

Spalding High School Newsletter



Term 2 2018

It has been a wonderful term with so much going on (as usual!) but with so much festive spirit too. Year 7 started the festivities off with the annual Christmas tree competition with lots of great home made decorations in house colours. The sixth form have been fantastic in recent weeks (of course, they always are fantastic!) organising the Pantomime.

We have also had another excellent Christmas Craft Market (Thank you Mrs Lees) and Christmas Concert (Well done Mr Garbett). Please do read all the reports that students and staff have written for you in this newsletter; they tell you all about the fantastic things that have gone on this term.

Sadly, today we say goodbye to Mrs Barber our sixth form Administrator, who will be starting a new job at Bourne Academy after Christmas. Our thanks and best wishes go with Mrs Barber, she will be much missed.

Whatever your plans for Christmas, I hope that it is a peaceful and pleasurable break and I wish you a prosperous 2019.

Mrs M K Anderson—Headmistress

Parent Governor Elections

The Governing Body and High School are very grateful that so many parents committed to stand as candidates for the two Parent Governor vacancies. The Governing Body play a crucial role in monitoring standards at the High School and acting as a 'critical friend' in all that the School does.

As you are aware from the Headmistress' letter the voting process has been very robust! The results were counted yesterday and are as follows:

1.	Mr Phil Barks	188
2.	Mr Kris Feaviour	57
3.	Mrs Aga Klatkiewicz	173
4.	Mrs Lyn Luxton	156
5.	Mr John Sootheran	51
6.	Mr Mike Weibel	243

I can therefore confirm that:

1. Mr Mike Weibel
2. Mr Phil Barks

Have been duly voted as Parent Governors with effect from 20/12/18. Congratulations to both Mr Phil Barks and Mr Mike Weibel, we look forward to working with you. Thank you also to all parents who stood for election and those who took the time to vote.

Dr P Gorton—Chair of Governors

My Very Royal Invitation by Georgie Van Dyke

Two years ago, when I was 12, I underwent the same scoliosis surgery that HRH Princess Eugenie had. The surgery is used to correct the curvature of the spine. I now have 2 titanium rods and 17 screws in my spine, keeping my back straight.

Before my operation, my dad had written to the Princess as he knew that she had undergone the same surgery when she was twelve years old. The day before my operation, I received a long, encouraging, hand written reply from her which was so comforting and reassuring. Whilst I was recovering, I decided to write back to Princess Eugenie and thank her for the compassionate message and explain how much it had helped me stay strong and brave.

Alongside the exceptional letter, the reassurance from my amazing surgeon, Mr John Crawford, and the entire team at Nuffield Hospital (especially Sarah Charlton and Sally), really helped me stay brave and be strong throughout my surgery. I only had to stay in hospital for four nights and I grew a staggering 4.5cm and I'm still growing now in the parts of my spine that are not fused together.

Two years later, a letter from Buckingham Palace arrived at my house. My mum was excitedly waiting for me to get home from my piano lesson so that I could open the letter! I still can't quite believe it was an invitation to a royal wedding.

My mum and I didn't have long to find the perfect outfit, book a hotel and prepare for the big day! Before we knew it we were on our way to Windsor! It was an early start for us as we had to be at the castle between 7 and 9 am. Luckily our hotel was close to the chapel, so we had enough time to get ready. We had a reminder set for 6.45am as we had planned to ring Radio 2 as Chris Evans always does a "What are you doing for the first time ever today?" segment. Everyone at Radio 2 sounded so excited by our plans and (whilst in the breakfast room) I got a phone call back from Radio 2 confirming that I was going to be on the show in about 10 minutes time.

It was so exciting, enjoyable and not too nerve wracking, I couldn't wait to go back on the show to speak about the day. Soon after, we jumped in a taxi and drove into Windsor and entered the grounds of the castle. We were given an amazing goody bag with chocolate, shortbreads, a magnet, water and a poncho (which thankfully we didn't need). I was thrilled to find out that our blue wristbands meant that we were allowed into a special area at the steps of the West door which the Bridesmaids, Bridegroom, Bride and her parents arrived at.

We managed to take some incredible pictures and had such a fantastic day, which is an experience I will never forget. I met girls that have had the same scoliosis surgery and got to hear their stories and share mine. Every guest was so lovely and I am sure everyone had such a remarkable day.

