



NEWSLETTER

Volume Nine - Issue Two - 2019

Arkwright Scholarship

Mosque visit

Art and DT trip to Barcelona

Christmas Concert

WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School



Dear Parents and Carers,

I have great pleasure in attaching my Christmas newsletter, which gives an opportunity to reflect on the special community in which we all play a role.

The newsletter provides a snapshot of the fantastic curricular and extra-curricular activities, trips and visits which have taken place since October half term. These opportunities play an integral part in students' learning experiences, helping them to acquire the knowledge, skills and understanding to support their academic and personal development.

As we approach the festive break, I would like to thank you for all your support, which 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 happy, peaceful and restful break. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Jonathan Knowler, Headteacher

ART CLUB



Congratulations to the Art Club for their fantastic wall hanging that they made for St Mary's Church, Welton.

This year's theme was 'a celebration of carols' and they could make anything.

The Art Club decided on Silent Night, Holy Night and they each decorated a letter.

ADVENT CALENDARS

The advent calendars were donated by the William Farr community to support the local food bank.

The food bank was astonished by your generosity and this is what nearly 480 advent calendars look like. Thank you.



POLICIES

The following policies on the school website (under Governing Body) have either been reviewed and updated or are new this academic year:

- Careers Provider Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy 2019-20
- Equalities Objectives Policy
- Parent Code of Conduct
- Sixth Form Admissions Policy 2020-21
- Year 7 Admissions Policy 2020-21
- Pupil Premium Strategy Statement 2019-22

LINCOLN MOSQUE VISIT

On 12 November, Year 7 went on a visit to the mosque in Lincoln.

All students covered their head with a cap or a scarf to show respect to the community and Allah.

As they entered the mosque, they took their shoes off and left them on some special shelves. This was done so they wouldn't get mud inside the mosque! They then entered a special room to watch a presentation about mosques and what would normally be inside them.

Later they entered the prayer room where they learned about prayer and asked questions. On the ceiling there were the 99 names of Allah.

Students discovered key items inside the mosque - that the carpet was from Turkey, the chandelier was from China, and the minbar was from Morocco.

The Imam also spoke about the different rites of passage Muslims follow.

Year 7 really enjoyed this trip!

Camille Montealegre, Year 7



MATHS UPDATE

It has been another busy and highly successful Autumn term in the Maths department with the Sixth Form students involved in both individual and team competitions.

In the individual competitions, we had our highest ever percentage of students achieving a certificate, with students gaining awards at every level and invitations to the advanced rounds.

In Year 12 gaining a Gold Certificate and Best in Year was Iona Goodman. In Year 13, Jack Carter, Afshein Keshmiri and Edward Rowlett received Gold certificates with Edward also achieving Best in Year and Best in School. Iona and Jack were invited to take part in the follow-on Senior Kangaroo, while Afshein and Edward's performance resulted in an invitation to take part in the British Maths Olympiad, with six questions to be considered in 3-and-a-half hours.

CHRISTMAS CARD

What a lovely design for this year's school Christmas card, using a photograph taken by Ryan Chan in Year 13.



YEAR 7 CONCERT

Our fourth Year 7 concert took place on 16 October.

Each tutor group sang a song and played an instrumental piece and some students were brave enough to do a solo!

The audience was treated to a range of instruments from violin to ukulele, a range of expertise from a saxophone player who had only had six lessons to a Grade 5 violinist and a cathedral chorister, and a range of styles from ZZ Top to Schubert, and yet all were celebrated together.

It was great to see so many pupils getting involved in their first concert at William Farr and some their first concert ever!



SUCCESS FOR LUCY GUEST SIXTH FORM

Well done to Lucy Guest for winning Young Sportswoman of the Year at the Lincolnshire Active Sports Awards in November.



Thank you for attending the Sixth Form Information Evening on 30 October.

The evening was busy and very well attended. It was lovely to see so many of our Year 11 students finding out more about Post-16 life at William Farr.

Thank you to our Sixth Form students who helped in preparing for the evening and for supporting in various ways. They are our best ambassadors for representing the vibrant, lively and caring Sixth Form community.

