

SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Term 3 2017

Some of you may be familiar with the 6P rule; Prior Preparation and Planning Prevent Possible Problems. This has certainly been the experience of Years 11 and 13 this academic term. Revision and mocks have already started and in our interviews with Year 11 last week it was interesting to hear how much preparation has already taken place and the types of active revision techniques that are being used by students. Year 13 know this too, as they have been preparing for their mocks scheduled for the first week of next term. A minority of students admitted to not having done as much revision as they could have/should have but clearly understood the ramifications of this on their mock results. Revision is a tool and one that is best deployed some 10-12 weeks prior to the actual examination series, be it mocks, GCSEs, A levels or even the school exams. It is not something that can be done the week or night before which is why I think the 6P rule is especially important to students at this time of the year. Revision is a marathon, not a sprint. Better to revise bite size chunks over the next few months than cramming everything into the last few weeks. Anyone who has put their keys down and then forgotten where they put them or looked at a test and thought to themselves "I only read this last night - how can I not remember anything this morning" has experienced how fickle and unreliable our short term memory is. Our students work so hard over the year that it would be a great shame to not be fully prepared for the last hurdle.

It has not been all work and no play this term though! We had an excellent PTA bingo night with over one hundred adults and children joining us for a thoroughly enjoyable evening (Thank you to the PTA). We are also looking forward to the PTA Race Night on March 10th. Rehearsals are underway for the school production of The Wizard Of Oz and it has been a pleasure to see so many students involved in the show. Tickets are on sale from the School Office. Our Bags2School campaign was also a big success and the Sixth Form Committee are now planning our next charitable drive for Red Nose Day (you will be able to buy your red noses from school after the holidays) and then today we have waved off the school trips to Bormio and Rome, with Berlin leaving on Sunday.

MODERN LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS

The School has welcomed French and German Language Assistants. Ghaniya Zarouk and Gabriela Hirt will be helping to bring language and culture to life for pupils at the school over this academic year.

Ghaniya who comes from Mayotte, a French overseas department (DOM) in the Indian Ocean, joins the school



to help teach French as part of the British Council's Modern Language Assistant programme. Gabriela arrives from Kirchberg, SG in Switzerland to assist with German.

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 MLA's are often university students or recent graduates themselves, pupils find it easy to relate to them and develop confidence in speaking as a result. Gabriela is taking part in the programme as "The language assistant programme was the perfect opportunity to venture abroad and experience life as a teacher. My ultimate goal is to become an English and Spanish teacher. Hence being a language assistant I can gain experience for my professional future while improving my skills in English."

Ghaniya says she has always loved English as far back as she can remember. "I was taught by native English speakers when I was in secondary school and I was fascinated by their stories about their history, their culture, their language and this is how it all started. Also because I would like to teach English in the future, it was very important that I spend some time in an English speaking country to become more fluent and get some teaching experience. And what's best to start with if not England?"

Students have been benefiting from the help with Year 11 students Ali Disandolo and Chloe Lees commenting "You never feel as though you are being judged and are encouraged to do your best!" and the "Language Assistants are very supportive and guide you, we all really appreciate their kindness and support."

The scheme benefits the language assistant as well as the host school and both Gabriela and Ghaniya are enjoying the experience. Gabriela commented "So far, my time as a language assistant has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. I learn something new about the English language and culture or about teaching every single day. Furthermore, witnessing the progress of my students and helping them overcome difficulties as they

grow more confident in speaking German makes me feel useful.”

Ghaniya continued: “Since I have started working at Spalding High School, I have learnt a lot, especially from the teachers whose commitment I think is admirable. Students and staff are always very kind and helpful. I particularly enjoy the sessions with students because I am not only teaching but also sharing knowledge about my bi-cultural French-Mahoran background. I think it is very important for them to know that France is not only the country across the Channel but also territories in the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific and that, therefore, it is a country with several facets. I see these sessions as a real exchange because I learn from them as well, not only words and expressions but also about their culture in general.”

BAG2SCHOOL

The School have again organised a clothes, shoes and textiles collection with Bag2School, the UK’s leading textile recycler and fundraiser, in order to raise funds for the School and to help the environment by diverting unwanted textiles away from landfill.

All students and their families from Year 7 to 13 participated. As well as raising funds for the School a recent DEFRA report has shown that textile collection schemes are helping to reduce the volume of textiles discarded as municipal solid waste. However it is a fact that as a nation we still send 350,000 tonnes of textiles to landfill every year. The scheme also helps to raise awareness amongst the children of the benefits of recycling and reuse.

