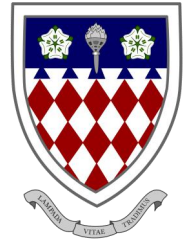


Spalding High School

Weekly Bulletin

2nd November 2023



I hope that you all had a restful and relaxing half term break and have been able to recharge your batteries ready for Term 2 and the run up to Christmas!

As you will read in this week's bulletin, half term provided an exciting time for 45 of our Y10-Y13 students and six members of staff as they headed off to Iceland for a five day expedition. I was fortunate enough to accompany the group and want to say a massive thank you to Mrs Rogers for organising such an amazing adventure and to the staff and students for making it such an enjoyable trip. It was my first trip to Iceland, having had two previous fieldtrips cancelled over the years by various volcanic eruptions and so I was very excited to finally be going, although for a while, Storm Babet seemed to be a threat. As we left school on the Thursday, flights to Iceland had been cancelled, however, by the early hours of Friday morning (we left Spalding Bus Station at 1.30am!), flights had at least resumed. We had some turbulence on route and upon arrival were held on the tarmac unable to disembark as flights had again been stopped due to the high winds but apart from some very heavy rain that first morning, the weather was glorious which made all the difference given the amount of time we spent outside. I have lost count of the number of Geography fieldtrips I have done over the course of my career and I honestly cannot recall the last time that I was in awe of the landscape (geomorphological) features I could see. I will admit that there were a number of times I could be heard saying things like "oh my word, just look at the plunge pool" or "wow, look at that slip-off slope!" and the like. I make no apologies, the landscape was inspiring, impressive and unique; at times, bleak and harsh and at others, stunningly beautiful. If you have not visited Iceland before, go. I certainly intend to go back. The expedition was made all the more enjoyable by our incredibly knowledgeable tour guide, Marta, who was able to tell us everything about all that we saw and more. Students also benefited from having their Geography teachers with them, making connections with what had been learnt in the classroom and not to miss out, there was even a moment coming down from one of the volcanoes we had climbed where I could hear Mrs Lord and Y11 doing revision on Macbeth! On the way back from a late night stroll one evening, I was bringing up the rear of the group (the task I have had for more than 33 years on Geography Fieldtrips!) when an American couple following us said to me "you have your hands full with that lot there"; "Not at all" I replied, "They are an absolute pleasure and great to be with" and I meant it. The company was great, from singing on the coach, to singling in the middle of no-where hunting the Northern Lights, to laughing on the beach, encouraging each other up the volcanoes, to playing games like what is your favourite dessert, starter, biscuits etc., to making up collective nouns or just standing in awe at the scenery, our students were a delight, good humoured (even on little sleep on our travel days) and, as I told the Americans, an absolute pleasure to be with. Thank you again to all who went. The trip certainly helped recharge my batteries!

M K Anderson, Headmistress

Dropping Off/ Collecting Students

This is a polite reminder to all parents/ carers not to park on any of the zig-zag lines, crossings or block driveways in and around the School or local vicinity when dropping off/ collecting students.

Iceland 2023



SHS Trips

Iceland - Penelope Baxter, 6LH

Iceland is one of the most beautiful countries I have ever visited, the rural landscape was so different and amazing. Once we had met with our lovely tour guide, Marta, it was straight into sightseeing. First we visited the bridge between continents where we geographically entered the North American continent and then we saw a natural hot spring that Icelandic people believe is caused by an angry troll called Gunner. My highlight from Day One was the flyover which was a virtual experience where we got to see Iceland which was a great flavour of what the trip had in store. My favourite day was Day Three because of the range of activities that we did, and as I forgot to check the itinerary each day also had a lot of cool surprises! We started by walking up a volcanic crater and the views were amazing, so vast especially in comparison with flat Lincolnshire. Then, we visited the lava falls which is a series of powerful waterfalls all of a vivid turquoise colour. The plunge pools were mesmerising! After this we went on a trip to some caves, we had a fantastic tour guide called Gareth and despite not having worked there long he was able to answer all our questions about the eruptions that had shaped the caves. To finish the day we went to a very luxurious geothermal spa with six different pools of varying temperatures. My favourite was the

toasty 40-41 degree one and it was lovely to relax and watch the sunset. It was all round a really exciting adventure, from the immense waterfalls to extensive landforms there was a lot of geography to take note of, but I also was really grateful to experience it all with some great people. I would like to especially thank Mrs Rogers for organising it all – it was definitely worth the wait!