The deadline for applications to the Sixth Form has passed; however, applications are still welcome.

Year 11 students enjoyed a further session on Sixth Form as part of their Post-16 Morning held on 5 November where they had the opportunity to question our current Sixth Form students and gain a greater understanding of the day-to-day reality of studying A-level subjects.

ART AND DT TRIP TO BARCELONA

On the Wednesday before October half term, 30 Art, Design Engineering, Graphics, Fashion and Textiles, Photography and Product Design students (and 4 staff) climbed aboard a coach destined for East Midlands Airport.

Within hours we were stood on Las Ramblas in the heart of Barcelona and we were blessed with the weather. Uncle William was looking down on us!

Every day was planned with educational activities, as well as being jam-packed with culture. Students visited the Picasso, Science and Technology, Miro and Design museums, as well as the Sagrada Família, a nearly 100-year-old cathedral once started by Gaudi himself and now finished by architects and artists in his style, which was awe-inspiring.

Students also visited Gaudi's Parc Guell and Gaudi's house; Casa Mila. We also climbed Parc de Montjuic, flew across Barcelona on the cable car and watched the famous Font Magica, which was great to see – so good we watched it twice. As a treat students also visited PortAventura World.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the study tour, even though the prime reason for going was to gain inspiration and source materials for project work. Students arrived back late on Monday, ready for a well-earned rest, having totted up nearly 80 miles and cemented friendships, made new friends and even learned some Spanish along the way! We will always have Barcelona.



MOROCCO VISIT

Earlier this year, William Farr was proud to send Mr Wilcock to Agadir, Morocco, as part of the 'Global Pathways: Connecting Classrooms' initiative organised by the British Council.

The intention behind the trip, which took place over the October half term, was to raise awareness of climate issues and how these topics can be tackled within the classroom environment.

As well as gaining an insight into Moroccan history and culture through trips to the cities of Agadir and Marrakesh, the trip consisted of visits to multiple schools and education centres in order to expand British visitors' understanding of the Moroccan education system. One of these schools was Mohamed Derfoufi, which offered British visitors an insight into the creative and passionate approach that students had towards climate change and its impact on our planet. Students presented a range of work, from music and drama performances, to artwork and upcycled products.

Mr Wilcock also visited Ibn Sina High School in the Biougra region of Morocco, in order to explore how our partner school had incorporated climate change issues into the classroom. This was also an opportunity for Mr Wilcock to present a letter of reply from Mr Knowler to Mr Ahmed Ouajine, the Headteacher of Ibn Sina, who wrote to Mr Knowler when William Farr School was honoured to host Moroccan visitors earlier this year.

Finally, Mr Wilcock, in conjunction with the other British visitors who had travelled from Lincolnshire schools, was asked to deliver a workshop, which focused on 'Good Teaching and Learning Practices' to prospective teachers who were studying Education at an undergraduate level.

As a part of the 'Global Pathways: Connecting Classrooms' initiative, Mr Wilcock has already helped to incorporate aspects of climate awareness into English lessons, but is launching new concepts at the start of 2020 that will help to raise awareness of this critical issue and encourage students to be more eco-conscious, as well as expanding their understanding of other cultures.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Poppy Collection for the Royal British Legion raised £418.21 this year.

As well as selling poppies in the school, the cadets from the RAF, Army and Royal Marines, along with representatives from our School Council, attended the Remembrance Day Service at St Mary's Church, Welton.

They laid two wreaths from the school and took part in the minute's silence.



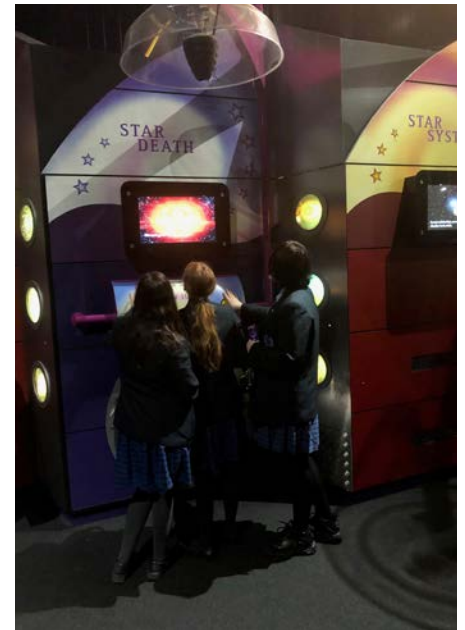
YEAR 8 LAUNCH INTO SPACE

Life can throw some difficult decisions at Year 8 now and again and today was no exception. On arrival at the International Space Centre, Leicester, there were many questions that were very hard to answer – one of them being, which activity to do first?

