



CASTLE DONINGTON COLLEGE

WEEKLY PARENT BULLETIN

8th May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

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

We have changed the formatting of the bulletin slightly, so that new, updated, or key information for next week appears first, followed by year group specific information and then general notices.

Key Information for next week

Proposed School Term Dates from Autumn 2027 to Summer 2032

A [consultation on proposed school term dates](#) has been launched this week and will run from Tuesday 5 May to Monday 15 June. Leicestershire County Council are keen to hear your views on the proposals.

Feedback will help shape the pattern that schools follow over the next five years for schools controlled by the local authority. Although academies, including Castle Donington College, choose their own dates, we largely still align with the council's patterns.

The consultation includes two options for term dates for the academic years from Autumn 2027 to Summer 2032.

Both options keep Leicestershire's early start to the summer holidays, around two weeks earlier than neighbouring local authorities.

- Option one is a continuation of the current term date pattern.

- Option two preserves the early summer break and includes an earlier start to the autumn term to accommodate a two-week October half-term.

More information, and a link to the survey to have your say, can be found here: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/term-dates-consultation.

Printed copies of the survey are available by emailing admissions@leics.gov.uk.

Mobile Phone Use

Following The Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act becoming law in April, we would like to ask that you remind your child of the school rules regarding mobile phone use:

In line with statutory requirements, our school operates as a mobile phone-free environment during the school day. Allowing access to mobile phones introduces unnecessary risks, including distraction from learning, disruption, and potential safeguarding issues such as bullying or misuse.

Pupils are not permitted to use mobile phones, personal devices, or headphones (including AirPods) at any point during the school day (8:45am – 3:15pm), including lessons, transition times, breaktimes and lunchtime, **unless there is a specific, agreed exemption in place for a medical need.**

In some cases, pupils may require access to a mobile device to support a medical condition (for example, monitoring blood glucose levels for diabetes). Any such arrangements must be agreed in advance with the school and will include clear guidance on when and how the device can be used.

If a pupil is seen using a mobile device or wearing headphones without an agreed exemption, the item will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day. Repeated breaches of this rule may result in further sanctions, including requiring the pupil to hand in their device to staff for safekeeping at the start of each day.

We ask for your support in reinforcing these expectations at home. If you need to contact your child during the school day, please do so via the school office.

Year 11 Exams next week

Week 1	Monday 11th May - Friday 15th May				
Mon 11 May	09:15	01:45	EDEXL	1ET0 01	English Lit:Shakesp. & Post 1914 Lit.
Tue 12 May	13:15	01:45	AQA	8461/1H	Biology Paper 1 Tier H
Tue 12 May	13:15	01:45	AQA	8461/1F	Biology Paper 1 Tier F
Tue 12 May	13:15	01:15	AQA	8464/B/1H	Combined Sci Trilogy Biology P1H
Tue 12 May	13:15	01:15	AQA	8464/B/1F	Combined Sci Trilogy Biology P1F
Wed 13 May	09:15	01:30	EDEXL	1GB0 01	Geography:Global Geog.Issues
Wed 13 May	13:15	01:30	OCR	J277/01	Comp Sci: Computer Systems Wrtn
Thu 14 May	09:15	01:30	AQA	8300/1F	Mathematics Paper 1 Tier F
Thu 14 May	09:15	01:30	AQA	8300/1H	Mathematics Paper 1 Tier H
Thu 14 May	13:15	01:45	OCR	J270/02	Ctznshp Stds: Ctznshp in Action Wtn
Fri 15 May	09:15	01:20	EDEXL	1HI0 10	History: Crime & Punishment
Fri 15 May	09:15	01:20	EDEXL	1HI0 11	History: Medicine in Britain

