

NEWSLETTER

JULY '25

HEADTEACHER'S ADDRESS...

Welcome to our summer newsletter.

As we come to the end of another enriching academic year, I want to take a moment to thank you all for your continued support and partnership. This year has been filled with growth and achievement for our pupils, and it has been a privilege to watch them thrive in our school community.

Academic teaching is our 'bread and butter' and we know that pupils make outstanding progress from their starting points. Alongside this, we also foster personal growth and hope which come from the multiple activities and events you will read about here. These contribute significantly to the development of positive relationships which are so important to our core beliefs and values. I'd like to thank the staff who make these opportunities possible.

As we head into the summer break, I wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable holiday. May it be a time of fun, connection, and well-deserved relaxation.

Looking ahead, we are filled with hope for the next school year. Together, we will continue to nurture every child's potential and build a bright future full of opportunity.

With warmest wishes,

Steve

GOVERNORS' UPDATE...

Even before my time of watching TV, there was a popular TV programme called 'That was the week that was'. Google search tells me it was a satirical programme 1962-85. I don't remember the actual programme at all (we didn't own a TV until the 1966 World Cup final!). But the catch phrase title has hung around for many, many years since the programme ended, often including a deep sigh that so much has happened in such a short space of time.



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Get in touch:

enquiries@pilgrim.lincs.sch.uk
01522 682319

Looking back over this past year as a Governor at The Pilgrim School I can honestly say – Phew! ‘That was the year that was!’ Fortunately, we don’t need satire to define the year, but it has certainly been full on.

I’ve genuinely lost track of the number of times I’ve been into the different bases or joined the home educators either online or in person for a mixed variety of reasons. But every single time I’ve been involved with the school; I’ve seen and ‘felt’ the Pilgrim factor in operation. It’s impossible to describe adequately but once you’ve felt it – you know it! A welcoming, safe space to be in and to be part of, regardless of who you are, pupil, parent, staff or governor. In my opinion, this ‘feel’ factor reflects the values of the school.

Each year as a Full Governing Body we review the vision and values documentation that sets out our aspirations for everyone at Pilgrim, for now and for the future. And with confidence and great joy and hope for the future we can affirm that -

We are indeed well on track to become a “HOPE-FILLED” BEACON OF EXCELLENCE in the provision of specialist education for students with medical, social, emotional and mental health needs.

We do this by valuing -

- Equality and Diversity
- Guiding people to their future
- Sustainability
- Hope
- Personalisation
- Holistic development
- Unconditional positive regard

Together we can look ahead to whatever the 2025-2026 Academic Year will bring. The Pilgrim ‘feel factor’ is caught and held on to even beyond the boundaries of the physical school. We wish all those moving on to new things our very best wishes and look forward to another year of ‘that was the year that was!’

Barbara Temple

Chair of Governors

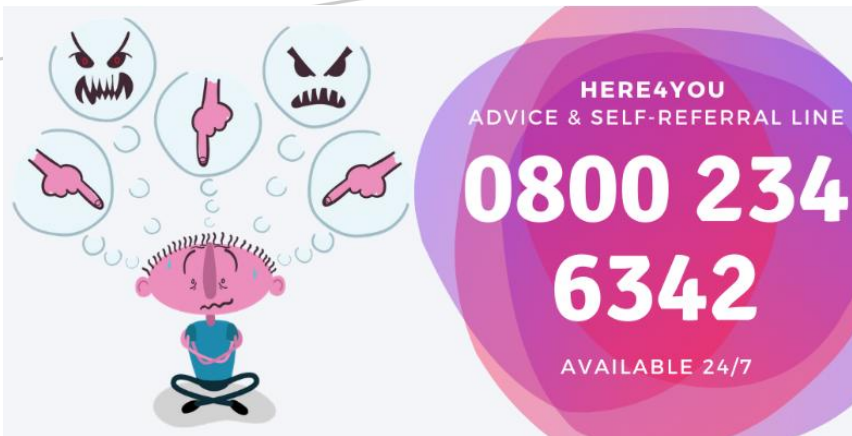
SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION...

Make the most of your summer holidays with these simple yet effective tips! Start by staying hydrated—drink plenty of water, especially when you’re spending time outdoors. Protect your skin by applying sunscreen regularly, and don’t forget to wear hats or sunglasses to shield yourself from harmful UV rays. Plan a mix of fun activities that balance relaxation and adventure, helping you avoid burnout and truly enjoy your break. Wear light, breathable clothing to stay comfortable in the summer heat. And most importantly, stay connected with friends and family—summer is the perfect time to make lasting memories together!

Whether you’re travelling or enjoying a staycation, a little preparation goes a long way toward a safe and enjoyable summer break.

As the school year comes to a close, we want to remind our school community that safeguarding and support for pupils and families remain a priority throughout the summer holidays. We recognize that this time can bring additional challenges and uncertainties. If you or your family need assistance or someone to talk to, please don’t hesitate to reach out to the support services available. Together, we can create a safe and nurturing environment for everyone, no matter the season.

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 our 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

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...

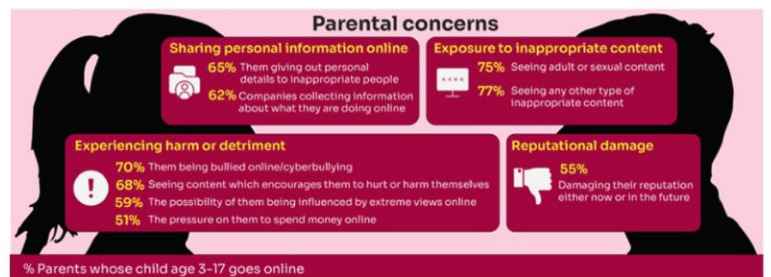


What are you most **WORRIED** about when your child is **ONLINE**?



