

1920 - 2025



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# Spalding High School weekly bulletin 12th February 2026

## This week, from Mrs Anderson, Headmistress

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

I knew when I wrote about Amelia in the Bulletin two weeks ago, and her plea to receive more than 8,000 birthday cards for her 8th birthday at the start of March, that it would be the very type of appeal that students and staff at the High School would support. Goodness me have you done just that! The box of beautiful cards is overflowing and still with two days of the appeal left to go! Thank you so much. I have taken a look through the box and the messages in some of the cards are as beautiful as the cards you have made. You make me very proud - your kindness towards this little girl is wonderful. Amelia's appeal seems to have attracted a global response and you will see from the updated news reports below, that it seems inevitable that she will become the World Record holder at her next birthday! The High School's contribution will all add to this wonderful total and we will add up how many cards we send to Amelia on Friday this week when we send them off - so, if you have not already handed in your card to reception, you have until Friday afternoon to do so. Thank you again!

[Please see here the latest BBC News report on the story.](#) Amelia already has over 90,000 cards!



A selection of the cards made for Amelia from 7C

Congratulations this week to:

Nyah and Grace on their success in the cross country championships and being selected to support Lincolnshire - an amazing achievement.

Our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh achievers in Year 11; your hard work has certainly paid off. Well done!

Marnie for her gymnastics placements.

Well done also to Year 11 on the terrific commitment and effort during the English Speaking and Language endorsements; fingers crossed for some amazing grades!

## Student of the Week



Staff name	Student Name	Student Form	Reason
Mrs C Lord	Summer Mustafa	7C	Mathematics
Mr Ganger	Dani Goble	7J	Mathematics
Mrs Neal	Rosa Goor	7N	Art
Mrs Nowak	Shiloh Ngwa	7S	Mathematics
Mrs Knowles	Phoebe Claydon	8J	German
Mrs H Waldron	Megan Wright	8N	Religious Education
Mrs Busfield	Annika Beitane	8P	Community
Mrs Jones	Myll Mahilom	8P	Community
Miss Hammond	Alyx Paurine	8S	Music
Mr Fovargue	Fatemah Ravji	9C	Computer Science
Mrs Barats	Maja Polonskaite	9J	French
Mr Murphy	Jonelle Osei-Owusu	9N	Latin
Miss Parker	Kaelyn Velasquez	9P	Physical Education
Mrs J Lord	Eunice Kei	9P	English Literature
Mrs Clay	Martyna Radzewicz	9S	French
Miss Ashley	Iris Lucas	10C	Mathematics
Mrs Spinks	Yasmin Ahmed	10N	Mathematics
Mrs Aurikko	Sanvi Panday	10P	Biology
Mrs Busfield	Vicky Slee	10P	Biology
Ms Busby	Alero Milorin	10P	Food and Nutrition
Mrs Bennett	Ayla Pargeter	10S	Community
Mrs Rogers	Darcey Greenwood	11J	Geography
Miss Bailey	Nikita Rudd	11N	German
Mrs Schwarz	Simona Muskova	11N	Textiles
Miss Magnus	Maja Szudek	11S	Community
Mrs Cave	Maja Szudek	11S	Religious Studies
Mrs Bennett	Grace Rayner	12AF	Geography
Mrs Jones	Georgiana Iacob	12LM	Classical Civilisation
Mrs Nowak	Julia Wawro	12LM	Community
Mr Garbett	Sophie McGuire	13GD	Music
Mrs Rogers	Fiza Niaz	13AB	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



On Saturday 31st January Nyah (Y7) and Grace (Y11) represented Lincolnshire Schools in the annual Anglian Cross-Country championships held at Abington Park, Northampton. They qualified for the Lincolnshire team with success at the South Lincs and Lincolnshire trials earlier in the year. Both pupils should feel very proud of representing the county and their achievements at the event.

Well done both.

PE department



## English News



### Year 10 English Trip Review – GCSE Poetry Live

#### New Theatre, Peterborough: Tuesday 3rd February 2026

On Tuesday 3rd February, our entire Year 10 cohort attended AQA GCSE Poetry Live at the New Theatre, Peterborough. As part of our commitment to enrichment and high-quality extracurricular experiences, this outing provided a valuable opportunity to support students' learning beyond the classroom - particularly as Year 10 continue their preparation for AQA GCSE English Literature.

Poetry Live enabled students to hear and experience several of the GCSE anthology poems performed and discussed by the poets themselves. This event brought the texts to life and helped students deepen their understanding of themes, language choices, and writers' intentions in an engaging, memorable way. It also provided insight into careers.

