

WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

NEWSLETTER Volume Fourteen - Issue One - 2024

<u>Remembrance Day</u> <u>Washington DC Trip</u>

<u>Arkwright Scholarship</u>



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Guardians,

With Christmas nearly upon us and the new year on the horizon, it is a time for reflection on what has been a long and very busy term with a huge number of highlights, ranging from the academic to the sporting and cultural events, with a little bit of pantomime thrown in at the end of term for our Year 7 cohort.

Speaking of our Year 7 students, I am delighted at how well they have settled into life at William Farr. Moving to "big" school can be quite daunting, particularly if your previous school was a relatively small village primary, but they managed it superbly and I have been impressed at their quick integration into life at William Farr. They have played their part in key sporting and cultural activities, notably in Cross Country and the recent Christmas Concert, and not forgetting their very own music concerts at the start of the term. I have been very impressed with the talent on show and I look forward to these talents blossoming further over the next six and a half years.



I am delighted to be able to report another excellent set of exam results for William Farr. At GCSE, our Progress 8 score of 0.43 was in the top 10 schools in Lincolnshire, with only one comprehensive school above us. We performed better than nine of the county's grammar schools. At A Level, the 24.4% of the grades achieved were A/A*, which was higher than last year, with 79.2% of grades at C+, which was also higher than last year. These grades enabled students to secure their first-choice destination in the vast majority of cases. I want to pay tribute to the hard work and dedication of both staff and students and to thank you, the parents and carers, for your support during what I am sure was quite a trying time on occasion.

The school's guiding principle is to ensure that students "engage in life in all its fullness" (John 10:10) and I have been humbled at the extent to which this is true, with a huge number of students taking part in all manner of extra-curricular activities. The Sports Award Evening was a real treat, and it was fantastic to see so many students receiving awards for their sporting endeavours, many of which were at a national level. Music continues to be an integral part of the life of the school and the recent Christmas Concert saw many remarkable performances. Trips are vital in broadening the horizons of the students and, as I write, we have a Year 10 group savouring the delights of Paris. These activities could not take place were it not for the efforts of the staff, many of whom give up valuable family time to ensure that these activities go ahead. Charity events have taken place at regular intervals throughout the year, ranging from Bake Sales & Bake-offs to non-uniform days and Christmas Fayres.

I would like to also draw attention to Isaac Tesha. who has become one of only 300 Arkwright engineering scholars in the country. This award is often the precursor to a glittering career in design, engineering or technology. Congratulations, Isaac. I am sure your parents share our pride in your achievements.

Looking forward to the new year, we will be moving to a completely cashless school from January. Hopefully this will make things easier for you as parents and carers. Please can you check that you have a SQuid account. There may be a few teething problems, but please do bear with us as I firmly believe this will make life easier for you. I am close to finalising a parents' questionnaire for distribution in January. I would welcome your feedback so please do engage with the survey.

I would like to thank you for your support of the school this term. The partnership between home and school is vital for students to succeed and all the evidence points to the benefits of us working together for the best possible outcomes for your children. Can I take this opportunity to wish you a very merry and restful Christmas and a Happy Hogmanay!

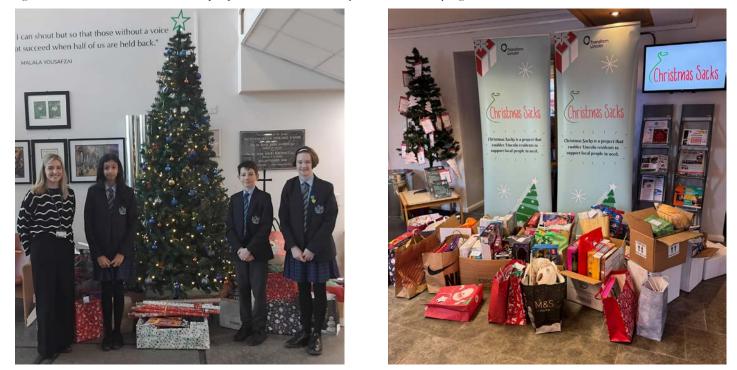
Grant Edgar, Headteacher

CHRISTMAS SACKS

Once again, 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 17 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. Over 150 gifts were donated, along with wrapping paper and chocolate and these will make such a difference to so many local families.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS - FRIENDS OF WFS

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

The draw will take place on 18 December. All proceeds from the raffle directly benefit students.



