



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

NEWSLETTER

Volume Thirteen - Issue Three - 2024

Farewell to Mr Knowler, Headteacher

Site Developments

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Sporting Achievements

Art Exhibition



One of the Sophie's Postcard entries.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am delighted to bring you my summer Parents' Newsletter, which gives a snapshot of some of the activities, events and achievements in our school community since Easter. The newsletter also includes news about the development of the school, together with useful information in preparation for September.

As we reflect on the academic year, I am delighted that our school community has continued to go from strength to strength. A priority this year has been students' welfare, engagement in learning and enjoyment of school, which stems from the quality of teaching and support provided. Our focus on school trips, lunch and after-school clubs/events, charity work, sporting fixtures and house events has played an important part in the personal development of students. To see the smile on students' faces in being able to participate and support each other in the recent Sports Day was heart-warming.



As a community school, it is important that we seek feedback from stakeholders so that we reflect on our practices and continue to provide the best education we can. In May 24, we carried out a student survey to find out their views on the school. Over 900 Year 7-11 students completed the survey. I was delighted to see that students value the quality of teaching, feel safe in school, appreciate being encouraged to look after their mental health, report good behaviour in lessons and would recommend the school to friends.

This year, the school has introduced the behaviour reporting facility within Bromcom. This has been accompanied by a new Code of Conduct and our work to ensure greater consistency in behaviour expectations across the school. Parents/carers can now use MCAS to monitor their child's positive rewards as well as any concerns relating to conduct in lessons, homework, uniform and punctuality.

Parents can provide their feedback on the school through [Parent View](#).

Raising money for charity and for people less fortunate than ourselves underpins our core values (friendship, perseverance, respect, responsibility, compassion and wisdom) and is at the centre of our Christian ethos. Through the hard work and generosity of students, we have raised over £8,000 for charities through fundraising events, including cake bake sales, non-uniform days, etc. A superb effort!

Last month, I was thrilled to see work starting on our Sixth Form build. Seeing the first spade go into the ground after 2 years of planning is another milestone in the history of our great school. The new Sixth Form block will be erected adjacent to the rear car park next to the Galileo building and is due to open to students in the Spring of 2025. This will provide a tremendous post-16 learning environment for students to enjoy for many years to come.

I must pay tribute to Year 11 and 13 students who have completed their external exams this term. Students have shown tremendous resilience and determination to prepare and sit their exams, supported by a dedicated team of staff. We wish them all the very best in their future.

As the academic year draws to a close, sadly, we are saying farewell to some staff (details at the end of this newsletter) as they leave us to embark upon pastures new. We owe them a huge gratitude for their commitment to William Farr Church of England Comprehensive School and wish them all the best for the future.

On a personal note, this is my final parents' newsletter to you as Headteacher as I take early retirement at the end of this academic year. This has been an emotional term for me as I say goodbye to William Farr after 13 years and 5 years as Headteacher. The last 5 years has seen us successfully navigate Covid, address the on-going challenges to the school budget and meet the requirements from our first Ofsted inspection in 13 years. Throughout this time, we have continued to be one of the highest performing non-selective schools in the country, which I am incredibly proud of. This could not have been achieved without the unwavering commitment of staff, dedication of the Senior Leadership Team and support from the Governing Body, who have all worked tirelessly so that students can 'engage in life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). I owe them my sincere gratitude.

Finally, I would like to thank you for all for time you have spent supporting your child and the school during my time as Headteacher. I have been touched by the kind words and good wishes you have sent to me over the last few months.

William Farr is a unique and special school. The sense of community and Christian ethos runs deep within the spirit of the school and will continue to underpin its future success. I feel very privileged to have been one of only six Headteachers to have led this remarkable school in 72 years. I wish Mr Edgar, the Interim Headteacher, all the best for next year as he takes over the reins in September 24.

Having put school first throughout my 33 years in teaching, I am looking forward to putting my family and my welfare first and watching my beloved Scunthorpe United, who need all the support they can get!

With all good wishes for a restful and safe summer break.

God bless.

Jonathan Knowler, Headteacher (2019-2024)

NEWS FROM THE GOVERNORS

The vision of our school 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.”

During the past few months, as Governors, we have witnessed as we visited, walked around school, met with staff and students, discussed, and were informed about what was happening in school, what “life in all its fullness” really means at William Farr.

Our Y11 and Y13 students have taken their GCSE and A Level exams that are, of course, a vital and most important part of their time at our school. However, that is only part of our students’ life at William Farr. There has been the traditional end-of-term last day celebrations for both Y13 and Y11 when the students and our staff celebrate both 5 and 7 years at our school, the lifelong friends and memories that have been made here. The Y11 and Y13 proms are also a great expression and tribute of our students’ time at our school and following the end of their exams, they really enjoy themselves. Y11 even had a TV in the room to watch England. These end-of-year celebrations are also enjoyed by our Y9 students at the end of Key Stage 3. Y7 celebrated their first year in school with an inflatable extravaganza via a variety of blow-up fun equipment in the sports hall and on the tennis courts!

However, “life in all its fullness” at William Farr also includes, for example, visits to Welton St Mary’s Church to be thankful for our school, staff, friends, etc. as part of our Christian ethos. Students (& dedicated staff) taking students on their Gold, Silver & Bronze Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme (in all weathers), both practice and actual expeditions, end-of-year trips/celebrations, excursions out as part of ongoing coursework or trips as part of the life at our school. End-of-term concerts where our talented musicians, singers, players, actors/actresses, etc. show and demonstrate their skills and enthusiasm, to the delight of both parents and staff.

None of this would be possible without the ongoing support of our dedicated staff who arrange, guide, support and encourage our students to grasp the opportunities open to them at our school.

We, as the school Governors, have the great pleasure of seeing the issues we discuss at our meetings come to fruition in school by the events as outlined above. Also, when we visit the school and meet our students, together with the great examination results and increased life chances our students have when they leave us. We see the change from our Y7 new, sometimes quite nervous children, through to Y11 /Y13 when they leave us as confident, young adults.

Governors have 3 main functions and responsibilities at Willam Farr these are to:-

1. Agreeing the Clarity of Vision, Ethos and Strategic Direction of the School
2. Monitoring School Performance
3. Financial Management

However, this year we had one of our most important tasks to undertake and one that is not on that list, that is to appoint a new Headteacher. Our school would not be the continued success it is for both our students and staff without the professional dedication of Mr Knowler our Headteacher. We would like to thank Mr Knowler for his exceptional leadership he has given the school since he took over as our Headteacher temporarily in September 2019, and then as our substantive Headteacher from February 2020. In this time Mr Knowler has successfully guided us through Covid, Ofsted, our 70th Birthday celebrations, the school gaining our best Progress 8 examination results ever in 2023. As well as the new 6th Form Building that is starting to rise out of the ground as I write this. We of course wish Mr Knowler a very long and happy early retirement – our task now is to find a suitable successor. We welcome Mr Edgar as our Temporary Headteacher from 1st September who will be with us for a year which will give the GB time to recruit a permanent Head.

