



# WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

## NEWSLETTER

Volume Fifteen - Issue One - 2025

Remembrance Day

Barcelona Trip

Arkwright Scholarship

Sarah's Garden



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# HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

*Dear Parents/Guardians,*

*As we approach the end of another remarkable term, I am delighted to share with you the remarkable achievements and wide-ranging experiences that have defined the William Farr community this autumn. The school continues to provide all members of our community with the opportunities to engage with 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)*



*Our students have once again demonstrated remarkable talent, commitment, and community spirit across numerous academic, artistic, sporting and charitable endeavours. Perhaps most notably, we have achieved an unprecedented milestone in our Arkwright Engineering Scholarship programme. This year, six of our students - Charlie Bird, Aran Bird, Alex Catlow, Rhys Staples, Faye Wright, and David Zamfir - were awarded this prestigious national scholarship. Out of ten initial candidates, all six shortlisted students successfully secured their scholarships, a testament to their exceptional creativity and potential in engineering.*

*Our academic excellence extends beyond engineering. Once again, our GCSE results were amongst the best in the county, and our A Level results were exceptional, with 45% of students achieving places at Russell Group universities and a number of students gaining places on graduate apprenticeship schemes with organisations such as Siemens and Rolls Royce. The decision to widen the offer at Sixth Form was rewarded with record numbers of students staying on and joining us from other schools.*

*This term, our Year 12 and Year 13 mathematics students achieved a remarkable second place in the Regional Finals of the Senior Team Maths Challenge at the University of Lincoln. Chloe, Max, Charlie, and Daniel's exceptional teamwork and mathematical prowess have earned us an invitation to the National Finals - only the second time in our school's history.*

*Cultural and artistic experiences have been equally impressive. Our Christmas Concert was a magnificent showcase of musical talent, featuring fourteen solo slots. Performances ranged from newcomers like Harper Thomas and Eira Ramsbottom to seasoned performers like Anais Carpenter and Ben Payne. The Orchestra's rendition of John Williams' music and the choir's festive medley were particular highlights, allowing the audience to leave full of the Christmas spirit.*

*Our commitment to community and charitable causes remains strong. Year 7 students overwhelmingly supported the Lincoln Bridge Church's 'Christmas Sacks' project, contributing over 100 gifts to support local families experiencing financial hardship. Similarly, Year 8's form 8SYM raised £193.43 for Young Minds, demonstrating our students' compassion and awareness of mental health issues.*

*The staff continue to be active in raising funds for St Barnabas and I would like to publicly acknowledge and thank Helen Bates and Gill Doyle for their efforts with this. Gill is also the driving force (honestly!) behind our inaugural Burns Supper & Ceilidh to be held on 31 January in the school. Please see the attached poster for details. This will be the ideal opportunity for you to sample the finest Scottish cuisine and then dance it off in the ceilidh. We are hoping to raise as much money as possible and also establish this as a permanent fixture in the school calendar.*

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# HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

*Educational experiences have extended beyond our school walls through numerous enriching trips. Our Year 12 Travel and Tourism students explored Lincoln's hospitality sector, gaining insights into hotel operations at Charlotte House and The White Hart Hotel. Year 13 Geographers conducted fascinating fieldwork in Lincoln's West End, completing a creative treasure hunt that explored the area's social and physical transformations.*

*We've also celebrated significant infrastructure developments. The official opening of the Helen Brittain Sixth Form Centre in September, officiated by Bishop Stephen Conway, marks a significant milestone in our school's evolution. Named after our longest-serving staff member, who has dedicated 43 years to teaching, the centre symbolises our commitment to educational excellence and continuous growth.*

*Another noteworthy transformation has been the renovation of our Zen Garden, now renamed 'Sarah's Garden' in memory of our beloved science technician, Sarah Strawson. With support from the Friends of William Farr School, this tranquil space has been lovingly restored, featuring new sandstone paving, a beautiful art mural, and a commemorative bench. It truly is a fitting memorial to Sarah, who was such a loved and respected member of the school community for so many years, and we were delighted that her husband, Brian, was able to perform the opening ceremony.*

*From sporting achievements to cultural exchanges, academic competitions to charitable initiatives, our students continue to inspire and impress. Whether it's cross-country competitions, language trips to Paris and Barcelona, or theatre experiences, like the Year 12 and 13 Pantomime, our students are embracing every opportunity for learning and personal growth.*

*External recognition for a member of staff came in the form of Neil Wright receiving the Inspirational Electronics Educator of the Year award from the UK Electronics Skills Foundation (UKESF). Neil was presented with his award at a prestigious black-tie event in London. This is a tribute to Neil's dedication to his subject, which has transformed the teaching of electronics and engineering over the last ten years. As winner, Neil received a personal reward, a £1,000 grant to support Electronics education at William Farr, and an invite to be a guest of the UKESF at the TechWorks Awards 2025. Congratulations, Neil, and a huge thank you for your dedication to the subject during your time with us.*

