



Spalding High School

Weekly Bulletin 16.09.21



Just a week in and we are already settling in to the rhythm of being back to school as if we have never been away! Year 7 seem to have gained more confidence now that they know their way around a little more and can find their way to the canteen, the playground and the bus queues at least. Thank you to the Sixth Form peer mentors, prefects and helpers who have been on hand to be our guides. This morning Year 7 and our Sixth Form transferees are having their school photographs taken and we all look forward to seeing the results of those.

When walking the School this week, it has been a pleasure to see (and hear) collaboration and group work going on in lessons. Our students gain so much confidence from discussing and working with each other and sharing ideas, opinions and thoughts. At times, some can be a little hesitant with their contributions, saying things like "I am not sure if I am right but...", or "This is probably wrong, but..." both of which are then typically followed with a useful contribution or a correct answer. Remote learning seems to have exacerbated this for some of our students but I am happy to report that we are already seeing engagement and confidence growing.

We are working hard to support students with any gaps or misconceptions in their knowledge and understanding by using a range of strategies and we know that this will take time and evolve as the year progresses. We also recognise that for some of our younger students, who also missed time at primary school, we will need to take a long-term view supporting their progress, development and understanding. Underpinning these priorities is the knowledge that the pandemic is still with us and students will continue to need reassurance, support and guidance in dealing with this at both emotional and pastoral levels. Community transmission levels remain high which is reflected in the number of positive cases School has seen over the last week and we therefore, continue to see disruption to learning, as students need to self-isolate.

Our School Development Plan this year focuses on a number of priorities, with those described above underpinning all that we are doing.

Lincolnshire Free Press and Spalding Guardian Education Awards 2021

We are all looking forward to attending the Education Awards at the Springfields Centre this evening. The High School has a number of students and a member of staff shortlisted in the award categories. We are also thrilled to bits to be shortlisted again for School of The Year, an award the School has previously won twice. Daisy Darley, Abi Barks, Paige Burton, Charlotte Pool and Emily Sansom have been shortlisted in the "Contribution to the Community" category and Tilly Garfoot is our shortlisted candidate in the "Outstanding Sporting Achievement" award. We also have our fingers crossed for Miss Chalcraft who has been shortlisted in the "Secondary School Teacher of the Year" category.

The full report can be found via the link below and we look forward to sharing the results with you tomorrow.

[Lincolnshire Free Press and Spalding Guardian Education Awards return \(spaldingtoday.co.uk\)](http://spaldingtoday.co.uk)

Welcome to our new staff

Miss Bailey (2nd I/C MFL & I/C German)

Thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcome. I look forward to a productive year's work with my pupils.

Miss Barlow (Art)

I have been kindly welcomed to Spalding High School by both staff and students - there is a friendly and supportive

atmosphere. I love teaching the art curriculum - this week I've experienced feely boxes, smelly jars and sound shakers! I'm looking forward to getting to know pupils further and seeing work evolve over time.

Mrs Davies (Reprographics/Admin)

Hello, I'm Mrs Davies and I'm taking over the role of reprographics from Mrs Pryke. I have been busy helping with the covid testing and I am now in the office getting to grips with the photocopiers. Thank you to you all for making me feel so welcome, I have loved my first few days here and I'm excited to learn more as the days go on.

Mrs Nowak (2nd I/C Maths)

Starting a new school during the pandemic might be a stressful experience (I can relate to how you feel Year 7 and Year 12 students!) but my worries disappeared once I met pupils and my new colleagues, as everyone has been incredibly helpful and welcoming.

In the first five days of my teaching at SHS, I gave ten Excellent points – this says it all! We have got talented students here and I am looking forward to working with you all.

Digging up the past

Former A-level Latin student at both Spalding Grammar and Spalding High, Llywelyn Humphries started an Ancient History and Archaeology course at Cardiff University and is now in his second year. Over the last few weeks he has been fortunate enough to go on an archaeological dig in Dorset, Hinton St Mary where they found a mosaic in the early 1960's. It is an incredible and exciting opportunity being able to dig up relics from the past that have remained hidden beneath our feet for centuries. He has managed to excavate tesserae and recently pulled out parts of a blade which seem to meet specifications for some form of gladius. Llywelyn has also managed to find a coin, a part of what is either an early Saxon pot or, more likely, a Roman incense burner - as there are obvious signs of burning on the inside and also the foundations of a wall of a villa. He has enjoyed every second of his dig and says "we know now that there definitely once was a Roman villa, and boy did they love oysters!"

It is always wonderful to hear from former students enthusing about their chosen path after VI form.

Mrs Jones
Head of Classics



Careers Update

Parents' Guide from the Success at School website

The Success at School website has produced a useful guide for parents/carers to support their child. It is a good read for the beginning of an academic year to gain up-to-date advice on options available to students in education, training and employment. Please see the information and link below:

This year's Parents' Guide will be our second edition, and has a skills specific theme. This guide has been designed to help parents support their children in making informed decisions about their future, and develop the correct skills to help them succeed. Parents will benefit from content on topics including:

- **Pathways into work**, including T-levels, apprenticeships and university
- The importance of **employability skills**
- The value of **work experience** placements
- **Student finance** and choosing student accommodation
- Careers advice **dos and don'ts**
- **24-day "skills workout" exercises** to complete at home, designed to help young people actively develop eight key employability skills
- **PLUS interviews and guest content** from organisations including PwC, University of Bath, Sky, Institute of Student Employers, Staffordshire University and many more

https://79590737.flowpaper.com/SuccessatSchoolParentsGuide/?goal=0_65c6d67e71-f52322c54d-212066408&mc_cid=f52322c54d&mc_eid=2be905a165#page=1

Alumni Articles (see attachment)

This week's alumni article is written by Chloe Davis who left the High School in 2019 and is studying Archaeology at the University of Bradford.

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