

NEWSLETTER

Easter 26



HEADTEACHER'S ADDRESS...

The sun is here, the rain has eased off, and daffodils are on grass verges. It can only be that Spring is here again.

Spring is a funny season in a school. It normally is a time for pupils to spend more time outdoors and take part in trips and visits, but it is also a sign that the exam season will soon be upon us. We wish all of our year 11 pupils well.

There is a strong focus in this newsletter on the work being completed by pupils on careers and transition work. Neil Blackwell our careers officer, has led the school in achieving the 'Gatsby Benchmarks'. We have become one of the few schools in Greater Lincolnshire to achieve this, well done Neil.

Reading is celebrated too as the school strengthens its reading culture. Simply put people who read more learn more. It is good to see the different reading activities and celebrations being done in school.

On a different note, we will be saying goodbye to Scott Archibald this Easter. Scott is a long serving member of staff who has contributed much to school life over the years. We are sorry to see him go and wish him well in his future career.



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GOVERNORS UPDATE...

As a newly appointed governor for Pilgrim School, it has already been a privilege to begin getting to know this remarkable community. Although I am still in the early stages of my role and have yet to visit all our sites or meet most members of staff, the welcome I have received has been warm, open, and reflective of the values that sit at the heart of the school.

What has struck me most so far is the clarity and sincerity of the school's vision, built around the powerful theme of Hope. This isn't simply a word displayed on walls; it is lived out daily in the way staff support pupils, families, and each other. The commitment to nurturing personal growth, building confidence, and enabling each young person to see their own potential is evident in every conversation I've had so far.

It is also clear that Pilgrim School is strengthened by an exceptionally dedicated and talented team. Their specialist expertise, creativity, and dedication for pupils receiving education in challenging circumstances is truly inspiring. Even in my short time here, I have already developed a deep appreciation for their passion and professionalism.

I look forward to visiting each site, meeting more colleagues, and playing my full part as a governor in supporting the school's ongoing development. I am grateful to be joining such an impactful organisation, and I am excited about contributing to its continued success.

Trudi Ward-Walters

🌸 Spring Has Arrived 🌸

Spring is finally here, bringing brighter days, warmer weather, and the welcome sight of trees and flowers beginning to bloom. After the colder winter months, the spring break offers a valuable opportunity for families to rest, recharge and spend quality time together.

We encourage everyone to make the most of the season by getting outdoors, enjoying the fresh air and taking time to relax and reconnect.

🌞 Staying Safe This Spring

As we head into the holidays, here are a few helpful reminders to keep children and young people safe:

- **Sun safety:** Even when it doesn't feel particularly warm, UV rays can still cause sunburn. Please ensure children use appropriate sun protection when outdoors.
- **Staying connected:** With children likely to spend more time out with friends, maintaining clear boundaries, regular check-ins and agreed curfews can help keep them safe and give parents peace of mind.
- **Seeking support:** If your child is experiencing any difficulties, please remember that support is available—both in school and through external services.

💬 Support for Families and Young People

Below are some organisations that offer advice, guidance, and support:

- **Mind** – Mental health support and information (phone, email, and online community)
- **Beat** – Eating disorder support and helpline (0808 801 0677)
- **MoneyHelper** – Free, impartial money advice (0800 138 7777)
- **National Domestic Abuse Helpline** – 24-hour confidential support (0808 2000 247)
- **Become Charity** – Support for children in care and care leavers (0800 023 2033)
- **Runaway Helpline** – 24/7 support for young people (call or text 116 000)
- **The Mix** – Support for under 25s, including a 24/7 crisis text service (text THEMIX to 85258)
- **Here 4 You** – Mental health advice and self-referral: <https://www.lpft.nhs.uk/young-people/lincolnshire/young-people/self-referral>



🚒 Important Contacts

- **Children's Services:** 01522 782111 (Mon–Fri, 8am–6pm)
Out of hours: 01522 782333
- **Police:**
Non-emergency: 101
Emergency: 999
- **NHS:**

Non-emergency: 111

Emergency: 999

ONLINE SAFETY...

Keeping Children Safe Online: What Parents Need to Know in 2026

Children today are growing up in a fully connected world. In fact, recent UK data shows that **almost all children aged 3–17 are online**, using devices for messaging, gaming, and social media from a very young age.

While the internet offers incredible opportunities for learning and connection, **new risks are emerging rapidly**—and many are affecting children across the UK, including here in Lincolnshire.

Emerging Online Safety Risks Parents Should Know

Recent national reports highlight several worrying trends:

1. Online exploitation networks (“Com” groups)

Experts have issued urgent warnings about organised online communities targeting children for **grooming, coercion, and abuse**. These networks operate on mainstream platforms—not just the dark web—and are considered one of the **most serious current threats to young people**.

2. Sextortion targeting younger children

Children as young as **11 years old** are being tricked into sharing images and then blackmailed. These crimes often begin through seemingly harmless conversations on social media or gaming apps.

