

Head’s Message

For me, the pleasure of reviewing this edition of the Farlingaye Forum came from noting once again the characteristics of the school community that are shown in its articles — fantastic teamwork, creativity, the seizing of opportunity, endeavour, and (perhaps most importantly) thinking of others and the world beyond yourself—and from reflecting on the fact that these characteristics are just as evident in the accounts linked to the post-lockdown world as in those rooted in the ‘normality’ of life before the 23rd of March.

Since we began our temporary existence as a ‘closed’ school, I have been so proud of the way that staff, students and families have pulled together to support each others’ development and wellbeing, even in the most challenging of circumstances. There have been painful times—caused, most sadly, by the loss to the virus of elderly relatives of some in the community —and there have been times when the uncertainty of the future and the isolation of lockdown have troubled some of our students and their families. However, there have also been many displays of real determination and resilience in the face of difficulty, and an evident commitment to take positive action to support each other and the community beyond. The wonderful work of our Technology team on the production of high-quality face masks and scrubs for key frontline workers (described on p.5) is a shining example of this approach. The staff refused to despair at the reported desperate lack of these vital protections, or to ignore it, and became determined to make a change in the world. Through the exercising of tremendous initiative and teamwork, they used their expertise and the facilities available to them to their full extent, and made a great thing happen.

The day-to-day challenges involved in teaching and learning remotely that have been faced by our staff, students and families have also demanded a positive and solution-focused approach. So too, have the challenges faced by the children of key workers who have been attending school regularly since the lockdown began. I have asked everyone involved with Farlingaye to do the same thing: to do the best that is possible within the limitations of the current situation, and to be ready, not just to return to school when the chance comes, but to seize on every opportunity we will have to rediscover the joy of working and learning together. There have been many indications from the communications I have had with staff, students and families that, despite difficulties and setbacks, there has been a huge amount of excellent work done by our students over the past few weeks. I am confident that the great majority of them will continue to make the best of the situation as they look forward to their return to school.

When we are able to reopen the school (and, at the time of writing, we have had no firm indications from the Government of when or how that will happen) we will need to be very clear as a community how we can operate to keep each other — and the wider community beyond the school — safe. Given sufficient guidance and support from the Government, and access to the necessary resources, we will do everything we can to implement measures that will allow students and staff to work effectively while looking after their health and that of others. It will be essential that all students follow the guidelines which they will be given, and which we will issue to all families prior to any return to school.

I would like to wish good health to all of our students and staff, and all the families connected to the school. We look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Andy Sievewright, May 2020



Framlingham College, March 12th

On a bright, sunny, March day, with the wind gusting, four determined Farlingaye students headed to Framlingham College to compete in the regional finals of the UKMT Maths Challenge. The atmosphere was tense from the start, rivalries with Woodbridge, Kesgrave, Thomas Mills and even Brendan Daly's Debenham team meant that Farlingaye had no need for a rousing speech.

The fantastic four (as they will hereby be known) were on form from the start, completing the ten warm-up questions with few to no issues in a nonchalant manner. The questions kept on coming but the team, made up of two Year 8s and two Year 9s, swallowed them up with no more than a timid gulp. At the halfway stage the team were confident, showing a composure belying their years. A list was read out identifying the six highest-ranking teams, with Farlingaye announced as among the top dogs.

After lunch the team broke off into two pairs and continued to complete the next task with gusto. The final activity was a relay race. Relying on speed, composure and mathematical skill, this was a task that would spread the field. Flying through the questions, the team managed to complete two-thirds of those available, with very few mistakes. But was this enough? As the rankings were announced you could hear the chattering of nails, with a few teams visibly broken after the day's work. Farlingaye sat there assured, but believing it wasn't to be. The top three teams would be called to the front of the auditorium and presented with certificates, with elbow bumps replacing the much-maligned hand shake. A hush in the crowd, and then it was announced: Farlingaye had come third! A remarkable achievement, considering the team were up against 21 other schools. The students were delighted and rightly so. Although tired from their efforts they managed a celebratory photo in front of the castle, hanging on for dear life in the wind. The students then headed back to Farlingaye with their heads held high, awaiting the next opportunity to get that top spot.

From left to right, Annabel Turnbull (Y8), Melissa Coffey (Y9), Sam Garratt (Y9) and Magnus Sharpin (Y8).

