



# WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

## NEWSLETTER

Volume Eleven - Issue One - 2021

*Christmas Concert*

*COVID-19 Update*

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*Arkwright Scholarship*



William Farr Memorial at Welton St Mary's Church, restored by students at William Farr School



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Dear Parents/Guardians,

*It has been wonderful this term to return to a more normal school environment, following the Government relaxing some of the Covid-19 restrictions which have been in place for the last 18 months. I am very pleased to say that the number of Covid-19 confirmed cases has fallen significantly in school as the term has elapsed. In October and November 2021, 700 12-15 year olds were vaccinated on site.*

*It has been a privilege to see students happy to be back in school enjoying their education and friendship groups, which is so important in providing social and emotional support. One of my fondest memories of this term was on Friday 22 October (the last day before we broke up for half term) when the school came together to support the annual charity cake sale.*

*This also included a staff/sixth form karaoke where a significant number of students chose to assemble by the bandstand at lunchtime to join in and sing along – it was a heartfelt moment where students showed that, despite all the stresses over the last 18 months, the community of William Farr was back!*

*This newsletter provides a snapshot of some of the activities, events and achievements outside of lessons students have embraced since our return in September. 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. The newsletter also includes the latest Covid-19 information released from the DfE on 13 December 2021. Please note this is subject to change.*

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

*I wish you and your family a peaceful and holy Christmas.*

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

**Jonathan Knowler, Headteacher**



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## THANK YOU FOR FILLING CHRISTMAS SACKS

**The Year 7s have been following a mental wellbeing programme this year and this term's focus has been on ways of giving to others.**

We looked at how small acts of kindness can make a big difference to other people and the importance of giving to give rather than giving to receive. Following this theme, the year group decided to support the Lincoln Bridge Church's 'Christmas Sacks' project.

The 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 15 years. Businesses, schools, churches, etc, 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 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.



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# STUDENT SURVEY, JUNE 2021

**An electronic survey was completed anonymously by students towards the end of the last academic year.**

Just under 1,000 responses were collected from students in school at the time. The survey was used in conjunction with the Parents' Survey earlier in the year to gain feedback on three main issues.

1. Perceived quality of remote education during lockdown between January and March 2021
  - Overall, the school offered high quality remote education with 85% of students stating they felt supported with their education during lockdown. This was backed up in the parents' survey with 85% of parents grading the school's remote education as Excellent/Good.
  - Both students (91%) and parents (98%) said they had adequate home ICT provision to continue lessons at home. The school provided several laptops and WIFI routers to support this and, where needed, students were invited into school to access ICT.
  - Whilst there were a variety of lesson formats during lockdown, both parents and students cited online Teams lessons as the most useful lesson style. This was also the platform used for form tutor sessions.
2. Student opinion of how the school had reopened safely post lockdown in March 2021
  - Before reopening and publishing the school's plans to reopen safely, following all the national guidelines, 43% of students said that they had some concerns about returning to school safely. The school made clear plans to create a safe environment for students to return to after lockdown and this was clearly communicated to students. As a result, 95% of students said they felt safe on their return.
3. Student opinion of discriminatory behaviour within the school and the school's approach to tackling it.
  - 90% of students agreed that discriminatory behaviour in school is dealt with seriously and promptly.
  - 78% of students agreed that the school treated students equally.
  - Whilst most students had not experienced any discriminatory abuse (94% physical and 75% verbal), 14% of student surveys claimed they had experienced some verbal abuse due to sexism. This rose to nearly a quarter when female student answers were included, reinforcing our whole-school focus on sexism and misogynistic behaviour.

Overall, we are very pleased with the responses given within this student survey, however we are always looking at how we can further improve our school community. Areas we are focusing on to support our students going forward:

1. Look at ways to help students catch up with any gaps in learning as a result of the pandemic.
2. Further developing remote learning should the need arise again.
3. Developing the Student Services Support Hub to help those students with anxiety-based school attendance issues.
4. Continuing to promote equality and further developing our whole-school focus on discrimination, with particular reference to sexism and misogyny.

As always, we value your support in helping the school to move forwards and strengthen our educational provision.

