



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to all parents and guardians to the school year 2013-2014. It has been wonderful to see how quickly pupils in Year 7 have settled into the routines of William Farr life.

With a number of trips and visits having already taken place and preparations for 'Joseph' and Rock Challenge well underway, school life has been as busy as ever. The highlight this term was undoubtedly the inaugural Founder's Day with a service for new Year 7s at St. Mary's Church Welton, followed by a Spitfire flypast.

I look forward to working with you all for another year. Many thanks for the support you give us.



Andrew Stones
Headteacher



Ash Dickenson Visit – 3 October 2013

On National Poetry Day, Thursday 3 October, the English Department was delighted to welcome Ash Dickenson, slam performance poet, for the sixth year running. He's becoming quite an artist in residence for the department. He spent the morning working with Year 12 Language and Literature students, performing some of his own poetry but also inspiring them to write their own poems through a wide range of interesting and sometimes humorous writing activities. The morning even ended with a mini-slam competition when some of the pieces created that morning were performed to great acclaim! He then gave two performances to Year 8 students, who had studied one of his poems in lesson time. The students were treated to Ash performing some of his poems, but also had the chance to write small verses themselves, many of which were shared with the audience. Year 8s left the session in great spirits having realised that poetry can be great fun and that it has to be seen in performance to be really appreciated. Ash has agreed to come back during our Creative Writing weeks (6-16 May 2014) to run further workshops for students. We look forward to it!

Founder's Day

William Farr School is named after a local vicar who established the original school on the site over 60 years ago. Reverend William Farr bought the land, a former World War Two bomber command station, for £600. The school opened in 1952, but was named after him just after his death in 1955.

A decision was made to mark this very special occasion with a ceremony called Founder's Day and on 4 September this year, the new Year 7s attended the inaugural service at St Mary's Church in Welton. The service was completed with a flypast of a Spitfire due to the school's ties with the RAF.

The story of William Farr's dream of creating a new school and the commitment and determination to reach that goal is still an inspiration to us more than 60 years later and will now form an important part of the school's calendar.

The flypast was exciting for all the students and staff and an emotional reminder of the brave men and women who fought for our freedom from the very site that we now occupy.

New Staff

This term sees the arrival of a number of new teaching staff. Mr Jamie Clark and Ms Laura Wadsworth join us in the Mathematics Department, with Ms Josephine Westlake and Mrs Beverley Hood taking up posts in Science. We have a new Head of Year 10 in Mrs Liz Jones and a new History Teacher in Mr Richard Noon. In the Drama Department, Mrs Kerryn Holgate joins until Easter. In the Music Department we welcome Mr Sam Palmer, in French, Ms Anne-Marie Colautti and Ms Rosie Simons takes up a one year appointment in RE to cover Ms Weightman's sabbatical. We can also let you know that our Transition Teacher, Mrs Appleby's secondment will be covered by Mrs Jayne Gissing.



Paris Trip 17-21 September 2013.

Before the crack of dawn on 17 September, Mrs Dixon, Mr Hamilton and Mrs Edwards met up with 27 year 10 languages students for the last educational trip to Paris. Thanks to the skill and experience of our driver, John, we made it in excellent time to the 'Mister Bed' Hotel in the suburbs. The following three days were jam packed with French lessons and activities. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience of learning French 'en France', whilst the afternoon excursions enabled them to get to know the capital, with visits to The Sacré Coeur, Notre Dame, The Eiffel Tower, The Champs Elysées, a boat trip along the Seine and of course, Disneyland. The journey home included an inevitable stop at a well-known fast-food restaurant, some lively banter and 30 smiling, happy faces. I wonder how many of them will be on this year's exchange?!



The National Space Centre Visit

On 9 October, 3 bus loads of very excited year 8s set off for the National Space Centre, Leicester. They were off 'into space' and were not disappointed when they got there. Although they had a bit of work to do, in the form of finding answers to questions in their space booklets, time passed in a flash as they were so busy investigating all the displays: they joined Neil and Buzz as Apollo 11 landed on the moon; they tried piloting the "Eagle" onto the lunar surface; they became Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space and sat inside the Vostok Capsule, ready to blast off into space and entered the Weather Pod as they discovered that satellites in space make a real difference to your life by giving televised warnings to the rest of the Space Centre visitors on potential imminent disasters.

Fortunately, that was the closest we got to a disaster and after some moon rock snacks, a bit of exercise in the 42m rocket tower and a short film on what it was like to be an asteroid, we came back down to Earth via the A46!

