

# Head of School

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

As I think about the last year, there has been so much to celebrate at Spalding Academy. As I write my newsletter each week, I am always so proud of the incredible achievements and opportunities our students have. In our final week of Term 2, we have certainly been busy with our usual achievements and supporting our local community at a time of year, when a little extra is always needed and appreciated.

As we all know Christmas is a time of joy and happiness, our second day of Christmas dinners was very popular and tasty as ever. It was great to see all of the students enjoying their dinner together with their peers.

We recognise as a school, we must support others in our local community who may need an extra kind hand at this time of year. All of our form groups have been busy collecting Christmas food hampers to donate to our local food bank. Our students and their families have gone above and beyond for our local communities. We had to deliver all the hampers in our school minibus! Thank you to everyone.



Our staff team have been busy supporting our local newspaper 'The Voice' with our 'Just Giving Tree'. The appeal makes a huge difference to struggling families across South Holland and Boston, ensuring children who wouldn't get a present have something to open on Christmas Day. We support this local charity each year, as we feel we can make a difference to our local families. The Spalding Academy staff have been so generous this year. The number of presents collected is huge and the gifts are amazing! I would like to thank Miss Fuller for organising this charity event and co-ordinating the gifts!

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023, ten pupils from Spalding Academy went to compete in the Lincolnshire Schools Floor & Vault Competition held in Grantham. The under 14 Girls A Team came an incredible 3<sup>rd</sup> place out of 9 teams in a very competitive competition (only beaten by two teams from Independent Schools), meaning Spalding Academy Under 14 Girls are the best mainstream school. The team performed with such confidence and really went all out scoring some of the highest vault scores of the day! The team consisted of M Bennett (Year 7), L Moore (Year 7), C Urquhart (Year 8), M Farrar (Year 8) and E Wilson (Year 9).

The under 14 Girls B team was made from novice gymnasts and for most of them this was their first ever competition. They all had a brilliant competition which they thoroughly enjoyed! This team consisted of O Kuchta (Year 8), J Roberts (Year 8), K Abolina (Year 7) and A Samkute (Year 7).

L Allen (Year 10) competed as an individual in the Under 19 Girls category and had a brilliant day, performing a beautiful floor routine and a brilliant vault.

Under 14 Girls Individual Competition:

- Level 1: M Farrar (2<sup>nd</sup>), O Kuchta (3<sup>rd</sup>), A Samkute (6<sup>th</sup>), L Moore (9<sup>th</sup>), J Roberts (11<sup>th</sup>) and K Abolina (12<sup>th</sup>)
- Level 2: C Urquhart (6<sup>th</sup>), M Bennett (13<sup>th</sup>) – out of 40 competitors
- Level 3: E Wilson (4<sup>th</sup>, narrowly missing out on 3<sup>rd</sup>)

Under 19 Girls Individual Competition:

- Level 2: L Allen (5<sup>th</sup>)

The teams now continue to train, in preparation for the East Midlands Floor & Vault Competition being held in Stamford on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024.

Thank you to all of the Year 11 students for their conscientious approach to their Pre-Public Examinations throughout these last few weeks. There has been endless independent revision undertaken, additional intervention classes attended and a high usage of GCSEpod throughout this period. Students have been well supported and their conduct has been excellent, PPE's continue next week with Art, Speaking and Listening for English and French Speaking. We have designed the PPE's to take place before the Christmas holiday period so students can then enjoy their break with their families and friends and not worrying about upcoming examinations. The results for these will be in January 2024.

All week we have held our Super Prize Draws for our highest achieving students in school in Years 7 to 9. All year groups have achieved very highly on this data point. We had over 130 students eligible to enter for this prize draw based on their incredible AOL data, attendance data and achievement grades. Students entered for the Super Prize Draw will also be able to sign off this task on the Aspire Passports!

In assemblies this week we have been reminding students how to remain safe over the Christmas period. This has included highlighting our [worried@spaldingacademy.org.uk](mailto:worried@spaldingacademy.org.uk), the school email address where students can contact a member of the safeguarding team if they have a safety concern. During the weekends and holiday period staff will endeavour to respond when they are available to. In addition to this, we have added a list of contact numbers to our website where students can access further specialist support and guidance, including the emergency services.

Our extra-curricular focus for this week is Girl's Rugby, which takes place every Thursday after school with Miss Pearce. This club is open to girls in all years and as the term has gone on, the numbers have steadily increased where just as many girls are playing as in the boy's rugby team. In the sessions the girls are learning the key skills needed in full contact rugby such as passing, tackling and rucking. The girls have also attended a girl's rugby development day at Kesteven Rugby Club where they were taught by coaches from different girls' clubs around Lincolnshire, and competed in full contact games mixed with many other schools. There are many more opportunities coming up in 2024 for development days and tournaments.

Finally, just a polite reminder that we break up on at 3.15pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Please remember all year groups return to school on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024.

I would like to thank all of our staff, students, governors and parents/carers for their hard work and support for our students in 2023. I am excited for 2024 at Spalding Academy!

Merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous and healthy New Year.

Your sincerely,



**Mrs Jemma Curson**

Head of School, Spalding Academy

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