



# WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

## NEWSLETTER

Volume Twelve - Issue Two - 2023

*Fundraising for Turkey/Syria*

*Striving For Excellence Evening*

*Bugsy Malone*

*Sporting Achievements*



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Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am delighted to be able to bring you my termly Parents' Newsletter, which provides a snapshot of some of the activities, events and achievements in our school community since Christmas. It also includes some key pieces of information going forward.

Our thoughts have turned to the victims of the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria and the humanitarian need for the many families and children who have been displaced from their home, suffering hardship and trauma beyond recognition. On Thursday 2 March the school held a charity fundraising day and thanks to the support from children and staff, we raised an incredible £1040 to support the appeal. This reflects the depth of compassion and responsibility (our core values) felt by our school community to support others less fortunate than ourselves. Further information can be found in the newsletter.



The school has just held its first musical production in 5 years, 'Bugsy Malone'. The tremendous effort put into rehearsals by the cast, which included weekends, resulted in three spectacular performances of West End quality. Particular thanks go to the Drama and Music department for their unwavering support and continued encouragement to students, instilling our core values of responsibility, friendship and wisdom.



As Year 11 and 13 students approach their final examinations, they have a busy time ahead with revision. This term, the school held its first 'Striving for Excellence' evening to help Year 11 parents support their child in preparing for the forthcoming exams. It is testimony to the students' determination and resolve in how they are preparing for the exams, having had disruption to their earlier years of education due to the pandemic. We wish them all the very best in the coming months.

March is always a busy month with National Offer Day, where prospective parents receive confirmation of their child's secondary school place for September 2023. I am delighted to say that the school will continue to be full next September and we look forward to welcoming 248 Year 6 pupils to our transition days in July as they start their William Farr journey with us.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and feel a sense of pride, as I do, in what students and staff have achieved this term to 'provide all members of the school community with the opportunities to engage with 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)'.

In this season of rebirth, may you feel your faith renewed and your heart made new with the hope Easter brings.

Happy Easter and God bless.

**Jonathan Knowler**  
**Headteacher**

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## DROP-IN TO SEE THE HEADTEACHER

**Our relationship with parents is very important to us and provides an invaluable opportunity to receive feedback on all aspects of school so that we can continue to provide the highest quality of education.**

To this end, I would like to extend an invitation to any parent, between Easter and May half term, who would like to 'drop in' for a generic conversation with me on issues surrounding school life. Any specific student-related issues should be raised with the appropriate member of staff.

I will be available on a Wednesday after school from 4-5pm for a 10-minute conversation. No appointment is necessary, however there may be a short wait time if a number of parents arrive together. Please come to Reception.

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# EXTRA BANK HOLIDAY

**Please remember there will be an extra Bank Holiday to mark the Coronation of King Charles III.**

This will fall on Monday 8 May 2023 and school will be closed on that day.

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## CHARITY DAY FOR TURKEY AND SYRIA

**I am so proud to share with you the success of the Sixth Form charity events we organised a few weeks ago for the Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal.**

With the support of our fellow students and teachers, we were able to raise an incredible amount of money to help those who have been affected so adversely by the tragic events of last month.

On Thursday 2 March, we hosted a charity fun day to get as much support as possible for the cause. There were a few different activities throughout the day, kicking off with a 'wear your own trainers to school day'. It was a fun and unique way to raise money and it was great to see so many students taking part and showing their support, whilst also getting the chance to wear their own fresh kicks.

We also organised a Year 7/8 House Charity Bake-Off, which saw many amazing entries and showcased the incredible baking skills of our younger students. The judges had a difficult time choosing the winners as all the entries were of such a high standard. The Bake-Off was met with sensational support, with hundreds of children flooding through the common room to get a slice; this resulted in us almost completely selling out the vast amount of cakes we had! We would like to thank once again the students and parents who helped make this happen. All of the bakes were superb and the sales made such a difference.

