



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

NEWSLETTER

Volume Nine - Issue One - 2019

A Level and GCSE results

Sports Presentation Evening

Climate Change Visit

Music tour to Austria



Brittany Trip

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is a privilege for me to attach my first Headteacher's Newsletter since being appointed as Interim Headteacher in September 2019.

Our educational philosophy at William Farr School is of 'education with students, rather than at students' and this newsletter exemplifies some of the fantastic experiences, opportunities and visits students have participated in during the first half term. These underpin our school vision for 'members of the school community to engage with life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). I hope you enjoy the read.

Jonathan Knowler



SPORTS PRESENTATION EVENING

This year the PE department hosted their fifth Sports Presentation Evening.

The evening was to celebrate the success of both individuals and teams that have represented the school throughout the year. There were over 180 fixtures played between schools, which highlights the commitment of both students and staff. The prizes included all colours, young leaders, fair play, and the athlete of the year award.

We were lucky enough to get Esther Jones (nee Cruice), former World and Paralympic Champion and World Record Holder for T38 400m, to be our guest speaker and also to present the awards.

It was an extremely successful evening and we wish all the students participating for school this year the best of luck.



SIXTH FORM INFORMATION EVENING
Wednesday 30 October 2019, 6:00-8:00pm

A LEVEL SUCCESS FOR STUDENTS

Congratulations to all our students who received their A Level results.

It was great to see students celebrating all their hard work and success. Overall, students have achieved the highest pass rate for the past five years in a strong set of A Level results.

More than 98% of students passed their A Levels, exceeding the previous best of 97% set in 2015.

One in five of all the A Levels entered resulted in A* or A grades and nearly half achieved A* to B grades – again exceeding the results in 2015.

The average grade for all 145 students was C+ and the average point score per entry was the second highest since the new scoring system was introduced.

Former headteacher Andy Stones said he was delighted with the results and the very high pass rate, with 4 out of 5 subjects achieving 100%. “Once again the school has posted some fantastic results and I’m delighted with the hard work and commitment shown by the staff and students,” he said. “I’m particularly pleased with the phenomenal performance from students who face more challenges than most. They have truly excelled. More than any other year our students have received unconditional offers from top universities around the UK and that is testament to the reputation of our school. I know our students will go on to greater heights and fulfil the potential we have nurtured.”

FANTASTIC GCSE RESULTS

Congratulations to all our Year 11 students who received their GCSE exam results. It was great to see so many students celebrating their success and hard work with friends, parents and staff.

We are delighted that more than a quarter of all grades awarded were Grade 7 or above and one in five of all 237 students received the equivalent of straight As across eight GCSE subjects. Provisional Progress indicators suggest that for the fifth year running, students have performed significantly well. Almost 30% of all students have achieved a grade higher than expected on average across all subjects, with 6% achieving two grades or more on average.

Among the outstanding achievements were: Iona Goodman - nine grade 9s, Thomas Southall - nine grade 9s, Claire Goodger - eight grade 9s and one grade 8, Alice Lawrence - six grade 9s and three grade 8s, Evie Toyne – five grade 9s and four grade 8s, Phebe Thompson - one grade 9 and eight grade 8s, Laura Watt - one grade 9 and eight grade 8s .

In both English and Maths, four out of five students achieved a grade 4 or higher, with over 60% achieving a grade 5 or above. In the optional Triple Science course, 100% of students achieved grades 9 – 4 in Biology, in Chemistry 95% achieved grades 9 - 4 and in Physics 95%.

“I am very proud of the students. Not only have they worked extremely hard and shown remarkable commitment but many of our students have exceeded our expectations,” said former headteacher Andy Stones. “The overall results are terrific and are testament to the dedication of both students and staff to ensure our students realise their potential. It demonstrates how the school community comes together to provide an environment which nurtures and encourages.”



CLIMATE CHANGE VISIT

On Tuesday 10 September 2019, all the Year 9 students participated in an exciting and interactive assembly and workshop on the subject of climate change.

We started off with introductions from our visitors, who came from Polynesia - places like Fiji. The visitors shared a culture and experience they wanted us to be aware of. Climate change affects their homes and towns, cities and countries to a huge scale. Just last year, a category 4 hurricane ripped through the area where some of the guests lived. They explained how they still haven't recovered from this hurricane and the monsoon season was approaching. This really made me, along with other students, question what we can do to help climate change.