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## REMEMBRANCE DAY

**The Poppy Collection for the Royal British Legion raised £282.96 this year.**

Alexander Hoddinott (Y8 student) - On 11 November, the cadets and school council were taken down to St Mary's Church in Welton for a remembrance service. Members of the village, church and Welton St Mary's primary school attended the service. The Reverend started off by saying a few words and prayers. Then we went into a hymn. The clock bell rang at 11am and there was then a two minutes' silence. After the two minutes' silence, the wreaths were laid at the monument.

Lily Gillingham (Y8 student) - My experience at the Remembrance Church Service was very important because we got to reflect on those who sacrificed themselves for us to be here today. There was a hymn sung and many people were wearing poppies to remember those. It was a very moving experience.





# CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FROM FRIENDS OF WFS

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

The draw took place on Thursday 16 December and the prizes were:

- 1 x large hamper with £50 cash
  - 1 x medium hamper with £25 cash
  - 3 x hampers with £10 cash each
  - 2 x smaller hampers
- All proceeds directly benefit the students.



## 619 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

**Every year, the school hosts the families of the 619 Squadron Association on their visit to the area.**

Anne Grimshaw, their Temporary Secretary, has been kind enough to share some of her photos. The site where the school now stands was Communal Site No.1, which would have included the officers' and sergeants' messes, dining halls, the NAAFI, ration stores, latrines and ablution blocks. RAF Bomber Command airfields were built to a standard layout, which was followed as closely as the terrain and other constraints would allow. Barracks and communal buildings were built away from the airfield, technical and admin buildings and the actual flying locations because these were targeted by German bombers.

The photo below is of a building that was on the left of the school car park as you drive in – in the throes of demolition.



RMP	BUILDING	NO.	TYPE	DATE
1	COMMUNAL SITE NO. 1	1A	OFFICERS' MESS	1942
2	COMMUNAL SITE NO. 1	1B	OFFICERS' MESS	1942
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100	COMMUNAL SITE NO. 1	4V	OFFICERS' MESS	1942





# DUNHOLME COMMUNITY LOTTERY

**A huge thank you to Dunholme Community Lottery for the donation of £2,400 to allow us to purchase reader pens.**

This is a very kind gesture and much appreciated by the school, benefitting many students in their learning.

The Dunholme Community Lottery was set up in April 2013 to help raise funds for the restoration of St Chad's Church and provide a fund that Dunholme community organisations and other worthy causes can apply to if they need a bit of financial help.

Members have the opportunity to win one of three cash prizes in the monthly draw for the cost of just £27 per quarter (every 3 months).

If you would like more information about how to join, please get in touch with one of the team. Their names and numbers are on the posters in Dunholme village, in the Dunholme News or email: [community.dunholme@gmail.com](mailto:community.dunholme@gmail.com).



## NEWS FROM THE GOVERNORS

**Writing in my first newsletter as Chair of Governors, I can only echo the sentiments of my predecessor, Mark Garthwaite, in the way that our school, both staff and students, has met the unprecedented challenge of the last year.**

The whole school has been outstanding in adapting to the unforeseen circumstances of this pandemic and accommodating the needs of staff and students in working and learning together. The school had to be reorganised in an entirely new way for maximum safety; senior staff gave up holiday time to address the risks of covid; children who were struggling with learning from home were invited into school and teachers had to learn new skills in remote teaching and learning. This has not been easy for anyone and not least of all the parents of our school students. As one such parent I have shared this challenge with many others. Working from home and motivating teenagers while keeping one eye on the day job has been taxing at times. However, the Full Governing Body want to join me in thanking all parents and students who have worked so hard in facing these changes and working with the school for the good of all.



The beginning of this new school year has brought, with the lifting of restrictions, a new atmosphere; one of hope and rising morale throughout the school community. There are any number of reasons for this, but one that I want to pay particular tribute to is the establishment of the new Student Services Hub. This has been an important step for student welfare in the school – a kind of wrap around care for students who have been struggling with life generally and perhaps some aspects of school life in particular. There has been a lot of focus on mental health, and it has become something of a buzz word or phrase. This enterprise has been a practical demonstration of that phrase in action. It embraces the core values of our school and our founder, the Reverend William Farr, who knew a thing or two about the stresses and pressures of life would, I think, would have been proud to see the advent of this pastoral care service. The early feedback we have been able to glean from its inception has been a calmer environment within the school. High academic standards rely on positive relationships and good social health care.

