

21st October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of this first half term, we are celebrating all the brilliant things that have happened since September. Assemblies this week are designed to do exactly that, and you should see “celebration” as a theme on our school Instagram account too – please do take a look.

This half term has been all about setting ourselves up for success for the academic year, and I’m proud of everything we’ve achieved together. We were thrilled to welcome over 500 new students to the Farlingaye community this term, whether that’s our new Year 7s, external Year 12s, or some of the other students who have joined other year groups. Whether it’s through sports, clubs, or creative activities, so many of our students have already taken advantage of the exciting opportunities available to them. Lunchtime and afterschool activities are now in full swing, and our recent Open Evening showcased the very best of our school to prospective families.

Sporting Success

Sport has played a big role in the life of the school this term. Since the start of September, there have been 31 different sporting fixtures involving 22 teams. In total, over 350 students have represented Farlingaye in a range of sports — that’s nearly 20% of our school community! We’re delighted to share that both our Year 7 and 8 boys, as well as our Year 9 girls, are through to the next rounds of the Football County Cup. In cross-country, more than 75 of our students have qualified for the next stage of competition at the Royal Hospital School after excellent performances at Woodbridge.

Recognising Achievement

A huge focus at Farlingaye is on rewarding effort, hard work, and positive behaviour, and this is reflected in the Achievement Points system. Achievement Points have been awarded for everything from effort and progress to courtesy and kindness. We want every student to feel proud of the contribution they make to our school, and we want to recognise that. A staggering 62,186 points have been awarded this term, with Year 7 leading the way, although Year 9 are putting up some stiff competition in second place. We’re holding raffles in assemblies this week to offer spot prizes — the more points, the more chances to win!

Student Voice Matters

We are also launching our **student survey** this week, and it’s very important that we hear from our students about their experiences at Farlingaye. Their views help us shape the direction of the school, ensuring we continue to improve and provide the best learning environment. Students will be emailed the link, but please encourage your child to take part — the link to the survey is included below.

<https://forms.office.com/e/trWim9bbtZ>

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Looking Ahead

The next half term promises to be equally exciting, with plenty in store for our students. Internal taster days, theatre trips, and the Year 7 visit to the Tower of London are all on the calendar. Year 9 will be taking part in Enterprise Day, and we are excited to host our Careers Fayre. Meanwhile, a new Astro surface is being installed for PE, and renovations to our Humanities and Learning Resource Centre are nearly complete — not to mention the return of our school library!

The festive season will be upon us before we know it, and we are already preparing for the joy it brings. Christmas hampers, concerts, jumper days, and our staff Christmas Panto are all on the horizon, with plenty of opportunities for students and staff to get into the spirit.

Thank you for your continued support this term. I hope you and your families enjoy a restful break, and I look forward to welcoming the students back for what promises to be a busy and exciting second half of the autumn term.

Very best wishes,

Mr P Smith
Headteacher