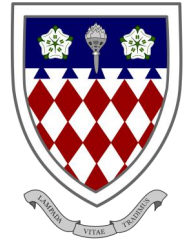


# Spalding High School

## Weekly Bulletin

### 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023



School attendance continues to be an item in the national media. Just this week, Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner for England, has published a research-based report analysing the impact of post-pandemic absence from school on GCSE grades. As a result, she is calling for all schools, academy trusts and local authorities to not only report and share their attendance data but also do more to track what she describes as "endemic" absenteeism, especially in Key Stage 4. The report, titled Missing Children, Missing Grades makes interesting, if bleak reading.

**[Missing Children, Missing Grades | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)**

Dame Rachel very candidly states:

"I fear that attendance has become the issue of our time. The number of children regularly missing school has more than doubled compared to pre-pandemic and we are only making slow progress in steadying school absence rates. Worryingly, over 120,000 children are missing at least half of their time in school."

The report, which can be accessed as a PDF at the bottom of the page hyperlinked above, finds that:

- School absence has become endemic in Key Stage 4. Over the last couple of years, over a third of all pupils in Key Stage 4 were either persistently or severely absent for at least one year.
- Poor attendance has a dramatic relationship with GCSE results. While 78% of all children who were rarely absent in both years passed at least 5 GCSEs including English and maths, only 36% of children who were persistently absent in both years and just 5% of children who were severely absent in both years reached this same standard.
- When pupils' attendance improves, the likelihood of achieving qualifications at the end of school massively increases. More than half (54%) of pupils who were persistently absent in Year 10 and then rarely absent in Year 11 passed at least 5 GCSEs including English and maths, compared to 36% of pupils who were persistently absent in both years.

These are stark but unsurprising correlations indeed.

Whilst the levels of attendance of our High School students is generally much higher than the national statistics, there are still a far higher number of students falling into the At Risk Of Persistent Absence (91-94%) and Persistent Absence (80-90%) than before the pandemic.

Here is the data for Term 1:

Key Stage	At Risk Of Persistent Absence (91-94%)	Persistent Absence (80-90%)
3	10.0%	6.2%
4	17.5%	7.8%
5	18%	16%

We are very grateful for all the work that parents/carers and students are doing to support attendance at school and, with mocks for Year 11 and Year 13 around the corner, Dame Rachel's report is an important reminder that students are best placed to achieve their potential by attending every day.

**M K Anderson, Headmistress**

## 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
7P	Ava Willis	Mr Fovargue	Computer Science
7S	Bethany Johnson	Mr Ganger	Mathematics
7S	Emma Paulin	Mrs Neal	Art
8J	Connie Angus	Mrs Barats	French
8N	Florence Numa	Mr Wright	Science
8N	Grace Maycroft	Miss Magnus	History
8S	Talia Piraino	Miss Ashley	Mathematics
9P	Eleanor Seer	Miss Bailey	German
9S	Amelia Robinson-Tait	Miss Pettefar	English
9S	Anna Batko	Mrs Knowles	French
9S	Bethany Roberts	Mrs Cave	Religious Studies
9S	Pela Tian-Wright	Mr Garbett	Music
9S	Sophia Shackleston	Mrs Anderson	Geography
10C	Julia Wawro	Mrs Jones	Classical Civilisation
10C	Katie Reilly	Mrs H Waldron	Religious Studies
10C	Layla Khodri	Miss McArthur	Religious Studies
10C	Molly Lambe	Miss Parker	Physical Education
10C	Ruby Hook	Mrs T Waldron	Biology
10N	Jesse-May Bates	Mrs Bennett	Geography
10P	Ava Mason	Mrs J Lord	English Literature
10P	Rhea Patel	Mrs Martindale	Biology
10S	Erin Horton	Mrs Rogers	Geography
10S	Sophie Smith	Miss Ashley	Community
11C	Lucy Searson	Mrs Nowak	Mathematics
11J	Briony Sweeting	Mrs Rogers	Community
11J	Lucy Duff	Mrs Bennett	Community
11N	Jasmine Jacklin	Mr Hemsall	History
11N	Alise-Keita Vitola	Mr Blackbourn	Business
11S	Anusha Kumar	Mrs Busfield	Biology
6FM	Hannah De Soyza	Mr McAlinden	Business
6FM	Jaylin Topnaar	Mrs C Aurikko	Biology
6LH	Isabelle Hicks	Mr Love	Law
6TD	Amelia Sieling	Mrs Jones	Community

## PE News

### Y8 Netball

On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, the Year 8 netball team hosted Spalding Academy in a netball fixture. Despite finishing the first quarter with a 2-1 lead, Spalding Academy were clinical with their shooting, with a difficult defence to break down which led to a 6-2 defeat for the High School. Although the team were disappointed with the final score, there were some excellent individual performances and a much-improved performance on last year.



