



# NEWSLETTER

Volume Thirteen - Issue One - 2023

Christmas Concert

Remembrance Day

House Performing Arts

New Sixth Form Block

## WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School



Christmas Card Competition runners-up: Owen Clayton, Grace Johnson, Lauren Hotchkin, Amelia Picksley, Tessa Pike, Jessica Lee, Emily Isherwood, Alexander Pickerell, Caoilainn Holbrook, and Hettie Waters. See Page 10 for Erin Nicholson's winning design.

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we approach the end of what has been a busy and successful term, I would like to reflect on some key moments. In September 2023, we welcomed 248 Year 7 students into our school community from over 30 primary schools. I am very pleased with how they have settled in and made new friends as they start their educational journey with us. I was also delighted to see 128 Year 12 students joining us, including 17 external students from other schools - our highest number for many years.

It never ceases to amaze me, the number of students who volunteer to represent the William Farr community outside of school to 'engage in life it all its fullness' (John 10:10). As a Church school, I was delighted when a number of our students represented the school at the enthronement of Bishop Stephen at Lincoln Cathedral on 11 November. The service at St Peter's at Eastgate was a joy to be a part of, as was the procession to the Cathedral with Bishop Stephen. The enthronement service in the cathedral was awe-inspiring and it was a proud moment when William Farr students shook the hand of the Bishop, read a prayer, were listened to by a congregation of around a thousand, and joined in the celebration. Members of our Student Council also volunteered to represent the school at the Remembrance Service at Welton St Mary's Church on Saturday 11 November and many of our cadets joined the Remembrance Sunday parade with their respected regiments.



This term, the Senior Leadership Team has been working with the Governing Body to set the strategic direction for the school and agree the school priorities for the next few years. Further details can be seen in the Strategic Priorities pyramid included in this newsletter. As part of our priority to 'future-proof the school', we are very excited about our plans to develop the Sixth Form. Having secured government funding, a Sixth Form block will be built on the school site, next to the rear school car park, adjacent to the playing field. Providing plans go to schedule, the building should be ready for opening later in the Autumn Term 2024.

William Farr School has prided itself on achieving exceptional educational outcomes for students for many years. This term, the Department for Education confirmed that our Year 11 class of 2023 achieved a Progress 8 score of +0.52. This is the highest score the school has ever achieved since the inception of Progress 8 measures in 2016. It placed William Farr School in the top 10% of all Lincolnshire secondary schools (10/91) and 4th in the county for non-selective secondary schools, out-performing 9 of the 15 grammar schools in the county. This success was also mirrored at A Level. With a pass rate of 98.3%, William Farr celebrated its best-ever, pre-pandemic attainment since the A-Level reforms. More than a quarter of all grades awarded were A\* or A, with over half of all grades A\*- B. Over 90% of students received three or more offers from applications to university - the highest number in the last 10 years. Almost a third of students accepted places at Russell Group universities. This remarkable achievement is testimony to the students' hard work, commitment and resolve.

I was thrilled in November to hear that the school had been awarded the prestigious 'Prince's Teaching Institute Subject Programme Mark for Outstanding Teaching in English' for 2023 – an award which is proudly displayed on our website.

A special mention must go to the incredible support and unwavering commitment of staff, who work tirelessly to provide the very best for your child.

This newsletter provides a snapshot of some of the activities, events and achievements students have embraced outside of lessons, which play an integral part in students' learning experiences, helping them to acquire the knowledge, skills and understanding to support their academic and personal development.

Further information on the school can be found on our website: [William Farr C of E Comprehensive School - Home](#)

As we approach the festive break, I would like to thank you for all your support this term. This makes a huge difference to the lives of the young people we proudly educate and strengthens the invaluable partnership between the school and home. I wish you and your family a peaceful and holy Christmas.

