



NEWSLETTER

Volume Ten - Issue One - 2020

Arkwright Scholarship

Remembrance Day

Post-16 Morning

WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School



Dear Parents and Carers,

This term we have all had to adjust to new routines and a different way of working in school in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The most important thing is that, despite Covid-19, we have been able to keep the school open for all year groups until the last few days of term and have continued to provide high quality education and support for our students.

With all the changes we have had to put in place to keep our community safe, it has been fantastic to see students happy to be back in school enjoying their education and friendship groups, which is so important in providing social and emotional support.

This newsletter provides a snapshot of some of the activities and achievements outside of lessons students have embraced since September, despite Covid-19. These opportunities play an integral part in students' learning experiences, helping them to acquire the knowledge, skills and understanding to support their academic and personal development.

As we approach the festive break, I would like to thank you for all your support this term. This makes a huge difference to the lives of the young people we proudly educate and strengthens the invaluable partnership between the school and home. A special mention must go to the incredible support and unwavering commitment of staff, who have worked tirelessly since September to maintain the education for your child.

Let us have pride in how far we have come and faith in the outlook for tomorrow. I wish you and your family a peaceful and holy Christmas. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jonathan Knowler, Headteacher



SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CARD

What a lovely design for this year's school Christmas card, using a drawing done by Tess Woodhouse in Year 9.



ADVENT CALENDARS, CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR THE ELDERLY AND FOOD PARCELS

Thank you to everyone for your outstanding effort in our first term of charity events.

In November, we raised £2,175.05 on our non-uniform day for our chosen charities. We also collected 425 chocolate advent calendars for our local food banks. They were blown away by the amount and were very appreciative.



The Art Department also sold some Christmas cards and raised £35 for St Barnabas Hospice.

Finally, a thank you to our team. This term we have delivered 10 food parcels to families, with all the contents donated by the staff.

In the background there is a lot of work carried out that is not seen by all, so an extra thank you to those who make this all happen on top of their normal roles and responsibilities.



Charity doesn't always have to be about giving money. As a result of the ongoing pandemic, we asked students this year to write a Christmas card to someone who is of the older generation and who could be spending more time on their own.

The response was amazing and 318 cards were written! Their messages definitely made us smile, so we know that the people receiving them will genuinely be grateful for the thought and effort that the students put in. The cards were distributed to local care homes, as well as through Age UK. A few of the handmade cards which we received can be seen here.

Christmas Jumper Day was also a welcome festive boost and raised £540 for Save the Children.



THANK YOU

We would like to extend a warm and heartfelt 'thank you' to a local family, who have made a substantial donation to the school.

They have asked for their names to remain anonymous, but their generous donation is being used to reinstate a breakfast club in the New Year for some of our more vulnerable students.

At such a difficult time for us all, we know how much this act of kindness will mean to our students.

Thank you.

NEWS FROM THE GOVERNORS

As we all know, the entire world has been facing unprecedented times since the start of 2020, and like other schools throughout the country, the community at William Farr has had to deal with these trying times in the best way possible.

Throughout this year, Governors have been kept abreast of activities in the school to deal with the Covid pandemic.

It has been particularly hugely impressive to see the continued communication from the school to parents, making sure everybody has been kept up to date as best possible at a time when we all need to know what is happening. I thank those parents who have taken the time to respond to the school with feedback and with words of thanks for the school's efforts.

A special thank you also goes to our Headteacher, Mr Knowler. I strongly suspect that if, when he was offered the post, we told him what his first year was going to entail, his answer to us may have been very different. The way that Mr Knowler, in his first year in office, has led the school throughout this whole event has been nothing short of inspirational.



Much of the work that the school has done has been praised elsewhere. The school's Covid-19 risk assessment has been described by local Public Health staff as 'exemplary'. This is testament to the work that the school has done to keep the children and staff safe, whilst also maintaining as normal an education as possible.

I also want to thank the students (and their parents) at the school, who have adapted to the strange circumstances magnificently and continue to support the school efforts by taking responsibility for their own actions in and out of school.

