



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 22

HEADTEACHER'S ADDRESS...

Dear Parent / Carer,

Welcome to this newsletter regarding the Pilgrim School. As always, the term has been a busy one again for staff and pupils alike. The newsletter gives a flavour of the wide range of activities and opportunities that your child has at the Pilgrim school.

There have been our usual range of trips and visits. This has included destinations such as Ancaster bowling, the Lincoln Mosque and the Kinema in the Woods. These trips are important as we recognize that some pupils have made their world smaller – this helps them see a wider horizon.

The school has also celebrated its usual rituals and routines – including a wide range of activities for WOW on a Wednesday afternoon. In addition, we welcomed back our year 11 leavers for the first Pilgrim Awards' Evening since COVID 19. It was a privilege to recognize their achievements, including pupils who had achieved grade 9 in English and RE and grade 8 in history. However, the real celebration was for each pupil who had completed their education at the Pilgrim school, had done well and successfully moved on to their next stage of learning in the most difficult of circumstances. Well done.

We are encouraged that the adults in school take learning as seriously as our students. We welcome Joe Denton, Lisa Spring and Hope Smith as apprentice teachers.



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The winter days are shorter and the nights are longer and darker. Archbishop Desmond Tutu reminded us that “Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness.” Hope is future focused. It is the belief that through the setting of goals and finding the strength to carry those goals through we make our lives better. Goals can be big or they can be small, but they should be meaningful for you. As we move through winter and into the spring, I hope that all our pupils are able to start making their dreams, big or small, a reality.

It has been a long year. We have had our share of difficulty and hardship, but there is much to celebrate and appreciate as well. I would like to thank all the parents, pupils, staff and governors who have made Pilgrim a special place this year.

I wish you all a great Christmas break.

Regards,

Steve Barnes.

GOVERNORS' UPDATE...

There have been some positive highlights for Governors this term. The Science Award Day and the Presentation Evening are two stand out events which give all Governors a great sense of pride at being involved with this amazing school. But it's not just big events that make us proud. Seeing the incredible artwork, joining a lesson, noting the progress made by pupils, joining pupils on trips out and celebrating those small successes with staff are a bonus to the strategic work we do to support the school. But possibly the biggest highlight is being able to see the policies and protections of essential governance being worked out day by day in the 3 Bases and amongst those learning at home.

We have re-organised ourselves as a Governing Body and have established Base Link Governors for Lincoln, Baumber and Amber Hill and one Governor to specifically focus on home learners (almost like a 4th Base!). This means that when we meet as a Full Governing Body (each Lincolnshire Term), we have written evidence from these Link Governors to sharply focus our discussions and deliberations to ensure equity across the bases and monitor progress.

We also have Link Governors to oversee several other aspects of governance such as Resources (including finances, staffing, premises); Well Being (including SEND, Safeguarding, E Safety, Student voice) and Curriculum (including transitions and careers, curriculum deep dives and Hope Network development).

For the past 12 months we have worked hard on developing a detailed Vision and Ethos document for the future of the school. Summaries can be found on the school website.

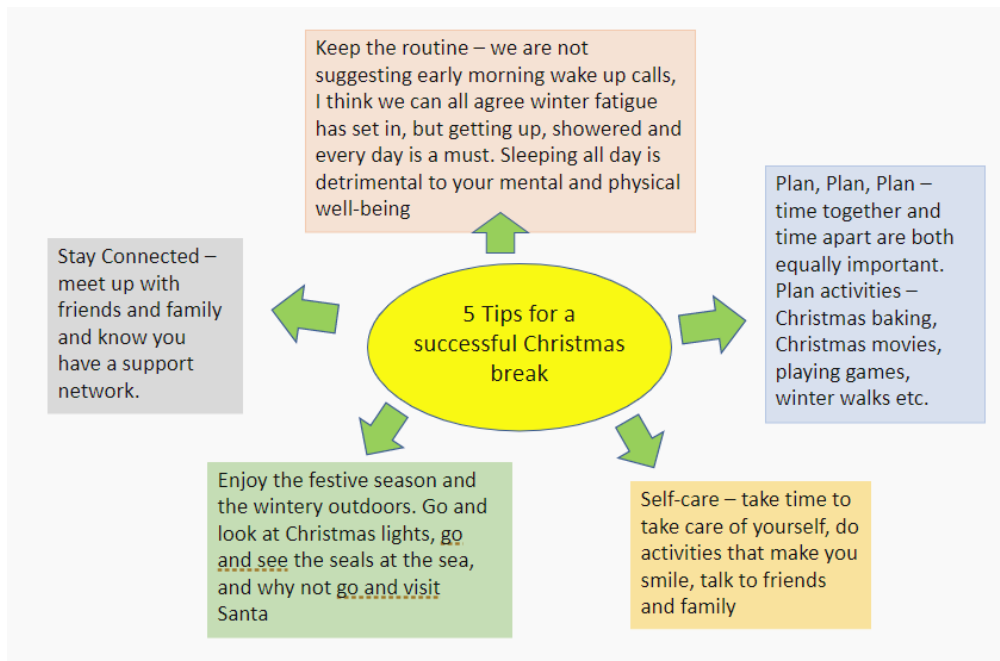
We wish everyone; staff, students, families, and carers; an enjoyable break from the routine of school life and look forward to all that 2023 brings. And if you are inspired to get further involved - we do have a couple of vacancies on our Governing Body so we would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in joining us!

