



1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Key information for the new academic year

We look forward to welcoming all of our students into school this week. In particular, I would like to welcome new students to the school, from Year 7 to Sixth Form. Years 7 and 12 will join us for their first day on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, and then all students are in on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September onwards.

It is a great privilege for me to be joining Farmor's School as the new Headteacher. I am very much looking forward to getting know our students and parents/carers over the coming years. As you may know, I have already spent time in school working with the fabulous staff body. This letter provides some important details about the start of term, as well as a checklist relating to students in Years 7-11.

Parent Information Evenings

Please come along to the start of year information evening if possible. These take place in the Sixth Form LRC

Year 8	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September at 6pm
Year 9	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September at 7pm
Year 10	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September at 6pm
Year 11	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September at 7pm
Year 12	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> September at 6pm
Year 13	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> September at 7pm

Year 7 parent/tutor meetings take place on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October. This is an evening event and will include more information about the year ahead. There will be further communications about this for Year 7 parents/carers soon.

Visitors

Please come straight to reception if you are visiting the school or dropping something off for your child. We pre-book all meetings with parents. If you arrive unannounced it may be that the person you wish to speak with is not available. Please call ahead or email first.

If visiting during the school day:

- You may park in either car park at the front of the school.



- No cars should be parked on the roundabout at any time.
- Please drive slowly and with caution when approaching, leaving or when on the school premises.
- The Ernest Cook drive at the back of the school is not to be used by students or parents for vehicular access.

#### The start and end of the school day

Please note that students should not be on the school grounds before 8.20am. Breakfast is available in the Dining Hall until 8.40am.

Our driveway is very busy at the start and end of the school day. Please help us manage this by observing the following:

- **Do not drive onto the school site at the start or end of the day without specific permission to do so.** Please drop or pick up students in town, at the end of the back drive. This rule is in place for the safety of students.
- If you are walking to meet students, please wait somewhere near the entrances to the school but do not come onto the school site unless you are signing in as a visitor.

#### Open Evening

This year our Open Evening is on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September**. The school will be open between 4.00pm and 7.00pm for visitors to meet teachers and students and view the facilities. Please help us spread the word about this important event. We also welcome parents of younger children who want to see what the school has to offer.

**School will close early on this day** to give us time to prepare for the evening. The closing time will be communicated to parents soon. The designated school buses will leave earlier on this day, however the service buses will run at the normal times. If any students need to remain at school under supervision as a consequence of this, please let us know so that we can make arrangements.

#### Uniform

Please support us by ensuring your child is in the correct uniform. As students may wear PE kit to school on days they have a PE lesson, please ensure they have extra layers if needed. Students must remove ear piercings for PE so please do not allow them to get their ears pierced now until next summer.

If you have any nearly-new uniform which your children have grown out of (including PE kit) which you would like to donate to our nearly-new uniform shop, please drop it into the school office. It would be helpful if this was washed and ready to pass on.

#### Photographs

Photographs of students will often be used in publicity material and the media. If you would like to withdraw consent for your child's image to be used in this way, please let us know in writing by emailing [admin@farmors.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@farmors.gloucs.sch.uk).

#### Holidays and absence

I would like to remind parents that all holiday absence must be recorded as an 'unauthorised absence', by law. Taking a holiday during term time does damage your child's education. I appreciate the cost differences, but I would ask you to consider the hidden cost in terms of children falling behind in their studies. I am, however, able to grant permission in exceptional circumstances, for example travelling to attend a funeral. Please download a form from the website to inform the school / request permission if you intend to take your child away from home for a period during term time.

Our expectation is that most students should be able to attend over 97% of school days unless there is a serious or persistent medical reason for their absence. Please help us in ensuring your child is a regular attender.

#### Home-school communications

We send a Parent Bulletin every Friday. Please look out for this. If you are not receiving this, we may have an incorrect email address. Please update us.

Our email filter is set at 'high' as schools receive a large number of spam emails. If you do not hear back having emailed a member of staff within 48 hours, please phone the school and let us know so we can retrieve your message. If the matter is urgent, it is better to phone us than email. Please note that teachers in particular are unlikely to respond quickly to an email as they are often teaching all day. In the meantime, our Student Services team will be happy to help.

I look forward to meeting you at one of our upcoming events.

Yours faithfully

Mark Surowiec  
Headteacher