We know that all the staff have played a pivotal role in maintaining the education for your child this term and Governors would like to thank them for their continued dedication and commitment.

With the positive news that the first vaccine has now been authorised for use, with others to follow, I hope that we all move quickly back to as normal a life as possible.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I wish all our school community as merry and safe a Christmas as you are able and a happy, healthy 2021.

Mark Garthwaite, Chair of Governors

PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO YOUNG ENGINEER

In our tenth year of entering students for the Arkwright Scholarship Award, Akash Dhorajiwala (12NFW) is the thirteenth successful scholar to achieve the accolade at William Farr School.

This last year, the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship Programme awarded 300 awards to aspiring engineers across the country. The award is highly respected across universities, apprenticeships and industry and is designed to inspire and equip the next generation of UK engineering talent. Akash is one of the 38 per cent of this year's scholarships which went to young people from non-selective state schools. Every year we enter students for the award and we go up against independents and grammars and Akash is no different in succeeding amongst the very best of the best. Akash will enjoy a fully sponsored programme of hands-on experience, professional mentorship and careers guidance from Dynex, his sponsor throughout his A-levels.

Akash has undergone a year-long scholarship application process, which involves an online application, an aptitude exam and a virtual interview, which is designed to assess students' engineering knowledge, as well as other key life skills, such as leadership and creative thinking. The future is bright for Akash and he has his future in front of him at such an amazing time in the world of design, engineering and technology. We are all so very proud of him.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Poppy Collection for the Royal British Legion raised £113.78 this year.

As well as selling poppies in the school, representatives from our School Council attended the Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church, Welton, where they gave the reading of In Flanders Fields by John McCrae. Mr Knowler laid a wreath from the school and the school also took part in the minute's silence on 11 November. The service was shared virtually over Youtube. Please see the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AD23xjGVeY>



Also 4 girls from Year 8, Lola Bibby, Beatrice Brewer, Eva-Rose Fellows and Millie Humphries crocheted a huge number of poppies and sold them in school to help raise money for the Poppy Appeal this November. They raised £112, which has now been sent to the Royal British Legion.



BOX CLEVER THEATRE COMPANY

This term, the English and Drama departments have been collaborating with the Box Clever Theatre Company on an exciting project.

We, alongside three other schools in Lincolnshire, have been working virtually with the Box Clever Theatre Company to help create an adaptation of Stevenson's 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde'. Through a number of virtual workshops, a group of Year 10 students have been working with professional actors to consider how the text can be adapted from a Victorian novella to a stage adaptation that audiences would enjoy today. These students have had the opportunity to not only write parts of the script, but they have also had the chance to practise their acting skills with the professional actors and director.

We look forward to this project continuing in 2021, and to seeing the final production being performed next autumn.



YEAR 10 ATTENDANCE ADVENT

Year 10 have been raising the profile of attendance this month in their attendance advent event.

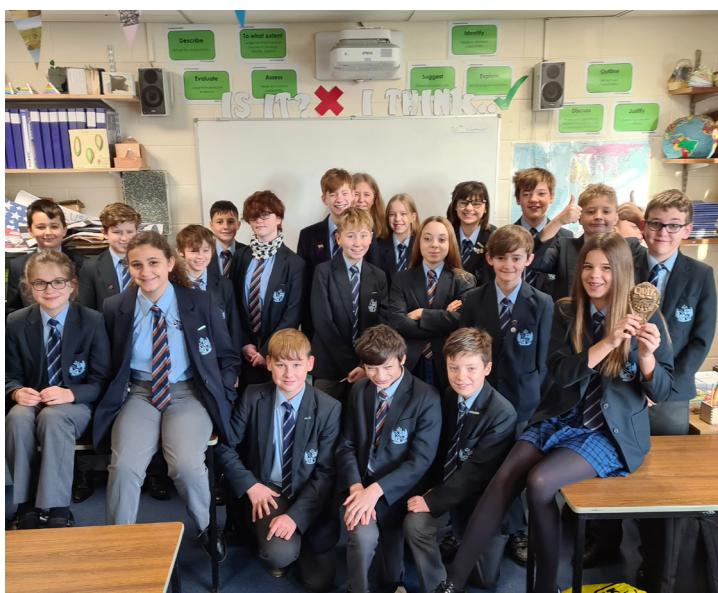
Students who have a 96% or higher attendance in December were entered into a daily draw to open one of 8 advent calendars.



