



Open Evening 2025 – Principal's Address

Good evening, and thank you to everyone who joined us for our Open Evening on 25th September. For those unable to attend, I'm pleased to share with you information about what Castle Donington College offers to your children and families.

I have been privileged to serve as Principal for just over a year now, and in that time, I have been proud to lead the school through a series of positive developments. Among these, we have achieved our best Key Stage Four outcomes in several years. Alongside this academic progress, we've also enhanced our facilities with exciting additions such as a brand-new dining space, a full-sized artificial football pitch, and a fully equipped gym within our new fitness suite.

But some of our improvements are less visible yet equally important. We are committed to listening to your children and to you, communicating clearly, and involving you in our vision. At Castle Donington College, we aim to be an inclusive community where every pupil feels safe, valued, and able to thrive. Academic excellence is a priority, but never at the expense of pastoral care.

Our school motto—**Work Hard, Take Responsibility, Be Kind**—is at the heart of everything we do. We encourage all pupils and staff to live by these values daily. Pupils are recognised and rewarded for embodying these qualities, and our staff model them consistently.

In our recent 2024 Ofsted inspection, we were delighted to be rated 'Good.' While we celebrate this achievement, we remain ambitious and focused on continuous improvement. One of the highlights from the report states:

"Pupils are polite, friendly, and outgoing. Most pupils are happy at school. There is a keen sense of community, which helps pupils feel safe and secure. They know that there are always adults around to support them."

Looking ahead, our vision for the next three years focuses on four key priorities:

1. **Ambition and Aspiration** – Delivering The Donington Classroom, alongside our Raising Achievement and Aspiration Strategies.
2. **Culture and Belonging** – Embedding The Donington Way, enhancing attendance, and offering enrichment opportunities for all.
3. **Every Child, Safeguarded** – Fostering a culture of vigilance, prioritising our most vulnerable pupils, and equipping staff with specialist expertise.
4. **Operations and Services** – Ensuring clear communication, promoting wellbeing at work, and developing facilities for the future.

From the moment pupils join us, we introduce them to *The Donington Way*, which is built around five fundamental habits:

- Arrive on time
- Wear perfect uniform



- Follow instructions first time, every time
- Communicate smartly
- Be ready to learn

We expect both pupils and staff to uphold these habits within *The Donington Classroom*, where pupils are encouraged to:

- Arrive on time and bring the right equipment
- Follow instructions promptly and listen respectfully
- Start tasks immediately and always try their best
- Ask for help when needed and support one another
- Take pride in their work

Beyond the classroom, we offer a wide range of extra-curricular clubs, including sports, performance, and subject-based activities. We also organise day trips and residential visits—for example, recent trips to London, France, Italy, and Germany. Many of our older pupils participate in the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award schemes each year, which are hugely popular.

We understand that transitioning from primary to secondary school can be a time of uncertainty for both pupils and parents. That's why we work closely with our primary schools from the Spring term onwards to gather detailed information about our new Year 7 intake. By the time induction days arrive in July, we already know our pupils well, and they have started to feel comfortable with us. Mr Nelson, our Associate Assistant Principal and Head of Year 7, alongside our pastoral and SEND teams, play a vital role in ensuring this smooth transition.

Before you complete your application, please take time to read our Admissions Policy, which is available on our [website](#).

I look forward to welcoming your children to Castle Donington College and to meeting many of you soon.

Thank you.

Vickie Beeby
Principal