



WEEKLY PARENT BULLETIN

15th 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

GCSE Exam Timetable for next week

Mon 18 May	09:15	01:45	AQA	8462/1H	Chemistry Paper 1 Tier H
Mon 18 May	09:15	01:45	AQA	8462/1F	Chemistry Paper 1 Tier F
Mon 18 May	09:15	01:15	AQA	8464/C/1H	Combined Sci Trilogy Chemistry P1H
Mon 18 May	09:15	01:15	AQA	8464/C/1F	Combined Sci Trilogy Chemistry P1F
Mon 18 May	13:15	01:30	WJEC	C680U10-1	Media Studies COMP1 Exploring Media
Tue 19 May	09:15	02:15	EDEXL	1ET0 02	English Lit: 19C Nov/Poetry Since 1789
Tue 19 May	13:15	01:15	OCR	R057/01	Child Dev: Hlth Wll-Bng Chld Dev Wtn
Tue 19 May	13:15	01:30	OCR	J277/02	Comp Sci: Comp Thnk Algrthm Prgrm Wtn
Wed 20 May	09:15	00:35	AQA	8652/LF	French Listening Test Tier F
Wed 20 May	09:15	00:45	AQA	8652/RF	French Reading Test Tier F
Wed 20 May	09:15	00:45	AQA	8652/LH	French Listening Test Tier H
Wed 20 May	09:15	01:00	AQA	8652/RH	French Reading Test Tier H
Thu 21 May	09:15	01:45	EDEXL	1EN0 01	English Lang: Fiction & Imag.Writing
Eri 22 May	09:15	01:15	AQA	8582/1	Physical Education Paper 1

Free School Meals eligibility

From **September 2026**, there will be a significant change to Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility in England:

All children in families receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals, regardless of household income. This replaces the current system, where families must earn below a set income threshold to qualify.

From September 2026, your child will be eligible if you receive:

- Universal Credit (no income limit) or certain other benefits (such as Income Support)
- You will still **need to apply/register** for free school meals through your local authority or school.
- Even if your child already receives meals, **eligibility may be rechecked from September 2026**

This change is expected to help hundreds of thousands more children access a healthy school meal each day. Families could save around **£450–£500 per child each year** on lunch costs.

If you receive Universal Credit, we encourage you to check and apply for free school meals ahead of September 2026. [Free School Meals | Leicestershire County Council](#)

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.

Year Group Specific Information

Year 7	<p><u>Pastoral Support</u> 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> 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>Pastoral Support</u> 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> 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> 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</p>

	<p>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>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.</p>
Year 11	<p>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.</p> <p>Year 11 Individual Timetables June 1st onwards Pupils will be bringing home printed copies of these. Pupils have been asked to check all their exams are listed on the timetables and to let Mr Purkiss or Mrs Beeby know if they spot a potential error. Parents will be sent a separate letter with further details.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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. Helpful websites for geography GCSE Geography: Edexcel B GCSE Videos Geography B (9–1) from 2016 Pearson qualifications - past papers</p> <p>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!</p> <p>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</p>

<p>Thursday: Silent Revision Friday: Animal Farm Context</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Thursday afterschool (3:15pm – 4:00pm) E3 with Ms Jones focusing on: Silent revision – a space to write.</p> <p><u>English Class Teacher Drop-in Revision sessions:</u> 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> <p><u>GCSE French revision</u> 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 Y11</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.</p> <p><u>GCSE Maths</u> 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) For additional support Maths Club is on every Tuesday 3.15-4.15pm in the Maths department. All pupils are welcome to attend.</p>

Y11 French revision sessions. Wednesday after school

<u>Date</u>	<u>Skill practice/focus</u>	<u>Tier</u>
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
<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 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. A reminder of the school PE kit:

PE top	Navy-blue college PE top with logo
PE bottoms	Dark coloured sports shorts, tracksuit bottoms or jogging bottoms (minimal branding)
PE trainers	Safe, sensible sports shoes

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

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](#) 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

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



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>



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

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

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