

## Spalding Grammar School Sixth Form Newsletter 3 February 2021

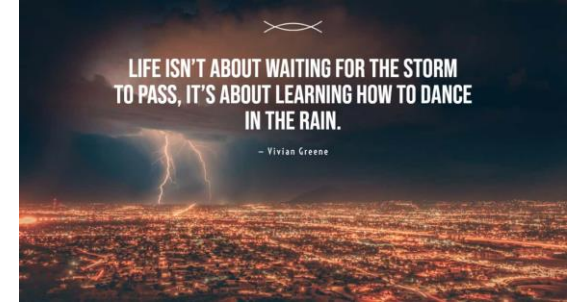
Resilience is not a character trait. It is a combination of various skills – a cluster of characteristics you draw on when times get tough. We further develop our skill set as we make difficult choices and confront challenges. Creativity, flexibility, resourcefulness, patience, persistence, and courage are individual strengths which form our core of resilience – and help us progressing through challenging times.

I like to describe Term 3 as six weeks of resilience, hard work and dedication. At SGS, we are all too aware of the difficulties that many families have been through, but in spite of the tough events, it is the work completion, the attendance, achievement points and conversations with staff that speak volumes of you, our young people, dancing, not drowning, in the rain.

You have been fantastic in your endeavours, and your parents have been fantastic in their support for you and for school. Along with my colleagues, I feel privileged to be part of such strong community.

Storms get tired indeed....and you continue to hold on tight....getting stronger and stronger and more ready to face life's passing storms...they come and they go.....we must learn to overcome them!

The Prime Minister has set out the plan for the return of all learners during week beginning 8th March. Whilst I understand the concern that the return of learners may raise for some of you, please be assured that all of us in school continue to work hard to keep everybody as safe as possible. Being back in school will help you in your learning and wellbeing, and we all look forward to warmly welcoming all of you back to school!



"This storm is making me tired," said the boy  
"Storms get tired too," said the horse, "so hold on."



Week beginning: \_\_\_\_\_

Period	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1					
2					
3					
4					
Lunch					
5					
6					



## Learning from now until week commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Albeit short (only five-week long), I expect this to be a busy and productive term in the lead up to the Easter break. Remote learning will continue up until week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March and, after a well-deserved half-term break, some of you might find it hard to re-engage and getting absorbed in one's learning.

I, therefore, want to remind you of what lies ahead, and encourage you to continue to work positively and with purpose. As previously said, we do not learn for the sake of passing examinations....but, sometimes, focusing on examinations helps us going!

- Year 13's, are waiting for further clarity from Ofqual (by the end of next week) as to what the assessment landscape will look like this summer. Most of you have offers from Universities or other equally important plans for the future after SGS, all waiting for you.....one last big push!
- Year 12's, are preparing for Trial Examinations which will inform their UCAS Predicted Grades. You are currently exploring post-18 pathways and making important decisions for your future. Keep going!

It is important that your preparation for future assessments is as thorough as possible and that during the school day you continue working hard in lessons and in your Private Study periods. Work on the new topics AND continue to refresh your previous learning with deep, active revision and practice of exam questions. Make sure that you plan your day, especially your PS's, just like you used to do in school! Plan, review, change, adapt...plan more and try to stick to the plans!

- Over the last few weeks, you have developed many valuable study skills which will support you in your future lives. It is important to remind ourselves that in a 21st century world we are all learning and developing new skills constantly...we need to keep going! Learning does not stop when the school years are done, we are lifelong learners....and you are going to prove yourselves in your examinations!

Work well and there will be no need for good luck!



# Going to University

.....a few readings to wet your appetite...more to come once you are all in school, after Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March!

## Year 12 – Thinking of going to university?

- Taster courses are provided by some universities and colleges to let you experience academic and social life on campus.

<https://www.ucas.com/events/exploring-university/learn-about-uni-taster-course>

- Find out what UCAS Tariff points are, how they're used, and how many points your qualifications are worth using the UCAS points calculator.