*One request that I would like to make for the new year is to ask parents & carers to park in the marked bays in the car park and show patience at the end of the day when picking up the children. Please do not park in front of the bus area and the turning area of the car park. This can put the children at risk, particularly if they run across the car park to get to your car. Better that they wait a little longer or walk a little further to get picked up.*

*As the festive season approaches, I am immensely proud of our school community's spirit, resilience, and commitment to excellence. This could not take place without the hard work and commitment of all the staff and the support of parents, carers and our governors and trustees. William Farr School is a special place because of these partnerships. I would like to wish all the Will Farr community all the very best for a peaceful, restful and happy Christmas and New Year.*

*Thank you and all the best.*

**Grant Edgar, Headteacher**

## CHRISTMAS SACKS

**Once again, Year 7 wanted to support Lincoln Bridge Church's 'Christmas Sacks' project.**

The Christmas Sacks project provides practical help to individuals and families within our community who may be struggling financially during the Christmas period. It aims to offer support, kindness and a little extra joy to those who might otherwise find this time of year particularly difficult.

The 'giving tree' scheme has run for nearly 18 years. We were completely overwhelmed with how amazing the William Farr community was with supporting this charity. Thank you so much if you were able to donate. There were over 100 gifts, which will make such a difference to so many local families.



## UK PARLIAMENT WEEK

**During UK Parliament Week, our Year 12 Politics students took a leading role in bringing politics and democracy to life for the whole school.**

They delivered an engaging and informative assembly that explored how Parliament works, why democratic participation matters, and the many ways young people can make their voices heard.

Through their fantastic presentations, the Year 12s helped demystify the political system and encouraged students across all year groups to think about their own role in shaping the future. Their enthusiasm, leadership and interest in Politics were inspiring for the younger students and made the key message, that "you are not too young to make a difference", really have an impact.



## CHRISTMAS HAMPERS - FRIENDS OF WFS

**Thank you for your generous donations for the Christmas Hamper raffle.**

The draw will take place on 17 December. All proceeds from the raffle directly benefit students.



## HELLO YELLOW DAY

**As part of their charity fundraising, 8SYM chose to raise money for Young Minds on Friday 10 October.**

Young Minds is a charity whose mission is to create a world where no-one feels alone with their mental health. The form asked everyone to buy a yellow ribbon to wear on their blazers, in their hair or on their bags to show their awareness of the need to look after everyone's mental health.

It was fantastic to see a splash of yellow across the school and £193.43 was raised for the charity. Well done, everyone!



# REMEMBRANCE DAY

## For the Fallen

Where does your mind wander to during those two minutes of silence? Perhaps it drifts to imagery of the poppy fields of Flanders, or to the distant shores of the Western Front, where over millions upon millions of civilians and soldiers lost their lives. We remember the sacrifices of those before us, singing sorrow up into immortal spheres as a lasting memory.

Our remembrance service is not just for those valiant soldiers, but for the broken communities, too. It forces us to reflect on the lives we lead, because of those whose lives were so abruptly ended in order that ours may be lived in freedom. In a world of fast fashion, technology and capital, we forget the concept of time, taking it for granted. But those soldiers, civilians, nurses... they never had that privilege of time.

This is why remembrance matters. Without it, there is no history, and with no history, there is no lesson. Each name carved into a memorial represents a story cut short; a future never lived, a voice never heard again. Yet through remembrance, standing together as a restored community, we let that voice be resurrected.

*Mya Dhokia & Ben Payne, Heads of School Council*



# CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2025 - A FESTIVE TREAT!



**As has become the norm, the Christmas Concert showcased the very best of William Farr's musical talent.**

With almost 50 students having auditioned for the 14 solo slots, it was lovely to see some new faces amongst the soloists, as well as seeing the development of the students who have played before.

Newcomers included Harper Thomas with a soulful rendition of *O Come Let Us Adore Him* by Danny Gokey and Eira Ramsbottom with *Last Christmas* by George Michael. Florence Hippisley and Miley Richardson also made their debut with *Everybody's Home for Christmas* by Lea Heart, as did Freya Dennis singing *Hallelujah* by Leonard Cohen as a duet with Maddy Jones.

A particular highlight was a composition by Seth Borrill in Y7, performed by himself, Beth Anderson and Francis O'Connor. Other highlights were Y12 and Y13 students Anais Carpenter and Ben Payne, with passionate performances of songs from musicals, *As Long As He Needs Me* from *Oliver* and *My Friends* from *Sweeney Todd*.