In addition to these events, we organised a hot chocolate sale during break time, which proved very popular amongst students and staff alike. The delicious hot chocolate was the perfect treat on a cold winter day and we were thrilled to see so many people enjoying it, whilst supporting our fundraising efforts.

Overall, these charity events were a great success and I am proud to have been a part of them. We would like to thank all staff, students and parents alike, who participated, donated, and supported us in any way. In the end, we raised £1,040, which is an astonishing figure! The proceeds will go to Action for Humanity, which is a charity delivering life-saving aid on the ground in the affected regions.

Together, we have made a real difference and coming together as a school community has resulted in us being able to help those affected by the tragedies in such an impactful way.  
*Yaman Nashawi, Y12*



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## THE NATIONAL HOLOCAUST CENTRE

**In January, the History and Religious Studies departments took over 100 Year 10 students to the National Holocaust Centre at Laxton.**

We have been visiting the centre for over 25 years. The students visited the exhibition, explored the memorial gardens and were exposed to a number of stories. In the afternoon, we heard the story of Eva Clarke, who was born in Mauthausen concentration camp. The students were gripped by her story and asked some challenging questions, showing their depth of engagement.

The students were a credit to the school and left the centre more reflective and enriched by the experience.



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# YEAR 13 MAGISTRATE COURT VISITS

**The Religious Studies and Social Science department visited the local magistrates court as part of their courses looking at Forensics and Crime and Deviance.**

The students were able to see how the court system works, look at the variety of roles within the court system and explore more about this line of work. We sat in Motoring Offences Court, Trial Court and Remand Court, hearing a variety of cases. It was an exciting opportunity for the students to see first hand what they had been learning in class.

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## LOCAL ARTIST'S SCULPTURE VISIT

**In January, we were very lucky to have a local sculptor visit the school to work with a Year 7 Art group to create soap carvings, inspired by the work of Henry Moore.**

The group were fascinated to hear the local artist, James Sutton, talk about his sculptures and see a range of highly impressive examples on his website too. James Sutton brought in small examples of his work, the students were curious to see his work up close and to also see the tools that he uses to create them. The group not only responded to the work of Henry Moore, but also listened carefully to James Sutton's advice and top tips, creating original and exciting mini sculptures.



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## THE HOUSE SYSTEM IS BACK CENTRE STAGE!

**As part of our strategic priority to 'Reset with Ambition', we are moving our House System back into the heart of what we do at William Farr Church of England Comprehensive School.**

Every student and member of staff belongs to a House - Brayford, Fosse, Lindum, Witham, Ermine or Stonebow - each of them linked to one of our community's core values. Over their time here, students can participate in a wide range of sporting, cultural and academic events that provide exciting opportunities to develop students' skills and interests (pictured to the right, the last time House Performing Arts ran in 2019).



This term, we began a mission to expand our range of events and widen student participation. To help achieve that goal, we relaunched House Assemblies, the first in over 3 years! Every student attended an assembly, alongside the other members of their House from across the school. We celebrated past participation and made plans for upcoming events. To fully engage the whole community, we also held elections for new House Captains from Years 7 to 11 in every House and appointed them to their exciting new positions of responsibility. Congratulations to those chosen and a big thank you to everyone who ran in the elections.

Already this year, students have participated in House Bake-Offs, Cross Country, Chess, Quizzes, Badminton and Football, but there is more to come! We have House Arts and Crafts open to all students on 24 March, Badminton and Netball, events happening in lessons across the school and, of course, Sports Day, where students can cheer their House to victory!

With such a wide range of events to try, regular assemblies to meet with and feel part of your House community, and excellent leadership from our student captains, there is no better time to get involved.



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# EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

**Following on from the ‘cracking’ Easter assemblies, where students really came out of their shells, students were then given free range of the school grounds to hunt for their Crème Eggs.**

Students were ‘eggcited’ to find some mis-laid pegs scattered around the school. ‘Over 500 crème eggs – you’ve got to be yoking!’

Successful peg-hunters were able to ‘eggschange’ one Fusion peg for one Cadbury’s Crème Egg. As the French would say, ‘One ggg is un oeuf!’

All of this fun is part of the outreach programme coordinated by Mrs Bloom (School Chaplain) and Fusion. Fusion is the Christian Union, run by students for students at the school.

Fusion meets every Thursday lunchtime in the Lawres Chapel for fun, food and faith. Students can join us on Thursday 20 April at 1pm for our summer term launch party! Look forward to seeing them there!



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## MATT DICKINSON VISIT – 2 MARCH 2023

**The English department were delighted to welcome award-winning author and film-maker, Matt Dickinson, back to speak to Year 8 and to run some workshops with students in Years 9, 10 and 12.**



Matt entertained Year 8 with photographs, film clips and accounts of experiences on Everest when he filmed on Everest’s summit (the first British film-maker to do so and get back alive). Matt’s talk tied in well with the current focus in English lessons on journeys and non-fiction travel writing.

The students were amazed with the clips of the most dangerous airstrip in the world, where a miscalculation would mean a drop down a cliff face, and there were many questions about surviving on Everest and dramatic mountain rescues. Students were also astounded to hear about his discovery of the body of ‘Green Boots’ on the hillside and shocked by images of the frostbite he suffered: thankfully he managed to keep all his fingers and toes!

During the day, Matt also worked with Year 9 and Year 10 students on creative writing activities, sharing his advice and expertise on ‘hooking the reader’. The students produced some memorable and emotive writing.

Matt also worked with Year 12 Language and Literature students exploring the craft of travel writing. The students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to hear first-hand about Matt’s adventures and he left full of praise for the students’ interest and questions, as he braved his greatest journey yet: getting to London during a rail strike!

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## LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH NHS TRAINING

**As part of LGBT+ History Month, on 8 February, William Farr School was invited to host a training session for the NHS, covering Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust and United Lincolnshire Hospitals.**

This is the 7th time students from William Farr have been asked to speak at their annual LGBT+ History Month events. It is a huge honour and a privilege for our students to be affecting so much positive change within GPs, doctors, nurses and medical professionals.

The students spoke about the importance of visibility and pronouns. Most importantly, the students talked about the impact that horrible comments and judgements towards the trans community has on their lives and their mental health. One attendee said, “Your school and your students are amazing. Let’s hope we recruit some of them to work in the NHS very soon!”



# WORLD BOOK DAY CHARITY BOOK SWAP

As part of World Book Day, the school organised a charity book swap on 2 and 3 March 2023.



All week, any student could donate a well-looked-after book that they did not want any more and then on the Thursday and Friday, they held a sale for the whole school at break and lunchtime to come and buy any book for £1.

The event was very well supported by all year groups, right up to Sixth Form and staff. We raised £380 in total and still have books left over. The money raised is going to the Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal. Many thanks for all the generous donations of both books and money.



## NEWS FROM THE GOVERNORS

**As I write this message for the end-of-term newsletter, it has been snowing, but the springtime sun is emerging and it feels as though something new is beginning.**

I returned home last night from the second performance of the William Farr school production of *Bugsy Malone*, which took my breath away. We were reminded that the previous production of 'Sweet Charity' in 2020 had disappointingly been cancelled in anticipation of national school closures in the wake of Covid-19 and before the days when anyone used words like 'pandemic'. The years between have been a life-changing experience, the like of which I have never before been through and which so many of our children will have been changed by so early in their young lives. What I saw on stage last night was a powerful sign of hope for an anticipated, brighter future. Cast, costume and choreography were all stunning. The students put on a dazzling spectacle, but more than that, underneath the visual images of young people engaged in dance and song and the fun of this comedic production was a narrative of revival, resurrection and new beginnings. I left the evening a proud parent and proud to be a governor of our school.



