

# Year 12 Autumn 2

## NEWSLETTER

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As we move through the final half term before Christmas, the pace of school life shows no sign of slowing. Alongside their academic commitments, many students have already completed virtual work experience placements across a wide range of exciting industries, including digital marketing, law, policing and engineering, giving them a real insight into future pathways and careers. We have also been pleased to see students engaging so positively with their enrichment activities such as first aid where students have gained practical skills as well as a qualification. We look forward to the launch of further programmes next term, including Latin, Teachers of Tomorrow, Young Enterprise and the Sports Leaders Award.

As always, we are incredibly proud of the commitment and enthusiasm our students continue to show as they balance academic study with personal development during this busy and rewarding time of year. I want to wish everybody a well deserved and restful break.

**Luke Rawling, Head of Year 13**

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## A message from the Headteacher

The annual West Norfolk Academies Trust Carol Service, held at St Nicholas's Chapel earlier this month, provided an excellent start to the Festive season. Well done to all the students and staff involved in this flagship event for our schools. I am really looking forward to Springwood's Carol service in the final week of term. This is another "sell out" event for the school in our newly revamped Peter Hopkins Hall. It was a privilege to offer sincere thanks to the Borough Council and our very own Springwood PTFA as we officially opened the excellent new tiered seating and LED stage lighting. We are proud of our outstanding arts provision and it was wonderful to watch Mr Ellin's production of Alice in Wonderland with such a large talented cast. Similarly, the annual Trust Art Exhibition has been officially opened. The quality of the GCSE and A level Art students was outstanding. Well done to all Art students and to Mr Eveson and his Art team.



Our Sporting prowess continues and this term our Sixth Form Male Rugby Team won the County Cup! Well Done to all team members and to Ms Lister and our volunteer Coach, Mr Charlesworth. Our students are very appreciative of the huge number of sporting clubs and competitive fixtures available to them. All credit to Mrs Honey, the PE team and the staff who volunteer to support this.

Academic study is at the heart of our school. Year 11, 12 and 13 had a successful set of examinations. Mr Adcock has led our early applicant scheme with record breaking success in terms of interviews for courses at Cambridge, Oxford and Medical Universities. I am sure that our students will gain the places at the elite Universities they deserve. It has been wonderful to meet our "Aiming for Excellence" students who volunteer to take on additional independent learning in areas of interest. Our intrepid year 7, 8 and 9 students have enjoyed "going the extra mile" in their learning journey at Springwood.

I have to say that this busy term has been so productive for the school. I wish all students, staff and parents a well-deserved break over the festive season.

Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!!

**Andrew Johnson, Headteacher**

# Year 12 take to the stage

Springwood High School was recently nominated for the Music Mark Recognition for Ambition and Quality Award by the Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub, in appreciation of the breadth of the school's involvement in music.

"It is a recognition of commitment to Music Education, and also, for us, a recognition at a regional level of the work that we undertake not just in school, but in the wider community," said our Head of Music, Robin Norman.

Year 12 took to the stage earlier this month to showcase their adaptation of Lewis Carroll's classic, Alice in Wonderland. The play itself explored the story of a young girl dealing with grief and featured year 12 students such as Ella B, Auguste N, Arina J, Maxwell M, Amelia W, Rhiannon M, Poppy G, Lily J, Esther Larosa, Tristan C, Lily J and Emilia O.

Our next production will be Les Miserables in January and tickets are available online now:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/kings-lynn/peter-hopkins-hall-springwood-high-school/les-miserables-school-edition/e-jokoze>



# Future Barristers Impress in Mock Bar Trials

Written by Tristan C

This year, we competed as a Mock Trial Team in the Bar Mock Trial Young Citizens Programme, a national law competition. The idea is simple (in theory): students take on the roles of barristers, solicitors, witnesses and magistrates, learn real legal procedure, and argue a criminal case in a real courtroom. The reality is slightly more chaotic - but no less impressive.

The technical side is no joke - another member and I had been to the World Championships in Chicago and back, and still went through countless drafts before perfecting our documents. We had to understand the case inside out: the facts, the law, the burden and standard of proof, how to structure a case theory, and how to build a line of questioning that didn't accidentally destroy our own argument. We learned how to properly examine and cross-examine witnesses, and how to adapt when the opposing council said something completely unexpected. In summary, law is about 10% confidence and 90% thinking very fast on your feet.



