

1920 - 2025



105

YEARS

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TRADIMUS

Spalding High School weekly bulletin 18th December 2025

This week, from Mrs Anderson, Headmistress



The end of this long term is always a very busy one, but this year has felt busier than normal and I think we have Year 9 to thank for that (read further to find out why!).

I would like to formally thank the Sixth Form prefects, Mrs Ray and Mrs Connolly for organising the annual Bring A Tin day; it really was another bumper year in terms of food donations and thank you to everyone for all of their donations. This year (again) we collected more than 1,500 items taking our running total to over 18,000! You are amazing! Thank you so much and read inside for more details and photos.

We have enjoyed a wonderfully successful Staff Panto; Mrs Fisk and Mr Martindale did a cracking job of writing a fantastically funny script merging Ghostbusters and Scooby Doo. I think the staff had more fun rehearsing and being silly than many of them would care to admit but I know the audience enjoyed their efforts tremendously. I am sure in the New Year we will see the photos of the fun evening. We have also enjoyed a festive evening with the Music Department and School Choir in the Christmas Concert. Again, the groups were well rehearsed in an array of traditional and more recent festive pieces and, again, the hall was quite literally filled to the back row! Everyone enjoyed themselves and there were so many positive comments from everyone as they left; it really can be relied upon to contribute to the festive mood. The same can be said for the annual Christmas Church service held yesterday. The School enjoyed a wonderful service with our new vicar, Revd Robert Parker-McGee. The readings, poems and musical pieces, together with heart-felt singing of carols was fantastic. We have also enjoyed two

wonderful Christmas lunch services from Nicky and the ladies in the canteen. I think they are now fed up with cooking a Christmas roast but we did all enjoy it so thank you ladies!

As I said at the start, Year 9 have also been busy little Christmas Elves and led so many wonderful charitable and school events in recent days. The first staff karaoke that I can remember for ages was held in the hall on Friday 12th by 9S and we were, quite literally, rocking around the Christmas tree! 9J also made more than 200 cards for those in hospital and were filmed were the BBC local regional news programmes - we look forward to hopefully seeing that aired on 23rd December. 9N, C and P have also been very busy in their charitable endeavours and have written pieces for this week's bullet - well done and thank you to you all!

You will have heard me say, time and time again, that School is not just a collection of buildings, but the people within it that make it such a special place to be. Over the last two weeks, the students and staff at the High School have proven this point over and over again. At the end of a sixteen-week term, when we are all feeling tired and a bit stretched, everyone has dug deep and found the festive cheer, good will and kind spirit that makes me so proud. Well done and thank you everyone. Now enjoy a restful and peaceful holiday! You have earned it!



Safeguarding Notice regarding WhatsApp

It has been brought to our attention that there is a WhatsApp group titled 'Add the whole UK' inviting young people to join the group. It appears to be mainly targeting children in Year 4 to Year 7, and predominately in the Spalding area. The group was created on Monday 24th November and now has over 1,000 phone numbers and names of young people visible for anyone to see. This is clearly very concerning and a safeguarding issue. Please talk to your child about safety online and check phones if you feel it necessary. We strongly recommend that students leave the chat if they have been added.

Charity News



Bring a Tin Day Friday 12th December 2025

Last Friday we held our annual Bring a Tin Day in aid of Agape Food Bank in Spalding.

An amazing 1,503 items were donated by our school community. Staff and Sixth Formers sorted all the items into categories, counted and boxed them, and they were delivered to Agape by our site team on Monday.

This will bring a better Christmas to many people in Spalding.

Since Bring a Tin Day started at Spalding High School in 2014, a grand total of 18,527 items have been donated!!

In addition to the food donations, we have also been able to make a monetary donation to the food bank this year. We held a collection after yesterday's Carol Service which raised £75.18, we donated the Christmas Craft Fair stall holders' table fees of £64 and the sale of refreshments at last week's staff pantomime raised another £121.40. The grand total of £260.58 has been transferred directly to Agape.

Thank you everyone for your continued support.



Challenge 9 - Reverse Advent Calendar

Well what an eventful Challenge 9 it has been - from staff karaoke to the BBC!!