- o Take a trip on the launch rocket, Thor, and head up out of the Earth's atmosphere?
- o Or search for extra-terrestrial intelligence?
- o Perhaps deliver the weather news in the weather pod and see if we can manage to forecast the weather using the map whilst looking directly ahead at the camera (without laughing too much)?
- o Maybe step back in time to 1969 and the first lunar landing and wonder at the tiny size of the TVs and how people managed to see ANYTHING on them!
- o Find out if it is possible to grow food in space and, if so, what and how?
- o Or see what it is like inside 'Columbus' – a mock-up of the International Space Station?

The students had a fantastic learning experience and the hours passed extremely quickly. Both staff and students bought souvenirs from the gift shop. Some posters for students' bedrooms and teachers for their classrooms. You may well also be seeing Mr Wiley, Mr Coupe and Mr Tamisari sporting new science-themed ties in the coming weeks!

All in all, a fun day was had by the 136 students who attended, along with the 10 members of staff. Planning for next year has already commenced!



LOUGHBOROUGH LIGHTNING

Loughborough Lightning has been using the school Sports Hall for one of its U15 netball training hubs this year.

They gave three of our girls the opportunity to join them for a training session on Friday 29 November. The training session worked on attacking skills and moved around the circle and was a great opportunity for the girls to develop themselves further and improve their understanding of netball.

We are grateful to Loughborough Lightning for giving the girls this opportunity and look forward to working with them again.



HOUSE ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE

This term, the House team, in conjunction with Lincoln College, ran a House Enterprise Challenge.

Students could choose to take part in a range of challenges from Christmas hair styling to dancing, or nail design to setting up a domestic hot water circuit.

Over 300 students representing all year groups took part and we are grateful to Lincoln College for their support in running the day's activities.

Congratulations to students from Witham who were the winners.



QUADCOPTER REGIONAL FINALS

A great effort from the ten Year 9 students who competed in two teams (Crazy Copters and Air Splitters) at this year's Regional Finals for the Raytheon Quadcopter Challenge.

The challenge was hosted at William Farr School this year where the groups had to fly their drones across obstacle courses against other schools from the East Midlands.

The teams came 2nd and 6th, meaning they sadly missed out on the National Finals, but throughout the day they demonstrated excellent engineering skills, teamwork and presentation skills.

A great day was had by all and all those involved can be very proud of themselves for their hard work, effort and commitment.

Well done.



PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO YOUNG ENGINEERS

More than 400 of the country's most talented students have been honoured at ceremonies in London and Edinburgh as they received scholarships from one of the UK's leading engineering programmes.

Reuben Gidlow and Tom Carter in Year 12 were among students hand-picked from across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland who have achieved a coveted Arkwright Engineering Scholarship award.

A total of 415 scholars will receive financial and mentoring support through their A-Levels and Scottish Advanced Higher qualifications, as part of a drive to inspire future leaders in engineering.

The Arkwright Engineering Scholarship is a programme from national STEM education charity The Smallpeice Trust, which has been providing scholarships to students since 1991.

Since its inception, more than 5,700 young people have passed through the scholarship programme, including award-winning BBC presenter Steph McGovern, who forged a career at Black & Decker before moving into business journalism. This year, more than 1,370 students aged between 15 and 16 years old applied, following nominations from their schools. Scholarships were awarded to 126 female students, representing 30% of all 2019 Arkwright scholars.

