



WEEKLY PARENT BULLETIN

7th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our weekly bulletin, providing you with a range of general information and forthcoming events at the college.

All Years	<p><u>Remembrance Day</u></p> <p>On Tuesday, 11th November, Castle Donington College will observe the traditional two-minute silence to mark Remembrance Day.</p> <p>This solemn moment allows us to honour and remember those who have served and sacrificed in times of conflict. In keeping with tradition, pupils who are members of cadet organisations are welcome to wear their cadet uniforms on this day.</p> <p>All other pupils should attend school in their normal uniform. We encourage everyone to participate respectfully in this important commemoration.</p> <p><u>Children in Need</u></p> <p>The College is supporting the annual Children In Need appeal on Friday 14th November.</p> <p>Students will not be expected to wear school uniform on the day, but for a small donation, will be allowed to wear non-school uniform. We ask that students do not come to college inappropriately dressed, or displaying any offensive slogans. As normal lessons will be taking place, can you remind students to bring all of the equipment that they need. If they have a practical PE lesson, they will need to have their usual PE kit with them.</p> <p>There is always generous support for fundraising events at Castle Donington College, and so we hope that students will once again have fun supporting a charity that works to improve the lives of children across the UK. Students can choose to donate £1. Either through Parent Pay, or in cash, which will be collected during tutor time.</p>
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Change to the school day during Mock Exams

Advance notice that from Monday 17th November to Friday 28th November, the timing of lunch and Lesson 4 will change to accommodate the year 11 mock exams:

Lesson	Start Time	End Time
Tutor Time	08:45	09:10
Lesson 1	09:10	10:10
Lesson 2	10:10	11:10
<i>BREAK</i>	<i>11:10</i>	<i>11:30</i>
Lesson 3	11:30	12:30
<i>LUNCH</i>	<i>12:30</i>	<i>13:15</i>
Lesson 4	13:15	14:15
Lesson 5	14:15	15:15

During the period from **Monday 17th November to Friday 28th November**, some of our indoor PE spaces will be utilised as examination halls. **Consequently, we request that pupils in years 7 – 10 attend school in their CDC PE kit on their designated Core PE days, but only on days when they have practical PE.**

During this fortnight, pupils will remain in their PE kit throughout the entire school day and will participate in inter-form sports competitions, primarily utilising our new 3G astroturf facility. For these PE sessions, pupils should ensure they have appropriate footwear - either trainers or football boots - depending on the planned activity. Additionally, pupils may wear their school jumper as an extra layer to provide warmth during potentially cooler outdoor activities.

Pupils in year 11 should wear normal school uniform every day throughout the mock period.

Careers Fair

As part of their Careers Education, Years 8-11 will be taking part in a Careers Fair on Tuesday 11th November. Pupils will have the opportunity to speak to a range of prestigious local businesses and local education providers as well.

Communication with the College

If you need to contact the college, you can telephone on 01332 810528

Email for general queries: postroom@cdcollege.uk Please include the nature of your enquiry in the subject line of the email.

You can contact us regarding absences: attendance@cdcollege.uk

Please include full details and attach/screenshot appointment cards for our records.

For **all** communication with the SEND department, please direct emails to our central SEND inbox – send@cdcollege.uk

First Aid

Please update the college on any new medication that your child is taking. Please remember that if you are bringing any medication into college it needs to be in prescribed pack with the student's name and prescribed dose on.

We have a first aid email address where you can send any new or updated medical information for your child. This is helpful to enable us to help manage your child. firstaid@cdcollege.uk

Polite reminder: - We are happy for your child to carry a small amount of paracetamol or ibuprofen for their own use but please inform them not to give to other students.

Satchel One Login Reminders

Pupils should log in to their Satchel One account via the “Office 365” function. Their username is their school email address and their password is the same one they use to access the school computers.

Uniform Standards

Thank you to all families for their continued support with uniform.