To round off the assembly, before break we had a fun dance, explaining within it what their culture eat and how much fun they have. "Watermelon, watermelon, pineapple, pineapple, Bananananananaa, Banananannaaa, fruit salad, fruit salad" was how the song went. I personally enjoyed this dance and it was one of my favourite parts.

After the main assembly, the workshop started. We were challenged with making 'something' which explains what we can do globally, nationally and locally. All forms split off. My form created a poem. We split into smaller groups and each group had to produce 4 lines and we presented the whole thing together. Two students turned it into a rap when talking about transport today. Taking our seats back in the main hall we presented form by form. All were fantastic presenting ideas about what we can do to effect change.

To finish off we took part in a service about how we can help God get his world back to how it was made. After a final goodbye from our visitors we were able to ask questions. We really learnt about what global warming is really doing to people on our planet and how we need to act to change this.

Max Smith, Year 9



Church School Festival Climate Change - Poem by 9JMM

*Banning plastic straws, It was a good idea
Now we need to get more plastic, Out of here*

*As Humans we are lazy, It's driving creatures crazy
Take your rubbish off the beach, Keep it out of turtles' reach*

*We could get our power from wind turbines, Instead of using coal from out of mines
We have solar panels to produce our power, That produce electricity hour on hour*

*If we recycle, We will help the life cycle
Making the world better for the next generation, Helping God's wonderful creation*

*We can help by raising money for charity, Buying supplies like candles to bring clarity
Helping those in need, And using the money to feed*

*Try and walk to school, And it will make the planet cool
Don't kill bees, And plant lots of trees*

*At car boot sales you can get rid of your old things, Put your old clothes in a recycling bin
Nothing goes to waste in a charity shop, Help out charities and get a new top*

*Cars, buses, trains and boats, It would be more sustainable to ride on goats
Electric vehicles would be best, Unless you want the planet to go into cardiac arrest*

*Animals are dying, Humans are lying
What should we do? That's up to you*

*What is the solution, To stop pollution?
Start with something small, And change it all.*



NEW CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

I would like to introduce myself as the new Chair of Governors for William Farr.

I took over the role on 1 September this year, following the retirement of Angela White, who had given many years of sterling work to the Governing Body and who is going to be a tough act to follow. I have been on the Governing Body for nearly 5 years, starting as a Parent Governor. I have one daughter currently in Sixth Form and another who went from William Farr to university this year.

Taking on the role of Chair is something I am immensely proud to do, having seen close up over the years, both directly, and through my daughters, the amazing work that the school does, both in terms of teaching, support and extra-curricular activities. Having now taken on the role of Chair, two things have become quickly apparent. The first is how incredible the school community is, with all staff, support and teaching, making sure the school is an excellent place for our children to be able to grow and develop to their full potential. The second is that Governors, and the work we do, is perhaps not as obvious as it could be.



Our roles as Governors are quite well defined, making sure the school has a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction, holding the senior leaders to account for the performance of the school and its pupils, and making sure the funds of the school are well spent.

Clearly, to achieve these roles, a lot of work is done by a relatively small group of people, all of whom are volunteers, both in terms of visiting the school, representing the school, and holding meetings to discuss various aspects of school life. One of my initial aims as Chair is to be more open in terms of the work of the Governors and also to seek opinions from those who are closely involved in the school, particularly the parents of children at the school.

To that end, I would very much invite you to provide feedback to the school and the Governors through the Parent View questionnaire, which is on the front page of the school website (shown as 'Ofsted Questionnaire' near the School Values at the top of the page). It is also possible that in the near future we will be looking for some new Parent Governors and I will be holding an event to tell people what that entails and to encourage people to join our team in the coming months. Please look out for details of the event and if you are interested, please come along if you can.

If you would like to contact me directly as Chair of Governors, you can, of course, do so through our Clerk, Mrs Sally Coulter. (s.coulter@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk)

Mark Garthwaite, Chair of Governors

A promotional poster for the 'Sweet Charity' event. The central figure is a black silhouette of a woman in a top hat and dress, holding a cane and striking a pose. The words 'SWEET CHARITY' are written in large, bold, red, stylized letters across her chest. On either side of the central figure are black silhouettes of a man in a tuxedo holding a cane, standing in front of a city skyline. The background is white. At the bottom, there are two red rectangular boxes. The left box contains the text 'WILLIAM FARR' in white, bold, capital letters. The right box contains the text 'MARCH 18-20 2020' in white, bold, capital letters.

