



CASTLE DONINGTON COLLEGE

WEEKLY PARENT BULLETIN

19th 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>Merry Christmas!</p> <p>Please take some time to read our End of Term Newsletter.</p> <p>We look forward to seeing pupils back in College on Tuesday 6th January.</p> <p>We hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!</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</p>
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college. We understand parking can be challenging at busy times, but please be mindful of residents' driveways and access points.

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/QyKDZIHmAkl>

Hire our facilities

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

See the end of the bulletin for more information about our full size 3G football pitch.

MFL Film Club

Every Thursday lunchtime in L3.

	<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>Breakfast Club</u></p> <p>Breakfast Club runs every day in the library from 8am. You can come in and chat with your friends, read any of our lovely books, or bring your own, have a game of chess, or just sit quietly before the day begins. We do not provide food, but you are welcome to bring your own,</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 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>Year 10 revision sessions will continue after half term and will be every other Wednesday (every week 2) starting from the first week back. Please encourage your child to attend as we will be covering content that will be useful both in lessons and for assessments/exams.</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><u>Pearson REVISE Edexcel GCSE Geography B Revision Guide incl. online revision - for 2026, 2027 exams: Amazon.co.uk: Bircher, Rob: 9781292133782: Books</u></p> <p><u>Helpful websites</u> Geography: Edexcel B GCSE Videos Geography B (9–1) from 2016 Pearson qualifications - past papers</p>
Year 11	<p><u>Parents’ Evening</u></p> <p>Parents of pupils in year 11 have the opportunity to discuss your child’s progress in each subject area at our upcoming online Parents’ Evening on Thursday 15th January.</p> <p>We have an online appointment booking system which will allow you to book appointment times to suit. The online booking system is open from 4.00pm on December 18th will close at 1pm on January 15th 2026. Each appointment will be kept strictly to 5 minutes in length. We encourage pupils to be online with you for each appointment.</p> <p>To book your appointment, please visit https://cdcollege.schoolcloud.co.uk You will need to log in with the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child’s first name • Child’s surname

- Child's date of birth

Please note that your child's name must match exactly what we have on the College system. For example, Sam may be Samuel or vice versa.

If you wish to discuss a matter connected to behaviour, attendance or welfare, please contact school and ask to talk your child's form teacher or Head of Year in the first instance.

Pastoral Support

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.

Silver Duke of Edinburgh

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.

Computer Science GCSE

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.

GCSE Maths

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, Year 11 pupils have been given their individual PinPoint Learning booklet to complete for homework. This personalised booklet has been created based on the pupils' 5 weakest topic areas from the December Mocks Paper 1 (Non-Calculator).

The front cover of the booklet also includes a list of linked MathsWatch videos to watch. Solutions to the booklets can be found if pupils log into their PinPoint Learning account. Login details are on the front cover of the booklet.

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

Supporting Year 11 Pupils with GCSE Maths final (youtube.com)

GCSE Textiles, Graphics and Art

The Textiles, Graphics and Art exam titles will be released by AQA on the 2nd January. Mr Blood, Mr Brennan and I plan on sending these out on that day to students through their school emails. Students are then able to choose their titles and start their projects before they return on the 6th.

This project is incredibly rapid, so getting a good start really helps them. I will be sending textiles students home with their new books to allow them to begin their projects if they choose to, please encourage this!

Many thanks,
Laura Dudley
Textiles teacher



CASTLE DONINGTON COLLEGE



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Y11 French revision sessions. Monday lunch.

Date	Skill practice/focus	Tier
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)	