Mature woodwind performances were provided by Elsa Peel-Cobas on the oboe and Rhys Staples on the clarinet. The Orchestra performed a trilogy of John Williams' music, including *Jurassic Park*, the moving theme from *Schindler's List* and the rousing *Raiders of the Lost Ark* theme. Angela Enright-Gomez, Samantha Gulko, Etta Inman, Bethany Knowler, Ivie Ozique, Amelia Picksley and Emily Richardson performed *Underneath the Tree* by Kelly Clarkson, complete with the usual dazzling choreography we have come to expect from this group. The choir were in fine voice, singing amongst other things, and a medley from *Nativity!* to finish the night.

Daisy Slater painted a beautiful village snow scene for the front cover of the concert programme. Thanks go to the Friends of William Farr for the refreshments and raffle, as well as to the Music department for giving us such a treat on the approach to Christmas.

# FOLLOW OUR SCIENCE INSTAGRAM!

**Science now has an Instagram account, designed to keep parents and students connected with what's happening in our classrooms and labs. Follow us at @WillFarr\_Science**

It's a simple way to see the exciting work our students are doing and stay informed about our news. Following us helps parents stay engaged with their child's learning and gives a window into the topics and activities they are exploring.

On our page, you'll find:

- Behind-the-scenes photos from experiments and lessons
- Science tips and interesting facts
- Updates on projects and events
- Competitions and challenges for students.



# ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP 2025

**This year has been a remarkable one for Arkwright Scholars at William Farr School.**

Since 2009, the school has been fortunate to have at least one student awarded an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship each year, with only three exceptions. In 2013, three students achieved this prestigious award, which was the most we had been awarded in any one year. This year, we are incredibly proud to announce that six William Farr students have been awarded Arkwright Scholarships. At the national award ceremony, William Farr stood out among schools from across the country, including many independent schools, most of whom celebrated just a single scholar.

Based on their outstanding achievements and progress in Design and Technology, ten students were entered for the award. Each candidate completed a detailed application form and sat a rigorous aptitude test. From this group, six students were shortlisted for the interview stage and we are delighted to share that all six students were successful.

Charlie Bird, Aran Bird, Alex Catlow, Rhys Staples, Faye Wright and David Zamfir have demonstrated exceptional commitment, creativity, and leadership in engineering. Their scholarships provide not only national recognition but also access to mentors, industry work experience opportunities, and specialist talks from engineering professionals.



We look forward with great excitement as these students take their next steps toward engineering careers. Congratulations to all six scholars!

## YEAR 7 HISTORY CLUB

**Year 7 History Club meets every Thursday lunchtime.**

It is run by Mrs Brittain and Year 12 History ambassadors, and we are passionate about finding out about the past by being creative and sharing ideas. We have competitions, games, role plays, and we listen to some cool music to inspire us.

This term, we have investigated the Greeks, starting with what their archaeological evidence tells us and decorating our own urns. Greek heroes are important and Year 7s made an excellent case for their favourite heroes, while the rest of us ate grapes and applauded. Greek mythology is a favourite, and we have played Greek Gods Top Trumps and tried to escape the minotaur labyrinth.

Our aim is to create a Year 7 virtual History Museum so we are looking for all Year 7s to help us. Come along and join in.



## EDUCATIONAL VISITS AND EVENTS

**Faculties have been far and wide since September. Here is a selection of some of the activities this term:**

- Blood Brothers Drama Trip
- Y12/13 Senior Maths Challenge
- Y11 Geography Field Trip to Hornsea
- Y11 Post-16 Morning
- Sports Award Evening
- Y7 Pantomime
- Y13 Art/DT Trip, Barcelona
- Y13 Geography Local Place Field Study
- Y7 Music Concert
- PE Wembley Trip
- Y10 Reward Trip to JUMP
- Y8 Languages Paris Trip
- Y12/13 Pantomime
- Y9 Languages GCHQ Codebreaking
- Christmas Concert
- Y12 Travel & Tourism Trip, Forest Pines Hotel
- English Schools Cross Country Regional Finals
- Y12 Travel & Tourism Trip, Lincoln Hotel

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# BARCELONA TRIP

**Students from across Design Engineering, Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Photography and Product Design came together for a fabulous seven-day trip to Barcelona over most of October half term.**

The visit was packed with cultural, artistic and design-based experiences, enriching learning beyond the classroom and supporting both project work and exam preparation for the year ahead. Thanks to an early outbound flight and a late return, students were able to make the very most of their time away.

Throughout the tour, students were immersed in the works of Catalonia's renowned artist and architect Antoni Gaudí. They explored Parc Güell, La Pedrera (Casa Milà), Casa Batlló and, of course, his breath-taking final masterpiece: the Sagrada Família, now officially recognised as the tallest church in the world at 162.91 metres.