The successful applicants, who have all undertaken a rigorous, year-long application process, were invited to receive their accolade at ceremonies held at the Institute of Engineering and Technology in London and the International Conference Centre in Edinburgh. The scholarships consist of an annual financial award to each scholar and to his/her school, and enrichment activities such as mentoring and industry visits that enhance a scholar's experience of engineering in a real-world context.



NEWS FROM THE GOVERNORS

The first term of the new school year is always a busy one for Governors, with several Full Governing Body meetings and at least one meeting each for all the committees: Admissions, Resources, Ethos and Relationships and Quality of Education.

We started the term reviewing the excellent results gained by last year's Year 11 and 13 and then started to look at our priorities for the coming year to maintain the fantastic standards that we all associate with William Farr.

We also have a responsibility to review and agree various school policies. This term this has included the Admissions Policy for September 2021, the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and the Sex and Relationships Policy, as well as a new Parental Code of Conduct Policy.

As I mentioned in my last newsletter item, we also discussed the need for some new Parent Governors on the Governing Body and we have agreed that we would like to have up to 5 parents on the Governing Body (we currently have 2 in that role).

We will be holding an election (if it is needed given the numbers who apply) in February 2020 for Parent Governors and we will be holding an information evening for anybody who would be interested on Monday 27 January 2020 at 6pm, which is our usual meeting time/day of the week. More details on this event will follow in the new year in the form of a letter/email from school, so please look out for it if you have an interest in the role.

Finally, can I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas, a fabulous and fun New Year, and a happy and healthy 2020.

Mark Garthwaite, Chair of Governors



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, on a trial basis, who would like to 'drop in' for a generic conversation with me on issues surrounding school life. 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.

A promotional poster for the 'Sweet Charity' event. It features three black silhouettes against a white background. On the left and right are silhouettes of a man in a tuxedo holding a cane. In the center is a silhouette of a woman in a top hat and dress, holding a cane. The words 'SWEET CHARITY' are written in large, bold, red, stylized letters across the woman's silhouette. Below the silhouettes is a red horizontal bar. On the left side of the bar, the name 'WILLIAM FARR' is written in white, bold, capital letters. On the right side of the bar, the dates 'MARCH 18-20 2020' are written in white, bold, capital letters.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Talent, diversity and versatility all in one evening.

Over 70 students took part in our Christmas Concert this year and the audience left with a sense of awe and wonder! The concert got off to a superb start with the orchestra, who delighted with a medley of 'Phantom of the Opera' tunes and a performance of 'Sleigh Ride', complete with whip and sleigh bells! Our Year 13 students gave the audience a taster of the calibre of their A-level recitals and the KS3 students were equally impressive, demonstrating a level of professionalism rarely seen at this age. The Year 10 and 11 pupils particularly wowed with the range and quality of their performances, including a piece of Electro House composed and performed by William Kerridge.

The second half was packed full of Christmas music and got off to a great start with the newly formed 'Cathedral Belles', a vocal group of cathedral choristers and ex-choristers, singing 'Cathedral Bells'! It's never really Christmas until you hear a performance of George Michael's 'Last Christmas' and Scarlett (Y10) and Chase (Y7) delivered on this. It has also become a Will Farr tradition for there to be a duet between Oliver Altoft and Imogen Grover and they did not disappoint, singing Buble's arrangement of 'White Christmas' to rapturous applause! The choir was the best (and biggest!) it had ever been, singing Pentatonix's 'White Winter Hymnal', complete with body percussion and Rutter's 'Very Best Time of Year' to complete what was a fantastic evening.

A special mention goes to Ethan Windle, who was hugely in demand throughout the concert, not only as a soloist, but also an accompanist for other pupils, including performing the famous glockenspiel solo in 'Last Christmas'. A huge thank you to all those who took part and those behind the scenes, including the India Expedition team, led by Miss Simons, and to the Music department, led by Mrs Prentice, who made such a wonderful occasion possible. Look out for the Music and Drama department's performances of Sweet Charity on 18, 19 and 20 March.



In a fast-changing world, where can we find certainty and to whom can we look for hope?

As I am writing, members of political parties are campaigning in the General Election, but no-one can be certain yet who will be elected. Throughout the year different people have talked to me about things like Brexit or climate change and many people have been frustrated or anxious. What will happen next? What should happen next? - There seem to be few easy answers.

