



NEWSLETTER

Volume Eleven - Issue Two - 2022

Martin Lewis Money Show

Ukrainian collection

Naming of the Sports Hall

School Council

WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School



The painting is called 'Believing Grace'

Emma Eckersley, Year 11 GCSE Art

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we come to the end of a busy term, I would like to share with you some of the fantastic curricular and extra-curricular activities and important events that have taken place at William Farr since Christmas, together with key pieces of information going forwards.

With the removal of many Covid-19 restrictions this term, it has been a delight to see the school re-energised and happy children taking part in clubs and sporting activities again, which are so important to their wellbeing. As a Year 9 student said to me, 'So this is what William Farr School is all about'.

Our thoughts have turned to the Ukrainian conflict and the many families and children who have been displaced from their home and suffered hardship and trauma beyond recognition. I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of students, parents and staff, who have kindly donated goods for the Ukrainian appeal – thank you. Further information can be found in this newsletter.

As Year 11 and 13 students approach their final examinations, they have a busy time ahead with revision. It is testimony to their determination and resolve in how they are preparing for their exams following the disruption to their education in the last 2 years. We wish them all the very best in their exams and future plans.

My thanks go to the staff at William Farr for the unwavering support they have given to your child this term and to you as parents for the encouragement and commitment you give to support your child's academic and personal development.

As a school we are continually evaluating our education provision and would greatly appreciate your support in completing the short survey using the link below:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views>



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

DROP IN TO MEET 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 directly 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 the main office.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT



At William Farr, 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
- Parents - through the Parent Code of Conduct.

Please can you read through the [Parent Code of Conduct](#) on the school website, which outlines:

- our expectations on parents, carers and visitors to the school;
- behaviour that will not be tolerated;
- breaching the code.

Thank you for your continued support.

NAMING OF THE SPORTS HALL

The Student Council conducted a student survey in school to decide on a name for the Sports Hall – the only building in school which currently doesn't have a name.

Over 1,200 students responded in the survey and the winning vote was for Sophie Wells OBE.

Sophie is a Paralympic medallist from Lincoln, who competed in the 2012, 2016 and 2020 Paralympic Games for the equestrian sport of dressage. She won Team Gold and Individual Silver at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics. Sophie is a member of the Team GB Paralympic, World and European para dressage team. She also rides in able-bodied competition, coaches at top level and has taken part in the Young Rider European Dressage Championships, the Young Rider World Cup and the Grand Prix.

Sophie was born with Amniotic Band Syndrome, a congenital disorder caused by entrapment of fetal parts (usually a limb or digits) in fibrous amniotic bands while in the womb. For Sophie, this caused the loss or partial loss of her fingers and the loss of sensation on parts of her legs. Nerve problems advanced in her childhood, so she has weekly treatment and daily medication to manage this.



Despite this, Sophie did not let her disability stop her from competing in horse riding whilst growing up. Her first major competition was the 2009 European Championships, where she won three gold medals. She went on to win 34 medals across her Paralympic career and even became the first para-rider to compete in the able-bodied Young Rider European Championships.

The students said that Sophie was an inspiration to them because of how she has demonstrated perseverance and has continued with determination throughout her sporting career – matching the core values of William Farr School.

We will be inviting Sophie to attend William Farr School for the naming of the 'Wells Sports Hall'.

Further details on Sophie's achievements can be found at: <https://sophiewells.com/home>

WORLD BOOK DAY CHARITY BOOK SWAP

As part of World Book Day, Year 9 organised a charity book swap on 3 and 4 March 2022.

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

The event was very well supported by all year groups, right up to Sixth Form and staff. We raised £380 in total and still have books left over. The money raised so far is going to the DEC to support the Ukrainian Aid Appeal.

We will be doing another sale next term to raise more funds and any surplus after that will be donated to a local charity shop to raise further funds for good causes.



Many thanks for all the generous donations of both books and money.

