



CASTLE DONINGTON COLLEGE

WEEKLY PARENT BULLETIN

20th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

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



Buy raffle tickets here:

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GCCG>



FRIENDS OF CASTLE DONINGTON PARENTS
AND TEACHERS ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU TO

ADULTS
ONLY

A NIGHT AT THE RACES

SUPPORTED BY:  availableCar

PLACE YOUR BETS FOR A NIGHT OF FUN!

FRIDAY 24TH APRIL 2026 | 7 - 10pm
AT CASTLE DONINGTON COLLEGE

FOOD • BAR • RACING!

Supporting Castle Donington College

EARLY BIRD
OFFER!
£10.00
UNTIL 31ST MARCH*

*PRICE WILL INCREASE TO £11.00 FROM 31ST MARCH



Pie & Peas
included

SPONSOR

A HORSE FOR **£5** OR A RACE
FOR **£25** TO BE IN WITH
A CHANCE TO WIN A
BOTTLE OF
CHAMPAGNE!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK!





CASTLE DONINGTON COLLEGE



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
2 x 7-a-side
4 x 5-a-side pitches



Price per hour

Full Pitch

£100.00

Half Pitch

£50.00

Quarter Pitch

£25.00

Telephone - 01332 810528 Reception

Email - lettings@cdcollege.uk

Visit - www.cdcollege.uk **Book direct on SchoolHire**

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



SEND FRIENDS COFFEE MORNING



You are warmly invited to our SEND Support Group for parents and carers of children & young people with special educational needs/disabilities.

10am-11:30am across North West Leicestershire

8th January: Greenhill Family Hub

5th February: Measham Family Hub

12th March: Castle Donington Family Hub

16th April: Greenhill Family Hub

7th May: Measham Family Hub

4th June: Castle Donington Family Hub

2nd July: Greenhill Family Hub

Follow Leicestershire Local Offer
Facebook Page for updates



All Years	<p><u>Non-uniform Day – Friday March 27th</u></p> <p>We will be having a non-uniform day on the last day of term (Friday 27th March). £1 voluntary donations can be made on ParentPay or by cash on the day.</p> <p>Proceeds will be divided between the School Council Fund and Comic Relief.</p> <p>We kindly remind parents and pupils that although pupils may wear their own clothes, they must still be dressed appropriately for a normal school day. Clothing should be practical, comfortable, and suitable for a school environment. This means no items with slogans, revealing outfits, or anything that could disrupt the learning atmosphere.</p> <p>Additionally, pupils who have PE lessons on that day are still required to bring their full PE kit to participate safely and fully in activities.</p> <p><u>Message from The University of Nottingham: 2026 Business of Science Innovation Awards</u></p> <p>Young scientists, innovators and entrepreneurs step forward. The University of Nottingham has joined the search for this year’s brightest science minds. If you have an idea that has the power to change the future, solve a big issue, or make a difference, we want to hear from you. Whether tackling climate change, improving health, or solving resource shortages, science can unlock the answers. Dream big. Capture your idea on a page. Get your idea seen by some of the UK’s most eminent scientists. <u>Enter the 2026 Business of Science Innovation Awards</u> to be in with a chance of winning up to £1,000. Shortlisted entries are offered the opportunity to join leading businesses, universities and experts at this year’s Business of Science Conference in Nottingham. Closing date for the competition is midnight Sunday 29th March 2026. The winners of the primary, secondary and 18+ categories will be announced during the conference on Thursday 14th May 2025.</p> <p><u>Growing up in the online world: a national consultation</u></p> <p>The government are consulting on further measures to prepare children for the future in an age of rapid technological change. This includes potential age restrictions on social media and other services such as gaming sites and AI chatbots, restrictions on addictive design features and risky functionalities, and better support for parents and families. This consultation closes at 11:59pm on 26 May 2026</p> <p>You can have your say here.</p>
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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

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.

Road Safety and Responsible Behaviour reminder

As the lighter evenings arrive, we kindly ask parents and carers to support us in reminding pupils about the importance of road safety and appropriate behaviour when travelling to and from school. Please encourage your child to follow traffic rules, wear helmets, be mindful of pedestrians, and act responsibly at all times. Thank you for working with us to reinforce these vital messages.

Responsible Parking Reminder 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 cycle 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.

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. 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.

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. You can read the DfE guidance on the use of mobile phones in schools here: [Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK](#)

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/QyKDZlHmAkI>

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

Did you attend Castle Donington College?

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](#)

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.

Hire our facilities

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

See the beginning 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.

PE clubs

KS3 football has moved to Thursday after school.

KS4 Boys Fitness club

The fitness suite is available each Thursday for Year 10 and 11 boys to use 3:15-4:15

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 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.

Anthea Bell Translation Prize

It is not too late to enter the competition! KS3 tutors have shared the information with pupils who need to get an entry form from Madame Amyot if interested. All entries must be returned to L3 by the 25th of March.



The poster features a large red quotation mark on the left. At the top center is the QTE logo, which consists of the letters 'QTE' in a stylized font with red arrows pointing right. Below the logo, the title 'Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators' is written in red. The main text is in black, asking if the reader is a risk taker, problem solver, critical thinker, or creative writer. It then describes the competition as a national translation competition for secondary school students aged 11-18. The dates 'Monday 2 February - Friday 27 March' and 'Winners announced in June 2026' are highlighted in red. A list of languages to translate from is provided, with 'French' and 'Russian' in red. A QR code is located to the right of the list. At the bottom, there are logos for The Queen's College University of Oxford and The Queen's College Translation Exchange, along with a red double arrow graphic on the right.

“

QTE

**Anthea Bell Prize
for Young Translators**

**Are you a risk taker? A problem solver?
A critical thinker? A creative writer?**

Take part in the Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators, a national translation competition for secondary school students aged 11-18.

