



# NEWSLETTER

Volume Thirteen - Issue Two - 2024

*Striving for Excellence Evening*

*Careers Fair*

*Sporting Achievements*

*Extra-curricular Update*

## WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School



The Zen Garden in Darwin Block.

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Although this term has been a relatively short one, I am delighted to be able to bring you my Parents' Newsletter. This 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 forwards.

This term, we have been focusing on extending our range of house, club and extra-curricular activities for students, especially at lunchtime. These activities help students to develop their self-confidence, interests and teamworking skills, which are so important in character development. Please encourage your child to attend these activities and look out for the extra clubs being set up. Further details are available in this newsletter.

As Year 11 and 13 students approach their final examinations, they have a busy time ahead with revision. This term, the school held its 'Striving for Excellence' evening to help Year 11 parents support their child in preparing for the forthcoming exams. We wish Year 11 and 13 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 2024. 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.

Feedback from stakeholders is very important to us so that we can continue to provide the highest quality of education and care and guidance support. In the summer term, we will be carrying out a student survey with all students to find out their views on a range of key issues in school. Similarly, if parents would like to provide feedback on the school, this can be done through [Parent View](#). In addition, my 'drop-in' sessions to meet the Headteacher will be available from Easter to May half term – details in this newsletter.

I hope that 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). We will shortly be celebrating the students' successes in our customary end-of-term whole school assembly, which is always an enjoyable event.

As I enter my final term as Headteacher at WFS, I would like to personally thank you for your support and kind words.

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**



Easter 2023, Whole School Assembly

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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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# NEWS FROM THE GOVERNORS

## **As I write this message, Spring feels like it is finally here.**

The daffodils outside William Farr are bursting with colour, the sun will not set again before 6pm until mid-October and whilst we may be losing an hour of sleep at the end of March, it formally heralds a new season and transformation. This is something that we are not only seeing in our gardens (and hopefully the amount of sunshine we get!) but also in school.



Our current Year 11 and Year 13 students will be moving into the final weeks of their GCSE and A level studies over the coming weeks and we wish them the very best of luck with their studies and aspirations for their futures.

Another upcoming change and transformation is in relation to our Headteacher. Parents, students, and staff all received an update on Mr Knowler's plans to retire from William Farr at the end of this academic year. The Governing Body and school team have been working incredibly hard in recent weeks to prepare the recruitment process for this important role, and by the time you are reading this newsletter, our advert will have been placed and the process will be in full swing. We will be celebrating Mr Knowler's time with us during the Summer term, however I didn't want to miss the opportunity to reiterate my gratitude for all he has done and continues to do. It is definitely 'business as usual' and we are continuing to keep moving forwards together for you all.

It was 'National School Governors' Awareness Day' on 28 February, and so I want to highlight and give thanks to the amazing governors who are part of our Governing Body, otherwise known as the Trust Board. Every single one of our Governors volunteers their time and expertise during their tenure. I want to thank all of them, and particularly Nigel Johnson who has reached the end of his four-year term as a Parent Governor and worked tirelessly with the school team in his Link Governor work, too. We are delighted that we have some Parent Governors who want to extend their tenure with us, and we will be running Parent Governor elections again in May/ June 2024 – so please have a think about whether this is something that you would like to get involved with. It is a good group to be part of, and so please give it some thought.

May I wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Best wishes.

*Dawn Cooper, Chair of Governors*

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## YEAR 11 STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE EVENING

### **On Thursday 8 February, we hosted our second-ever Striving for Excellence evening.**

It took place to support and encourage our Year 11 students as they embark on the final run-in to their exams. Over 250 attendees came to the evening, which included:

- Talks from Mr Gayfer (Deputy Headteacher) and Mrs Hanson (Head of Year 11).
- Visitors from the Lincoln City Foundation and Kooth.
- Free packs of revision resources, along with booklets of curriculum, revision and examination information.

The resources shared during the evening can be found on the school website:

<https://www.williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk/latest-news/y11-striving-for-excellence-evening>

Thank you to all the students and parents who attended the evening. We hope you found it to be a valuable experience.

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## EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

### **Students will once again be given free range of the school grounds to hunt for their Creme Eggs.**

Students will have to find some mis-laid pegs scattered around the school and the successful peg-hunters will be able to 'eggschange' one Fusion peg for one Cadbury's Creme Egg. As the French would say, 'One egg is un oeuf!'

