

Year 12 Autumn 1

NEWSLETTER

It's been a fantastic start to the year for our new Year 12 cohort. From the outset, students have shown real enthusiasm and maturity in making the most of sixth form life. The quality of summer tasks and the impressive results in initial assessments have set a brilliant tone for the year ahead.

Beyond the classroom, we've seen record levels of engagement — with more students than ever signing up for volunteering positions and applying for our incredible overseas trips to India, Tanzania, Peru and Cambodia. It's inspiring to see so many of you already embracing opportunities to challenge yourselves, give back to the community, and experience the wider world.

This newsletter celebrates some of the fantastic things that have happened across this half term — from academic highlights to enrichment successes — and looks ahead to what's coming next. Well done to all of Year 12 for such a positive and energetic start!

Luke Rawling, Head of Year 13

A message from the 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!

Andrew Johnson, Headteacher

Volunteering in Year 12 – Making a Difference

One of the standout features of this year's Year 12 cohort has been their incredible enthusiasm for volunteering. Over 100 students have already signed up to take part in a range of activities that support both our school community and their own personal development.

A huge number of students have become Ready Buddies, offering guidance to younger pupils in Years 7 and 8. Others have chosen to use their academic strengths to help their peers, with a record number volunteering to support in Maths during form time – a fantastic example of teamwork and leadership in action.



Beyond the classroom, students are getting involved in all areas of school life. Volunteers are helping to run sports clubs, language sessions, fashion club, baking club, STEM and wellbeing clubs, as well as contributing to subject newsletters that showcase creativity and communication skills. Our year 12 students have even dressed up as pirates to help support a year 8 disco!

The benefits of volunteering go far beyond the hours spent helping others. Students develop confidence, leadership, organisation and empathy – qualities that universities and employers value highly. More importantly, volunteering builds a sense of community and pride, showing that Year 12s are not only focused on their own goals, but also on supporting others to achieve theirs.

It's been inspiring to see so many of our sixth formers giving up their time to make a difference. Thank you to everyone involved – you're setting an amazing example for the rest of the school.



Year 12 Throw Themselves Into Enrichment and Extra-Curricular Life

This half term, our Year 12 students have shown an outstanding commitment to getting involved beyond the classroom. Whether it's performing, leading, or trying something completely new, the enthusiasm from this year group has been exceptional.

Many students have joined our music clubs and concert band, contributing their talents to a thriving performing arts scene. A number of Year 12s also auditioned for and secured roles in our upcoming production of **Alice in Wonderland**, which will take to the stage in December. Rehearsals are already well underway, and it promises to be a spectacular show – tickets will be available soon!

Alongside the arts, our student societies have never been more active. This year, we've seen the launch of exciting new groups such as the Traitors Society, Fantasy Football Society, and Podcast Society, adding to the already popular Law Society, Medical Society, Running Club, Rugby Team, and Debating Society (and many more). These societies offer fantastic opportunities for students to develop leadership, teamwork and communication skills, while also building friendships and exploring shared interests.

It's been brilliant to see so many Year 12s taking the initiative to get involved and help shape the vibrant culture of our Sixth Form. With such energy and creativity on display, it's clear this year group will continue to make a big impact throughout 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

Year 12 Futures Day – Inspiring Pathways for the Future

On Monday 21st October, our Year 12 students took part in our annual Futures Day – a key event designed to help them explore potential career paths and prepare for life beyond Sixth Form. The day was packed with opportunities to learn, ask questions, and make connections with professionals and employers.

Students attended a series of inspiring talks from industry experts and former Springwood students, who shared their experiences and advice across a wide range of sectors including healthcare, law, engineering, and policing. These sessions gave valuable insights into what different career journeys look like, and helped students begin to think about the skills and qualifications they might need for their own ambitions.

The day also featured our hugely successful Careers Fair, which welcomed around 60 local and national employers and education providers. Students made the most of the opportunity to network, ask thoughtful questions, and explore a variety of pathways — from apprenticeships and degree routes to volunteering and gap year opportunities.

As part of our careers programme, all Year 12 students are expected to complete a virtual work experience placement before Christmas (which should now be booked), and begin preparing to arrange a face-to-face work experience for June 2025. These experiences are a vital part of developing employability skills, building confidence, and gaining an understanding of the world of work.

It was fantastic to see Year 12 engaging so positively with every aspect of the day – their curiosity, professionalism and enthusiasm really stood out. Futures Day has set the tone for an exciting year of exploration and opportunity ahead!