Back at the start of term, Year 9 were challenged to think about Advent and Christmas time and instead of thinking about the presents they might get they were asked to think about what they could give back to their community to make a difference.

The students came up with some great ideas and really thought about different charities that meant something to them. They were given time to come up with which Charity they wanted to choose and think about how they would raise money or give something back - like making over 200 Christmas cards for people who would be in hospital for Christmas Day!

I have only been working with this year group since September as Acting Head of Year alongside Mrs Spinks and we have both been impressed with their enthusiasm and creativity when they were set the challenge.

Below are a series of reports by the students about how they took on the challenge and their amazing results. Well done Year 9 we are very proud of you!!

Mrs Neal and Mrs Spinks.

9S – Karaoke

As a form we have managed to raise over £500 for a women's refuge - Haven Domestic Abuse Services!

We are so grateful for everybody who was able to attend and contribute money on this occasion. We were blown away by the energy and the enthusiasm that was brought by our peers. All of this money is going towards women and children who have suffered through domestic abuse. We're glad to say, this is going to have a massive impact on their lives. If we are able to do this again we will try and make it even bigger and better. Our form would also like to thank the teachers who participated because NONE of this would have been able to happen without you. Again we are extremely happy with how it all came together and we hope to raise some more money to donate to this fantastic charity.

9S

9J

On Monday 15th December, Florence, Nyla, Maryam and Sakina travelled all the way to Grantham Hospital to spread Christmas cheer by delivering over 200 handmade Christmas cards and various biscuits, pencils and notebooks that 9J have collected. There were also representatives from a local business attending. We all agree that this was a very rewarding opportunity and it felt great to give back to the community. We were interviewed by BBC Look North/ BBC East Midlands. We received a very delicious and (boiling!!) hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows and we received a very warm welcome by Sharon and Linda, from Lincolnshire United Hospital Trust. These Christmas cards are for patients on Christmas

Day that aren't allowed to spend time with their family over Christmas. We are very grateful for the opportunity to do this and we were even asked to do this next year!!

Florence

To date, we have created over 200 cards for patients at Pilgrim Hospital, offering messages of support and encouragement. This initiative has also contributed to raising awareness through coverage in the news. Moving forward, we plan to continue supporting Pilgrim Hospital and to increase our involvement with the RSPCA. Although we have not raised any funds so far, as our focus has been on producing and distributing the cards, the primary aim of this initiative has been to give back to the community and provide meaningful support.

Ishy

NB We have been told the report should be on Look North and East Midlands regional news programmes on 23rd December! Please watch!

9N

9N supported Winston's Wish, a non-profit dedicated to helping young people enduring bereavement. We aimed to achieve several objectives when selecting this charity: alleviating the financial burden on the affected families, providing practical assistance, and raising awareness about this worldwide experience. We communicated thoroughly about what we would actually do to accomplish this. By contributing, we were able to raise money that is directly used for those in need (e.g, providing tools to help griever). Through our bake sale, we collected a total of £53 to reassure and foster the well-being of these individuals. We didn't face any significant issues and the activity ran smoothly. We're grateful to all the bakers and volunteers who donated their precious time to prepare homemade treats and gave hands-on help at the physical stall.

Our form is very thankful to have been given the opportunity to make an effort to aid grieving young people.

9C

9C as a form raised money from form donations and money made at the craft fair. As a form we chose to spend money on buying two sets of pyjamas and a set of books which cost us £21.45 we are donating these to the Amazon Ward (children's ward) at the local hospital. We also donated £23.61 to hildebackeducationfun.com, this is a touching fundraiser which raises money for education for children in Kenya.

9P

This year, we chose to raise money for Cancer Research UK. To raise money, we ran some activities and a bake sale. Whilst we only raised a small amount, next year we hope to raise more. We have already started planning our next event! We hope the money we have raised will have a positive impact on the charity, and cancer patients in the UK.