3. Rise in online fraud and scams affecting teens

Teenagers are increasingly being targeted—and even recruited—into online fraud. Around **14% of young people who spend money online report being scammed**.

4. Exposure to extreme or harmful content

Authorities warn that some young people are encountering **violent, misogynistic, or extremist material**, sometimes through algorithm-driven content feeds or peer sharing.

5. Data breaches involving children

A recent UK cyberattack exposed sensitive data of thousands of children, including photos and personal details—highlighting how important **data privacy and secure platforms** are.

What This Means for Families in Lincolnshire

Locally, Lincolnshire County Council emphasises that parents should:

- Be aware of what children are doing online
- Know who they are talking to
- Encourage open conversations about online experiences
- Teach children not to share personal information
- Use privacy and safety settings on apps and devices

These simple steps remain some of the **most effective ways to protect children**.

Practical Tips for Parents

Here are some clear, actionable steps you can take:

✓ Start conversations early

Talk regularly about online experiences—both positive and negative. Children are more likely to report concerns if they feel safe and supported.

✓ Set boundaries and routines

Agree on screen time, app use, and age-appropriate platforms.

✓ Check privacy settings together

Review settings on social media, gaming platforms, and devices.

✓ Watch for warning signs

Be alert to:

- Sudden secrecy about devices
- Changes in mood after being online
- Requests for money or unusual online contacts

✓ Know where to get help

Services like “Report Remove” and organisations such as Internet Matters provide guidance and tools for families.

New Laws and Protections

The UK government has introduced the **Online Safety Act**, requiring tech companies to better protect children and remove harmful content. Recent enforcement actions show regulators are beginning to hold platforms accountable—but **parental awareness is still essential**.

Final Thought

The online world is evolving quickly, and so are the risks. But with **open communication, awareness of current threats, and simple safety habits, parents can play a powerful role in keeping children safe.**
Online safety isn't about fear—it's about confidence, resilience, and informed choices.



Does Hope Reverberate through the generations?

We know that hope is a powerful virtue which can have a positive impact on people's lives. We know that people with higher levels of hope will do better in school and have better mental and physical health. We know that we all want to work together to help our children, as parents, carers and Pilgrim staff to have a better hope.

In a relatively recent article the Canadian psychologist and researcher Denise Larsen asked the question of whether Hope can reverberate through the generations? All families have stories, some positive and some less so, but all families will have a hopeful story within its history. Her study showed the power of passing that story onto the next generation. Younger people took these stories to their heart and held onto them. At times of stress, they remembered and rehearsed them. They said that when the time came for them to be parents, they wanted to pass those stories on too.



SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAYS 2025/2026

Inset Days Tuesday 2nd & Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Term 1

Thursday 04 September 2025 To
Friday 24 October 2025

Inset Day Monday 3rd November 2025

Term 2

Tuesday 04 November 2025 To
Friday 19 December 2025
Bank Holidays: - Thursday 25 & Friday 26 December 2025
Thursday 1 January 2026

Inset Day Monday 5th January 2026

Term 3

Tuesday 6 January 2026 To
Friday 13 February 2026

Term 4

Monday 23 February 2026 To
Thursday 02 April 2026
Bank Holidays: - Friday 03 April & Monday 06 April 2026

Inset Day Monday 20th April 2026

Term 5

Tuesday 21 April 2026 To
Friday 22 May 2026
Bank Holidays: - Monday 4 & Monday 25 May 2026

Term 6

Monday 1 June 2026 To
Wednesday 22 July 2026

Term dates for 2026/2027:

<https://www.pilgrim.lincs.sch.uk/site/data/files/documents/term-dates-and-upcoming-events/6200C8C1F6DD5FC485320907C7603C0A.pdf>

Want to know what we have coming up in all our bases then head to our website. Below is a screenshot of one of our base's visual calendars. Our website displays calendars for all three of our sites, so if you want to know what's coming up across all locations, simply visit Pupils and families and navigate to Term Dates & Upcoming Events to view them anytime, alternatively click the link below

[The Pilgrim School - Term Dates & Upcoming Events](#)

Upcoming Events

Below is information about upcoming events taking place across each of our three bases. Please scroll down to find information for the relevant base.

For further information about these events, please contact us at enquiries@pilgrim.lincs.sch.uk

Amber Hill

Baumber

March 2026

Tutor Time Key:
 - Pink - Hope
 - Green - Maths is fun
 - Peach - Values for Success

Red - DEAR
 - Purple - Words of the week
 - (If in Blue then this is a special one)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 National Careers Week NCW	3 National Careers Week NCW	4 National Careers Week SDW - Local walk Y11 Revision NCW	5 National Careers Week SDW NCW	6 National Careers Week NCW
9 International Women's Day	10 Science/STEM Week Raspberry Pi Workshop at Lincoln	11 Science/STEM Week SDW - Cooking Around the World Y11 Revision	12 Science/STEM Week BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK	13 Pi Day
16 Young Carers Action Day	17 St Patrick's Day Evolution into Violence Workshop 8:15 - 10:15 am	18 SDW - Cooking Around the World Y11 Revision	19 Charles Darwin Day (Week)	20
23	24	25 SDW - Dillies Plantation Y11 Revision	26 Working Week	27
30	31			

AMBER HILL NEWS...