YEAR 8

We have tried to keep inter-form competitions alive and at the start of this term we held the BIG QUIZ.

For a whole week, Year 8 had a different quiz round a day and the form with the most overall points was crowned this term's big quiz winner. The bragging rights and trophy went to 8NJH this time around and it will all be to play for when we have the next one straight after Christmas.



PEACE POSTER

Well done to Alfie Gilchrist in Year 8.

He won our annual Peace Poster competition and will now be entered into the Lions International Peace Poster Contest.



FRIENDS OF WILLIAM FARR

The Friends of William Farr are a group of volunteers who raise money for school projects, normally by holding events like our popular Bingo and Bangers night, and by providing refreshments/running raffles at school events.

Most of our normal fundraising methods aren't possible at the moment, but we have still been busy. In the summer term, we held a Basket of Booze raffle, raising over £500. This term, we have organised a Christmas hamper raffle, which has raised over £750. A huge thank you to everyone who donated items for the raffles or who bought tickets.

First prize (large hamper and £50): Ruth Patrick.

Second prize (small hamper and £25): Kerry Fogg.

Third prize (small hamper and £25): Mark Garthwaite

Fourth prize (Echo Dot): Anonymous

Fifth prize (Voucher for Tealby tearooms): Philip Bell

Sixth prize (Bottle of Prosecco): Niki Wood

Seventh prize (Joules bath set): Mrs Jones.

Eighth prize (Cadbury chocolate box): Claire Pike.

Ninth prize (Cadbury chocolate box): Elaine Donaldson.



Also this term we have donated money to the PE and RE departments and look forward to raising more money to help students at the school next year.

NETBALL AWARD

Congratulations go to Miss Ewing, who has won the East Midlands Netball Goalden Globe Teacher Award 2020.

This award goes to a teacher who has shown an outstanding contribution to netball and who has volunteered for a minimum of 3 years.

Miss Ewing has had an outstanding impact on netball and has given up a lot of her time. She has been at William Farr for six years and in that time has run a lot of school clubs at lunch and after school. She has encouraged girls to go and play for local clubs and to trial for national pathways. She has also encouraged the girls to go for coaching and umpiring training, which is great for the girls' confidence.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

For this year's Harvest Festival, we gave to The Lincoln Community Larder.

The larder is a local charity, which is open on two estates to the north of Lincoln and in Welton village to encourage its use by families who may not be able to get to town. All this has grown from the commitment of one woman and the generosity of local people.



It was wonderful to see the students come to school with gifts and donations to help those in need. One student came into school with a can in his top pocket and asked Mr Knowler where he could place this. He was very proud of the tin he had brought in to donate.

Thank you for your kind donations this year. The Larder was so grateful for our school's generosity.



The Religious Studies and Social Sciences department has recently launched its Philosopher/Psychologist/Sociologist of the Term.

This is a way to celebrate individual achievement across the whole school. We were very fortunate to be supported by William Farr School Friends, who have funded this project, so that the recipients of the award will receive a lovely metal pin badge, along with a certificate and letter home. The students will be featured on a wall of fame in the department.

POST-16 MORNING

24 November saw all of Year 11 involved in a morning of Post-16 choices.

They were shown presentations from a variety of local Post-16 options to encourage them to consider their career pathways and next steps. We had representatives from Lincoln, Riseholme/Bishop Burton College, ASK Apprenticeships and Access Creative.

With the help of our IT dept and 'Teams', we were able to deliver a full morning virtually, continuing to keep our students in a safe environment. Members of our Senior Leadership Team were also involved in personally delivering our William Farr School Sixth Form session with the help of Sixth Form students via videos they had made earlier.

In the final session, students were able to choose an option to engage with, including UTC, The Army, NHS, Eurovia and a local soccer academy. The aim of the morning was to get students and employers engaging, while opening the world of work to our students who will then become more aware of some of the possibilities available to them as they move forward.