Iceland - Briony Sweeting, 11J

The trip to Iceland last week was a great chance to explore some very different terrain than what we are used to in England! While walking around, it was interesting for me personally to see (and take pictures of, of course) the gorgeous scenery which was almost exclusively made of basalt, moss and mountain birch trees. While we visited many unforgettable places over the five days, including the famous Lava Falls, the picturesque Kerid Crater, and Flyover Iceland, an immersive and beautiful flying experience, my personal highlights from the trip were getting to see the Strokkur geyser (even though we got drenched due to standing too close when it erupted); Thingvellir National Park, where we were able to walk between the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates and get an incredible view of the landscape, and the Krauma Geothermal baths, where we had the chance to relax in six luxurious geothermal pools of different temperatures after a long day of walking.

Throughout the trip we were very fortunate in that we had clear skies and good weather for most of our stay. Although, unfortunately, we did not get to see the Northern Lights first-hand this year, we were able to make the most of our outdoor excursions. The Iceland trip was such an amazing opportunity and I am very grateful to have been able to take part in it!



English News

Christopher Tower Poetry Competition

The 24th Christopher Tower Poetry Competition will run from October 2023 to February 2024, with students between 16-18 years of age challenged to **write a poem on the theme 'Mirror.'** This is a prestigious competition for young poets, thirteen young people will scoop a total prize fund of more than £14,000 for writing a poem on a set theme.

[About Tower Poetry | Christ Church, University of Oxford](#)

Please click on the link for entry details:

[Tower Poetry Submission Manager - The Christopher Tower Poetry Competition 2024 \(submittable.com\)](#)

Mrs Lord, Head of English

Student of The Week

Please find below the latest 'Student of the Week' nominations. Nominations can be made by both teaching and support staff and can be subject related or community focused.

Form	Student	Staff	Reason
7C	Faith Winter	Mrs Schwarz	Textiles
7N	Zannah Poll	Miss Magnus	Physical Education
7P	Georgina Beasley	Mr Garbett	Music
9C	Jasmine Copping	Miss White	Physics
9C	Phoebe Hedaux	Mrs Lees	Library
9C	Ugne Grikietyte	Mrs Jones	Latin
9J	Lexi Embleton	Mrs Anderson	Geography
9J	Olivia Mumby-Croft	Mr Martindale	Technology
9S	Lisa Szymanowska	Mrs Knowles	French
10N	Lola Mai Tanner	Mrs Busfield	Physics
10P	Poppy Carr	Mr Hemsall	History
10S	Ava Illott	Mrs T Waldron	Biology
11C	Erin Taylor	Mrs Tanner	Art
11J	Alexa Shogy	Mrs Nowak	Mathematics
11J	Amelia Derewonko	Mrs Aurikko	Biology
11J	Briony Sweeting	Mrs Aurikko	Community
11J	Vanessa Singh	Mrs Martindale	Biology
11N	Zahra Shah	Mrs J Lord	English Literature
11S	Kaytie Lawson	Mr Blackburn	Business
6AB	Eliza Rudd	Mrs Bennett	Community
6AB	Synnove Dallas	Miss Bailey	German
6AF	Sakina Walji	Mr Love	Law
6GD	Maisie Keeble	Mrs Spinks	Mathematics
6KM	Naomi Warren	Miss Jeffery	English Literature

Celebrating The Individual in Year 8 - Katie Bonarius

My day at St George's Park – Tuesday 24th October 2023

On Tuesday 24th October, I went to St George's Park, which is the training ground for all of the England International football teams. We arrived at 10:30am ready for the welcome talk at 11am. Next we headed out to the Sir Bobby Charlton pitch which is known as pitch five – the main training pitch for the more common teams (the men and woman first teams). We had to choose one of the four Lioness goalkeepers and observe their training including what they did well at and how they encouraged others. Once the training was finished, we got to go on the pitch and meet the goalkeepers and have photos with them. We headed to lunch before we started training, which was one hour long. We were split into two groups so one group trained and one group had a tour of the site, then we swapped. After that, we had a half an hour Q&A with all four England goalkeepers which was really fun and we got to hear about their pathways to success and tips on goalkeeping itself. Finally, it was pick up time at 5:30pm. This day was a great experience and one that I will never forget. It was a privilege to be invited to this event and I would like to thank everyone that helped organise it.