Student of the Week



Staff Name	Student Name	Student Form	Reason
Mrs Lees	Niha Safeer	7C	Library
Mrs Rogers	Lois Thornhill	7S	Geography
Miss Hammond	Lexi Steele	8C	Drama
Mrs Jones	Diya Gopinath	8J	Latin
Mrs C Lord	Hollie Wand	8N	Mathematics
Mrs Jones	Martha Haighton	8N	Community
Mr Hempsall	Hooria Kausar	9C	History
Mrs Chandler	Isabella Gutane	9J	Library
Mr Garbett	Amisshah Indrathayalan	9N	Music
Mrs Bennett	Sithuli Marasinghe	9N	Geography
Mrs Martin	Yasmina Ouerhani	9P	Mathematics
Mrs Spinks	Emily Warrick	10N	Mathematics
Mr Blackbourn	Sarah Jones	10S	German
Mr Murphy	Jasmine Bridger	10S	Chemistry
Mrs Clay	Giovanna Ramalho Gomes	11C	French
Miss Bailey	Jenna Mackman	11J	German
Miss Jeffery	Lexi Goult	13NG	Community

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



Year 8 Netball vs Bourne Academy - Wednesday 10th December

Our Year 8 A and B teams put in fantastic performances against Bourne Academy on Wednesday.

The B team, featuring many pupils playing their very first game for the School, showed brilliant determination from the first whistle. They learnt a huge amount as the match went on, demonstrating great sportsmanship and improving with every quarter. Their confidence grew visibly throughout the game, and although the final score was a 6–1 loss, they should be incredibly proud of themselves. **Players' Player: Kate**

The A team also played an excellent match. After a tightly contested first quarter that ended 0–0, the team stayed composed, worked together and produced some lovely passages of netball. Their teamwork and resilience shone through, and they finished the game with a well-earned 9–5 result. **Players' Player: Beau**

Well done to all our Year 8 players for representing the School so brilliantly!

9J Dance

This week, 9J took to the stage with an outstanding display of creativity and teamwork as they performed the dance routines they have been working on throughout the term. Each group selected their own music, resulting in a wonderfully diverse line up - from Justin Bieber's *Beauty and a Beat* to the playful *Oompa Loompa* song from *Willy Wonka*. Some pupils even went the extra mile by dressing up to match their chosen song, adding colour, character, and laughter to the performances.

Three students stepped into the role of judges, and their results, marked out of 10 (just like *Strictly Come Dancing!*), are as shown.

The judges were also required to write down two things they thought each group did well. A few of their comments were:

- *Excellent formations and use of space.*
- *Amazing choreography!*
- *Excellent timing with the music and each other.*
- *Funny and creative.*
- *Very enthusiastic. Their routine had good fluidity.*
- *The dance moves worked really well with the lyrics.*

I am incredibly proud of 9J. Their effort, confidence, and enthusiasm has been brilliant to see, and they should be very proud of what they've achieved. Well done!

