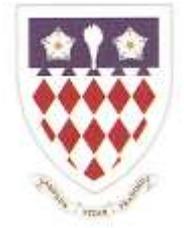




Spalding High School



Weekly Bulletin 28.01.21

Yesterday the Prime Minister made a statement to the House, which in part touched upon education. I am sure more details will develop over the course of the coming day(s) but in essence, he confirmed that the Government will set out its roadmap, including for education, on Monday 22nd February and that this would be based on the exact position of the virus at that time. He therefore confirmed that schools would **not** be returning to face-to-face learning “immediately after half term”. He explained that providing the position with the virus supported a gradual lifting of the restrictions at that point that we may see some degree of a phased return from 8th March. He also committed to a long-term recovery plan for education that would last for the duration of this parliament.

Obviously, this is disappointing for all of us. We dreadfully miss having students in school but are all pleased and proud of the way in which our students are engaging with, and responding to, remote learning along with incredible support from parents and carers. To our students I would say; “Keep going – you really are doing so very well and there will come a time, hopefully soon, that you will be back in school learning with teachers and socialising with friends on site”.

Key worker parents, and parents of vulnerable children, please remember that the information you need, should you wish for your child to attend school, can be found in the Covid-19 folder on the School website.

It was an absolute pleasure to see so many Y9 and Y10 students coming into school yesterday for their meningitis/teenage booster vaccination appointment. This gave us a chance to at least touch base, return books, and get up and away from computers for at least a short spell! We really are missing you! The School Nursing Service ran the day brilliantly with all social distancing measures in place. Over three quarters of the two-year groups attended an appointment for this very important vaccination programme and the SNS will be running a mop up session for those who were unable to be vaccinated yesterday.

We do have books for some of the students and are making plans to return them over the next few days. We do not want to risk posting them and so staff have kindly agreed to organise doorstep drop offs. Parents will receive an InTouch message from the School the day before we drop off the envelope of books. Staff will knock on the door but leave the envelope of books (which in some cases are large) on the doorstep. Staff will not put them through the letterbox and social distancing will be maintained throughout.

Consultation

A reminder to all students and parents that the DfE/Ofqual Exams consultation ends on Friday. Please do participate and contribute to this important consultation:

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

Once the results of the consultation have been published, we shall confirm our internal assessment arrangements with Year 11 and Year 13 (and Year 12 Core Maths and Criminology.)

The assessment week on the school calendar for the week beginning 22nd February will not take place at this time, either in school or remotely. Pending the results of the consultation, it may take place at a later date.

Parents' Evenings

Year 9 Parents' Evening will take place on Wednesday 3rd March. This will be an online event. We are currently setting up an online appointment booking system so that parents and carers can arrange online video meetings with teaching staff. More details to follow shortly by email.

The Year 9 Parents' Evening will serve as a test run for Year 10, 11 and 13 Parents' Evenings later in the year.

Details to be confirmed.

Careers Update

Applying to university:

Some parents and students have contacted me recently to ask about deadline dates for replying to university course offers. This year the deadline for choosing firm and insurance choices has been extended to 10th June if a student has received all their offers by 20th May. The link below, including a helpful short film, will provide information about the decision-making process:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/types-offer/replying-your-ucas-undergraduate-offers>

Apprenticeships:

The January edition of the Parents' Pack from Amazing Apprenticeships is available to download. It includes a 10-step plan for finding an apprenticeship in 2021, the latest T Level information, a guide to Higher and Degree apprenticeships, life as a new apprentice at the BBC and more:

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/parents-pack-january/>

More information about National Apprenticeship Week (8th – 14th February) will follow in next week's bulletin.

