

# Spalding Grammar School

SIXTH FORM



## Prospectus

# Welcome



Although it may seem that you have not long been in Year 11, you now have some decisions to make with reference to the next steps in your education. While some may be considering apprenticeships or college courses, for the vast majority of those who currently attend this school the decision should be easy – to remain here in the Sixth Form; the School offers a familiar environment in which you can comfortably make the transition to A Level study. For those seeking to join us new in the Sixth Form, the School offers what I consider to be unrivalled academic and pastoral support to enable you to very quickly feel part of the community.

The School offers a broad range of subjects to cater to all tastes, and teaching takes place in smaller groups to

allow for a greater focus on individual students and their needs. As a result, our Sixth Formers make excellent progress and, every year, we send a number off to the most prestigious Russell Group universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

For an academic environment that challenges you to achieve your best, while offering support to be able to do so, alongside a number of opportunities beyond the classroom through which you can develop as individuals, I recommend our Sixth Form to you as the place to continue your education.

S M Wilkinson  
Headmaster

I am delighted that you are considering Spalding Grammar School Sixth Form. This school is an exceptional place to study with an experienced body of committed teaching staff, excellent facilities and a strong programme of academic and personal development.

Teaching and Learning is centred on the development of independent study, deep and creative thinking and the habit of working to the highest levels of expectations. In an environment of mutually respectful relationships between teachers and students, our Sixth Formers work hard and achieve excellent results which allow them to access Higher Education or employment equipped with the skills and confidence they need to be successful in the future.

Alongside a breadth of educational experiences for all students, matching their individual interests, aptitudes and abilities, we offer a vibrant environment in which

Sixth Formers play a crucial role in the School as positive models for younger students in a culture of opportunity and responsibility, including leadership and an increased commitment in the wider community.

These are going to be two very exciting years in your life, when you will develop new friendships, new knowledge, new skills, and new values. I wish these two years to be both memorable and enjoyable for each one of you whilst you prepare for the next stage and make important decisions that will shape your future. It is our commitment to provide you with the right balance of challenge and support in a spirit of trust and in an environment with a sharp focus on learning.

This is a great place to work and learn and I look forward to meeting you soon.



Dr A M Leadbeater  
Director of Sixth Form Studies



# Curriculum and Learning

**Naturally, academic success will be a major priority for you, and you can be confident that at Spalding Grammar School we support, encourage and facilitate academic excellence.**

As a student in our Sixth Form you can choose from 27 different subjects and languages. Additionally, all students are given the opportunity to choose from a diverse range of enrichment subjects to complement their core curriculum.

Sixth Form students value our positive ethos, where academic aspiration is fully encouraged and supported. Our teachers have a very high level of expertise in preparing students for A Level and beyond, and students thrive in a learning environment where everyone is keen to succeed.

Examination results are one of the key measures of our Sixth Form students’ achievements. In 2018, the School achieved a 99% pass rate with 28% of the grades awarded being A\*-A, and 80% being A\*-C.

If you join our Sixth Form, we shall expect enthusiasm, commitment, and of course, a dedication to your chosen course of study, which will lead to the highest results at A Level.

Art and Design	Economics	Geography	Latin	Physics
Biology	Engineering	German	Law	Psychology
Business	English Language	Politics	Mathematics	Sociology
Chemistry	English Literature	Early Modern History	Mathematics (Further)	Spanish
Computer Science	Religious Studies	Modern History	Music	
Design Technology	IT	Physical Education		

*‘Teachers have good subject knowledge, use high-quality questioning to check pupils’ understanding and plan activities which are sharply focused on developing examination skills.’ Ofsted*





## Pathways

At Spalding Grammar School we understand that each student is an individual with their own particular strengths, interests and career ambitions. Therefore, our aim is to ensure that each student has a personalised programme of study that supports them to meet their aspirations by offering a balanced and broad range of twenty-seven A Level subjects that prepares students for further study and the world of work.

All A Levels have now been reformed with greater complexity and amount of work to cover. Students in our Sixth Form are required to study three subjects at A Level as universities – up to, and including, the Russell Group and Oxbridge universities – are making their offers based on three subjects at A Level, with a preference for top grades.