LGfL
SafeguardED

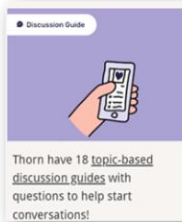
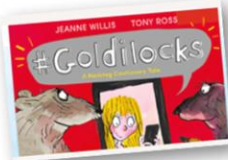
Summary of parental concerns (3 – 17 yr-olds)



Source: Children and parents: media use and attitudes report 2024

TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT LIFE ONLINE

Find conversation starters, story time ideas and top tips to reinforce key safety messages at parentsafe.lgfl.net



PARENTSAFE

Keeping your children safe: online & beyond



LGfL
SafeguardED

YOU don't need to be an **EXPERT** ... be a **PARENT**

- **It's your choice** - Don't let others dictate when the right time is to use tech.
- **Stay involved** – make **time to communicate**, talk about what they are doing. What do they enjoy? What makes them laugh?
- **Don't quiz them** – have regular **conversations**. What's their favourite app? What is the best site to learn new things from?
- **Join in** - **watch them** play a game and join in. Who are they playing with? Do they know the other players?
- **'Show me how...'** – **ask their advice** to help you with your privacy settings, who you should add as a friend, are there any risks?
- **Lead by example** - children learn as much from watching as they do from being told not to do something, so **model** good behaviour
- **Reassure them** - tell them that they **won't get in trouble** and that you are always there **to help**.



COMING UP..

There are a few slight changes to be aware of for next Academic year:

DEAR and timings of lessons

As you will know, we have been operating DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) in bases every Wednesday morning for a few years now. In September we are introducing this daily to ensure all staff and pupils have the opportunity to join in. To accommodate this, we have altered some lesson times so the day will now look as follows:

Tutor time	08 55 – 09 10
Lesson one	09 10 – 10 10
Lesson two	10 10 – 11 10
Break	11 10 – 11 25
Lesson three	11 25 - 12 25
Lunch	12 25 – 13 05
DEAR (4 days a week)	13 05 – 13 20
Lesson four	13 20 – 14 20
Lesson five	14 20 – 15 20
Tutor time/reflection	15 20 – 15 30

Wednesday will not have a DEAR afternoon slot (it will continue in the morning on this day) but lessons will commence at the same time which gives a little longer for enrichment activities.

Teaching spaces

In most bases, rooms will now be allocated by subject rather than pupil group. This enables pupils to move around between lessons to give a brain break.

Tutor time

These will operate as this year with a blend of our five themes (Word of the Week, Hope, Maths is Fun, Wellbeing Walks and Votes for Schools) and celebrations for special awareness days, such as World Mental Health Day, World Religion Day and charity events. There will be one group in each base with known staff available to support.

Curriculum

We are piloting GCSE Citizenship as a Key stage 4 option for all pupils. If this is something that interests you, please speak to your Academic Link in the first instance.

Activity Hour - Starting from September 2025 pupils will have the opportunity to be timetabled for 'Activity hour'. This will encourage pupils to undertake a range of activities based on their needs. For most it might be the opportunity for a 'movement' break or to undertake some physical activity, for others it may resemble something much gentler or a classroom-based activity. The idea behind this is to engage the pupils in a range of activities outside of the normal academic lessons to enable them to grow socially, emotionally, mentally and, if they are able, participate in physical sporting activities.

HOPE CURRICULUM...

"Tomorrow will be beautiful, for tomorrow comes out of the lake."

This short poem by Emmanuel Carnevali has inspired countless people. It has also caused people to think about what the lake might mean. Where does tomorrow and our hope for tomorrow come from?

If I think of lakes I think of King Arthur and Excalibur being given to him from the Lady of the Lake. *Excalibur* was a mythical sword that was a symbol of kingship and power. Does our hope come from our own power to shape tomorrow?

Another time, if I think of lakes I think of mists curling up from the water. Is our tomorrow made slowly, effortlessly and just appears? Does it mean that we do not have to do anything, we can just accept it?

One of the favourite things I can hear a pupil say is when they talk of "lending their hope for others in the school." Maybe our hope is something that we have as individuals but we create and hold together. 'Lake' means an expanse of water but it originates from the word 'Lako' which has different meanings. One of which is aggregation or coming together.

When we look at the hope curriculum in school it was created by the adults in school but the meaning and shaping of it has been by the children.

Tomorrow will be beautiful, but it will be a beauty created by all of us.



HOPE
by EMANUEL CARNEVALI

RECOMMENDED 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

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN OUR BASES THIS TERM

AMBER HILL NEWS....

What a term it's been! As we wrap up another amazing year, we've got so much to celebrate in base.

First things first: a massive *well done* to our fabulous **Year 11 students**, who've absolutely smashed their recent exams! Their dedication, resilience and focus have truly paid off – we couldn't be prouder. What made it even more heartwarming was the way the rest of the school rallied around them. Whether it was with words of encouragement, quiet support in the corridors, or simply keeping the Base calm and focused, the whole school came together like a big family. That's the spirit of **Ubuntu** in action – "I am because we are." It's alive and well in every corner of our school.



Speaking of spirit – we've had so much fun this term, too! There's been laughter, adventure, and maybe just a little screaming (the good kind!) on our **Alton Towers residential** trip. Rollercoasters, friendships and memories galore! Then there was **Celebration Day**, which was exactly what it says on the tin – a brilliant chance to come together, reflect on the year, and enjoy the rewards of our hard work.

And let's not forget the **beach trip** – sunshine, sandcastles, and plenty of ice cream! It was the perfect way to relax and bond before heading into the summer holidays.

Lambs - Students recently visited Willow Bridge Farm for a special day meeting the newborn lambs. They enjoyed bottle feeding, cuddles, and learning how to care for the animals. The visit helped build confidence, empathy, and calm, as students showed responsibility and kindness in their interactions. It was a lovely experience that supported personal development and emotional wellbeing in a natural, hands-on way.



WOW Wednesdays – Summer Term Highlights

This term in WOW (Wellbeing on Wednesday), we've explored the themes of *Nature* and *Journeys* to support personal development through hands-on, creative, and community-based experiences.