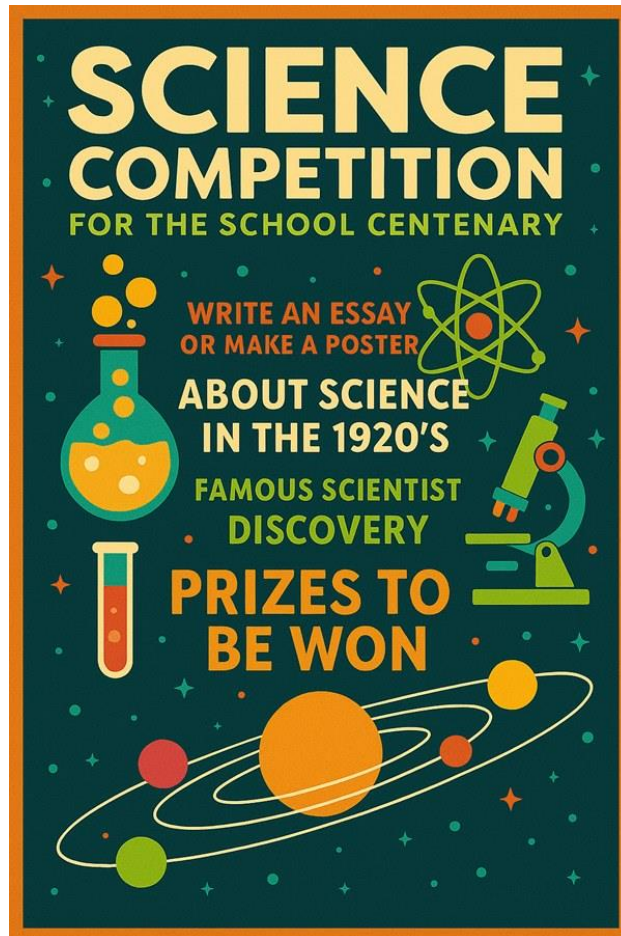
Miss Jones

Judge	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 7
1	6	6	6	9	7	10	7
2	5	6	6.5	9	7	9	6.5
3	6.5	6	6.5	9	7	10	7





Science News



Please see details of the Science Department competition for the School Centenary.

MFL News

Please see here photos from last week's GCHQ.





Library News



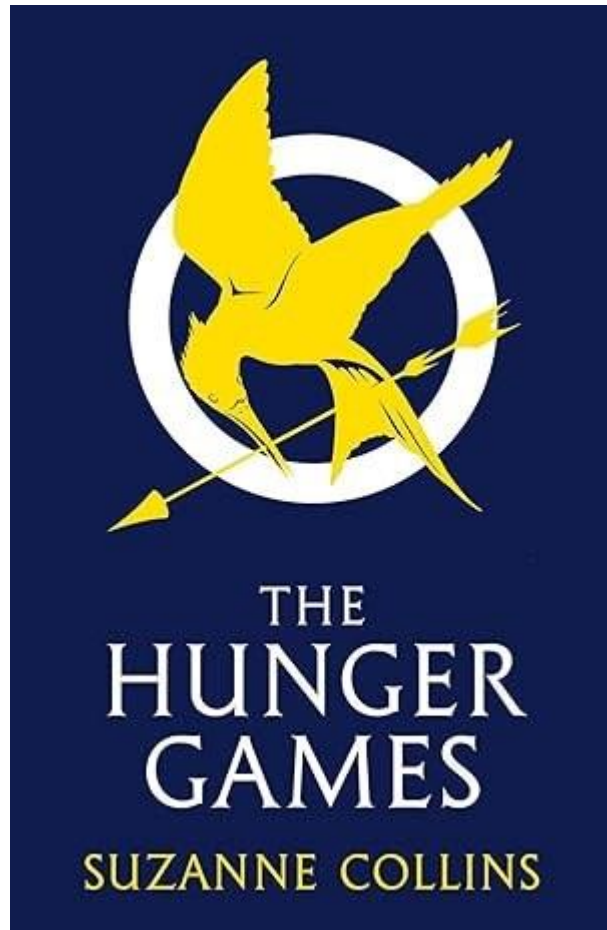
6th form Library Committee Winter Reading Challenge

What are you enjoying reading this winter? Tell us about it and you may win a prize.