Mr Sperling



Assisting the Police

From Monday 11th May, Farlingaye has been supporting the Suffolk Constabulary by letting them use the Sixth Form Centre to train their new recruits. The Constabulary need access to training spaces with large, open internal spaces, and they do not have enough classroom space at their headquarters at Martlesham to teach the students and meet the currently required social distancing standards. They are also using the all-weather sports pitch for fitness training and other outside spaces for role playing scenarios.

The Sixth Form Centre is a self-contained, stand-alone building on the Farlingaye school site. Suffolk Constabulary can be completely separated from the staff and students who are still at school during lockdown.

Dr Sievewright commented, "At Farlingaye, we are always keen to support our local community and this seemed like an excellent opportunity to do just that, by helping with the development of vital front-line staff who will be serving our local community for years to come. We are delighted by the development of links between our organisations, which I am sure will be of mutual benefit moving forward."

The Constabulary will continue to use the facility until further notice.



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Green Council Daffodil Challenge

Despite the current circumstances of social distancing and self-isolation, students have captured stunning photographs of spring daffodils as part of an extra-curricular challenge. The Daffodil Photography Challenge was run by the school's Green Council, which has continued its award-winning environmental work despite the national lockdown.

The Green Council is promoting weekly challenges for students to complete at home. One week the challenge was for students to take photographs of daffodils in their gardens or ones that they saw while taking their daily exercise. Such was the scale and quality of the response that three winners were selected from each year group.

Dr Tim Harrison, who coordinates the Green Council's activities, commented: "It's brilliant to see students engaging with the natural world around them. While circumstances are tough for everyone at the moment, it's important to look for positives and opportunities. The current slower pace of life gives students the chance to interact with nature in a way that they may never have done before."

Farlingaye's Green Council recently won the "Caring for the Environment Award" sponsored by the East Anglian Daily Times at the Suffolk High Sheriff's Awards 2020. The award recognises the Green Council's encouragement of young people to develop lifelong sustainable habits and to enjoy the natural world. Initiatives that the Green Council oversees within the school include daily recycling, providing reusable cups and water bottles, sourcing products with sustainable palm oil, reducing electricity usage, gardening, hedge-planting, mammal recording, moth recording, nest monitoring and bird ringing.

Dr Harrison added: "Getting outside and enjoying the natural world is a cornerstone of sustainability and conservation. You only protect what you love, and you only love what you know. For many young people there has been an extinction of experience of the natural world. Simple activities like photographing spring daffodils can encourage students to re-engage with their environment."

Following the success of this and other challenges, Dr Harrison featured on the Mark Murphy Radio Show on BBC Suffolk on the Friday 10th April to talk about all the work the Green Council do.



Published Authors

Some of the students in Years 7 and 8 successfully won a creative writing competition in the Autumn term and they are becoming published authors! Each student wrote a 100 word mini-saga around the theme "hunted." The focus of their stories ranged from predators to war, food to criminals. The anthology will be published very soon and a copy will take pride of place in the school library. Well done to all the budding authors!

Year 7:

Matilda Fernandes, Jake Hinitt, Sam Smith, Betsy Parker, Giacomo Magagnin, Ted Couzens, Maisey Raistrick, Faith Sanders, Archie Murrell, Holly Johnson, Harry Sneath, Scarlett Harraway, Ruby Cannon, Molly Smith, William Monchecourt, Rose Crutchley, Anna Flowers, Abdullah Hussain, Niamh Magee, Sidney Mansfield, Matthew Smith, Harrison Carle, Sebastian Davison, Will Fletcher, Myles Oliver, Jasper Redman, Ella Butler, Oliver Collins, Marissa Wheeler, Ella Jones, Tamzine Holbrook, Benjamin Howlett, Kiarah Dix, Tommy Quinton, Katie Smy, Amelie Reilly.

Year 8:

Evie England-Jones, Jack Turner, Anna Watson, Joseph Martin, Harry Kernohan, Josh Pike, Grace Watsham, Lola Starr, Ruben Goodhand, Tudor Hesketh, Lucas Whatling, Molly Shipp, Amber Nichols, Amber Phillips, Ben Fradd Walker, Will Kennedy, Kaitlyn Humphrey, Talia Brewer, Aiden Yates, Stan Chevous, Aarnavi Hunagund, Mason Crane, Callum Gouck, Vicky Pajak, Joel Foreman, Lilly Vinson, Anelie Francis-Smith, Jessica Sparkes, Leona Glockling, Oliver Chaplin, Lily Soames, Blake Hazelwood, William Caley, Liam Ryall, Sophie Brown, Kieran McCall, Deven Grafflin, Charlie Atkin, Lewis Gibson, Ellie Watson, Summer Fitch, Aston Kingsford-Bere, Mia Harrington.

