

Spalding High School weekly bulletin 15th October 2026

This week from Mrs Anderson, Headteacher

Celebrating The Individual – Mrs Dowson

This weekend, one of our most cherished colleagues celebrates a very special milestone birthday. Far be it from me to disclose exactly how old Mrs Dowson is (I'm far too scared of her for that!), but let's just say she looks absolutely amazing for 21!

Having dedicated decades to the classroom and to school leadership, inspiring generations of young people through her passion for English, Mrs Dowson remains as committed, knowledgeable and enthusiastic as ever. It comes as no surprise that our students affectionately refer to her as a "legend".

Over the years, Mrs Dowson has seen the profession change beyond recognition. She has navigated countless curriculum reviews, embraced ever-evolving approaches to teaching and learning, and witnessed technological advances that none of us could have imagined when she began her career. And she manages to do all of this while wafting elegantly around school, looking immaculate enough to step straight onto a catwalk!

To mark this very special occasion, staff gathered in the staffroom at break time for a surprise celebration, complete with a magnificent cake (many thanks to Mrs Huggins!) and a rousing rendition of [Happy Birthday](#). The look of genuine surprise on Mrs Dowson's face said it all.

Reflecting on the celebration, Mrs Dowson said:

"This was all totally unexpected and a super surprise. I hope you all had a piece of the incredible cake! And yes... I was speechless for once! ♥"

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated, inspiring and much-loved colleague as part of our school community. On behalf of everyone at school, we wish Mrs Dowson a very [happy birthday](#) this weekend and thank her for the remarkable contribution she continues to make every single day.

[Happy Birthday](#), Mrs Dowson. A true legend. 🎉📖🍰



Student of the Week

Staff Name	Student Name	Student Form	Reason
Ms Shaw-West	Emilija Mihalevica	7C	Science
Miss McArthur	Hana Iqbal	7C	Religious Education
Mrs Lees	Martha Pharro	7S	Library
Mrs Dowson	Amy Urbanavicious	7S	English
Mr Garbett	Violet Quemby	7S	Music
Miss Parker	Grace Clare	8C	Physical Education
Mrs Nowak	Amelia Nowak	8J	Mathematics
Mrs C Lord	Mia Goodacre	8N	Mathematics
Mrs Spinks	Sharon Emeh	8P	Mathematics
Miss Hammond	Lily Price	8P	Drama
Miss Ashley	Rosie Hockley	8S	Mathematics
Mrs Chandler	Eden Hill	8S	Library
Mr Fovargue	Lexi Steele	9C	Computer Science
Mr Ganger	Isla Collins	9N	Mathematics
Mrs Rogers	Rose Dunnett	10C	Geography
Mr Murphy	Isla Worrall	10C	Chemistry
Mrs Aurikko	Katy Marsh	10C	Chemistry
Miss Jeffery	Isla Homden	10N	English Literature
Mrs Lee	Ava Willis	10P	German
Mrs T Waldron	Kaja Sutkowska	10P	Biology
Mrs J Lord	Umayyah-Noor Muhammad	10S	English Literature
Mrs Clay	Emma-Jayne Willis	11J	French
Miss Jones	Emelia Wade	11N	Physical Education
Mrs T Waldron	Minahil Ali	11S	Community
Mrs Neal	Amelia Whyles	12KM	Art
Mr Hemsall	Mia Lesniak	12KM	History
Miss Dunbar	Millie Moore-Hicks	12NG	Criminology
Mrs Busfield	Evie Hinds	12NG	Biology
Mrs Chandler	Zara-Jayne Odell	13EO	Community
Mrs Lees	Vivien Kudla	13TD	Community
Mrs O'Sullivan	Poppy Miller	13TD	Community

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

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

Sports News

Year 11 Take on the Challenge at Lincoln Rock Climbing Centre

Year 11 GCSE PE students recently took on a new challenge at Lincoln Rock Climbing Centre as part of their Non-Exam Assessment (NEA).

For their GCSE PE qualification, students are assessed in three different sports, combining both team and individual activities. The climbing trip provided an excellent opportunity for students to develop their skills and work towards achieving an individual activity score.

