

1920 - 2025



105

YEARS

LAMPADA

VITAE

TRADIMUS

Spalding High School weekly bulletin

23rd October 2025

This week, from Mrs Anderson, Headmistress

This week the PE and Performing Arts Departments hosted a magnificent evening of celebration for students' achievements and contributions in Sports, Music and Drama. The hall was packed with parents, family members and students all eagerly waiting to collect their certificates, colours and trophies; it was a pleasure to see so many people join us for the evening. Students collected a number of awards, and amongst them the School Shields for those whose performance marked them out (for a variety of reasons) for their significant contribution to the School. Just one student in each year group earned these prestigious awards in PE and Performing Arts. I won't spoil the surprise today as I know the PE and Performing Arts departments will include a detailed report with photos in the bulletin after half term. Congratulations to everyone who won an award and thank you also to everyone who donated prizes or bought tickets for the raffle; your support is much appreciated. Well done too, to our hosts, Millie and Evie, you did a great job!

The weather has certainly taken a turn for the worst this week, and although the clocks go back this weekend and winter will officially begin, it is not enough to dampen the spirits of the Year 11 students and six staff heading off to Iceland today! Weather in Reykjavik and the south west peninsula is forecast to be cold (down to minus 5 at times) with the possibility of snow showers (or just drizzle), but the group are in for an exciting few days visiting the country's most famous landscapes and tourist attractions.

Have a safe and enjoyable trip and a happy half term to everyone.



1 - Children in Need - Friday 14th November

*On **Friday 14th 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.*

This was originally on the school calendar for Friday 21st November – please note the change in date to Friday 14th November.

Student of the Week commencing 13th October 2025



Mr Garbett	Mila Bapkauskas	7J	Music
Miss Bailey	Fola Akanbi	7N	German
Mrs Wilkins	Casey Hilliam	7S	Textiles
Mr Cook	Sophia Neno	8J	English
Mrs Nowak	Sophie Dennis	8J	Mathematics
Mrs Spinks	Beau Skinner	8N	Mathematics
Mrs Knowles	Olivia Venclovaite	8P	German
Mrs Fisk	Mariam Ahmed	8S	English
Mrs Lees	Tharulya Harankaha Vidanelage	8S	Library
Mrs Jones	Amber McClements	9C	Latin
Mrs Gregory	Perlin Odedra	9J	Physics
Mr Murphy	Jessica Smyth Wood	9N	Latin
Mr Fovargue	Jessica Smyth-Wood	9N	Computer Science
Mrs Aurikko	Carmen Joseph	9N	Chemistry
Mrs Busfield	Zannah Poll	9N	Physics
Mrs T Waldron	Lula Goor	9N	Biology
Mr Blackburn	Katie Bonarius	10C	Business
Miss Jeffery	Alex Baker	10C	English Literature
Miss Ashley	Maddi Odell	10J	Mathematics
Mrs Rogers	Ruby Coupland	10J	Geography
Mr Hemsall	Neve Timmins	10N	History
Mrs Hoodless	Daisy Cockerill	10S	Community
Mr Ganger	Megan Chetri	11C	Mathematics
Miss White	Shayna Walton	11C	Chemistry
Mrs Clay	Lottie Earl	11S	French
Mr Love	Annabelle Giles	12AF	Law
Miss Rossouw	Hannah Fisher	12EO	Psychology
Mrs Neal	Mimi Burke	13GD	Art
Mrs Bennett	Evie Hemmings	13JL	Geography
Miss Dunbar	Kosar Zahir	13KM	Sociology
Mrs Martindale	Cordi Mansfield	13NG	Biology

2 - Please find here 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.

Sports News



On the 9th/10th & 16th/17th October the 36 Year 11 GCSE PE pupils went to Lincoln Climbing Centre as part of their practically assessed GCSE course. The pupils took part in a range of climbing activities including tying in, belaying, traversing, bouldering, abseiling and speed climbing. It was a tough few days, but the pupils showed a lot of determination and resilience throughout.

Well done to all involved.

PE dept







On Monday 13th October the High School cross country team competed in the second race of the Fenland League cross country event. Well done to everyone that took part in the races.





On Monday 13th October the High School U13 indoor cricket team competed in the South Lincolnshire indoor cricket tournament. The team played exceptionally well throughout the tournament and were undefeated against local opposition from Boston and Sleaford. The team will now go through to play in the Lincolnshire finals in January.

