

# SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



Term 1 2016

To all members of our School community,

As you are aware the Governors of Spalding High School have undertaken a formal consultation in recent months to consider whether we should convert to an academy. I would like to thank the students, parents, staff and stakeholders who have participated and shared their views on this matter with us. This week the Governing Body voted unanimously to continue with the process of conversion to an academy. No significant objections have been raised during our consultations. We are at the start of a long journey, but rest assured, our prime objective remains to protect and preserve the ethos of our very special school. After half term we will begin our formal discussions with the Local Authority, Regional Schools' Commissioner and the Department For Education. We will, of course, keep you informed of our progress.

Regards,

Dr.P.Gorton,

Chair of SHS Board of Governors

It has been a wonderful term and the school has had a real vibrancy about it with so much going on! The new Year 7 have not only settled in remarkably well but were also enthusiastic and excited about being our Tour Guides at this week's Open Day for Year 5 and 6. We had hundreds of people visiting for Open Day and it was a pleasure to see everyone here. Well done ladies – we had so many comments and compliments from parents about how well you guided and spoke, answered questions and made the little ones feel at ease. Our new Year 12 also arrived fresh faced and newly suited in September and have had a tremendously positive start to their A level studies. We now have one of the largest sixth forms we have ever had and it is a pleasure to see so many sixth form students taking the lead in clubs, activities and events and really living up to their reputation as the flagship for the school. The Sixth Form also played an invaluable part this week in running the Open Day and speaking to parents and new students. Rosie and Rebecca's presentation brought a tear to many people present such was the affection with which they spoke about the school.

This is exactly the kind of special provision and community feeling that the Governors and staff are keen to protect and preserve for current and future generations of High School students and you will have read from the Chair's comments above that the Board has voted unanimously to continue with the journey to academy status. This is indeed a long journey and one that we will continue to speak to students, parents and staff about. Education is experiencing a very turbulent time nationally at the moment and the most important issue for us is to steer a steady ship and ensure that the quality of learning, teaching and educational experience remain as excellent as ever here at the High.

### **We welcome several new staff to the High School**

#### **Mrs Aurikko**

I think the school is very happy and secure place to work. All the staff and students have been very welcoming and friendly. I have really enjoyed getting to know my tutor group, especially during the sponsored walk. Also, 9C did a fantastic job of presenting in the first Year 9 tutor assembly of the academic year about the life and work of Malala Yousafzai. I am delighted to find that so many of my Biology sixth formers are enthusiastic and well motivated. The first half term has really flown by and I really look to the rest of the year.

#### **Miss Chalcraft**

Wow! The first few weeks have been crazy, wonderful and busy. As most of you know I have returned to Spalding High School to take up the post of Head of Mathematics after Mr Page retired. Big shoes to fill indeed, but as always, Mathematics and the beauty of its teachings remain the cornerstone of everything we do in the department. This post is a very exciting opportunity within a school which is very dear to my heart, and a unique and special place of learning. I am looking forward enormously to all of the challenges ahead. The staff and pupils at school have been exceptional; wonderfully welcoming and supportive in every way, it does in fact feel as though I have never been away. So thank you all for an amazing start to the year and I look forward to working with you all as this academic year continues.

#### **Mr Collingwood**

I value the girls positive response to a rigorous approach to the learning of maths. Their tenacity as learners is refreshing.

### **Miss Dixon**

After completing my training year at SHS, I have settled into the first few of weeks at the school with ease. However, learning all the students' names is not so easy. The staff and students are all very welcoming and I have thoroughly enjoyed being outside in the nice weather; long may it last!

### **Miss Dunbar**

My first few weeks at the school have been a big learning curve with a lot to pick up as I have gone along. I am now getting used to being called Miss, to the sound of the bells and the school environment generally which is different from the further education environment I am used to. I have had to ask a lot of questions but everyone makes time to answer them and to help out. Everyone has been very welcoming and supportive and this has been extremely helpful. The students have also helped me to settle in to the routines of the school and quickly demonstrated what a lovely group of young people they are. All this without any sign of cake, well at least until the end of week three!!

