

Head of School

Friday 8th December 2023

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

Thank you for completing our recent parent survey. The responses were overwhelmingly positive about our school. I appreciate the time it took for you to complete the survey and we have analysed this with our students and staff feedback too. I have included some headline results which we are really proud of:

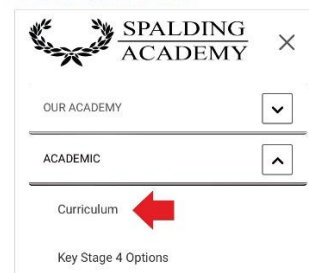
- 97% of our students feel safe in school
- 96% of staff are proud to be a member of our Trust
- 90% of students take part in an extra-curricular club or activity in school

We will always address any areas which have been raised in this feedback. From the feedback, some parents highlighted they wanted more details on our curriculum intent. Our curriculum is under constant review and we make changes to what students learn across school and within subjects based on their feedback, progress and aspirations. We have detailed curriculum intent documents which are on our website - www.spaldingacademy.org.uk/curriculum and can be found under the 'Academic' menu tab (as shown below) and encourage parents to look. Here you will find our overall curriculum aims and delivery, plus you will also find each individual subject content, broken down into year groups and topics.

Menu on **desktop**



Menu on **mobile**



We are immensely proud of the outcomes our students achieve through our curriculum, including their exceptional GCSE results in the core, EBacc subjects, in the technical and vocational areas. We believe that, our students have individual talents and abilities and are committed to providing a curriculum which is broad, rich and balanced in order to meet the needs of all. We value every curriculum subject area and students are encouraged to pursue a range of subjects reflecting their own interests and aspirations. This range is appropriate to age and ability ensuring students have the opportunity to learn and make the best progress possible. The 'Curriculum Journey' in each subject is underpinned by the National Curriculum and puts high challenge, enjoyment and breadth of experience at the heart of learning.



We have had another fabulous week at Spalding Academy! As we enter the final preparations for our Christmas festivities in school, for students we held one of our two Christmas dinner days on Wednesday. The amazing canteen served over 160 tasty traditional Christmas dinners. I would like to thank our catering team for all their efforts with the Christmas dinner. Our second opportunity for students will be on Wednesday 13th December 2023 and the Christmas dinner will be served on a first come, first served basis. Other hot foods will be available on that day too. Also, I would like to thank our Head Students for decorating our Christmas Tree this year, which is on display in our reception.

This week, students have also enjoyed our first SALAD day in school. Our students in Years 7 to 10 spent their day on Thursday concentrating their learning on Speaking and Listening tasks, in order to develop their literacy and communication skills. The students enjoyed tasks that ranged from participating dramatising scenes from the Bible, to investigating JFK's assassination plot.

We also held our Year 9 Parents' Evening online on Thursday evening. Our attendance to this session was incredible. It was lovely to hear so many positive progress conversations happening with our teachers, students and parents/carers. I hope the evening was very informative and gave you an opportunity to ask any questions that you may have in order to support your child further on their educational journey.

Our sporting teams have been very busy over the last two weeks. We have represented several sports from Futsal, Hockey, Basketball and Cricket! Last week, our amazing Cricket Under 13 cricket team came first in their match and are now through to the County Championships! We also had a successful day at the KS4 Superzone Trampoline Competition, students came away with 1st and 2nd in the novice category and 1st in the intermediate category which placed them 3rd overall. More success also came from the U13 Girls Cricket team who won against Giles Academy to be crowned Superzone Champions and have qualified to represent the County in the up-coming County championships. The U15 Girls Cricket team came a very close 2nd place, missing out on 1st place by one run! The U13 Hockey team went to the Superzone tournament which was held at Bourne Academy and had a mixture of draws, wins and losses.



We have celebrated our first Aspire Passport students for this term. We celebrated their incredible achievements in all House Assemblies this week. The students were all very excited to receive their Bronze, Silver or Gold badges. This is the first term through our new initiative and we are so proud of all the students. We look forward to even more celebrations in Term 3 and 4.

Our extra-curricular focus for this week is the Puzzle Club run by the English Department on Monday lunchtimes in room F6. Students can unlock their potential and have a blast with like-minded individuals solving mind-bending challenges! The club is dedicated to bringing together puzzle enthusiasts, from all year groups to engage in stimulating and entertaining gameplay. There is a diverse collection of puzzles for all abilities to keep students engaged and entertained for the whole lunchtime. From the classic Scrabble to brain-teasing riddles and logic games, we offer a wide range of activities to cater to every taste. Due to the popularity of the club, we are always looking for donations of new and interesting puzzles games that our students can sharpen their problem-solving skills.

Finally, for students who completed GCSE and BTEC Level 2 examinations in 2023, these certificates are now ready for collection in person from the school. The last date they can be collected is Monday 15th January 2024. If students are now in the Sixth Form at Bourne Academy, we will make arrangements for them to collect their certificates. If someone is collecting on behalf of the student, we will need permission from the student. It is important that students keep the physical copies of certificates as they may need these for job, college or university applications as proof of achievement. If they do not keep, they may have to pay an administration charge to obtain copies from each examination board in the future. Please note that students Art & Design artwork can also be collected from the school. To collect artwork, liaise with the school 'in advance' so this can be made ready for collection.

Have a great weekend.

Your sincerely,



Mrs Jemma Curson

Head of School, Spalding Academy

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