

YEAR 13 AUTUMN 1



Welcome to our latest newsletter. This half-term we have focused on getting students ready for their post 18 destinations. It's been full steam ahead on personal statements and students now have a deadline of 28th November to submit their final UCAS applications for university places.

We've also assisted students with their apprenticeship searches by organising CV clinics, mock interviews and engagement with employers who will soon be advertising vacancies. A parents information meeting on apprenticeships will take place on 20th November.

If you have any questions about sixth form life please do not hesitate to contact us.

Jess Cuss and Nicky Thompson, Heads of Year 13

A message from our Headteacher



It is hard to believe that nearly 8 weeks have passed as we approach the end of the first (highly productive) half term of the school year. This week I have had the pleasure of attending the Springwood STEM awards evening. Here, literally hundreds of students received recognition for the numerous STEM projects they have been involved with. It was great to see our partners from Industry supporting this work. Similarly, it was wonderful to listen to the numerous Springwood pianists play at the Trust Piano Recital yesterday evening. As we always say, the happiest students at Springwood are those who take part in extra-curricular activities.

This year we invited all parents to the school for year group introductory meetings. It was lovely to meet parents and set the tone of each year group. It is so important that students, parents and staff work closely together to ensure the best possible education for every young person in the school. Please do not hesitate to make contact with your Year office if we can do anything to help your child.

I have to say that yet again, the main school and Sixth Form open evenings were undoubtedly the busiest ever! It is always wonderful to meet prospective students and parents to showcase what our school has to offer. Our two weeks of daytime tours allowed students and parents to see the school in operation on a normal day. I was delighted to hear that those who attended the tours saw a happy and hardworking school.

I have been very impressed with the numerous press articles in the Lynn News, Eastern Daily Press and Your Local paper. At Springwood we work hard to give every student the best opportunities and it is fantastic when our local community gets to see this work. Our role in the community is incredibly important and we thank both the Borough Council and Springwood PTFA for purchasing both the new LED stage lighting and the amazing theatre seating in the Peter Hopkins Hall. This will be an excellent resource for our students and the local community.

The new year 7 have settled into the school well. We have all been impressed with their polite and hardworking attitude. The vast majority are taking advantage of the excellent extra curricular activities on offer at Springwood. The current year 12 represents the largest Year 12 in the School's history. Springwood Sixth Form is now the first choice sixth form for the west of Norfolk. I look forward to seeing these two year groups progress in the school.

I wish all students and teachers a well earned half term rest!

Mr A Johnson, Headteacher

New Head Students Appointed

The newly appointed Head Student Panel are setting out their priorities for the year and have ambitious plans to act on feedback from students across Sixth Form. Chair of the Panel, Zoe W said "We are dedicated to fostering community, improving the environment and making everyone feel welcome in our school. We strive to make the best resources available for both PSHE in form time, and improve the classroom experience. We endeavour to create a place for sixth form students, as well as fundraising for external charities, and for our Year 13 prom. We work to ensure that every voice is heard, in order to bring about positive actions within the sixth form."

Each panel member has a role to fulfill:

Zoe: Chair of the Panel, India and Amelie: Deputy Chairs, Holly: Academic Lead, Poppy: Student Voice, Nikita: Social Media, Caleb: Social Events and Karolina: PSHE

Head Students also act as ambassadors. One of their first responsibilities was to represent the student body at our recent Open Evening, delivering speeches to almost a thousand parents and prospective students. They really did us proud and received numerous compliments from the audience.



Budding Engineers Build a Rolls Royce Soap Box Cart

With help from Rolls Royce Engineers, Year 13 students built and raced a Soap Box Cart in the recent Hunstanton Soap Box Derby. After designing and building prototypes, students refined their plans and came up with an aerodynamic cart painted in the school colours.

The cart handled well over the ramps and around the chicanes of the demanding Hunstanton course and clocked up some very competitive times against tough competition.

"The Soapbox Challenge was a great opportunity for the Rolls-Royce team at RAF Marham to work alongside some of Norfolk's aspiring engineers," said Mr Steel.

"The enthusiasm and novel thinking was truly admirable and resulted in a well-designed, reliable, and fast soapbox, which performed four runs with no mechanical issues.

