



Spalding High School

Weekly Bulletin

11th September 2025



Welcome back to school and to the academic year 2025-26. I hope everyone had a good summer break and enjoyed the, at times, glorious weather!

As you will see from our new School crest, we are now officially celebrating The High School's Centenary – Happy birthday to the High! 105 years might seem an odd birthday to celebrate, but of course, all of our centenary celebrations had to be shelved in 2020 when the pandemic struck. Once we started to move on from those strange days, we committed to celebrating 105 instead; and here we are!

Celebrating the School's Centenary is not just an opportunity to wish the High School a "Happy Birthday", but a time to recognise why this is such a significant moment. We will reflect upon the access girls have had to education in England as well reflect upon the history of the School and all who have made it the place it is today.

Girls' education in England has progressed significantly over the past two centuries. Historically, girls had limited access to formal education, often restricted to "domestic" subjects such as cooking, needlework and housecraft. Major reforms in the 19th and 20th centuries gradually introduced compulsory education for all children, including girls.

The Elementary Education Act 1870 (Forster Act) was the first major step towards compulsory education in England. It made elementary education available to both boys and girls aged 5–13, although access and quality varied by gender and class. In 1880, the Act was extended to make school attendance for both boys and girls compulsory to the age of 10 which stopped many families withdrawing their daughters from school early to help at home.

It was, however, the Education Act 1902 (Balfour Act) that had a truly significant impact on provision in England as it reorganised and expanded the education system and secondary education enormously. Consequently, more opportunities were created for girls beyond elementary level. Then in 1918, the Education Act 1918 (Fisher Act) raised the school leaving age to 14 and emphasised a greater level of equal access to education, including for girls. These were the two Acts, the Fisher Act in particular, that led to the creation of the High School.

By the Education Act 1944 (Butler Act), the High School had already been in existence for 24 years, however, this was the landmark reform that made secondary education free and compulsory up to the age of 15 (later raised to 16). It also introduced the tripartite system (grammar, secondary modern and technical schools), with girls now having access to the same academic pathways as boys.

During the 1970s – 1980s comprehensive schools replaced many selective schools, and the growing feminist movement pushed for equal opportunities. I was at secondary school during the 1970s and joined my secondary school as a first year, not long after the local grammar and secondary modern had been amalgamated into one school. We still had a "grammar stream" and students followed different academic pathways for many years. Although "selection" disappeared from many areas of the British education system, some counties, including Lincolnshire have retained it. I am interested to hear students' views on selection, hence it appears in this month's centenary competition overleaf. At much the same time as grammar and secondary modern school amalgamations were taking place, many single sexed schools also joined to become mixed. This is another topic upon which I am keen to hear students' views!

I remember when the 1988 Education Reform Act was implemented. I was finishing my teacher training and just entering the classroom as a "probationer" (newly qualified teacher). This was the Act that introduced a National

Curriculum to England and Wales for the first time, ensuring students across the country studied the same core subjects. It was a huge change in schools. Prior to this Act, schools could organise their curriculums however they wanted and RE was the only legally compulsory subject due to the Butler Act. Similarly, departments within schools could teach more or less what they wanted; my first Head of Department loved glaciation and maps and that dominated all that we taught in the first, second and third years. The 1988 Education Act also renamed those school years to Y1 to Y13 and we all had to get used to not just that, but also Attainment Targets, Programmes of Study and SATs!

Girls' education in England and Wales has progressed from exclusion to equality, largely driven by these Education Acts and broader social reforms. However, I am sure that we would all agree that we need to keep moving and improving provision, access and equality. No school should sit complacently still; we have a duty to evolve and adapt over time to challenge and push youngsters forward so that they can hopefully make the world a better place.

So Ironic:

Having finished this week's editorial for the bulletin, I was handed a copy of the 1984-85 School magazine, Reflections, by Mrs Cave. I was bemused when the first page I flipped to had the article below:

S.H.S Ten Commandments:

1. Thou shalt be nice to staff for two weeks before parents' evenings.
2. Thou shalt not forget to write an article for the School magazine.
3. Thou shalt file out of assembly properly.
4. Thou shalt stay awake during school time.
5. Thou shalt not holler at the builders.
6. Thou shalt not push in on the dinner queue unless thou hast priority.
7. Thou shalt not cough in the final assembly.
8. Thou shalt wear the eight gore skirts.
9. Thou shalt be enthusiastic and cheerful for evermore.
10. Thou shalt follow these commandments or else.

