



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School



Dear Parents and Guardians

After what has been a particularly long term, everyone is looking forward to a well-deserved rest. The new Year 7s, as well as the new staff, have all settled in well.

Christmas gives us all an opportunity to reflect on the special community in which we play a role. The students have worked so hard together to produce such memorable events as the House Performing Arts Day, the Christmas Concert and the Year 13 pantomime!

This year's Carol Services have been, as always, special occasions. Many thanks to Cieran Dooley from Year 9 who played the organ throughout.

Thank you all for your continued support and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Andrew Stones,
Headteacher

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STAFF IN THE NEWS

S Congratulations to two of our staff whose efforts and expertise have been recognised at a national level. In November, we received notification that Mr Woodhouse has been appointed a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. This was in recognition for his sustained commitment to Geography and his leadership of a department which was one of only 200 nationally which entered more than 100 students for GCSE per year.

In the same month, Mrs Hanson, our current Head of Year 7 and a former East Midlands Teacher of the Year, appeared in the national edition of the 'Teach Secondary' magazine. She was invited as an outstanding practitioner, to talk about the major milestones of her career.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

V In November, Roger Bannister, the current Assistant Chief Constable, was invited to give the Annual Lecture on 'Law and Order'. He spoke passionately about the role of police in today's society and in particular how he contributed to the process.

In December we were honoured to welcome



Professor Muriel Robinson, the Principal of Bishop Grosseteste University College, to be our Guest speaker at the Year 11 Celebration Evening. She presented the main prizes before talking to them about what their futures might hold.

PRINCESS DIANA AWARD

As was reported in last summer's newsletter, two of our very brave students were awarded the Princess Diana Award

in recognition of their dedication towards raising money for good causes. What makes this even more special is that Bishop Christopher agreed to come to

our final Whole School Assembly to make the presentation.



CERN

C 'A' level Physicists were treated to the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit the European Organisation for Nuclear Research in Geneva last month, for the first time in the school's history. At CERN, the world's largest and most complex scientific instruments are used to study the basic constituents of matter — the fundamental particles. A very early start on Monday saw 40 students and 4 members of the science department embark on the 4 hour ride to Heathrow and subsequent flight, followed by more coach journeys to Geneva. The rest of the day was spent stretching their legs along the bank of Lake Geneva and taking in the sights of The History of Science Museum.



The undisputed highlight of the week was of course CERN itself. Not one of them was prepared for the awe inspiring engineering and indeed inspirational physics that they saw that morning as they were allowed in to see two actual experiments and testing facilities. The afternoon was spent at 2 exhibitions that were again like nothing any of them had experienced before - just astounding. The next day was spent in Switzerland's beautiful capital city of Bern and the brilliant Einstein Museum which became the icing on the cake.

I am sure that students and teachers alike will be talking about the trip for years to come.

THE SPACE CENTRE TRIP

T On November 7, 150 year 8s and 11 staff set off to The National Space Centre, Leicester. Being keen scientists, they all understood that there were various scientific criteria to address:

Targets and hypothesis: To see, do and learn as much as possible about space in three and a half hours aided by as much 'within reason' fun as they could muster.

Method: To find the answers to the various questions and quizzes posed in the booklet made by Mrs Leaning. This would involve a variety of places including i) visiting the main Planetary and Into Space exhibitions, ii) Patrick Moore Imax and its fantastic film on 'Astronauts and their Preparation for Space Trips', iii) the Orbiting Earth Wing and learning about satellites and their uses (where some got to be filmed as weather presenters). On top of this, dragging as many teachers as many times as possible to Tranquillity Base, where it was possible to have a go on a simulated ride as a trainee astronaut on a fictional journey in 2025 - as long as there was an adult present!

Result: 3 coach loads of very happy (extremely well-behaved), tired and educated year 8s and teachers

Conclusion: Must do it again next year!



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS WEEK

International Schools Week took place during the week of 12-16 November 2012.

The theme was 'Using your Voice'.

Students had the opportunity to participate in two BBC live debates, one on student voice and how it is exercised in school; the other on using your voice to take a stand on 'Human Rights'. Some of the best practice in this field is to identify ideas currently operating in this theme, and the departments of English, Geography, ICT and Religious Studies were completing related work using student voice, during that week. Will's Diner also provided us with tasty 'international' food all week.