Under the *Nature* theme, students painted plant pots, crafted crochet chickens, and enjoyed an energetic sports festival at Boston Tennis Club. A

special highlight was the visit from Boston Bees, who brought an observational hive and helped us learn about the importance of bees in our environment.

In our *Journey's* topic, we planned a fundraiser—deciding on a tombola and handmaking the prizes ourselves. We also went strawberry picking at Willow Bridge Farm, explored the art of repair with a kintsugi kit, and welcomed a guide dog into school to learn about independence and resilience.

Each activity was designed to build confidence, creativity, teamwork, and a deeper understanding of the world around us.



Some of our students also pushed their limits with the **Duke of Edinburgh Award**, showing true grit, teamwork and determination in the great outdoors. And for our budding scientists, the **National Biology Challenge** offered a brilliant chance to shine – congratulations to all who took part!

Our amazing **Year 9s** have also had a big moment – they’ve chosen their options and are now getting ready to start their **GCSE courses** in September. It’s a big step, but we know they’re more than ready for the challenge ahead.

To every student, teacher, parent and supporter – THANK YOU. You’ve all played a part in making this year so special. The energy, kindness, and positivity you bring into our school community is what keeps us moving forward, together.

Open Morning – In July, Amber Hill School proudly hosted a special Open Morning for parents, offering them a glimpse into the daily life and learning of our students. Visitors were warmly welcomed and shown around the school by one of our student volunteers who serves as a base host.

Parents had the opportunity to visit a variety of lessons in action, including a music session that was a clear highlight. They also took time to look through students’ books, gaining insight into the hard work and progress happening within subjects.

Thank you to parents who came along and continue to support our school community. We look forward to welcoming you again soon!

Sports Afternoon - On the 7th of May 2025 the Amber Hill Base was one of several local schools, invited to the Boston Tennis Centre for their Open Day. Many students, and some staff, have never played

Tennis before and this enabled them to

learn something new as well as being given a little coaching lesson by staff at the Tennis Centre. A great time was had by all who attended on the day. We are spoilt to have a facility like this so close to our base and I am sure we will try and visit again in the future.



Have a fantastic summer – relax, recharge, and we’ll see you all in September for another brilliant year!

BAUMBER NEWS...

As with all bases, Baumber has had a busy term!

Exam season saw our pupils at their best, with lower year groups respecting quiet areas and room switches and year 11 showing amazing strength and determination to get the job done. We are incredibly proud of all of you!

It has not been all work and no play though. We have had a busy time in WOW since Easter with visits to various areas of wildlife; we’ve fed the ducks in Horncastle, went to Happy Hooves and spent time with Goats, Donkeys, Guinea pigs, and Owls. We strolled through a wet Woodhall Spa,

visited East Kirkby Aviation centre and enjoyed visiting ‘the mess’. Finally, we ended WOW with a HUGE water fight and BBQ as a thank you to all the students for their participation in our WOW sessions.



Rather than the annual football match this year, each base had its own sports focused afternoon. Baumber saw a mixture of activities. Some staff showed great heroics, and it was an afternoon of laughter and fun.



This continued with end of exam season celebrations. A much-anticipated water fight was a slight anti-climax due to some online ordering errors. Lesson learned - always measure a paddling pool before purchasing 😊 Otto enjoyed himself regardless! Pupils will not miss out as we have a rematch scheduled for the last WOW of the year and have invited Y11 back for the occasion – with various water games, a larger (and supervised) paddling pool and, fingers crossed, Bardney's Fire Crew are trying to make it possible to bring their Fire Engine for a visit to provide an extra soaking!



We held our annual open morning on 4th July and were delighted to welcome parents to the base. Pupils were able to show off their hard work and introduce Dwayne and Otto. Parents got to sample the baked goods, chat to teachers and our work experience lead and try their hand at a mini obstacle course. It was a lovely morning for all.

There are some small changes anticipated over summer following staff and pupil voice. Some rooms will see boards moved to more user-friendly places and we are trialling rooms being allocated by subject rather than pupil group. This will allow for movement breaks between lessons and flexibility with group sizes. The library area will stay as a work area with an additional whiteboard being added for the rare occasions it is used as a teaching space. Pupils will still be able to use the area at social times alongside the small seating areas dotted about the base and in classrooms.



All that remains is to wish everyone a restful and safe summer.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for more Pilgrim adventures!

LINCOLN NEWS...

A few general notices: Certain areas of Lincoln are being decorated over the Summer so we will be looking to take down displays in classrooms over the last week of term. This will ensure that we are coming back to a more vibrant learning environment. Thanks Dave and Dan.

It's been a very busy term. Although we have said goodbye to our year 11's and the exam season, we have celebrated their successes through prom and celebration day which were wonderful events. Our current Yr 10 and KS3 pupils

have been on trips to the sea-side and had opportunities to visit a careers event in Boston while engaging in other school activities such as Spirituality Day. I hope that your child has enjoyed all that has been on offer to them- it will help them grow as individuals and pave different pathways through to their future. Many thanks to everyone in the school community for making this a successful year. Have a great Summer Holiday.

WOW - Over the year we have built up a really lovely atmosphere where pupils feel able to join in and to express themselves. It has been heartwarming to overhear conversations between pupils and to start to see progress. We have covered a variety of topics over the year, however, being in the kitchen seems to be something that most pupils really have enjoyed this year and therefore this has featured heavily, alongside going for walks in the local area and doing different crafts. It has been a pleasure to work with all pupils that have accessed WOW this year and we look forward to seeing what next year brings.



During the Lincoln sports afternoon the pupils and staff went to Hartsholme park to take part in some fun activities. These included running races, javelin and skipping. Refreshments and snacks were provided, and the pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed it. Most pupils then ended up in the playpark for the remainder

of the afternoon. It was great to see everyone having fun and building positive relationships for the future.



