



# CASTLE DONINGTON COLLEGE

## WEEKLY PARENT BULLETIN

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

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><b><u>Did you attend Castle Donington College?</u></b> 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: <a href="#">Castle Donington College Alumni – Fill out form</a></p> <p><b><u>Communication with the College</u></b> If you need to contact the college, you can telephone on 01332 810528 Email for general queries: <a href="mailto:postroom@cdcollege.uk">postroom@cdcollege.uk</a> Please include the nature of your enquiry in the subject line of the email. You can contact us regarding absences: <a href="mailto:attendance@cdcollege.uk">attendance@cdcollege.uk</a> Please include full details and attach/screenshot appointment cards for our records. For <b>all</b> communication with the SEND department, please direct emails to our central SEND inbox – <a href="mailto:send@cdcollege.uk">send@cdcollege.uk</a></p> <p><b><u>Responsible Parking Reminder</u></b> We kindly ask for your cooperation in ensuring responsible and considerate parking when collecting or dropping off pupils at Castle Donington College.  We would very much appreciate you avoiding using the main drive between 8:30 and 8:45am and 3:15 and 3:25pm, unless this is absolutely necessary, to maintain the safety of those pupils who walk or bike to and from school.  We are also mindful of local residents, including families with accessibility needs, who have raised concerns about blocked access on roads approaching the college. We understand parking can be challenging at busy times, but please be cognisant of residents' driveways and access points.</p>
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### Change to the school day during Mock Exams

From **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February**, 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

### PE lessons during Mock Exams

During the period from **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February**, 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.**

### 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](mailto: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.

### **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, the this may result in the pupil being asked to hand over the device (for safe keeping) at the start of each day.

You may also have seen more information in the press this week around the use of mobile phones in schools. We will continue to monitor and, if necessary, update our policy when we receive further guidance from the Department of Education, which is expected in the near future.

### 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](https://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](#)

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

### **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.

### **Puzzle Club**

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.

### **Creative Writing Club**

For any budding authors, songwriters and poets. Come along and have a go at writing your very own masterpiece. It’s a lovely quiet session but help is on hand if you need it, just ask. Thursday lunch times in the library.

### **Breakfast Club**

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

	<p>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> <p><b><u>National Year of Reading 2026</u></b></p> <p><u>Turn what they love into a love of reading</u></p> <p>Children come alive when they're exploring the things they're passionate about. From gaming and football to cooking, dancing and thrillers – every word counts. The National Year of Reading 2026 is your chance to help your child discover new worlds, grow confidence and build a lifelong love of reading – all through the everyday moments you already share.</p> <p><u>Help their reading grow with them</u></p> <p>Reading often takes a dip in the teenage years as school pressure, screens and social lives grow. But, at the same time, their interests grow stronger than ever. The National Year of Reading offers resources and ideas that use their passions to get them engaged and make reading feel like something they choose, not something they're told to do.</p> <p><u>Is your child a reluctant reader?</u></p> <p><u><a href="#">Advice for parents to encourage children and teens reading - Scottish Book Trust</a></u></p> <p><u>Do they prefer audiobooks to paperbacks?</u></p> <p><u><a href="#">Tips on how to listen to an audio book   Words for Life</a></u></p> <p><u>Do they need reading recommendations?</u></p> <p><u><a href="https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/good-housekeeping-ten-must-reads-for-11-to-13-year-olds/">https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/good-housekeeping-ten-must-reads-for-11-to-13-year-olds/</a></u></p>
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Year 7	<p><b><u>Pastoral Support</u></b></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><b><u>Pastoral Support</u></b></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><b><u>Options Evening</u></b></p> <p>We are holding an Options Evening in school on 29th January 2026 where you can speak to teachers of the option subjects and make appointments to discuss your child’s progress in English, maths and science. These appointments are now live and bookable via SchoolCloud.</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 via a marketplace in our Gym and dining hall. You will not need to make appointments for the option subjects. We recommend that you and your child attend the evening together in school. The evening will take place in the College between 16:30 and 19:00.</p> <p>As part of the process, a launch assembly has already taken place with the pupils and options booklets have provided to all pupils. Our website has been updated with videos and a digital copy of the booklet. This will clarify the 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><b><u>Pastoral Support</u></b></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> <p><b><u>Calculators</u></b></p> <p>Please ensure that your child has a calculator to use in their Maths and Science lessons.</p>
Year 10	<p><b><u>Pastoral Support</u></b></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><b><u>French revision sessions</u></b></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</p>

back. Please encourage your child to attend as we will be covering content that will be useful both in lessons and for assessments/exams.