Happy Reading

<https://forms.office.com/e/4Vy51pKY7a>

Book reviews

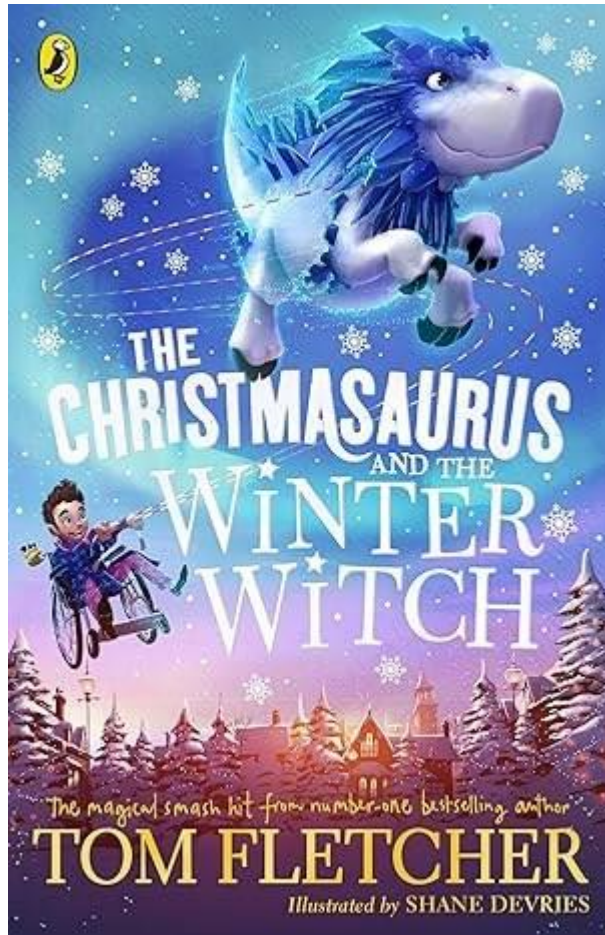


The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

The Capitol's games are more than entertainment; they are punishment. When her sister's name is drawn for a brutal televised fight to the death, Katniss volunteers to take her place. Armed with only her instincts, a bow, and an unbreakable will, she becomes a symbol of courage the Capitol never expected.

In an arena where nothing is safe, every choice could be her last.

In my opinion I really enjoyed this action-packed book. This book is a thrilling teen fiction written by Suzanne Collins and I think really anyone who decides to give this book a try will absolutely love it. It includes action-packed chapters full of adventure and hope. This book made me feel a rollercoaster of emotions going from sympathy to sadness to relief. The Hunger Games I think really brought me into dystopian books, because I loved escaping reality and being able to travel into a world of fantasy and adventure. Overall this book has been my favourite book so far and I think that it is a thrilling, action book including high stakes and bold characters for ages 11 and older.



The Christmasaurus and the Winter Witch by Tom Fletcher

The Christmasaurus and the Winter Witch is a thrilling Christmas story that shows the power of love, belief and society. The characters in this story are: William Trundle, a dinosaur enthusiast; Christmas obsessed Bob (William's Dad); Pamela, Bob's girlfriend; Brenda, William's (step) sister; Christmasaurus, a magical dinosaur who is also William's best friend and Santa the jolliest jolliest man on planet earth. In this story William embarks to the enchanted North Pole and meets the mysterious Winter Witch. Together, the Christmasaurus and William, undertake a quest to save the holiday season from a greedy businessman and the Winter Witch. This book is filled with heart-warming moments which will grab the attention of both children and adults. The story is jam-packed with plot twists which will keep the reader guessing and guessing. The illustrations by Shane Devries bring the story to life and add more magic to the captivating writing. The Christmasaurus and the Winter Witch is a must read for readers of any age who want to get into the Christmas spirit or just read an amazing book.

Elana 8S

Cosy Winter Read Recommendations

Our KS3 Book Group, Year 9, 10 & 11 Crime Book Club and out 6th Form Book Club have been recommending so many favourite seasonal reads and we wanted to share just a few with you. So if you

are looking so for a good book this holiday try one of these and we have most in the Library too. Then take part in the Library Committee Winter Reading Challenge and enter your book on the accompanying form to be in with a chance of winning a prize.

Happy Reading

Miss O'Sullivan and Mrs Lees

For Younger Readers

The Last Bear by Hannah Gold is an award winning emotional tale about nature, adventure and friendship.

The Snow Girl by Sophie Anderson. Discover a new seasonal classic and must read for fairy-tale lovers.

The Ice Monster by David Walliams. The story of a ten year old orphan and a woolly mammoth; a treasured favourite for so many.

Teen Reads

The Gallagher Girls series by Ally Carter for action packed drama in a school for spies.

Catch Your Death by Ravena Guron is a murder mystery where our protagonists are stranded in country mansion in the middle of a snow storm; definitely one for Cluedo fans!

Twilight by Stephanie Meyer. Now enjoying its 20th anniversary, this is the perfect time to revisit the book that spawned a vampire phenomenon.