SIXTH FORM INFORMATION FOR 2021 ENTRY

Regrettably, our Sixth Form Information Evening was cancelled due to Covid-19.

The Sixth Form information for September 2021 entry will be issued after the Christmas break. Application forms and information on the application process will also be available to students at the same time. In the meantime, you are welcome to read current information about the Sixth Form on the school website. However, please be aware this information will be updated and will be subject to change.

William Farr Sixth Form - enrolling for Sept 2021 after Christmas



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C of E Comprehensive School



- Outstanding school
- 27 A Levels to choose from
- Excellent tutor and pastoral support
- Wide range of curricular and extra-curricular activities
- 100% of students received an offer from at least one university in 2020, 96% of students accepted their firm/insurance offer for university in 2020, 84% of students received an offer from a Russell Group university in 2020

What students say about our Sixth Form:

"My favourite part of sixth form is having a strong relationship with teachers and knowing that they will always make time for me if I need help, while also having the freedom to organise my own learning through study periods." Abbie

"I joined William Farr as an external student and the staff and students have been very welcoming to me. The quality of teaching has been amazing, while the many available extra-curricular activities have provided me with lots of opportunities outside of lessons. I have not regretted changing school." Ben

For more details, please see our website www.williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk or phone Mrs J Grant, Assistant Headteacher 01673 866900

500-MILE TARGET REACHED

Luke Draper (Y9) became our very own Captain Tom this summer.

Luke has Prada Willi Syndrome, which means that he has low muscle tone and finds physical activity really tough. His mum encouraged him to walk or scooter every day during lockdown and then got him to climb part way up Ben Nevis when on holiday. Luke reached an amazing 500 miles. Well done, Luke!



TERM DATES

Term 3

Monday 04 January 2021
Tuesday 05 January 2021
Friday 12 February 2021

INSET DAY
First day of term
Last day of term

Term 4

Monday 22 February 2021
Thursday 01 April 2021

First day of term
Last day of term

Term 5

Monday 19 April 2021
Monday 03 May 2021
Friday 28 May 2021

First day of term
BANK HOLIDAY
Last day of term

Term 6

Monday 07 June 2021
Wednesday 21 July 2021

First day of term
Last day of term

COVID-19 UPDATE

Please can I remind all parents that if your child or a member of your household develops symptoms/has gone for a test, your child MUST NOT come to school until the test result has been confirmed as negative.

If your child's test result is negative, but they are already self-isolating having been in close contact with another affected person, they MUST NOT return to school until the isolation period elapses. If your child has a positive test for COVID-19, please can you report this to the school immediately by telephone during office hours (Monday to Thursday 8.30 – 5pm, Friday 8.30 to 4.30pm).

During the Christmas holidays, if your child has a confirmed case and has developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should NOT be contacted. Parents should contact NHS Test and Trace to report the confirmed case. Between 18 – 23 December, parents should email the school (Covid@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk) if their child tests positive and they have developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school. Please do NOT email the William Farr email address.

The Risk Assessment for COVID-19 has been updated in December 2020 and is now available on the school website under the Covid Correspondence section.

COVID Winter Scheme Support for Parents & Families

The Local Authority has asked us to make you aware that advice and support is available for families who may require additional support with food and bills for the winter holidays.

Please visit the Citizens Advice Bureau: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>. Parents can input their postcode to access information regarding their local branch. The following link also provides specific information on help with paying bills: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/budgeting/budgeting/get-help-with-bills/>. There is also information regarding local food banks, which is available on the following website: <https://lincolnfoodpartnership.org>.



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

A DISTINCTIVE VISION

William Farr Church of England Comprehensive School's vision 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.

We will know that we have achieved our vision when:

Every student has the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding through a broad and balanced curriculum

Every individual is confident and behaves in a way that reflects the Christian principles on which the school was founded

Everyone knows they are valued.

VALUES

Compassion, Friendship, Respect, Perseverance, Responsibility, Wisdom.

WILLIAM FARR CHURCH OF ENGLAND COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

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