It has been another busy term here at Amber Hill with World Book Day, Well Being Walks, Careers talks and of course lots of learning too.

We have several interesting lunchtime clubs at Amber Hill including Newspaper Club, Anime Club and even Wrestling Club! This term in preparation for Scotts last day, Wrestling Club has been making a Pilgrim Heavyweight Title Belt (Match 01/04/26). Will Kinners be able to keep the belt at school, or will Scott be leaving and taking the title with him?

(Disclaimer, the title match shall take place on WWE2k24 on Xbox - no pupils or staff will be hurt! Do not try this at home!)

During the Wednesday afternoon careers sessions, Year 11 students have recently been developing key employability skills as part of their preparation for the future.

They have explored the process of job interviews, learned how to present themselves effectively, and gained an understanding of what employers look for. As part of this work, each student has successfully created their own CV, building confidence in showcasing their strengths, skills, and experiences.

These activities have supported students in working towards and achieving an AQA certificate, recognising their progress and commitment to developing essential life skills.

The WOW group this term have done lots of different fun activities, though the most exciting thing this term came from a trip to the local farm two weeks ago; Chloe and the pupils were able to go around and collect a selection of fertilized chicken eggs. The farmer then kindly allowed us to bring the eggs back to school to incubate! The chicks are due to start hatching just in time for Easter. Keep your fingers crossed that they all hatch and we will have some cute, fluffy baby chicks to raise when we come back from the Easter Holidays! The incubator will be going home with Sarah over the holidays, so make sure to keep an eye on the Pilgrim Facebook page for any hatching updates! We wish you a fabulous Easter holiday, get your thinking caps on and see if you can come up with some eggcellent and eggciting names for our new Pilgrim babies!



NEWS...

It has been an exciting and eventful term at Baumber, with a wide range of activities designed to support pupil engagement and personal development.

In WOW this term it has been based around the themes of Creativity and The Universe. We started off with Tie Dye T shirts and socks - we had some very random patterns once we untied them and they all looked amazing, however, I am yet to see any staff or students wearing them 😊. We also have been sculpting and moulding clay - we have made coasters, mini ornaments and lots of animals. We then had a couple of weeks of upcycling, we prepped using sanders, sand paper and then chose what colours and style we would create - we had a couple of amazing results and another to be completed. We visited the Big Chair company and the Arcade Warehouse where the students had an amazing time and Natalie and Chrissy was worn out from hogging the Dance mat. And the students really enjoyed the darts and pool. Moving onto The Universe we have been cooking foods from around the world. We have cooked Indian curries and Samosas, Chinese noodles and spring rolls and then to end the cooking we made Italian Carbonara and Pizzas. The weeks in between the cooking we have been on some wonderful local walks which has included feeding the ducks.

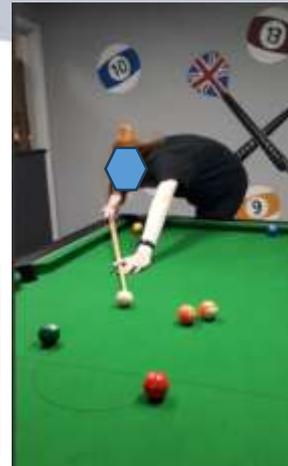
Our LGBTQ+ club is growing, and it's amazing to see so many new faces joining us! So many of you are here to show your support and learn more about the community—and we absolutely love that. We're all about creating a relaxed, inclusive, and judgement-free space where everyone feels safe to be themselves. Got questions about LGBTQ+ topics? Ask away! Our conversations are open, dynamic, and shaped by whatever people want to explore. Got ideas? Curious about something? Want to get involved? We'd love to hear from you—don't hesitate to reach out!

This term in Activity Hour has been full of creativity, teamwork, and plenty of delicious results. We've developed our cooking skills by making a wide range of treats, including chocolate cakes, blueberry muffins, and double chocolate chip cookies. We also challenged ourselves with more advanced recipes such as chicken and bacon quiches, as well as chicken & spinach pie and beef & onion pie, all of which turned out brilliantly.

It hasn't all been about cooking, though. We've also enjoyed getting outdoors on several walks, giving us the chance to relax, recharge, and make the most of the welcomed sunny days in March. Overall, it's been a fantastic term filled with new skills, great teamwork, and lovely food.

We are currently an option for Blue Token voting at the Tesco Store in Horncastle. If you happened to shop at the store please pop some tokens in the box so we can generate some funding for sports equipment for the school. Ends at the end of April 2026.

Thank you!



LINCOLN NEWS...

It has been a great term in Lincoln, we have been creative, working on confidence and independence and personal development. This term the students have enjoyed playing Card games club with Steve on a Monday lunchtime which has been a big hit in Lincoln! Students have really enjoyed taking part and learning new games. We also have newspaper club on a Thursday lunchtime with Sarah and Maisy where students can write their own articles for our school newspaper about any topic that they like.

