



NEWSLETTER

JULY '26

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HEADTEACHER'S ADDRESS...

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter

As another academic year draws to a close, I am delighted to share with you some of the many achievements, experiences and moments of pride that have shaped life at Pilgrim School over the past year.

Pilgrim is a unique school community. Every day, our pupils arrive with individual stories, challenges and strengths. Our shared purpose remains clear: to ensure that every young person who comes through our doors experiences success, belonging and hope for the future.

This year has once again demonstrated what is possible when pupils, families, staff, and partners work together. We have celebrated remarkable achievements, creative successes, and personal milestones. Behind every achievement is a story of courage, determination and the support of a team who believe passionately in every pupil's potential.

We are particularly proud of the way our pupils continue to demonstrate resilience, curiosity, and kindness. Whether through classroom learning, enrichment activities, visits, celebrations or the many small moments that happen every day, our pupils show us that education is about far more than qualifications alone. It is about confidence, relationships, identity, and discovering what each person can contribute.

I also want to thank staff, parents, carers, governors, and all our partners for their continued support. Our success is built on strong relationships and a shared commitment to helping young people thrive.

As we look forward to the next academic year, we do so with optimism and ambition. We remain committed to being a place where pupils feel safe, valued and inspired — a school where hope is not just something we talk about, but something we actively create together.

I hope you enjoy reading about the wonderful things that have happened at Pilgrim School this year.

GOVERNORS' UPDATE...

How healthy is my digital menu?

There seems to be so much change going on in the world, in our own country, in our own County and in our local schools. It's impossible not to be caught up in all the reports and discussions that are going on around us. We cannot avoid it: living in a digital age where information – and misinformation – is on our phones, on our tablets, on our computers instantaneously.



As Pilgrim School Governors we take very seriously the need for sound digital guidance for all of us – and not just for our students. As new laws about mobile phones come into force for students, it has pushed me into thinking seriously about my own use – and overuse. The need to live by example is a huge priority, and yet it's hard to work out how to effectively limit screen time.

All our Governor documents are stored on our secure digital hub, so before each meeting there is much to access and read on screen and inevitably this links to other websites holding perceived crucial information. All our training is online. It's also possible to attend our live meetings online if it's difficult to get to the meeting venue itself. This is all part and parcel of being an effective governor. These things themselves are all very positive examples of sound digital usage. But I think the learning curve for me is - how long should I spend on my digital equipment and how do I set boundaries to my access? (e.g. not always mindlessly going straight to social media/Internet surfing/shopping/playing games etc on my tablet in my rest periods from the preparation for Governor meetings...) Currently one of the best aids for me has been the use of a timer – e.g. I focus on something on screen for a timed 25 minutes and then have a given length of time to walk away before coming back to it again.

It's early days in my thinking on this, but a big influence has been reading about the concept of Digital Nutrition and how to plan my digital intake in the same way as I would plan to eat a nutritionally healthy diet for my physical and mental health. How healthy is my digital menu?

As we expect our students to be able to use the digital world effectively and appropriately, it's imperative to lead by example on this; which is very easy to say but not the easiest to do in practice. But as Governors, we have our part to play too.

I would be very interested if anyone had any ideas and thoughts to share on this. And a quick request – if you can consider joining our Governor team, we would be delighted to welcome you!

Have a restful summer break!

Barbara Temple - Chair of Governors

SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION...

As we head into the summer break, we want to remind all parents, carers, and pupils that safeguarding remains everyone's responsibility. Although school is closed, support is still available, and it is important that children and young people feel safe, supported, and able to ask for help whenever they need it.

We encourage families to take care of one another over the holidays, stay connected, and seek support early if any concerns arise.

Keeping Safe and Well Over Summer

For Parents: The summer holiday can bring changes to routine and increased independence for young people. Regular check-ins, clear expectations about whereabouts, and open conversations can help keep children safe and supported.

For pupils: Summer is a time to relax, enjoy time with friends and family, and try new activities. It is also important to:

- Look out for yourself and your friends
- Let a trusted adult know if something is worrying you
- Stay in contact with people who make you feel safe
- Ask for help if you feel upset, unsafe, or unsure about anything

If something doesn't feel right, it is always okay to speak up.

Water Safety – Staying Safe Around Water

During periods of hot weather, more children and families are naturally drawn to rivers, lakes, canals, reservoirs, and the sea. However, recent incidents across the country have sadly highlighted the serious risks associated with open water, even for strong swimmers.

Please take time to remind children and young people that:

- Open water can be **extremely cold**, even in warm weather, which can cause cold water shock
- Depths, currents, and hidden hazards are often **unpredictable and not visible**
- Swimming in non-designated areas can be **dangerous and unsafe**
- It is always safest to swim in **lifeguarded and designated swimming areas**

The **Royal Life Saving Society UK** recommends the message: *“Stop and Think – Spot the Dangers – Stay Together – Call for Help.”*

A few key safety reminders:

- Never enter water alone
- Stay within your depth and ability
- Avoid jumping from height into unknown water
- Always supervise younger children closely near water
- Know how to call 999 and ask for the Coastguard or emergency services if someone is in danger

Even confident swimmers can get into difficulty very quickly in open water.

Where to Get Help and Support

Support is available throughout the summer holidays.

If you are worried about a child or young person

- **NSPCC** – Advice and support for adults with concerns about a child
- **Children's Services** – 01522 782111 - Safeguarding support and advice in Lincolnshire
- For **immediate risks to safety** please call 999

Emotional wellbeing and mental health support for children and young people

- **Childline** – Free, confidential support for young people - **0800 1111**
- **Shout** – 24/7 text support (**text SHOUT to 85258**)
- **Samaritans** – Free, confidential listening service available 24/7 (**call 116 123**)

A Final Reminder

Safeguarding does not stop when school closes. If you have any concerns about a child or young person, please do not hesitate to reach out for support.

We wish all pupils, parents, and carers a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer break.



Here 4 You - For mental health Advice, Support and to Self-Refer to Healthy Minds / MHST / CAMHS / Crisis:



<https://www.lpft.nhs.uk/young-people/lincolnshire/young-people/self-referral>

Children's Services

If you have a query or wish to report a safeguarding concern, contact 01522 782111 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm). For out-of-hours emergencies, call 01522 782333.

Police

Non-Emergency 101

Emergency 999

Mind's Services

- [Mind's helplines](#) provide information and support by phone and email. Our Infoline (0300 123 3393) is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm. Our Support Line (0300 102 1234) is also open Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm. Neither of these are Crisis helplines.
- [Local Minds](#) offer face-to-face services across England and Wales. These services include talking therapies, peer support and advocacy.
- [Side by Side](#) is Mind's supportive online community for anyone experiencing a mental health problem. You can access the community any time, including on Christmas Day and other bank holidays.