There will be parent Governor elections in the Autum term so if any current or incoming parents feel they may like to join us, please contact our Clerk Mrs Sarah Elderkin and we would be pleased meet you and talk over what being a Governor at William Farr means. For me, it means I can play a little part in helping the children of our local area unlock their potential, achieve their ambitions/dreams and give them through the school values a moral compass to be successful citizens of the world they will help create.

Finally, I hope that you all have a good summer break and we look forward to seeing you all again safe and well in September. For the parents and students who will not be returning to William Farr in September we hope that you will look back at your time at our school with fond memories, have made some lifelong friends and be looking forward to the next chapter of your life with confidence.

Enjoy the summer break,

Best wishes.

David Subden, Vice Chair of Governors

CHANGES TO SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT)

Alongside Mr Knowler (Headteacher), two other members of the Senior Leadership Team are also leaving this summer.

Mrs Alcock (School Business Leader), who joined the school in 2019. During the last 5 years, Mrs Alcock has worked incredibly hard in managing the school finances and building up school reserves which have been used to restore the bottom school field and contribute to the building of the new Sixth Form block. Mrs Alcock has been instrumental in securing grants to support vital infrastructure projects worth around £1m. Mrs Alcock has led the support staff in school, alongside health and safety, administration, property management, the diner and media. Mrs Alcock is retiring this year and looking forward to spending more time with her husband and family. We thank Mrs Alcock for her dedication to William Farr.

Mr Ellis (Assistant Headteacher), who is leaving after 25 years at William Farr. During this time, Mr Ellis has held a number of different leadership roles, including Assistant Head of Maths, Head of Maths, Associate Assistant Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher. From 2019 to 2021 Mr Ellis was Acting Deputy Headteacher during our challenging Covid years, leading the quality of education and the grading process that replaced examinations. Mr Ellis has always been a committed and successful teacher of Maths. He has also been an invaluable part of the Senior Leadership Team, writing the school timetable, organising student option choices, staff recruitment and cover, as well as supporting newly qualified and student teachers. We wish Mr Ellis all the very best as he embarks upon a new chapter in his life and thank him for his outstanding service to William Farr.

In September 2024, the school welcomes to the Senior Leadership Team:

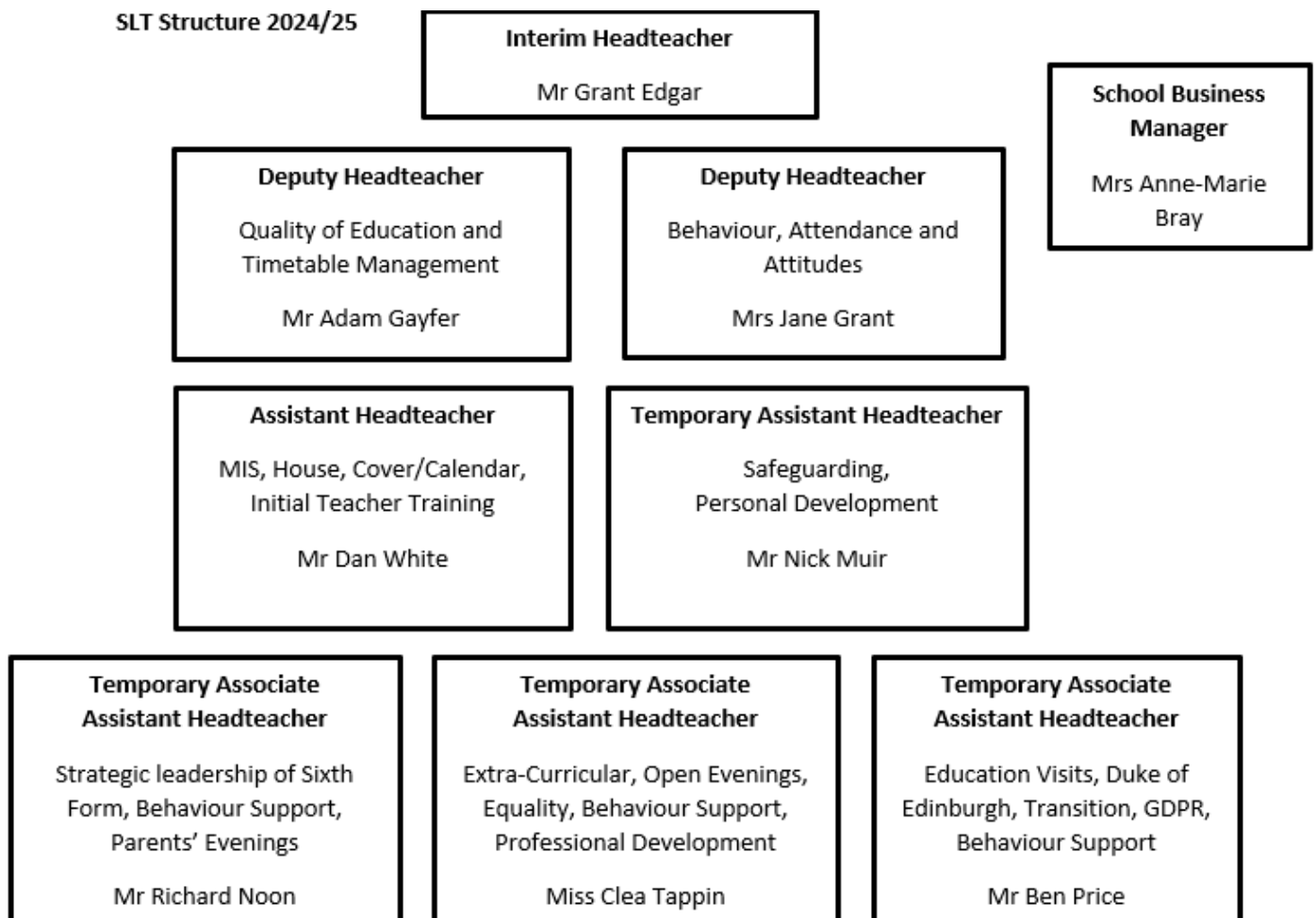
Mr Edgar (Interim Headteacher) - currently Headteacher at Banovallum School, Horncastle.

Mrs Bray (School Business Manager) - currently works for Lincolnshire Police as a Finance Business Partner.

Mr Noon (Temporary Associate Assistant Headteacher) - will take on a strategic Sixth Form role alongside his Head of Sixth Form responsibility.

We are looking forward to working with them next year to help lead the strategic direction of the school.

