



NEWSLETTER

Volume Fourteen - Issue Two - 2025

Barcelona Trip

House Arts & Crafts

A Night at the Musicals

WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the nights draw out and the weather gets warmer, it seems a little unfair that the public exams get nearer. Nevertheless, this is the challenge that our students in Years 11 & 13 are facing in the coming weeks. I would like to compliment both year groups on their attitude to both their work and their learning in recent months. This is a difficult period for students and parents/carers, but they have impressed all the staff with their positivity. I hope that they continue to put the hard work in over the Easter holidays and through to the exams. If they do so, then I am sure they will secure their just rewards in August.



I would like to pay tribute to the Year 11 and Year 13 students. They have not had an easy path to their GCSEs and A Levels. Both year groups faced lockdowns at two key points in their education and yet have emerged as hard-working and motivated students. They have impressed me with their good humour and manners and both they and you, their parents/carers, can be very proud of them. I wish those students who are leaving William Farr all the very best in their next steps in life and for those that are planning on returning to the school for the Sixth Form, I look forward to welcoming them back in September. Each one of them deserves every success that comes their way in whatever pathway they choose.

Speaking of the Sixth Form, the new Sixth Form Block is close to completion, and we are very excited about this addition to our facilities. We will be looking to fully furnish the building over the summer term, ready for opening in September. If we're quick (and lucky!), we may even have it open a few weeks before the end of term. Further details will follow.

As you read through this term's newsletter, I am sure that you will agree that the school continues to live by its ambition that all members of the school community "engage in life in all its fullness" (John 10:10). The sheer range of activities on offer in school is breathtaking and a huge number of our students participate in at least one extra-curricular activity over the course of the term. Many take part in more and I must pay tribute to the staff who continue to give up their time to offer clubs, activities and trips throughout the year. These activities play a huge part in developing our students and I would like to thank all the staff involved for their commitment. Particular highlights have been:

- Lola Bibby for her performance in reaching the final of The Great Debate at Windsor Castle, a fantastic achievement and one which will stand her in good stead in the future.*
- The continued excellence of our sporting teams in local regional and national competitions.*
- The spine-tingling performances in the Night at the Musicals evening.*

I would like to thank parents & carers for their patience with the sQuid situation. Can I encourage you to ensure that you have retrieved your balances and registered with ParentPay, please. As mentioned last week, this situation has gained some coverage in the education media and has even reached Martin Lewis. I believe that this has had some impact on sQuid, and I understand any concerns should now be resolved quickly and to your satisfaction. ParentPay has more features than sQuid and so should be more flexible in the long term, particularly when they roll out the auto top-up feature – one that I will find particularly useful!

Thank you for your messages of support upon my permanent appointment. I am incredibly proud to be the headteacher of William Farr CofE Comprehensive School and we will continue to work towards the school's vision of the school community "engaging in life in all its fullness" (John 10:10). William Farr is a special place and I want it to continue to grow and be the school of choice in the local area. There will be changes ahead, but my key driver will always be what is best for the students. Thank you in advance for your support.

One change will be around the format of the Lincolnshire Show trip this year. Having reviewed the structure of the day and the attendance on the day, this year's trip will be for Year 7 students. For Years 8 – 10 and 12, it will be a normal school day. Being part of a farming family, I recognise that the Show plays an important role in the agricultural life in the County and, to that end, if you wish your child to attend the Show on the Wednesday and the family are connected to the agricultural sector, then the absence will be authorised. Please inform the school if you wish to attend the Show on Wednesday, detailing the agricultural connection. Students will still be able to attend the Show on the Thursday as we have a Staff Training Day then.

Thank you for your support of the school this year. We could not do what we do without it. Have a relaxing break and try not to eat too much chocolate!

Grant Edgar, Headteacher

HOUSE ARTS AND CRAFTS

The House Team hosted our biggest House Event of the Year on Friday 21 March 2025.



House Arts and Crafts provides the opportunity for students across Years 7-13 to submit a variety of their creations to support their house. We had over 150 entries this year, ranging from crochet dragons to textile tops made out of ties to photography to paintings. It was absolutely incredible to see the artistic talents of the school and appreciate the unique and varied approaches to arts and crafts.

The day was hugely successful, during the morning the art was displayed and set up to form a gallery with the help of our Sixth Form House Leaders. The judges commenced the difficult task of deciding the winner and students were invited down to the Main Hall in Period 4 to await the results.

