

SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Term 2

Is it just me or does Christmas seem to have crept up on us this year without much warning? I am staggered that here we are at the end of Term 2, the longest full term of the year and the time has just flown by. I think perhaps everyone has been focused on the School production of the Sound Of Music three weeks ago (and wasn't it absolutely fantastic?!) and not really looking much past that and then the week after the production, there we were in December!

The two beautiful Christmas trees went up in Reception and the School Hall on the 1st of December (thank you to Baytree) and were artistically decorated by the Sixth Form Prefect Team (thank you ladies and gents; you have done a sterling job) and certainly make the School feel far more festive. Year 7 have also added to festivities with their house themed decorated trees from the Year 7 Christmas Tree Competition which are now located at various prominent locations around the School.

The School production of The Sound Of Music has been the highlight of the term. All of the students acted, played and sang so well and with the help of the Drama, Music and Art Departments (and all of the other staff/stage crew involved) put on a wonderfully professional production. This week we have the Staff Pantomime and I'm sure that will be just as good (!)

I want to also say **Thank You** to the students, parents and staff for their wonderful charitable donations over the last few weeks. In November, a team of students across the year groups worked with Mrs Lees and Mr Wilson to organise shoeboxes of Christmas presents to be sent across the globe. In December; the Sixth Form Team raised over £400 to buy gifts for children staying in Peterborough Hospital over the festive period and then on Friday last week over 1300 cans and food items were donated to our annual Agape Care "Bring a Tin" Day. It was truly humbling to see so many items of food, shoeboxes and gifts; thank you again.

TRANSPORT TO GRAMMAR SCHOOL

You will no doubt have seen in the local press that there has been coverage of the Local Authority Scrutiny Review of discretionary transport to grammar schools. I have spoken to the Local Authority and clarified that the Task and Finish Group is responding following a complaint from parents in the centre of the county about the lack of provision of free transport to grammar schools outside of their home Designated Transport Areas. In essence, the county identifies Designated Transport Areas (DTAs), not

all of which have a grammar school (Map Appendix G in the County Transport Policy at <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parents/schools/school-transport/4-16-transport/126363.article>). The assertion from the parents is that the Local Authority should provide free transport from a Designated Transport Area without a grammar school to a Designated Transport Area with a grammar school if the parent chooses to send their child to a grammar school. Spalding High School is within a Designated Transport Area with two grammar schools and so the issue under review does not apply to our DTA.

The Local Authority had previously issued a press statement to the local press:

Councillor Mrs Jackie Brockway, Chair of the Task and Finish Group leading the review, said: "We are meeting with some schools, parent and carer groups, young people and other stakeholders on 9th December, in order to get further views and feedback before looking at future options. No decisions are being made at this time. We intend to consider the feedback fully and in January we will draft options and proposals to take to the Executive."

Please let me assure our parents that should the issue of discretionary free transport to grammar schools in grammar Designated Transport Areas ever come under review, that we will of course campaign and lobby proactively to protect such a vital provision and service.

NEW BUS ROUTINE

Routine for boarding buses after school

Following a Health and Safety visit from the School Transport Officer at Lincolnshire County Council, amendments have been made to our procedures for the boarding of buses after school. To improve safety, all pupils will now line up on the grass at the front of the School and wait for their bus to be called. The School staff on duty will only allow four buses to load at a time. The four buses will be parked in front of the School in the designated area. School staff will then call pupils who are waiting on the grass area at the front of School; they will then load each vehicle in the order that they are waiting (1-4). Once all four buses have loaded, staff will allow the vehicles to leave the site. The member of staff will then usher the next four vehicles waiting in the queue and load accordingly. This process will then be followed for all of the remaining buses.

The new system was put into effect on Monday 23rd November and, despite some initial teething problems, all duty staff feel that it is safer and the system is now running smoothly. Pupils have been reminded on several occasions that they are not to walk up Stonegate to board buses and sixth form students should also only board buses directly outside of the School in the four bays. A few pupils have reported arriving home later than previously, but there does not appear to be any significant difference between boarding times under the new system and safety has to be our primary concern. All pupils can help to ensure a quick exit onto the buses by leaving school promptly at 3.45 and lining up quickly and sensibly on the grass. Parents can help us by not parking along Stonegate or trying to drive down Stonegate between 3.45 and 4.00pm. All pupils walking home from school also need to be vigilant when crossing the road on Stonegate, the safest place to cross is at the end of the street where there is a traffic island.

LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS

Spalding High School has welcomed German and French Language Assistants to the school. Bianca Ortmann (German) and Cecile Vion (French) will be helping to bring language and culture to life for pupils at the School over the coming academic year. Bianca, who is from Mühlhausen in Germany, joins the School to help teach German as part of the British Council's Modern Language Assistant programme, whilst Cecile Vion is from Paris.



Modern Language Assistants bring up to date language skills and use materials such as news and culture to engage pupils in the language they are learning. As the Modern Language Assistants are often university students or recent graduates themselves, pupils find it easy to relate to them and develop confidence in speaking as a result.

The scheme benefits the language assistant as well as the host school.

Bianca says:

"Being a language assistant in the UK is an excellent way to deepen my knowledge about the country and its culture as well as helping to develop great teaching skills.

I also get an insight into the education system in the UK. It is fantastic to have the opportunity to attend different lessons at a British school, for example I take part in some biology lessons because I am a qualified biology teacher in Germany and it is great to see different teaching methods.

Seeing the pupils' increase their confidence in speaking German is one of the best things for me.

The life as a language assistant here is like a break from reality because I can experience lots of nice things alongside my work within the School. In my free time I have the chance to explore the country. I have already visited Whitby, Windsor, Cambridge and Derby."

Cecile Vion, French assistant, feels that "being a French assistant is a great opportunity. I feel useful and happy to help my pupils to learn about my country. I love sharing my knowledge and my experience to help them improve their French. But what I love most is that it is also a mutual exchange: as I am teaching, they relate to me and tell me a lot about themselves and about their culture."

Students at the High School are equally happy to be working with Bianca and Cecile. Sixth Form students Megan Holland and Amy Wilson commented, "It is a great way to practise pronunciation and speaking skills in a more relaxed environment" and "Having a language assistant means that we have a great way to learn on a one to one basis, which builds confidence and develops our understanding. It also means we get to learn more about the culture of our language from someone who has experienced it their whole lives"

While Year 11 student Annie Lister said, "In my opinion the German assistant is very valuable to us as GCSE students. Through speaking to somebody who is fluent in the language and colloquialisms we learn pronunciation and grammar rules without the structure of the classroom. It is very positive."

ARKWRIGHT ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP

Spalding High School Lower Sixth student Maisie Dobbs is celebrating after being awarded an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship Award. The Arkwright Scholarships Trust is a registered charity that administers the most prestigious scholarship scheme of its type in the UK.

Through identifying, inspiring and then nurturing Year 11 students the scheme aims to encourage students to pursue Engineering or Technical Design at university or through a higher-level apprenticeship and to take up careers in the field. An almost year long process has seen Maisie sit an aptitude exam, followed by an interview stage at Loughborough University. Maisie and her family recently attended the award ceremony in London where

she received her award from Naomi Climer (the first female president of the Institution of Engineering and Technology).



Maisie has been partnered with Rolls Royce which she is 'delighted' with as she wishes to study aeronautical engineering. Alongside a week long work experience in the summer she also receives £600 to aid her with her engineering studies and Spalding High School receives £400 for the Design & Technology department. Maisie has been supported in her application by Head of Design & Technology, Jason Martindale.

SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE AND CIPHER SUCCESS

Spalding High School students are celebrating success in maths, having performed exceptionally well in two national competitions.

Year 11 student Josie Periam gained a Gold certificate in the recent United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Senior Challenge, with a fantastic mark of 83. The Senior Challenge is aimed at all Year 12-13 students studying mathematics in England and Wales. The challenge involves answering 25 multiple choice questions in 90 minutes and is sat in school under normal exam conditions. However, this year the school were allowed to enter lower year students as well, making their achievement even more exceptional. 87 students signed up to spend a voluntary hour and a half sitting a maths exam, producing some excellent results.

Alongside Josie's Gold, Silver certificates were awarded to Year 13 student Abbie Spinks and Year 10 student Anagha Gijo. Of 87 entries (25 of which were from Year 10 and 11) the High School achieved one gold, six silver and 31 bronze.

Keen maths students have also entered teams in the National Cipher Challenge. Over 700 schools both from the UK and as far afield as Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong and Hawaii are competing to decrypt ciphers that uncover a mystery storyline.

The University of Southampton has been running the online code breaking competition for several years now.

So far 27 High School teams, comprising students from all years, have passed the first challenge in a series of eight. The competition is an extension activity running alongside students normal studies and is being approached with great enthusiasm and good natured competitiveness. The challenge finishes in January with a prize giving ceremony at Bletchley Park, home of the Enigma.

