



# NEWSLETTER

Volume Ten - Issue Two - 2021

*Samba Workshop*

*Year 11 Leavers' Day*

*Gibraltar Point*

## WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School



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*Dear Parent/Guardian,*

*This year will be remembered in our lives for many reasons, none more so than for the 128,000 people who have sadly died due to Covid-19. As a school community our thoughts and prayers are with all the families who have suffered bereavement in losing loved ones due to the pandemic or whose families have been affected in any way.*

*For the last 18 months, we have all had to adjust to new routines and a different way of working in response to the pandemic. I am immensely proud of the students and staff who have worked exceptionally hard to ensure that we have continued to provide high quality education and support for our students. With all the changes we have had to put in place to keep our community safe, it has been great to have our school community back together since March 2021 and to see students enjoying their education and friendship groups, which are so important in providing social and emotional support.*



*I know that over the last 2 weeks we have some students self-isolating with Covid-19-related issues in different year groups. Unfortunately, this is symptomatic of the local and national situation we find ourselves in at the moment. However, yet again, I see on a daily basis how students have demonstrated the core values of the school (friendship, perseverance, respect, responsibility, compassion and wisdom) and holding these true has enabled our school community to continue to be united.*

*I would like to thank you all for the incredible efforts you have made in supporting your child this year. This has made a huge difference to the lives of the young people we proudly educate and strengthens the invaluable partnership between the school and home. Following the recent Government announcement, we are very much looking forward to returning to a normal school timetable and structure in September and reinstating some curricular and extra-curricular activities over time, which form an integral part of our wider educational provision. My letter to you on Tuesday 13 July outlines the planned changes for September 2021 subject to any other Government announcements.*

*I am delighted to be able to bring you a Parents' Newsletter this term, which gives you a snapshot of some of the activities and achievements outside of lessons students have embraced since March 2021 despite Covid-19 restrictions. The newsletter also includes some useful information for September.*

*Sadly, we are saying farewell to a number of staff this year (details at the end of this newsletter) as they leave us to move on to pastures new. We owe them a huge gratitude for their commitment to William Farr Church of England Comprehensive School and wish them all the best for the future.*

*I hope that you have a restful and safe summer break and we look forward to seeing your child back in school in September. Take care.*

*Jonathan Knowler, Headteacher*

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## Latest Government Covid-19 update as of 16 July 2021

### Change to reporting Covid-19 cases and contact tracing from Monday 19 July 2021

The Government has informed schools that **from Monday 19 July 2021, as we enter Step 4 of the roadmap, schools will no longer be responsible for contact tracing confirmed cases of Covid-19.** Parents should contact NHS Test and Trace by phoning 111 to report a confirmed case. The NHS Test and Trace will now be identifying close contacts and not the school.

Please note that the school covid email address: covid@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk closes at 4.00pm on Friday 16 July. Confirmed cases after this date should be reported to NHS Test and Trace.

Please can parents still inform the school of any term-time Covid-19-related student absence as requested by NHS Test and Trace by telephoning the normal sickness absence line on 01673 866900 (Option 1).



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# YEAR 11 LEAVERS' DAY

**On Tuesday 25 June, we were able to hold a Leavers' Day event to celebrate the end of Year 11.**

After spending time together in forms, we met in the Main Hall and had a fantastic leavers' assembly. Achievement folders were handed out, there were speeches from form reps, their tutors, Mr Knowler and Mr Clark. We also had an opportunity to thank Mrs Carlisle for all of her work with the Year group from when they started in Year 7 through to Year 11. Will Kerridge, our Year rep, then took to the floor with one of his own compositions, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed! We closed the assembly by giving prizes out to members of every form, with students being nominated as 'Most likely to be Prime Minister', 'Most likely to win the lottery, but lose the ticket', 'Most likely to be ID'd at 30' and 'Most likely to be a Reality TV star'.

During the assembly, the rain, which had been persistent for a number of days, stopped and the skies cleared so we were able to go on the top field, sign shirts and take photos. There were lots of smiles and tears as students said goodbye. After a turbulent two years, this was a fabulous day enjoyed by all!



