

# CASTLE DONINGTON COLLEGE

## SPRING NEWSLETTER



April 2025

### Happy Easter!

Dear Parent / Carer,

As we come to the end of the Spring Term, it provides us with an opportunity to share with you a selection of the events, trips and visits we have taken part in between January and April.

We continue to be incredibly proud of the way in which our pupils are positive ambassadors for the college, and we are looking forward to warmer weather and sunnier days for the Summer term!

Next term sees the year 11 exam season get underway and as a result, from the week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> May, the structure of the school day will alter to facilitate the exams with lunch at 12:30pm and Lessons 4 and 5 after lunch.

We say goodbye to two long-term supply staff at Easter and wish both Mr Soar and Mr Hall luck in their future roles. After Easter we welcome Mr Beale as a Teacher of Science.

I wish you all a happy and restful break.

Mrs Beeby

### Reminders

College closes at 3:15pm on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April

Summer Term begins on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April

May Bank Holiday is Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May

### Upcoming Events

- Year 7 Parents' Evening  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May (online)

### Contact Info

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**WORK HARD. TAKE RESPONSIBILITY. BE KIND.**

## **History Club**

This term, History Club have been working on academic poster presentations, using sources from the National Archives as a starting point. Excellent work was done by all, with a particular interest in women's history.

Well done to the winning group's excellent presentation on the suffragette, Olive Wharry, which withstood vigorous academic questioning from Mr Turner, Miss Stazicker, and Miss Morton!

## **National Civil War Centre Trip**

In February, 60 Year 8s visited the National Civil War Centre in Newark to build on their learning about the Wars of the Three Kingdoms in History.

Pupils had a tour of the main museum gallery, as well as sessions on weapons and armour and the petitions of war widows.

Great acting skills were on display from those beginning the magistrate for a war pension, and many pupils proved adept at rapidly loading a musket!

## **British Museum Trip**

At the start of April, 50 Year 7 pupils visited the British Museum to develop their knowledge of their 'Who Made England?' and 'Medieval World' units in History.

The pupils showed great enthusiasm in completing their booklets and engaging with many objects from the museum to deepen their understanding of History.

Highlights of the visit included the treasures of Sutton Hoo, objects showing daily life in Medieval China, Medieval African art, lots of evidence of the Silk Roads, and the most famous floor tiles in Medieval Europe. There was even time for a brief detour to the Ancient Egyptian, Assyrian, and Greek galleries, where Mr Turner became very excited at some old pieces of marble.



## Ski Trip

In February, a group of 42 pupils from years 10 and 11, accompanied by Mr Walker, Miss Hayes, Mrs Lucas, Mrs Thraves, Mr Williams and Mr Barratt set off for the College's first ski trip to the resort of Alpe D'Huez, nestled in the French Alps.

One of the highlights of the trip was watching our students push their limits and improve their skiing abilities. Whether they were beginners mastering the basics, or experienced skiers refining their techniques, everyone made significant progress. Our dedicated instructors provided expert guidance, ensuring each child felt confident and supported throughout their lessons.

Beyond skiing, the trip was an opportunity for our students to bond, form new friendships, and work together as a team. In the evenings, we enjoyed cozy meals, shared stories, and took part in group activities that encouraged cooperation and camaraderie. The ski trip was a perfect blend of adventure, relaxation, and teamwork, allowing the students to develop both their skiing skills and their social connections.

Sadly, Mr Barratt had to cut his visit short due to a fall on the slopes. However, he is almost fully recovered now!



## Italy trip

In early April a group of 34 year 9 pupils, along with Miss Fincham, Mrs Danes, Mrs Lucas and Mr Daly spent four days on a food tour of the area around Sorrento in Italy.

The trip was designed to help pupils develop their knowledge of food preparation and the hospitality and tourism industries, as well as to provide them with a fantastic opportunity to visit one of the most beautiful parts of Europe!

The activities the pupils took part in included a pizza making cookery class, a demonstration of how Italian gelato is made and a coach trip to Pompeii.

As with all of our trips and visits, we very much appreciate the time it takes staff to both plan a residential experience, but also to give up their own time, away from their families.



## Spring Term Celebration Assemblies

All students celebrated one another's achievements during the penultimate week of term in our latest round of Celebration Assemblies.