I had really hoped the Princess Eugenie would wear an open backed dress and when I first saw her arriving at the steps of the chapel, it was such a special moment. She proved that the scar was something to be proud of and that you should never feel the need to cover it up. I think that by wearing a dress which displayed her scar she has been an inspiration to so many people.

On the way home from the wedding, we had a phone call from BBC Radio 5 Live, who we had given our details to earlier in the day. They asked me and my mum if we wanted to be featured in an interview about the wedding and what the open backed dress meant to me as someone with a similar scar. The interview went so well that we were asked to send some pictures from the day over to them so that they could make a video to be posted online. The video was retweeted by BBC News and is now on their website. We watched the view count creep up and up over the weekend. It now has over 95,000 views! This was so exciting and I was so proud to have my words broadcast across the country.

I also went back on Radio 2 to talk about my day. Speaking to Chris Evans was so fun and exciting.



I am so thankful and privileged to have been invited to such a special occasion. It was an incredible day which I will never forget. It still hasn't sunk in that I was invited to a royal wedding!



Christmas Craft Fayre

The festive season took hold in the Library and English corridor for three lunchtimes at the beginning of December with our annual Christmas Craft Fayre. Over thirty groups or individual students from Year 7 through to the Sixth Form set up stalls, enthusiastically honing their entrepreneurial skills. Creativity was key with Christmas pudding ornaments, Brussels sprout pompom earrings, hot chocolate Santa cones and mini handmade chocolate filled Christmas stockings. Gastronomes could delight with opulent fruit basket raffles, homemade decorated gingerbread and sumptuous brownies amongst the many epicurean treats on offer. The festive and fun atmosphere marked yet another popular and successful fayre; start crafting now for the next one!

Mrs Kirsty Lees

Learning Resource Manager



Children in need 2018

It's been a busy term for the Sixth Form Charity Committee and senior students, organising events in school such as Children in Need and our 5th annual Bring a Tin day for Agape Care food bank appeal.

The events that took place on the 16th of November for Children in Need were a massive success, especially the "Would I Lie to You Staff Edition" which took place at lunchtime in the main school hall and involved seven members of staff and was hosted by two of our Sixth Form students. The tickets sold at 50p each and produced an extremely popular event, seeing all profits donated to Children in Need. A non-uniform day was also organised, where students could wear anything Pudsey related, or something spotty; the committee organised for Children in Need merchandise to be sold at reception, along with some key chains they had made themselves with the help of the DT department. The BBC ran a live showing of their annual duck race, all of the lower school forms participated in a sweepstake for this which contributed to the overall total of £1346.50 raised for Children in Need on the day. Thank you all for your support of this very worthy charity.



Senior Maths Challenge Results 2018

Spalding High School was one of more than 2200 schools competing in the Senior Mathematics Challenge 2018. Congratulations to Upper School and Sixth Form students who achieved a magnificent one Gold, 15 Silver and 17 Bronze Certificates. There were also a further seven students who were within just 1-3 marks of winning a certificate.

The top mark overall was Hannah Harrison in U6WRD with 86. This gained her a Gold Certificate and qualification for the next round, the Senior Kangaroo. Niamh Mulley L6KEL and Tabitha Priestley U6WRD were joint second overall on 82, winning silver certificates and missing out on the next round by just one mark. Best in Year 11 was Emily Bates 11S who achieved a Bronze certificate, and Best in Year 10 was Georgie van Dyke 10S who also won Bronze.

The Senior Mathematics Challenge is aimed at 6th form, but we allow top set Year 10 and 11 to sign up on a voluntary basis. Of these 22 students who are technically 'too young' for this challenge we achieved ten Bronze Certificates – fantastic results.

Mathematical Olympiad for Girls 2018

The Mathematical Olympiad for Girls is a prestigious annual competition which aims to encourage and inspire as many girls as possible to get involved in advanced mathematical problem solving. The MOG paper lasts two and a half hours and consists of five challenging mathematical problems for which full written solutions are required. Top-scoring students are awarded a Certificate of Distinction, and this year we are delighted that three Lower Sixth students achieved this accolade. Congratulations to Emily Wright L6KEL, Briony Christie L6CHA and Ellie Keeble L6KEL.