Organisers at the School said ‘We would like to thank our pupils, their families and friends as well as staff for their support in making this School fundraising event successful.’

YEAR 9 BLETCHLEY PARK VISIT

On Monday 23rd January, Year 9 embarked on their visit to the centre of intelligence during the Second World War, Bletchley Park. Their day at the old GCHQ was an excellent one, filled to capacity with tours, workshops and an information hunt. Time was tight but the girls made excellent use of the park and exhibits, learning about



things such as the Bombe machine, the Petard Pinch and code breaking with Enigma.

We had excellent success in the code breaking workshop, defying the time limits and complexity with most groups solving the six required codes before the deadline. The workshops were hives of activity with excellent examples of teamwork, mathematics, logic and computing skill on display.

The girls returned to school with new knowledge, experience and interests as we covered multiple cross-curricular topics such as History, Maths, Computing, Engineering and Social Sciences. A big thank you to all of the staff who gave their time and helped make the day a success.

Get ready Year 8 as this is something we very much hope to repeat next year!

Mr A Fovargue

HISTORY PROJECT 90

As part of their History Project 90 Year 7 students were involved with a 1066 re-enactment. To give students a deeper understanding of the events of 1066 they were tasked with a ‘walk through’ from the Battle of Stamford Bridge, via the Battle of Hastings to the crowning of King William I at Westminster Abbey. As part of the project students were encouraged to design a battle shield for the event, researching their family crest to put on the front of their shield.

Swords, flags, bows and arrows were supplied! A selection of the shields have been donated to the school and are on display in Room 15.

Mr C Bearley



TEN FOR TEN APPEAL

Over the last few weeks, the School has been taking part in the Ten for Ten appeal which was originally launched by Lincolnshire Free Press. It is an appeal to receive 1000 birthday cards for cerebral palsy sufferer Alice Bates. Alice turned 10 on the 3rd February and, as part of her celebration, she made 10 wishes and one of these wishes was to receive 1000 birthday cards. The school’s participation was organised by Alice’s older siblings, who are students at the school. In January Abigail, Alice’s oldest sister, set up a box to act as a post box in the school. Over the weeks, the box was slowly filled and recently reached over 250 cards. A large number of these

cards were given to Alice by Years 7 and 8 with a proportion coming from the rest of the year groups, including the sixth form and staff.



Overall, the appeal achieved over double the original aim which is a huge achievement. The success of this appeal was demonstrated after Alice announced "All these cards make me feel loved" and the students at Spalding

High School should be very pleased with themselves for helping a special girl's birthday wish come true.

U16 FOOTBALL



On Monday 16th January the High School U16 girls' football team were narrowly beaten 3-2 by The Deepings School in the quarter final of the U16 Lincolnshire County Cup football event. The High School, who are current holders of the cup, came from behind on two occasions before narrowly conceding defeat. In a great advert for girls' football, both teams can be very proud of their performances on the night.

Mr L Farrell

BASKETBALL

On 17th January the High School U14 basketball team competed at the inaugural '4 on 4' district basketball competition. After securing victories against University Academy Holbeach, The Thomas Cowley High School and Haven High Academy the team faced The Giles Academy in the semi-final of the event. After a stunning performance by all members of the team the girls



reached the final against Thomas Middlecott Academy. A nail biting final ensued and both teams were so closely matched that at the end of full-time the score was tied. The 'golden basket' scenario ensued and, unluckily for the girls, several missed opportunities allowed Thomas Middlecott Academy to claim the final victory.

Mr L Farrell

YEAR 7 INDOOR FOOTBALL

On Tuesday 24th January the Year 7 indoor football team competed in the regional U12 5-a-side tournament at the Soccerdome, Derby. Following their success at district level in December the girls qualified for this annual event which involved school teams from across the East Midlands region. Playing football against some very strong opposition, the girls made a valiant effort in the group stages of the event being narrowly beaten 3-2 by



The Nottingham School, Nottinghamshire, and 1-0 by the The Woodbrook Vale School before recording a 2-0 victory over the The Ferrers School, Northamptonshire. Although the girls did not get through to the semi-final of the event they can be very proud of their performance; none of the girls had ever played in a competitive game of football prior to this year.