Preparation involved a lot of meetings. Some were focused and productive. Others involved extensive "breaks" that somehow lasted longer than the work. There were snacks. Actually - more than just snacks - there were handmade macarons from Paris. There was gossip. There was *Young Royals* playing in the background "just for noise". And yet - miraculously - we still managed to memorise scripts, refine questions, practise timing, and help each other improve. Watching people go from quietly reading their notes to confidently delivering submissions was genuinely one of the best parts.

Competition day arrived faster than expected. Blazers on, folders in hand, nerves through the roof. Suddenly we were in an actual courtroom, addressing a real judge, using real legal language, and trying very hard not to talk too fast. Despite the stress, everything came together. Witnesses were challenged. Arguments landed. We worked as a team, backed each other up, and adapted when things didn't go exactly to plan - which, in true legal fashion, they rarely did.

Mock Trial was challenging, technical, stressful, hilarious, and genuinely unforgettable. It taught us how the law actually works, how to think critically under pressure, and how a group of people can turn a courtroom case into one of the best experiences of the year.

## Key Dates for your Diary

- 12th January - Y12 pre-public exams
- 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

## PSHE Focus on Drug and Alcohol Awareness



At this time of year, when young people might be invited out to parties or big celebrations with friends, we included drug and alcohol awareness into our PSHE programme. The Matthew Project is a local charity which helps young people and adults to overcome drugs, alcohol, and mental health issues so they can live their lives more fully.

Students were signposted to website resources and watched an assembly video produced by the charity which focuses on the consequences of drug and alcohol abuse. This was supplemented by a drop-in session by a senior practitioner from The Matthew Project who distributed information and was available for confidential chats with students.

Parents concerned about drug and alcohol use can find very helpful information and support through dedicated pages on the website: <https://www.matthewprojectyoungpeople.org/parent-info>

## Art Exhibition Showcases Final Pieces



Year 12 Fine Artists showcased their portfolios at the Chequers House Gallery in King's Lynn as part of the West Norfolk Academies Trust's annual exhibition. Open to the public on Wednesday – Sunday, from 11am to 5pm from December 13th until 28th December 2025, the Thread Exhibition features the artwork of secondary school students from across the West Norfolk Academies Trust, including Springwood High School in King's Lynn, Smithdon High School in Hunstanton, Marshland High School in West Walton, and St Clement's High School in Terrington St Clement. Over 60 students are exhibiting their creative work, which encompasses a wide range of media from paintings and drawing, to sculpture, digital art and photography.



# Rugby Champions

Congratulations to the 6th Form Boys Rugby team who recently won the State school Rugby County Cup. Year 12 player including Maxwell M, Finn M, Antoni N, Kuba L did a fantastic job and we are very proud of how they have conducted themselves over the last 18 months. Chloe Lister said,

“School competitions play an important role in strengthening the school community and advancing student development in multiple ways. 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—parents, staff, and students—whose shared interest in the contest helps create a lively atmosphere that fosters school pride and community engagement. The energy generated by these gatherings bolsters a sense of belonging among attendees and reinforces ties between schools in the same region.

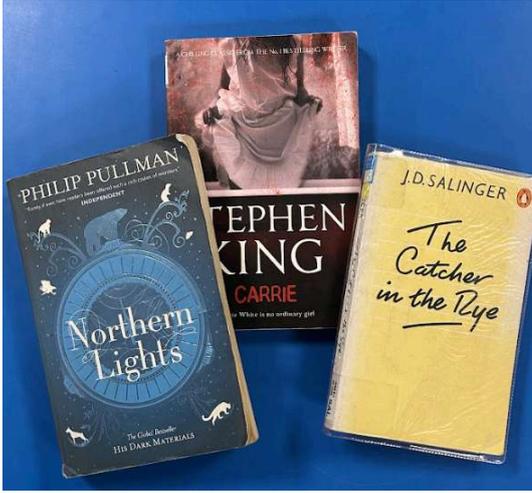
Competitions also contribute to raising the sport's overall profile. High-profile events—whether international fixtures like the Six Nations and Autumn Internationals or well-run domestic tournaments—garner media attention and public interest. This heightened visibility helps promote the sport beyond local or national boundaries, inspiring younger players and encouraging broader community support. 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.”