Year Group Specific Information

Year 7	<p><u>CDC Ambassador Programme</u></p> <p>All Year 7 students have been offered the opportunity to become part of our ambassador programme; designed to make the College a place where everyone feels safe, valued and able to belong. This is an exciting opportunity in which students will act as valuable role models, listeners and positive change-makers across the college.</p> <p>Successful applicants will gain the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leadership and teamwork experience• A recognised role they can evidence on applications• Development of listening skills, inclusion and safeguarding awareness• Pride in making a real difference and visible change across the college• Various rewards throughout the year <p>Please speak to your child about this opportunity and encourage them to apply here.</p> <p>All applications must be submitted by Monday 11th May 2026</p> <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>CDC Ambassador Programme</u></p> <p>All Year 8 students have been offered the opportunity to become part of our ambassador programme; designed to make the College a place where everyone feels safe, valued and able to belong. This is an exciting opportunity in which students will act as valuable role models, listeners and positive change-makers across the college.</p> <p>Successful applicants will gain the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leadership and teamwork experience• A recognised role they can evidence on applications• Development of listening skills, inclusion and safeguarding awareness• Pride in making a real difference and visible change across the college• Various rewards throughout the year

	<p>Please speak to your child about this opportunity and encourage them to apply here.</p> <p>All applications must be submitted by Monday 11th May 2026</p> <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>CDC Ambassador Programme</u></p> <p>All Year 9 students have been offered the opportunity to become part of our ambassador programme; designed to make the College a place where everyone feels safe, valued and able to belong. This is an exciting opportunity in which students will act as valuable role models, listeners and positive change-makers across the college.</p> <p>Successful applicants will gain the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership and teamwork experience • A recognised role they can evidence on applications • Development of listening skills, inclusion and safeguarding awareness • Pride in making a real difference and visible change across the college • Various rewards throughout the year <p>Please speak to your child about this opportunity and encourage them to apply here.</p> <p>All applications must be submitted by Monday 11th May 2026</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 are every other Wednesday (every week 2). 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>Spanish revision sessions</u> KS4 Spanish revision sessions are every Wednesday lunchtime and every Thursday after school. If your child is unable to attend at these times, please contact Mrs Smith to arrange another time slot. Please encourage your child to attend as the Speaking exams are approaching for Year 11 and we will be covering content that will be useful for both Year 10 and 11.</p> <p><u>Work Experience</u> 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. 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. Keep going—you’re developing important skills that will benefit you in the future!</p> <p><u>Computer Science GCSE</u> 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>
Year 11	<p><u>Pastoral Support</u> 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>Computer Science GCSE</u> 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 Geography Revision</u> We are running session on Wednesday lunchtimes and Thursday afterschool each week until the exams in May and June. They will be in H2. Helpful websites for geography GCSE Geography: Edexcel B GCSE Videos Geography B (9–1) from 2016 Pearson qualifications - past papers</p> <p><u>GCSE English Challenge</u> 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.</p>

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

Wednesday afterschool (3:15pm-4:00pm) E1 with Mrs Eaton

What a great response looks like. Focusing on all elements of both Language and Literature.

Thursday afterschool (3:15pm – 4:00pm) E3 with Ms Jones focusing on:

Silent revision – a space to write.

English 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 French

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).

GCSE Combined Science

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

GCSE PE Y11

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. They were set a 'Ever-Learner' mock paper to complete over Easter.

Mr Delaney is running after school revision sessions, these will last for 2 hours.

These will cover all 'hot topics' that have been identified and how to structure specific answers to questions on exam technique.

Paper 2 – Wednesday 13th May – 3.20 - 5pm.

GCSE Maths

Year 11 pupils have all been given a GCSE Practice Paper 1 to work through for revision. This paper has video solutions, so pupils can mark their work once completed.

Individual class teachers will also work through any difficulties in class.

In addition, Pupils' PinPoint Learning accounts have been updated following the most recent Year 11 Maths Mocks.

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

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

[Supporting Year 11 Pupils with GCSE Maths final \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

For additional support Maths Club is on every Tuesday 3.15-4.15pm in the Maths department. All pupils are welcome to attend.

Y11 French revision sessions. Wednesday after school

<u>Date</u>	<u>Skill practice/focus</u>	<u>Tier</u>
13/5	Reading practice	F+H
20/5	90 words writing	F + H
3/6	Writing 150 words	H only

General Information

General Information

Change to the school day during the exam season

From **Tuesday 5th May** until **Friday 25th June**, the school day will run as follows:

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

PE lessons during the exam season

During the period from **Tuesday 5th May to Friday 25th June** 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 period of time, pupils will remain in their PE kit throughout the entire school day. For these PE sessions, pupils should ensure they have appropriate footwear.

