



Spalding High School



Weekly Bulletin 01.07.21

There has been much talk in the national press this week about the end of bubbles. At first glance this might seem to describe the geographical zoning of separate year groups that schools have been operating within this academic year. However, read into the media coverage further and it seems it is not actually the end of those bubbles but “isolation bubbles” if a student tests positive for Covid 19. At the High School we painstakingly identify the close contacts according to the definitions used by the Government and have only occasionally isolated a form or year group where we have had multiple positive cases and the number of close contacts has wiped out virtually the whole form/year group and therefore the resultant risk of an outbreak was deemed too high. It is worrying to see the national number of school days being lost by students having to self-isolate, although remote provision has improved enormously since the start of the pandemic. Without the green light on children being vaccinated (dependent upon safety trials and efficacy rates), it seems inevitable that schools will continue to see students missing school because they test positive. It was heartening to read that Government ministers have returned to considering close contacts being allowed into school and being tested daily at the school based Asymptomatic Test Site (ATS). This was first proposed much earlier in the pandemic but then withdrawn. Students and schools are now much more familiar with the testing process and hopefully it will mean that close contacts, providing they test negative, will be able to remain in face-to-face lessons. Over the summer it is our intention to relocate our ATS from Room 23 to Room 6 (the other Food Room) but it does look that schools will be expected to retain an on-site ATS for some time to come. With regards to the year group zoning bubbles, we are planning that these will continue until advised otherwise by the Department For Education. Students operate brilliantly within the bubble system and have continued to respect social distancing between bubbles and students in other year groups and their efforts have made it a lot easier for the staff and School to implement these protective measures effectively. Thank you to everyone for their continued efforts.

Sixth Form Induction Days

It was fantastic to see so many of our current Year 11 students return to the High School for their Sixth Form Induction Days on Monday and Tuesday this week. Current students were joined by a number of students from other schools transferring over to the High School in September. Students spent Monday in taster lessons and meeting sixth form staff and tutors and on Tuesday the year group undertook a Study Skills Day with leading education providers Learning Performance. We look forward to welcoming you all in September as our new Year 12 cohort!

Year 12 Study Skills Day Wednesday 30th June

Our current Year 12 students also benefitted from a study skills day with Learning Performance on Wednesday. Presenters focused on a number of revision and memory strategies such as:

- “A” mapping
- Loci
- Peg words
- Mnemonics

Underpinning these proven and practical strategies, which will serve all of our students very well if they develop their use of them, was the science of how memory works and why these strategies are so effective. We know that the Government intend some form of examination series next summer and revision is best implemented progressively over the course of study and not left till the exams are on the horizon. Before the end of the academic year, Year 9 and Year 10 will also have their Study Skills Day and we are planning to have the company come back into school in September for a similar day for the new Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9.

Careers Update

Sixth Form Induction Days

On 28th June, I had the pleasure of working with prospective sixth form students who are currently in Year 11 from various schools. In the session we looked at how to develop skills to maximise potential in the sixth form. We talked about super-curricular (activities that help students to explore school subjects in greater depth) and extra-curricular activities (activities outside of school subjects which typically develop transferable skills such as part-time jobs, volunteering and hobbies.) One of the super-curricular activities we discussed was taking part in academic competitions. Below is a selection of competitions which are currently running which may be of interest to students. Taking part is a great addition to a CV.

Exeter College, Oxford – KS3 Summer Essay Competition

Tell us about a problem facing the world today. Explain what the problem is and offer a solution.

<https://www.exeter.ox.ac.uk/ks3-essay-comp/>

Exeter College, Oxford – Year 12 Competition

Identify a key issue in a subject of your choice. Explain that issue and offer a potential solution.

<https://www.exeter.ox.ac.uk/applicants/undergraduates/visit/outreach/summer-competition-2021/>

The University of Law – Real World Questions Competition – open to students in Years 10-13

There are three essay questions to choose from:

Option 1: How do businesses stay positive in uncertain times?

Option 2: Will Covid-19 change the way lawyers work in the future?

Option 3: Does the UK Justice System protect the public?

<https://realworldquestions.com/>

STEM website

Two former High School students, Lily and Maisie Dobbs, have a website called 2 Sisters In STEM. Maisie, who was Head Student in 2016-2017, has recently graduated from her BEng in Aerospace Engineering and starts her engineering graduate scheme at Boeing in October. Lily and Maisie's website offers informative insights into STEM careers and is an excellent resource for students to use.

<https://2sistersinstem.com/>

UCAS live on Facebook (@ucasonline) – 8th July at 16.00 – How Clearing Works

For students with pending university applications, this session will cover how Clearing works, things you need to know, and how to make an application directly using Clearing.

Support:

As always, we can be contacted by email if parents or students in any year group have any queries:

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Mrs Bushell - Careers Leader