Spalding High School Weekly Bulletin
12th November 2026

This week from Mrs Anderson, Headteacher

Children in Need Tomorrow and a Fantastic Turnout for Our Sixth Form Information Evening

As we look ahead to a busy end to the week, we would like to remind students and families that Children in Need Day takes place tomorrow, and we will have a non uniform day to raise money for this worthwhile cause. Every contribution, however small, helps make a difference to young people facing challenges across the UK. Thank you in advance for your generosity and for embracing the spirit of kindness, community and support that sit at the heart of both Children in Need and our school values.

This week also saw our Sixth Form Information Evening welcome hundreds of visitors, including current Year 11 students and prospective students from schools across the local area. The event provided an opportunity for students and families to explore the wide range of A Level courses available, speak directly with subject specialists and subject prefects and find out more about the academic and enrichment opportunities offered through Spalding High School Sixth Form.

Visitors were able to learn about the School's strong academic record, extensive enrichment programme, leadership opportunities and the range of progression routes available after Year 13. Students were also given information about university applications, employment pathways and the

individual support available to help them achieve their ambitions. Spalding High School Sixth Form is proud of its welcoming and inclusive community, attracting students from a variety of schools each year and supporting them to thrive both academically and personally.

Thank you to the staff and student prefects and ambassadors who helped make the evening such a success. It was wonderful to see so many young people taking the next step in planning their future, and we look forward to welcoming the next cohort of Year 12 students in September.

PS:

Well done to our Year 11 Netball Team and Miss Magnus – you have done the School proud all these years!

Well done to Hollie and Abidat too – what amazing achievements!

Winter uniform

Please may we remind you that winter uniform is now to be worn until after the Easter break - this means ties and button up collared shirts for Years 7 to 11 inclusive.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Student of the Week

Staff Name	Student Name	Student Form	Reason
Mrs Spinks	Amelie Dodsworth	7C	Mathematics
Mr Fovargue	Ruby Bird	7N	Computer Science
Mrs Dowson	Martha Pharro	7S	English
Mrs Spies	Amy Urbanavicius	7S	Community
Ms Bubsy	Emily Haselgrove	7S	Food and Nutrition
Mr Ganger	Carly-May Still	8N	Mathematics
Mrs Lee	Julia Laskowska	8N	German
Mrs Wilkins	Hallie Jeffery	8N	Art
Miss Parker	Anaya Fatima	8S	Physical Education
Mrs Busfield	Hadiyah-Zainab Kurji	9C	Biology
Mrs C Lord	Lily Jessop	9N	Form
Mrs Nowak	Darcy Skinner	9N	Mathematics
Mrs T Waldron	Beau Skinner	9N	Biology
Mrs Martindale	Gabriele Ojimba	10C	Biology
Mr Murphy	Alex Murawska	10J	Chemistry
Mr Wright	Maya Pahal	10N	Biology
Mrs Aurikko	Jessica Smyth-Wood	10N	Chemistry
Mrs Neal	Sithuli Marasinghe	10N	Art
Mrs Schwarz	Eunice Kei	10P	Textiles
Mr Hempsall	Georgia Bailey	11C	History
Mrs Bushell	Nicole Kot	11C	German
Mrs J Lord	Divine Isaac	11C	English
Miss Rossouw	Ryan Sutherill	12FM	Psychology
Miss Ashley	Karolina Gren	12KM	Mathematics
Mrs Jones	Evie-Mai Latronico-Ferris	12KM	Classical Civilisation
Mrs Gregory	Loma Mlunjwa	12NG	Community
Mrs Schwarz	Sophie Smith	13EO	Outlook Expedition
Mrs Smith	Zara-Jayne Odell	13EO	Community
Mrs Smith	Grace Bushell	13EO	Community
Mrs Smith	Sophie Smith	13EO	Community
Mrs Bennett	Olivia Winter	13FD	Community
Mrs Bennett	Caitlin Loasby	13LM	The Duke of Edinburgh's Award
Mrs Smith	Yomola Oyinloye	13LM	Community
Mrs Bennett	Erin Williams	13SC	Geography

Please find here the nominations for Student of the Week for the week commencing 2nd November 2026. Nominations can be made by both teaching and support staff and can be subject related or community focused.