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## NEWS FROM THE GOVERNORS

**As we approach the end of another school year, I have reflected on the huge impact the last 18 months have had on the school community here at William Farr.**

The changes we have seen practically within school have been vast, with areas dedicated to the various year groups and bubbles, one-way systems, additional sanitation capability, new eating arrangements, massive Covid testing regimes and much increased use of online learning and meetings amongst many other things.

As Governors, we always enjoy coming into school to see the fantastic work that is done by the students and staff and, personally, I have really missed this part of our work. That said, on the few occasions I have been able to get into school, I have been impressed by the positive, happy attitudes I have seen amongst the whole school community.

I would like to publicly thank Mr Knowler and his Senior Leadership Team, and the entire staff body, for the way they have dealt with the last 18 months, maintaining the extremely high standards we have here at William Farr, ensuring that our testing levels, attendance, support to students and academic results are among the best in the county.

I am also aware that 18 months as a proportion of student life is very large indeed. In fact, for our current year 7s, they have only ever known William Farr under Covid. For many of our students, this has been a very difficult time. I, therefore, congratulate ALL of our students for the way they have dealt with the pandemic, supporting their peers and the community, and showing incredible resilience. I wish all of you the very best for the future, particularly those who will be receiving their GCSE and A-level grades in August.

I would also very much like to thank all our parents, guardians and carers, who have also provided support to their children and to the school. We have seen many emails from you saying how much you have appreciated the support given by the school and, in return, we are also very happy to have your support.

Finally, can I please wish everybody the very best of Summer breaks and, hopefully, when we return in September, the school will be much nearer to what we remember as normal.

*Mark Garthwaite, Chair of Governors*



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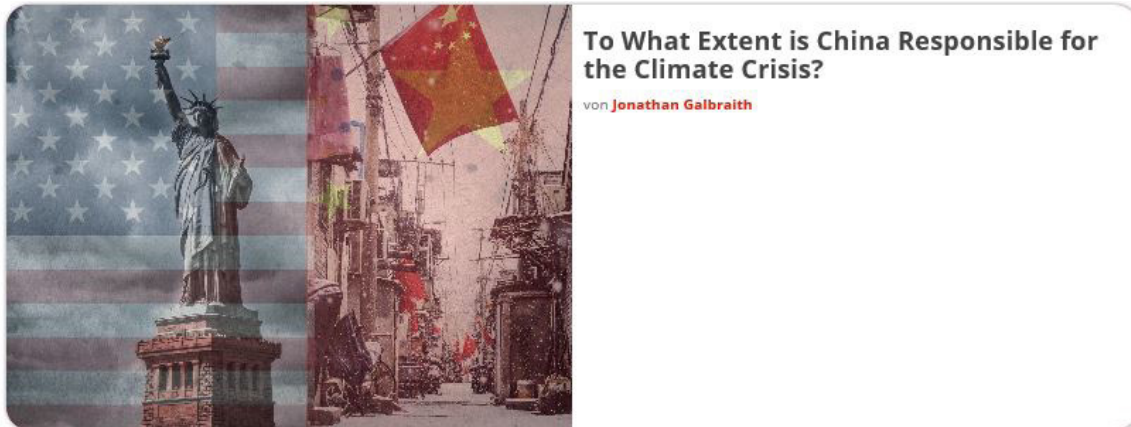
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# INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL COLLABORATION

**William Farr Sixth Form has been making international links across the world and now proudly contributes to an International School Newspaper.**

This showcases students' articles and views to an international audience. The newspaper is called "1240" and is based at the school newspaper of the Frankenwald-Gymnasium Kronach in Bavaria, Germany. We hope that this will give students the opportunity to write about subjects that they are passionate about and increase their journalism experience. The aim of 1240 is to keep readers up to date with the latest developments from a wide range of topics in numerous reports, articles and interviews. The belief is that with fair journalism we can improve the world a bit by bringing more serious research and facts to an increasingly polarizing web space.

We have already submitted a number of articles to 1240 and have had 2 pieces published. William Farr is featured on their partner's website: <https://www.fwg1240.de/international-en> and articles from across the world, including our students, can be found in the English Stories section of the site.