All of this fun is part of the outreach programme co-ordinated 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.



# 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](#), which outlines our expectations of parents, carers and visitors to the school, including email protocols. Thank you for your continued support.

# CODE OF CONDUCT

## 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, moving between lessons and travelling to and from school. 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 reinforce the school’s Code of Conduct with your child.

In addition, please can you reinforce the following 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.

## William Farr Code of Conduct A B C D E F

<b>A</b>	Accept that your actions are your choice	<b>B</b>	Be on time, every time
<b>C</b>	Come to school fully equipped for learning and wearing correct uniform	<b>D</b>	Do all classwork and homework to the best of your ability
<b>E</b>	Ensure that you keep hands, feet and unkind words to yourself	<b>F</b>	Follow all instructions the first time

# SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FIGURE AND TARGET Attendance Ladder

**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 to 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 8.30am-9.00am to ensure they are registered promptly;
- Any student with attendance below 90% 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 school’s MCAS system.



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# MY CHILD AT SCHOOL (MCAS) YEARS 7-11

**As you will be aware, over the last term we have moved to tracking positive and negative behaviour events through Bromcom (the school's Management Information System).**

We have already released information via MCAS on positive rewards and behaviour-related information. Information is populated daily, enabling you to monitor events. There is a huge benefit to all in parents/carers being able to receive this information live and use it to best support their child.

This level of reporting has become possible as we have replaced our previous paper-based recording system since September 2023 with the Bromcom behaviour facility. We have used this time to monitor its introduction and to enable staff to become confident with the system before releasing it to parents/carers. There will be further releases of behaviour-related information as we make available additional areas of the system.

MCAS is a key means of the school providing parents/carers with a wide range of information relating to their child's education. We are very pleased with the high level of parental engagement with MCAS. Should you have any issues accessing MCAS, then please do not hesitate to contact the school via [wfsbromcom@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:wfsbromcom@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk). We will continue to work together with parents on how best to support you with the technical aspects.

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## PUNCTUALITY TO SCHOOL AND LESSONS

**Students should be present in their form rooms for the beginning of the registration sessions at 9.00am and 1.35pm.**

They should also be present on time for the beginning of each lesson. Changeover times are built into the school day for moving between lessons. Students are able to fill their water bottles at designated breaks and lunchtimes.

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## SCHOOL UNIFORM

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

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.

Black leather trainers and black 'Air Force 1s' are not permitted in school. We are aware that retailers market these as 'shoes' when they are trainers. Please be aware of this when you are purchasing shoes ready for September 2024 that there should be no logos and no adornments of any kind. The full uniform list can be found on the school website: [www.williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk/information/uniform](http://www.williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk/information/uniform)

### PRE-LOVED UNIFORM

For information on how to purchase pre-loved uniform, please visit our website at [www.uniformd.co.uk/williamfarr](http://www.uniformd.co.uk/williamfarr). We are reliant on donations of good quality, pre-loved school uniform and, therefore, stock availability will be limited to the donations we receive.

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## VISIT FROM SIR EDWARD LEIGH MP

**As an A Level Government and Politics student, it is always exciting when you get to interact with the workings of politics, especially in our current society.**

This is why we Sixth Form Government and Politics students were granted the privilege of a question-and-answer session with local MP for the Gainsborough Constituency Sir Edward Leigh. This experience allowed us to ask him questions ranging from the political working of Westminster to current issues involving our Constituency. For example, his opinions on RAF Scampton, how he became an MP and how backbench MPs can still make an impact on legislation.

Overall, this allowed us to not only develop our understanding of an MP's day-to-day activities, but provided us with examples of political action that we can take with us into our A Level this summer.

*Ella Viscomi, Year 13*

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# EXCITING TIMES IN OUR SIXTH FORM!

**As we come to the end of another very busy term, we are proud to update you on our achievements.**

Year 13 are working towards the final stages of their time with us. All Extended Project Qualifications have been completed and submitted and we congratulate them on all the hard work they have put in to these. Applications for apprenticeships and further training are in full swing, and the deadline for university applications has been met with 90% of our students completing and sending off a UCAS submission. We have also supported a number of our former students, who have decided to put in a UCAS application!