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/entry-requirements/ucas-tariff-points>

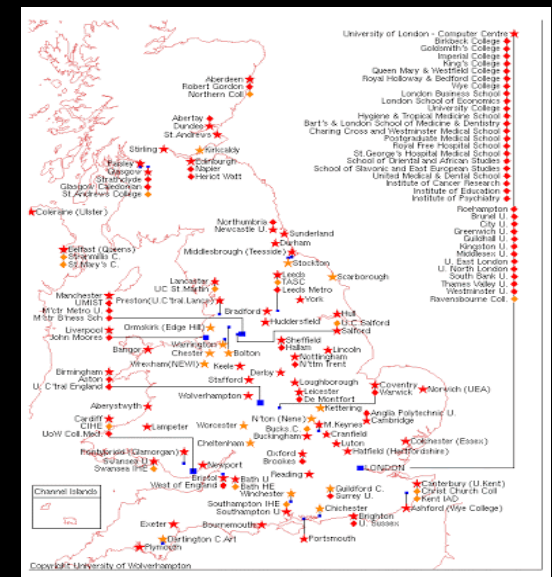
- Due to lockdown restrictions it is difficult to visit a university in person. So it is worth looking at the virtual open days, which most universities are running over the next few months.

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find/type/open-day>

## Year 13 – Going to university next year?

- It is important have an understanding of student finances.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNjYAwD9e6s&feature=youtu.be>





## LBGTQ+ History Month 1-28 February 2021

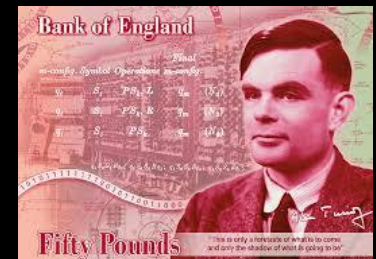
Everyone has the right to be educated in a safe environment and as a school, we promote equality and safety in education for LGBTQ+ people.

We want everyone to be aware that people have multiple, complex and diverse identities which shape the world and make history. We teach our students about the variety of the human race, and stress that humans may adopt several different identities at any one point in their lives.

This month the world celebrates LGBTQ+ History Month. The aim of the event is to primarily teach young people about the history of the gay rights movement and to promote an inclusive modern society. It recognises the LGBT+ community in all their diversity, and in doing so, educates out prejudice.

As a scientist, I wish to celebrate Alan Turing..... “founder of computer science, mathematician, philosopher, codebreaker, and a gay man before his time”

- Born 1912, an Englishman, often called the father of digital computing and artificial intelligence
- One of the most prominent allied code breakers in WWII.
- Pioneered many early computing techniques
- Alan Turing was convicted of homosexuality in 1952, committed suicide at the age of 41 in 1954 under the influence of the chemical castration medications that he was court-ordered to take
- In 2009, the British government issued a formal apology to Alan Turing’s family



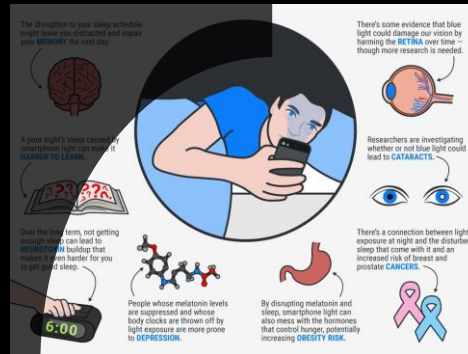
<https://lgbtplushistorymonth.co.uk/calendar/>



- I know that most of you are keen to return to school to see their friends, teachers and get into a regular routine again. Even the keener student, though, might feel anxious about “re-starting” ..... this is perfectly normal, as discussed at <https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/coming-with-anxiety-about-going-back-to-school/>

- Your positive attitude on your return to school in September was exemplary, and I’m sure that you will be fine now as well....actually, you will be more than fine, because you are awesome!