CosmoCaixa, originally included to support students on technical courses, quickly became a favourite for all. The museum reinforced key Design Engineering principles, complemented Physics topics, and even provided unique photography opportunities in its impressive Amazon rainforest simulation.

Another highlight was the journey to the top of Montjuïc (Jewish Mountain) via the Torre del Rellotge cable car. From the summit, students enjoyed sweeping views of the beach, port, cityscape and the Tibidabo mountain range. Montjuïc was also home to the iconic 1992 Olympic Park, showcasing striking neomodern architecture, as well as the Joan Miró Foundation, celebrating the work of another celebrated Catalan artist.

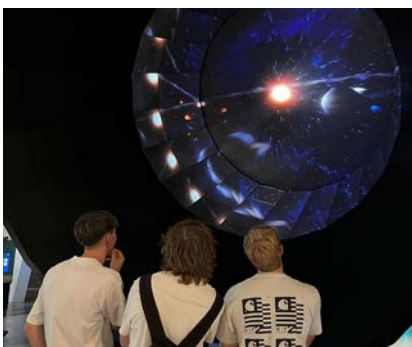
A further must-see was the Design Museum (Disseny Hub) in the Poblenou district. Once the 1992 Olympic Village and now the heart of Barcelona's design quarter, the area offered students a wealth of contemporary architecture and fantastic photographic opportunities.

Nestled among the beautiful cobbled streets of the Gothic Quarter, where modern shops sit in striking contrast to the 600-year-old Barcelona Gothic Cathedral and the Basilica de Santa Maria del Pi, the Picasso Museum gave students the chance to experience Picasso's work first-hand, only a short stroll from the famous La Rambla.

Although the iconic Camp Nou remains under construction, students still enjoyed the immersive FC Barcelona experience. With five of the seven days falling within half term, a long-awaited visit to PortAventura theme park added even more excitement to the week.

Every day was action-packed and we certainly got our steps in. To round off the evenings, students enjoyed some of the best local restaurants, sampling traditional Spanish tapas and set meals. Over the course of the week, they explored Barceloneta, La Ciutadella, Las Ramblas, Passeig de Gràcia, Plaça de Catalunya and Glòries, becoming increasingly confident in navigating the city and mastering the Metro. It was wonderful to see their independence and self-assurance grow day by day.

An unforgettable week all round and several students were already planning their return trip with friends before we had even landed back home.



# NEWS UPDATE FROM DRAMA

**It has been a busy term for Drama, with three productions and a trip to the theatre.**

In September, 45 GCSE and A Level students went to Nottingham Theatre Royal to see a production of Blood Brothers. The students and staff all had a wonderful time watching the musical about twins separated at birth.



October saw three devised performances in the Drama studio. The first 'Leaving the Garden of Eden' was devised by some of the Year 11 GCSE Drama students and was a comedic performance, exploring the relevance of the seven deadly sins in modern Britain. The audience were given an invitation, inviting them to 'sin', were they able to resist temptation?

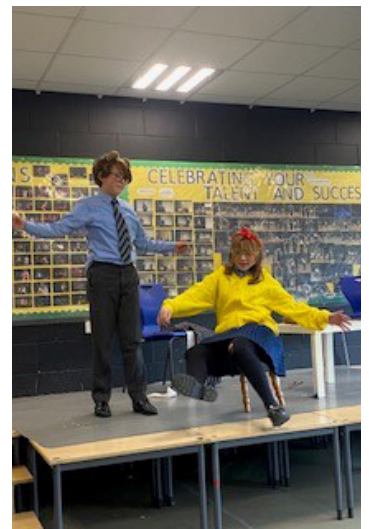
The next performance by Year 11 GCSE Drama students was a piece of Theatre in Education in the verbatim genre about Knife Crime. This incredibly well-researched play raised awareness of the growing issue of Knife Crime in the UK and provoked discussion about how society can tackle this issue. They cleverly used verbatim and real stories to 'give voice to the voiceless', showing multi perspectives to demonstrate the impact Knife Crime has throughout modern Britain.



Next, some Year 13s took to the stage with their own devised piece, entitled 'Our Great Nation'. This play, devised in the style of 'The Paper Birds', explored possible reasons for the decline in the national pride in under 25s. The performance encouraged their teenage audience to consider what would make them proud to be British and what they want our Britain to stand for and be known for, as their generation can make a difference. Set during a VE Day street party, the piece used verbatim from politicians and migrants to Britain and a fabulously funny Horrible Histories episode exploring Britain's past. This piece was seen by staff and students from Years 7-13, who found the piece both entertaining and thought-provoking.



Our fabulous new Year 7s have ended their first term by taking to the stage performing their own pantomimes. It has been a pleasure to see such incredible work from our youngest students. We are all now looking forward to going on the Year 7 Pantomime Trip to Scunthorpe.