SLT Structure 2024/25



HEADS OF STUDENT COUNCIL

Farewell to Mr Knowler

At the end of this term, we are sadly saying farewell to Mr Knowler, our Headteacher, who has been at the helm for the last 5 years and has spent 13 years at William Farr.

As Heads of the Student Council, we sat down with Mr Knowler to talk to him about his memories of the school and future plans.

Why did you want to be a Headteacher?

I didn't want to be a Headteacher, but I did want to be The Headteacher of William Farr Church of England Comprehensive School! Teachers come into education to make a difference to the life chances of young people. At William Farr, I have been able to make that happen at a whole school level – a great privilege.

What is your proudest moment as Headteacher?

I will never forget standing up in Lincoln Cathedral in October 2022 to address 2,000 people, including former and current staff, students and Governors to celebrate our 70th anniversary. The hairs stood up on the back of my neck at such an iconic venue, our mother Church. I often watch the video montage of the service on the school website, and it still fills me with immense pride today. This will stay with me forever!

What is your greatest achievement as Headteacher?

It's not about my achievements but the achievements of students. To see so many students over the years leave William Farr with the skills, confidence and qualifications to progress to their next steps in life, fills you with great satisfaction knowing that you have helped to make a difference!

Why is William Farr such a successful school?

The simple answer is that we live out our school vision daily and our core values underpin everything we do in school. Our Christian distinctiveness makes us very special.

What have been your greatest challenges as Headteacher?

The Covid years were especially challenging when we had to provide online learning at home, whilst supporting the vulnerable children and those whose parents were key workers in school. I remember having 2 Teams meetings with the Senior Leadership Team during the Christmas holidays (I was popular!) to plan for Covid testing when we reopened in January, whilst having to keep you all socially distanced. I never thought I would become an NHS Manager!

Due to the lack of government funding, schools are under immense pressure to 'balance the budget' and this isn't going away. I hope the incoming Government recognise that schools will go out of business unless they step in and support them with additional money.

Why do you always dress up in whole school assembly?

I often ask myself that very question! I always wanted our whole school assembly to be a fun experience and for students to look forward to it. After I did one, students kept asking me 'What are you wearing this term?' and it turned into a competition for form groups to guess my attire. I love to see you all enjoying yourself and celebrating our special community. As Headteacher, I don't get to spend as much time as I would like with students and this helps me to connect with you and shows the Headteacher has a human side, too!

Do you have any regrets as Headteacher?

A good question. Now isn't the time to spill the beans! I do remember being on car park duty one day in my hi-vis jacket and a parent wanted to complain about the traffic. They asked me how they could get in touch with the Headteacher – I said I would pass on the message! I also regretted going to Center Parcs one summer on holiday as when I returned in September a parent said they recognised me in the swimming pool! My other regret is that I didn't start my teaching career earlier at William Farr. 33 years ago, I applied to William Farr to be a Newly Qualified Teacher, having just left university, but wasn't even shortlisted for the job and yet ended up a Headteacher!

What will be your legacy?

That will be for others to judge! Students having great memories of their school days and remembering the tremendous work that staff did to help them on their way.

I remember introducing the new school uniform, which is never a popular step, but I think it is really smart and I hope it will continue for years to come.

For me personally, the opening of the Sixth Form block in the Spring of 2025. We worked really hard to secure the funds and persuade the Local Authority that we needed to expand our facilities and provision. This will be a fantastic legacy, which will benefit many Sixth Form students for years to come. I hope I may be invited back when it's finished to open it?

What are your plans after leaving William Farr?

Having been teaching for 33 years, I am looking forward to spending more time with my young family and playing golf. I have just purchased my season ticket for my beloved Scunthorpe United and hope that with my support we can get out of the National League North!. I have had some offers of education consultancy work, which I am also interested in on a part-time basis.

It was great to talk to Mr Knowler about his time at William Farr and we could see just how much the school has meant to him. He has always been such an approachable Headteacher and always has time for students. We know that much of what a Headteacher does goes on behind the scenes unnoticed. On behalf of the school, we want to thank Mr Knowler for his dedication and commitment in leading William Farr. We will miss him and wish him every success in the future.

Ella De'Cofin and Freddy Dixon, Heads of the Student Council.



Mr Knowler said he would like to leave us with a prayer of thanks:

Dear Lord, In moments of reflection such as today, we are filled with gratitude for the tapestry of our past, woven with threads of joy, sorrow, and growth. Your divine plan unfolds through the chapters of history, and we are thankful for every moment that shapes us. Thank you for the memories, the lessons, and the resilience gained. Thank you for the opportunity to savour each moment, to breathe deeply, and to connect with Your presence. Thank you for your continued guidance and protection. But most of all thank you for never leaving our side, even when we don't know you are there. May we carry your wisdom into the promise of tomorrow, guided by Your love. Amen.

MESSAGE FROM HEADS OF STUDENT COUNCIL

Hello! We, Freddy Dixon and Ella De'Cofin, are the new proud Heads of the Student Council of William Farr School.

Having started the role after Easter this year, following on from the previous council, you will start to see a lot of us over the next year.

With the sad departure of Mr Knowler, we encourage you to reflect on everything he has done for our school community. His legacy will be embodied by the new Sixth Form block, which will benefit many students in the years to come. Living and breathing William Farr, he has dedicated so much to our school. Hence, next year will be very different and we are excited to work with the new headteacher, Mr Edgar, to maintain a thriving school community.

We aim to bring the school council closer together and find better ways of having every student's voice heard, carrying on the work of Yaman and Ella, our predecessors. With our team of passionate year reps and Sixth Form representatives, having a good relationship with the school community, we will meet regularly and discuss what matters most to the students and act on our discussions.

Until then, we wish everyone a lovely summer.

Freddy and Ella



CODE OF CONDUCT

The new and simplified Code of Conduct introduced this year outlines the conduct conducive to a positive learning environment.

It is important that everyone knows what is expected of them and can play their part. All students have a right to learn, to achieve and to be safe in school. All students have a responsibility to positively and actively contribute to a school climate aligned with the School's Core Values.

Our Values must be visible through students' attitudes and conduct at all times, including at lunchtime, breaktime and moving between lessons.


Thank you for your support this year in reinforcing the Code of Conduct at home and using information communicated to you via MCAS to hold discussions with your child. Should you have any issues accessing MCAS, then please do not hesitate to contact the school via wfsbromcom@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk. We will continue to work together with parents on how best to support you with the technical aspects.

The number of Positive events awarded across the school since September stands at over 90,000. This means that on average, per week, over 2,000 positive events are awarded to students. This is a fantastic achievement! Well done to our students who continue to consistently demonstrate and 'live out' the school's Vision and School Values – Compassion, Friendship, Perseverance, Respect, Responsibility and Wisdom.

