

Head of School

Friday 17th March 2023

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

I would like to thank parents/carers for their on-going support this week. It is never an easy school decision to ask students to study from home. We appreciate your support during this time.

We have had another great week at Spalding Academy. Today is Comic Relief/Red Nose Day and we held our annual non-uniform day at the school. This year, we decided to use this day to raise funds for two charities! I am pleased to announce we raised over £1,400. We will donate 50% of the funds raised to Comic Relief and 50% to the DEC Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal. I would like to thank everyone for their support with these worthwhile charities and please remember to visit our website and social media for photos of students from today.

On Tuesday 14th March 2023 we were delighted to welcome Sue Armour and Louis Humphreys from the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership as part of our 'myth-busting' sessions to educate students about the great opportunities within the business. During the afternoon, a small group of Year 10 and Year 11 students participated in a 'Chance for Change' workshop based on the recently secured £20million levelling up bid for the Castle Sports Complex in Spalding. In their groups they discussed the issues within our community and were encouraged to look at possible solutions.

Once the conversations started, ideas were in good flow from the improvements of roads to the lack of entertainment and safe spaces for teenagers. The final six projects were a college, an improved and safer skate park, a theme park, a youth club with arcades for 11 to 17 year olds, a vastly upgraded Springfields with a cinema and youth centre offering swipe cards for safety with an app for parents/carers to know their child is safe and finally, a community/youth centre with a fitness suite.

During a Year 10 assembly, the visitors very quickly demonstrated that there are various job roles such as IT, Finance, Planning, Refuse and Recycling, Housing, Environmental Protection, Strategic Growth and Development and Community to name just a few. Sue and Louis told of their own education and career paths and showcased educational and personal development as two of the many benefits of working for the Council. Again, a great opportunity for our students about accessing what our local employment markets offer our students.

I am really pleased to announce that our Year 9 football team won their County Cup Quarter Final against Priory Ruskin Academy in Grantham. **We are officially in the Top 4 schools in Lincolnshire!** The footballers started well and began to dominate with the wind behind them but couldn't seem to put away their chances. The boys played intelligent football keeping the ball on the floor and breaking on the counter.



Our solid defence and creativity in midfield helped create chances and with two minutes to go we scored after brilliant play in midfield and a goalmouth scramble. A 2-1 win against a strong footballing side was thoroughly deserved, the boys were fantastic from start to finish and represented the school with brilliance. Mr Favell said he was extremely proud of each and every one of the boys, who gave 100% the entire game whilst always working as a team. We are now into the semi-finals against local rivals Spalding Grammar. Come on Spalding Academy!

We had 45 students in Year 9 visit the Key Theatre in Peterborough. The students watched a matinee performance of 'Teechers' by John Godber. As you may know, 'Teechers' is a text studied within the Drama Curriculum at Key Stage 3 and the playwright is a focus practitioner in Year 10 and Year 11 during the BTEC qualification. The performance enhanced our students understanding of the text and how a live production comes together. This is our first of many trips to the theatre after the pandemic. The students really enjoyed the experience of a live theatre performance.

I would like to remind parents/carers that we always encourage communication between home and school. I would also like to remind parents that we will not tolerate any rude or abusive language used to our staff. We do not accept this from our students, so we will certainly not accept this from our parents. I would like highlight that our staff are extremely busy in the day supporting our 1,400 students during the school day. We cannot accommodate parents turning up without an appointment slot. We always try to meet parents when we can. However, I do not want to waste parents time sat in our main reception, when the wait could be very long.

Finally, our extra-curricular focus for this week is the Strategy Games Club. This after school club has been running since September in Room C4 and is open to all year groups. The club meets every Wednesday from 3.30pm to 4.30pm and it has become a regular feature for many students, as well as welcoming new students to give it a go. The aim of the club is to give students the chance to try games that they may never have come across before. Students have been enjoying the Wild West themed dice game 'Bang!', where alliances are made and broken in an attempt to win the game. 'King of Tokyo', where monsters battle it out to be the last one standing and 'Cobra Paw', a game of reaction times and reflexes. Particularly popular has been 'Dice Throne', a two-player game that pits a range of varied characters against each other in a game of skill and dice manipulation. Students have also been bringing their own games and we have seen Monopoly and Chess making a regular appearance. What is particularly good is that the club allows students to teach and mentor others, to interact with a range of other students and to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills through the use of literacy and numeracy. We look forward to the club welcoming more new faces.

What another successful week. I wish everyone a restful weekend.

Your sincerely,



Mrs Jemma Curson

Head of School, Spalding Academy

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