With Year 13 mocks completed, it is now time for students to finalise their revision programmes and prepare for their summer A Level exams. We wish all members of our Year 13 community the very best of luck.

Year 12s are now starting to take on the senior roles in the school, with Freddy Dixon and Ella De'Cofin taking over from Yaman Nashawi and Ella Viscomi as School Council leads. We thank Yaman and Ella and the rest of the School Council Executive for all their hard work and wish them all the best in the future!

Also, a record 44 students have volunteered and been trained as House Leaders, building on the great work carried out by last year's group; actively supporting the reinvigoration of our many house activities. A big thank you to all those involved – who will forget the return of 'House Performing Arts'?

The Sixth Form charity committee continue to do great work in supporting our school values, particularly of Compassion and Friendship. Charity events being led by the Sixth Form coming up will include a non-uniform day, 'Staff Karaoke' and staff versus Sixth Form football match.

On Friday 23 February, our Sixth Form Politics students had the opportunity to listen to and then ask questions of one of our local Members of Parliament, Sir Edward Leigh, who spoke about his former role as a government minister. He was extremely complimentary about our students, especially about their 'inciteful questions'. See separate news story.

A big thank you to all those who attended our Sixth Form Open Evening back in January and our 'open morning for applicants from other schools' recently. Both were well attended and numbers wishing to join our community in September 2024 look really healthy. At the open evening, we were able to share the exciting plans of our brand new Sixth Form build, due to open in the spring of 2025!

We shall be holding our usual 'Leavers' day' send-off for Year 13. This is a celebration of their seven or two years with us and takes place on Wednesday 8 May. It will be a great opportunity to mark the final 'official day' in school, as well as is now tradition, to raise money for good causes.

We shall also be holding our Sixth Form Leavers' ball at the Hilton DoubleTree on Lincoln's Brayford Pool on Thursday 4 July, a great night for dressing to impress and partying after the stressful exam season. We look forward to welcoming our brilliant Year 13s on that evening.

We wish all our Year 13 students success in their next stages, whatever that may be, and to let them know that we are proud of every one of them. We would love them to keep in touch and let us know how they get on in the future, whether in three years' or ten years' time. A great way of doing this would be to join our free 'alumni society', details of which can be found on our website.

<https://www.williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk/sixth-form/sixth-form-alumni>

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## GRAYSON PERRY'S TAPESTRIES

**To launch a collaborative project, 14 students from Years 8, 9 and 10 visited the Lincoln Museum in January to see Grayson Perry's tapestries in the exhibition 'The Vanity of Small Differences.'**

Through six large-scale tapestries, Perry explores his fascination with taste and class. The tapestries weave autobiographical references with characters, places, and objects that Perry encountered on his travels through regions of England for the Channel 4 BAFTA-winning documentary series 'All In The Best Possible Taste' with Grayson Perry (2012). Taking inspiration from many art-historical references, Perry's work aims to record a precise moment in history.

The group of students discussed themes, symbols and messages within the tapestries and tried a weaving technique, too. The group are currently in the planning phase of a piece that will be displayed in Welton St Mary's Church, with the view of 'recording a precise moment in history,' inspired by Perry's tapestries.



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# MATT DICKINSON VISIT

**The English department was delighted to welcome award-winning author and film maker Matt Dickinson back to speak to Year 8 on 22 February and to run some workshops with students in Years 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 account of his most recent trip to the summit, which he undertook with his teenage son. There were many questions about surviving on Everest and dramatic mountain rescues.

During the day, Matt also worked with Year 12 Literature students on creative writing activities, sharing his advice and expertise on how to write a novel. Matt also worked with Year 10 Geography students in a cross-curricular workshop looking at the impact of climate change on Everest but also the polar regions. 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 – getting out of Lincolnshire!



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## THE GREAT DEBATE

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

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, confidence and self-esteem. This year's question is 'Which historical place or person from your local area deserves greater recognition?' Students have 5 minutes to make their case.

The History department was delighted by the number of Year 12 students who took part in the school heat and with the quality of their research on their locality. The following six students competed against schools from across Lincolnshire in the local heat hosted by Lincoln University:

- Emma Febrey, Emily Wells, Erica Wright, Charlize Turner, Sian Watt Jones, Reuben Simmons.

