



SPALDING
ACADEMY

Head of School

Friday 29th November 2024

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

We have only got two weeks and four days left until the Christmas break – I cannot believe it!

In the lead up to Christmas we have got some fantastic festive events happening across the rest of this term. This evening at the Spalding Christmas Light Switch we have our singing students starring on the main stage from 5.00pm to 5.30pm.

On Monday next week, all families will receive a letter about the 'Wear a Christmas Item Day' in aid of Save the Children, which will take place on Thursday 12th December 2024. As well as this our students are contributing to creating Christmas Hampers to donate to the Agape Care Foodbank in Spalding. All donations for this event are gratefully received.

We will also be holding a Christmas Film event for those students who have completed their Aspire Passport and therefore, have received a Bronze badge. Please encourage your child to share with you their Aspire Passport in the hope that we can award as many students as possible who have been committed to the programme. The deadline for completion of the Bronze Passport for entry to the Film Festival is Wednesday 11th December 2024. Any badges completed after this time will not be allowed access until the next reward event.

For the next three Wednesday's (4th, 11th and 18th December), the canteen will be serving the best meal of the year - Christmas Lunch! This seasonal feast will include roast turkey, pigs in blankets, stuffing, roast potatoes, Brussels sprouts and carrots with gravy and cranberry sauce. For vegetarians there will be a homemade Brie & Vegetable Wellington so everyone can enjoy this festive dinner together. There will also be a choice of festive desserts including Xmas Pudding, Yule Log and Mince Pies plus there are Christmas crackers. All of the main meal is freshly made on the premises in our school kitchen using quality ingredients so students can be assured of a tasty and nutritious lunch. For £4.00 students can get the main meal with a dessert and a Christmas cracker. If students only want the main meal and a Christmas cracker, this is just £3.20.

Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 4th December
Wednesday 11th December
Wednesday 18th December

Roast Turkey with Pigs in Blankets
or Brie & Vegetable Wellington

with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes, Carrots,
Brussels Sprouts, Gravy and Cranberry Sauce

plus a choice of Xmas Pudding, Yule Log or Mince Pies

£4 Main Course, Dessert and a Christmas Cracker!

£3.20 Main Course and a Christmas Cracker

£2.50 Main Course 80p Dessert



Aspire • Challenge • Achieve

Our Student Council will be relaunched this term. The School Council focuses on school development projects to support improving areas of the school. They also represent the school positively at internal and external events – the first project is the Student Wellbeing Charter.

Last week, during SMSC lessons, students took part in the UK Parliament Week, which is a national event designed to empower young people with the knowledge and hands-on experience they need to get involved with UK Parliament and democracy both now and in the future. This year, our students gained an understanding of how the Britain democracy compares to that of others across the world such as the USA.

Next week, our Year 11 students start their PPEs (Pre Public Examinations) mock exams. The students have conscientiously been attending additional interventions, and they have been engaged with independent revision. I am confident that they will all try their hardest to give their very best during this examination period. On Monday, all students will receive an assembly to remind them about exam rules and regulations – from that point on over the course of the examination period we expect 100% attendance for the exams, unless there is a medical reason your child is unable to attend, at this point we will request a medical note.

Also, please can parents support checking that their child has all the equipment required for the exam on that particular day. Thank you to all parents and carers during this time, we know it can feel like a difficult time for some, but I will be reassuring all students that we know that they all apply themselves and give their all.

In the Trust, one of the key factors behind our schools' success is our strong emphasis on the Communications Agenda, which encompasses the core elements of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Next Thursday marks our first SALAD Day of the year, which stands for 'Speaking and Listening Activity Day.' On this day, students engage in minimal or no writing and instead focus on developing their oracy and listening skills across all subjects. Activities include debates, role-plays and presentations.

All of our Year 7 to 10 students participate in this day, and for the first time, our Year 12 students will also join in. Following the Covid pandemic and the further advancement of the digital age, we observed a decline in our students' confidence with speaking skills. SALAD is part of our initiative to bridge this gap and promote these essential skills. In future jobs, interviews, and social situations, students will need to articulate confidently, and we emphasise this by ensuring all departments are responsible for teaching these skills.

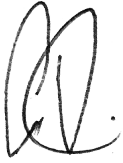
In addition to our SALAD Days, we use the term 'speak like a specialist' across the curriculum, encouraging students to use the correct vocabulary and terminology for each subject. Students are also encouraged to speak in full sentences, use standard English and communicate with clarity during lessons and around the school. Our various departments ensure that the promotion of these skills is integrated throughout the topics studied by our students, with numerous opportunities for speaking activities throughout the year, not just on SALAD Days. We hope these measures will help all of our students become highly successful communicators who confidently command a broad vocabulary.

Next Wednesday, will be the last of our SLAT Recruitment Roadshows at Bourne Academy. If you or someone you know is interested in working at any of the schools in our Trust, we would like to meet you. Due to an increase in student numbers and the rapid growth of our Trust, we will require more teaching and support staff this academic year and in September. For further information and to register to attend, please visit: www.slat.org.uk/recruitment-roadshow

Finally, please can I remind Year 9 parents that next Thursday (Thursday 5th December 2024) is the Year 9 Parents Evening. Please ensure you have signed up for the event as it is a very important date in the Year 9 school calendar.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Kindest regards,



Mr Glenn Martin

Head of School, Spalding Academy

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