



Spalding High School weekly bulletin 14th May 2026

This week, from Mrs Anderson, Headteacher

Last week's Year 9 Social, which was kindly sponsored by Spalding CAP, proved to be one of the most vibrant and memorable events of the term, with around 75 enthusiastic students from both the High School and Grammar School filling the hall with chatter, laughter and a brilliant sense of community. From the moment the doors opened, the atmosphere was buzzing as students spread out across a whole range of activities designed to get everyone involved, talking and having fun.

The room quickly came alive around the table football stations, where friendly rivalries formed and matches drew small crowds of engaged spectators. Just a few steps away, the air hockey table was in constant use, with pucks flying and players showing impressive reactions as they battled for victory. The four table tennis tables were equally popular, with rallies that grew more competitive as the evening went on and plenty of students stepping up to challenge each other, including the Sixth Form helpers.

For those who preferred something a little more calm - but no less entertaining - the board-game tables offered a perfect space to sit, chat and enjoy some classic favourites. A few students even showcased their skills with card tricks, which impressed me and Mr Baker.

What made the event truly special, though, was the sense of togetherness. Everywhere you looked, students were mixing, laughing and trying new things. The Social wasn't just about games; it was about building friendships, boosting confidence and giving Year 9 a chance to unwind and enjoy time together outside the classroom and between the two schools.

A huge highlight of the night came towards the end, when Mrs Ray took everyone outside for a massive game of volleyball on the small field. What started as a small group quickly grew into a full-scale match, with students celebrating every point – until the ball was lost on top of the 5m leylandii hedge on the boundary!! The game captured the spirit of the whole event; energetic, inclusive and full of good humour.

None of this would have been possible without the outstanding support of our Sixth Form senior students and prefects from the High and the Grammar. Their leadership, encouragement and enthusiasm helped the evening run smoothly from start to finish. Whether they were organising games, keeping scores, teaching rules or simply joining in to make sure everyone felt welcome, they played a huge part in creating such a positive atmosphere. Their contribution was noticed and appreciated by staff and students alike. Thank you again Zara-Jayne and Debbie for leading the teams in their first formal event – and yes – the staff would definitely be happy to support a similar Sixth Form Social for you too!

By the time the final games wrapped up and everyone headed home, it was clear that the Year 9 Social had been a resounding success. Students left smiling, chatting about their favourite moments and already asking when the next event might be. I am also told that there might be some budding romances! It was an evening full of energy, teamwork and laughter - exactly what a school community event should be, and we all very much look forward to making this a regular feature of the two schools' community events calendar. Thank you again to Spalding CAP and the staff who gave up their time to help – we enjoyed the games as much as you did!

Student of the Week

Staff Name	Student Name	Student Form	Reason
Mrs J Lord	Annalise Goddard	7C	English Literature
Mrs Martindale	Niha Safeer	7C	Science
Mrs Neal	Rosa Goor	7N	Art
Mrs Knowles	Sofia Vasalauskaitė	7P	French
Mrs Clay	Magda Hemmant	8C	French
Mr Garbett	Iness Korcz	8S	Music
Mrs Schwarz	Ruby Matthews	9C	Textiles
Miss McArthur	Evie Waterhouse	9P	Community
Miss Bailey	Mia Mills	10C	German
Mrs C Lord	Aliyah Mohammed	10J	Mathematics
Ms Busby	Ella Skidmore	10N	Food and Nutrition
Mr Murphy	Suviksha Sahani	10P	Chemistry
Mrs T Waldron	Ruby Forsyth	11S	Biology
Mrs Aurikko	Rhea Patel	12TD	Biology

Please find here the Student of the Week nominations for the week commencing 5th May 2026.

Nominations can be made by both teaching and support staff and can be subject related or community focused.

Sports News

Twenty-nine of our students proudly represented the School at the County Athletics trials on Wednesday 13th May. Despite challenging weather conditions and persistent rainfall, our athletes performed fantastically across a range of track and field events. Their positive attitudes, commitment, and sportsmanship were evident from start to finish, and they should all be extremely proud of their achievements.

Several students achieved impressive results in their events and will go on to represent South Lincolnshire at the County Championships on Thursday 4th June. The PE department wishes them the very best of luck in the next stage of competition.

