



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we reach the end of another year, it is with immense admiration that we reflect on how so much has been achieved by so many. There are many highlights, too numerous to mention but the 60th Anniversary Celebration in the Cathedral and Baroness Sue Campbell's visit were truly special occasions. Baroness Campbell commented so positively about the school but reserved special praise for the young people she met.

The students continue to work so hard for good causes and it therefore comes as no surprise that this year's charitable work has seen a record amount of money raised for good causes, well over £12,000.

I would like to thank all of those who support William Farr in so many ways. It is a uniquely special place to be.

Andrew Stones
Headteacher



Sports' Day

The sun was shining and so were the performances at this year sports day. The students that participated showed great determination in conditions that were hot and humid. The Bell Cup which is for senior girls 800m went to Anya Darlow with a time of 2.54. The Henderson Shield which is presented to the boy with the fastest 200m time from Year 7, 8 and 9 went to George Adamson with a time of 27.05. Rebekah Ward was the recipient of Victrix Ludorum and the Ian Ward trophy for service to athletics. In Year 10 Ryan Bond won the Nigel Pledge trophy, Victor Ludorum and the Ian Ward trophy to finish a very successful year for him. All results from participating athletes were then meticulously collated to give the boys', girls' and combined total of house points. The boys' house shield went to Ermine while the girls' house shield was presented to Stonebow. These totals then went forward to give an overall winner of the combined house cup which was deservedly won by Ermine. A big thank you to all those members of staff who helped with proceedings and also to the students who were willing to participate for their houses on the day.

The Annual Art Exhibition



This year's A-Level Art Exhibition and evening celebration show proved to be one of the most successful to date. Comments received by visitors to the extensive display of work across a whole range of disciplines, reinforced the Art Department's feeling that this year was one of the best yet. With over 60 students exhibiting AS and A2 work from their Fine Art, Photography, Textiles and newly introduced Graphic Communication Courses, the quality of work exhibited was of an impressively high quality, maintaining the Art Department's arts funding and local and national reputation. The diversity and range of work was clear to see with all students developing original ideas and some breathtaking final outcomes. My thanks go to the Art Department for all their hard work this year, and we wish all the exhibitors every success in their forthcoming results.

Key Stage 3 Celebration Evening

To mark 3 years at William Farr and the end of a Key Stage, Year 9 students came together to celebrate their achievements on Tuesday 25 June. A wonderful evening of Subject awards, Prize giving and Presentations of Achievement files completed the formal celebration before a disco and buffet. Fortunately, the weather was warm so students could enjoy the outside seating area. A varied array of superb musical items made for a very memorable evening. Good luck to all our Year 9 students as they commence their GCSEs in September.

The Design and Technology Show

In the middle of Science Week amongst the hustle and bustle of Year 7-9 classes involved in building bridges, firing catapults and racing Solar cars, the Year 12 and 13 students were displaying their D&T Show work. A culmination of their year's work exhibiting a selection of their coursework folio design sheets and their final products, which combined, counts for 50% of their final grade. Projects ranged from motor bike stands, furniture and weights benches in Product Design, to leaf-collecting machines, automatic vices and a hi-fi system in Systems and Control. Graphics and Textiles' students responded to briefs set by the exam board and their own choices.



Textiles' students displayed some really creative fashion pieces including a range of shoes and dresses. Graphics' students worked on logos and graphics for shop fronts, advertising, packaging and logos for companies of their choice. The evening was very successful and very well attended by friends of the school, parents, students and fellow teachers and lecturers from local schools and universities who commended the department on the students' and staff's hard work. It is always a pleasure to display and celebrate and share in the success of the students' hard work and effort over the year, not to mention the 7 years that went into it. It is really humbling to see how much the students have achieved over their time in Design & Technology.

ACE Day

On July 28 the whole school was off timetable to take part in our second ACE Day of the academic year. Ace Days are designed to support and enhance the PSME/Citizenship curriculum. Students were involved in a range of activities based around a theme.