### **Mrs Earl**

I could not have wished for a better start to my role at Spalding High School. The students are friendly and welcoming and the staff have made me feel very settled in such a short period of time.

### **Miss Goulding**

It has been a pleasure starting at Spalding High School. The staff and the students have been extremely welcoming and made the transition easy. Having previously worked in a Sixth Form College in Nottingham, coming to a school was a big change, especially teaching the younger years. However the students have made this a very enjoyable challenge. The students I have met so far have been extremely hardworking, engaged and very keen to learn. The enthusiasm of my Year 9 tutor group is certainly infectious. It has been an enjoyable first few weeks and I am looking forward to the rest of the year and being part of the school life.

### **Mr Wright**

Wow! What a half term - where has the time gone!

I have joined Spalding High School straight out of teacher training, eager and ready to embark on my NQT year. I couldn't have been more openly welcomed by students and staff! The Science Department have ensured that everything is running smoothly and that my NQT year is off to a flying start.

My Year 8 form group put a smile on my face every morning and have definitely helped me to find my feet within the school (and make sure I don't get lost). On a weekly basis we have a form quiz - riddles, puzzles, maths

problems and general knowledge make me sit and think as the students are coming up with their own questions to ask other groups in the class.

Teaching Year 12 is a completely new experience to me, one that I must admit I was extremely apprehensive yet excited about. All of these young adults looking at me (many towering over) ready to be taught by a new face. I wonder what was going through their minds!?

A few weeks in and it feels like I have known my teaching groups for ages, all have been extremely welcoming and polite helping me feel at home as I start my career as a teacher.

My first half term has been fantastic at Spalding High School, I couldn't have wished for anything more.

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Mrs Busfield (our Head of Biology) and Mr Busfield on the birth of their baby son, Rory, on the 18<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Prizegivings**

11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> October saw students rewarded for all of their achievements in our annual prizegivings. The prizes awarded relate to a students' performance in the previous academic year. A prize for outstanding academic achievement is awarded usually to one student in each form. Form tutor prizes are awarded to the student who makes outstanding progress, the best contribution to form life or shows excellent leadership skills. Certificates of merit are awarded for a variety of reasons; for academic achievement, for effort, progress, or for contributions to sport, drama, music, form life or school life. There are also a range of special prizes and sporting team trophies. The range of awards reflect the really varied aspects of life at Spalding High School. In addition to the academic life of the school, there is a huge range of activities and opportunities in which students can become involved, many of which are spoken about in the students' presentations; we reward those students who excel academically and who have made great progress through their hard work, but we are also congratulating students who have taken part in sports teams, in concerts and drama, those who have consistently supported others in their form or worked to help younger students and who have involved themselves in community work and fundraising. The afternoon presentations are a real celebration of all that our students achieve.

Our guest for Upper School prize giving was Mr Joe Burns Headteacher of St Norbert's Catholic Primary School, whilst our guest for the Lower School was Mrs Jocelyn Kedzlie. Mrs Kedzlie has been a committee member of

Spalding High school since her daughter joined year 7 in 2012, and is now chair of the PTA.

Mrs Anderson said, "The afternoons of prizegivings are an important and enjoyable celebration of achievement in all areas of school life here at the High. Students work hard and participate in a vast array of activities during their time at the High School. It is a pleasure to see so many talented and committed young ladies collect their awards, certificates and prizes and I am grateful to our guests of honour for giving their time to make the presentation."

### **Outlook Expedition to Malawi**

This summer, a group of nine Spalding High students from Years 12 & 13 were accompanied by Mrs Schwarz and Mrs Syer on an Outlook Expedition to Malawi, Africa. The month was spent volunteering at environmental and social projects around the country, before completing a four day trek phase through the mountains down to Lake Malawi, followed by a safari at Liwonde National Park.



Our time there was truly life-changing and we were incredibly lucky to have such an immersive experience, the highlight most probably being the schools that we visited, such

as the Mbwalala Primary School in northern Luwawa, and interacting with the young children at an orphanage and crisis nursery. The looks on their faces as we gave them the colourful notebooks and stationery donated by local supermarkets were unforgettable, and they were all so surprised when we managed to converse with them in their own language, Chichewa.