WHISBY EDUCATION CENTRE

In September, the Biology department took the Year 13 students to Whisby Education Centre to complete one of their compulsory Practical Endorsement tasks.

Students had a short lesson on the purposes of ecological sampling and how to carry out sampling and surveying techniques, including how to use transect lines and quadrats to collect samples.

They then had the opportunity to go out into the field and put what they had learnt into action; this involved using a transect line to observe how plant biodiversity changes as you move away from the water's edge, and using quadrats to compare the biodiversity in light and shaded conditions.

This was our 9th year visiting Whisby and it is always a hugely enjoyable and beneficial experience for our students as they provide resources and expert knowledge that really enthuses students.

As always thanks to the whole team at Whisby for all the work they put in to these two days, next year is already booked!

Mrs Munro

CANOEING SUCCESS FOR LUCY GUEST

Lucy first started canoeing at the age of 11 – enjoying being outdoors, the camaraderie of the sport and subsequently, the love of competing.

Lucy has tremendous motivation, commitment and dedication to the sport of canoeing. She chooses to compete in 3 main disciplines, Sprint Racing, Marathon Racing and Wild Water Racing - by not specialising at such a young age in one particular discipline, it provides a variety that gives her great enjoyment of the sport. This aspect is so important for a young athlete, not only is she passionate about competing but it helps her to train through the harshest of winters.

Training takes a lot of commitment and dedication. Lucy trains six days a week – having one rest day. She gets out of bed early in the morning to enable her to train before school – this will be a run or a gym session. After school she will often do an 8-mile paddle and every weekend when she's not racing she will have a hard 10-mile paddle on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Sunday afternoon she will undertake her Wild Water training. Lucy travels to Nottingham 4 times a week to train, as this is where her club is based. She is a member of Nottingham Kayak Club, who have many international medalists. During the competition season Lucy will travel all over the country to compete. This can be in Southampton, Wales, London, Norwich, to name just a few locations. From February to September Lucy can be competing in one of the disciplines each weekend. All of this whilst still finding time for study. She does all this without complaint or pressure. Often forsaking a social life in order to train and compete.

Lucy's success has been a journey of gradual improvement, month by month gradual progression and even after the success of this summer this process will be on-going as she moves into the U23 and senior competitions. This year Lucy represented Team GB at the Junior World Championships in Wild Water Racing in Banja Luka, Bosnia, and is now ranked 16th in the world. Recently she was crowned the Junior Female National Champion in Wild Water Racing and took the silver medal in the Ladies National Open senior competition.

Following her results at the National Marathon championships she is now ranked 6th in the country and is now a member of the National Marathon Development Squad and in sprint competitions she qualified for all the U18 A finals giving her a top 7 finish in all sprint distances. Just recently, she was nominated for an award by Lincolnshire Active Group and has been shortlisted for the Junior Sportswoman of the Year Award, which will be announced at a dinner in early November.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT TOUR TO AUSTRIA

37 pupils from Year 12 to Year 7 travelled to Salzburg in July to perform two concerts in spectacular venues.

Despite the 20-hour coach journey, everyone arrived in excellent spirits ready for a walk to the Mirabell Gardens in the centre of Salzburg. The gardens were used extensively in *The Sound of Music* film during the 'Do-re-mi' number and the pupils enjoyed recreating some of the scenes from the film, including meeting the unusual gnomes that live in the gardens! The pupils then had a rehearsal back at the hotel to the delight of the hotel guests and staff who danced to our music and requested that we perform every night!

On Friday we set off on our official *The Sound of Music* tour, visiting many of the iconic film locations, including the gazebo where 'Sixteen, Going on Seventeen' was filmed, the houses used for the interior and exterior shots of the Von Trapp abode, the wedding church in Mondsee and the star of the film, the Alps. Our guide was extremely informative and had some great stories about Julie Andrews and also the real Maria, who sounded like a real character. The pupils led the singing on the coach, although the guide was confused as 'Baby Shark' was not on his list of musical numbers people usually sing on the tour!