Sports News

Year 9 netball

The Year 9 netball team have enjoyed two victories in their recent fixtures against Bourne Academy (BA) and University Academy Long Sutton (UALS).

The students first faced Bourne Academy on Monday 19th October, coming away with a 7-4 victory in the league fixture. The match was split into two games, with the first half counting as the league fixture before the students played against Bourne Academy's B team in the second half. This gave the players another opportunity to challenge themselves by playing in unfamiliar positions. Despite being out of their usual roles, the players adapted brilliantly, showing flexibility and a willingness to try something new. Congratulations to Year 9 Netball captain Elle, who was named Players' Player.

The team then took on University Academy Long Sutton on Wednesday 4th November, securing a 17-3 win. The match was played in excellent spirit, with both teams showing great sportsmanship throughout. The players worked hard across the court, showing great attacking and defensive play. Once again, they were challenged to play in unfamiliar positions, but adapted brilliantly, showing great versatility and a willingness to step outside their comfort zones. Congratulations to Cimmy and Elle, who were named 'Players Player'.

Two games, two wins - a brilliant effort from all the students! Well done, Year 9!

Miss Jones





It was fantastic to see both the Year 8 and Year 10 netball teams back on court representing SHS against Spalding Academy.

The Year 8 team worked hard and showed some great passages of play. They defended well and continued to battle throughout the game. However, they found it challenging at times to move the ball successfully into the attacking third and create scoring opportunities. Despite the result not going their way, there were plenty of positives to take away and build on for their next match.

The Year 10 team also put in a strong performance, demonstrating excellent teamwork and determination. Their hard work paid off as they secured a well-deserved 25-6 win.

A great effort from both teams - well done, girls!

Miss Magnus





U16 ESFA National Cup

On Wednesday 4th November the Under 16 football team played their Round 3 English Schools FA National Cup game against Soham Village College. It was certainly a game of two halves, as we found ourselves heading into the break 2-0 down despite enjoying the majority of possession and controlling large spells of the first half. We moved the ball well and created some promising opportunities, but unfortunately lacked that all-important final touch in front of goal. Despite our dominance, we couldn't find a way past the opposition goalkeeper, while the opposition made their opportunities count at the other end.

However, we came out for the second half with renewed purpose and determination. Continuing to dominate possession, we finally started to turn that pressure into goals. Much more clinical in the final third, we began to take our chances and were rewarded for our persistence, finding the back of the net on FIVE occasions.

There were lots of positives to take from our attacking play, especially in the second half, where we showed what we're capable of when we are more clinical in front of goal. Outstanding performances from Lexi and Darcy secured the win, with Lexi netting a hat-trick and Darcy finding the top corner with two great goals to secure a 5-2 scoreline. A real team performance with other notable performances from Milly and Laila. Well done to Ella and Ava for stepping up to play in goal with Katie out injured.

Miss Magnus



House Benchball

In the last week of term, years 7-10 competed in the house benchball tournament. It was a fantastic display of teamwork, motivation, and friendship. A huge congratulations to the following forms who won their respective year groups tournament:

7C, 8P, 9C, and 10N

Well done to all students who participated. The results table is available below. We look forward to our next event – house dodgeball – which will take place in the last week of term before Christmas!

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1st	C	P	C	N	N
2nd	J	C	N	P	
3rd	P	J	S	S	
4th	S	N	J	C	
5th	N	S	P	J	











Y11 Netball v Spalding Academy

A perfect way to finish five years together! 🏐🏐

What could potentially be our final Year 11 netball fixture ended in the best possible way, with a convincing **15–9 victory** against a Spalding Academy team we have struggled to get the better of over the last four years.

The result itself was fantastic, but what made it even more special was seeing just how far this team has come. Five years of hard work, determination, learning and growing have developed into a team that plays with such confidence, understanding and cohesion. The improvement in every player, both individually and as a team, has been incredible to watch.