During the session, students were introduced to a range of essential climbing skills and techniques. They learned how to correctly put on and use a climbing harness, as well as how to belay safely and responsibly. Students also developed their traversing skills before progressing to climbing routes and attempting to climb to their personal limit.

The session required students to demonstrate much more than physical strength. Balance, coordination, concentration, decision-making and resilience were all essential as they worked their way around the climbing walls and tackled increasingly challenging routes.

For some students, climbing was a completely new experience, making the day an opportunity to step outside their usual sporting activities while gaining valuable experience towards their GCSE PE assessment.

The students showed great enthusiasm and determination throughout the session, supporting one another (both with filming their evidence and words of encouragement) and pushing themselves to achieve their personal best. The experience provided a valuable and enjoyable opportunity for students to develop their individual sporting performance while working towards their GCSE PE qualification.

On 7th and 8th October the second GCSE PE group went to the climbing centre, again showing great perseverance and support of one another with the groups spirits boosted by Alex's amazing homemade brownies!

Miss Magnus









On Monday 28th September the Under 16 football team travelled to Uppingham Village College to play Round 1 of the ESFA National Cup.

Despite injuries and prior appointments depleting the squad, the twelve travelling players all put in great shifts to come out on top. A brilliant commanding performance from Katie in goal putting some fantastic balls forward, supported by Olivia leading the defensive line excellently.

Player of the Match was awarded to Ella for an impressive defensive display, winning many tackles as well as some excellent corner deliveries.

Kaelyn scored a goal in each half to secure the victory with a rocket into the top corner late in the second half!

Well done girls!



On Tuesday 6th October the U13 football team travelled to Branston Community Academy to compete in Round 2 of the ESFA National Cup. An own goal from a defending corner in the first half was the difference between the two sides, narrowly losing 1-0. The team played really well against a strong opposition and did well to keep the scoreline at 1-0. We had some chances to score but the defensive work particularly of Lily and Maja kept us in the game. A fantastic midfield display from both Edith and Maddie was vital in helping us both attack and defend.

Player of the Match was awarded to Maya who was ruthless in defensive, winning every header and tackle in her vicinity.

Miss Magnus



On Monday 12th October, students represented the School at the second race of the Fenland League Cross Country competition, held at Hampton College. Once again, our runners produced some excellent performances against strong competition from schools across the region.

A special congratulations goes to Felicity (7P), who continued her outstanding start to the season by winning the Year 7/8 Girls' race. This fantastic achievement means she has now made it two wins from two races, cementing her place among the league's top performers.

There was also an impressive run from Iris Thomas, who secured an excellent 4th place finish in the Year 9/10 Girls' race. Competing in a highly competitive field, Iris showed great determination and consistency throughout the course.

We are incredibly proud of all the students who took part and represented the School so well. Their commitment, resilience and sportsmanship were evident throughout the event, and we look forward to seeing them compete again in the next Fenland League fixture.

PE department



Year 11 netball v Bourne Grammar School Monday 12th October

Despite eventually falling to a defeat, the team made a fantastic start and showed from the opening whistle that they were ready to compete, racing into an early 2-0 lead.

The opposition had several players whose individual quality proved difficult to contain, and their ability to convert opportunities ultimately made the difference. However, the scoreline should not overshadow the commitment and determination shown by the team throughout the match.

The game was played in excellent spirit, with some very encouraging passages of netball on display. The team continued to work hard for one another, moving the ball well through the court and never letting their heads drop despite the growing deficit.

Player of the Match deservedly went to our Centre Liv, who covered every inch of the court. Their work rate, energy and willingness to support both attack and defence never wavered and set a great example from start to finish.

A special mention also goes to Lily our Goal Attack, who was clinical when opportunities came their way, finishing confidently and making the most of the chances created.

While the result wasn't what we wanted, there were plenty of positives to build on as we look ahead to the next game.



Maths News

Two weeks ago, our amazing mathematicians took part in the Maths Competition for Girls, a highly prestigious national competition with only a limited number of places available.

Once again, our students made us incredibly proud by competing against some of the best young mathematicians from across the country.

Olivia (Year 11) was named Best in School, achieving an impressive Distinction Certificate. Olivia is hoping to study Further Mathematics at SHS next year, and we are delighted to see her passion for mathematics continuing to grow.