### U16 Football

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November, the U16 football team travelled to Kesteven & Grantham Girls' School to play their Round Three ESFA fixture. The team won 10-2 with goals from Ava Marshall, Ava Smith (2), Ruby Acton, Ella Lynn (2), Katie Reilly (2), Antonina Such and Freya Cundy. Player of the match was awarded to Antonina Such for a dominant display in midfield, the team progress into Round Four of the National Cup.



### Sixth Form Netball

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October, Spalding High School played our sixth form netball tournament. We decided to make a team in the sixth form as so many people missed playing netball. We played against Boston High School and Bourne Grammar. Although we did not score many goals in our games, we all played very well against many league playing girls from other schools. With excellent determination, communication, and fantastic skills we received bronze, just missing out on our place to play for the County. Thanks to everyone who played, we had lots of fun and hopefully next year we will go for gold!

**Abbie Horspool, 6NG**



## PE News



### Tesco Fundraising

The PE department would like to run a variety of sports, exercise and mindfulness activities during school break and lunchtimes to further support the mental and physical wellbeing of pupils at SHS. To support the department in doing so, we have applied to Tesco community grants in order to purchase new equipment and provide different opportunities to those already on the PE Extra-curricular timetable.

**If you are shopping in the Tesco Holbeach store, please ask for a blue token and pop it in the collection point.** The project with the most blue tokens at the end of the period will receive £1,500, the second place will receive £1,000 and the third-place project will receive £500.

**Please encourage friends and family members to do the same until the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024... Every Token Counts!**



Working with  **CHANGING PLACES  
CHANGING LIVES**  SCAN HERE FOR  
MORE INFO.


### Spalding High School

**Healthy and Positive Wellbeing**

To run a variety of sports, exercise and mindfulness activities during school break and lunch-times to support the mental and physical wellbeing of pupils at the school.

Spalding

**Vote in-store until 14th January 2024**



Miss Magnus, PE Department

## Maths News

### Challenge The Parent: Problem Solving

Welcome to our new weekly “**Beat the Parents**” problem solving challenge.

This is a great opportunity to make Maths and problem solving a discussion point at home.

**Pupils:** Each week we will pose a problem for you to solve and see if you can beat your parents/carers.

**Parents/carers:** Encourage your child to participate in the challenge and discuss the methods used. You will be surprised at how much you remember from your own lessons we are sure!

The skills required will vary. Look out for the solution to this problem in next week’s bulletin to see who has the correct answers!

### Week 1 - Challenge #1

**Talil is going to make some concrete mix.**

**He needs to mix cement, sand and gravel in the ratio 1 : 3 : 5 by weight.**

**Talil wants to make 180kg of concrete mix.**

**Talil has:**

- ⇒ 15kg of cement
- ⇒ 85kg of sand
- ⇒ 100kg of gravel

**Does Talil have enough cement, sand and gravel to make the concrete mix?**

Good Luck!

Miss Chalcraft, Head of Mathematics

## English News

### Christopher Tower Poetry Competition

The 24<sup>th</sup> 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 \(submittable.com\)](https://www.submittable.com/entry/2023-christopher-tower-poetry-competition)

Mrs Lord, Head of English

## SHS Fundraising

### Children in Need - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November we will be holding a non-uniform day to raise money for the national 'Children in Need' appeal. We are asking pupils to please support this worthwhile charity by paying a £1 and coming to school in non-school uniform. There should be no inappropriate outfits & no offensive slogans to be worn.





## **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

### Year 12 Geography Fieldtrip to Spalding

As part of our Geography A Level Changes Places topic we need to find out about two different places in detail. We are studying Spalding and Stamford. On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November, we headed into Spalding to carry out a range of fieldwork tasks. This included a clone town survey, an environmental survey, counting the number of pedestrians and cars in different locations. We were also determining whether globalisation was occurring in Spalding. These skills will then be completed again later in Stamford and will be useful when we complete our NEAs in Year 13. I enjoyed being able to practice skills that we talked about in lesson and seeing the difference in areas around Spalding, with the final highlight being a trip to Costa to write up our results!