Ostensibly, the plot (such as it is) of *Bugsy Malone*, is about gang rivalry, the entertainment business during prohibition and the Great Depression and the need to be competitive in making a basic living. There is a touch of romance thrown in as well. What I saw on stage and in the orchestra pit was youthful adolescence and seasoned adults working harmoniously in communion rather than competition. It was a fine spectacle, yes, but it revealed a deeply moving life narrative of how human beings ought to be living alongside one another. So, hats off to everyone, but particularly to the collaboration between each of the departments. You were great!

It is this level of co-operation that I have witnessed in the time I have spent as a governor at William Farr. I have served on three different governing bodies in different schools and all of them rely on the goodwill of volunteers who have a passion for the schools they serve. It is no less the case here at William Farr. We have, in my view, an excellent collection of parents and other volunteers representing sometimes local businesses, faith and educational institutions, or just having an interest for the wellbeing of the school. What I have come to admire in them as a group of volunteers is their capacity to work together. Not everyone will hold the same view on matters of governance, but as in any form of teamwork, the first lesson to be learned is that your own view isn't always going to be the one that prevails, but everyone is signed up for the overall good of the school. Reading this, you will most likely have received notification from me that we are on the lookout for new additions to the Full Governing Body and if you think this is something you would like to be a part of, you can always make an approach for a 'no strings attached' conversation via Mrs Sarah Elderkin, the clerk to the governors. Her details are on the website. I would also be available for an open-ended conversation should you wish. It is a good group to be part of. Please give it some serious thought.

All this said, this will be my last newsletter to you as Chair of Governors. It was just over sixteen years ago that the Bishop of Lincoln invited me to become a foundation governor. I was glad to be part of things then and have never regretted my association with this fabulous school. I have witnessed phenomenal growth in governance at the school during this time, with a real commitment to the core values that the students themselves produced in replicating the vision of our founder, the Reverend William Farr. Respect, responsibility, friendship, compassion, perseverance and wisdom are the words that line the school stage – they even formed part of the script in our production of 'Bugsy', but they are also words representing values that we try to live out as governors in a wider school community. Who knows what the future will bring, but with these foundation values to build on, it is a future worth stepping out into. May I wish you all a very Happy Easter.

*Jeffrey Heskins, Chair of Governors*

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# GCSE FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

**We need to congratulate all of the Year 11s for an absolutely fantastic 3-hour practical, which concluded their GCSE coursework and all the work they have put in over the last 2 years.**

Their task was to work to a chosen theme, research it and, during the process, develop and show off their skills and innovation. The dishes really were of restaurant standard and were completed in three hours, which is about the closest they could get to Masterchef. It was also the longest lesson/exam they have ever been in or likely to be in. The skills ranged from butchering of chicken, filleting fish, sponge cake, pasta, sushi, vegetarian, special diets (gluten-free pastry, enough said, and very tricky to work with), to name but a few.



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## ROTARY CLUB YOUNG CHEF OF THE YEAR

**It was a very cold Saturday morning towards the end of the Autumn term when three students attended the Rotary Young Chef Competition 2022 at Lincoln Christ's Hospital School.**

Sophie Vickers in Year 11, Ethan Harrison in Year 9 and Millie Adams in Year 7 had to prepare, cook and present a three-course meal in 2 hours. The challenge was to make it healthy and within a £22 budget. It also had to be presented to restaurant level.

Their dishes were all outstanding and a credit to all of our entrants was their ability to cook chicken perfectly, which was identified to them by the judges. They demonstrated excellent knife skills, cleaned as they went along, leaving the kitchen as it was found. To their credit, you would not have known they had been in the kitchen, but for the amazing aroma of their dishes!

There could only be one winner and it was a closely run cook-off to see who would go on to the regional final in early 2023. This was where our students came into their own, with Sophie taking first place with fierce opposition, but her ability to keep a cool head and work to the standards that she always strives for, enabled her to a very successful win. Well done, Sophie.

Our two other entrants were runners-up and did amazingly. Both got excellent feedback on theory dishes and presentation. Well done to them all!