Mrs Hanson, Head of Year 9

HEADS OF THE STUDENT SCHOOL COUNCIL

As the current Year 13 school councillors hang up our boots for our final term, we would like to look back on what we have done as a committee this year.

We started off making history, being the first males to be Heads of School Council together. We were put in a prime position to tackle gender stereotypes, with our first action being campaigning for girls to join the school football team.

After a group of younger students voiced the need for more female representation in school, the Year 13 members of the School Council organised the renaming of the Sports Hall after a well-known Lincolnshire sportswoman (who will it be?...). To see an idea develop into a tangible action has been extremely rewarding for the committee and proves that our ideas do hold weight in William Farr. The student voice of all years was again amplified in an all-years council meeting with a school governor in February, where committee members had the chance to productively debate in an open forum.

One of the positives of the covid pandemic has been the heightened importance of school councillors in bringing the William Farr community together, through assemblies and events. After seeing the need for first aid in Euro 2020, some of the Year 12 councillors have been delivering a talk about first aid to younger students. These vital lessons have the potential to save lives and will be invaluable for years to come.

Charity has been a focal point of our tenure as Heads. We've arranged countless fancy dress days and sport sweepstakes, raising money for a myriad of important causes. To cap off the term, we've organised a Sixth Form vs Teachers football match in aid of Comic Relief on Friday 18 March. Undoubtedly one for the history books.

We came into William Farr as shy, reserved Year 7 boys, but with the guidance of our amazing staff and peers, we leave as (hopefully) well spoken, outgoing gentlemen; ready to tackle any challenges we will face in the world. The incredible opportunity to be Heads of School Council has shaped who we are today and has allowed us to make a difference in the community that we so dearly love.

We will look back on our tenure with great happiness over what we have accomplished and every time we revisit school, we will be filled with pride seeing our names on the board in the Main Hall. But ultimately, we hope that our legacy at William Farr isn't solely defined by the formalities of our positions, but instead we hope to be remembered by the impact we have made on all students and staff for many generations to come.

Thanks, William Farr, you've been great.

Ristian David and George Dixon, Heads of School Council, 2021-22



BROMCOM PARENT APP

Early this term, we completed the process of moving our management information system (MIS) from Progresso to a new system called Bromcom.

The MIS is the system that holds student records, runs the school timetable, enables electronic registration and facilitates communication with parents. We have also now launched to parents the accompanying smartphone app, called 'My Child at School' (MCAS).



MyChildAtSchool - MCAS

Bromcom Computers Plc Education

PEGI 3

This app is available for your device

'My Child at School' is a simple app for a smartphone, which will become the main means of communication from the school to parents. We strongly recommend that all parents and carers install the app on their phone and register to use it. Information on how to install the app has been sent out to all parents, along with a further email providing the username, invitation code and the school ID required for registration.

The app will enable parents to see and amend their contact information, as well as displaying their child's timetable, attendance records, reports, documents and term dates. The app will also enable the school to communicate with parents via instant messaging.

We will enable more features in the app over the coming year that will provide parents with a range of additional information and services, from details of rewards and behaviour to payments for events and educational visits. We expect parents to find the app invaluable as it becomes a one-stop shop for all information relating to their child's schooling.

NEWS FROM THE GOVERNORS

As I write this newsletter for all you parents and friends of the William Farr school community, I have been issued a deadline!

Can I get this completed before everyone concerned with its production can get away for the school ski trip! Ski trip? My goodness that sort of school event seems like something of a distant memory, but the reinstatement of this adventure is another one of those signs that we are gradually emerging from the enforced hibernation brought upon us by a pandemic, the like of which none of us has ever experienced before and it is glorious to embrace again some of those freedoms that we once took for granted.

Does anything good come out of an experience like this? There has been a lot of sadness and a lot of mental health wear and tear, but for me it has also allowed the opportunity to reassess my values and consider not only what I want my life to be, but also the way I should spend it. I find signs of that also around our school and alongside a relatively new governing body who have picked up the mantle of those values and had a good think about the best way they can be implemented.