Well done to all involved.

PE dept





3 - On Monday 20th October the U15 indoor cricket team competed in the South Lincolnshire indoor cricket tournament. The team made an impressive start against Spalding Academy, limiting the opposition to only 33 runs and chasing down the total in just 3 overs. The final game against University Academy Long Sutton (UALS) was a tense game which went down to the final ball of the match, UALS needing 3 runs for victory which they just managed to achieve.

Well done to everyone that took part.

PE dept



4 - On Wednesday 15th October we entered a Year 12/13 Under 18 Netball team to play in the South Lincolnshire Sports Association tournament.

We played against teams from Bourne Grammar, Bourne Academy and Boston High School. Despite not having played together before the tournament the team gelled together quickly and very well. We started with a narrow defeat to a good Bourne Grammar side, followed by a small margin loss to a much more experienced Boston High team and finished with a convincing win against Bourne Academy. This led to the team finishing 3rd overall. Well done to Beth and Lacie who were outstanding in the three games, it was a pleasure to watch you play so well.

Miss Magnus, PE department

Charleston

This term, our Year 7 students have impressed the PE department during their Charleston dance lessons. All students worked hard to develop dance performances that showcased not only their growing technical skills but also their confidence and ability to perform to a group.

The students' final routines were full of energy, storytelling and artistic expression. Well done Year 7 for an outstanding start to PE!



5 - 7S Charleston



6 - 7C Charleston

Bollywood

Year 8 certainly brought the energy to dance lessons this term as they explored the vibrant and energetic style of Bollywood dance. From the very first lesson, students showed great enthusiasm and engagement. They picked up the key features of Bollywood dance, including strong hand gestures, dynamic footwork and collaboration. During the final lesson students performed their Bollywood inspired choreography and impressed their peers and teachers. Well done Year 8!



7 - 8C Bollywood



8 - 8N Bollywood

English News




TOWER Poetry The Christopher Tower Poetry Competition 2026

a Riddle

Aged 16-18?
In education in the UK?
Free entry to the Tower Poetry Competition

Write a poem of up to 48 lines
on the theme of 'A Riddle'

Competition closes:
Noon, 19 February 2026



1st prize £5,000
2nd prize £3,000
3rd prize £1,500
There will also be 10 commended awards of £500

Find out more at: www.chch.ox.ac.uk/towerpoetry-enter

9 - Calling all potential poets and ingenious wordsmiths

Are you between the ages of 16-18 years old?

Are you interested in free entry with first prize £5,000?

Are you primed for this year's Christ Church College Oxford, Tower Poetry Competition?

