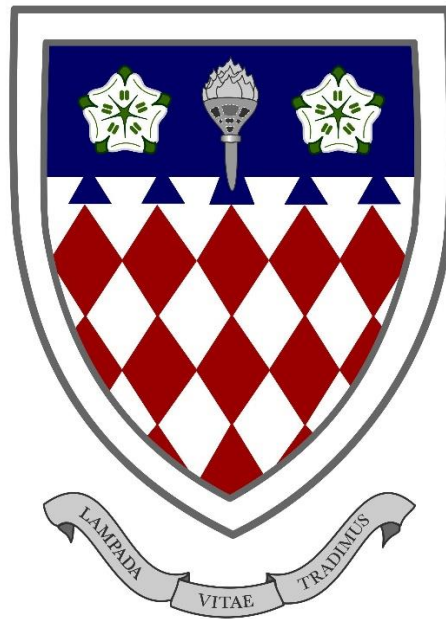




Spalding High School weekly bulletin 10th September 2026

This week, from Mrs Anderson, Headteacher

As we welcomed students back for a new academic year, our opening assembly focused on a simple but powerful message - be open to surprise.

The start of a new school year brings a mixture of emotions. Many students return excited to see friends, begin new subjects and embrace fresh opportunities. Others may feel uncertain, wondering what the year ahead will bring, whether they will achieve their goals, make new friendships or overcome new challenges.

The assembly explored the idea that none of us can predict exactly how the future will unfold. We often assume that successful people have everything planned and mapped out, but the reality is that life rarely offers complete certainty. Instead, growth and achievement come from taking the next step, even when the destination is not yet clear.

Drawing on Dr Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous words, "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase," students were encouraged to focus on the small actions that lead to long-term success: developing positive habits, asking for help when needed, showing kindness, persevering after setbacks and being willing to try something new.

The assembly reminded students that they are at the beginning of a new chapter, with opportunities, challenges and unexpected moments still to come. Whether it is discovering a new passion, forming a lasting friendship, overcoming a difficulty or finding enjoyment in a subject that initially seemed challenging, some of the most important experiences in life often arrive when we least expect them.

We concluded with a reminder that, while we cannot always control what lies ahead, we can choose how we respond to it. As singer and songwriter Dolly Parton observed, "We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails."

As a school community, we are excited to see where this year's journey takes our students and look forward to supporting them as they take each step along the way. We wish all our students and families a successful, rewarding and enjoyable year ahead.

Exam Success

We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of our Sixth Form and Year 11 students this summer, whose results reflect the resilience, maturity and dedication they have shown throughout their time with us. Every student should be immensely proud of reaching this important milestone, and we congratulate them on all they have accomplished.

This summer, students completed more than 300 qualifications, with an impressive 57% of all grades awarded at A*-B. We were particularly pleased to see exceptional performances in Art and Design, Criminology and Drama, where students achieved 100% A*-B grades. Many other subjects also recorded outstanding outcomes, with more than two-thirds of grades at A*-B in subjects including English Language, Further Mathematics, Geography, History and Sociology.

Our collaborative A Level provision with Spalding Grammar School continues to thrive, delivering excellent outcomes once again. Students achieved 100% A*-C grades in German and Spanish, alongside strong results in Economics (84%) and French (83%).

Students completing the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) also enjoyed considerable success, with 79% achieving A*-B grades and 100% attaining A*-C grades.

We are especially pleased that the majority of our students have secured places at their first-choice universities and are now preparing to embark on an exciting range of pathways and careers. Their success is a testament to their hard work, the invaluable support of parents and carers, and the expertise and dedication of our staff, who have worked tirelessly to help students realise their ambitions.

We congratulate all of our Year 13 students on their achievements and wish them every success as they take their next steps. They leave us with much to celebrate and many exciting opportunities ahead.

We are equally delighted to celebrate another year of outstanding GCSE results at the High School. This summer, students completed almost 1,500 GCSE qualifications, with more than 42% of all grades awarded at Grades 7-9, the highest grades available and significantly above national and regional averages. We are also particularly proud that 82% of students achieved the EBacc qualification, reflecting strong attainment across a broad academic curriculum. Students also achieved outstanding success across many subject areas, including Art (100% Grade 5+), German (90%), Biology (98% Grade 5+), Business (88% Grade 5+), Drama (85% Grade 5+), Design Technology (100% 5+), Food & Nutrition

(100% 5+), History (87% Grade 5+), Latin (94% 5+), Music (100% Grade 5+), PE (89% 5+), Religious Studies (89% Grade 5+) and Textiles (100% Grade 5+).