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.

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.

Growing up in the online world: a national consultation

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**

You can have your say [here](#).

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/QyKDZIHmAkI>

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](#)

Clubs

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/news

Y7 and Y8 PE will be having an introduction to rugby sessions in their PE lessons from Wednesday 29th April. Coaches from Melbourne rugby club who work with the RFU will be in school delivering these sessions to our students with the support of PE teachers.

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

Girls' fitness club every Wednesday till 4 pm

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.

Chess Club

We are in desperate need of chess sets for our new club starting on Wednesday lunch times. If you would like to purchase one, or maybe you have one that you no longer use, we would be very grateful.

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.



CASTLE DONINGTON COLLEGE

East Midlands
Football Federation

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

Telephone - 01332 810528 Reception

Email - lettings@cdcollege.uk

Visit - www.cdcollege.uk Book direct on SchoolHire
<https://schoolhire.co.uk/derby/cdcollege>



Price per hour

Full Pitch

£100.00

Half Pitch

£50.00

Quarter Pitch

£25.00

Pickleball

Anyone for Pickleball...

Pickleball is a rapidly growing, low-impact paddle sport that blends elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis. Played on a badminton-sized court with a lowered net, it uses a solid paddle and a plastic ball with holes, making it easy to learn and accessible to all ages and skill levels.



Hours...

Mon to Fri
5pm – 9pm
Sat & Sun
9am – 1pm

Book direct on SchoolHire

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



Get started...

FREE loan of equipment
FREE set of basic rules

Price...

Only **£8.80** an hour
(+ VAT where applicable)



Castle Donington College
Mount Pleasant
Castle Donington
Derby DE74 2LN

Telephone - 01332 810528 Reception

Email - lettings@cdcollege.uk

Visit - www.cdcollege.uk

Exclusive Ticket Offer

Nottingham Forest Netball Experience a night of elite netball at the Motorpoint Arena Nottingham as Nottingham Forest Netball take on Manchester!

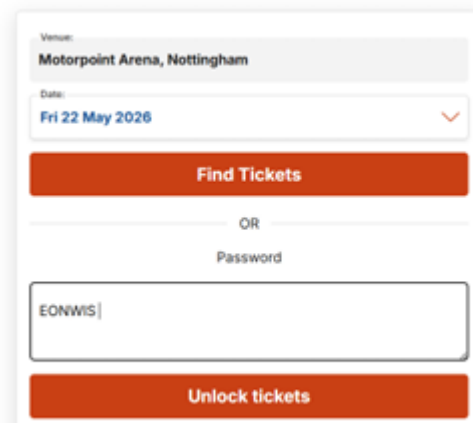
Friday 22 May, 7PM Claim your exclusive discount, with tickets from just £2.50 (£3.80 incl. booking fee) - a huge saving vs standard prices from £18!

We need your support as we look to elevate and highlight the value and impact of women in sport and deliver a record-breaking attendance for this fixture. Showing up matters! It drives visibility, investment, and the future of the game for the next generation.

How to claim your exclusive offer:

1. Visit <https://tickets.motorpointarenanottingham.com/shows/show.aspx?sh=NFORES TF26>

2. Select Friday 22 May



The screenshot shows a web form for finding tickets. At the top, it says 'Venue: Motorpoint Arena, Nottingham'. Below that is a date selector showing 'Fri 22 May 2026'. There is an orange button labeled 'Find Tickets'. Below this is an 'OR' separator and a 'Password' field. The password field contains the text 'EONWIS'. At the bottom is another orange button labeled 'Unlock tickets'.

3. Enter code EONWIS in the password box, click unlock tickets

4. Choose your seats (code works for multiple tickets!)

Hurry, this offer ends at 12pm on Friday 15th May

Bring your friends. Bring the energy. Be part of something big!

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

