

SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Term 3 2019

Milder weather, brighter sun and longer days over the last few weeks will hopefully herald the start of Spring at the High School. Certainly it is lovely to see all the daffodils planted by Year 7 in October last year starting to burst through and come into flower in recent days.

Another 'bright and sunny' feature of this term was the school production of 'The Addams Family'. Oh my goodness what a wonderful production! Such talent, commitment and professionalism from the entire cast, crew, musicians and supporting staff. Thank you to everyone involved.

Year 11 and Year 13 have also experienced and survived their mock examinations. Lots of hard work was completed by many students but it is not the end of the matter yet! Revision and preparation for the upcoming GCSE and A level exams is like running a marathon. Students have spent the last eleven or thirteen years preparing for this and they are now on the final lap with the finish line in sight. In fact the exams will be on us in fewer than 50 school days! Revision needs to be kept up in order to be fully ready for the final challenge.

Term 4 will also see the launch of three exciting projects; please read the newsletter further to hear about the Crisp recycling scheme and Project 100. I would also ask that if you are having a Spring Clean over the half term remember that books, DVDs, soft toys, games or bric a brac can always be donated to the High School Spring Fayre. Term 4 will see preparations for this years event start in earnest and the event itself will be held on Saturday 11th May this year. Items such as those listed can be donated to school for the fayre in the week beginning 7th May.

Today we see off our annual trips to Rome (Classics) and Andorra (Skiing) we wish both trips a safe and enjoyable time. Whatever your plans this half term, lets all keep our fingers crossed for the lovely Spring weather and enjoy a well earned rest.

Mrs M K Anderson—Headmistress

Ski Trip 2019



Rome Trip 2019

Dance at the South Holland Centre

On Tuesday 29th January, dancers from Spalding High School had the opportunity to perform at the South Holland Centre. Poppy Gill had been choreographing a piece with a group of Year 8 – 10 pupils every Tuesday lunch time and this gave them an opportunity to perform this creative and diverse piece of choreography on the stage. Although it wasn't a competition, the performances were scored using the School Games moral of 'passion'. Poppy Gill's solo, which won the Year 10-house dance competition earlier this year, came 1st and the group choreography came 2nd. Well done to all the dancers who performed at this event. Miss Pascoe.

Poppy kindly agreed to an interview to talk about her dancing and where it's taken her so far. Poppy began dancing when she was three years old, starting with hip-hop and ballet. She auditioned at the age of 7 or 8 for Unity UK, a Dance Company run by Tashan. Poppy was accepted and now trains 3-4 times a week in East London. She trains Tuesday & Wednesday nights for 2-3 hours per session and Sundays can be up to 10 hours if they have a show to perform. In between the training are the shows that they are asked or audition to perform on. They have been finalists on Britain's Got Talent in 2015; in 2016 they were working in Dubai for 10 days. They became finalists on Sky1's Got to Dance and most recently closed the show on The Greatest Dancer for the BBC. Poppy enjoys teaching dance to younger children and will soon be off to Jersey. She will also be attending World Championship Qualifiers in February. All this and Poppy is currently Y10. What an outstanding example she sets.

East Midlands Regional Floor and Vault

On Saturday 2nd February 2019, the Spalding High School under 14 and under 19 Gymnastics team went to Stamford Junior School to compete in the East Midlands Regional Floor and Vault competition. There was some exceptionally tough competition at the event, but all girls performed excellent floor routines and great handspring vaults. Both teams finished in 2nd place, narrowly missing the opportunity to qualify for the National Finals, the under 19 team by just 0.2. Well done to all those who competed and thank you to the parents for accompanying them to the competition. Miss Pascoe.



Studying Classics using VR

There are many ways to enable students to study; for example books, social media, and the usual classroom techniques. However, with the kind support of Warwick University, Spalding High School recently borrowed some newer technology to work with. This has allowed our students to visit Ancient Greece without having to leave the classroom, no doubt a disappointment to some who might have preferred a trip to Greece but obviously a cheaper alternative. One of our students has summarised what she thought of the experience.