In WOW students have recently been highly engaged in a range of wow activities that have supported both their personal development and enjoyment. They have taken part in creative Easter crafts, allowing them to express themselves while celebrating the season. Visits to charity shops have provided valuable real-world experiences, helping students build confidence and develop important budgeting skills. Outdoor walks around Hartsholme Park have encouraged an appreciation of nature and offered opportunities for exploration and discussion. Alongside these activities, students have enjoyed playing games, which has not only been fun but has also supported teamwork and communication. These shared experiences have played a key role in building strong friendships and creating a supportive group environment.

We visited the Ermine Library with a group of students to hand out the gift bags we had made during other wow sessions, which included handmade cards, origami, clay bunny decorations and stickers. The visit was filled with creativity and collaboration as the students spent time making Easter bunny collage decorations, sharing books and working together to complete jigsaw puzzles.

Gibb has been enjoying his Thursday mornings free roaming around the classroom. He loves exploring and getting to stretch his legs!

We wish everyone a restful break and look forward to seeing you all after Easter!



HOME TAUGHT...

As we hop into the Easter season, it feels like the perfect moment to pause and celebrate all the incredible effort, resilience, and determination shown by our amazing home-educated students.

Across the board, you have all been working so hard alongside your tutors, showing real commitment to your learning. A special mention must go to our Year 11 students, who are putting in a tremendous amount of effort as they prepare for their forthcoming GCSEs, Functional Skills, and Entry Level papers. Your focus and perseverance at this stage are truly impressive.

We also want to recognise the vital support network around you — parents and carers, tutors, and mainstream schools — all working together to help you succeed. Alongside this, it's been wonderful to see so many of you drawing on your own *ikigai* (your sense of purpose) and *sisu* (your inner strength and determination) to keep going, even when things feel tough.

We have some especially exciting news to share! One of our home-educated students has recently returned to their mainstream school and is already working their socks off in preparation for mock exams. Even more impressively, they have been nominated by their school for a Rotary award — what an achievement! This is a fantastic example of *wabi-sabi* in action: embracing growth, effort, and progress. We are incredibly proud — well done!

Despite the challenges that can come with learning, each and every one of you continues to achieve so much. You are a joy to teach, and your hard work never goes unnoticed.

As the term comes to a close, we hope you all take the time to rest, recharge, and enjoy a well-deserved break. Have a peaceful Easter — and don't forget to eat plenty of chocolate!

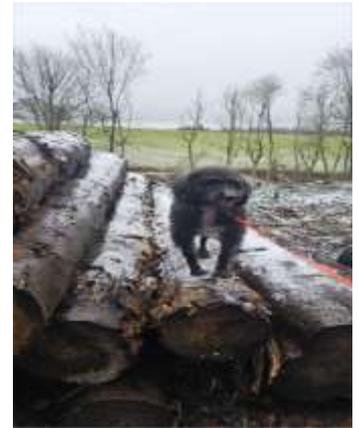


OTTO'S NEWS...

School dogs have featured in local news over recent months, and their positive presence is now much more widely known than three years ago.

This term we have hosted visits/calls from two schools who are looking to acquire their own dog and want to hear about our experience. Chatting to staff and pupils, the view remains overwhelmingly supportive in terms of wellbeing, activity and bringing a bit of fun to the day. With Spring approaching we are looking forward to getting out and about in the local community a bit more frequently again.

A frosty wellbeing tutor time walk



Waiting for pupils to arrive for the day at Baumber



Modelling his new bobble hat

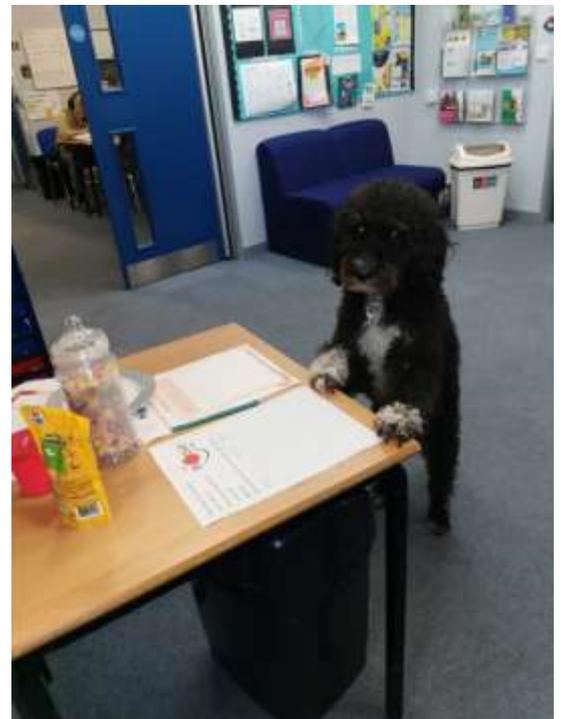


Waiting for his turn at football



Half term beach trip

Counting the sweets for Red Nose day



WORKSHOP SUMMARY...