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

Year 10

Welcome back to our wonderful Year 10's to 2021 and remote learning! It definitely wasn't the start we envisaged, but together we will get through this. I am proud to see so many more of you engaging with the remote learning, joining live lessons, managing your workload and handing assignments in on time. Keep up the hard work, but also don't hesitate to get in touch if there are circumstances (such as health, home or technology) that may be preventing you from coping. Subject teachers and form tutors are doing an excellent job supporting you. Wednesday is now "Wellbeing Wednesday" when there is a virtual year group assembly each week at 8:55am. The first one focused on Self Care and students have produced their own self-care plan, and this week and last week the focus has been on Challenging Negative Emotions. It is great to see so many of you joining the live assemblies and engaging with the support around you. I am extremely proud of you! Keep up the hard work! Mrs Hickman

10C

10C I hope you are all well. You have tackled lockdown learning head on again this year, taking the opportunity to use Thursday mornings as a chance to catch up on PSHCE tasks and with each other. Next challenge is to hold a Kahoot on Teams - what could possibly go wrong! Make sure you plan your work carefully and take all opportunities to enjoy your spare time. Keep those Netflix recommendations coming please! Mrs B

10J

10J have made a good start to remote learning this term, and when posed the question about when we could catch up as a form, mornings were not entertained. We have since organised a quiz every Friday where we have a quick catch up. It's been nice to hear from most of you, and to those of you who missed last week, please join this week, you all definitely bring a bit of entertainment to my day. Mr Ganger

10N

Dear 10N, I trust you are all conscientiously engaging with Teams - this time is certainly much better than last lockdown! I'm hoping that some of you (Lily volunteered last term but anyone can have a go) will create Kahoot quizzes, which we will then attempt to play via Teams. Let me know... Thanks to Anya for her Vegan memes, they make me smile. Stay positive 10N! Miss Pettefar

10P

Well here we go again. Boris keeps trying to put a stop to 10P's regular 'Form Kahoot Friday' but not even the Prime Minister can succeed. Thanks to everyone who keeps attending the sessions. I mistakenly said if I got 100% attendance for 'Form Kahoot Friday', I would do a fancy dress fitness session (Joe Wicks on a Friday). Well I'm a man of my word. Let the challenge begin. Stay positive and stay safe! Mr F

10S

It was lovely to catch up with you today on Teams and I am so glad that nearly everyone was able to make it. Thank you for your time. In these difficult times, Amanda Gorman's words at the US inauguration ceremony really resonated with me. Her poem was called 'The hill we climb,' and spoke of optimism and hope for all of us: 'The new dawn balloons as we free it. For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we are brave enough to be it.' So my message to you is to keep chipping away at your work and hopefully you too will gain the inspiration to fly free one day soon and to create your own destinies.' Mrs Clay

PE Update

Pupils worked exceptionally hard last week to keep active whilst working from home. Throughout Years, 7-11, 39,408 minutes of physical activity were recorded last week, WOW! Can we get over 40,000 minutes in week two?

The forms most physically active in each year group were 7N, 8S, 9N, 10N, 11C & 11N. The overall house that completed the most physical activity minutes was Nightingale, who achieved an amazing 9,375 minutes. Go Nightingale!

The top 10 pupils who were the most physically active were; Antonina Such 7C, Harsimrat Kaur 7C, Wiktoria Kusyk 7N, Isabella Larsson 8P, Chloe Ham 8J, Sophie Lewis 9C, Connie Avery 9N, Harriet Culley 10S, Beatrice Finch 10S and Hannah Rogers 11P. Connie Avery was randomly drawn from the top 10 most active pupils and she will receive this week's £10 gift voucher.

Well done to everybody who completed their physical activity log and kept physically active. Remember to upload your week 2 logs by end of the school day on Friday each week. Keep motivated, have fun and watch out for some new challenges to come.

The PE department

Maths Challenge

Good luck to the 70 students who will be competing in this year's Intermediate Maths Challenge next Thursday 4th February at 9am. This Challenge is aimed at years 9-11, and we also have some Y8 students taking part. It is normally a huge event held in the Sports Hall, but this year will be held fully online.

The Junior, Intermediate and Senior Maths Challenges have always been a big feature here at SHS, with hundreds of students competing each year, and we are not letting the pandemic spoil our fun. So far this academic year we have managed to run the Senior Maths Challenge, the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls and now the Intermediate Maths Challenge too. We have also been able to present the certificates for LAST year's IMC, which took place shortly before the first lockdown, and were delighted to be able to give out a fantastic 7 Gold, 20 Silver and 58 Bronze certificates. We also had an incredible 10 students who made it through to follow-on rounds in 2020. On Thursday 19th March 2020, the day after the government announcement of lockdown, nine of our students competed in the invitation-only Kangaroo event, and one student did the highly prestigious Maclaurin Olympiad.

We are very proud of our students and their can-do attitude to problem solving.