Take care

The Pilgrim School Governors

SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION...

Thank you to all parents and carers for the continued positive relationships that you have formed with the staff at Pilgrim. This has proven to be highly effective in allowing us to safeguard and support the pupils.



If support is required over the holidays, please reach out!

You don't need to be at rock bottom to ask for help



Samaritans:	116 123
Childline:	0800 111
Mind:	0300 123 3393
Young Minds:	Txt YM to 85258 (youth)
Shout	Txt 85258 (any age)
Domestic abuse hotline:	0808 2000 247
SANEline:	0300 304 7000
Drink line:	0300 123 1110
Cruse Bereavement Care:	0808 808 1677
Age UK:	0800 169 6565

It's good to talk!

@youthwhispering



Enjoy the holidays and we look forward to seeing you all back in the new year.

PILGRIM SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAYS 2022/2023

<i>Inset Days: Friday 2nd September & Monday 5th September 2022</i>		
	Tuesday	6 September 2022
Term 1	to	
	Friday	21 October 2022
<i>Inset Day: Monday 31st October 2022</i>		
	Tuesday	1 November 2022
Term 2	to	
	Monday	19 December 2022
Bank Holidays:- Monday 26, Tuesday 27 December 2022 & Monday 2 January 2023		
<i>Inset Day: Tuesday 3rd January 2023</i>		
	Wednesday	4 January 2023
Term 3	to	
	Friday	10 February 2023
	Monday	20 February 2023
Term 4	to	
	Friday	31 March 2023
Bank Holidays:- Friday 7 April & Monday 10 April 2023		
<i>Inset Day Monday 17th April 2023</i>		
	Tuesday	18 April 2023
Term 5	to	
	Friday	26 May 2023
Bank Holidays:- Monday 1 & Monday 29 May 2023		
	Monday	5 June 2023
Term 6	to	
	Friday	21 July 2023

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN OUR BASES THIS TERM

AMBER HILL NEWS....

We have had another busy start to the year at Amber Hill. Year 11s have been making a great start to their GCSE year and have started to prepare for their mock exams. They have been making college visits to Boston and Stamford college to help them to prepare for their futures. Year 10 have also started their GCSE and BTEC courses and KS3 too have been embracing learning. Well done all of you – great Ikigai and Sisu!

Of course, we have had plenty of 'play' too and shown Storge in helping others. We have had a record-breaking year at Amber Hill for raising money for Children in Need (see Rachel's write up below) as well as eating lots of cakes on MacMillan coffee morning. We have started lots of lunchtime clubs including drawing, language, LGBTQ+ and Musical theatre to name a few. Students and staff are enjoying having something to keep themselves occupied at lunchtime and it's been a great way to make new friends. We have also had a WOW visit to the Fire Station (see below), National Chemistry week, Maths week, trips to Lincoln Mosque, Boston Book Fayre and of course the Christmas trip to Kinema! Ubuntu!