Beat

Offers information and advice on eating disorders and runs a supportive online community.

beateatingdisorders.org.uk

[0808 801 0677](tel:08088010677) (England)

Beat's helplines are open Monday - Friday, 3pm - 8pm.

MoneyHelper

Provides free and impartial money advice.

The MoneyHelper helpline is open Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm.

[0800 138 7777](tel:08001387777) (English)

National Domestic Abuse Helpline

0808 2000 247

nationaldahelpline.org.uk

Free 24-hour helpline for women who have experienced domestic abuse and violence, with all female advisors. Also offers a live chat and can help to find refuge accommodation. Run by the domestic violence charity [Refuge](#).

The National Domestic Abuse Helpline is open 24 hours a day, every day of the year. They also have a [BSL helpline](#) available Monday to Friday, 10am to 6pm.

Papyrus:

CALL HOME LINE UK 0800 068 41 41

BECOME

0800 023 2033

www.becomecharity.org.uk

Help, support and advice to children in care and young care leavers so that they can unleash their potential and take control of their lives

Runaway Helpline:

116000

www.runawayhelpline.org.uk

Runaway Helpline is here if you are thinking about running away, if you have already run away, or if you have been away and come back. You can also contact the Helpline if you are worried that someone else is going to run away or if they are being treated badly or abused. You can call or text for free, 24 hours a day. It's all confidential.

The Mix

08088084994

www.themix.org.uk

Essential support for under 25s. Phone, Email, Web support and Counselling.

www.themix.org.uk/get-support/speak-to-our-team/crisis-messenger - The Mix's Crisis Messenger text service is available 24/7 and open to anyone aged 25 or under living in the UK.

If you're in crisis and need to talk, text **THEMIX to 85258**

ONLINE SAFETY...



As technology continues to play an increasingly important role in young people's lives, online safety remains a key priority for our school community. We encourage all families to maintain regular conversations at home about responsible digital behaviour, privacy settings, screen time, and respectful communication online.

This year has seen significant national developments in online safety and mobile phone guidance for schools. The UK Government has announced strengthened protections for children online, including proposed restrictions on social media use for under-16s and tighter controls on harmful online features such as anonymous messaging, livestreaming, and contact from strangers.

MOBILE PHONE PROTOCOL

Hope-filled Opportunities Provided for Everyone

Let's work together to create the best environment for learning, wellbeing and success.

The Department for Education have released statutory legislation for Mobile phone free schools for all pupils. This also includes other smart technology with similar functionality e.g. the ability to send/receive messages or the ability to record audio/video. This means that it is a legal requirement. All pupils should place their mobile phones into the designated box on arrival at school and these will be handed back when leaving school. All other smart technology should be left at home. Phones will be stored securely in the school office.

If you are struggling to adapt to this change, a **safe, private space** will be provided to allow for a time limited period and a plan made to reduce this reliance gradually.

If your pupil passport says you find music helpful for regulation you are encouraged to bring in an **MP3 player and headphones** for use when working independently with permission from your teacher.

If you are seen with a mobile phone during the school day, you will be asked to hand this over and reminded of the mobile phone protocol.

All **Staff** will work closely with pupils to ensure this policy is fair, consistent and supportive for everyone. Staff will also be limiting their phone use in school but there may be occasions that they are needed to aid with your learning. These reasons will always be explained to you.

We will be asking **all parents / carers** to support you to adjust to these changes and to contact the school office if they need to get a **message** to you throughout the school day.

When we put our phones away, it opens our minds to great learning, positive relationships, and a hopeful future.

AGENCY
We believe every pupil has worth, voice and potential.

PATHWAYS
We ask every day to remove barriers and create opportunities.

GOAL
So that every pupil can belong, achieve and thrive with hope.

Alongside this, new statutory guidance for schools in England states that schools should operate as “mobile phone-free environments by default”. From September 2026, schools are expected to prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day, including break and lunchtime periods. At Pilgrim, we have been consulting with pupils in tutor time and parents on the open morning to share our mobile phone protocol for September. We would like to ask parents / carers to support their young person over the summer break to process and adapt to these changes to make this transition easier for them.



Research continues to highlight concerns around excessive screen time leading to phone addiction, online bullying, distraction from learning, and exposure to harmful content. Schools across the country are therefore reviewing policies to support student wellbeing, concentration, and positive social interaction.

Parents and carers can support online safety at home by:

- Checking privacy and parental control settings regularly
- Encouraging device-free times, especially before bedtime
- Discussing how to report harmful or upsetting content
- Reminding young people never to share personal information online
- Monitoring app usage and age restrictions
- Talking openly about healthy digital habits and respectful online behaviour

We also encourage families to think carefully before sharing photographs of children publicly online. Recent guidance from online safety organisations has highlighted growing concerns around the misuse of images through artificial intelligence tools.

By working together, we can help ensure that our students remain safe, responsible, and confident users of technology both inside and outside school.

HOPE CURRICULUM...

Hope and Meraki: The Heart of Pilgrim School

We believe that education is about more than lessons, assessments and qualifications. It is about helping young people discover who they are, recognise their strengths and develop the confidence to imagine a positive future. Two words capture much of what we try to create every day: hope and meraki.

Hope is not simply wishing that things will get better. Hope is about believing that a better future is possible and knowing that there are steps we can take to move towards it. For many of our pupils, coming to Pilgrim represents a new beginning. They may have experienced uncertainty, disruption or challenges with their health, but our role is to help them see that their story is still being written.

We build hope by celebrating progress, recognising effort and helping pupils experience success. Sometimes this might be achieving a qualification, returning to learning after a difficult period, making a new friendship, trying something for the first time or discovering a talent they did not know they had. Every small success matters because each one helps build confidence for the future.

Meraki is a word that describes doing something with creativity, care and a part of yourself. It means putting passion and purpose into what we do. This is something we see every day across our school community. Our pupils show meraki when they persevere with learning, support each other, share their creativity and take pride in their achievements. Our staff show meraki through the patience, expertise and compassion they bring to their work.

As parents and carers, you are an essential part of creating hope. The encouragement, love and belief you give your children help them to recognise their own possibilities.

Together, we want Pilgrim School to be a place where every young person knows they matter, believes they can achieve and feels ready to take the next steps in their journey.

Hope gives us a vision for the future. Meraki reminds us that how we get there matters too.

SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAYS 2026/2027

Inset Days Tuesday 1st & Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Term 1

Thursday 03rd September 2026

To

Friday 23rd October 2026

Inset Day Monday 2nd November 2026

Term 2

Tuesday 3rd November 2026

To

Friday 18th December 2026

Bank Holidays: -

Friday 25th & Monday 28th December

Friday 1st January 2027

Inset Day Monday 4th January 2027

Term 3

Tuesday 5 January 2027

To

Friday 12 February 2027

Term 4

Monday 22 February 2027

To

Thursday 25th March 2027

Bank Holidays: -

Friday 26th March & Monday 29th March 2027

Inset Day Monday 12th April 2027

Term 5

Tuesday 13th April 2027

To

Friday 28th May 2027

Bank Holidays: -

Monday 3rd May & Monday 31st May 2027

Term 6

Monday 7th June 2027

To

Wednesday 21st July 2027

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN OUR BASES THIS TERM

AMBER HILL NEWS....