It is a governing body whose membership has been in place for the greater part (and with one or two exceptions) for about two years and, yet, because of the pandemic has only just recently met face to face. What we have tried to do is to root ourselves in the core values of the school, the things we think William Farr, the man, our founder, would have been pleased to see the institution named after him emulating. These values are signed around the school and they form a kind of verbal set of bookends on our school stage, FRIENDSHIP, COMPASSION, RESPONSIBILITY, RESPECT, PERSEVERANCE and WISDOM. These are pretty good values that were thought up and drawn up by our students as identifying the things that have mattered. Every time your governors meet, they examine what they have been discussing and the decisions they have come to under the lens of those six virtues and we want to get them as right as possible in the wake of an (as yet) unknown but impending Ofsted inspection and beyond that into the life of the school. In conversation with staff members recently there was a general feeling that we are a school looking to and preparing for the future rather than basking in past glories. That is so healthy and it is something that I, in leading the governing body, have felt positive and realistic about.

Governor visits are now resuming, but in looking at what that means and how it can best be carried out, we will review the policy that supports this for the best safety and support of everyone. I have been fortunate to spend some classroom time with members of the Sixth Form. I am so impressed with the sharpness of thinking, the clarity of mind and purpose I have seen in these students and the courteous way in which they have departed themselves in these sessions. Members of the student body have been involved in interviews and appointment processes. As I wander the corridors on my way to meetings, I see so many hopeful and friendly faces. As far as the pandemic is concerned, we are not out of anything yet and we will all have to live in a new way, but as a school community, I have real hope for a positive future embracing 'Life in all its fullness' as we try and do this together.

On behalf of all the governors and myself, may I wish you all a very joyous Easter. Please stay safe and take care of yourselves.

Jeffrey Heskins, Chair of Governors

SIXTH FORM STUDENTS APPEAR ON TV

On Tuesday 22 February 2022, members of the William Farr School Council and their parents were lucky enough to rather spontaneously appear on The Martin Lewis Money Show on ITV (top right hand corner of the photograph).

What arose from a small email enquiry the night before had, in a matter of hours, materialised into an opportunity that was the talk of the school. The subject of the appearance was the 'Changes to Student Finances' that were to come into place as of 2023, an issue that concerns all Year 12 students up and down the country.

Mr Noon, the Head of Year 12 and 13 at William Farr, had gathered us together on the morning of the 22nd, in order to discuss a last-minute opportunity for members of the Student Council to be involved. As students who would be affected by the new changes in government, we were asked to represent the student voice by appearing as virtual audience members on the show! We went away and learnt as much as we could in order to be fully prepared for our appearance later that day.



The evening came and we found ourselves nervously bunched together, in front of a camera, practising our facts and awaiting further instruction. Within what felt like seconds, we were behind the scenes of a real ITV programme, talking to the director and being introduced to Angellica Bell - as Martin Lewis gave us a rundown of what to do. We clapped, cheered and smiled as we were introduced and took great pride in the idea that we were able to represent our school, while also taking part in being the face of a generation that the current changes will affect. We all agree it was a surreal opportunity that William Farr had been given and one we are incredibly grateful to have taken part in.

Tolan Enderby, Year 12 student

LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH

February marked LGBT+ History Month and William Farr was proud to be once again asked to speak at the annual Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust NHS LGBT+ Conference.

The theme of this year's conference was "Togetherness", reflecting on the isolation of the last 2 years and looking at steps moving forward for those in the LGBT+ community. The school's LGBT+ Space created a presentation based on their experiences of the lockdown and reflecting on how important William Farr is for their identity.

Through a survey created by the students at school, it was incredible to find that the school's support and LGBT+ Space was highly valued and fundamentally important for students' happiness and wellbeing. Although the presentation was virtual, the chance to present to so many people was a fantastic opportunity and we were represented by students from Year 7 all the way through to Year 13.