English News



English Department Enrichment Opportunities

In association with The University of Cambridge Outreach Programme please be aware of this exciting opportunity:

Opportunity at Newnham College, University of Cambridge - The Woolf Essay Prize

In 1928, Virginia Woolf addressed the Newnham Arts Society on the Subject of 'Women and Fiction', and from this talk emerged her seminal text, *A Room of One's Own*. Newnham is very proud of its place in the history of women's education, and we are delighted in the continuation of the Woolf Essay Prize. *A Room of One's Own* raises a number of questions surrounding the place of women in society, culture, and education, and the competition allows students to contemplate these themes and ideas while developing the independent research and writing skills essential to university-level study.

Essay questions and submission

The [Information and Questions document](#) includes the questions, word limit, and submission details.

This year, the Woolf Essay Prize is open to all women in Year 12 (or equivalent), regardless of school or country. The deadline for submission is 09:00am BST on Monday 8th June 2026.

This prize may be of particular interest to those studying English Literature, History, Politics, Philosophy or Sociology, but we absolutely welcome entries from interested students studying *any* combination of subjects.

Please note that AI must not be used to formulate ideas or write prose for your essay. We will disqualify all entries that are reported by AI checkers to have significant AI content.

For any queries not answered here, please contact essayprizes@newn.cam.ac.uk.

Find out more about [studying English Literature](#) at University of Cambridge and meet [Shakespeare scholar Dr Bonnie Lander-Johnson](#).

Why not enter?

Please let me know if you enter, if you are interested, and please do not hesitate to come and see me if you would like some help and support to enter this competition.

Best wishes,
Mrs J Lord, Head of English

Maths News

Following their amazing Intermediate Maths Challenge results, Olivia(11J), Ava (11P), Morgan(11C) and Olivia (10N) were invited to participate in the follow-up round – the Pink Kangaroo.

We are pleased to announce that the students performed very strongly once again, with both Olivias securing Gold Certificates. This is an amazing achievement, as only the top 10% of Pink Kangaroo participants (around 1,100 students nationally) are awarded a Gold Certificate.

Olivia (10N) achieved the Best in School certificate and is invited to attend the 2026 National Mathematics Summer School. This is an extremely prestigious and rare achievement, and Olivia is the first student in our School to receive this invitation. We are looking forward to hearing about her experience!

Olivia said: "Although the challenge was very hard, I found it a fun experience. Even though questions were difficult, it made me think outside the box and try new methods. I am very proud of my result!"

Congratulations to all of the participants on their fantastic achievements!



Mrs Nowak

Science News



Please see here details of an exciting new club for Year 7s. Students, sign up before half term.

History News

Spalding High School 105th Anniversary - Essay Writing Competition

The next stage of the events celebrating our School's 105th Anniversary is an essay writing competition. The title is:

"Who is the most significant British woman born since 1920?"

Requirements:

- Write no more than 750 words (KS3) or 1000 words (Years 10-13).
- Your chosen person can be dead or still alive, provided they were born in 1920 or after.
- Students should decide on their own criteria for judging (measuring) significance, making detailed explanations to justify their overall decision.
- A good answer will make comparative arguments, assessing the contribution of their chosen person to the impact of other significant individuals as part of their essay.

- It should be given to Mr Hemsall when complete with your name and form written clearly.
- The use of AI to help with writing or structure is strictly prohibited and if its use is found the entry will be disqualified.
- Deadline: **Friday 22nd May**

We hope you will enjoy researching and writing, and we look forward to seeing which women are chosen.



SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL
 105th Anniversary
 Essay Writing Competition

1920 - 2025
105 YEARS

Essay Title:
 "Who is the most significant British woman born since 1920?"

Entry Requirements

- ✓ KS3: Max 750 Words
- ✓ Years 10-13: Max 1000 Words
- ✓ Decide your own criteria
- ✓ Give clear, detailed explanations
- ✓ Justify by comparing to other significant figures

Important Rules

- ✓ Name & Form on your essay
- ✓ Submit to Mr Hemsall
- ✓ No Use of AI - Strictly Prohibited

Deadline:
22nd May 2026

Get Involved!
 Show your historical insight & writing skills!
 Who will **YOU** choose—and why?

