

FARMOR'S SCHOOL



Farmor's School
AN ACADEMY



Year 8 Parent Guide

September 2024



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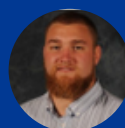
WELCOME

Welcome message from Mrs Dawson, Head of Year 8

I consider myself blessed to be your child's Head of Year. They had a successful Year 7 and I am excited to continue to build on their successes from last year. My goal over the next 4 years is to make them the best version of themselves. I will continue to teach them the virtues of respect, reputation, resilience and role-modelling working in collaboration with yourselves. I want to encourage and develop confident, happy, successful and independent young people equipped to go out into the big wide world! All I ask is that you continue to work with me and trust me because this task is most definitely a team effort.



8AEC
Miss Craig



8KJR
Mr Robins



8AH
Mrs Heslop



8RAC
Mrs Chamberlain



8JHB
Miss Hatton-Belliard



8ST
Mr Taylor



Mrs O'Rourke
KS3 Student Manager



WHAT IS A FARMOR'S STUDENT?

Endeavour

A Farmor's student works hard in lessons. They pay attention to what their teacher is saying and bring the correct equipment each day. This includes their mini-whiteboard and mini-whiteboard pen. They complete their homework on time to the best of their ability and ask for help if they need it. They attend school everyday and are on time to lessons.

Fellowship

A Farmor's student works as a team. They help each other and support younger students. They take part in out of school activities from sports clubs to the polytunnels and the wide variety of trips on offer.

Integrity

A Farmor's student makes good choices and acts with honesty - for example they put their litter in the bin, they behave well around the school site and in lessons. They are polite and courteous to other students and all the staff in school. They say please and thank you, they hold doors open and wish staff good morning at the start of the day.





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SACHEL ONE

Satchel One is our learning platform where as a parent you can see:

- Your child's timetable
- The homework your child has been set, when it is due and whether it has been completed or not.
- Merits, badges and behaviour points
- Attendance and punctuality

We encourage all parents to set up an account - you can do this as an app on your phone or on a computer. You can find details of how to log on as a parent and help guides [here](#)

If you need further help please email us at: satchelone@farmors.gloucs.sch.uk

LIBRARY AND READING

Our library is open every day from 8.30am. Students can visit before school, at break and at lunchtime to browse, take out books, read or take part in our reading events throughout the year. Last year our celebrations included World Book Day, May the 4th be With You (Star Wars Day), Shakespeare's Birthday and World Poetry Day. We also had visiting authors and reading workshops and took part in the Carnegie shortlisting and students may volunteer to be librarian assistants.

Our librarian, **Mrs Barker-Harrold** is always happy to talk about books and welcome students.



Encourage your child to visit our [library online](#)

They can browse our collection, reserve books and write book reviews

EFFECTIVE STUDY



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Year 8 is a great time to get students into good study habits ready for GCSE and beyond. Here are some scenarios to think about with answers at the bottom of the page!

1

Using flashcards effectively

Scenario: Emma is preparing for an upcoming science test. She made flashcards with terms and definitions. She reviews all her flashcards every night, focusing on the cards she already knows well.

Question: What could Emma do differently to improve her use of flashcards?

Options:

- A) Continue reviewing all cards every night.
- B) Focus more on the cards she already knows well.
- C) Spend more time on the cards she struggles with and gradually reduce time on the ones she knows.
- D) Stop using flashcards and rely solely on rereading her textbook.

2

Spacing independent study

Scenario: Alex has a maths test in two weeks. He decides to study by doing practice problems for several hours the weekend before the test.

Question: Which study approach would be more effective for Alex?

Options

- A) Study for several hours the weekend before the test.
- B) Study a little each day in the two weeks leading up to the test.
- C) Review everything the night before the test.
- D) Skip practice problems and read through the textbook instead.

3

Reviewing notes and flashcards

Scenario: Priya has been studying for a chemistry exam using both her notes and flashcards. She finds that she's starting to forget the material she learned earlier in the week.

Question: What should Priya do to better retain the information?

Options

- A) Review her notes and flashcards frequently, spacing out the reviews over several days.
- B) Only review her notes the night before the exam.
- C) Study for a long session in one sitting the day before the test.
- D) Focus on rereading her notes instead of using flashcards.

Answers: 1C, 2B, 3A

READING IDEAS TO TRY



Learning lyrics can be a fun way to read and improve memory. Challenge your child to learn all the words to a new song. If they like music, ask them to write their own lyrics!



Reading doesn't have to be limited to fiction books alone. Sports fans can read about the latest sporting events, athlete autobiographies, the history or technique of sport.



If you struggle to get your child to take an interest in books, try graphic novels. Beautiful illustrations and artwork are not only engaging but also help to boost understanding of the text.



Evidence shows that turning on subtitles whilst watching films or T.V encourages accidental reading, automatically improving word recognition, content comprehension and code-related literacy skills.



Mini master chef in the house? Cook together and ask your child to read the recipe.



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TRIPS AND VISITS

Trip	Department	Date	Cost
F1 Williams STEM	Mrs H Bristow (Comp Science)	25th Oct 24	TBC
Parliament Trip	School Council	8th Nov 24	TBC
Barn Theatre 3 Musketeers	Mr T Newman (Drama)	16th Dec 24	£26.50
Living Rainforest	Mr T Wood (Geography)	21/23 Jan 25	£25
Italy Ski Trip	Italy Ski Trip	15th – 21st Feb 25	£1467
Voice in a Million, Wembley	Mr J Driver (Music)	19th March 25	£35
Hay Festival	Mrs Barker-Harrold (Library)	23rd May 25	TBC
Bletchley Park	Mrs V Tucker (Mathematics)	21st July 24	£25
End of Year Activity	Mrs S Dawson (Head of Year)	July 25	TBC



FAQS



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1

What will my child study this year?

Curriculum maps for each subject can be found on our website [here](#)

2

What is your policy on phones?

Students cannot use phones in school. Once they get off the bus and walk into school, they should switch their phones off and put them in their bags. They should also remove headphones and air pods. If we see a student use their phone it will be confiscated for the day. We suggest they have a paper copy of their timetable so they know what lessons they have.

3

Who should I contact if my child has a problem?

Always email or ring Student Services first: studentservices@farmors.gloucs.sch.uk; ring 01285 712302 and ask to be put through. They will be able to answer your questions and if anything needs passing on to Mrs Dawson or your child's tutor, they will sort that out.





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RECOMMENDED WEBSITES



Learning Scientists are cognitive scientists who have a really good website with downloadable materials on retrieval practice and other study techniques to improve learning.

Pomodoro technique is a great way to help your child to work in small but effective blocks.

Inner Drive have a useful section for parents on how to support your child at home with their learning. They have some great downloadable posters.

Seneca is a free revision website which covers all school subjects. There are sections for students and parents.