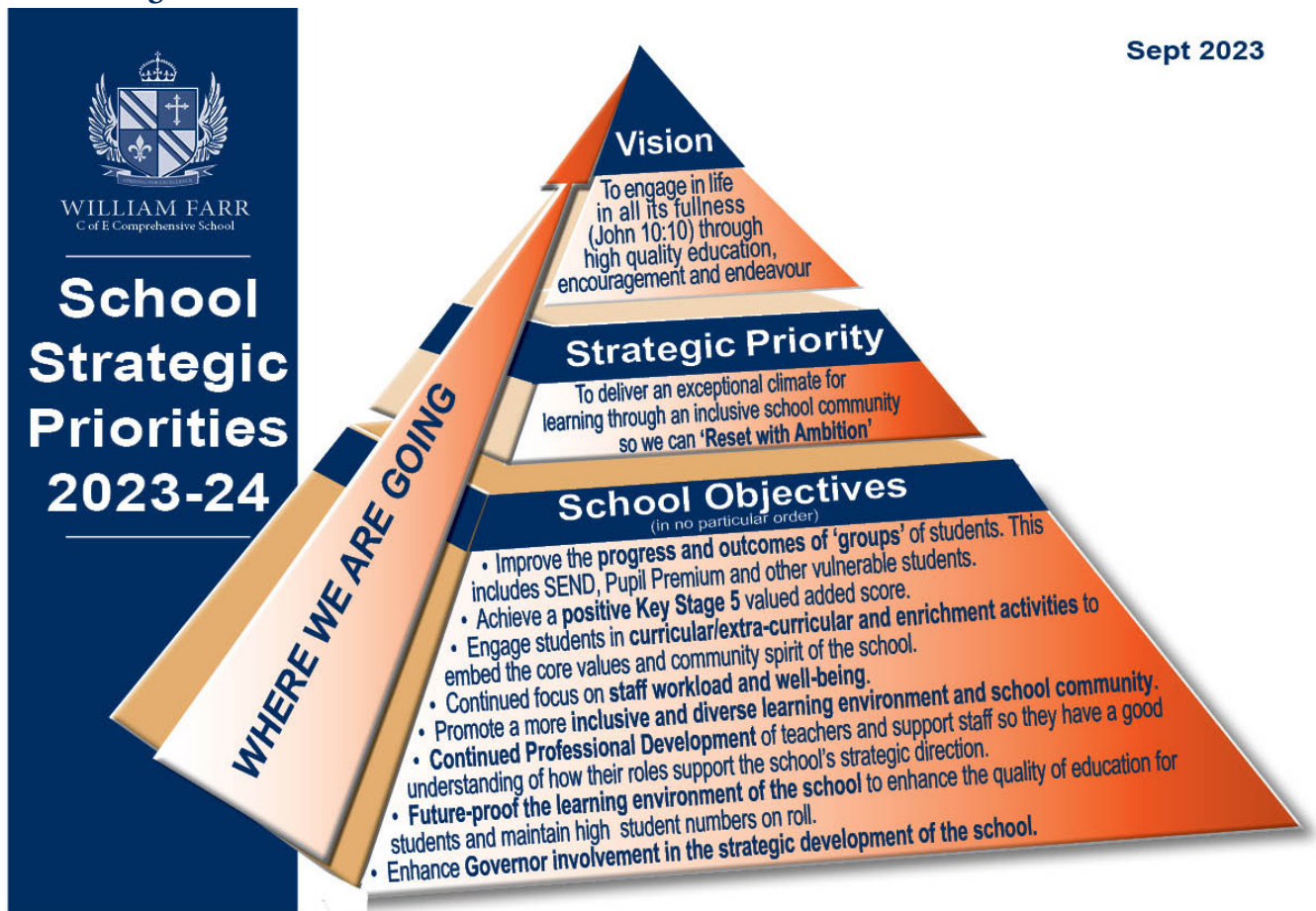
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Jonathan Knowler, Headteacher**

# WHERE ARE WE GOING AS A SCHOOL?

School Strategic Priorities 2023-24

Sept 2023



## SIXTH FORM BLOCK TO BE BUILT

Work will commence on site in the Spring Term 2024 to build a new Sixth Form block.

Located next to the rear car park of the school, adjacent to the bottom sports field, it will provide study facilities, a recreational area, kitchen, office space and toilets. Providing the works schedule goes to plan, the block should open later in the Autumn Term 2024.

*Artist's impression:*



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# CODE OF CONDUCT

**We have introduced a new Code of Conduct to support students in understanding clearly their responsibilities as a student of William Farr School:**

Students were informed of the new Code of Conduct in assemblies in the first week of term. Students were 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. Teachers have led on an activity designed to support students' understanding of our expectations, both within lessons and outside of lessons.

It has been great to see students and staff using the new Code of Conduct in their daily interactions since it was launched. Please reinforce the Code of Conduct with your child at home.

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

**Current Attendance: 94.5%**

**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% 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 school's MCAS system.

# PUNCTUALITY

**We are required to monitor student punctuality.**

School starts promptly at 9.00am every day and students should be in their form room, seated and ready for registration. If students are not in registration at 9.00am, this is recorded as lateness.