After the game, we spent some time reminiscing over old Year 7 photos, laughing at how much everyone has changed and remembering where it all began. There were even a few players who decided that perhaps they'd quite like to go back to Year 7 and do it all again!

It really has been an absolute pleasure to coach this team over the last five years. Watching them grow, not just as sportswomen and fantastic netballers, but as people, has been one of the most rewarding parts of the job.

They are a team of genuinely lovely, kind, and hilarious young women who have made staying after work for their fixtures feel like a pleasure.

Whatever comes next, I hope they are as proud of themselves as I am of them. The scoreline was a brilliant way to finish, but the friendships, memories, progress and team spirit built along the way are what they will all look back on for years to come.

Miss Magnus



Library News

National Non-Fiction November

We are spotlighting and celebrating non-fiction this month in the library. The National Literacy Trust report that reading and exploring non-fiction for students "plays a vital role in helping them to learn about their world, as well as fostering reading for pleasure".

We currently have an engaging selection of information books on display covering a diverting and intriguing range of topics from geopolitics to fake law, Windrush to the impact of our shopping habits.

The Week Junior and The Week

Both of these publications are available in the Library and are essential reading for an inquiring mind.

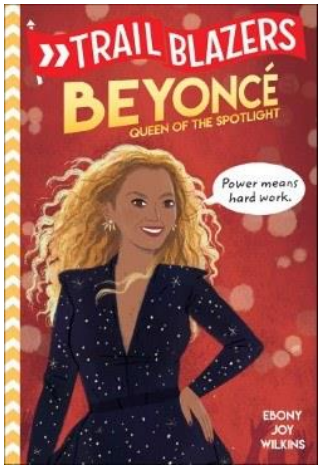
Happy Reading

Miss O'Sullivan and Mrs Lees





Book Reviews



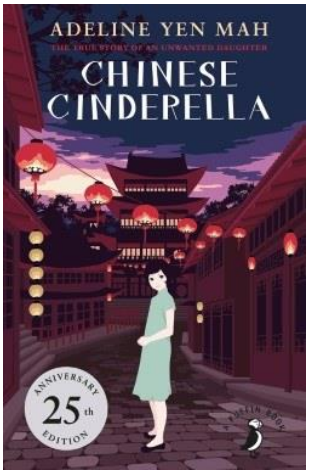
Trail Blazers: Beyonce Queen of the Spotlight

This book about Beyoncé starts from her being a young girl in Huston with a musical talent, to her becoming a global pop sensation.

I would recommend this book for ages 11-14 because it has some quite easy content to understand, but I would also recommend it to people with an interest in the music industry or Beyoncé's music in general.

My favourite part of this book was reading about some of the stories behind her hit songs and I also enjoyed learning about her first girl bands.

Martha 9N



Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah

An amazing read! The book tells the real life story of a young girl who is a clever student, pushing for the top spot among her classmates, though unfortunately she's made to work like Cinderella. I enjoyed this book because it gives a window on to a life so much like a well-known fairy-tale but in real life. This book opened my eyes to a different country and culture, and made me realise what some people are made to do and how they are less fortunate than others. I would recommend this book to anyone looking for a good book with an interesting main character and an easy to follow storyline. If you are looking for a true story that is as action packed as a novel then this is the book for you!

Ada 10J

Celebrating the Individual: Hollie, Year 9

Hollie entered the Junior Wedding Cake category at Cake International and we are absolutely thrilled to announce that she has been awarded silver, securing 2nd!

What an incredible achievement! So much time, hard work, dedication, patience and perseverance have gone into creating her entry. There have been countless hours of planning, practising, learning, perfecting the tiniest details and overcoming challenges along the way.

To see all that effort recognised on such a fantastic platform is just amazing. Cake International is such a huge event, bringing together so much talent, and to come away with a Silver award is something Hollie should be incredibly proud of.

It’s not just about the finished cake, but all the determination, passion and commitment that has gone into getting to this point. Every bit of hard work has paid off!

