



CASTLE DONINGTON COLLEGE

# WEEKLY PARENT BULLETIN

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

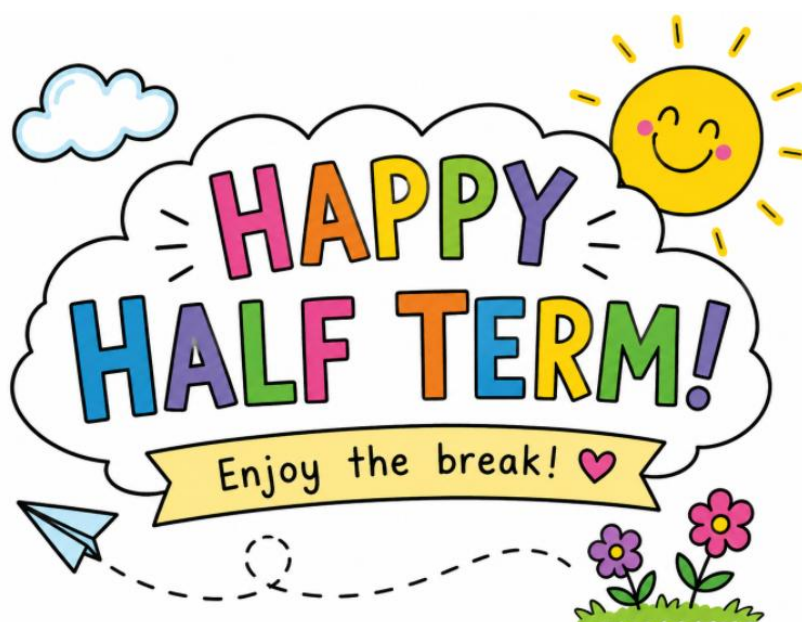
Dear Parents and Carers

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

**Next week is Half Term. School reopens at 8:45am on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June**



## GCSE Exam Timetable for week beginning Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June

Week 1	Monday 1st June - Friday 5th June				
Mon 01 Jun	09:15	01:15	AQA	8582/2	Physical Education Paper 2
Mon 01 Jun	09:15	01:00	OCR	J270/03	Ctznshp Stds: Our Rghts Scty Wrld Wtn
Tue 02 Jun	09:15	01:45	AQA	8463/1H	Physics Paper 1 Tier H
Tue 02 Jun	09:15	01:45	AQA	8463/1F	Physics Paper 1 Tier F
Tue 02 Jun	09:15	01:15	AQA	8464/P/1H	Combined Sci Trilogy Physics P1H
Tue 02 Jun	09:15	01:15	AQA	8464/P/1F	Combined Sci Trilogy Physics P1F
Tue 02 Jun	13:15	00:45	AQA	8688/LH	Polish Listening Test Tier H
Tue 02 Jun	13:15	01:00	AQA	8688/RH	Polish Reading Test Tier H
Tue 02 Jun	13:15	01:30	WJEC	C680U20-1	Medstudies COMP2 Understanding Media
Wed 03 Jun	09:15	01:30	AQA	8300/2F	Mathematics Paper 2 Tier F
Wed 03 Jun	09:15	01:30	AQA	8300/2H	Mathematics Paper 2 Tier H
Wed 03 Jun	13:15	01:45	EDEXL	1GB0 02	Geography: UK Geographical Issues
Thu 04 Jun	09:15		EDEXL	1HI0 P2	History: British America
Thu 04 Jun	13:15		AQA	8652	French Writing
Fri 05 Jun	09:15	02:05	EDEXL	1EN0 02	English Lang: Non-Fic. & Trans. Writing
Fri 05 Jun	13:15	01:15	WJEC	C660U30-1	Music Component 3 Appraising

### Free School Meals eligibility

As you might be aware, the Household Support Fund came to an end on the 31st March 2026.

The grant was provided by central government, via the Department for Work and Pensions and it has been announced that the fund will no longer continue beyond the previous financial year.

This means that the Easter holiday food vouchers was the final round of support.

You can find out more information about how you can access support for children and families with cost of living pressures on the [Cost of Living Support webpages](#)

## **FSM information continued**

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](#)

### **PE lessons during the exam season**

During the period from **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> 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

### **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](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/term-dates-consultation). Printed copies of the survey are available by emailing [admissions@leics.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@leics.gov.uk).

