CASTLE DONINGTON COLLEGE

WEEKLY PARENT BULLETIN

Working Together, Achieving Together



16th October 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

WORD HARD | TAKE RESPONSIBILITY | BE KIND

KEY INFORMATION FOR NEXT WEEK

Principal's Update

As we reach the end of another half term, I would like to thank our families for their continued support and partnership. Schools thrive when parents, carers and staff work together, and we are grateful for the encouragement and support you provide to both our students and our college community.

This week has been a particularly busy one, not least because a group of our Year 10 and 11 students have been taking part in our Berlin visit. Educational visits provide invaluable opportunities for students to broaden their horizons, develop their independence and create lasting memories. My thanks go to the staff who have accompanied the trip and who will be travelling home this evening after giving up their time to provide this experience for our students.

I would also like to acknowledge the fantastic teamwork shown by staff remaining in school this week, who have willingly taken on additional responsibilities to ensure that the college has continued to run smoothly.

A huge thank you must also go to our Year 7 parents and carers for attending this week's Form Tutor Parents' Evening. It was wonderful to see so many families engaging with their child's education and meeting with tutors. The Year 7 transition to secondary school is such an important stage, and the strong turnout demonstrated the value that our families place on working together with the college to ensure every child has a successful start to their secondary education.
The evening also provided another opportunity for our Student Ambassadors to shine. We are incredibly proud of this group of young people, who represented the college with maturity, confidence and professionalism throughout the event. This week, I received a message from a parent praising the way ambassadors welcomed and guided families around the college, describing the scheme as "something truly special" and "absolute gold dust". The parent went on to highlight how the role helps students develop the confidence, communication and organisational skills that will serve them well in later life, whilst also creating such a positive impression of the college for visitors.
Feedback such as this is always lovely to receive, but it is particularly pleasing because it reflects exactly what we hope our Ambassador Programme achieves. To all of our Student Ambassadors: thank you for the pride you take in your role and for being such outstanding representatives of Castle Donington College. You should be very proud of yourselves.

As we head into the half-term break, I would encourage all students to take the opportunity to rest, recharge and spend time with family and friends. For our Year 11 students in particular, this can also be a useful opportunity to establish positive study routines ahead of the busy months to come, whilst still ensuring they enjoy a well-earned break.

Finally, thank you to all of our students for their hard work this half term. Whether through academic achievement, sporting success, creative endeavour, contributions to college life or simply through demonstrating our values every day, they continue to make us proud.

I wish all of our students, families and staff a safe, enjoyable and restful half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back after the holiday on Monday 26th October, refreshed and ready for the new half term.

Vickie Beeby
Principal

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
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.
Year 9	**Pastoral Support** 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.
Year 10	**Pastoral Support** 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. **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 GSCE PE kit to be worn in all practical PE lessons. If any more kit needs ordering here is the link Castle Donington College - GCSE 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)
Year 11	**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. **November Mock Exams** The timetable for these can be seen at the end of this week's bulletin. Individual timetables have been given to pupils. **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.

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	Individual PinPoint learning accounts have been updated following the most recent Year 11 assessment. Year 11 pupils have been given their individual PinPoint Learning booklet to complete for homework. This personalised booklet has been created based on the 5 weakest topic areas from the most recent GCSE Paper 1 assessment. (Non-Calculator). The front cover of the booklet also includes a list of linked MathsWatch videos to watch. As a department we recommend pupils watch these videos for support. 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. Year 11 homework will be set each Wednesday and due the following Wednesday. The video link below explains how the PinPoint learning programme works. Supporting Year 11 Pupils with GCSE Maths final (youtube.com)

MFL Stars of the Half-Term

Year 7 French – Ethan (SA)

Year 7 Spanish – Sophie (PW)

Year 8 French – Bethany (NN)

Year 8 Spanish – Aviana (CJ)

Year 9 French – Zack (9y2)

Year 9 Spanish – Izzy (9x2)

Year 10-11 French Skill Sessions

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

Spanish skill sessions take place on Wednesday and Thursday of the weeks above, covering the same skills.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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.
Please note on the third day of absence, the Attendance Officer will conduct a home visit.

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.

New School Facebook Page

We have recently launched 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

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.