Mobile Phones

A reminder that under no circumstances are students allowed to have a mobile phone in their possession during the school day. If students are found in possession of a mobile phone, the School Behaviour Policy will apply. The rationale behind this decision is two-fold. Firstly, we know from other schools which allow such devices the level of disruption that can be caused. Secondly, the school has an open policy in terms of students using the school telephone to communicate with parents where necessary. Any device which has mobile internet capability must not be brought into school. This includes Smart Watches.

William Farr Code of Conduct					
A B C D E F					
A	Accept that your actions are your choice	B	Be on time, every time		
C	Come to school fully equipped for learning and wearing correct uniform	D	Do all classwork and homework to the best of your ability		
E	Ensure that you keep hands, feet and unkind words to yourself	F	Follow all instructions the first time		



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our full range of approved school uniform is available to purchase in the Uniform Direct store, Dixon Way, Lincoln, LN6 7XN.

Online shopping from Uniform Direct is also available, with delivery direct to your chosen address. Ordering online is very simple, just visit www.uniform-direct.com and then navigate to 'Select Your School' and 'Senior Schools' and scroll down to 'William Farr School' to find all items of approved William Farr school uniform.

Black leather trainers and black 'Air Force 1s' are not permitted in school. We are aware that retailers market these as 'shoes' when they are trainers. Please be aware of this when you are purchasing shoes ready for September 2024 that there should be no logos and no adornments of any kind. The full uniform list can be found on the school website using the link above.

PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SALES

For information on how to purchase pre-loved uniform, please visit our pre-loved uniform website using [this link](#). We are reliant on donations of good quality, pre-loved school uniform and, therefore, stock availability will be limited to the donations we receive.

PRE-LOVED UNIFORM DONATIONS

In preparation for the new academic year, we would be extremely grateful for any donations of good quality, laundered, William Farr uniform that your child may have grown out of. This will help us to build stock availability on our pre-loved website. Thank you in advance for any donations.

LOST PROPERTY

We have a large amount of unnamed, unclaimed lost property, including large expensive items such as winter coats. If your child has lost anything this year, please encourage them to visit Lost Property, which is open: Mon|Tues|Thurs 08:45-09:00 and Weds|Fri 09:05-09:20. Please name all items of uniform, etc. regardless of what year your child is in. We can reunite lost items and owners easily if we can see who it belongs to.

SITE DEVELOPMENTS

Work is underway to create our new Sixth Form block.

Staff and governors at William Farr met the construction team to mark the start of building work. The new build will provide study facilities, a recreational area, kitchen, office space and toilets for post-16 students.

Headteacher Mr Knowler said, "It is much needed and will create a fabulous learning environment for our sixth formers. Our long-term strategic direction has been to further develop the Sixth Form and broaden our range of courses to increase student numbers. I'm delighted to see spades in the ground with a completion date of Spring next year."

Lincolnshire contractor Lindum Group has been appointed to complete the single-storey building. The site is located to the west of the existing school within a triangular parcel of land between a footpath, staff car park and existing school buildings.

The dining room in the main building will also be remodelled and extended over the summer holidays by Lindum. The work on the dining room, like the Sixth Form block, is welcome, creating additional capacity and improving the environment for staff and students.

Both projects will be paid from Section 106 monies from Lincolnshire County Council. The school has developed a strong working partnership with the Council, and it would like to thank the Council for its support which has enabled these two projects to go ahead.

The school has been working with Lindum for almost two years to help bring the Sixth Form block forward. The contractor's team produced a feasibility report in line with the budget and appointed Kier Design to draw up plans. Lindum then took the scheme through planning and pre-construction stages.

Lindum Co-Chair Edward Chambers said: "Lindum has vast experience working in the education sector. It was great to be on site to mark the start of this project and I look forward to seeing it progress over the coming months. We employ many past students from William Farr, and the school site is close to Lindum Homes' Hawks Chase development, where we're building new market sale houses. As a local contractor, we are really pleased to be playing a role in providing the infrastructure needed to support this growing village."



YEAR 12 MOCK INTERVIEWS

Over the past year, we have been running a school-wide careers education programme, which has included activities both in and out of school.

We aim to embed the linking of careers to subject lessons and students in Years 8, 9 & 10 have also received dedicated careers PSHE lessons. The focus for Year 12 has been on employability skills and this is something we hope to develop for next year.

Assemblies have included talks from local education providers (e.g. Lincoln and Riseholme Colleges), as well as a range of employers, both national and local, including National Grid, Lincolnshire Co-op, the Civil Service and the NHS.

As well as big events, like our Post-16 Morning, Careers Fair and Post-18 Information Evening, we have hosted smaller events in school, many run by subject departments, plus all school trips now include a careers education element wherever this is practical. We have introduced several new trips, including a whole year trip to Lincoln University for Year 10, which aimed to raise awareness of university as an option for all students, especially those who had not previously considered it.

We are very lucky, as a school, to have excellent connections with local employers, many of whom are school alumni or parents of current students. This allows us to run events like our Year 12 mock interview morning (new for this year!) and we are extremely grateful for this support.

If you think you might like to support our careers programme, please contact Catherine Roberts on c.roberts@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk. If you are a school alumnus and would like to be contacted about any alumni activities, including possible support for school programmes, such as careers education, please sign up to our alumni database here <https://forms.office.com/e/nEGBjV170J>



PHENOMENAL FUNDRAISING

William Betts (Year 8) and Thomas Betts (Year 11), along with their family and friends, have raised over £27,000 for the Paediatric Intensive Care and High Dependency Unit at King's.

Thomas and William's sister, Elena, was born with a rare genetic condition called MMIHS, which meant that her digestive system didn't develop properly. This resulted in end stage liver failure and Elena was listed for a multi-organ transplant. In August 2017, after six months of waiting, aged just 17 months, Elena received 5 organs: stomach, liver, pancreas, small intestine and colon. Due to complications, Elena went on the transplant waiting list again and in August 2019 received all 5 organs again. Sadly, due to complications post transplant, battling rejection and infection, Elena passed away peacefully on 30 December 2019.

Because of organ donation, the family were able to have Elena at home for two whole years. Taking inspiration from her positive outlook on life, they launched a campaign called 'The Elena Effect' as a legacy in her memory.

This was a joint venture to highlight the importance of organ donation (especially the lesser known organs, such as the bowel and stomach), giving blood and also to raise money for King's College Hospital Children's Critical Care Centre in London, where Elena received her transplants. The money raised has been used to fully renovate the Parents' Room on the ward and the room has been dedicated in Elena's memory. Other families will now be able to have a space where they can try to relax - even just for short periods of time. It is a little oasis of calm, somewhere to retreat to, a place to eat, have a hot drink, a chat and a chance to restore the batteries, ready to take on the next long stint.