Library News

Book Cover Competition

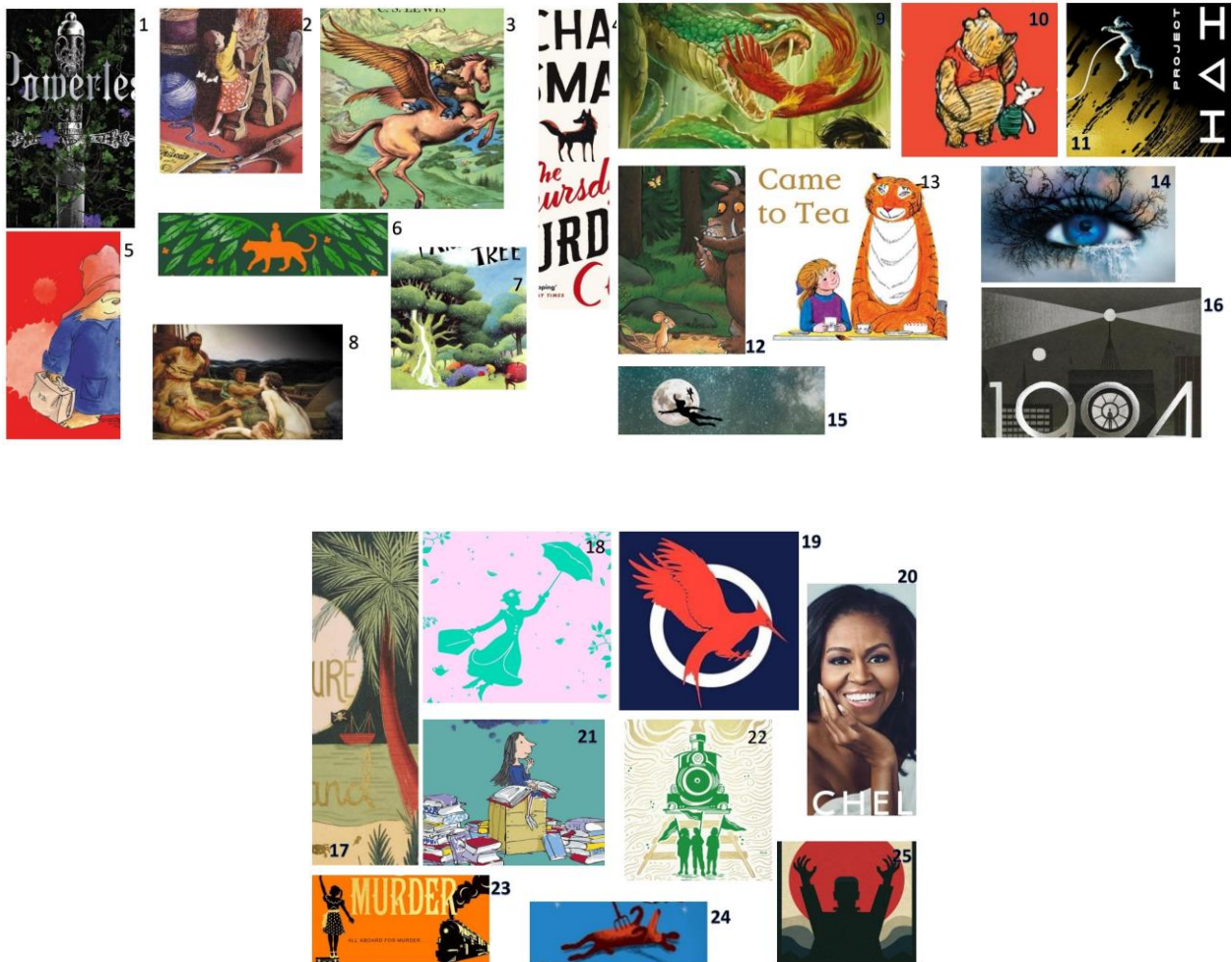
Think you know your books? Try our book cover competition with your family and name the 25 books and authors, on the form, by Friday 22nd May.

The competition is up in the library, come and have a go!

