

# Year 12 Spring 1

## NEWSLETTER

As we reach the end of another busy and productive half term, I would like to congratulate our Year 12 students on the mature and focused way they approached their recent examinations. These assessments mark an important milestone in the transition to Sixth Form study, and students have risen impressively to the challenge. We have now begun gathering and analysing the results, and the early indications are extremely promising. It is clear that the hard work, independent study, and commitment shown both in lessons and beyond the classroom are beginning to pay off.

Beyond the classroom, it has also been fantastic to see students embracing wider opportunities. We have had students putting themselves forward to run for Youth Parliament, demonstrating confidence and a willingness to represent the voices of their peers. Others have been gaining invaluable insight into the world of work through hospital placements, developing both their professional skills and understanding of future career pathways.

Looking ahead to the next half term, we will begin exploring university as a potential destination option, helping students to consider courses, pathways and the steps required to make informed decisions about their futures. It is an exciting stage in their Sixth Form journey, and we look forward to supporting them as they begin to shape their post-18 ambitions. Overall, it has been a half term marked by hard work, ambition and growing independence — a very encouraging foundation for the months ahead.

**Luke Rawling, Head of Year 12**

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## A message from the Headteacher

Although we have had several rainy days and cloudy skies, it has definitely been a successful term! As I write, the intrepid year 11 cohort are working hard on their pre public examinations (PPEs or “Mock examinations” as we used to call them!). I have been very impressed by their hard work and attitude towards these important examinations.

Mr Adcock and our early applicant Sixth Form students have seen the fruits of their labour this month with six offers from Oxbridge. This is the highest number of offers we have ever received from Oxford and Cambridge. Well done to all those who applied for this most rigorous of processes. We await further news for our medicine and veterinary medicine courses later this term. On a similar vein, Mr Coote has been challenging youngsters in the main school to “Aim for Excellence”. My team and I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting these students and discussing the additional work they have chosen to do.



The Year 11 Presentation Evening was an excellent celebration of a wonderful Year 11 cohort. Congratulations to Mrs Mann and Mrs Rawlinson for organising such an excellent celebration. It was a privilege to accompany the Queen’s Prize winner, Juan Camilo Cervantes Torres and his family to Sandringham, where he was presented the prize by HRH King Charles. An amazing morning for us all! Finally, I must give a HUGE thank you to Mr Norman and his team for the excellent “Les Misérables” performances. Our students, staff and volunteers delivered a professional quality production over three packed out performances. As we all know, this does not happen by accident. Our students, staff and volunteers put in hundreds of hours of practice to make such an outstanding show. I cannot wait for Jesus Christ Superstar next year!

Have a well earned break over half term

**Andrew Johnson, Headteacher**

# Do You Hear the Students Sing?

Following the tremendous success of “Alice” last term, our students have once again raised the bar by taking on one of musical theatre’s most demanding productions — Les Misérables. Known for its powerful score, complex characters and emotional intensity, Les Mis is no small undertaking, yet our cast, orchestra and production team embraced the challenge with remarkable dedication and professionalism.

Audiences were blown away by the quality of the performance, the depth of emotion on stage and the sheer scale of what was achieved. One audience member shared:

“How fantastic the performance was — please pass on my congratulations to the team involved in putting on such a beast of a performance. Les Mis is HARD and they all did brilliantly!!! Clearly a huge amount of work and effort has gone into it and it’s very much paid off! No doubt you’re incredibly proud of all involved. Music was a huge part of my life whilst at school and university so I was feeling very nostalgic!! It was amazing to see just how much fun everyone on that stage was having. The music was also brilliant — a very hard score for a small orchestra!! The conductor did a fantastic job.”

The production showcased not only exceptional vocal and dramatic talent, but also the commitment of the backstage crew, musicians and staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. We are incredibly proud of the entire team for delivering such a powerful and memorable performance.