I feel compelled to explain that during 1985-86, the Stonegate site had undergone major building expansion (the 1986 Block!!) and therefore for the first time, all of the students were on one site. Prior to this, the High also had lessons at the London Road site (now Ascoughfee School) and had to walk back and forth. This one aside, the other nine remain remarkably (or even completely) true today!! Especially number 2 – The High Quarterly Meetings start today – all students welcome! Week 1 Wednesday 1.30pm and Week 2 Thursday 1.30pm – Sixth Form Study Room!!

M K Anderson, Headmistress

Friday 26th September – Macmillan Coffee Morning

We will once again be supporting this extremely worthwhile cause.

Please bring cakes, cookies, brownies & general lovely stuff for the cake sale for Macmillan.

Homemade or shop bought treats are perfect. Donations please. Cakes will be on sale at break & lunchtime in the main school hall.

Please bring your cakes straight to the hall when you arrive at school in the morning on **Friday 26th September.**

Mrs Ray, Assistant Headteacher

Image source: www.macmillan.org.uk

Canteen Price Changes

Please be advised that from 4th September 2025, there will be a small increase in food prices to cover increased costs. The menus on the website have been updated accordingly.

School Office



Centenary Writing Competition:

Creative Writing:

Either:

1. Our Y7 students always conduct the New Intake tours on Open Day. Imagine you are doing that tour in 2055. Describe the tour of SHS from the perspective of a student guide.

Or:

2. Monday 6th September 1920 and the High School opened its doors to students for the first time. The London Road site was not ready and so the first students attended school in separate rooms at Spalding Grammar School. Imagine you were one of those students starting school that day. Write a diary entry for your first day at school.

Persuasive Writing:

Either:

3. Is a selective (grammar school) education a thing of the past and no longer fit for purpose in the mid-2020s? Write a response outlining your top three points to support your view.

Or:

4. Is single sexed education (girls and boys being educated separately), a thing of the past and no longer fit for purpose in the mid-2020s? Write a response outlining your top three points to support your view.

Non- Fiction writing:

Write an explanation, drawing on your own experiences, of what "Lampada Vitae Tradimus" means to you.

Deadline for all elements of the writing competitions: **Friday 26th September**

All work must be your own. Reports should be in standard font and font size and reports no longer than two sides of A4.

Centenary Art Competition.

The three editions of the HQ to be published during this academic year will have the Centenary celebrations and competitions running as a major theme - 105 Years On Part 1, 2 and 3!

Design one of the front covers for the three centenary editions. Your work must be portrait in orientation and all your own work.

Deadline: **Friday 3rd October**. Hand your artwork into Reception making sure your name and form are written on the reverse.

Centenary Christmas Card Competition.

The official SHS Christmas Card will be a special Centenary Edition! Are you the designer of our 105 Christmas Card 2025?

Designs can be portrait or landscape and must be all your own work. Deadline: **Friday 9th October**. Hand your artwork into Reception making sure your name and form are written on the reverse.

M K Anderson, Headmistress

PE DEPARTMENT CLUBS TERMS 1-4 (25-26)

Starting week commencing 8th September, clubs start at 1.20pm.

All pupils must take part in full PE kit if they wish to attend a club.

Please bring a packed lunch on the day of the club.

Monday	Y10 & Y11 NETBALL	GCSE PE NETBALL INTERVENTION	ALL YEARS FITNESS SUITE	
Tuesday	Y7 NETBALL	Y7 & Y8 FOOTBALL	ALL YEARS FITNESS SUITE	PE DETENTION
Wednesday	Y10 & Y11 GCSE/A LEVEL PE TRAMPOLINING	ALL YEARS BASKETBALL	ALL YEARS FITNESS SUITE	Y11 GCSE PE TARGETED THEORY INTERVENTION
Thursday	GCSE PE THEORY INTERVENTION	Y8 & Y9 NETBALL	ALL YEARS FITNESS SUITE	
Friday	Y11 GCSE/A LEVEL PE TRAMPOLINING (FILMING & ROUTINES)	ALL YEARS VOLLEYBALL	ALL YEARS FITNESS SUITE	

Lower school (Y7-9) to use changing room 1 & upper school (Y10/Y11/sixth form) to use changing room 2

Celebrating The Individual in Year 11 - Olivia Mumby-Croft 11J

Boston Heroes 2024/2025 Awards

"The Boston Heroes 2024/2025 Awards Ceremony was held on the evening of Wednesday 16th July at St. Botolph's Church in the heart of Boston, brought together community members, partners and local leaders to honour individuals and organisations who have made exceptional contributions to the Borough.

Hosted by Scott Dalton of BBC Radio Lincolnshire, the event recognised the dedication, compassion and the positive impact of those who go above and beyond to support others and strengthen the local community.