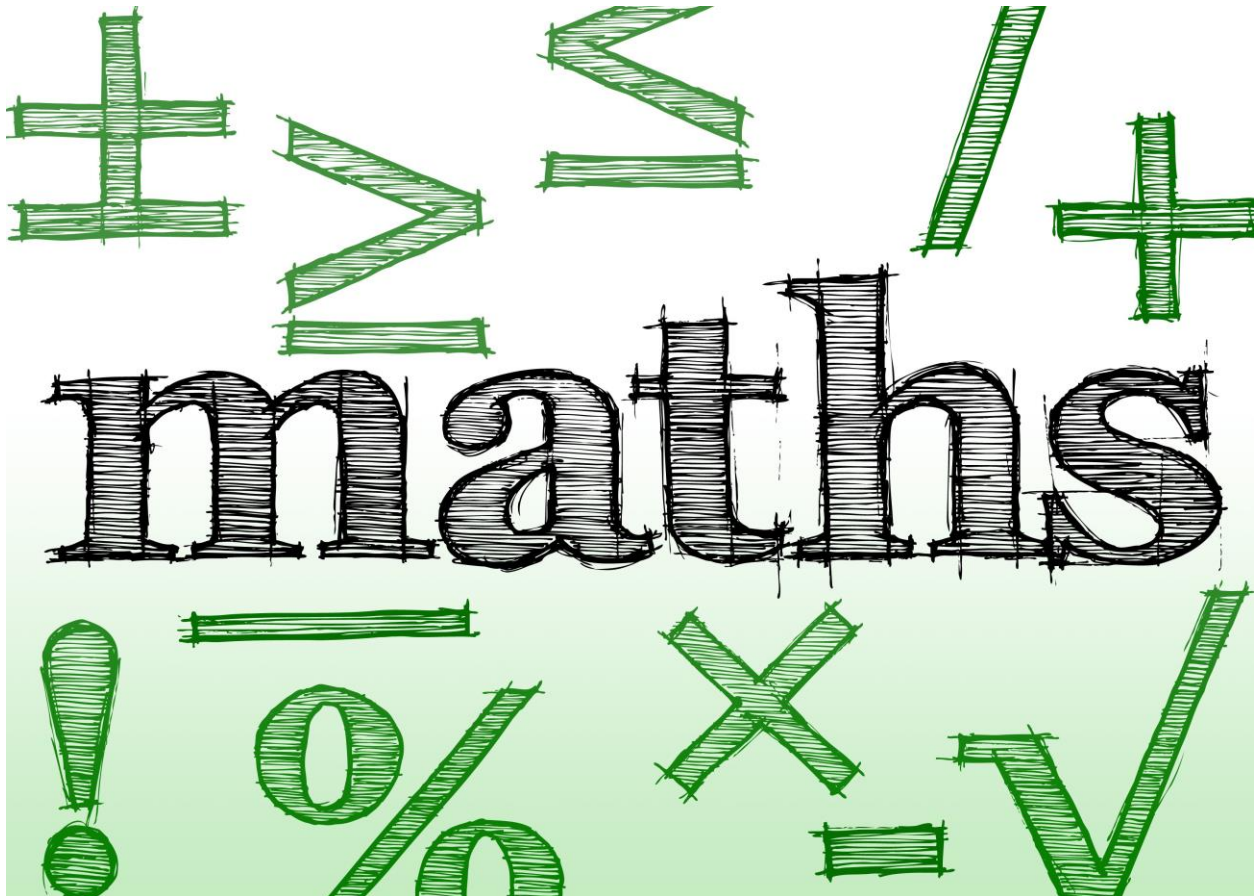
What is the Competition?: The Tower Poetry Competition offers the UK's most valuable prize for young poets. The competition is free to enter and it is open to students between 16 and 18 years of age who are educated in the UK. The competition is judged by two guest judges and the Christopher Tower Student, Dr Anna Nickerson. Each year the theme is chosen with the intention of giving entrants free rein to interpret it as widely as they like. The poet who writes the single best poem on the theme receives £5,000. There will be a second prize of £3,000, and a third prize of £1,500. Along with these, there will be ten runners up, who will each receive £500. The top three winners will also be offered a place on the [Tower Poetry Summer School](#).

The 2026 Competition is now open.

This year's theme is 'A Riddle'. Write a poem on the theme of 'A Riddle'.

[Enter the Tower Poetry Competition | Christ Church, University of Oxford](#)

Maths News





10 - Success in UKMT National Maths Competitions

We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of our talented Further Mathematics students who recently took part in prestigious national competitions.

Three of our Year 12 Further Mathematics students - Holly, Sophie and Zofia participated in the Math Olympiad for Girls, a challenging competition designed to inspire and stretch high-achieving mathematicians. We are proud to announce that Zofia performed exceptionally well, earning a Merit — a significant achievement in a competition of this calibre.

Meanwhile, in Year 13, two Further Mathematics students - Neev and Abbie - took on the challenge of the UKMT's new national competition for sixth formers - Maths Competition for Girls, a rigorous and highly demanding test of mathematical reasoning and problem-solving. Congratulations to Abbie, who was awarded a Merit for her outstanding performance.

These results reflect the students' dedication and deep understanding of advanced mathematical concepts.

Well done to all who took part!

Library News





11 - Sixth Form Book Club Recommends...

