

## FBA Weekly Update (16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022)

### Headteachers' Message

It is hard to escape the news reports of the libel court case dubbed WAGatha Christie. It is very easy to judge and poor scorn on the whole affair especially owing to the eye watering amount of money being spent over a social media spat; however, when we reflect, this case mirrors the abuse and misuse of social media in wider society. Nationally, there is a significant issue over the inappropriate use of social media by school students, especially TikTok. The Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) have been talking directly to TikTok executives this week about online bullying as it is such a widespread issue. Sadly, we have some isolated incidents of this at FBA which we reported to TikTok and are investigating.

The WAGatha Christie case provides a great opportunity for you as parents and carers to discuss the healthy use of social media and the risks involved if your daughter posts inappropriate or hurtful comments; we will continue to share this message at school too.

If you wish to find out more, below are a few useful websites for parents:

- <https://esafetytraining.org/resources/parents-carers-area/>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
- <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>
- <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/>

### Notices



#### LIFE Ambassadors

On Friday, the LIFE Ambassadors from FBA, Benhurst and Dame Tipping visited the food bank in Collier Row to deliver food that has been collected in the schools. They worked with the staff there to find out more about how the centre works. We are very proud of the work that the students are involved in and the difference they are making.

We are still collecting food in school if any of you are able to contribute.

If you would like to find out more about the food bank, please go to:

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/collierrowromford/>

#### Year 11 and 13 Examinations

The GCSE, BTEC and A-level exams started this week. We want to say well done to all the students and congratulate them on 100% attendance. The exam season is a marathon rather than a sprint and they have made a brilliant start.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Form Leadership



It is an FBA tradition that the incoming 6<sup>th</sup> form leadership team host an afternoon tea to say thank you to the outgoing team. It was an absolute delight and lots of fun to attend the Big Game Night which saw the teachers take on the students in a wide variety of games and quizzes including Family Fortunes, a music quiz and a Mr and Mrs style quiz.

We are pleased to announce that the teachers were triumphant and in no way bent the rules in order to win 😊



A huge thank you to the Year 13 leadership team for all they have done to support the students and the school. We also want to thank the new leadership team for a fab event and we are really excited about your plans for the year ahead.



### This week's inspirational woman is Elsa James

Elsa James, 51 is an artist from Essex who is taking on the 'Essex Girl' stereotype and currently has an art show at the Firstsite Gallery in Colchester. She described her current project - Black Girl Essex - "as an exploration of being black in Essex".

Speaking to BBC News, Southend-based Ms James said one of the driving forces of Black Girl Essex was her own feelings about being black and living in Essex. "I came to a point where I realised I was actually a bit ashamed of saying, especially to folks in London, that I lived in Essex," she said. "And coupled with Essex as a county that is looked down upon and the Essex girl stereotype which we all know about."

"It was a stigma for me and I wanted to explore that and to find out what other black folks felt like living here. Through this residency I would like to have those conversations."

## Enrichment and Extra-curricular activities



### Railway and Engineering Club – Visit to Germany

This week, students from Years 8, 9 and 10 travelled to Germany as part of the International School Exchange Programme which is led and funded by the Department for Education and the British Council.

They spent time with students at our partner school Marienschule and visited a wide variety of places such as Planetenlehrpfad – a scaled down version of the Planets of the Solar system; the Deutsches Museum and a UNESCO World Heritage site in Essen



Students from Bonn University Physics Faculty organised a “Physics is Fun” presentation and activities including the Can Crush; Flame Tornado; Angular Momentum with a Bicycle Wheel; Firing a Gauss Gun; Tyndall’s Light Scattering in Milk and, to finish, the Water Bottle Rocket.

The students also found some time to visit the HARIBO shop in Bonn where Tangfastic and Starmix were born!

A huge thank you to Mr Wheadon for months of work securing the funding and organising the trip and for Miss Smyth for supporting him over the past week.



### Language of the Month for May is **Polish**.

Poland’s national symbol is the White Eagle. According to legend, the White Eagle emblem originated when Poland's legendary founder Lech saw a white eagle's nest. When he looked at the bird, a ray of sunshine from the red setting sun fell on its wings, so they appeared tipped with gold, the rest of the eagle was pure white. He was delighted and decided to settle there and placed the eagle on his emblem.

He also named the place Gniezdno (currently Gniezno) from the Polish word gniazdo ("nest").

Hello	Cześć
Goodbye	Do widzenia
Good morning	Dzień dobry
Good afternoon	Dzień dobry
Yes	Tak
No	Nie
Thank you	Dziękuję
Please	Proszę
Well done	Dobrze

## The Farm



In Great British style, the past week has seen a variety of weather extremes: from burning sun, to pouring rain with a thunder storm in-between!

Our animals are used to all weathers and their care is adjusted depending on factors such as the weather – thanks to all the students who work hard helping on the farm every week!

We have welcomed two new sow (female) guinea-pigs to our FBA farm family, and Sepia the guinea-pig was overjoyed to meet her new friends. Agouti (colour) smooth (type of coat/fur) Peppercorn is just over three months old, and ginger and white smooth Pipsqueak is just under three months old.

Guinea-pigs are highly social and must be kept in pairs or groups. They are hierarchal herd animals so one will take charge, although it is not always the largest or the oldest – it can sometimes be the youngest! They are settling in nicely, and are loving all the love and attention they are getting from students. They live in our guinea-pig room on the farm



**And finally**, with half term fast approaching we want to flag up a few opportunities for days out for the students which are free.

**The British Museum** – with over two million years of human history and culture, there is something for everyone. They also have a special exhibition called *Feminine power: the divine to the demonic* <https://www.britishmuseum.org/exhibitions/feminine-power-divine-demonic>

**The Museum of London** is truly wonderful and celebrates the amazing city and its people.

Opening this week is an exclusive, free display celebrating one of the city's most iconic sporting heroes, both on and off the pitch. Harry Kane: I want to play football will bring together rarely-seen personal items, family photos and iconic objects to document Harry's career so far: from his first club, to winning golden boot awards and being named England captain.



You could also try:

- **Wandering around Covent Garden:** You may just be ambushed by some free, highly entertaining street theatre.
- **Going to Richmond Park:** Keep your eyes peeled for wildlife, including the resident deer (all 650 of them!).
- **Seek out Greenwich Instagram hotspots:** From iconic Cutty Sark to Greenwich Park's pretty blossom.

David Turrell & Emilie Darabasz  
Joint Headteachers