

# Head of School

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

As I think about the last calendar year, there has been so much to celebrate at Spalding Academy. When I write my newsletter each week, I am always so proud of the incredible achievements and opportunities our students have. In our final week of Term 2, we have certainly been busy with our usual achievements and supporting our local community at a time of year, when a little extra is always needed and appreciated.

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022, thirteen students from Spalding Academy went to compete in the Lincolnshire Schools Floor & Vault Competition held in Grantham. **The Under 14 Girls Blue team came an incredible 1st place and were crowned County Champions!**

The team performed with such confidence and really went all out to win. They were also the highest scoring team of the day as they scored higher than the Under 19 Girls team who came in 1st place! This is such an incredible achievement for a group of Year 7 and 8 girls! This team consisted of Whitney Law and Connie Urquhart in Year 7 and Elle Alsop-Buxton, Emilia Wilson and Gabrielle Wilson in Year 8.



The Under 14 Girls Pink team had a brilliant competition as well just placing outside of the medals and achieving 4th place! For this team it was their first ever gymnastics competition, which they thoroughly enjoyed. This team consisted of Megan Farrar, Oliwia Kuchta, Aleska Parfjonova, Jess Roberts and Olivia Wells and who are all in Year 7.

Unfortunately, due to illness the Under 19 mixed team were a member down and couldn't compete as a team - however, they were allowed to compete individually. These girls were absolutely fabulous and were congratulated on their beautiful floor routines by both of the floor judges and coaches from other schools. Olivia Mohale in Year 10 came 1st place and Wiktoria Chmielewska in Year 11 came 2nd place for Level 1. In the Level 2 category Lily Kelk in Year 11 came 2nd place and only 0.1 points behind 1st!

The teams now continue to train, in preparation for the East Midlands Floor & Vault Competition held in Stamford, on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Good Luck!!

All week we have held our Super Prize Draws for our highest achieving students in school. Our Year 7's have been achieving very highly as we had over 130 students eligible to enter for this prize draw based on their incredible AOL data, attendance data and achievement grades. As an extra special treat for our hardworking Year 7, 8 and 9 students, we created a cinema in the East Hall and students watched a Christmas film with a sweet treat and drink. The students absolutely loved the event and have said they cannot wait for the next one. Keep up the good work!

This week, we have also provided an extra special breakfast for our Year 8 Student Buddies. The buddies have been working hard throughout the year supporting school events and students in Year 7 who have been transitioning to secondary school. The breakfast was definitely enjoyed by all and a welcome reward for those students who have shown a little extra commitment to the school this academic year.

As we all know Christmas is a time of joy and happiness, but as a school, we recognise we must support others in our local community who may need an extra kind hand at this time of year. All of our form groups have created 50 Christmas hampers to donate to the Glenholme Halmer Court Care Home and Agape Care Foodbank in Spalding. Our students and their families have gone above and beyond for our local communities. Thank you to everyone of donated to this initiative.



Our staff team have been busy supporting our local community too with our Just Giving Tree, through support of the local newspaper - The Spalding Voice. The appeal makes a huge difference to struggling families across South Holland and Boston, ensuring children who wouldn't get a present have something to open on Christmas Day. Each year our staff kindness grows and the number of presents collected is amazing! I would like to thank Miss Fuller for organising this charity event and co-ordinating the gifts.

From my perspective, as Head of School, it has been the quickest, most fulfilling and most rewarding year of my professional career. It is hard to believe that I have been at Spalding Academy for over four terms as it has flown by!

Finally, in light of the tragic accident in Solihull, we would like to ensure students and parents/carers are aware of how to stay safe around water in the winter months. Please visit the link below to download a free information booklet from The Royal Lifesaving Society UK (RLSS).

- [www.spaldingacademy.org.uk/be-winter-smart-around-water](http://www.spaldingacademy.org.uk/be-winter-smart-around-water)

I would like to thank all of our staff, students, governors and parents/carers for their hard work and support for our students in 2022. I am excited for 2023 at Spalding Academy!

Please remember all year groups return to school on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

I would like to wish you all a happy Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Your sincerely,



**Mrs Jemma Curson**

Head of School, Spalding Academy

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