Y8 Competitions

8J Paper plane flying competition

We would like to thank our Sports Captain for her organisation of our first tutor group sporting event - a paper plane flying competition! Congratulation to our winners - Fatima, Megan and Olivia! Fatima's plane demonstrated some serious aeronautical engineering and Megan's certainly made the most 'flying object' brief. Oliva embraced the 'Johnson' theme and her wonderful design won the award for most creative plane. We are all looking forward to the next form sporting event Ella is planning for the winter term.

8J Pumpkin decorating competition

Natasha has been extremely busy planning charity events to raise money for our chosen charity of the year - Cancer Research UK. Our first form charity event was a pumpkin decorating competition and we were excited to see all of the spooky entries! 8J are certainly an artistic form.

All of the entries were fantastic and we would like to thank Mrs Spinks who had the difficult job of judging all of the entries. Our overall winner was Holly. Her next challenge is to see how creative she can be when it comes to actual pumpkin design with the pumpkin that she won as part of the prize. Well done to Holly and all of the entrants and thank you to Natasha for her fantastic organisation. Happy Halloween!





National Language Competition 6-10 November 2023

What is GCHQ?

GCHQ is one of the three UK Intelligence and Security Agencies, along with MI5 and the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6). GCHQ protects the UK and its citizens from individuals, groups and countries who wish to do us harm, or damage us financially. GCHQ intelligence keeps our deployed forces safe and helps law-enforcement agencies to prevent terrorist activity and serious and organised crime.

What is the National Language Competition?

GCHQ's National Language Competition (NLC) is a 5-day event from **6 November to 10 November 2023**. The NLC is aimed at **Year 9** across the UK.

It involves teams of up to four pupils working together to tackle a variety of fun, immersive, language-themed challenges hosted on a virtual platform. Schools will be able to submit as many teams as they wish.

Teams can log in to the platform at anytime between 07:00 and 18:00 during the five days of the competition to (for example during lunchtimes, before or after school etc.) to have a go at the puzzles on the platform. Competitors will tackle a range of language-related puzzles, ranging from easy to difficult. You'll encounter European languages, languages less commonly taught in schools and even made-up languages! Over a period of five days, pupils will capture flags to earn points on their language journey. Points will be totalled up to generate rankings on a national leaderboard. The team with the most points at the end of the competition wins! During the competition itself, teachers will be able to see how teams are performing via a scoreboard on the platform.

The winning team will have the opportunity to be presented with a trophy in GCHQ's headquarters in Cheltenham. All pupils will be able to take part, no prior knowledge is required, only a keenness for languages. The team with the most points at the end of the competition will be invited to GCHQ's Headquarters in Cheltenham and will be presented with a trophy. If you would like to compete, then assemble your team and register your interest by speaking to the Languages Department.

Mrs Barats, Head of MFL

CALLING ALL
Year 9 pupils!

GCHQ

- one of the three UK intelligence agencies -
is hosting an online

National Language Competition

06/11/2023 - 10/11/2023

In teams of up to four students you will compete against others nationwide for the NLC 2023 trophy - awarded to the winning team at the GCHQ headquarters in Cheltenham!

Your task will be to solve the NLC's language-based puzzles to score as many points as you can over the week.

No prior knowledge or language skills are required. Just have your quick-thinking, code-cracking, puzzle-solving skills at the ready!

If you want to get involved, assemble your team and get in touch with the Language Department.

Have YOU got what it takes?



#GCHQNationalLanguageCompetition

Sixth Form News

Celebrating The Individual in the Sixth Form - Eliza Rudd, 6AB

Boston Youth Jazz Orchestra (BYJO)

Hello, my name is Eliza and I have been playing the trumpet in BYJO for nearly three years. On Monday the 30th October, BYJO had a gig to perform to nearly 400 teachers (including Spalding High School teachers) at Springfield Conference Centre. We performed a variety of songs; including Midnight train to Georgia, a Tina Turner medley, Blues Remain and other jazzy tunes. After we performed to the teachers, we hopped on to the coach and headed to Long Sutton Primary School. We performed to Years 3 and 4 in the school hall, at the end of the gig they all stood up and danced to Uptown Funk! One of the best parts of my week is practicing on Wednesday with BYJO, we have great fun practicing new tunes and learning new dance moves to the music whilst playing! I am very grateful to be part a group that celebrates the importance of music for young people. Being part of BYJO has offered amazing opportunities such as playing at Birmingham Symphony hall and the Royal Albert Hall. If you are a young musician reading this, I would strongly recommend you to join BYJO which is full of rhythm, and is a free club.