Ongoing lateness, after the register has been taken, is classified as an unauthorised absence. We understand that there may be rare occasions when students are unavoidably late due to unforeseen circumstances. On these occasions, please make sure that you contact the school attendance office to inform us when your child will be late.

If you are experiencing difficulties with getting your child to school on time, please speak with your child's Head of Year or make an appointment with our Educational Welfare Officer, Mrs Chatterton.

# UNIFORM

**Trainers and, in particular, black 'Air Force 1s' are not permitted in school.**

There must be no logos or adornments of any kind. Please be aware of this if you are purchasing shoes.

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# BROMCOM

We are continuing to develop the use of our Management Information System, Bromcom. We are now using this system to track positive and negative behaviour events in school as we move away from paper-based systems. MCAS is already used to release information about your child's academic progress and attendance.

Parents can view positive rewards and homework issues via the MCAS app with further behaviour-related information to follow later in the academic year. When you log into MCAS, you will now see a new behaviour widget that will list the most recent behaviour events for your child.

MCAS will increasingly become the main source of information relating to your child's schooling. We encourage all parents to download and use the MCAS app. We will, of course, continue to liaise directly with parents over any behaviour concerns. If you are having any problems accessing the app or would like technical assistance in its set-up, then please contact the school via email: [wfsbromcom@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:wfsbromcom@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk)

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## SCHOOL UNIFORM

**Our 2023/24 school uniform and PE dress code can be accessed on the school website at:**  
[www.williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk/information/uniform](http://www.williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk/information/uniform)

Uniform Direct is our only approved school uniform stockist. The full range of approved school uniform is available to purchase in the Uniform Direct Dixon Way store. Online shopping is also available from Uniform Direct with delivery direct to your chosen address. Ordering online is very simple. Just visit [www.uniform-direct.com](http://www.uniform-direct.com), 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.

**Do you have any good quality uniform that you would like to donate to our pre-loved school uniform shop?**

We would be extremely grateful to receive any donations, which we will sell online at [www.uniformdirect.co.uk/williamfarr](http://www.uniformdirect.co.uk/williamfarr). Stock availability is limited to the donations we receive and stock levels will vary, therefore it is worth visiting the website regularly to see what items are available. All items are very reasonably priced, and the proceeds cover the costs of administering this service. Please bring your donations to the school reception during normal school hours.

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## NEW STUDENT WELLBEING CHAMPIONS

**This new project is a collaboration between NHS Healthy Minds Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire schools.**

We were approached by our Link Healthy Minds Practitioner, who asked if we, as a school, would like to sign up and participate in this important initiative to promote wellbeing peer support in school.

A student wellbeing champion is an individual who champions positive mental health and wellbeing in and around the school setting. The idea is that champions can help to break down the stigma attached to receiving support for emotional wellbeing issues, as well as help break down barriers that may affect this.

Student wellbeing champions are vital in creating a whole-school approach to wellbeing, as well as helping peers to access the support that they need. They receive training from Healthy Minds throughout the academic year. They understand that their role as a Wellbeing Champion is not to be a therapist, but to signpost the student to any adult within the school setting for help.

Students completed a detailed application form, signed by a parent, and then they were interviewed by three members of staff, before being offered the role.

We were overwhelmed by the response and quality of the applicants; the successful ones are now in post and supporting their peers around school.

We have another layer of peer support in our school with the role of Student Wellbeing Advocates, who also support positive Mental Wellbeing in school.



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# ATTITUDE TO LEARNING AWARDS

**Data Point Reports were released this term, giving detail on how students have started this academic year.**

We have placed a significant emphasis on attitude to learning, with grades being achieved in the following categories for Years 7-11:

- Behaviour
- Effort
- Ready for Learning
- Homework
- Presentation

Our Sixth Form students have their own categories reflecting the skills and attributes they will require as they progress into wider society. Reporting on this is valuable as having a positive attitude to learning leads to academic progress and future success. In order to ensure our students are known and valued, we are awarding certificates, badges, letters home and gift vouchers on a termly basis to a selection of students who always demonstrate a positive attitude in all their subjects. Autumn Term awards will be presented in January.