This term, our students have had the opportunity to take part in a range of insightful and successful workshops. These have included:

- Positive Health
- HSBC Smart Money
- Road Safety
- Tutor time vet careers talk
- Healthy relationships
- Safer internet
- Gang recruitment

These workshops have been incredibly valuable in supporting our students' personal, social, and technological development, and we look forward to continuing such engaging opportunities in the following terms.

TOGETHER AT HOME...



On our school website, you'll find a special area called **"Together at Home"** (located under *Pupils & Families*). This section has been created to support the bespoke and individualised needs of our pupils. We know that, due to the unique nature of our school community, some pupils may not always have the chance to take part in the full range of discussions and activities that happen in school.

To help bridge this gap, we have put together a selection of **weekly activities, discussion prompts, and resources** that you can explore **together at home**.

Here's what you can find each week:

- **Careers & Post-16 – Job of the Week:** A short spotlight on a different job each week to help spark ideas, ambition, and conversation about future pathways.
- **PSHE Discussion Topic & Resources:** Thought-provoking themes and supportive materials to encourage meaningful discussions at home.
- **Kahoot of the Week:** A fun, interactive quiz for pupils and families to enjoy together.
- **Additional Discussion Activities:** Extra talking points and simple activities to help build confidence, communication skills, and shared learning.

We encourage you to browse the sub-pages in this section and get involved with anything that inspires your child. Whether you explore one activity or try them all, every moment spent learning together at home makes a real difference

[The Pilgrim School - Together at Home](#)

THE PASTORAL TEAM...

The Pastoral Team at the Pilgrim School plays a vital role in supporting the emotional wellbeing, resilience, and personal development of young people facing complex medical, emotional, social, and educational challenges. Working at the intersection of healthcare, social care, and education, the team provides a safe, nurturing environment where students feel understood, valued, and supported throughout their journey. They build strong, trusting relationships with pupils, families, professionals, and teaching colleagues, ensuring that each child's holistic needs are met. Through tailored interventions, one-to-one support, and close collaboration with multidisciplinary teams, the pastoral staff help students maintain a sense of normality, manage anxiety, and stay engaged with learning during difficult times. Their work is grounded in compassion, consistency, and a deep commitment to helping every young person thrive despite adversity. The base pastoral team comprises of the following staff: Chloe, Jaimee-Leigh, John and Lynda at Amber Hill. Lynne and Chrissy at Baumber. Chloe, Kat, and Sophia at Lincoln.



Amber Hill

Baumber

Lincoln

The home pastoral team comprises of the following staff:

HOME PASTORAL TEAM



Ros Hodge



Serina Smith



Jan Hudson



Leisa Wheaton

WORLD BOOK DAY...

WORLD BOOK DAY:

On Thursday 5th of March, across the bases, Pilgrim staff and pupils celebrated World Book Day in style! In Lincoln several members of staff dressed up as characters from Matilda with the Head of English marching around as Miss Trunchbull all day. After lunch we took part in the epic World Book Day Kahoot which got very competitive! All pupils enjoyed eating their prizes of creme and caramel eggs.

Amber Hill Base celebrated World Book Day with a fun and relaxed quiz, where pupils showed off their impressive knowledge of books and stories. There was a great atmosphere throughout, with plenty of laughs along the way. The base also got into the spirit with some brilliant costumes, including a surprise visit from the Gallagher brothers and even Lara Croft, which added an extra bit of humour to the day.

World Book Day, on the 5th March, was celebrated in full at the Baumber base. Staff chose their inspiration from a variety of books, including those by Julia Donaldson, and came dressed in some wonderful and creative costumes that depicted an array of well-known characters. The prize for ingenuity must go to Baumber PSWS, Lynne Armstrong, for her depiction of the character 'Superworm' – it truly was a (somewhat disturbing) sight to behold!! Students took part in the day's activities, either by dressing up or by participating in the 'brief' quiz we held in the afternoon. The quiz took slightly (a lot) longer than anticipated but was thoroughly enjoyable and showed the wealth and depth of knowledge pupils have about literature – and their enthusiasm! The base English teacher on the day also dressed up, paying homage to Susan Hill's 'The Woman in Black'. Those in the know will appreciate that this wasn't a difficult costume to create!



EXAM SEASON REMINDERS...

GCSE Exams

The arrival of GCSE exams is just a few weeks away and individual exam timetables have been sent out to pupils recently so everyone should be aware of when and where their exams are taking place. Some key things to note regarding GCSEs:

- Written exams run from Thursday 7th May - Tuesday 16th June 2026 (apart from some Art and MFL speaking exams and those dates will be listed on the timetables for relevant pupils)
- Pupils who attend a base should continue to attend for their normal timetable on days when they do not have exams.
- On exam days pupils only attend for the morning or afternoon session that their exam is in, unless other arrangements have been made. So for a morning exam, pupils will go home at lunchtime.
- For pupils who travel by LCC taxis, times will be amended by Pilgrim for exams days to reflect this.
- Pupils should remain available until Wednesday 24th June which is the exam boards contingency date in case any exam has to be rearranged due to national emergencies or incidents (ie extreme hot weather). Please bear that in mind when arranging post-exams holidays etc
- The last official day for Year 11s is Friday 26th June. Attendance between your final exam and 26th June is not expected unless you have course work etc to finish off or wish to attend for events ie Celebration day on Friday 19th June.
- GCSE results day is Thursday 20th August. Results will be emailed to pupils Pilgrim email addresses at 8am on results day. Please check that your child can access their email account. Each base will also be open in the morning for collection of results in person.

