

7th October 2024

Dear Parent/ Carer

RE: We're going to try something a little different this year – and I'd love your feedback and support.

It's all about celebrating the good stuff.

I realise that celebrating success isn't always seen as a very British thing to do. It might seem a little braggish to puff one's chest out and be seen to be shouting about the things you do well. But at Farlingaye, I want us to celebrate success, praise the extraordinary and share it with everyone who touches the school.

How it will work:

Once a month, we're going to shine a light on some of the amazing stories that are connected to Farlingaye. They may be things that have happened in school, it might be a story about an ex-pupil, it could be about a local business that has supported us, it might be about a teacher, or something that happened in a school play, or something that none of us expected.

So, let's get started...

An international football debut.

Yes, incredible isn't it?

Nia Lloyd is one of our brilliant year 11 students and a keen football player who not only plays for Ipswich Town (which is a feat in itself) but last week was called up to the Wales U17 squad and made her international debut against Ireland on Saturday.

No wonder Nia was (in her own words) "*buzzing*". We are super proud of her achievement and hope it serves as encouragement to the many students at Farlingaye, who spend their weekends competing in many different sports. Not to mention the parents who are there with them through rain or shine. And even if we can't all be international stars – everyone can get something really positive out of sport – so stick at it (!)

An adventure in Germany

Over the summer, three of our Year 13 students - Ruby Smith, Ella Snare, and Zack Ochert - were awarded PASCH scholarships to study and live in Germany.

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Our German teachers, through the leadership of Mrs Green co-ordinated the initiative and their experiences were nothing short of transformative.

Ruby described her time in Benediktbeuern as "*an absolutely incredible experience*" adding, "*I made friends from all over the world, improved my German, and learned so much about different cultures.*"

From cultural excursions to places like Munich, Innsbruck, and the stunning Herzogstand, to engaging in team sports and language immersion, each student enhanced their German – but just as importantly talked about how the experience helped them grow and mature.

These are exactly the life-changing opportunities that our teachers try to create, and we are so proud of the students (and parents) who embrace them.

A knight in shining armour

Finally, to a story of exactly the sort of values we want all our students to hold.

Mrs Merrett has been a part of the Farlingaye community since 1988. First joining as a History teacher, then working in a variety of other roles.

Mrs Merrett has long since left the classroom but remains working with our learning support faculty on a part time basis.

Earlier this month Mrs Merrett unfortunately took a nasty fall here at school and was quite shaken up. One of students witnessed the fall, got help, and then stayed with Mrs Merrett to check she was alright until help appeared.

Mrs Merrett described that student as a '*knight in shining armour.*' Elliott Harding, we salute you. That's exactly the conduct we want.

Tell me your story

That's it for this month.

But of course, I know there are many other stories I could add and indeed I want you to tell me about the ones I might not know about.

This is just the start of our shared and ongoing celebration of the good, the great and the inspiring at Farlingaye.

Have a great October.

Best wishes,

Mr P Smith
Headteacher