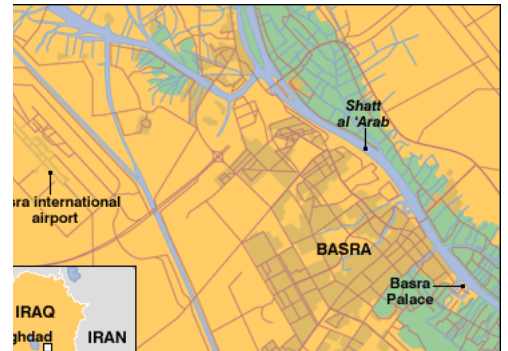


# PEACEFUL WARRIOR TALK

**In Year 10 Religious Studies, we have just started our topic on Peace and Conflict and to help us with our understanding, Matt Burton shared his experiences of being in the Army and the impact it has had on him throughout his life.**

Since he was little, Matt wanted to be in the army. This was a dream that became a reality as he went on to serve in multiple wars, such as the Iraq War. However, when at the Basra airbase there was a fatal bomb attack, tragically murdering 3 of his friends and injuring many more. He also went into a massive combat area with his remaining co-workers just days after, risking his life so soon after such a devastating and near-death experience.

When the war was over, he returned back home to his family, but struggled to readjust due to the traumatising events and challenges he had faced, which led him to become addicted to alcohol. Since being back home, he has struggled with PTSD, especially through realistic nightmares which take him back to times when he was in the war, which then caused him mental health issues and led him to try and take his life.



Importantly, Matt didn't just tell us about his journey in the war and its negative effects, but also how he overcame these struggles and was able to rebuild his life as a tattoo artist, through meditation and perseverance.

Now his life is even better than ever because he kept going, even though it seemed like things were too bad to recover from.

He is a true inspiration and hero and reminds us all that no matter how bad things are, they can get better and that if we are struggling, we should talk instead of keeping it to ourselves. He showed us what being in the army really means and told us the untold stories of heroes who dedicated their lives to protecting others, even if that meant losing their own.

He also told us about the positive experiences he had, such as meeting the local people and making lifelong friends. I know that everyone there found it eye-opening and are all so thankful that he came to talk to us and share his experiences as the peaceful warrior.

*Millie Adams, Year 10*

*'He thought he couldn't talk to someone and he had to act brave. When he spoke to someone about the flashbacks, he overcame his PTSD & depression.'*

*Jacob Longden*

*'He was respectful of people's mental health & letting them know there is someone out there you can speak to'.*

*George Nuttley*

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# TRAVEL AND TOURISM TRIP

**The Year 12 Travel and Tourism students were out and about again this week, this time in Lincoln.**

They had a fascinating look behind the scenes at the Charlotte House hotel and The White Hart Hotel, who gave insightful presentations on how they use technology in the running and organisation of their hotels.

Both hotels also offered a tour of their beautiful rooms, including Bridal Suites, as well as their entertainment and events facilities. We were all seriously impressed!!

We were very grateful to their wonderful staff who gave up their time for us.

Student presentations will follow next week.



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## BEBRAS UK CHALLENGE

**For the first time, 133 of our Year 8 and 9 students and 20 of our Year 10 and 11 Computer Science students participated in the Bebras Challenge back in November.**

The challenge consisted of a series of interactive tasks, designed to encourage logical thinking and problem-solving skills. It allows every student the opportunity to showcase their potential, whether they excel in Maths or Computing or not. The challenge is organised by the Raspberry Pi Foundation.

Every participating student will receive a certificate. There are also certificates based on performance within school and gold certificates based on national boundaries. Special mention to the following Key Stage 3 students who achieved one of the top 10 scores in their group: Freddie Adams-Ford; Henry Catnach; Olivia Clark; Blake Cramer; Layla Edlington; Orestis Georgakis; Laurence Johnson; Jessica Lee; Jacob Robinson and Jacob Staples. And also to the following Key Stage 4 students who achieved one of the top 5 scores in their group: Nell Bratty; Libby Hill; Pawel Kloczek; Adam Swistak; Charlie Wardle and Freddie Wilde.

We are looking to run the Coding Challenge in March and hope to continue to run both challenges in forthcoming years.



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## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

**This academic year, we have enrolled 105 Year 9 students to participate in the Bronze Award, 52 Year 10 students to participate in the Silver Award and 23 Year 12 students to participate in the Gold Award.**

They are currently taking part in their training to prepare for their expeditions next year. We are pleased to see that 1 of our Silver students has signed up to become a Young Leader, which is a course run by DofE. This course trains them to help out with the younger years and lower awards, which is a fantastic support for the co-ordinators in school and also counts towards their Volunteering section.