The students immersed themselves in the project, and, whilst the Rolls-Royce team provided assistance, the design and problem-solving ideas were all born from the Springwood students. Considering this was Springwood's first-ever soapbox build, and despite being among a field of seasoned soapbox veterans on the day, the results were truly inspiring."

High Flying Alumni and UEA Back to Support with Personal Statements

Former Springwood students Lexie and Mackenzie came back to Sixth Form in September to talk to Year 13 students about Oxbridge interviews and last minute personal statement advice. It was part of a series of opportunities for students to get insights into applying for competitive university places.

Students also benefited from expert guidance from UEA on personal statements, with Alannah Moody providing 1-1 assistance. Alannah also delivered a mythbusting session on student finance and, in particular, stressed the importance of searching for the many bursaries and grants offered by individual institutions - some of which go unclaimed because students do not know that they are eligible to apply!

UCAS applications should be completed by all students for internal review by 28th November.



Back to School for Sixth Form Alumni

Thomas Holt came back to Sixth Form this month to share his degree apprenticeship journey with current students. Thomas, who currently works for major contractor Laing O'Rourke, is a trainee Civil Engineer who is learning on the job whilst studying for a degree part time at Exeter University.

Thomas explained the benefits of degree apprenticeships and how to apply for them. He encouraged students to explore professional careers in the construction industry as there are many opportunities to work on big projects and earn a degree without the student debt.

Students interested in finding out more were able to meet construction professionals from Mace, Morgan Sindall and Lovells at our annual Careers Fair.



Employers Open Doors to Manufacturing

Year 13 Apprenticeship seekers were given behind the scenes access to some of the biggest apprenticeship providers in the local area on National Manufacturing Day. Thank you to Williams Refrigeration for welcoming students to their King's Lynn HQ. It was great for students to hear about different post 18 career pathways as they consider their options



after A levels.

Futures Day for Job Seekers

Our annual Futures Day on 21st October focused on supporting Year 13 apprenticeship seekers to find, apply and secure their dream job. In the morning a webinar with Dale Willis from My First Great Job gave top tips for searching for apprenticeships.

Ed Weightman from property specialists Maxey Ground then gave insights into what employers are looking for in an apprentice. Alumni Ruby Goodchild secured a degree apprenticeship with Maxey Ground two years ago and was able to share how the process worked from the apprentice point of view.

Then it was time for mock interviews. Managing Director of Dodman Ltd advised how to prepare for interviews and then carried out mock interviews to help students practise answers to potential questions they might face.





Students also had the opportunity to engage with the exhibitors at the annual Careers Fair which included all the major employers in the local area. With many of these employers set to advertise vacancies in the coming months, it's hoped that the Futures Day enabled students to be ahead of the game when it comes to securing that all important first step on the career ladder.



Prize Winning Essay on AI

How will Artificial Intelligence affect Mathematics? This was the question successfully addressed by Year 13 Pavel C who went on to win first prize in a prestigious Cambridge



University essay-writing contest.

The Caius Explore Competition, which is set annually by academics from Gonville and Caius College in Cambridge, Pavel said: "It was a wonderful experience, and I would highly encourage other students to participate. It's an opportunity to enrich your knowledge in a subject you enjoy, and will be a valuable asset for the university application process, even if your essay does not get selected."

Winners across the different categories were invited to Cambridge to celebrate their achievements. "As a reward, we had a

banquet in the Gonville and Caius dining hall," Pavel continued. "The seating plan was subject based. I got to sit next to and talk to the Director of Studies for Maths at Gonville and Caius, Dr Jonathan Evans, as well as other current Cambridge maths students. We also had a Q and A with the Admissions Officer and Cambridge students, where we were given personal statements and general application advice."

Pavel is one of our early entrants and is hoping to secure a place at Cambridge for next year.

Celebrating Year 13 Superstars

This week saw our first Year 13 Celebration Assembly of the Year. Well done to everyone winning subject prizes and also the students who fully engage in Sixth Form life. Here is a roundup of the Year 13 superstars!

