



Spalding High School



Weekly Bulletin 21.01.21

Happy New Year! As I said in a letter at the start of the year, this term has not started as many of us were expecting. However, despite having far fewer students on site at the moment it is very pleasing to hear all of the very positive comments and reports being fed back from students, parents and staff about how well Teams and remote learning is going. We really do value your comments and feedback and appreciate the time it takes to do this; so thank you again and please do continue to make contact with us.

I know that I also speak for all of my colleagues at the High School when I tell parents and carers how appreciative we are of the time, energy and support that you are giving, now that your kitchen or dining room has been converted once more into a home classroom! Juggling the home working for adults and remote learning for children is no mean feat – so thank you again! Well done too, to our students who are showing such resilience in the face of such change and challenge. It will take time to readjust to home learning and to establish routines again, whilst also managing time and creating some degree of “work-life” balance. Mrs Bushell offers some useful advice and further information on this very issue in her careers update over leaf.

Now that we have hopefully established a few routines, we are hoping to resume the School Weekly Bulletin to help us keep in touch. To our students – send in updates, and maybe a picture of your home classroom and we will look to sharing your news in future editions. In the meantime, stay safe, take care and let us know if there is anything we can do to help.

Exams 2021 Consultation

The Government and Ofqual launched a two week consultation about the summer examinations this year. We have written to all Year 11 and Year 13 parents and students already but please do read the document and submit a consultation so that your opinions on these issues can be considered. The consultation is open to students and parents in all year groups.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>

Remote Education Provision

We have added a document to our homepage outlining our remote education provision. This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to pupils, parents and carers about what to expect from remote education should students need to self-isolate, or where national or local restrictions require entire cohorts (or bubbles) to remain at home. Please click [here](#) to access the document.

Ben Love - Assistant Headteacher

Mass Testing

Our school based testing centre is up and running. Thank you to all the volunteers who said they would help. We will be contacting you again shortly to organise training and rotas in the hope that we will start to see the phased return of year groups as some point next term (fingers crossed!) Some of the media coverage in the last day or so has been a little confusing. Testing in schools has not been stopped or paused. We are still expected to test staff weekly, and entire year groups as and when they do start their phased return. However, one element has been suspended at least temporarily and that is the daily testing for those identified as close contacts of a positive case. Initially, schools were asked to test close contacts daily rather than sending them home for a 10-day period of self-isolation. On 20th January, we received an update from the Secretary of State for Education informing us that due to the new strain of Covid-19, schools were to pause the daily close contact testing and return to sending close contacts home for a 10-day self-isolation. We have not had any positive cases at the High School since before Christmas, therefore this has not affected our procedures at all.

Year 9 Options Process Key Dates

Further to letters sent to parents/carers last week, please see below key dates:

21/1/2021 Options Process presentation 9am on Teams

25/1/2021 Subject talks/presentations to take place this week on Teams

1/2/2021 Form Time Q&A sessions on Teams

Parents' Meeting - details to follow

Deadline for options forms - 9th March 2021

Please note - the presentation, the options booklet and all other relevant information will be available on Teams for later viewing.

Mrs Spinks – Head of Year 9

PE Lessons

All pupils are expected to use their timetabled PE lessons to take part in some form of physical activity each week. As per Mrs Anderson's letter of 5th January all pupils are expected to follow their own timetable during the lockdown period, this includes PE. The PE department have put together a 'Physical Activity Log' which must be completed and uploaded onto Microsoft Teams at the end of each school week (Friday last period). To help you with your 'Physical Activity Logs' during lockdown the PE department have created an extensive 'PE at home' channel on Microsoft Teams which has over 100 physical activity videos across a wide range of activity areas including: cheerleading, dance, fitness, HIIT, pilates, yoga and much more. All the activities can be done from your own home. However, if you want to use activities such as walking, running and cycling you can do this as well. Just make sure you add them to the 'Physical Activity Log' and make sure you get your parents/carers permission before going out.

Miss Parker will be monitoring the 'Physical Activity Logs' and she will award 1 house point for every minute of physical activity per pupil, per week. In addition, each week, the top 10 pupils with the most physical activity minutes will be entered into a prize draw for a £10 Amazon e-gift card. The 'Physical Activity Logs' can be found in the files tab of the general channel in the 'PE at home' team on Microsoft Teams. Please save your 'Physical Activity Log' as your own full name. This should be saved in the appropriate form folder at the end of each school week. Your 'Physical Activity Logs' must be submitted by the end of the school day on Fridays to count. Miss Parker will announce house point totals and the winner of the e-gift card every Monday. Good luck and stay active.

Mr Farrell – Head of PE

Careers Update

During this time working remotely, students are developing many transferable skills which will prepare them well for their next steps in education, employment and training. They are learning skills in perseverance, resilience, problem solving and digital competencies. Time management is also an important skill, alongside the ability to maintain a balance between school life and down time for themselves.

There are currently so many exciting opportunities and resources available to students and parents. Here is a selection:

Virtual work experience:

- Springpod are offering opportunities within a range of companies and career sectors, including business, law, marketing, engineering, healthcare and finance. There are opportunities for students in Years 10-13 with several opportunities available during half term at times which are flexible. Please check eligibility, application deadline dates and specific details at: <https://www.springpod.co.uk/virtual-work-experience-programmes/>
- Would you like to find out more about the following careers: nursing, midwifery, paramedic science, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, radiography, art, drama and music therapy, dietetics, operating department practitioners, podiatry, osteopathy, orthoptics, prosthetics and orthotics and speech and language therapy? Allied Healthcare Mentor is offering the opportunity to take part in a virtual work experience programme which takes place once a month on a Sunday. It is open to students in Years 10-12. There is a charge of £10 per day. Please see the link: <https://alliedhealthmentor.org/nhs-healthcare-careers-virtual-work-experience/>

Applying to university:

- On Wednesday 27th January there is the UK University and Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair from 12.00-18.00. A varied webinar programme includes sessions on how to choose a course, student finance, making final choices in Year 13, why choose an apprenticeship and a parent support session. The webinars will be available to view until 10th February. Please register at: <https://ukuniversitysearch.vfairs.com/>
- On Wednesday 10th February there is an online event for students in Years 11-13 called 'Meet the Russell Group'. It runs from 12.00-19.00 and provides an opportunity to explore all 24 Russell Group universities. There is a parent support webinar from 18.05-18.30. Please register at: <https://russellgroup.vfairs.com/en>
- For students in Year 12 who are considering applying to the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge, the application form for their online student conferences in March is now available. Please see: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/events/student-conferences>

Cont...

- Applications for the Sutton Trust Summer Schools are now open to Year 12 students. Over 40 courses are available at 13 UK universities within the programme. There are eligibility criteria. Please see the link: <https://summerschools.suttontrust.com/browse-courses/>

Apprenticeships:

More information about National Apprenticeship Week (8th – 14th February) will follow in future bulletins.

- Please see the information about the UK University and Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair in the previous section.
- Springpod are hosting an Apprenticeship Virtual Careers Fair on 27th January. Several companies are taking part including Astra Zeneca, Marks and Spencer, Nestlé, Cancer Research UK and HSBC. By registering, the sessions may be available after the event:
https://apprenticeships.springpod.co.uk/?utm_source=sendgrid&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=careersfairpromownedt_14_01_21

Support:

Over the coming weeks, my colleague Mrs O'Brien and I will be contacting students in Year 11 who have said they require assistance with their plans for next year.

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