



CASTLE DONINGTON COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER
2024

Merry Christmas!

Dear Parent / Carer,

As we near the end of term, we are delighted to share with you some of our news stories.

This term has seen a residential trip to Berlin, a visit to the Space Centre and many successful sporting fixtures.

As always, we are so proud of how our pupils have represented the College and we are looking forward to more exciting opportunities next term.

Our year 11s have successfully completed their mock exams, and we were so impressed with their resilience and determination to succeed in Summer 2025.

Our year 7 pupils have made a fantastic start to their time at Castle Donington College and as with all of our community, we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

This term has also seen the launch of our PTA - Friends of Castle Donington College, with a highly successful quiz and curry night in December.

Thanks to all your generous donations we have raised a small mountain of food and household products for the local foodbank. This will be collected in the last week of term and distributed to local families in need this Christmas.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Reminders

Pupils can choose to donate £1 for the non school uniform day on our last day of term - Friday 20th December.

College will close early on Friday, with pupils leaving at 1:30pm

Upcoming Events

- Year 11 Parents' Evening
Thursday 16th January (on line)
- Year 9 Parents' and Options Evening Thursday 30th January (in person)

Contact Info

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Berlin Trip

Before October half-term, 40 year 10 and 11 historians visited Berlin for four days.

The pupils got to see first-hand some of the most historic sites in Berlin, such as the Reichstag, Olympiastadion, and Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

Particularly impressive were their excellent source analyses about the 1936 Berlin Olympics which they completed in the Olympic Stadium itself. Every single pupil was fantastic on the trip, and special thanks must go to Mr Turner, Mr Brown, Miss Hayes, Mrs Lucas, and Mr Nelson for their help in making the trip happen.

Visit from our local MP

At the start of November, the MP for North West Leicestershire, Amanda Hack, visited the College to do a Q&A session with our Year 10 Citizenship pupils.

This was a great experience for the pupils to understand how Parliament worked, the challenges and logistics of being a newly-elected MP, and how MPs from different parties get on with each other behind the scenes.

The pupils asked some very perceptive questions and hopefully this will give them some good extra content as they move on to to study British politics in Citizenship after Christmas.

Debate and History Club

Debate and History Clubs have continued to be well-attended and busy this term. Debate Club has been getting to grips with big questions of politics, philosophy, and current events. However what led to the most vocal debates of late was our recent History special in which some very strong views on Charles I were shared!

History Club has recently finishing watching the best film of all time – Casablanca – and will now be starting their National Archives competition. This competition is open to any pupil or group of pupil to make the most interesting project using materials from the National Archives. Prizes will be awarded for the best!

MFL Christmas Card Competition

We have received many impressive Christmas card entries for our inaugural competition. We have been blown away with students' illustrations and inquisitiveness of learning about Christmas traditions around the world.

The entries have been displayed in the MFL area for everyone to enjoy. We really struggled to decide a winner and notable mentions must go to Lily Smith in 9MF and Elisa Siretchi in 7HP for their beautiful, informative and well-designed cards.

However, there can only be one winner, and the winner of the first MFL Christmas card competition is Jess Pallett in 9DW for her Russian Christmas card.

Congratulations! The prize will be presented during a language lesson this week.



Design Doodle Wall

There has been much interest in the Design department doodle mural on the Design corridor.

Miss Mock has been encouraging students to create personal doodles which they are then adding to the wall themselves to leave their own mark on the department and the college.

The creativity displayed by the students has been amazing and the level of talent in the college is undeniable. It is also adding a much-needed splash of colour to the department.

Staff are also getting involved proving what a talented group of staff and students we are lucky to have in college. It is hoped the wall will provide a lasting legacy of students and staff who will always part of the Castle Donington College family.

Watch this space to see how the mural will continue to be added to and develop.



Maths News



Well, it has certainly been a busy term in the Maths department!

HSBC Smart Money award winners 2024

The Maths department are proud to announce that they have been awarded the HSBC Smart Money Award for 2024. This award is given to schools who help to develop pupils' understanding of finance within the real world including how to manage money and how to develop financial independence.