APPLIED SCIENCE - Quintus Reed-Brown
ART - Darcy Young
BIOLOGY - Isabella Mckenzie
BUSINESS - Lilian King
COMPUTER SCIENCE - William Thompson
CRIMINOLOGY - Jess Norman
DANCE - Callum Barber
ENGLISH LANG/LIT - Caelan Thompson
ENGLISH LITERATURE - Lola Hart
FASHION - Ava Singleton & Celeste Sedgwick
FOOD SCIENCE - Ellis Brice
FRENCH - Sydney Hipwell
FURTHER MATHS - Oliver Oliveira
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE - Lilia Self
HISTORY - Lola Hart, Erin Scott & Lucy Wills-Gillings
MATHS - Ella Goldring
MEDIA STUDIES - Daniele Klumbyte
MUSIC - Amelie Hayward
MUSIC TECH - Ava Singleton
PE - Izzy Beech
PHYSICS - Thomas Laroiya



Congeniality Awards: Charlotte Hathaway, Lilly Johnston, Isaac Roberts, Jess Berry, Gabi Jakimaviciute, Karolina Repinskaite, Mia Jackson. We also celebrated the Chemistry students who achieved gold, silver or copper awards in the University of Cambridge Chemistry Challenge.

Charity Fundraising Begins

Year 13s are supporting a number of good causes this term. Firstly a spooky bake sale by Health and Social Care students raised £157 for Tapping House Hospice.

We also took part in the Wrap Up West Norfolk winter coat appeal and donated a box full of coats to help the homeless stay warm this winter.

Head Students are planning some Christmas charity events so watch this space!



Final DoE Hikes Completed

Miss McKenzie and I had the pleasure of taking the final Gold DofE group from 2024-25 to the Yorkshire Dales on 7th-11th October. The group completed a nationally recognised route known as the Herriots Way and walked 50 miles in total over a period of 5 days and 4 nights.

The group were extremely lucky with the weather most of the time apart from the extremely windy conditions during their wild camp at the top of a hill on the final night. The group particularly enjoyed the evenings where they cooked together and even toasted marshmallows and said they found the long walks the most challenging part with having to carry their large rucksacks.



The group have passed their Qualifying Gold Expedition which is an amazing achievement since this section can prove to be both physically and mentally demanding. The group performed a presentation to their year group in assembly based on their expedition aim of exploring the different types of mushrooms growing in the Yorkshire Dales where they also spoke about their highlights of the trip. The group forms part of the largest Gold cohort we have ever had at Springwood completing their expeditions. We are extremely proud of all the students who have completed their Gold expedition over the last year.

Miss Edwards



Quizzing and Baking

The first rounds of the inter-form quiz have taken place this term. Miss Markwell's 13-05 beat their Year 12 competition and now go on to the next round. And in the face off between Miss Ramasso Tutor Group and Miss Lister's, Miss Ramasso's team were the victors in a very competitive and high scoring match.

The Halloween Bake-Off also saw some creepy creations with the winning team being 13-04.

These activities are key in providing students with a bit of light relief in a high pressure year. It's also a great opportunity for students to expand their social circle ahead of their post 18 destinations when tackling new situations and meeting new people will be paramount.



Independent Study and Support

Sixth Form students are expected to work independently to consolidate their learning and apply their knowledge in the different ways they are assessed for their subjects e.g. through examinations, coursework or other assessments. Please see below, the list of tasks being set by subject teachers and the additional support students can access including after school revision sessions and use of websites such as Uplearn. A parent's guide to Uplearn is attached.

Subject	Task	Support
Art	Coursework is completed at home as it is worth 90%. Set tasks are given weekly and marked by staff weekly. Feedback is given using feedback sheets	
Biology	Weekly uplearn. An exam paper is set fortnightly. Homework could also include research tasks and pre-reading	
Business	Weekly homework is set. Seneca is set fortnightly. Students will be set an essay homework fortnightly. Exam papers will be set as homework towards end of 13	
Chemistry	120XP a week on Uplearn and a 40 mark exam questions set fortnightly and As exam papers. From Easter, students will be set A2 papers fortnightly Students will be given the mark scheme and will be expected to self-assess using a red pen. Students are expected to bring the completed papers to the lesson marked so that staff can check through them. Individual or whole-class feedback is given	
Computer Science	Independent study could include the completion of coursework which is worth 40% or E-revision. Exam questions will be given from February.	
Criminology	Unit 3: Fortnightly practice brief and questions, half termly summary sheets Unit 4: Half termly exam question booklet which is marked using whole class feedback/live marking each fortnight	
Dance	Homework will be weekly. The course is NEA based so every piece of homework will directly relate to completing one of their 7 units.	