# Year 12 visit to Trinity College, Cambridge

On Friday 30th January, 19 students from year 12 visited Trinity College, Cambridge to find out more about applying to Cambridge and other top universities. Students listened to a presentation about Cambridge and the application process and were given tips on how to make a competitive application. The day featured a tour of the College, including the chapel and Wren library, and students enjoyed a meal in Trinity's historic dining hall. They also had a chance to ask questions of current Trinity students and hear about their experience of studying at Cambridge. Student Bobby said "I really enjoyed the day and it's inspired me to want to go to Cambridge".



## Key Dates for your Diary

- 24th February - Year 12 reports to parents
- 26th February - Progress tutor meetings
- 17th June - Y12 pre-public exams
- 29th June - 3rd July - Face to face work experience week
- 8th July - Year 12 reports to parents
- 9th July - Subject parents evening

# Ready, Set, Flip! Sixth Formers Race for the Golden Pan

The annual Sixth Form Pancake Race returned this half term in spectacular fashion, drawing a huge crowd and generating plenty of noise, excitement and friendly rivalry. With house pride — and the coveted Golden Frying Pan — on the line, competitors took to the course armed with frying pans, pancakes and a determination not to drop their breakfast under pressure.

The atmosphere was electric as students and staff lined the route, cheering on their teams and counting every successful flip. The standard was impressively high, with some remarkably skilful pancake tossing on display. However, this year's race will be remembered not only for the talent on show, but also for a dramatic semi-final moment that sparked much debate among spectators. A closely contested heat and a controversial flip decision resulted in an unprecedented outcome — three finalists battling it out in the grand finale!

Adding to the festivities was a pancake sale in support of the FutureSense Foundation, raising valuable funds for an important cause. Thanks to the generosity (and appetites!) of students and staff, the sale was a fantastic success.

There was also strong competition for the Fancy Dress prize, which was jointly awarded to the brilliantly creative Fantastic Flip Fours and Team Mr Adcock, where students all dressed up as their beloved Physics teacher.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part, organised, flipped, cheered and supported. The Pancake Race continues to be a highlight of the Sixth Form calendar — and this year certainly did not disappoint!



## Next Steps for Apprenticeship Students

This half term has also seen an exciting opportunity for our Year 12 students as they joined Year 13 in exploring the wide range of career pathways available through apprenticeships.

Designed to give students a deeper insight into post-18 options, we've held several talks this term for Year 12s to engage directly with employers and training providers, helping them to better understand the breadth of opportunities on offer. We have had presentations from a number of local companies with live vacancies including Caterpillar, Mapus Smith and Lemmon, the RAF, BAE Systems and Nestle. We have been posting opportunities daily on our dedicated Google Classroom and checking in with students about their progress so far.

We also took students to the Borough Council's Employment and Apprenticeship Fair at the Corn Exchange in King's Lynn on 10th February. It was a further opportunity to network with employers and discuss upcoming vacancies.

For Year 12, this was particularly valuable as it provided an early introduction to the apprenticeship landscape, allowing them to begin thinking proactively about future pathways alongside university and other destinations. Learning from the experiences and questions of Year 13 students also gave them a clearer sense of the decisions they will be making next year.



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Even if you're not ready to apply this year, get ahead by exploring the employers now!

amazingapprenticeships.com/higher-degree-listing

## Food Bank Thank You!

Following the Head Student Food Drive in December, we received a heartfelt thank you from the King's Lynn Food Bank highlighting the difference we have made to people living in food poverty in the town.

Thank you for your donations if you were able to contribute to this very worthy cause!



# Record Numbers of Oxbridge Offers

This year Springwood High School students have received a record number of offers to study at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge with six students hoping to take up their places at these world leading institutions in September. Merry, who will study Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford, found the rigor of the application process particularly rewarding, saying of his interview, "The opportunity to discuss with leading experts proved my own passion for the subject". Amelie added, "When I received my Cambridge offer to read music, I felt completely overwhelmed. For a while, it felt very surreal and I still can't quite believe it!"



