



Spalding Grammar School Sixth Form Newsletter 5 March 2021

Last weekend saw the clocks go forward one hour and we are now, finally, in Spring. We are promised (or at least forecast!) to have warm weather for the next few days and it is with optimism that we approach the final two terms of this school year. Let's allow the joy of spring and nature to keep us going as growth, hope, beauty have returned; after all we have been through, we might be a little more cynical, battle weary and a bit less able to allow the natural world to help heal us once again. However, the Easter break is now here and with it comes an opportunity for our school community to get some much-needed rest and relaxation. The Sixth Form team wishes a happy and peaceful Easter to you all!

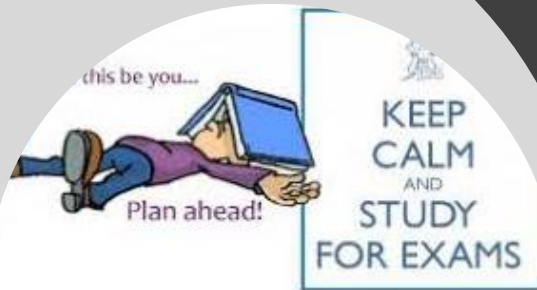
Learning & Grades

Y13 students have been receiving subject specific information regarding assessments in their subject areas. Students should ensure they speak to their subject teachers if they are unsure of any of the instructions. The majority of assessments will take place after the Easter holidays. We are still waiting for clarification about the TAG process and once we receive this, we will be able to determine when Y13 will leave school.

Y12 students are working hard towards “potential” end of year exams. These would be an opportunity for students to sit mock examinations in a formal setting to give them an experience of what sitting external exams will be like (hopefully!). Dates can only be set once the landscape is less uncertain. Overall, well done and thank you to all our Sixth Form students for returning to school with such focus and motivation after the challenges of such a long time learning remotely.

GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021

Working out your grade	Evidence	Results and
Graded by teacher judgement	Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence	Results day for AS and A level GCSE
Not graded by an algorithm	Non-exam assessment should continue	If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal. The first step is to speak to your school.
School and college assessments can continue	Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete	You can find out more details from your college or exam board by visiting their website.
You will only be assessed on what you've been taught	Art & design grade based only on your portfolio	
Teachers will tell you what you need to grade you	Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to	
	Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best	



Peer Learning: piecing together each other's understanding and building on it together. **Conor & Sam**



"Working on Maths with Sam has been especially beneficial to me because he is in a different Maths class; for some topics that I have weak knowledge on, Sam can offer a different perspective since he has been taught the content slightly differently. It is great to have someone to work with, because it introduces a nature of competition to the work to keep both of us motivated. Sometimes it can be helpful to pair up with someone you aren't close friends with, since it keeps the work time more focused and formal.

To prepare for the CATs we have been working through the content included in the upcoming tests, summarising information, working through practice questions together and RAG rating each topic, to highlight whether it would be worth revising again before the respective test. Before I started working with Sam, I thought it was best to just rewrite my notes, but a more active style of revision has made me feel much more comfortable with the content and will hopefully bring me an improved set of grades."

Conor McCullough



"My current plan for the future is to complete my Degree Apprenticeship in Accountancy, which is something I spent a long time actively searching for before securing one with a local firm. During GCSEs, I used group revision techniques to learn with my friends who were normally at the top of the class. This worked at the time, because most of the content was easy to understand and it was a good excuse to hang out with my friends. After starting A levels, I realised that this method of revision was not quite working because small gaps in knowledge meant that I would be left behind my friends, and then they were basically just telling me the answers I did not know and I was learning very little in the process. Dr Leadbeater found out about this and gave me advice to start working 1-to-1 with Conor for Maths, as we are both at the same level of knowledge and understanding. I found our study sessions to be much more insightful than working with someone who already knows exactly what to do, as it forces us to both think and come to our own conclusions on how to solve problems and also share our own methods with each other at a far better pace."

Sam Macasaddu





Loughbo
iversity



James Clark, Year 13, on SGS and his future plans

I'm looking forward to studying Sports Journalism, Management & Media at University. I have always enjoyed the reporting aspect of the sports industry and I am keen to impact how people relate to a sporting event through my passion and understanding of the sector. Finding out thoughts and opinions from different people while witnessing great sporting moments first-hand is what I aspire to do as a career. I take great inspiration from reporters such as David Jones, who started by reporting football games on the side-line before joining Sky Sports in 1998. He then made his way up the ranks until now where he is the main presenter on Super Sundays and Saturdays alongside famous footballing figures such as Gary Neville and Jamie Carragher. His story shows that with hard work, determination and lots of personality you can become the best in your field....fingers crossed!