There will not be an option for students to discontinue a subject at the end of Year 12. Students beginning subjects in Year 12 are committing to them for two years and that is why a three-subject (plus Enrichment option) route will be followed by the majority. However, as an academic school we allow our most able students to continue with as broad a curriculum as possible.

As a result, students who have a number of high GCSE grades (at least six grades 7) are permitted to study four A Levels, according to prescribed pathways, as follows:

- Students who opt for Further Mathematics, as they may study two A Levels alongside Mathematics and Further Mathematics
- Students choosing Engineering and Mathematics, as they may study an additional A Level alongside Maths and Engineering (Engineering counts as a double qualification)
- Students wishing to study Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics

Students wishing to study other combinations of four subjects will be considered, provided there is overlap in the skills required (for example, Humanities and Social Sciences). A place on a fourth A Level course will only be confirmed once GCSE results are known.

In order to create a bespoke curriculum for each student we organise the subjects into blocks only after choices are made. So that we may provide maximum flexibility we would like students to indicate their preferences in order of priority. We also ask that students provide two reserve options, also in order of preference. Once we have the information from students we will construct our blocks. In this way we hope to cater for most subject choices but we do need to emphasise that, on occasion, not all combinations are possible for all students. It is also the case that some subjects may be withdrawn if the number of students selecting them is too few. In these circumstances we will contact students affected.



# Enrichment

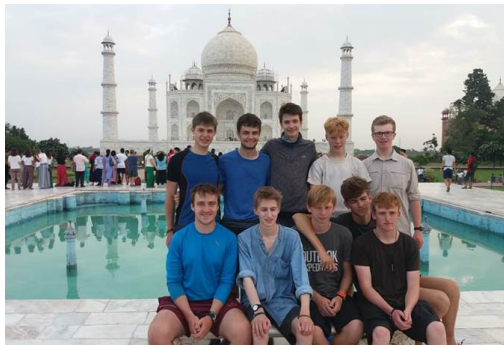
**In a competitive world, it is no longer enough simply to do well in examinations in order to secure a place at university, or a good job. Each student needs to stand out as a well-rounded individual with a range of experiences, striking personal attributes, achievements and interests that complement those professional qualities that have enabled them to succeed in their studies.**

On top of their core curriculum, students are also required to choose an enrichment subject. The only exception to this will be students studying four A Levels, who, given the increased demands of their chosen curriculum, may opt out of enrichment and use the time for private study instead.

To this end, Sixth Form students benefit from an extensive enrichment programme, through which they are encouraged to acquire new interests or develop existing ones, fill gaps in their UCAS personal statement or CV, or add an extra dimension to their curriculum or perhaps the wider community.

Within this enrichment programme students may choose from a diverse range of subjects:

AS Classical Civilisation	Level 2 Award in Sports Leadership (SL2)
Cambridge Pre-U Global Perspectives	Work Experience
Core Maths	Young Enterprise
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)	AS Criminology



## Extra-Curricular

**Sixth Form life offers numerous opportunities for students to develop their wide-ranging talents and use them to contribute to the School and the wider community.**

Our school excels in sport, being successful in local and national competitions, and recognised as the best state school in the county for sport in 2014. With this in mind, all students are encouraged to continue their involvement in sport during the Sixth Form, and most receive two hours of games tuition per week.

School representative matches are centred around rugby, football, hockey and cricket, and are played during the games sessions on Wednesday afternoons or outside curriculum time.

Alongside this designated time, the PE Department runs a thriving enrichment programme and a variety of clubs take place at lunchtime and after school.

The School Houses also compete in inter-House sports throughout the year, which culminates in Sports Day during the summer.

Drama and music are also a prominent feature of extra-curricular opportunities at SGS, in which the School has achieved high standards and gained an enviable reputation. Productions have ranged from a musical version of Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' to the Broadway musical 'Honk!' and in 2018 'We Will Rock You'. We wait expectantly for the School's 2019 production of 'School of Rock'.

Every show offers a wealth of on-stage and backstage opportunities, whether it be controlling the lighting rigs, managing the props or taking centre stage in one of the leading roles!

There are also many events in the School calendar that enable students to perform in various groups including Christmas concerts, awards ceremonies and charity events. The groups include the school choir, a concert band, soul band and ukulele band. Musical theory is also taught to supplement instrumental/vocal studies.