To find out more, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/Elenasstoryblog/> ElenaEffect

We are all incredibly proud of William and Thomas.



CREATIVE WRITING

Have you considered what life will be like in 300 years' time? What truly makes a horrific transformation? How can fairy tales be adapted to the big screen?

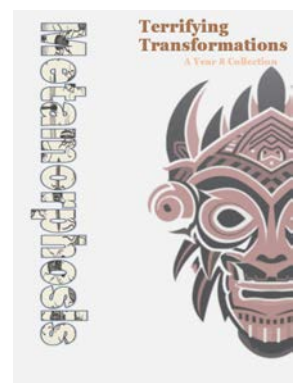
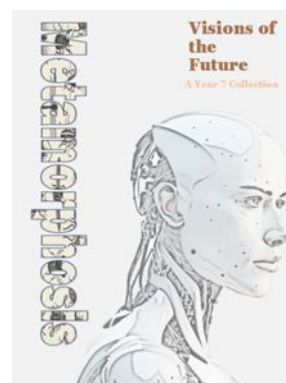
These are the questions that the English department has posed to Key Stage 3 students this June for its annual Creative Writing Week focusing on 'Metamorphosis'.

In Year 7, students have looked at literary depictions of the future, including H.G. Wells' "The Time Machine", as well as Ernest Cline's "Ready Player One". Each of these visions of the future have been used as stimulus for students' own creative writing. In addition to this, Year 7 also had the privilege of a visit from Daniel Blythe; a young adult writer famed for his novelisations of the hit BBC series "Doctor Who".

Exploration of the horror genre has been the key focus for students in Year 8. Throughout the week, we have read about Dr. Jekyll's descent into the depraved Mr. Hyde; witnessed the terrifying presence of Dracula and confronted the aliens of War of the Worlds. This study of the grotesque has ultimately inspired students' own descriptions of horrific transformations.

Finally, Year 9 have been reimagining classic fairy tales, such as "Little Red Riding Hood" as modern feature films, as well as using the film script form. Alongside this, Lydia Sanders (author of the "Herstories" series) has delivered workshops, focusing on the retelling of historical female narratives in both poetic and prose forms.

It has been a real pleasure to see students' love of reading and creativity flourish throughout Creative Writing Week. The English department wishes to thank students for their wonderful contributions, as well as the Friends of William Farr School for their support. We can't wait for next year's!



YEAR 13 PROM

Year 13 held their Prom at the Doubletree Hilton on Thursday 4 July.



Year 13 will be in again on Results Day on Thursday 15 August.

YEAR 11 PROM

Year 11 had a fabulous send-off on Wednesday 10 July at their Prom, held at Hemswell Court.

Everyone had a fantastic time and a win in the football was the icing on the cake.

The dance floor was full and a rendition of 'Three Lions' and 'Sweet Caroline' made the night extra special.

Photographs from the night will be available to purchase shortly from Wrates Photographers.

We now look forward to seeing all the Year 11 students again on Results Day on Thursday 22 August.

YEAR 13 LEAVERS' DAY

Year 13 students came to school dressed as their favourite animated characters, including Lightning McQueen from "Cars".

Anyone entering through the main entrance was greeted by balloons from "Up" and a number of Minions from "Despicable Me". At lunchtime, stalls were set up selling sweets and drinks, whilst students could also make song requests at the "hole in the wall" and have a temporary tattoo applied to their arm. As usual, teachers were soaked with wet sponges in the stocks.

During the day, Year 13 students took part in a year group quiz, testing their general knowledge from the last seven years. A tie-break was required to decide the winners! For the first time, an awards ceremony was held, with students nominated for awards, such as "best couple" and "most likely to be Prime Minister". As Year 7 students attend a Founder's service at Welton St Mary's, the Year 13s marked the end of their William Farr journey with a heartfelt service, including musical performances and readings. Leavers' Day is always a wonderful way to celebrate the successes of our students and the vibrancy of the school community. We wish our Year 13 students every success for the future.



SIXTH FORM CHARITY NEWS

It has been another busy year for the Sixth Form fundraisers.

We have had fancy dress events, karaoke, football, bench ball, and cake sales.

The money raised will go to Lymphoma Action, Cancer Research, Age UK, Dementia UK and Little Princess Trust. The Sixth Form charity total for Year 12 is £764.35.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

Once again, we have had a busy year with the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff who give up their time to help with the expeditions, because without them the students at William Farr would not have the fabulous opportunity to participate.

58 Year 9 students have taken part in the Bronze expedition this year, walking roughly 24km around the Market Rasen area, with one night camping at Sudbrooke Scout Campsite. I am proud to say they all successfully completed the expedition with a few blisters and achy shoulders, most saying they were excited to sign up for Silver next year!

37 Year 10 students have successfully completed their Silver expedition section this year. They spent two weekends hiking in the Peak district, exploring the countryside and navigating some rather steep hills, totalling around 70km. They enjoyed their adventures and showed good problem-solving skills. One group even commented that their most enjoyable moment was when they got lost!

This year has seen an unprecedented number of participants for Gold DofE – we took 36 students out into the Dark Peaks, and at the time of writing we are about to take the students to the Yorkshire Dales for 4 days of walking in wild country.

Thank you to the parents for supporting your children through their Awards and for arranging their travel to and from expeditions.



INSPIRED BY GRAYSON PERRY'S TAPESTRIES

On Monday 1 July, a group of students worked on the first of three collaborative pieces that will be displayed in Welton Church and then at William Farr School.

The work is in response to a trip to the Lincoln Museum, studying the work of Grayson Perry's tapestries and focusing on 'recording a precise moment in history.' Each of the pieces are inspired by two of the school's core values, the first piece explores 'respect' and 'responsibility' looking at recycling, fast fashion and single use plastic.



SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Tennis

William Farr entered 4 different teams into the 2023/24 LTA National School Competition. After group stages, we have 3 teams progressing through to the regional rounds. This is an amazing achievement for all the players involved.

There has been some amazing tennis played throughout, highlighting to Mr Stock not only their abilities on the court but their sportsmanship off the court. The girls team especially impressed as for these girls it was their first EVER tennis match experience; and they played superbly. For those 3 boys teams progressing through, the school as a whole community are wishing you best of luck.



Kyle Geddert-Page (current year 8) came runner-up in the Lincolnshire County event for the LTA registered 'Play Your Way to Wimbledon', held at Eastgate Tennis Club. The best players in the county competed for the opportunity to play at Wimbledon on the famous grass courts. Last year, Kyle came 7th and this year 2nd, so huge improvements in just one year - his coaches and club are extremely proud of him. Kyle came from behind to beat a close rival in the semi-final, but then narrowly missed out on the chance to compete at Wimbledon by losing a well-battled final to one of the best players in the county.