As another busy and exciting school year comes to an end, we'd like to take a moment to look back on some of the **fantastic** things that have been happening at Amber Hill Base.

First of all, a massive well done to our amazing **Year 11 students**, who have now completed their GCSE examinations! We know how much hard work, determination and resilience has gone into preparing for the exams, and we couldn't be prouder of every single one of you. We wish you the very best of luck for Results Day and whatever exciting adventures come next.

A huge **thank you** also goes to our parents and carers for all the support you've given throughout the exam period. Your encouragement and reassurance at home have made such a difference, and we really appreciate everything you've done.

We'd also like to say a big thank you to the rest of our Amber Hill Base students. Exam season meant a few changes to rooms and routines, but everyone has been incredibly patient, flexible and supportive. Your understanding has helped everything run smoothly, and it has been lovely to see everyone cheering on our Year 11 students.

This term it's been great to see so many of you enjoying **DEAR (Drop Everything and Read)** time. We've spotted some brilliant books being read and heard lots of great conversations about favourite characters and stories as well as book recommendations. Don't forget to take part in our **Summer Reading and Writing Challenge** over the holidays—we can't wait to hear all about the books you've discovered and the stories you've created when we return in September.

Some of our students were lucky enough to attend the **tennis trip to Nottingham**, and it certainly seems to have inspired a few future stars! It's been fantastic to hear about students taking up tennis afterwards. Who knows... could we be watching one of our Amber Hill students playing at Wimbledon one day?

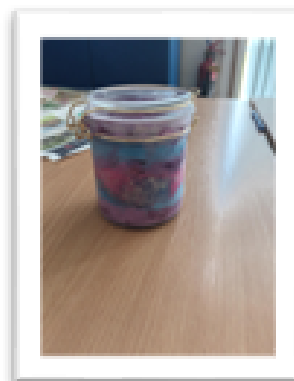


We've also been delighted to welcome several new students to Amber Hill Base this term. We are so pleased you're here and hope you've already started to feel part of the Amber Hill family. We look forward to getting to know you even better in the new school year.

Our **WOW** sessions have been packed with exciting experiences. Students enjoyed a visit to the farm, where they had the opportunity to bottle-feed adorable lambs and, of course, give them plenty of cuddles! They've also been out into the local community, visiting shops and Jenny's Woods to build confidence with money management, communication and speaking to new people—important life skills that everyone has embraced brilliantly.

Another memorable **WOW** activity where students created beautiful galaxy jars while exploring ideas about equality, individuality and what their own unique galaxy might look like. It was a wonderful opportunity for creativity, thoughtful discussion and reflection.

It's always lovely when former Amber Hill students come back to visit us, and we've been fortunate to welcome several this term. Hearing about everything they have achieved is incredibly inspiring. Some have proudly passed their driving tests and arrived behind the wheel of their own cars, while another former student came to share the exciting news that they have written and published their very own book! Seeing our former students doing so well reminds us that there are so many exciting opportunities ahead for all of our current students.



On Friday 10th July, we welcomed a small number of parents to our Open Morning. Visitors enjoyed tea and biscuits while having the opportunity to look around the school and see the facilities we offer. It was a lovely chance to meet with families, share information about the school, and showcase the positive learning environment enjoyed by our students. We would like to thank everyone who attended and helped make the morning a success.

The sports afternoon got off to a great start, with Boston Tennis club organising some tennis games on the playground and other staff and students playing table tennis and rounders too, but it was not long before threatening dark clouds arrived above us and the heavens opened! Rain did not, however, stop play; the activities merely moved inside. The resourceful students made their own plan B in the form of a makeshift table tennis table in the library area. They continued to play. Some students took the competition incredibly seriously and, by the end, tired and sweating, M was crowned champion!

We hope you all have a **safe, relaxing and fantastic summer holiday**. Enjoy every minute, make lots of happy memories, keep reading, keep writing, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, ready for another brilliant year together.

Everyone had a wonderful afternoon and we look forward to doing it again next year!

BAUMBER NEWS...

It has been another busy term in Baumber with GCSE exams taking place and lots of learning going on in lessons for KS3 and Y10 pupils. All Year 11's hard work was celebrated at Prom, held once again at the Admiral Rodney Hotel in Horncastle where pupils dressed to impress and celebrated together with good food, music, dancing and silly sessions in the photo booth. Thanks to Nat and the team for organising such a special event once again.

There have also been lots of fun activities happening around the base. We painted rocks to display on the playground; enjoyed an afternoon of films, pizza treats and a pool competition and even had a water fight on the field when the weather was 'hot hot hot' and there was just nothing else we could do! Last week we welcomed our parents and families into base for Open Morning where we were able to show off our books while eating lots of cake.

It's been a whirlwind year for the students in **WOW**, packed with exciting activities, new experiences, and plenty of opportunities for enrichment!

We kicked things off by creating a **giant Monopoly board** as a guide to the base—sadly, no one managed to pass Go and collect £200! We then turned up the adrenaline with a trip to **Cadwell Park**, where the race bikes flew past so fast we're still not entirely sure we saw them. A visit to the local charity LIVES taught us valuable CPR skills and gave us an insight into how emergency call-outs are covered by their incredible team.

There was no shortage of adventure as we dashed around **Skegness Laser Quest**, explored the great outdoors on woodland walks, made some furry friends at Bransby Horses and admired the deer at Stourton Estates. One of the most rewarding parts of the year has been watching our students grow in confidence while embracing new challenges and discovering different places.

Back at base, creativity was in full swing. We enjoyed crafty days, sports afternoons, clay and mosaic art, upcycling projects, and tie-dyeing T-shirts—some of which were so colourful they could probably be seen from space!

The kitchen became the most popular room in the building for a few weeks as we embarked on a culinary journey through China, Italy, and India. Delicious aromas filled the air, and the students showed great bravery by trying dishes they would never normally have considered. Some became firm favourites; others were politely filed under "once was enough!"

We even stepped back in time with a visit to **Tattershall Castle**, a wonderful local historic attraction. The views from the top were spectacular—although by the time we'd climbed all those stairs, we were all wondering if there was a medieval lift we'd somehow missed!

As the year comes to a close, we would like to thank our students for their impeccable behaviour whenever we have been out in the community. They have been fantastic ambassadors for WOW.

LINCOLN NEWS...

It has been a very busy couple of terms for us, and lots has been happening. It seems a long time ago now that we took a minibus of Lincoln pupils down to London to visit the Tower of London and a show. Their behaviour and attitude on this trip were exemplary, and we were proud as school to have this experience with them. Since then, the Yr 11 pupils have completed exams, celebrated their achievements on celebration day, and attended prom.