Further lessons for years 7-10 are planned for the spring term including sessions on managing debt, household budgeting and mortgages.

Senior Maths Challenge

In October two Year 11 Pupils were entered for the Senior Maths Challenge. The aim of this Maths challenge is to advance the education of young people in maths by providing stimulating problems. The Senior Maths Challenge is designed for pupils in years 11, 12 and 13 so this is a wonderful achievement for the pupils involved to be entered.

Congratulations on achieving one Gold and one Silver award with the Gold award student advancing to the next round.

Axiom Maths

Ten year 7 pupils have been attending Axiom maths lessons once a week after school.

The lessons involve challenging problems that nurture mathematical talent and inspire pupils to think like university mathematicians. They are encouraged to be adventurous, articulate and accepting. They realise that once an initial answer has been found, problems can be tweaked to become more complex and so give richer and deeper solutions. Lessons have featured an introduction to Game Theory. Well done to all the pupils involved.

Paired Numeracy

During Tutor Time on a Monday morning a number of Year 9 pupils have helped support year 7 pupils with their maths. It has been so lovely to observe the older pupils supporting the younger pupils with their understanding of the subject. The year 7 pupils have found the sessions really helpful. A big thank you to all pupils involved.

Maths Club.

The Maths department has certainly been the place to be on a Tuesday from 3.15-4.15pm, with over 60 pupils attending the weekly club. Maths club has been created to support pupils with their understanding of the subject. Well done to all the pupils who have attended.

Further Maths

A big well done to the Year 11 Further Maths students for attending their additional after school sessions. Mrs Roberts has been so impressed with all your effort and attitude.

Library and Literacy news

This term has been a fantastic one for literacy and library initiatives, with students making remarkable progress and enjoying a variety of engaging activities.

Accelerated Reader Success

Year 7 have collectively read over 20 million words! A special congratulations to our three Word Millionaires, who have already surpassed the incredible milestone of one million words read: Lyla Bent, Maya Bowker, and Brendon Power-Walsh.

Year 8 have outdone themselves, reading an astonishing 28 million words! An impressive seven students have become Word Millionaires: Sophia Fletcher, Freya Bennett, Rokus Matuzevicius, Scarlett Fryer, Edie Harris, Lizzie Roper, and Sophia Staples. Amazing work, everyone!

Spooky Halloween Fun

October brought some frightful fun to the library with a murder mystery competition. After much sleuthing, our super detective students uncovered the truth: Mr. Delaney was 'killed' by none other than Madam Amyot! Congratulations to all who participated—you solved the case and won some fabulous bookish prizes.

November Book Donations

November was a special month as we were gifted new books for the library, generously donated by members of the Castle Donington community. A huge thank you for your kindness and support in enriching our library's collection!

Festive December Reading Challenge

As we wrap up the term, December brings our Festive Reading Challenge. Students are invited to write creative and thoughtful book reviews, with the best ones being displayed in the library to inspire others. We can't wait to see your recommendations!

Thank you to all our students, staff, and community members who have made this term one to remember. Here's to even more reading and library fun next term!

PE News

It has been a busy term for the PE department celebrating students sporting success both in PE lessons and at fixtures against other schools.

This term has had a football focus with all year groups competing in the North Charnwood schools programme. The Y7 boys finished second in their very competitive league of 10 schools, a special mention goes to Harley Guy who finished as the league's top goal scorer. The Y9 team finished 3rd (undefeated after the 1st 4 games), and the Y11 team finished in 3rd place within their league. All students that represented the school were outstanding playing against some very strong opponents.

Our Y8/9 girls played their 1st Futsal competition of the year, finishing the tournament in 3rd place. A special mention must go to Emily Smith (9MF) who scored 8 goals in 4 games!

Next half term sees the Y7 and 8/9 girls compete in the North Charnwood football league.

Netball success

Our Y10 Netball team played in the North Charnwood league finishing second in their league (on points difference) as they played 3 and drew one game so remained undefeated for the whole tournament. They were absolutely amazing throughout.

