



WFS NEWSLETTER

1st Autumn Half Term 2011

THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Dear Parents and Guardians

As the first half term comes to an end I wanted to let you know how we are doing and what you can expect over the coming weeks.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all parents and guardians to the school year 2011-2012 particularly those of pupils in Year 7. Those new to the school have settled in very well and are already contributing to school life.

Many thanks to all parents and guardians for your continued support. We are very proud of the positive relationships we have with you and thank you for engaging with us to ensure the success of every student.

Andrew Stones

Welcome to new Staff

The start of this year sees the arrival of several new members of staff. Mr Jonathan Knowler is one of our Deputy Headteachers and will have responsibility for Staff and Resources. He will also be working in the Business Studies department.

Science has 4 new members of staff with Mrs Shema Hill, Mrs Marie-Anne Sardeson, Mrs Alia Wiley our new Head of Physics and Mr Nick Muir who is also Head of Year 7.

English welcomes Mrs Diane Lloyd and Mrs Annmarie Wilkin.

In Mathematics, Mrs Angela Hoddinott joins us as an Assistant Head of Department.

Mrs Donna Townsend has joined the Drama department for this academic year on the Graduate Teacher Programme.

Mrs Jill Oliver is the new Finance Administrator, Mr Neil Bontoft will be a Learning Support Assistant and Mrs Debbie Lester will be delivering the hot meals to primary schools.

Mrs. Hanson

I am delighted to report that Mrs Hanson of the English department has been nominated for the National Teaching Awards, having already won the Midlands Teacher of the Year Award.

After a visit by the judges she was successful in reaching the National Finals which will take place on 30th October. We anxiously await the result.

VISIT OF THE INDIAN PRINCIPAL

We were honoured to welcome the Principal of the Lotus Valley International School, Mrs Maddhu Chandra. Ms Lymn, Head of Religious Education has developed close links with the school and we are looking forward to building on her visit.



FRIENDS OF WILLIAM FARR

October 4th saw the first of this year's meetings of the Friends of William Farr. This very special group of parents works with real determination to raise money for the pupils of William Farr. They are already planning a number of events so look out for more details.

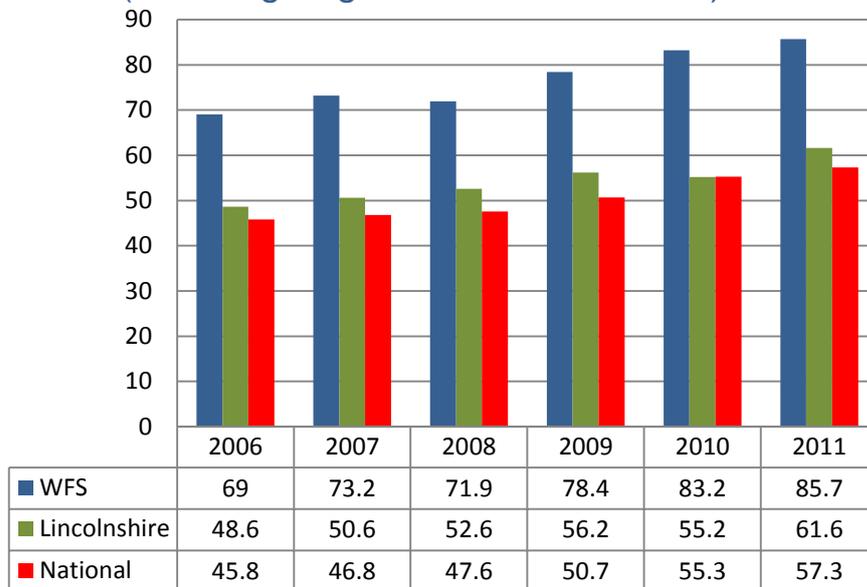


Examination Results

School's examination results this summer were exceptional.

At GCSE students achieved the best ever results with 89% gaining 5+ A*-C, 85.7% 5 A*-C including English and Mathematics and 36% achieving 5+ A*/A. Over ¾ (77%) were awarded A*-C in 8 or more subjects.

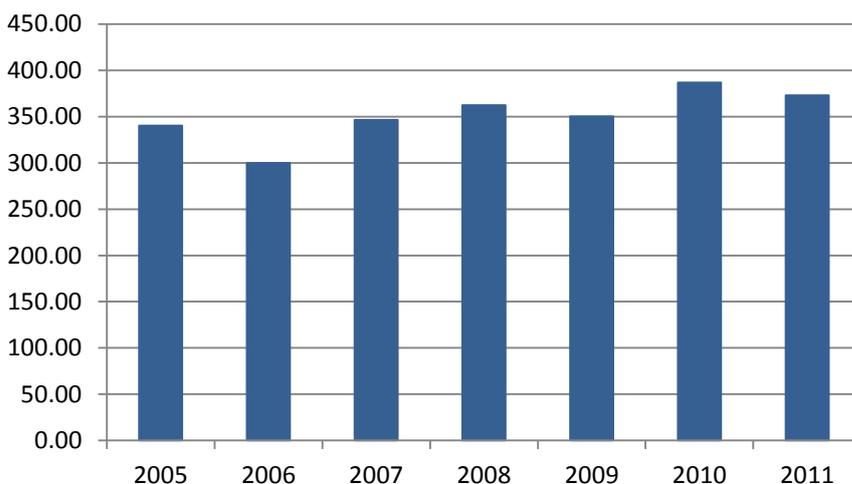
5+ A*-C (including English and Mathematics) Results



At 'A' level students achieved the second highest 'UCAS' points score in the school's history with an average of 376 points per entrant. 75% of all students gained A*-C.