In Malawi, girls our own age miss a quarter of their school lives because the traditions of their culture forbid them from leaving their homes during menstruation - something that the group just couldn't quite believe. The all-girls school that we visited, Edinburgh Girls High in Mzuzu, really struck a chord with us all as it was so easy to make comparisons with our own school back in Spalding. The reusable sanitary towels that we had bought with the help of donations from our school were given to two senior students, both 17, one of which hoping to study maths at university and the other an aspiring midwife. It was clear that they were really appreciated, especially seeing as the current water shortage in the cities is making washing reusable sanitary towels considerably difficult.

We're so grateful for the generosity of everyone who helped us with our fundraising goals, without which we

might not have been able to impact so many lives in the way that we did. The sheer poverty that we encountered, yet the happiness of the people living in it, really made us appreciate our families and the quality of our lives back at home. To anyone considering taking part, I would wholeheartedly recommend the experience - I've seen a part of the world that I never thought would be possible at the age of 17, and have made memories that will truly last a lifetime.

Rosie Stevenson

### **Geography trip to Sicily and Mount Etna**



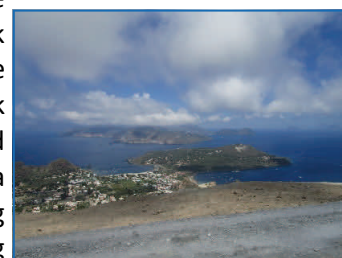
At 5:30am, we all bundled onto the coach- ready for our Mediterranean fieldtrip and it all started as soon as we reached Catania, Sicily.

We began by visiting Aci Castello where we had free time to look around the castle and ask Tracy (our guide) how to ask for certain things in Italian.

Day two was one of the most breath taking for us because we took a cable car and a jeep in order to travel up Mt.Etna where some of us endured the 'snow down the back' treatment.

Afterwards we visited the gorgeous Giardini Naxos with its many tourists, boats and ice-cream flavours. On day three, we battled with the heat and eventually we paddled in the chilling water at Alcantara Gorge before walking around the Mojo crater and unexpectedly spotting a wildfire on the journey back.

Later in the afternoon, we strolled around the Greek theatre in Taormina before having time to shop and look around for ourselves. To end the day, we all gathered at a pizzeria and enjoyed learning about making and eating pizza.



Day four was our last full day so we had to make it special. We embarked the ferry from Milazzo to Vulcano and that was the easy part. The challenge was to climb

right to the top of the crater which we managed to do in the end. The best part was that we got to 'off road' a bit and slip down the flank on purpose. Finishing off a great day, we swam in the mud pools which was great for our skin but we all smelled of sulphur for ages.

Overall, everyone had a great time and I'm sure these memories will stay with us for a very long time.

Naomi Scupham and Freya Cade.

### **Year 9 visit to the V & A Museum, London**

The Textiles department organised a trip to the V & A Museum, London, for Year 9 students. The visit gave them the opportunity to see how Fashion, Textiles and Art & Design has changed over the centuries. Students have used the inspirational visit to support their Textiles projects. Here are a few comments the students have made about the trip:

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September we visited the V & A Museum where we saw how fashion has changed over the years. There was a lot of Victorian fashion which inspired my project further; I have noticed floral patterns which were mainly part of the lace design. The garments looked very royal and elegant. They were mainly toned down colours and some pastels. They had a lot of embellishment and were often worn by the rich classes.

Julia Gdula

I think going to the V & A Museum really helped my ideas expand. It has inspired me to be more creative and take more risks in my work.

Ellen Carthy

The V & A visit was amazing; everything there was all unique, with all patterns on clothing being all very different with it's own personal touch.

Hannah Emmott

My V & A trip was very good. I really enjoyed the range of clothes and art work; it was impressive but I also really liked the courtyard where there was a stream that you could sit round. It was so pretty.

Emily Crunkhorn

### **RE Trip**

Year 10 students visited Bedford on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October for their Religious Studies GCSE course. They took part in Queen's Park Interfaith Tour, visiting a Sikh



gurdwara, a church and a mosque. They were given a tour of the different places of worship and made to feel warmly welcome. Students were able to meet members

of these faith communities and ask questions. The day was both informative and enjoyable.