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Success

A huge congratulations must go to Edward Simpson and Lewis Margetts who received their Duke of Edinburgh Gold certificates from HRH Earl of Essex at St. James' Palace, on 12 September 2013.

Edward and Lewis started participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award together in Year 9 and having already achieved their Bronze and Silver Awards, this is the culmination of three years of hard work and dedication to the community. We are all very proud of them and wish them all the very best for their futures.



Shakespeare Schools Festival

The Macbeth cast has been rehearsing since shortly before the summer break. On 4 October, 16 acting and 3 costume students attended a workshop at the Lincoln Drill Hall. They presented themselves well throughout, working at a very good standard and were a credit to the school. The workshop was shared with the Priory City of Lincoln Academy. At the end of the session their teacher commented on how much they had enjoyed working with our school, saying that we were the friendliest school she had worked with in the Shakespeare Schools Festival. The talented KS3 cast, many of whom are tackling Shakespeare for the first time, will perform their 30 minute abridged version of Macbeth at the Lincoln Drill Hall on the 17 October. The intense performance style for this piece demands a high level of energy and the students work hard throughout. From the opening, where they play the living breathing landscape for the witches, through to the last moments when Macbeth's head is hauled on stage, the cast use body and voice to portray a challenging piece of text through the medium of physical theatre. Louis Valentine gives a breathtakingly mature performance as Macbeth, beautifully complemented by the chilling stillness conveyed in Rheanna Truemen's portrayal of Lady Macbeth. Bailey Robson gives a grippingly committed performance as Macduff. The cast have been supported by three dedicated costume students who have helped create, simple and highly effective costuming for this very modern adaptation of Shakespeares classic play.

Church Schools Festival at the Cathedral

On Tuesday 8 October, 51 students from Year 9 took part in the inaugural Church Secondary Schools Festival at Lincoln Cathedral. It was attended by schools from all over the diocese including William Lovell Academy and St Lawrence Academy. Students could choose from a range of workshops including photography, stone masonry, drama and music. We were also invited to take part in a pilgrimage around the Cathedral, lighting candles and reflecting on the history and meaning of the building and its features. A small group of students were invited to interview the Bishop of Lincoln, the Right Rev'd. Christopher Lowson. William Farr students asked him questions about his views on the role of women within the Church, Gay Marriage and whether he preferred cake or biscuits with his tea (neither apparently, he would rather eat a sausage roll). After lunch we took part in a celebration of Church Schools and learned about the role of the Psalms in the prayer life of the Canons of the Cathedral and as we left we were each given our own copy of a Psalm so that we too could be part of this ancient tradition of praying the Psalms every day.



The Great 6th Form House Bake Off

This year saw the inaugural 6th Form House bake off event. 43 students entered cakes into 3 categories; Victoria Sponge, Flourless and Celebration Cake. Mrs Sarah Strawson and Mrs Linda Rodger judged the competition and awarded the overall winner to Cameron Margetts for his snowman celebration cake. Other winners included Annabel Kiddals for her flourless sponge and Poppy Parker for her Victoria sponge. Slices of cake were sold and the event raised £62.40 for charity.

Michelle Paver

On 16 September 2013, the children's author Michelle Paver came to William Farr to give a talk to Year 8 pupils about her new novel, 'The Burning Shadow'. She brought along a number of artefacts to illustrate her ideas for the novel and answered a range of questions from William Farr pupils, as well as pupils who were invited from other schools in Lincoln. After her talk pupils were able to purchase copies of her novels and have them signed. It proved to be a very memorable and enjoyable experience for both pupils and staff and it was a real privilege to welcome a famous author to our school.

Michelle Paver is a British novelist and children's writer, probably best known for the fantasy series 'Chronicles of Ancient Darkness', set in pre-agricultural Stone Age Europe. For the concluding book Ghost Hunter (2009) she won the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize, a once-in-a-lifetime book award judged by a panel of British children's writers. Her latest series is called 'Gods and Warriors' and is set in the bronze age Mediterranean.