### **Bronze 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. There have been several messages in assemblies about this. 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.

### **Computer Science GCSE**

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.

### **GCSE Geography**

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.

We are studying **Edexcel Specification B**

#### **Revision guide and workbook**

[Pearson REVISE Edexcel GCSE Geography B Revision Workbook - for 2026, 2027 exams: Amazon.co.uk: Wood, Andrea: 9781292133768: Books](#)

[Pearson REVISE Edexcel GCSE Geography B Revision Guide incl. online revision - for 2026, 2027 exams: Amazon.co.uk: Bircher, Rob: 9781292133782: Books](#)

	<p><u><a href="#">Helpful websites for geography GCSE</a></u>  <u><a href="#">Geography: Edexcel B GCSE</a></u>  <u><a href="#">Videos</a></u>  <u><a href="#">Geography B (9–1) from 2016   Pearson qualifications - past papers</a></u></p>
Year 11	<p><b><u>Pastoral Support</u></b></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><b><u>Silver Duke of Edinburgh</u></b></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><b><u>Computer Science GCSE</u></b></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><b><u>GCSE Maths</u></b></p> <p>Year 11 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.</p> <p>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 2 (Calculator allowed). The front cover of this 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.</p>

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

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

### **Design GCSE** – Every Tuesday lunchtime

Lunchtime session to allow focus on NEA. Perfect chance to get better 1 to 1 feedback and make progress towards successful completion of NEA and practical work.

### **GCSE Graphics** – Extra sessions

Every Wednesday lunchtime and Wednesday after school

Time to really push on with component 2 prep. A chance for better 1 to 1 feedback and access to resources to ensure you are fully prepared for the March exam period.

### **GCSE Geography Revision**

We are running session on Wednesday lunchtimes and Thursday afterschool each week until the exams in May and June. They will be in H2.

### **GCSE Geography**

Please see below for some guidance on how to support your child revise for GCSE Geography. Below I've included links to some revision guides and helpful websites.

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#### Revision guide and workbook

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[Pearson REVISE Edexcel GCSE Geography B Revision Guide incl. online revision - for 2026, 2027 exams: Amazon.co.uk: Bircher, Rob: 9781292133782: Books](#)

Helpful websites for geography GCSE

Geography: Edexcel B GCSE

Videos

Geography B (9–1) from 2016 | Pearson qualifications - past papers

**GCSE English Revision**

Every lunchtime (1.40pm-2pm) in E1 with Mrs Eaton focusing on:

Monday: The Merchant of Venice

Tuesday: Animal Farm

Wednesday: Merchant of Venice Context

Thursday: Silent Revision

Friday: Animal Farm Context

**Class Teacher Drop-in Revision sessions:**

Ms Hardman: Monday lunchtime E6

Ms Forster: Monday lunchtime E5

Ms Robertson: Tuesday after school (3.15pm-4pm)

Ms Jones: Thursday after school (3.15pm-4pm)

**GCSE Media Studies Revision:**

Every Tuesday lunch time in ICT2 with Ms Nixon/Ms Forster.  
Chance to complete your NEA and revise for the mock exam.

**GCSE Spanish**

GCSE Spanish revision sessions will resume next Thursday (29<sup>th</sup> January) and continue every Thursday lunch time after that in L1. Please encourage your child to attend as we will be revising important skills exams, with an emphasis on speaking and writing.

Please support your child in completing any Activehub work they have been set by their teacher. Completing all work set will help to consolidate the content they have been learning in lessons.

Any issues with Activehub log ins, please contact Miss Bettison.



CASTLE DONINGTON COLLEGE

East Midlands  
Colleges Trust

## Hire our BRAND NEW 3G Pitch

### We are now open...

Monday to Friday  
5.00 – 9.00pm  
Saturday and Sunday  
9.00am – 6:00pm

Full size, state of the art 3rd Generation (3G) floodlit football pitch, with the latest artificial grass and rubber crumb surface

Available to hire by local clubs, teams, organisations and general public.

The pitch is marked out with;  
1 x 11-a-side  
1 x 9-a-side  
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**Full Pitch**

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**Visit** - [www.cdcollege.uk](http://www.cdcollege.uk) **Book direct on SchoolHire**

<https://schoolhire.co.uk/derby/cdcollege>



## Y11 French revision sessions. Monday lunch.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Skill practice/focus</u>	<u>Tier</u>
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



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