Firstly the device was very easy to turn on and put on, it was also comfortable during the whole time. The journey through ancient Athens started from the [Forum] then it gave us some historical information about the place. You could look around at 360° and it looked very real. As you looked around a green arrow appeared, which took you forward to the next interesting thing to see, like all other places it gave you some information about where you were. Something that was very useful was that there was a map so if you got lost you could decide where to go. I liked the going inside the Parthenon the best because you could visit all different floors and see the 11m tall statue of Athena.

Overall I liked the experience and would like to see other places like this.



Professor Graham Machin visits Spalding High School

On February 8th, Spalding High School were lucky enough to host Professor Graham Machin, science leader for the National Physical Laboratory Temperature and Humidity Group. He presented a thoroughly interesting and thought-provoking lecture to students from Years 10-13. Students and teachers from Stamford High School and Spalding Grammar School were also invited to the eye-opening presentation and were pleased to join us.

Professor Machin presented his lecture “Artefact free measurement: the redefinition of the international system of units” in an engaging and exciting way. The lecture focused on the evolution of measurement practices and how there is only one “perfect kilogram,” which is kept securely in a safe in Paris. However, in November 2018, the General Congress of Weights and Measures (CGPM) met to discuss a “fundamental change” to the international system of units (SI). Professor Machin explained new fundamental constants (based on defined values) and how their definitions will change on May 20th 2019. The development of new technology will lead to no-drift sensors that will always be correct, as they will be based on set values.

We were incredibly lucky to have been amongst some of the first people to learn about these fascinating new advancements and I know that the lecture will have inspired many students at our school to pursue a career in either science or mathematics.

I am sure that all of the students and teachers that attended will agree that the lecture was a fantastic experience. We are incredibly grateful to have had such an enlightened presentation from someone at the forefront of such fantastic scientific advancements.

Georgie Van Dyke 10S

Mrs Anderson who attended the lecture said, “It was a pleasure to host Dr Machin, special guests and staff and students from our own and visiting schools for such a fascinating and engaging presentation. It was great to not only hear about cutting edge science and maths but to also learn about historic measurement techniques and how they have affected the weights and measurement systems today.”

The Addams Family – Production of the year

The Addams Family was, for many of us, the highlight of the academic year! New friendships were formed and a love for the theatre whether new or old ran throughout the cast and crew from the very first rehearsal. For the older students' involved. The Addams family was the last performance we will ever do at Spalding High School, for others it was their very first. Regardless, it was certainly an experience that none of us will ever forget! Due to the lack of maleness at Spalding High, we had to recruit a teacher to play Lucas Beinike, and no one fitted the bill like Mr Wright. He was enthralling on stage and a truly wonderful performer. It takes a lot to lay aside all of your lunch and breaks and weekends for a School show as a student, let alone as a teacher but he did just that and we were all so very grateful. Another teacher to take part was Mr Evans. He is on a placement here for 6 weeks and even he could not escape being drafted in to play zombie butler Lurch. For the sheer experience of the younger cast members especially, to perform with adults, it really added a greater dimension to the musical that although it was a School production, it was so much more than that. It was an opportunity for young budding thespians to experience an insight into performances working with external individuals and professional musicians and technicians. The musical was emotional for many, and as the final curtain closed, there was not a dry eye in the audience or cast. Dilara (Gomez), Beth and Eva (Alternate Wednesdays), were part of the many that became particularly emotional, and all will admit to struggling to hold it together during the heart wrenching Ballad 'Happy, Sad'. As the title suggests, we really did become a 'family'. The success was largely attributed to the relentless effort and work of Mrs Fisk (Head of Drama) and Mr Garbett (Head of Music). They are not only respected teachers but also admirable human beings, who brought joy and laughter to every rehearsal and were the biggest supports for every stress, wobble and confidence slip. Not only as a cast, but also as a School we are beyond lucky to have them. Spalding High school has always put on incredible performances, but even we were surprised at the quality and pure talent that this show in particular unveiled. None of us will forget our time in 'The Addams Family'. Thank you to everyone who supported the show in anyway, it truly is humbling and warming to see so many of our friends and family, staff and strangers, appreciating theatre. We may never do the bunny hop together again, but for the time we shared and the fun we had, I'm just so glad to have been part of such a rocking show.