- Start preparing gradually. Make sure your sleep patterns are regular. Variety is key: exercise, reading a great book and learning a new skill are all suitable ways of avoiding the sheer monotony of a TV and computer screen.



# **“Screen-Free Challenge”**

**by Kavin Anand-Babu**



Trying to reach for my phone first thing in the morning..... Remembering that I am taking part in the screen-free challenge... staring at my phone and fighting the temptation to pick it up if only to look at the time – this was already rather painful!

I then went downstairs and thought to myself, ‘This can’t be that hard, can it?’ Little did I know what an interesting day this was about to be...

I went outside and played basketball for a while. I usually do this with headphones on, listening to music, so it felt weird at first but I then I realised that listening to the sound of the ball bouncing and going through the net was actually quite soothing.....so far so good.

I sat down and played some piano and guitar...mmmm, a little issue here, as I usually learn things off YouTube but today I had to learn everything by ear and from memory. This was quite challenging but after a while, I got the hang of it and realised that there are ways around problems!

Out I go again as there wasn’t really anything to do inside, without my gadgets. This time I played cricket with my dad. We hadn’t done this in a while, so it reminded me of the times when I was younger, and he would train me for hours upon hours – I really don’t know how he didn’t get bored because I know I did....the joys of fatherhood? Brrr!

My sister was back home from Uni and throughout the day she would constantly try to tempt me to look at a screen and fail the challenge. I am happy to announce that she failed! it was extremely hard, (and annoying) but I didn’t give in. You cannot give in to your older sister...life will be unbearable!

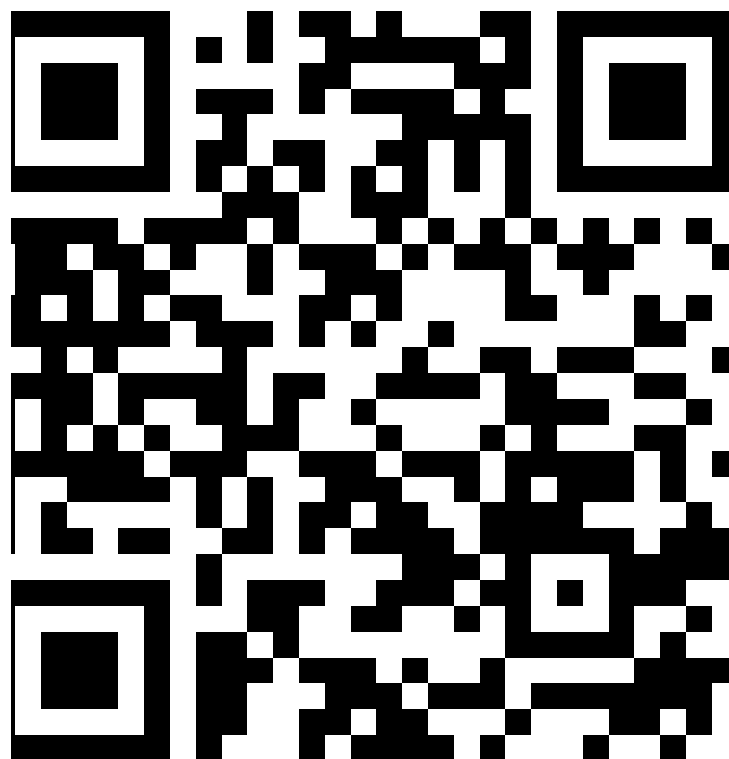
Later, I baked a pineapple upside-down cake – which in my opinion was beautiful but my sister thought otherwise. She was just jealous I can bake better than her. BTW: it was delicious!

In the evening, my family and I sat down to play Monopoly. After an hour of gruelling play, I had hotels built on nearly all the properties. My family called it luck – but it was definitely pure skill.

Overall, the challenge was quite difficult and the fact that we’re in lockdown didn’t help at all! But it made me realise that without screens or technology I was more productive than usual, when I sit with my phone all day. I certainly had to think of lots of things to do to fill up the day...and it was OK!



At this difficult time, when the pandemic has had a devastating impact on the economy and business on a global scale, Amy took a unique opportunity to start her own business, having more time on her hands to reflect on what she really wants from life and her career. She turned her hobby into a fully-fledged business, showing talent, entrepreneurship and remarkable resilience. Good luck, Amy!



[memoriesinstitches56@gmail.com](mailto:memoriesinstitches56@gmail.com)

“Memories in Stitches” is my keepsake business, started during lockdown.

I have always wanted to run my own business, and the Young Enterprise and Business A-Level have helped me gain the confidence and knowledge to do so now.

Since times have been tough during lockdown, with many people unable to see their loved ones and friends, I thought to create keepsakes, either made from a selection of fabric that customers select from a wide range I can provide, or made from a loved one's clothes, the ones that one cannot bear to give away or sell because they're so full of memories. Carefully handmaking a perfect keepsake, unique to each customer, is very important to me.

I would say that at the beginning it could have been easy to just give up on running my business, as you can keep seeing your costs rising and when you have only a few orders it can feel like there is no point. However, once you have pushed through that point, the orders start coming in faster and you start believing in yourself more. What you put into the business in effort, passion and a pinch of shrewdness, you get back in orders and profit.

I have had so much support over the last few weeks since the launch, that I cannot thank friends and family enough for it all. You can see my e-shop by scanning the QR code. You will find a price list as well as some of the processes I go through when completing an order. The pictures shown here are examples of my products.

**Amy Reddin**





# SGS Prefecture 2020-21

When it comes to the disease “that shall not be named”, the Prefecture at SGS was thrown a massive spanner in the works so not everything that we had planned worked out in the end.

Following the ICE vision (Inspire, Challenge, Enrich), Ambassadors and Ministers were chosen from Year 13 students to represent the school through school events and mentoring younger students. We felt that students from younger years needed a small “nudge” in the right direction through organisation and revision strategies.

As a result, we planned for Ambassadors to mentor a small number of students from each year group from January 2021. Through their own experiences in school and knowledge of different subject areas, Year 13 students would be the best to both support KS3 in settling into school but also mentor and challenge KS4 with work they are familiar with.

The Prefects went through an online course to ensure that they knew how to respond to different students and their attitudes to feedback. However, with learning now being online, we couldn't release the program as we planned initially, so we are looking at alternative ways to run it.

For Ministers, we were planning to create action committees where like-minded students from across the school can meet up and contribute ideas to improve the school such as an Eco-Committee. In that way, we would be able to create a much stronger school community with common goals and inspire future years to follow. However, we are limited by the school zones and most events taking place online. Therefore, we are planning to be able to include Ministers in an alternative program this year too.

Along with the Senior Team, I am proud of the work ethic of Prefects who are motivated to make the school a better place for students even in these difficult times.



**Wojciech Such**  
Deputy Head Boy



# Welcome to the Sixth Form Gallery



**Winner Liam Tear**  
**'Resilience'**

*'Here is my interpretation on the subject. Although I do not actually like snowmen/women on my toast, I do believe that this photo encapsulates what we all strive to achieve here at SGS. Resilience. As the heat rose from the toast, the snowman/woman was put under extreme stress which could lead to a meltdown. However, as the snow person persevered, they discovered the ability within themselves to extinguish the warmth that caused them so much grief. This image is a metaphor for how resilience and perseverance can lead us to discover abilities we never knew we had, and allows us to be the best versions of ourselves'.*  
Liam Tear



**Honourable mention**  
**Kavin Anand-Babu**



**Honourable mention**  
**Thomas Amess**



**Mr Wise's special commendation**  
**Finn Toomey**



**Honourable mention**  
**Georgia Thomas**

As usual, a great response from the Sixth Form students. Liam's image and explanation really hit the right note. How do you want your image reproduced? Key ring, coaster or mouse mat, Liam? For the next newsletter our theme will be 'what I did in the half-term holiday'. Mr Wise