

# Head of School UPDATE

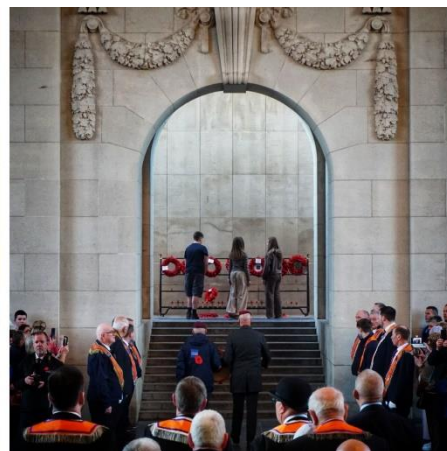
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026



Dear parents/carers and students,

I would like to thank both students and staff for their commitment to our Easter revision sessions. Attendance from our Year 11 students was outstanding, with many students commenting on how helpful and reassuring these sessions were in preparation for the upcoming examination season. We recognise that this is an anxious time for our Year 11 cohort, and please be reassured that we will continue to support them throughout this important journey.

Over the Easter break, 40 Year 10 students took part in Spalding Academy's inaugural World War I Battlefields trip, organised by members of the History Department. During the three-day visit, students explored a range of significant historical sites, including the preserved trenches at Bayernwald, the underground tunnels at Carrière Wellington used during the Battle of Arras, and the Hawthorn Ridge Crater. Students also paid their respects at a number of memorials and cemeteries, including Tyne Cot Cemetery (the largest Allied war cemetery in the world), the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, Fricourt German Cemetery, Vimy Ridge, Notre-Dame de Lorette, and the Ring of Remembrance. A particular highlight of the trip was the wreath-laying ceremony at the Menin Gate. This is the only location in the world where a wreath laying and Last Post ceremony takes place every day of the year. The event is always well attended, with visitors travelling from across the globe to witness this poignant tribute. Three students represented Spalding Academy during the ceremony. Noah Glover and Imogen Styles each composed a thoughtful message which was added to the wreath. April Anderson Pincham was afforded the honour of participating as she had identified a named relative commemorated on the Menin Gate itself. All students conducted themselves with the utmost respect and maturity and were a credit to themselves and the academy.



Year 11 students who study French at GCSE had an unforgettable trip to Paris during the Easter holidays, where they fully immersed themselves in French culture and language. Throughout the visit, students communicated with Parisians in the target language, particularly when ordering food and drinks in French, putting their classroom learning into real-life practice and getting prepared for their speaking exam. A highlight for many was the opportunity to try traditional French delicacies, with several students bravely trying escargots (snails) and les cuisses de grenouille (frog legs). Their willingness to embrace new experiences was fantastic with some enjoying the dishes and saying they will absolutely be eating them in the near future! The group explored some of Paris's most iconic landmarks, including climbing to the top of the Eiffel Tower, admiring the Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame and dancing to live music at the Sacre Coeur creating lasting memories while learning about the city's history. Students also navigated the Paris Metro, gaining a true sense of daily life in the city, and enjoyed discovering some of Paris's hidden spots. Overall, the trip was a fantastic success, both students and staff thoroughly enjoyed themselves and embraced French culture!



To support our Year 11 students' understanding of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, we were delighted to welcome Stage-ed, an external theatre company specialising in the GCSE English curriculum, to deliver interactive workshops for the entire year group. Led by three professional actors with experience of the West End and the Royal Shakespeare Company, the workshops explored key scenes from the play and included detailed language analysis. Students were encouraged to engage in discussion through thought-provoking questions such as "Why does Macbeth make this choice?" and "How might Lady Macbeth describe herself?" The combination of live performance and discussion enriched students' understanding of this challenging text, which forms a core part of the GCSE English Literature course. Students have been studying the plot and character development of Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, the Witches and Macduff, alongside key themes including ambition, power, the supernatural, and appearance versus reality. Students left the workshops feeling motivated, confident, and inspired as they continue their preparation for the summer GCSE examinations.



In less than two weeks, a talented group of budding young thespians from Years 7 to 9 who are in the KS3 Drama Club will be performing 'Offside Dreams'. Over 80% of the tickets have now sold so don't leave it too late to buy your tickets if you want to come and support our students by watching the play. Tickets are £3 per person and available from: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/spaldingacademy](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/spaldingacademy)



Parent Governors play a vital role in representing the views of parents and carers and in supporting school improvement. We currently have two Parent Governor vacancies at Spalding Academy and warmly invite parents and carers of students currently attending the school to apply. As a Parent Governor, you will join the school's Local Advisory Board (LAB) and will be expected to attend three evening meetings per academic year. We are particularly keen to hear from those who can represent the diversity of our local community. The deadline for completing the online application form is Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

Finally, the Lincolnshire Stay Safe Partnership are conducting a 'Keeping Safe Survey' for all students aged 11-18 in secondary schools. This is to be completed by your child and you can complete with them. As students know better than anyone else about what happens online, they would like to know about the apps they use, online harms they see or experience and what support actually helps. This survey is completely anonymous, quick to complete and can help make real change as their honest answers will help change education resources and support. Please visit [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/secondaryother](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/secondaryother) to complete the survey.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards,

**Mr Glenn Martin**

Head of School, Spalding Academy

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