The Young Person of the Year Award, sponsored by Fold Hill Foods, was awarded to Olivia Mumby-Croft. Olivia supported the Mayor throughout the year with kindness and reliability and she's a great role model for young people across Boston."

Click the link below to read the full article:

<https://www.boston.gov.uk/article/28681/Boston-Heroes-Awards-2024-2025-celebrating-outstanding-contributions-to-the-community>

We are incredibly proud of Olivia and all the work she does in School - from working with the school council to creating wonderful art work for events to all her work on the HQ. Well done Olivia!

Mrs Neal, Head of Year 11

Local Fashion News

Charles Frederick Worth 1825 - 1895

Charles Frederick Worth, born in Bourne Lincolnshire in 1825, was known for dominating Parisian fashion in the later nineteenth century. This local fashion designer founded The House of Worth, therefore he is considered by many fashion historians to be the father of 'haute couture'.

The House of Worth was a French fashion house which specialised in 'haute couture', ready-to-wear clothes, and perfumes. It was founded by Worth in 1858 and continued to operate under his descendants until 1952 and closed in 1956.

Charles Frederick Worth's dresses were known for their lavish fabrics and trimmings and for incorporating elements from period dress. At the height of his success, Worth reformed the highly popular trend, the crinoline. It had grown increasingly large in size, making it difficult for women to manage even the most basic activities, such as walking through doors, sitting, caring for their children, or holding hands. Worth designed a more practical silhouette for women, so he made the crinoline narrower and gravitated the largest part to the back, freeing up a woman's front and sides. Worth's new crinoline was a major success in society. Eventually, Worth abandoned the crinoline altogether, creating a straight gown shape without a defined waist that became known as the 'princess line'.

His hometown of Bourne is now preparing to celebrate the 200th anniversary of his birth and so, go and take a visit! If you are in the area, then look out for silhouettes of many of Charles Worth's fabulous dress designs appearing around Bourne.

Julia & Amelia (Y13 Textile prefects)



Want to know more about the work and innovation of Charles Frederick Worth?

A series of FREE talks, sponsored by The Len Pick Trust, will be held on Saturday 20th September at Bourne Abbey Church Hall.

Visit www.theavelandhistorygroup.com for more details.

Community Safety Strategy - Preventative Education

Free Parent Webinars this September:

This September Lincolnshire County Council's Stay Safe Team will be hosting a series of free parent webinars, sign up is required, make sure you secure your slot today:

Online Lincolnshire Police Education Team Wednesday 10th September 6-7pm

Studies from the Children's Commissioner have shown that the average age at which children first see pornography is 13. By age 9 10% had seen pornography and 27% have seen it by age 11. This workshop will discuss online pornography and the impact it has on the attitudes of children towards sexual relationships. It will also discuss how to set up parental controls and filters at home.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/staysafepartnership/1816362>

Police response to indecent image sharing Lincolnshire Police Wednesday 17th September 6-7pm

17% of over 15's have shared an indecent image. What happens when these images are reported to the police? Lincolnshire Police Paedophile Online Investigation Team are hosting this webinar for parents to discuss how the police may respond to indecent image sharing by children.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/staysafepartnership/1816378>

Help, my child has shared a nude? Next steps as a parent LCC Stay Safe Team Wednesday 24th September 6-7pm

Internet Matters research into image based abuse found that 13- to 17-year-olds were most likely to turn to a parent if they received an unwanted nude image or video. This shows that parents are the first port of call for most children when dealing with online safety issues. As such, it's important for you to have the right tools to support your child. Join Lincolnshire County Council Stay Safe Team as they discuss what you might experience as a parent if your child has shared a nude, how to guide your child and the support services that can help.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/staysafepartnership/1816396>

Whatsapp



What is Whatsapp

WhatsApp is a messaging app owned by Meta that allows users (13+) to send text, voice, and video messages, make calls, and share media, documents, and locations, all using an internet connection

Privacy Settings

WhatsApp has the following privacy settings -

Last seen online
Profile photo
About
Status
Read receipts
Silence unknown callers

You can set these features to Everyone, My contacts, My contacts except... and Nobody

Location Sharing

WhatsApp gives you the ability to share your device's location with other users

This can be turned off in settings

Sharing Personal Information

Ensure you remind your children that they shouldn't share private information including -

- names, phone numbers, links to other social media accounts or their school
- locations
- other people's personal information
- links to join private group chats
- photos of themselves including indecent images

Reporting and Blocking

You can report problematic content to WhatsApp. You can also block a user to stop all contact

Group chats

WhatsApp has the ability for users to be added or create group chats, if you're child is added into a group chat with people they don't know that will give that person the ability to chat with them.