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## BISHOP'S ENTHRONEMENT

**On Saturday 11 November at Lincoln Cathedral, the Rt Revd Stephen Conway was enthroned as the 73rd Bishop of Lincoln.**

More than 1,000 people attended the service, including civic dignitaries, clergy, readers, ministers, parishioners and other church officers from the Diocese of Lincoln, bishops, representatives of ecumenical and interfaith groups, and members of the public. Three of our amazing Year 7 students (Layla Edlington, Olivia Clark and Abbie Berry) were a real credit, representing William Farr at the enthronement. We were also joined by pupils of Welton St Mary's Primary School.



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## THE BIG DRAW AT LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

**On Monday 6 November, a group of 15 Year 12 and 13 students from Art, Graphics and Photography travelled to the University of Lincoln to take part in this year's Big Draw event.**

The Big Draw is a pioneering visual literacy charity dedicated to raising the profile of drawing as a tool for wellbeing, thought, creativity, social and cultural engagement. The charity leads a diverse programme of advocacy, empowerment and engagement, and is the founder and driving force behind The Big Draw Festival – the world's biggest celebration of drawing. The event at the University of Lincoln was organised by Brian Voce, a senior lecturer in Graphic Design. The students participated in two workshops, 'Sand and sound vibration drawing' and 'Poetry Illustration'. The students were engaged and really benefited from talking to the staff and using the facilities at the University. This is the second year we have taken part and, hopefully, we will make this an annual event.



# REMEMBRANCE DAY

**The Poppy Collection for the Royal British Legion raised £308.22 this year.**

On 11 November 2023, we were invited to take part in the Remembrance Day service at Welton St Mary's Church to honour those who fought and died in past wars for our country. It was a real privilege to be given the opportunity to represent the school at such an important event, especially one which has such significant links to the village of Welton and the school.

A large crowd gathered outside the Church for the service, which included war veterans and members of the public. We met the vicars who were conducting the service and had the opportunity to take photographs to remember the event. At 11am, we all stood in silence to mark the occasion and then read out our poems in front of the Welton community: In Flanders Field by John McCrae and The Crosses by Bill Mitton. Poppy wreaths were laid on the war memorial. Following the service, 'The Last Post' rang out through the street and we bowed our heads in remembrance. It was an honour to be part of such an important event and one we will always remember.

*Ella Coffin, Freddy Dixon, Callen Fraser, Year 12.*



## NEWS FROM THE GOVERNORS

**The Autumn Term has brought some new beginnings for the governing body, as we have had six new governors join our established Full Governing Body.**

It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome Beena Rajkumar, Jo Fothergill, John Patrick, Phil Betts, Simon Hinton, and Steve Shirley to the Governing Body. They all bring unique and valuable experiences, skills, knowledge, and expertise to our school, and are already enriching our work as a Governing Body. Alongside the new Governors, Jeff Heskins (former Chair of Governors) and Lynsey Norris (Assistant Diocesan Director of Education) have been welcomed into 'Member' roles on the Governing Body.



Whilst some of the work we do as Governors is 'out of hours', we also visit the school regularly and attend a large number of school events, so if you do see us in school / at an event, please feel free to come and say hello. Members of the Governing Body are recognisable by our green lanyards.

The new Governors have already started to 'get a feel' for the school through their induction meetings / visits and, as a Board, we have been delivering against our four core functions by contributing to significant topics at our various Committee meetings. Key areas have included:

- Vision & strategy: working with the school Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to identify key strategic priorities for the year ahead;
- Inclusive school community: supporting the Student Ethnicity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Group to advocate for, and embed 'inclusivity' as a core strategic priority and area of focus for our school;
- Financial stability: investing in the future of our school, improving the learning environment for our students, and improving the security of our school through significant capital investment;
- GCSE / A Level Progress 8 results: achievement of the best Progress 8 results (the improvements students have made during their learning at school) ever seen at William Farr School.

The achievements detailed above are just some of the highlights that have been achieved in WFS this term, and I hope that you will join me in thanking Mr Knowler and the whole staff team for their hard work and efforts in creating such a thriving school community.

We will all continue to work hard for the people who sit at the heart of our school – our students. I know many of them will be working hard this term to complete GCSE / A Level mock exams, fund-raising for others, being part of school events and delivering their student leadership responsibilities this term, and we wish them all the very best in their endeavours.

And, finally, the last (and most important) thing for me to do in 2023, is to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season on behalf of all the Governors. May your celebrations be full of joy, warmth, and new blessings.

Best wishes.