We are in the season of Advent, a time of preparation for whatever Christmas brings. For me, this last year has taught me to take nothing for granted and to be thankful for the gift of the good people around me. I want to, therefore, say a big thank you to Mr Knowler and his teaching staff; to all the ancillary staff who keep the school building in good working order and to my governor colleagues who voluntarily give up their time to attend to the needs of the school we all have a great affection for. To all our readers here, may I wish you, on behalf of them, a very Happy Christmas,

*Jeffrey Heskins, Chair of Governors*

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# SUCCESS IN YEAR 9

**Congratulations to Eva Rose Fellows, who is continuing to have success with her dancing.**

She placed first in her lyrical dance piece whilst competing in a dance competition in Sleaford.



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## JEKYLL AND HYDE REVIEW

Created in collaboration with students from William Farr school and other schools in the East Midlands, south west and south east, Michael Wichereck's contemporary adaptation, whilst staying true to much of the original novella, allows the audience to view the story through a C21 lens drawing parallels between Victorian England and today. This is a world in which relationships are governed by secrecy, suspicion, and doubt - a world of internal and external conflict. The audience observed one man's struggles with the duality of his nature, which threaten to destroy not only himself but his relationships with those around him. The theme of duality was further highlighted using two narrators and the theme of transformation through the versatile, ever-moving set, which was made up of gliding door frames and rostra, set against a backdrop of a giant silver moon - very much a reminder of the night-time setting and gothic horror genre. This performance also highlighted the all-too-common contemporary struggle with mental health and challenged Britain's colonial past and the workhouses of Victorian England.

The plot centres on the kind and well-respected Doctor Jekyll who performs a scientific experiment on himself to see if he can separate 'Good from Evil'. In doing so, he transforms into an alter ego, the violent and evil Edward Hyde. As this transformation gradually eats away at Jekyll's own moral boundaries, the evil Hyde threatens to take him over completely. But can one man survive without the other?

This clever, fast-paced and wonderfully choreographed production condensed Stevenson's gothic tale into just 60 minutes, with just three actors multi-rolling to play all the parts, ably supported by musician and composer Jack Blakey.

Josh Tucker brought a real energy to both titular roles, displaying the struggles of Doctor Jekyll as the evil excesses of Hyde threaten to overpower the decent inner struggles of his creator. Samater Ahmed and Premi Tamang were superb, moving like dancers, bouncing off each other in the way of a vaudeville double act and showing great skill in jumping from character to character.

This was a far from traditional production, using modern vernacular and present-day references to signpost the relevance of some of the themes visited in the production. The result is an impressive production, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the William Farr students.

After the performance, the drama students, who were involved in creating the play, took part in a workshop with the company where they recreated and reimagined moments from the play before having a final Q&A with the company. This was a fabulous way to end the project.





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# CHRISTMAS CARD

**Congratulations to Thomas Hilditch in Year 11, whose design was chosen for the school Christmas card.**

Thomas has drawn everything by hand, using a graphics tablet.



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## ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

**In our twelfth year of entering students for the Arkwright Scholarship Award, Isaac Thomson-Whitehouse is the fourteenth successful scholar to achieve the accolade at William Farr School.**

The award is highly respected across universities, apprenticeships and industry and is designed to inspire and equip the next generation of UK engineering talent. This last year, the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship Programme awarded 250 awards to aspiring engineers across the country. Although this may be a staple in every Headteacher's autumn newsletter, this is a massive accolade for the students involved and the school. Every year we enter students for the award and our students apply, along with those from independent and grammar schools, and Isaac is no different in succeeding amongst the very best of the best in the country. He will enjoy a fully sponsored programme of hands-on experience, professional mentorship and careers guidance from Dynex, his sponsor, throughout his A levels, as well as professional development from The Smallpeice Trust.

Isaac has undergone a year-long scholarship application process, which involved an online application and an interview held remotely, which was designed to assess students' engineering knowledge, as well as other key life skills, such as leadership and creative thinking. Isaac has his whole engineering future laid out in front of him at such an amazing time in the world of design, engineering and technology and we are all so very proud of him.