To the year 11's- We will all miss every one of you but wish you all the best for the future and hope that you stay in touch to let us know how you are getting on. Personally, I will miss teaching the Yr 11's Science period 4 on a Friday, playing games and having interesting conversations. Have a restful break over the summer and look forward to your post -16 placements, whatever that might be.

To our yr 9 and 10 pupils- Well done over the past few terms. There has been some excellent work completed and I know that staff have enjoyed getting to know you better as the terms have progressed. We look forward to seeing you in September but remember to enjoy the Summer holidays. Take the time to explore areas of interest, get out in the fresh air, and spend time with those people who are important to you.

In **WOW** this term we have asked students to be more involved with the planning of the sessions. It was identified that they wanted more practice at life skills, with handling money and cooking being the top focus. Therefore, we have been on a couple of trips to the charity shops around Lincoln and pupils have been encouraged and supported to pay for items by themselves. They have also supported each other when in the shops and showed real maturity and independence.

We have done various baking and cooking activities over the year with some delicious bakes being made! This past year the pupils have all participated well, some friendships have been made, and we look forward to what next year brings.



In Lincoln, our school sports afternoon gave pupils an opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities. Everyone was encouraged to join in, try something new, and support each other throughout the day. A new sport was invented which encouraged staff and pupils to try to knock a bottle off the top of the swing equipment by kicking a football at it. After approximately 168 tries we finally got there with N being the victor. Overall it was a memorable afternoon that showed how much fun can be had when everyone gets involved and enjoys being active together.

On the 10th of July we had the pleasure of hosting our pupils' parents and carers for an open morning. Lots of cakes and coffee were consumed and it was great to have conversations about the

learning of our pupils and proudly share their books to show the excellent progress that they are making with us. You never know what to expect at The Pilgrim School. My highlight was the mother of a pupil giving a rendition of 'Enter the Sandman' by Metallica to an acoustic guitar accompaniment. There were lots of positive conversations and it was great for staff to meet with parents and forge those relationships for the future.



HOME TAUGHT...

It has been another fantastic term for our pupils learning at home, who continue to work **incredibly hard** with the **dedicated support of their families, tutors and pastoral team**. Their commitment, resilience and enthusiasm have been wonderful to see, and we are proud of everything you achieve.

A special congratulations goes to our **Year 11 students**, who have now completed their GCSE examinations. We know how much hard work and determination has gone into preparing for these, and we would also like to thank families for their invaluable encouragement and support throughout the exam season. We wish all of our Year 11 leavers every success as they take their exciting next steps.



Learning at home extends far beyond the classroom, and this term has been packed with memorable experiences. Students have enjoyed visits to the bowling alley, the Lincolnshire Aviation Centre and fishing trips, while also taking part in hands-on activities such as **building bird houses**, creating bug hotels and designing campfire recipes alongside their tutors.

Academic learning has continued to flourish too, with super progress being made across English, Maths and Science, including practical science investigations. Reading remains a key focus, with students sharing book recommendations and exploring new authors. One student's love of reading even led to an ongoing correspondence with an author they contacted earlier in the year—a wonderful example of curiosity and confidence in action. As another successful term comes to a close, we would like to thank all of our students, families and staff for their continued hard work and support.

We hope everyone has a wonderful, well-deserved summer break, and we look forward to welcoming you back in September!



PAST PUPIL HOPE NEWS...



If you missed the Easter edition of our newsletter, featuring the Pilgrim journey (and beyond) of one of our past pupils, Amelie, it is not too late to purchase a copy of her new book.

Amelie left the Pilgrim school in 2023 and has since realised her dream and self-published her first novel, earlier this year.

“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. In 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.

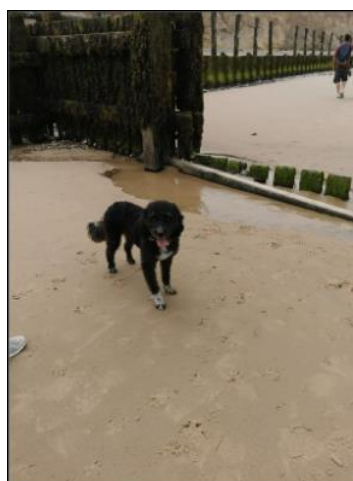
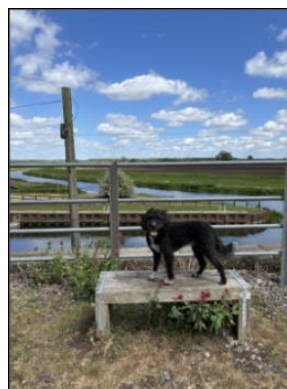
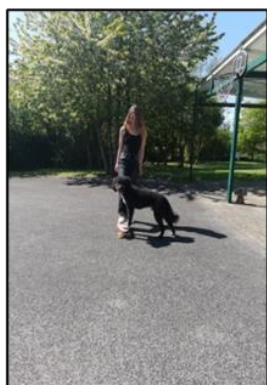


OTTO'S NEWS...



Extreme weather has limited some of Otto's usual adventures this term as his welfare is always the priority. However, he has enjoyed wellbeing walks when the weather is cool enough, lots of swimming and generally meeting and greeting all visitors to the school. Last week saw him join the silver DofE group on expedition in Norfolk which coincided with watching (and playing) his favourite hobby – football!

Thanks to all our community members who have spoilt him with treats, fuss and play over the past term. A few highlights...



Learning to Skateboard, enjoying lots of WOW walks and supporting our recent Duke of Edinburgh award walk in Norfolk.

TES AWARDS...



As shared on social media, we made the long trip to London in June to attend the prestigious TES awards. This was due to being shortlisted in the 'mental health initiative' category following our success at the Education Today awards in December.

The evening was a wonderful celebration of all sectors of education from across the UK and just to be shortlisted was an incredible

achievement. We were able to share our own school story with passionate colleagues from other settings and a range of education specialists. We did not win on the night but felt inspired and proud to be there representing our wonderful school.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD...

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme will be relaunching in September, providing young people support in developing confidence, resilience, independence, and essential life skills. As a team, we will be planning and delivering a wide range of activities, coordinating volunteering, physical and skills sections, and supporting participants through their expedition experiences.



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has proven to be a powerful tool for engagement within school, encouraging personal growth, improving attendance and participation, and helping young people build the confidence and skills needed for future education, employment, and independent living.

During September, as well as the Bronze expedition running next summer term, Jacky Denton and Lynne Armstrong will be running an introduction to DofE sessions across all three bases offering those students interested an opportunity to sign up to the programme. They are looking forward to watching our students working together as a team and watching their confidence grow.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION SUCCESS

Four determined students recently completed their Duke of Edinburgh expedition, taking on the stunning North Norfolk coastline with enthusiasm, resilience, and plenty of good humour.