SITUATION IN UKRAINE

Our thoughts and prayers are all with the Ukrainian people at this difficult time. The following prayer has been shared with staff and students in school, which parents may like to read:

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
We pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen



Many of our students are understandably concerned about events. Parents may find the following links useful:

- How to talk to your teenager about the invasion of Ukraine (BBC Bitesize/Anna Freud Centre)
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zbrdjsg>
- How To Talk To Your Child About The War In Ukraine (YoungMinds)
<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/blog/top-tips-for-talking-to-your-young-person-about-the-events-in-ukraine/>
- Worrying about Russia and Ukraine (Childline)
<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-involved/articles/worrying-about-russia-ukraine/>
- Worrying about war and conflict Sarah Dove (Phoenix Education Consultancy)
<https://www.phoenixgrouphq.com/tools>
- Christians Against Poverty (CAP) provides free debt help and local community groups to help families across the UK. capuk.org

May I also take this opportunity to thank all our school community for the kind and generous donations we have received for our Ukraine appeal. We also received donations from Dunholme Church and members of Welton Community. Thank you.



PARENTS' EVENINGS - GOING FORWARD

As you know, over the last couple of years, we have held all parents' evenings online using the 'School Cloud' software package.

The school is reviewing how we present parents' evenings in the future and we would like your opinion as to whether we go back to actual onsite face-to-face parents' evenings or keep the online video call system as per the last two years.

Please can you complete the survey below by the end of the first week after the Easter break – Friday 22 April 2022. The results will be shared with you before the end of the academic year.

Thank you.

<https://forms.office.com/r/43WJNCZ2EE>

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The quality of teaching underpins student success at William Farr School.

We are proud of our staff and recognise the contribution they make on a daily basis to ensure that your child receives the highest quality of education and support. We are continually reviewing practice and looking for ways to further improve. Since September 2021, we have been carrying out deep dives into curriculum areas, which have involved carrying out learning walks in lessons, talking to students about their learning experiences, talking to staff about how they deliver the curriculum and looking at students' work.

This term, our focus is on improving the presentation of students' work using the acronym PROUD:

P – having a PEN in lessons (blue or black)

R – having a RULER in lessons

O – Organisation of work – making sure work is neatly presented and loose-leaf sheets are stuck in books

U – Underlining titles, dates and the last piece of work

D – Diagrams are drawn neatly in pencil – no graffiti or doodling.

PROUD posters are displayed in classrooms and staff have been using the PROUD message in lessons. We would appreciate your support in looking through your child's book, ensuring they bring the correct equipment to school and reinforcing the PROUD message so that they present work to the best of their ability. Thank you.



HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR/ MISOGYNY

As you will be aware, schools must ensure that their culture addresses harmful sexual behaviour.

The Government has requested that schools assume that sexual harassment, online sexual abuse and sexual violence is happening in our community. At William Farr, we have adopted a whole-school approach to ensure all students know that this type of behaviour is unacceptable. Both our School Behaviour Policy and Safeguarding Policy address these issues and set out our support and sanctions.

Through our PSHE programme, students are taught about relationships, consent, sex and health education, sexual harassment, online abuse and sexual violence. This term, we have set up a working party, which includes staff and students, to discuss the issues we face in school. A whole-school Action Plan has been written. Posters have been displayed around school that reflect the messages that are taught in school and include where students can access support.

Any allegation of sexual harassment, abuse or violence will be taken very seriously, recorded and dealt with swiftly and may involve the school involving the Police, Children's Services and Mental Health provision. Our staff continue to undergo training in this area to help them spot signs of abuse, including Brook Training and the training recommended by Ofsted from Ukfeminista.

Please contact Mrs H Bates (Assistant Headteacher) at school if you have any concerns.