Sophie progressed to the regional round and the judges' feedback was second to none. Well done, Sophie.



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## YEAR 11 STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE EVENING

**Our school 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 all students are known, valued and can achieve.**

With the above in mind, on 14 March we hosted our very first Striving for Excellence Evening for Year 11 students and their parents. The evening included:

- Talks from Mr Gayfer (Deputy Headteacher) and Mr Muir (Head of Year 11).
- Packs of revision resources.
- Snacks and refreshments provided by Mr Freckelton and GCSE Food students (pictured).
- Visitors from the Lincoln City Foundation and Kooth.



With over 230 people in attendance, this brand-new evening proved to be a valuable opportunity to support Year 11 in their final run-in. Feedback from parents included:

- It was great to be included and we feel more equipped and confident to know how to support.
- Cannot thank the school enough for their support and assistance with this event.
- We thought the whole event was so positive and just right to inspire the students to go on and succeed in their exams.

Given the event's success, we look forward to running further events in the future to support all our students to strive for excellence.

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# CAREERS FAIR

**On 3 March, we were able to reinstate our annual Careers Fair, the first since 2019 due to Covid restrictions.**

The Sports Hall was the venue and we hosted visitors from all sectors of employment, Further Education and Higher Education. Every year group visited the Fair, with Years 7-11 visiting in groups and Sixth Formers able to visit when they wished, during free periods or at lunchtime. We would like to extend a huge thank you to all the external visitors who gave up a whole day to provide what was a genuinely enriching experience for our students.

They were: Lincolnshire Co-op, Siemens, Wright Vigar, Barbon Insurance Group, Serco, National Grid, Lincolnshire County Council, Delta Simons, Branston, Compass Group UK, NHS Talent Academy, RAF, Army, Police, Lincoln College, Access Creative College, Lincoln UTC, Doncaster Horseracing College, Bishop Burton (Riseholme) College, John Leggott College, LAGAT, University of Lincoln, University of East Anglia, Lancaster University, Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln College Higher Education, St Barnabas, Kooth Mental Health Charity.

Students had tutor sessions before the fair to prepare them and they were given booklets to help them engage with visitors. One lucky student won a £20 Amazon voucher for completing their booklet and the quote of the day goes to a Year 7 student, who, when asked what his ideal job was, said, "I just want to dig holes!" All of our visitors were impressed at the very high standard of behaviour across all year groups and commented particularly on how engaged and interested the students were.

If you are a local employer, college or independent training provider and would like to be involved in next year's careers fair, please email Mrs Roberts on [c.roberts@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:c.roberts@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk)



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# THE GREAT DEBATE

**Congratulations to Evie Smith in Year 12 who goes to Windsor Castle as a finalist in The Great Debate.**

The History department entered 6 contestants in the regional final of The Great Debate, held at Lincoln University in January. The Great Debate is a prestigious, national, public-speaking competition for students aged 16-19, run by the Historical Association.

The competition is an ideal opportunity for students to gain valuable experience in speaking to an audience and developing their debating skills, and self-esteem. Our contestants were Evie Smith, Cerys Jones, Oliver Newman, Duncan Morrison and Nathan Depledge, all of whom spoke eloquently for 5 minutes on the topic 'Why History was important to me'. There was a number of different schools at the local heat, the standard was high, and the competition was fierce.



We were delighted that Evie Smith won the local heat and is now a finalist. She will be speaking at Windsor Castle on 25 March in front of a panel of eminent historians.

This year's judges are:

- Professor Claire Langhamer, Director of the Institute of Historical Research
- Professor Peter Mandler, Professor of Modern Cultural History, University of Cambridge and President of the Historical Association
- Dr Alison Kitson, Associate Professor of Education, University College London and Deputy President of the Historical Association.

We are so proud of all our contestants in Year 12 and wish Evie the best of luck for 25 March.

