

## Head's Message

As we begin a new term in a new calendar year, there has been much attention paid at Farlingaye to the tradition of the New Year's Resolution. Research would seem to suggest that the old-fashioned approach of resolving at the start of a new year to make changes to improve our lives has very limited impact over time. We have been exploring this fact with students, asking “if promising to ‘go to the gym 4 times a week’ just doesn't work, how **do** we make changes that will be sustainable and beneficial?” In my view, the first step towards answering this question has to be positive reflection on our situations, as individuals and as part of a school community. In order to facilitate this process of reflection, consultations with staff have taken place, we have continued with our Families Forum meetings and a new student attitudinal survey (Pupils Attitudes to Self and School – or PASS) has been introduced. The PASS survey has already provided us with fascinating insights into students' perceptions of themselves as learners, their views on their work ethic, and their attitudes to their teachers and to attendance at school. It is our firm intention to use these insights now to plan and implement interventions to support individuals, and to address through concerted action any wider issues that the surveys may have highlighted. Through these processes, we will look to remove barriers to progress and achievement, and so to continue the development of Farlingaye as a fantastic place to learn and grow.

I hope you enjoy reading in this month's Forum the descriptions of the events that took place in the run-up to Christmas – not only those that have become Farlingaye traditions, such as the wonderful concerts, but also those (such as the visit to the Birmingham Clothes Show) that have introduced our students to new and beneficial opportunities, which they have grasped firmly. Through their engagement with all of these opportunities Farlingaye's students have, once again, been a source of great pride to us all. Well done to them for their efforts.  
Dr Andy Sievewright, Headteacher



## Contact Details

If you received a new mobile phone for Christmas or changed your contact details in any way, please let us know so we can amend our records and can contact you in an emergency. Either call reception on 01394 385720 or email Mrs Norris [wnorris@farlingaye.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:wnorris@farlingaye.suffolk.sch.uk)

Many thanks.

**Schoolgateway** Keeping up with what's going on at school is easier than ever

For some time we have been sending text messages to keep you informed, which can be expensive. We now have a new smartphone app - School Gateway. This app is completely free, and cuts the costs of text messaging. If you have a smartphone, please download the app from Google Play or the Apple App Store.

**Download the 'School Gateway' app/Select 'I'm a new user', enter your email and mobile number – your PIN number will then be sent to your phone/Enter your PIN and login**

You will now: receive messages even without mobile signal – if you're connected to WiFi; not be charged for sending replies back to the school; be able to store and receive messages all in one place.

If your mobile phone isn't able to download the app, we will continue to send messages via text instead.



## Christmas Concerts

During the festive period, over 300 students enthralled parents and members of the local area with their musical talents in a series of musical concerts.

On Thursday December 6<sup>th</sup>, they kicked off the season with the school concert in front of a delighted audience of 300. Various musical groups performed Christmas standards old and new, finishing off with a rousing "O Come All Ye Faithful" with audience participation. There was a cake sale of delicious bakes, raising money for a local charity.

The following afternoon, over 100 local senior citizens were welcomed to a special concert. This annual treat originated because the school couldn't visit all the residential homes that requested a visit from our musicians. Instead, a concert is held for senior citizens to celebrate Christmas with Big Band tunes and songs from the time of the audience's youth. Tea and cakes, and a gift to take away, were also provided. As always, it was a huge success.

On Tuesday December 13<sup>th</sup>, students performed their carol concert in St Mary's Church, Woodbridge. The audience of 300 comprised parents and members of the public in Woodbridge, who enjoyed the music and talent on show.

The annual visit to Haughgate House, a nursing home in Woodbridge, was on Thursday December 15<sup>th</sup>, to see the residents who were unable to come to the concert at school. This is always a lovely occasion, with the students stopping to chat to residents after their performances.

More than 900 people have been thrilled by the experience of teenagers from our school spreading goodwill in the community and being a great advert for the next generation.

A charity collection held at the carol concert and the bake sale raised over £550 for the John Le Vay Support and Information Centre. The money will be used to pay for two art days where 50 people, current cancer patients, carers and survivors, will attend a day of creativity. These days are greatly appreciated by the participants. One lady said that whilst she was concentrating on the art she forgot she had cancer. Debbie Logan, the Centre Manager, said "We really appreciate you and the school supporting the John Le Vay Cancer Support and Information Centre. It is because of people/organisations like yours that we are able to offer such a wide variety of supportive initiatives. We estimate that we spend about £19,000 a year on these and most (of this funding) comes from the generosity of local people, to whom we are very grateful.

I would like to express huge thanks again to parents and students for their support during the Christmas season, we couldn't make the same magic without them.

Ms Martino



## Singing at Sutton Hoo

On Sunday December 11th, the Chamber Choir were again invited by the National Trust to Sutton Hoo. The singing was beautiful - two performances of 40 minutes in the living room of Tranmer House, singing Christmas songs and carols to an audience of about 50 each time, with solos by Amber, Luke, Mia, Lotte, Annie and Katharine. In between the performances we sang a few carols in the main reception area. With lovely weather, free mince pies and a relaxed atmosphere this was a super way to get into the Christmas spirit. Well done to everyone, and thanks to Ms Tyndale-Hardy and Mr Blomfield for singing along.

Mr Picton



## Beauty and the Beast

The sense of anticipation crackled like electricity in the air before the staff pantomime at the end of last term. Students were wildly excited as the lights went down and "Beauty and the Beast" began. They reacted in traditional style to the wicked, vain Gaston (Mr Tunaley) and the truly terrifying Beast (Dr Sievwright). Belle (Miss Gilmour) held the story together, and there were cameos from staff as Lumiere, Cogsworth, Mrs Potts, Chip the Teacup, in fantastic costumes some of which were made in-house.

The play's scenes were book-ended by song or dance numbers from each faculty, including a beautiful duet between Mrs Moran and Dr Harrison and a dynamic dance routine from Maths.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and greatly appreciated by the students.

## Christmas Hampers

The traditional Christmas hamper competition was held last term, with each tutor group producing a fantastic work of art and filling it with goodies for people in need.

The unique ideas and variety of models was astounding and the full array of hampers on display in the dining hall on Thursday December 15<sup>th</sup> was fantastic.

The winning hampers were as follows:-

7A	Fishing penguin
8E girls	Snowman made from cups
9A	Christmas Pudding
10R	Clearing the snow
11N	Igloo
11E	Penguin Slope
12/13E	Michael Buble Christmas Village

There were a total of 75 hampers and they were distributed through Lighthouse Women's Aid, West Villa (for homeless families), Age UK Suffolk Coastal, Home-Start Suffolk Coastal, Suffolk Refugee Support, St John's Church, and the Salvation Army.



## Book Reviews

### 'Throne of Glass Series' by Sarah J Maas – Beth Scahill Year 12

I have never been so frustrated and captured by a book series before. The sheer scale of plot twists seem to sneak up on you and flip your understanding of this secretive and mysterious world. One moment you are toiling in the salt mines of Endovier alongside enslaved prisoners of war; the next, you're soaring through the skies with a pack of witches. This blood curdling series is made up of the perfect mix of magic, mystery and horror... and you never know who or what is over the next page.

**'Elizabeth is Missing' by Emma Healey – Mrs Silvester**  
Shortlisted for many literary awards this novel is both a gripping detective story and a haunting depiction of the decline of the human mind through Dementia. Healey creates a captivating voice of a woman struggling with her changing world; in a compassionate, yet funny and poignant way. Due to the dual narrative, an interwoven story showing the confusion of the present, mixed with Maud's very vivid memories of her past, I remained engaged throughout and felt rewarded with an interesting and intricate plot. This novel is an intelligent, funny; yet very sad, page-turner.

## Swimming Gala

This year we have entered two swimming Galas for local schools. This is the first time for a number of years that there has been an opportunity for local galas so we were inundated with students who wanted to take part. The competition was organised into an over-14s event and an under-14s one. Each team had to have a mixture of boys and girls and races were over the 50m distance. I am delighted to say that both our teams have qualified for the final in February and our over-14 team in particular look like strong contenders for the title. I will bring you the results as soon as we have them and will provide updates from the final via the PE twitter account.  
Miss Alexander



To read more about any of these stories please follow this link <http://www.farlingaye.suffolk.sch.uk/Forum/>

## The Clothes Show

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, 42 Farlingaye students travelled to the Birmingham Clothes Show. The majority of the group was made up of Y10 and Y11 GCSE Textiles students hoping to find inspiration (and a few bargains!) Leaving at 7am was a push for some but we left for the show in good spirits and only a few minutes later than originally planned.

The group was particularly excited due to having a student finalist, Della Stiff, for one of the Creative Awards - 'Young Artist of the Year.' The Creative Awards are designed to help students discover creativity, imagination and original thinking within Art and Design and the briefs are based on core criteria, outlined by leading examining bodies.'

The winner of the competition was to be announced during the day at a special presentation ceremony. Della and her friends waited anxiously for the result as models sauntered down a catwalk displaying the finalists' designs. All the student finalists had done a fantastic job and although Della did not win it was such a fantastic achievement to have her work shown in such an influential setting.

The students also attended seminars, Q&As and a fashion show.

We left the show in high spirits and with shopping bags in tow. A fabulous day out for all.  
Miss Shuster



Year 11 and 12 students are going to be given a fantastic opportunity this summer to take part in this super government funded scheme. For £50 students can participate in a four week programme during the summer holidays (financial support is available). Over 50 students participated last year and as a result Farlingaye is now a 'Champion School'.

Students will be given assemblies and lots of information about the scheme over the next few weeks, there will be details on how to apply.

There is further information on the NCS website: <http://ncseast.co.uk/what-is-ncs/>