Day One saw the group set off from **Cromer to Weybourne** under glorious sunshine and a gentle breeze. Along the route, they worked on their expedition project, creating a portfolio of coastal landscape photography that captured the beauty of the coastline. That evening, everyone gathered to watch the England v Argentina World Cup semi-final.

On **Day Two**, the team travelled from **Weybourne to Blakeney**, continuing to build their navigation and teamwork skills. Each morning and evening, the students cooked meals before relaxing together around the campsite, reflecting on the day's achievements.

The final day took them from **Blakeney to Wells-next-the-Sea**, enjoying a beautiful walk alongside the salt marshes. With cheerful spirits and a real sense of accomplishment, the group celebrated successfully completing their expedition.

Congratulations to all four participants for their outstanding teamwork, willingness to go the extra mile, and for bringing such a fantastic sense of humour throughout the journey. A heartfelt thank you also goes to all the staff who supported the expedition, both out on the trail and behind the scenes, helping to make it such a memorable and successful experience

READING CHALLENGE...



Pilgrim SCHOOL

SUMMER WRITING CHALLENGE!

WRITE IT. SHARE IT. INSPIRE OTHERS!
THIS SUMMER, LET YOUR WORDS TAKE YOU ANYWHERE!

CHOOSE YOUR CHALLENGE:

- WRITE A DIARY ENTRY**
about a place you visited on holiday!
- OR**
- WRITE A REVIEW**
of a book you read!
- OR**
- WRITE A REVIEW**
of a film you watched or a game you played!

AMAZON VOUCHER PRIZES!
FOR THE BEST ENTRIES!

EXPLORE.
IMAGINE.
CREATE.
WRITE.
INSPIRE.

HAND YOUR ENTRIES IN TO YOUR
ENGLISH TEACHER
WHEN WE RETURN IN
SEPTEMBER!



Pilgrim

The Five book SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2026

This summer's reading challenge is to read any book from the categories:

- Was made into film.
- Was chosen by a member of your household.
- Is set somewhere you have never been.
- Has won a prize

WIN AN AMAZON PRIZE VOUCHER!

amazon

Tell your English teacher about your summer reading in September to win a prize

BIOLOGY CHALLENGE 2026...

Biology Challenge Success!

This year marked our seventh year taking part in the Biology Challenge, a nationwide online competition organised by the Royal Society of Biology for Year 9 and 10 students.



We were delighted that 10 students from across all our bases, including our home provision, took part in this year's challenge. Every student who participated was awarded a Certificate of Participation from the Royal Society of Biology in recognition of their efforts.

We are especially proud to celebrate one of our Baumber students, who achieved a Commended Certificate, with only 15% of the 42,000 students who entered nationwide receiving this award.

As an added bonus, all participating students have been awarded one year's complimentary membership of the Institute of Biology.

Congratulations to everyone who took part. Your enthusiasm, commitment and achievement have made this another successful year for our Biology Challenge entrants!

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION...



We are inviting your young person to take part in a photography competition being run over the summer:

Climate Hope Lincoln and the Climate Commission are holding a photo competition for under 18s during July and August. The theme is **'Lincoln in a Changing Climate'** and we would like you to think about the effects of Climate Change on Lincoln (and the people of Lincoln).

Entries could simply document the weather (the current heatwave could be a good starting point!) and how things are changing and/or extreme effects. However, we are also interested in photos which show what people are doing

to adapt to the changes.

What are people doing to build resilience, to cope with the effects of the changing weather and temperature? Perhaps some people are suffering from the heat. Perhaps others love it.

You could document the current high temperatures or even unseasonably low temperatures. It could be about the impacts on the city, on the people, on the wildlife or perhaps even something which you have noticed which we haven't thought of yet.

Competition Entry Process:

- **Upload your photo on Instagram;**
- **Add your explanation about where and when you took the photo, and why – in your opinion – this tells an interesting story about the weather in Lincoln this summer, as well as your full name and age;**
- **Use the #s: #ClimateHopeLincoln; #LincolnWeather2026;**
- **Post your photo.**

Climate Hope Lincoln will agree to be a joint host of your photo, and you will be entered into the competition.

(If you do not have an Instagram account, then you can send your photo to Climate Hope Lincoln at contact@climatehopelincoln.org with the same accompanying information as above, and we will post it to our account directly).

The competition closing date is 31st August 2026.

In the week beginning 7th September, the judging panel will meet to decide on a shortlist.

The shortlist will be re-posted to the Climate Hope Lincoln Instagram account on Monday 14th September, and the winner will be decided by public vote (the number of 'likes' received by each of the shortlisted photos by Monday 21st September).

Don't forget to check out the Climate Hope Lincoln Instagram feed throughout the summer, and particularly during the week of Monday 14th September. And tell all your friends!

The winning entries will receive cash prizes! **First (£50), second (£30) and third (£20)** so get out and about and get snapping! Further information for the competition is available at <https://www.climatehopelincn.org/photo-comp/>

We look forward to seeing your thoughts!

The world is changing in many ways.

But how is this actually affecting us now, right here in Lincoln?

That's what we would like your help to document.

I hope that lots of our Pilgrim pupils will get involved. Feel free to send your photos to our social media so we can share and vote too!

DISCIPLINARY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS...

As a school we have been revisiting our schemes of learning and having a focus on what 'disciplinary knowledge and skills' mean within each of our curriculum areas.

But what do we mean by subject specific disciplinary knowledge and skills?

Disciplinary knowledge and skills refer to the understanding and abilities developed within a specific subject area, within our curriculum offer.

They include the key concepts, facts, and ways of thinking that are unique to each discipline, such as science, history, or mathematics. Learning these helps students build a deeper understanding of how knowledge is created and applied in different subjects. Alongside this, disciplinary skills focus on how to use this knowledge effectively, for example analysing evidence, solving problems, or conducting investigations.

Developing both knowledge and skills allows our pupils to think critically and work independently. Together, they are essential in supporting learners to become confident and capable individuals across a range of subjects that they study.

MEET THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM...



Steve Barnes I have worked in education for over 25 years, beginning as a history teacher before becoming a head of department, National Strategies consultant, senior leader and now Headteacher of a hospital school. I hold a Master's degree in Educational Leadership and am an accredited Local Leader of Education.

I believe that our past does not define our future. Every person has strengths, potential and the ability to overcome challenges. By building confidence, recognising strengths and nurturing hope, we can help children achieve more than they ever imagined.

Learning changes lives. Sometimes it happens in classrooms, sometimes through relationships, experiences and resilience. I am incredibly proud to lead Pilgrim School and regard it as one of the most rewarding roles of my life.



Bev Lee My name is Bev and I have recently been appointed as Deputy Headteacher after several years serving our community as Executive Assistant Headteacher. I have worked at Pilgrim since 2012 in a range of pastoral, teaching and leadership roles and have had the privilege of seeing our school go from strength to strength.