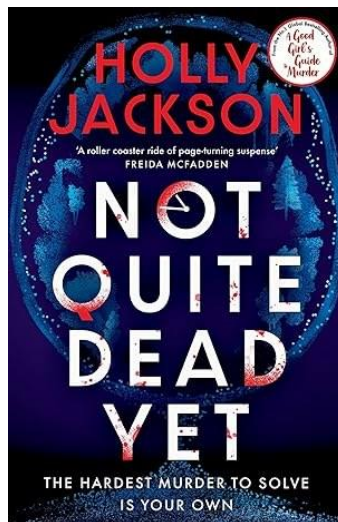
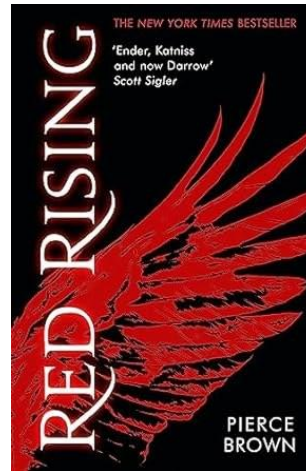
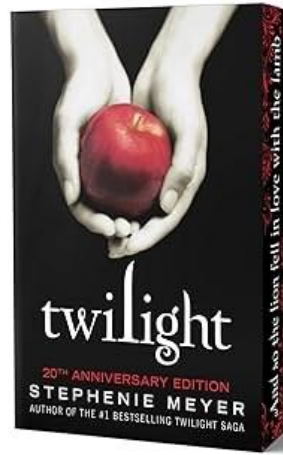
Older Teens

Red Rising by Pierce Brown is a compulsively readable dark dystopian novel which is viscerally gripping.

The Naturals series by Jennifer Lynn Barnes follows a selected group of teenagers as they tackled cold cases for the FBI.

Not Quite Dead Yet by Holly Jackson. The latest book by The Good Girls Guide to Murder author is her first adult thriller and her fans won't be disappointed. Jet Mason is attacked and left for dead.

Recovering in hospital the next day she learns that her injuries will prove fatal within seven days and she sets out to solve her own murder.



Other News



Christmas Cookies

This week, the Wellbeing Club was feeling festive while decorating some Christmas biscuits! From Christmas trees and reindeer to Peppa Pig and Stranger Things, we really had it all.

Well done everyone, and happy holidays!

Careers News



Year 7 – Employer Encounter

On 11th December, Major Julie Downing from the Army came into school to talk to Year 7 students about the wide variety of job roles in the armed forces, apprenticeships and STEM careers. As always, the students asked many questions and Major Downing answered them with plenty of examples and insight. Well done to our Year 7 students who participated so confidently.

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 will need to continue to work together in January to ensure that all students are placed.

Year 13 – University Applications and Offers

If students have already received all their offers from the universities they selected for their application, they do not have to choose their firm and insurance choices immediately, unless they are 100% certain. In their UCAS hub, it will give a deadline date by which they will need to choose. I advise students to give it some time, think it through and possibly attend offer holder days in the New Year.

Year 12 – Sutton Trust Summer Schools

In readiness for applications opening in January, I have advertised the Sutton Trust Summer Schools to Year 12 students. If students are considering applying to university, this is a good opportunity to consider. There are eligibility criteria so students will need to check these carefully. Here is the link to the website:

[Sutton Trust Summer Schools](#)

British Army Insights – A Guide for Parents and Guardians

Please find below information about an online event:

Event: *British Army Insights – A Guide for Parents & Guardians* **Date:** *Tuesday 20 January* **Time:** *18:00 – 19:00*

Register Now: <https://britishar.my/GTQfiD>

This online session is designed to give parents clarity and confidence about the opportunities the British Army offers young people.

Why it matters: *Recent research with over 600 parents and guardians revealed:*

- *Only 27% feel fully confident supporting their child through the application process.*
- *Nearly half (49%) want to attend an online session and receive resources about Army apprenticeships.*

What parents will gain:

- *A real look at life in today's Army, including roles, training and qualifications.*
- *Inspiring stories from those with lived experience, plus practical advice and Q&A time.*
- *Insights into how the Army helps young people build confidence, resilience, and valuable life skills — all while earning and learning.*

Bonus: *Attendees receive a FREE downloadable resource to help support their child's career choices.*

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



Upcoming diary dates:

19th December (Friday) Last day of term

6th January (Tuesday) First day of Spring term




Holiday Activities and Food

An opportunity for young people to enjoy new experiences, take part in **FREE** activities, and enjoy healthy meals over the holiday period.