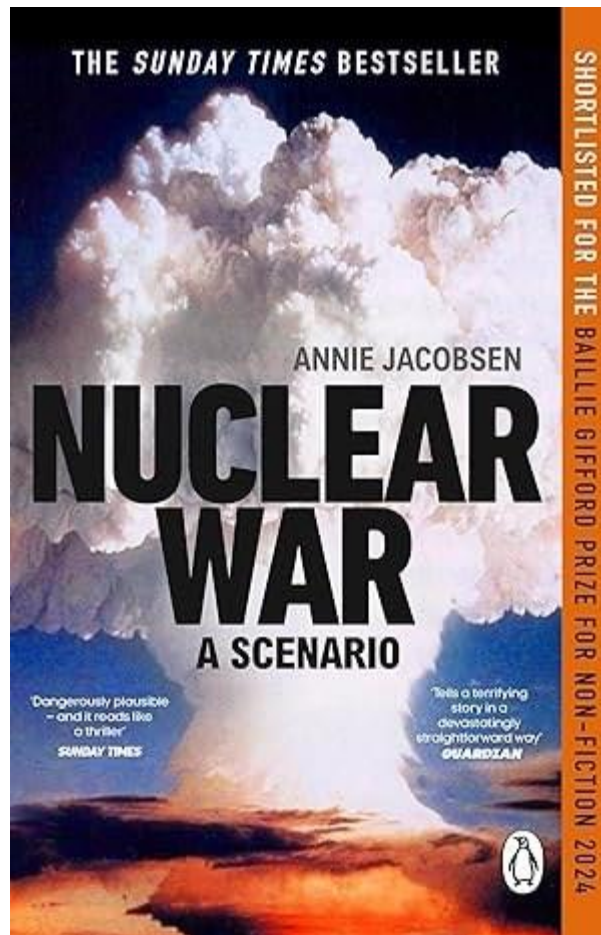
Last week's Sixth form book club recommended spooky reads over some delicious homemade treats - thanks, Poppy! Recommendations ranged from modern classics *Twilight*, *The Woman in Black* and Stephen King's *Misery* and *Salem's Lot* to *Where the Crawdads Sing*, *Rules for Perfect Murders* and the *Red Eye* series. There were also some classic book club favourites: *Bunker Diary*, *As Good as Dead* and *The Enemy*.

It was wonderful to see so many new faces joining us this week! We will meet next on 7th November at 1:30 to recommend books with an A in the title or writer's name.

Happy Reading!

Mrs Lees and Miss O'Sullivan





12 - Nuclear War: A Scenario by Annie Jacobsen

Recommended Age: 16+

Genre: Non-fiction / Geopolitical Thriller / Science & History

Imagine waking up one morning and learning that a nuclear missile is heading toward your country. What happens next? That's the terrifying question Annie Jacobsen explores in Nuclear War: A Scenario — a book that's not just informative, but gripping, intense, and deeply unsettling.

Jacobsen, a Pulitzer Prize finalist, takes readers through a minute-by-minute breakdown of what a real nuclear war could look like. It's not science fiction. It's based on interviews with military experts, scientists, and government officials who know exactly how close we are to disaster. The book starts with a surprise attack and follows the chain reaction of decisions, destruction, and consequences that unfold globally.

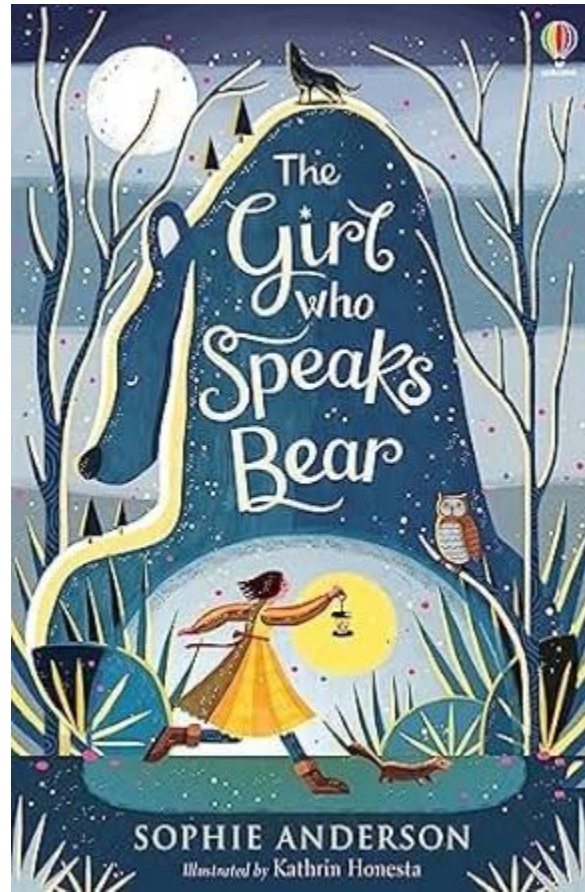
This book is fast-paced and cinematic: The book reads like a thriller, with a ticking clock and multiple perspectives that keep you hooked. You'll learn about the science behind nuclear weapons, the politics of global conflict, and how fragile peace really is. It makes you think about leadership, responsibility, and the importance of diplomacy.