THERE ARE FOUR TYPES OF APPRENTICESHIPS IN THE UK ✓

INTERMEDIATE

Like 5 GCSEs, A*-C/4+

What qualifications can I get?

Level 2 NVQ, Diploma, National Certificate

ADVANCED

Like 2 A-levels

What qualifications can I get?

Level 3 NVQ, National Certificate, BTEC

HIGHER

Like a foundation degree or above

What qualifications can I get?

Foundation degree, Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, Level 4-7 NVQ, Higher National Diploma

DEGREE

Like a Bachelor's/ Master's degree

What qualifications can I get?

Foundation degree, Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, Level 4-7 NVQ, Higher National Diploma

Year 12 Bake Sale Raises £250 for Charity

As part of Black History Month, Year 12 students Purity and Michelle organised a fantastic bake sale to raise both awareness and funds for an important cause. The event, held on 17th October, was a huge success — bringing together students and staff from across the school in a vibrant celebration of culture, community, and generosity.

The bake sale raised an impressive £250 for the charity Open Doors, which works through local church partners in Nigeria to provide discipleship and persecution survival training, trauma care, relief aid, and economic empowerment projects.

Purity shared her reflections on the event:

“On the 17th of October we hosted our Black History Month Bake Sale which was a resounding success, thanks to the incredible support from our community and fellow pupils. We were thrilled to offer a variety of delicious treats from a range of different countries such as puff puff, jalebi, scones and baklava – all made with love by our talented bakers. The event not only gave us the opportunity to celebrate Black History Month, but also served as a wonderful way to unite our school body with sixth formers, high-schoolers and teachers all getting involved. With every cookie, cake, and brownie sold, we raised over £250 which has all been donated to charity. A big thank you to everyone who participated and contributed, making this event a memorable and meaningful way to honour Black history!”

Events like this show the compassion, initiative and teamwork that make Year 12 such an inspiring year group. A huge well done to everyone involved for creating such a positive and purposeful celebration.



Czech Exchange Programme Brings Cultures Together

This half term, we were delighted to **welcome 50 students from the Czech Republic** as part of our ongoing exchange programme. The visiting students spent several days at Springwood, taking part in a wide range of lessons and activities alongside our own students.

During their visit, the Czech students had the opportunity to experience what life is like at a UK Sixth Form, while our Year 12 students enjoyed the chance to meet new people, share experiences, and learn about Czech culture and education.



Form Time Fun and Support in Year 12

Over the past half term, our Year 12 students have really settled into their new form groups and embraced the chance to get to know one another through a variety of fun and creative activities. From lively scavenger hunts to the popular “random object days”, form time has provided the perfect opportunity for students to relax, laugh, and build connections across the year group.

Form tutors have been impressed by how quickly everyone has adapted to Sixth Form life, showing positivity, teamwork, and a real sense of community during these sessions.

Looking ahead to the next half term, form time will take place on a reduced number of days to make space for all Year 12 students to have regular one-to-one meetings with their form tutors. These meetings will help students reflect on their progress, set academic targets, and receive personalised support with arranging work experience placements and maintaining their wellbeing.

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

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

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



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 do not offer please contact extracurricular@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

PTFA Newsletter



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've 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. We still also have pitches available for stall holders. Please contact Laura at Justlaura21@hotmail.com to book.



Whole school attendance Newsletter – Autumn 1

Wren, our attendance dog, is currently enjoying the start of the new school year, welcoming back familiar faces along with the new year 7s and 12s. Thank you for your continued support with good attendance for your child's attendance has continued to be above national figures since the start of the term.

We have had a number of holidays taken during this school year already. We are not allowed to authorise any holidays taken during term time. If your child does not arrive back on the planned day after a holiday we will be required to carry out a welfare check, and this will be completed in person or via an online video call, as we have to see the child. If your child is ill following a holiday we may well require medical evidence. The local authority will issue fixed penalty notices for a total of more than 4 and a half days of any unauthorised absence within a 10-school week period.

We are once again approaching the cold season. Please check out the NHS, <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>, for when you should and shouldn't send your child to school - for most minor ailments they should be in. Please liaise with your child's year office if they are suffering a bit but well enough to attend so that we can be aware of them during the day. If you do feel that your child is too unwell, could you please let the year team know the details, not just "they are unwell". As above, any prolonged absence will require us to complete a home visit.

As ever, support is always available from the year and attendance teams, as well as external teams:

Just One Norfolk - <https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk>

Family Hubs - <https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/family-hubs/family-hub-sites/>

MAP - <https://www.map.uk.net/find-us/kings-lynn>

Please do reach out to any of the above if your child is struggling with any aspects of school and attendance



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