

January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and a restful break. The end of term here at Farlingaye was truly magical, with highlights including our fabulous concerts, the heart-warming hamper deliveries, and, of course, the unforgettable staff Christmas Panto. (There were some stellar performances—too many to list!)

As we move into the spring term, I wanted to share a few key updates about what's happening at school and highlight some ways you might like to get involved.

Reopening of School Spaces

After four incredibly challenging terms with the closure of so much of the school due to RAAC, I am delighted to let you know that all previously closed spaces have now been fully reopened. Classrooms, changing rooms, offices, and toilets are all back in use—and they look fantastic! These spaces have been fully restored and are already making a big difference in supporting the smooth running of the school day. Thank you once again for your patience and understanding during the disruption. It's wonderful to see the school operating at full capacity once more.

Sixth Form Open Evening and Applications

We are excited to invite you to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday, 16th January, from 6:15 pm to 8:30 pm. This evening is designed to give year 11 students detailed insights into the subjects they may wish to study, alongside a glimpse into Sixth Form life and why Farlingaye's Sixth Form is such a great place to learn and grow.

The evening will begin with an opening presentation from senior staff, after which parents/carers and students can attend up to five subject-specific presentations of their choice. There will also be plenty of opportunities to speak with our staff and current Sixth Formers.

As with all our busy events, parking can be a challenge. If you live locally, we kindly encourage you to walk if possible. If you can't find a space on site please can I ask you park considerately in the locality.

The application form for Sixth Form is now live on our website. Paper copies will also be available on the evening and at the main school reception. The deadline for applications is 7th February, please make a note of this date.

Show Your Work at Home Fortnight

The weeks commencing 20th January and 27th January will be our 'Show Your Work at Home Fortnight'. During this time, students in Years 7, 8, and 9 are encouraged to bring their exercise books—or other examples of their classwork—home to share with you.

While I know many of you already take an active interest in your children's learning, this fortnight is a great opportunity to sit down with them and celebrate the work they've been doing in school. At the start of the second week, we'll send out a short feedback form so you can let us know how the experience went.

A quick reminder: you can track homework through the Haldor Homework App and view your child's achievement points and reports via the School Gateway App. For guidance on accessing and using these apps, please visit our website at the following links:

[School Gateway](#)

[Haldor Homework](#)

Year 11: Time to Shift into High Gear

As we begin the new term, the focus for Year 11 is clear: now is the time to commit to steady and focused preparation for their GCSEs. While summer may seem a long way off (the temperature when I walked the dog this morning reflects this!), there were just 73 school days remaining when students returned – and even fewer before language orals and PE practicals begin.

This message isn't meant to create stress – I have full confidence in Year 11's ability to achieve fantastic results, and we're determined to help them succeed. As a school, we've put extensive plans in place to support them, from revision resources and special in-school revision days in early March to the subject-specific sessions already being run by our dedicated staff.

What's crucial now is that students take full advantage of everything on offer. Consistent attendance, prompt arrival at lessons, active effort and engagement in lessons, and making the most of the opportunities available will make all the difference. We'll be sharing more details later this term about the support available, but every lesson and every day matters. The time to step up and push towards success starts now.

Upcoming Events

In addition to the Sixth Form Open Evening and Show Your Work at Home Fortnight, here are some other key dates for your diary this half term:

- Year 9 Parents' Evening (in person): Wednesday, 21st January, 4:30 pm
- Year 9 Options Evening: Thursday, 30th January, 5:30 pm
- Year 11 Parents' Evening (in person): Tuesday, 4th February, 4:30 pm
- Open Mornings: Friday 17th January, and Friday, 14th February.

Further details will follow closer to the time for each event.

Wishing you all a fantastic start to the year. I hope to see many of you at some of our upcoming events. As always, if there's anything you'd like to discuss or if there's any way I can support you, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Very best wishes,

Mr P Smith
Headteacher