

Head of School

Friday 5th July 2024

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

I cannot believe we are already over halfway through our final term of 2023-24.

Over the last few weeks, students have been gripped by 'election fever' as we held a Trust-wide mock General Election to coincide with the actual General Election on 4th July 2024. As part of our PSHE programme, we hold a Parliament Week in November to provide practical understanding of British democracy. This General Election therefore provided the perfect opportunity for students to get a taste of what it is like to vote as many students will be able to vote next time there is a General Election in five years' time.

Just like how the real elections work, we split each school in the Trust and each year group into separate constituencies with 17 areas up for grabs. We gave the opportunity for students to choose to vote from six political parties, which were represented by 19 exceptional students from the SLAT Sixth Form at Bourne Academy to provide a test of their debating and presentation skills. The Sixth Formers were split across the different parties and travelled to all four schools in the Trust to take part in 17 live hustings that were held in front of each year group where they could campaign on various issues and manifesto pledges.

The topics of 'national service for 18-year olds' and 'allowing over 16s to vote' sparked lively discussions among the students and they were keen to find out the financial and green credentials for each party. This encouraged students to discuss the issues that mattered to them and our society. As well as the campaigning done by our Sixth Formers, students cited that they had taken notice of political information from other sources such as social media, YouTube, TikTok, mainstream media, leaflets in the post as well as conversation within their social groups.

It was encouraging to see that students across all years and in all schools had voted for all of the political parties on offer. The overall majority across the Trust was for Reform UK with the Green Party coming a close second place. It was interesting the three main political parties were not the most popular choices amongst under 16s and it shows that these parties have work to do if they want to engage with future young voters.



It has been immensely rewarding to see how students have engaged in the political process by discussing key political issues to helping them understand the complexities and responsibilities that come with participating in a democratic society. The mock election has been invaluable in teaching students about the importance of voting, the electoral process, and the role of political parties in shaping the future of our country. By taking part in the voting process they will be better prepared and informed when it comes to put an X in the box for the very first time.

We would like to especially thank the Sixth Form students who campaigned so admirably and in good spirit over the last few weeks. We may even have encouraged some future political leaders – who knows?



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This week, our school performance 'The Stage' was sold out for Thursday and also for Friday evening. I had the pleasure of watching all the performances which allowed me to meet so many families on the evening. Our talented students delivered a captivating performance that left the audience spellbound. The show featured a diverse range of musical numbers, impressive choreography, and stunning set designs. Our young actors and singers showcased their skills with enthusiasm and dedication, delivering memorable performances that highlighted their hard work and passion. The stage was transformed into a magical world thanks to the creativity and effort of our set design team. The dance routines, choreographed by Miss Ringrose, added energy and excitement to the production, showcasing the students' talent and commitment. A special thank you all of the performing arts and music staff involved, our behind-the-scenes crew, including the costume designers, lighting and sound technicians, and stage managers, whose efforts were crucial to the show's success. We are incredibly grateful for the support from our parents/carers, family and friends. Your encouragement and assistance, whether through volunteering, providing materials, or cheering from the audience, played a significant role in making this production possible. My thanks go to all the students (including some returning Year 11) for their efforts and dedication to our annual show. Look out for photos next week on our website and social media platforms.

We participated in the South Lincolnshire School's Annual Tennis tournament for Under 13 and Under 15 boys and girls. Four schools entered the competition: Spalding Academy, Bourne Academy, Bourne Grammar School and Spalding Grammar School. We entered with two boys' teams in each age group. The students that competed were split into two groups of 5 or 6 in each age group and the top two went into a semi-final and then an eventual final. A special mention to Jonah and Oscar in the Under 13s, who put in a valiant effort against some strong opponents to reach the semi-final in the Under 13 boys. The Under 15s for Spalding Academy ran out comfortable winners. Luke and Charles didn't lose a match all afternoon and went through the whole competition only dropping three games in all of their seven matches - a near perfect performance! This was their third and final time attending the South Lincolnshire School's Tennis tournament, as a pairing, and they've just fallen short in the previous years. They were delighted to finally come away as the winners and put in an outstanding performance.

The Girls Under 13 cricket team competed at the regional cricket finals held on Monday 1st July 2024 at the iconic Trent Bridge in Nottingham. The tournament brought together the top two teams from Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire. Divided into two groups of four, our girls played some exceptional cricket winning all three group games convincingly. After dominating the group stage, our girls advanced to the final match against Kesteven Girls School from Lincolnshire. Setting a formidable target of 87 runs, our team exhibited great determination and resilience in their batting performance. Despite their best efforts, they narrowly missed the target and finished as runners-up in a closely contested final. We would like to congratulate all of the girls involved on their remarkable achievement.

All students have had their year group assemblies this week. At each AOL data point, we reward the students who have excelled themselves in their progress and attitude to learning (ATL). These students are placed in our Super Prize Draw which allows them to win gift vouchers. We also reminded students about being kind towards each other in the school community in our anti bullying themed assembly. And finally, we have informed students this week about the Film Festival event we are holding in the last week of term. The students were informed that they all have access to this reward in school. We felt this was a really important message to give, as our students have worked very hard throughout this academic year. However, we did reinforce that any behaviour which is not acceptable during the last two weeks, will result in them missing out on the treat. We are looking forward to seeing students enjoy their in-school cinema treat!

Next week I am really looking forward to Spalding Academy's third House Celebration event, on Tuesday evening for students who have excelled across the academic year in their House teams.

As we approach the final stages of the academic year, we will be reinforcing our expectations to our current students, ready for the September start.

Have a fantastic weekend.

Your sincerely,



Mrs Jemma Curson

Head of School, Spalding Academy

For the latest news

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- www.instagram.com/SpaldingAcademy
- www.facebook.com/SpaldingAcademy
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