Dilara Greene U6MCA



Two D of E Veterans at Spalding High School

On Tuesday 5th February, Mr Martindale and Mr Garbett, travelled to St. James's Palace to receive their Duke of Edinburgh's Award Long Service Certificates. The pair were introduced to Prince Edward at the event and thanked for their combined 42 years of voluntary service to the award, comprising of training, supervising, assessing and running the award at all levels at Spalding High School. The award ceremony involved many students from the Central England area being presented with their Gold D of E Awards by Prince Edward and by the guest speaker, Dame Sally Davies – Chief Medical Officer



School Council Crisp Packet Recycling Scheme

In assemblies this week the School Council Environment Committee launched the Crisp Packet Recycling Scheme which will start after half term. Please collect together any used crisp packets that you have at home or at school and pop them into one of the crisp packet recycle bins we will have in school. For every 400 used packets recycled the Committee will earn £2 for the School Council Projects. This will of course also help reduce plastic waste both in school and at home and so please support us in this project.

Music Department

This is 7C on only their 3rd trumpet lesson! Now able to play together as a whole class. Hopefully some of them may take up the trumpet with further lessons as there are some very good budding trumpeters in this class! The rest of Y7 will all experience the trumpet before the end of the year!.

After the huge success of our production of the Ad-dams Family, the Music Department is now beginning rehearsals for the Summer concert at the start of July.



Are you interested in History? Do you have an hour or so a week to help?

Since September Mrs Anderson has been reminding students, parents and staff that the School is reaching its centenary. Planning for a 100th birthday takes time and we now have a number of volunteers signed up to Project 100, the group that will plan and run the centenary celebrations. It is not too late to sign up if you want to help (parents, old & current students and staff) please just call reception and leave your details. One thing in particular we would like to do is update, organise and expand our school archive. If you have an hour or so a week or fortnight and are interested in historic documents and artefacts we would love to hear from you. Please contact reception or the Headmistress directly.

Mosque & Synagogue Projects

Years 7 and 8 have been completing projects on Mosques and Synagogues. They have been recycling cardboard, old pots and anything left over from Christmas to help them to make the key features of the holy buildings. One group even attempted a Mosque out of gingerbread!

They were tasked with making both the outside of the buildings and as many key features of the inside that they could and the results were amazing!

The students said that their favourite part of the project was teamwork. They enjoyed working together in small groups, as well as sharing materials amongst the different groups to help each other. They also enjoyed being more 'hands on' in their learning and making the key features, rather than just simply writing about them.

Valuable lessons were learnt from the projects when it came to evaluating them, from perhaps 'downsizing' their buildings (some were quite large!) to bringing in more materials or perhaps planning out better which features should take priority as they took the longest to make.

I have thoroughly enjoyed making the Mosques and Synagogues with my classes. Their efforts have been fantastic; they have shown great attention to detail as well as enthusiasm and ingenious ideas when it comes to design. I am very proud of all of them.

I would also like to thank all of the parents/carers for their support in the making of the projects as I know that many have been involved in various ways and this has been invaluable and helped the projects to go smoothly.

Mrs H Waldron



Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 26th Feb	Y13 Parents Evening	Mon 25th March	Y10 Work Experience starts
Wed 27th Feb	Sixth Form Application Deadline	Fri 29th March	Y7 Egg-stravaganza
Thurs 28th Feb	Y8 Curriculum Evening	Fri 5th April	Y10 Work Experience Ends
Mon 4th March	PTA Film Club 16:30		
Tues 5th March	Y9 Option Form Deadline		
Thurs 7th March	Y10 Parents Evening		
Thurs 14th March	Y11 & Y13 Photos 9am		
Fri 15th March	Y8 Languages Day		
Mon 18th March	Y10 PE Trip returns		
Wed 20th March	Y8 Parents Evening		
Thurs 21st March	Y11 RS Day		