*Dawn Cooper, Chair of Governors*



## WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School



### SIXTH FORM INFORMATION EVENING

Thursday 25 January 2024, 6-8pm

For further details, please see the school website or telephone 01673 866900

Lincoln Road, Welton, Lincolnshire, LN2 3JB Email: [wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk)

[www.williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk)

## CAREERS AT WILLIAM FARR

**Since the last careers update, we have had a range of exciting activities and events based around career development and “Future Me” opportunities.**

At the end of the summer term, Year 10 had Take Your Child To Work Day. Around 190 students went out on placements with family members and friends, and destinations included primary schools, care homes, farms, restaurants, Stagecoach, the hospital, RAF and Police HQ, among many others. We had just over 40 students in school, who undertook workshops on transferable skills and confidence building with an external company called Bright Futures. Take Your Child To Work for Year 10 this year is already booked for Wednesday 10 July 2024, and parents can expect more information closer to the time.

In the summer, our Year 11 leavers successfully secured places at the destination of their choice, with around 45% coming to our Sixth Form and the rest going to a variety of different destinations. The majority go to our local Further Education colleges, Lincoln and Riseholme, with whom we have strong links, but we also had students move on to specialist colleges (for the Performing Arts or Fashion) and apprenticeships. About 70-75% of our Year 13 students go on to university, but last year we also had students secure highly competitive Higher or Degree Apprenticeships and others who took up exciting training opportunities with local employers.

The Autumn Term has seen the launch of our Year 12 work experience programme. This is a hybrid offer, meaning that students can choose face-to-face or virtual work experience, which they can complete at any time of the year. We also held our Post-16 Information Morning for Year 11, where students were reminded of their options for next year and heard talks from Lincoln and Riseholme Colleges, as well as ASK Apprenticeships, Access Creative College, the Air and Space Institute at Newark, the NHS, MCPT (Military College) and Inspire + (Sports courses), as well as an option for those students considering a career in Medicine, Veterinary Science or Dentistry, as these students need to consider their A Level choices carefully.

We are also holding a series of assemblies for all year groups, to start even younger students thinking about their future early. In addition, we aim to link learning to future careers as often as possible and this term we have been focusing on careers linked to Religious Studies, Business Studies and Geography.

If you are an employer and feel you may be able to support our careers programme, perhaps by running a short assembly, attending our Careers Fair, helping with our Year 12 mock interview day in June, or offering work experience to a Year 12 student, please get in touch with Mrs Catherine Roberts at [c.roberts@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:c.roberts@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk).

Any feedback or suggestions on our careers programme is very welcome and should also be sent to Mrs Roberts.



## 30 UNDER 30

**Congratulations to PE teacher Chris Stock, one of Lincolnshire's 30 under 30 award winners, for his work on youth sport development.**

Chris is the founder of All Sports UK, and he has become an expert in fostering teamwork, kindness, and individual growth. He carefully tailors each camp session to suit the unique interests of every child, ensuring maximum engagement and joy.

All Sports UK collaborates with various Lincolnshire sports clubs, including Cricket, Dodgeball, Golf and Tennis. The specialist coaches make it easier for kids to transition into year-long involvement with a specific sport they may develop an affinity for.



The programme's tagline, "All Children, All Possibilities," manifests as a lived ethos under Chris' leadership. He has created an environment that welcomes children of all skill levels, including those who have faced exclusion or nervousness in similar setups.

Without a doubt, Chris is a rising star in Lincolnshire's sporting community. His work is not just enriching lives on the field, but shaping character off it.

[The Lincolnite: Meet the stars of Lincolnshire 30 Under 30 2023](#)  
[Chris Stock Director and Founder of All Sports UK](#)

## CHRISTMAS SACKS

**This year, Year 7 wanted to support Lincoln Bridge Church's 'Christmas Sacks' project.**

The Christmas Sacks project ensures that struggling families across Lincolnshire, who have been referred by social workers and other professionals, have presents to unwrap on Christmas Day.

The 'giving tree' scheme has run for nearly 16 years. Businesses, schools, churches put up a tree and are given tags. These tags have "Boy aged 3", etc, written on them so that people can choose who they would like to buy a gift for.



We were completely overwhelmed again this year with how amazing the William Farr community was with supporting this charity. Thank you so much if you were able to get involved and donate. The gifts that were donated will make such a difference to so many local families.

## NATIVITY AND THE CANDY CANE

**To celebrate Christmas, Fusion organised the Candy Cane challenge at lunchtime on Friday 15 December.**

Sixth Form students dressed up as Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Kings and Angels and walked around school.

Free candy canes were given to students when they found the Nativity characters.

A great time was had by all as we get ready for the Christmas festivities.