We are thrilled that Erica Wright won the local heat and national semi-finals and has got through to the finals held at Windsor Castle on 23 March. Her excellent speech makes the case for greater recognition for the pioneering work of Robert Gardiner Hill and Edward Parker Charlesworth on the treatment of mental health. We are so proud of Erica and wish her the best of luck.



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## WORLD BOOK DAY

**Sixth Form students and the English department can never resist an opportunity for dressing up so World Book Day was an excellent opportunity.**

This year, students were invited to take part in a quiz in which the answers were found by identifying which characters and texts the English department staff were from.

There were loads of entries and winners will be announced soon.



# SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

The following students ran at the English Schools' Cross-Country Championships in Pontefract on Saturday 16 March. It was an unbelievable achievement for so many from one school to qualify. Ellarose Whitworth did incredibly well and placed 5th in England! She will now represent England in Dublin on Saturday 23 March.

Annie Norris, Felicity Prestwood, Ellarose Whitworth, Tyler Morris, Emerson Barbosa, Alfie McGarragh, Max Patrick, Henry Samkin, Ella Headland, Natasha McBride.



The Under 16 Basketball team are Lincolnshire County Champions and are now in the National Championships. We played Didsbury High School, Manchester, on Wednesday 20 March.

Alex McParland  
James Sherriff  
Albert James-Corral  
Mario Frangu  
Spencer Hawking  
Jacob Hill  
Ben Wendt  
Bilal Nashawi  
Ugnius Mazeika



The Year 9 Football team are unbeaten in the Lincoln and Gainsborough District League and were crowned champions.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT ON YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION AND SCHOOL COMMUNITY?



The Friends of William Farr School invite you to join us!

We invite **YOU** to be a part of our dynamic parent teacher association and make a difference in the lives of our students!

Join us in creating an enriching and supportive environment for our children. Your involvement matters, and every contribution, big or small, adds up to create a positive impact.

Ready to Join?

Contact [friendsofwilliamfarr@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwilliamfarr@gmail.com) for more information.

**TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

### Volunteer for Events

Contribute your time and talents to help organise and execute engaging events and fundraisers.

### Bring Your Skills

Whether you're a marketing guru, event planner, or tech whiz, your unique skills can make a difference!

### Attend Committee Meetings

Share your ideas, stay informed, and be part of the decision-making process.

### Committee Participation

Join committees focused on areas like fundraising, communications, and community outreach.



## EMPOWERING VOICES

**We reported last term that a Y7 group was working with writers, soundscape artists and directors to produce a podcast for Empowering Voices.**

The project involved workshops, visiting the cathedral and contributing voices to the audio play. The work focused on the role of Women in the Cathedral and we narrowed our work to look at the life of Anne Askew. The podcast is now live and is testament to the amazing, young people we have in this school. The link is [here](#) should you wish to listen. I am sure you will agree the students did a great job!



## GCSE FOOD

**Congratulations to 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.



## EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY UPDATE

**Our equality and diversity groups have had a busy term.**

The newly formed feminist group has been busy preparing 31 slides, each celebrating a different inspirational figure as part of Women's History Month. Figures cover a wide range of people including Joan of Arc, famous for leading the French army to victory in battle over the English(!) and Mikki Kendall, known for challenging the modern feminist movement for being largely the 'province of the privileged'. They have also delivered assemblies to all the year groups, raising awareness of gender imbalance.

The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion group have been reviewing our school policy on Equality and giving feedback on it to the Senior Leadership Team. They have also been looking into far-right extremism and its impact on communities.

As part of LGBT+ History Month, LPFT NHS (Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust) asked students from William Farr to speak to the assembled members of the NHS. The theme for this year's month was Medicine. It is important for us to celebrate people from different cultures and backgrounds, to throw light on the importance that people have had in creating things like the NHS, caring for others and women's rights within medical professions. Students from across the school contributed to a presentation which reflected on Section 28 and looked at being kind, supportive and inclusive to transgender students who attend all schools and colleges in the county.

The feedback from the NHS was glowing, with many remarking that they wished the care and inclusion that is offered at William Farr existed when they were younger. Simran Hodson from LPFT said "A huge thank you... As always, staff here at LPFT are struck and inspired by (the students') passion and motivation – so they are already change-makers by keeping us adults... in check and reminding us to make sure we are doing what we can!". What an accolade for the pupils and for Mr Mattley, who runs the group. They will be presenting again to the NHS in July at another conference.

