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## March to April 2022

Message from Mr Johnson

In the world of education, Easter marks a significant milestone in the journey of our students. Recently, Year 11 and Year 13 students have been completing their pre-public examinations in preparation for their public exams in the Summer. They have shown commitment and resilience during this time and are well prepared to set new records for Springwood High School when the results come in in August.

The summer term will also see all of our students completing end of year assessments so please remind them that every minute spent revising is a minute well spent.

This term saw the official opening of the Sixth Form Café. This not only provides an additional space for our older students to enjoy some relaxed time, it also gives our main school students more space in the school canteen, so a welcome solution for everyone. See the story in the Lynn News for further details: <https://www.lynnnews.co.uk/news/sixth-formers-delight-at-their-own-cafe-9246791/>

As part of our rewards and incentives programme, students in Years 7 to 11 will have the chance to win vouchers for use in the Sixth Form Café and enjoy some of the food and drink – and ice-cream – available!

In light of changes to government legislation, we have reviewed and updated our school uniform policy. During this process, we have also changed our uniform supplier and sourced alternative styles of school trousers we are happy for our students to wear. Please read the new uniform policy and ensure you are familiar with the changes. The new uniform policy includes changes to the PE top along with modifications to the main school uniform. Students can, however, continue to wear their current items of uniform until they outgrow them; students do not have to purchase the new PE top for September. A copy of the updated uniform policy is attached to this email.

Best wishes for a happy Easter

Mr A Johnson

The sun is beginning to shine, the pupils are enjoying the chance to get out on the field and it is beginning to feel as if we are turning a corner. This has been another busy term and the biggest change has certainly been our ability to have extra-curricular activities once again. As part of our "Endeavour" programme, we are encouraging all of the Year 8 pupils to take part in at least one activity either in or out of school. Nearly all of them have risen to the challenge and several have taken advantage of the many clubs and lunch time activities available.

### **Hansel & Gretel**

We started this half term with a production of "Hansel & Gretel" performed over two nights in the Drama Studio. It was a production aimed at involving pupils from years 7, 8 and 9 and it was a pleasure to see so many of our Year 8 pupils taking part. Audiences really enjoyed the performances and several of the cast are now beginning to rehearse another play based upon a fairy tale, "The Ash Girl". Despite the challenges caused by Covid, it is hoped that future productions can build upon the enthusiasm shown by the pupils to get stuck in and get involved.

*"It did take a lot of hard work and effort but a play is the thing I think everyone who can should get involved in." Sophie M.*

*"It was an amazing experience! Sometimes the cast felt like my drama family." Emma L.*

### **Let's make music!**

The musicians and the Choir have also been very busy this half term. Music lessons are very popular and small ensembles are beginning to get the chance to perform quite often. The Choir has also had the opportunity to perform and two major events took place in March: "Music for Youth" and "Schools make Music".

*"I have enjoyed learning the trumpet as it's the first instrument I have found easy. I also enjoyed learning to read music and learning new pieces." Niamh H.*

### **Smashing it!**

Our Year 8 teams are doing really well.

Football: *"In the league, we have done really well recently having only lost one game at the beginning of the season.....At the beginning of the season we were knocked out of the Kappa Cup and into a lower bracket of the County Cup but things then began to look up with us now into the semi-finals after beating Diss....." Devon W*

*"Netball is always really fun. We often play against other teams which we all enjoy. The matches we have played this season are Downham, Hammonds, Smithdon and Litcham which allowed us to practise and improve our skills. Anyone is allowed to participate and you can make close friends from working together." Clara M.*

## House Dance

Getting dozens of students to rehearse dances and then getting nearly 300 parents and friends in the Hall to watch them has been a real challenge in these Covid times. After two years, we have been able to stage a Dance Celebration and several of our Year 8 pupils took part. Several continue to join in as part of the KS3 Dance Club and many of these also took part as dancers in the House Competition. Well done to all who took part and to all who came along to support. **Getting ready for Springfest**

We have had some amazing success in our attempts to raise funds for Springfest. We are determined that this year group will have the chance to celebrate their first two years in style and several local companies have kindly helped us on our way. Donations are currently at £800. The Student Council are working hard to choose the activities that will be on offer and we are busy planning what should be a very special day.

“Funky Sock Day” raised £51.00



The pupils are also collecting money and donating to our chosen charity, Cancer Research. So far, they have raised £588, with still a few weeks left. After Easter, we will be holding a raffle to finish off our fund-raising. In these difficult times, it has been a really good effort to raise so much in such a short space of time. As I write, 801 & 802 have organised a “Lucky Dip” and a Football Tournament!



Obviously, the pupils will have to complete the “Endeavour” challenge in order to get into Springfest. If any are struggling to complete the challenges, please let us know in the Year 8 Office so that we can help out where possible.

### Looking at Books

Across the school, staff have been looking at the books that pupils write in. Year 8 have been very impressive and gold stickers have been awarded to all pupils who have really taken care over their written work. The names of pupils who had been awarded several gold stickers were entered into a prize draw. The lucky winners all received an early Easter egg!



## May 11<sup>th</sup> – a chance to catch up

We are very much aware that the parents of Year 8 pupils have not had a detailed introduction to the school. We have an academic progress report at the end of the year and a chance for parents to talk to subject teachers, but we thought that we should try to have an open Information Evening as soon as possible now that the Covid restrictions have started to ease. The session will last for about 45 minutes and will include:

- 📌 Message from Mr Johnson
- 📌 Parent app/Parent Pay
- 📌 How to read an academic progress report
- 📌 The pupil's journey (and where they are now)
- 📌 High expectations (this will cover several areas including both behaviour and uniform)
- 📌 How we learn at Springwood – the science of learning
- 📌 Extra-curricular activities/opportunities
- 📌 PSHE – what it is and what we do in the lessons
- 📌 Things to look forward to.....dates for the Diary

### Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	HPV First immunisation
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 8 STEM Day
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 8 STEM Day
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Bushcraft trip to Thetford
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Information Evening (6pm and 7pm – to be confirmed)
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 8 assessments begin

# Books Wanted!

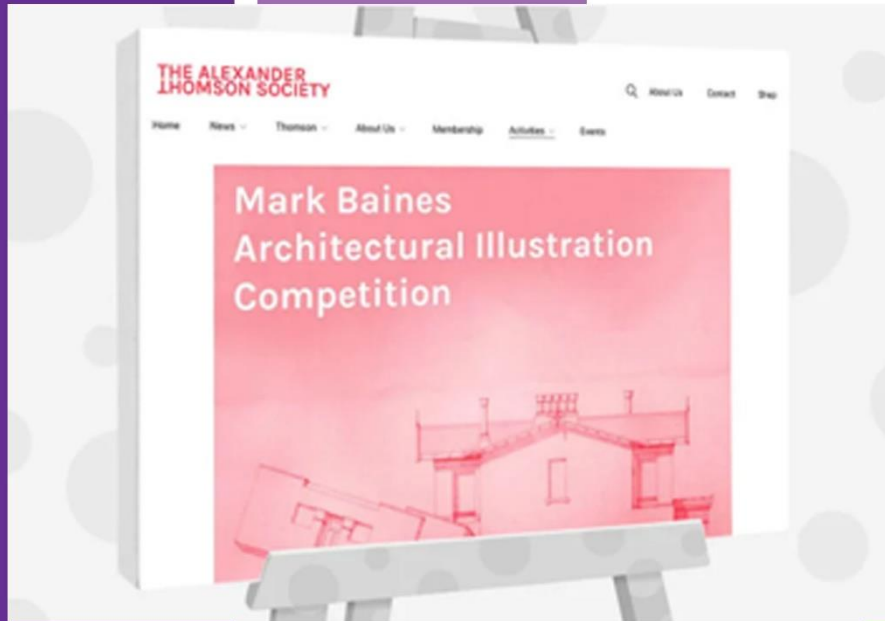


**Do you have any young adult fiction lying about unloved? Having a clear out over Easter?**

**We're looking for YA fiction in a good, readable condition for our upcoming book swaps / sales. If you have any books you'd like to donate, please drop them off with Miss Elvin in H3 or the LRC. All donations will be greatly appreciated!**



# Mark Baines Architectural Illustration Competition



## Mark Baines Competition

The Alexander Thomson Society invites entries for 'Remembering Mark Baines' a biennial architectural illustration competition.

Close:	8th April 2022 <a href="#">enter now</a>
News:	Announcement of prizewinners – April 2022
Prize:	<b>First Prize: £300</b> Highly Commended: £100 (2 x £100 prizes) Highly Commended Student: £100
Show:	TBC
What:	A drawing wherein the focus is on a piece of architecture, it can be anything from a technical drawing to a sketch on a napkin
Who:	Open to all
Fees:	£10 before 27th Feb, £15 after

[https://www.alexanderthomsonociety.org.uk/?page\\_id=7736](https://www.alexanderthomsonociety.org.uk/?page_id=7736)

