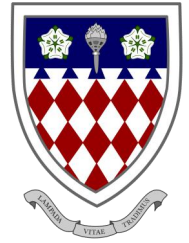


# Spalding High School

## Weekly Bulletin

### 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025



Here we are at the end of Term 3 already! It is a short but jam packed term and we are all ready for a rest I am sure. Year 11 and Year 13 have spent the first few weeks dissecting and pouring over their mock exam papers and results. This is an incredibly important process and one from which students (and staff) can gain a very useful insight. It is now only six weeks until the “real” GCSE and A level examinations start. This is the optimum time for students to get organised, enhance revision, and consolidate knowledge and understanding – all of that information needs to be secure in the long term memory and that needs time! Good luck to you all over the next few weeks – don’t be tempted to leave it until the last minute!

Students and staff involved in the School production of Chicago are also basking in glory (and catching up on sleep) this week. I know that everyone who saw the production were amazed by it, with many telling me they thought it was the best they had ever seen (I have to agree – although I have enjoyed all of them). Congratulations, well done and thank you to everyone who was involved. I also know how much time was spent rehearsing and preparing for the production and so I hope that all those who were involved will have the opportunity to have a good rest during the upcoming half term holiday. I won’t say too much more about the production as we are all looking forward to the full report to be published in the HQ.

Although the current Senior Students and prefect teams have several more weeks of service to the School (and so I will not make my vote of thanks quite yet!), we have started the recruitment and appointment process for the new team. This week I am pleased to announce that Briony Sweeting has been appointed as Senior Student 2025/26 and Abigail Rowbottom and Lexi Withers as Deputy Senior Students. Congratulations to you all!

Educationally speaking, some of the biggest educational news to hit the media in recent days has been the proposed changes to the ways in which Ofsted inspects and reports upon school performance. Much of the review process has come about as a response to the suicide of Headteacher, Ruth Perry and the impact that single word school judgements can have on staff and the fortunes of schools. Ofsted recently completed their “Big Listen” and the proposed changes are aimed at improving the process of inspection and the usefulness of the report. I am sure that every school leader has been reading the coverage of the proposed



changes with interest and trying to establish what it might mean for their schools. However, Ofsted does not just impact upon schools and headteachers, they have an impact on how schools are viewed and the priorities schools place on both their day to day running and more strategically in issues such as curriculum organisation. This, in turn, affects learners and families. Ofsted have launched a consultation on their proposed changes and I would encourage every teacher, governor, parent/carer and student to respond (the link can be found below). This is about how we judge our schools and how that judgement is understood, shared and influences the shape of education in this county – help shape a better way forward by sharing your views. Please.

**[Improving the way Ofsted inspects education - GOV.UK](#)**

The consultation is open until midnight 28<sup>th</sup> April.

**M K Anderson, Headmistress**

## Reminder - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February - House Charity Day

A gentle reminder that tomorrow (Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February) is our House Charity Day where students will be fund-raising for their chosen charities.

For this event each form has chosen a charity to support:



Curie	Marie Curie
Johnson	RSPCA
Nightingale	Little Princess Trust
Pankhurst	Little Miracles
Sharman	Cancer Research



Image sources— [Mariecurie.org.uk](http://Mariecurie.org.uk), [littlemiraclescharity.org.uk](http://littlemiraclescharity.org.uk), [RSPCA.org.uk](http://RSPCA.org.uk), [Littleprincesstrust.org.uk](http://Littleprincesstrust.org.uk) and [cancerresearchuk.org](http://cancerresearchuk.org)

Please support your nominated charity by joining in with the following:



**Non-uniform Day - £1, cakes & savoury treats, crafts & gifts, games and challenges, tombola, guess the number of sweets in the jar, lucky dip, name the teddy, and much more...**



The gifts, games, crafts and challenges will vary in price, starting at 20p.