Since September 2025, we have awarded 10 Bronze, 11 Silver and 4 Gold Awards so far. A special mention to Lilly Bratty (Year 13) as she has achieved her Gold Award whilst still in school, which is a fantastic achievement due to the timescales required for each section. She will be receiving an invitation to the Palace to collect her certificate in due course. If any further information is required, please contact Mrs K Pitts for Bronze, Mr J Clark for Silver and Miss L Spencer for Gold.

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# THE ZEN GARDEN BECOMES SARAH'S GARDEN

**Sarah's Garden, originally known as the William Farr Zen Garden, was created in 2010 in the courtyard within the Darwin building, based on a vision of the students to create a tranquil space for work and contemplation.**

Along with partners Frontier Agriculture, students were encouraged to lead the design and creation of the garden, as well as making executive decisions and producing their own artwork. Over the next 10 years, the garden matured. The pond became home to over 20 goldfish and many varieties of aquatic life, and the plants and shrubs grew considerably. The garden also attracted wildlife, including Yellow Wagtails, which sometimes nested in the trees.

Unfortunately, due to constant exposure to rain and frost, the wooden elements of the garden, including the decking areas, the artwork panels on one of the walls and the wooden bench had all deteriorated beyond repair. Because the decking had completely rotted and collapsed in some areas, the garden had to be closed to all students on health and safety grounds for several years.

In October 2023, the Science Technician team came up with a plan to bring the garden back to life. The Friends of William Farr School, who raise money for the school through a variety of fundraising events, generously agreed to fund the renovation project, with the aim that the garden could once again be opened to students across the school.

With the funding support from the Friends of the School in place, the Science Technician team, with help from friends, family and colleagues, set to work laying new paving made from natural sandstone, removing weeds and pruning shrubs, fixing things that didn't work and installing new features, such as seating areas and a new fountain for the pond.

The garden renovation inspired the Art department to produce a beautiful mural. It captures the themes of nature and tranquillity, integrating visual elements that directly reflect the garden's environment, such as the trees, shrubs, and the prominent goldfish pond.

In March 2025, during the renovation of the garden, we received the sad news that Sarah Strawson, William Farr's long-time managing science technician, had passed away. Sarah was an incredibly valued member of the Science department and the whole school community. As Sarah had loved tending to the garden and the fish that lived in the pond, it was decided that it would be a fitting tribute to rename the garden to 'Sarah's Garden' in her memory.

A bench with a commemorative plaque was added to the garden as a permanent memorial.



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## YEAR 13 GEOGRAPHY TRIP - WEST END, LINCOLN

**In November, the Year 13 Geographers assembled at Lincoln's historic Grandstand to complete the final fieldwork day of their A-level studies.**

As part of the Changing Places topic, students have to study a local place and explore how it has changed socially, demographically and physically. Mr Woodhouse designed a Treasure Hunt around the West End of Lincoln for Sixth Formers to complete. Students were set challenges to sum up each of 10 areas in a tweet, find the sites of historic photos and drawings and update them, and take photos of certain items and buildings.

The students navigated around the areas with ease, noticing parts of Lincoln that are often hidden in plain sight. A well-earned lunch welcomed the students on the Brayford, where they learned about the industrial past of the area and even Sam Scorer's architecture, which has now become a cheeky Nando's!



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# MATHS CHALLENGE

**The Regional Finals of the Senior Team Maths Challenge was held at the University of Lincoln on 14 November.**

Congratulations to Chloe, Max, Charlie and Daniel for coming 2nd out of 14 teams. Their teamwork, behaviour and maths skills were exceptional. We now have an invite to the National Finals! This is only the 2nd time that we have had a team make it to the Nationals. It is an outstanding achievement! Well done!



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## FREE PROM DRESS AGENCY FOR Y11 & Y13

### Free Dress Borrowing Opportunity

We are excited to announce that we have been generously donated both new and pre-loved prom dresses, and we would like to offer your child the opportunity to borrow one free of charge in advance of their upcoming prom.

If your child would like to take advantage of this offer, please encourage them to visit the Hub during lunchtime or after school and speak to either Mrs Barlow-Doble or Mrs Butcher, who will be happy to arrange a fitting appointment and assist them in selecting the perfect dress. Additionally, we would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to donate any prom attire, including suits, formal shirts, ties, or prom dresses. All donations are greatly appreciated and will help support our students in making their prom experience special. Thank you for your continued support.



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## BALL GIRL AT WOMEN'S RUGBY WORLD CUP

**This summer, I had the exciting opportunity to ball girl for the Women's Rugby World Cup.**

I was situated at the York Stadium and I was a part of the ball girl team for: New Zealand v Spain, USA v Australia and Japan v Spain. Before summer, I was also ball girl for the Women's Six Nations match, England v Italy. England won both Six Nations and the World Cup.

My job consisted of kneeling pitch side and retrieving, passing back and drying the balls that went off the pitch.

