

Head of School

Friday 8th March 2024

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

We have had another fabulous week with many student opportunities and successes to be celebrated.

Over the weekend, the Music Department took a student band (called J¼) to the Music for Youth Norfolk Regional Festival at Springwood High School, in Kings Lynn. It was an opportunity that was brought to our attention by the student band, who signed up via the Music for Youth website themselves and they were awarded a place to perform at this regional festival.

There was a wide range of musical bands and groups who performed including choirs, orchestras and concert bands. J¼ performed two songs, 'Gold on the Ceiling by The Black Keys' and 'Get Lucky by Daft Punk' and they were praised by the mentors for their high energy performance, confidence and playing ability. As a reward for their great performance, the band were offered a place to perform at the Music for Youth National Festival at the Symphony Hall, in Birmingham in July. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students!

A massive well done to Amy Beeston (year 10, vocals and guitar), Natalia Orłowskyj (year 11, bass guitar), Francisco Paduraru Daloga (year 10, piano) and Neo Geyer (year 11, drums) for their excellent work.



On Tuesday, I also had the honour of supporting eight of our students with their RAF Cadet celebration evening, at St Marys & St Nicholas Church, in Spalding. The Awards evening was a great opportunity to congratulate Spalding Academy students who are new cadets into the Squadron. We also celebrated the successes of the cadets and what they have done throughout the last year. The RAF Cadets unit is dedicated to promoting leadership, teamwork, and character development in young people, and we believe that these values align with the goals of our school. We have invited in the RAF Cadet Team to deliver assemblies to all students who can access this great local opportunity.



Staying on the music theme, on Thursday 21st March 2024 from 5.00pm to 6.30pm, we are hosting our annual House Music Competition. Last year the judges were amazed with the talents of our students. Johnson were last year's winners, so let's see if they can defend their title. Each House is allowed one student band and one solo artist to compete for them. Please come along and support our students. Tickets are now available and they are FREE. Students need to collect tickets, from either Mr Barrett or Miss Armstrong.



We place great importance on attendance to school as it is not only important for academic progress but also for the wellbeing of students. It is because of this, that we are immensely proud to share that Spalding Academy is being consistently recognised for having excellent attendance. We have once again been officially awarded for being in the top 25% of secondary schools for attendance in the Autumn Term 2023/24. This demonstrates that overall school attendance at Spalding Academy is consistently above the national average, but we still want to improve this further as research shows that students with under 90% attendance can drop a full GCSE grade across all subjects. This is why we place such high importance that students should attend school every day.

To help prepare the Year 11 students from Spalding Academy who have applied to the Sixth Form at Bourne Academy, we arranged two separate trips to the SLAT Sixth Form in February and March 2024. With the summer exams around the corner, this has helped our Year 11 students plan ahead and be better prepared for when they start in September. They had a guided tour of the school visiting subject classrooms, met key staff and heard from former Spalding Academy students who are now at Sixth Form as well as having the opportunity to ask any questions throughout the day. Over 80 students from Spalding Academy have now applied to the Sixth Form this year and they will be studying a wide range of subjects ranging from Art & Design to Sociology, History to Sport & Physical Activity, Health & Social Care to Mathematics, English Literature to Physics and Business to Performing Arts. The Sixth Form has an excellent academic record with a 99.8% pass rate for the past four years, plus they have different study pathways where students can study 3-4 A-levels or a wide range of vocational subjects. As long as students achieve a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or above (including English Language and Maths at grade 4 or above) then they will have a place. Thank you to the families who have already attended the Sixth Form Advice & Guidance meetings to discuss their option choices before starting in September 2024.

We would like to thank all our parents for their continued efforts in supporting students so they can attend school. We celebrated World Book Day on Thursday, with our Year 7 students were able to celebrate 'World Book Day' by coming to school dressed as their favourite character from a book, which includes many classics, young adults fiction, graphic novels and biographies. It was optional for students to participate in, and we were impressed there were so many amazing costumes with lots of thought, effort and imagination gone into them. To reward our students for taking part, we held a 'Best Costume' competition in the Library where there were gift voucher prizes and certificates to the winners. It was very difficult choose a winner! Congratulations to Gracie Ibbertson (1st place), Emelia Bennett & Mollie Bennett (runner-up) and Sebastian Hasley (runner-up) and also everyone who took part.



Thank you to everyone who has bought tickets so far for the performance on 'Age Is Revolting'. This National Theatre production as part of the Connections Festival 2024 will take place at Spalding Academy on Wednesday 27th March 2024. This is an amazing opportunity for the students at Spalding Academy to perform a newly written play and perform it on stage for the very first time. Tickets are available from from www.ticketsource.co.uk/spaldingacademy and are £5 per person (£3 for concessions).



AGE IS REVOLTING

by Abi Zakarian

National Theatre

CONNECTIONS 2024

A National Theatre play performed by Spalding Academy Performing Arts students

AT SPALDING ACADEMY

Wednesday 27th March 2024 | Starts 6pm (doors 5.30pm)

Tickets £5 in advance (£3 concessions)

www.ticketsource.co.uk/spaldingacademy



Supported using public funding by

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Finally, I would like to remind parents/carers that on Friday 15th March 2024, it is Comic Relief / Red Nose Day and we will traditionally hold a non-uniform day at the school. A letter has been sent out this week to remind parents/carers about the non-uniform clothing that can be worn on this day.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Your sincerely,



Mrs Jemma Curson

Head of School, Spalding Academy

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