CHRISTMAS ADVENT CALENDARS

Thank you for your generous donations for the Christmas Advent Calendar collection.

We were able to donate 259 calendars to the New Life Church Community Larder food bank.

Thank you.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Poppy Collection for the Royal British Legion raised £187.25 this year.

On 11 November, we had the privilege of participating in the Remembrance Day service at Welton St Mary's Church to honour those who fought and gave their lives for our country in past wars. We were very proud to have represented the school at such an important event, especially one which has such significant links to the village of Welton and the school.

Outside the church, members of the public and war veterans gathered. We met the vicars who were conducting the service and photographs were taken to remember the event.

At 11am, we all stood in silence, honouring those who sacrificed their lives for our country, before reciting our poem, *In Flanders Fields* by John McCrae, in front of the Welton community. 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.

Ella De'Cofin, Freddy Dixon (Heads of School Council)

CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2024 - A FESTIVE TREAT!



As has become the norm, the Christmas Concert showcased the very best of William Farr's musical talent.

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. Aiden Bird (Y8) performing a cello duet with Euan Braddish (Y13) was the two combined, it being Aiden's first school concert and one of many performances we have seen over the years from Euan.

The involvement of older, more experienced students supporting and guiding younger students is so important for the development of both individuals and demonstrates our school values of responsibility, respect and compassion.

Other highlights were Y13 students Connie Brook, accompanied by Emily Hill performing *It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas* and Bella Patrick and Lilly-Anne Richardson performing *O Holy Night*.

The choir were in fine voice, singing, amongst other things, *O-re-mi*, an African song arranged into canons and four-part harmony and a dazzling arrangement of *Jingle Bells* to finish the night.

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 the approach to Christmas.

Look out for our 'A Night at the Musicals' in March, where we will be showcasing an array of our singing, dancing and acting talent over three nights.

ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

Last year, three candidates were selected and nominated from across Year 11, for the Arkwright Scholarship Award, backed by the Smallpeice Trust.

Isaac Tesha (Year 12) was successfully awarded one of the prestigious scholarships following record submissions for 2024 and a rigorous selection process. Isaac has been sponsored by Dynex Semiconductors on Doddington Road, joining two other students who have been sponsored by them previously. Isaac is the 17th scholar from William Farr to be awarded the scholarship over the last 15 years.

An Arkwright Engineering Scholarship is the most esteemed scholarship in the UK. Only those who demonstrate an extremely high aptitude achieve it. Overall, a record 1,532 hard-working students applied to the prestigious 2024 programme; a significant year-on-year increase of 15%, and the second-highest-ever number of applications received since the programme began over 30 years ago. Less than 300 awards were issued this year throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The scholarship comprises a competitive selection process from an online application, to the aptitude exam, culminating in a virtual interview. This comprehensive programme ensures to assess each student's engineering knowledge, and key life skills, including leadership and creative thinking. Part of the educational charity, The Smallpeice Trust, The Arkwright Engineering Scholarship is a fully sponsored programme that serves to encourage young people from all backgrounds to pursue their dreams and change the world as a future leader in engineering.





All successful scholars are awarded a nationally recognised Scholarship certificate to enhance their university and apprenticeship applications, alongside a £600 financial bonus to support their studies.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

This academic year, we have enrolled 80 Year 9 students to participate in the Bronze Award, 27 Year 10 students to participate in the Silver Award and 21 Year 12 students to participate in the Gold Award.

They are currently taking part in their training to prepare for their expeditions next year. We are pleased to see that 3 of our Silver and Gold students have signed up to become Young Leaders, which is a course run by DofE. This course trains them to help out with the younger years and lower awards, which is a fantastic support for the co-ordinators in school and also counts towards their Volunteering section.

