

SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Term 3 2018

Despite rather cold, windy and depressing weather since Christmas, the mood at the High School has been warm and excitable! When the locker samples arrived in early January staff and students could be seen opening doors and ooh-ing and ahh-ing over their size, colour and “new-ness”. The prospect of a brightly coloured door, a nice big shelf and a coat hook to store books, folders and “stuff” really can make a difference. There are photographs of the sample lockers in this Term’s newsletter if you have not seen them. The investment in new lockers really is a very important matter for the school. The current lockers are very old and nowhere near big enough for all of the things that the students now have to store. Many Y7s are frequently observed carrying bags almost as big as they are and some are enormously heavy to even try to lift; the bags that is not the Year 7! To replace all of the lockers across the school will cost in the region of £60,000. We clearly cannot do that all in one go and the efforts of the school council, the PTA and school fundraising events along with parents supporting the new locker rentals have played a huge part in us now being able to invest the first £20,000 in Phase 1 of the locker replacements. Thank you to everyone who has supported this project.

There was also a great sense of excitement when the National League tables and Progress 8 data was published in January this year. Everyone at the High School is delighted that the achievements of our students has been recognised within the Sunday Times Parent Power Survey and National Progress 8 Value Added results. We are very pleased that the students have done so well in the newly reformed GCSE subjects, a set of examinations widely being described as the hardest since the old O Levels. They should be as proud of themselves as we are of them. Our Progress 8 Value Added score is a further indication of how well the students, the staff and the School has done and places us within the top 10 secondary schools for Progress 8 within Lincolnshire and the highest performing school in South Holland. These GCSE results remain a testament to the very high standards set at the High School and to the hard work of all students and staff, supported by parents and Governors.

Mrs Haunch and the Science Department organised a great astronomy evening with the support of Peterborough Astrological Society. It was so popular that we are hoping to make this an annual event. The PTA have also had a busy term and we enjoyed a wonderful Family Quiz Night just a week ago. Much fun was had by all and thank you not just to the PTA but also to Mr Murphy, Mr Hemsall and Mrs Waldron for writing and running the quiz.

As Spring is now hopefully on the way, please bear in mind that this will also bring the Spring Fayre! This year we are holding our Fayre on Saturday 28th April and so as you start to plant seeds and take cuttings, please also do a few extra for the Fayre. The form groups and staff will all start the planning for their events and stalls during next term and we will have our normal Pre-Fayre non-uniform day on the 27th April. Last year we introduced craft stalls along with the plant, cakes, tombolas, stalls, games and competitions and so if you are a keen crafter and would like to hire a table please contact the school finance office. Tables cost £10 to hire or £5 to High School pupils.

M K Anderson

Headmistress

MRS ABRAM

You may have noticed from the School's website that we are currently advertising for an Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for teaching and learning. Despite us all trying to persuade her otherwise, Mrs Abram has sadly decided that the time has come for her to enjoy the freedom of retirement! Mrs Abram attended the High School as a student and has been a member of staff since 1986 and her wisdom, dedication and commitment over those 32 years will make her an incredibly hard act to follow. There will be more about Mrs Abram in the summer newsletter but for now we want to say thank you Mrs Abram for all you have done

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Some of our Y7 forms have been enjoying learning how to play the trumpet! This has been a collaboration between the School and the Lincs Music Service and the Y7 classes will spend 6 lessons learning the basics of how to play! After our time with the instruments I will be issuing a letter to any interested trumpeters, which will detail how to continue learning. I am hoping that the brass section in the School Orchestra will increase significantly over the next year.

The Music Department is now very busy preparing and rehearsing for our Spring Concert. The date of the concert will be March 8th. Refreshments will be at 6.30pm and the Concert will start at 7pm. Tickets will be available shortly after the half term holiday.