In Year 12, the award for Best in Year was shared ex aequo by Julia and Nikita .

A huge congratulations to all our students who took part. We are extremely proud of their hard work, enthusiasm and outstanding achievements!

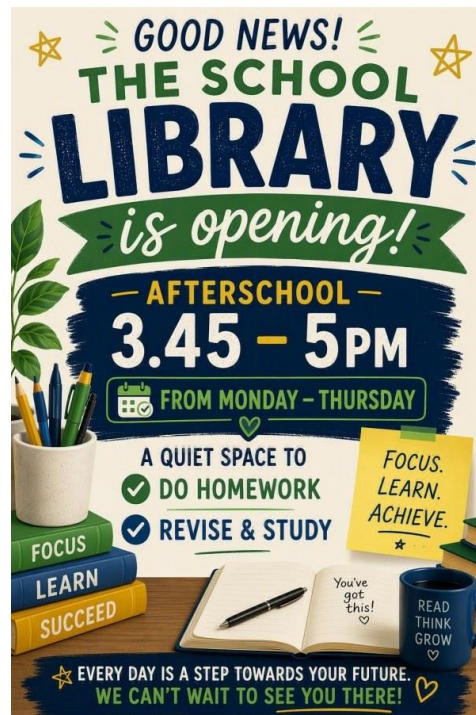
Maths Department



MFL News



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 5:00pm**.

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 5:00pm 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 5:00pm 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.

Fantasy Book Club

Monday at 1.30pm in the Library, everyone welcome.

Year 7 - 11 Book Club

Our next club meet up will be embracing spooky season:

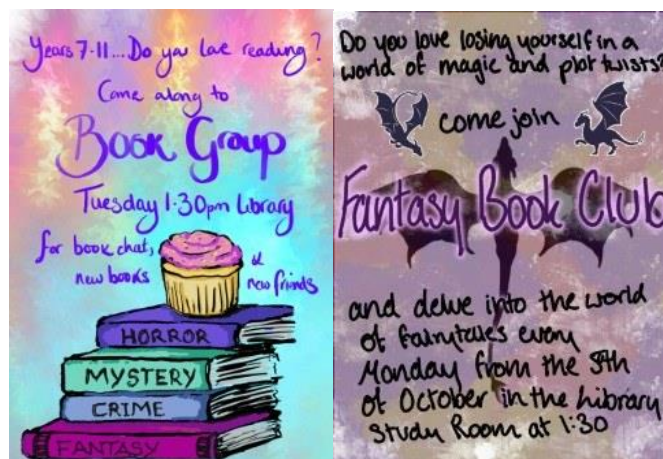
Tuesday 20th October 1.30pm in the Library - Witchy reads.

6th Form Book Club

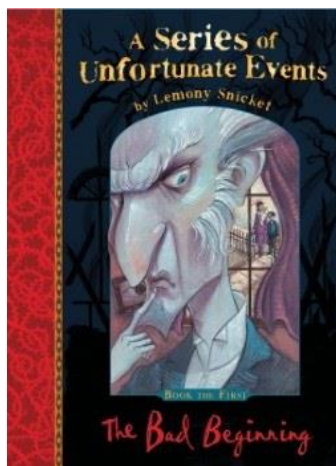
Friday 16th October 1pm in the Library - horror theme this week as we head towards the spooky season. For those of us who do not read much of this, we will also mention books that fill us with dread, either because they are intimidating to read or they have been on the TBR for far too long.