Each year group was awarded with an overall winner and runner-up. The final totals were decided based on number of entries and the quality of art and crafts produced. The competition was incredibly close, however Fosse were announced this year's winners of House Arts and Crafts with Stonebow and Brayford in 2nd place. Thank you to all the students who submitted their amazing entries this year.



ST BARNABAS HOSPICE FIRE WALK

Thank you to everyone who braved the 600°C red-hot embers for the St Barnabas Hospice Fire Walk on Saturday 15 March.

Together you raised an incredible £11,696.83 for St Barnabas Hospice. Thank you to everyone who supported the event.



BRONTË PARSONAGE MUSEUM

In March, Sixth Form students studying English Literature attended a trip to the Brontë Parsonage Museum in Haworth, home of the Brontë family.

As part of their A-Level course, an optional text is Emily Brontë's famous text, 'Wuthering Heights'. Accompanied by Mrs Garnett-Wilcock, Mrs Meggett and Miss Whiles, students had a tour around the Brontë Museum, previously home to the Brontë family, a Moorland Walk to retrace the steps once walked by the Brontës, and an education workshop to explore the context surrounding the Brontë family.

With the British weather on our side, both staff and students had a fantastic time embracing 'everything Brontë', including wearing clothing typically worn by the Brontë family!



THE TIMES THAT WE'RE LIVING IN

What responsibilities do you have to protect and respect our seas? How can you share wisdom and persevere on the path of life? Together, let's celebrate friendship and show compassion.

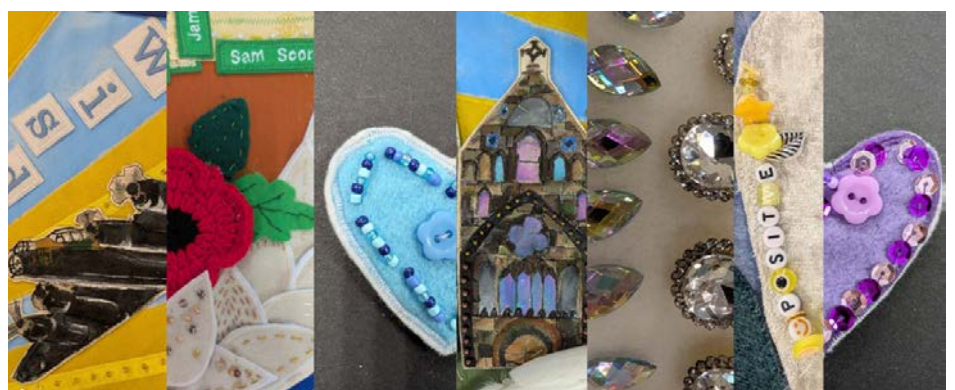
A group of William Farr School students visited the Lincoln Museum to see Grayson Perry's tapestries and studied his themes, intentions and processes. In response to Perry's storytelling, students across a range of year groups have designed and created three pieces that explore 'the times that we're living in'. Across the three pieces, William Farr's six core values are represented.

The three shields titled: 'Save our seas', 'Spread your wings', and 'Savour these moments', each narrate and reflect on a range of important aspects within the times that we are living in. Other pieces displayed in the church also reflect on our school's core values and celebrate the creativity of students from our beautiful village of Welton.



The Art Exhibition in St Mary's Church Welton, by students from William Farr School and Year 4 students from St Mary's Primary Academy is taking place during the Welton Festival from Thursday 3 July 2025 to Sunday 6 July 2025.

Also the Art, Graphics and Photography exhibition is on Wednesday 18 June from 6pm-8pm in William Farr School Main Hall.



A NIGHT AT THE MUSICALS !

A Night at the Musicals continued William Farr's tradition of showcasing the amazing musical theatre talent the school has to offer.

The audience was treated to an outstanding evening of entertainment with performances, which ranged from emotionally moving to comical to whole-cast rousing numbers, including *Another Opening to Another Show* from 'Kiss me Kate' and *Consider Yourself* from 'Oliver'.

The Year 7 & 8 students showed the future of the school's productions is in safe hands with the Young Voices and Drama group staging numbers from 'The Sound of Music', 'A Chorus Line', 'Oliver' and 'Beauty and The Beast'.

Dance numbers included Lyla Moran (Y7) and Etta Inman (Y7) performing *Revolving Children* from 'Matilda', an acrobatic number from 'The Greatest Showman' and a beautiful Ballet performance from Nell Bratty (Y9) to the orchestra's rendition of *Bring Him Home* from 'Les Misérables'.