These excellent outcomes reflect not only strong academic achievement but also the perseverance and character our students have shown throughout their GCSE journey. We congratulate every member of the Class of 2026 and look forward to supporting many of them as they begin the next chapter of their education in our Sixth Form. We are immensely proud of all they have achieved and wish them every success for the future.

New Staff

This academic year we welcome the following new staff. We wish them the very best of luck in their new jobs!

Mrs Agoudjil	MFL
Mrs Lee	MFL & in charge of German
Ms Shaw-West	Physics
Gertie	School well-being dog (in training)

Parking at Spalding High School

We would like to remind parents and carers (and advise those parents and carers of new students) about our guidelines for parking at school, particularly at drop-off and collection times.

- By law, **yellow zigzag lines** outside 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.
- Parents should organise and pre-arrange suitable drop off and collection points well away from the School. Stonegate becomes very congested and busy with a large number of buses and several taxis needing to access School.
- Please show consideration to our neighbours when parking. They should be able to access their drives at all times.
- Please do not park in the Matmore Gate car park or on the grass alongside the car park to drop off or collect students. The car park is reserved for staff and Sixth Former parking.
- Please do not drive on to School premises between 8.30am and 9am or between 3.30pm and 4pm due to the large number of students getting on and off buses outside School at these times. 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 measures are designed to keep our school community safe, and we ask that they are respected. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sports News



Library News

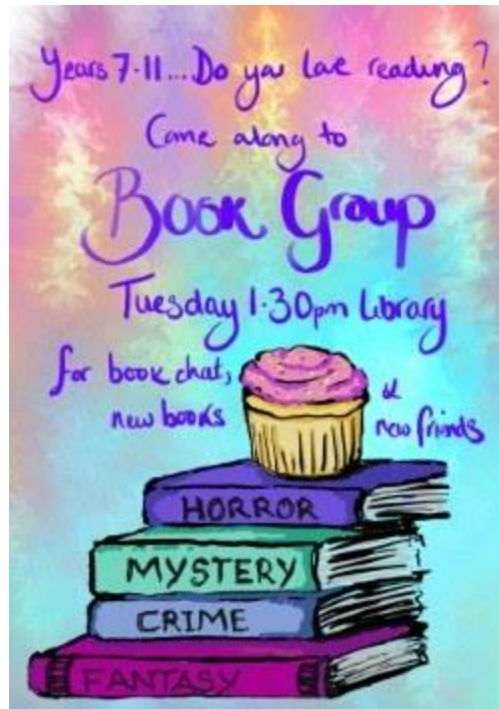
Book Group

Our first book group meeting of the academic year warmly welcomed students from years 7 through to 10 and it was wonderful to see our regular members back along with many new members too. Everyone energetically suggested and discussed ideas and themes for our meetings, and we will have a plan for the year coming very soon.

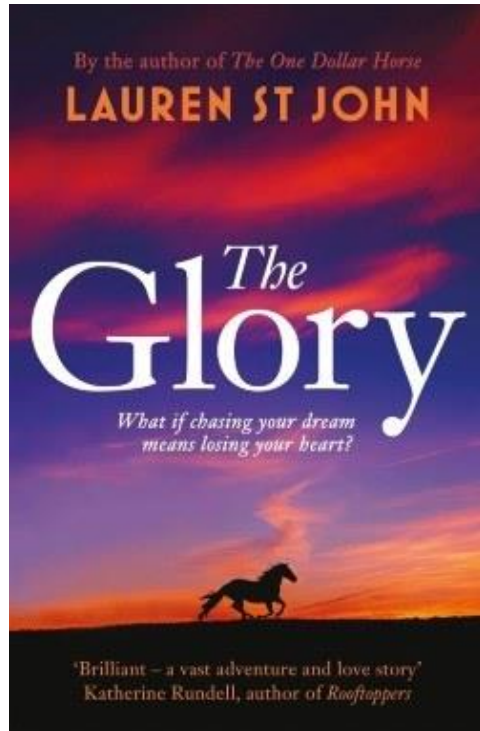
New members are always welcome whether you are an absolute book dragon, want to hear good book recommendations or would like to be reading more, come along to the library Tuesday at 1.30pm.