There are a lot of rules and regulations around exams. This short 5-minute video gives a useful run down of the things that pupils will need to know - please share it with your child if they are a Year 11 sitting exams. <https://youtu.be/SFhmWQazIAk> There will also be exam briefings in each base after the Easter holidays to help prepare our Year 11s.

Please also share the exams page from our website with your child which has several JCQ candidate information documents that they should read The Pilgrim School Exams. Everyone's Pilgrim journey is unique, and exams are no different. Your results do not define you. All our staff are here to support pupils through their exams and onto the next phase in their lives.

If you have any questions about exams, please feel free to email our exams officer liz.hallissey@pilgrim.lincs.sch.uk or call the Amber Hill base on 01205 743107. If you have questions relating to access arrangements, please contact our SENDCo elena.wilson@pilgrim.lincs.sch.uk

On your exam day

This checklist will help you to be as prepared as possible for your exams so that you can focus on doing your best on the day.

Before sitting your exams, ensure you know:

- the date, time and location of each of your exams. You might find it helpful to write this information in a calendar or planner.
- who to contact at school or college in case there's an emergency that makes you late or unable to sit your exam.

What you cannot take into your exams:

- any type of phone
 - revision notes
 - any type of watch (this includes analogue, digital and smart watches)
 - smart devices (e.g. Airbuds, smart glasses or tablets)
- 

What you will need:

- a clear pencil case
 - at least two black ink pens – blue pens are **not acceptable**
 - an approved calculator for relevant exams
 - appropriate apparatus, such as a ruler or protractor, for relevant exams
 - a clear water bottle if you wish to take one in. It **must not** have a label
- 

Other important information:

- Listen carefully to the invigilator's instructions, which will be specific to your exam. If you are unsure of anything, please raise your hand and wait for the invigilator to respond.
- Fill in your details on the front of your answer booklet.
- If you need an additional answer sheet, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator to provide one. Remember to add your details to this sheet.
- If you need to use the toilet or feel unwell, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator to escort you from the exam room.
- Remember to stay silent – talking to a fellow candidate could result in disqualification from all your exams.

Contingency sessions:

- There are contingency sessions within the Summer 2026 exam timetable on the morning and afternoon of 24 June 2026. Make sure you are available on 24 June 2026.

If you have any questions about your exams, please ask your teacher or exams officer.



You can also find useful information about preparing for exams at www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents

KINEMA TRIP ...

Our school trip to the Kinema in the woods was really fun and successful. We went to watch *Zootropolis 2*, and everyone was really excited. The Kinema was cool because it felt different from normal ones, and it made the trip more special. The film was really good and funny. Overall, it was a great trip and everyone enjoyed it a lot.

Disney
ZOOTROPOLIS 2



Science Week at school was basically a mix of “future genius” and “what am I doing with my life.” It started strong with dissecting hearts and eyes, which sounded cool until you’re holding something squishy and trying not to gag while your friend names it “Bob.” By the end, everyone suddenly lost their appetite for lunch.

Then we became engineers, building filtration systems that were supposed to clean dirty water but mostly just made it look slightly less disgusting. After that came the egg drop challenge, where we confidently designed “unbreakable” protection... only to watch our eggs explode on impact like tiny breakfast tragedies.

Pipette skills were next, which turned out to be harder than they look. Half the class either sucked up nothing or accidentally launched liquid across the table.

Chromatography was actually pretty cool—turns out markers have secret rainbow identities.

We also planted seeds, which felt peaceful until someone asked who would keep them alive (not us). And during DEAR, we read science articles while pretending not to be tired.

Overall, Science Week was chaotic, slightly gross, occasionally successful, and somehow... actually fun!

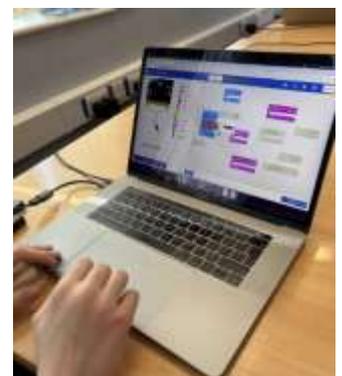


RASPBERRY PI...

Students had a fantastic experience during our recent visit from Raspberry Pi educators, Rujeko and John. They were enthusiastic, focused, and fully engaged throughout the entire session.

During the workshop, students used a coding platform to programme micro:bits, learning how to control outputs such as the LED display (including creating smiley faces, as shown in the image). They followed John's step-by-step guidance to build their initial programmes before being given the opportunity to explore independently.