All three groups happen at lunch and new members are always welcome.



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# EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Departments have been far and wide since September. Here is a selection of some of the trips that the year groups have been on:

- Year 7 Pantomime at Christmas
- Years 8, 9 and 10 Art and DT visited the Waterside Centre in September for the St Barnabas HeART that they made last year.
- Year 10 visited the Inspiration Show at the University of Nottingham with Maths.
- GCSE PE went to Nottingham to gain experience on the High Ropes as part of the GCSE course.
- Religious Studies took 107 students to Beth Shalom in Grantham to gain insight into the Holocaust.
- A selection of Art students visited the Lincoln Museum (The Collection).
- GCSE and A Level Drama students went to visit Woman in Black at Nottingham Theatre Royal.
- Y11 Geography field trip to Hornsea.
- Y11 students visited Lincoln College to look at courses available and another group went to visit the Construction department.
- Year 13 Drama students watched Othello, Geography students visited Lincoln for their field trip and RS students visited the Magistrates Court.
- Year 12 and 13 students from Art, Graphics and Photography went to Lincoln University's Big Draw day, while Year 12 History students took part in the Great Debate.
- Year 9 and 10 students were invited to a Wonka Film Night with pizza. Year 8 students have theirs planned for later in the term.
- Across several year groups, there was a mini Chess tournament with Branston Community Academy, LGBT+ students went to New Life Church in Market Rasen and Matt Dickinson had his annual visit to William Farr to work with the students in English.
- Looking ahead, students are getting ready to visit Bormio with the annual ski course, Drama are visiting the play Fantastically Great Women Who Changed the World, Science are off to the National Space Centre with the Year 7s and D&T are planning to visit London galleries with Year 12 and 13 students.

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## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

**This year, we have seen a huge uptake in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme across Years 9, 10 and 12.**

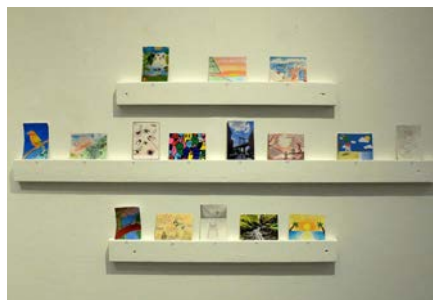
For the Gold award this year, 37 students signed up, which is over double last year's numbers. 39 students are taking the Silver award, which is 25% more than 2022-23. Bronze is taken by Year 9s and maintains a strong uptake with 60 students, 10% more than last year. All students attend a meeting once a week with Mrs Pitts, Miss Spencer or Mrs Maple, who support them with their route plans, reports and to look at the skills required in preparation for the Duke of Edinburgh practice and qualifying weekends. Good luck to all students who are involved and thank you in advance to all the staff who are supporting them in preparation for and during the weekends.

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## INTERNATIONAL POSTCARD SHOW

**In January 2024, 22 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 participated in the 'International Postcard Show' at Surface Gallery, Nottingham.**

This vibrant, long-running annual event included artwork from established and aspiring artists from across the world. All submissions were included, from painting and print through to textiles and illustration, creating a wonderfully eclectic mix of work.



Many students have kindly chosen to donate their work to #sophiespostcard – another event based on postcard-sized art, which is raising money for the Royal Marsden Hospital. We are encouraging students across all years to create an original piece of postcard-sized art that will be auctioned on eBay in June. This will be the fourth 'Sophie's postcard' event, anyone can donate high quality postcard-sized pieces of art. Lots of famous names have previously donated artwork, including Sir Quentin Blake, Gruffalo illustrator Axel Scheffler, Ian Murphy, Lorraine Kelly, Harry Potter illustrator Thomas Taylor, Dame Jacqueline Wilson, Fearne Cotton and many more!

Students need to hand in their postcard-sized pieces of artwork to the Art office by Friday 19 April 2024 for processing. We will choose high quality pieces to send off, and students will receive a letter about the fundraising auction. We look forward to seeing how much money our school postcards raise in the charity auction in June 2024! Visit [www.sophiessecretpostcard.com](http://www.sophiessecretpostcard.com) for more details.