Happy Reading

Miss O'Sullivan and Mrs Lees



Book reviews

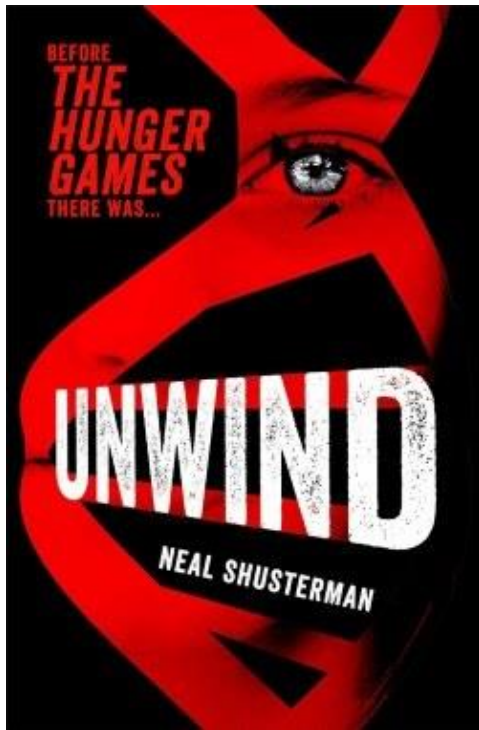


The Glory by Lauren St John

The Glory is about a 15 year old girl called Alex Wood. She is devastated when her father gets a divorce and moves to Australia. She starts to cause trouble until one day she finally takes it too far. Running off on a horse from her riding school she is not only banned and kicked out of the riding school. This makes her feel very neglected and unwanted so she comes up with an idea to get her revenge. After it goes terribly wrong, she is sent to a camp on the other side of the world. She manages to escape and competes in a horse endurance riding race: The Glory. There she meets a boy called Will Greyton who is trying to save his father. Together they try to complete the race, go through life threatening situations, and learn each other's past. My favourite character is Alex because she is defiant and is continually standing up for what is right. She is also very smart and brave and doesn't panic in a dangerous situation. She also learns that her family love her even if they don't show it and grows to understand that no matter what you do, someone will always care.

By Harriet 9N

Unwind by Neal Shusterman



Unwind is a hard-hitting and powerful teen fiction novel that tackles some challenging and sensitive issues. Set in a dystopian near future, its central premise is both disturbing and thought-provoking: parents have the right to have their child “unwound”, meaning that their organs are donated to different recipients. It really puts the spotlight on the responsibility that parents have towards their children.

I read this in two sittings, and there are definitely some chapters that stay with you for a long time. It is a real page-turner, helped by its short chapters, engaging characters and vivid settings. Shusterman presents a world that is easy to imagine, while keeping the writing accessible and highly readable.

I thoroughly enjoyed this novel. It is the first book in a trilogy and, despite its sensitive subject matter, is a brilliantly engaging read. I would thoroughly recommend it.

Mr Blackburn

Spalding High School Social Media

We would like to advise those students, parents and carers that are new to SHS that we have a Facebook page - you will find lots of interesting posts and updates, so please do follow us: [link here](#)

Gertie, our school dog, also has her own Instagram account - you'll find it at @gertiesshstail

She has settled in really well over her first week at SHS - please do follow her adventures on Instagram.

High Quarterly Magazine



The High Quarterly is the School's Education Award-nominated, student-led magazine. Our aim is to enrich our school community and beyond, by celebrating achievement and knowledge.

From in-school events to personal hobbies and comic strips, members are free to choose and write about whatever they choose. We aim to produce three to four magazines per academic year; most with seasonal themes.

We pride ourselves on being a friendly and approachable team open to all and any ideas, and on making meaningful contributions to our student body. Joining the magazine is a perfect opportunity to build your professional writing and editing skills, and is ideal for anyone interested in pursuing a future in journalism or creative writing.

We welcome students from all year groups and of all interests!

If you are as passionate about fostering an environment of collaboration and creativity, come join us! We are headed by Mrs Anderson and meet at 1:30 in the Sixth Form Study Room, on a Wednesday Week 1 and Thursday Week 2.

Poppy, Year 13

Careers News

Welcome to the New Academic Year

I would like to welcome students and parents/carers to the new academic year at the High School. In this careers section of the weekly bulletin, I will provide updates on our careers education programme and information about upcoming opportunities for students and parents/carers.