In times such as this we might remember that people have lived with uncertainty before, and have searched for hope.

Three such people were the so-called 'wise men', who left their homes behind and set out on a journey into the unknown. We will never know what they felt as they set off, nor what they thought they were looking for as they travelled. But we do know that when they arrived they gave meaningful gifts, which seems to be some evidence that the journey changed and helped them.

The wise men found reassurance and hope in Jesus. This reassurance and hope has been central to the lives of his followers ever since. Jesus is, to me and to millions of others, a gift that gives meaning to my life.

And as I think about Jesus, God's gift, so I realise that by trying to do as he did, and to love other people in God's name, I might begin to make the world a better place.

This year we have been thinking hard in the Diocese of Lincoln not only about how we care for other people but about how we care for the planet. The Earth, like all gifts, needs to be treated with respect and I urge you to consider how you can care for the planet as a gift from God, not simply a 'resource' to be consumed by us.

I wish you and all whom you love a very happy and holy Christmas!

If you are intrigued by the journey of the wise men, why not sign up to #FollowTheStar, the Church of England's online Christmas resource? And if you enjoy it, please let me know!

With best wishes,

The Right Reverend Dr David Court
Bishop of Grimsby
Acting Bishop of Lincoln



The Acting Bishop of Lincoln

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BINGO AND BANGERS

Over £750 was raised at the Bingo and Bangers family event held in November.

Organised by the Friends of William Farr School, not only do these events raise funds for resources for the school, but they also bring together members of the wider school community.



Heads or Tails at Bingo and Bangers



TERM DATES

Term 3

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Monday 06 January 2020 | INSET DAY |
| Tuesday 07 January 2020 | First day of term |
| Friday 14 February 2020 | Last day of term |

Term 4

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Monday 24 February 2020 | First day of term |
| Friday 03 April 2020 | Last day of term |

Term 5

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Monday 20 April 2020 | First day of term |
| Friday 08 May 2020 | BANK HOLIDAY |
| Friday 22 May 2020 | Last day of term |

Term 6

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Monday 01 June 2020 | First day of term |
| Friday 17 July 2020 | Last day of term |

THE FRIENDS
of William Farr School

FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2020 FROM 7PM AT WILLIAM FARR SCHOOL

BAR AVAILABLE

INCLUDES SNACKS

£3

Up to 6 members per team
Tickets also available from school
and Welton Paper Shop

PHONE 07753 963538
FOR MORE DETAILS

follow us for news
@wfs_friends
@williamfarrschoolfriends

<https://wfsquiz2020.eventbrite.co.uk>

DONATION REQUEST FOR TOMBOLAS/RAFFLES

Friends of William Farr School is a group of volunteers who raise funds for school resources not available within the school budget. Past donations include the school clock, trophy cabinet, bookmarks, cameras and netball kit. We do this by providing refreshments at school events and organising our own events, which also help to bring together the community of parents, staff and students.

Raffles and tombolas are very popular and are an additional way to raise funds. To help us to be able to donate as much money as possible to the school, we are requesting donations to supplement purchased prizes. We particularly welcome any unwanted Christmas gifts.

Suitable donations could include: boxes of chocolates, bottles of wine, toiletries, gift vouchers..... In fact, anything which you could spare that is unused and in good condition.

If you would like to help, please leave your donation at the school reception marked for the attention of the Friends of William Farr.





WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

A DISTINCTIVE VISION

William Farr Church of England Comprehensive School's vision is to provide all members of the school community with the opportunities to engage with life in all its fullness (John 10:10) through the highest quality of education, encouragement and endeavour. We are committed to striving for excellence and ensuring that all students are known, valued and can achieve.

We will know that we have achieved our vision when:

Every student has the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding through a broad and balanced curriculum

Every individual is confident and behaves in a way that reflects the Christian principles on which the school was founded

Everyone knows they are valued.

VALUES

Compassion, Friendship, Respect, Perseverance, Responsibility, Wisdom.

***WILLIAM FARR CHURCH OF ENGLAND
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