

CASTLE DONINGTON COLLEGE

SUMMER NEWSLETTER



July 2025



Message from the Principal

As we reach the end of the Summer term, and conclude the academic year, I would like to thank pupils, parents and staff for all they have contributed to the College over the past twelve months.

This term we have welcomed next year's year 7 pupils during their transition days, and we have said farewell to our year 11 pupils, who worked incredibly hard during the exam period and had a well-deserved celebratory Prom at the end of June.

The newsletter is full of the events, trips and initiatives our pupils have participated in during this term.

We also bid some fond farewells to staff members this month: Mr Marshall is leaving us to take up a new pastoral leadership role in another school; and Mr Grayston is embarking on a well earned retirement. We will miss them both greatly and wish them well for the future.

On a personal note, as I reach the end of my first year at the College, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support, it is an absolute privilege to lead the school and I look forward to seeing you in the Autumn term.

Vickie Beeby

Reminders

Summer Term finishes at 12:45pm on Friday 11th July

Autumn Term begins on Thursday 28th August. Pupils should arrive by 8:45am.

Upcoming Events

GCSE Results Day:

Thursday 21st August.

Pupils can collect results between 9:00 and 10:30am

Contact Info

Email: postroom@cdcollege.uk

Phone: 01332 810528

History Club

This term History Club have been working with Euripides' Medea. Their aim is to take the Ancient Greek story of revenge and gender and adapt it so it more accessible for modern audiences. The pupils are working exceptionally hard in thinking not only about to adapt the language, but also stage directions and how to overcome the limits of a small cast. Their alterations to the character of Aegeus, King of Athens, are a sight to behold!

Library news

A Fresh New Look

You may have noticed some exciting changes to our library walls! We've redesigned them with bright, uplifting visuals to make the room more vibrant and inspiring. It's a small change that's made a big difference to how the space feels—and we've loved seeing students (and teachers) respond so positively.

Finding Your Next Read Just Got Easier

Our books have had a bit of a shuffle, too. This term we're reorganising the entire collection by genre, making it easier than ever to find your next great read. Whether you're into mysteries, fantasies, romances or thrillers, you'll now be able to head straight to the stories you love.

Exam season

Throughout exam season, our library has doubled up as a tutor room and classroom for Humanities, fulfilling a very important need.

A Hub of Calm and Creativity

The library continues to be a popular hub during break and lunchtime. Whether students are picking their next book, quizzing on the books they've read, chatting with friends, or just enjoying the vibe, it's become a space where everyone is welcome and feels safe.

Games Galore

A huge thank you to our SEND Department, who generously donated a range of games this term. These have been a fantastic addition alongside our ever-popular Chess Club. From strategy games to collaborative challenges, it's been lovely to see students playing, connecting and having fun together.

Creative Writing Competition Success

In May, we held a Creative Writing Competition. Congratulations to Holly Nicholls, whose winning entry stood out for its originality and emotional depth. Well done, Holly!

We're already looking forward to welcoming you back in September with more books, more creativity, and more community!

Maths Summer Term Updates

Intermediate Maths Challenge

A number of selected Year 7 and 8 pupils attempted the Junior Maths Challenge.

The aim of this Maths challenge is to advance the education of young people in maths by providing stimulating problems.

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

Congratulations to the two pupils qualified for the next round of the competition, with one of these pupils achieving a bronze certificate in round 2. Congratulations to all pupils involved.

Primary School Visits

The maths department have been busy visiting Primary feeder schools and delivering a maths taster session to Year 6 pupils. This session has included work on using and applying Pythagoras' theorem. Mrs Roberts, who has delivered the sessions has been really impressed with the Year 6 pupils' effort and attitude. Well done to all Year 6 pupils involved.

Axiom Maths

Axiom Maths has continued to be successful during the summer term with up to 12 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.

Maths Club

Maths club (Tuesday 3.15-4.15pm) has continued to be very popular with 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 for all their hard work on completing the course and attending all their additional after school sessions.

Maths Enrichment week

Year 7 – 9 maths enrichment week is to begin during the Summer Term.

Projects including Designing a Theme Park and Code breaking.

Year 7 Explore the Wild at Yorkshire Wildlife Park

Our Year 7 students recently enjoyed an exciting and educational day out at the Yorkshire Wildlife Park. The trip offered a unique opportunity to see animals from all over the world up close, including polar bears, lions, giraffes, and endangered species like the Amur leopard.

The visit links perfectly to their science lessons on adaptations. Students observed how different animals are specially suited to their environments – from the thick fur and large paws of polar bears to help them survive in cold climates, to the long necks of giraffes for reaching high foliage. Seeing these adaptations in real life helped to deepen their understanding and sparked lots of thoughtful discussion during the day.