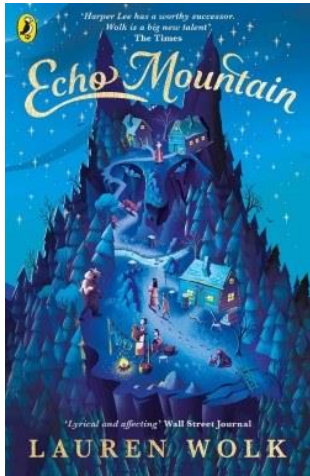
<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/6ZeG851hPN>

Happy Reading

Mrs Lees



Carnegie Book Group Update



Our third book on our shortlist, *Echo Mountain* by Lauren Wolk, was our title this week. This evocative and adventure filled award-winning book is set in Maine in 1934. It features a young girl, Ellie, who along with her family, experience real hardship and deprivation when they have to relocate to live on Echo Mountain. We follow Ellie's adventures in her new mountain life as the family adjust to building their own home, trading for goods to survive and adapt to living off the land. Whilst some of our group found the start of the book uninteresting, others absolutely loved the story and would recommend it.

The beautiful cover for this book drew a lot of initial interest and we enjoyed chatting about books that had enticed us as readers through the pull of their covers. This then led us to discuss books we had found disappointing and that didn't live up to the promise of a delectable cover and those that we had read and enjoyed despite a dull or boring cover.

Our next book will be *Lies We Tell Ourselves* by Robin Talley - come and join us next Tuesday at 1.30pm in the Library.

Our vintage Carnegie shortlist and meeting dates are:

19th May – Book 4, *Lies We Tell Ourselves* by Robin Talley

2nd June – Book 5, *Girl. Boy. Sea.* By Chris Vick

9th June – Book 6, *Patron Saints of Nothing* by Randy Ribay

16th June – Book 7, *Tinder* by Sally Gardner

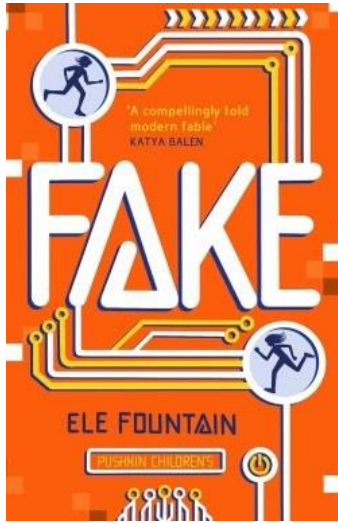
23rd June – Book 8, *After the Fire* by Will Hill

30th June – Balloon Debate, join us for manic fun and frantic book survival!

Happy Reading.

Miss O'Sullivan & Mrs Lees

Book reviews



Fake by Ele Fountain

This book was one of the most interesting I have ever read.

Fourteen year old Jess has never been educated in a real school with real live people before. Her friends are virtual and her world digital. The dystopian world that Jess lives in doesn't allow children to go to school (due to past events) until they are fourteen. On her fourteenth birthday, Jess leaves for her first term of school. While she is gone, she messes with some systems on a secret phone that her dad gave her before she left and she almost ruins her family's lives...

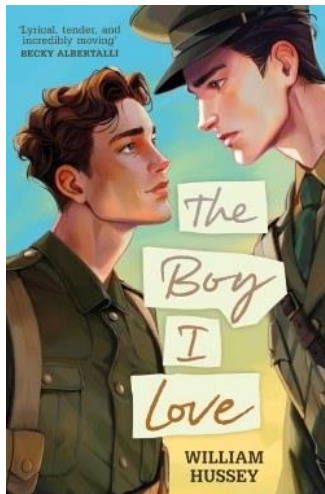
Read the book to see how she helps and what happens next!

My favourite character had to be Jess as, although she went through lots of terrible things during the story, she stayed brave and did what she

could to save her family.

I recommend this book to people who enjoy the dystopian genre, this book is for you.

Lois, 7S



The Boy I Love by William Hussey

This poignant and heartfelt Young Adult LGBTQ+ love story, set in the World War One trenches and the Battle of the Somme, is an unforgettable read. The novel follows the growing relationship between Lieutenant Stephen Wraxall, a young, disillusioned officer returning to the Front after a Blighty wound and Private Danny McCormick, a raw recruit eager for adventure. Their story explores friendship, loyalty, betrayal, sacrifice and heroism as they experience a war grippingly visualised through William Hussey's words. Hussey sharply illuminates not only the plight of young men whose sexuality places them beyond the acceptance of society of the time, but of all the young men helpless and trapped by the brutal warmongering of their elders.

I will be recommending this book relentlessly.