Clear guidance on what we do and do not allow students to wear can be found [here](#)

Please contact your child's Head of Year should you require further support.

Attendance

Thank you for your continued support with your child's regular attendance to school.

Regularly attending school has a positive impact on children and young people - academically, socially and emotionally. Evidence shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best examination results.

Percentage Attendance	Number of Days Absence	Learning Missed in 1 Year	Learning Missed over 5 Years
100%	0 Days	0 Lessons	0 Lessons
97%	6 Days	30 Lessons	150 Lessons
95%	9.5 Days	48 Lessons	240 Lessons
93%	13 Days	65 Lessons	325 Lessons
90%	19 Days	95 Lessons	475 Lessons

Free School Meals eligibility

If your child isn't registered for Free School Meals and you receive any of the following benefits, your child may be able to get free school meals:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Follow this link to apply: [Free School Meals](#)

	<p><u>MFL Film Club</u></p> <p>Every Thursday, we watch a foreign film at lunchtime. We are currently watching Patchamama in Spanish, with English subtitles.</p> <p><u>Warhammer Club</u></p> <p>Every Wednesday after school in the Hub, 3:15 till 4:00.</p> <p>Building, painting and playing. We are currently making our way through the Warhammer Alliance schools project. Speak to Mr Bell if interested.</p> <p><u>Puzzle Club</u></p> <p>Puzzle Club (Tues lunchtimes in the library) needs donations – jigsaws, crosswords, sudoku, word searches, Rubik’s Cubes. Any other puzzles you can think of. If you have any taking up space at home, please think about donating them. Thank you.</p> <p><u>Book Fair</u></p> <p>The English department are delighted to host this year’s Scholastic Book Fair from 11th – 14th November. Reading for pleasure is transformative for pupils’ academic success and personal wellbeing. We hope to inspire and excite them by bringing the book fair into the heart of our school with a pop-up school book shop!</p> <p>At break and lunchtimes, students can come to browse the books on offer and make cash purchases to take books home with them.</p> <p><i>Please note, the fair will run as cash only. Books are sold on a first-come, first-served basis.</i></p>
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Year 7	<p><u>Pastoral Support</u></p> <p>Please contact your child’s Form Tutor and Head of Year (Mr Nelson) for any further support required in school. We would also like to hear of any success stories outside of school, so we can help to celebrate these achievements with our students.</p> <p><u>Careers Day with Manchester Airport Group and East Midlands Airport</u></p> <p>On Monday 3rd November, we were joined by staff from Manchester Airport Group and East Midlands Airport as part of the Year 7 Careers Programme. Pupils worked as project managers, ensuring that the needs of their customers were met! All pupils showed a great attitude for our visitors, who were impressed by the work that they did in the sessions.</p>
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Year 8	<p><u>Pastoral Support</u></p> <p>Please contact your child's Form Tutor and Head of Year (Mr Brown) for any further support required in school. We would also like to hear of any success stories outside of school, so we can help to celebrate these achievements with our students.</p>
Year 9	<p><u>Pastoral Support</u></p> <p>Please contact your child's Form Tutor and Head of Year (Mr Canavan) for any further support required in school. We would also like to hear of any success stories outside of school, so we can help to celebrate these achievements with our students.</p>
Year 10	<p><u>Pastoral Support</u></p> <p>Please contact your child's Form Tutor and Head of Year (Mrs Danes) for any further support required in school. We would also like to hear of any success stories outside of school, so we can help to celebrate these achievements with our students.</p> <p><u>French revision sessions</u></p> <p>Students doing GCSE French in Year 10 are being invited to attend a revision session every other Wednesday lunch time (starting 29th October).</p> <p><u>Spanish revision sessions</u></p> <p>Spanish revision sessions for GCSE Spanish will be taking place Wednesday lunch time - this week we will be doing the Conditional Tense.</p> <p><u>GCSE PE</u></p> <p>All students should have completed section one of their NEA (skill strength) and emailed it to Mr Woolf. Section 2 (skill weakness) is due before Christmas (Friday 19th December).</p> <p>During the Mock exam period (from Monday 17th November) students will be completing their NEA during their practical PE lessons).</p> <p><u>Bronze Duke of Edinburgh</u></p> <p>Participants must ensure that they are progressing their Skill, Volunteering and Physical sections. At this stage, most of these should be ending and participants should be arranging for assessor reports to be written. This means the participants needs to actively seek out their Assessors and hand them a report template to complete or send them the link to complete these digitally. The DofE will not accept typed responses that do not include start and end points for the activity, a summary of achievements and progress made and the full name and contact details of the assessors. When submitting an assessor report as a photo via the app, participants must tick the "Assessor Report" tab. This will notify the system that an assessor report has been submitted.</p> <p>There have been several messages in assemblies about this.</p>

