

# Head of School

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

What a fantastic week we have had. This week has been very busy in the education world!

I would like to say a huge “thank you” to you, our staff and students for allowing the teacher strike day to be calm and allowed our learning to continue to be as close to normal as we could get. Although, we did not take the decision to close Year 9 and 10 groups lightly, this was the right decision to allow the school to run safely and smoothly. We will keep you informed about the next teacher strike days. These are on 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March. We will review each of these days and inform you of any year group closures (if any).

On Thursday, we ran our popular DEAR Time sessions, which stands for ‘Drop Everything And Read’. This is where the whole class take turns to read a text and they then discuss what they have read to highlight key vocabulary and share their thoughts on the issues raised in the material. All classes focus on a different subject area so if they normally have an art, history or maths lesson, their reading text can be relevant to art, history or maths. Our students’ feedback on the DEAR sessions and they are always so positive. At Spalding Academy, we value reading as an enriching activity, which can make a profound difference to our students’ lives. As well as this, we appreciate that regular reading is linked to a developing vocabulary and improved skills in writing and that both of these skills are vital to success in all curriculum areas and life beyond school.

This week, we took the first of our two trips to our Trust Sixth Form at Bourne Academy, with our Year 11 students. The aim of the visit is to help our students to familiarise themselves with the short bus journey along with the school layout and Sixth Form facilities. Students were able to drop in to lessons, based on the subjects they have applied to study, which will introduce them to the teaching staff and give an idea of the lesson content ahead of joining Year 12 in September 2023. The students that visited this week came back with excitement about their journey with the Trust, beyond GCSEs.

I would like to remind you of an important change that will take place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023. You will have seen a letter sent by Mr Hind (Executive Deputy Headteacher) explaining a decision the South Lincolnshire Academies Trust has made for students to follow their usual Monday timetable on the last day of this term - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The decision has been made because of the significant disruption our students have faced to their usual Monday timetable as a result of the various public holidays over this academic year. Please can I ask that you remind your child of this important change in preparation for next Friday.



Finally, our extra curricular focus for this week is the KS3 Computing Club. This club runs on a Monday lunchtime and after school. It is open to all Year 7 or 8 students who have an interest in any aspect of IT. The club has mostly been looking at programming to mirror what the students have been doing in lessons. In the first weeks they programmed the Probots to draw simple shapes and travel around a circuit. Since then they have been creating simple games and animations in Scratch and are now going on to look at creating simple programs in Python. In the future, they will be looking at using Photoshop and other graphics programs.

I wish everyone a happy and restful weekend.

Your sincerely,



**Mrs Jemma Curson**

Head of School, Spalding Academy

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