The content is disturbing in places. Jacobsen doesn't sugarcoat the horrors of nuclear war, from instant destruction to long-term radiation effects. Some parts may feel overwhelming or scary, but that's the point: to show how serious this issue is.

Nuclear War: A Scenario is a must-read for anyone curious about how the world works and how it could end. It's not just a book about bombs; it's a wake-up call about the choices leaders make and how they affect everyone. If you're into history, science, or global politics, this book will blow your mind (pun intended).

Rating: ★★★★★(4.5/5)

Mr McAlinden



13 - The Girl Who Speaks Bear by Sophie Anderson

Found abandoned in a bear cave, Yanka (mostly known as Yanka the bear) is the strongest girl in the village. But it's not easy to be as strong as you are on the outside, on the inside. Yet somewhere, a brave desire lingers inside herself. A desire to explore the one place that she has always pondered about. Her birthplace and her true home; the forest. But the forest is no ordinary place. It is a place full of magic, mysteries and morals. So Yanka had no reason to have to go into there. That is, until she grew her bear legs. Now, Yanka and her new animal friends must travel through the forests, and adventure through the most perilous areas in the whole world! Wolf attacks, saving young elks, and even talking to a rather self-admiring weasel who claims that he rode on an owl for three days straight. Yanka must defeat Smey - a fire dragon who broke the hearts and killed the souls of many innocent creatures, including Yanka's mother herself! Can Yanka defeat the daunting fire dragon? Will she be able to turn back to normal? And most importantly, will she ever find out the true story of her past...

I really enjoyed reading this book and I think Sophie Anderson has done a great job of enticing the reader, causing them to just keep on reading! It is an amazing story with a clear message, you are never alone. This book would be best suited for people aged 8-13 and for those who like reading adventurous stories.

Amisshah 9N

Modern Foreign Languages News



Do YOU have what it takes to be a spy?

GCHQ National Language Competition
17 - 21 November 2025



PRIZE INCLUDES A TOP SECRET VISIT TO GCHQ

Open to Year 9 students in teams of up to 4


nlc@gchq.gov.uk



#GCHQNationalLanguageCompetition

14 - See the attached, organised by the Modern Foreign Languages department.

Music News



On Wednesday the 15th October, the Music department enjoyed an amazing trip to Nottingham to experience a live performance by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. The first piece in the

concert was Young Person's guide To The Orchestra by Benjamin Britten but the highlight of the night was definitely the final piece by Mussorgsky - 'Pictures at an exhibition'. We also watched Mozart's flute and harp concerto where the soloists were incredibly talented and clearly practice every day! It was very inspiring to see such a technically skilled orchestra, led by a very enthusiastic principal violinist, and it inspired me to practice more. Overall, it was an amazing experience and was well worth staying up late!

Florence, Y10

On the 15th of December members of the School Orchestra and Music GCSE and A Level students travelled to Nottingham to experience the wonders of classical concertos played by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. During the concert we heard three different pieces of live music which were elegant but also powerful. My favourite was the last one, Pictures At An Exhibition by Mussorgsky, due to the use of the bell and the outstanding finish. Overall, I enjoyed the experience so much and it has further expanded my knowledge of classical music.

Freya, Y10

On Wednesday, 15th October, Spalding High School's GCSE Music students and Orchestra members took a trip to Nottingham to watch the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in a fantastic performance.

The first piece they played, A Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra by Benjamin Britten, set the exciting mood for the evening as it showcased each instrument of the orchestra, allowing the audience to appreciate the range of talent put into the group performance. This was then followed by Mozart's Flute and Harp Concerto. The two soloists played beautifully, particularly in the cadenzas, with fabulous ornamentation, and both had a huge smile on their face. The evident love they had for playing their instruments made their performance all the better! The orchestra accompanied them in a great presentation of this Classical piece. Finally, after the interval, the CBSO concluded the show with 'Pictures at an Exhibition' by Modest Mussorgsky. These ten short movements pulled the audience through a range of emotions, and I personally found the final movement, 'The Great Gates of Kiev' truly fascinating. This movement was a great way to end the performance as the music became increasingly victorious.