Ms Thraves



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PPE Production

Since school closed to most students, members of the Technology Faculty, Mr White, Mr Hawtin, Mr Wetherell, Mr Shaw and Mrs Quilliam have been using 3D printer technology and other on-site systems to produce plastic 'screen' face masks for the NHS.

Mr White, Head of Technology, and Mr Hawtin, Endeavour Group Coordinator, have led the production of over 917 of these high-quality masks and 366 3D printed headbands, which will provide vital protection for NHS and care staff at the frontline of the battle against the Coronavirus.

The Technology team have been working to a template produced by BT's Shane Allum, an Applied Research specialist at Adastral Park, Martlesham. The school are repurposing old portfolio files to laser cut for the faceshield bands. Drawing on its own production capacity and contributions from several local schools, BT is now supplying 3,000 face masks for the frontline every week. Both the laser cut/assembled visors and the 3D printed versions were delivered to BT who are coordinating the dispatch to where they are needed most. They are disinfecting all the visors and assembling the 3D printed versions.

Over the past two weeks, members of the Technology Faculty at Farlingaye have been busy sewing for Ipswich hospital to help provide vital protection for NHS staff at the frontline of the battle against the Coronavirus.

Sadie Ewers, Lucy Cornell and Jane Booton have produced a number of scrubs for staff at Ipswich Hospital, as well as scrub bags to safely take the scrubs home in. They have also produced numerous headbands for staff to wear which help to protect their ears and make wearing face masks a little more comfortable.

They have been working to support the group 'Sew scrubs for Ipswich Hospital' which has over 1,000 members and has raised over £10,000 towards fabric and materials through their online crowd funding page on the Just Giving website. This fantastic community project is one that we are proud to support.



Lockdown Creative Writing

Given a creative writing challenge, Anna Gillingwater, 8G, imagines how scientists in a future dystopia might find a way to repair their “scorched earth”.

Wang-Chan, a despondent figure, sat alone in his lab. He glared out of the thick glass windows wondering what the 22nd century had come to. The red sky hung dauntingly over a few very stunted trees, withered vegetation and scorched earth - absent of all signs of wildlife. Car engines filled the air with constant chugs and rumbles releasing toxic black fumes into the morning atmosphere.

DINNGGG! The doorbell rang, releasing him from his daily melancholy trance.

“I’ll get it,” cried Mai- Lee from another room.

Wang-Chan met Mai-Lee at University years ago. Although she was a physicist for a high security government department, they became very fond of each other, both sharing a passion for science.

Looking down at his electron microscope, he realised that he’d better get on with his work. His eyes peered down two long metallic tubes, viewing multi-coloured blobs that had stick like antennas coming out of them. They started replicating by the second, spreading around the petri dish they lay on.

‘How can something so beautiful be so lethal?’ wondered Chan. It was a project he had been working on for months now, a coronavirus that only existed in bats and snakes - he called it Covid-19. Despite this, thoughts still swelled in the back of his head as though someone had punched him. How could he sit here and watch the world die before his eyes; weren’t they supposed to be the generation to make a change?

Days of desperation and depression passed so Mai-Lee became more concerned for her partner’s mental health. She tried to console him but, although she couldn’t disclose the details of her top-secret work, she hinted at traversable worm-holes and the dilation of the 4th dimension - a way forward, or maybe a way back...

When Chan heard the clue, a feeling of bliss rushed through him and a light bulb that he never thought he had shone brightly. They could go back 100 years and change erasable consequences. Nevertheless, they would have to find a non-political way as the most powerful man was Trump - a moron who’s intelligence was limited and who influenced masses that Global Warming was “Fake news!”. Persuasion also wouldn’t be enough: human nature just wasn’t inclined to give up petrol cars, plane journeys abroad and plastic. In order to make a difference something catastrophic had to happen - a halt to typical human behaviour - before it was too late.

The sudden energy rush made him turn his head, his eyes locked onto the electron microscope. Then, an immediate idea hit him. Maybe not all was lost.

Wang-Chan gazed up at the azure sky watching the fleecy, light clouds gently float past. The sounds of birds singing and trees swaying in the wind became apparent. For a moment, Chan’s life felt as innocent as the lilac butterfly that swept past on fluttering wings.

This didn’t last long. A feeling of immense guilt hit him like a bolt of lightning to a large tree in a meadow. The plan would kill thousands. He would kill thousands. Culpability swirled around his stomach as if he had eaten bad noodles.