Open morning - On Friday 4th July pupils and parents were invited to the Lincoln base for an open morning. It was a lovely experience to be able to sit down, with a hot drink and a cake, and talk through the pupil books. Activities were available and the relatives left proud of the progress their children had made with us at The Pilgrim School.



Finally, we have ordered some new equipment in Lincoln to engage our pupils during lunch and break times.



HOME TAUGHT...

As we reach the end of another school year, I just want to take a moment to say a huge **WELL DONE** to all our incredible home-educated students – and of course, to the families who support them every single day.

A special shout-out goes to our **Year 11 students**, who've worked so hard to complete their exams this term. It's no small feat, and we've seen such determination, focus and resilience. Whether you sat your papers from home, at a Centre, or just pushed through the revision mountain – we are all so proud of you. And to the parents and carers who've been behind the scenes supporting every step of the way: thank you. You are superheroes, too!

One of the absolute **privileges of this role** is getting to see the fantastic work being done at home – and wow, you've been busy! From cooking up delicious dishes to creating amazing projects, building things from scratch, and

even running science experiments in kitchens and living rooms – it's so inspiring. Some of you have even shown incredible **courage** by stepping into **mainstream school labs** to complete practical science work – now *that's* what we call **sisu** (the Finnish word for bravery, grit and perseverance!).

This term, lots of you have also explored your **ikigai** – your passion and purpose – through things like **careers advice**, **a fantastic residential trip**, a fascinating **Space talk**, and the challenging but exciting **National Biology Challenge**. You've shown that learning doesn't just happen in classrooms – it happens wherever curiosity and creativity meet.

Every single teacher and member of the pastoral team is so proud of all you've achieved. Whether it's big milestones or quiet progress behind the scenes, it all matters, and it's all worth celebrating.

So, as we close the books for this year, please take time to **rest, reflect and recharge**. You've earned it. Have a brilliant Summer – and we can't wait to see what you'll do next.

OTTO'S NEWS...

The hot weather has meant that Otto has been in school a little less in recent weeks but he continues to love his work, and highlights have included Celebration Day (apart from the Shetland ponies which he was not keen on!), anything involving water and the open morning.

At time of writing, he is looking forward to his annual DofE expedition and the opportunity to run between groups of pupils and staff – he usually covers at least double the distance.

Here are a few photos of his term....



Cooling down
with an Ice
cream



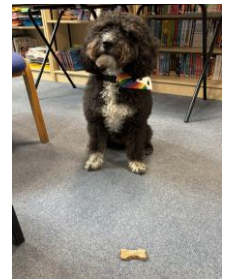
Ready for prom



Nearly a grown up..his 3rd
birthday



DJ Otto at
Celebration day



Chief taster for
Baumber's
Enterpriseproject

WORKSHOP SUMMARY...

As we are a school that supports safety campaigns, we have invited a range of speakers from external agencies to come and do multiple workshops with the pupils to provide knowledge on important topics such as, online safety, risky behaviour, fraud, cyberstalking and substance awareness. We have found this to be successful and helpful within the school.

READING CHALLENGE...

Something a little different for our Summer Reading Challenge...

This summer we would like students to read a range of different types of text from e books to mystery novels and even song lyrics. How widely do you read?

What to do:

- 1) Simply take a look at the checklist of what to read.
- 2) Tick off the specific text you have read or reading experience you have undertaken, over the summer.
- 3) In September during DEAR (Private Reading slot) you can share with others all the reading you have been doing over the holidays.
- 4) Additionally, your English Teacher will discuss your Summer Reading in class at the start of term. Here prizes will be awarded for the most impressive readers.
- 5) Why not make a head start by beginning your Reading challenge now!!
- 6) Pick up a checklist from your English Teacher today. You can also find them in the School Library.



Summer Reading Checklist.

All you need to do is mark the lists below when you have completed any of the reading texts and activities.

Then simply hand this in to your English Teacher for a prize in September.

What to read...

- Ebook
- Graphic Novel
- Mystery
- Recipe
- Poetry
- Biography
- Joke Book
- Menu
- TV Subtitles
- Magazine
- Lyrics
- Non-fiction
- 'how-to read' books
- Play

How to read...

- With a flashlight
- To a parent
- To a sibling
- To a pet
- Outside
- To a grandparent
- Menu
- TV Subtitles
- Magazine
- Lyrics
- Non-fiction
- 'how-to read' books
- Play



MEET THE ENGLISH TEAM...

Meet the Team – English

Sarah – Head of English



I have always loved stories and the different ways they can be told. 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 an English Teacher for 14 years. I trained at Lincoln Christ's Hospital School and then moved on to The Priory Academy LSST. Before this I worked as a Teaching Assistant at Lincoln Christ's Hospital School, where I taught small literacy withdrawal groups. I loved my work as a TA, and working

in a supportive capacity with small groups was something I missed when I moved to teaching whole classes. When the opportunity arose to teach at Pilgrim, I jumped at the opportunity. I have been at Pilgrim since 2020, and I wouldn't want to work anywhere else! The students and staff are the most inspiring group of people I have ever met, and I feel lucky to work here. In my spare time I love to read, go to the theatre and crochet.

Hope

My name is Hope and I am English Teacher at the Lincoln and Baumber bases. I have worked at Pilgrim for almost 12 years, in a variety of roles, and have been in the education field for 25+ years. Prior to moving to Lincoln many years ago, I worked in Berkshire for an educational charity, working in a number of roles supporting young people, my last post being a SEND Adviser. I thoroughly enjoy teaching at Pilgrim, and no day or week is the same. I think this ensures that we are constantly looking for innovative ways to support our pupils and engage them in this subject.



Whilst I have always loved reading, I am finding I have less and less time to get into a good book, so I have been listening to a lot of podcasts lately - I can multitask whilst cleaning, cooking or walking the dog!

Claire



I am an English teacher here at Pilgrim and I love my job! I work at Lincoln and Baumber Bases and particularly like teaching Shakespeare and Poetry.

Students here seem to make such progress with us both socially and academically; I find this one of the most rewarding parts of my job.