## BBC MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD

**The Green Award is awarded to an individual or group of people who help to make where we live more environmentally friendly and better for nature.**

Congratulations go to Jack Bowles (Y13), who was runner-up in the BBC Make A Difference Awards Green section for all of his Environmental work.

Well done, Jack!



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# ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

**During the first half term, we were really pleased to receive the news that Kai Lynn (Y12) had been successful in being awarded an Arkwright Scholarship.**

The Smallpeice Trust's Arkwright Scholarship Award is a highly regarded engineering scholarship and he joins 327 others in passing the application process this year.

Scholars are selected for their potential as future engineering leaders by assessing their academic, practical and leadership skills in STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. These are gauged through a rigorous selection process comprising of an assessed application form, including the school's reference; a two-hour, problem-solving aptitude exam; and a university-based interview.

The scholarships support students through their Sixth Form studies and encourage them into top universities or higher apprenticeships. The scholarships consist of an annual financial award to each scholar and enrichment activities, such as mentoring and industry visits that enhance a scholar's experience of engineering in a real-world context.

Arkwright Engineering Scholarships are highly regarded by university admission tutors and industry recruiters and are one of the most prestigious accolades that a talented Sixth Form student can receive.

We wish Kai the very best in his future in Engineering!



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# CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FROM FRIENDS OF WFS



**Thank you for your generous donations for the Christmas Hamper raffle.**

The draw will take place on 15 December. All proceeds from the raffle directly benefit students.



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# Y7 OPERA WORKSHOP

**In November, the school hosted a workshop delivered by London Festival Opera for Y7, and Y6 pupils from St. Mary's Primary School also came along to join our Year 7s.**

No one knew quite what to expect. A workshop on opera?!! The four singers, Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass, had travelled from London and Glasgow to be with us and took the children through the different voices and styles found in opera. The children were treated to the French composer Bizet, the English composer Arthur Sullivan and the Italian composer Rossini, amongst others.

The workshop was absolutely fabulous. The quality of singing was phenomenal, "jaw-dropping" (Y7), and heightened by the acting abilities of the participants. Both staff and pupils who attended it, raved about it afterwards: from a teacher who had never experienced opera before, to a child who usually finds noise difficult. All were completely entranced by the experience and wanted to be part of it, as was evidenced by the number of children who had their hands up every time a volunteer was required!! If anyone was uncertain about the importance of culture in society, attending this workshop would make it clear that it is vital. We cannot wait for them to come back and transform the lives of our next Y6s and Y7s!



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# CHRISTMAS CARD

Congratulations to Erin Nicholson in Year 12, whose design was chosen for the school Christmas card.



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# CHRISTMAS CONCERT



**The Christmas Concert this year demonstrated the breadth and diversity of music within our school.**

From a *Saint-Saëns Cello Sonata* to *Twenty One Pilots* by Lane Boy, this was a concert like no other. The ensemble items also added to this, showing progression through the school with 'Mini-band', which had a majority of Year 7 students, through to Orchestra, which is predominately Years 11-13. Mini-band performed *Run* by Snow Patrol and *Last Christmas* by George Michael to get the audience in the festive spirit.

The Orchestra performed *Sleigh Ride* with its distinctive clip-clop of the horses' hooves, followed by the crack of the whip evoking the excitement of a ride through the snow (although it seemed the percussion section were more excited about their parts!) The 'Young Voices' choir performed *Somewhere Out There* from *An American Tail* and *Silent Night*, with the main choir performing the gospel classic, *Swing Low*, the musical classic *Bring Him Home* from *Les Misérables* and, as it is a CHRISTMAS concert, *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*.

With over 50 students having auditioned for the 14 solo slots, it was lovely to see some new faces amongst the soloists, as well as seeing the development of the students who have played before. Thanks go to the Friends of William Farr for the refreshments and raffle, as well as to the Music department for giving us such a treat on a cold winter's night.

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# SCHOOL COUNCIL

We would like to take this opportunity to share with you what we have been doing so far this year as Heads of the School Council, as well as to share with you the news about our newly elected Sixth Form Executive and their plans for the further development of our Student Council.

Over the past term, we have all been working hard to progress our development plan, created in collaboration with the Senior Leadership Team. This includes an increase in charity work from the Student Council and building on the pre-existing equality and diversity group, that we are proud to be a part of.