	<p>There is an issue with missing and incorrect assessor reports for the expedition element. ICY Expedition have been made aware of this, and the issue will be resolved. Participants do not need to worry about this element.</p>
<p>Year 11</p>	<p>Pastoral Support</p> <p>Please contact your child’s Form Tutor and Head of Year (Mr Purkiss) for any further support required in school. We would also like to hear of any success stories outside of school, so we can help to celebrate these achievements with our students.</p> <p>GCSE Textiles</p> <p>All students have been reminded that they only have 7 lessons left until they complete their current project which is worth 60% of their final grade. Most students need more time to complete this work than that, and are encouraged to be working at home, coming to lunchtime interventions, or/and attend after school interventions on Wednesdays and Thursdays 3:15- 4:15.</p> <p>Please speak to your child about attending these, or about completing more work at home.</p> <p>GCSE PE</p> <p>The Y11 GCSE students have their mock exam in a few weeks. Students have access to the following revision materials.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ever-learner – an online platform with tutorials and quizzes. 2. Knowledge organisers – full course content to help with definitions. 3. Blank knowledge organizers – to complete to identify knowledge gaps. 4. Past papers – collect from PE1. They also have the mark schemes so students can self mark. <p>NEA – during the mock exams all GCSE PE students will have lessons to focus on NEA completion. All sections of NEA need to be completed by Christmas and emailed to Mr Woolf. The PE team are available at lunchtimes in PE1 for any assistance with revision or NEA work.</p> <p>Silver Duke of Edinburgh</p> <p>Participants must ensure that they are progressing their Skill, Volunteering and Physical sections. At this stage, most of these should be ending and participants should be arranging for Assessor reports to be written. This means the participants needs to actively seek out their Assessors and hand them a report template to complete or send them the link to complete these digitally. The DofE will not accept typed responses that do not include start and end points for the activity, a summary of achievements and progress made and the full name and contact details of the assessors. When submitting an assessor report as a photo via the app, participants must tick the “Assessor Report” tab. This will notify the system that an assessor report has been submitted.</p>

	<p>T. Participants do not need to worry about the Expedition element. This will all be completed for them.</p>
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Year 11 Mock Exams

These begin the week beginning 17th November. The full timetable can be seen on the next page. Languages speaking mocks and Art / Textiles / Graphics mocks take place in December.