I cannot express enough the awe I felt watching the talented musicians before me and hearing the music surround me. It was a fabulous evening. Thank you very much, Mr Garbett!

Loma, Y10

Year 8 News



Challenge 8 Afternoon

Earlier in the term, Year 8 experienced an afternoon of challenge! Each form received a box full of challenges, with a limited amount of time to complete them. The 19 challenges included everything from cracking a code, to pitching a tent, to writing a poem or song that described their form! The form groups needed to work together to best utilise everyone's skills, all whilst working under a time pressure.

It was a pleasure to see the whole year group grafting away as part of a team, even when some of the challenges really were challenging! All 155 students gathered together at the end of the day with their form tutors, along with their very many creations and accomplishments to celebrate, and also reflect on the afternoon. The sea of smiling faces really showed what a hit the afternoon had been. Please enjoy some of the photos that were taken below.

Well done Year 8 – I am super proud of you all.

Mrs Hoodless, Head of Year 8









Celebrating the Individual: Ava Willis, Year 9 - A Trip to the Globe Theatre.



Thank you to Ava for sharing a really interesting report - it is great to find out about different passions students have.

Thank you Ava for sharing this - hopefully it will inspire others to visit. Mrs Neal and Mrs Spinks.

My trip to the Globe Theatre:

Last weekend I went to London to see a Shakespeare play, who is one of my favourite playwrights, to see the newest production of Twelfth Night. This is one of my favourite plays by Shakespeare, because of the complex plot and the witty characters who never fail to make the audience laugh. The Globe Theatre offers a host of modernised plays which are accessible for all no matter if you are interested in Shakespeare, recently a production of Romeo and Juliet used BMX bikes and knives instead of the traditional props, to make it more relevant to today's society. It is a unique experience with a common occurrence being for the cast to go into the audience and perform there, possibly right next to you, they may even ask some member to participate and go onto the stage or make you act as if it was real (in Richard III we had to bow to him). There is often set pieces in the audience, for example, at the performance of the Crucible by Arthur Miller, which I saw earlier this year, there was a lot of scenes in court and the judges and defendants were in the audience, making you feel like you are in the show. Due to it being open air, it can also be very atmospheric if it starts to rain or if it starts to get dark, this can make the show better, but it can be quite cold in the winter. I hope to attend the theatre again soon, as it is a wonderful place to be.

Ava Willis 9P

Charity News



15 - The Environment Committee and Mrs Barats would love to give a massive thank you to the wonderful members of this School, students, parents and staff, for making Bag2School as successful as it was! We have managed to collect 541kg of clothing, raising £162.30 for the School! Just for reference, that took up two entire parking spaces when piled up!

On a more serious note, we couldn't thank everyone enough for bringing donations for this great cause. The clothing will be shared and distributed internationally, reducing waste as your items will be re-used instead of thrown out – benefiting the circular economy. Without the donations and avid support of this School's community, we couldn't have done it!

Thank you all again!

Caspian, Year 13

Careers News



Year 10 Work Experience – 23rd-27th March 2026

Well done to Year 10 students who have already found work experience placements for March and added their details, their employer's details and their parents' details onto the Unifrog Placements Tool which we are using in school to manage work experience administration. Could students who have not yet found a placement please continue to make enquiries to try to get their placement secured as soon as possible. We hope to have the majority of students set up on the Unifrog Placements Tool by shortly after half-term.

Year 13 UCAS Applications

Now that the deadline for early applications to Medicine/Veterinary Medicine/Dentistry and Oxbridge courses has passed, I am processing applications for remaining students who are applying to other university courses. A reminder that the internal deadline date for handing in applications to me is 7th November. Many students have already handed in their applications and are starting to receive offers which is exciting and motivational.

Green Careers Week – 3rd-8th November

Please see the Parents' Guide to Green Careers which is full of useful information about green careers and routes into them - pdf accompanying the Bulletin.

Aspiring Physiotherapist and Aspiring Occupational Therapist Courses in Half-term

Please see below details of two opportunities during half-term. Could students please let me know if they register and gain a place.

Aspiring Physiotherapy 2025

Explore a career focused on improving mobility, helping patients regain independence lost through injury, ageing, or a disability.

Running on Tuesday 28 October, at Lincoln College, 9:00am to 3:30 pm. This event is open to young people aged 14-19 years, living or educated in Lincolnshire.