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## STUDENT SURVEY

**It is important that William Farr receives feedback from students on their educational provision and support.**

Over the last week, we have been conducting a student survey to find out how well students managed their learning during the second lockdown period (January - March 2021) and how they have settled back into school since we reopened in March 21. We are also very interested to ask students about how inclusive a school they think we are so that we can ensure everyone has equal opportunities and we avoid discrimination. All responses are anonymous. We will share the results of the student voice in September.

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## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWS

The English department has organised a number of extra-curricular activities for our Key Stage 3 classes this year.

We held virtual workshops with Sarah Oliver, a Sunday Times best-selling author, who has published over 20 children's books. The workshops coincided with the celebration of World Book Day on 4 March 2021 and Year 7 classes also had the opportunity to get involved in a virtual Q&A sessions with the author.

The footballer Marcus Rashford, along with co-writer Carl Anka, has recently published a book entitled, 'You Are a Champion: How to Be the Best You Can Be'. We were given the opportunity to access an interview where he talks about the book and the importance of reading in his life and this was shown to Year 7 in their Library Lessons. Following on from this, Year 7 students made their own videos about books they enjoy reading and these videos have been shared in Year 7 form time.

We have also continued to promote reading through our annual Book Buzz competition, where students in Year 7 get to choose a free reading book and then complete a task based on the story. There are 3 categories for the competition and this year's winners are: Holly Cant in the 'Model' category; Grace Burrin in the 'Creative Writing' Category; and Adam Calvert in the 'Book Review' category.

Our annual Readathon event has also continued. This will be our 17th year of running Readathon, where students are sponsored to read at least 6 books over several weeks and the money raised goes to a number of children's charities, including a hospital reading programme. To date, students have raised over £20,000 and the current Year 7 will be able to add even more to this fanatic sum when they hand in their sponsor money this term.



# LINCOLN IMP

**As part of the Lincoln Imp Trail, we were delighted to be loaned 'A Little Lucky' Imp for a few days back in May.**

Designed by Caroline Greyling and sponsored by Chestnut Homes, the Imp was travelling round Lincolnshire before being placed on Exchequergate.

It will eventually be auctioned in Lincoln Minster with proceeds going to St Barnabas Hospice.

We hope this was a lucky charm for our Year 11 and 13 students.

Design Inspiration - Garden gnomes bring good luck! Gnomes were regarded as good luck charms by our ancestors, legend has it they provided protection from evil as well good luck.

Often they were found living in the rafters of barns where they would help watch over livestock. They keep an eye on things, making sure the wildlife is alright, flowers look their best and help to keep the garden looking nice when you are not there. Gnomes are hard working. They brighten the darker parts of our garden and bring humour and a smile to all our faces.



# GIBRALTAR POINT

**In a world of post-pandemic interruptions, it was a pleasant surprise that the Year 12 Geography trip was allowed to continue to Gibraltar Point.**

We felt very grateful and appreciative being the only trip to go ahead this year, especially after having spent so long persevering through online lessons.

The day commenced with a relatively undisturbed bus journey as we prepared for our morning of data collection. We were welcomed by Abby, a kind and enthusiastic member of the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, and by a dry and pleasant breeze. Before even reaching the beach, we found ourselves identifying features on the coastal landscape and putting our hard work into practice. Our activities for the day included measuring biodiversity, wind speed, infiltration, temperature, and even map reading.

By lunchtime, the sun came out and coats were coming off. We then went on a walk around the beach, fuelled by cakes and vegan sausage rolls supplied by the local café. Such a hands-on experience allowed us to appreciate the landforms found at Gibraltar Point and see in real life the landscape that we have studied. We learned about how it is unique compared to other sand dune systems and how the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust aims to preserve the environment so that it can be visited by more people like us.

Overall, the trip provided us with an insight into the world of conservation and how one can effectively carry out fieldwork. It was an enjoyable and memorable day in the uncertainty of the current situation. We can only thank the Geography department for organising this trip and allowing us to explore Geography in a practical environment.