In my free time I enjoy cycling regularly and taking long walks across the Lincolnshire Wolds with our dog, a 4 year old Weimaraner called Otto.

Harriet

I have been at The Pilgrim School since 2020 and it is here that I have trained and developed my passion for teaching English. I count it a privilege to teach here!

It is a cliché but my love for stories, reading and writing them, led me to study English Literature at Bishop Grosseteste University. After completing my degree, I worked for a few years in administration at Lincolnshire County Council before embarking on a career in education.



Cheryl



I'm currently covering a maternity leave at Amber Hill with the English department at Pilgrim and I must say it's such a wonderful place to work. The staff and students here are all a joy to work with, and I love seeing the progression made by all our students. We witness success stories every day and that's so fulfilling.

I also work with students in the home, teaching English (or indeed anything else that they might benefit from!). It truly is a privilege to be able to help young people and watch them grow, socially and academically.

SPACE TALK...

Back in March, some of our students had the fantastic opportunity to visit the **National Space Centre** – an experience that sparked a lot of curiosity and excitement! As part of the visit, we gave feedback on our time there, and we were thrilled to hear shortly afterwards that we had won a **special competition** as a result. Our prize? An exclusive **online session with real Space Scientists** from the National Space Centre – what an honor! Recently, we were lucky enough to take part in this fascinating virtual talk, which focused on the subject of **Space Rocks**. The session was packed with exciting facts and engaging explanations about meteorites, asteroids, and what they can tell us about the history of our solar system.



It was a brilliant chance to dive even deeper into our learning and ask questions directly to experts in the field. A huge **thank you** to the team at the National Space Centre for providing such an inspiring and educational experience – both during our visit and through this follow-up session. We're truly over the moon!

SPIRITUALITY DAY...



On July 7th all Pilgrim bases took part in our annual Spirituality Day. This is the third time that such a day has been organised and the pupils were well engaged in the range of activities available to them. This was split into 5 main areas:

1- Our "Introduction to Spirituality" communicated the wide range of ways that people engage in 'spiritual' experiences, be it religious or otherwise. This allowed our pupils to connect the term 'spirituality' into a wide context of very specific examples and case

studies, hopefully enabling them to explore what spirituality might mean to them.

2- "Music and Spirituality" communicated the power of music and allowed the pupils to explore why different styles of music connect with them on different levels.

3- "Art and Spirituality" connected the pupils with art and the connotations and benefits of being allowed to creatively express themselves.



4- "Movement and Spirituality" allowed our pupils to explore mindfulness and grounding techniques across a range of movement activities.



5- "Hope and Spirituality" brought all of the sessions into our school context by refocusing on Hope. This session included case studies of people overcoming adversity and related activities where pupils could explore hope and hopeful thinking.

Big thanks to Jenn, Debbie, Jackie and Chelsey for working with Steve L on this over the past three years.

MUSIC WORK...

Striking a Chord: A Year of Musical Milestones

This year has been so exciting for our Music and Performing Arts Department! I'm proud to share that we have officially been recognised as the Lead School for Music in Lincolnshire for special and alternative provision schools.

One of our standout successes has been the introduction and development of the Rock School Music and Performing Arts programme. Every student involved this year achieved a Level 2 certificate, a tremendous accomplishment. Even more inspiring is that three of our students are now heading to college to pursue careers in Music or Performing Arts — a testament to their hard work and the power of creative education to shape futures.

We've also built strong partnerships with the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Music Hubs, opening up a world of opportunities for our young people. From inclusive choirs and song writing projects, to summer band workshops and even the exciting beginnings of a record label, we're working in collaboration to create platforms for every student to find their voice and be heard! It's so exciting that our students will have these opportunities and can meet like-minded young people!

In collaboration with ABRSM, we're also creating a ground-breaking 'open assessment' model. This allows students to showcase their music and receive detailed, professional feedback — without the pressure of grades or pass/fail outcomes. It's all about nurturing growth, creativity, and confidence through meaningful, real-world recognition. There will be the chance for students to develop their instrumental skills next year too where they will have the opportunity to access the Trinity Rock and Pop digital grades, should they want the more 'formal' instrumental grades.

The department continues to grow, thrive, and push boundaries. With even more exciting projects on the horizon, we're proving that Music and Performing Arts aren't just subjects — they're a movement and one that's transforming lives - I'm so excited and proud to be a part of it!

Watch this space. The best is yet to come!

absolutely smashed it. The mountain of planning and paperwork was incredibly worth it. Every year the expedition gives the bases a level of atmosphere that carries us nicely through our exam season and beyond.

FIRST AID...

At The Pilgrim School we offer the opportunity for our year 11's to complete the nationally accredited Emergency First Aid at Work qualification as an addition at the end of their year 11. This is to empower them both on their CV and in their future lives.

This course has a very strict set of criteria to fulfil and Dave runs it to a high, strict standard which exposes them to the full life experience of a serious first aid course. As always, our students showed real maturity and resilience while facing topics that can be very difficult. This year, we put 12 students through the course and all passed, even after one stated "I'm too tired this one can die"! That student managed a very respectable score on the CPR test. Overall all students lived up to the atmosphere and challenge and gained very important life skills.

THE BEACH TRIP...

The beach trip was a success across the whole school, everyone had a brilliant time. Here's a review from Lincoln student:

'Sonic (teddy) had a lot of fun at the beach. He got buried in the sand and he loved it. We also found shells together. We went on the minibus. The ride was ok, I fell asleep and when we got there everyone else was already there from the other bases. The weather was nice and sunny, but a bit windy. The water was warm, and I went in it. We found 2 jellyfish. It was amazing and fun. We went to the restaurant and got chicken nuggets and chips which was served to us in a little blue bucket and spade. We chilled on the beach and could make sandcastles, go in the water or find shells/rocks. We saw cows on the field next to the restaurant, they were very cute. There were quite a few black and white ones which I haven't seen in ages, so it was exciting'.