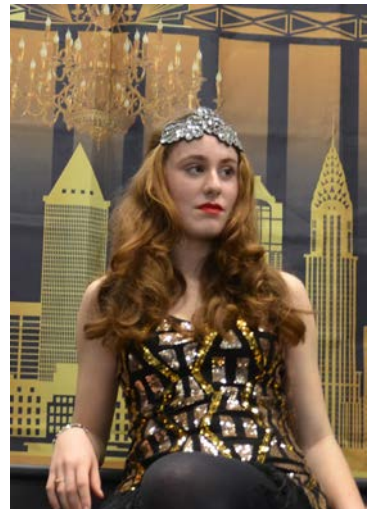


# BUGSY MALONE - A SELL-OUT!

**This term saw the Music and Drama departments stage a production of Buggy Malone by Paul Williams.**

Set in the 1920s at the height of prohibition in New York, Buggy Malone tells the story of rival gangs vying for the monopoly on illegal alcohol sales. Originally a film released in 1976, starring a young Jodie Foster as Tallulah, Buggy Malone is full of slapstick comedy and custard pies.

The cast and backstage crew were made up of students from every year group, starring roles taken by Alex Jepson (Y11), Maribel James-Corral (Y11), Duncan Morrison (Y13) and Maddy Jones (Y7). The production was a sell-out and received rave reviews from the audience – “phenomenal acting”, “flawless dancing” and “stunning singing” being a few. The depth of talent and impressive cameos delighted and entranced the public, as did the live ten-piece band made up of a mixture of students and professional musicians. Well done to everyone involved, with a particular thank you to Mrs Jones, Mrs Butcher and Miss Tappin. The question on everyone’s lips is “what will the next musical be?!”



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# SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

## Cross-Country Champions!!!

Every October, the PE department undertakes a 4-week unit of cross country within the PE curriculum. This culminates in a fantastic House cross-country event, where all students from Years 7 – 11 compete across several courses. This year was particularly competitive as participation rates were so high, and it was great to see so many individuals making progress across the topic.

The William Farr School team is then selected from lessons and the House event. We then compete against all the other schools in Lincoln and Gainsborough at the Lincoln and Gainsborough District Competition. With some very strong teams in attendance, we knew that it was going to be very competitive. However, the students from William Farr rose to the challenge and were unbelievably successful. The results were as follows:

Year 7 Boys – 1st place

Year 7 Girls – 1st place

Junior Boys – 1st place

Junior Girls – 1st place

Inter Boys – 1st place

Inter Girls – 2nd place

Senior Boys – 1st place

Senior Girls – 1st place



The next round of cross country is where students qualify to represent Lincoln and Gainsborough District team at the Lincolnshire Championships. William Farr School had 53 students qualify to represent the district at the Lincolnshire County Championships at Burghley House on Saturday 14 January 2023. This was the largest number of students participating from any school in the whole county. With challenging conditions, the students performed exceptionally well on the day. The course was undulating and muddy, which caused issues throughout the races. However, the students showed perseverance and upheld the core values of the school. This event was a qualifying stage for the regional cross-country championships in Northampton. After some amazing performances we are proud to say that 23 students qualified to represent Lincolnshire at the Anglians event in Northampton.

## English Schools' National Championships

We are also proud to say that 9 William Farr students competed at the English Schools' National Championships that were held at Wollaton Park in Nottingham on Saturday 18 March. To have 9 students from one school attend this championship is a tremendous achievement. It was an amazing setting over a very tough course. Within each race, there were over 350 students competing for their counties and it was great to see our students compete at such a prestigious event.



The students that ran at the championships were:

Freya West - Junior Girl, Felicity Prestwood - Junior Girl,  
Daniel Backhouse - Inter Boy, Tyler Morris - Inter Boy, Max Patrick - Inter Boy,  
Natasha McBride - Senior Girl,  
Ashwin Kumar - Senior Boy, Jamie Swindale - Senior Boy, Henry Samkin - Senior Boy.