*Amelia Burrin/Jonathan Galbraith, Year 12*



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# SIXTH FORM UCAS LAUNCH

**Tuesday 22 June saw Year 12 participate in our annual UCAS launch meeting.**

Students listened to an introductory lecture from Higher Education Coordinator Mr Brittain and new Head of Year 12 and 13 Mr Noon. Students were given advice on how to sign up for the UCAS service, along with information on how to make the most of their personal statement. Once signed up, students were given the opportunity to explore the UCAS website, investigating Post-18 pathways, such as university and apprenticeships. It was wonderful to give the students the opportunity and, most importantly, time to think about their future pathways. Students will start submitting their applications for university in the Autumn term.

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## SUCSESSES FROM YEAR 8

**Year 8 has been having a very successful year.**



Mya Dhokia is the British Tae Kwon Do champion. She continued to train and compete through all of the lockdowns we have had and she recently gained the title of British Champion.

Lola Bibby is going on a week's residential at King's College, London, as part of the NASA "Mission Discovery" STEM programme in the second to last week of this term and we wish her well with such an exciting opportunity.

Eva Rose Fellows has been accepted into Elmhurst Ballet School in association with Birmingham Royal Ballet and will be doing a week's summer school with them this year.

Charlie Bargh and Leanne Osborne were very successful in the Junior Maths Challenge and progressed to the Kangaroo round having been the only two Year 8s awarded a gold certificate. The Junior Kangaroo is a follow-on round to the Junior Mathematical Challenge. It is a 60-minute, multiple-choice challenge consisting of 25 problems and provides an additional opportunity for problem solving. Several thousand UK-based students are invited to take part in the Junior Kangaroo. Entry to the Challenge is by invitation only and is based on a qualifying score, which is variable from year to year.



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## YEAR 7 GET INTO THE CARNIVAL SPIRIT!

**On Tuesday 22 June, all our Year 7s participated in a samba workshop courtesy of Lincolnshire Music Service and Louder than Life.**

Samba is a type of music from Brazil and usually accompanies carnivals; it is loud and very rhythmic. Each group had an hour to learn a samba groove. The weather held, so they performed outside, no doubt giving the whole of Welton the samba experience! The children were so excited to see the different instruments: the surdo (bass drum), tamborim (hand drum), agogo (cowbell) and ganzá (rattle).

Tim (the workshop leader) started with a rhythm exercise to see how good their sense of pulse was. Who knew counting to four could be so difficult!! Tim then chose the groove (piece) depending on the group's ability. The students learnt the main groove, breaks, call and response sections, as well as how to move and play at the same time! Many children were given solo moments. We discovered some seriously groovy dancers and were very impressed by the focus of the children. It was a fantastic opportunity to develop new musical skills, learn a musical style from a different country and build on our community spirit as a year group. Our headteacher, Mr Knowler, said "I had the pleasure of observing the sessions, which were held outside due to Covid-19 restrictions. To see students fully engaged and thoroughly enjoying their first extra-curricular activity at secondary school was incredible. It was wonderful to see the school returning to a degree of normality we have not seen for the last 18 months". We are really looking forward to starting our extra-curricular programme again in September.





# RESTORING MEMORIAL

**Alesha Shaw, Isobel Surfleet, Amelia Murray and Eleanor-Rose Allibone from Year 12 have been restoring Reverend William Farr's memorial.**

The headstone is situated in the graveyard of St Mary's Church in Welton. Reverend William Farr founded the school in 1952 and sadly passed away two years later. The girls spent time in their non-contact time and their Design and Technology lessons to sand down, carve and paint in the lettering and apply a varnish to give the memorial grave a new lease of life.



# ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

**It has been a very interesting year for all students and staff, but has also affected the process for the Arkwright Scholarship award.**

This is a hugely prestigious award with only 250 students lucky enough to gain one in the country every year. The award itself is the prize, however it comes with £600 over the two years. William Nicholson and Isaac Thomson-Whitehouse were nominated and got through to interview stage. Both students were interviewed by members of the Smallpeice Trust, which included an engineer and a teacher. The students are hoping to find out at some point before September and we wish them the best of luck with their future in engineering.