It was a fantastic day filled with discovery, teamwork, and lots of walking! A big thank you to all the staff who supported the trip, and well done to Year 7 for representing the school so brilliantly.



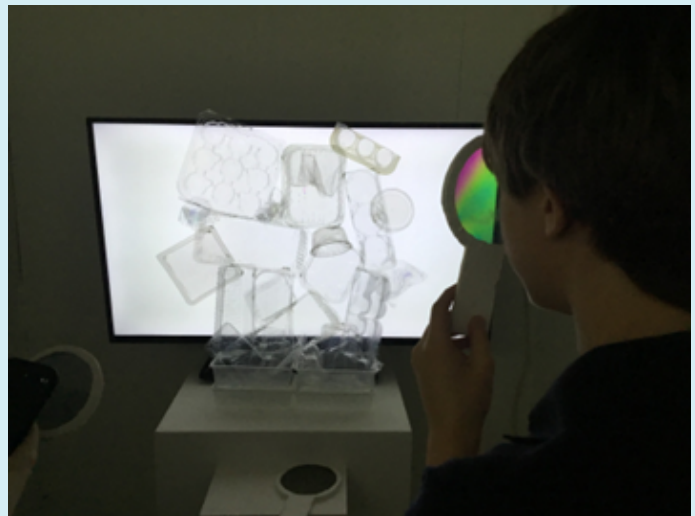
De Montfort University Design Trip

In June, the Design Department took 68 Year 10 students to De Montfort University, to see the final degree show.

Whilst there, students got to see the wide range of courses that higher education has to offer, such as Fine art, Graphic Design, Game design, Animation, Textiles Design, Fashion Textiles, Footwear Design, Contour Design, Product Design, 3D Craft Design, Photography and more!

Students got to see a higher level of work and saw how collections are created. They also had some valuable conversations and demonstrations from current university students to show how the software and machinery is used to produce industry level products.

The year 10's behaviour was exemplary and were a fantastic representation of themselves and Castle Donington College



Year 10 Mediq Work Experience

The week beginning 30th June was Work Experience week for our Year 10 pupils. A small group of pupils spent the week part of a scheme called Unbox Your Future. We are delighted that the team from Mediq in Castle Donington have been working with us on this project and have set the students a brief to work towards. On Monday, the students visited the Mediq Head Offices where they had a tour round the building including the very impressive warehouse facilities! Back in College, they have been working on their marketing skills – doing market research, writing reports and making their own digital marketing campaigns to meet the requirements set by Mediq. Well done to all the students involved and thank you again to Charlotte and her hard-working team at Mediq!



Year 10 East Midlands Airport Experience

Another group of Year 10 students applied through a rigorous process to be part of an exciting work experience programme at East Midlands Airport. Two students have been working in security where they have had the opportunity to see how the airport scanners work to pick up potential problems. Two other students have been working with the customer services team, ensuring that all users of the airport can access the facilities and aircraft. The final two students have been working at the Operations side of the airport – getting to look at the work of air traffic controllers and the airside team at EMA. Having spoken to them, they have all loved their experience this week and it has certainly got them thinking about their future careers. Our thanks again go to Joanna and her team at East Midlands Airport for providing such an enriching experience for our pupils.



Year 8 Story Sacks

Year 8 pupils have visited Grasshoppers Nursery, where they read in small groups to the nursery pupils. This provided a great opportunity to boost students' confidence in reading aloud, working cooperatively, and thinking about purpose, audience and form.



PE news and updates

Year 11 leavers

Good luck to Max Harrison who is beginning his scholarship with Stoke City F.C. Good luck to Kerad Atkinson Wilmore and Amele Seruwalu, who are leaving to Loughborough College as part of The Leicester Tigers Rugby pathway.

Netball Stars

Well done to Eleri Prytherch, Iris Moorhouse and Ada Moorhouse who competed in a national netball tournament in London in June.

Sports Day

On Tuesday 1st July we held our annual Sports Day and despite the warm weather the students performed very well, we even had some record breakers: Sophia Fletcher broke the Y8 girls High Jump record with a height of 1.43m. Well done Sophia!

8PW were the biggest winners of the day picking up the min tutor group prize.

In Year 7 the winning tutor group was 7 JD
In Year 8 the winning Tutor group was 8PW
In Year 9 the winning tutor group was 9MF

Well done to all students for a fantastic day. The sports day video will be shared with students soon.

New facilities 3G Astro Pitch and Fitness Suite

Our new Fitness Suite was kitted out with a range of gym equipment last week and will be in use from the beginning of the Autumn term.

We have also been trialling the use of the new all weather pitch, and in the past week, all students have had an opportunity to use it in their PE lessons.

With Astro pitches there are recommended footwear for its use. If students are having new shoes/trainers for PE over the summer, please have in mind purchasing ASTRO trainers.