National Cipher Challenge

Spalding High School had teams and individuals across a range of year groups competing in the National Cipher Challenge, supported by the Mathematics Department and Miss Ashley. The Cipher Challenge is a nationwide, online codebreaking competition which has been running since 2002 and regularly attracts entries from teams at over 700 UK schools and colleges. The top prize is £1000 from GCHQ, presented at an awards ceremony at Bletchley Park (where the Enigma code was broken).

The competition is structured as a series of encrypted messages which tell a story. This year the competitors are trying to unravel the story of the KOM-PROMAT FILES. They must decode secret messages to find out whether a 145-year-old diary could really destabilise our fragile peace with Russia. What does it contain that could be so dangerous? Who wrote it, and why and how was it encrypted?

There are two challenges each week, A and B, and separate overall leader boards for each. Points are awarded for speed and accuracy, with accuracy more important. The challenge gets increasingly difficult as the weeks pass, and at the time of writing the tenth and final challenge is live. Congratulations to the two SHS individuals who made it the furthest this year: Georgie Van Dyke and Hadleigh Devlin, both from 10S. As well as also being our top two students last year, they are currently in joint first place on the NATIONAL leader board this year – the furthest any SHS student has ever progressed.

Foreign Language Leader Awards

On 15th October, the Foreign Language Leaders organised the SHS Culture Fest, in which students from years 8, 9 and 10, as well as the Sixth Form MFL prefects, took part in an evening of languages. The night included an array of poems, sketches and songs, and the French, German and Spanish translation bees were also held as part of the evening. They were judged by our wonderful language department teachers and some special guests, and the awards were given by Mrs Abram who joined us on the evening. There were many themed cakes on sale and a raffle was held, both successful in raising money for the language department and to fund the evening. Overall, it was very enjoyable for everyone involved, and it displayed the talent that the students of our school have in a variety of languages.



Charity Giving at Christmas

Year 9 students at Spalding High School have been busy working on their Reverse Advent Calendars for charity this December. The Reverse Advent Calendar is a simple idea, instead of receiving something every day of advent the focus is on giving something back.

The students chose their charities independently and researched what items would be needed to make a difference. The charities included a local Christian charity called Karis House. Karis House is a life transforming home that gives young women battling with life controlling issues hope and opportunity to change everything. The students proudly presented their box full of essential toiletries to Jenny Tedbury from Karis House in assembly this week. Other charities that will benefit from the calendars are Age UK - 'Give to Give' where the students decided to write Christmas cards and messages to the elderly. The Salvation Army will receive a box of donations, as will Wood Green charity for animals. The Red Box Project and FSCI will also receive donations to help end period poverty and support vulnerable children providing Christmas boxes full of essentials and toys.



We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors, GreenyardFresh and Flamingo, for their continual support.

Design Ventura Semi Finalists

This year our Product Design students entered Design Ventura, a Product Design competition run by the Design Museum in London. In November, we were surprised and delighted to hear their design had been shortlisted in the top ten entries. We were very proud of their achievement as they were up against 270 other school entries with over 14,000 students taking part.

The semi-finals took place on Monday December 10th. Our team of six Year 10 girls took the train to London for the Pitching Event. The day began with a short welcome and presentation, a visit around the museum before lunch and then an opportunity to practice their pitch.



Amongst the semi-finalist judging panel were five high profile designers including Sebastian Conran and Donna Wilson. Our Spalding High School presentation was delivered in the afternoon. The girls were understandably nervous but loved every minute of their three minutes on stage. They all contributed to the pitch in their various roles and feedback from the judges was positive and encouraging.

Students: Ellie Thompson, Lucy Blackbourn, Isobel Pang, Georgie Van Dyke, Weronika Wester, Martyna Czamara.



Latin reading competition

This year 12 students across years 8-12 travelled to Leicester University to take part in the annual East Midlands Latin reading competition. It was a very busy event with many other schools and students keen to articulate



There were 4 different levels we entered into:

Novice: Erin Oakey-Kierman, Issy Ketteringham;
Tia White and Katelyn Parrin

Junior Evie Moyse and Ellie Camm; Evie Merz and
Abi Barks

Intermediate: Aqsa Nasim and Maddie Harris

Senior: Nick Carter and Amelia Quince.