This confirms and consolidates our reputation as one of the top schools in the country.

A Level UCAS Points



UCAS Points are based around the system where A* = 140, A= 120, B=100, C=80, D= 60 and E = 40. UCAS A points are half of full Advanced Level Grades so that an AS C = 40 points.

SWIMMING

For the first time William Farr entered the E.S.S.A. East Midlands Swimming Trials held at Daventry Leisure Centre on 30th September. The Team, consisting of students from a range of Year groups and under the management of Mr Petts, supported by Mrs Haldenby performed exceptionally well. A special mention must be given to the Junior Girls Team consisting of Mia Kennedy, Rosie Butler, Loveday Beresford and Kate Davidson who finished 6th overall in both their events.

EQUESTRIAN TEAM

After an approach by Henry Haigh, Year 9, I asked for volunteers to help with a school Equestrian Team.

A number of students have already represented the school in events and the constitution of the team and more formal arrangements are well under way.

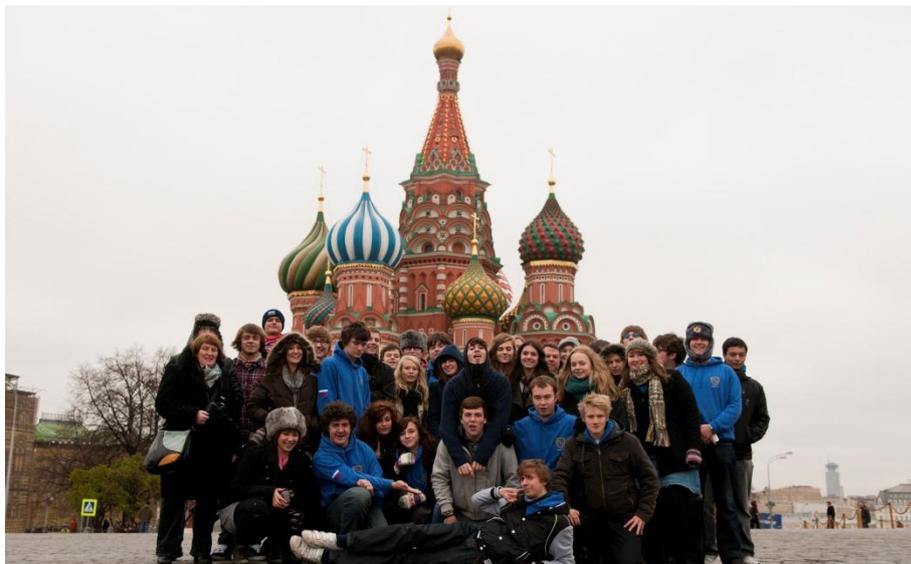


ANNUAL CAKE DAY

I would like to thank everybody who contributed to the Annual Cake sale. It was our best ever raising an amazing £320 which is to be donated to Lincoln Hospital Breast Unit.

Trips

A number of trips have already taken place this term, notably the Year 10 French Study Visit to Paris, Year 12 Geography trip to Hill Holt Wood, Year 9 to the National Space Centre, Year 10 to Beth Shalom, Biology 'A' level to Whisby and Business students to Centre Parcs. In addition, pupils have taken part in Construction Day, debating in London, the Oxbridge Conference and a Languages Day. We have had visits from the poet Ash Dickinson, Mr. Spooner, our WW1 'Soldier' and Flight Sergeant Paul Hughes. As you receive this letter we will have just said 'Farewell' to the Art Department trip to New York.



Open Evening

Many thanks to all those who attended the Open Evening. It was a great success with more visitors to the school than ever. All the departments worked very hard to show what a special place William Farr is. If you were not able to make the evening and would like to see the school at work then please contact me to arrange a visit.



CHAPLAINCY

This September saw the arrival of Mrs Rachel Heskins as school Chaplain. Rachel has worked tirelessly to build on the work of the previous Chaplain, Jo Smith. The Lawres Room continues to develop as a place of quiet reflection and with the introduction of Communion, this is further enhanced.



200TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHURCH SCHOOLS

Sunday 16th October was the 200th anniversary of the first Church of England school. To mark that occasion a candle has undertaken a journey amongst Church of England Schools in the Diocese of Lincoln. It was with great pride we received the candle on Monday 17th October and were able to hand it over to a group of pupils from Hackthorn (C of E) Primary who walked all the way for the ceremony.



Ace Day

The first of our ACE Days (A Curriculum Enhancement Day) was held on Friday 14th October. Across the school, Year groups engaged in a whole range of activities. Year 7 took part in a Disability Awareness Day, Year 8, Industry and Work-Related Learning Day, Year 9, Racism, Culture and Diversity Day and Year 10, Enterprise Day. Many thanks to Mrs Bates and Mrs Johnson for organising it and to all those who took part.

Next Term

Parent Surgery – In order to work more closely with parents and guardians, every Tuesday from 4.00pm until 5.00pm starting from Tuesday 1st November it will be possible to drop in to school without the need to make an appointment to discuss any matters of concern with myself or when I am not available, another Senior member of staff.

Finland – Thursday 17th November sees the arrival of representatives of a school from Finland.

Farrago – the Autumn term edition of Farrago will be out so look for a number of features on the above.

Oliver – rehearsals for 'Oliver' are well underway. Staff and pupils are working so hard to make it a success. Details of the event are to follow.

PREMISES

A significant amount of work was carried out over the summer, including refurbishment and decoration of several rooms. The two major projects completed at the start of the term were the overhaul of the sports Hall including the laying of a new floor. The VI form study area was redeveloped to produce a larger floor area with integrated offices for both the Head of Year 12 and the Head of Year 13.