Football



The Year 11 football team had a fantastic season in reaching the Lincolnshire County Cup final. We played Carre's Grammar School in the final and saw some fantastic performances from our players. After dominating the game for long periods of time, the score resulted in both teams scoring twice, ending up in a penalty shoot-out. Unfortunately, the Carre's goalkeeper made a good save and we eventually lost 4-3 on penalties. We wish our players all the best in the future.



Year 9 became County Cup winners. They beat LSST 5-1 on Tuesday 9 July. Many parents and fellow classmates came to watch and celebrated their fantastic achievement.

Goals from the following: Peter O'Connor x 2, Liam King x 1, Yusuf Lang-Hamidou x 1, and Finlay Couser x 1.

Athletics

After a successful sports day, the PE department carefully chose the athletics teams for the Inter-Schools District Championships. The day consisted of all track and field disciplines for boys and girls across Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. William Farr athletes produced some very strong performances with many of our students being crowned district champions.

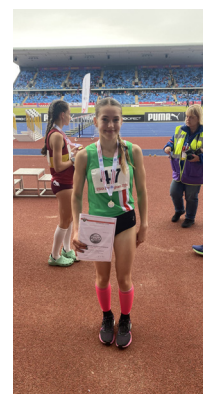
The girls' team were placed second by 6 points to LSST and the boys won the event by over 20 points. Collectively, William Farr were crowned overall district champions for the first time in over 7 years. A big congratulations to all athletes that competed on the day.

The Year 10 athletes are pictured here.



Ellarose Whitworth in Year 10 competed at the English Schools Championships in Birmingham. The championship is a huge event where athletes from all over the country compete for the title of National Champion. Ellarose competed in the 3000m Inter-girls competition. The qualifying time for this event is 10 mins 20 and Ellarose went in with a time of 9 mins 39.

Ellarose ran a fantastic race and placed second with a new personal best of 9 mins 31 seconds. She took the silver medal and has qualified to run for England on Saturday 20 July at Carmarthen and we wish her the very best for this event.

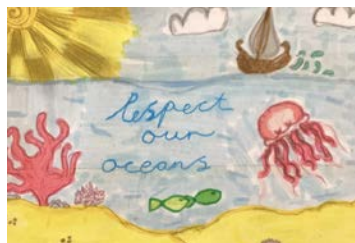
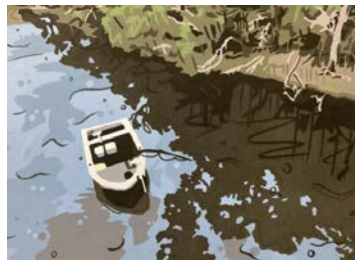


SOPHIE'S POSTCARD

97 postcard-sized pieces of artwork were sent off to 'Sophie's Secret Postcard Auction 2024', raising money for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.

Students donated work alongside over 2,000 other artists, including artwork by the Harry Potter illustrator Thomas Taylor and other famous names. The bidding on eBay in June attracted a lot of attention and the William Farr submissions raised an incredible £2,256.41.

Well done to everyone who donated a piece of artwork.



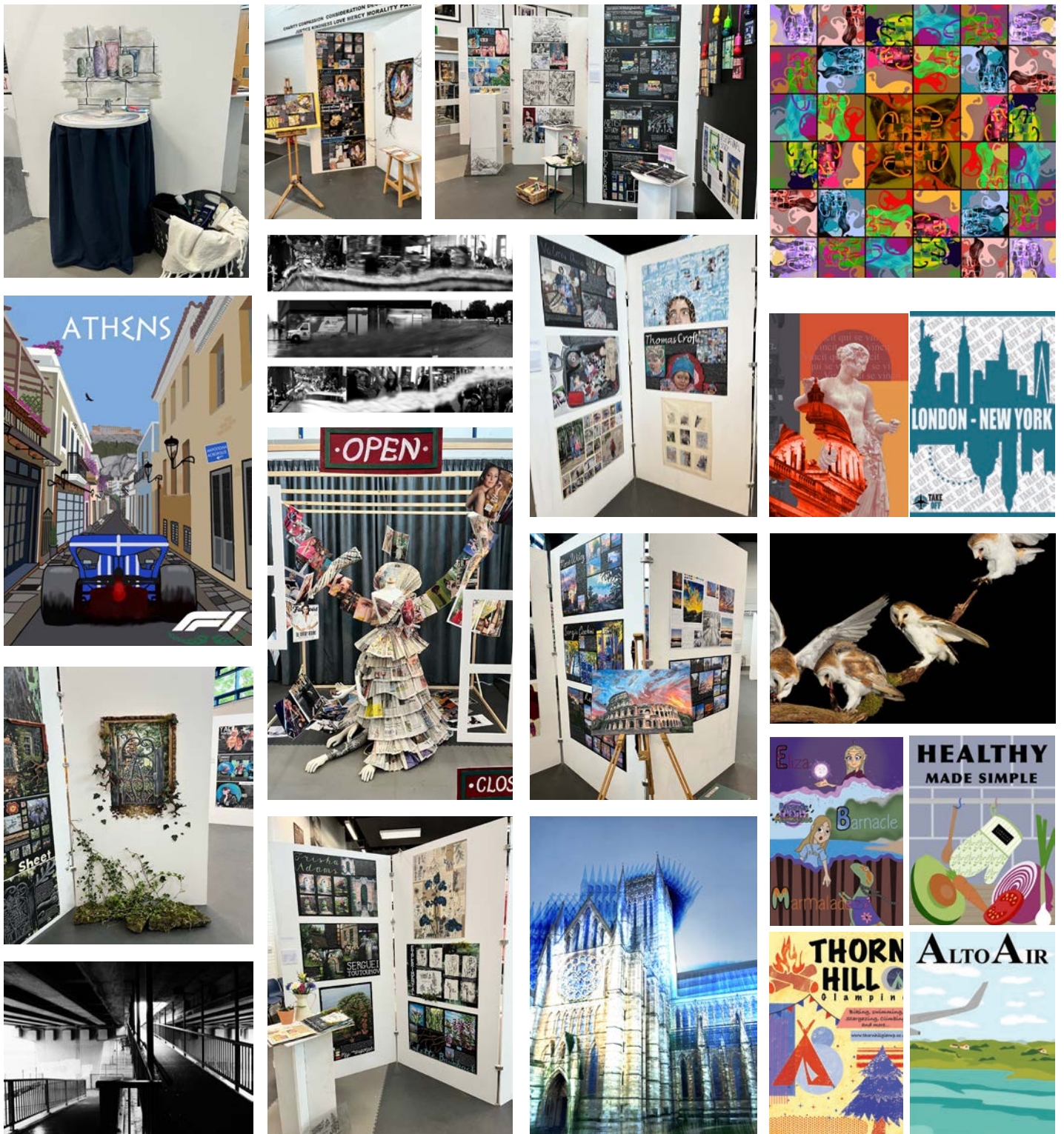
ART EXHIBITION

On Thursday 20 June, Y13 Art, Graphics and Photography students had their private view, showcasing their fantastic coursework and exam projects that they have completed over their two-year course.