Since September 2024, we have awarded 6 Bronze, 10 Silver and 3 Gold Awards so far. A special mention to Georgs Gvaramadze (Year 13) as he has achieved his Gold Award whilst still in school, which is a fantastic achievement due to the timescales required for each section. He will be receiving an invitation to the Palace to collect his certificate in due course.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS AND EVENTS

Departments have been far and wide since September. Here is a selection of some of the activities this term:

• Y13 English Conference, Lincoln University • Y12/13 Senior Maths Challenge • Y11 Geography Field Trip to Hornsea • Y11 Post-16 Morning • Y11 DT Caterpillar Trip, Peterborough • Lessons from Auschwitz Trip • Y7 DT Magna Visit • Y13 Geography Local Place Field Study • Y13 History/Politics Trip, Washington DC • Y7 Music Concert • Y11/12/13 Primary Liaison - Welton St Mary's Poppy Project • Y12/13 History Speaker, Lincoln University • Y12/13 History Be Inspired Day • Y10 Creative Forces Day • Y9 Languages GCHQ Codebreaking Christmas Concert • Y12 Geography Be Inspired Day • Y10 Business and Fashion Sustainable Design Workshop • Y10-13 Languages Paris Trip • Y9 Playzone • Y12/13 Computer Science Be Inspired Day • Y7 Panto

LESSONS FROM AUSCHWITZ PROJECT

Each year, William Farr School is invited to take part in the Lessons From Auschwitz Project, run by the Holocaust Trust.

A funded trip is organised for the East Midlands region and involves preparatory work looking at the events that led to the Holocaust and stories of victims and survivors. Students then visit Poland and the town of Ozwiecim, where the concentration camp of Auschwitz is located. They visit the first camp and then Auschwitz-Birkenau. The students follow this visit with a further seminar and complete a next steps programme sharing their lessons.

This year, for the second year in a row, we were fortunate to be offered 6 places. Nate Belcher, Emily Brownrigg, Mya Dhokia, James Gayton, Lola McKay and Ben Payne wrote letters of application and were successful in being selected to take part. The students are completing their follow-up work by looking at how students can try to comprehend the scale of this event in history by comparison to familiar objects and scales and presenting assemblies to students during Holocaust Memorial Day.



WASHINGTON DC TRIP

On 18 October, the History and Politics department took 24 students to Washington DC.

We left school in the early hours and headed for Heathrow Airport. The flight was straightforward, and we arrived in Washington after a long journey, tired and ready for bed. We were up early the next day for breakfast at 7am so we could begin a walking tour of the city at 8am. Our guide took us to Arlington Cemetery, where we visited the graves of John F Kennedy and other family members. We saw the only memorial to a British soldier in the cemetery, Field Marshall Sir John Dill. From here, we could see the Capitol Building where we headed later that day. We then went to the Lincoln Memorial and stood on the steps where Martin Luther King delivered his famous 'I have a dream' speech. This was a momentous occasion and staff and students spent considerable time here in reflection.



We then headed to the Washington Memorial for photo opportunities. Who can resist trying to line up the camera to hold the memorial in their hand? From here, we went to the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress where we saw a copy of the Gutenberg Bible. With such a busy schedule, we still found time to have authentic pretzels and bagels from a street vendor before heading off on more adventures. The day ended with a trip to the Hard Rock Café and an ice hockey game. Students commented that with such an amazing first day, they could go home feeling content that they had seen such amazing sights.

The trip continued with visits to the Smithsonian Museums, a trip to Harpers Ferry and Antietam and a trip to an American mall! Our last day ended with a trip to the White House visitor centre and a photo opportunity at the White House before flying back. An amazing trip with memories to last a lifetime.

PRINCE'S TEACHING INSTITUTE AWARD

William Farr Church of England School has been awarded The Prince's Teaching Institute (PTI) Subject Leadership Programme Mark 2024 for outstanding teaching in English.



CHANGING LIVES

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. To find out more about the PTI, visit <u>www.ptieducation.org</u>.

SIXTH FORM HOUSE BAKE-OFF

Over £370 was raised for charity in the Sixth Form House Bake-off.

This amount was more than last year and the result of everyone's hard work. The House Team were grateful to all of the Sixth Formers who baked delicious cakes and the many students who offered their money to go to charitable causes.



There were many winning cakes in various categories, but the amazing cake that won 'Best in Show' was the chocolate Kit-Kat pig cake shown below, baked by Lily Pope, Ella De'Cofin and Fleur Whitehead.