NESTA COMPETITION

On Tuesday 1st December the two NESTA Longitude Explorer teams travelled to the Copper Box Arena in the Olympic Park to present their final projects, almost a year after first creating their initial ideas. Team 'Just' showcased their solution of using satellite technology and their own electronic device that measures soil quality to



help African farmers to adjust farming techniques in response to climate change. Whilst 'The Inventors' promoted their Sunwatch invention; a device that uses

satellite weather data and UV measurements to keep people safe in the sun. Both teams received excellent feedback from the judges and they all should feel very proud of themselves for reaching the national final for this exclusive STEM competition. Well done, girls!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Spalding High School students have been busy wrapping; they have donated 66 boxes of Christmas presents to Operation Christmas Child. The charity collects donations of shoeboxes filled with Christmas presents to be sent to children who would otherwise receive very little for Christmas.

Year 7 students Ellie and Beckah, helped Mr Wilson, (Food Technology) and Mrs Lees (Learning Resource Manager)

with the organisation and promotion of the event, including a presentation to fellow students in assembly and manning a stall promoting the scheme.



Beckah was keen to take part as “I like to see the end result. I also did it because I know that somewhere else in the world there is another child who has now got hope and joy for the future.”

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

The School held their annual Christmas Craft Fayre last week. Students from all years and staff sold their Christmas crafts over a three day extravaganza. As well as showcasing creative talent, business acumen was very much to the fore as students managed marketing, costing and design.



Organised by Kirsty Lees (Learning Resource Manager) there were fifty stalls selling a variety of handmade crafts including Christmas cards, jewellery, pottery and decorations. In keeping with the Good School Guide



noting the High School’s love of cake there were many homemade cakes and biscuits in evidence. Running alongside the stalls was the Fairtrade Christmas café where hot chocolate and Fairtrade treats could be found.

The Christmas Craft Fayre, now in its seventh year, brings the whole school together and promotes festive cheer whilst raising money for various charities. Kirsty commented that each year sees students developing their creative flair with more and more innovations such as the Year 8 Santa selfie stall

FRINGE FRIDAY

Students enjoyed a packed schedule of arts, drama, dance and music on Friday. Our Arts Mark Gold accredited school continued its commitment to celebrating and promoting high quality arts and cultural education by holding the popular ‘Fringe Friday’.

Students were treated to a preview of the forthcoming Sound of Music production, a pop choir, dance workshops and film shorts with popcorn. Year 11 students entertained with compelling drama performances, whilst around the corridors buskers could be found with popup dance groups and theatre. The art rooms were the scene for Bonfire Night inspired ‘Guy’ making and the creative and potentially very messy ‘Action Painting’ inspired by artist Jackson Pollock. Students produced painted marks whilst on the move using roller skates and scooters amongst other things!

It was an ambitious schedule for a lunch hour, but worth the hard work and preparation as it was highly entertaining and inspiring.

“It’s fantastic to see so much commitment to the Arts coming from the students themselves! ‘Fringe Friday’ always creates such a buzz around school and inspires students to get involved and have fun!”.....

Liz Kelleher - Head of Art.

AGAPE CARE DAY

The School held their annual Agape Care Day, where the whole school come together to support this great cause. Agape are a local charity based in The Lighthouse Pentecostal Church in Spalding. Their aim is to help those in need, with no discrimination, through the giving of food. Everyone in the school donated at least one item suitable for the food bank; in return the students were able to wear a Christmas jumper instead of their usual school jumper. This year we strived as a school to collect even more than we have ever done before and the generosity of the pupils paid off as we managed to collect a grand total of 1271 items as well as raising smiles with the varied styles of festive jumpers!

PE TWITTER

Follow us at: [@SpaldingHigh_PE](https://twitter.com/SpaldingHigh_PE) for all the latest news results and updates from the PE department.



COUNTY NETBALL FINALS

On the 14th of November the School netball team went to county finals in Lincoln. To start the day off we had to play 5 matches in our group first. We won all our matches



apart from one which was a tough match against Queen Elizabeth School in Gainsborough. We were 3-0 up at half time then we slipped and let them back into the game losing 7-6. As we had come 2nd in our group we had to play the team that had come first in the other group which was The Priory LLST. We had a very tough match and everybody gave it their all but we won 8-4 so this meant that we were in the finals and through to regional. But we had an important last match to play which was against Queen Elizabeth School in Gainsborough again. We were really excited and happy, and we knew this was our last match of the day so everybody gave it their all. At half time the score was 3-1 to Spalding High School. We tried to stay calm and play our best netball. The score going into the last minute was 7-8 to them, we kept fighting and going until Milly scored a brilliant goal to level the score at 8-8 the whistle went which meant we

had to play into extra time. We were all nervous but excited. Amy scored a brilliant goal in extra time to take the score to 9-8 to us. We kept possession for a lot of the final, so the score stayed at 9-8. Then the match was cancelled at the change of ends in extra time due to lack of light even though we were winning 9-8. Overall we had a brilliant day with lots of fun.

