



Spalding High School



Weekly Bulletin 24.09.20

Well done to Year 11 for keeping the School updated on their news again this week; it is nice to hear what is happening both in school and outside of school. You are joined by news from Y10 today too. Typically, many of these achievements would be celebrated in the end of term newsletter with reports written by students and accompanied by photographs. Feel free to submit your reports for the bulletin instead.

It would be lovely to hear news from the other year groups too, so come on, spend a form time or two putting together your news and sending it to your Head of Year for publication in the weekly bulletin. It is lovely to hear about what you are all up to!

Covid-19 Tests

Can parents/carers please ensure that they notify the School as a priority if a student is tested or that a student is part of a household that is self-isolating. It is very important that we are told.

Year 9 (as was last year) Latin:

Prior to lockdown - 63 of you were working with great focus and determination to your first external qualification, the Level 1 Certificate in Latin Language and Roman Civilization. Mrs Clay and I were very impressed with how you engaged with the course - particularly enjoying the new inclusion of the civilisation paper. It is a shame that you did not have the chance to sit the exam but we were delighted that you were awarded grades in line with the performance we had seen. Thirty-three of you achieved A*, 17 of you A, 13 of you B. Which means that you all passed! Well done! You will receive an official exam certificate in due course.

Mrs Jones

Head of Latin and Classics

Letter from Public Health England and the DfE

We have been asked to circulate the attached letters from PHE. The letter explains the symptoms of Covid-19 and how they may vary from symptoms of other viruses such as colds.

Please keep the letter safe for future reference as we move into the autumn and winter coughs and colds season.

A message to students about water

Please ensure that you have enough water with you for the entire day.

"Normal" student absence and school work.

Students who are unwell with "normal" things (i.e. not Covid related self-isolation) need to follow the absence procedures and work catch up procedures explained in the School Planner. Teachers will not be able to send home work/email during the day for these absences.

Plans for Parents' Evenings this year.

Currently, we are unable to run Parents' Evenings in their usual format. In Term 1 and T2, we intend to trial two new systems:

Academic Tutorial Day:

Form tutors (HOYs, SLT) will have virtual meetings, telephone conversations or face-to-face meetings with tutees to discuss progress across all subjects. **We will trial this first with Y8 on Wednesday 2nd December.**

Subject contact conversations for the Sixth Form:

Pairs of teachers (or one if a single teacher teaches the subject) will contact home and speak with the student/parent by phone/Teams/Zoom. **We will trial this first with Y12 during the fortnight starting 16th November.**

We have put dates onto the calendar for Parents' Evenings but appreciate that we will have to adapt as the situation with the pandemic unfolds. We will keep in touch with parents and update you regularly.

The calendar does not yet have a parents' evening listed for Y7. We are hopeful that by next summer we will be able to meet in person again.

Remote Education Support – Microsoft Teams.

To further strengthen and support our remote education provision and provide more opportunity for interaction and communication, we will be implementing Microsoft Teams.

'Teams', as it is most commonly referred to, has a range of uses, including being a great platform for remote learning. This means that your daughter or son will be able to access work that is set by their teachers at home. Teams can be accessed through any PC, laptop, tablet or phone.

The Teams application has a specific function for education and is now widely being used by schools, colleges and universities across the world. We will expect your child to access Teams at home and complete work set for them. Their teachers will be able to mark work and give feedback, and your child will be able to ask their teachers for help through messaging.

Since the start of the new academic year, teaching staff have been busy training to use Teams effectively and over the course of the next fortnight, we will provide students with instructions on how to sign into and use Teams.

Please be aware the move to Teams is new to all of us, learners, parents and teachers alike. No doubt we will encounter some difficulties but by working together, we will solve them. I will write to you again shortly with further details of when Teams will be available to students.

Thank you in anticipation of your support, the strength of which is invaluable in these difficult times.

Mr Love
Assistant Headteacher

School Photographs, Year 7, Year 9, new students in Y12. MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER

The photographers have confirmed that they will be here on Monday 28th. Year 7 Period 1 / Year 9 Period 2 / New students in Y12 P3.

All social distancing measures will be observed and students will be standing rather than sitting for the photographs. The company will be in touch with parents via school as all ordering, and payment systems will be on-line this year.

Several Y7 and Y9 groups have PE lessons scheduled for Monday 28th. Students are to wear normal school uniform and not PE kit but do need to bring their trainers if they have a PE lesson that day.

School Calendar 2020/21

Please find attached an updated school calendar for 2020/21. As you will appreciate, a number of school events are just not possible at the moment.

We will review the calendar on a regular basis and adjust events in light of the Covid regulations in place at any given point.

We will always endeavour to give parents as much notice as possible to changes of calendar dates.

Please also see the report above about our plans for Parents' Evenings for at least T1 and T2.

The Canteen – Break times.

Routines are going really well in the canteen and we feel that we can now start a break time service from Monday 28th September. To begin with, this will be on a daily rotation basis as explained below:

Sixth Form – first 5 minutes only – any day

Y7 – Monday

Y8 – Tuesday

Y9 – Wednesday

Y10 – Thursday

Y11 - Friday

Students can only use the canteen at break time on **their** day and will not be admitted after 10.30am (M-W) and 11.15 (Th/Fr) so that everyone is back in their bubble by the time the bell goes.

