



CASTLE DONINGTON COLLEGE

WEEKLY PARENT BULLETIN

Working Together, Achieving Together

18th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

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

The Bulletin is divided into three sections:



Key Information for Next Week – information relevant to all pupils or pupils in multiple year groups.



Year Group Specific Information – updates and reminders relevant to particular year groups.



General Information – this section contains a mixture of regular information that we include each week and new notices or updates. Although some items may already be familiar, please take a few moments to read through this section each week, as new and important information may be included alongside recurring reminders.



WORD HARD



TAKE RESPONSIBILITY



BE KIND





CASTLE DONINGTON COLLEGE

WORD HARD • TAKE RESPONSIBILITY • BE KIND

*A brighter
future
starts here*

YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING



THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2026
5.00PM – 7.00PM



PRESENTATIONS
AT EITHER

**5:15PM
OR 6:00PM**

TOUR THE COLLEGE
ANY TIME BETWEEN
5PM AND 7PM



*Come and
see what makes
us special*



MEET
OUR STAFF
AND PUPIL
AMBASSADORS



HEAR FROM
THE PRINCIPAL
AND SENIOR
LEADERSHIP TEAM



TOUR
THE COLLEGE
AND EXPLORE
OUR FACILITIES



DISCOVER
OUR BROAD,
ENGAGING
CURRICULUM

*High aspirations
Bright futures*



SCAN HERE
TO BOOK
YOUR PLACE

*We look forward
to welcoming you!*



CASTLE DONINGTON COLLEGE

WORD HARD • TAKE RESPONSIBILITY • BE KIND

Happy
Friendly
Successful



KEY INFORMATION FOR NEXT WEEK



Ski Trip

There will be a parent information evening on Monday 21st of Sep at 5pm to give key information about the trip.

School Photos

Photo proofs were given to pupils to take home to parents on Thursday of this week. Please follow the instructions from JS Photography to purchase them. You will need to order prior to Sunday 4th October.

Allergy Awareness

We have a number of pupils and staff in school with severe allergies to nuts. In line with the principles of **Benedict's Law**, which seeks to improve awareness and safety for those living with serious allergies, we kindly ask parents and carers to refrain from sending pupils to school with nut-based food products wherever possible.

Whilst we cannot guarantee a nut-free environment, reducing the presence of nut products in school helps us to protect members of our community who are at risk of severe allergic reactions.

We would also ask parents and carers to ensure that the school has been informed of any food allergies or dietary needs affecting their child. Pupils with food allergies are reminded to speak to canteen staff before purchasing food so that they can receive advice about ingredients and allergens.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep our school community safe.

New School Facebook Page

Last week we were pleased to launch our new school Facebook page, which you can find [here](#) and will be used to share important school updates, reminders, key dates, and information with our school community.

Please note that the Facebook page is intended as a one-way communication channel for school announcements. We do not monitor the page for enquiries, and any comments or messages sent via Facebook will not receive a response. If you need to contact the school, please do so using our usual communication channels (see the General Information section of this Bulletin)



YEAR GROUP SPECIFIC INFORMATION



Year 7	Pastoral Support 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. <u>MFL Stars of the Week – French</u> 7MW – Jordan 7NS – Issac 7PW – Charlotte 7RB – Ethan 7SA – Cooper <u>Spanish</u> 7MW- Bodhi 7NS- Tom 7PW- Charlotte 7RB- Xanthe 7SA- Cooper You will be given a certificate for your achievement – well done! <u>Mrs Smith's Spelling Bees (MFL)</u> 7MW – Wednesday Week 1 7NS – Thursday Week 1 Learn your words for homework!
Year 8	Pastoral Support 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. <u>Ski Trip</u> There will be a parent information evening on Monday 21st of Sep at 5pm to give key information about the trip. <u>MFL Stars of the Week – French</u> 8NN - Lenny 8CJ - Fred 8ER -Christopher 8LED - Albie 8GT - Sam

	<u>Spanish</u> 8NN - Lenny 8CJ - Alex 8ER – Lily B 8LED- Eva 8GT- Natalie You will be given a certificate for your achievement – well done! <u>Mrs Smith’s Spelling Bees (MFL)</u> 8ER – Tuesday Week 2 8NN – Thursday Week 2 8CJ – Wednesday Week 2 Learn your words for homework!
Year 9	<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. <u>Ski Trip</u> There will be a parent information evening on Monday 21st of Sep at 5pm to give key information about the trip. <u>MFL Stars of the Week – French</u> 9X1 - Abigail 9Y2 – Edward <u>Spanish</u> 9X2 - Elinor 9X3 - Ben 9Y1 – Maisey You will be given a certificate for your achievement – well done! <u>Mrs Smith’s Spelling Bees (MFL)</u> 9x3 – Friday Week 2 9y1 – Wednesday Week 2 Learn your words for homework!
Year 10	<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. <u>Textiles/Graphics/Art GCSE students and families</u>, are invited to join us for the Design Showcase on 8th October, 6-7pm. We will be exhibiting our GSCE leavers work, which can provide inspiration, and aspiration for our current GCSE cohorts!

Textiles and Art coursework catch-up sessions.

If your child takes Textiles or Art GCSE, they have access to extra time in the Textiles and Art room on Wednesdays after school (3:15-4:15pm), and every lunch time.

French exam skills sessions

All pupils studying French are invited to these sessions every Tuesday lunch in L3. We will focus on a different skill each week. Pupils have been given a list of all the sessions for the academic year ahead. A copy is also attached in this bulletin.

Spanish exam skills sessions

All pupils studying Spanish are invited to these sessions every Wednesday or Thursday lunchtime in L1. We will focus on a different skill each week. A list of the revision sessions will be outside L1 for further info.

GCSE PE

All students that ordered kit over the summer should now have their GCSE PE kit to be worn in all practical PE lessons.

Students have also been given their online Ever-Learner login details, this is where we set all GCSE PE weekly homework.

Here is a link to a video explaining how to access and use this online platform

[Using The EverLearner: A guide for parents and guardians](#)

Here is a student video on how to best use the platform

[A student guide on how to use The EverLearner \(PE&Sport with ExamSimulator\)](#)

MFL Stars of the Week – French

Alexis W

Spanish

Alexis H

You will be given a certificate for your achievement – well done!

Mrs Smith's Spelling Bees (Spanish)

10A – Every Tuesday

Learn your words for homework!

Year 11	<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. Textiles/Graphics/Art GCSE students and families, are invited to join us for the Design Showcase on 8th October, 6-7pm. We will be exhibiting our GCSE leavers work, which can provide inspiration, and aspiration for our current GCSE cohorts! Textiles and Art coursework catch-up sessions. If your child takes Textiles or Art GCSE, they have access to extra time in the Textiles and Art room on Wednesdays after school (3:15-4:15pm), and every lunch time. French exam skills sessions All pupils studying French are invited to these sessions every Tuesday lunch in L3. We will focus on a different skill each week. Pupils have been given a list of all the sessions for the academic year ahead. A copy is also attached in this bulletin. Spanish exam skills sessions All pupils studying Spanish are invited to these sessions every Wednesday or Thursday lunchtime in L1. We will focus on a different skill each week. A list of the revision sessions will be outside L1 for further info. GCSE PE NEA – The final NEA deadline is Tuesday 5th January, this will be a final deadline for all 6 sections to be completed and submitted to Mr Woolf via email. As in Y10 all GCSE PE homework is set through our online learning platform – The Ever-Learner. This is set weekly and ALL students have this set every week. They can also work through all of the topics as they wish. Here is a link to the parent video on how the platform works <u>UsingTheEverLearner: A guide for parents and guardians - YouTube</u> Here is a student guide on how to get the best from the platform <u>A student guide on how to use The EverLearner (PE&Sport with ExamSimulator)</u>
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Students will be given their 1st GCSE practice past paper to work through and self-mark to submit to their teacher.

MFL Stars of the Week – French

Poppy

Spanish

Heidi

You will be given a certificate for your achievement – well done!

Mrs Smith's Spelling Bees (Spanish)

11A – Every Wednesday

Learn your words for homework!

Year 11 French / Spanish Skill Sessions

Date	Skill practice/focus	Tier
Tuesday 22 nd Sept	Writing 50 words	F only
Tuesday 29 th Sept	Speaking role play	F + H
Tuesday 6 th October lunch	Speaking conversation, understanding questions	F + H
Tuesday 13 th October	Listening practice	F + H
Tuesday 27 th October	Reading practice	F + H
Tuesday 3 rd November	Speaking photo card	F + H
Tuesday 10 th November	Writing 90 words	F + H
Tuesday 17 th November	Reading, translation into English	F only
Tuesday 24 th November	Reading, translation into English	H only
Tuesday 1 st December	Listening, dictation	F + H
Tuesday 8 th December	Speaking conversation, answering questions	F + H
Tuesday 15 th December	Writing, translation into French	F only
Tuesday 5 th January	Writing, translation into French	H only
Tuesday 12 th January	Speaking, pronunciation practice	F + H
Tuesday 19 th January	Listening practice	F + H
Tuesday 26 th January	Reading practice	F + H
Tuesday 2 nd February	Writing photo task and 50 words	F only
Tuesday 9 th February	Speaking read aloud	
		F + H
Tuesday 23 rd February	Speaking photo task	F + H
Tuesday 2 nd March	Speaking role play	F + H
Tuesday 9 th March	Speaking conversation	F + H
Tuesday 16 th March	Speaking unexpected questions	F + H
		F + H
Easter holiday TBC	Speaking-all tasks	F + H
Easter holiday TBC	Speaking-all tasks	F + H
		F + H
Tuesday 6 th April	Speaking-all tasks	F + H
Tuesday 13 th April	Reading practice	F + H
Tuesday 20 th April	Listening practice	F + H
Tuesday 27 th April	Dictation practice	F + H
Tuesday 4 th May	Translation into English	F + H
Tuesday 11 th May	Writing, verbs and tenses	F + H
Tuesday 18 th May	Writing 150 words	H only
Tuesday 25 th May	Translation into French practice	F + H



GENERAL INFORMATION



Netball News

Year 10/11 Girls' Netball Tournament Success

Congratulations to our Year 10/11 girls' netball team, who represented the college superbly at their recent tournament.

The team achieved impressive results throughout the evening:

- Beat Rawlins 12-1
- Beat Iveshead 10-5
- Beat De Lisle 16-3
- Lost to Charnwood 9-3

The final match against Charnwood was made even more challenging as the team was missing a player, but the girls showed great determination and resilience throughout.

Well done to all the players. Their teamwork, sportsmanship and positive attitude were a credit to the college, and we are extremely proud of their achievements. 🏐 🤝

Year 7 & Year 8 Netball Results

Tuesday saw the first netball fixtures of the season for our Year 7 and Year 8 teams at Charnwood College. The girls were a real credit to the college, representing Phoenix exceptionally well and demonstrating our college values throughout the evening.

Across six games, the teams achieved a strong set of results, recording two wins, two draws and two losses. A particular highlight was an outstanding performance against local rivals Iveshead, where the girls produced some excellent netball, with fantastic teamwork and linking play, securing a convincing 10-1 victory.

Well done to all the players involved. Their commitment, teamwork and positive attitude made it a pleasure to support them at their first fixture of the season. We look forward to seeing their continued progress in future matches.

Mr Woolf and Miss Mills 🏐 🤝

Communication with the College

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

To ensure efficient use of staff time and appropriate handling, all email communication should be sent to **postroom@cdcollege.uk**

Emails sent to the postroom address will be triaged and escalated using the following criteria. Please include the nature of your enquiry in the subject line of the email.

Area	First Contact	Escalation
General enquiries	Admin team	Relevant teacher, middle or senior leader
Safeguarding (pupil)	DSL	
Safeguarding (staff)	Principal (for a safeguarding concern regarding the Principal contact the Chair of Governors)	
Behaviour	Form teacher	Head of Year or senior leader
Attendance	Attendance Officer	Head of Year or Vice Principal
Curriculum	Subject teacher	Head of Department, then SLT
SEND	Assistant SENDCo	SENDCo
Complaints	As per complaints policy	Chair of Governors

You can contact us directly 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**

Please familiarise yourself with our College and EMET policies and procedures, which can be viewed [here](#) on our website and are updated throughout the school year.

Mobile Phone use

We would like to remind parents and carers of our expectations regarding mobile phone use in school, in line with current guidance and legislation aimed at reducing distractions and supporting pupils' wellbeing and learning.

Pupils are not permitted to use mobile phones at any time during the school day, including breaktimes and lunchtimes. If a pupil brings a mobile phone to school, it must remain switched off and out of sight throughout the day.

Any mobile phone that is seen or used during the school day will be confiscated by a member of staff and will be returned to the pupil at the end of the school day. If pupils are seen with their phone on more than one occasion, then they may be asked to hand this in at the beginning of every day for a period of time.

We recognise that some pupils may need access to a mobile phone or connected device for medical reasons. Medical exceptions, such as for pupils managing diabetes or other documented medical conditions, will continue to be supported on an individual basis.

We appreciate the support of parents and carers in helping us maintain a focused, safe and positive learning environment for all pupils.

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

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.

The NHS Immunisation Team will be administering flu vaccinations on **Thursday 8th October**. They will be emailing you a link to complete the consent form.

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/QyKDZlHmAkl>

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

Careers Education at CDC

Labour Market Information (LMI)

Labour Market Information (LMI) helps young people understand the changing world of work. It provides information about careers, employment trends, skills, qualifications, apprenticeships, salaries and opportunities.

LMI can help young people make **informed decisions** about their GCSE options, post-16 choices, apprenticeships, university and future careers.

Useful LMI and Careers Websites

National Careers Service – Explore Careers

Explore hundreds of careers and find information about what different jobs involve, the skills and qualifications needed, salaries and progression routes.

[Explore Careers – National Careers Service](#)

National Careers Service – Advice for Parents & Carers

Practical advice to help parents and carers support young people with education, training and career decisions.

[Help a young person make career choices](#)

National Careers Service – Post-16 Options

Information about the different routes available after Year 11, including further education, technical and vocational courses and apprenticeships.

[Explore Post-16 Options](#)

National Careers Service – Post-18 Options

Explore options including university, higher technical qualifications, apprenticeships, employment, volunteering and gap years.

[Explore Post-18 Options](#)

The Careers & Enterprise Company – Gatsby Benchmarks

Find out more about the Gatsby Benchmarks and how good careers education helps young people understand future pathways and labour market opportunities. Benchmark 2 specifically focuses on learning from career and labour market information.

[Gatsby Benchmarks and Careers Guidance](#)

How can parents and carers help?

You don't need to have all the answers. Explore careers with your child and encourage them to ask:

- What does this job involve?
- What skills and qualifications are needed?
- What different routes could lead to this career?
- What are the future opportunities?
- Are there apprenticeship or work-based routes?
- What other careers use similar skills?

Remember: LMI is not about telling a young person what career to choose. It gives them reliable information so they can explore possibilities and make informed decisions about their future.

At Castle Donington College, we encourage students and parents/carers to use reliable, up-to-date careers and labour market information alongside discussions with teachers, tutors, employers and qualified careers advisers.

Clubs

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.

Puzzle/Lego Club

Do you enjoy doing jigsaws? We always have a really big one that we all like to help complete but there are also smaller ones that can be done in one lunch hour. We have word searches, crosswords and access to puzzles online too. This term we've also introduced Lego builds, so come and join in or bring your own. Come along and make some new friends. Puzzle club happens on Tuesdays at lunch.

Appeal: We would love some new puzzles for our puzzle box so if you have any old ones stashed in a toy cupboard or loft, we would love to take them off your hands.

Chess Club

Come and take on our grand master Edward. If you don't win you will at least pick up some moves that you can use. It's great for quiet time in the library or meeting new friends. Every Wednesday lunch.

Quiet Reading/Study Time

New for this term. Quiet reading and study time is proving popular on Thursday lunch times in the library. You need to register with Miss Radley for this one as we only have a limited number of spaces.

History Club (Mondays in H3)

In History Club we do a variety of things related to the joys of History! Currently, we are planning activities for the Year 6 Open Evening and would appreciate any ideas or help!

Debate Club (Fridays in H3)

Debate Club allows you to debate the issues of the day in the style of the House of Commons. It helps you develop your skills of arguing and builds confidence, as well as helping you with some extra knowledge for your PPE/Citizenship lessons!

MFL film club

Every Thursday lunchtime in L3 to watch a film in a foreign language with English subtitles.

PE Extra Curricular clubs

PE extra-curricular clubs are now underway. All lunchtime clubs will be done in the school GYM (unless stated otherwise), for these clubs' students only need to change

their footwear (unless taking part in our competitive sports we run throughout the such as football games and interform competitions).

Full details can be seen at the end of the Bulletin.

After school sessions require students to change for the activity, these will start at 3.20 (students come to the changing rooms straight after school) and the session will finish at 4pm. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with parents if they are attending a PE club and arrange an appropriate way of getting home.

Fixtures – if students are selected to represent the school at a competitive fixture against other schools they will be notified with at least a weeks' notice and details will be given via a letter to take home to parents.

Gym Club (Tuesday After school)

Whether it's working on your cardiovascular fitness or you're wanting to build muscle, this will happen in the new fitness suite. Machines and weights available to use with also a start-up initiation on how to use the equipment safely. Come along and bring your friends!

Warhammer Club

Wednesday after school in the hub for all years, welcome to veterans and new players alike. Space and advice for building, painting and playing the game with regular competitions. For more information about the club speak to Mr Bell, for more information about the happy check the following [Leader Resources – Games Workshop | Warhammer Alliance.](#)

In the Community

The next **FREE Local Offer SEND Roadshow** is taking place at **County Hall** later this month:

- **Thursday 24th September**
- **17.00 – 19.30pm**
- **Members Lounge, County Hall. Glenfield, LE3 8HD**

This is an event that encourages children and young people to attend with their parents/carers and have some fun!

As well as the usual information stalls there will also be exciting ‘have a go’ activities to get involved with, delivered by colleagues from Leicestershire Youth and Justice Service as well as partners of the Local Offer.

The Roadshow brings together information and services which support families of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, all in one place.

It provides an opportunity to meet and chat with representatives from Leicestershire County Council and its partners, face to face.



Leicestershire Local Offer
Special Educational Needs
and Disabilities Roadshow

**Thursday
24th September**
17.00 - 19.30
County Hall, Glenfield, LE3 8HD

**Come along with your child/young person to
have a go at activities and find out about
Local SEND services and support
in your area.**

The Roadshow brings together information and services which support families of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) all in one place. A chance to meet and chat with representatives from Leicestershire County Council and its partners.

Please book your FREE tickets via:
leicestershire.gov.uk/local-offer-roadshows

Scan here
to book tickets



 Leicestershire
County Council

 Education, Inclusion and Additional Needs
Live your
best life

To find out more about the SEND
Local Offer in Leicestershire please visit:
leicestershire.gov.uk/send

Sports Clubs

	Lunch Turn up and play	After School (3.15 – 4.10)
Monday	GCSE Theory support (PE1) (AD LM)	
Tuesday	Year group Football – Astro (DW)	KS3 Fitness (fitness suite) (HC) Fixtures (Netball/Football)
Wednesday	NEA – Project support (DW) Badminton Hall (AD)	KS 3 Football (Astro) (AD)
Thursday	Netball Club (GYM) (LM)	Fixtures (Netball/Football) KS4 BOYS FITNESS (Fitness suite NB/PD)
Friday	GCSE Ever-learner catch up (PE1) (AD)	