It was wonderful to see their creativity in action as they designed their own light patterns, experimented with sound, and even developed simple games. Rujeko and John also provided helpful instruction sheets, enabling students to continue their learning beyond the session. We are delighted to have received 15 micro:bits for use across our bases, and students are already looking forward to further developing their coding skills through hands-on experimentation.



EASTER WRITING CHALLENGE...

Use one of the images as a prompt to write either:

- A description of an Easter scene **or**
- A short story about a special gathering of friends or family

There will be an easter egg prize for the winner in each base.



SOCIAL MEDIA...

Please take a moment to look at the poster below—it shows all of our social media handles. Follow us to stay up to date with news, celebrations, reminders, and a closer look at what's happening across the school.

If you haven't already, we strongly encourage all parents and carers to sign up for **Reach More Parents**, as this is our primary communication platform. Important messages, updates, and information about your child's absence should be sent to us through this system. Being signed up ensures you never miss anything important.

We will also soon be sending out consent forms for our WhatsApp groups, which help us share quick updates and information for specific groups. Please keep an eye out for these forms and return them as soon as possible.

Thank you for staying connected and helping us keep communication smooth and effective for everyone!



CAREERS...

Careers Education, Advice, Information and Guidance 2026

The school has recently received a visit from the Lincolnshire Careers Hub who were able to confirm that we have successfully reached 100% compliance with the Gatsby Benchmarks and were one of the first schools to do so across Greater Lincolnshire. The Gatsby benchmarks are used to judge how a school is performing across its careers provision. This is a major achievement for staff, pupils, parents/carers and local business partners and one we are very proud of. Nearly all Year 11 pupils have now received at least one careers meeting with me and have applied for a post-16 course to begin in September. This is an amazing achievement and thank you all for your support in enabling this to happen. I have now started working with several of the Year 10 pupils so that they can start thinking about their next steps both post-16 education and future careers. There is absolutely no pressure to make any decisions at this point, however, to be aware of their future options at this point.

If you feel that you would like more information about careers or post-16 education, then I am more than willing to have a chat with you either online or face to face. Please also let your child's pastoral support know if your child is currently in Year 10 and would like to have a meeting with me.

Neil Blackwell



WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES...

Unlock Your Future: The Power of Work Experience for Young Teens

Hey there, future professionals! If you're 15 or 16, you're at a perfect age to start exploring the world of work, and here's why it's a fantastic idea!

- 1. Real-World Skills:** Work experience gives you a chance to learn skills that you won't always find in a classroom. Whether it's communication, teamwork, or problem-solving, these skills will set you up for success in any future career.
- 2. Discover Your Passion:** Not sure what you want to do yet? Work experience lets you try out different roles and industries, helping you discover what you love and what you don't.
- 3. Boost Your CV:** Even at a young age, having work experience on your CV can make you stand out. It shows future employers that you're proactive and ready to take on responsibilities.
- 4. Build Your Network:** You'll meet professionals who can offer advice, mentorship, and potentially even job opportunities down the line.
- 5. Increase Confidence:** Stepping into a work environment can boost your confidence and give you a sense of independence and responsibility.

Get Started! There are plenty of opportunities out there, from local businesses to charities, and even virtual internships. So why wait? Dive into work experience and unlock a world of possibilities!

This academic year has already seen Pilgrim School pupils undertake placements at a local garden centre, ice skating coaching, childcare and several virtual placements.

There are also some exciting opportunities coming up for pupils who do not feel they can undertake a full placement, with planned group visits to employers to learn more about the world of work.

If you would like to know more about work experience or ask any questions about careers in general then please get in touch. My e-mail address is neil.blackwell@pilgrim.lincs.sch.uk.

PARENT CONNECT...

Parent Connect is a hopeful forum for caregivers to explore opportunities and training.

The Parent Connect Group offers a range of sessions for caregivers, including opportunities for information sharing, training, and the chance to speak with other parents. A variety of workshops are available, covering different topics throughout the year. Here are the sessions we will be offering over the next couple of terms. We do hope you will be able to join us.

Term	Date	Topic	Lead	Time	Platform
Term 5	30/04	Careers/Post 16	Neil	10am - 11am	TEAMS
	12/05	Sex ed and relationships	Chelsey	10am - 10:45am	TEAMS
Term 6	16/06	Introduction to Therapeutic Service/Invitation to guide Parental Support	Vicki	10am - 10:30am	TEAMS

If you are interested in participating please email Parentconnect@pilgrim.lincs.sch.uk and you will be sent a teams invite to join

Parent Survey Reminder

A quick reminder to all parents and carers to please complete our Parent Survey if you haven't already done so. Thank you very much to everyone who has shared their feedback so far — we really appreciate you taking the time to respond. The survey is all about your experience at Pilgrim School and helps us understand what is working well and how we can continue to improve for our pupils and families. Please use the appropriate link below:

- **Parents of Base Pupils:** [\(Base\) Parent Voice March 2026 – Fill out form](#)
- **Parents of Home-Taught Pupils:** [\(Home\) Parent Voice March 2026 – Fill out form](#)

Your feedback really does make a difference and helps shape the future of our school community. Thank you for your continued support!

