

SPALDING ACADEMY

July 2021

Dear Year 4 and 5 students,

We hope that you are enjoying Term 6, just as we are too with all of our amazing students at Spalding Academy!

I am writing to you as you will now be talking to your parents/carers and thinking about which school you will be choosing to start when you finish Primary School. Usually we would plan to have two exciting Open Evenings at Spalding Academy in July and October to showcase our school to Year 4, 5 and 6 students. However, very sadly due to the current extraordinary circumstances we are unable to do this event in July. We fully expect to be able to offer a face-to-face Open Evening at Spalding Academy in October though, where we very much look forward to meeting you.

Instead of the face-to-face Open Evening in July, you are able to view our website, which contains a lot of the key information you will need including the uniform requirements; term dates; what we teach; clubs; etc. Additionally, we encourage you to look at the presentation by myself the Executive Headteacher, Mrs Lucy Conley and some of the staff who will be here to support you in Year 7, as well as some comments from our students.

Our virtual Open Evening will be available on our website from 12 July, and we are busy setting this up ready to go live:

- <https://www.spaldingacademy.org.uk>

I would also like to take the time to draw your attention to the fact that Spalding Academy remains part of the South Lincolnshire Academies Trust (SLATrust). The multi academy trust that leads Spalding Academy was established in 2016 and has now proven that there can be successful leadership of two schools, being Bourne Academy and Spalding Academy, with all of the SLATrust Leaders being very experienced in improving secondary schools. Since September 2020, SLATrust has also been leading Giles Academy, Boston to support it's improvement, whilst maintaining the ongoing high success at Bourne Academy and Spalding Academy.

It is impressive that by working with the SLATrust, Spalding Academy, previously Sir John Gleed in Spalding, moved from being graded by Ofsted as Inadequate in 2016 to Good in June 2019, within only three years of being in this SLATrust and now performs consistently well year on year.

The original SLATrust schools of Spalding Academy and Bourne Academy in particular, are very successful. Although, due to the pandemic situation the all-important End of KS4 Progress measure is not a validated score, the high success of these schools can be judged against the 2019 data, which shows the End of Key Stage 4 Progress for Spalding Academy was +0.21 in 2019, which means that the school performs above the national average and in the top 20% of all schools nationally and it is the second top non-selective secondary school in Lincolnshire. In addition, Bourne Academy consistently performs well above national average, with an End of Key Stage 4 Progress score of +0.59 in 2019, which places the school as the top mixed non-selective schools in Lincolnshire.

Both Bourne Academy and Spalding Academy significantly out-perform the vast majority of Lincolnshire Grammar Schools and this will now be our expectation for our third school Giles Academy from 2021 and beyond.

The success of the SLATrust, as seen at Spalding Academy, is built on a developed sophisticated model of highly successful behaviour; safeguarding; assessment; teaching and learning systems, all of which have supported Spalding Academy on its rapid improvement journey.

For my part, as the Executive Headteacher of the SLATrust, by working with three schools, I have always seen this as being an incredible opportunity for three non-selective schools to work in a partnership in Lincolnshire. By having three schools in close proximity, our students will always experience the best teaching and learning, with many very experienced and successful staff working across the Trust.

All young people deserve to go to a school which they are proud to attend and where they can achieve well and above the national average and it is my vision that Spalding Academy will continue to provide exceptional non-selective school education for our learners. We are all very proud of our school, Spalding Academy, and with the SLATrust continuing to lead this school, it will certainly remain the school of choice in the local area and due to the popularity of this school, we will be taking 300 learners in Year 7 from September 2022, an increase of 30 places. We can never guarantee a place for any student, but our advice in order to be offered a place, would be to put Spalding Academy down as your first choice in the Autumn term.

We are proud of our curriculum and our ability to offer both GCSE and BTEC qualifications to ensure that every student has an opportunity to succeed whatever their learning style. You will find that Spalding Academy is a very friendly and highly supportive school. We have some amazing teachers and a large number of highly skilled outstanding support staff. There is always someone to talk to if you have any worries or if you want to find out any information no matter what.

We strive to give our students the best facilities, which certainly can be found at Spalding Academy. Additionally, we have been fortunate enough to already have improved the school site, which will include a further significant £4 million investment, which has now started. These plans include refurbished sports facilities, such as the astro-turf; new PE changing rooms; a show-piece performing arts block; refurbished IT and Science rooms; an eight classroom block; additional food stations; new mini-buses and to reintroduce the Sixth Form, with a new dedicated teaching block ... and much more to come!

Our school now prides itself on fantastic facilities; great teaching; small class sizes and lots of pastoral support ... the students say that Spalding Academy has a family feel!

This will be a very, very exciting time to be at Spalding Academy!

Both the staff and I very much hope that you will choose Spalding Academy for the next step of your journey.

If you have any questions please email:

- openevening@spaldingacademy.org.uk

Kind regards,



Mrs Lucy Conley
SLATrust Executive Headteacher