All participants did incredibly well and success went to Maddie Harris in the Intermediate category and Amelia Quince in the Senior category, both achieving third place against many other entrants. They received a book token presented by *Roman Mysteries* author Caroline Lawrence.



The 5th annual Bring a Tin day for Agape Care food bank appeal and our Christmas jumper day collected an impressive 1702 items of food. In the last five years we have donated over 6000 items to the charity who give much needed aid and care to people in and around Spalding. Our Sixth Form would like to thank parents, carers and students for their continued support to this cause and we hope to continue this tradition far into the future.

This is our fifth annual Bring-A-Tin day in support of the Agape Care Food Bank. We encourage the whole school to bring in an item of non-perishable food to donate to the charity. In return the students are able to wear a Christmas jumper/non-uniform for the day. This is such a worthy cause and I am so grateful to everyone who supports the School and this charity, helping those who need it most.

This year the school community donated 1701 items of food to Agape, a new School record; Ben and the Sixth Form Charities Committee organised a fantastic appeal and helped with the collection, counting and delivery of the donations. Today's donations brings our five year running total to over 6,600 items donated.

Thank you to everyone for their donations and generosity.



On a roll with Edwards & Blake

Edwards and Blake have been the School's caterer since 2011 and have made many improvements to the service during that time, adding the popular hot grab and go counters to speed up service and allow the product range to be extended.

Promotions this year have taken us around the world starting with the Chinese New Year celebration in January then food from Italy, Mexico and Brazil. More recently Hallowe'en was marked with a ghoulish menu we will end the year with two days of Christmas lunches. We hope you were lucky enough to win one of our Lucky Plate or raffle prizes.

This year we introduced the new branded offer "MAKE" which encourages everyone to "MAKE" good choices. The breakfast, break and lunch time menus were all updated which now gives a modern, high street feel to our food.

In 2019 you will see more changes with the introduction of new breakfast lines such as a Blueberry Bircher (a chilled fruity oat pot) and hot porridge with cinnamon and honey. There will also be new hot wraps at breakfast to set you up for the day! Our lighter mid-morning range will include a Brunch Wrap filled with omelette, oven baked hash brown and chopped bacon and sausage or for vegetarians – omelette, hash brown and mushrooms. We will also serve Brunch Pots one of which will be filled with baked beans, toast and a freshly poached egg. Watch out for our new posters advertising these new lines.

You will also see out new our new "Price Buster" range with everything selling at either 99p or 55p.

We plan to work with the School Council in 2019 and will start with a comprehensive survey across all years to find out what else you would like from your catering service. In the meantime, Nicki (our Chef Manager) and her team are always pleased to hear your feedback and suggestions.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year from everyone at Edwards and Blake.



South Lincolnshire Schools Trampolining Competition

On Wednesday 7th November, the High School KS4 trampolining team made up of years 9 and 10 went to compete at the South Lincolnshire Schools Trampolining Competition in Bourne. All pupils performed exceptional routines across all categories. In the advanced group, Chloe Voak came 4th narrowly missing 3rd place and in the elite group, Kiera Gordon came 3rd and Jessica Ringsell came 1st, wowing everyone with her voluntary routine.

Overall after combining the top four scores from all schools, Spalding High School came 1st, bringing home the trophy for another year. Well done to all those who competed.



Dates for your Diary

20th December	End of Term 2	23rd January	Y9 Option Talks begin
	Christmas Holiday	28th January	Y9 Options Fair
7th January	Start of Term 3	29th January	School Production
	Y11 Mocks begin	30th January	School Production
9th January	Y9 Bletchley Park Trip		Y12 Geography Assessed Field Trip
10th January	Sixth form Drama Trip	31st January	School Production
11th January	Y7 Art Gallery Trip	1st February	School Production
14th January	Y13 Mocks begin		Y12 Geography Trip Return
	PTA Film Club @ 4:15pm	6th February	Y9 Parent's Evening
18th January	Y11/Y13 Mocks end	7th February	Intermediate Maths Challenge
21st January	Y12 Taster Day	8th February	PTA Family Quiz Night @ 6:30pm
22nd January	Y9 Options Evening	15th February	Ski & Classic Trips Depart
			End of Term 3