Happy Reading

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



Book reviews

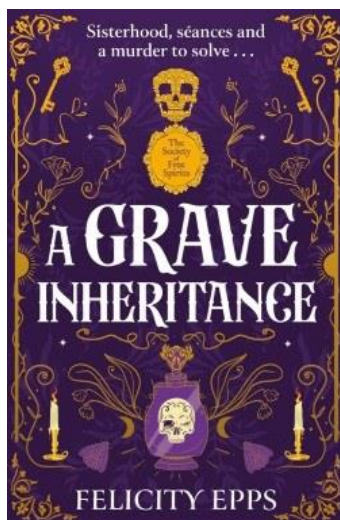


A Series of Unfortunate Events: The Bad Beginning by Lemony Snicket

I'm sorry to say but this book tells a very unpleasant story. An unhappy tale about three very unlucky children whose lives are filled with misery and woe from the very first page. The Bad Beginning is a classic dark humour with gothic themes and unpleasant events. The series follows the Baudelaire children Violet (the oldest and a master of inventions), Klaus (loves nothing more than a good read and to help with his sisters inventions) and Sunny (the youngest out of them all with teeth that can cut through a rock). They become orphans after a tragic house fire and are sent to spend the rest of their miserable lives with Count Olaf, a greedy and repulsive villain, an 'uncle' that tries to steal the massive fortune left by the Baudelaire's parents. In my opinion, I really liked the book because it twists and turns events, making you guess what will happen next. Additionally, it has short

chapters that build up tension and made me want to read on. This book would appeal to anyone who is unfortunate enough to not look for a story with a good ending or beginning.

Izzy 10J



A Grave Inheritance by Felicity Epps

Spooky séances, haunted houses and three plucky young Victorian women on a mission to solve a ghostly mystery; A Grave Inheritance is a perfect spooky season read. Our heroine is Dolores Rain, who has recently inherited her family's fortune after the sudden deaths of her father and elder sister. The story opens with a very melodramatic Dolores on her deathbed (yet again). Dolores is supported by her long suffering maid, Louisa and impatient neighbour, Doctor Hawthorne. Dolores soon begins to question the sudden demise of her sister and is ably assisted in solving the mystery with the help of her occult fixated friend Ada and new acquaintance, medium Violet. The story is great fun, with some genuinely spooky moments and plenty of twists and turns to keep you guessing.

Mrs Lees

Careers News

Green Careers Week – 2nd-7th November

Please see the information below as an introduction to Green Careers Week in November.

Green Careers Week aims to raise aspiration, support diversity, challenge stereotypes, and promote real opportunities for young people to have a career that will genuinely make a difference.

A green career can be any job, role or occupation that contributes to preserving or restoring the environment and our planet. It can be any industry, not just those seen as 'green.' Green skills are

abilities, attributes, values, attitudes, knowledge, and technical skills needed to adapt services, processes and procedures to support climate change.

Green careers are a fast-growing global employment sector that touches every company, employer, employee, and education establishment. Requiring everyone to work together to build a talent pipeline from school through to employment for the thousands and thousands of jobs and roles needed for the future. Green careers reach into every aspect of our lives and offer young people an exciting array of opportunities. There are green careers and green skills suitable for everyone.

NCW GCW THE FUTURE IS GREEN
GREEN CAREERS WEEK

UK Atomic Energy Authority STEM LEARNING

ELECTRIC VEHICLE ENGINEER

DRIVE THE GREEN REVOLUTION



Electric vehicles are transforming transport.

Battery technology

Engineering

Innovation

Sustainability

Could you design the next generation of transport?



#GCW2026
Green Careers Week - 2-6 November 2026

Scan for school resources:

NCW GCW THE FUTURE IS GREEN
GREEN CAREERS WEEK

UK Atomic Energy Authority STEM LEARNING

ECOLOGIST

NATURE NEEDS YOU



Ecologists help protect habitats, wildlife and biodiversity.

Conservation

Fieldwork

Science

Environment

Turn your passion for nature into a career.



#GCW2026
Green Careers Week - 2-6 November 2026

Scan for school resources:

NCW GCW THE FUTURE IS GREEN
GREEN CAREERS WEEK

UK Atomic Energy Authority STEM LEARNING

CARBON ACCOUNTANT

COUNT WHAT COUNTS



Businesses need specialists who can measure and reduce carbon emissions.

Business

Sustainability

Data

Strategy

Green careers aren't just science and engineering.



#GCW2026
Green Careers Week - 2-6 November 2026

Scan for school resources:

NCW GCW THE FUTURE IS GREEN
GREEN CAREERS WEEK

UK Atomic Energy Authority STEM LEARNING

SOLAR ENERGY ENGINEER

TURN SUNLIGHT INTO POWER



Solar Engineers design and install systems that generate clean electricity.

STEM skills

Problem solving

Innovation

Sustainability

The sun powers the future. You could too.