Students were treated to contributions from an outstanding line-up of poets. We heard from two Poets Laureates: former Laureate Carol Ann Duffy OBE CBE, and the present Laureate; Simon Armitage CBE.

Carol Ann Duffy shared that she had English teachers who encouraged her to write, drawing out her passion for language.

"It taught me to love words for their own sake. Originally I liked stories and things, but by the time I was a teenager, poetry was my real love. It was at a time when poetry was more popular. Kids would go to poetry readings the way they would go to pop concerts."

Duffy then talked to the audience about writing poetry about things known and transforming ideas into new concepts, and the craft of words to create meaning on the page. She then shared some of her poems that are on the specification and some which are not – all of her poems are thought provoking and challenge our view of the world.

The current Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage read from his vast collection of poems and spoke about his wider contributions to the Arts. In addition to writing poetry, he is also the author of four stage plays, and his recent dramatisation of *The Odyssey*, (Faber & Faber), commissioned by the BBC, and received the Gold Award at the 2005 Spoken Word Awards. As well as writing for radio, Simon Armitage has written for over a dozen television films. His insights gave students and understanding into writing and poetic craft and offering voices and meanings. This offered students a rare and inspiring perspectives on being a writer, poet and documentary writer as viable careers.

In the afternoon, we were also delighted to hear from poet and BBC Radio 4 presenter Daljit Nagra, who spoke engagingly about his work in the media and as a university lecturer, his writing and his work as a writing competition judge. His poems are playful and use voice, identity, and the power of language to capture influences from other cultures.

The artist and poet Imtiaz Dharker, also presented some of her poems and an engaging Q&A session. Her thought-provoking reflections and striking work encouraged students to consider poetry through both a visual and literary lens.

The finale was a further highlight - a mesmerising talk and recital from the legendary John Agard, whose warmth, humour, and powerful performance captivated the audience and showcased the impact of poetry when spoken aloud.

Also included in the day were two exam-focused workshops led by the AQA Chief Examiner, Peter Buckroyd, who offered clear guidance on how to craft effective exam-style responses. Students benefited from practical advice on interpreting questions, selecting evidence, and developing detailed, analytical points—skills that will directly support their success in future assessments.

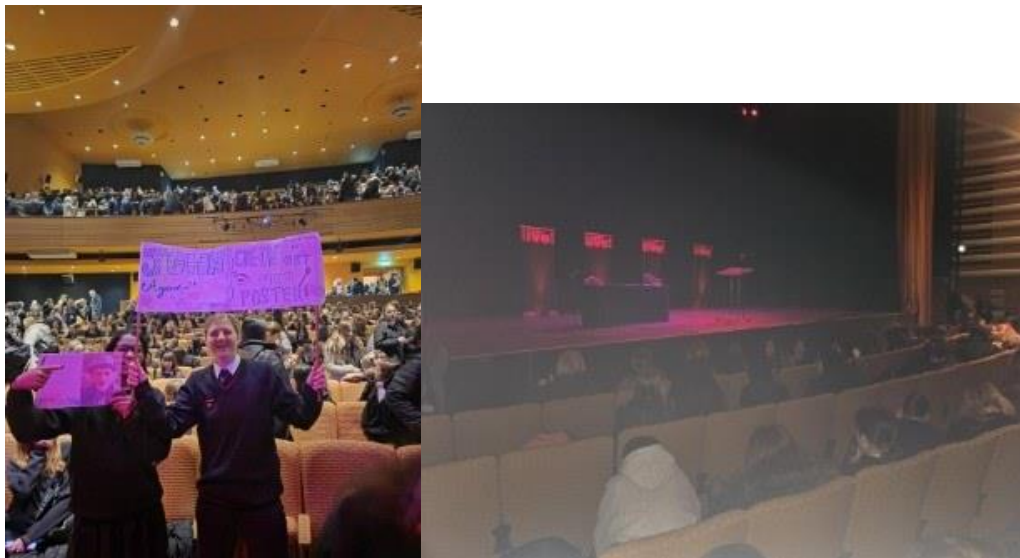
All our students represented the High School extremely well throughout the trip; their behaviour was exemplary, and they approached the sessions with maturity, focus, and genuine enthusiasm.

Many students returned to lessons feeling inspired and more confident about studying poetry and responding to both unseen and anthology texts. Some students were also intrigued by the prospect of their language skills being a key part of future career options in the Arts, Media (radio, television and film), social media and more traditional careers as academics.

For further information about the event, please see [Poetry Live! | GCSE Events](#)

Thank you for your continued support in enabling students to take part in these enriching experiences.

