

Spalding High School weekly bulletin 24th September 2026

This week from Mrs Anderson, Headteacher

Today, our school community came together in truly inspiring fashion to support the fantastic work of Macmillan Cancer Support through our annual Coffee Morning and sponsored walk.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to making the event such a success. Students, staff and families demonstrated incredible generosity, with tables overflowing with a wonderful array of homemade cakes, biscuits and sweet treats. The time, effort and care that went into baking and donating these refreshments was evident for all to see, and they proved extremely popular throughout the afternoon when we had returned from our afternoon stroll.

As you know, the fundraising continued in the afternoon with our sponsored walk. Thankfully, the weather was on our side, and students and staff enjoyed a sunny walk together while raising money for both this remarkable charity and the School Council project fund. The atmosphere was one of positivity, community spirit and determination, reflecting the values that make our school such a special place.

We are delighted that, through the combined efforts of our students, staff, families and supporters, we have raised an impressive amount, and I am sure that next week's bulletin will contain details of not only the final total raised but also some amazing pictures of the day itself.

Events such as these remind us of the power of coming together for a common cause. I am incredibly proud of the kindness, generosity and enthusiasm shown by everyone involved.

Thank you to all who baked, donated, walked, sponsored and supported this year's fundraiser. Your contribution will make a real difference. I must also give particular thanks to Mrs Ray and her team of helpers who organised the entire day's events – amazing!

Student of the Week

Staff name	Student Name	Student Form	Reason
Mrs Spinks	Chloe Collins	7C	Mathematics
Miss White	Julia Kantor	7J	Community
Mr Garbett	Lucy Buckle	7J	Music
Mrs Lee	Isla Kennedy	7J	French
Mrs Nowak	Amelia Todd	7J	Mathematics
Mrs O'Sullivan	Florence Neal	7N	English
Mr Ganger	Summer Mustafa	8C	Mathematics
Mrs C Lord	Mia Stonebridge-Simutyte	8C	Mathematics
Miss Rossouw	Salsabilla Neasy	8S	Religious Education
Mr Martindale	Cimmy Alvarez	9C	Technology
Miss McArthur	Esmæ Lovett	9J	Religious Studies
Miss White	Eliza Fathers	9J	Chemistry
Mrs Jones	Diya Gopinath	9J	Latin
Mrs Martin	Esmæ Lovett	9J	Mathematics
Mrs Busfield	Oscar Jordan	10J	Biology
Mr McAlinden	Maya Pahal	10N	Business
Mr Murphy	Kaelyn Velasquez	10P	Chemistry
Mrs Martindale	Ava Willis	10P	Biology
Mrs Neal	Georgina Beasley	10P	Art
Mr Blackburn	Gabriele Bulvinaite	11C	Business
Mrs Aurikko	Bethany Taylor	11C	Biology
Mrs Clay	Thamrutha Satheeskumar	11J	French
Mrs T Waldron	Neve Timmins	11N	Biology
Mr Hemsall	Amelia Robinson-Tait	12FM	History
Miss Ashley	Karolina Gren	12KM	Mathematics
Miss Dunbar	Sasha Pretorius	12KM	Sociology
Mr McAlinden	Issy Payne	12RM	Community
Mrs Martin	Isobel Bowser	13SC	Community

Please find here the nominations for Student of the Week for the week commencing 14th September 2026.

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

Sports News

Our Year 12 Sports Leaders have made a fantastic start to the new school year and have already made a really positive impression across the PE Department.

They have fully embraced their leadership lessons, showing enthusiasm, commitment and a willingness to get involved. They have also been fantastic role models when supporting our KS3 PE lessons and helping to run lunchtime clubs.

Last week, both Sports Leader groups took part in an Egg Drop Challenge, putting their teamwork, creativity and problem-solving skills to the test. Working collaboratively and resourcefully, the students designed and built protective structures to try to keep their eggs safe when dropped from a height.

Unfortunately, despite some very creative designs and plenty of careful planning, not a single egg survived the fall! 🥚🥚

The challenge was a great opportunity for the Sports Leaders to develop some of the key skills needed to be effective leaders, including communication, teamwork, resilience and creative thinking. Although the eggs didn't quite make it, the students certainly demonstrated the right attitude and approach.

A huge well done to all of our Year 12 Sports Leaders for such a positive start. We are looking forward to seeing them continue to develop their leadership skills and make an even bigger contribution to school sport throughout the year!

Miss Parker, PE teacher



English News

News from the English Department

Are you a budding writer? Would you like to enter a writing competition? Would you like have your work published and perhaps even win a prize?