## LINCOLN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR 2021

**William Farr Students - Herm Butcher (Biology), Ross Stelfox (Chemistry), Marcus Johnson (Physics), Ella Gibbins (Biology), Beatrice Graves (Chemistry) and Charlie Douch (Physics) were announced as this year's School Scientist of the Year Awards.**

The students were selected by their Triple Science/A-Level teacher for outstanding achievements in their subject. These are annual awards given by the University of Lincoln to worthy young people in Lincoln and the surrounding area.



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# CHRISTMAS CONCERT

## **Talent, Diversity and Versatility all in one evening.**

After the uncertainty of the last few years, it was an absolute joy and pleasure to see the school hall with a full capacity audience, and to have William Farr students back to doing what they do best for our first Christmas Concert in two years.

The orchestra started the evening off in fine form with “String of Pearls” and “Baby Elephant Walk”. The rest of the evening then had a huge breadth of talent on show, with many students performing in a school concert for the very first time. This included Tilly Hooton (Year 9), who treated the audience to an awesome version of “The Climb”, Adam Calvert (Year 8) performing “Merry Christmas, Mr Lawrence”, and Ella Pickering-Paterson (Year 10) giving us her best Oasis with “Don’t Look Back In Anger”, to name but a few.

There were also some budding Beatles performing their own compositions in Joe Crossfield, Spencer Hawking, Aran Bird and Kayan Clarke, as well as Tom Terry and Joel Gainey. Who knows, there may be some number one hits in their future!

All KS3 pupils were equally impressive, demonstrating a level of professionalism rarely seen at this age. The Year 10 and 11 students particularly wowed, with the range and quality of their performances.

Our Year 12 and 13 students gave the audience a taster of the calibre of their A-level recitals, with Carl Broome giving a rendition of “Bohemian Rhapsody” on guitar that nearly blew the roof off the hall. Callum Proudley on saxophone stunned with “Hit The Road Jack”.

The second half as always was packed full of Christmas music, getting off to a rousing start with the choir performing a medley of Pentatonix Christmas songs, having wowed with “One” from A Chorus Line and Queen’s “Don’t Stop Me Know” at the end of the first half. Ben Foster-Smith (Year 13) demonstrated his exemplary jazz piano skills with a twist on Mariah Carey’s “All I Want For Christmas Is You” (is it ever really Christmas until you have heard that song?).

It was also fantastic to see older students willing to collaborate with younger ones in smaller group performances, demonstrating the true sense of community that William Farr is known for. This included Matthew Roach and Olli Wells (Year 10) performing “Merry Christmas, Everybody”, with Isha Fernandes (Year 7) singing, whilst Evie Randman (Year 7) performed an extremely slick dance routine that could grace any West End stage! Olli, in particular, was an absolute trooper throughout, and played tuned percussion and drum kit for a number of performances over the course of the evening.

It was back to the orchestra for a final festive flourish for “Let It Snow!”. At the end of the concert, everyone had a huge smile on their face and the audience left with a sense of awe and wonder!

A huge thank you to all those who took part and those behind the scenes, including the Friends of William Farr, as well as the Music Department, led by Miss Tappin, who made such a wonderful occasion possible.



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# NETBALL CLUB

**It is amazing to have the club back after so long away from the court.**

It was incredible to see a record number of girls come to trials in September and to hear that so many of them are enjoying the sport so much that they are attending clubs outside of school, too. We have had a really successful first half of the season and are looking forward to the longer days in February so we can get back out on to the court again to train on Monday evenings.



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# COUNTY NETBALL

**The U14 netball team successfully made it through to the county finals this year, which was held at Stamford High School on Saturday 13 November.**

The girls trained incredibly hard in the lead-up to the event and showed great commitment and team spirit. Thank you so much to the friends and family that came along on the day to support the team and cheer them on. The team never gave up and supported each other on and off the court. Miss Ewing is so proud of the girls, their dedication and teamwork was incredible and they finish fifth in the county. We are excited to see what they can achieve in the second after of the season.



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# GIRLS' TOUCH RUGBY

**The Year 7 girls went to a touch rugby festival on 15 October to give them an opportunity to try the sport.**

The first half of the day consisted of trying out new skills and learning the basics. After lunch there was a tournament where the girls played as a team against the other school that had attended. They used everything they had learnt in the morning and played so well that they won the tournament. One of the aims of the event was to try and encourage the girls to get into the sport and continue to play at Lincoln Rugby Club. It is great to see several of them now attending training there on a Wednesday evening.