We are beyond proud of Hollie! 👏👏

Hollie's mum

Hollie has worked so hard and we are so proud of her - well done Hollie!

Mrs Neal





Celebrating the Individual: Abidat, Year 11

Abidat in Year 11 has won second prize in the Lincolnshire Schools Poetry Competition.

Congratulations Abidat!

Careers News

Oxbridge Presentations

Last Friday we were pleased to welcome to school Ellie from the school outreach team at Christ's College, Cambridge, to present to students in Years 11 and 12 about applying to the University of Cambridge or the University of Oxford. Ellie talked about A Level subject choices, life studying at highly competitive universities, super-curricular and extra-curricular activities, job prospects after graduation and much more.

The presentation slides are available in the Year 11 and Year 12 Careers Teams for all students to access.

Work Experience – Year 10 and Year 12

Students in Year 10 and in Year 12 should now be actively looking for work experience placements. Students should speak to me or Mrs Lambe if they require any additional help.

If students need to phone employers during the school day, I can arrange for them to use the phone in my office.

Futures for All – Youth Council 2027

Futures for All is a social mobility charity, dedicated to levelling the playing field for all young people in state education by providing fully funded and free-to-access virtual work experience and speakers for schools programmes.

Futures for All is now recruiting for their 2027 Youth Council representatives. Students aged 15-17 are invited to apply to share their insights regarding careers education and future careers.

Full details can be found in the link below and the flyer.

Youth Council | Young Social Mobility Leaders | Futures For All

If any students apply and gain a place, could they please let me know.



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

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 13th November Children in Need (non-uniform)

Friday 13th November Disco Y8 and Y9 (re-arranged date - event postponed from summer)

Wednesday 18th November GCSE Presentation Afternoon 2pm

Wednesday 18th November Maths Kangaroo and Maths Olympiad

Thursday 19th November Y11 Parents' Evening

Friday 20th November MFL GCSE Mock orals start

Friday 20th November SHS Choir Performance Spalding

Friday 20th November Sixth Form Bingo Evening

Tuesday 24th, Wednesday 25th, Thursday 26th November Christmas Craft Fair

Tuesday 24th, Wednesday 25th, Thursday 26th November Year 7 Form Tutor / Parents' Meeting

Friday 27th November Y7 Christmas Tree competition

Monday 30th November - Friday 11th December Y11 and Y13 mock exams

Friday 4th December Bring a Tin Day

Friday 4th December Y7 and Y8 Disco at SHS, PFA Bingo at SGS

Monday 14th December Christmas Concert

Thursday 17th December Church Christmas Service - morning

Thursday 17th December A Level Presentation - afternoon

Friday 18th December End of Term 2

Tuesday 4th January Start of Term 3


SCHOOL
BASKETBALL
TRIALS
YEAR 7–9
U14 TEAM
TO COMPETE AT TOURNAMENT ON
2ND DECEMBER
COME AND
GIVE IT A GO!
SHOW YOUR SKILLS
WORK AS A TEAM
REPRESENT OUR SCHOOL
Wednesday
25th
November
3.45-5.15pm
Pupils to be collected from Matmore Gate car park at 5.15pm.


BINGO
NIGHT
Spalding High School
21
45
20 November
6:00-8:00
PM
7
3
BINGO DABBERS ARE AVAILABLE TO
PURCHASE ON THE NIGHT
Maximum 6
people per table
£4 per person
Each ticket includes
1 free refreshment
Bring anyone!
Everyone is
welcome.
Raffle also
available


Parent Friend Association
PFA
Inspire . Challenge . Enrich
PFA Association
Christmas
BINGO
7
18
24
5
Raffle also available
2026
4th December 2026
Watch this space for more details


Spalding High School
A Winter Concert
Monday 14th December
7:00pm
Tickets - £6
Available on ScoPay

Specialist T eaching Team
Inclusion Team

Dyslexia Outreach

Study Skills and Revision Strategies

A free online workshop for secondary-aged students and their families



Open to anyone preparing for GCSEs or A-Levels as well as any secondary students, from Year 7 onwards, who would like ideas on how to better retain and organise learning.