The pupils then had some shopping time in Strobl, a picturesque town high up in the Alps, before setting up for a rehearsal and concert by Lake Wolfgang. The audience was enormously impressed and we have been asked to go back and perform again. On Saturday we crossed over the border into Germany to visit the oldest active salt mine there. The trip was phenomenal and involved a train ride deep into the Alps, two slides down into the salt grotto and a dramatic boat trip across the mirror lake with a light show, an experience like something out of *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince* when Harry and Dumbledore remove a suspected Horcrux from a remote cave. The pupils then returned to Salzburg for a rehearsal and concert in the Mirabell Gardens to a huge audience. The feedback was again rapturous with people keen to know where our next concert was (unfortunately it was our last!) and how the pupils produced such a fantastic sound.

There was just time for a walk to see Mozart's birthplace and for a photo opportunity with the famous statue before heading back to the hotel for dinner. The pupils spent the final day at the Fantasia Theme Park for some well-earned down time. The pupils were superb throughout and have already informed the staff that they are looking forward to the next music tour! A massive thank you to Mrs Bushell, Mrs Prentice, Mr Oyston and Mr Prentice for giving up the start of their summer holiday to accompany the pupils on the trip.



BRITTANY TRIP, JULY 2019

I remember the Brittany trip as a fun and interesting experience - something full of beautiful culture and places to explore.

Le Mont-Saint-Michel was breathtaking; it was like a medieval Disneyland. It was amazing looking at the architecture and history of the small (7 hectare) island. We also had fun trying out new things and creating great memories, one of which was tasting oysters and seeing how they are farmed. This was interesting, but oysters (les 'huîtres' in French) are a required taste!

In Dinard, we got to practise our French, speaking to the neighbourly locals at markets and stores. They seemed to have everything, (including delicious food). After long, exciting, bustling days, we would go to the beach to enjoy the evening and watch the sun set over the sea. Overall the Brittany trip was engaging and intriguing and we had an incredible time.

A Year 8 pupil.



YEAR 12 VISIT TO TWYCROSS ZOO

On Wednesday 25 September, Year 12 Psychology and Sociology students went to Twycross Zoo.

When we first arrived, we attended a 90-minute lecture on animal behaviour by one of the keepers. She began by teaching us about how social animals, such as monkeys and apes, learn: through imitation. To demonstrate this, she showed us a funny clip of one of the chimps spinning around in circles, which was a behaviour he learnt from a young boy who had visited the zoo. The chimp's younger brother began copying this behaviour, which shows how apes learn behaviours from each other.

Then she taught us how more antisocial animals, such as insects, learn: through trial and error. Another type of behaviour we were taught about was instinct. This is not learned behaviour, rather it is innate; all animals are born with the instincts to survive and reproduce; therefore, all of their behaviours have these aims. An example of instinct behaviour is birds building a nest to keep them safe from predators and other dangers. The keeper brought out Alan, a Madagascan Hissing Cockroach, whose innate behaviour was to hiss when he sensed a predator. She then asked everyone to stroke him, saying that he would not hiss, to show how he had been conditioned out of this behaviour by being handled frequently.

She also discussed communication between animals, using the example of facial expressions. We were shown photos of apes' facial expressions and asked to identify the emotion they conveyed. Because the facial expressions of other apes are very different to those of humans, we were rather unsuccessful at this task. To follow on from this, she taught us about conditioning and gave the example of how the keepers feed the lemurs and put them to bed at the same time every day, using a bell to signal that it is time for feeding and bed. She showed us a clip demonstrating this and from this clip we could see how the lemurs associated the sound of the bell with food, as they all rushed towards the keeper when the bell sounded.

We were also taught about positive and negative reinforcement. The keeper did this by asking one volunteer to leave the room; the rest of the group were told what task this volunteer would perform; the volunteer was not told what they had to do. When they were performing this task, they were given signals. The keeper used a clicker – not clicking it at all when they were doing the task wrong, clicking it once when they were close and clicking multiple times when they were doing it correctly. This demonstrated positive reinforcement – ignoring 'bad' behaviour, but acknowledging and rewarding 'good' behaviour.