Friends and family celebrated the hard work of our Year 13 students, a range of media techniques and processes were explored in the projects, with highly ambitious and skilled outcomes.

Thank you to all the local businesses, teachers, students and parents who donated raffle prizes, £60 was raised to go towards future exhibitions. Also thank you to the three students who kindly contributed musical entertainment throughout the evening - Elsa Peel-Cobas (Year 9) and Scarlett Edlin (Year 8) played piano and Freddie Magee (Year 7) played bass guitar - their talent creating a fantastic atmosphere.

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



MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

The Summer term in the Maths department has been an enjoyable one.



Year 7 went to Market Rasen Racecourse, where we met 2 ex-jockeys, including Carrie Ford who was one of the first women to take part in the Grand National. Students had the opportunity to visit the weighing room, the parade ring, and walk the course, learning more about the weights, measures and other maths required by the Racing Industry.

Also some Year 7 and 8 students took part in the Junior Maths Challenge, run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT). There were many exceptional performances, with plenty of Gold, Silver & Bronze certificates. Four students scored very highly and were invited to the follow-on competition, the Junior Kangaroo. Well done to Evie McGann and Joly Wu from Year 8 and Joyce Lam and Oscar Shortman from Year 7. Particular congratulations to Oscar, who achieved the highest score in the school in both the main competition and also the Junior Kangaroo.

SAMBA WORKSHOP

40 students took part in a Samba workshop, run by Kinetika Bloco, a youth music charity from London.

Kinetika Bloco run a summer school for children every year on the South Bank. They were amazing, as were the students. They taught the students a piece in an hour, which they would usually spend a whole day learning!

The Jazz Festival organisers in Lincoln wanted to involve our school pupils as the workshop that they held at school last year was so successful that they extended the project further this year. It has been funded by Arts Council England. The pupils had two workshops and have been invited to take part in a live performance on Saturday 20 July at Lincoln Cathedral with the full London Carnival Group. Do come along at 12.30pm to the Dean's Green to hear Kinetika Bloco and the work the pupils have done. No tickets required, it is a free event. The Kinetika Bloco 'Legacy' band are also performing in the Chapter House at 2pm if you would like to see them play - this is a ticketed event.

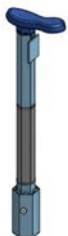


If you are interested in finding out more about this year's Lincoln Jazz Festival, please go to mjazz.co.uk. For tickets go to lincolncathedral.com/Lincoln-jazz-festival

BIG BANG COMPETITION

Noah Cieslik and George Stanham from Year 13 have reached the finals of the Big Bang Competition and have faced an industry panel interview, to discuss their A Level Design Engineering Projects as part of the final process.

The Big Bang Competition is a national event for student scientists and engineers in the UK under the STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) banner. Noah has been shortlisted for The Big Bang UK Young Technologist of the Year, supported by Siemens for his project on automatic crop irrigation.



George has been shortlisted for The Intellectual Property Office Award for Outstanding Innovator, for his haptic feedback walking stick terrain & locator system. Both projects involved the development of a complex electronic system, prototype manufacturing, design strategy and a significant amount of effort.

The Big Bang Fair, held at the NEC, Birmingham was on 19 June.

Congratulations to Noah Cieslik, who was runner-up in the competition - winning a £200 voucher.

EDUCATIONAL TRIPS AND VISITS

This term, students have attended a number of trips to complement their learning, including:

Y7 Science Space Centre
Y7 Maths Market Rasen Racecourse
Y9 Services Trip
Y10 Beth Shalom with RS
Y10 Geography Welton Field Study
Y10 Careers Fair at Lincoln University
Y11 Construction Day at Lincoln College
Y12 Computer Science attended an eSafety workshop at The Drill
Y12 & 13 Design students visited London; V&A, Design Museum and Tate Modern
Y12 Design students visited Festo Pneumatics Factory
Y12 Geography Field Trips to Gibraltar Point, Willingham Woods and Whisby
Y12 UCAS Fair at Lincoln University
Y12 Oxford University for Oxbridge candidates
Y12 Whisby with Biology
Y13 Design Engineers visited Lincoln Hospital to listen to a lecture on Robotic Assisted Surgery
Y13 History Great Debate at Lincoln University
Y13 Courts of Justice with RS
3 Chess Matches at Branston, Pembroke and LSST
Music for Youth Trip to Hull
Ski Trip for Years 8, 9, 10 and 12
End of Year trips for Years 8, 9, 10 and 12 to Drayton Manor, Flamingo Land, Xscape and London.
The Lincolnshire Show

YEAR 10 UNIVERSITY TRIP

On 12 June, Year 10 visited the University of Lincoln for a taster day.

The students were introduced to what the university experience is like, the UCAS application process, the range of courses available and the wider learning experiences that the University of Lincoln offer.

The students were taken on a tour of the campus and given the opportunity to see what steps they need to follow if they wanted to attend an undergraduate course. We ran this trip in line with raising aspirations in students ahead of Post-16 applications next year. A great day and experience.



LINCOLNSHIRE SHOW COMPETITION WINNER

Freya Capes in Year 7 has won the 'design a bike helmet' competition at the Lincolnshire Show.

She was presented with a new helmet and a bag of goodies from Pam Street from the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership. Well done, Freya.



MODERN LANGUAGES

This term has seen Year 7 students, who have worked consistently well throughout the year, rewarded with a special lesson of Pétanques. Competition was fierce and the students soon became proficient players.



Y8 students have also been rewarded with Project Cookie lessons. Over three lessons, they have learned how to decipher a French recipe, give their opinions and bake the cookies for a final competition.

We would also like to thank the Sixth Form students who have helped out at St Chad's Primary School in Dunholme. They have prepared and delivered lessons to primary pupils and this has been a great success.

THE IMPORTANCE OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Extra-curricular activities are any activity that students participate in outside of the normal classroom environment.

There have been so many wonderful activities on offer this year, some during the lunch hour and some after school. There are those activities which involve many hours spent outside of the classroom in order to participate in them, like Duke of Edinburgh, orchestra and any of the sports teams. Those which can be just 'turned up' for, such as chess, bridge, craft club and choir. However, whatever the activity, the best results and most enjoyment are always gained through dedication and commitment over a period of time.

As the year draws to an end, we would like to focus on why extra-curricular activities are important for all children. They are designed to enhance a child's learning experience, sometimes by reinforcing lessons learnt in the classroom and sometimes by widening that experience through the teaching of a new skill. Research shows that children benefit greatly from having a variety of different ways to learn and should be part of a well-rounded and balanced education. Most studies done on the contribution of extra-curricular activities have been done in the USA.