Monday 22 December 2025 to Friday 2 January 2026
(excluding bank holidays).



Scan here


Book your place from **Thursday 20 November**.

Open to all school age children in receipt of benefit related Free School Meals.

Funded by
 Department for Education
 BEST START IN LIFE
 Lincolnshire County Council
Making for a better future

Buying alcohol over Christmas & New Year for under 18s?



Partners

Local council, Police, Trading Standards, alcohol retailers, schools and the community

For more Information

If you have any information relating to the supply of alcohol to young people or street drinking, please contact the police on 101

For more information on the harms underage drinking can lead to go to www.drinkaware.co.uk

Community Alcohol Partnerships
CIC number: 07478097

It is illegal to buy alcohol on behalf of someone who is under 18.

If you're caught you could get an **£90** on-the-spot fine or end up in court with a criminal record and an **unlimited fine**

www.communityalcoholpartnerships.co.uk
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Signs and symptoms of meningitis.

Meningitis and septicaemia* can happen together. Be aware of all the signs and symptoms. Someone with meningitis or septicaemia can get worse very quickly; keep checking them and get medical help if you are concerned.

Symptoms can appear in any order, at any time.
Trust your instincts



Common signs and symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia

- Fever with cold hands and feet
- Vomiting
- Drowsy or difficult to wake
- Confusion and irritability
- Severe muscle pain
- Pale blotchy skin, spots or rash
- Severe headache
- Stiff neck
- Dislike bright lights
- Convulsions or seizures

Symptoms can appear in any order. Some may not appear at all.

DO NOT wait for a rash. If someone is ill and getting worse, trust your instincts - get medical help immediately.

www.meningitisnow.org

*Meningitis is used to describe meningitis and meningococcal septicaemia.



THE DANGERS OF FROZEN WATER

Every year children are at risk when they are tempted to play on the ice formed on open waters and adults find themselves at risk as they attempt to save them. Over 50% of ice related drowning involved an attempted rescue of another person or a dog.

Areas with frozen waters can be beautiful to look at but they are also extremely dangerous. Here are some useful tips to help you enjoy these areas safely.

TOP TIPS TO STAY SAFE

NEVER GO ON THE ICE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

This includes attempting to rescue another person or animal who may have fallen through the ice.

ONLY USE WELL LIT AREAS

Try to take walks in the daylight but if you must walk in the evening, only use well lit areas and avoid anywhere with water.

KEEP AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE WATER

Never go close to the edge or lean over to touch the ice. You may overbalance or trip and fall in.

ALWAYS WALK WITH AN ADULT OR A GROUP OF FRIENDS

Look out for each other and if someone does fall through the ice there will be others around to raise the alarm and get help.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Keep calm and shout 'help!'

Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you

Try to kick your legs and pull yourself out of the water and on to the ice

Lie flat, spreading your weight across the surface and pull yourself to the bank; you might find it easier to roll.

If you cannot get out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Keep your head above the water, press your arms by your side and keep your legs together.

Once you are safe, it is important that you go to hospital immediately for a check up.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE SOMEONE FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Shout for 'HELP' and dial **999** or **112** if you can

DO NOT walk on to the ice to attempt a rescue

Shout to the person to 'KEEP STILL' and offer reassurance.

If they are close enough, **LIE DOWN TO AVOID OVERBALANCING** and falling onto the ice, and try to reach them with a tree branch clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.

If you cannot reach them, **SLIDE SOMETHING** which floats across the ice, such as a plastic bottle or a football, so that they can hold on to it to stay afloat whilst help is on the way.

If they are too far away, **WAIT FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES** and reassure the casualty from the safety of the bank.

StayWise



Parent Session County Lines in East Midlands

Including CSE & Online Harms

Register today
www.ivisontrust.org.uk/webinars

ivison trust

i feel so much
more confident to
to talk to my child

Hosted by
Ivison Trust,
a parent with lived experience & a
local police officer.

7.00-8.30 pm
13th January &
7.00-8.00 pm
14th January

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6th Form Reading Challenge poster: Isobel, Year 13

Other images: click on individual image for info