Entering a writing competition is a wonderful way to:

- Showcase your creative and professional writing talent and skills
- Gain recognition from experienced writers and university lecturers
- Build confidence in your writing abilities
- Develop your creative portfolio
- Enhance your personal statement
- Gain a potential publication credit and or win monetary prizes
- Explore progression into higher education and a career in writing or the creative industries

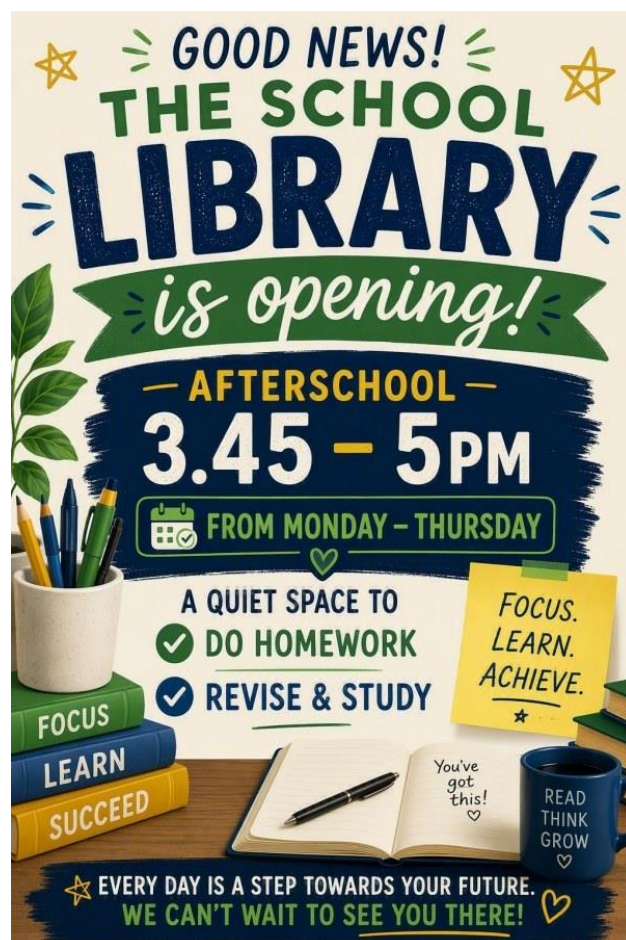
Please see these two current competitions.

[University Centre Grimsby Writing Competition 2026 | Grimsby Institute](#)

[Home -The Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction | Major UK Literary prize](#)

If you decide to enter, please let Mrs Lord and your English teacher know. In the English Department we love to celebrate extra-curricular achievements.

Library News



Extended Library Opening Hours

We are pleased to offer extended after-school library opening hours for students in all year groups from **Monday to Thursday, 3.45pm to 5pm.**

This provides a quiet space for independent study, homework, reading, and research.

Parents/carers of students in **Years 7-9** must complete the online form ([Extended Library Opening Hours for Independent Study - September 2026 to July 2027 – Fill out form](#)) in order for their child to attend. This form only needs to be completed once. It will be parents/carers' responsibility to ensure that their child will be collected at 5:00pm or allowed to leave and travel home independently.

Students in **Year 10 and above** are responsible for informing their parents/carers that they will be staying until 5pm and for making appropriate arrangements for their journey home.

Please note that those students who are attending these sessions will need to stay in the library until 5pm at which time, the supervising

staff will take them out to the front entrance.

We look forward to welcoming students to make the most of this additional study opportunity.

Years 7 - 11 Book Group

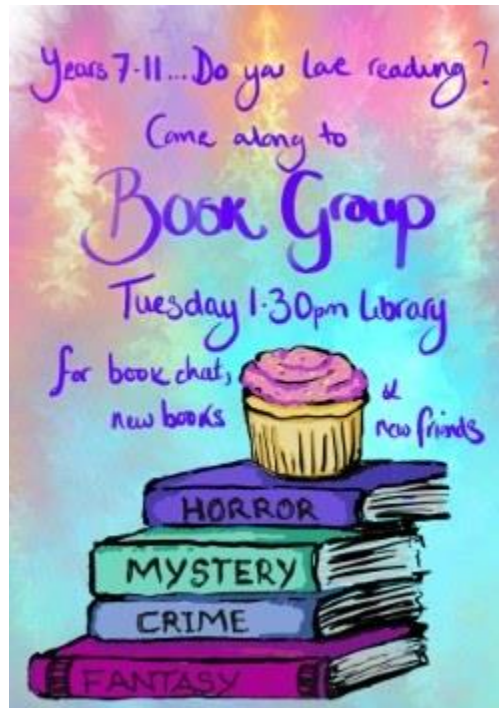
Our discussion this week focused on book adaptations, whether to film or TV series, and if we preferred the book or adaptation. This proved to be highly contentious at times, with firm "love it/hate it" camps for some of the suggestions. It was great to have everyone sharing their opinions, even if they were occasionally polarising!