India, who applied for Archaeology and Anthropology said "I'd always had Oxford at the back of my mind, craving an environment where people were just as passionate as I. But I thought the people who got in were smarter than me, with perfect grades and everything figured out. It wasn't until I saw my predicted grades in July that I realised it could actually be possible, and that's what pushed me to apply."

Eva has gained a place to study Land Economy at Cambridge, a unique course combining law and economics with aspects of the environment, business, finance and resource management. It is one of the most competitive courses at Cambridge with more than nine applicants per place. Annabel and Zion received offers to study English at Cambridge and Oxford respectively and both urged other students to follow in their footsteps. Annabel said, "I applied not particularly feeling confident I would get in. When I got the offer I was shocked so I would say if you're thinking about it, you should do it." with Zion adding, "If you love your subject, go for it!"

Springwood Sixth Form encourages all students with potential to consider making an application to Oxford or Cambridge and all our successful students (including Camilo who is currently studying chemical engineering at Cambridge University) have benefited from a structured programme of visits, talks, mentoring and interview practice to help prepare them to make a competitive application.

## KS5 Homework and Independent Study

Students are expected to study independently for at least 5 hours per subject each week.

Teachers will set weekly/fortnightly independent study tasks but students are also expected to carry out their own research, reading and revision. Details of expected homework can be found here

[https://www.springwoodhighschool.co.uk/\\_site/data/files/documents/C35EDF62A1DBBFE2529B1AD53CB7CAA4.pdf](https://www.springwoodhighschool.co.uk/_site/data/files/documents/C35EDF62A1DBBFE2529B1AD53CB7CAA4.pdf)

# Year 12 Trio in the Running for West Norfolk Youth Parliament

Three of our Year 12 students — Poppy, Harrison and Tristan — have been nominated to stand as candidates for the West Norfolk Youth Parliament, an incredible achievement and a testament to their commitment to student voice and community engagement.

The Youth Parliament provides young people with the opportunity to represent the views of their peers, influence decision-makers and campaign on issues that matter most to young people locally and nationally. Being nominated to stand is a significant honour, recognising confidence, leadership potential and a genuine desire to make a difference.

Throughout February, schools across the county will be casting their votes to decide who will represent West Norfolk. The process itself is a fantastic example of democracy in action, giving young people a meaningful say in who speaks on their behalf.

We are immensely proud of Poppy, Harrison and Tristan for putting themselves forward. Standing for Youth Parliament requires courage, initiative and a willingness to step up for others — qualities they have demonstrated throughout their time in Sixth Form. Regardless of the final outcome, their nomination alone reflects their ambition to contribute positively to the wider community.

We wish them the very best of luck as voting continues across the county and look forward to seeing the impact they will undoubtedly continue to make.



# Springwood Sixth Form Team Win Rugby Cup

A new trophy has pride of place at Springwood High School, after our sixth-form rugby team triumphed in a new state tournament. The Year 12 and 13 students were victorious in the first-ever Norfolk Schools RFU Under-18 State Cup, beating Wymondham High 12-7 in the final, which was held at Wymondham College. City of Norwich School, Notre Dame High School, Reepham High School, Easton College, and host Wymondham College were also represented in the competition.

“Lukas M, our captain, scored two tries in our final match against Wymondham High in the final, which was a very tense match after we had watched them play and defeat Easton College,” said our Head of Health and Social Care, Chloe Lister, who coached the team alongside external staff member Seth Charlesworth. “Our forwards were able to put forward a strong scrum against their pack, whilst our backs were able to form a strong defence line.”

Among the other major players in the contest were Maxwell M, who scored a try in the first match to put Springwood ahead of Wymondham College, and James S, who scored a try against City of Norwich School in the second match to secure Springwood’s place in the final.

The winning Springwood team also included Callum B, Rocky D, Will H, Thomas L, Tom L, Kuba L, Finn M, Theo M, Bramley P, Ollie R, Finn R, Finn S, Ben T, Christ T, and Robin W. “The team received the Norfolk Schools RFU UNDER-18 State Cup, and medals each for winning that they could take home,” continued Miss Lister, who treated the players to a celebratory pizza lunch. “On the drive home, the players had a sing-along to their chosen playlist and took selfies with the Cup.”