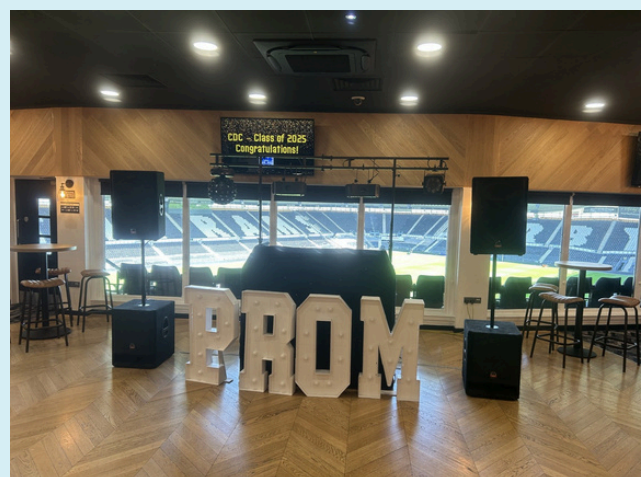
Year 11 Prom

On Friday 27th June, the staff at Castle Donington College had the privilege of saying goodbye to an incredible year group. Our 2025 Y11 Prom was held at the home of football, Derby County! (this report was written by lifelong fan, Mr Purkiss 😊), a venue befitting of the occasion and an evening that certainly did not disappoint.

Students enjoyed a VIP welcome, along with a refreshing welcome drink, posed for formal photos before taking their seats for their 3 course meal. During the evening Mr Purkiss (Head of Year) congratulated the year group on their immense effort and commitment through their time at CDC, but specifically during the lead up the exam season. The students then danced the night away led by the resident DJ, before saying their goodbyes.

All of the staff at CDC have nothing but good things to say about a wonderful year group, who have gone through some turbulent times earlier in their school career dealing with the pandemic, but showed real determination, resilience, and strength of character in preparing for this summer's examinations.

All of us at Castle Donington College wish all the students well in their future endeavours, look forward to celebrating your successes on results day, and hearing about all your future successes.



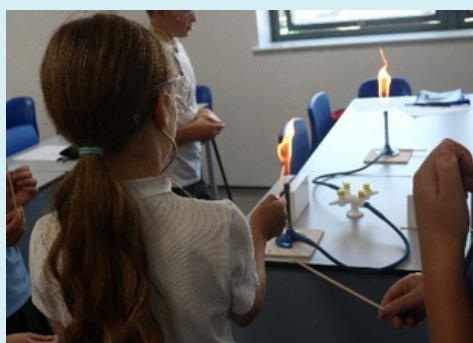
Summer Celebration Assemblies

Congratulations to all students who took part in our recent round of Celebration Assemblies. Students received formal recognition for their academic progress and achievement. Special mention also to all students who received our coveted specialist awards linked to the Donington Way College values.



Year 6 Transition

During the penultimate week of term, we welcomed our new Year 7 cohort to the College as part of the transition programme. All students worked extremely hard throughout both days, leaving with a greater sense of belonging and newfound confidence. Full credit also to the rest of the student body for being so kind and welcoming; especially our Year 9 Ambassadors who took responsibility for each tutor group – definitely some future teachers and great leaders in the making!



Term Dates 2025-2026

Autumn Term 2025	
Bank Holiday College Closed	Monday 25 th August 2025
Staff Training Day (1) College Closed to Pupils	Tuesday 26 th August 2025
Staff Training Day (2) College Closed to Pupils	Wednesday 27 th August 2025
Term Starts	Thursday 28 th August 2025
Mid –Term Break	Monday 20 th October to Friday 24 th October 2025
Term Ends	Friday 19 th December 2025
Spring Term 2026	
Staff Training Day (3) College Closed to Pupils	Monday 5 th January 2026
Term Starts	Tuesday 6 th January 2026
Mid –Term Break	Monday 16 th February to Friday 20 th February 2026
Term Ends	Friday 27 th March 2026
Summer Term 2026	
Term Starts	Monday 13 th April 2026
Bank Holiday - College Closed	Monday 4 th May 2026
Mid –Term Break	Monday 25 th May to Friday 29 th May 2026
Term Ends	Friday 10 th July 2026

Important Dates Autumn Term

- Thursday 19th September: Friends of CDC Night at the Races Event
- Thursday 25th September: Year 6 Open Evening
- 9th - 12th October : Barcelona Trip
- Thursday 16th October: Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening (in school)
- Tuesday 11th November: Careers Day
- Wednesday 12th November: Year 9 Imperial War Museum Trip
- Friday 14th November: Year 7 Space Centre Trip
- Weeks beginning 17th and 24th November: Year 11 Mock Exams
- Thursday 4th December: Year 10 Parents' Evening (online)
- Tuesday 16th December: Christmas Concert