RESIDENTIAL TRIP...

My highlight from the Pilgrim School residential trip, I enjoyed all of it but Alton towers was the best.

The best place in the world to visit has to be Alton towers resort in Staffordshire. This is my favourite place because it has amazing rollercoaster rides and history.

My favourite rides are the Smiler, Oblivion, Spinball, Whizzer, Nemesis, Nemesis Subterra and Toxicator. By far the best ride is the Smiler.

This amazing roller coaster looks like a pretzel and a lot of scribbles; it was designed that way so when you're on it you can't tell where you are going. In the middle of the ride there's a massive steel spider – like structure called the Maramliser. It has 5 legs and each one does something. The flasher has light panels that flash when you go past, the giggler and the inoculator both spray you with mist, but they aren't always working. The hypnotiser and tickler don't do anything to you, but they do move. The smiler was the first and only rollercoaster with 14 inversions (how many times the track makes the train, and riders go upside down) it still has the world record at 14 inversions. The previous WR was 10 inversions.

By Emerson

CAREERS ...

Careers Advice, Information and Guidance – Labour Market Information

By Neil Blackwell (Careers Counsellor)

As pupils progress towards Year 11 and beyond, they may start to ponder as to what career path they want to pursue. They may also be concerned about their post-16 options and whether they can cope with college, 6th form, apprenticeships, alternative post-16 provision etc. These can be worrying times, and some pupils will have an idea of what they want to do and where they want to go and others will not. It is important to remember that this is OK and decisions made now can change as the pupil matures and encounters various opportunities open to them.

My role at The Pilgrim School is to support pupils in collaboration with parents/guardians to be able to make informed decisions about their next steps and open their thinking to various opportunities available to them. Pupils in Years 10 and 11 are provided with the opportunity for a Careers 1:1 session with me, where we can discuss these opportunities. I use a 3-stage approach which encourages the pupil to discuss their aspirations, post-16 choices and career options. The sessions are not for long term decisions to be made; however, they encourage pupils to consider various options and be informed of up-to-date information and guidance. Using various career models and approaches such as the steppingstone approach which asks the pupil to consider where they are now and where they want to be and what steps do they need to take to succeed. I also ask pupils to consider where they see themselves in 5 years or 10 years' time and what that might look like to them. The sessions are pupil focused and discuss skills, employability and ambition and my role is supporting them with decision making. I use various activities with pupils to help meet their needs during the careers sessions and as pupils have different needs, I can then tailor these so that they are accessible.

One of the most important tools that I use during discussions with pupils is Labour Market Information (LMI). Labour Market Information (LMI) is facts and figures about jobs and employment. It can include data on employment trends, job availability, skills demand, salary ranges, educational requirements, and more. I encourage pupils to research LMI and help them access websites that provide accurate information. LMI is important for pupils to understand more about careers they are considering, this can include starting pay and progression, entry qualifications and experience requirements, availability of employment opportunities in the local area etc. Misinformation is a problematic factor for young people and can provide incorrect information that encourages them to take up jobs that might not be in their best interests. Some careers require a degree as minimum as an entry qualification and therefore pupils can begin to understand as to whether this is something that they may wish to pursue now or may be later down the line.

An important factor for pupils to consider when considering their future career paths and opportunities is a term called 'planned happenstance'. This term is used to explain that as we go through life opportunities will present themselves when not expected and by preparing for them as well as taking time to consider them when they arise may reap unforeseen rewards. An example of this could be when applying for a job at a company, the same company decide to offer you an alternative role they may feel more suitable and therefore encouraging pupils to consider all their options and taking up such opportunities could work in their favour.

I encourage all pupils in Years 10 and 11 to undertake a Careers 1:1 with either Careers Advisors at their mainstream schools or with me at The Pilgrim School. Should you want to know more or book an appointment, please either contact the Pastoral Support and Welfare Specialist (PSWS) for your child or myself directly at neil.blackwell@pilgrim.lincs.sch.uk.

PAST PUPIL NEWS...

Emelie - I joined Pilgrim in the September of 2019, after having been unable to attend my mainstream school due to ill health for around two years. When I joined, I was so behind in every subject that it felt absolutely impossible to catch up. I spent a year being taught at home by Pilgrim, and after this year, I took six GCSEs and was able to achieve grades that I never thought would be attainable for me a year prior. Most of all, Pilgrim helped me realise my love for learning, as I was taught in a way that was completely adapted to me, allowing me to thrive under a very difficult set of circumstances. I have always maintained hope that everything will work out, which enabled me to keep pushing on when life became tough, and this belief has pushed me to carry on striving for my goals, because life truly does get better.

As of this week, I am celebrating having completed my first year at the University of Cambridge studying French and Spanish, enjoying the summer weather with the friends I have made. My dream for the future is to



work in the field of politics and international relations, using my degree in a practical way that pushes for change in the world. But as for right now, I am aiming to spend a month in Spain over the summer at a language school, as my first experience of being abroad on my own.

PUPIL FORUM...

What is Pupil Forum?

At Pilgrim, we believe that truly listening to our pupils—and responding with care and intention—creates a safe, supportive environment where every child feels heard, respected, and valued.

Our aim is to elevate pupil voice, ensuring that each learner plays an active and meaningful role in shaping their own journey at Pilgrim.

When pupils are empowered to take ownership of their experiences, they engage more deeply and connect more fully with everything pilgrim has to offer.

Pupil Forum Updates

This year's pupil forums have seen a significant increase in attendees and participation levels across the bases.

The key focus areas explored this year have been **behaviour, curriculum, personal development** and **safeguarding**.

Behaviour

This year, pupils shared their thoughts on Pilgrim's approach to behaviour and suggested an addition to the existing place framework — playfulness, love, acceptance, curiosity, and empathy. In response to their feedback, the school has now updated the model to **places**, incorporating **safety** as a core value in our approach to behaviour.