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# OFSTED UPDATE

**In October 2022, the school was delighted to have been graded 'Good' by Ofsted in all categories.**

It was especially pleasing to hear that the areas identified for further improvement had already been identified by the school through our own self-evaluation process and included in our Strategic Priorities for 2022-25 ([School Website – Our School – Ofsted](#)). We are, of course, always looking to do even better and have already started looking at the areas Ofsted identified and will continue to do so in the coming months:

Ofsted area for further development	Progress
Adaptation of the curriculum in a few subjects for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).	SEND passports have been reviewed and refined with a sharper focus on strategies and support. 'Monitoring' SEND category has been removed and students redesignated as SEND Support, Former SEND or Non-SEND. We have reviewed the allocation of Teaching Assistants and students most in need receive support through careful band grouping and timetabling. SEND provision will be quality assured in the summer term with external validation.
Encouraging more disadvantaged students to take part in extra-curricular activities.	The school has appointed two new Staff House Co-ordinators to work with the Sixth Form and departments to relaunch a programme of House activities that are varied and appeal to a wider student population. Staff have kindly offered to lead additional lunchtime clubs. The school is tracking student involvement in clubs/activities to encourage even greater participation.
Greater clarity in the management of any poor behaviour.	A Staff Focus Group is currently reviewing behaviour strategies, the School Behaviour Policy and investigating the use of Bromcom (Management Information System) to provide greater consistency in managing and tracking student behaviour going forward. When finalised, this will be shared with parents. Staff received training on effective strategies to manage student behaviour. The Pupil Code of Conduct for lunch and break-time expectations has been reviewed and shared with staff and students as summarised in this newsletter.

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## SCHOOL UNIFORM UPDATE

**Our full range of approved school uniform is available to purchase in the Uniform Direct Lincoln High Street store and Dixon Way store.**

Online shopping from Uniform Direct is also available, with delivery direct to your chosen address. Ordering online is very simple, just visit [www.uniform-direct.com](http://www.uniform-direct.com) and then navigate to 'Select Your School' and 'Senior Schools' and scroll down to 'William Farr School' to find all items of approved William Farr school uniform.

### PRE-LOVED UNIFORM

For information on how to purchase pre-loved uniform, please visit our website at [William Farr C of E Comprehensive School - Uniform](#). We are reliant on donations of good quality, pre-loved school uniform and, therefore, stock availability will be limited to the donations we receive.

### UNIFORM AMENDMENT 2023/24

We have seen an increase in students wearing black leather trainers and black 'Air Force 1s', which are not permitted in school. We are aware that retailers market these as 'shoes' when they are trainers and, therefore, not permitted in school. Please be aware of this when you are purchasing shoes ready for September 2023 that there should be no logos and no adornments of any kind.

The full uniform list for 2023/24 can be found on the school website using the link above.

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## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We have seen an increase in the number of lunchtime clubs offered throughout this academic year. All clubs are listed on our website at: <https://www.williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk/extra-curricular>

If your child has not taken part in an activity this year, please encourage them to look at the list and then engage in a club before the end of the year. PE clubs are updated on a termly basis.

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# PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

## At William Farr School, we believe it is important to:

- work in partnership with parents to support their child's learning
- create a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for students, staff and parents
- model appropriate behaviour for our students at all times.

To help us do this, we set clear expectations and guidelines on behaviour for all members of our community. This includes:

- Staff - through the Staff Code of Conduct
- Students - through our School Behaviour Policy and Home School Agreement
- Parents - through the Parent Code of Conduct.

Please can you read through the [Parent Code of Conduct](#) on the school website, which outlines our expectations of parents, carers and visitors to the school, including email protocols.

Thank you for your continued support.

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## CORE VALUES

### We are having a whole-school focus on two school Core Values – RESPECT and RESPONSIBILITY.

All students have a right to learn, to achieve and to be safe in school. All students have a responsibility to positively and actively contribute to a school climate aligned with the School's Core Values. Our Values must be visible through students' attitudes and conduct at all times, including at lunchtimes, break time and moving between lessons.