Drama	<p>Autumn 1 - Performance rehearsals and NEA + completing portfolio (Comp 12)</p> <p>Autumn 2 - Comp 46 - low stakes questions will be set but students will still be completing NEA.</p> <p>Spring 1 and 2 - Comp 21 - practical exam so rehearsal out of hours and coursework which is 100% homework.</p> <p>Summer 1 - Weekly exam questions</p>	
Economics	<p>Weekly homework. Students will be set work on Uplearn fortnightly.</p> <p>They will receive a fortnightly essay homework. Exam papers will be set as homework towards end of 13</p>	
English Lit	<p>Weekly homeworks which could include any of the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * pre-lesson reading/note-taking * watching a lecture and making notes * creating flashcards of key knowledge * pre-lesson annotation of a text * essay plan * wider reading * contextual research * mini-essay * full essay <p>Once a fortnight, students can expect to complete a more extended written response to facilitate the honing of their essay-writing skills.</p>	
English Lit and Lang	<p>Weekly homeworks which could include any of the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * pre-lesson reading/note-taking * watching a lecture and making notes * creating flashcards of key knowledge * pre-lesson annotation of a text * essay plan 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * wider reading * contextual research * mini-essay * full essay <p>Once a fortnight, students can expect to complete a more extended written response to facilitate the honing of their essay-writing skills.</p>	
Fashion & Textiles	<p>Controlled assessments for BTEC units and the independent study directly links to this. It could consist of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completing/continuing with creative tasks - Moodboards, - Artist/designer research. - Evaluations and production plans - Designs and annotations. - Textile & fashion construction samples. - Cutting and drafting patterns. 	
French	<p>Homework is set weekly and can consist of the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vocab learning - Grammar work - Topic work - worksheets/research etc. - Preparation for speaking lessons - Reading and comprehension from the course novel/appropriate work on the course film. - Essays on the novel or film - News story research for class discussion - Revision for assessments each half term. 	
Further maths	<p>Homework could consist of Dr Frost, Uplearn or textbook exercise or exam papers.</p> <p>Pure - Homework from this part of the course is set weekly</p>	<p>After school revision on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in B7</p> <p>Padlet: https://padlet.com/cloizou/ </p>

	Decision - Homework from this side of the course is set fortnightly	ks5-revision-resources-rvdio7zyltic2hi Email staff Break/Lunch/before school
Geography	Students will complete fortnightly GeoResearch tasks set on rotation between topics. Additional homework tasks include essay practice and research. In Year 13, students will prioritise their NEA until the deadline.	
German	Homework is set weekly and can consist of the following; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vocab learning - Grammar work - Topic work - worksheets/research etc. - Preparation for speaking lessons - Reading and comprehension from the course novel/appropriate work on the course film. - Essays on the novel or film - News story research for class discussion - Revision for assessments each half term. 	
Government and politics	Weekly homework which could consist of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seneca - Essay writing preparation - Reading with comprehension questions <p>It is also expected that you listen or watch the news every day and a journal needs to be kept. You need to be ready to show this journal in lessons and discuss events in class</p>	
Hairdressing	Weekly homework includes handouts or research to be completed. Exam papers are expected to be completed fortnightly	
Health and social care	Weekly homework includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The completion of coursework. Coursework is worth 2/3 of final mark. 	