## Purpose-built Sixth Form Facilities

**The nature of studying changes significantly in the Sixth Form and, as such, each student is allocated a fixed number of timetabled private study periods, designed to help them cope with the increased demands of A Level.**

Private study is essential to students' development, giving them the opportunity to consolidate what they have been taught in lessons, and our purpose built Sixth Form Study Centre provides a base for silent and supervised private study. Research and in-depth study, reading around a topic, note making, organising notes and writing essays are all tasks best carried out at school, where there are resources and staff available.

The Sixth Form Study Centre is a flexible space, consisting of an open-plan study area, private study rooms for group work, and study carrels for individual work, giving students the opportunity to personalise their learning environment.

As well as having access to networked PCs, enhanced Wi-Fi provision in these areas allows students to take advantage of new technologies to assist them with their studies. Students are able to bring their own laptops, netbooks and tablets to school; access their own dedicated file areas on the school network and take full advantage of a wide range of 'on-line' resources.

In recognition of their growing maturity and independence, Sixth Form students are also given a fixed number of 'free' periods, and our Sixth Form Coffee Lounge provides them with a modern area in which to socialise and recharge their batteries between lessons.

In terms 2 and 3, Year 13 students who are making expected progress and have an excellent record of attendance, punctuality and behaviour are afforded the privilege of studying at home (Home Study) during their study periods to the end of the day.

*'The facilities available to the Sixth Form, namely the Sixth Form Study Centre and Coffee Lounge, provide areas for us as a cohort to work but also relax in, in order to get the best results possible' Sam, Year 13*



## Support at Spalding Grammar School

**During your time in the Sixth Form, you will make important decisions about your future. What is so comforting is that you are never alone or far from advice when it comes to making these decisions. The Director of Sixth Form Studies, Dr Leadbeater, ably supported by the Heads of House, will guide you through our application process, help you work out which subjects you can study and induct you into how academic life in our Sixth Form works.**

Each Sixth Form student is placed in a vertical form of approximately 20 students from different Year groups, led by an experienced form tutor who has special responsibility for the academic and personal well-being of each member of the form. In addition, there are six Heads of House who support the tutors in helping Sixth Formers to make the best decisions, not merely in career matters but in general pastoral support.

As well as pastoral support, our well established House system forms the focus for a wide range of events, clubs and activities in which Sixth Formers play a leading role in organising and running.

They are also encouraged to act as mentors to the younger students within their form in a number of ways.

All in all, the Sixth Form is a place where staff are always willing to 'go the extra mile' for students, and the standard and quality of guidance is such that you would have to look hard to find better elsewhere. Indeed, around 50 students from other schools integrate very successfully into our Sixth Form each year. Moreover, through the Senior Student Team, Sixth Form students have an opportunity to play a fundamental role in ensuring that the experience of every student within the School is as positive and rewarding as possible.

We are extremely proud of our Senior Student Team. We see our Sixth Formers as the leaders of the future, and the opportunity to become involved in the Senior Student Team offers them the chance to develop skills and talents that are essential for success both within Further Education and the work place.

*'The academy's system of vertical tutoring [...] provides pupils with opportunities to act as role models and to take on positions of responsibility within the academy's pupil community.' Ofsted*





## Post-18 Preparation

**The majority of our students decide to go on to Higher Education, and preparation for this starts early in Year 12. Students are given advice and guidance on how to research Higher Education courses and how to manage the electronic UCAS application process. Parents are also welcomed into School during Year 12 to attend an information evening concerning the UCAS journey and student finance. In addition, students are given advice and guidance on the writing of the Personal Statement, which is carried out and supervised in tutor groups and completed in the first term of Year 13.**

Mock interviews are provided when necessary and past students are occasionally invited back to give advice to current Sixth Formers. Courses and 'taster sessions' are also advertised by e-mail throughout the year to provide students with an insight into careers, professions and undergraduate courses. Students applying to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge benefit from dedicated specialist advice and support to help maximise their chances of success.

There is an expectation that during their journey in Sixth Form, students will take much greater ownership of their learning. Academically, we want students to develop skills that will enable them to think critically, take risks, innovate and to work independently as well as in teams. They will also develop study skills that enable them to thrive at University and encourage a passion for a particular academic area.

