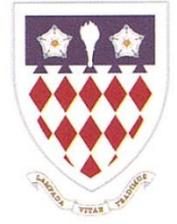




Spalding High School



Weekly Bulletin 15.07.21

What an exciting week it has been with lots of activities taking place for year groups across the school. Learning Performance have been back in with Year 10 and we have had the Happy Puzzle Company visiting Year 7 and Year 8. The whole school is also preparing for tomorrow's Sports Day – let hope the weather holds!

I wrote to parents, carers and students earlier this week with important information for our Covid Plans for September. We are very aware that there is a lot of confusing and conflicting information out there about what is and isn't changing. We will share our draft Risk Assessments (via the School website) from Monday 19th July but would ask that everyone understands that these are based on the current guidance for September which may very well change before schools starts again. Everything, as always, is prone to change as demonstrated in the ALERT message below regarding face masks from Monday. Please read the message below very carefully.

Online safety

We are constantly reminded of the risks that online activity can place our students in and the ease at which they can gain access to undesirable images and contact with strangers through video-chat websites and apps. Please protect your child by using appropriate parental controls and being aware of their online activity. Parent/Carer guidance is provided by CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) by accessing their educational resource www.thinkuknow.co.uk which has activities for children of various ages, together with advice for parents, carers and professionals. There is also a very good website called 'Common Sense Media' which gives a guide to a large number of social media apps and websites. The website outlines the purpose/function of the app, the target age range and the potential risk to children of using them.

School PE Kit Update

Please see the attached letter from Shotbowl with regards to PE kit stock.

ALERT - Face Masks – VERY IMPORTANT

On Tuesday we wrote to parents and students and updated them on our plans for the wearing of face masks with effect from Monday 19th July, as the nation moves to Step 4 of the PM's Roadmap.

Since then we have received notification from the Director of Public Health Lincolnshire and the Director of Children's Services, Lincolnshire County Council notifying schools that "**Covid-19 rates amongst school-age children in Lincolnshire are higher now than at any time in the pandemic so far.**" This is enormously concerning, not just for the health of the students and families involved, but also for vulnerable family members and plans for the holidays.

As a result of this escalation in transmission rates in this age group we have decided **not** to change the School's rulings on face coverings on 19th July until the end of term. Students will be expected to continue to wear face coverings as they have been since May;

- In communal areas and in transit around the buildings
- When leaving school at the end of the day
- When lining up in the bus queues
- On school and public transport

This does not apply to students with medical exemption. Students may continue to wear face coverings in lessons if they so wish. Staff are required to continue to wear face coverings in transit and in communal areas.

Our message to students is simple – as the restrictions start to be lifted, continue to be cautious with your own health and the health risks to those around you. We are still in a pandemic and this continues to be a virus that can have a long term impact and kill. Be careful.

As you are aware, we have been joined recently by the UK's leading study skills company, Learning Performance, who as part of our Covid catch-up programme have delivered a series of interactive and motivational study skills workshops to students in Years 9-12, showing them how to revise and how to prepare for exams with creative strategies such as memory techniques. We know that the Government intend some form of examination series next summer and I am confident that the strategies from these workshops, cultivated over time, will serve as a powerful intervention. Research shows that developing students' metacognitive skills, by giving them strategies for planning, monitoring and evaluating their own learning can improve progress by an average of eight months.

Happily, the workshops have been very well received by the students and we are very proud of the way they have responded to the presenters.

"A truly brilliant day. Both groups pleasant, engaged and keen to learn. All took part really well."

"All went well with year nine. All groups were keen, responsive and appreciative."

"The students' behaviour yesterday was exemplary. I've never experienced anything like it."

"It really was a fantastic day. All the students in all the sessions were truly brilliant. They were keen, sociable and just lovely to work with. We were looked after so well all day."

We look forward to welcoming Learning Performance back in September to work with our KS3 students on the following dates:

Tuesday, 21st September – Year 7

Tuesday, 28th September – Year 8

Wednesday, 29th September – Year 9

We also plan to share a pre-recorded parent workshop with you in September demonstrating practical examples of what Learning Performance have been doing with the students so that you can effectively support your child(ren) at home in the lead up to exams.

Sports Day Tuck Shop – Friday 16th July

Our Prefects are running a tuck shop for each year group during Sports Day this Friday. Items for sale will include pick 'n' mix sweets bags, bottles of water/juice and ice lollies. All items will be priced at either 50p or £1.00, so please remember to bring in some small change if you wish to purchase anything.

Creative Writing Competition – Willoughby Trust

The English Department would like to promote a local creative writing competition which is open to students in Key Stage 3 and 4. We have had some successes with the Willoughby Trust competition in the past and this ties in with National Poetry Day so there are some excellent resources on their website that can help you to get into the poetic mood! This is an exciting opportunity for students to take part and gather their ideas over the summer break. All information is on the attached sheet.

Healthy Minds Workshops for Parents and Carers

The return to school following the summer break, for some young people, can lead to worries and anxious feelings. Following the challenges that we have all experienced due to the Covid-19 pandemic more young people may notice worries about returning to school in September.

Healthy Minds have collated some free resources to support the return to school that some young people and their families may benefit from. [School Based Anxiety by HML Boston on Prezi Design](#)

Free workshops available through Eventbrite [Healthy Minds Lincolnshire Events | Eventbrite](#).

Please see attached for more information.

Careers Update

Alumni Articles (see attachment)

This week's alumni article is written by Rebecca Warren who left the High School in 2015 to study Medicine at the University of Birmingham. Rebecca has also spoken to our Year 12 students who will be applying for medicine next year. Her article offers an insight into life as a medical student and how that developed during the pandemic.