These studies show that the benefits for children are wide-ranging, from educationally (improvements in achievement and educational outcomes), to psychologically (improvements in measures relating to self-esteem and motivation) continuing through to civic engagement and risk behaviours (improvements in community spirit and a sense of 'connectedness' to the school) (Fredricks & Eccles 2006). Dumais 2006 also noted that extra-curricular activities play a prominent role in narrowing the inequality gap between advantaged and disadvantaged young people. As well as providing students with new skills and abilities, extra-curricular activities are vital in boosting pupils' confidence to interact socially with others and extend their social networks.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those staff involved in our extensive extra-curricular programme, all of whom give up their own time to ensure our students have a wide offer available. We would also like to encourage more pupils to take advantage of the school's extra-curricular programme in September, if not for any of the many advantages listed above, then simply to have fun and relax away from the pressures of school work!

Please check out the new programme in September on the school website: <https://www.williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk/extra-curricular>

MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

'Live life in all its fullness' – John 10:10

It's truly inspiring to see our students embody this vision as they transition from Year 11 and Year 13, embracing life's opportunities and challenges daily. The vision will be in print for all to see as you walk into school from September. This term, we witnessed students embark on new journeys, while preparing for others to begin their first chapter with us in September. The excitement and potential each new face brings to our school community is always wonderful to behold.

A highlight of this term was welcoming The Message Trust to our school. Their interactive sessions on resilience and well-being, delivered through the medium of music, created a vibrant and engaging atmosphere. It was a joy to see our students so enthusiastic and involved.

Fusion (our Christian Union) continues to flourish constantly finding ways to encourage and help students. The Lawres Chapel is always open as a meeting place or a place of quiet for those that need it. As we approach the summer holidays, I wish you all a happy and blessed time with your friends and families. May you continue to live life in all its fullness. God bless.

Charlotte Bloom, School Chaplain

AN EVENING OF DELIGHTS

Our summer concert this year was packed full of incredible moments and standing ovations.

The standard of the solo items was awe-inspiring with soloists ranging from Y8 through to Y13 and from 'Faure' to 'Adele' but no matter what the item, the quality was never in question. The packed hall heightened the pupils' excitement and raised their performance levels to new heights.

The orchestra performed a 'Harry Potter' Medley and 'Soul Bossa Nova', famously used in the 'Austin Powers' movies. The choir sang the 'Lollipop Song', Billy Joel's 'And So It Goes' and Bob Chilcott's 'Your Face'. The younger pupils performing in mini-band, many of whom only joined the school in September, gave a rendition of 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' and 'Wallace and Gromit'. Young Voices sang 'At All Costs' from 'Wish' and 'Lost Boy' with great joy. It showed the sense of camaraderie within the Music department as more experienced performers supported the less experienced ones and set the standard high.

We said farewell and thank you to two of our Year 13 musicians who are leaving to go on to bigger and better things, both of whom have thrown themselves into the extra-curricular life of the department since they started in Year 7. The evening was a great example of what hard work and dedication can bring. A huge thank you to the Friends for their support of the evening, serving refreshments and organising the raffle and to Hannah Price for organising strawberries and cream to make the evening even more special. Make sure you add our Christmas concert date to your diary in September to avoid disappointment.

EXAM DATES

A LEVEL

Thursday 15 August 2024 RESULTS DAY

GCSE

Thursday 22 August RESULTS DAY

PARKING ON BECKHALL

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

They are asking 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. Thank you.

SAFEGUARDING / SUPPORT IN HOLIDAYS

To report concerns:

Lincolnshire Children's Services 01522 782 111 - <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/safeguarding/report-concern>

Lifelines:

- The NSPCC are here to help 24/7 and children can call their Childline number on 0800 1111
 - 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 anytime, anywhere. It is a place to go if you are struggling to cope and you need immediate help. Text 85258
-

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.

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

TERM DATES

Term 1

Monday 02 September 2024	INSET DAY
Tuesday 03 September 2024	First day of term (Y7 only)
Wednesday 04 September 2024	Y7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13
Thursday 05 September 2024	All Year Groups
Friday 27 September 2024	INSET DAY
Friday 18 October 2024	Last day of term

Term 2

Monday 28 October 2024	First day of term
Thursday 19 December 2024	Last day of term

Term 3

Monday 06 January 2025	INSET DAY
Tuesday 07 January 2025	First day of term
Friday 14 February 2025	Last day of term

Term 4

Monday 24 February 2025	First day of term
Friday 05 April 2025	Last day of term

Term 5

Tuesday 22 April 2025	First day of term
Monday 05 May 2025	BANK HOLIDAY
Friday 23 May 2025	Last day of term

Term 6

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

STAFF LEAVERS

Sadly, the following staff are leaving this academic year to take retirement, promoted posts, relocate or pursue new careers.

We would like to thank them for their work in supporting our students to engage with life in all its fullness (John 10:10). Collectively, they have given a total of 77 years' service to William Farr.

Steve Ellis (Assistant Headteacher) 25 years
Suzanne Maple (TA2) 17 years
Jonathan Knowler (Headteacher) 13 years
Kirsteen Mosley (Maths Intervention) 9 years
Saskia Alcock (School Business Leader) 5 years
Alice Winslade (TA) 4 years
Lewis Goddard (Science Teacher) 2 years
Oliver Morland (TA) 2 years
Francis Storr (TA) 2 years

COMMUNICATIONS

To communicate with school via email, please use the school email address: wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk wherever possible or make contact with the school through Middle Leaders, e.g. Heads of Department / Heads of Year. We would be grateful if individual staff are not emailed directly.

As part of our commitment to supporting staff workload and wellbeing, we will endeavour to respond to emails within 3 working days. Please note, staff are not expected to respond to emails outside of the normal working day (9-4pm) or during holiday periods.

Emails should be written in line with the [Parent Code of Conduct](#) as shown on the school website under the Governors section.

BE SAFE DAYS - Y7 & Y9

Stay Safe Partnership have been into school to deliver sessions to Y7 and Y9 on various topics related to staying safe.

They have provided some links for any follow-up advice:

- [Healthy minds resources hub for professionals](#)
- <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/directory-record/70613/-hs-bc-money-management-workshops-key-stage-3-and-4>
- [Crime and criminality information and resources for students and teachers – Lincolnshire County Council](#)
- <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/directory-record/65328/consent>
- [LGBT- gender and sexuality – Lincolnshire County Council](#)
- [Mini first aid teens class for 11 to 16-year-olds – Lincolnshire County Council](#)
- [Hate crime awareness secondary face to face and online resource – Lincolnshire County Council](#)
- [Sex and relationships – Lincolnshire County Council](#)