

# news@springwood

## WE SHOULD ALL BE PROUD

By now you will know that we were inspected again by Ofsted in February. This was no surprise as we were expecting them as they last visited in July 2013. Mr Johnson received their telephone call the day prior to the inspection and he agreed with the inspectors the main foci of their visit. These were:



- The VI Form, because its development was not as far advanced at that time as the rest of the school at the time of the last inspection
- Attendance, as like so many schools in this area we have a small minority of students whose attendance is well below our expectations
- Pupil premium students, as nationally their achievement and attainment is a concern to our government

### WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE INSPECTION?

Many things! A wide cross section of lessons were visited, interviews took place between Ofsted and our Senior leaders, students were spoken to, the school's safeguarding practice was tested, student books were scrutinised, parental questionnaires were analysed and our own monitoring of the school was presented to Ofsted.

### WHAT DID THEY FIND?

In terms of the three foci

- They concluded the VI Form had made significant advances since the previous inspection and has the capacity to sustain further progress.
- Our work to improve attendance was commendable. The endeavours of the attendance team is very thorough and is helping many students to improve their attendance
- The inspectors also thought our strategies to improve the outcomes of our Pupil Premium students had many merits and should bring about improvements in 2017. The inspectors were also impressed with the "effective action" the leadership team had taken in tackling the progress of disadvantaged students, which is now improving.



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# ofsted@springwood

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The School leadership and the Governing Body already knew this but it was good to have it confirmed by our experienced inspection team.

Other findings that Ofsted commented upon included

- "Pupils learn in a calm, orderly environment" and "wear their uniform with pride".
- "Leadership team had maintained the good quality of education in the school."
- "Leaders and teachers emphasise the importance of academic achievement"
- "Pupils respond to these high expectations by working diligently."
- During lesson observations the team observed pupils who "think deeply", "make connections" and "unravel misconceptions".
- The less able were taught how to master the basics without "always being left to do the easy work" as one pupil told the inspector.

The more able pupils, the report notes, "make more than expected progress." This is in part down to the fact that, "Leaders have acted", since the last report, "to make sure that pupils complete appropriately challenging work" and are "challenged to think hard within lessons"

## THEIR OVERALL CONCLUSION

### **SPRINGWOOD HIGH SCHOOL PROUDLY REMAINS A GOOD SCHOOL!!!!**

So what now?

- Ofsted will 'probably' not visit for another three years allowing us to get on with the business of ensuring the best possible educational provision for our young people
- We can now use the new Ofsted logo on our website and other communications. This should help with recruiting strong teachers to work at the school
- We will seek to work towards being judged 'Outstanding' the next time Ofsted cross our doors.

The school has now been judged good by Ofsted for at least the last five inspections. This means that for around 20 years the school has sustained its good judgement. Families have sent their children to a school that has provided them with a positive educational experience. No one knows better than us that the school is not perfect but we are proud that we have sustained this standard and not yo-yoed like many schools. When we have had a slight dip or issue we have addressed it with urgency. We will continue to support our students so that they

1. Enjoy their school life
2. Feel safe and secure while at school
3. Fulfil their potential in the exam room
4. Move on to Universities and careers that are in keeping with their talents
5. Broaden their horizons

We take delight in seeing our students moving on from Springwood to prosper in a wide variety of settings. Some stay in the local area, some end up at the other side of the world. We are confident this will continue especially if we can maintain one of the school's great strengths

'Students, teachers, non-teaching staff, parents and governors all pull together'. If we continue to do this, individual students, teachers and the local community and even further afield will benefit from the work of Springwood High school.

I think we all can give ourselves a pat on the back, then it's back to the work of moving this school even further forward

Mr Hutton

# mocktrial@springwood

## CIVIC RECEPTION FOR MOCK TRIAL STUDENTS

A glittering civic reception was held in honour of a nine-strong team of students who came fourth in an international law competition. Pupils from Springwood High School, in King's Lynn, worked their way up through regional and national mock trials competitions to earn a place in a final at the Old Bailey. They impressed the judges so much that they were chosen to represent the UK in an international competition held in New York in December. After raising £20,000 towards the cost of the trip and spending all last summer in school preparing, they were rewarded with fourth place out of 44 teams.

Hayley Roberts, enrichment Officer and bar mock trials lead teacher at Springwood, said: "I am thrilled that the students of Springwood High School have done so well. Never did we imagine that they would have progressed to International level. "This is the result of the students' long hours, hard work and total dedication to the project. They devoted their own personal time including summer holidays, half terms and weekends. I would like to thank all the sponsors who made this possible as without them there would be no opportunity to represent Norfolk, and the UK internationally." Student Sophie Ward said: "Mock trials have been the best experience I have had in my school career. I would like to thank all of our sponsors for their support along the way."



After welcoming students, staff and sponsors to the reception at King's Lynn Town Hall, West Norfolk Mayor David Whitby congratulated the team and thanked all those who had supported them. North West Norfolk MP Sir Henry Bellingham - who served for eight years as a barrister - said that their achievement was all the more impressive because they had been competing against full-time law students.

Andrew Johnson, executive head teacher of Springwood High School and the West Norfolk Academies Trust, said: "This is a world class achievement for these young people. The School and the trust are incredibly proud of their achievement in this competition. "I would like to personally thank Hayley Roberts and her team for going above and beyond in support of these youngsters. Furthermore, I would like to thank the generous support from our prestigious sponsors."

# sixthform@springwood

## PANCAKE RACE



Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February saw Springwood High School's annual Pancake Day races cause a buzz within the school. We had six teams all competing for the Golden pan and the chance to be crowned race day champions. Organizer Olivia Finlay said "it was excellent to see everyone involved and cheering on their



favourite team". We were raising money for Norfolk Mind to help people who are suffering from mental health issues in our local area. This is a charity the school is passionate about and has worked with many times before. They have been working on multiple projects recently including a garden in Kings Lynn which is a peaceful retreat for the patients of the charity which helps them get involved in new hobbies or uptake existing ones. Our money raised will help fund projects such as this.



The golden pan went to Sian Spear, Nathaniel Amoaku, Timothy Pennington and Cameron Sinclair who formed the team 3B1G. The year 13s were ecstatic to win and look forward to seeing who knocks them off the top spot next year. The fancy dress costume winners were the infamous Maths team who never fail to amuse us with their elaborate ideas. Mr Pettit a member of the sixth form team said "it was excellent to get the Sixth form involved with the lower years and makes the jump to sixth form more exciting!" KLFM also made an appearance when Simon Rowe turned up to watch the races and also hand out some cakes to the spectators! He even made a video of the races which is available to watch on the KLFM Facebook page.

Good luck to the teams next year!  
Olivia Finlay 13-06



Photographs taken by Ellen Cottis 12-08 and Ella Payne 12-02

# community@springwood

My name is Nathan Pearson, and I'm an explorer scout leader for the local Explorer Scout Unit (ESU) in the King's Lynn area. As an association, we offer challenge and adventure to 400,000 young people and 100,000 adults across the UK. We believe in helping our Members fulfil their potential by working in teams, learning by doing and thinking for themselves. We give people of every background the chance to stretch themselves, learn new skills and make life-long friends.

We already have a few young people who attend your school of all ages who are fully invested members of our unit, however as the latest group of Explorer Scouts have hit 18, we are looking for more members to join the section.


We welcome anyone from 14-18 years old, from any background. We have some fantastic events coming up, including a weekend trip to London, to take part in a real-life Monopoly game, competing against adults, other Explorer Scouts and Guides, a week away in the Netherlands to attend a European Scout Jamboree and meet young people of their age from across Europe. We also have a competitive town walk that has been organised by myself coming up, which gives our young people the opportunity to learn about local history in a fun and meaningful way.

We meet every Friday (including over half term + summer break) at the 12th King's Lynn Scout hut in Gaywood. As an entirely youth shaped section (meaning that our young members are at the heart of what we do - they are in charge of their own experiences) I believe that we can offer your students a chance to not only grow with their peers, undertaking challenges and expanding their horizons, but also the chance to super-charge their CV's, and give them real-life applications for university applications.

With nationally accredited awards (such as our Young Leader Belt, Explorer Belt + Queens Scout Award) we can offer your students easily attainable life skills that will support them in later life. We also offer the chance for our scouts to undertake their Duke of Edinburgh awards with full support from our County Team. Through our young leader training we can offer Explorer Scouts the chance to earn transferable leadership skills and responsibility that will give them the confidence and skills they need in later life.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reply to this e-mail, and either myself, or the District Explorer Scout Commissioner/Administrator will be in touch.

Contact e.mail: [pennguinexplorers@gmail.com](mailto:pennguinexplorers@gmail.com)



**EXPLORERS**

## ALWAYS EXPLORING

When it comes to Explorers, it's you who are in charge – deciding what you do and when you do it. It's about finding out who you are and what you're capable of, from climbing up waterfalls in the lake district to camping in another country!

If you're interested then send us an e-mail or find us on facebook!

[Penguinexplorers@gmail.com](mailto:Penguinexplorers@gmail.com)

**f** /penguinESU

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# challenge@springwood

## TOP OF THE FORM



On the 10 February, about 30 Gifted and Talented students from Year 11 were selected to participate in an inter-school 'University Challenge'. Several schools in the Norfolk area, from different school partnerships, attended the day. These included St Clements High School, Smithdon High School, Marshland High School, along with King Edward VII High School, King's Lynn Academy and Iceni Academy. At the beginning of the day, we were split up and sorted into mixed school teams, named after universities. I was in Sheffield University, along with another student from Springwood, a student from KES, a student from Smithdon, and a student from Iceni.

Before starting the challenges, we were shown into the COWA lecture room, and given a talk on aeroplane parts by Ben Stocks, the CEO of PORVAIR a local company. He talked about how he got into his job, why he enjoyed it and what the parts his company make do.

The first challenge was English. We were given a collection of Cambridge English Proficiency Examination questions printed out on sheets, made by Mr Munns, and we had to answer questions to do with grammar, word selection, and gap fills.

The second challenge was Science. We were given a sheet with some information about solutions on it, but they weren't named; they were labelled A, B, C, D and E. We were allowed 10 questions to ask Mr Thompson and the other teachers about reactions between the solutions, and we would have to work out what they were. In the end, it turned out the reaction was titration, and my team worked the names of the solutions out in 4 questions.

The third and final challenge was Maths. The teachers sat at the end of the corridor, with the questions printed and cut out individually. We had to get the question, bring it back to our team, work it out, then bring it back to Mr Levy and the other teachers to collect the next one. If it wasn't right, you had to take it back to your team to do it again, which was very time-consuming. Not many teams finished this challenge, as it was so difficult.

After we had finished the challenges, we went back into the lecture room to listen to another presentation: from Tim Dobbin a London lawyer who had been a student at St Clements and Springwood Sixth Form. He talked about how he achieved his goals, how he planned to achieve, and his life at the moment. Finally, medals and certificates were presented by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Carol Bower.

Lots of Springwood students received medals; at least one Springwood student was in every team that was placed first to third. 'Cambridge University' won the contest; Georgie Bunting, a Springwood student, was in Cambridge. She said; "I

think it was a great experience, with challenging tasks and inspiring speakers. But, most of all, it really opened your eyes to the sheer level of intelligence across the country, and made me personally want to work extra hard to get those spots at the top." Ruby Platt



# epq@springwood

## EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION



Congratulation to the 42 students from Springwood Sixth Form this week who received outstanding results for their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). Among the 42 students, 19 students achieved A\* and 14 students achieved an A. This represents a phenomenal 45% A\*, 76% A\*-A; the best the school has ever seen. The examiners report complimented the school on the 'undergraduate' level of projects. One student commented "I am so proud of my grade, I never thought I would get an A\* and now my university has dropped my entry requirements by 1 grade." Completing the EPQ has allowed me to develop transferable skills to prepare me for university." Students completed the projects on a variety of topics including the making of a trebuchet, eating disorders, the death penalty and Nanorobots in medicine. The EPQ is very well regarded by universities and employers as it requires students to plan, undertake and evaluate a project of their choice. This may be a mini dissertation, an artefact, a performance or a report. The students work independently alongside a mentor who will support and guide them in completing their project. A massive well done to all involved.



# mocktrials @springwood

## THE NEXT GENERATION CONTINUE MOCK TRIALS SUCCESS!



A team of thirteen year 8 and 9 students took part in the first round of the Magistrates Mock Trial competition at Great Yarmouth Magistrates court in the hope to bring home the trophy....and that they did!

The team took on the roles of prosecution, defence and court staff in a bid to play out a case around a stolen Playstation 4.

They spent weeks practising their statements and speeches and were in school most Sundays. But it all paid off in the end!

The court itself was a brilliant setting for the competition to take place in, as it gave them a real taste of what it's like being a lawyer or going to court as a witness.



Now we await the date of the next round which will be the regional round, somewhere in East Anglia in May. The Mock trials competition really does give students a taste of the judicial system, whilst teaching them about the various aspects of law. H Roberts

sld@springwood

## SUPER LEARNING DAY 10 FEBRUARY

Year 10 Real Life Maths



Year 10 Hair & Beauty



**Saving a deposit**

Now you have your monthly income after tax, we are going to advise you want to buy your first house. Before we start, we need to know how much you need to take into account when renting the house you are going to. Complete the missing estimates and work out the amount you will have left over each month.

	Amount	Unit
Rent	£270	per week
Council tax (band 2)	£150	per month
King's Lynn	£15	per month
Gas & Electric	£80	per month
Water	£10	per month
Food	£40	per month
TV licence	£135	per year
Phone	£10	per month
Other expenses		



Year 10 Healthy Relationships



Year 9 History



Year 8 Careers Fair



Year 7 Industrial Awareness



# year9@springwood

## YEAR 9 GET A CONFIDENCE BOOST

For several years we have worked with a company called Camouflage Learning. Our students have benefited from their input during several Super Learning Days. Just after Christmas they contacted us with an offer. They had funding to work with a small number of schools to help some students develop presentational skills and public speaking. Springwood was selected by Camouflage Learning because of the positive experiences they have received in terms of behaviour and student responses on the previous visits.

14 of our students worked with Camouflage Learning on March 8<sup>th</sup> for two hours. The email we received from Matt Bagley a director in the company sums up the day.

"Just a short note to say a huge thank you to you and your staff and students today. Both Mr Singh and your students could not have been more brilliant or more accommodating, and the students got so much more done in 2 hours than everyone else has in 3! They're an absolute credit to you, and hopefully they'll take something away from the session. They certainly seemed to enjoy it."

Many thanks again for all your time and flexibility, it was another terrific day at Springwood.

Best wishes, hope to see you all again soon.'



## YEAR 7 HOUSE COUNCIL



Year 7 House Council meetings take place once a week in F8 on Wednesdays. The representatives had their first meeting in March. Their first task at the end of March to raise money for their chosen charity. Well done to all Year 7 who contributed by giving an item to sell.

Mrs Bliss

# english@springwood

## WORLD BOOK DAY 2 MARCH 2017



In these busy times when less of us are able to find the time to discover or rediscover the pleasures of reading, the school responded to World Book Day in a number of innovative ways. Teachers were asked to highlight a special book by placing a poster on their doors and to engage pupils with their choices during their lessons through the day. Year 10s received an assembly on the significance and pleasure of reading. And some individuals and departments – English unsurprisingly – took the opportunity to dress up as famous characters from fiction, generating a considerable amount of interest and engagement from pupils, as they tried to decide who everyone was! Mr Clark is believed to have come as Wally – and you are encouraged to try and find him lurking somewhere in this publication.



## SPRINGWOOD SIXTH FORM HOSTED ITS ANNUAL DEBATE

The debate allowed students to ask questions to a panel of visiting politicians. Questions were prepared in tutor time and dealt with issues including the gender-pay gap, the cost of transport to schools for young people as well as a question regarding tuition fees for university students. The debate was organised by the sixth form team and Director of Sixth Form, Mr Pettitt, explained its purpose 'this debate is primarily designed to encourage young people to engage in the political system. It is important for the young people to hear opposing views and to realise that the only way their grievances can be redressed is to take part in politics.'

Springwood would like to thank the visiting panellists for giving up their time to participate. The panellists were: Julian Flood (UKIP), Alistair Beales (Conservative), Rob Collwell (Liberal Democrat), Michael De Whalley (Green Party) and Jo Rust (Labour). Following the debate an election was held to see who the sixth formers of Springwood felt would best represent them. The vote was won by Labour's Jo Rust.



The visiting panellists are pictured along with sixth form students

# english@springwood

## WHAT THE DICKENS? PICKWICK AUTHOR INSPIRES A-LEVEL STUDENTS

Celebrated author, Stephen Jarvis, popped in to a Year 13 English Literature class on March 10<sup>th</sup> to share his love of Dickens, writing fiction, and his belief that with effort and lashings of inspiration, anyone can be a successful author.

Stephen, whose first novel, *Death and Mr Pickwick*, was a top ten bestseller when it hit the shops in 2015, told pupils he was convinced that anyone who wanted to pen high quality fiction could do so if they just put in the hours.

"I was amazed when I saw that 60% of the British public said that their dream job was to be a writer," he said. "And I realised I'd achieved that dream. But it is something that requires commitment and hours of research, thinking and writing practice each day."

He added: "I don't think there's any mystery in being a popular novelist. I sometimes have to pinch myself. But you don't have to be posh or clever to do this. You've just got to want it badly enough."

Stephen took time out of his scheduled appearance at King's Lynn's Literature Festival to visit Springwood. The festival is an annual celebration of literature and has featured some of the world's biggest names in fiction during its 30 year life.

At Springwood, Stephen enjoyed discussing the students' experience of Dickens' texts and their interests in reading generally. The novelist said he was impressed that Springwood was forging links with a literature festival and that it demonstrated that the school had a serious interest in literature and culture.

Stephen's novel, a gothic literary mystery, is hugely popular among the lovers of Victorian literature but controversial among Dickens scholars. *Death and Mr Pickwick* explores the real life relationship between Dickens and his illustrator, Robert Seymour (1798-1836) during the writing of *The Pickwick Papers*, Dickens' first big novel (written between 1836-37).

Seymour was commissioned to present Dickens with some comic illustrations of a group of cockney sporting enthusiasts for which Dickens would write the accompanying text. But after a meeting with the great author, Seymour went home and within 48 hours, mysteriously, he killed himself. It is one of many unresolved dark moments in Dickens' life, but Dickens scholars do not believe there is enough evidence to claim Dickens had any hand in Seymour's suicide.

*Death and Mr Pickwick* also dramatizes the idea that Dickens and his literary agent, John Forster (1812-1876), unfairly laid claim to Dickens being the originator of *The Pickwick Papers* rather than Seymour. Seymour's widow, who was impoverished by Seymour's death, resented Dickens' success and lack of sympathy for her, and published a pamphlet claiming Pickwick was Seymour's idea.

This is also another unsettled matter in Dickens scholarship, but it makes fruitful manna for a novel.

*Reported by Dr Piggott: English Learning Mentor*



# drama@springwood

## THE TEMPEST

On the 7th & 9th March KickStart Theatre presented their version of Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' to packed audiences in the Drama Studio.

KickStart stems from drama club, an all inclusive place where mainly KS3 students can develop their drama skills whilst meeting and working with new people. It acts as a stepping stone into Kinetic Theatre and gives a wide variety of students performance skills and opportunities. Therefore, taking on board this ideology, all who wanted to be involved could be. Informal auditions took place to decide roles, but if you kept coming, a place in the play was assured. This meant that we performed a play for 13 speaking parts with a cast of 45!

We sought to include all elements of drama and so therefore had moments of song, dance and movement. But made sure that we continuously worked as a chorus so that everybody had plenty of work to do. The result was a 45 minute explosion of sound, colour, people and Shakespearean language, which received great reviews from all who saw it.

If you would like to get involved with KickStart Drama Club, then come along to the Drama Studio, Thursdays 3.30 - 4.45.



THE WHOLE CAST

sld@springwood

## SUPER LEARNING DAY-31 MARCH 2017

### YEAR 5 FROM GAYWOOD JUNIOR MAKING PIZZA TOAST



### PROBLEM SOLVING YEAR 9



### YEAR 8 DEMOCRACY



Year 8 Students with Mr Daubney