Wednesday 2nd December
7:00–8:00pm

If your child would liketoattend, please email
Dyslexia Outreach
dyslexiaoutreach@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

Survey - Mental Health and Wellbeing

A local mental health charity, Don't Lose Hope, are conducting a small research project exploring how the news affects our mental health and wellbeing, particularly among young people.

They have asked us to share the link below with our students - please click on the link to take the short survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XH2R6F6

Free Online Safety Q&A Events for Parents

The Stay Safe Partnership, led by Lincolnshire County Council, have provided the following information:

Are you a parent who is concerned about what your child may be experiencing online? Would you like to feel more confident in supporting them to stay safe?

A series of free events have been organised giving parents and carers the opportunity to get their questions answered on a raft of online safety issues, including age-appropriate apps, online trends, parental controls, social media, and more.

The online events will be hosted by experts from Lincolnshire County Council's Stay Safe team. Two sessions will take place in December online, through Microsoft Teams. Tickets are free but places need to be booked in advance.

Online Safety Q+A for parents of primary school aged children - 1st December 2026, 6pm to 7.30pm. Book your place https://www.tickettailor.com/events/staysafepartnership/2476488

Online Safety Q+A for parents of secondary school aged children - 9th December 2026, 6pm to 7.30pm. Book your place. https://www.tickettailor.com/events/staysafepartnership/2476657



Release of Grand Theft Auto 6

You may be aware that **Grand Theft Auto VI (GTA 6)** is scheduled for release on **19 November 2026** and is expected to be one of the most talked-about video games among young people this year. As part of our commitment to keeping children safe and supporting their wellbeing, we would like to share some information to help families make informed decisions.

GTA games are intended for adults and are expected to carry an **18-age rating**. This means the content is designed for people aged 18 and over and may not be suitable for children and young people. This classification is not based on difficulty or complexity of gameplay, but on the presence of content considered unsuitable for under 18s. The game is expected to contain themes that may include:

- Realistic violence and criminal activity.
- Strong and offensive language.
- Drug and alcohol use.

- Sexual and adult themes.
- Mature online interactions and user-generated content.

Large entertainment releases can have a significant cultural impact among young people. Children may encounter this content directly through gameplay or indirectly through videos, livestreams, social media clips, and conversations with peers and family members, even if they do not own the game themselves. Some young people can find such content upsetting, confusing, or influential, particularly where they have not yet developed the maturity to understand and critically evaluate the themes being presented.

We recognise that gaming is an important hobby and social activity for many young people. Our aim is not to discourage gaming or create unnecessary concern, but to support families and children in making safe, healthy well-informed and age-appropriate choices.

Gaming is a normal and enjoyable part of many young people's lives, and we recognise that students will be talking about GTA VI when it launches. However, because the game has been designed for adults, we encourage parents and carers to take an active interest in the content their children are accessing, have open conversations about what they see online and make use of age ratings and parental controls where appropriate.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our young people safe, healthy and ready to learn. As always, we encourage families to contact the school if they have concerns about online safety, gaming habits, wellbeing, or any safeguarding matter. If you are interested in further support information, please see the information below.

On Line Safety - A Practical Checklist for Parents/Carers

1. Know What Your Child Is Watching

Many young people who do not play GTA VI will still watch others playing it. Consider:

- Asking which gaming channels, streamers or content creators they follow.
- Asking what games they are playing and who with.
- Occasionally watching some content with them so you understand what they are seeing.
- Be aware that clips shared on TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram and YouTube Shorts may contain mature content.

2. Have Open Conversations

One of the best safeguarding tools available to parents is simply talking to their child. You might ask:

- What do you know about GTA VI?
- Why are people excited about it?
- Have you watched any videos about it?
- What do you think about the age rating?

Try to keep conversations curious rather than confrontational. Children are often more willing to share experiences when they feel listened to rather than judged. Open conversations are often more effective than outright bans.

