



YEAR 11 NEWSLETTER



Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely summer break and have taken the time to enjoy yourselves.

Summer changes

During the summer break, staff were busy preparing the school for the year ahead. Our Site Team together with external contractors have been undertaking a number of crucial projects. We now have a fully re-furnished Food Technology teaching classroom, which is looking fantastic, complete with its own utility room featuring a washing machine, tumble dryer and a dishwasher. Various offices have been decorated as well so it is a massive thank you to all our staff who have made this happen. Fantastic job, well done.

Toilet facilities can often be overlooked when it comes to building improvements but we have now refurbished our facilities thereby improving the overall access, appearance, cleanliness and hygiene.

With two faulty boilers in the Lower School, we have replaced those with three modern, reliable and cost-effective models.

As we continue to pursue our aim to provide inclusive, exciting, supportive and educational environments we targeted two of our Music rooms. They have been decorated, new carpets fitted and are really welcoming now.

School activities

This half term, we have seen some notable work taking place from all our students and staff. It was fabulous to visit Mr Pightling's Construction class to see them completing their carpentry projects. The future of our quality tradesmen is safe in our hands!

The Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM) Clubs Quality Mark is an award that is available to all UK schools and colleges. There are three levels of award; bronze, silver, and gold. Each award validates the delivery of STEMM subject. Through the dedication and hard work of our staff, particularly Mrs Mann, we have been awarded the Gold STEMM Club Quality Mark which is fantastic.

We provide a wide variety of extra-curricular activities during lunchtimes and after school. You are encouraged to visit the link below to see what is on offer. Your child may be interested in music or drama, PE, STEM, Duke of Edinburgh; plus, we have school organised trips your child may enjoy;

<https://www.springwoodhighschool.co.uk/page/?title=Extra+Curricular+Activities&pid=93>

Time keeping

Good punctuality at school is essential for students to achieve their full educational potential. It is also vital for students to form good habits for later life. We are very pleased with how our students have responded to the challenges set on punctuality. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your children maintain excellent attendance and punctuality records. A reminder that we will continue to close all side gates by 8.45am and record students coming through the main gate after that time.



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Year 6 Tours/Sixth Form

We have delivered a very successful two weeks of tours for our local Year 6 students and parents, along with another impressive open evening. Then it was the turn of our Sixth Form team to host the Sixth Form Open Evening. Both events were extremely well attended and a big thank you to all the staff and students who helped out on the evenings; it is their passion for their subject and commitment to Springwood that make these evenings so successful and enjoyable!

Communications

We are always looking at ways in which we can improve our communications with you. Next half term we have some lovely events to look forward to such as the Springwood Christmas Concert, a School production of "Jack and the Beanstalk" and the Springwood Snowman Project. Our school website includes a calendar of events so watch out for further details on future events along with photos and reviews from past events.

Best wishes for a restful half term break.

Mr Johnson

Also included with this newsletter:

- Price & Buckland flyer with details of the new PE sweatshirt
- A letter from Mr Scoles, PSHE lead, regarding parental rights to withdraw their child from sex education
- A letter from Portsmouth University explaining a project we are involved in and a survey all students will be invited to complete next half term.



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Update from the Year 11 Team

We are really proud of the start the students have made to Year 11. This is by far the most important year of your child's education, it is so promising to see them taking the bull by the horns and showing great care towards their learning and their futures. We are seeing excellent focus in lessons, as well as students engaging in additional support to help them reach their potential. Below are just a few of the really big positives we have seen in just the first half term, along with some information about what is still to come.

Mr Denton and Mr Fleetham

Intervention Sessions

At the Year 11 Stepping Up to Success evening, I spoke at great length about the importance of making full use of the intervention sessions offered by the school. I am delighted to tell you that we have seen record numbers of students attending after school intervention, as well as Saturday Maths and English.

There is a great buzz around the building with lots of students taking full advantage of the 1 to 1 support offered by our amazing Maths and English mentors.





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Super Learning Day

Year 11 had the pleasure of hosting The Fix Up team for our Super Learning Day. The Fix Up team are a company who visit schools and deliver motivational assemblies and seminars to students. They were absolutely brilliant and had the whole year group completely engaged. Their key message to student was to **Dream Big, Act Now, Never Give Up, You're Amazing**. I have included a link to an educational talk from Action Jackson, leader of The Fix Up Team, in case it is of interest to you to hear his key message.

<https://youtu.be/6Pk2BcRNygY>

We also had a speaker from GamCare, an organisation raising awareness of gambling addiction. Please see some pictures below.





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Careers

Students spent part of the Super Learning Day starting their applications for their post-16 destinations. They have had assemblies from the College of West Anglia and the Springwood 6th form to offer further information. After half term, we will also have assemblies about applying for apprenticeships. In order to help students to access opportunities for work experience, as well as gain further information about future careers, the Year Team have been sending out emails from local and national companies with details about information seminars and open events. Please encourage your children to check these emails and take up any opportunities they like the look of!