7S INSTRUMENTAL

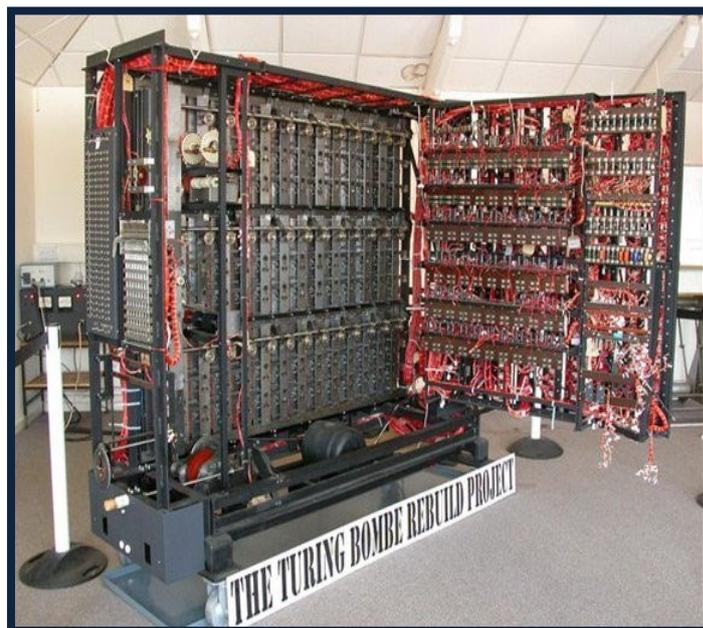
Y7 have recently been working on whole class instrumental performance. Here's a link to a 'Groove' that the whole of 7S helped to compose and are also playing!



Mr R Garbett

BLETCHLEY PARK TRIP

Year 9 students visited Bletchley Park as part of their joint Computing, Maths and History curriculum. They undertook cyber challenges and an information hunt that will directly relate to topics in their upcoming Computing course. Some groups were lucky enough to see the



Bombe Machine working which is the machine that Alan Turing built to speed up the cracking of the Enigma Code. Y9 also found out information about the Enigma and Lorenz cyphers and the part the British Intelligence played during the Second World War. An enjoyable day was had by all and we hope to visit again next year with the new year 9 group.

Mr A Fovargue

DRAFT HOMEWORK POLICY

During the course of this year we have been reviewing and updating our school homework policy. As a school we have discussed the purpose, frequency and amount of homework and shared best practise across departmental areas. The school council have also been involved in this discussion. The draft policy has been written and is ready to share with parents. It is available via the school website in the "About Us" and "Policies" drop down menu. We would invite parents to share their views in writing no later than Friday 23rd March.

LOCKER REPLACEMENT

The school council have tested and selected the new lockers and the first part of the order has been made! We are very much hoping that they will be delivered at half term and Phase 1 of the replacement installation started at Easter. "Phase 1" of the replacement is the English Corridor and upstairs and downstairs in South Porch.

The lockers are much bigger than the old one and have a shelf and a coat peg. Take a look at the photograph of the sample....

The school council have "stuffed" vast quantities of folders, book, kit bags, coats, art portfolios, tech folders, packed lunches and bags into them and decided that they are very nice and completely fit for purpose. The school council have opted for lockers in the school colours, blue and red. Sadly we could not find colours close enough to the five house colours unless we paid a vast sum for bespoke paint to be made.



In the February half term, Mr Gent and his team will start the preparation in the downstairs and upstairs area of South Porch. Forms in this area have been told to temporarily clear out their lockers so that the old ones can be moved and the walls along the corridors, cleaned, prepped and painted. The English corridor was prepped



during the last summer holiday. The old lockers will then be back in use for Term 4 before being replaced in the Easter hols. Form groups in this area will then be allocated a new larger locker and a combination lock rather than a key. All items, kit and jackets etc will then need to be stored in the new larger lockers. The pegs in this area will be removed. You will also notice that they have sloping tops so nothing is to be stacked on the top. The new lockers will also please the fire officer who has

sometimes commented on the amount of "stuff" the students leave lying around.

Phase 2 will be the 1986 block pegged areas....watch this space!

The old locker stock is perfectly serviceable and would make excellent storage in sheds and garages for tools etc. If anyone would like to make a donation to the school locker fund to buy some of the old stock, please contact the school finance office, if not we will sell them for scrap.

ROTARY CLUB OF SPALDING AND WELLAND YOUNG WRITER COMPETITION 2018

The Rotary Club has invited High School students to participate in their 2018 Young Writer Competition. This year the theme is to celebrate the forthcoming wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. The competition aims to encourage young people to write a poem in celebration of this event. There are two age categories; Junior (7-11) and Senior (12-17) (as of 31st August 2017) and will be judged in local and district heats and the winners (two from each district) will receive a certificate and have their poems sent to the Prince and Ms Markle.

Details:

Title: "A poem for the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle".

Deadline: School reception no later than 4pm 7th March
Additional information: Students should collect an entry form from reception and ensure that this is completed, signed and attached to their poem when they hand it in.