Articles for next year's weekly bulletin:

I am sure that many students will be undertaking a range of activities during the summer holidays which will develop their skillset. If any students would like to write an article about what they have achieved or enjoyed I would be interested to read them and publish them next year. Equally, if the parents/carers of any former students could ask if they are willing to contribute to our 'Alumni Articles' section that would be much appreciated. Many tutors discuss the articles with their students and this initiates discussions about career journeys.

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

Lucy.obrien@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk

Mrs Bushell - Careers Leader

Puzzle Day 2021

"All of Year 7 and 8 were treated to Puzzle Day on Monday 12th July. We were invited to go into the main hall in groups of six and experience lots of fun activities." - Erin Nelson 7C

"There were many different types of puzzles for students to complete. These included: balancing the penguins on the iceberg without them falling; create a continuous road out of tiles without any dead ends or roads to nowhere; recreate the drawing of the tower with the blocks provided; fit all the trapeziums into the hexagon with no two colours the same touching; create a continuous run out of the pipes; and turn the same pieces into a square, a rectangle and finally a triangle." – Eleanor Lloyd 8S

"The most important part was that we never gave up. My favourite puzzle was placing the penguins on the iceberg and keeping them balanced." – Antonina Such 7C

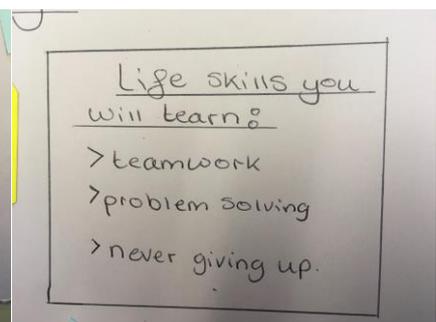
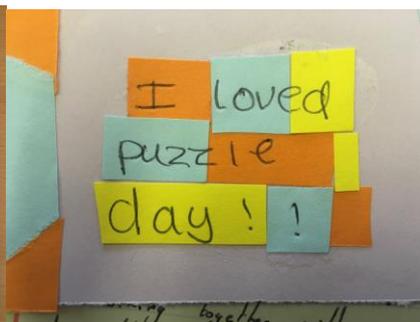
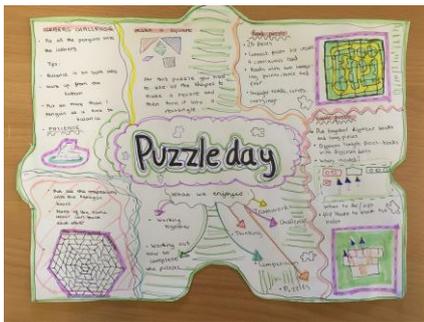
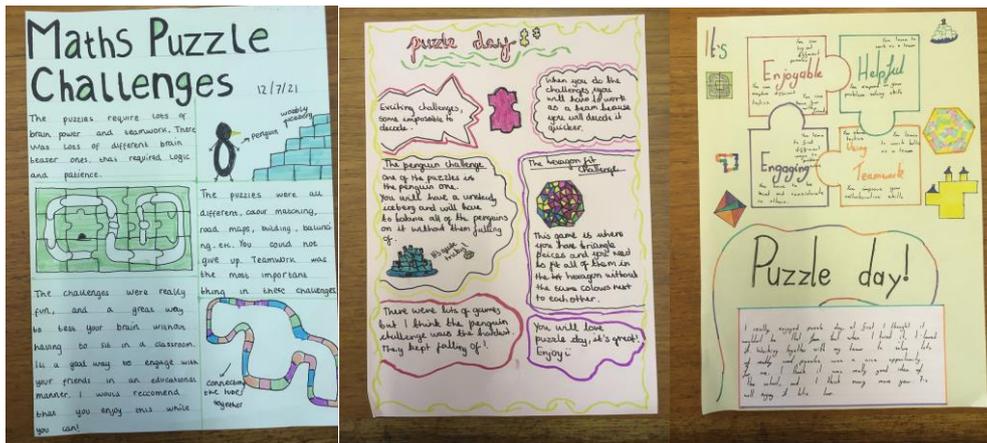
"I absolutely loved Puzzle Day. All the puzzles were challenging but NOT impossible! We would definitely love to do it again." – Connie Allen and Ava Ilott 7S

"These puzzles helped me use my mathematical brain in everyday situations. The games were fun and entertaining as we all worked well as a team and we all included our strengths to every challenge. This was a very fun way to do maths and I loved it." – Lexi Withers 8S

"I really enjoyed it! My favourite puzzle was the road builder as there are more than 70,000 different possible combinations but we had to find the only one that works!" – Pippa Hastings 7C

"It helped us open our brain to different solutions and high level problems. It was fun to do maths like this." – Beth Stewart 8S

"You can't give up else you can't move on!" – The Happy Puzzle Company



Lit in Colour

"Literature is a curator of our imaginations, and schools are the caretakers of our young people's education". We have read the recent research, and this has influenced the Departmental choices as we refresh the Y7 and Y8 curriculum. As a student you can sign-up to Lit in Colour, for recommendations, free podcasts, and the chance to win prizes. Please see the attached document for further details.

Mrs Lord (HoD English)

Year 9 Geography

Year 9 are currently investigating India as a case study for economic development for GCSE Geography. Members of 9S led a lesson on Tuesday this week in which they shared cultural information about Kerala and Tamil Nadu, two regions in India. We learnt about important historical and cultural sites, religious festivals and ceremonies, film and media, traditional dress, jewellery, dance and food. The students planned and delivered an amazing lesson, which we all enjoyed. Thank you and well done to Roselin, Sharuni, Anika, Sreya, Christina, Prathana, Savia, Isha and Saniya.