During this, I met with, spoke to and even befriended the World Cup players. I also helped the New Zealand coach. Through this, I met many new friends who were also ball girls, and learnt new greetings in each language.

Ball girls are not allowed to be biased during matches. This meant that I could encourage both fan bases to support their team.

This opportunity was once in a lifetime, which I will always cherish and remember - of which I am very grateful for. The atmosphere at all four matches was lively and welcoming, making my experience worthwhile and enjoyable.

*Eliza Griffin, Year 10*



# YEAR 7 PUMPKIN CARVING COMPETITION

Year 7 students carved some wonderful pumpkins as part of a house competition.

We received 40 entries in total and there were some truly fantastic efforts!



# EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

As part of our events for the European Day of Languages, Year 7 were asked to enter a cake competition.

We had some amazing entries. Here is just a selection.



# GCHQ NATIONAL LANGUAGE COMPETITION

In November, 80 Year 9s took part in the National Language Competition, organised by GCHQ.

They were tasked to solve language problems and earn points alongside schools nationally, with the winners being invited to visit GCHQ to observe the work that they do.

All students were working in teams of 4 to solve the problems and they were able to compete all week up to a maximum of 25 hours per team. On Wednesday 19 November, the Year 9s were off timetable all day and worked in 2 computer rooms with Mrs Carlisle, Mrs Colautti and some Year 10 language students assisting to make further progress in the competition.

All the Year 9 who took part were fantastic and fully invested in solving as many problems as they could, with different points being allocated to the difficulty of the problem they needed to solve. Their language skills were being used all day and there were some incredibly challenging problems that even stumped some of the staff!

Our top 3 scoring teams in school also came 5th, 6th and 7th in the region, with our top team ranking 123 in the country. The top team, with 7950 points, was made up of Ethan Hill, Jacob Robinson, Orestis Georgakis and James Pollock. Massive congratulations to this team and they will very soon be receiving their certificates.

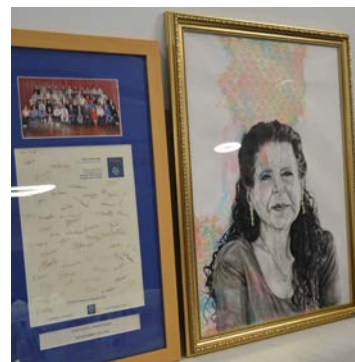


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# OPENING OF THE NEW SIXTH FORM CENTRE

The official opening ceremony of The Helen Brittain Sixth Form Centre took place on 30 September 2025.

Bishop Stephen Conway, the Bishop of Lincoln, officially opened the building. It is named after Mrs Helen Brittain, currently the longest-standing member of staff at William Farr School, who has been a teacher here since 1982 - an amazing 43 years!



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## SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS IN THE HOLIDAYS

### To report concerns:

Lincolnshire Children's Services: 01522 782111 - <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/safeguarding/report-concern>

Lifelines:

- The NSPCC are here to help 24/7 and children can call their Childline number on: 0800 11 11.
- Help for adults concerned about a child can call: 0808 800 5000.
- Shout is the UK's first 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis any time, anywhere. It is a place to go if you are struggling to cope and you need immediate help. Text: 85258.

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## EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

To communicate with school via email, please use the school email address: [wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk)

You may also make contact with the school through Middle Leaders, e.g. Heads of Faculty/Heads of Year. We would be grateful if individual staff are not emailed directly. As part of our commitment to supporting staff workload and wellbeing, we will endeavour to respond to emails within 3 working days. Please note, staff are not expected to respond to emails outside of the normal working day (9-4pm) or during holiday periods. Emails should be written in line with the [Parent Code of Conduct](#) as shown on the school website.

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## TERM DATES

### Term 3

Monday 05 January 2026	INSET DAY
Tuesday 06 January 2026	First day of term
Friday 13 February 2026	Last day of term

### Term 4

Monday 23 February 2026	First day of term
Thursday 02 April 2026	Last day of term

### Term 5

Monday 20 April 2026	INSET DAY
Tuesday 21 April 2026	First day of term
Monday 04 May 2026	BANK HOLIDAY
Friday 22 May 2026	Last day of term

### Term 6

Monday 01 June 2026	First day of term
Wednesday 22 July 2026	Last day of term

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## SCHOOL DAY

9.00:	Registration and tutor time.
9.20:	Period 1.
10-20 – 10.35:	Break.
10.35 – 11.35:	Period 2.
11.40 – 12.40:	Period 3.
12.40 – 1.35:	Lunch break.
1.35 – 1.40:	Registration
1.40 – 2.40:	Period 4.
2.45 – 3.45:	Period 5.

Reception is open 8.15am-4.30pm Monday to Friday. Students should not be on the school premises before or after these times unless they are supervised by a member of staff.



## SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Thursday 22 January 2026, 6-8pm

(Students and their families visiting from other schools  
are welcome to join us from 5.15pm)

- Inclusive entry requirements
- A wide curriculum offer, including A Levels and Alternative Qualifications
- A brand new Sixth Form building



Telephone: 01673 866900

Email: [sixthform@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk)

Website: [www.williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk)



Scan to visit our  
website and find out  
more information

William Farr Presents

# BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATION

Saturday January 31st

Dress: Smart Casual with a hint of Tartan

£25 pp (10 to a table) 7-11pm

Tickets Available from 17 November  
email [g.doyle@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:g.doyle@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk)

Raising funds for

In Support of



**St Barnabas**

Featuring the Brilliant Ceilidh Band  
'The Musical McCrums'

Our very Own Piper...Liam Medley

Menu: Haggis, Neeps, Tatties, Cranachan

Bring your own drink

Sponsored by **BRANSTON**  
and the

Lake Side Butcher

# STREATERIES

LUNCH MENU:  
TRADITIONAL



SCANDI  
KITCHEN

WEEK 1

Autumn Winter 2025/26

\*Dates to be entered by  
RO managers, as start  
dates vary by unit



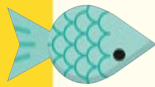
ASIAN



Home  
STYLE



AMERICAN  
Diner



Chips  
& More



ASPENS

MON

Swedish Style Meatballs in  
Gravy with Cranberry Jam

Summerset Apple,  
Leek & Bean Stew

Creamy Mash, Peas  
& Green Beans

TUE

Char Siu Roast Pork  
with Chinese Style  
Curry Sauce

Chinese Style  
Vegetable Curry

Steamed Rice & Wok Fried  
Veggies

WED

Roast Chicken & Thyme  
Toad in the Hole

Veggie Banger Toad  
in the Hole

Roasties, Smashed  
Honey Parsnips &  
Seasonal Greens

THU

Aspens Hand Pressed Beef  
Burger, Caramelised Onion  
& Mac Sauce

Cheese & Onion Burger  
with Smoky Tomato Relish

Roasted Root Veg  
Wedges & Green Salad

FRI

Choose from:  
Battered Fish  
Sausage or Veg Sausage

Pizza Slice

Chicken Nuggets  
Chips

Garden Peas or Baked Beans  
Irish Curry Sauce  
Chip Shop Gravy

## MAINS

## SIDES

## PASTA & NOODLE POTS

Chinese Style Char Siu  
Chicken in Chinese BBQ  
Topped Noodles

Best Ever Bolognese

Classic Meatball Pasta

Classic Veggie Chow Mein

Protein Packed  
Spicy Pork & Lentil Ragù

## DELI HOT

Southern Chicken  
Strips Wrap

Macaroni  
Pizza Slice

BBQ Pink Onion  
Deli Dog

Cheesy Chips

## FILLINGS

Swedish Meatball

Chinese Style Curry Char  
Siu Pork

BBQ Beans & Pink Onion

Cheese, Caramelised  
Onion & Mac Sauce

All The Classics

## BIG BOWL SALAD

Avocado  
Super Green Salad

Avocado  
Chicken Caesar

Quinoa  
Superfood Bowl

Special Salad

## DESSERTS

Chai Spiced Baked  
Rice Pudding

Lemon Meringue Apple  
Crumble & Custard

Aspens  
Toffee Cookies

Apple Tart Tatin  
& Custard

Brownie  
Blondie Ripple

Daily Meal Deals  
Regular  
Chef's Specials

Freshly Made from Scratch

## DAILY!

Fresh Cut Fruit  
& Yogurt Pots  
Available Daily

HANDCRAFTED DELI  
SANDWICHES, BAGUETTES,  
WRAPS, SALADS & MORE!

## DELIKITCHEN

HOT GRAB & GO

# Signs and symptoms of meningitis.

Meningitis and septicaemia\* can happen together. Be aware of all the signs and symptoms. Someone with meningitis or septicaemia can get worse very quickly; keep checking them and get medical help if you are concerned.

*Symptoms can appear in any order, at any time.*  
***Trust your instincts***



## Common signs and symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia

- Fever with cold hands and feet
- Vomiting
- Drowsy or difficult to wake
- Confusion and irritability
- Severe muscle pain
- Pale blotchy skin, spots or rash
- Severe headache
- Stiff neck
- Dislike bright lights
- Convulsions or seizures

Symptoms can appear in any order. Some may not appear at all.

**DO NOT wait for a rash. If someone is ill and getting worse, trust your instincts - get medical help immediately.**

**[www.meningitisnow.org](http://www.meningitisnow.org)**

\*Meningitis is used to describe meningitis and meningococcal septicaemia.

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