Have a peaceful Christmas everyone, Sharon

Children in need



Children in Need 2022 in Amber Hill was a smash hit this year with a grand total of donations received coming to a whopping £175.13. At break times, we had the bake sale with beautiful cakes being made by staff members which went down a treat. We also had some fun games that the kids loved such as Pudsey penalties, bear pong and the highlight of the day, pie face. Pie face was the school favourite where you would pay to vote for a teacher you would like to pie in the face with shaving cream. The unlucky winners were Scott and Elena, Scott was a decided winner very early as one of our year 11's DT donated £15 to have the honor of pieing him himself and Elena was pied by another year 11 JH. We ended the day with a raffle, we all joined together to see who would win the prizes, up for grabs we had chocolate, gift sets, a travel mug and many more.

As well as Children in Need, we also had Maths week, Sam, one of our Maths teachers was very excited to get involved in the fundraising. All week she had been collecting to try and get enough coins to make a line from one side of the playground to the other. In lessons she would use the coins as a way to practice Pi, this all collated with pie face on Children in Need and all the money collected, in coins, would be donated which came to an impressive £10!

We do need to give a big thank you to the residents of Amber Hill with their generosity on Children in Need. One of our TA's Rachel took 2 students LM and AW out around the village with the leftovers from our bake sale to see if they had a sweet tooth. They went to most the houses in the village and got note after note from the residents with most of them not wanting any cake, just to donate. These donations made such a massive difference to our final total and we are very grateful for their generous donations and will be sending a thank you letter to all that donated.

A really successful children in need with massive thanks to staff, students and residents that made the grand total of £175.13 possible, this will make a huge difference to many people's lives.

Boston College Trip

On 21st November Year 11 students went on a trip to Boston College, this was an extremely insightful afternoon for all. We split into two groups so we could ensure all students were able to look around the areas which they were interested in, this included plumbing and electrical, catering, childcare, public services, art, music and media, and the sixth form section. We were also given a tour of the library and canteen area. We were all very impressed with the range and quality of the facilities available. At the end of the tour all of the students were excited to look around the animal care building, we saw so many animals including giant rabbits, a giant tortoise, a range of reptiles, and even an animal called a jerboa. We are very thankful for the tour of the college because it was very informative and has helped make students aware of what options they have available for them for next academic year.

Boston Fire Station Trip

On 16th November the WOW group, consisting of students from Year 9 to Year 11, went to visit the Boston Fire Station. Overall, it was an extremely enjoyable and informative afternoon, we wished we had more time to spend there! When we arrived, we were taken on a tour around the station and the fire engines, learning about all of the tools and equipment firefighters use. After, we were given free reign of the trucks and equipment to explore for ourselves, the students particularly enjoyed sitting in the fire engines and attempting to pick up a hydraulic cutter.



The theme of the week for WOW was team building so we were very appreciative of the firefighters who planned an activity for us to do to learn more about the importance of working as a team. This involved going into the training building in pitch black darkness in pairs using a thermal imaging camera and a guideline to walk through the building to find hidden parts of a hose. The students learnt that this is how firefighters navigate themselves through burning

buildings with no visibility and how important it is to stay in contact and communicate well with your partner.



After this, we were informed on how firefighters access the water supply and were then given the opportunity to have a go at spraying water out of the hoses. We were so surprised to know that the pressure we were firing the water at was less than half the usual pressure that firefighters use, this was so surprising because it was already very powerful. We are so grateful that we were given the opportunity to go on this visit, we can't wait until we can go back again.

BAUMBER NEWS...

Wow - Enrichment sessions

We started the term by making some great mood boards. The theme was "All about me" and the students and staff found it really interesting looking at each other's interests and sharing tastes in music and films.



The LGBTQ+ sessions went so well that these were extended into a club every Wednesday lunch. The students attending are amazing sharing their thoughts and experiences – often teaching the adults of new terms to keep us up to date.

In October we went to the local Pumpkin Patch, I don't know who enjoyed it the most the staff or the students? With such a variety of colours and sizes to choose from they all came back with a

grand selection including a giant one!

As Christmas is approaching we had a few craft sessions making decorations ready to decorate our Christmas tree which was kindly donated by one of our students and their family – Thank you so much. The students have made an awesome job of the decorations.



Pilgrim Plus



KS3 students have begun a Level 1 Prince's Trust qualification and the topic was "Enterprise". They have been looking at various entrepreneurs and researching ideas they could use to make a business. We looked at profit and loss, market research and marketing. Next came the practical stage of production just in time to sell their goods as Christmas presents. Here are some photographs of the two businesses running from Baumber – we had natural handmade soaps and pin cushions.