Mrs Lees, Learning Resource Manager

Careers News

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

Many students have now added their placements onto the Unifrog platform and more are being added each day. We would like to encourage remaining students to continue to make enquiries about placements and to add them onto Unifrog as soon as possible. Any support in helping students to find placements would be greatly appreciated from parents/carers, friends and family members.

Year 12 – University Applications

A great resource to use to find out about applying to university, choosing subjects, university life, student finance and budgeting and much more is the UniTasterDays podcast – ‘The Uni Guide Podcast’. There are currently 52 episodes.

[The Uni Guide Podcast for students, parents and schools | UniTasterDays](#)

Agrifood Sector Webinar

Please see the information below from the Greater Lincolnshire Careers Hub:

We’re pleased to invite you to our upcoming **Sector Insights Webinar: Agrifood**, delivered in partnership with Pathway CTM and the Greater Lincolnshire Careers Hub.

📅 **Thursday 21st May**

📅 **6:00 – 7:00pm**

📅 **Virtual (online session)**

This webinar is designed for students, parents and educators, offering a clear and engaging insight into careers within the agriculture and food industry—one of Greater Lincolnshire’s key sectors.

What to expect:

- Explore a wide range of careers in agrifood
- Hear directly from local employers
- Learn about apprenticeship and progression routes
- Understand the skills employers are looking for
- Gain practical tips to support applications and next steps

This is a great opportunity to support students’ career exploration.

📅 **Register here:**

<https://pathwayctm.com/event/sector-insights-agrifood-webinar-with-greater-lincolnshire-careers-hub/>



Why attend ?

- Explore careers in agriculture and the food industry
 - Hear directly from employers in the industry
 - Discover apprenticeships and job opportunities
 - Learn what skills and qualities employers want
 - Get tips to improve your applications and plans

Students in Years 9-12 - Premed Projects Future Doctors Weekend - Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th May 2026

Please see below details of a free opportunity for students aged 14–18 from Premed Projects, which will support students considering careers in medicine:

What students will gain:

- Real insight into careers in medicine and surgery
- Experience working through clinical case studies
- Understanding of medical ethics and interview scenarios
- Exposure to how doctors think, diagnose and make decisions
- A signed certificate from doctors (useful for applications & interviews)

Key information:

- Location: Online (students can join from anywhere in the world)
- Times: 12pm–2pm BST (recordings available for 60 days)
- Cost: Completely free
- Certificate: Sent to all students who complete the sessions

Students can register here:

www.premedprojects.co.uk/free

This opportunity is ideal for students aged 14+ who are considering a future in medicine or healthcare.

Destination STEM Opportunity – Year 12 students

Destination STEM is supporting the recruitment of students for the 'Research Placement and Experience Programme'.

Please find attached information about the 2 weeks placements - from 20th July 2026 - available at University of Lincoln through their Research Placements and Experience Programme.

These placements offer students valuable insight into research, help them develop key academic and professional skills, and strengthen their university and career applications. Students from this region will also have priority access to these opportunities.

This opportunity was previously shared with students in February in school but the deadline for applications has been extended. Students will receive £135 per week whilst on placement to cover travel costs and will have the opportunity to apply for the BSA CREST Award, further recognising their research experience and achievement.

The flyer is purple with a grid pattern. It features a 'DESTINATION STEM' logo, a contact email, a call-to-action button, a photo of a student, a table of placement options, and a list of benefits. The footer says 'POWERED BY STEM LEARNING'.

DESTINATION STEM

Questions? Email us at students@stem.org.uk

[Click here to find out more and check your eligibility.](#)

The **RESEARCH PLACEMENTS AND EXPERIENCES** programme offers students invaluable hands-on, real-world experience, enhancing employability and academic prospects.

Benefits include improved skills, increased confidence, professional networking, and better understanding of career pathways.

Are you available for 2 weeks in the summer holidays?

Destination STEM are offering multiple placements at University of Lincoln

Learn how to analyse financial data in stock markets: Capital Asset Pricing Models Start Date 20 July 26	Climate Change Impact Assessment using Models and Remote Sensing Start Date 20 July 26	Aerial Insights: Drones for Ecology and Agricultural Monitoring Start Date 20 July 26
---	---	--

This programme gives Year 12 students the opportunity to:

- Take part in a supervised research project in a STEM subject.
- Gain hands-on experience working with university researchers
- Experience what studying and conducting research at university level is really like
- Strengthen your personal statement, CV, and future university applications
- Receive £135 per week whilst on placement.