[Talking to your child about online sexual harassment: A guide for parents | Children's Commissioner for England](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/talking-to-your-child-about-online-sexual-harassment-a-guide-for-parents/)
([childrenscommissioner.gov.uk](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)).

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/.../sex-relationships/sexual-behaviour-children>

SAFEGUARDING IN THE HOLIDAYS

If you have any safeguarding concerns about a child outside of school hours or in the holidays, please contact Children's Services on 01522 782111. Staff will not be checking their emails outside of school time. Thank you.

Join LCC's Online Safety Officer, Dan Hawbrook, on 18 May 2022 for a special Q&A session for parents and carers, which will cover whatever YOU want to know – whether it's game ratings, parental controls, bullying or strangers, Sign-up will be required to access this session.

[A Date with Dan Tickets, Wed 18 May 2022 at 18:30 | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-date-with-dan-tickets-28421111111)

SITE IMPROVEMENTS

William Farr School sits on a very large site with many buildings and grounds to maintain.

Works involve day-to-day maintenance, a rolling programme of improvements, as well as longer term strategic capital projects to update and improve the fabric of the buildings. We were delighted to have secured a large Condition Improvement Fund grant in 2021 to carry out two major capital projects with a total value of £750k. The projects were to replace aged and leaking underground water mains and to replace the roofs to Banks, Darwin and the Sports Hall.

Since the start of this academic year, your child will have noticed these major works taking place across the school site and we are very happy to confirm that they will be completed by the summer half term.

WORLD OF WORK WEEK

William Farr held its first ever World of Work Week to coincide with National Careers Week.

Students were spoken to in their assemblies by employers and training providers, such as Lincolnshire Coop, ASK Apprenticeships and Barbon Homes. In their tutor time, the tutors led sessions on Work Experience, what you can do without a degree, Labour Market Information, team-building exercises and quizzes.

Subject Departments also got involved, helping educate students about careers and opportunities in their subject areas. Departments put up wall displays, used ex-students to talk about their careers, linking skills from the lesson to the workplace, and asking when will I ever use this in real life.

PARKING ON BECKHALL

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

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

TERM DATES

Term 5

Tuesday 19 April 2022	Lincs County Council Bank Holiday in lieu of 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

Y11 PREFECT TIE

Year 10 students were given the opportunity during term 3 to submit a design for a new prefect tie to be worn in Year 11 to match the updated school uniform.

13 students submitted entries, 3 were shortlisted and these have now gone for a whole staff vote. We will then be discussing the winning entry with our uniform supplier for the final design to be worn in September and will share this with parents in the summer term. A great example of William Farr students shaping the future of our school.

WERE YOU HERE IN THE '80s?

Here is a link to a recent article by Lincolnshire Live, taking a nostalgic look at the school's past.



It goes back to 1985, when students spent a whole year on a project to enhance art lessons through a BBC Microcomputer and an early 'graphics system'.

<https://www.lincolnshirelive.co.uk/news/history/gallery/memories-getting-village-school-computer-6701955>

CLUBS ARE BACK!

We are delighted to have a number of extra-curricular clubs back up and running in school.

These provide valuable opportunities for children to develop their self-confidence, establish friendship groups and pursue areas of interest supporting their own personal and emotional development.

Clubs on offer at lunchtime/after school include: Art, Awesome Science, Basketball, Board Games, Choir, Computerama, Chess, Climbing, Drama, Farrago, French Spelling Bee, Fusion, Knit and Natter, LGBT+, Marine Biology, Music Technology, Netball School, Photography, Radio, Reading Group, Spanish, and Warhammer.

Further information is displayed daily on screens around the school and can be found on the school's website.



Friends of William Farr's

BINGO NIGHT



Friday 13th May



Doors Open
6.15pm Eyes Down
7pm.



Tickets £1 - includes entry and
snacks

(Bingo books purchased on the
evening)



Available at school shop, Welton
Paper shop, Eventbrite or call
07506342499

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