



# Spalding High School



## Weekly Bulletin 04.11.21

Welcome back to a decidedly autumnal Term 2; I hope everyone had a pleasant half term holiday!

Everyone has very quickly adapted back into school routines and there are lots of things to look forward to over the next seven weeks such as the Poppy Appeal, Children In Need and Christmas just on the horizon. Hopefully Year 7 will soon start to get planning and making their house themed decorations for the annual Year 7 Christmas Tree Competition on 1<sup>st</sup> December and we all have our fingers crossed for a Christmas Concert. I realise that Year 11 and Year 13 might not be looking so much forward to assessment week starting Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November but careful planning will help with preparation and readiness for subject tests.

This week the School Library has welcomed back students from across the year groups into library lessons, lunchtime sessions and book clubs. Please read the report from Mrs Lees below. We have a new risk assessment on the school website to reflect this change, together with an update of the canteen risk assessment to reflect the new key stage rota for this term. Like schools across the country we saw a higher positive case load during Term 1. Thankfully, the retention of a lot of our mitigations helped keep cases lower than they would have otherwise been and the support and advice from the Lincolnshire Health Protection Team was much appreciated. Case numbers have been declining for the last four weeks and providing this downward trend continues, we would hope to return to more normal measures as the term progresses. As with all things at the moment this is heavily dependent upon caseload numbers, advice from the Health Team and regulations from the DFE/Government. We will continue to support students as we make these changes and will of course share our plans with parents/carers too.



### BBC Children in Need is back!



Join us on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November** for a do good, feel good fundraiser by joining in on Dress Down Friday!

We are asking students to donate **£1 to wear non-school uniform** and together with the help of schools like ours, we can help to tackle the lasting impact of the pandemic and support thousands of children in local communities across the UK.

In addition to this, we are also running a number of competitions for all pupils in Y7-13. The competitions are free to enter and there will be a prize for the best entry for each category in each year group. The theme for the day this year is 'Be Yourself'.

The categories are:

1. Write an acrostic poem – a poem where the letters in each line spell out 'Be Yourself'
2. Write a very short story – No more than 10 short lines long, with the title 'Be Yourself'
3. Create a piece of artwork – drawing, collage, painting, sculpture, etc. to reflect the theme 'Be Yourself'.

All entries need to be brought to the hall during the morning registration on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November. Judging will take place during the day and the results will be announced during study period on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

(Please note: This date has been changed from the one advertised on the school calendar)

Mrs Ray & the 6<sup>th</sup> form prefect team.

## Careers Update

### **Year 13**

25 students have already received at least one conditional offer from a university after having their application sent to UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service). This is an exciting time for students and receiving offers is extremely motivational.

### **Year 11**

Interviews with Mrs Gilman, our independent careers adviser, are continuing over the coming weeks. Students must continue to check their school email accounts regularly for notification of their appointment time. If students are absent from school on the day of their appointment, could parents/carers please tell the receptionist that their child will be missing their appointment when they phone in to notify school of the absence so that a student from the reserve list can be notified as soon as possible.

### University Courses

Our focus on lesser known degree titles for students and parents to consider continues this week. A good starting point for research regarding university courses is the UCAS website:

<https://www.ucas.com/explore/subjects>

**PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)** - an interdisciplinary degree which combines study from three disciplines.

The first institution to offer degrees in PPE was the University of Oxford in the 1920s.

Here are examples of PPE degrees:

<https://www.uea.ac.uk/course/undergraduate/ba-philosophy-politics-and-economics-with-a-placement-year>

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses-listing/philosophy-politics-and-economics>

### Support:

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

[Dawn.bushell@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:Dawn.bushell@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk)

[Lucy.obrien@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:Lucy.obrien@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk)

Mrs Bushell - Careers Leader

## School Computer Scientist Of The Year Award

**Congratulations to Magda Czamara, 11S, who received her award from the University of Lincoln.**



I was invited to the University of Lincoln's Brayford Pool Campus to receive the School Scientist of The Year Award for Year 10 Computer Science, 2021. Mr Dave Spafford, a lecturer of foundation studies, specialising in mathematics, statistics

and physics received us in the atrium of the Isaac Newton Building. We received a warm welcome, followed by a keynote lecture from Dr Neil Holden on virology - a quite topical and informative lecture. It contained a thorough and engaging coverage of the history and science of viruses. Next was a section for questions and answers, where the audience participated in a lively discussion, followed by the presentation of awards for the Y10 and Y12 winners of the School Scientists Of The Year in physics, chemistry, biology and computer science, 2021. I am especially grateful to my computing science teacher, Mr Fovargue, for electing me for this award, and for his continued support in my educational journey.

Here is a link to the lecture, “Going Viral – Basic Biology of Viruses”, by Dr Neil Holden, Deputy Programme Lead for Biomedical Sciences and Medical Biosciences in Lincoln University:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrVDKTOUdv8>



[Going Viral - Basic Biology of Viruses | Dr Neil Holden - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrVDKTOUdv8)

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## **Library News**

### **Student Access**

Mrs Chandler and I are absolutely thrilled to announce that the Library is back open for everyone to visit! We are ready to welcome our students back with new books, displays and shelving.

We have spent the last year taking book selections all round school to our students, but commencing from the start of Term 2 we now have all of our Year 7, 8 and 9 classes in for their reading lessons.



For our Year 7 and 8 students this is the first time they have been able to access our fantastic range of over 17,000 books in person. Students are able to browse for themselves, select books and have them issued. They are able to take their Accelerated Reader book quizzes on one of our desktops, or use the Library to research and complete their activities in their Reading Scheme. Not forgetting Year 10 who can access the Library on Monday lunchtimes and Year 11 on Tuesday lunchtimes, with many students already taking up this opportunity to pop in and browse or find a quiet spot to relax with a book. Sixth form of course can, and do, come in anytime.

### **Murder Book Club**

Miss O’Sullivan, Miss Jeffery and I are so excited to announce that Murder Book Club for Year 9 and 10 will begin this term. For Year 9 we will be launching with One of Us Is Lying by Karen McManus; a taut high school murder mystery,

five students enter detention but only four come out alive! Our first meeting will be 1pm Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December in the Library.

For Year 10 we have A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson; a cold case murder is unpicked by the indomitable teen heroine, Pip Fitz-Amobi. A must read for all crime lovers. Our first meeting will be 1pm Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December in the Library.

Could students in Years 9 & 10 contact me if they are interested in taking part and if they would like to borrow one of the books?

Future book club reads this academic year include The Girls I've Been by Tess Sharpe, The Cousins by Karen McManus and Kill Joy by Holly Jackson.

Happy Reading

Mrs Lees

*I am reading Medusa by Jesse Burton*

