

# Head of School

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

I cannot believe we are at the end of term already. I would like to thank all our staff and students for being amazing this term. Spalding Academy is a truly special school that has a true community feel. I look forward to our next term together. Our school ethos of 'Aspire, Challenge and Achieve' can be seen throughout our school, from our sporting achievements to our preparation for our musical performance.

Our Year 11 students have been working incredibly hard over the last term as they embark on their GCSE examination journey. The students are halfway through their examinations and they have taken these in their stride. I am pleased to share that our Year 11 students have signed up to over 200 revision sessions over the May half term. Yesterday, we said goodbye to our Year 11's as they headed off on study leave. The students had an end-of-year celebration assembly, t-shirts provided by the Trust for signing, a variety of reward vouchers and an ice-cream van where they were all treated to a Mr Whippy! We wish all of Year 11 good luck with the rest of their exams and remind them to maintain their hard work all the way through to the end.

As a Trust, we provide an environment that is calm, safe and free from distraction so all students, whatever their background, can learn and thrive. For this reason, our Trust's stance on mobile devices in school has always been at the forefront of our mobile device policy, being '**never used, seen or heard**'. We acknowledge there is a need for mobile phones for student safety for their journeys to and from school. We also recognise by the age of 12 that research shows 97% of students own a mobile phone, so implementing a ban on mobile phones in school would not be helpful or manageable for students, staff or parents/carers. Students at our school understand and upheld our '**never used, seen or heard**' mobile phone stance.

We are delighted to see that the Department of Education has recently released new guidance for schools on mobile devices. Within this document, our stance of '**never used, seen or heard**' is now supported by the Government, as they have recognised the distraction mobile devices has become for young people.

I would like to remind you of our sanctions if a student is found on their mobile phone. We will confiscate the device and hold this until 3.15pm, where students can then collect the device. If this continues, we will confiscate the mobile device and ask you to collect the device from school. Repeat of this will result in the students handing in the mobile device at the beginning of each day, so the device cannot become a distraction to theirs and others learning.



We firmly believe our mobile device stance continues to be in the best interest of student's academic focus and overall wellbeing. As usual, we kindly ask for your continued support in reinforcing our stance with your child and emphasising the importance of responsible mobile device use both inside and outside of school. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this updated policy, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We continue to provide as many enrichment opportunities for our students. Last weekend, some of our Year 10 students took part in their The Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award expedition. These events cannot take place without the support from staff, and I want to thank Mr Abraham for providing these opportunities.

Please remember that tickets for our end of year musical production of **'The Stage'** will go on general sale from 9.00am on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024. There will be three evening performances on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and you advised to book early as our events last year sold out in advance. When you book, you can select your preferred seats. Further information about the production plus the link for where you can purchase tickets is available here: [www.spaldingacademy.org.uk/book-tickets-for-the-stage](http://www.spaldingacademy.org.uk/book-tickets-for-the-stage)



SPALDING ACADEMY PRESENTS

# THE STAGE

Fighting for the future of theatre since 1880

An end of year showcase with the best of musical theatre featuring drama, song and dance.

**Wednesday 3rd July, Thursday 4th July and Friday 5th July 2024**

Tickets available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/spaldingacademy](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/spaldingacademy)



With the announcement of the General Election, it is important to make sure you are registered to vote so that you can ensure your voice is heard. To vote in the General Election you must be aged 18 or over on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024. British, Irish and qualifying Commonwealth citizens can vote in General Elections in the UK. You can register online via [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) and the last date to register is Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024. If you are unsure whether you have already registered, you can find out by contacting your local electoral registration office - their details can be found by entering your postcode here: [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/your-election-information](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/your-election-information)



**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**

**DON'T LOSE IT**

Make sure you're registered to vote  
Register at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)



Finally, please remember parents/carers and our students have access to our 'Feeling worried or anxious' section on our website ([www.spaldingacademy.org.uk/feeling-worried-or-anxious](http://www.spaldingacademy.org.uk/feeling-worried-or-anxious)) where they can also email [worried@spaldingacademy.org.uk](mailto:worried@spaldingacademy.org.uk) during half term. This is monitored over the holiday period and we will respond to your email. If you feel there is an emergency safeguarding concern, please do not wait for an email response from the school - please always dial 999. We also have a wealth of wellbeing support on our school website for students to access during the holiday period.

I hope everyone has a restful half term. Please can I remind parents we return to school on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024.

Your sincerely,



**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)