Curriculum

Pupils discussed their pupil passports and how these help teachers better understand each student's individual support strategies, especially when managing the classroom environment. They also expressed a desire to be more active throughout the school week. In response, well-being walks have been incorporated into the tutor time schedule. Additionally, pupils highlighted the importance of movement breaks between lessons. As a result, the timetable has been adjusted for September to make better use of classroom spaces, allowing for a change of scenery and increased movement during transitions between classes.

Personal development

Pupils have expressed strong satisfaction with the opportunities available in this area. They particularly praised the new careers provision on Wednesday afternoons, sharing that they feel much more confident and optimistic about their next steps thanks to the support from Pilgrim. The main piece of constructive feedback was around session planning. Pupils suggested their voices should be more directly considered when designing activities. Specifically, they felt that the recent Trainline project, which ran over four weeks, was not beneficial for the group involved.

Safeguarding

There was some light-hearted feedback regarding the safeguarding posters featuring Bev and Mel on the toilet doors — pupils jokingly found it "a bit creepy," but acknowledged that it is effective in reinforcing who the safeguarding leads are. It has also helped students understand concepts around multi-agency working, confidentiality, and where to access support. Some pupils were able to recall and explain these details accurately.

Online safety emerged as a significant area of concern in the safeguarding surveys. Pupils engaged in open discussions about their use of online platforms and strategies for keeping themselves safe. Ongoing support will continue to build their understanding and encourage safe online behavior.

TikTok dominated the conversation, with in-depth discussions around the risks of live streaming, watching live content, and newer features like tiktok gifting — which pupils recognised could be linked to grooming risks — as well as "blind boxes," which raised concerns around gambling behaviours. Further education is needed for pupils, staff, and families to better navigate these evolving online challenges.

Site-specific pupil requests and feedback

Amber Hill

- Guinea pigs were requested at Amber Hill's first pupil forum as this was the only base without a day-to-day base pet. Milly, Molly, and Mandy joined the base following the October half term break.
- A new pupil requested more challenging work. We discussed how baseline assessments help tailor work to individual needs and how pupils can speak with teachers or their Academic Link to ensure their voice is heard.
- Pupils again raised the issue of field access for sports activities. This is being actively looked into, with funding and quotations currently being explored.

Lincoln

- Pupils requested an LGBTQ+ lunch club - this will be implemented in September.
- Suggested a McDonald's trip as a post-exam treat (this was completed and self-funded).
- Asked for the return of Orbeez (with a mutual agreement to use them sensibly), as these were previously banned due to inappropriate usage - these were sourced.
- Requested tennis balls and rackets for breaktime activities - these will form part of the inter-base resource sharing from the audit being completed.

Baumber

- Requests for further sports equipment - a whole school audit is currently underway to share resources across the bases.

Home

- The development of a secure Pilgrim platform on Discord, designed to reduce pupil isolation and enhance socialisation, is ongoing. Although progress has been delayed due to restrictions on the school server, work continues to move forward.

CELEBRATION DAY...

On Friday 20th June, we held our annual Celebration Day, a day to celebrate the end of exams for Year 11s and to have fun as a whole school. All three bases gathered together at our Amber Hill base on a warm, sunny day, perfect for the lunchtime BBQ.

As always, music was provided by our own Chelsea Bamford and her student / assistant DJ, MC Kinners. The inflatable that contained a few obstacles and a slide was used for many races between students. Some indoor activities on offer included watching films or decorating picture frames in the art room.

This year, we had a few new guests that joined us: two Shetland ponies belonging to one of our pastoral team (Sophia) and some sheep from a local farm. These were very popular with staff and students alike, with the lambs being constantly cuddled and fed digestive biscuits.

After the BBQ lunch of hot dogs and burgers (with veggie and gluten free options), it was time for the Year 11s to receive their End of Year certificates, presented by the head, Steve Barnes, and three former Pilgrim students, Callum, Lewis and Josh. To help cool off in the heat, the Party Delights ice cream van arrived, and some students brought water guns for a small water fight.

We hope that the day has left everyone who came with good memories and that the Year 11s enjoyed their time here. We wish them luck on the next part of their journey.

PROM...



Students from Year 10 and 11 celebrated the end of their school year in style with a dazzling prom held at The Admiral Rodney. The evening was filled with laughter, fun, and unforgettable memories as students arrived dressed to impress, ready to enjoy a night of celebration.

The venue was beautifully decorated, with a stunning balloon arch in the garden providing the perfect backdrop for photos. Inside, a photo booth added an extra dose of fun, giving students the chance to capture the moment with friends, with the use of playful props.



We were treated to a delicious spread of food, which was both beautifully presented and thoroughly enjoyed by all. A sweet cart brimming with treats and a stylish cake that added a touch of charm (and sugar!) to the evening.

With music, singing and dancing, and a warm atmosphere, the prom was a perfect way to mark this milestone. It was a night of joy, laughter, and celebration that students will remember for years to come.



Survey Feedback

We'd like to thank everyone, parents and pupils alike, who took the time to complete the parent and pupils surveys this year and thought it would be only fair to share some of the feedback we received.

In total we received 34 responses from parents and a similar number (35) responses from pupils. This includes pupils and parents of those accessing provision in the base, at home and on blended packages.

Encouragingly, all participants rated their overall satisfaction of the school and the provision they receive positively, with an average rating of 9.4/10.

More specifically, consistently over 90% (and often 100%) of participants recognise that pupils are able to talk about what they are learning in school, are developing language and literacy skills, understand how knowledge and skills are relevant to the future and have access to extra-curricular activities.

Significantly, 98% have noticed the development of reflective and emotional regulation skills in pupils and 100% are supported to feel safe.

Although more than 97% recognise an increased aspiration in pupils, we know that there is more work to be done with regards to communicating, understanding and engaging with our Hope Curriculum and supporting our pupils to access as much education as they are able to, whether this is in the home or a base.

It never fails to make us emotional reading the heartfelt comments offered in these surveys. We know that what we offer is unique and important but to have that acknowledged and fed back is truly heart-warming. Thank you. You can read a few snippets of this feedback below.