Now, as Deputy Headteacher, I work with the Head to oversee all areas of school life, working closely with the wider leadership team to ensure that pupils, families and staff receive the support they need.

I am passionate about personal development and raising aspiration and am committed to creating an environment in which every pupil is able to recognise their strengths and achieve their potential. I am incredibly proud to be part of a school community that puts hope, care and opportunity at the heart of everything we do.

I am more commonly known as Otto's Mum 😊



Mel Findon Hi, my name is Mel, and I am the Pastoral Manager and Designated Safeguarding Lead at The Pilgrim School, where I lead our pastoral provision to ensure every pupil feels safe, supported and able to achieve their full potential. My role involves overseeing safeguarding, behaviour and personal development, while working closely with our dedicated Pastoral Support & Wellbeing team to provide the right support for every child and young person. I believe that education and wellbeing go hand in hand, and I am passionate about creating an environment where pupils can thrive holistically. Above all, I believe that every child deserves hope, encouragement and the opportunity to realise that their future can be brighter than their past.

I have worked with children and young people from birth to 16 years since 2004 in a variety of roles, including Nursery Manager and Early Help Worker. I joined Pilgrim as a Pastoral Support and Welfare Specialist in 2018, spending four years supporting pupils and their families before becoming Assistant Pastoral Manager and Deputy Designated

Safeguarding Lead in September 2022. Since 2025, I have proudly served as the school's Pastoral Manager, Designated Safeguarding Lead and a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Alongside working full-time, I completed a BA (Hons) in Professional Studies: Childhood and Youth, reflecting my commitment to continual learning and improving outcomes for the children and families I support. I firmly believe that learning never stops and that growth is always possible, no matter where life begins.

For me, Pilgrim is more than just a school—it is a community built on kindness, resilience and hope. It is a privilege to work alongside our dedicated staff, pupils and families, helping every young person to feel valued, supported and empowered to flourish both now and in the future. My hope is that every pupil who walks through our door leaves knowing that someone believed in them, championed them and never gave up on them.



Helen Garret My name is Helen and I am the School Business Manager. My role involves looking after the school finances, recruitment and managing staff issues, health & safety, GDPR, and premises. Basically, anything non-teaching related normally comes my way. I travel around the bases each week to see all the staff and pupils. I joined the school in 2009 so have seen lots of changes through the years and really enjoy working for this special school.



Elena Wilson I am the Lead Practitioner of SEND and SENDCo. I oversee the SEND provision for all pupils, including support in the classroom, additional interventions, and liaise with external agency for SEND support, ensuring that the needs of all pupils are met. I also line manage the classroom support team, who provide the majority of interventions and spend most of their time supporting in the classroom. Alongside this, I teach Maths and Psychology.

I love working at The Pilgrim School and feel very privileged and proud to be part of such a wonderful team. Seeing our pupils grow in confidence and achieving their potential is one of the most rewarding parts of my role.



Steve Lingard Hello everyone. My name is Steve Lingard and I am an Assistant Headteacher at the Pilgrim School. Before teaching at the Pilgrim School, I worked in the world of Science as a research assistant, which probably led to me becoming a Science teacher. I have taught all over London in my earlier teaching days but am happy that I eventually found a post at The Pilgrim School in Lincoln, which was closer to my original roots in Lincolnshire. I enjoy, films, books, walking and music. I like to getaway when I can and never say no to a curry on a weekend evening. The best part of the job for me is teaching and building relationships with the pupils.



Sarah Mulligan Reading, theatre and drama have always been a passion of mine. In my early twenties I worked in two theatres in the West End and was lucky enough to see many plays and musicals during my time in London. I love to read, so a degree in English Literature was the perfect choice for me. I have been at Pilgrim for six years and have loved every minute. In my role as Literacy Lead and Head of English I get to teach subject I am passionate about while also supporting those pupils who may need additional help with reading, writing and spelling through targeted interventions.



Sharon Smith I feel privileged to be part of such an amazing school. As an Assistant Headteacher, I am part of the Senior Leadership Team, leading home tuition, data, progress and exams, and parental engagement. My passion is Science, so I also lead our science department and enjoy planning STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) opportunities for our students. Alongside this, I teach Science and work closely with my academic link students.

EXAM UPDATE...



Once again, we have had a successful GCSE examination period across all our bases, and we would like to say a huge well done to all our Year 11 pupils, who completed their exams with great determination and resilience. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and hope they are now enjoying a well-earned break before moving on to their Post-16 destinations in September.

GCSE Results Day takes place on Thursday 20th August. Year 11 pupils collecting their results from Pilgrim can do so in a number of ways:

- Results will be emailed to pupils' Pilgrim school email addresses from 8.00am on Results Day.
- All three bases will be open from 10.00am to 12.00 noon for pupils who wish to collect their results in person. Pupils are welcome to do this even if they have already received their results by email, as senior staff will be available to offer support and guidance if needed.
- Any results not collected in person will be posted to the registered home address we hold on file.

Our Careers Adviser, Neil, will also be available on Results Day for pupils to speak to at the Baumber base and via Microsoft Teams to pupils from other bases or the home. Neil can offer advice and support with the next steps, particularly if a pupil's exam results are not as expected. He will be happy to discuss potential Post 16 options and help pupils make informed decisions about their next stage of education or training.

Looking ahead, we are looking forward to welcoming all our Year 11 pupils back to Pilgrim to celebrate their achievements at our annual Awards Evening.

This will take place at the Amber Hill base on Wednesday 2nd December, and further information will be sent to parents and carers by email after the summer break. We would warmly encourage all our Year 11 leavers to attend and share a special evening of celebration with staff, family, and fellow pupils.

For current Year 10 pupils moving into Year 11, our mock GCSE period will take place across all bases from Monday 9th November. Further information and timetables will be sent home in the Autumn term.

MUSIC WORK...

I am excited to have been selected for the Royal Ballet and Opera's 'Leaders for Impact programme', which is a brilliant opportunity to learn alongside educators from across the country who are passionate about creativity, culture and the difference it can make for young people.



The programme will explore innovative leadership, and the role creative learning can play in supporting the wellbeing and engagement of our young people. It will connect a national network of leaders committed to influencing positive change for creativity and cultural learning in schools, helping ensure that the arts are seen as an essential part of every child's education rather than an 'optional extra', something which we value in school!

I am particularly excited to bring back new ideas for our school community and hopefully not return with too many grand plans for turning every room into a performance space! I look forward to sharing my learning with our school and exploring how the arts can continue to help our pupils build confidence and aspiration.

Chelsey Bamford- Music and Performing Arts Lead

LANGUAGE NEWS...



The languages department has been buzzing this term. In Key Stage 4, pupils have successfully sat GCSE and other language qualifications in French, German and Spanish and become more confident in their language learning skills, both written and spoken.