By Lucy Hull

U13 FOOTBALL



On the evening of Tuesday 1st December the U13 girls football team secured a place in the Lincolnshire County Cup football semi-final after beating QEGS Alford. In a game of two halves the High School dominated play early on and led 3-0 after 40 minutes with goals from Emilia Richardson and Emmy Gittins x 2. However, a strong fight back from QEGS Alford late in the second half meant the last 5 minutes of the game were tense after the visitors scored 2 goals late on. However, the High School finished winners 3-2 and now move into the semi-final stage of the Lincolnshire County Cup Football event. The team beat Giles Academy 9-0 in the previous round of the competition.

KS4 Trampolining



On Wednesday 4th November, 7 pupils from the year 11 GCSE group travelled to The Deepings School for the KS4 Trampolining Competition. For some of them this was their first Trampolining competition, but all the girls worked extremely hard in preparation and performed outstanding routines on the day. Well done to Kate Amess

who came 3rd and Rosie Fresen who came 2nd in the advanced team, which saw the girls finish their routine with a somersault, and finally well done to Katherine Pearl who came 1st in the Intermediate team. Overall the team came 2nd in the whole competition, congratulations to all those who competed.

U14 BASKETBALL

After a successful term of basketball fixtures against local secondary schools the U14 basketball team remain unbeaten in the district basketball competition. As a result the team have been invited to the County basketball finals on 11th January.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable Christmas and a happy and healthy 2016.

M K Anderson



Headmistress

PS: The newsletter is full of important information (as always) but please pay particular attention to the item on transport to grammar schools, the term dates notice and work experience notice. Thank you.

Diary dates: **2016**

Tuesday 5th January

Thursday 14th January

Friday 15th January

Monday 18th January

Friday 22nd January

Wednesday 27th January

Thursday 28th January

Monday 1st February

Tuesday 2nd & Wednesday 3rd February - Y9 Options Fair

Wednesday 10th February

Friday 5th February

Friday 12th February -

Monday 15th February

Thursday 18th February

Saturday 20th February

Monday 22nd February

Term 3 begins

Y11 Mock exams start

Y7 Art trip to Tate Gallery

Y11 Mock exams end

Y12 Mock exams start

Y12 Mock exams end

PTA Bingo - 7.30 m

Y9 Options Evening - 7.00 m

Y9 Options subject talks begin

Y13 Parents' Evening - 4.20 Pm

Y9 Parents' Evening - 4.20pm

Y9 Languages Day

Y7/ 9 PTA Disco - 7.15 - 9.45

Y7/ 9 PTA Disco - 7.15 - 9.45

End of term 3

Ski trip to Italy departs

Art trip to Amsterdam departs

Art trip returns

Ski trip returns

Start of Term 4

Y13 Mock exams start

THE HIGH QUARTERLY

The latest edition of the High Quarterly was published today and can be found on the School website. Enjoy reading all the latest articles by students from every year group in the school.

PARENT PARKING

Could we remind parents to park considerately and safely during the school runs. Please appreciate that our neighbours do need to access their driveways and as such please refrain from parking across them. The front drive of the school and the rear car park are out of bounds for parent parking at peak drop off and collection times due to the volume of pedestrian and vehicular traffic on the school site. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

PARENT SURVEY 2014-15

Please find attached the executive summary report from the parent surveys completed at parents meetings for last academic year. This has been discussed by staff and governors and we would like to stress that your feedback is valued. Thank you for taking the time to complete the surveys.

PARENT GOVERNOR

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. Further details have been sent under a separate email.

Please note that there is an error on the School Calendar.

TERM 4 ends on Thursday 24th March (not Wednesday 23rd) and Term 5 begins on Tuesday 12th April (not Monday 11th). Apologies for any inconvenience.

WORK EXPERIENCE

This will mean that Year 10 will return to school from Work Experience on Thursday 24th March. Their de-brief activities will take place on this day and not P1 Monday 11th April as published on the calendar.