Mr L Farrell

DISTRICT SWIMMING GALA



On Tuesday 31st January a group of Year 7 to 9 students went to the Deepings School for the Annual District Swimming Gala. All girls swam exceptionally well against some tough competition, with both the Year 7 team and Year 8 and 9 teams coming second overall.

Well done to all those involved.

Miss G Pascoe

CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS



On Friday the 20th January the High School team comprising of Emily Richards, Molly Peel and Lottie Hemmings secured a 1, 2, 3 finish at the Lincolnshire Cross Country Championships. Held at De Aston Academy, Market Rasen, Emily Richards finished 1st and Lottie Hemmings finished 3rd in the Year 7 girls category. In the junior girls category Molly Peel finished 2nd. All three girls will now go onto to represent Lincolnshire at the regional cross country championships on 4th February at Abington Park, Northampton.

Mr L Farrell

GYMNASTICS TEAM

On Saturday 4th February, the Spalding High School Gymnastics Team competed at the Regional Schools Floor and Vault competition and the Regional Schools Milano

Team competition. After months of hard work and dedication, all the teams went out and performed some outstanding routines on floor as well as vault, with Hannah Lawrence getting a 15.9, only losing 0.1 for her handspring vault. When the floor and vault results were announced both our U14 and U19 teams were announced as Regional Champions and will progress to represent the East Midlands at the Floor and Vault National Competition in May.



The Milano Team was a new competition we entered this year; girls had to perform a group routine on floor including acrobatic lifts and synchronised movements. After some excellent choreography from the girls, our U19 team were all announced as Regional Champions and will go onto represent the East Midlands at the Milano team National competition in March.

Well done to all the girls who competed.

Miss G Pascoe

A warm 'hello' from the PTA!

At our very successful recent Bingo evening, we raised a fantastic £551, a superb amount of money. Mums, Dads, children of all ages, grandparents and visitors to the school "dabbed" the evening away and won some splendid prizes whilst raising important funds to support the girls at school.

Thank you to everyone who came and contributed to a fun evening.

Our **RACE NIGHT** is to be held on **Friday 10th March 2017** at Spalding High School to which everyone is most welcome.

Save the date! We would be delighted to see you.

Full details available after half term.

Jocelyn Kedzlie PTA Chair

SPRING FAYRE - SEEDS AND CUTTINGS

We will be holding our second annual Spring Fayre on Saturday 6th May. Last year was a tremendous success and raised over £3000 towards the School Council's project to replace and update the school lockers. As you plant your seeds or take your cuttings over the next few weeks please plant a few extra to donate to this year's Spring Fayre.

2015/16 PARENTAL SURVEY RESULTS

The executive summary of the annual parental survey can be found on the school website, Parental area, drop down menu.

Thank you for completing this survey

PARKING REMINDER

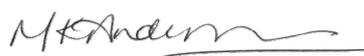
We would like to politely remind parents and students to consider our neighbours when parking either for the duration of the day (students) or for evening events in school; please avoid blocking the local streets or driveways.

THE WIZARD OF OZ

Tickets are now on sale for this year's school production. The performance dates are Wednesday 15th, Thursday 16th and Friday 17th March 2017 and all performances begin at 7.30pm. Tickets can be purchased from the school office, priced at £8 for adults, £5 concessions or a family ticket (2 adults, 2 concessions) £24.

Whatever your plans for the holiday are - enjoy the week.

M K Anderson



Headmistress

DATES FOR DIARY

10 th February	End of Term 3	13 th March	GCSE Orals start
12 th February	Art trip to Berlin departs	15 th - 17 th March	The Wizard of Oz - 7.30pm
14 th February	Classics trip to Italy returns	20 th March	Y10 Work Experience begins
15 th February	Art trip to Berlin returns	21 st March	GCSE Orals end
18 th February	Ski trip to Italy returns	24 th March	Eggstravaganza - 6.30pm
20 th February	Term 4 begins	28 th March	Y8 Parents' Evening
	Y13 Mocks start	30 th March	Y10 Work Experience ends
21 st February	New Sixth Form Taster Day	31 st March	Y10 Work Experience debrief (AM)
24 th February	Deadline for Sixth Form applications		End of Term 4
2 nd March	Y10 Parents' Evening	18 th April	Start of Term 5
9 th March	Y11 & 13 Leavers' Photos	20 th April	Y7 Parents' Evening
10 th March	PTA Race Night - 7.00pm		