



# Spalding High School

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**Headmistress Mrs M Anderson B.Ed**

21<sup>st</sup> July 2020

Dear parents, carers and students,

Here we are at the end of the academic year, and what a year it has been. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to our wonderful students, parents and staff. Without the support, commitment and hard work of everyone involved, this academic year would have been even more challenging than it has been. As I have said in a number of letters over recent months, we are all very grateful for the efforts our students have maintained whilst working from home and the support that parents have given during this time. I would also like to publicly thank the staff for their efforts too. We have been presented with events that none of us could have imagined at the start of the academic year and I think that everyone involved with the High School has risen to those challenges, so again, thank you and well done.

Work will continue over the summer to ensure that we are ready to welcome back all of our students. It has been very positive having Years 10 and 12 in school this term and being able to focus on the core purpose of teaching and learning. We are all very much looking forward to seeing everyone in September.

### **The School Calendar:**

The School Calendar is now on the school website. You will notice that it looks very different to normal. Under the regulations for September, there are many functions and events that at the moment we are unable to run. We are hopeful that this will change (for the positive) as the year progresses and intend to issue termly updates to the school calendar that respond to the Covid regulations in place at that time. Many of the more significant events have been allocated dates but listed with “to be confirmed” (tbc). This is to ensure the school community have dates in their diaries. We will confirm arrangements or alterations to these published events as they approach. We will also be trialing a number of ways of doing things throughout Terms 1 and 2 (such as Parents’ Evening and our Curriculum Evenings) and will be asking students and parents for feedback so that we can refine the “new normal” as the term progresses.

### **Covid-19 Risk Assessments:**

As per my letter of 17<sup>th</sup> July, these are now all listed in the Covid-19 file on the school website. The student/parental consultation runs until Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July. Practical subject specific risk assessments will be uploaded shortly.

### **The school challenge:**

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the school challenges over lockdown. It has been a pleasure keeping in touch with you through this project since March. Mrs Ray is working on the final results and we will announce the house winner in September. There is however, one more challenge that you might like to get involved in over the summer holidays and so here is our final School Closure Challenge;

“Do Something Good Over the Holidays.” It could be that you do something good like seeing your grandparents or extended family for the first time in ages. It could be that you go somewhere good and have a day out, or a that you have a picnic in the garden. It could be that you, quite literally do something good for someone else; an act of random kindness, a good deed or gesture. You do not have to share the “something good” but you can if you want to. If you send us a picture, we will build a montage of your good things but no pressure if you do not want to.

**Departing staff:**

We have today, sadly said goodbye to Mr Wharmby, who has taught English at the High School for seven years. Mr Wharmby has been an important part of our department and contributed to student progress and love of literature and language during his time at the school. He will be sorely missed by the students, staff and English department. We all wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

I would like to finish by thanking parents and students again, this time for reading the plethora of information we have sent home during the pandemic. I realise some of the letters have been very long and contained a huge amount of information so thank you for your patience and understanding. You will be pleased to know that it is not my intention to maintain the (almost) weekly updates over the summer holidays; I am rather hoping that things will settle down and we can all have a bit of a rest! As explained in my last letter, we will be writing to parents and students in late August with the Year Group FAQs and final arrangements for the start of term. The school enquiries email will be checked on a regular basis but not necessarily daily as we are going to maintain skeleton staffing over the break.

As always, take care and we look forward to seeing everyone in September. Have a safe and restful holiday.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M K Anderson', written in a cursive style.

M K Anderson  
Headmistress