At Key Stage 3, pupils have delved into languages beyond the usual French and German for the end of the summer term. Some pupils have learnt a little conversational Spanish and Italian, whereas others have opted to take part in a beginners Japanese learning project. This has been expertly led by one of our Learning Mentors, Georgina, who holds a degree in Japanese.



The pupils got to learn about Japan and Japanese culture, including the history and demographic of the archipelago and even watched some anime. Georgina also taught the basics of the language, including greetings, numbers and time. She skilfully demonstrated a matcha tea ceremony and pupils got to sample the authentic taste!

Finally, pupils were able to take part in making 'onigiri', a traditional Japanese rice dish (which is often consumed as an alternative to sandwiches). It was a brilliant experience and some of the pupils have also achieved an AQA Entry Level Unit Award in Beginners Japanese, as a result!

Georgina has been an asset to the languages team this year and has now decided to embark upon a teaching career, beginning a PGCE course in secondary Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) in September. She has contributed so much to the Pilgrim School over the past 5 years, not just within languages lessons but far beyond, in her invaluable role as a Learning Mentor. She has supported so many of our pupils, across all bases and subjects, to reach their potential in and out of lessons. She has also organised events, such as celebration day, and has been working fervently behind the scenes on our primary curriculum. We will miss her greatly but wish her all the success for her next move. The pictures show Matcha tea tasting and Jen, Nat and Georgia (pictured right).



And remember: it is never too late to learn a language! If you think you would like to try languages lessons at Pilgrim, speak to your PSWS/Academic Link, or Jen, the languages teacher, and they will be able to help.

RESIDENTIAL TRIP...

We took a group of pupils to London in April this year, arriving at Chigwell Girl Guide and Scout camp on the Wednesday afternoon and settling into our accommodation. Next, we took part in Body Zorbing and Zip Wire, which was great fun. In the evening we had pizzas and ice creams.



On Thursday we left early to travel to London where we visited the Tower of London followed by a river trip along the Thames and some sightseeing. In the evening we had a Fish & Chip supper followed by watching Matilda the Musical before travelling back to our base in Chigwell. It was a long day, and we walked 20,000 steps, but we were lucky that the weather was sunny and warm. We left on Friday morning to travel back to the bases; everyone had a great time. A big thank you to all the staff that supported the trip. Watch out for details of our next residential trip next year!

"The trip was great for taking photographs and a great place to learn and see historical landmarks, I mainly enjoyed the food and traveling in the boat" Louis



THE REFURBISHED INSPIRE U BUILDING...

On 1st July we were given the opportunity to take part in a guided tour of the newly refurbished Inspire U building in Lincoln. One of the most impressive features of the refurbishment is the creation of a realistic Premier Inn environment within the building. This unique facility is used by students attending Inspire U, as well as members of the general public, to provide hands-on learning experiences in the hospitality industry.

The simulated hotel gives young people the chance to develop practical skills by taking on a variety of roles, including receptionist, housekeeper, chef, and other hospitality positions. By working in a realistic setting, students gain valuable experience, build confidence, and develop the employability skills needed for future careers.

It was inspiring to see how Inspire U is creating engaging opportunities for young people to explore different career pathways while learning in a supportive and professional environment.

PROM...

Although it took a while for everyone to come out of their shells, once the food was eaten and the music got louder, the atmosphere completely changed. The teachers were encouraging everyone to get up on the dance floor and, somehow, I was one of them dancing (which says a lot coming from the most awkward person ever!). It may be an unpopular opinion but, dare I say, the dance floor was more entertaining than the England match... although we're definitely not complaining that they won on the night!

The photo booth was definitely one of the highlights, with endless props and the chance to grab pictures with whoever you wanted throughout the evening (thank you to Jaimee for sacrificing her evening to take the pictures). Despite this though, we did spend the evening frantically trying to dodge the cameras that the teachers had brought at every opportunity, but we're secretly very grateful as we know there were some lovely (and hopefully flattering!) photos hidden amongst them. On the topic of photos, one of the biggest challenges of the evening was getting everyone together for the group photo. It seemed as though everyone had mutual feelings over not wanting to be in it!

As you can hopefully see, it was a good evening for everyone. It was so nice to see everyone all dressed up, a switch up from seeing everyone in their school outfits, and it was a memorable way to say goodbye to the year 11s."



BARISTA TRAINING...

Recently, Neil, two students from the Lincoln base, and I visited Stokes at The Lawn in Lincoln for an exciting barista training session.



The students learned about the rich history of Stokes, the origins of coffee, and the journey from coffee bean to cup. They also discovered how different coffee drinks are prepared and what makes each one unique.

As part of the hands-on training, the students had the opportunity to make an espresso, an Americano, and a latte from scratch before tasting their creations. It was a fantastic experience that helped build their confidence, develop new practical skills, and gain an insight into working in the hospitality industry. Overall, it was a really insightful and enjoyable day, and everyone came away having learned something new.

Kat Shaw - PSWS



Survey Feedback...

Your Voice Matters: Survey Highlights

"Thank you to all our parents and pupils who shared their views in our anonymous surveys. Your feedback helps us shape a supportive, inspiring, and safe environment for everyone."

Key Opinion Highlights

Category	Highlighting What You Said	Satisfaction & Agreement
 Attendance & Engagement	Pupils & parents are committed to attending as much education as possible.	95% – 100%
 Learning & Progress	Pupils feel challenged, receive key feedback, and can comfortably talk about what they are learning.	86% – 100%
 Hope & Aspiration	Pupils are building aspirations, hearing hopeful stories, and understanding their emotional growth.	77% – 96%
 Belonging & Community	Pupils feel they have a strong voice in school and feel part of our community.	100%
 Pastoral & Well-Being Support	Pupils feel well-supported pastorally, and families feel less alone in caring for their children.	96% – 100%
 Safety & Online Security	Families and pupils feel confident and supported in keeping safe both in school and online.	100%

What You Asked For (Parent Connect & Support Focus)

Based on your suggestions, we are looking into expanding and tailoring our support:

-  **Recorded Sessions:** Exploring recorded Parent Connect sessions for working parents.
-  **Targeted Workshops:** Guidance on **ADHD, Anxiety, Emotional Regulation**, and **DLA/PIP** information.
-  **Community & Activities:** Signposting for local youth clubs and volunteering opportunities.

What You Said (Quotes from Parents & Pupils)

From Our Parents

-  *"Pilgrim has been an absolute life saver! It's enabled my child to have an education when we felt we had no other options..."*
-  *"I feel that my daughter has a chance of a future now... Staff have always given us reassurance and hope."*
-  *"A caring and supportive school for both children and parents. I can't thank you enough!"*

From Our Pupils

-  *"It's a great school!"*
-  *"We'd love more outdoor activities, sports equipment, and fun gear like go-karts and pool tables!"*

Thank You!