Mrs J Lord, Head of English



### **Year 11 Celebrate Success in GCSE English Spoken Language Endorsements.**

**We are delighted to share and celebrate the fantastic success of our Year 11 students in the GCSE English Language Spoken Language Endorsement (SLE).**

Across the cohort, students demonstrated impressive confidence, maturity and ambition. Students delivered thoughtful, well-structured presentations and spoke with clarity, purpose and genuine conviction. Their outcomes reflect not only talent, but also the time and preparation they invested in researching, planning and practising their talks.

### **Standards were high with wide ranging and engaging topics.**

This year's presentations were a real highlight and showcased the breadth of students' interests and their willingness to engage with meaningful issues. Topics were wide-ranging and engaging, including:

- The effect of Alzheimer's when memories fade but love remains.
- The history of racial representation in media and how it has affected people today.
- The importance of a healthy diet.
- Jaffa Cakes – biscuits or cake?
- Is the inheritance tax fair on farmers and their families?

The standard of research, originality and delivery was exceptional; Year 11 should feel extremely proud of what they achieved.

### **Why and how do we film student presentations?**

As part of the assessment and quality assurance process, each examination centre is required to provide unedited audio-visual recordings of a sample of student presentations (typically thirty students, with ten in each grade band).

At Spalding High School all students were filmed; students each presented to a small audience of peers (typically in groups of four or five), and presentations were graded under formal conditions.

This year, the student presentations were overseen by our examinations officer; filmed by a team of invigilators in front of the external examiner, which is a system we are fortunate to have built-in as part of our curriculum. The High School's approach helps to ensure the assessment is consistent and fair for all students: it provides a shared standard, reduces the risk of unconscious bias, and gives every student the same platform to demonstrate their skills. In doing so, it supports our commitment to inclusion, ensuring all students have the same opportunities to belong, and all have the chance to thrive.

The AQA exam board will request a sample to confirm grading and validate the school's assessment of the remainder of the cohort. This is a routine and important part of the endorsement process.

Many parents and carers have already signed an agreement with the school regarding the use of video recording and photographs. However, if you have any questions about the use of these audio-visual recordings, please contact the Examinations Officer.

### **Bravo, Year 11!**

Congratulations to all our Year 11 students for approaching the Spoken Language Endorsement (SLE) with such commitment and enthusiasm. Their presentations demonstrated curiosity, courage and strong communication skills; these are qualities that will serve our students well far beyond GCSEs.

Well done to Year 11 for superb effort and a commendable set of SLE outcomes.

Thank you to parents and carers for your continued support at home.

Mrs J Lord, Head of English

## Food Technology News



### **Fabulous Fibre February**

In our Food and Nutrition lessons, students learn about fibre from Year 7, although we refer to it as NSP (non-starch polysaccharide) and indeed, virtually all of our recipes feature vegetables or fruit. Most of us don't consume five portions (a portion weighs 80g) of fruit and vegetables each day needed to provide the 30g of fibre to keep our digestive system functioning well, so this is our chance to give a little focus to the fibre we eat. Each student and member of staff will receive a sheet to record their intake of vegetables and fruit eaten each day over a week if they wish to join in. You might want to make it a whole family focus.

It would be lovely to see photographs of dishes you cook at home celebrating the range of vegetables and fruit you enjoy. Please do email them into [enquiries@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk)

Please see the [link to The British Nutritional Foundation here](#) for more information and dig out your cookbooks, and check supermarket websites for inspirational recipes, alongside the brilliant range of cookery programmes celebrating seasonal and British grown winter vegetables.

Have fun and I very much look forward to hearing what you have been cooking and eating.

Ms Busby, Head of Food Science and Nutrition

## Library News



### **Book Group Update**

Our groups have been loving our 'Blind Date with a Book' events over the last week. Brown paper wrapped books with labels giving three key words, proved irresistible to our bookworms. The attached labels were the only clues to entice and assist our members in picking their book. Would you choose 'dangerous, thrilling, funny' or perhaps 'original, creepy, gothic' or why not 'parasitic, romantic, underrated'. We hope they enjoy their choices and perhaps find a new author or genre along the way.

We are looking forward to our 'Blind Date with a Book' event for our 6th Form Book Group this Friday 13th 1pm in the Library Study Room. New members always welcome.

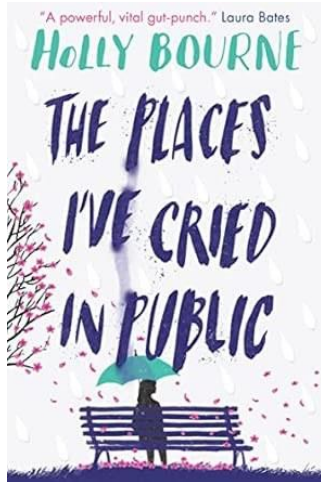
A huge thank you to Emi & Lexi for all your book wrapping!