**Monday 2 February - Friday 27 March
Winners announced in June 2026**

Translate poetry, fiction and non-fiction from:

- **French** (into English and Welsh)
- **German**
- **Italian**
- **Mandarin**
- **Russian** (including beginners')
- **Spanish**



  

National Year of Reading 2026

Turn what they love into a love of reading

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.

Help their reading grow with them

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.

[Is your child a reluctant reader?](#)

[Advice for parents to encourage children and teens reading - Scottish Book Trust](#)

[Do they prefer audiobooks to paperbacks?](#)

[Tips on how to listen to an audio book | Words for Life](#)

[Do they need reading recommendations?](#)

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/good-housekeeping-ten-must-reads-for-11-to-13-year-olds/>

Farms without Fences

You may be interested in this upcoming event in Nottinghamshire: Opening gates to inclusive and accessible agriculture – with hands-on activities, inspiring talks and pathways into education and careers. An event for children and young people with SEND.

What to Expect

- Inspiring talks from farming leaders championing inclusion across the industry
- Interactive discussions exploring practical steps to build a more welcoming and accessible farming future
- Hands-on activities suitable for all ages and experience levels
- Connections with local organisations offering community projects, learning opportunities, and career pathway

[Farms without Fences | WIFF Website \(Live\)](#)

Opening gates to inclusive and accessible agriculture – with hands-on activities, inspiring talks and pathways into education and careers

25th April 2026

12:00-16:00

FarmEco Community Care Farm,
off Lodge Lane, Screveton, Nottingham NG13 8JL

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> <p>Miss Najib is supporting year 8 next week, whilst Mr Brown is away.</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>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>Work Experience</u></p> <p>Thank you to everyone who has submitted their Work Experience forms. We understand that some pupils are finding it challenging to secure placements—this is a valuable part of the process, helping to build resilience and tenacity.</p> <p>For those who have not yet secured a placement, we encourage you to keep persevering and continue reaching out to potential employers. Please note that the school has a limited number of contacts for placements, and these may not always align with pupils' preferred fields.</p> <p>Keep going—you're developing important skills that will benefit you in the future!</p>

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.

Silver Duke of Edinburgh

Students interested in completing silver DofE will be bringing a letter home to sign. This is open to students who have completed Bronze and to students who have not completed bronze. If you need a letter, please get your son/ daughter to ask Mr Walker.

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](#)

[Helpful websites for geography GCSE](#)

[Geography: Edexcel B GCSE](#)

[Videos](#)

	<p>Geography B (9–1) from 2016 Pearson qualifications - past papers</p> <p><u>GCSE PE</u></p> <p>Y10 students have their end of unit assessments over the next week, they have been set revision to prepare for this.</p> <p>All Y10 students have been given their athletics letters, we need the reply slip and payment made on parent pay please.</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 need 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> <p>Pupils’ PinPoint Learning accounts have been updated following the most recent Year 11 Maths Mocks.</p> <p>Over the next few lessons all pupils will be given their updated list of consistent weakness topics and linked Maths Watch videos. To improve, pupils will need to watch the highlighted videos and attempt the interactive questions on MathsWatch on their identified consistent weakness topics.</p> <p>In addition, all Year 11 pupils have been given a copy of their personalised 16-Page Pinpoint learning booklet. This booklet has</p>

been created based on the pupils' 5 weakest topic areas from the most recent Maths Mock Paper 1 (calculator not allowed). 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. Maths Club is on every Tuesday 3.15-4.15pm in the Maths department. All pupils are welcome to attend. Pupils need to work through this booklet for homework this week and ask their maths teacher if they are having any difficulties.

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 and Wednesday after school

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.

Wednesday after school sessions in D2 with Mr Blood are open to both **Graphics** and **Design** students

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.

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](#)

[Helpful websites for geography GCSE](#)

[Geography: Edexcel B GCSE](#)

[Videos](#)

[Geography B \(9–1\) from 2016 | Pearson qualifications - past papers](#)

GCSE English Challenge

English are running a vocabulary challenge until exams. There will be a link posted to Sachel that will direct students to quizlet. There they can practice their vocabulary skills in preparation for exams.

Students who consistently practice and test themselves will be given a **reward** at the end of each half term. Have a vocabtastic time!

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)

	<p><u>GCSE Media Studies Revision:</u> Every Tuesday lunch time in ICT2 with Ms Nixon/Ms Forster. Chance to complete your NEA and revise for the mock exam.</p> <p><u>GCSE French</u> Due to pupils' requests to change the day of the revision sessions, they will now take place on Wednesday after school (timetable attached at the end of the bulletin).</p> <p><u>GCSE Combined Science</u> Revision sessions will be run in S5 with Mr Brown on the following days: Wednesday after school (15:15 – 16:15) - Exam style practice Thursday (1345-1410) - Content revision clinic</p> <p><u>GCSE PE</u> Students can access the Revision Tab on their personal Ever-learner with updated revision topics. There are also 'hot topics' with links to quizzes for revision. Students can collect past papers from PE1, knowledge organisers and other revision materials. Y11 practical exam will be on Monday 27th April – all students will need to bring their kit on this day.</p>
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Y11 French revision sessions. Wednesday after school.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Skill practice/focus</u>	<u>Tier</u>
25/3	Listening practice	F + H
		F + H
Easter holiday 2 hr TBC	Speaking	F only
Easter holiday 2 hr TBC	Speaking	H only
		F + H
15/4	Dictation practice	F + H
22/4	Reading practice	F + H
29/4	90 words writing	F + H
13/5	Listening + reading practice	F + H
20/5	Listening, dictation practice	F + H
27/5	Writing, verbs and tenses	F + H
3/6	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)	