Comedy was brought from Ben Payne (12) performance of *You'll be Back* from 'Hamilton' and Maddy Jones (Y9) along with her Knights ensemble, whose performance of *The Diva's Lament (Whatever happened to my part?)* from 'Spamalot' brought much laughter from the audience.

Year 13 soloists Meghan Collins and Bella Patrick signed off their time at William Farr with simply stunning vocals from 'Cabaret' and 'Phantom of the Opera'.

The evening was brought alive with the support of the school's orchestra and supported by the student tech team.

Special thanks must also go to Georgina Cox for the administration support, the school site team and The Friends of William Farr School for providing refreshments and running the raffle, continuing their fundraising efforts for the school.



CAREERS FAIR

On 14 March, we held our popular annual Careers Fair in the Main Hall.

We hosted visitors from all sectors of employment, Further Education and Higher Education. This year we even had our very own “William Farr Sixth Form” stand, hosted brilliantly by our Sixth Form volunteers. All our students had the opportunity to visit the Fair, with Years 7-11 visiting in groups and Sixth Formers able to visit when they wished, during study periods or at lunchtime.



We would like to extend a huge thank you to all the external visitors who gave up a whole day to provide a stand-out experience for our students. They were: Home from Home Care, Bridgeway Consulting, Wilkin Chapman LLP, Siemens, Wright Vigar, Lindum Construction, Rand Farm Park Day Nursery, Bridge McFarland LLP, Serco, National Grid, Lincolnshire County Council, National Gas, NHS Talent Academy, Army, Royal Navy, Lincoln College, Access Creative College, Lincoln UTC, Bishop Burton (Riseholme) College, Lincoln City Foundation, Hill Holt Wood, LiNCHigher, University of Lincoln, University of East Anglia, Bishop Grosseteste University and St Barnabas.

The students worked hard during the week to prepare for the Fair, meaning that the vast majority of the students were engaged with the experience and found it to be worthwhile and enjoyable. The stand holders also brought with them an impressive amount of freebies and goodies, making them very popular indeed!

If you are a local employer, college or independent training provider and would like to be involved in next year's careers fair, please email Mrs Roberts on c.roberts@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk



LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH

As part of the school's LGBT+ History Month celebrations - students looked at a range of LGBT+ role models from history whose achievements are often written out.

This work is supported by Schools Out and allows students to learn about people who have made important contributions to politics, business, medicine and human rights.

In addition, students from Year 7 through to Year 13 took part in a presentation to Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. This is the 8th time William Farr has been asked to speak to the NHS and marks a recognition of the education and support we give as a school. The feedback from the presentation was truly remarkable. One attendee said it was the best session of a month of events, while another said “I wish my school life was as inclusive as that at William Farr. The messages you are bringing are so important!”



YEAR 11 STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE EVENING

On Thursday 13 February, we hosted our third Striving for Excellence evening.

It took place to support and encourage our Year 11 students as they embark on the final run-in to their exams. Over 250 attendees came to the evening, which included:

- Talks from Mr Gayfer (Deputy Headteacher), Mr Edgar (Headteacher) and Mr Willett (Head of Year 11).
- Visitors from Kooth.
- Free packs of revision resources, along with booklets of curriculum, revision and examination information.

Thank you to all the students and parents who attended the evening. We hope you found it to be a valuable experience.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Students are currently taking part in their training to prepare for their expeditions next year.

A special mention must go to Year 13 students Joseph McParland, Nicole Fractzak, Erica Wright, Michalina Madra, Isobel Sharp, and Faye Terry as they have achieved their Gold Award whilst still in school, which is a fantastic achievement due to the timescales required for each section. They will be receiving an invitation to the Palace to collect their certificates in due course.

Well done!

SPANISH TRIP TO BARCELONA

A group of Year 10-13 Spanish students have recently returned from a few days in sunny Barcelona!

They all enjoyed taking in the sights, including the famous Sagrada Familia, Parc Güell, the Gothic Quarter and the Picasso museum. Other highlights were the boat trip along the coast, the cable car with magnificent views of the city and the giant ball pool!

The students were a credit to the school and it was wonderful to see them enthusiastically putting their Spanish into use in the shops and cafes. ¡Hasta la próxima!



THE NATIONAL HOLOCAUST CENTRE

In January, the History and Religious Studies departments took over 100 Year 10 students to the National Holocaust Centre.