For example, ICT students produced international posters, with a logo, considering audience and design of the information. In Religious Studies, students exchanged 5 words for well-being, some of which will be sent to our partner schools

CHARITY FUNDRAISING

This year, Children In Need was celebrated at William Farr School with a non-uniform day cake bake at break-time and students were treated to a musical lunchtime concert; utilising our new bandstand area. The day was a great success and students raised a massive £2,803. The Halo Trust and Strut received £860 of this each, with the remainder going to Children in Need.



MOVEMBER

Every November, men around the world throw down their razors in order to raise money and awareness for Prostate and Testicular Cancer charities. For the past 2 years, Mr Mattley has been growing a moustache in Movember ably supported by his tutor group. In 2010 Mr Mattley raised £300 and 2011 he increased this total to £550.

However, 2012 has definitely been the Year of the Mo. This year Mr Mattley was joined by a number of Sixth Formers, Mr Hamilton, Mr Higham and even Mr Stones. Braving Parents Evenings and School commitments with an itchy patch of hair on your face is no mean feat, but so far this year's total has reached a whopping £1142! A huge thank you goes to everyone who sponsored and supported the Mo Bros throughout the school, especially 11CXM who ran their now annual Mo Bake Sale and Mo Sale. But a special mention should go to the Year 7s and the School's Enterprise Group who helped to run the Year 7 Disco which donated £142 to the Movember Appeal. In 2013...who knows which staff will join in!



MACE DEBATE

On the 28 November, William Farr hosted the first stage of the MACE debate competition. Franki Phillips and Phil Gale were the speakers for William Farr, with Carina Williamson and Sophie Broadbent acting as Chair and timekeeper.

The issue they debated was whether the wearing of religious symbols should be banned in the public sector and they argued the proposition against King Edwards Grammar School's team. They came first with 149 points, Lincoln Minster School came second and neither of the grammar schools got through to the next round. Hopefully, we will have the same success in the next round.

EPRA

Year 8 students and their Religious Education teachers once again raised money for Lepara; £571, this year. This means 22 people can receive a cure for Leprosy. A great effort from everyone and thank you very much for your donations to this worthy cause.

LEPRA



YEAR 13 TO THE MAGISTRATES COURT

This term, Year 13 Sociologists visited the Magistrates Court in Lincoln, as part of their 'A' level' studies on Crime and Deviance. They gained a better understanding of the criminal justice system and experienced first-hand how magistrate courts operated. The magistrates kindly spent time explaining procedures and matters of sentencing.

HOUSE PERFORMING ARTS

For the past month, the Houses have been preparing for the House Performing Arts competition! This is a competition in which Houses have to put together a performance including singing, dancing, acting and comedy acts and is also a chance to get a spot performing in the Extravaganza. On the 30 November, the Houses revealed their painstakingly rehearsed performances and performed in front of all who were taking part, Year 7s who got the privilege of watching, and the judges, who were our very own Mr Stones, Ms Baker and Ms Crawshaw. Themes included 'Swallowed by the Internet', 'Pantomime', and the quality of acts was truly unbelievable, showcasing talents that otherwise might not see the spotlight. However, the purpose of the competition was to win House points, and the winner was the House most in need of them, Lindum! They won with their wonderful wartime theme of 1920s to 1940s, with sway singers, 1940s' dancers, soldier acts and a rendition of Dame Vera Lynn's 'We'll Meet Again'. This marked Lindum's 3rd win in a row, and the Year 13s who organised the performance were hugely proud and 'happy in the knowledge we'd scored another House Performing Arts victory before we left'. Well done to Lindum, and all the Houses who took part! You will see some acts from the performances at the Extravaganza, so be sure to get tickets.



SPORTING SUCCESS

William Farr entered the annual district cross-country event held at the south common in Lincoln. In challenging conditions all the athletes competing were a credit to the school. In the team competition the year 7 boys, year 7 girls and the year 10/11 boys all won and William Farr School won the whole event collectively. A special mention goes to Abbey Small who won the year 7 girls race and Ryan Bond and Josh Parker who placed 1st and 2nd respectively in the year 10/11 boys' race. We now have a considerable number of students selected to run in the county championships held in January.

Good luck to the rest of the William Farr sports teams as they continue their fixtures in the district, county and national competitions.



THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This year's annual Christmas Concert was another astounding exposition of the talents of the students at William Farr. With 19 separate acts featuring students of all ages, the evening surpassed all expectations. It would be almost impossible to pick out one particular individual, but seeing Minhyeon Jin from Year 8 on piano was quite breathtaking. Many thanks to Mrs Baker and all those who helped make the evening so special.



CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN WINNER

Well done to William Lee (Year 12) whose picture 'Winter Frost' was chosen as the winner of this year's Christmas card competition.

