your future. These qualifications can lead to further study through University or through high quality apprenticeships or employment. Sixth Form life will help you to develop your social skills, broaden your range of interests and contribute to the community.

In the Sixth Form you will gain in maturity and as a result be better equipped to face the world of Higher Education and work. William Farr School has an enviable reputation for educational attainment and excellence as well as for its well-rounded and mature students.

We pride ourselves on the quality of our teaching and our support systems for students. The staff know you and will be working very hard on your behalf to prove that both they and you can achieve the highest standards. Continuing your education here will prove a stimulating challenge. Your success will be their success.

If you are already at this school you will find life in the Sixth Form to be quite different to the main school. We offer many opportunities other than the purely academic and will encourage you to give much to our school community and play a major part in its further achievement and success. Sixth Form students continue to play a vital role in being positive role models for younger students, modelling aspiration, endeavour and citizenship and working to improve the whole school community.





Where do I go in school for information?

All students received a session on Sixth Form as part of the Post-16 morning.

There is detailed information on all aspects of the Sixth Form on the school website. Some of the course names will be familiar to you; others will be completely new. There may be a big difference between studying a subject at GCSE and one of the same name at A Level.

Information and guidance for applying are on the school website including:

- Sixth Form Application Process including the Application Form
- Sixth Form Life including testimonials and videos from former students
- Sixth Form Life Information Booklet
- A Level Subjects including the Entry Requirements needed to secure a place
- Please note that under A Level Subjects, each individual subject can be accessed on the left-hand side. This includes individual course information and routes for progression.

What do I need to think about?

Joining the Sixth Form has to be the right decision for you but has many advantages.

The following questions highlight things to think about when choosing between different post-16 providers:

- What style of qualification suits my learning and will keep my options open for the future?
- What entry requirements will I need to meet in order to join a course?
- How much teaching time will I get?
- What is the quality of teaching like?
- What are the results like of students who have taken a course previously?
- Is what I see on an open day really what the learning environment is going to be like?
- Am I capable of working with a greater level of independence?
- Who will look after my wellbeing?
- What are the advantages of staying with teachers who know me and what I am capable of, compared to going somewhere new and unfamiliar?
- How long will it take me to learn new rules and routines at a different institution?
- How is being a Sixth Former different to being in Year 11?



- What opportunities are there outside of the curriculum for me to take part in?
- Which are my best subjects?
- Which subjects do I find most interesting?
- Have I considered subjects which I might be able to study in the Sixth Form even though I have not studied them before?
- Do I know what qualifications I need, and in which subjects, in order to qualify for my chosen career route?
- Do I want to progress to Higher Education? Have I checked the UCAS website and other information about Higher Education?
- Am I prepared to meet the requirements of responsibility and to play my full part as a member of the Sixth Form?
- Am I prepared to live up to the expectations of work, commitment and success for which William Farr is known?
- Have I talked the issues through with my parents and my teachers?

Making your decision

Come to Sixth Form to study subjects you enjoy, are interested in and may need for your future plans.

There are new subjects in the Sixth Form for you to consider and subjects that you may not have studied at GCSE but now wish to study at A level.

Do not be persuaded to choose subjects which fit someone else's idea of what you want to do or because a friend is going to study it. It is your choice and it is important you research and make the right one.

If you have a definite career in mind, be very careful that the subjects you choose are relevant to it.

The most important consideration when choosing your education after GCSE is the school's potential for quality and how hard your teachers will work for you. Social life and extra facilities, though important, are secondary to the standard of teaching and learning support you can expect.

We are very proud of our Sixth Form's reputation for excellence.



How will the Sixth Form be organised?

There is a dedicated team in the Sixth Form to support you – Head of Year 12/13 - Mr R Noon, Assistant HOY 12/13 – Mrs G Munro. You will also have a form tutor who will stay with you throughout Year 12 and Year 13.

You will be taught by well qualified specialist subject teachers and because each will have a particular specialty, interest and expertise you may have more than one for each subject.

We will enter into a student-school agreement with you that sets out exactly what we expect of you and what we guarantee to provide in return.



Where will I go for advice and help in the Sixth Form?

All Sixth Form students are allocated to a tutor group and, more importantly, to a tutor whose task, in conjunction with your Head of Year and the Higher Education Coordinator, is to advise, assist, monitor your progress and generally guide you through this vital stage in your education.

Your tutor and Head of Year are available on a daily basis. They will help you develop good study habits, look out for your welfare, maintain contact with your parents and help you when you need it. Your subject teachers will also always help you with your A Level studies.



What will my timetable look like?

You will have 5 lessons a week for each optional A Level subject. This is significantly more than at other post 16 providers.

In addition, you will have 1 lesson a week for PSHE and 1 lesson a week for the Extended Project.

Students studying languages will have an additional 30 minutes to 1 hour per week with the language assistant to practise their spoken language.

