

8 September 2026

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Dear Parent and Student

Welcome to the start of our new school year to all staff and students. We very much look forward to greeting our Y9 parents and students **this evening** to our **Year 9 Welcome Evening: An Introduction to Y9**. On **Monday 14 September** we are holding a **Sixth Form Information Evening**, details will follow shortly.

Congratulations to all our students who took their GCSEs and A Levels this year. For students moving on to **university**, there are various funding streams available, namely the Sir W L Travers Educations Charity, Dorothy King Charitable Trust and the [Ralph Parrish Foundation](#), details are attached for your perusal.

Financial help for students in Y12 and Y13 is also available through the **16-19 Bursary Scheme** for students who are experiencing financial difficulty. The bursary can help with the cost of transport, school meals, books, school trips, school uniform and equipment. Further details are set out in the attached letter to Sixth Form students. Applications must be returned to me by Friday 18 September.

From the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year, **Free School Meal (FSM)** eligibility has been expanded to include all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit regardless of household earnings. Free School Meals are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 From September 2026, there will be 2 categories of benefits-based free school meals:
 - o Targeted FSM, which continues to be based on the existing threshold, covering pupils who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less
 - o Expanded FSM, a new category covering pupils who do not qualify for targeted FSM, but who are in households receiving Universal Credit

All children who are either Targeted or Expanded FSM eligible will receive a free meal at school.

Please note: Completing an eligibility checker does not constitute an application, please apply for FSM via the Lincolnshire County Council portal - <https://lcc.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/SynergyWeb/PortalHome/>

To ensure we hold the latest parental information, could we ask that you complete the attached **Consent Form for Non-Residential trips**, returning to the school office as soon as possible. Forms are required for all students.

Lincolnshire County Council have advised that there will be No **School Crossing Patrol** Officer working on West Street, Alford from the start of the new academic year in September until further notice, due to unforeseen circumstances.

And finally, we extend a **warm welcome** to Mr Watson as Subject Leader for History and Mr Crofts as our new Network Manager.

Cor unum, via una



Mr G Thompson
Headteacher