Year 11 and Year 13 Successes

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

68 of our Year 13 students gained a place at university to study a wide range of degree courses, including Psychology, Politics, Business Management, Accounting and Finance, Fashion Design, Medicine, Aerospace Engineering, Mathematics, Nursing, History, Geography, Sport and Exercise Science, Social Work, Biomedical Sciences, Fine Art, Cyber Security and Digital Forensics, Law and many more. In addition to a wide range of study disciplines chosen, the range of 35 universities is impressive. Our students will be heading off in the next few weeks to universities such as Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Bath, Leeds, Leeds Beckett, Lincoln, Nottingham Trent, UEA, Loughborough, York, Sheffield, Leicester, Reading, Southampton, Warwick and many others.

Students not heading to university are taking up apprenticeships in businesses locally, have found employment or have decided to take a gap year to work, volunteer or travel before applying to university next year or taking up full-time employment.

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

Our current Year 13 students are busy this term preparing personal statements for use in university or apprenticeship/employment applications. It is a busy time between now and Christmas.

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

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

Medicine/Veterinary Medicine or Science/Dentistry/Oxbridge

School Deadline Friday 25th September 2026

Official Deadline Thursday 15th October 2026

All other UCAS forms

School Deadline Friday 6th November 2026

Official Deadline Wednesday 13th January 2027

Webinar Opportunity for Year 13 parents/carers – 22nd September 6.00-6.45pm

If you are supporting your child with their university application or are interested in finding out how to do so for future reference, the webinar in the link below may be of interest to you:

[HE Guidance: A Guide to University for Parents/Carers with Lauren McWilliams and Harry Ward, Higher Education Advisers from University of East Anglia - Channel Talent - Interactive school webinars](#)

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:

Saturday 12th and 19th September 11+ tests

Wednesday 23rd September Geography A Level fieldwork departs

Wednesday 23rd September Y9-Y13 Music trip

Wednesday 23rd September Y7 Curriculum Evening 6pm

Thursday 24th September Y11 & Y13 Tate Modern trip

Friday 25th September Whole School Sponsored Walk & Macmillan Coffee Morning

Friday 25th September Y7 Ice Breaker 4.15pm

Wednesday 30th September and Thursday 1st October Y11 GCSE PE climbing trip

Wednesday 30th September Y10 Curriculum Evening 6pm

Friday 2nd October Bags2School Day

Wednesday 7th October and Thursday 8th October Y11 GCSE PE climbing trip

Friday 9th October Hello Yellow Day non-uniform

Thursday 15th October Y12 Curriculum Evening 6pm

Friday 16th October Fright Night Y7 & Y8

Wednesday 21st October Evening of Sport, Music and Drama 7pm

Thursday 22nd October Y9 Yorkshire Sculpture Park trip

Thursday 22nd October Norway trip departs

Thursday 22nd October End of Term 1

Summer 2027 Examination Series

GCSE exams will take place from Monday 10/5/27 to Friday 18/6/27

GCE (A Level) exams will take place from Monday 10/5/27 to Tuesday 22/6/27

The Contingency Day is Wednesday **23/6/27**.

The contingency day will be used if a significant, unexpected event arises nationally or locally during the exam period such that no students (or a large number of them) are able to take an exam when planned. Students should be available to take examinations up until this date.

The generic timetables are available on the school website and individual student timetables will be issued in late February/early March 2027.

Result Days

GCE (A Level) - Thursday 12/08/27

GCSE - Thursday 19/08/27

The Children's Commissioner for England has launched a national survey, The Big Future.

Message from the Children's Commissioner:

Hi, my name is Rachel and my job is to hear from all children and young people in England.

As the Children's Commissioner I've launched this survey so you can have your say on what it's like to be a child or young person in England today. I will take your views to the Government, to help them make life better for children.

Everything you tell me will be kept private. You don't have to answer any question if you don't want to. There are no right or wrong answers. Just answer honestly! To find out more, visit my [website](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture).

Please find below the link for the survey:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

The Children's Commissioner says:

It is vital that I hear from children and young people in every school, college and community across England. If students do not participate, their experiences, views and aspirations will be absent from the national picture that will help shape future policy and decision-making.

At a time of significant change for children and young people, it is more important than ever that their voices are heard. Through The Big Future, I can take the views of students directly to government and ensure their priorities help inform the decisions that affect their lives.

Thank you for your support in helping ensure that every child's voice has the chance to be heard.

Yours sincerely,

Dame Rachel de Souza, Children's Commissioner

Image credits

Football trials poster: Miss Magnus

Book group poster: Mrs Lees

Book covers: Amazon

Other images: click on individual image for info