It is the only dedicated Holocaust Museum in the UK, serving as a memorial, place of testimony, and a learning centre. The museum is situated in the English countryside, near the village of Laxton, on the edge of Sherwood Forest in North Nottinghamshire.

The National Holocaust Centre & Museum was established by Stephen and James Smith, along with their mother, Marina, who in 1991 visited Yad Vashem. After their trip they understood how important it was that young people and anyone should have the opportunity to be educated on the meaning of the Holocaust for them.



After many years of dedicated fundraising and incredibly hard work, affectionately known as Beth Shalom (the House of Peace) - the National Holocaust Centre & Museum was born. The founders strive to communicate the memory of the Holocaust for a thoroughly contemporary purpose and to grow a community of 'critical thinkers' right across society, able to question the misinformation, stereotypes and conspiracy theories which are driving today's racist hate.

Upon arrival we were taken into the main assembly rooms and a speaker encouraged us to evaluate responsibility for the Holocaust and explain the ways in which states and governments continue to discriminate today. Furthermore, the speaker described why the Holocaust is unique and explained the legacy of anti-Jewish hate in the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as the evolution of the Holocaust. We also had a look inside the main museum which had detailed information and descriptions about every victim and the Holocaust. Back in the assembly rooms, we learned how modern anti-Jewish ideology and tropes link back to pre-Holocaust prejudice. The National Holocaust Museum also has frequent talks by Holocaust survivors sharing their stories with people. However, on that day, we watched an interactive documentary focusing on one Holocaust survivor and his terrible experiences in the concentration camps and the discrimination he faced. Afterwards, students could ask questions and the computer would generate an answer to the question because it had already been answered, just like in real life.

I knew that the trip would be emotional, however I did not expect it to affect me the way it did. It is an amazing place because it shows how fast prejudice can escalate to 30-35 million dead people (or more) as the result of the Holocaust. Having spent a full day reading about the gas chambers, listening to the victims' traumas, and analysing the societal views at the time, it really put things into perspective. In my opinion, the trip to The National Holocaust Museum has been maybe the most sad, but also by far the most important school trip I could ever go on; people, and especially young people, should be educated on the dangers of discrimination, racism and hate so that atrocities like the Holocaust never happen again.

Clara Von Friedeburg, Year 10

YEAR 9 WELLBEING CAKE SALE

On Valentine's Day, both Year 7 and Year 9 joined forces to raise money for Marie Curie and both year group funds.

Mountains of cakes and bakes were displayed during lunch time in the foyer of Irving and we were inundated with hungry pupils all wanting to enjoy the treats on sale. It was great to see so many pupils taking the time to bake, help out on the stall and, of course, buy the bakes to raise money for such a good cause. This all tied in very nicely with the term's Wellbeing focus on Giving. I am sure all involved would agree, that it did indeed feel good to give. We raised an impressive £157.00 – not bad for half an hour's teamwork!

YEAR 13 MAGISTRATE COURT VISITS

The Religious Studies and Social Science department visited the local magistrates court as part of their courses looking at Forensics and Crime and Deviance.

The students were able to see how the court system works, look at the variety of roles within the court system and explore more about this line of work. We sat in Motoring Offences Court, Trial Court and Remand Court, hearing a variety of cases. It was an exciting opportunity for the students to see first hand what they had been learning in class.

MATHS DEPARTMENT NEWS

This term, the Mathematics department has run the Intermediate Maths Challenge with students achieving certificates at all levels, Gold, Silver and Bronze.

This is a national competition we run each year, which provides stretch and challenge for higher-attaining students, focusing on problem solving and applying mathematics in unusual contexts. Four students were also invited to take part in the follow-on round, called The Kangaroo. It is an exceptional achievement to be invited to take part. Congratulations to all who took part and special congratulations to Adam Swistak, Joly Wu, Harry Douch and Oliver Ashcroft.

William Farr School has been selected to be the host for the Regional Maths Team Challenge event (Year 8/9), run by the UKMT. This will involve around 15 schools from across Lincolnshire competing to earn a place in the national event, taking place in London later in the year. We will be able to update you on progress of the William Farr team in the Summer newsletter.

