



WEEKLY PARENT BULLETIN

12th December 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>End of term arrangements</u></p> <p>A reminder that pupils will finish early on Friday 19th December, at 1:30pm. Pupils can opt to wear suitable non-school uniform on this day, with donations of £1 going to the School Council Fund</p> <p><u>Did you attend Castle Donington College?</u></p> <p>Are you a former pupil or do you know people who used to attend the College? If so, let us know about your career journey since your time with us: Castle Donington College Alumni – Fill out form</p> <p><u>Communication with the College</u></p> <p>If you need to contact the college, you can telephone on 01332 810528</p> <p>Email for general queries: postroom@cdcollege.uk Please include the nature of your enquiry in the subject line of the email.</p> <p>You can contact us regarding absences: attendance@cdcollege.uk</p> <p>Please include full details and attach/screenshot appointment cards for our records.</p> <p>For all communication with the SEND department, please direct emails to our central SEND inbox – send@cdcollege.uk</p> <p><u>Responsible Parking Reminder</u></p> <p>We kindly ask for your cooperation in ensuring responsible and considerate parking when collecting or dropping off pupils at Castle Donington College.</p> <p>We have received further concerns from local residents, including families with accessibility needs, about blocked access on roads approaching the college. We understand parking can be challenging at busy times, but please be mindful of residents' driveways and access points.</p>
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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.

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.

Arbor MIS

We are excited to announce that we will be moving our Management Information System from SIMS to Arbor in January 2026.

Adopting Arbor will allow us to communicate with you more efficiently and bring all core school data and workflows into one system.

We are really looking forward to getting started with Arbor and will share information about how to log in to Arbor at the start of the new term. We will continue to use Go 4 Schools for assessment and reporting on achievement, with other functions including attendance and behaviour reporting moving to Arbor. Payments will continue to be made through ParentPay.

The switchover to Arbor will take place over the Christmas holidays.

We will send further communication on the parental app and how to register on 5th January 2026, please look out for this information and register your child when prompted.

Mobile Phone Use

We would like to draw your attention to this section of our Behaviour Policy and ask you remind your children of the rules regarding mobile phone use in school:

Allowing access to mobiles in school introduces complexity and risks, including distraction, disruption, bullying and abuse, and can be a detriment to learning. Pupils are not allowed to use mobile phones/ devices/ air pods during the school-day (8:45am – 3:15pm). If a member of staff sees a pupil using a mobile device or wearing air pods, the item will be confiscated, and the pupil will be able to collect the item at the end of the school day. If a pupil breaches this school rule on multiple occasions, then parents may be asked to collect the mobile device from school. Serious concerns may result in the pupil being asked to hand over the device (for safe keeping) at the start of each day.

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](#)

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.

Wellbeing support

All pupils have access to youHQ [Wellbeing app for schools and colleges | youHQ.co.uk](#) they can log in using their @cdcollege.uk email address through the Microsoft 365 log in

You can find out more about youHQ on this youtube video

<https://youtu.be/QyKDZlHmAkl>

Hire our facilities

[Hire facilities at Castle Donington College - SchoolHire](#)

MFL Film Club

Every Thursday lunchtime in L3.

Warhammer Club

Every Wednesday after school in the Hub, 3:15 till 4:00.

Building, painting and playing. We are currently making our way through the Warhammer Alliance schools project. Speak to Mr Bell if interested.

	<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>
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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>
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>Options Evening</u></p> <p>We are holding an Options Evening in school on 29th January 2026 where you can make appointments to discuss your child’s progress in English, maths and science. These appointments will be bookable via SchoolCloud from mid January.</p> <p>At the Options Evening you will have the opportunity to talk to teachers of the optional subjects your child is considering for next year. You will not need to make appointments for the option subjects. We recommend that you and your child attend the evening together in school.</p> <p>The evening will take place in the College between 16:30 and 19:00.</p> <p>As part of the process, in early January, an options booklet will be available via the “Pupils” section of the website. This will include details of the Options process and information about each of the subjects for families to digest and discuss ahead of the evening.</p> <p>Pupils are encouraged to start discussions about their Option choices with their teachers in advance of the evening.</p> <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</p>

	<p>success stories outside of school, so we can help to celebrate these achievements with our students.</p>
<p>Year 10</p>	<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. Last week we revised for the upcoming assessments and went through some tips for the writing assessment.</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><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><u>Computer Science GCSE</u></p> <p>Thursday lunchtimes there is a drop-in session in ICT1, for students to get support with their programming development – currently students are working on their implementation of a Rock, Paper Scissors game.</p>

	<p><u>GCSE Geography</u></p> <p>Many of you asked for some guidance on how to support your child revise for GCSE Geography at the recent Parents Evening. Below I've included links to some revision guides and helpful websites.</p> <p>We are studying Edexcel Specification B</p> <p><u>Revision guide and workbook</u> Pearson REVISE Edexcel GCSE Geography B Revision Workbook - for 2026, 2027 exams: Amazon.co.uk: Wood, Andrea: 9781292133768: Books</p> <p>Pearson REVISE Edexcel GCSE Geography B Revision Guide incl. online revision - for 2026, 2027 exams: Amazon.co.uk: Bircher, Rob: 9781292133782: Books</p> <p><u>Helpful websites</u> Geography: Edexcel B GCSE <u>Videos</u> Geography B (9–1) from 2016 Pearson qualifications - past papers</p>
Year 11	<p><u>Pastoral Support</u></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><u>Silver 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><u>Computer Science GCSE</u></p> <p>Tuesday lunchtimes there is a drop-in session in ICT1, for students to get support with their programming development – This week the focus will be on sequencing code, taking input, giving output and variables.</p> <p><u>GCSE Maths</u></p>

Year 11 individual PinPoint Learning accounts have been updated following the most recent Year 11 Maths Mocks.

Pupils have all been given their updated list of consistent weakness topics and linked MathsWatch videos. To improve, pupils need to watch these highlighted videos and attempt the interactive questions on their identified consistent weakness topics.

In addition, all Year 11 pupils have been given a GCSE Maths paper to attempt for homework this week.

The video link below explains how the PinPoint learning programme works.

[Supporting Year 11 Pupils with GCSE Maths final \(youtube.com\)](#)

Christmas Quiz & Curry Night Raffle Prizes 2025

****New Prize** Two Pantomime Tickets for 'Dick Whittington & his Cat' @ Derby Live!**

****New Prize** Two £20 Amazon Vouchers**

Continental Breakfast for 2 @ Strawberry House Interiors

Carvery for 2 & Bottle of Red Wine @ The Nags Head

Pizza & Bottle of Wine @ The Castle Inn

2 Pizza's & 1 Salad (Free Home Delivery) @ Pizzeria Fiamma

Lunch for 2 @ Swarkestone Nursery

Afternoon Tea for 2 @ Tylers Tearooms

Gift Voucher for The Beauty Lounge, Kegworth

Gift Voucher for Tracey Bainbridge Beauty

Gift Voucher for Antony Scott Hair

Gift Voucher & Cuticle Oil for Hidden Gems, Mobile Massage Beauty & Nails

Hair Products from Hairport

£10 Voucher for Clip n Climb

Small Gift from Craft-Tea

Christmas Cupcakes from Cupcakes & Doilies

1 x Free Car MOT @ Allens Autocentre

Gift Voucher for The Workhouse Gym

Two Free Entry Passes for Roller World Derby

Purchase your raffle tickets online now!

www.trybooking.com/uk/FNYP





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Price per hour

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Y11 French revision sessions. Monday lunch.

Date	Skill practice/focus	Tier
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



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)	