Celebrating The Individual in the Sixth Form —Kate Storey, 6KM

The Women's Vitality FA Cup



The Women's Vitality FA Cup stands as the premier annual cup competition for women's football clubs in England. My journey in this tournament began on the 11th of September, when we opened with a 4-2 victory over Newark, propelling us into the next round. The draw was kind to us, sending us on an away fixture against Kirby Muxloe. On the 1st October, we secured a stunning 5-0 victory, progressing even further into the competition. The 22nd October brought with it our most challenging game. We faced a team positioned three leagues above us, which made us the underdogs. The first half proved to be a struggle with us going down 1-0. However, we equalised in the second half. This resulted in a penalty shootout. After the longest and most intense 5 minutes, we won the shootout 4-2 against Basford United. This triumph sees us advancing further in the tournament, and our next fixture is scheduled for the 12th November. In total, there are 11 rounds, with the final being played in Wembley Stadium.

Bags 2 School

Thank you so much to everyone who supported the Bags 2 School event this year! We are very grateful for all of your donations, which have been collected and sent to the charity. Thank you to staff, students, the prefect team and the environmental committee who all helped to organise Bags 2 School, and make the morning run smoothly!

The Environmental Committee

Sixth Form News

Ring-Pull Competition Results

Thank you to all the forms who took part in our ring-pull collection project last term!

After weighing all the donations, we are delighted to announce that we had an overall figure of **2,523.91g** worth of ring-pulls, ready to donate to the Purple Community Fund.

Well done to our winners, **8C**, who collected **1354.7g** as a form!

Keep collecting your ring-pulls to be in with a chance of winning this term's prize!

The Environmental Committee



Careers Update

Year 10 Work Experience

Several students in Year 10 have already submitted their work experience placement confirmation forms to Mrs O'Brien, our Work Experience Manager. Work experience is 25th-28th March 2024, with the preparation phase now well underway. If students have not yet had any ideas about a placement, they should come to the careers office as soon as possible to speak to us. The deadline for placement confirmation forms is 17th November.

Year 13 – University applications

As always, I have been impressed by the quality of the university applications I have processed so far. Around 20 students have now received offers from universities which is very motivational. The school deadline for submitting applications for checking and processing has now passed so I would urge students who are intending to apply to ensure that everything is completed as soon as possible. Just a reminder for students and parents/carers that applications do not have to list all five course choices initially and can be sent off with two course choices on, for example. If there is an open day in November, for example, a student can add that course choice to their application after the open day at any point up until 31st January.

Higher and Degree Apprenticeships Listing

The Higher and Degree Apprenticeship Listing showcases hundreds of vacancies from a diverse mix of employers starting in 2023 and 2024. The variety of vacancies listed range from Engineer to Police Constable – there's something for everyone. Please note, the listing only contains a selection of current higher and degree apprenticeship vacancies. For the full range of live vacancies, please visit the government website, Find an Apprenticeship: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Please see the current listing as an attachment.

Apprenticeship Accelerator Event

Rate My Apprenticeship is hosting a free online event on Thursday 30th November from 5.00-7.30pm for students and parents/carers to find out more about apprenticeships, where to look for them and how to apply. Please see the attachment for more information. Here is the link to register:

[**RateMyApprenticeship Virtual Event**](#)

Lincolnshire Training Hub – Future Nurse Event

For students from Year 9 upwards interested in nursing there is an online information event coming up – Future Nurse – 8th November 7.00-8.30pm. Please see the attachment with this newsletter.

Here is the link to register:

[**https://www.lincolnshiretraininghub.nhs.uk/training-and-events/futures-programme/**](https://www.lincolnshiretraininghub.nhs.uk/training-and-events/futures-programme/)

Could students please let me know if they register to attend.

Life as a Solicitor Apprentice at Dentons

Dentons is holding an insight webinar on 21st November 6.30-7.15pm for students in Years 10-13 and their parents/carers. Find out about the programme, applying and support on offer for apprentices.

Here is the registration link:

[**Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams**](#)

Could students please let me know if they register to attend.

[Success at School's University Guide for Parents/Carers](#)

Success at School's informative guide about applying to university is now available for parents/carers to download.

[***Get Your Downloadable 2023/24 Parents' University Guide \(successatschool.org\)***](#)

[Support:](#)

As always, we can be contacted by email if parents or students in any year group have any queries:

Dawn.bushell@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk

Lucy.obrien@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk

Mrs Bushell, Careers Leader

Spalding High School

Winter Concert

Wednesday
29th November 2023

7.30pm

Refreshments at 7.00pm

Tickets available online soon