While it was the first time that the event had taken place, Springwood, which is part of the West Norfolk Academies Trust, hopes to have the opportunity to defend the trophy. “School competitions play an important role in strengthening the school community and advancing student development in multiple ways,” added Miss Lister.

“First they serve as a unifying force by bringing different schools together to compete in a spirit of healthy rivalry. These events attract an enthusiastic audience of parents, staff, and students, whose shared interest in the contest helps create a lively atmosphere that fosters school pride and community engagement.

“Competitions also contribute to raising the sport’s overall profile. When school-level events connect with or mirror the excitement of elite competitions, they help cultivate a pathway for aspiring athletes and build a stronger sporting culture.





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](mailto: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](http://www.mychildatschool.com) Bromcom: [www.bromcomvle.com/?schoolid=14633](http://www.bromcomvle.com/?schoolid=14633)

## **Attendance update February 2026**

We have an amazing 148 students who continue to remain at 100% attendance for the year, and almost 800 students with no time off school since Christmas. This is amazing for this time of year, especially following the bouts of colds and flu that has been widely reported across the country. Well done to every one of these students.

As stated in the previous newsletter, unless your child is suffering from sickness or something infectious, they should be able to attend school. Please continue to communicate with the relevant year office, before 8:30am, if they are too ill to attend.

You will have recently started receiving emails regarding FACE Family Advice. You will continue to get monthly emails regarding the talks available that month. Please sign up to anything of interest - there are sessions in the morning and evening, and if you are then unable to attend you will be sent a recording of the talk. Talks this month have included Anxiety Based School Avoidance, and, post half term, Supporting Healthy Sleep. Instructions to access the talks are included in the email.

# PTFA News

This half term has flown by since the children returned after the Christmas break, and the PTFA have been busy planning a range of new events alongside our third '100 Club' lottery draw.



We've also organised or supported several school activities, including:

- **Year 7 New Year's Disco** – 20 January
- **Refreshments at the school production of *Les Misérables*** – 27–29 January
- **Year 8 Valentine's Disco** – 6 February



Looking ahead, we're delighted to be helping with a raffle for a Giant Easter Egg generously donated to the Trust by the Rotary Club.

Tickets will be available to purchase after the February half term, giving everyone the chance to win the egg whilst supporting our chosen charity, Young Carers. <https://benjaminfoundation.co.uk/>

Keep an eye out for details.....

The third 100 Club draw took place on Wednesday 4 February, and we're pleased to announce the lucky winners:

- **1st prize £52.20** – Number 17 – *Mr S Price*
- **2nd prize £31.32** – Number 39 – *Ms M McSweeney*
- **3rd prize £20.88** – Number 23 – *Mr D Twite*

Congratulations to all three winners.

The fourth draw will take place in March, and there's still time for new members to join. Full details, including the application form, can be found on the PTFA pages of the school website. The cost is £12 for the remaining three draws—just £4 per draw. You've got to be in it to win it!

**Future events for your diary are:**

**Bingo** – 6<sup>th</sup> March (6<sup>th</sup> form Hub) and 24<sup>th</sup> April (Peter Hopkins Hall) – doors open at 6pm, eyes down at 6.30pm.

**Quiz Night** - 15<sup>th</sup> May, 6.30pm arrival, 7pm start.

**Refreshments at the Fashion Show** – 15 July (Peter Hopkins Hall)

**100 Club lottery draws:**

- 18 March 2026
- 13 May 2026
- 15 July 2026

Please check out our Facebook Page 'Springwood ptfa' or the school website for further details.

And finally, if you have ideas for future events you'd love to see, or if you're interested in getting involved with the PTFA, we'd be delighted to hear from you. You can reach us at [ptfa@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:ptfa@springwoodhighschool.co.uk).