PAST PUPIL NEWS...



Voice of a past pupil: Amelie Whitmore-Rowe

My name is Amelie and without Pilgrim I wouldn't be where I am today. I am now nineteen, a self-published author and hoping to study my writing onwards at university.

I first started at Pilgrim in year 7 and stayed until year 11 and did my GCSEs. Before joining, although I liked writing and reading, I was not very confident. Pilgrim helped me find myself and help me get out of my own bubble. I went from being very timid to very bubbly. I often got complimented on my English work as well, especially my creative writing.

In 2023 just after my last year of secondary school I started writing my debut novel called 'The Afterlife Of Maria Trapp'. I went to Awards Evening in the November, where I was given the Governor's Award, and told everybody that I had started writing the first draft.

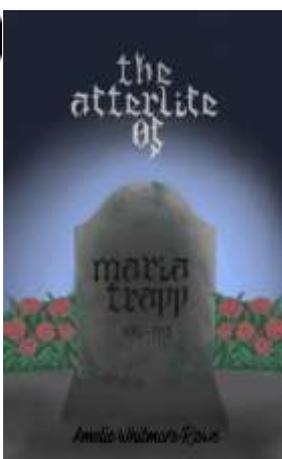
My science teacher Ben was the one who told me about self-publishing through Amazon and I went on to do just that, two years later. Without my experience at Pilgrim and the staff members by my side, I wouldn't have been as confident as I was, to be able to write, edit and self-publish my book.

Since my book release early this year, I have been back to Pilgrim and signed copies and talked about my book more and my upcoming projects.

I have also sold copies from around the world as well as the UK, such as Canada, America and Australia. My goal as an author has always been to create a safe space for everybody and especially the LGBTQIA+ community. I grew up with little to no knowledge or media to help my discovery of my own sexuality and that was my main focus on writing this book. When creating this book, I also gave other young indie authors the chance to beta-read and edit my book. One of my friends, Lucas Cooper, also had the opportunity to create the cover as an aspiring artist.

"The Afterlife Of Maria Trapp" is about a young girl called Maria Trapp going missing, but is she really missing? Cadence Weatherford has the ability to see those who have passed on, by doing that, she is able to team up with Maria's best friend, Faith King and together they are able to solve Maria's murder. Alongside the mystery and investigating, Cadence and Faith grow closer and blossom into a little more than friends.

"The Afterlife Of Maria Trapp" by Amelie Whitmore-Rowe is available to buy as a paperback, e-book and kindle unlimited worldwide on Amazon. Scan the QR code for the Amazon link here:



https://www.amazon.co.uk/Afterlife-Maria-Trapp-Amelie-Whitmore-Rowe-ebook/dp/B0GDTZ1454/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2VWVZYLAJUP8J&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.jdz-uauDN6O0rbCFz34h_MY_9fZ6nul2jzUgnQJEAZHmPPyuxKx7VKFUxcYnHwoquj8ljltc3M_PhFINpP6A.Ek5glBEB1edUS1gPHRRNt8wt5fjiWYDWmCaOQh324f4&dib_tag=se&keywords=the+afterlife+of+maria+trapp&qid=1774359311&prefix=the+afterlife+of+maria+%2Caps%2C298&sr=8-1

STAFFING UPDATE...

Leavers:

Scott Archibald - Maths Teacher - Leaving 19/4/26
Dave Anderson - Facilities Manager - Left 22/2/26
Charlene Lesman - Home PSWS - Left 27/1/26



New Starters:

Ceri Gardner - Maths Teacher - Due to start 20/4/26
Chris Moore - Site Manager - Due to start 27/4/26



Other:

Chloe Nelson - Admin Coordinator - Starts Maternity Leave in June 26
Jaimee-Leigh Burn - PSWS - Due to return from Maternity Leave in July 26

SEND UPDATE ...

National Changes:

You may have seen things in the news and on social media recently about proposed changes to the SEND system, including the new SEND White Paper and the current SEND Reform consultation.

We understand that this can feel worrying or uncertain for families, so we wanted to share some key information to provide reassurance.

At this stage, these are proposals, not immediate changes. The government is currently gathering views through a consultation process, and any agreed changes will take time to be introduced.

What are the key ideas being discussed?

- A greater focus on early support in schools, so children can access help more quickly
- The introduction of Individual Support Plans for many pupils, to clearly outline the support they receive
- Ensuring support is more consistent across different areas
- Continuing to provide Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) for children with the most complex needs

What does this mean for you and your child?

- There are no immediate changes to the support your child receives
- Any future changes will be introduced gradually and with guidance for schools and families
- Your child's needs will continue to be supported in the same personalised way

We recognise that every child's situation is unique, and we remain committed to working closely with families to ensure the right support is in place.

If you have any questions or would like to talk through how your child is supported, please do not hesitate to get in touch.