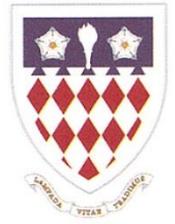




Spalding High School



Weekly Bulletin 10.09.21

Welcome to the academic year 2021/22!

What a glorious week it has been! Welcome back to all of our students and staff; I hope you all had a restful and relaxing summer and had the opportunity to recharge your batteries. In particular I would like to welcome our new Year 7 and Year 12. I hope that you have enjoyed your first week and have started to settle in. Year 7 join us from a large number of primary schools across the local area and have coped well in their first few days including finding where things such as the canteen and playground are and the routines of the bus queues! This afternoon they will enjoy the delights of their first "Chip Friday" and fire drill! Well done Year 7 – it is a challenge to join any new school and you are doing very well. Well done also to our new Year 12. Whilst most are returning High School students we have a number from other local schools too and the Prefect and Peer Mentor Teams have been doing everything possible to help everyone settle in.

I would also like to welcome four new staff to the school. We are joined by Miss Bailey, (2nd I/C MFL & I/C German); Miss Barlow (Art); Mrs Davies (Reprographics/admin) and Mrs Nowak (2nd I/C Maths). We all very much hope you are enjoying your first week at the High School too.

Thank you to parents/carers for supporting our staggered return to school this week. The logistics involved have been tremendous and well done to students for their patience in waiting for testing and their results. Students have been fantastic and we have routinely got through testing a whole year group in under two hours. This week alone, we have conducted over 1,500 tests so well done and thank you to our Test Team and parent volunteers. Thank you also to parents and students for supporting such widespread testing across the school; we very much hope it will continue to protect everyone and also ensure we can continue with far less interruption to teaching and learning.

Next week's bulletin will return to its normal Thursday edition and I will share more of our plans and aspirations for this academic year. I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Anderson

Student Covid Testing September 2021

Please find attached the Term 1 testing rota for each year group. Please keep this rota safe and ensure that you have read the notes and information carefully.

SHOTBOWL – Uniform update

Unfortunately there are further delays with the delivery of the Trutex Hoodies. Our potential delivery date is now October 14th. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

Year 7-Year 11 arrivals to school between 8am – 8.20am

As per our updated risk assessments, students arriving in school between 8am and 8.20am should enter the school via reception as soon as they arrive on the premises. Students should then sit in their marked year group areas in the school canteen until the 8.20 bell goes. At 8.20 they should leave the canteen via the D of E corridor into the quad and go to their form room. Students arriving early are not permitted into their form rooms before the 8.20am bell.

Sixth Form arrivals to school between 8am – 8.20am

As per our updated risk assessments, sixth formers arriving in school between 8am and 8.20am should enter the school via reception as soon as they arrive on the premises. Sixth formers may wait for the 8.20am bell in the common room, study room or their form room except if the form room is a laboratory.

School Risk Assessments

We appreciate that we most recently consulted with parents over our Covid Risk assessments in July but in recent days, schools have received a wealth of updated guidance from a number of Government Departments as well as the NHS and Health Protection teams. We have reviewed our Risk Assessments and posted them on the school website. They can be

found in the Covid Folder in the menu on the right hand side of the website homepage. Please read these and notify the school of any questions via enquiries@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk. If there is a Risk Assessment number missing, it is because the risk assessment is one specifically relevant to the staff, not students or parents. Subject specific risk assessments are in the process of being updated and will be posted on the website as they are completed.

Thank you.

Notification of Positive cases of Covid-19 and Close Contacts

We are currently in the process of updating our Covid-19 FAQ in light of the recently published Government and NHS advice. In the meantime we would politely request that parents and students read the updated risk assessments, including RA16 regarding our procedures for notification of positive cases and close contacts this term.

Students should not attend school if they have the symptoms of Covid-19 – no matter how mild the symptoms are. Parents/students should organise a PCR test as soon as symptoms are shown. If a student receives a positive LFD result as part of the School's asymptomatic testing rota, they should not attend school but organise a confirmatory PCR test; preferably immediately. If the confirmatory PCR test is taken within 48 hours of the LFD and yields a negative result, the student may return to school. The Stay At Home advice states that those waiting for their PCR result must self-isolate.

As students and parents know from our consultation and newsletters in Term 6, it is the School's intention to continue to take a "belts and braces" approach to the identification and notification of school based close contacts of a positive case. When one of our students tests positive we will continue to support and work with them to help identify who their school based close contacts would be. We will let those school close contacts know and provide them with support. We will also offer them daily LFD testing for their own peace of mind. As a School we feel this is the most appropriate way forward as many of our students are worried when a friend tests positive, they do not want to contract the virus themselves and are very conscious that they do not want to potentially pass the virus on to others. We are also very conscious that students want to be proactive in stopping the spread and keeping themselves and others safe. We know that the offer of daily home testing is something that they want to do. We will speak to parents of those who have come into close contact with a positive case so that parents are informed too. School will continue to inform parents of students within a year group when there has been a positive case so that students and parents can continue to be vigilant for symptoms.

