

Head of School

Friday 14th June 2024

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

It has been another busy week across the whole school at Spalding Academy...

This week, we have also had two different curriculum trips for our Year 10 students. On Tuesday, our Geographers as part of the GCSE Geography course went on a fieldtrip to Hunstanton, which focused on Physical Geography. This follows on from the Lincoln trip based earlier this academic year which focused on Human Geography. The aim of the trip is to provide students with the opportunity to apply fieldwork skills and to collect data, as well as supporting and developing concepts covered in lessons. The work conducted on these fieldtrips is worth 30% of their final GCSE grade and will be assessed by examination at the end of Year 11. The students had a great time at Hunstanton which was the chosen location for the coast. Students followed the route from Old Hunstanton to the town's beach to analyse physical processes and assess coastal defences.

Our second trip was our art students who visited the Tate Britain for their GCSE coursework. The students spent the day locating primary source materials for their GCSE art projects. The students then boarded the Tate boat along the river Thames to arrive at the Tate Modern. The students gained a wealth of historical and contemporary works of art at both Tate galleries.

I would like to thank you for your support on our upcoming practice of our Trust's lockdown procedure. As part of our commitment to safeguarding students in line with the national advice for all schools, we will be practicing our lockdown procedure over the summer term. I would like to remind parents our lockdown procedure is in place as a precaution only, but it is important that it is tested regularly, as we would a Fire Evacuation Procedure. We will ensure that parents and carers receive a communication from the school prior to the lockdown procedure drill taking place. This will be an announced drill. On Thursday, students all had an assembly delivered to them about the processes and procedure, in readiness for the practice drill.

We have received the news that Spalding Academy have achieved national success with the use of GCSEPod for our Key Stage 4 students. Our students have been utilising the online revision tool to support their learning and revision throughout the year and, in particular, towards the upcoming summer examination season. We have been recognised nationally for our commitment to this, we are the Top Trust in the country for the usage of this and Spalding Academy are in the top 5% of schools in the country - an amazing achievement!



As we head into the final week of our GCSE examination season, I would like to thank students, parents and staff for their hard work and dedication to our very successful examination season. Our students have had solid examinations for four weeks now, and they certainly deserve to be nearing the end of their journey.

With this in mind, we are going to start our transition for our other year groups. From Monday 17th June 2024, our year groups will be introduced to their new year leads in their assemblies. Our pastoral team are working to share information on their current year groups, so the transition is smooth. Mrs Cousins (Key Stage 3 Lead) and Miss Bennett (Year 7 Lead) will continue their work with the local primary schools to ensure our new Year 7 students are ready and excited to join Spalding Academy in September 2024. Mrs Cousins and Miss Bennett have already visited many of our local primary schools to meet our new students. I look forward to meeting them on our Year 6 induction day on Friday 28th June 2024.

Your child's new Year Leads are as follows:

- Current Year 7 will transition to **Mrs Yates**
- Current Year 8 will transition to **Mrs Gratton**
- Current Year 9 will transition to **Mrs Caress**
- Current Year 10 will transition to **Mrs Lammin**

This transition will allow our students to start to get to know their new Pastoral Year Lead, and their year area for use at break and lunchtime.

Our talented Tag Rugby team with boys and girls in Years 8 and 9 competed against independent, grammar and non-selective schools in the Lincolnshire 'Touch to Twickenham' tournament to finish third in the whole county! The tournament was held at Spalding Grammar School and our students put in impressive performances beating Thomas Middlecott Academy and Bourne Grammar School in the group stages. We were only beaten by two very strong teams from the independent Stamford School in the whole tournament. Despite finishing third overall, Spalding Academy were the highest placed non-selective school in the whole of Lincolnshire and finished higher than all of the Lincolnshire Grammar schools.



Mr Favell, Teacher of PE said *“Throughout the tournament, the team displayed outstanding teamwork, skill and sportsmanship, showcasing the core values instilled by Spalding Academy’s rugby programme. Our players have dedicated countless hours of training before the tournament and their commitment has truly paid off. Finishing third in such a competitive tournament, and only behind two teams from the same independent school is a remarkable achievement and testament to the hard work and dedication of the players and coaching staff. Their success on the field is a source of immense pride for the whole school community and will undoubtedly inspire the next generation of rugby talents within the school”*.

Over this week and last, we have had assemblies celebrating those students who achieved an excellent Term 5, by having no strikes on their strike card or being entered into the Super Prize Draw by a combination of good and excellent attendance, AOL data and behaviour points. It has been fantastic to reward the students with monetary vouchers for their commitment to school. Well done to all those who have received an award.

We are also giving out our usual sweet treats to those students who have attained 100% attendance for Term 5. I am really pleased to say there are over 500 students who have achieved this, as there is clear correlation between excellent attendance and academic outcomes.

There is less than three weeks until our end of year musical production of **'The Stage'**. There will be three evening performances on Wednesday 3rd July, Thursday 4th July and Friday 5th July 2024. 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



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

As we head towards the end of the academic year, I would like to draw your attention to a couple of standards issues which we are currently working on with our students. Please can I remind parents of the following areas:

- Students are not permitted to wear socks over or under tights
- Students are not permitted to wear any fake eyelashes, acrylic or gel nails or any facial piercings
- Students should not have any extreme hair styles
- Students should not wear fashion sunglasses in school

Thank you for your support on these issues as we enter the last five weeks of this academic year.

I hope you have a great weekend.

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
- www.facebook.com/SpaldingAcademy
- www.twitter.com/SpaldingSLAT