**Abbie Horspool, 6NG**



## Sixth Form News

### 2:22 A Ghost Story

The A Level and Theatre students travelled to Leicester to watch 2:22 A Ghost Story. The production is on tour following a record breaking season in London, in which celebrities such as Tom Felton, Lily Allen and Cheryl have starred as the main characters.

Set in a family home, the plot explores tensions between a married couple: Jenny believes her new home is haunted, but her husband Sam isn't having any of it. They argue openly in front of their dinner guests, old friend Lauren and new partner Ben. To settle the argument, Jenny challenges her guests to stay until 2:22am.

This was a spooky, unsettling experience, with a shocking twist in the final moments of the play. The students thoroughly enjoyed analysing the experience and some are even looking to go again with their own families.

The production will be touring until May next year, and is a thrilling night out!

### **Mrs Fisk, Head of Drama**

Image credits—[www.curveonline.co.uk](http://www.curveonline.co.uk)



## Careers Update

### Year 10 Work Experience - 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

The deadline for handing in placement confirmation forms is 17<sup>th</sup> November. If students have not yet managed to secure a placement, they should come to the careers office as soon as possible to speak to us, please.

### 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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\*\*\*](#)

### Life as a Solicitor Apprentice at Dentons

Dentons is holding an insight webinar on 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

### Green Careers Week – 6<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Nov

Green Careers Week is an initiative to provide young people with an insight into careers that specifically protect the environment and will help the UK achieve its pledge of reaching Net Zero by 2050. Please see the attachment for more information.

### Uncover Engineering – Year 10 Residential Programme

Please see the information below about a residential course (2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> April) run by the University of Oxford:

Uncover is a residential programme that gives girls and Black African and Caribbean heritage students in year 10 the opportunity to explore maths and physics subjects in the context of Engineering studies, while offering a glimpse into university life.

The programme is run by Oxford University and students will stay in a college for 4 days. Days will be filled with engineering-focused activities and workshops organised by the Department of Engineering Science. In the evenings we have arranged recreational activities and social opportunities with other like-minded future engineers. You'll also find out about life at Oxford and living in a college (including a formal dinner!). On the final day, we hope that your parents will join us to learn more about studying engineering at a university like Oxford.

Successful applicants will be invited to participate in a follow-on programme in coming years, aiming to build the Uncover community.

Further details can be found here: [\*\*Uncover Engineering - Year 10 Residential Programme \(ox.ac.uk\)\*\*](#)

I am happy for students to give my contact details if they apply and let me know.

#### Support:

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

[Dawn.bushell@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:Dawn.bushell@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk)

[Lucy.obrien@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:Lucy.obrien@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk)

**Mrs Bushell, Careers Leader**



## **SPALDING FIRE STATION NEEDS YOU!**

Spalding Fire Station is looking for people interested in becoming On Call Fire Fighters. The role is not full-time, therefore you can make yourself available to respond to incidents in and around your primary employment and family commitments. Some of our On Call Fire Fighters have an agreement with their employers to respond to emergency calls whilst at work, others make themselves available whilst their children are at school, some give cover whilst working from home and others manage full-time employment alongside their fire service commitment. Once trained, an On Call Fire Fighter will be issued with an alerter which will activate when you are required to respond to a 999 call.

All station personnel will come together one evening a week to complete 2.5 hours of training to maintain and develop their skills. You will work as a team using the latest equipment and life-saving techniques, to attend property fires, road traffic collisions, chemical spills, animal rescues, floods and many other incidents. The role is exciting, challenging and rewarding and we encourage people to apply from all walks of life. On Call Fire Fighters receive payment for being on call, completing training and attending incidents.

Due to the nature of the job, applicants must have a reasonable fitness level, be aged 18 or over and live or work within 5 minutes of Spalding Fire Station.

If you think being an On Call Fire Fighter might be for you there is lots of information on our website: [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/lfr](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/lfr) or you can call our recruitment line for more information: 0800 3580 204. You are very welcome to pop down to the station on a **Monday** evening between **18:30 - 21:00** for an informal chat with the crew if you wish to find out more.

# Spalding High School

# Winter Concert

Wednesday  
29th November 2023

7.30pm

Refreshments at 7.00pm

Tickets available online soon