ACE Day

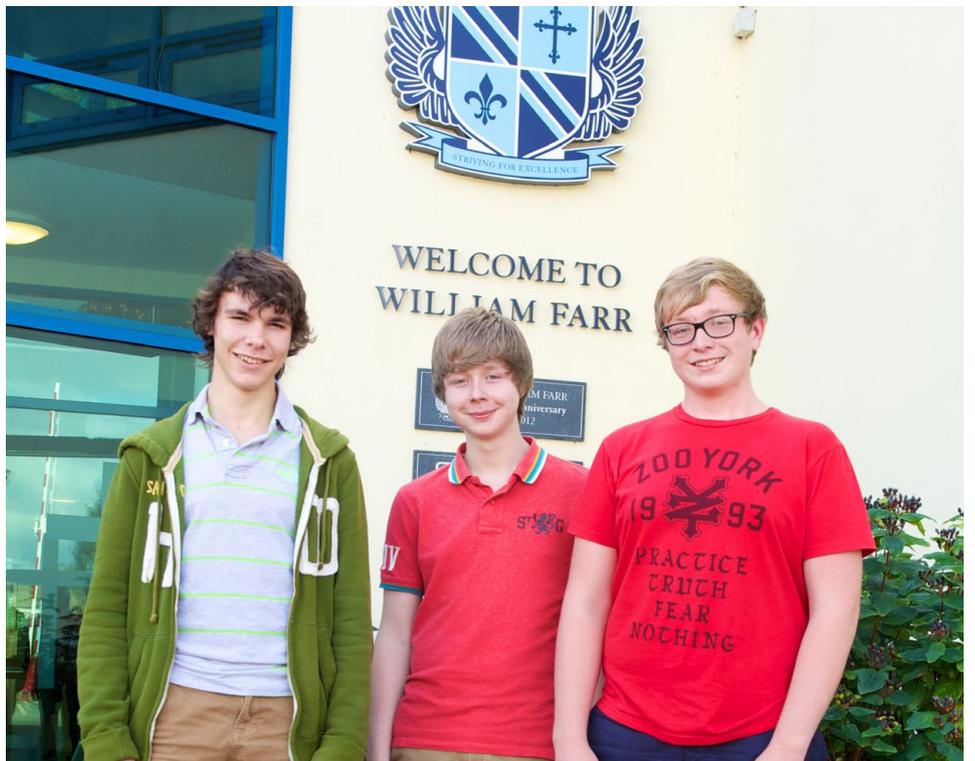
This year's first 'A Curriculum Enhancement Day' (ACE Day), was held on 11 October, with students across the school able to engage in a whole range of activities. Year 7s took part in a 'Being a Responsible Citizen Day', Year 8s considered 'Industry, Work-Related Learning and Enterprise', Year 9, 'Racism, Culture and Diversity' and Year 10 experienced 'Enterprise Day'. Many thanks to Mrs Bates and Mrs Johnson for organising it and to all those who took part.

Psychology

Year 12 had a great day at Twycross zoo. They went to hear a lecture on Animal Communication and became aware of the different faces of chimps! Their focus was to practise event sampling and time sampling on bonobo chimps, as they study Savage and Rumbaugh on the human language capabilities of chimps. Their efforts were rewarded with sightings of the new rare Snow Leopard twins at the zoo...wonderful aah!....moments..!!

Religious Studies

Last week, year 12 Religious Studies students were invited to The Annual Lecture at Lincoln Cathedral given by Robert White on Natural Disasters and Acts of God. This offered visual imagery of Natural Disasters and re-minded us of the role mankind plays in these occurrences as well as the differences we can make in re-addressing them. Students considered their material comforts are bought at a cost to other people and the natural world.



Charity News

The school received an award from 'Giving Nation' for its participation in fundraising activities and raising collectively in excess of £12,000 last year. Some funds this term were allocated to Matt's fund towards its work on skin cancer. Representatives from Matt's fund came to speak at the summer Ace Day. The new Charity group has formed from Yr12 students. They are currently planning Children in Need Day with a non uniform cost of £2, and a cake bake for everyone to contribute to. Lunchtime activities are to be announced but they are hopefully going to have a fun photo booth!

Arkwright Scholars

Three students from Year 12, Thomas Stanford, Mark Lee and Gianmarco Shiaffonati have been awarded a sought-after Arkwright Engineering Scholarship that identifies them as some of the country's future leaders in engineering and related areas of design. The Scholarships will provide them with a £600 financial reward to enhance their 'A' level studies and a range of activities to enhance their understanding and experience of engineering. William Farr will also receive £400 for each Scholarship awarded to the students.. The Scholarships are respected by leading universities and industrial companies and are supported by top engineering employers and organisations.

Each student had to successfully complete a rigorous selection process consisting of a detailed application form, a two-hour aptitude exam and an interview hosted at a top engineering university. The aptitude exam tested candidates flair and originality in solving engineering design problems. At the in-depth interview candidates were asked about their career aspirations and had to discuss an engineering project they had conducted. During the interview day the candidates took part in a team exercise to solve a hands-on engineering problem working with students they had never met before. Candidates and their parents also toured the engineering facilities at the host university and explored the diversity of engineering and design careers and their importance to the UK economy.