**Mrs Ray, Assistant Head and Safeguarding Lead**

## Student of The Week - Week Commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025

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
7S	Vienna Dunning	Mr Ganger	Mathematics
7S	Vienna Dunning	Mrs Tanner	Art
8C	Rozee Khatri	Mrs Chandler	Library
8N	Isla Homden	Miss Ashley	Mathematics
8S	Jess Wright	Mrs Clay	French
9C	Phoebe Hall	Miss Hammond	Drama
9C	Amelia Fletcher	Mr Garbett	Music
9N	Ruby Coupland	Mrs Neal	Art
9N	Ruby Coupland	Mrs C Aurikko	Community
9N	Isabella Brook	Mrs Tanner	Community
9S	Pranusha Rajesh	Mrs Cave	Religious Studies
9S	Antonia Nowak	Mrs Jones	Latin
10C	Emily Briggs	Mrs Aurikko	Chemistry
10C	Annabel Duce	Mrs T Waldron	Biology
10J	Izzy Hurn	Mr Blackbourn	Business
10J	Sophie Callow	Ms Busby	Community
10N	Nikita Rudd	Miss Bailey	German
10P	Ruby Quinn	Mrs Nowak	Mathematics
10P	Ava Judkins	Ms Busby	Food and Nutrition
10S	Dara Ajayi	Miss White	Chemistry
10S	Gabby-Lorraine Muhammed	Mr Hempsall	History
11N	Julia Jacewicz	Miss Chalcraft	Mathematics
11P	Shylini Bharaneedharan	Mrs Busfield	Community
11S	Maddison Smith	Mrs Busfield	Physics
6AB	Emily Hardy	Mrs H Waldron	Religious Studies
6AF	Bella Li	Mrs C Lord	Mathematics
6AF	Roisin Williams	Mrs Bennett	Geography
6SC	Alise-Keita Vitola	Mrs Hebblewhite	Psychology
6KM	Joellyn Numa	Mrs Nowak	Community
6LH	Zora Allen	Mrs Bennett	Community

## English News

### [Review: Poetry Live Trip to New Theatre, Peterborough](#)



On Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025, our Y10 students attended the Poetry Live event at the New Theatre, Peterborough - a fantastic opportunity to hear from some of the most renowned poets featured in the GCSE syllabus. The event was both educational and inspiring, offering students fresh insights into poetry and exam techniques.

The line-up featured celebrated poets such as Simon Armitage, Carol Ann Duffy, Daljit Nagra, John Agard, and Imtiaz Dharker, who performed their works and shared the creative processes behind their writing. Hearing the poets read their own work brought a new depth of understanding to the poems studied in class.

One of the highlights of the day was John Agard's energetic and engaging performance, which captivated many students. *Isabella Wilkinson (10S)* claimed that "John Agard was her favourite poet of the day." Meanwhile, Imtiaz Dharker's readings left a strong emotional impact on the audience. *Maja Szudek (10S)* said, "Imtiaz Dharker's poetry readings were powerful, and her thoughts on discrimination have left a lasting impression."



In addition to the poetry readings, an examiner provided valuable insights into the GCSE English Literature exam, giving students practical advice on how to analyse poems effectively and structure their answers to achieve top marks. This session was particularly useful, as it helped bridge the gap between appreciating poetry and writing about it analytically.

Overall, the Poetry Live trip was a fascinating experience for all involved. It provided a rare opportunity to engage directly with poets, deepened students' understanding of key texts, and offered practical guidance for exam success. *Freya Willerton (10S)* summed up the day by saying, "It was interesting. The experience was helpful to my studies." Many students left feeling more confident and inspired to explore poetry beyond the classroom.

**Mrs Fisk, English Department and Head of Drama**

## Classics News

### Warwick University

Having gone to Warwick University to watch Agamemnon, we expected a play full of emotion and peril – and we were not disappointed! Not only brewing with raw emotivity, the cast adapted props, costuming and stage design successfully to boost the production. Symbolic meaning poured throughout the performance and even features of ancient Greek plays were included.

Receiving the most overwhelming round of applause, the young actress who portrayed Clytemnestra delivered a poignant performance full of emotion and impact. Her projection and expressive movement supported the depth of the character. Themes of revenge, anger, guilt and brutality burst from the stage.

Cassandra's costuming, despite her fate, was also beautiful. She gave an incredible performance, and it was evident that costuming was a key feature in her character.

Furthermore, props were adapted in the play to hold both symbolic meaning and accuracy to the original play. An ekkyklema was used; original to the mechanical devices used in ancient Greek theatre before the blossom of technology. Glow in the dark paint, flowers and the iconic red carpet which leads Agamemnon to his death were also reworked.