# EXTRA-CURRICULAR UPDATE

**We have over 40 extra-curricular activities happening in school, mostly at lunchtime but also after school.**

Our newest clubs are Just Dance, which is run for Year 7 on Thursday lunchtime in the Gym, and Pokémon Club, which is aimed at all years, also on Thursday lunchtime, but in I15.

Huge congratulations go to the KS4 squash team who got through to the English Schools Plate Finals to be held at Birmingham: Alfie McGarragh (Y11), Theo Sherry (Y11), Ollie Bagnall (Y10), Vinny Knaggs (Y10), Elliott Smith (Y10) and Jack Wiles (Y10).

The choir have also been to sing as part of the Music for Youth regional heats in Hull. They sang three pieces: 'Swing Low', 'Bring Him Home' from Les Misérables and 'Your Face' by Bob Chilcott. It was a great experience to sing to other musicians from the region, as well as three professional musicians.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime	Lunchtime	Lunchtime	Lunchtime	Lunchtime
Book Club	Bridge Club	LGBTQ+Space	Drama Club	Games Club
Choir	Debating Club	Computerama	Fusion	Mini-band
Cosmic Mining Group	Feminist Group	Y8 Photography Club	Girls' Football	Warhammer Club
Y7 Leisure Badminton	Ideas Award	Y7-9 Young Voices	Knit and Natter	Y8 Leisure Badminton
Year 7/8 Art Club	Lego Club	Y9 Leisure Badminton	Maths Clinic	Y10-13 Chess Club
Y11-13 Discuss with Us	Orchestra	GCSE/Sports Studies Catch-Up Club	Pokémon Club	
	Y7 Swiftie Club		Tech Club	
After School	Y8 Kahoot Club		Y7 Just Dance	
Netball	Y9 Spanish Club		Y7-9 Chess Club	
Silver Duke of Edinburgh	GCSE/Sports Studies Climbing Club		Y9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh	
	KS4/5 Leisure Badminton		GCSE/Sports Studies Badminton	
			After School	
			Silver Duke of Edinburgh	

Please encourage your child to take up one of our extra-curricular clubs. They are a really good way to meet other children who have similar interests, as well as developing a new skill. Many of our groups take part in competitions and events with other schools, so are a great way to broaden your child's horizons.



Woolen cacti plants made at Craft Club.

# CAREERS FAIR

**This term has been busy with assemblies and PSHE lessons dedicated to Careers awareness for all year groups.**

Our annual Careers Fair had visitors from universities, colleges, charities and many businesses, including the Armed Forces, Police, LCC, Serco, Lincolnshire Co-op, and Siemens. All year groups visited the Fair and the feedback was very positive, with everyone commenting on how engaged and interested the students were.

## EMAILING STAFF

**To communicate via email, please use the school email address: [wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk)**

You may also make contact with the school through Middle Leaders, e.g. Heads of Department / Heads of Year. We would be grateful if individual staff are not emailed directly. 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 Governors.

## TERM DATES

### Term 5

Monday 15 April 2024	First day of term
Monday 06 May 2024	BANK HOLIDAY
Friday 24 May 2024	Last day of term

### Term 6

Monday 03 June 2024	First day of term
Thursday 20 June 2024	INSET DAY
Friday 19 July 2024	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. Students should not be on the school premises before or after these times unless they are supervised by a member of staff.

# SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS IN THE HOLIDAYS

## To report concerns:

Lincolnshire Children's Services: 01522 782111 - <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/safeguarding/report-concern>

Lifelines:

- The NSPCC are here to help 24/7 and children can call their Childline number on: 0800 11 11.
- Help for adults concerned about a child can call: 0808 800 5000.
- Shout is the UK's first 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis any time, anywhere. It is a place to go if you are struggling to cope and you need immediate help. Text: 85258.

## Malicious Communications

Malicious Communications has been an ongoing problem in Lincolnshire for the last few years now. Online behaviour is something we talk regularly to children and young people about across the county within our online safety sessions. We want to also make sure parents are aware of these laws and the potential consequences our online behaviour can have in the real world, for our children's futures.

Here is a link to a video aimed at parents: [Stay Safe Talks - Malicious Communications](#)

The following link outlines the different laws regarding online behaviour - [Laws-around-online-behaviour.pdf](#)