### **Year 12 Geography fieldwork to Cranedale**

From Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October, twenty four AS students went on a trip to the North Yorkshire coast. Although it was cold, wet and for most of the trip we



couldn't feel our fingers, we made the most of it and actually had a good time. On Sunday afternoon, we travelled to the Cranedale centre, where we based our studies. We have to say the welcome we had was pretty good as we were greeted by the friendly guides and a full roast dinner! I think everyone else would agree if I said the food was one of the best parts of the trip with a 3 course meal every night and a cooked breakfast in the mornings! As one student said "I have eaten a lot, I'm not going to lie"

Our time was then split into two distinct days. Monday we were focusing on our coasts topic and the physical geography of the coast. After being fuelled by our very large breakfast we travelled first to Flamborough Head. Of course it was raining but we were all in high spirits for the first day of our AS field work. Once we arrived, all wearing very attractive waterproof trousers (like the true geographers we are); we walked down a lot of steps to the beach to study the cliffs. We learnt about different processes and discussed the effects on the cliff. Next we walked to the very well named "Flamboroughsaurus" and drew a detailed field sketch. From Flamborough we journeyed south to Hornsea to focus next on managed and unmanaged beaches. By the time we had warmed up we had arrived and had to venture once again into the cold. We walked along the promenade and discussed the coastal defences in place and the effects these have. Then came the exciting part where we actually collected some data, we measured the gradient of the cliff and sediment size using different methods. After finishing this we got back on the bus and travelled back to the Cranedale centre for some much needed hot chocolate and warmth.

On Tuesday we travelled to sunny (or not so sunny) Scarborough. The second day was focused on the topic of 'Place'. We walked around the town and went to specific sites where we expressed how we felt and the perception we had of the area from our experiences. At some sites we "people watched" which was interesting to say the least. At others we wrote a word picture detailing the characteristics of the place. Once we had got our bearings we were then let loose on the high street unfortunately not for shopping in the Brunswick centre but instead to tally the number of chain and independent stores there. After a very long and cold walk along the promenade we finally regrouped and finished a discussion about what we had seen that day. Then much to our comfort we all headed back to the centre to collect our luggage to return home.

We had a very enjoyable time and learnt a lot. To top off our trip Mr Smith took us all to McDonalds, although we had to buy our own!

Lucy Barnes and Eleanor Chadd.

### **Debating Competition**

The National Debating Matters competition is an event for Sixth Form students, in which the school entered a team of four students: Rosie Stevenson and Courtney Gostic from Year 13 and Nina Halgarth and Abbie Crunkhorn from Year 12. The aim was to improve both our confidence in public speaking but also our academic skills of debating detailed subject matter and reaching well-informed conclusions. We took part in several debates prior to the competition in order to familiarise ourselves with the subject matter and select a team for the day. This meant several of the Sixth Form have been involved.

The day of the debate came and tensions began to rise as we faced challenging questions from well-qualified judges and battled against debaters from a number of other schools. Having won the county round, we look forward to the regional final. We feel as though the trip improved our self-confidence in expressing our views in a coherent fashion. Equally we have considered many interesting matters of discussion such as free speech on social media, and the merits of autonomous vehicles.

We'd also like to thank Mr Jones and Mr Murphy for organising the trip and giving up their lunchtimes to judge and help prepare for the debate. We are also very grateful to all of the teachers who offered their time to judge over several lunchtimes.

Courtney Gostic- Year 13.

### **Library Book Trail**

The library committee has had an extremely busy first half term as we have been running a book trail during October. This has been thoroughly enjoyed by girls from varying year groups and allowed them to hunt for the

clues to complete the trail. A winning entry was drawn from the correct submissions and I am delighted to announce that Aditi Aggarwal from 8N won the prize.

We will be running other activities after half term, so please keep a look out for the posters.

Happy reading!

Rebecca Wright, Head of the Library Committee

### **PTA**

We had a fantastic ice breaker disco on 7<sup>th</sup> October with lots of students in attendance from the High, the grammar and the academy. We also welcomed a number of parents to our "ice breaker" event in the sixth form common room well away from the music! The next disco is Christmas themed and will be held in the school hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Tickets will go on sale from 14<sup>th</sup> November.