You can't always control if you're added to a group chat; but remind children that they can always leave whenever they want to or block unwanted contact

You can mute the group chat without leaving the group, this stops notifications but still allows you to check in when you want.

Further information



Library News

Book Clubs

At SHS, we offer a range of book groups for our students. There is a book club for everyone: you may be an avid reader with lots of ideas to share, a more casual reader looking to meet others with similar interests, or happy to listen to other students to find new recommendations. All are welcome at our friendly groups. Please see Mrs Lees or Miss O'Sullivan if you have any questions. All book clubs meet in the Library.

Key Stage 3 Book Club

Every W1 Tuesday at 1:30pm. Starts 30th September.

Every two weeks we meet to discuss recommendations based on different themes or letters of the alphabet. If you don't have a recommendation, you are welcome to come along and listen to find some inspiration. Feel free to come alone or bring a friend along.

Year 9 to 11 Crime Club

Every W2 Friday at 1:30pm. Starts 26th September.

This group meets every two weeks and each term we will read the same book and discuss our thoughts. When not having our book clubs focused on the shared book, we can share our progress, current reads and, of course, biscuits. The first book for this club is Agency for Scandal by Laura Wood.



Sixth Form Book Club

Every W1 Friday at 1:30pm. Starts 3rd October.

In this group, we meet to recommend books based on a different letter of the alphabet. The letter can link to the author's name, the title or any other tenuous connection – we aren't strict!

Scavenger Hunt: Booked for Summer

Thank you to the students who have already entered the summer reading challenge. We have had over forty entries so far!

1. A book with a strong female lead: a book of any genre featuring a strong female main character. Remember: strength can mean many different things!
2. A book with a one word title: any book with a single-word title.
3. A book made into film: any book that has been made into a film or series. Which one is better?
4. A photo of your book in a fitting location: are you reading 'Glasgow Boys' in Scotland, 'The Hunger Games' in your kitchen or 'The Secret Garden' in your garden? Take a photo of your book in its natural habitat.
5. Draw a map inspired by your book. Upload a picture or drop it into the library by the closing date.
6. A book with a number in the title.
7. A book with a non-human main character: choose a book with an animal, alien, AI or any other
8. non-human main character.
9. A book with a journey or quest: this could be a physical journey or an emotional one.

Closing Date: Tuesday 30th September. A winner will be selected at random from the entries. Each item on the list counts as an entry. Entries can be submitted on this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/jcVF8FAykV> or into the Library. Happy reading!

Miss O'Sullivan and Mrs Lees

Sixth Form News

Sixth Form Launches with Inspiring Talk from Martin Griffin

We were delighted to welcome back Martin Griffin, renowned educational speaker and author, to kick off the academic year with our Sixth Form students. Martin played a key role in our recent A Level success, where our *A-B grades rose by 9%, reaching 61%—a fantastic achievement for our students and staff.

His induction session last year, combined with our ongoing work on independent learning and helping students make better use of their study time, clearly made a difference. With such strong results, it was a privilege to host Martin again this year to build on that momentum.

Drawing on over 20 years of teaching experience, Martin shared practical strategies backed by research and real-world examples to help students thrive in their A Level studies. Each year group took part in tailored sessions designed to meet them where they are in their academic journey.

Among the five key strategies Martin introduced, two in particular sparked interest and reflection among students: “Being Indistractable” – Inspired by James Clear, author of *Atomic Habits*, this strategy encourages students to redesign their environment to reduce distractions and boost productivity. The idea is simple but powerful: what surrounds you shapes your behaviour.

“The Sunday Night Ritual” – A practical tip that encourages students to spend just 15 minutes on Sunday evening preparing for the week ahead. By organising materials and planning tasks, students can reduce stress and start Monday feeling confident and ready.

To support students further, Martin provided a handbook filled with strategies and reflections, which is now available to all Sixth Formers. It’s a valuable resource to revisit throughout the year.

We’re excited to continue this journey at our upcoming Year 12 Curriculum Evening on Wednesday 17th September, where we’ll share more about our approach to independent study. Parents and carers will also get a glimpse into the study habits students are developing—and how they can support these at home.

Mrs. H Waldron, Head of Sixth Form

Celebrating The Individual in Year 13 - Mathew Harper

Over the summer holidays I was fortunate enough to be invited to take part in a short course at the Royal Academy of Arts in London. During my time there I studied life drawing techniques in their newly refurbished lecture hall and took part in artist-led workshops. We were taught as a class about the history of both life drawing at the RA schools and how to quickly produce detailed anatomy studies using a range of medias. We also had challenges to complete such as speed drawing with life drawing models. I would love to continue studying at the Royal Academy after university!