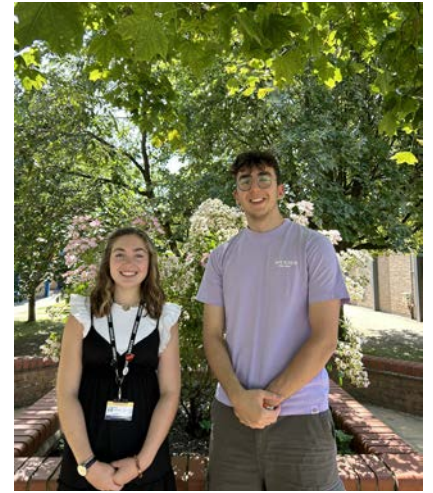
Charity events we hope to promote in the new year include raising money to help those affected by recent conflicts around the world. As a community, we believe it is important for us to do our part and take responsibility to help others.

After the Christmas break, we intend to incorporate many of the ideas from the new Sixth Form Executive, led by newly elected Ella Coffin and Freddy Dixon – welcome to the team! We aim to work collaboratively to continue to improve our growing school community. Their ideas are inspired by maintaining and building on our sense of belonging and boosting positivity, pride and working together in school through such things as musical activities and community events.

In conclusion, as Head Boy and Head Girl, we are really privileged to be working with an incredible new Sixth Form Executive and are looking forward to the next term ahead.

*Ella Viscomi and Yaman Nashawi, Heads of the School Council*

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# HOUSE PERFORMING ARTS' MUSICALS

**Since returning with exciting events in 2022, the House System has gone from strength to strength.**

In November 2023, we launched the return of House Performing Arts, following its absence due to Covid. Students signed up in their House assemblies to perform in a team musical. Fosse and Stonebow were given 'Matilda', Witham and Lindum had 'Mamma Mia' and Brayford and Ermine had 'The Greatest Showman'. Over 170 students got involved from Years 7-13, with a range of talents and interests. There were actors, singers, dancers and even students leading the technical support side of the event.

Students had a two-day intense rehearsal schedule and performed their musical to the other teams and a panel of judges, who brought their expertise in music, drama and pupil participation. All three musicals were a roaring success and the judges' scores were incredibly close, with each team winning a different award, Matilda for acting, Mamma Mia for participation and singing and The Greatest Showman for dancing.

The final results put Matilda (Fosse and Stonebow) in first place, Mamma Mia (Witham and Lindum) in second place and The Greatest Showman (Brayford and Ermine) in third place. The most important thing was that everyone had a brilliant time, cheered on their house, but also supported their friends. We really are achieving our goal to 'reset with ambition'.

Huge thanks to all staff who supported with this great event, but also the students themselves. We cannot thank them all here, but some special mentions must go to the following. From 'Team Matilda'; Maddy Jones, Sharayah Jordan, Amber Tesha, Evie Smith, Cerys Jones, Niamh Sutherland, Ethan Gaynor, Chloe Wright, Nathan Depledge, Erin Fitzgerald, Molly Hauton, Eva Rose Fellows, Eva Shaw, Lilly Schofield, Shannon Batu and Arthur Stevens. From 'Team Greatest Showman'; Alex Jepson, Thea Smith, Darcey Smith, Jasmine Thomas, Poppy Edwards, Freya Capes and Erin Coney. From 'Team Mamma Mia'; Bella Patrick, Connie Brook, Lola Bibby, Ben Payne and Lily Bratty.

We are so proud of everyone's efforts and hope that everyone has a restful Christmas ready for the House events in the new term!



# ARMISTICE RUGBY TOUR

**Over October half term, Lincoln RFC attended a rugby tour in France.**

Of the 26 players in the team, 8 were from William Farr - the biggest representation by one school: Charlie Bargh, Lewis Wilson, Seb Griffin, Harry Taylor, Luke Cartwright, Will Hardy, James Coy and Owen Kent.

The full U16 squad were able to attend fully funded after a whole year of fundraising activities by the boys. Exceptional rugby was played and the club received a sportsmanship award. They were able to pay their respects on behalf of the club and visit some truly memorable sites, which will provide lasting memories.



# ST BARNABAS HEART TRAIL

**On 21 September, students from Years 8, 9 and 10, who had been involved in the production of the William Farr HeART as part of the St Barnabas HeART Trail, were invited to attend the Farewell party at the Waterside Centre.**

The HeART was a joint team-effort between the Art and Design and Design and Technology departments, and they used students that had shown interest and flair across their competition submissions from Key Stage 3.