As a result, this play was very interesting to watch and played on themes we had learnt about – from clothing, to props, to themes of revenge and hatred. The Warwick students put on an a noteworthy performance and it was evident a lot of time, preparation, and skill was put into it.

### **Beatrice Francourt, 6AF**



On the 31<sup>st</sup> January, the Classics department embarked on yet another trip, this time to the University of Warwick's Ancient Drama Festival.

The morning consisted of a series of short lectures preparing the audience for a performance of Aeschylus' *'Agamemnon'*, which took place in the afternoon, providing valuable insights into various aspects of the upcoming performance, from analysing the characters themselves, to the concepts behind said characters, even extending so far as to discuss the symbolism involved in the play, and the depictions of characters from the drama on a range of ancient pottery.

The first lecture we attended, following the introductory talks courtesy of Dr. Emmanuela Bakola and Dr. Paul Grigsby, was *'Cut from the Same Cloth: Symbolism, Sacrifice, and the Textiles in modern productions of Aeschylus' Agamemnon'*, presented by Dr. Leo Kershaw. This lecture examined the use of various clothing and textiles to create important symbolism in the story of Agamemnon, including the description of Iphigeneia's saffron dress to become synonymous with blood during her sacrifice, (a dress which was displayed in the background of the afternoon performance), as well as the various descriptions and portrayals of the carpet Agamemnon walks along upon his return to his kingdom - sometimes representing blood, hubris, and competition with the gods, or, on other occasions, representing sacrifice and guilt. This lecture left us with a lot to consider during our viewing of the afternoon performance.

After lunch, we attended another lecture, titled *'Seeing Furies: The Oresteia in Pictures'*, hosted by Dr. Emily Clifford, which toured us through some depictions of the Furies (present in *Agamemnon*, but only through symbolism) on different pottery from around the ancient world, including Greece and Italy, examining the diverse portrayals of the furies, as well as their interactions with both mortals and the gods. This, too, left us with a range of symbolism to consider for the performance.

Finally, we gathered in the theatre, ready to view the long-awaited performance, presented by students of the University of Warwick. They did an incredible job - providing a performance packed with emotion, drama, and rich symbolism in equal measure - the previous lectures having perfectly prepared us to experience the play to its full potential.

Overall, the festival provided us incredible insight into Ancient drama, and, for me personally, changed how I consider classical texts, to view them as more than texts on a page.

**Mark Edwards, 6KM**



A lovely day out at Warwick where we were able to catch up with former students Amelia Sieling and Jemima Gurney, who are both studying Classics degrees at Warwick.

**Mrs Jones, Head of Classics**

## Careers News

Unifrog – Virtual Event – 26<sup>th</sup> March 4-6.30pm

Please see the information below from Unifrog about a useful upcoming event:

*Calling all Year 10 to 12 students who are interested in university! If your students have any questions about what university life is really like, there's no-one better placed to answer than **current undergraduate students**.*

*By joining our 'Meet the Students' virtual fair, students will attend **live sessions** hosted by both students and admissions staff and be able to chat directly with students from 30 universities about **accommodation, societies, lectures and classes, living away from home, or anything else that could influence their university choices**.*

*Don't worry if students can't attend the whole fair; they're free to drop in whenever they can. Teachers, advisors, parents, and caregivers are all encouraged to join too!*

To join, please visit - [Unifrog](#)

### Support:

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

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

**Mrs Bushell, Careers Leader**



## Willow Pattern Workshops

Sessions run 11.30am – 3.30pm @ Ayscoughfee Hall  
Thursday 20th – Sunday 23rd February

Artist Nicki Jarvis is making large ceramic cubes that will float in The Canal at 'Ayscoughfee Enlightenment'. Inspired by Georgian pottery designs, such as the traditional Willow Pattern.

### SHE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Drop-in and help Nicki create blue & white imagery that will decorate the cubes.

Nicki will show you how to make a small drawing in blue underglaze that she will transfer onto the cubes. Participants will also get the chance to make a blue & white clay keepsake, which Nicki will fire and glaze for you.

No special skills required. Non-toxic materials.

Workshops suitable for everyone, age 8 upwards. Children should only attend with adult support.



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ARTS COLINCS  
ENGLAND



University of East Anglia  
East Lindsey

South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership