

SPALDING GRAMMAR SCHOOL

WEEKLY BULLETIN TO PARENTS

15TH JANUARY 2021

We hope that you are all keeping safe and well. As promised last week, the Senior Leadership Team will send a bulletin at the end of every week during lockdown with any information we have for you. In the latter part of the bulletin, we will share a selection of highlights from teaching and learning which has been happening throughout the week. We recognise that the bulletin might become quite lengthy, so have structured it to make it easier to follow and navigate.

Contacting the school during lockdown

Please be aware that the following arrangements are in place for parents to contact school:

1. Reception is available to take calls between 8am and 11am on each school day. Outside of these hours you can leave a message on the answerphone.
2. Email enquiries@spaldinggrammar.lincs.sch.uk
3. Email communications@spaldinggrammar.lincs.sch.uk where it specifically asked that you do so.

Attendance at online lessons

We have found that attendance has generally been very good in lessons. Where a student does not attend, the teacher will record that absence in Go4Schools and assign a -1 point, so that you will be able to see it. If there is a genuine reason for your child's absence, please inform the School in the way you always have done, so that this can be recorded as such.

On site provision for children of key workers

This is for urgent attention of those parents requiring it: Please let the school know by **8pm tonight (Friday 15 January)**, by completing the ParentMail form which was sent out to you yesterday, if your child will need to attend school over the next two weeks. Additionally, if there are any changes in circumstance in this respect, please let us know as soon as possible at communications@spaldinggrammar.lincs.sch.uk

Remote learning and assessment

We are doing everything we can to ensure that student learning continues to progress as uninterrupted as possible by the requirement for students to stay at home. Live (Teams) lessons are a significant step up from our provision in the first lockdown and we are really pleased with how students have engaged with this so far.

An important aspect of teaching and learning is assessment. This supports students in knowing how they are doing, teachers in tailoring future learning, and parents in knowing how their child is getting on. We want this important aspect of schooling to continue as near to normal as possible. As such, teachers will continue to set common assessment tasks (CATs), using the Teams 'Assignments' function and students will need to complete and submit CATs within specified lesson times. Students will be asked to complete these important assessments in 'exam conditions', i.e., without referring to their notes, textbooks or online, and a significant level of trust will be placed upon them to meet these expectations. Students will also be reminded that ultimately it is in their best interests to complete CATs properly as this will best help them to continue to make progress.

We acknowledge that households are very busy places during lockdown and that parents/carers have got much to do aside from watching over the home schooling of their children. However, we ask for your support in reiterating to your child the need to complete CATs in exam conditions and, if possible, help them to do this by checking in on them when they are completing assessments. This support from parents will help us to ensure that the data we report to you, for your child, on go4schools is accurate in reflecting how your child is learning.

Teams Training Session for Parents- Invitation from Ark

Ark, our IT providers are running a Teams training session for parents. It won't be too in depth, but it will show you how to find Teams on different devices, how to log in and what features School might be using. Ark will also have several engineers on the session, to answer any questions you might have.

If the session proves to be popular, they will look to hold further events. Please follow the link below and add any questions in the Q&A section.

A recording will be made available after the event, on the SGS web in the School Communication area

Monday 18 January 4:00 – 4:30pm [Click here to join](#)

Government funded IT provision

We still have a limited number of Government laptops and 4G routers available for students, disadvantaged by the lack of access to IT at home. The 4G routers connect to a mobile phone, which will enable a better Wi-Fi signal especially if there are multiple Wi-Fi users in the same household. The laptops are loaned to students until we can all be back on site for usual lessons. Please contact communications@spaldinggrammar.lincs.sch.uk if you have any concerns regarding IT access for your child at home.

COVID Testing

Since Mr Wilkinson's letter of 2 January, we have gone into lockdown and the School has closed to most students; perhaps understandably, in those circumstances, it remains the case that approximately half of parents have not yet filled in the consent (or not) form, as requested in his letter.

Gavin Williamson has stated that testing in schools will be "central" to reopening and getting children back into education. It would therefore appear that there will be an inevitable need to reinstate the testing programme, originally set out for the week beginning 11 January, at some point soon. We would be grateful, therefore, in order to minimise administration when that time comes, if those who have not yet completed the form could do so.

Very many thanks to those people who volunteered their services to help with the testing programme. Once we know when that programme needs to be operational again, we will be in contact to establish continued availability.

Coming Soon – SGS Ski Trip 2022

Following the unfortunate cancellation of the 2021 trip, we are pleased to announce that a 2022 trip has been arranged. The Tour Leader is Mr Endersbee, and the release date of the tour will be during the w/b 1 February. Prior to this, if you wish to find out more about the trip, please the taster booklet attached to this Parentmail. The cost of the trip is £1,200, payable via payment plan instalments.

PE Department Message

Year 7,8 and 9 – PE lessons will be 'live' from Monday 18th January. PE staff will register students as per their timetabled lessons and work with students through a series of student selected 'challenges' for their lesson. All details will be presented to students at the start of their lesson next week.

Online TLA – This Week's Highlights

There is so much brilliant and innovative practice going on around school, where staff and students are finding creative ways to maintain high quality of education, despite the challenges of lockdown. Each week, we will share some of these highlights with you. Here are the first four:

Virtual Role Play!

"I have been impressed with the students' continued contribution when reading texts as a class, despite no longer being in the classroom. This includes *Journey's End* with Year 9, and *The Lady of Shalott* with Year 7. Their taking on roles in plays, or reading stanzas of the poems, have allowed the lessons to run just as they would if we were still in school, thus keeping an important sense of collaborative learning." *Mr Evans, English Department*

21st Century Latin!

"Online exercises turning Latin into English, coupled with a bit of Excel programming, mean that students get instant feedback on the accuracy of their translations - a great motivator for them to persist until they get it right. English spelling is also improving – computers can be very picky about such things!" *Dr Fielden, Head of Latin and Classics*

Year 8 Latin CAT2 (Trial)					6
Examples: [start (a) the beginning, (b) the end]					4 marks per question
	[Subject]	[Verb]			Marks
(a) maritus pecuniam uxori dedit.	The husband	gave	money	to his wife	4/4
(b) epistolam amicis scripsi.	I	wrote	a letter	to my friends	4/4
	[Subject]	[Verb]		Translation	Marks
1. amici muros viris aedificaverunt.					
2. cibum servo coquo.	I	am cooking	food	I am cooking food	3/4
3. gladium senibus dabamus.					
4. coquus donum reginae fecit.					
5. epistolam pueris legis.					
6. faber gladios puellae ostendebat.					
7. feminae telum patribus paraverunt.					

A Useful Mathematical Addition!

"I have been using the whiteboard that is available free on the Dr Frost website that is designed for both teachers and students. It has been a great help for me to give instant support to my students with a diagram or an algebraic formula, the boys have also appreciated the facility to change between a whiteboard to a blackboard to rest the eyes as well." *Mrs Wallace, 2 i/c Maths Department*

Mardle's Kitchen Nightmares!

"To replace demonstrations in the SGS Food technology kitchen, I had the wise idea of cooking from home. Hair, make up and then ACTION!!! The films were recorded thanks to Mrs Mardle, saved then uploaded with the help, guidance and support of some lovely people (namely Mr Harris, Mrs Fairham, Mr Endersbee and Mr Lockley). Bread and soup this week.....Apple crumble, pizza and shepherd's pie to follow over the coming weeks. Bake off 2022???



**The Senior Leadership Team
Spalding Grammar School**