- Year 7 - Science and Technology
- Year 8 - India day
- Year 9 - Healthy Schools Day
- Year 10 - Enterprise and Employability
- Year 12 - Post 18

Most of the activities were run by a range of outside speakers except for Year 7 Day which was superbly organised and run by the Science and DT Departments. A special thanks must go to Science, DT, History, Art and RE but also to Miss Lymn for organising Year 8 India Day. Many thanks also to the students who were a credit to the school.

Sporting Success

This has been another successful summer for sport at William Farr School. The year 7 cricket team have produced some fantastic performances throughout the season which led them to playing QEHS, Gainsborough in the final of the County Cup. The final was played at Scothern cricket ground where the year 7s dominated the game. They reduced the opposition to 73 for 9 and they then knocked the score off after 10.3 overs with significant contributions from Nick Kimber and Will Bailey. This win means that William Farr School will represent Lincolnshire in the National Cup next summer. A special mention goes to Nick Kimber who has been selected to attend English Cricket Board trials in August.



The year 8 team started the season in the National Cup as last year's county champions. They triumphed over King's College in Cambridge but unfortunately fell short against Nottingham High School. They continued in the County Cup where once again they reached the final. They played King's Grantham where they battled well to end the game in a tie. Unfortunately, they lost the game due to wickets lost. The year 10s continued to show their strength where they reached the 20/20 county final which unfortunately they lost. However, they have reached the county final in the cup where they will face old adversaries King's, Grantham. This game will be played in September.

In athletics we have a number of students who have performed exceptionally well this season. In year 7 Abigail Small broke the school record for long jump and Elliot Harvey for hurdles. Lauren Dalton also broke the year 9 long jump record and Kathryn Maple broke the hurdles record. We had many athletes attend the county championships but a special mention goes once again to Rebekah Ward. Rebekah competed at the English Schools Athletic Championships in Birmingham where she raced in the 3000m race and placed a fantastic 9th place. Rebekah also beat the school 1500m record which was held by herself.



Science College Week



Science College Week and Rocket Day embody the key aim of the school's Science College status to 'strive for excellence' and drive learning forward. This year's very successful Science College Week took place between 10 and 14 June for the 725 pupils in Year 7, 8 and 9. The over-arching themes this year were Construction, Work IT Out and End of the World. There was also the popular and awe-inspiring lunch-time display of Whiz Bang Science as well as Science College Week Quiz. These additional whole-school activities provide students with opportunities to actively develop important links between Science, Maths, Design Technology and ICT, get involved with challenges and ambitious projects which are extra to their day-to-day lessons, have additional opportunities to stretch their knowledge and understanding to a very high level and to work collaboratively and independently with students that they would not normally work with. Across the school, students were without exception, engrossed and resilient, displaying all the characteristics of outstanding learners. Students have spoken enthusiastically about these challenges and have clearly achieved a great deal as well as enjoyed their learning.

The PGL Trip

25 KS3 Service pupils were treated to a free of charge 3 day activity holiday using Service Premium money. Parents had previously identified that one way in which the school could support Service families was to provide holidays, as this was sometimes difficult for the families to organise. Mr Ward and Mrs Peden were in charge.

The accommodation was in chalets which were excellent and the meals were good and very welcome as the activities made the children and staff hungry! Once at the centre there was a busy programme of activities which children and staff enjoyed. The most popular activities were Zip Wire, Archery, Jacob's Ladder - a climbing task, Fox and Hounds, Catch the Flag and Rafting. Rafting was very, very cold, however!

The staff took lots of photographs which are on the school website and each child has been given a copy of the photos on a DVD. It was a good idea to run this trip and we will certainly be running it again next year.

Normandy

This year, 83 students from Year 8 took part in the annual trip to Lion sur Mer in Normandy. During a very busy trip, they visited the Bayeux Tapestry, the beautiful harbour town of Honfleur, Pegasus Bridge, the American Cemetery at Colleville-Montgomery and were able to taste oysters as well as play beach games and go bowling in the evening. This year, for the first time, students were shown round a cider farm and enjoyed a refreshing glass of apple juice! With lots of French spoken and many new experiences had, it is a trip which will last long in the memory. A big 'thank you' once again to Mrs Keegan for all the organisation.

