

# Head of School

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

What another incredible week we have had....

Today is Comic Relief / Red Nose Day and we held our annual non-uniform day at the school to support this charity. I am pleased to announce **we raised over £4,000 across the Trust**. I would like to thank everyone for their support with this worthwhile charity, please remember to visit our website and social media for photos of students from today.

On Thursday our Year 9 have had 'Prison Me No Way' deliver a full day of engaging workshops and activities. Our Year 9 students had a valuable insight into what it would be like to go to prison, the penalties and consequences that would affect them for the rest of their life and most importantly, how to not make the wrong choices focusing on crime prevention. They provided a full day of engaging workshops and activities, which are led by retired Prison Officers, Youth Engagement Officers, ex-offenders and volunteers from charities and other organisations. All of these people were able to pass on their first-hand experiences and real-life knowledge so students know exactly what it is like. This forms part of our Personal, Social, Health and Education (PSHE) programme which is an integral part of our curriculum offer at Spalding Academy.



Last weekend, all three of our Under 14 teams came back with medals at the weekend as they travelled to Grantham to represent Spalding Academy in the KSSA Floor & Vault Competition. First to compete were the Under 14 A and Under 14 B teams in the Novice category, where everybody had to complete the exact same floor routines, but could choose from a variety of different tariffed vaults. For the majority of these students this was their first ever gymnastics competition and they were very excited to be competing and smiled the whole way through the competition! Both teams delivered outstanding routines as the B team were achieved first place, and the A team came in third place. Liberty Moore in Year 7 also became the 'Overall Novice Champion' after performing a beautiful floor routine and straddle vault. In the Under 14 and Under 19 Girls Competitive competition, the teams performed some excellent vaults with many stuck landings, giving away very little deductions. They then moved on to floor where they knew they had to give flawless routines to be in with a chance of winning a medal. The team came an incredible second place in a tough category where all girls performed with elegance and poise as Mollie Bennett stuck her tuck back and Emilia Wilson performed the best routine Miss Ringrose had ever seen her do! Well done to all of the students and thank you to the parents to their continued support and ensuring everyone was ready for an early start on a Sunday morning.



I would like to remind parents/carers about our House Music Competition, which will be taking place on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 between 5.00pm to 7.30pm in the East Hall. The amount of interest shown in taking part in the competition has increased vastly this year with students from all year groups wanting to be involved. The students involved have been working extremely hard preparing their performances during both lunchtime and after school rehearsal sessions. There will be a wide variety of musical styles on show so if you would like to come along and support your house, tickets are FREE and can be collected from either Mr Barrett or Miss Armstrong in the Music Department.

We are excited that live theatre will be appearing on stage at Spalding Academy TWICE this year, as our talented Performing Arts students will be performing a National Theatre play as part of the Connections Festival 2024 as well as their sell-out end of term productions. The first event at Spalding Academy on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024 will be the National Theatre production of a new play called 'Age Is Revolting' written by awarding-winning playwright Abi Zakarian. For more information about the play, visit [www.spaldingacademy.org.uk/book-tickets-for-the-age-is-revolting](http://www.spaldingacademy.org.uk/book-tickets-for-the-age-is-revolting) and to purchase tickets, please visit [www.ticketsource.co.uk/spaldingacademy](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/spaldingacademy). Tickets are £5 per person (£3 for concessions) and the performance will start at 6pm on the evening with doors opening at 5.30pm.

**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)

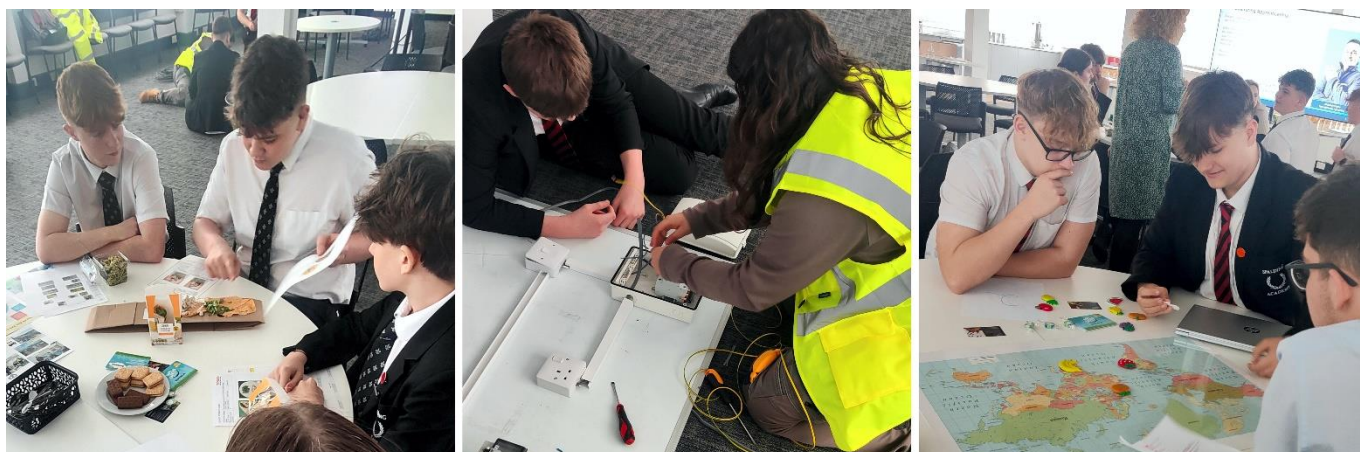
Tickets £5 in advance (£3 concessions)  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/spaldingacademy](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/spaldingacademy)

Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**

As Year 11 are nearing the end of their journey at Spalding Academy, part of our commitment to them is to ensure they are fully informed of the Post 16 pathways potentially available. With this comes the increasingly popular apprenticeships on offer. One of our largest local employers, Bakkavor, offers a range of exciting opportunities in an industry that is sometimes overlooked and underestimated when it comes to academic and professional progression. Last month, we invited Bakkavor to come and showcase their apprenticeship programmes with Year 11. We held a small group Q&A workshop with current apprentices, including returning South Lincolnshire Academies Trust students, followed by a full year group assembly. This definitely spiked interest in a number of students and we were delighted to be able to take those students to the Spalding site on Thursday this week.

Students were encouraged to talk to current and recent apprentices who had organised activities such as improving a process, supply chain of fresh produce, wiring a circuit and quality checking products. There was a whistle stop factory visit where students were intrigued to see the cycle of soup from the kitchens to the distribution centre ready to go to stores. Even though this was brief, the questions asked clearly demonstrated curiosity; plus we all had to look utterly glamorous in oversized white hygiene jackets, wellies and hair nets!

It is engagement with employers such as this that inspires our young people and motivates them to continue to look at careers and industries they would otherwise have not. The wraps, cakes and pasta on offer at the end were of course a huge bonus given the students had English exams before their visit!



I wish everyone a restful weekend.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jemma Curson', written over a white background.

**Mrs Jemma Curson**

Head of School, Spalding Academy

For the **latest news**

You can follow Spalding Academy on our official social media platforms as follows:

- [www.instagram.com/SpaldingAcademy](https://www.instagram.com/SpaldingAcademy)
- [www.facebook.com/SpaldingAcademy](https://www.facebook.com/SpaldingAcademy)
- [www.twitter.com/SpaldingSLAT](https://www.twitter.com/SpaldingSLAT)