YEAR 11 AUTUMN MOCK

November 17th-28th 2025

		Start	Finish	Duration	Component Title
School Week 1 Timetable	Mon 17th Nov	09:15	10:45	1hr 30	Maths Paper 1 - F/H
		13:15	14:45	1hr 30	Music - Listening paper
	Tue 18th Nov	09:15	11:20	2hr 05	English Language Paper 2
	Wed 19th Nov	09:15	10:30	1hr 15	Combined Science Chemistry Paper 1 - F/H
		09:15	11:00	1hr 45	Chemistry Paper 1- F/H
		13:15	14:45	1hr 30	Option A: Design
		13:15	15:00	1hr 45	Option A: Food and Nutrition
		13:15	14:35	1hr 20	Option A: Drama
		13:15	14:30	1hr 20	Option A: History
	Thu 20st Nov	09:15	10:35	35/45 min	11A- Spanish Reading&Listening- Foundation
		09:15	11:00	45min/1hr	11A- Spanish Reading&Listening- Higher
		13:15	14:45	1hr 30	Option D: Computer Science
		13:15	14:30	1hr 15	Option D: Child Development
		13:15	14:30	1hr 20	Option D: History
	Fri 21st Nov	09:15	11:30	2hr 15	English Literature Paper 2
School Week 2 Timetable	Mon 24th Nov	09:15	10:45	1hr 30	Maths Paper 2 Calculator - F/H
		13:15	14:45	1hr 30	Option B: Geography
		13:15	15:00	1hr 45	Option B: Citizenship
	Tue 25th Nov	09:15	10:30	1hr 15	Combined Science Physics Paper 1 - F/H
		09:15	11:00	1hr 45	Physics Paper 1- F/H
		13:15	14:45	1hr 30	Media
	Wed 26th Nov	09:15	10:35	35/45 min	11B-French Reading&Listening- Foundation
		09:15	11:00	45min/1hr	11B- French Reading&Listening- Higher
		13:15	14:45	1hr 30	Option C: Design
		13:15	15:00	1hr 45	Option C: Citizenship
		13:15	15:00	1hr 45	Option C: Triple Science Biology F/H
	Thu 27th Nov	09:15	11:00	1hr 45	Option C&D: PE
		13:15			Catch up Session
	Fri 28th Nov	09:15			Catch up Session
		13:15			Catch up Session

Y11 French revision sessions. Monday lunch.

Date	Skill practice/focus	Tier
10/11	Writing 90 words	F + H
17/11	Reading, translation into English	F only
24/11	Reading, translation into English	H only
1/12	Listening, dictation	F + H
8/12	Speaking conversation, answering questions	F + H
15/12	Writing, translation into French	F only
12/1	Writing, translation into French	H only
19/1	Speaking, pronunciation practice	F + H
26/1	Listening practice	F + H
2/2	Reading practice	F + H
9/2	Writing photo task and 50 words	F only
23/2	Speaking read aloud	F + H
2/3	Translation to English	F + H
9/3	Speaking role play	F + H
16/3	Speaking conversation	F + H
23/3	Listening practice	F + H
		F + H
Easter holiday 2 hr TBC	Speaking	F only
Easter holiday 2 hr TBC	Speaking	H only
		F + H
13/4	Dictation practice	F + H
20/4	Reading practice	F + H
27/4	90 words writing	F + H
11/5	Listening + reading practice	F + H
18/5	Listening, dictation practice	F + H
25/5	Writing, verbs and tenses	F + H
1/6	Writing 150 words	H only



**THE CASTLE DONINGTON
AND DISTRICT BRANCH OF
THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

**REMEMBRANCE PARADE
AND SERVICE**

**SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2025
10:50 AM**

**AT THE WAR MEMORIAL
HIGH STREET, CASTLE DONINGTON**

**PERSONNEL TAKING PART IN THE
PARADE SHOULD BE AT THE
COLLEGE, MOUNT PLEASANT
NO LATER THEN 10:30AM**





CASTLE DONINGTON PE EXTRA CURRICULAR
TIMETABLE



PE	Lunch Turn up and play.	After School (3.15 – 4.10)
Monday	GCSE NEA support (PE1) (AD)	
Tuesday	Basketball Club (DH/DW)	KS3 Fitness (new fitness suite SG/NN) Fixtures (Netball/Football)
Wednesday	GCSE Volleyball (AD/OW/DH)	KS4 GIRLS FITNESS (new fitness suite OW) KS 3 Football (Astro) (AD)
Thursday	Netball Club (GYM) (OW)	Fixtures (Netball/Football) KS4 BOYS FITNESS (Fitness suite ME/NB/AD)
Friday	GCSE Ever-learner catch up (<u>PE1</u>) (AD)	