POWERED BY **STEM** LEARNING

Year 13 Students - George Clarke Scholarship

The George Clarke Scholarship is a charity set up under the terms of the will of George Clarke and is administered by Lincolnshire County Council. The Scholarship is available to students under 25 who attend courses of higher education (Level 4 or above) and whose home address is in the parishes of Long Sutton or Sutton Bridge.

Please see the flyer for details.

GEORGE CLARKE SCHOLARSHIP

**Do you or your parents live within the
parishes of Long Sutton or Sutton Bridge?**

**Will you be attending a course of higher
education (level 4 or above) at University or
College during the 2026/2027 academic
year?**

Are you under 25?

**If you answered yes to the above questions
you may qualify for a scholarship of up to
£400 per year.**

For further information please contact

Eddie Corrigan
Financial Services
Lincolnshire County Council
Newland
Lincoln, LN1 1YL

Email: Eddie.Corrigan@lincolnshire.gov.uk
Telephone 01522 552995

**Closing date for receipt of applications
30th November 2026**

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:

Thursday 14th May Year 7 parents' evening

Friday 15th May Year 10 History trip to Lincoln Castle

Tuesday 19th May PTA AGM 5pm

Friday 22nd May Year 10 RS trip to Walsingham 1

Friday 22nd May End of term 5

Monday 1st June Start of term 6

Tuesday 2nd to Thursday 4th June Year 7 Geography trips to Snipe Dales

Friday 5th June Year 10 RS trip to Walsingham 2

W/C Monday 8th June Year 4 taster week

Tuesday 9th June SHS & SGS PFA meeting 6pm @ SHS

Saturday 13th to Sunday 14th June DofE practice expedition

Monday 15th June World Music and Culture day

Tuesday 16th June New intake information evening

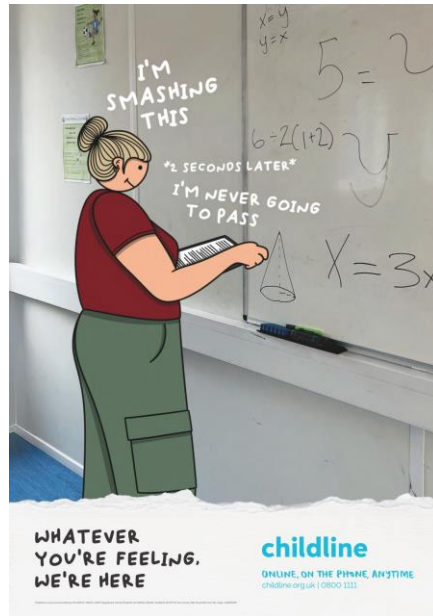
Thursday 18th June Year 4 and Year 5 Open Day

Friday 19th June Dragon's Den afternoon

Monday 22nd June Year 10 exam week

Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th June Year 8 Lincoln fieldwork trip

Friday 26th June Year 7 & 8 disco and Year 13 Leavers' Ball



CURIOUS KIDS
MAY HALF TERM

Join us at Sandringham Estate for an adventurous May half-term of mini-golf, family archery and forest school!

MINI GOLF
Sat 23rd May - Sun 31st May
Slots available from 10am - 4pm
Adults - £8
Ages 5-15 - £7
Under 5 - £5

NEW FREE EXHIBITION
Celebrating the centenary of Queen Elizabeth II's birth in the Sandringham Adorans.

HOUSE AND GARDENS TICKETS
Dad's biggest children 10 years and under receive free access to Sandringham House and Gardens.

FOREST SCHOOL
Tue 26th May
Wed 27th May
Thu 28th May
10.30am - 12pm
£12 per child
Adults free.

FAMILY ARCHERY
Sun 24th May
Sun 31st May
30 minute slots available from 10am - 3.30pm
£35 for 6 people

All activities are bookable on our website www.sandringhamestate.co.uk

Image credits

Photographs of students: Spalding High School

Book covers: Amazon

Childline poster: Childline.org.uk

Sandringham May half term poster: The Estate Office, Sandringham

Other images: click on individual image for info