

Head of School

Friday 14th July 2023

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

We have had an amazing penultimate week here at Spalding Academy.

On Thursday evening, we attended the **Lincolnshire Free Press and Spalding Guardian Education Awards Ceremony 2023** at the Springfields Events & Conference Centre in Spalding. We were thrilled that Spalding Academy and our staff and students had been shortlisted for five categories. Across the Trust, we have a total of ten nominations across five categories and are delighted that the talents, dedication and hard work of our students and staff are recognised so we can celebrate their achievements. The evening was full of glitter and excitement to see who had won each category.



I am really pleased to announce that **Kiya Clark** in Year 7 won **Secondary Student of the Year** and our **Eco-Council and Prom Dress Initiative** were also crowned **Environmental Champions**.

I would also like to congratulate **Mrs Nicky Marks** who was runner up for **Support Staff Member of the Year** and **Mrs Penny Watt** who was runner up for **Inspirational Secondary School Teacher of the Year**. Spalding Academy were runners up for Secondary School of the Year, which was won Bourne Academy making it a highly successful evening for the schools in our Trust.





On Tuesday, we also held a second House Celebration Evening. This evening was very well supported by over 150 families. It is evenings like these that makes my role as Head of School even more enjoyable! We celebrated the winners of each trophy, and all students received a certificate and a voucher. The House Festival Music winners played two incredible live songs which were truly outstanding. On this evening we also announced our house winning team. As you see from the table below Trinity House won the trophy for this academic year!

					
TRINITY HOUSE 1st - 570 points	MCLAREN HOUSE 2nd - 460 points	NOVA HOUSE 3rd - 375 points	JOHNSON HOUSE 4th - 330 points	PEAKE HOUSE 5th - 245 points	HOLLAND HOUSE 6th - 240 points

The SLAT Careers Team provide a varied and engaging programme for students across our four schools. Alongside supporting the Year 11 cohort with their Post 16 options and applications, it is important that all year groups are exposed to industry and begin to think about possibilities for their future career. To aid with this, and keep it interactive and fun, we work with local employers and invite them in to school to deliver assemblies and run workshops etc.

During June and July, the team have been working closely with Worldwide Fruit and have seen Year 7 and Year 9 take part in enterprise events that give students an insight to the world of work. Rob King, Logistics Manager, has been at the forefront of these initiatives.

Year 9 were first to take on their enterprise challenge at the end of June. Looking at the fruit wastage in the UK, specifically that from Worldwide Fruit, they were set the task of creating a product that would benefit a community with a budget of £500. With the initial task being to vote in a Team Leader, the remaining students then had to reflect on their individual skills and decide whether a creative role or a more figure-focused one would be the best fit. Once a product had been agreed, the two teams worked on costings and logo design before presenting back to their peers.

To follow was the turn of Year 7 this week as they had their two-hour workshop which saw them mapping the journey of a Jazz apple from New Zealand to Scotland. They were surprised to learn that the apples

we buy from a supermarket today, will have been picked in New Zealand up to four months ago. Students were encouraged to consider jobs and responsibilities as they discovered the depth of the supply chain and the various costings involved in the processes. At the end of both sessions, Rob and his colleagues chose a winning team who were presented with prizes.

It was great to see the students so involved and some even confident enough to take themselves out of their comfort zones and present back to their peers. We had some fantastic ideas from hair and beauty products, room fragrances, cakes and lollies, smoothies and all manner of drinks. It was lovely to see the kind nature of our students as they were sure to show the benefit to their community too.

Well done to all that took part – we are looking forward to introducing more activities and companies in the new academic year as we continue to broaden the vision and heighten the aspiration of our young people.



On Thursday, we collapsed our timetable for our annual Year 10 PHSE day. We had 10 external speakers who came in to support our students. Our visitors commented on our student's positive behaviour and participation in the sessions. The day was very informative and the students enjoyed their experiences. The areas covered included Healthy Relationships, County Lines, Online Safety, Drug Awareness and Road Safety.

Also on Thursday this week, students in Year 9 have taken part in a STEM challenge at Lincolnshire Showground. The Lincolnshire Institute of Technology are working in conjunction with the Careers and Enterprise Council to run the event where students have been finding out more about wind as a power source. Along with an assigned STEM Ambassador, the team have designed and developed a working windmill from reused items and were competing along with our other schools. The full illustrated story is to follow in the newsletter next week and will be on our social media platforms too. Thank you to our Stem Ambassador, from Bakkavor for supporting our students through this great opportunity.

Student safety and wellbeing are at the heart of our Trust and the safeguarding of our students is our highest priority. Our safeguarding and pastoral teams are here to support all students during their school career when they need some extra support, whether the need is student mental health, advice on keeping safe, or simply being worried about a friend. Nationally, over the last few years there has been a rise in self-harm cases, which has increased partly due to posts shared on social media. It is important that you or your child knows how to report or block this content online. If parents/carers or students have any concerns, they can always contact our safeguarding or pastoral teams for support.

We are constantly reviewing our safeguarding provision and policies in our schools to fully support all our students. Therefore, with this in mind, we have reviewed our banned items list for our Trust and we feel now is the right time to ban students bringing into school any item that would be classed as a bladed item, which will include students' own scissors and pencil sharpeners.

From September 2023, all classrooms will have a desk mounted pencil sharpener for students to access and we will provide other items needed for lessons, i.e. scissors as required. We feel this change is necessary to support our safeguarding measures. Please be reassured that we will update our student equipment list, safeguarding policy and behaviour policy to reflect this small modification.

Finally, as we only have one week of school left, I thought it would be a great opportunity to remind you about our safeguarding procedures over the summer holiday period. We have been preparing our students to be equipped with knowledge and support about keeping themselves safe as they arrive at the six-week summer break. Next week in assemblies, we will be reminding students how to keep safe over the summer period and signposting them to important contact details which can be found in our safeguarding area of the school website should they need some support, advice or help during the summer period, this includes our worried email: worried@spaldingacademy.org.uk which will be monitored over the summer break. If you have any immediate safeguarding concerns, please contact Children Services on 01522 782111 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm). For out-of-hours emergencies, call 01522 782333.

Your sincerely,



Mrs Jemma Curson

Head of School, Spalding Academy

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- www.instagram.com/SpaldingAcademy
- www.facebook.com/SpaldingAcademy
- www.twitter.com/SpaldingSLAT