The HeART took months of preparation, meetings and work, inside and outside of lessons. The HeART spent the summer on the Educational Trail inside the Waterside Centre, and sat in the window of the O2 phone shop. The HeART Trail not only brought a lot of interest to the city, but the manager of the Waterside Centre had seen a lot of footfall, based on the Educational HeART Trail.

Unbeknown to us, we had been awarded the prize of Sponsor's Favourite Design. The students were absolutely made up! The HeART now resides in reception, outside of the Main Hall, for all to see.

Well done to each and every person involved!



# PRINCE'S TEACHING INSTITUTE AWARD

**William Farr Church of England School has been awarded The Prince's Teaching Institute (PTI) Subject Leadership Programme Mark for outstanding teaching in English.**

We are delighted to have been awarded the PTI Mark for our English department's innovative work. They have delivered consistently outstanding results, and this prestigious national recognition is richly deserved. We will be proud to carry the Mark on our website as evidence of our commitment to inspirational teaching.



The PTI's Subject Leadership Programme is open to all state secondary schools in England. To achieve the PTI Mark, departments have to demonstrate that they have increased the challenge within their subject curriculum, developed their staff's specialist subject knowledge, developed subject-based links outside school and enthused their pupils through subject-based activities beyond the curriculum.

In addition to the PTI Subject Leadership Mark, the English department is thrilled to have been nominated for a special Bernice McCabe Award. This award promotes and celebrates excellence in subject leadership, recognising departments that put quality subject teaching at the heart of the classroom. Bernice McCabe OBE, who sadly passed away in 2019, was the founding Co-Director of the PTI and believed in the transformative power of inspiring subject teaching.

To find out more about the PTI, visit [www.ptieducation.org](http://www.ptieducation.org).



## 250,000 STEPS

Back in February, Oscar Shortman (Year 7) decided to undertake a 250,000 step challenge to raise funds for The ME Association.

Oscar wanted to raise money for one of the UK-based charities helping families like his. He set a target of £250 - the 250 number that keeps coming up relates to the estimated 250,000 people in the UK with ME. He knew it would be a big challenge, but he was eager to try.

It took Oscar 9 months and 43 different walks to meet his target, but he has raised £444 for the ME Association, almost double what he initially set out to do. Well done!



**HE DID IT!!**

**250K STEPS - OVER £400 RAISED**



## AUSCHWITZ MURAL

Each year, William Farr School takes part in the Lessons from Auschwitz project through the History and Religious Studies departments.

This involves students attending seminars on the theme of the Holocaust and taking part in a day trip to the concentration camp in Poland. When students return to school, they are expected to deliver some lessons from their experience for the rest of the school to learn.

This year, one of those students, Freya Gissing, decided that it would be a good idea to create a lasting legacy for the school by creating a mural. She sought the help of a talented artist in the year group, Amy Garbutt, who worked alongside Freya in creating a wonderful piece illustrating the entrance to the camp and a charcoal drawing of inmates in the camp.

This legacy will enable students to discuss the issues surrounding events in history like the Holocaust and reflect on how we can learn from this period.



## SIXTH FORM CHARITY FUNDRAISING

This November, the Sixth Form Halloween charity fundraiser was for Action for Humanity.

The students were able to dress up and held a cake sale. They raised £303.97.



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# 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 has been an ongoing problem in Lincolnshire for the last few years.

It is one of the top 5 crimes for which 14-16 year olds have received a criminal conviction. Online behaviour is something the Lincolnshire Stay Safe Partnership talk regularly to children and young people about across the county within their online safety sessions. They want to also make sure parents are aware of these laws and the potential consequences online behaviour can have in the real world, for our children's futures.

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

The following link is to a YouTube video aimed at parents - [Stay Safe Talks - Malicious Communications](#)



## E-Safety - We have been made aware of an online site called Omegle.

Many children and young people have used this site to seek new friendships, given the isolation they may have experienced during the pandemic. While some individuals will use this site appropriately, there have been many reports of highly inappropriate behaviour by users towards under-18s accessing this service. Omegle will connect children with strangers of any age, with no controls at all, putting them at risk of exploitation. We would highly recommend prohibiting access to the platform.

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# EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

To communicate with school 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 the Governors section. Thank you.

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## TERM DATES

### Term 3

Wednesday 03 January 2024	INSET DAY
Thursday 04 January 2024	First day of term
Friday 09 February 2024	Last day of term

### Term 4

Monday 19 February 2024	First day of term
Thursday 28 March 2024	Last day of term

### 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.