What the staff at Pilgrim do is Perfect!

Everyone at The Pilgrim School has been strongly involved in rescuing the life of our son.

It is clear that everyone at Pilgrim School eats, sleeps and breathes the Hope curriculum. It's what makes you unique, your modelling rubs off on the young people in your care. It's not a box ticking exercise. What you teach, outside of the typical curriculum is the foundation to a happy, healthy life. It has far more value than grade on a piece of paper.

Pilgrim school is an amazing place and without it or the staff I really don't know where my child would be.

The pilgrim school has saved my daughter. She was lost in education and uncared for and they have put so much effort into caring for her, and giving her opportunities to excel.

Lifesavers Thankyou!

STAFFING UPDATE...

New Starters:

Amy Hazell - ES Teacher - May 25
 Olivia Georgeson - Relief TA - May 25
 Nicola Shephard - Home PSWS - Sep 25
 Charlene Lesman - Home PSWS - Sep 25
 Joe Denton - Teacher - Sep 25

Leavers:

Sam Stanier - Teacher - Aug 25
 Jess Rose - Classroom Support - Jul 25
 Molly Obundu - SEN Admin/PA - Sep 25
 Jon Stevenson - Asst Head - Aug 25

Other:

Chelsey Bamford - PSHE/BTEC Lead - Sep 25
 Georgina Cooper - Move to Learning Support from TA - Sep 25
 Maisy Lobley - Move to Learning Support from TA - Sep 25
 Chelsee Garner - Move to Learning Support from TA - Sep 25
 Claire Settery - Teacher - Reducing hours to 2 days - Sep 25
 Hope Smith - Teacher - Increasing to 4 days teaching - Sep 25
 Sally-Anne Keeton - Classroom Support - Increasing hours to 4 days - Sep 25
 Sophia Carpenter - PSWS - Increasing hours to 4 days - Sep 25
 Liz Hallissey - Exams Officer - Change of title to Exams & Data Officer - Sep 25
 Lauren Bellingham - Admin Assistant - Change of title to SEN & Pastoral Admin - Sep 25 (Based in Amber Hill)
 Neil Blackwell - Community Liaison Officer - Change of title to Careers Lead & L6 Careers Counsellor
 Vacancy Admin Assistant/PA - Sep 25 (Interviews before end of term) - Based in Lincoln

Leadership:

The following staff will be joining SLT in September:
 Elena Wilson - SENDCO
 Mel Findon - Pastoral Manager
 Sarah Mulligan - Leader of English & Literacy

SEND...

Reflections on a Successful Year

As we reach the end of another academic year, it's wonderful to look back and celebrate the many successes within our community here at The Pilgrim School.

This has been a year marked by resilience, progress, and countless positive outcomes, especially for our Year 11 students. They have worked incredibly hard and achieved so much, both academically and personally. We're all very proud of their determination and the progress they've made.

I'd also like to say a heartfelt thank you to our staff, parents, carers, and governors. Your support, collaboration, and commitment play such a vital role in helping our pupils succeed and thrive.

As we look ahead to the new academic year, we're excited to build on the successes of this year and continue finding new ways to support our young people's wellbeing, mental health, and learning.

Top Tips for a Happy Summer

As we head into the summer holidays, here are some simple, practical ideas to help families enjoy the break and keep children engaged, happy, and ready for the new school year:

✓ **Keep a Routine (But Stay Flexible)**

A bit of structure—like regular times for waking up, meals, and bedtime—can help children feel settled, while still leaving space for relaxed and fun days.

✓ **Mix Up Activities**

Try a variety of activities each week: outdoor play, creative projects, reading, games, or visiting local places. It doesn't have to be expensive—simple activities can be just as enjoyable.

✓ **Read Together**

Books, magazines, or comics are a great way to keep reading skills fresh and spend quality time together.

✓ **Get Outdoors**

Fresh air and exercise are great for everyone. A walk in the park, time in the garden, or exploring a nature trail can be a lovely change of scenery.

✓ **Use Calm Spaces**

Sometimes a quiet space at home with books, music, or crafts can help children relax if things feel overwhelming.

✓ **Encourage Self-Care**

Support children in looking after themselves through hobbies, creative activities, or gentle exercise they enjoy.

✓ **Set Small Goals**

Having a little project or goal—like learning a new recipe, creating art, completing a puzzle, or making a scrapbook—can give children a sense of achievement.

✓ **Stay Connected**

Encourage children to keep in touch with friends or family over the summer through calls, messages, or get-togethers if possible.

✓ **Celebrate Small Wins**

Take time to recognise and praise small successes, whether it's trying something new, helping around the house, or managing a tricky day.

✓ **Prepare for the New Term**

Towards the end of the holiday, start talking gently about going back to school to help children feel ready and positive for the new term ahead.

LPCF Virtual Workshop for Parents and Carers

I'd also like to share details of an excellent opportunity for parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The **Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum (LPCF)** is holding an informative virtual workshop, and all registered LPCF members are warmly invited to join:

 **Date:** 15th July 2025

 **Time:** 11:00am – 12:00pm





 **Venue:** Online via Zoom

Please note: This session is open to registered LPCF members only.

About LPCF

LPCF is a fantastic community of over 4,500 parents and 1,500 professionals dedicated to improving the lives of children and young people with SEND across Lincolnshire. They work closely with local authorities and health services to ensure that families' voices are heard and that services reflect the real needs of our community.

Why Attend the Workshop?

-  Find out more about LPCF's work and how they support families.
-  Connect with other parents and carers who understand your experiences.
-  Access helpful resources and information tailored for families of children with SEND.
-  Learn how you can help shape the future of SEND services in Lincolnshire.

If you're interested, you can book your place here: [Click to Book Your Place](#)

I hope all our families have a happy, safe, and enjoyable summer holiday. Thank you once again for your ongoing support this year – it truly makes such a difference.