Making IT

Back in June, over 200 Year 7s in Design & Technology visited Making It! Discovery Centre in Mansfield. Pupils always love the Making It! Trip and this year was no different. Pupils got to design and make their very own Jitterbug which 'jitters' across the table and follows the product design route of incorporating several subjects within D&T. The visit develops pupils' knowledge and understanding of the design and make process as well as their manufacturing skills. Pupils explore these issues through a number of tasks within the centre; looking at how products are designed, testing materials and products to destruction, advertising, and looking at the use of robots to make products in a fun way. They also investigated how a production line and bar codes work as well as other issues to do with the designing and manufacturing of products around us. Everyone came away with a local newspaper front page with their photo on as a reminder of their day.

Schools' Music Prom

The Lincolnshire Schools' Prom, a new event this year, took place at the Embassy Theatre, Skegness on 2 July as part of the 'SO Festival 2013'. When Lincolnshire Music Service promoted this showcase of musical talent from primary and secondary schools across Lincolnshire we did not hesitate to encourage our students to audition. Three acts from William Farr were selected, the most from any single school in Lincolnshire. A full day of technical rehearsals was followed by a stunning evening of musical entertainment culminating in a finale of around 300 performers from across the whole of Lincolnshire. From the captivating sound of the Emily Bridgwood group to the upbeat sounds of The Pylons and the William Farr Singers & Soul Band, each and every student was superb and a great credit to themselves and the school. The Emily Bridgwood group and The Pylons were additionally asked to perform at other events as part of the SO Festival which is a huge achievement and we pass on our warm congratulations to all three groups who represented William Farr School.

The Drama Trip



The first ever William Farr Drama Department Tour to London took place in June. 37 students and 3 staff spent 4 action-packed days (and nights) exploring London's South Bank and West End "Theatreland" and all things theatrical.

The fantastic weather meant that there were dozens of outdoor performance events and street performers wherever we went. The West End Theatre Hunt involved groups tracking down theatrical landmarks and bringing back photographic evidence. One group infiltrated the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, whilst another intrepid bunch charmed their way into the Queen's Theatre auditorium – the front of house manager held back the matinee audience so they could take their photo next to the stage! There was a good deal of celebrity spotting as the red carpet was out for the premiere performance of "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

Two evenings were spent at the theatre watching fantastic performances of "War Horse" and "The Woman in Black". Both have recently been made into movies, but film just doesn't compare with the live action experience. Pupils were amazed by the incredible puppetry skills and acting. Tissues ran out as everyone wept in response to the moving tale of Joey, the horse sold to the cavalry for use in the vicious battles of the First World War. The second show generated quite a different response – the ghostly hauntings of "The Woman in Black" kept students awake, and shaking with fear for days afterwards! New experiences also included a performance and puppetry workshop with actors from "War Horse" and playing drama games in the park opposite the Royal Albert Hall! Thanks to all pupils and staff who contributed to making this a hugely enjoyable and memorable learning experience.



Year 7 French Day



Yet again, on Monday 22 July, Year 7 were treated to a day of French culture and fun. Mrs Anderson and her team organised competitions, quizzes, singing and dressing up, which challenged and excited the young linguists.

The variety of French costumes was stunning and the pupils particularly enjoyed making Eiffel Towers out of straws and sticks, whilst the day was rounded off nicely with a couple of rounds of The Marseillaise – the French National Anthem – with Madame Keegan at the helm. All in all, another excellent activity day, with an atmosphere of competition and enjoyment. Merci beaucoup!!

Farewell

This year we say 'Farewell' to a number of staff who are leaving us, in some cases after many years of service. I would like to thank them all for their contribution to the life and development of William Farr. A special mention must go to Mrs Williams, the former Senior Laboratory Technician and Mrs Boulter, a Resources Assistant who are retiring after 21 and 19 years respectively. I must also pay special tribute to Mrs Lloyd, the Senior Deputy Headteacher and Mr Speck, Assistant Head of History who are putting away their planners for the last time this summer. I wish them all well in whatever they choose to do.