SAMSUNG COMPETITION WINNER

Millie Adams (Y8) won a prize in the 4th Solve for Tomorrow Next Gen Competition, on the theme of inclusivity.

Students were encouraged to enter their tech-for-good ideas into the competition, which was judged by a panel of Samsung employees. In the 11-13 age category, Millie was awarded first place with her innovation 'My Bear', which encourages children and young people to tackle hate by learning about other cultures. By linking the bear to an app, the user is rewarded with points.

Commenting on the competition, Soohyun Jessie Park, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility at Samsung Electronics UK, said: "The entries to our Solve for Tomorrow Next Gen competition never fail to disappoint, and this year once again proved that the very best ideas can come from anyone, age is no barrier. Since its launch in 2021, the programme has become active in over 30% secondary schools across the UK and Ireland, and this year we were thrilled to receive a record number of competition entries, totalling 1,153."

Mr Wright said: "Today, in design and technology, being able to access something that allows students to develop something that could potentially become real, and then have the interaction, feedback and potential reward, has all the tick-points that make it a brilliant programme to enter. We will definitely be taking part next year and extend it to the 13-15 year old category."

Millie said: "My favourite part was thinking about the product and how I could make it better. Although it was the hardest part it was all worth it in the end. My biggest lesson is that I can do things to help other people – I wouldn't have thought I could win! I would definitely recommend the programme to my friends, my advice would be to work on something that is personal to them."

Millie received a Samsung Galaxy Tab A9 and a VIP invitation to attend a Samsung Solve for Tomorrow event in London.



POPPY PROJECT

Students from all years worked on this collaborative project that was displayed in the school's main entrance.

Year 12 Art students supported a workshop with a group of Year 4 students from Welton St. Mary's Primary School. Poppies were made out of a variety of medias, techniques and processes and looked brilliant in the school entrance!



ZEN GARDEN MURAL PROGRESS

Year 13 students are continuing to work really hard on the Zen garden mural.

Students are collaborating to bring together their incredible talent. We look forward to seeing the finished six panels displayed in the Zen garden in the Science department in the new year!



INTERNATIONAL POSTCARD SHOW

After an internal competition from the Year 9 postcard homework, we have selected 22 postcards to be exhibited at the Surface Gallery, Nottingham.

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

Well done to all the students who created pieces that will be part of the exhibition in January and February 2025!







SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Thursday 23 January 2025, 6-8pm

(Students and their families visiting from other schools are welcome to join us from 5.15pm)

- Revised entry requirements creating a more inclusive student experience
- A wider curriculum offer, including A Levels and new Alternative Qualifications
- A brand new Sixth Form building

For further details, please see the school website or telephone: 01673 866900 Lincoln Road, Welton, Lincolnshire, LN2 3JB Email: <u>wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk</u> Website: <u>www.williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk</u>

WELTON ST. MARY'S CHURCH PROJECT

Key Stage 3 students are currently working on our second wall hanging.

The three pieces, when complete, will be displayed in Welton St. Mary's Church and displayed at William Farr School afterwards. Each wall hanging is in response to Grayson Perry's tapestries from the exhibition that a group of students went to see at the Lincoln Museum in January, called 'The vanity of small differences'.

Each of the pieces reflect two of the school's core values: Respect and Responsibility, Perseverance and Wisdom, along with Compassion and Friendship.

The current piece that students are painting and sewing features an owl, Lincoln Cathedral, the Stonebow, a Lancaster, a tractor and fields of wheat and is titled, 'Spread your wings' and includes the quotes 'Perseverance on the trail' and 'Share your wisdom'.



SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS IN THE HOLIDAYS

To report concerns:

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

NEW MEAL PROVIDERS FOR WILL'S DINER

We are happy to report that Aspens has been chosen to provide the meals at William Farr from 1 January 2025.

'Streateries' will provide delicious home-cooked food, whilst ensuring individual dietary requirements are catered for. Every day has a theme. Featuring global cuisines and food on the move, they are up to date with the current trends, whilst still ensuring that there is a place on the menu for the comfort of school dining hall favourites. The menu will include as standard a street food dish, a hand-held version, vegetarian/vegan choices, along with a selection of sides. See posters on following pages for more information.