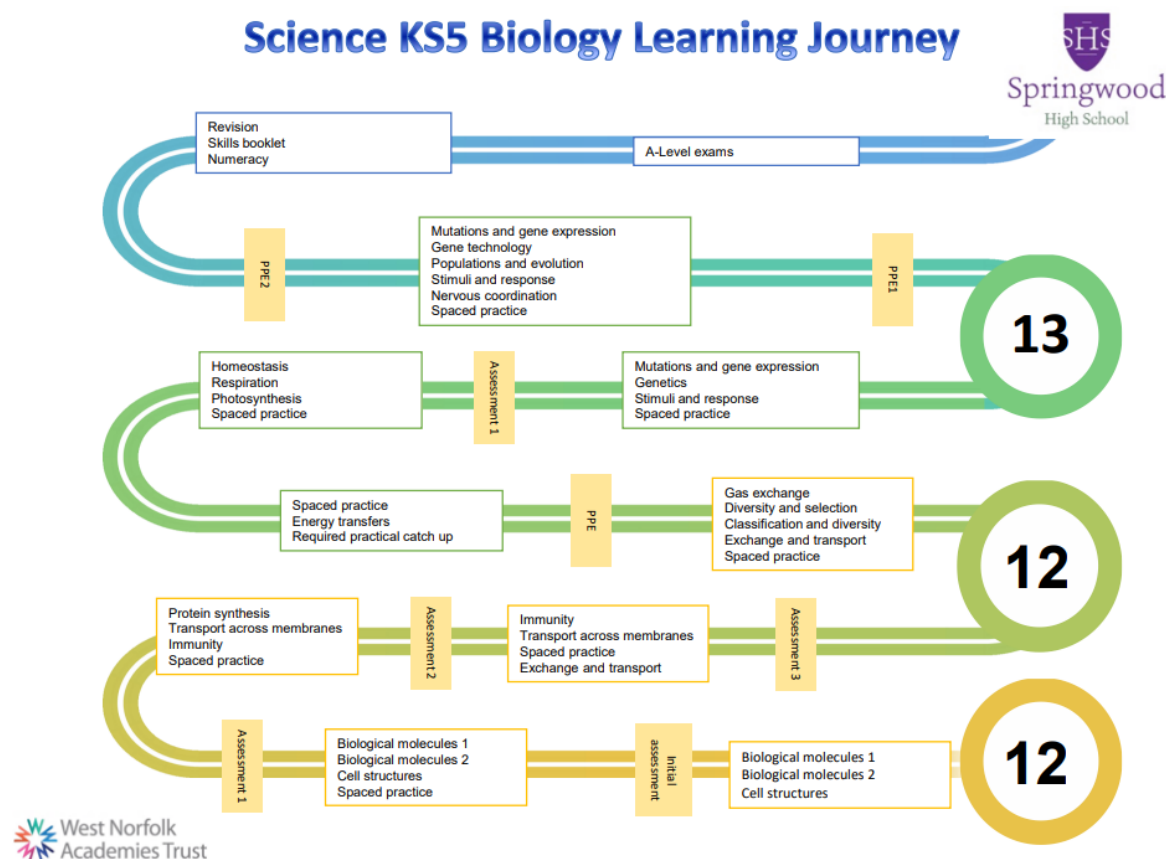
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research tasks - Glossary creation - Revision sheets - eRevision - Exam questions in the approach to exams 	
History	<p>Homework is set weekly and will consist of any of the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Essay preparation - reading with comprehension questions - seneca - Coursework completion 	Email + Teachers
Maths	<p>Homework could consist of Dr Frost, Uplearn or textbook exercise or exam papers.</p> <p>Pure - Homework from this part of the course is set weekly</p> <p>Applied - Homework from this side of the course is set fortnightly</p>	<p>After school revision on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in B7</p> <p>Padlet: https://padlet.com/cloizou/ks5-revision-resources-rvdio7zyltic2hi</p> <p>Email staff</p> <p>Break/Lunch/before school</p>
Media Studies	<p>Weekly homework which could include one or more of the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NEA production - Additional research/ completing work / weekly depending on need - Knowledge check/ assessment questions (towards end of topics) - Essay plans 	After school NEA support on Wednesdays 3.30pm - 4.30pm in J1
Medical science	Homework is set weekly and could consist of coursework completion, textbook exercises or exam questions	
Music	Weekly homework which could include practising their instrument/singing and working on composition tasks to support their NEA. They will receive exam style questions at the end of topics.	Free copies of the software