Entry and exit routes for the one-way system will be the same as lunchtime routines.

Year 8 Music – Chair Drumming.

This is Y8 who have started the year with the Chair Drumming project they were unable to do in March. Here they are drumming along to 'Another One bites the Dust', which, along with the rest of Y8 and Y7, will feature in the online virtual Winter Concert. Recording for the virtual Winter Concert is already underway and sounding amazing so far!

Mr Garbett

Head of Music



News from Year 11 Form and Vice Captains –

11C - Maddie Freeman represented the School's equestrian team and came 7th in the National Qualifiers for horse riding. Kaia is being bridesmaid for her cousin's wedding this weekend and Sophia has gone back to Karate club and is enjoying it. **Lucy and Kaia**

11J - Since being back in school many of our form have returned to clubs that had to stop during lockdown, e.g. gymnastics, hockey, athletics and dance. A few members of our form have jobs and are going to be starting them very soon. Overall, we are all very happy to be back and to a 'normal' routine. **Eleanor**

11N - 11N are super keen to get back to sports. Elizabeth has just had braces and everyone agrees they look great. **Laura**

11P - Hello parents and students! We are 11P's form representatives, Ishika and Molly. This week our form elected Farhat as our chosen member of the school council. Emma Crocker has been selected for 'Swim England National Event Camp' for 2020, which is to take place over two days. She is one of only 90 swimmers selected nationally! She will have the opportunity to learn advanced technical skills and tactical development. We wish them both the best of luck. We are also proud of all those in our form who have achieved Maths, Physics and Biology challenge certificates, ranging from Bronze to Gold. **Ishika and Molly**

11S - This week 11S have continued to settle back into the school routine while managing to keep up with old hobbies. Josie has continued her ballet at a new ballet school, Maddie has participated in the regional hockey try-outs and Alice has competed in a British tour tennis event. Last weekend Emily competed for Peterborough in a football match, winning 8-2. Emily has also been selected for Peterborough United Elite Squad U16's for the 4th year running, along with Northamptonshire Acc U16's for the 2nd year running. Northamptonshire Acc is on the England talent pathway. **Mimi and Alice.**

News from Year 10 Form Tutors.

10C

"Mrs Bennett welcomes back 10C to G1! An excellent and very positive start to the year with students clearly enjoying their option choices. I have already received a number of positive comments about attitude and progress, which have been passed on to the students concerned. Bobbi Beaumont has been elected as 10C School Council representative and has lots of ideas she ready to take forwards! Thank you for keeping the form room so tidy- it's much appreciated 10C!"
Mrs Bennett

10J

"10J seem happy to be back and are still smiling in the morning! They are supportive of one other and have adapted to new routines incredibly well. They regularly keep me entertained with their conversations, and I can rely on their bubbly nature to help start the day with a positive attitude." Mr Ganger

10N

"10n have settled back into school with confidence and aplomb! They have been very supportive of one another and of the form as a group identity. They are a credit to Year 10 and I am proud to be their tutor. "
Miss Pettefar

10P

"Welcome back everyone! I did miss you all over the lockdown period and I am sure you missed each other. However, a few weeks in and its business as usual in 10P now we are finally back. I think they secretly missed school, a lot! Our new form room in M5 has been well received and it is certainly bustling with catch up stories and plenty of gossip. It seems like the girls are also enjoying the new field space and benches adjacent to the old Halmer Grange site. Probably for more catch up stories and definitely more gossip! Anyway, keep up the good work everyone and remember to stay positive whatever the future brings."
Mr Farrell

10S

"Now that the girls have adjusted to the new seating arrangements (which originally caused a logistical headache) everyone seems really happy to be back in school. They are missing their lockers but enjoy being in their own Year 10 bubble and not having homework. They seem to be enjoying having lessons in their option groups now as it means they can get to know people from other forms better and love wearing their PE kits to school."
Mrs Clay

Apprenticeships

September's edition of the Parents' Pack from Amazing Apprenticeships is now available to read. It can be found in 'Information for Parents' in the careers section of the school website. This month's edition has a focus on apprenticeships in the NHS. There is also a useful section with information about T Levels (Technical Levels) – a new qualification available upon completion of GCSEs.

Further useful information can be found on the Amazing Apprenticeships website:

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

University Applications

Our Year 13 students are currently working on their university applications. Students applying to Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine courses have an earlier application deadline than students applying for all other courses. It is never too early to start researching how to apply for university courses and the following links will be useful:

www.ucas.com

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/>

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/>

Subject Prefects

Our Year 13 subject prefects are preparing short videos about the subjects they represent for Year 11 tutors to show Year 11 students during their Life in Sixth Form PSHCE session on 8th October. Our first ever Careers prefects, Harleen Aujla and Emily Clay, are putting together the final presentation. Thank you, Harleen and Emily!

Mrs Bushell, Careers Leader