Happy Reading!

Miss O'Sullivan and Mrs Lees



**Book reviews**



### **The Places I've Cried in Public by Holly Bourne**

This was a really good book and I enjoyed reading it, it had lots of emotion and expressed the characters emotions very well. It was a good read and I would certainly read it again. It got into the actual story very quickly and I couldn't tear my eyes from the pages. In this book, the main character Amelie, moves out of her old town and leaves her boyfriend. At first she is really worried and talks to her boyfriend over the phone but as time passes she meets someone new. Amelie is a talented singer-song writer who is facing a lot of problems as she progresses through her teenage years. I would recommend this book for readers who like drama and romance, I enjoyed reading this book as the emotions of the characters really drew me in and made me not want to put the book down.

Molly, 7C



### **Once Upon a Broken Heart by Stephanie Garber**

Evangeline Fox has always believed in fairy tales and true love until the love of her life decides to marry her step-sister (Marisol). She desperately wants to stop the wedding so she makes a deal with the immortal Jacks, the Prince of Hearts. She bargains with him to stop the wedding and promises three kisses in the place and time of the Prince's choice. After the first kiss she learns that it is very dangerous to bargain with an immortal and the Prince of Hearts wants much more than he said. The Prince has plans for Evangeline, plans which could give her a happily ever after or end in a tragedy.

This book is for anyone that enjoys romantic, fairy tale fantasy with a touch of darkness.

Grace, 11P

## Duke of Edinburgh Award News



### **Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award**

Twenty six Year 11 students have successfully completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards and received their certificates and badges this week.

This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the students' hard work and commitment — not only during two challenging expeditions to the Derbyshire Peak District, where they demonstrated outstanding resilience through map reading, navigation, camping and cooking, but also in completing their volunteering, physical and skills sections of the award.

They should all wear their badges with pride. Congratulations to every student involved!

Congratulations must also go to the staff who support, train and assess our DofE students. Without their dedication and commitment, there would be no Duke of Edinburgh's Award at SHS.

Mr Garbett - D of E Manager/Assessor



## Celebrating the Individual: Marnie, Year 8



On Sunday 8th February, Year 8 student Marnie competed in the DGA Pre-grades practice competition for gymnastics.

She had some excellent placings in her categories including 3rd all around, 2nd on the floor, 2nd on the vault and 1st on the beam.

Well done Marnie, we love hearing about your excellent results. Keep up the great work!

## Celebrating the Individual: Alero, Year 10



In November 2025, Alero and two other Spalding High students in Year 10 represented the School in the first round of the annual Rotary Young Chef Competition held at Spalding Grammar School. Alero and one of the other SHS students placed first and second place respectively.

As the winner of the first round, Alero went on to compete at the district competition last weekend at Loughborough College, alongside ten other finalists from the East Midlands, and achieved 3rd place.

This is an amazing achievement, well done Alero.

## Careers News



### **Year 12 Work Experience – 29th June - 3rd July**

I wrote to parents/carers about the Year 12 work experience week at the beginning of January. In careers lessons students have been shown how to add a placement on the Unifrog platform to manage work experience administration. Any support in helping students to find placements would be greatly appreciated.

### **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 coming weeks/months.



### **Student Finance Applications**

Students can apply for student finance for undergraduate full-time courses for 2026 entry from 23rd March. [Apply online for student finance - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-student-finance)

## National Apprenticeship Week – 9th-15th February

As part of our careers education programme, in last week’s assemblies, we were fortunate to welcome several guest speakers into school to talk about apprenticeships. On Tuesday, former student Maddie Martino, Communications Officer, and Rebecca Cooke, Academy and Talent Lead, both from South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership, came into school to talk to students in Years 9 and 11 about apprenticeship roles at the local council.

On Wednesday, former student, Will Blower, Owner and Director of Realise Finance, along with former student Bobbi Beaumont, Accounting Apprentice at Realise Finance, presented to Sixth Form students. They discussed apprenticeships and Bobbi also shared insights about her gap year travels.

On Friday 6th January, Jody Eveson, Marketing Co-ordinator – Schools Liaison and Events, and James Russell, Apprenticeship Adviser, both from the College of West Anglia, delivered a presentation about apprenticeships and other vocational pathways to students in Years 7, 8 and 10.