CASHLESS PAYMENT SYSTEM FROM 1 JAN 2025

We are going to be a completely cashless school in January 2025.

This will make it easier for parents to pay for items (food/trips/events/stationery, etc) as everything will be payable via your sQuid account. Every family will now need a sQuid account. Anyone without one, could you please set up an account before next term. You can log in or create your sQuid account here: <u>https://squidportal.squidcard.com/LoginPortal.</u> Any difficulties, or if you need registration details, please email Mr Carlyle on: j.carlyle@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk

EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

To communicate with school via email, please use the school email address: 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 <u>Parent Code of Conduct</u> as shown on the school website.

TERM DATES

Term 3

Monday 06 January 2025 Tuesday 07 January 2025 Friday 14 February 2025

Term 4

Monday 24 February 2025 Friday 4 April 2025

Term 5

Tuesday 22 April 2025 Monday 05 May 2025 Friday 23 May 2025

Term 6

Monday 02 June 2025 Thursday 19 June 2025 Tuesday 22 July 2025 INSET DAY First day of term Last day of term

First day of term Last day of term

First day of term BANK HOLIDAY Last day of term

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 8.15am-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.



Ready to turn up the heat for a vital cause? Fire Walk is one of the most challenging, adrenaline-fuelled journeys you'll undertake!

It's exactly as it sounds: a barefoot walk over red-hot embers, measuring 600 degrees. Challenge yourself and sign up today for just £30, fundraising £100 in sponsorship.



William Farr C of E School, Welton, LN2 3JB



Scan the QR code to book your place or visit StBarnabasHospice.co.uk/ events/firewalk-2025/



Every step you take supports your local hospice

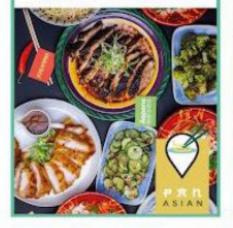
Saturday 15th March 2025



EAT

Streateries is our secondary meal offer where every day has a theme. Featuring Global cuisines, customised offers and food on the move, we are bang up to date with the current trends whilst still ensuring that there is a place on the menu for the comfort of our familiar school dining hall

favourites. Each day the menu includes as standard a street food dish, a hand held version, vegetarian/vegan choices along with a selection of sides.





Our Deli Kitchen brand is for the popular standard Aspens hot and cold offers. This can range from Authentic

Italian pizza and pasta, Hacienda Mexicana's burritos, rice pots and sides and Voulez Poulet's house rub chicken, dogs and sides through to our range of healthy sandwiches, paninis, wraps, jacket potatoes, salads, fruit and cold dessert pots.



Our menus are exciting and innovative, reflecting the very latest UK and international eating trends but with a real focus on health and ellbeing. Our menus adhere to the school food-based standards to make sure students are fuelled and



Vegan and Free-From.

Vegan and free-from ingredients are key to our recipe development and we love to tempt our customers with more and more opportunities to try alternative dishes.

We have a great range of Plant Power options as part of our menu cycle as well as our pop up special days.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS CHECK IT OUT NOW!

For more information and to check if you can get free school meals please visit this website.

www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals or scan the QR code below.

Think what else you could buy with the money you save!



WE KEEP TASTE BUDS EXCITED WITH OUR GREAT FLAVOURS OF THE MONTH THEMES AND SPECIALS!



Food Trends - What's hot and what's not!

Attitudes and expectations around food are increasingly influenced by the **high street** and as we now eat a much wider variety of food than ever before - we make sure we are on trend!

WE ENCOURAGE CUSTOMERS TO TALK TO US TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK SO WE CAN CONTINUALLY IMPROVE

We cater for different requirements so that all customers can enjoy a tasty meal with us every day.

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Allergens and Special Diets

We cater for different requirements so that all customers can enjoy a tasty meal with us. For pre-packaged food, our labelling processes have been reviewed to give ingredients and allergen information in accordance with Natasha's Law. We continue to encourage customers to talk to us so we can work together to provide food that is safe to eat.





A subject high on the radar of our Gen Z customers! We have a range of initiatives and messages to support our ongoing journey to minimise the impact we have on the world.



CONTACT US E: info@aspens-services.com w: www.aspens-services.co.uk