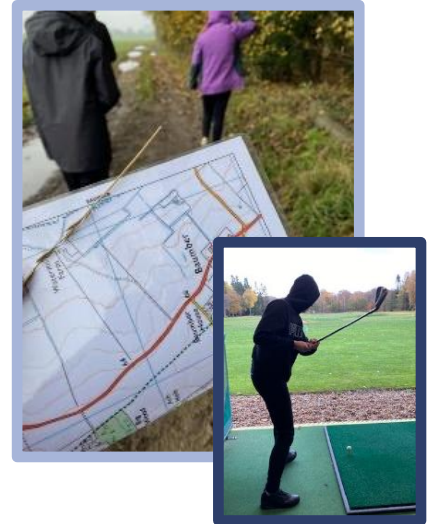


Hall of Hope

The Hope displays have really developed this term – with more information available to the students which runs alongside the school curriculum.

D of E

The Duke of Edinburgh award sessions have had an amazing start. The students which have signed up have been really enthusiastic. For their physical section we have been hiking, played Wii fit and even managed a trip to the local driving range. For their volunteering section we have been helping the school make their Christmas decorations and been keeping the school library in order. For the skill section we have done basic navigation skills and learning all about the OS maps. We are looking forward to seeing what the next term brings.



Pupil forum

The latest Pupil Forum discussion was lively, with requests for more local trips, a voluntary Secret Santa for students which has just taken place and in base lids on the bins for Otto!

Other lunchtime clubs were suggested to go alongside our established Chess Club such as Craft Club or Origami club – watch this space!

SMSC

As part of our SMSC Calendar we had a visit to the local mosque in the centre of Lincoln. This was a very informative visit and it was lovely to look around and be made to feel welcome by the Imam. Afterwards we socialised with the Lincoln base staff and students for lunch before heading back to base for lessons.

LINCOLN NEWS...

As more referrals come Lincolns way classes are steadily growing and new pupils have been visiting for 'taster sessions' before their timetables begin. We have enjoyed visits to Amber Hill for the Science presentation and to the Lincoln Mosque. The tree of Hope is now standing proud in the lobby- See a picture below.

Now that numbers are steadily growing in Lincoln this will provide an opportunity for pupils to share their voice within pupil forum and inform our next steps regarding lunchtime activities. Chess sets have been ordered and we have a couple of pupils interested already.

Pupils have enjoyed watching the football in base and Pilgrim staff have been clear when describing the nature of British values compared to the inequalities found in some countries. MacMillan coffee morning was a success and thanks to those who brought cakes.

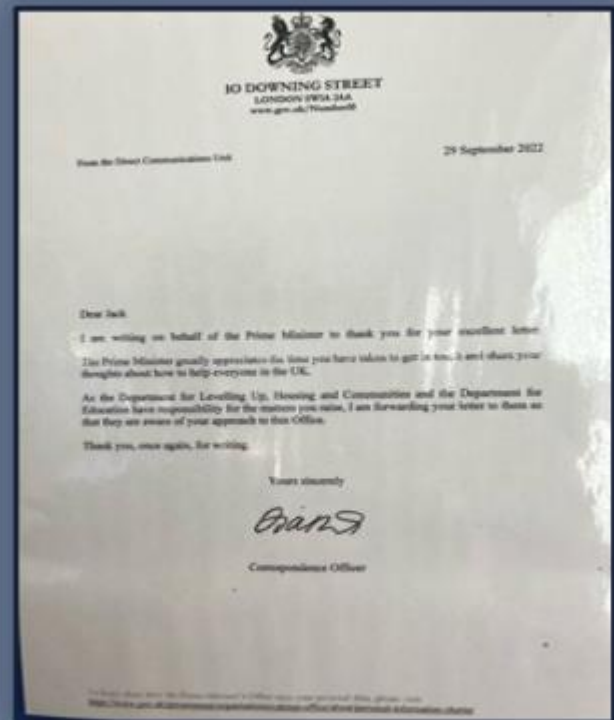


As always, we encourage creativity across our curriculum. See below the response from Downing Street regarding a letter written by one of the Lincoln pupils. The letter focused on the inequalities in the world including homelessness.

The response reads:

"Dear Jack, I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your excellent letter. The Prime Minister greatly appreciates the time you have taken to get in touch and share your thoughts about how to help everyone in the UK"

Steve



HOME TAUGHT...