Students needing to improve their English and/or Mathematics GCSE to the nationally expected standard will also have one lesson per week of English and/or Mathematics.

In school any time not allocated to lessons is your private study time. Your lessons should be spread throughout the week to give you some private study time each day. You will be expected to be in school during this time and use it to work on your A Level subjects, e.g. research, writing up notes and coursework. As part of your private study you will have 2 hours of supervised study.

The school day remains the same as the main school and students are expected to be in school for 9.00am for morning registration.

What will my lessons be like?

Teaching groups in our Sixth Form are smaller than you have been used to in the main school. Lessons will promote the skills of discussion, research, empathy, and personal study which have been developing in your earlier years. Practical work, course work, field work and background reading all represent vital areas of further development for all Sixth Form students.

Your teacher may well discuss an issue or concept with you and give you an outline of a task. It would then be up to you to go away and research on your own, or with fellow students, and draw up your own theories and conclusions within agreed deadlines. Detailed assessment, analysis and evaluation will follow to enable you to understand and develop your ideas.

Students are expected to contribute their ideas in class and seek support when they need it. This includes seeing staff outside of lessons to ask for help with work. It is not a sign of weakness to seek help and you are not being a nuisance. The best students are the ones who are keen to fully understand the ideas studied and who take a mature approach to their courses.



How hard will I be expected to work?

All A Level courses will demand hard work. You may have fewer subjects to cope with than you did in Year 11, but the pace of work covered at A level is quicker and more demanding. In addition, it is important that you learn the topics as you study them as you can only revise so much at the end of the course. Typically you should expect to do one hour's work outside of class for every taught hour.

How will I know if I am working hard enough?

Your subject teachers will mark and monitor your day to day work and give you feedback to act on. As well as producing regular formal academic reviews they will comment informally on your progress to both you and your tutor and you will be helped and encouraged to develop an effective dialogue and partnership with them.

There will be three data points each academic year for staff to grade your overall progress. In addition, there will be a formal report and a parents' evening each year. We want to do everything we can to help you achieve your full potential and get the best results you possibly can.

Where can I go when I have private study?

It will not take long for you to realise that making the most of your private study time in school really helps you manage your workload effectively and create time outside of school for you to pursue your hobbies and interests.

The Sixth Form study room and the Resources area of the library are dedicated to students who wish to work quietly. The Dining Hall is available for students who wish to work in groups. Supervised study is timetabled into classrooms and gives dedicated silent time for study. It is allocated to ensure that there is not pressure on facilities in unsupervised study time.

Private study is an essential for success in A Levels and also teaches you good study habits for the future. There is more to private study than just completing homework! These are some of the things students ought to use this time for:

- Making summaries of class notes.
- Engaging in further reading and note making from alternative text books or journals.
- Reading novels and other books which support the learning in your A Level subjects.
- Making revision cards, mind maps or other revision aids.
- Producing essay plans prior to writing the essay.
- Planning answers to exam questions.
- Doing further questions beyond those set for homework.
- Working for University entrance exams, STEP papers, correspondence courses etc.



What about examinations?

All subjects are now taught as linear two-year courses with formal examinations at the end of Year 13 only. There will be assessments throughout the two years. Some subjects will have coursework or fieldwork to be completed during the course. There will be Year 12 internal examinations and Year 13 mock examinations to help you prepare for your formal exams.

What responsibilities will I have?

William Farr Sixth Form has high expectations of you. You must be prepared to do a great deal of hard work, to study seriously and to make the most of the opportunities available. You will be expected to follow all school rules regarding behaviour, no mobile phones and appropriate use of electronic devices. You will be expected to dress appropriately in line with the Sixth Form dress code. You will be expected to arrange driving lessons outside of school time.

What of my commitments?

We hope that you play a full part with all the staff in preventing our school from being split into separate 11-16 and 16-18 communities by supporting and organising a range of extra-curricular activities that include the school council, house competitions, charitable events, music events, drama events and assisting less able younger pupils.

The school rule is simply to have respect and consideration for others and is the same for Sixth Form students as for everyone else at William Farr. You will have much more freedom as a Sixth Former, but always remember that *'with increased freedom also comes increased responsibility'*.





What will I be expected to wear?

We do not expect you to wear any school uniform, but there is a Sixth Form Dress Code that students must adhere to.

William Farr Sixth Form is committed to setting high standards in all aspects of learning. The Sixth Form Dress Code plays an important part in this process and setting the right climate for learning. If students take a pride in their appearance they take a pride in themselves, their school and their learning.

Students are required to wear suitable dress for a school environment and are expected to dress modestly and smartly.