Earlier in the term, we also hosted the Year 10 Maths Feast in March, which is organised by the FMSP. Fifteen teams participated in the event from a range of local secondary schools. The teams took part in 4 rounds, tackling a range of challenging problems that required great mathematical knowledge and strong teamwork. William Farr entered two teams for the event and were awarded certificates for their success in several rounds. Our teams won two of the four rounds and performed superbly. The two teams consisted of: Max Arduin, Ben Brown, Finlay Couser, Sophie Hotchkin, Libby Hill, Simon Wiley, Michelle Ajayi-Bello, Cody Holderness.

Thank you to Luka Uncetabarrenechea and Stephen Gayton from Year 13 for their support throughout the event.

THE GREAT DEBATE

Congratulations to Lola Bibby in Year 12 who goes to Windsor Castle as a finalist in The Great Debate.

The Great Debate is a prestigious, national, public-speaking competition for students aged 16-19, run by The Historical Association. The competition is an ideal opportunity for students to gain valuable experience in speaking to an audience and developing their debating skills, confidence and self-esteem. The question this year was: How can your local history tell a global story? Students have 5 minutes to make their case.

The History department was delighted by the number of Year 12 students who took part in the school heat and with the quality of their research on their locality. The following five students competed against schools from across Lincolnshire in the local heat hosted by Lincoln University: Lola Bibby, Ben Payne, Mya Dhokia, Amelie Bishop and Leila Strikland.

We are thrilled that Lola Bibby won the local heat and national semi-finals and has got through to the finals held at Windsor Castle on 29 March 2025 and wish her the best of luck.

UNIVERSITY LECTURE

A Level History and Politics students attended an Historical Association Branch talk by Professor Peter Ling, Emeritus Professor of American Studies at the University of Nottingham.

This was held at Lincoln University and Professor Ling explored the way scandals in the US political system impacted voting in different elections from Nixon's 'dirty tricks' through to the myriad scandals of the Trump era.

This is the second lecture given by the Historical Association that we have attended, and it has been an excellent experience for our A level students to listen to eminent historians.

WORLD BOOK DAY

In March, the English department (alongside Sixth Form students) dressed up as literary characters to raise awareness for World Book Day.

In conjunction with this, Key Stage 3 students were offered the opportunity to take part in a quiz; encouraging students to broaden their wider reading and literary knowledge. Students were also able to receive free books from the library throughout the day.

World Book Day is an annual event intended to encourage reading for pleasure, with a focus on 'enabling children to grow up with a life-long, life-changing habit of reading for fun, and all the benefits this brings'.

The English department would like to thank staff and students for their involvement and look forward to seeing the creativity, (and, in some cases, bizarre) choices that staff and students make for next year's World Book Day!



ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP



Every year, the D&T department selects students to be put forward for the Arkwright Scholarship Award.

Scholars are selected for their potential as future engineering leaders by assessing their academic, practical and leadership skills in STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. This year, the department nominated 10 students, which is the largest number of students for some time. All 10 students had to go through a rigorous application process, followed by a very difficult online aptitude test, which included some A-Level and degree level questions. 6 students passed the first round and went through to online interviews where they had to present and discuss their GCSE projects in depth with a panel of judges. All 6 were successful in gaining a scholarship, which takes us to 23 scholars over 15 years, which is incredible.

The 6 successful scholars are Aran Bird, Charlie Bird, Alex Catlow, Rhys Staples, Faye Wright and David Zamfir. Historically, we have only ever gained one a year, and one year we gained 3, so 6 in one year is exceptional. The Scholarships consist of an annual financial award to each Scholar and enrichment activities, such as mentoring and industry visits that enhance a Scholar's experience of engineering in a real-world context. Arkwright Engineering Scholarships are highly regarded by university admission tutors and industry recruiters and are one of the most prestigious accolades that a student can receive. We wish the scholars the very best!

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

You may also make contact with the school through Middle Leaders, e.g. Heads of Department/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.

TERM DATES

Term 5

Tuesday 22 April 2025	First day of term
Monday 05 May 2025	BANK HOLIDAY
Friday 23 May 2025	Last day of term

Term 6

Monday 02 June 2025	First day of term
Thursday 19 June 2025	INSET DAY
Tuesday 22 July 2025	Last day of term

2025-2026

Term 1

Wednesday 03 September 2025	INSET DAY
Thursday 04 September 2025	Year 7 only
Friday 05 September 2025	All students apart from Y12
Monday 08 September 2025	All students
Friday 26 September 2025	INSET DAY
Friday 24 October 2025	Last day of term

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.

School is open to students 8.15am-5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 8.15am-4.30pm on Fridays. Students should not be on the school premises before or after these times unless they are supervised by a member of staff.