After the lecture, we went around the zoo in groups to observe both the animals and the visitors. When observing the visitors, we conducted a participant observation, where we observed the behaviour of the visitors when we were visitors ourselves. We observed the behaviours of the orang-utans and bonobos and filled out an ethogram: a catalogue of behaviours seen within a period of time. It was very interesting to see how the behaviours of the juvenile apes compared to juvenile humans, for example, play-fighting or exploring surroundings. It was also interesting to witness live examples of the types of behaviour discussed in the lecture, e.g. witnessing the apes making certain facial expressions.

This was a stimulating trip, as well as a fun day out!

Eloise Ablott, Year 12

SIXTH FORM HOUSE BAKE OFF

For the first time, our annual House Bake Off was run by a Year 13 form, in order to help raise funds for their Leavers' Day, as well as for charity.

Bakers from across all houses brought in a variety of different cakes, which were then sold during breaktime. 13TCH, with the help of 12KME, sold cakes on the day - so many, in fact, that we ran out and had to get more brought in from the staff cake sale!

Individual winners were:

13KMB - Celebration Cake

Beth Smith - Small Bites

Juliette Greed - Special Dietary Requirements

Overall winners - Lindum House.



MUSIC MARK

We have been awarded the Music Mark for Schools by the charity The UK Association for Music Education.

Rosie Lowe, their Membership and Events Manager, said "We would firstly like to thank you for all the hard work you and your colleagues do to ensure that pupils at your school are able to access and engage with a high-quality music education. Your dedication to offering and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum is both welcomed and celebrated."

"Music Mark works to enable our members, and the wider music education sector, to deliver high-quality musical and social outcomes for all children and young people. Our thanks for all that you are doing and will continue to do to support our collective vision."



SCHOOL
MEMBER

TERM DATES

Term 2

Monday 28 October 2019 First day of term
Friday 20 December 2019 Last day of term

Term 3

Monday 06 January 2020 INSET DAY
Tuesday 07 January 2020 First day of term
Friday 14 February 2020 Last day of term

Term 4

Monday 24 February 2020 First day of term
Friday 03 April 2020 Last day of term

Term 5

Monday 20 April 2020 First day of term
Friday 08 May 2020 BANK HOLIDAY
Friday 22 May 2020 Last day of term

Term 6

Monday 01 June 2020 First day of term
Friday 17 July 2020 Last day of term



THE FRIENDS
of William Farr School



Join our

100 Club Lottery

to be in with a chance of a monthly cash prize whilst helping William Farr school

For just £1 a month, you could win a monthly prize of £25, £10 or £5

For application forms, please call

Sam Ford 07753 963538

or email samford@spcb.co.uk



Friday 8th November 2019

Doors Open 6.15pm, Eyes Down 7.00pm

William Farr School Hall

Entry £3

includes sausage in a bun --- bar available on the night

Phone 07506 342499 for more details

Tickets from Eventbrite, Welton Paper Shop or School

(please inform us in advance of any dietary requirements)

www.williamfarrbingoandbangers2019.eventbrite.co.uk



DONATION REQUEST FOR TOMBOLAS/RAFFLES

Friends of William Farr School is a group of volunteers who raise funds for school resources not available within the school budget. Past donations include the school clock, trophy cabinet, bookmarks, cameras and netball kit. We do this by providing refreshments at school events and organising our own events, which also help to bring together the community of parents, staff and students.

At such events, raffles and tombolas are very popular and are an additional way to raise funds. To help us to be able to donate as much money as possible to the school, we are requesting donations to supplement purchased prizes.

Suitable donations could include: boxes of chocolates, bottles of wine, toiletries, gift vouchers..... In fact, anything which you could spare that is unused and in good condition.

If you would like to help, please leave your donation at the school reception marked for the attention of the Friends of William Farr.





WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

A DISTINCTIVE VISION

William Farr Church of England Comprehensive School's vision is to provide all members of the school community with the opportunities to engage with life in all its fullness (John 10:10) through the highest quality of education, encouragement and endeavour. We are committed to striving for excellence and ensuring that all students are known, valued and can achieve.

We will know that we have achieved our vision when:

Every student has the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding through a broad and balanced curriculum

Every individual is confident and behaves in a way that reflects the Christian principles on which the school was founded

Everyone knows they are valued.

VALUES

Compassion, Friendship, Respect, Perseverance, Responsibility, Wisdom.

***WILLIAM FARR CHURCH OF ENGLAND
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL***

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