# Society watch

Written by Millie F

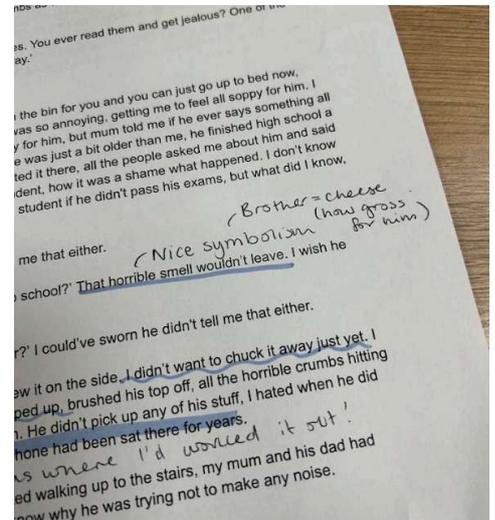
Not Tuesday afternoon in Week 2 is a dull one in H5! Every fortnight, a group of ambitious, creative writers meet and help their ideas thrive. By the end, every member leaves with an empty coffee cup and a mind which is bursting with inklings of plot points, metaphors, and their refueled desire to craft yet another story to share with those who truly understand what it means to put pen to paper and dream.



Each meeting follows a similar structure: We meet, receive copies of each other's work, then read, highlight, and annotate other people's work with the utmost respect, and then we let our authorial flags fly. We always aim to read through every single person's piece, giving both praise and criticism in order to show exactly what went well and what was on the weaker side, allowing the writer to understand what went well and what can be improved for next time. At the end of the session, we receive a new prompt from our incredibly talented facilitator Miss Richardson, accompanying this prompt with an extract which reflects it and allows us to spawn ideas for a writing style that we perhaps aren't

too familiar with. Whether it's dialogue heavy, a spooky story about an outsider, or some of the most outlandish narrative you've ever heard, every person perseveres and shows up with their piece, ready and comfortable enough to share.

Our club varies in many ways. The fortnightly structure allows for our members to have plenty of time to write their creative piece, and there is no strict limit on what is written - whether it's a paragraph, a page, a chapter, anything can be shared. There additionally is no pressure to share anything you wouldn't like to. Miss Richardson previously shared with us writers that she knows that one of the most nerve wracking things for a writer is sharing their work, the idea of sharing a personal piece to people you perhaps have rarely even spoken to soon becoming one of the most exposing things you will ever have to do. And even then, not once have I ever attended the club without feeling comfortable and confident that my writing will be treated thoughtfully rather than harshly. As well as this, Miss Richardson is very dedicated to making our club as professional as possible, stating that "the goal is for [the club] to mirror a Creative Writing seminar that you would attend at University, where we discuss each other's writing in a 'workshop style', and set a new challenge by reading extracts from other writers."



Whilst Miss Richardson only started this club last year, our small, close knit group of talent allows us to have intimate conversations about our intricately structured pieces, Miss Richardson stating she started this club in order to 'celebrate young writers at our Sixth Form.' One of the club's goals is to increase our number of members. Whilst the close, intimate feature is a great element to our club, we would love to welcome new voices. Miss Richardson has also said 'it would be fun to visit famous libraries or even attend talks with writers', hoping that our club will soon grow and become known as the welcoming, ambitious community that those a part of it are already familiar with.

# Investment banking work experience

Written by Mathilda S

A couple of weeks ago, I had the opportunity to attend the Young Investment Banker Weekend Experience, hosted by InvestIn, in London. The event was a brilliant and an immersive way to explore the world of investment banking, and I had the chance to learn from industry professionals while engaging with like-minded students from around the country. The experience was engaging, offering workshops, real-life case studies, and insightful discussions that deepened my understanding of the finance industry. It helped me to discover the diverse career possibilities in this field and sparked an interest in pursuing similar opportunities. If you're looking to explore different industries and gain valuable experience, I highly recommend participating in programmes like this one. Companies like InvestIn offer fantastic opportunities for students to discover and gain experiences that can shape their future career paths.



## The Rotary Club Young Writers Competition

Students are invited to submit a piece of fiction, non-fiction or a poem on this year's theme: 'Happiness in Nature'

Submissions should be no more than 550 words for prose or 40 lines for poetry linked to the theme of 'happiness in nature' in any way.

There are two age categories: 'intermediate: 11-13' and 'senior: 14-17' plus an additional award for 'best handwriting'.

Please collect an entry form from your English teacher, Miss Elvin (H3) or the Year 7 office and return with your submission to Miss Elvin in H3 or the Year 7 office or email to:

[n.elvin@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:n.elvin@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

All entries MUST be received by Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January.

# 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>

## Half Term Uplearn champions

	Biology	Chemistry	Economics	Psychology	Physics	Maths
1st	Ethan S	Ethan S	Daisy H	Joanna P	Freddie I	Isabel K
2nd	Mohammed S	Tia W	Freddie I	Lukesh K	Amelia W	Joud A
3rd	Liam W	Leena M	Lukne M	Karolina K	Joud A	Daisy H

## Extracurricular at Springwood High School

We are exceptionally proud of the free extracurricular offerings we have at Springwood high school. All the clubs that are being offered can be found here [Extracurricular timetable](#). This half term has seen a large number of students getting involved in a variety of different clubs.

If there is something your child would like to do that is not offered, or if you know someone that would be willing to come and run a club after school that we currently don't offer please contact [extracurricular@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:extracurricular@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

Thank you to everyone that has responded to the extracurricular outside of school form that has been sent out. Please do keep the relevant year office updated with any new achievements that your child accomplishes outside of school so we can celebrate it.

## 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](#)



Follow us on instagram @springwood6form



## Attendance December 2025

Along with the rest of the country, Springwood was hit a few weeks ago by a flu like illness which saw our attendance drop a little below National figures for the first time in a couple of years. Already, though, attendance has once again picked up and so hopefully in the New Year our positive attendance patterns will return. Thank you once again for your support with this. If your child is ill with sickness, diarrhoea or a temperature, please keep them at home until they are well. If their temperature responds to medication they can return to school later in the day. If your child does require medication, please remember that this can be safely stored in the year office for later use. If you are uncertain whether to send your child into school or not please consult the NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

## 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. 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 [Can be found here](#)



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)

# PTFA News

This half term in the lead up to Christmas has been another busy one with a number of events and our second '100 Club' lottery draw. Since the students returned after the October half term break, we have run or helped at the following school events:

Bingo – 21 November  
Christmas Craft Fair – 28 November  
Community Carol Service – 3 December  
Alice in Wonderland – 10 & 11 December



We are also proud to have supported a community event on two dates in November (15 and 22) by selling refreshments. 'The Nativity and the stolen Christmas Elves' was a production run by the Why Not Us Theatre Company, which is made up largely of young people with neurodiverse conditions such as ADHD and autism.

One of the biggest events of our PTFA calendar is the annual Christmas Craft Fair and this year, our third year did not disappoint. We raised just over £1000 for the school with 30 stalls run by local businesses, PTFA raffles and refreshments and a large number of Springwood students running activities including a human fruit machine and other festive games. Thank you to everyone who came and supported the event and a special thank you to those local businesses who generously donated raffle prizes. This included:

Kinkz hairdressers	KL basketball club
Timbos	Denny's Fish & Chips
Reffley Fish Bar	Adrian Flux
KL Rink Hockey Club	Sandringham Estate
Bawsey Estate	Heather & Bear
Copeman Construction	Javik Laser Ltd
Tesco Hardwick	Tesco Gaywood
Asda South Wootton	Majestic Cinema
West Norfolk Electrical Ltd	Morrisons

We're also thrilled to announce the 100 Club winners for the draw that took place on Wednesday 10 December as follows:

1st prize of £51.30 - Number 43 - Mr R Howell

2nd prize of £30.78 - Number 5 - Mrs Carley Bird

3rd prize of £20.52 - Number 34 - Mrs Heidi Barlow

With £125.40 going to the PTFA fundraising pot.

Congratulations to you all. Payments will be winging their way to your bank accounts within the next few days.

There are still another 4 draws to go this academic year, so if you fancy getting in on the action, you can. Applications are now open for the remaining draws at a cost of £16 (£4 per draw), Full details of the lottery, how to apply and the application form are on the PTFA pages of the school website:

<https://www.springwoodhighschool.co.uk/page/?title=PTFA&pid=137>.

The more people that join, the bigger the cash prizes!

**Upcoming events in the New Year include:**

Year 7 New Year's Disco – January date tbc

Third '100 Club' lottery draw – 4 February

Bingo - tbc

Full details of all events can be found on the [Springwood High School website](#) and our [Facebook page](#).

And finally, if you have any unwanted Christmas presents you do not know what to do with, please think of the PTFA. We would gladly take them off your hands for future fundraising opportunities. Please contact us via our Facebook page or email [ptfa@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:ptfa@springwoodhighschool.co.uk). Any donation (big or small) is greatly appreciated.

The PTFA wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.