Together, we create a school community where every pupil can learn, belong, and thrive.

STAFFING UPDATE...

New Starters:

Chris Moore - Site Manager - Started 27/4/26
 Helen Stevenson - Admin Assistant (Maternity Cover) - Started 1/6/26
 Chris Brady - Relief Teacher - Due to start September 2026
 Beibhinn (pronounced Bay Van) Lawrie - Teaching Assistant - Starting September 2026

Leavers:

Anne Bladon - Relief Teacher - Left 1/6/26
 Georgina Cooper - Classroom Support - Leaving July 2026
 Amy Hazell - Relief Teacher - Leaving July 2026
 Leisa Wheaton - Home PSWS - Leaving July 2026

Other:

Bev Lee - Appointed to Deputy Headteacher from September 2026

Lynne Armstrong - PSWS - Taken on additional role of DofE Manager

Sally-Anne Ketton - Classroom Support - Amending Hours from 4 days to 3 days per week from September 2026

SEND...

Inclusion at Our School

You may have noticed that inclusion has been a significant focus in education recently, with growing national discussion about how schools can ensure every child has the opportunity to belong, achieve and thrive. As schools continue to develop inclusive practice, we remain committed to ensuring that inclusion is not simply something we talk about, but something we live every day.

At our school, we believe that every pupil has worth, voice and potential. Inclusion is an active, whole-school approach that ensures every pupil is welcomed, valued, and able to participate meaningfully in learning and school life. It is rooted in celebrating differences, recognising diversity as a strength, and creating a community where every pupil experiences a sense of belonging, dignity, and hope.

Inclusion is about removing barriers and creating opportunities. Through high expectations, adaptive teaching, personalised support, and enriching learning experiences, we aim to ensure every pupil can engage, achieve and develop academically, socially and emotionally.

Most importantly, inclusion is an ongoing, child-centred process. We continually listen to our pupils, reflect on what works and adapt our practice so that every pupil can belong, achieve and thrive with hope.

Year 11 and Post-16 Planning

For families of pupils moving into Year 11, this is an important time to begin thinking about post-16 education, training or employment.

If your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), there should have been a recent Phase Transfer Annual Review, or one should be planned for September or October. These meetings are an opportunity to discuss your child's aspirations, the support they will need after Year 11, and any colleges or specialist post-16 providers you may wish to consider. Early planning helps ensure that the right provision is in place for the next stage of their education.

If you would like to discuss post-16 options for your child with SEND, or have any questions about the support available in further education, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Supporting Your Child Over the Summer

The summer holidays provide a well-earned break, but for many children and young people, a long change in routine can feel challenging. A little preparation can make returning to school in September much easier.

Some helpful strategies include:

- Maintaining a loose daily routine, including regular sleep and mealtimes.
- Continuing opportunities to practice independence skills, such as organising belongings or following simple routines.
- Using visual calendars or countdowns as the new term approaches.
- Talking positively about returning to school and answering any questions your child may have.
- Gradually reintroducing school routines during the final week of the holidays, such as earlier bedtimes and morning routines.

Every child responds differently to change, and it is normal for some pupils to feel anxious about returning to school. By maintaining familiar routines and preparing gradually, families can help children feel more confident and ready for a successful start in September.

As always, if you have any questions about your child's SEND provision or would like to discuss how we can best support them, please don't hesitate to contact me.

NOTICES...

Extra funding available for your child's education

Make sure your child's school is not missing out on an extra £2690 each year to support their education.

If you're caring for a child under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO), Adoption Order or Child Arrangements Order, additional funding is available to ensure they are given extra support at school.

Called Pupil Premium Plus (PP+), this funding of up to £2690 per pupil is available for pupils in Reception to Year 11 who were looked after and left care under an adoption*, special guardianship or child arrangements order (formerly residence order).

If your child has recently moved schools and you haven't informed the school of their status, you will need to contact the school as overleaf.

The school may not know of your child's situation, and it is up to you as their parent/guardian to ensure they know your child meets the criteria, so that they can apply for funding.

*Includes children adopted from state care or equivalent from outside of England and Wales



What do you need to do?

Contact your child's Designated Teacher (DT) for previously looked after children. All schools have one.

You will then need to provide documentary evidence (court order) to the school. They will just need to verify that your child has left public care. They don't need to hold a copy on record.

By when?

Please let your child's school know by the second week in September to declare inclusion on the October Census Return so they don't miss out on additional support next year.

What is a Designated Teacher?

All schools have a designated teacher and they are responsible for supporting children who've been previously looked after to help them achieve well at school. Designated teachers should work effectively with parents and carers, undertake appropriate training and gain a good understanding of your child's needs to ensure they're receiving the best support.

Is the funding ring fenced to my child?

The funding is not ring fenced to an individual child. The school can spend the funding either directly on your child, or perhaps to train staff in how best to support children and young people who have been in care.

Where can I access more information and advice?

If you'd like more information on Pupil Premium Plus for previously looked after children, contact your school's Designated Teacher in the first instance. Or for more advice, contact the Lincolnshire Virtual School Team, email: virtualschool@lincolnshire.gov.uk



Please let school know if you are caring for a child under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO), Adoption Order or Child Arrangements Order, as additional funding is available to ensure that they are given the extra support they may need at school.

Please email enquiries@pilgrim.lincs.sch.uk or contact our Designated Teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children, Bev Lee, bev.lee@pilgrim.lincs.sch.uk to let us know or to help with any questions.

A message from Rachel de Souza, The Children's Commissioner, writing to ask you to ensure all of your children complete her new survey: [The Big Future](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture).

Under the Children Act 2004, it is my role to promote the views and interests of children in England, and I have done this so far by conducting the two largest ever children's surveys: The Big Ask and The Big Ambition.

Now, for the first time, hundreds of thousands of children will be eligible to vote in the next general election, the biggest change to the franchise in half a century. Yet just one in five children say politicians listen to them. That's why I'm launching my final survey, The Big Future.

Your students should complete the survey here:

<http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>.

I want to make sure that I hear from as many children as possible, aged 0-18, from all backgrounds, in all schools and colleges, and in every part of the country. To do that, I need your help.

I am asking children about the changes they want to see in their communities, their biggest concerns, and their hopes for the future. More than anything, I want to know what they think a good childhood should look like today.

I am asking you to share the survey with all the children, parents and carers in your school or college community. Schools and colleges that achieve high participation rates will receive formal recognition for their contribution to amplifying children's voices and encouraging civic engagement, and a summary of their pupils' responses.

To support you to do this, I have created a pack of resources which include an introductory video, a lesson plan, and FAQs, which are available on [my website](#). I would be grateful if you could ensure that every child in your school or college has taken part before the deadline of Friday 23 October.

I will be publishing my findings next year, and they will be used to advocate at the highest level for solutions that children want to see, to the problems that they tell me are most important to them.