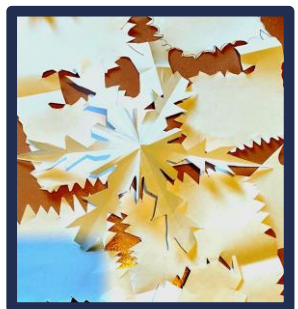
Our home students receive a unique, bespoke package of learning and support. They have all been working well with their home teachers and pastoral support workers and taking all opportunities available to them. Well done everyone. Some of our students took part in the Global Battery Challenge, one student designing a battery which achieved the highest voltage! Students are invited to come on all trips, and many of our base activities and it is so lovely to see some of you at these events. Please do keep joining us!



It was fantastic to see again some of our Year 11s from last academic year at the Awards evening. We all felt proud that some of our home students received subject prizes - Congratulations. Well done to N who received the overall award for Home Tuition. I know your teachers were extremely proud of you and all you have achieved.

Have a lovely Christmas break everyone and Happy New Year!

Sharon



AWARDS EVENING ...

It was great to welcome back some past Pupils and find out where their journey has taken them since leaving us with their inspirational speeches. This was truly a night to not be missed! Seeing those Pupils receive all of their certificates and awards was very rewarding.

OTTO...

Otto joined the Pilgrim School community in September.

Staff and pupils alike have welcomed him with enthusiasm and warmth and he is always missed on his days off.

So far his work tasks have included joining pupils on Healthy Activity and tutor time walks, meet and greet from the taxis and general provider of comfort and cuddles as needed.

Pupils are supporting his training with the command 'four paws' if he jumps up and teaching him new tricks. He has his own puppy passport which outlines his current needs (largely biscuits) and focus area for training. He has a cheeky character and frequently attempts to empty the bins when opportunity presents!

Thank you to all pupils, staff and family members who have supported this new initiative.

Below is a selection of photos from his first full term:

Tutor time walk



First day photo



Initial training passed



Halloween



Choosing books



Playing Head Teacher



Children in Need



Supporting at a workshop



SCHOOL BRIEFINGS & WORKSHOPS...

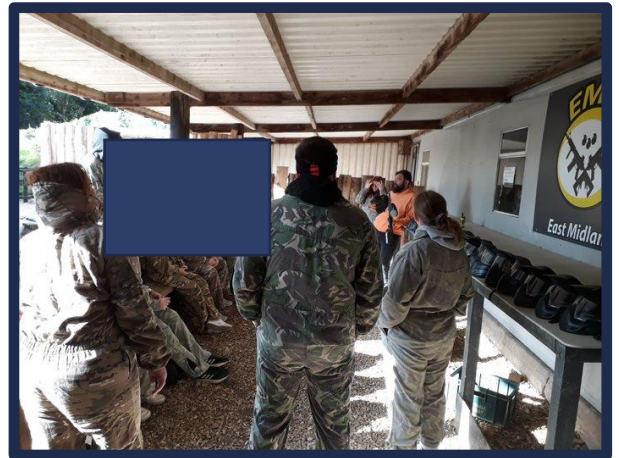
Lincolnshire County Council Road Safety Team visited the 3 bases in October and provided a workshop for students about how they can keep themselves safe in and around the highways. The Stay Safe Partnership are also providing the school with safer internet workshops which have taken place early December across the 3 bases.

TRIPS...

Paintballing/Laser Tag Trip – Ancaster Leisure 7th October 2022

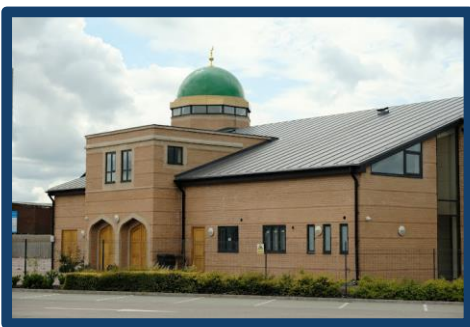
Following a very successful school trip to Ancaster Leisure in 2021, the school organised a similar trip in October 2022. Students from both the school bases and home taught were invited to join the school trip and enjoy an organised day out either paintballing or laser tag. The Ancaster centre is set within an open wooded area that was ideal as it provided cover and extra challenge for the players.

The pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the day out and at the end of the sessions everyone who took part was exhausted but had had a fantastic time. Trips such as these are aimed at providing students with the opportunity to work in teams, exercise and enjoy themselves and we look forward to booking something similar for the same time next year



Visit to Lincoln Mosque and Cultural Centre – 17th November 2022

As part of our school's spiritual, moral, social and cultural provision the school visited the Lincoln Mosque and Cultural Centre to learn more about Muslim religion and practices. The Imam provided us with a very interesting tour of the



Mosque and explained more about the 5 pillars of Islam. We visited the various prayer rooms and the Imam carried out the call to prayer as well as explaining why the Muslim religion requires people to wash themselves before prayer.

The pupils asked some very good questions and were very attentive to the talks. Following the visit the pupils returned to the Lincoln base for a well earned slice of pizza and a fizzy drink. I would like to thank the pupils who attended for being so engaged with the tour and hope they have learnt more about Islam.

Kinema in the Woods – 16 December 2022

On the last week of school, before the Christmas break, the school has over the last few years organised a trip to The Kinema in the Woods in Woodhall Spa for the students from the three bases and home taught to enjoy a newly released movie.

This year we booked the film Matilda The Musical, a film only released late November 2022. The students had the opportunity to purchase snacks from the Kinema to enjoy during the movie. This is a really fantastic event that both staff and students thoroughly enjoy and has a real Christmassy feel about it.



E-SAFETY ...

Our E-safety work has developed over the last three months to now include Online and Office365 representatives in every base. At a management level we have also carried out a successful Online Safety Audit and Risk Assessment across our systems in all three bases.

The students continue to access the secure Wi-Fi in each base, essential for our more rural locations.

Internet safety and online bullying was a recent focus, especially on Internet Safety Day in November, and all bases have received our annual visit by the Safer Internet Workshop.

We, of course, remain committed to keeping our students and staff safe and secure from the modern pressures of social media and especially mobile use.

I would like to remind everyone of our policies, in particular to not take photos or videos on phones in school. We have had instances of people being in the background of material posted on social media who have not even given permission for their photos to be taken at all, which is a serious breach of confidentiality.

The link below also gives some info and advice from Childnet on Christmas presents, although it was also written with Black Friday in mind. Much of it is common sense, including the best advice..... "Have a conversation"!

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/christmas-2022/>

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Jon Stevenson,
Online Safety Officer and E-safety Governor

STAFFING CHANGES...

This term we have had the following changes to our staff:

NEW STARTERS:

- Mike Toyne
- Leisha Jerram

They are both Teachers who have joined our Home Tuition Team.

STAFF LEAVING:

- Isobel Holmes - TA in Lincoln
- Frankie Wilson - TA in Amber Hill

Both are leaving us to pursue careers with the NHS

OTHER NEWS:

- Harriet Tricker, one of our English Teachers has had her baby (Olive) in November and is now on Maternity Leave.

We are currently supporting the following staff to undertake their Teaching Apprenticeship:

- Hope Smith - Trainee English Teacher
- Lisa Spring - Trainee English Teacher
- Joe Denton - Trainee Science Teacher

MOCK EXAMS UPDATE ...

When we return in January most of our Year 11 students will be taking their mock GCSE examinations.

The exams will run for two weeks from Monday 9th January and pupils will sit 2 papers for each core subject (English Language, Maths and Science). Mocks will be run at all 3 bases, with some students sitting them at home with the support of their mainstream schools.

Students who take additional options will be offered the opportunity to sit mock papers within their usual lesson time and individual teachers will give details of these to students.

All parents should now have received a Parentmail with a copy of their individual timetable and an Information for Candidates document. Paper copies have also been sent home, either by post or handed to students.

Year 11 mock GCSEs are a very important part of preparing for the Summer examinations – for both students and staff! Papers will be sat in exam conditions, applying all the known access arrangements which students will be granted in the Summer, and are a very helpful way of showing students what to expect when they sit “the real thing” in a few months time. Candidates sit exams in classrooms with only a few other students, or in their own room where access arrangements dictate it, and are invigilated by familiar Pilgrim Staff.

All staff are available to help and support students through their exams; however if you require any further information please email our Exams Officer, Liz Hallissey liz.hallissey@pilgrim.lincs.sch.uk or SENDCo Elena Wilson elena.wilson@pilgrim.lincs.sch.uk for access arrangements. Further information regarding exams can also be found on the JCQ website <https://www.jcq.org.uk/> or individual exam board websites.

We wish all our Year 11s every success in their upcoming examinations!