The next PTA event is the much loved Quiz Night on 25<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm. Tickets will be on sale just after half term and please come along and join us for a fun filled evening with our new Quiz Master Mr Murphy!

### **Arts Projects for Schools - Christmas Card competition**

This year we are working in collaboration with Art Projects for School (APFS) and running a combined School Christmas Card competition with the opportunity for students to design a Christmas card for their parents to buy for family and friends. All card designs submitted to school will automatically be entered into a school based competition to select the 'official' Spalding High School Christmas card for 2016! Joining me on the judging panel are our Head of Art and Design, Mrs Kelleher and Chair of Governors, Dr Gorton. There will be prizes for the overall winner and runners up. This is also an important fundraiser for the school as APFS makes a contribution to the school fund for each order received.

Our students are creative and arty and we are all looking forward to seeing the designs they create. The competition is open to all year groups (and staff) and I know that I will be very proud to send them to our partners and other local schools when I write the school Christmas cards this year.

All pupils have been given a letter of explanation and a unique ordering code to participate in this competition. Entries must be handed into the School reception no later than the end of lunch time on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

### **NEW BTEC Qualification in INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

New for 2017, replacing the old ICT course, is an exciting redeveloped program mixing practical skills with Computing knowledge. The new program investigates computer systems, develops a systems project and works


with industry critical software to produce an all-round, universally useful post 16 qualification.

Holding full UCAS points and levelled as a full A Level equivalent, learners undertaking BTEC IT can expect a more practical exposure to IT systems and use their knowledge and skills to solve industry problems, produce software solutions and be able to develop, maintain and implement IT systems solutions.

Learners looking for a practical IT subject, those wishing to have an all-round useful qualification or those looking to go to university or to enter Business, Computing, Retail, or any one of a large number of industries is ideally suited to pursuing the BTEC IT qualification.

Contact Mr. Fovargue for further information about this new, exciting qualification and how it can benefit your university or careers choice.

M K Anderson



Headmistress

### STOP PRESS

We are pleased to announce that we have been shortlisted in the Lincolnshire Free Press/Spalding Guardian Educational Awards in the following categories:

Contribution to the Community – The Sixth Form Charities Committee and Library Committee

Environmental Award – Spalding High School

Inspirational Secondary School Teacher of the Year – Mrs Kelleher, Head of Art

### DATES FOR DIARY

|                                |                                         |                                    |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> November</b> | <b>Term 2 begins</b>                    |                                    |                                   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> November       | Y9 Arts Day                             | 5 <sup>th</sup> December           | GCSE Orals begin                  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> November       | Y10 Curriculum Evening - 7.00pm         | 6/7 <sup>th</sup> December         | GCSE Art mock                     |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> November       | Rotary Young Cooks Competition          | 9 <sup>th</sup> December           | Bring-a-tin -Non Uniform Day      |
|                                | PTA AGM - 6.30pm                        |                                    | Fringe Friday                     |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> November       | Sixth Form Information Evening - 7.00pm | 12 <sup>th</sup> December          | Staff & Sixth Form Christmas Meal |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> November      | Y11 Parents' Evening                    | 13 <sup>th</sup> December          | GCSE Orals end                    |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> November      | Ski Trip Information Evening - 7.00pm   |                                    | Sixth Form Panto                  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> November      | Children in Need                        | 14/15 <sup>th</sup> December       | A Level Art Mock                  |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> November      | GCSE Presentation Afternoon             | 19 <sup>th</sup> December          | Carol Service                     |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> November      | Y13 trip to Good Food Show              | 20 <sup>th</sup> December          | Senior Prizegiving - 2.00pm       |
|                                | PTA Quiz Night - 7.30pm                 |                                    | <b>End of Term 2 (Half day)</b>   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> December       | Y12 Parents' Evening                    | <b>4<sup>th</sup> January 2017</b> | <b>Term 3 begins</b>              |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> December       | Y7 Christmas Tree Competition           |                                    | Y11 Mocks begin                   |
|                                | Y7 - 9 PTA Disco - 7.15 - 9.45pm        |                                    |                                   |