Needless to say, students considering other pathways are equally well supported and help and advice is offered throughout the Sixth Form concerning apprenticeships, school leaver programmes and gap year opportunities. We continue to build strong relationships with local apprenticeship providers and local businesses, and each year the School hosts a careers fair in a bid to raise students' awareness of a wide range of career and educational opportunities. Throughout Year 12 they will undertake a series of Personal and Careers Education (PaCE) lessons where they will explore life skills such as living independently, managing finances, careers options and life after Sixth Form.

*'Pupils receive effective advice and guidance in preparation for their next steps after sixth form. Pupils receive information about the different pathways available to them. They receive valuable support in making applications to university, and are provided with information about finance.'* Ofsted



## Student Profiles

### Daniel, Year 13

“ Having attended Spalding Grammar School (SGS) for the previous 5 years, entering the Sixth Form for my A Level studies was a natural progression. Sixth Form students at SGS benefit from a strong balance between focused ‘contact’ time and study periods, allowing for an increased level of independence in learning which bridges the gap between school and university. This is not to say that students are expected to fully manage their non-contact time; the Sixth Form at SGS forms a supportive community where students can develop and flourish at their own pace. The curriculum offered at SGS is broad and diverse, yet academic at its core; I have personally benefited from studying Pre-U Global Perspectives as an enrichment alongside my A-level subjects, an opportunity that I feel will greatly enrich my Oxbridge application. ”

### William, Year 13

“ Transferring to Spalding Grammar School from the Peele Community College initially seemed like a daunting process and a big leap from what I had been used to. I had chosen to apply to the Grammar School as I believed it would be the best facility to advance my academic progress, and give me the best support for applying to University. After attaining my grades I realised my fears of joining the school had been misplaced as its friendly, welcoming and open atmosphere meant that I was quickly able to adapt to the learning style of the school and fit well into my chosen subjects. ”

### Gloria, Year 13

“ I joined Spalding Grammar from The Gleed Academy, formerly known as Sir John Gleed Academy and since being here I have received ongoing encouragement and support in my A Level studies which has allowed me to make significant academic progress. Also, the school takes pride in all of its students and achievements and I wanted to be a part of that. ”

### Shana, Year 13

“ I can honestly say that Spalding Grammar School has been the best decision I could have made when choosing where to go for Sixth Form. Coming from Spalding High School, I was initially very nervous about leaving familiar faces behind, but I knew I had to push myself to do what was right for me – change. I wanted to challenge myself to do something out of my comfort zone but, at the same time, was concerned that I would lose the support system I had built up at the High. From my first day here, I have felt comfortable in my surroundings and welcomed by everyone. All the teachers are approachable and everyone looks out for one another. It has allowed me to grow in confidence, along with introducing me to new opportunities, people and memories which will stay with me forever. ”

# Admissions

## Entry Requirements

GCSEs in England are being reformed and the majority are now graded with a new scale from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade. During this transition, students will receive a mixture of letter and number grades.

Admission to Sixth Form courses is dependent upon students meeting the following requirements:

1. Six GCSEs at 4/C or above including a minimum of Grade 4 in Mathematics and English Language or English Literature.
2. In addition, students must also meet the subject specific entry requirements for the subjects they wish to study.

Subject specific entry requirements are listed in our subject information sheets which will be made available at our Open Evening in November and through the 'Sixth Form' section of our website.

## Admissions

All students, both internal and external, must apply for a place in our Sixth Form. For September 2019 admission, applications must be received by **Monday 4 March 2019**. Application forms are available both through our website and the School Office.

For external applicants we will contact their current school to find out their predicted grades. In light of that information, prospective students may be invited to discuss their most suitable course of study.

## Open Day

Before deciding upon their final subject combination and submitting their application, students are advised to attend our Open Day on **Tuesday 22 January 2019**. The Open Day allows students to

experience Sixth Form life and Sixth Form lessons and will help to inform their final subject choices. Students may attend lessons for five different A Level subjects on this day, as well as experiencing our Sixth Form Coffee Lounge and Study Centre. Again, application forms are available both through our website and the School Office. The deadline for Open Day applications is **Monday 10 December 2018**.

It is still possible to apply for a place after the application deadlines, though initially you may have to be put on a reserve list for particular subjects or the Sixth Form itself, if places are already full. It is also possible for you to change your mind about your choice of courses. We will accommodate changes provided these are available within the final timetable. This can happen right up until the start of the September term, as some students will need to change courses when they know their GCSE results.







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