All students have been made aware of conduct conducive to a positive learning environment. This is important so that everyone knows what is expected of them and can play their part.

Please can you reinforce the key messages with your child:

- Keep to the left when moving about the school
  - Walk calmly at all times around school
  - Be on time to all lessons
  - Speak to others in a calm, respectful manner, tone and volume.
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## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FIGURE AND TARGET

**Current Attendance: 94%**

**School Attendance Target: 96%**

Good attendance is important because:

- Statistics show a direct link between under-achievement and absence
- Regular attenders make better progress, both socially and academically
- Regular attenders find school routines, school work and friendships easier to cope with
- Regular attenders find learning more satisfying
- Regular attenders are more successful in transferring from secondary school and higher education, employment and training.

Reminders:

- Every student has a target attendance of 100%
  - If your child is absent, please contact school before 8.30am for each day of absence on 01673 866900
  - Please ensure your child arrives to school between 8.30-9am to ensure they are registered promptly
  - Any student with attendance below 90% attendance is classed as a 'Persistent Absentee'
  - Please send your child to school if they have a minor illness, i.e. a bit of a headache, a bit of a sore throat
  - We are seeing an increase in the number of requests for term-time holidays which cannot be authorised
  - Please monitor your child's attendance through the schools' MCAS system.
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# SAFEGUARDING / SUPPORT IN THE HOLIDAYS

**If parents or carers have any safeguarding concerns over the Easter holidays, please contact Children's Services on 01522 782111 for any child who is at risk of harm, and not the school.**

Staff are not expected to access their emails over the holiday period.

The Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy has been updated and can be found on the website. Click [here](#).

Below are useful links and contact numbers for additional support, including help for households experiencing financial hardship.

Police 101/999

[Healthy Minds](#) 0800 234 6342 (mental health support)

[Kooth.com](#)

[Youngminds.org.uk](#)

Cost of living support links:

- City of Lincoln Council: [Cost of Living Support – City of Lincoln Council](#)
- North Kesteven District Council: [Cost of Living Support | North Kesteven District Council](#)
- West Lindsey District Council: [Cost of living support | West Lindsey District Council](#)
- Lincolnshire County Council: [Cost of living – Lincolnshire County Council](#)

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## CAR PARKING ON BECKHALL

**The school has been approached by a number of local residents, who live on the Beckhall estate.**

They are asking if parents at school pick-up time could please refrain from parking over driveways, on pavements and close to junctions as this is causing congestion and inconvenience to households. We appreciate your support in this matter. Thank you.

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## EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

**If you are communicating with the school via email, please use the school email address: [wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk) wherever possible or make contact with the school through Middle Leaders, such as Heads of Department or Heads of Year.**

As part of our commitment to supporting staff workload and wellbeing, we will endeavour to respond to emails within 3 working days. Please note, staff are not expected to respond to emails outside of the normal working day (9-4pm) or during holiday periods. Emails should be written in line with the [Parent Code of Conduct](#) as shown on the school website under the Governors section. Thank you.

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## TERM DATES

### Term 5

Monday 17 April 2023

Monday 01 May 2023

**Monday 08 May 2023**

Friday 26 May 2023

First Day of term

BANK HOLIDAY

**CORONATION BANK HOLIDAY**

Last day of term

### Term 6

Monday 05 June 2023

Friday 21 July 2023

First day of term

Last day of term

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## SCHOOL DAY

9.00: Registration and tutor time.

9.20: Period 1.

10-20 – 10.35: Break.

10.35 – 11.35: Period 2.

11.40 – 12.40: Period 3.

12.40 – 1.35: Lunch break.

1.35 – 1.40: Registration

1.40 – 2.40: Period 4.

2.45 – 3.45: Period 5.

School is open to students 8.30am-5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am-4.30pm on Fridays for any student who wants to stay in school.

Students should not be on the school premises before or after these times unless they are supervised by a member of staff.