3. Consider Whether the Content Is Appropriate

Every young person is different and parents know their children best. Questions worth considering include:

- Is my child mature enough to understand the adult themes in the game?
- How do they normally respond to violent or mature content?
- Are they likely to discuss anything they find upsetting or confusing?

Age ratings exists to help families make informed decisions about age-appropriateness.

4. Encourage Healthy Sleep Habits

Major game launches often generate excitement and can lead to late nights. Children and teenagers benefit from consistent sleep routines and to support this, together with wellbeing and learning:

- Agree sensible screen-off times during the school week.
- Encourage devices to be charged outside bedrooms overnight where appropriate.
- Talk about the importance of sleep for mood, concentration and school performance.
- Monitor late-night gaming and online activity; even a few late nights can have a noticeable impact on focus and learning.

5. Use Parental Controls

Most consoles, phones and gaming platforms include parental controls that allow you to:

- Restrict age-rated content.
- Control purchases and downloads.
- Set screen-time limits.
- Manage online communication features.
- Monitor gaming activity.These tools can be helpful even for older teenagers.

6. Talk About Online Safety

If your child is engaging with gaming communities online, remind them:

- Never share personal information.
- Be cautious about who they communicate with.
- Report inappropriate behaviour or upsetting or inappropriate content.

- Speak to a trusted adult if something online makes them uncomfortable.

7. Watch for Changes in Routine

Most young people will enjoy gaming responsibly. However, it may be worth checking in if you notice:

- Regular tiredness or significant changes in sleep patterns
- Reduced interest in other hobbies
- Increased irritability when not gaming
- Spending excessive amounts of time online

These changes are often best addressed through conversation and agreed boundaries.

UK Safeguarding and Online Safety Resources

Parents and carers can access the following trusted organisations for advice, support and practical tools to help keep children safe online. These resources are particularly useful if your child is interested in GTA VI, online gaming, livestreams or gaming-related social media content.

□□ UK Safer Internet Centre

The UK's leading online safety partnership provides guides for parents, age-specific advice, gaming guidance, social media information and conversation starters to help families discuss online safety.

Website: https://saferinternet.org.uk

Useful topics include:

- Gaming and games consoles
- Screen time
- Livestreaming
- Social media safety
- Reporting harmful online content
- Family conversation guides

NSPCC Online Safety Hub

The NSPCC offers practical advice for parents on online safety, gaming, social media, parental controls and supporting children's online wellbeing. It also provides guidance on discussing difficult topics and responding to concerns.

Website: https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

Key resources:

- Online gaming advice

- Screen time guidance
- Online wellbeing
- Age-appropriate technology use
- Parental controls

NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000

CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection)

If a child experiences unwanted online contact, grooming, exploitation concerns or behaviour that makes them feel unsafe, reports can be made directly to CEOP. CEOP is part of the National Crime Agency.

Website: https://www.ceop.police.uk

Use CEOP if:

- An adult has contacted a child online inappropriately.
- You are concerned about online grooming.
- A child feels threatened or exploited online.

Childline

Children and young people can access confidential support about anything that worries them, including online experiences, gaming concerns, bullying or inappropriate content.

Website: https://www.childline.org.uk

Telephone: 0800 1111

Internet Matters

Internet Matters provides easy-to-follow family guides covering:

- Video games
- Social media
- Device settings
- Screen time
- Parental controls
- Digital wellbeing

Website: https://www.internetmatters.org

When Should Parents Seek Support?

Please seek support if you notice:

☐Significant sleep disruption affecting attendance or learning

☐Exposure to violent, sexual or otherwise age-inappropriate content

☐Online bullying or harmful interactions linked to gaming platforms

☐Excessive gaming affecting wellbeing or family relationships

☐Sudden changes in mood, behaviour or emotional wellbeing

☐Any safeguarding concern relating to online activity

The most effective online safety tool remains an open and ongoing conversation with your child. Knowing what they play, watch and discuss online, and maintaining clear expectations around sleep, screen time and age-appropriate content, can significantly reduce risk and support their wellbeing

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