- Shorts may be worn during periods of warm weather. These should be of an approved style and length.
- Skirts must be of a suitable length.
- Jeans may be worn, but should not be ripped.
- Leggings/jeggings/tights, etc. are permitted with a suitable top/skirt/dress which again is of a reasonable length.
- Tops should have thick shoulder straps. They should not be low cut. Students' backs, midriffs or underwear should not be visible.
- Footwear should be appropriate for school. Students should not wear flip flops.
- Students are allowed to wear one set of earrings. Students should not have any additional piercings, visible tattoos or extremes of hairstyles and colours.
- Makeup, nail varnish and jewellery may be worn, but should not be excessive.

If students in the Sixth Form are unsuitably dressed, as determined by the school, then we reserve the right to ask students to return home to dress appropriately.

Can I look forward to any privileges as a Sixth Former?

You may bring personal music systems into school and use them in the study room. It will be your room so you will be responsible for caring for it. In terms of electronic devices, like Kindles, iPads, etc. the school would like to allow students to use these to support their learning. These devices must be used as a learning tool and must not be used for social media, gaming, instant messaging or as a telephone in any way, which would include texting and video conferencing. The school will accept no responsibility for such items and they are brought at your own risk.

Students may leave the school site to walk into the village at lunchtime provided they sign out and back in again in the book at Reception.



If you have the use of a car or motorbike you will be able to bring these to school and park in the back car park, subject to available space and receiving permission from the school.

Students wishing to bring a car to school must complete the appropriate paperwork giving parental permission. Students may be driven to school by other students only if they provide written permission from their parents. Students may drive to and from school at the start and end of the day, but should not take their cars off the school site during the school day.

What about social life?

It is your responsibility as a Sixth Former to develop a thriving social committee. Activities regularly organised include balls, charity events and sports events. You can be assured of guidance from your tutors who are there to support what we know will be a lively, energetic and talented group of people. It's your Sixth Form, get involved, and make it happen!

What other activities are available?

The participation of Sixth Form students raises the quality and standard of all school activities.

William Farr has an enviable reputation for music and drama. Our performances and productions are always of a high quality with Sixth Formers often taking centre stage.



There are a wide range of different subject trips, sporting events, expeditions and residential visits offered in the Sixth Form. There are also opportunities to visit universities and attend conferences.

Opportunities are available to work with younger students through the running of departmental clubs, working as student mentors, supporting morning numeracy and literacy and helping out in lower school lessons.



Students are also encouraged to seek out work experience placements and use these to gain a range of transferable skills, as well as gain the experience necessary for their application to competitive university courses. There is a wide range of opportunities out there with previous students going on placements to hospitals, vets, engineering companies, graphics companies, architecture firms and schools, to name but a few.

We already have a large number of students undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Award Bronze standard; in the Sixth Form you can go for Gold!



How do I plan for 'Life after Sixth Form'?

In the Sixth Form, students will be prepared for life after the Sixth Form through the PSHE programme. Students will be supported through the university applications process or in applying for further education, apprenticeships or jobs.

The vast majority of our students apply to university with many being offered places by all five of their course choices. As the profile of apprenticeships has been raised a number of our students have secured places with good companies including Siemens, Rolls Royce, Jaguar Land Rover, PricewaterhouseCoopers and the National Grid. Employment opportunities exist in the armed services, commerce and banking, retail management, manufacturing and public services, such as county councils, the police, etc. There is already a very large database of information for you to use in our library.

More and more students are taking a year off between Sixth Form and going on to the next stage of their careers (the Gap Year). Opportunities exist for a variety of exciting activities including Camp America, Operation Raleigh, Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) and a whole range of community work in the UK.

Whatever your final choice, to be attractive to employers you will need to show that you have maintained a record of hard work and commitment in pursuit of your studies. By joining the Sixth Form, you will find that you are in a much better position to access a wide range of different and interesting career opportunities.



How do I get into Higher Education?

We have developed strong relationships with universities and colleges. Admissions tutors and lecturers visit the school to help us make sure you have the most up-to-date information and the best advice on the huge number of opportunities, alternatives and courses available to you.

We organise a visit to a UCAS Higher Education Exhibition and lead you through the UCAS process starting in the spring term of Year 12. We help you craft your personal statement and complete your application.



Ultimately the success of your application will rest on your A Level results so consistent hard work throughout your two years in the Sixth Form is the key to getting into your firm choice university.

And finally?

The William Farr Sixth Form is lively, vibrant community which we hope you will choose to join. We will value you as a member of our school and as an individual and do all that we can to ensure you have a happy and successful time with us.

We aim for you to look back on your Sixth Form years at William Farr as the period when you laid the foundations for your future success.



A Distinctive Vision

William Farr Church of England Comprehensive School's vision is to provide all members of the school community with the opportunities to engage with life in all its fullness through the highest quality of education, encouragement and endeavour. We are committed to striving for excellence and ensuring that all students are known, valued and can achieve.

Our values - Compassion, Friendship, Respect, Perseverance, Responsibility, Wisdom.



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