If close contacts are "pinged" or contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace, they must follow the directions given by the service. The two most up to date government documents can be found at:

[Coronavirus: how to stay safe and help prevent the spread - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Face Coverings

Thank you to our parents and students for their continued support in keeping everyone safe and helping to stop the spread. Please read RA3 for our current position on face coverings.

Many students have chosen to continue to wear face coverings in lessons and when outdoors, this is now a matter of personal choice. For the moment, as eleven hundred people return to the School after the summer break, we require students to wear a face covering in line with government advice when in enclosed, crowded and poorly ventilated areas, which describes our corridors, stairwells and canteen. We will review this position as the term progresses but will continue to support those who wish to wear a face covering for as long as they wish to do so. Students are still required to wear face coverings for the duration of their journey on designated school transport. The Government also advise the same for public transport.

Year 9 Belated Sports Day - Friday 17th September (weather permitting)

As the majority of Year 9 sadly missed Sports Day in the summer, we are going to be running a Belated Sports Day afternoon where Year 9 will be able to compete in most of the events they signed up for in the summer. The field events will run during lunchtime and the track events will run during study period.

Sports Day results are pending the Year 9 events so although P are currently in 1st place with 259 points, Year 9 could change all of that!

Miss Pascoe and the PE department

A Level success



We are so proud of all of our Year 13 leavers. It is fair to say that their Sixth Form Studies were a bit of a rollercoaster ride but the resilience and determination displayed was second to none. 67% of grades awarded were A*-B and the vast majority of our students secured their chosen progression route, please see Mrs Bushell's report to learn more about the exciting things they are all going on to do. The smiles in these photos say it all! The Sixth Form team send their very best wishes to all of our 2021 Leavers.

Welcome back to the new academic year

On Monday this week we welcomed our 130 new Year 12 students for the first time and welcomed back our Y13 familiar faces; it was great to see them all after the summer break. Things have certainly been busy in the Sixth Form Study Centre whilst they have been away; the students have come back to a beautifully refurbished common room. Whilst there will be further upgrades, changes and additions over the coming weeks, I am sure that you will agree that this is a fabulous space for our students to study during non-contact times and socialise at break times and lunchtimes. We look forward to sharing more updates with you over the course of the next term as we display our student's artwork and install some more new furniture.



Careers Update

Progression routes

We are extremely proud of last year's Year 13 students as they leave us to move on to new ventures.

Ninety students gained a place at university to study a wide range of degree courses, including Natural Sciences, Motorsport Engineering, Modern Languages, Business Management, Psychology, Fine Art, Social Work, Pharmacy, Midwifery, Paramedic Science, Mathematics, Interior Architecture & Design, Criminology, English, Primary Education, Geography, History, Paramedic Science, Accountancy & Finance and many more. In addition to a wide range of study disciplines chosen, the range of universities is equally impressive. Our students will be heading off in the next few weeks to universities such as Cambridge, Durham, Edinburgh, Bristol, Bath, Newcastle, Nottingham, York, Leeds, Nottingham Trent, Sheffield, Leicester, Loughborough and many others.

Two students have secured apprenticeships in an education setting and with a leading accountancy firm.

Many students have chosen to take up various employment roles within hospitality, retail, animal care and agricultural settings, whilst others have decided to take a gap year to work or volunteer before applying to university next year. One student is hoping to head off to South America after Christmas as a volunteer with Project Trust to teach English.

We are equally proud of our last year's Year 11 students, almost all of whom are now undertaking further study, either here at the High School or in other schools or sixth form colleges. We are delighted to welcome back former students and our new transferees from other schools who have enrolled into our sixth form.

Our current Year 13 students are busy this term preparing personal statements for use in university or apprenticeship/employment applications. It is a busy time between now and Christmas and we are really pleased with the preparation work students carried out during the last sixth months. Students have shown great resilience and adapted to new ways of working, for example, accessing virtual university open days.

We wish all our students the best of luck for the future and hope that they will keep in touch to share their future successes.

Alumni Articles (see attachment)

This week's alumni article is written by Lauren Aldis who left the High School in 2017 and having finished her degree, is heading off to Barcelona to start an internship. (The article was written in July.)

Support:

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

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Lucy.obrien@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk

Mrs Bushell

Careers Leader