Our suggestions were, *The Summer I Turned Pretty* with the adaptation being a faithful homage to the book. *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* was agreed to be a far better read than adaptation, but *Thursday Murder Club* and *The Vampire Diaries* adaptations were preferred over the books. Other favourites where both adaptation and book were enjoyed were: *How to Train Your Dragon*, *Heartstopper*, *Twilight*, *Mallory Towers*, *The Series of Unfortunate Events*, *White Fang* and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. We had some contentious discussion over *The Hunger Games*, which we might have overruled as both books and films are iconic! And *The Sunrise On the Reaping* trailer was agreed to be the best film trailer, with everyone eagerly awaiting that film adaptation.

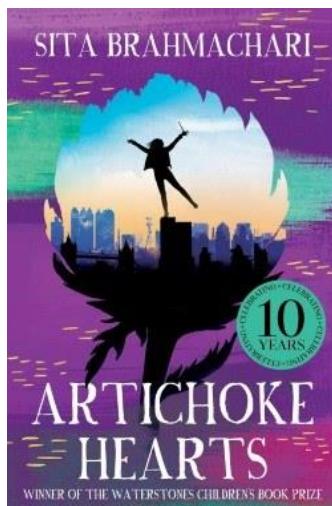
Join us next Tuesday in the Library at 1.30pm when we'll be discussing books or book series that we never finished reading. It will be a contentious meeting again!

Happy Reading

Miss O'Sullivan, English Teacher, and Mrs Lees, Learning Resource Manager



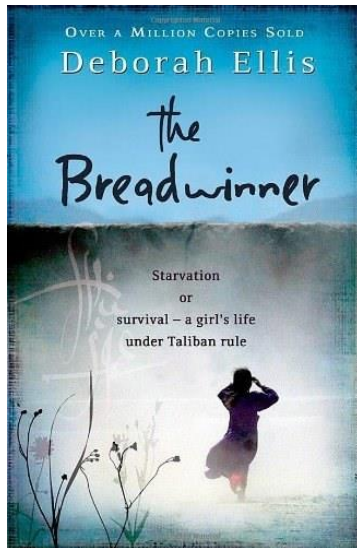
Book reviews



Artichoke Hearts by Sita Brahmachari

Artichoke Hearts is a book by Sita Brahmachari, an award-winning author of colour. It's about a twelve year old girl called Mira Levenson and set in London. During the story, Mira faces a lot of challenges, which she has to overcome, from her beloved nana dying to her growing feelings for Jide Jackson. This story is set out like a diary where Mira writes about everything. I really enjoyed this book because it showed a lot of emotion and really touched my heart. If I were to recommend this book to someone, I would recommend it to someone who's been facing a lot of challenges because I know that despite all the challenges Mira faced, she kept going and never once gave up. A really emotional read!

Wing-Han 9J



The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis

The Breadwinner is a fictional story based on truth, set in Afghanistan in the early 2000s. It's about a pre-teen girl named Parvana (the main character), who has to dress up as a boy and is sent to go and work in the market to provide for her family (which consists of her older sister Nooria, her younger sibling, and her mother) after her innocent father is taken away by the Taliban. I think this story would appeal to children of ages 10-14 because the story seems too mature for young children, but the vocabulary isn't advanced enough for older readers. Overall, I liked it because it's a very interesting book and spreads awareness, not only of different cultures, but of the inequalities faced by children in some other countries.

Rehema 10C

Charity News



Don't forget our sponsored walk taking place tomorrow - 25th September.

Students may wear their PE kit during the day at school. The walk will take place in the afternoon.

Please do bring in donations of cakes and bakes for the Macmillan Coffee Morning, although we will actually have our refreshments in the afternoon as a sweet treat when students return to school from the walk. There will be no charge for the refreshments - as per the letter to families about the sponsored walk, we will be donating 10% of all sponsor money raised to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Many thanks in advance for any support you can give to raising the School funds and helping Macmillan Cancer Support.

Sixth Form News: Environment Committee

Environmental Committee Planting Project

Last week the environmental committee and Sixth Form volunteers replanted the herb garden for Ms Busby outside the food tech room. We planted a variety of herbs and colourful flowers to make the garden look brighter whilst also providing fresh herbs that can be used in Food Technology lessons.

It was a wonderful opportunity for all of us to work together to improve the school environment.

We would like to say a big thank you to Flamingo Flowers who donated us the plants to make this project possible.

We are all looking forward to watching the plants grow throughout the year and see the garden come to life.

Olivia, Year 13





Celebrating the Individual: Olivia, Year 11



Last academic year, as a Year 10 student, Olivia achieved an outstanding result in the Intermediate Maths Challenge and was invited to take part in the Pink Kangaroo. She went on to impress once again, earning a Gold Certificate and achieving the highest score in her school — an especially remarkable accomplishment as she was also the youngest student to achieve this.