#GCW2026
Green Careers Week - 2-6 November 2026

Scan for school resources:




THE FUTURE IS
GREEN




GREEN BUILDING DESIGNER

DESIGN THE CITIES OF TOMORROW



Create schools, homes and workplaces that use less energy and produce less carbon.



Architecture



Sustainability



Digital design

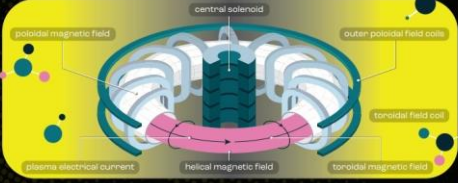


Low carbon solutions

Build a better future.

FUSION ENERGY SPECIALIST

THE NEXT BIG ENERGY CAREER



Atomic energy is creating exciting opportunities in engineering and energy.



Research



Technology



Energy



Innovation

Be a part of the clean energy revolution.

#GCW2026

Green Careers Week • 2-6 November 2026



Scan for school resources:

#GCW2026

Green Careers Week • 2-6 November 2026



Scan for school resources:




THE FUTURE IS
GREEN




WIND TURBINE TECHNICIAN

POWER THE FUTURE



Every day Wind Turbine Technicians keep renewable energy flowing to millions of homes.



Work outdoors



Use cutting-edge technology



Excellent earning potential



Help tackle climate change

Could you be climbing the UK's tallest clean energy machines?

SUSTAINABLE FASHION DESIGNER

MAKE FASHION GREENER



Create products using sustainable materials and ethical production methods



Creativity



Circular economy



Design



Sustainability

Style with purpose.

#GCW2026

Green Careers Week • 2-6 November 2026



Scan for school resources:




THE FUTURE IS
GREEN




ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST

PROTECT OUR PLANET



Environmental Scientists monitor ecosystems, analyse pollution and help organisations reduce environmental impact.



Science



Data analysis



Conservation



Sustainability

Use science to make a difference.

#GCW2026

Green Careers Week • 2-6 November 2026

#GCW2026

Green Careers Week • 2-6 November 2026



Scan for school resources:

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](#)

Degree Apprenticeship Webinar – 22nd October

We have a growing number of students interested in degree apprenticeships. InvestIN is hosting a Degree Apprenticeships **Information Evening** on Wednesday 22nd October, from 6-7pm. The event is open to students and parents with content delivered by InvestIN staff, alongside industry professionals sharing their own experiences of degree apprenticeships. The registration link is below.

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)



INVESTIN
THE ULTIMATE WORK EXPERIENCE

Free Webinar for
Students, Parents & Teachers

Degree Apprenticeships: What They Are & How to Apply

Confused about degree apprenticeships? You're not the only one.

Whilst they are growing in popularity, many people are still unsure on what they are or how to apply.

Join our free webinar to hear from experts on:

- What degree apprenticeships are
- Why they are a great option for many students
- How to apply for them and how the process differs to university applications

**6:00 PM (UK Time)
22nd October 2026**

Can't attend live? No problem!
Register to receive the recording

REGISTER NOW
Scan the QR code or click here



Opportunities for Students Interested in Law

Young Professionals is hosting two in-person events for aspiring law students/law apprentices during half-term with the opportunity to network with representatives from a range of UK law firms. Please see the information in the link:

[Meet 50+ top law firms this October half term: City Century Live, Manchester and London](#)

If any students attend, could they please let me know.

Aspiring Physiotherapy Event in Half Term

The Lincolnshire NHS Talent Academy has opened applications for their Aspiring Physiotherapy 2026 one-day careers event which offers young people an insight into NHS Physiotherapy.

The event provides students with the opportunity to learn directly from NHS Physiotherapy professionals, hear from current University of Lincoln Physiotherapy students, and take part in a range of interactive activities that showcase the role of a physiotherapist in supporting patients to improve mobility, recover from injury, and regain independence.