Art Club (Year 7-8), this will take place during the lunchtime of Wednesday week 1 (1:10-45 pm). There will be themed weeks and will be accessible for all abilities. There will be a first come first served basis with 20 maximum students per class!

Masterclasses (Year 9-10), these will be during the lunchtime of Wednesday week 2, the students will be taught the same skills as I was taught during my year with the Royal Academy schools (portraiture, drawing, printing and painting). The students will be given invites by their teachers, they can express their interest before hand!

Matthew Harper 13NG



Bag 2 School

We are pleased to announce that Spalding High School has organised a clothes & shoe collection with **Bag2School**

Bag2School is the UK's leading textile recycler and fundraiser working with schools and since its inception in 2001 it has now paid out over £36 million.

As well as raising vitally needed funds for Spalding High School, it also helps the environment by helping to divert unwanted textiles away from landfill. A recent DEFRA report has shown that textile collection schemes are helping to reduce the volume of textiles discarded as municipal solid waste. However it is a fact that as a nation we still send 350,000 tonnes of textiles to landfill every year.

By getting involved in our Bag2School collection, you have an opportunity to sort through your cupboards and wardrobes and donate unwanted textiles in the bag provided – this can include adults' and children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts, handbags and soft toys, (please refer to <http://uk.bag2school.com/> for full details). In addition to raising much needed funds it will also raise awareness amongst the children of the benefits of recycling and reuse.

If you fill the donation bag and still have more then you can use any other bag to donate your items and don't forget to ask grandparents, friends and neighbours to have a sort out as well!

Bag2School will be collecting from Spalding High School on Friday 17th October 2025. Please bring your bag (or bags!) to Spalding High School and help us have a really good collection. You can bring your bag (or bags!) any day during that week.

Many thanks indeed for helping us with this unique fundraising opportunity.

We accept the following 'good quality' items for RE-USE:

- Men's, Ladies and Children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- Handbags
- Hats
- Bags
- Scarves and ties
- Jewellery
- Lingerie
- Socks
- Belts
- Soft toys
- Household linen
- Curtains
- Towels
- Bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers)

We DO NOT accept:

- Duvets and blankets
- Pillows and cushions
- Carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats)
- Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing
- School uniforms with and without logo
- Corporate clothing and work wear
- Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material

Madam Barats, Head of MFL

Bag2School



@bag2schooluk

www.bag2school.com



follow us on Facebook

Our next **Bag2School** collection
has been arranged for

Bags can be brought into school before the Friday if it helps but all
bags must in on

Friday..17th..October..2025

at9.. am / ~~pm~~

Any questions - please ask your
school collection organiser **Mrs Barats / Caspian Y13...**

www.bag2school.com

Careers News

Year 11 and Year 13 Successes

It was a busy time in August on both A Level and GCSE results days. We are extremely proud of last year's Year 13 students as they leave us to move on to new ventures.

72 of our Year 13 students gained a place at university to study a wide range of degree courses, including Psychology, Politics, Business, Accounting and Finance, Natural Sciences, Medicine, Graphic Design, Engineering, Mathematics, Illustration, Nursing, and Law and many more. In addition to a wide range of study disciplines chosen, the range of 42 universities is equally impressive. Our students will be heading off in the next few weeks to universities such as Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Durham, Leeds, Lincoln, Nottingham Trent, Loughborough, York, Sheffield, Leicester, King's College London, University College London, Cambridge and many others.

Students not heading to university are taking up apprenticeships in businesses locally, have found employment or have decided to take a gap year to work, volunteer or travel to destinations such as South East Asia, Australia, and Japan before applying to university next year or taking up full-time employment.

We are equally proud of last year's Year 11 students, almost all of whom are now undertaking further study, here at the High School or in other schools or sixth form colleges. We are delighted to welcome back former students and our new transferees from other schools who have enrolled into our sixth form.

Our current Year 13 students are busy this term preparing personal statements for use in university or apprenticeship/employment applications. It is a busy time between now and Christmas and we are pleased with the preparation work students carried out during the last sixth months.

We wish all our students the best of luck for the future and hope that those who have now left will keep in touch to share their future successes.

For parents/carers to support Year 13 students with university applications, here is an overview of the internal

	School Deadline	Official Deadline
Medicine/Veterinary Medicine or Science/Dentistry/Oxbridge	Friday 26 th September 2025	Wednesday 15 th October 2025
All other UCAS forms	Friday 7 th November 2025	Wednesday 14 th January 2026

school deadlines and the UCAS deadlines:

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

Mrs Bushell, Careers Leader