As he neared, the powerful stench of fish, dogs, chicken and snake strengthened and the wet market became visible. Giant red slabs of meat hung on string from gazebos, half dead sea creatures lay feeble on trays of ice, and overwhelmed livestock sat aghast in metal cages.

Wang-Chan hobbled through the narrow centre path, avoiding stepping over spilt fluid which he hoped was water. The smallest market stand came in sight. On the splintered table sprawled many dark bats, their wings spreading far, yet powerless. Chan took a large lung-filling breath and glanced into his deep black pocket. His trembling fingers reached in pulling out a minute but sharp syringe. The syringe was full of a fluorescent green liquid. He faced the lifeless bat and stealthily injected it with the glowing fluid.

Subtly checking no one saw him, Chan left the stand but couldn’t suppress a salty bulging tear which fell down his cheek.

‘Will it be enough? Will this stop them in their tracks for long enough to amend their harmful habits? Will the sacrifice be worth it?’

It was up to them now. There was nothing more he could do.

Year 10 Business Studies Trip to Langham Glass, Norfolk.

In February, the Year 10 Business classes went on an exciting trip to the Langham Glass factory in Norfolk. The experience offered a wide spectrum of knowledge which was really useful for our GCSE courses. The majority of the trip revolved around the making of the glass and what key features went into the clever process.

Langham Glass was established in 1979 by Master Glassmaker Paul Miller and is still run as a family business today. Their methods of production shown to us were very traditional compared to many other industrial companies today, which is really refreshing and insightful. Langham Glass use 'traditional methods to produce high quality, handmade crystal.' We learnt a lot about the processes involved, for example where they get their raw materials from and why, the competitive market of glass making, and the popular customer demands.

Additionally, we learnt about the high standards the business needed to maintain to create unique products which was proven when a worker had finished a beautiful piece of a glass fox. The intricacy of glass blowing is such a skill which only a minority of people appreciate. We also had the added benefit of some students having a go at blowing glass themselves which was a fun experience!

The day as a whole was an eye-opening experience and the business itself was such a lovely community. It helped us to understand what a demanding business goes through in order to keep up with a forever changing economic society. I would highly recommend having a day trip to Norfolk to appreciate the innovative craftsmanship Langham has to offer.

Alice Gilman-Earle



Rowing for Cambridge

Ex-student, Jonty Page, was all set to row in Cambridge University's Boat Club's crew for this year's Boat Race on March 29, until Coronavirus led to its cancellation. This will be the first year since 1945 that there hasn't been an official race.

Jonty, 21, was more well-known at Farlingaye for his abilities as a musician, although he participated in sport too. He played the piano and saxophone and was involved in Big Band. He wanted to continue with music at Cambridge University, but it didn't pan out, so he looked for something else to do. Being very tall and fit, it was suggested to him that rowing might be his thing.

As a novice rower at Pembroke College, Jonty was spotted by CUBC assistant coach, Richard Chambers, and went onto the development squad.

His musical ability turned out to be of benefit as rowing is a rhythmic sport, and it aided his progress with rhythm and timing.

Although Jonty narrowly missed being in the first team for the race last year, he was part of the victorious reserve boat team.

The whole six-month programme of trialling involves dedication and hard work. Of the whole experience, Jonty said, "It's a privilege to row for Cambridge. It's an awesome environment and I will miss it next year."



Fight Song Video

An Ex-Farlingaye student has put together a viral video in Makaton for students at a school in Ipswich. The teachers at Bridge School, catering for students aged 3-16 with special needs, filmed themselves signing in Makaton to Rachel Platten's "Fight Song". Fin Clements, who used to attend Farlingaye and is now studying for a BA in Film Production at Brighton Screen and Film School, edited the film together. He said "This project was very fun to work on. It presented challenges which I haven't previously come across with my editing, so it was a learning experience for me. It was also great experience to work on a project outside of university, it showed what a potential later career in post production would be like. I am very happy with how the film came out, I'm so glad to hear that everyone involved was happy with the final result, and I am over the moon to see some of the students of The Bridge School signing and singing along to it."

The song was the idea of Assistant Headteacher Lynne Dawson-Wake, who said the song seemed appropriate. "We chose "Fight Song" because that's what it feels like we are all doing," she said. "To keep healthy and sane and to help each other get through this and support the critical workers out there."

The song was so well received it was featured on BBC News.

The song can be viewed on

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7lw_YTzJdml&t=102s

And the BBC report can be viewed on

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-suffolk-52330074/coronavirus-ipswich-teachers-sign-special-video-for-deaf-pupils>