Students picked up a host of awards, which acknowledged curriculum progress and achievement, alongside our more bespoke awards, which recognised those who consistently work hard, take responsibility and are kind in all that they do.

This also marked the final awards celebration for our Year 11 students, who collected various subject prizes ahead of their summer exam season.

Congratulations to all students!

## Library News – Celebrating Creativity and Looking Ahead to World Earth Day

The library has been buzzing with creativity as we launched an exciting art competition to encourage more students to step inside and explore all that our library has to offer. Pupils were challenged to design a book cover, complete with a snazzy title, and the results were very impressive with some clever entries! We've seen everything from imaginative bold fantasy tales to beautiful eye-catching pastel designs

A big THANKS to everyone who took part—your enthusiasm has been fantastic! The winners, who will be announced on the last day of term, will each receive a well-deserved Easter egg prize.

Looking ahead, we're turning our focus to World Earth Day, where we'll be showcasing a special book display dedicated to our planet. From books about climate change and conservation to inspiring stories of people making a difference, we'll have plenty of reading material to help students discover how they too can play a part in protecting the Earth.



## Maths updates

Another busy term in the Maths department!

### HSBC Finance lessons.

HSBC have again visited the school to deliver financial lessons to pupils in Years 7-10.

These lessons follow the school being awarded the HSBC Smart Money Award for 2024.

Financial Lessons include sessions on managing debt, household budgeting, payslips and mortgages. Feedback from pupils showed they found the sessions interesting and very useful. Pupils enjoyed seeing where maths is used in everyday life.

HSBC staff commented on how well the pupils behaved. Well done to all involved.



### Axiom Maths

Axiom Maths has continued to be successful with up to 15 selected Year 7 pupils attending the weekly after school sessions.

The lessons involve challenging problems that nurture mathematical talent and inspire pupils to think like university mathematicians. Lessons have featured an introduction to Game Theory. Well done to all the pupils involved.



## **More Maths news**

### Paired Numeracy

Year 7 and 9 Tutor Time Paired Numeracy sessions have continued with new Year 7 pupils. It has been so lovely to observe the older Year 9 pupils supporting the younger Year 7 pupils with their understanding of Maths. The year 7 pupils have found the sessions really helpful. A big thank you to all pupils involved.

### Maths Club.

Maths club (Tuesday 3.15-4.15pm) has continued to be very popular with over 60 pupils from all years attending the weekly club. Maths club has been created to help 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 on attending their additional after school sessions and for all their hard work with this qualification. Mock results were very impressive!

### Intermediate Maths Challenge

A number of selected Year 9 and 10 pupils attempted the Intermediate Maths Challenge.

The aim of this Maths challenge is to advance the education of young people in maths by providing stimulating problems. The Intermediate Maths Challenge is designed for pupils in years 9 and 10.

Pupils achieved some fantastic results with a number of bronze, silver and gold certificates being awarded.

Congratulations to one Year 10 student for qualifying for the next round



## KS3 & KS4 Swimming Gala – De Lisle 17th March 2025

Congratulations to the following pupils who competed at the North-West Charnwood School Swimming Gala on 17th March at De Lisle.

Pupils swam brilliantly and were fantastic ambassadors to the College. The girls team just missed out on podium and finished 4th out of 8 whilst the boys team finished 5th in a strong field of competitors.

### KS3 GIRLS

Erin Starr (Y7)

Ada Moorhouse (Y8)

Heidi Parry (Y9)

Grace Perkins (Y9)

### KS3 BOYS

Frazer Manly (Y7)

Zack Harding (Y7)

Hugo Harrand (Y8)

Harry Taylor (Y9)

### KS4 GIRLS

Eloise Cami (Y10)

Iris Moorhouse (Y10)

Hannah Murphy (Y10)

Jess Parry (Y11)

Olivia Oldham (Y11)



## PTFA Fashion Show

At the end of March, the Friends and Parents of Castle Donington College organised a fashion show and pop up shop, where ticket holders were able to buy high street fashions at up to 75% off.

We raised an amazing £934 for the design department. Thank you so much to all who helped organise the event!



## Rock and Pop Night

This well-supported event took place on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April and was a fantastic showcase of our pupils' singing and instrumental talents.

A massive well done to all who took part!

The PTFA supported the event, with £415 raised from refreshments and the raffle draw going to further resourcing our young musicians!