EAST MIDLANDS NETBALL TOURNAMENT

On Saturday 27th January the U16 netball team represented Lincolnshire at the East Midlands tournament at the Emmanuel School, Nottingham. All 5 teams they played were from independent schools, and the girls more than held their own against very confident and well-practised opponents. Throughout the day, the team played so very well, beating Notts Champions Nottingham High School and Northants Champions, Quinton Hall (last year's winners). Although Repton School (Derbyshire) beat us, we then suffered a really narrow 4-5 defeat to Loughborough High School (Leicester) to finish 3rd in the group. The team then

confidently beat Northampton High School in the 3rd place play off to finish an excellent day. Repton and Loughborough High School will now go on to represent the East Midlands at the National finals in March – which emphasises how close the girls were to the winning end of the tournament!



I should like to thank Hester Patrick (Y8), a really promising netballer who cheerfully spent the day in the rain as an additional reserve for the much older girls. I should like to thank Mrs Burnett who has offered invaluable help and support whilst I have been absent from school. The parents of the team members have also been as supportive as it is possible to be, attending every event, driving their offspring and supporting positively, whatever the challenges. Finally, the girls themselves have been committed (particularly during the last few months of my absence), hardworking, dynamic and funny. Most will, I know, go on playing netball outside of school in their adult life, which is what every school aims for. They have always supported each other and through the tears at the end of the tournament – their final event together after 5 years of winning everything! – I hope that on reflection they feel proud of themselves and of the fact that they can hold their own against the best school teams in this country. I certainly feel very proud!

Mrs J Moss

GYMNASTICS

On Saturday 3rd February the Spalding High School Gymnastics team went to Stamford to compete in the regional floor and vault competition as well as the Milano Team competition. All girls have worked exceptionally



hard over the last few weeks to get their floor routines ready.

Their hard work paid off after some excellent floor routines and exceptional vaults, both the under 14 and under 19 floor and vault team came first making them regional champions and will go onto represent the East Midlands at the National Floor and Vault Finals in May.

After becoming floor and vault champions the girls then performed their group routines to try and secure a place at the Milano National Finals in March. After some tough competition, the U13 team Maisie Foden, Rebecca Fones and Maddie Freeman won their category and the U16 team Miah Farrell, Liberty Foden, Amelia Fox and Evie Freeman also won their category. Both teams will now go onto represent the East Midlands at the National Milano Finals in March.

A very successful weekend for Gymnastics!

Miss Pascoe

CLEAN SWEEP AT SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE SWIMMING GALA



On the 23rd January the Y7 and Y8/Y9 swimming teams competed at the South Lincolnshire School Sports Association swimming gala at The Deepings School.



After a morning of swimming which included events such as 25m freestyle, 25m breaststroke, 25m backstroke, 25m butterfly, 4 x 25m medley relay and 4 x 25m freestyle relay the High School teams were victorious in both age categories. Pictured Y7 and Y8/9 swimming teams.

Mr L Farrell

TRAMPOLINE ELITE CHAMPION

In December Jessica won the East Midlands Regional Schools Trampoline Elite Champion title representing Spalding High School and by winning this she qualified to compete at the Central Zonal Championships (which includes the East Midlands, Eastern, West Midlands and Wales regions) in January.



At the Zonal Championships Jessica trialed her highest difficulty voluntary routine ever (including several new moves and 12 somersault rotations) and won the bronze medal thereby qualifying to the National Schools Finals in Northern Ireland on March.

Miss Pascoe

Spalding High School

SPRING CONCERT

Thursday 8th March

Refreshments ~ 6.30pm

Concert ~ 7pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE
SCHOOL OFFICE

ADULTS - £5.50

CONCESSIONS - £3

FAMILY TICKET OF 4 - £15



Health Notice

Dear Parent/Carer

We have been made aware of a few suspected cases of Scabies and Ringworm. If you have any concerns, we would advise the following websites:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/ringworm/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scabies/>

The advice to schools is as follows:

Scabies -

Children should not be in school until after the first treatment has been carried out. They may return after the first treatment however; it is important that the second treatment is not missed

Ringworm -

Once treatment has commenced for infections of the skin and scalp children can return to school.

DATES FOR DIARY			
		16th March	Y8 Languages Day
09th February	End of Term 3	16th March	PTA Family Bingo Night 6.30pm
17th February	Ski Trip returns	20th March	Y8 Parents Evening
19th February	Start of Term 4	28th March	Classics Trip (Greece) departs
19th February	Y13 Mocks Start	28th March	Geography (Azores) Trip departs
20th February	Sixth Form Taster Day	28th March	End of Term 4 (HALF DAY)
21st February	Y9 Options Form Deadline		
23rd February	Deadline for Sixth Form Applications		
23rd February	Y13 Mocks End		
26th February	PTA Meeting 6.30pm		
28th February	Y8 Curriculum Evening 7pm		
7th March	Y10 Parents Evening		
8th March	Spring Concert 7pm		