



Castle Donington College

Principal: Mrs Julie Sheppard

Vice Principal: Mr Nathan Barratt

17th February 2023

Dear College Community,

I have been so proud of the College pupils this week. The energy around the school has been palpable and the staff and pupils continue to work incredibly hard as we reach the half term break.

I visited a **Year 7** English lesson and watched two classes present to their group tableaux interpretations of Romeo and Juliet. The level of understanding and the description of the scenes they had created was very impressive. We have a wonderful Year 7 co-hort who are making us very proud.

Our **Year 10 Ambassadors** had the privilege of visiting the EMA Control Tower as part of their training. They have been working incredibly hard raising funds for the local foodbank. They have raised £400 over the last 6 weeks. They negotiated a deal with ASDA and used the money they raised to purchase much needed items filling 12-15 bags of shopping. As part of this the Ambassador Team organised and hosted a Year 7 Disco last night. Pre-pandemic College Discos always created much excitement amongst the pupils. This one was no different. Loud music, dark room, sweets, pop, children- a perfect formula for fun!

The non-uniform day today has raised more funds for the **School Council**. They have decided to send a donation to the Earthquake Appeal. As always, our pupils are thoughtful and generous and aware of those less fortunate than themselves.

Our **Enrichment Programme** is growing. We have a thriving Drama group working towards a performance and an incredibly popular after school Football Club open to all Key Stage 3 pupils running weekly. Every lunchtime there are activities for pupils to engage with, including homework and library club. A full list of activities is available to pupils every day on the Pupil Bulletin. In other sports news, our Year 11 boys lost 3-1 in the quarter final of the County Cup, against Ashby School, despite a diminished team due to injury and illness. Our Year 8 girls lost by 3 baskets to Gartree Academy, in the U14 Basketball County Cup; in the last few weeks one of our pupils returned from playing in the U16 England Football Tournament in Portugal; another from Tennis tournament in Czechoslovakia; Our Year 8 swim champion returned with a hoard of medals from the Wesh Nationals, and we have a Year 11 pupil who has become one of four gymnasts nationally to make the England squad. We are proud of such prestigious sporting accomplishments. Well done! Please keep sending us news of your child's success so we can celebrate with them.

Looking forward to next half term, we have five weeks before our new block is finished, and we have a little more space around the College site. The term will end with our **Awards Assembly**, and we hope pupils sustain the hard work and dedication to their studies to achieve our progress and attainment awards.

Year 11 have their final **Parents Evening on Thursday 2nd March**. A letter was sent out about this yesterday with details of how to book appointments. You will also have received information about the second-**strike day** on the first Wednesday back after the break. On this day, (1st March) College will be closed to all pupils except Year 11.

Although only 30 days, this first term of 2023 has been incredibly productive. I think both staff and pupils are ready for the break, and we look forward to welcoming pupils back on Monday 27th February.

Thank you as always for your continued support and kind messages.

Best wishes

Julie Sheppard

Principal

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