Her success led to an invitation to attend a Maths Summer School this summer, making Olivia the first student from our school to receive such an invitation. To take part, Olivia had to rearrange her holiday plans, but from everything she has shared, it was certainly worth it!

Please read on for Olivia's recollection of the experience.

Mrs Nowak, Maths Teacher

"I found the week extremely fun and interesting, as we did something different and interesting every day together and we could work on all the problems with friends.

During the mornings, we were split into small groups to work together on different challenges each day, which ranged from geometry to number theory. Then in the afternoons, we were split into 2 big groups to be introduced to some new concepts and types of maths that we don't learn at school. The sessions were all very interactive, and I had a lot of fun working on all the challenges with everyone.

We also had a lot of time to rest and do stuff together, and in the evenings, they hosted different activities for us which were very fun and not to do with maths, we even went bowling! The experience overall was so fun and memorable; I made a lot of new friends and learnt a lot of interesting new maths. Hopefully I will be able to go back as a senior in two years' time!"

Olivia, Year 11



- Polyhedra**
- Show that there is no Archimedean solid with vertex configuration 3.3.6.6. Further, show there is no Archimedean solid with vertex configuration 3.3.6.
 - Prove there are no more than seven vertex configurations of the form $p.q.r$ that form Archimedean solids. (Recall that 4.4.2 describes prisms, which are not Archimedean.)
- Pigeonhole Principle**
- How many people must you ask for their first and surname before you would be certain that you have two with the same initials?
 - Seven people want to play in a tournament of four teams. Explain why they cannot all play for different teams.
 - Prove that in a group of six people, there will always be three people that are mutual friends or mutual strangers.
- Logic**
- On *me!* One of the UKMT ducks has been abducted! I know that the duckrupper is either Xavier, Yusuf or Zara, and that the duckrupper has the duck hidden in their room. I also know that at most one of them is a knight, while the rest are knaves. Under interrogation, they reveal the following:
 - X: The duck is in my room.
 - Y: The duck is not in my room.
 - Z: The duck is not in Xavier's room.
 Who is the duckrupper?
 - Given that all Janices are human, all students are human and that some students think, which (if any) of the following statements are guaranteed to be true?
 - All Janices are students.

- Some Janices think.
 - No Janices think.
 - Some Janices who think are not students.
- One day you find a depressing numeral - that Ery and Ely have another phobias called *duck!* Ery is not sure whether duck exists, but the possibility of its existence contradicts all your previous conclusions about Ery and Ely. If he exists, duck always lies. Sometimes that one of Ely and Ery is a knight (lying only on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays) and the other is a knave (lying only on Thursday, Friday and Saturdays). One numeral also comes across what needs to be the two brothers, and ask them whether duck exists. They answer:
 - Ely: Yes, Ery thinks!
 - Ery: No, that's right!
 Does duck exist, and what day of the week is it?
- Modular Arithmetic**
- Find 10^{10} mod 10.
 - Find 10^{10} mod 7.
- Proof by Induction**
- Prove that the sum of the first n cube numbers is given by the formula:

$$1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + \dots + n^3 = \frac{n^2(n+1)^2}{4}$$
 - Prove that for any natural number n greater than 1, $2^{2n} - 2^n$ is divisible by 6.
 - Prove Binet's formula for the n^{th} Fibonacci number F_n :

$$F_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left(\left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n - \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n \right)$$
- Graph Theory**
- Suppose we have three vertices labelled v_1, v_2, v_3 . How many different graphs can there containing these vertices? What if we have four vertices? n vertices? (The graphs do not have to be connected.)
 - A graph is called 2-colourable if it is possible to colour each of the vertices either red or blue, in such a way that no two adjacent vertices are the same colour. Show that a graph is 2-colourable if and only if it does not contain a cycle with an odd number of nodes.

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 weeks 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 12

Careers News

Unifrog University Fair – 14th October – 4pm-6.30pm

The Unifrog UK University Fair is a great opportunity to find out about studying at university and to have your questions answered by the experts in just two and a half hours. Join over 30 universities from across the UK to speak to their representatives via Q&A and choose from 16 live webinar sessions to get an insight into all things university.

[UK University Fair 2026](#)

Success at School – Upcoming Webinars

'Success at School' is running some webinars in December regarding Accountancy – 'University vs Apprenticeships' which may be of interest to parents and students.

[Webinar Calendar 26/27 — Book your place](#)



Lincolnshire Safer Communities Leaders – Applications Open

Please see the flyer for the opportunity to become a Safer Communities Leader. Following a successful first year, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire is recruiting a small group of young leaders aged 14 – 21 to be the voice of young people on crime, policing and community safety.

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:

Friday 25th September Whole School Sponsored Walk and 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



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](#).

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

Book covers: Amazon

Book group poster: Mrs Lees

Other images: click on individual image for info