I hold an offer to study at Loughborough University which is great news for me and my family as Loughborough has always been well known for its sporting success, but also for the success that students go on to achieve after gaining their degree. Loughborough has amazing facilities that can allow me to improve both my journalistic skills in the radio stations, but also my practical skills in sports that I am passionate about like football and basketball on the various pitches and courts they have around the campus.

I have also recently been in contact with Ben Croucher, a journalist at BBC Sport. Ben gave me some great advice about the media side of sport and also about the life at Loughborough, as he was a past graduate. One day, I hope to work alongside professionals like him.

Sport has always been a vital part of my life growing up. I had learned to play football from a very young age but attending Spalding Grammar School allowed me to branch out my sporting interests. The PE Department deserve huge credit for my success in school. Right from when I first joined the school in year 7, they took the time to get to know me and my family and have helped develop my sporting ability and knowledge throughout the years of me studying at the school. They have allowed me to represent the school in multiple competitions such as football cup finals and always given me a chance to learn new sports such as basketball and cricket of which I have become extremely passionate about.

Coming to the end of my final year at SGS, I look back.... and let me say it has been no easy journey! My 3 A levels of Business, PE and Psychology require me to work extremely hard both inside and out of school. However, teachers have pushed me to be a better version of myself and have put me in a position where I am close to getting into the university I am so passionate about. My advice to younger students who will soon be in a similar position as me is make sure YOU do what YOU are passionate about. Don't be swayed by what your friends choose to do. Be sure you make use of every moment you have during your Sixth Form time at SGS. Teachers are always looking to help you and get you the best grades possible so take advantage of that! Ask them questions, make use of the amazing facilities and be different! Don't be afraid to stand out from the crowd.

Being part of this schools Sixth Form is a great pleasure and I'm sure anyone looking to become a Sixth Form student will enjoy every minute of it.

James Clark

So ...things you can do.....

- Travel
- Teach abroad
- Volunteer to work on a project at home or abroad
- Work in a paid position to save some money for university
- Gain some unpaid work experience
- Undertake further study or training
- Get a working holiday visa to live and work abroad.



What can you do?

Independent Travel



Teaching Abroad



Working with Gap Year Agencies



Developing Communities



Working with Animals



Advantages

- Self-reliance / independence
- Maturity
- Team-work
- Managing money and making plans
- Thinking time / breathing space
- Course-related experience
- Money to study
- A break
- Other people / make international friends
- Other cultures



Gap Year:

Period of time, usually an academic year, when a student takes a break from formal education.

Some people apply and get a place at university and then ask for their place to be deferred so that they can have a gap year.

A gap year can offer a great opportunity to develop personal and employability skills or to get experience working in a job area of interest or to meet people from different cultures. Also, some people use their gap year to confirm what sort of job or career they are interested in before they choose their next step.

There are companies which will help your teen to plan their gap year but be warned, it all costs money! Be prepared for a call on the bank of Mum and/or Dad!!

Disadvantages

- Time – length of course?
- Continuity – lost habit of studying?
- Recession?
- Friends a year ahead?
- Competitiveness of courses
- Shouldn't I wait until after uni?
- Expensive?



It can wait: no text message is so important it is worth risking lives.

- Last week, the whole Sixth Form explored the dangers of texting while driving. Watching the video [“Wait for it... this could save your life | @SummerBreak 4 – YouTube”](#) caused some serious reflection in everybody. Mr Morris and Ms Dearing said that their forms went completely silent as they listened to Jacy Wood’s heart-breaking account on how her life changed so tragically in a few seconds. What should have been a happy occasion quickly turned into a tragedy which robbed her parents of their lives, saw Jacy spend four months in hospitals having to learn how to walk and talk again and has left her partially paralysed for the rest of her life.

FACTS:

- Risk of accident 23X greater than talking on cell phone
- Eyes off road for 2 seconds doubles chance of accident
- Text takes eyes off road average of 4.6 seconds
- At 55 mph a car travels the length of a football field with driver’s eyes off road
- Typical teen sends and receives 100 texts per day

No text, snapchat, instagram, twitter, or facebook notification is worth your life OR others’. It's not worth it.



Welcome to the Sixth Form Gallery

"Which folders are better between Valentinas' and mine? " *(There's only one way to find out? – editors note)*



Winner Amy Reddin



**Honourable mention
Muzzammil Jivraj**



**Dis-honourable mention
Matthew Peach**
(Look at the state of those edges!)

"Please find attached mine and Cole's revision notes. I think our filing system wins!"

**Honourable mention
Hannah Wilkins &
Cole Carter**



As usual a great response from the Sixth Form students. Matthew, would you like to come to the Art department for some new folders? Amy, how do you want your image reproduced? Key ring, coaster or mouse mat? For the next newsletter our theme will be '10 years ago'. Mr Wise