Music Tech	Weekly homework set which could include composition tasks or multi track recording. They will receive exam style questions at the end of topics.	If MU4 is free, students can use this room.
PE	Weekly homework could consist of; - TheEverLearner educational platform - Quizzes, Practice tests, Checkpoints - Exam questions or booklet - Completion of NEA Coursework - Google Drive document shared with students. (this is towards the end of year 12)	After school revision/coursework support on Tuesdays in F13 Padlet: https://padlet.com/thoney1/ks5-a-level-pe-ttmukjrv22kvbhjw Email staff Before school/Break/Lunch
Photography	Homework will be the completion of coursework tasks that are set weekly and are worth 90% of the final grade	
Physics	Uplearn + 40 mark exam questions set fortnightly and exam papers Feedback: Self marked, feedback given fortnightly in lesson. Weekly after school sessions are available if students want detailed feedback or support.	Weekly after school sessions are available if students want detailed feedback or support.
Psychology	1 hour per week on UpLearn (after Christmas, this will be exam sections). In addition to this, students are expected to complete an essay every fortnight.	
RE	Homework is set for each of these sections. Buddhism- Google quizzes, an essay per half term, reading and questions to answer. Philosophy - Google quizzes, an essay per half term, watching a video and answering questions on this, booklets/tasks for each unit Ethics - Google quizzes, an essay per half term, watching a video and answering questions on this	S2/S3 at lunchtime
Sociology	Fortnightly essays to be completed on a Google form. Feedback is given back through this as well. You will also be set additional tasks from lessons. This could include additional research on Ao2 examples covered in the lessons, extra exam questions, and finishing off activities from the lessons.	
Spanish	Homework is set weekly and can consist of the following;	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vocab learning - Grammar work - Topic work - worksheets/research etc. - Preparation for speaking lessons - Reading and comprehension from the course novel/appropriate work on the course film. - Essays on the novel or film - News story research for class discussion - Revision for assessments each half term. 	
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Providing a Curriculum Overview

It is important that parents have an understanding about the curriculum being followed for each of the subjects and what students are studying at different points in the year. Please log on to our website to see the curriculum overview and subject plans, here you will find learning journeys for each subject from KS3 through to KS5 and curriculum plans that give more detail on what will be taught. [Curriculum and overview plans link](#)



Parents can access details about their child at school by using the



MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) app. Your child can access the student portal by using the Bromcom Student App. These apps contain real time information about student timetables, attendance, reports, messages, homework, achievement/behaviour and paying for school trips and dinners.

The apps are both available from Google Play and the Apple AppStore. A basic user guide, along with other support materials can be found at <https://docs.bromcom.com/article-categories/for-parents/>

If you forget your password please click on the Reset Password link on the App, or, using your web browser, go to the relevant website and click on the Reset Password link. You must use the email address that you have given the school. Should you experience any issues with your MCAS or Bromcom Student account please contact us for support via the following options:

Tel: 01553 773393

email: office@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

When emailing, please provide as much detail about your issue so we can make sure we allocate the right department. Please also provide your full name, school and return phone number.

MCAS: www.mychildatschool.com Bromcom: www.bromcomvle.com/?schoolid=14633

PTFA News

The PTFA dived straight back into the new academic year with the launch of our new lottery initiative – The 100 Club. We had 54 applications in total and the first draw took place on Wednesday 22 October.

We're thrilled to announce the winners as follows:

C Cannell – 1st prize of £48.60 (lottery no 33)

K Codling – 2nd prize of £29.16 (lottery no 37)

T Goode – 3rd prize of £19.44 (lottery no 3)

With £118.80 going to the PTFA fundraising pot.

Everyone that signed up is included in the remaining 5 draws for the academic year. However, if you still want to participate you can. Entries for the remaining lottery draws will be open again after the October Half term break and will cost £20. The application form and lottery details are available on our website at <https://www.springwoodhighschool.co.uk/page/?title=PTFA&pid=137> or you can email 100club@springwoodhighschool.co.uk for further information.



Our Annual General Meeting took place on 22nd October. Minutes and reports from the meeting will be available soon on the PTFA section of the school website for anyone who couldn't attend but would like to stay informed. We've also welcomed two new members to our committee from the latest year 7 cohort and can't wait to work with them on new initiatives and fundraising ideas. But we're always on the lookout for additional helping hands at events – so if you're interested, please drop us a line at ptfa@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

In terms of events this half term, we have organised and run two Halloween discos.

Spooktacular fun was had by all and the effort made with the fancy dress was brilliant, with 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes going to both year groups.

In the spirit of the season, the PTFA was also able to source 45 pumpkins for a special Year 7 art project. Students had a fantastic time getting creative and the final pieces went on display at their Halloween disco.

Dates for diaries for upcoming events:

21st November – Bingo

Get ready for our first Bingo Night of the academic year! Always a favourite it promises fun, prizes, and a great atmosphere. Mark your calendars and bring your dabbers!

28th November – Christmas Craft Fair

Now in its third year, our Christmas Craft Fair is fast approaching! With stallholder bookings already rolling in, it's shaping up to be our biggest and best yet. Whether you're looking for handmade gifts, festive treats, or just a bit of Christmas cheer, it's not to be missed.