## Year Group Specific Information

Year 7	<p><b>Pastoral Support</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> <p>A reminder the payment deadline for Drayton Manor is <b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June.</b></p>
Year 8	<p><b>Pastoral Support</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> <p>A reminder the payment deadline for Drayton Manor is <b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June.</b></p>
Year 9	<p><b>Pastoral Support</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>A reminder the payment deadline for Alton Towers is <b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June.</b></p> <p><b>Year 9 Maths</b></p> <p>To help support and guide Year 9 with their End of Year exams all pupils have been given a list of topics and linked MathsWatch videos. To find the videos on the sheet pupils are required to change the qualification to GCSE on MathsWatch.</p> <p>In addition to this sheet, pupils are encouraged to watch MathsWatch videos on their identified areas for improvement and attempt the linked interactive questions.</p> <p>Areas of strength and areas for improvement can be found in the pupils Topic Check and Test analysis sheets. All questions on these sheets have linked MathsWatch videos. These sheets are on green paper and can be found in the pupil's exercise book.</p> <p>Year 9 Paper 1 (Non-Calculator) Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June P4 Year 9 Paper 2 (Calculator allowed) Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June P5</p> <p>Maths Club is on every Tuesday 3.15-4.15pm in the Maths department for any pupil who would like further support. All pupils are welcome to attend.</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>A reminder the payment deadline for the Alton Towers is <b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June</b>.</p> <p><b><u>Mock Exams</u></b></p> <p>Year 10 mock exams take place during the weeks beginning 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June. An <u>updated version</u> of the full timetable can be viewed further on in this bulletin. Pupils' subject teachers will be informing pupils of the areas of the specification they need to revise for each exam.</p> <p><b><u>French revision sessions</u></b></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><b><u>Spanish revision sessions</u></b></p> <p>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><b><u>Year 10 Maths</u></b></p> <p>To help support Year 10 pupils with their End of Year exams all pupils have been given a question booklet to work through.</p> <p>Pupils are encouraged to work through these booklets at home as well as in school. Class teachers will go through any difficulties in the lesson.</p> <p>In addition to these booklets, pupils are encouraged to watch MathsWatch videos on their identified areas for improvement and attempt the linked interactive questions.</p> <p>Areas of strength and areas for improvement can be found in the pupils Topic Check and Test analysis sheets. All questions on these sheets have linked MathsWatch videos.</p> <p>These sheets are on green paper and can be found in the pupil's exercise book.</p> <p>Maths Club is on every Tuesday 3.15-4.15pm in the Maths department for any pupil who would like further support. All pupils are welcome to attend.</p> <p><b><u>Work Experience</u></b></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>
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	<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> <p><b><u>Computer Science GCSE</u></b></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>
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>Year 11 Individual Timetables June 1<sup>st</sup> onwards</u></b></p> <p>Pupils have copies of these. Please contact Mr Purkiss with any queries.</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 Geography Revision</u></b></p> <p>We are running session on Wednesday lunchtimes and Thursday afterschool each week until the exams in May and June. They will be in H2.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Helpful websites for geography GCSE</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Geography: Edexcel B GCSE</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Videos</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Geography B (9–1) from 2016   Pearson qualifications - past papers</u></a></p> <p><b><u>GCSE PE Y11</u></b></p> <p>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><b><u>GCSE Maths</u></b></p> <p>Following the GCSE Paper 1 all pupils have been given a Practice paper 2 to work through. Pupils have also been given a list of topics to priorities for their revision. In addition, Dr Frost have released between papers practice resources for the maths exams. These papers focus on the topics that commonly appear on Paper 2 and 3 while accounting for what already has been assessed.</p>

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.

## General Information

### General Information

#### Change to the school day during the exam season

From **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May** until **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> 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

#### Communication with the College

If you need to contact the college, you can telephone on 01332 810528

Email for general queries: [postroom@cdcollege.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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.

### **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/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

## 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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.



## 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](mailto:lettings@cdcollege.uk)  
**Visit** - [www.cdcollege.uk](http://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  
Derbys DE74 2LN

**Telephone** - 01332 810528 Reception  
**Email** - [lettings@cdcollege.uk](mailto:lettings@cdcollege.uk)  
**Visit** - [www.cdcollege.uk](http://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

Follow Leicestershire Local Offer  
Facebook Page for updates



## Year 10 Mock Exam Timetable June 2026 (updated 21.05.26)

AM Session				Date	PM Session			
Subject	Tiers	Paper / Area of specification	Duration		Subject	Tiers	Paper / Area of specification	Duration
Maths non calculator	F	Paper 1	1h 30min	Wednesday 17th June	Music	N/A	Component 3: Appraising	1h 15m
Maths non calculator	H	Paper 1	1h 30min					
English Literature	N/A	Paper 1	1hr 45min	Thursday 18th June	<b>Option D subjects</b>			
					Design	N/A	Paper 1 modified	1h 15m
					Citizenship	N/A	Paper 2	1h 5m
					PE	N/A	Paper 1 and 2 combined	1hr 30m
Science Combined	F	Biology Paper 1	1h 15m	Friday 19th June	Catch up			
Science Combined	H	Biology Paper 1	1h 15m					
Science Triple	ou	Biology Paper 1	1h 45m					
Science Triple	H	Biology Paper 1	1h 45m					
English Language	N/A	Paper 1	1hr 45min	Monday 22nd June	<b>Option A subjects</b>			
					Geography	N/A	Paper 1	1h 30m
					History	N/A	Paper 1 - Crime and Punishment	1h 15m
					French writing	F	French writing	1h 10m
					French writing	H	French writing	1h 15m
					Spanish writing	F	Spanish writing	1h 10m
					Spanish writing	H	Spanish writing	1h 15m
					PE	N/A	Paper 1 and 2 combined	1 hr 30mins
Science Combined	F	Chemistry Paper 1	1h 15m	Tuesday 23rd June	<b>Option C subjects</b>			
Science Combined	H	Chemistry Paper 1	1h 15m		Drama	N/A	Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice	1hr 45mins
Science Triple	F	Chemistry Paper 1	1h 45m		Child Development	N/A	Health and wellbeing	1h
Science Triple	H	Chemistry Paper 1	1h 45m		Citizenship	N/A	Paper 2	1h 5m
					Geography	N/A	Paper 1	1h 30m
				History	N/A	Paper 1 - Crime and Punishment	1h 15m	
Catch up (for students not on Design trip)				Wednesday 24th June	Catch up (for students not on Design trip)			
Maths Calculator	F	Paper 2	1h 30min	Thursday 25th June	<b>Option B subjects</b>			
Maths Calculator	H	Paper 2	1h 30min		Computer Science	N/A	OCR J277 Paper 1 and 2 combined	1h 30m
					Design	N/A	Paper 1 modified	1 h 15m
					Food and Nutrition	N/A	Elements of Paper 1	1 h
					Triple Science	F	Physics Paper 1	1h 45m
					Triple Science	H	Physics Paper 2	1h 45m
				Media	N/A	Paper 1 (first section)	1hr	
Catch up				Friday 26th June	Catch up			