

Head of School

Friday 1st December 2023

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

I cannot believe we are now in December and heading into the festive season!

It was wonderful to see our amazing school band perform some Christmas tunes and watch our lower school choir sing at the Spalding Christmas Lights Market last Saturday. Thank you to all those parents/carers who supported the event.

Last year, we launched The Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme for our students. I am really pleased to announce that we have our first ten Year 11 students who have achieved their Bronze Award certificates and badges. This is a huge achievement for our students as this achievement takes time, dedication and determination to complete. We are pleased that our current group of student numbers have increased with 23 students working towards their award and have begun their navigation training for their expedition next year. This scheme is being supported by volunteer staff, as well as Ciena Pittam in Year 11, who has taken on additional responsibility as our DofE Young Leader at Spalding Academy. Well done to everyone for their support of this great scheme.

One of our main priorities this academic year is to increase our Student Voice initiatives. Our new 'Students Say, We Listen' section on the website (www.spaldingacademy.org.uk/students-say-we-listen) is being used throughout the year, which is amazing. Each term we feedback to the students about their suggestions. Already, we have increased food capacity on each yard, further promoted our extra-curricular activities, increased benches on the yard and introduced a local youth worker to support students with anxiety. In addition to this, we are also introducing a 'Student School Council'. We have launched this with students and I am really pleased to announce we have had over 120 applications from students who would like to join the council. We will shortlist the students and announce the new team in a future update.

As the cold weather is fast approaching, we appreciate many of our students leave the house early in the morning and may miss the most important meal of the day... breakfast. We were given a Community Award for our breakfast service in 2021, and we are once again pleased to confirm that we are extending this service to those who need it. We are continuing to offer free porridge to all students, from 8.20am in Café Central. We hope this will support our students and their families as the cold winter temperature sets in.



Following on from our 2023 Environmental Champion Award, the Eco Club run by our Geography Department contacted the Woodlands Trust to see if they could improve our woodland area on the field. Last Friday after school, Mr Jolly and the students planted the trees donated by the Woodland Trust and were assisted by Mrs Bowler, Miss Wilshire and Miss O'Shea. We successfully planted fifteen saplings that included Crab Apple, Hazel and Rowan. In order to protect to trees, students re-used/recycled plastic protection and will eventually replace these with protective sleeves. As part of the project, students will regularly check on the progress of our trees to ensure they become a long-lasting legacy at the school. Our Eco Club student members are so excited to have contributed to our woodland area in school.



I would like to remind you that we are holding our annual Year 9 Parents' Evening on Thursday 7th December 2023 from 4.30pm to 7.30pm. This is a very important evening for parents and carers, as it provides important information regarding your child's progress. We have already sent parents/carers information about this evening including how to book your appointment.

Our extra-curricular club of this week is the Art Ambassadors that takes place in room D5 every Thursday lunchtime and is run by Mrs Wilson. It is for students in any year who would like to develop their skills and creative thinking. Our most committed Art students can also develop their leadership skills as well as their artistic talents. The club is a space for students to pursue self-initiated projects with the support of specialist art teachers. We therefore encourage students to suggest themes, skills and projects they would like to try. So far this year, students have made ceramic glazed ghosts and spooky Halloween t-shirts, and in the build-up to Christmas students have learnt metal embossing skills plus are busy making Christmas decorations to display in school. Future projects will include pop up exhibitions, developing Art displays around the school and learning new techniques we do not normally do within lesson time.

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend.

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