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# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**The school has been replacing some photographic wall displays in the main reception area, which included prints of ex-students.**

We contacted one of the ex-students, Jennifer Leach, to ask if she would like to collect the wall display to keep for herself. We were delighted when Jenny accepted and came into school with her parents and a horse box to collect the 5-foot-square print!

It was great to hear what Jenny is doing now 12 years after leaving William Farr School. Jenny left our Sixth Form at the end of her A levels in 2009, having studied Geography, English Literature and RE. She completed a Psychology degree at Northumbria University. Her passion was sport and, in particular, netball and Jenny secured a post as England Netball Development Officer working in Greater Manchester. She now works for Table Tennis England as the National Participation Manager to encourage women into sport.

She remembered fondly her time at William Farr and her mum praised the pastoral support, which she said made the difference to her children, who all attended William Farr School.

The other student pictured in the photograph is Jenny's friend, Natalie Howells.



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## COVID-19 UPDATE FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS

**This follows the Department for Education guidance on 13 December 2021 and is subject to change.**

If you have COVID-19 symptoms or have tested positive to COVID-19 on a home lateral flow test, you must self-isolate and take a PCR test within 2 days. If the PCR test is positive, you must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, you do not need to self-isolate but should carry out home lateral flow tests for the remainder of a 7-day period.

Adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months (regardless of their vaccination status), identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 by NHS Test and Trace – whether Omicron or not – should take a home lateral flow test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Results should be reported to the Government using the [Online Reporting System](#). Daily testing by close contacts is essential to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate. Unvaccinated adults must continue to self-isolate for 10 days if they are a close contact of someone with COVID-19.

Adults aged 18 years and over, and those aged 16 years and over who are at risk, can now obtain a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine. The booster dose can be booked online if it has been 2 months (61 days) since you had your 2nd dose. You will be offered appointment dates from 3 months after the date of your 2nd dose.

Staff and students have been given home lateral flow testing kits for use over the Christmas holidays and when school returns in January 2022. If you need any additional kits over the holiday period, please contact 119 to request a replenishment.

Staff and students should carry out a home lateral flow test twice weekly over the Christmas holidays and before school reopens in January 2022. On-site asymptomatic testing will be available in school for students on Tuesday 4 January 2022 (INSET day) if parents have already signed up for their child to have a test and given consent.

Parents of children aged 12-15 that have not yet had their first vaccination can book a vaccination slot via the [national booking system](#) if they wish. Students aged 16 and 17 years of age are now able to have 2 doses of the COVID vaccine if they wish. They can book an appointment through the national booking service and walk in centres are available.

Parents and visitors coming into school should carry out a home lateral flow test beforehand.

The School COVID-19 Risk Assessment will be updated shortly and can be accessed through the website under the COVID-19 Correspondence section.



# WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School



## SIXTH FORM INFORMATION EVENING

Thursday 27 January 2022, 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

www.williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk

It might be  
nothing.

It might be  
meningitis.

The symptoms of meningitis can be easily confused with flu or a stomach bug. If one of your friends is ill and getting worse, call NHS 111 or your GP straight away. In an emergency dial 999 or go to your nearest A&E.

Make the call. Save a life.

Meningitis  
now

Registered Charity Number 803016 (England & Wales) SC037790 (Scotland). Company Registration Number 2469130.

## TERM DATES

### Term 3

Tuesday 04 January 2022  
Wednesday 05 January 2022  
Friday 11 February 2022

INSET DAY  
First day of term  
Last day of term

### Term 4

Monday 21 February 2022  
Friday 01 April 2022

First day of term  
Last day of term

### Term 5

Tuesday 19 April 2022  
Wednesday 20 April 2022  
Monday 02 May 2022  
Friday 27 May 2022

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday  
First day of term  
BANK HOLIDAY  
Last day of term

### Term 6

Monday 06 June 2022  
Thursday 23 June 2022  
Friday 22 July 2022

First day of term  
INSET DAY  
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 8.30am-5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am-4.30pm on Fridays.

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