



# Spalding High School



## Weekly Bulletin 17.12.20

### **Christmas wishes to one and all!**

As this year draws to a close there are a few words I would like to share with our students, staff and parents/carers and governors.

To our students, I want to say how proud I am of you and how hard you have worked these last two terms. You work hard all of the time but these last two terms have presented new challenges and you have risen to those challenges and met them head on. You have adapted to new routines and ways of doing things with very few (hardly any in fact) moans and upsets. You have coped with uncertainty and worry for each other and those at home. You have done this with good humour, common sense and pragmatism and those characteristics together with your resilience will stand you in good stead for the rest of your lives. Don't ever lose those qualities. Even if you have found the last few terms a struggle. The thing I would share with you is that it is ok (perfectly normal in fact) to feel this way. The important thing is to recognise those feelings and do something positive about it. Talk to those closest to you and accept their support and help. Their friendship, advice and moral support are the very things that will help us to cope.

To our staff, I want to say how grateful I am to you for your help, moral support, advice and friendship – especially on days when you have seen that I would, quite frankly, like to go and hide under my duvet! PS – much of my message above, applies to you too!

To our parents, carers and governors, thank you for trusting us to look after your child in these worrying times and for your support. Thank you especially to those parents who sent in massive amounts of chocolates and treats this week – those didn't last long in the staff room I can tell you.

Christmas, however it might look under the new regulations, provides us this year more than any other, with a time to stop, reflect and take a breather. In all of my years as a teacher, I have never seen such an exhausted looking bunch of students and staff (and I would expect parents too). We all need to recharge both those physical as well as emotional batteries over the next couple of weeks whilst also making it as best a Christmas as we can given the circumstances. I very much wish you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas and I am sure we will all be looking forward to a brighter New Year. I can also strongly recommend the Virtual Christmas Concert to lift the spirits and conjure Christmas cheer. Thank you to Mr Garbett and all of our musicians for a stunning performance!

Merry Christmas  
Mrs Anderson

### **Mass testing in schools for staff and students from January**

This week the Government published plans for the mass testing of staff and students from January. The link below is a very useful FAQ – please read it: <https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2020/12/15/mass-testing-in-schools-your-questions-answered/>

Schools have not yet received the infer point details of how this will be rolled out but we will be in touch to explain this as soon as we can.

### **URGENT: CURRENT UPDATE ON SCHOOL RETURN JANUARY**

Gavin Williamson is due to make a statement about secondary school returns in January later today. However, Number 10 have just confirmed the following:

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said: "The start of the term won't be delayed but what we are doing is asking secondary schools and colleges to operate a staggered return supported by full-time remote education during the first week of term with in-person teaching in full starting on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Students in exam year groups, vulnerable children, children of key workers, will attend school or college in person from the start of term as well as students in primary, special and alternative provision schools and colleges."

**Please see the School's January return information attached with this bulletin for an update on the School's position based on the official information currently available to us.**

## Mrs Carthy

Sadly, Mrs Carthy, Head of German, will be leaving the High School this week to pursue other opportunities.

Mrs Carthy joined the High School staff in November 2006, initially as part time maternity cover which became a permanent position in 2007. Mrs Carthy was appointed as Head of German in 2012 and has successfully led the department during that time. She is calm and considered with colleagues and has an excellent sense of humour which is also shown throughout her lessons.

Mrs Carthy has lived and worked abroad and this cultural knowledge is something that has benefitted many generations of students who have been in her classes. She has also organised a number of foreign trips over the years which have educated and informed students and staff alike, whether it is perusing galleries, walking around cities, strolling in the Provence sun or having tea in a hotel lobby. This commitment has been to the benefit of our students, many of whom have gone on to study languages and language related subjects at university.

We will miss her in the classroom and as Head of Department but especially as a friend and colleague and we all wish her health and happiness in her new adventures.

## Migration of student email accounts to Office 365

Further to the successful migration of Year 7-10 email accounts to Office 365, we are now in a position to start the migration of Year 11-13 email accounts. This will take place at 8pm on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> December. Please note, Year 11-13 students may experience some disruption to their email on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> December. Once the migration is complete, students will need to log in to their email in a slightly different way. Tutors have explained the process to students during form time this week and instructions are available through the School [homepage](#). Once migration is complete, students will also have access to their calendar through Microsoft Teams.

## Numeracy Ninja's

Year 7 & 8 have been working tremendously hard since September to improve their numeracy through completing their numeracy ninja books in form time. All forms have shown an improvement since the start of the year, with some incredibly positive marks. The scores are out of 30, and some students have made a habit of gaining 30 marks and their black belts. The forms were incredibly close, but the forms with the best averages in their respective year groups have been 7P and 8J with averages of 26.7 and 28.2. A tremendous achievement, that has been rewarded with some sugary treats! Next year is a clean slate, so I look forward to seeing lots more black belts in 2021.

Mr Ganger

## SHS Virtual Christmas Concert 2020

During the first lock down the Music Department recorded its Virtual Summer Concert, which was a great success. When we returned to school in September it soon became apparent that we were not going to be able to perform live in the near future, so I decided to begin work on a Virtual Christmas Concert as well. The instrumentalists and singers have worked really really hard on recording themselves since September and have regularly been emailing me their recordings, which I have mixed and edited into the finished concert. I also took the opportunity to invite former students and staff to take part and have been delighted with the response! I hope you enjoy the concert and that it brings you some Christmas cheer! Hopefully the next concert we do might be a live one!



## [SHS Virtual Christmas Concert 2020](#)

youtube

Mr Garbett

## Careers Update

We hope that you and your daughter/son have been able to make use of the events and resources we have published in the weekly bulletin since September. We will continue to send out updates in the New Year and would welcome any feedback or requests for items to be included. If you have a daughter or son who is a former student who would be interested in sharing their experiences and progress since they left SHS, we would be very interested in hearing from them to discuss how they could inspire our current students. My email address is [dawn.bushell@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:dawn.bushell@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk)

The last two terms have been very busy for sixth form students, especially students in Year 13. Nearly 100 applications for university places have been completed and many students have attended virtual interviews. Students are also researching apprenticeships, employment and gap year opportunities. It has been encouraging to see how many students have taken up the opportunity for mock interview practice and Mrs O'Brien and I have been very impressed with the way in which students are able to present themselves.

In Year 11, we will continue to offer our Friday lunchtime careers drop-in session after Christmas. It has been interesting to talk to students about their plans for next year and we hope to see more students attending after Christmas.

As we look ahead to 2021, we hope to be able to work with employers and former students to enhance our careers provision.

Merry Christmas to you all.

Mrs Bushell  
Careers Leader