Delivered by NHS healthcare professionals, this event offers a valuable opportunity to discover the skills and knowledge necessary for a career in Physiotherapy. Participants will engage in workshops and informative sessions, including:

- **Q&A sessions** with staff from a variety of roles within the Physiotherapy team
- **University taster sessions** led by current Physiotherapy students
- **Workshops** exploring the use of specialist equipment
- **Simulated sessions and case studies** demonstrating how physiotherapists support patients to live an independent life

Aspiring Occupational Therapy 2025

Explore a career that sees beyond diagnosis and limitations, supporting independence and helping people live life to the fullest.

Running on Wednesday 29 October, at Lincoln College, 9:00am to 3:30 pm. This event is open to young people aged 14-19 years, living or educated in Lincolnshire.

Delivered by NHS healthcare professionals, this event offers a valuable opportunity to discover the skills and knowledge required for a career in Occupational Therapy. Participants will engage in workshops and informative sessions, including:

- **Q&A sessions** with staff from a variety of roles within the Occupational Therapy team
- **University taster sessions** led by current Occupational Therapy students
- **Workshops** exploring the use of specialist equipment
- **Simulated sessions and case studies** demonstrating how Occupational Therapists support patients to live an independent life

These are both excellent opportunities for young individuals eager to embark on a career working within health and care. To learn more or book a place, visit: <https://lincstalentacademy.org.uk/events/>

Lincoln College, University of Oxford

Please see below information about upcoming webinars for parents/carers from Lincoln College, University of Oxford.

Online talks for parents, carers and supporters interested in finding out more about university in general and the University of Oxford

What The Trinity College Access team is offering two talks that will be of interest to parents and carers of students in Years 10, 11 and 12.

Session 1 For Families - A guide to university will be particularly useful for those who did not attend university themselves or who feel they would appreciate updated general university information and guidance.

Session 2 For Families - A guide to the University of Oxford will be of interest to parents and carers wanting to hear specifically about the University of Oxford and the application process. In both sessions, we will also focus on effective ways parents and carers can support their child, should they decide to apply to University and/or the University of Oxford in the future. We aim to build confidence and knowledge about what a parent and carer's role is in the process of a university application and to clarify the benefits and costs of going to university and/or the University of Oxford. Includes live Q&A with current undergraduates at Oxford.

Who Parents, carers and supporters of young people in a state secondary school considering university

When Session 1 For Families - A guide to university on **Monday 3 November at 6pm - 7:30pm**; Session 2 For Families - A guide to the University of Oxford and the application process on **Thursday 6 November at 6pm - 7:30pm**

Where Online

Links Parents can register directly via our [Registration form](#) to book both or their preferred option. Registration open until 48 hrs prior to each session.

Spalding FC Education and Football Academy

Please see below information from Glenn Vaughan, Director of 16+ Football Academies & Education Scholarships at Spalding United Football Club:

We are delighted to now offer an external Football Academy & Education Scholarship at Spalding Utd FC for boys and girls from September 2026.

It's a great opportunity to study a Level 3 in Sports or Business which will take place at the ground and train daily with UEFA coaches on the brand new state of the art 3G pitch. All of the course will be run from the Sir Halley Stewart Stadium in Spalding.

The education provision has been rated Good by Ofsted and is a coursework-based qualification (BTEC Level 2 or 3).



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

Other notices and information



Parking at School

May we politely remind parents and carers of the procedure for drop off and collection of students at the beginning and end of the school day:

- Parents should organise a suitable drop/off collection point **well away** from the School.
- Parents are **not to drop-off or collect from either of the School car parks** (at the front of school and at the rear on Matmore Gate) and are advised to show consideration for neighbours on the streets around the School.

- By law, **yellow zigzag lines** outside of schools indicate the length of road where stopping, dropping off or waiting are **strictly prohibited**.
- The stretch of road designated as the bus zone is also restricted at the start and end of the school day in order for the designated transport to park and disembark/board safely.
- There are further traffic and parking restrictions at certain times of the day around the school zones in this area - please observe the street signs.

Stonegate is particularly busy and hazardous between 3.30pm and 4pm due to nineteen school buses collecting some 500 students, whilst the other 500 leave on foot. The above guidelines are designed to keep our school community safe. Thank you for your cooperation.



Image credits

Young Minds:

Book covers: Amazon.com

Book cases: Mrs Lees

Other images: click on individual image for info