If you would like to find out more about apprenticeships in general, visit Amazing Apprenticeships’ Parent and Carer zone: [amazingapprenticeships.com/zones/parent/](https://amazingapprenticeships.com/zones/parent/)



## Greencore (Bakkavor) – Virtual Apprenticeship Evening

Greencore (formerly Bakkavor) is holding a virtual open evening on 16th February for students and parents to introduce the apprenticeships available from September. Applications for apprenticeships open on 9th February. Please see flyers for details.



### Apprenticeships September Start 2026

	Boston	Bourne	Spalding	Sutton Bridge	Group	Hobrook	Nearby
Advanced = Level 3							
Higher = Level 4 /5/6							
<b>Site Requests</b>							
Advanced Engineering	0	2	3	1	1	1	2
Higher Manufacture		3	3	1			2
Advanced Supply Chain		1	1				
Higher Supply Chain						1	
Advanced NPD (Business Admin)					3		
Higher Process		1	1				
Advanced Food Technologist							
Higher Finance		1	1		4		
Packaging Degree						2	
Advanced Health Safety & Environment			1				
Manufacturing Food Operations (SCQF 6)							
Food Technologist (SCQF)						2	4
<b>Total Requests</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>

### **All Things Law – Land Your Dream Apprenticeship – Webinar**

This online event is aimed at students in Years 11-13 and their parents/carers to find out more about law apprenticeships. It takes place on 5th March at 6.30-7.30pm. Here is the registration link: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)

### **University of Cambridge – ‘Think Cambridge’ Webinar Series**

For students considering applying to the University of Cambridge, there are some very useful webinars coming up in February. Bookings can be made using this link:

[Think Cambridge | Undergraduate Study](#)

### **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

## Other notices and information



### **Upcoming diary dates:**

Thursday 12th February Year 10 Parents' Evening

Friday 13th February End of half term

W/C Monday 16th February School closed for half term break

Monday 23rd February Start of new half term

Thursday 26th February Year 9 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 3rd March Sixth Form application deadline

Thursday 5th March Year 9 options deadline

Friday 6th March House Charity Day

Tuesday 10th March SHS & SGS PFA meeting 6pm at Spalding High School

Thursday 12th March Year 11 and Year 13 photographs

Thursday 12th March Year 8 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 17th March Whole School photograph

Thursday 19th March Year 12 Parents' Evening

Friday 20th March Red Nose Day non-uniform and Fringe Friday 2

Week commencing Monday 23rd March Year 10 work experience week

Friday 27th March Year 7 and Year 8 Eggstravaganza

Thursday 2nd April End of term 4

Tuesday 21st April Start of term 5

★**Social Media & Account Compromise Workshop – Free!** ★

Lincolnshire Police’s cyber crime team deliver this **free one- hour workshop** to help secondary and college students understand the risks of **social media account compromise** and how to stay secure online. The session offers **practical, up- to- date cyber safety advice**, including how to keep accounts under your control and prevent them being used for financial or criminal scams. Suitable for classes or full year- group assemblies, this workshop helps students build strong digital habits and cyber awareness. To Book: [Social media and account compromise workshop – Lincolnshire County Council](#)

★**Fatal 5 Road Safety Workshop – Free for Year 12 & 13!** ★

The **Fatal 5 Workshop**, delivered by the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership, helps students understand the five key behaviours that cause the most serious road collisions: **speeding, not wearing a seatbelt, distraction, drink/drug driving, and careless driving**. Through real- life case studies and interactive discussion, students explore how risky choices impact drivers, passengers and the wider community, and gain the knowledge to make safer decisions on the road. This free one- hour session is available to all Year 12/13 groups, colleges and universities across Lincolnshire. To Book: [Fatal 5 – Lincolnshire County Council](#)

★**Pornography Awareness Workshop – Free for KS3!** ★

Lincolnshire Police deliver this **free, 60- minute workshop** to help KS3 students (Years 7–9) understand **what pornography is**, the **laws surrounding it**, and **what to do if they encounter it**. The session addresses issues such as viewing, creating, or sharing sexual content, and gives young people clear guidance on how to seek support. Interactive activities—including a mix- and- match card game and true- or- false tasks—help students build awareness in a safe, age- appropriate way. To Book: [Pornography for key stage 3 – Lincolnshire County Council](#)

## Image credits

Photographs of students: Spalding High School

Poetry Live: poetrylive.net

Book covers: Amazon

Blind Date with a Book photo: K Lees.

Greencore Apprenticeship information: Greencore Group plc

Lincolnshire County Council information: Lincolnshire County Council

Other images: click on individual image for info