What students can expect:

- Meet and chat with NHS Physiotherapy professionals
- Hear from current Physiotherapy students at the University of Lincoln
- Take part in hands-on workshops and practical activities
- Explore specialist equipment used in patient care
- Experience realistic patient scenarios and case studies
- Discover the different career pathways within Physiotherapy

Event Details

Location: Lincoln College, Monks Road, Lincoln, LN2 5HQ

Available Dates (both days offer the same programme):

- Monday 26 October 2026
- Tuesday 27 October 2026

Time: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Eligibility:

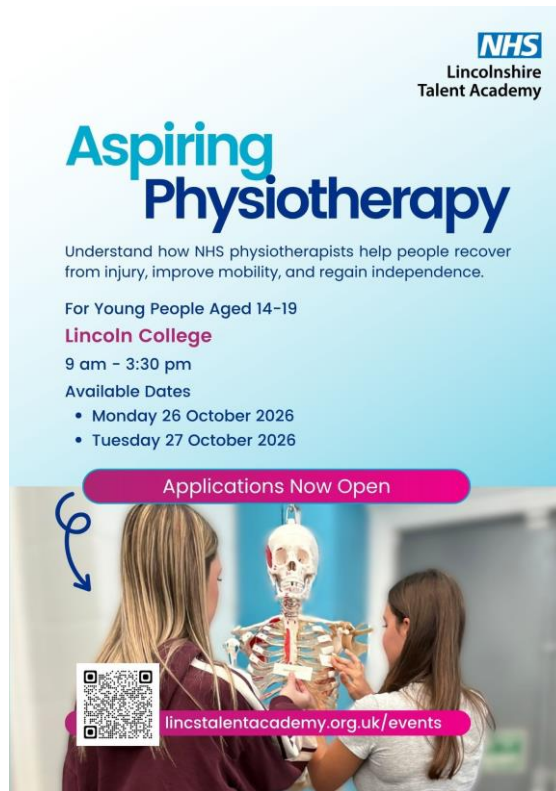
Applicants must:

- Be aged 14-19 on the day of the event
- Live in Lincolnshire or be educated within the county

How to Apply

Students can learn more and apply by visiting: <https://lincstalentacademy.org.uk/events/>

Could students please let me know if they apply and gain a place.



Aspiring Occupational Therapy Event in Half Term

The Lincolnshire NHS Talent Academy has opened applications for their Aspiring Occupational Therapy 2026 one-day careers event which offers young people an insight into NHS Occupational Therapy.

The event provides students with the opportunity to learn directly from Occupational Therapy professionals and take part in a range of interactive activities that showcase how Occupational Therapists help people live independently and get back to doing the things that matter most to them.

What students can expect:

- Meet Occupational Therapy professionals and learn about a variety of career opportunities
- Explore specialist equipment used to support patients in everyday life
- Experience simulated activities and case studies that demonstrate how Occupational Therapists help people maintain independence
- Ask questions and gain first-hand insights into studying and working in Occupational Therapy

Event Details

Location: Lincoln College, Monks Road, Lincoln, LN2 5HQ

Date: Wednesday 28 October 2026

Time: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be aged 14-19 on the day of the event
- Live in Lincolnshire or be educated within the county

How to Apply

Students can learn more and apply by visiting:

<https://lincstalentacademy.org.uk/events/>

Could students please let me know if they apply and gain a place.



Aspiring Occupational Therapy

Explore a career that helps people overcome barriers, regain independence, and get the most out of life.

For Young People Aged 14-19
Lincoln College
9 am - 3:30 pm
Wednesday 28 October

Applications Now Open



lincstalentacademy.org.uk/events

InvestIN Insight Days

Please see the link regarding insight days offered by InvestIN. Please note there is a charge for these.

<https://investin.org/collections/insight-days>

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 16th October Fright Night Y7 & Y8

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

Thursday 22nd October Norway trip departs

Thursday 22nd October End of Term 1

Thursday 5th November Y13 Parents' Evening

Friday 6th November Y7 & Y8 Sleepover

Tuesday 10th November SHS Sixth Form Information Evening

Thursday 12th November SGS Sixth Form Information Evening

Wednesday 18th November GCSE Presentation Afternoon 2pm

Wednesday 18th November Maths Kangaroo and Maths Olympiad

Thursday 19th November Y11 Parents' Evening

Friday 20th November Children in Need (non-uniform)

Friday 20th November MFL GCSE Mock orals start

Friday 20th November SHS Choir Performance Spalding

Friday 20th November Sixth Form Bingo Evening

Image credits

Book covers: Amazon

Book group poster: Mrs Lees

Fantasy book group poster: Emilia, Year 12

Other images: click on individual image for info