# BIG BANG COMPETITION

**Reuben Gidlow, our Arkwright scholar from Year 13, has entered his A-Level Design Engineering coursework project, an automated WiFi Lawn Mower, for a Big Bang competition.**

The lawn mower was mainly 3D printed and run off an Arduino as the brain of the device. Reuben has been shortlisted in the Stantec and International Youth Science Forum special awards and we await news on the competition. To be shortlisted is achievement enough and we wish him all the best.

Reuben is due to start an undergraduate apprenticeship scheme with the Royal Navy as a weapons service engineer working on the Nuclear Vanguard and Astute Submarines.



# COVID TEST DATES

Return to School Date	Year Group (Sept 21)	First on-site Covid-19 test offered
Friday 3 September	7	Friday 3 September
Monday 6 September	8	Monday 6 September
Monday 6 September	10	Thursday 2 September **
Monday 6 September	11	Friday 3 September **
Tuesday 7 September	12 and 13	Monday 6 September **
Tuesday 7 September	9	Tuesday 7 September

\*\* Y10-13 in September should attend school for their Covid-19 test and then return home. They will have had their first test before they return to school. All students are back in school on Tuesday 7 September 2021.

# STAFF LEAVING

**Sadly, the following staff are leaving this academic year.**

We would like to thank them all for their work in supporting our students to engage with life in all its fullness (John 10:10) over a total of 91 years' service. We wish them every success in the future.

Mrs Bateman - Teacher of ICT - 7 years

Miss Brinded - Cover Supervisor - 9 months

Mrs Coulson-Sawyer - Head of Year/Teacher of Geography - 11 years

Ms Goss - Teacher of Maths - 14 years

Mrs Jackson - Teacher of PE and Maths - 16 years

Mrs Lonsdale - Part-time DoF Coordinator - 37 years

Miss Mitchell - Receptionist - 2 years

Mrs Preston - English Intervention Officer - 18 months

Mrs Tinarwo - Teacher of Religious Studies - 1 year

Mrs Wesley - Teacher of Food Technology - 5 years

# BOLD VOICES

**Year 12 were lucky enough to welcome Natasha from Bold Voices to their PSME sessions this term to explore the ideas of gender inequality and tackle misogyny.**

Students were able to explore the roots of gender inequality and the impacts upon young women that systemic sexism causes. We all have a duty to educate our young men and women on the signs and effects of sexual harassment and empower them to call it out, report it and act to end this often tolerated behaviour within workplaces.

In addition, a group of Year 12 Sixth Formers, both female and male, created a PSME lesson of their own to be delivered on the subject of Sexual Harassment. Lessons looking at misogyny have been included in every Key Stage to further the work the school does to eliminate prejudice and hate, whether this be racism, religious hatred, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, sexism or to those with a disability.

We thank Bold Voices for their wisdom, personal stories and know that the young men in Year 12 have received valuable lessons that will enable them to make a positive difference in the future.

# TERM DATES

## Term 1

Thursday 02 September 2021	INSET DAY
Friday 03 September 2021	First day of term (Y7 only)
Monday 06 September 2021	Y7, 8, 10, 11 only
Tuesday 07 September 2021	All Year Groups
Friday 24 September 2021	INSET DAY
Friday 22 October 2021	Last day of term

## Term 2

Monday 01 November 2021	First day of term
Friday 17 December 2021	Last day of term

## Term 3

Tuesday 04 January 2022	INSET DAY
Wednesday 05 January 2022	First day of term
Friday 11 February 2022	Last day of term

## Term 4

Monday 21 February 2022	First day of term
Friday 01 April 2022	Last day of term

## Term 5

Tuesday 19 April 2022	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday
Wednesday 20 April 2022	First day of term
Monday 02 May 2022	BANK HOLIDAY
Friday 27 May 2022	Last day of term

## Term 6

Monday 06 June 2022	First day of term
Thursday 23 June 2022	INSET DAY
Friday 22 July 2022	Last day of term

# 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 8.15am-5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 8.15am-4.30pm on Fridays.

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







# 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***

***Lincoln Road, Welton, Lincoln, LN2 3JB***

***T: (01673) 866900 | E: wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk***

***www.williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk***