



Castle Donington College

Deputy Chief Executive – East Midlands Education Trust: Mrs Lisa Walton
Vice Principal: Mr Nathan Barratt

10 May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 11

I am sure that you will be aware that this week has seen the beginning of written examinations for our Year 11 students. This marks an important milestone for each of them where they have the opportunity to demonstrate all they have acquired through national public examinations. Having worked with the cohort for half a term now, I am optimistic about their examination performances and for their future pathways. They are a wonderful group of young people and I hope that you will join me in wishing them every success.

Routines and Expectations

You may have noticed some changes in our school routines. At the beginning and the end of the school day, we have much more supervision along the school drive and exit gates in order to ensure that your child arrives and leaves school safely and in a calm and purposeful manner. As our school driveway is accessible to other users, we feel that our new routines are much safer. May I thank those of you for your positive feedback regarding this and may I especially thank the students who have been exemplary in adjusting to new expectations.

I have also noticed that uniform has much improved since I started here at Castle Donington College. Thank you for your support with this. I have been asked to remind you that shorts, if worn, must be tailored and sit just above the knee. I have also ordered in some smart school skirts for students who might not have a regulation skirt. These should be with us by half-term.

The Donington Classroom

One of the key areas that we have been developing this half-term has been in our classroom practice. Under the expertise of Mr Elks, we have been focusing on creating high quality learning in classrooms where we expect more of our students. We are encouraging students to become much more independent in how they approach their studies and to take greater responsibility for their learning. Of course, teaching and learning is a partnership and our teachers have also been reviewing practice and honing their techniques so that we can support students to make the best progress possible. Once again, the students here have been exemplary in responding to different demands of them in the classroom and the vast majority have responded with great ambition. I have attached a copy of the Donington Classroom principles for students – and for teachers - to this letter so that I can share with you our vision for the highest quality teaching and learning. These are also available on the website.

Appointment of the new Principal and SENCO

I am thrilled to let you know that we have drawn a very strong field of candidates for both the Principal and SENCO vacancies. For those of you with children who have additional needs, I know that the SENCO is a crucial appointment for you. I shall keep you all update on progress with respect to both of these crucial appointments over the coming weeks and I offer my thanks again for your patience as we work to improve this area of school life.

And finally...



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With the warmer weather finally upon us, please may I ask you at home to reinforce messages around water safety with your children. Swimming in open water including disused quarries, rivers, lakes, reservoirs and the sea can be exceptionally dangerous, and we have lost far too many young people in recent years to drowning caused by cold water shock, strong currents and such like. Perhaps eat ice-cream instead!

With my very best wishes for a lovely weekend.

Lisa Walton
Deputy Chief Executive