Please note that pupils bring mobile phones and other personal electronic devices to school at their own risk. While we will take reasonable steps to safeguard any item that has been confiscated by a member of staff, the school cannot accept responsibility for the loss, theft, damage or misplacement of mobile phones or other personal devices brought onto the school site.

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.

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

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.

Calling Local Businesses – Help Shape Our Students' Futures

We are keen to strengthen our links with local businesses and employers so that our students can gain a better understanding of the world of work and the exciting opportunities available to them.

As part of our Careers Programme, we are looking to build meaningful partnerships with local employers who can support our students through careers talks, workplace visits, work experience, mentoring, skills sessions and information about Post-16 pathways.

Working with employers is an important part of our careers provision and supports the Gatsby Benchmarks, helping students connect what they learn in school with real careers and future opportunities. It can also help students develop their aspirations, understand the skills employers value and make more informed decisions about their next steps after Year 11.

Do you own or work for a local business that would be interested in supporting our students? Or do you know a local employer who might be keen to get involved?

We would love to hear from you. Please complete our short Google Form to register your interest. There is no obligation to commit to anything at this stage — we are simply

looking to build a network of local employers who may be able to support our students in the future.

Together, we can help our students understand the opportunities available to them and prepare for their next steps beyond school.

Careers Support

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 hobby check the following Leader Resources – Games Workshop | Warhammer Alliance. *Current Painting competition closes on 28/10/28, the theme is Halloween. Next playing competition begins 28/10/28.*

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)	

CASTLE DONINGTON COLLEGE

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Is my child too ill for school?

A quick guide for parents and carers

It can be tricky deciding whether to keep your child off school when they are unwell. This guide summarises NHS and government advice on common illnesses.

When your child should stay at home

High temperature

Keep your child off school until their high temperature has gone.

Vomiting and diarrhoea

Stay off school until at least 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea.

Chickenpox

Stay off until all spots have crusted over, usually about 5 days after the spots first appear.

Impetigo

Seek treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Stay off until sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after starting antibiotics. Wash hands regularly; do not share towels or cups.

Measles

Contact a GP and call before visiting, as measles spreads easily. Stay off for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. Avoid close contact with babies, pregnant people and anyone with a weakened immune system.

Scarlet fever

See a GP for antibiotics. Return 24 hours after starting antibiotics. Without treatment, children can be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks.

Ear infection

With a high temperature or severe earache, keep your child off until they feel better or their high temperature goes away.

Feeling anxious or worried

Anxiety can cause tummy aches, headaches and problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can make anxiety about attending worse. Talk about worries such as bullying, friendships, schoolwork or sensory problems, and work with the school to find support. If difficulties persist and affect daily life, speak to your GP or school nurse.

NHS advice: helping children with anxiety ↗

Usually able to attend, if well enough

Coughs, colds and sore throats

Mild symptoms are usually compatible with school if your child is otherwise well and has no high temperature. If they have a high temperature, keep them at home until it goes away. A sore throat with a high temperature can be tonsillitis. Dispose of used tissues and wash hands regularly.

Cold sores

No need to stay off. Avoid touching the blister, kissing others or sharing cups and towels.

Conjunctivitis

No need to stay off unless very unwell. Get advice from a pharmacist; avoid rubbing eyes and wash hands regularly.

Hand, foot and mouth disease

No need to stay off if well enough to attend. Dispose of used tissues straight away and wash hands regularly.

Head lice and nits

No need to stay off. Treatment is available without seeing a GP.

Ringworm

See a pharmacist, or a GP if it affects the scalp. Your child can attend once treatment has started.

Slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease)

No need to stay off: once the rash appears, children are no longer infectious. Let the school know if you suspect slapped cheek syndrome.

Threadworms

No need to stay off. Speak to a pharmacist for treatment.

Keep the school informed

If your child stays at home, notify the school on the first day and explain why. If they attend with an infection that can spread, such as cold sores or head lice, let the school know.

Further guidance • click the condition headings for NHS advice

NHS: Is my child too ill for school? | GOV.UK: infectious disease exclusion guidance

Guidance checked: 1 October 2026

YEAR 11 AUTUMN MOCK

November 16th - 26th

	Start	Duration	Component Title
Mon 16th Nov	09:15	1hr 30	Maths Paper 1 - Higher (Non-calculator)
	09:15	1hr 30	Maths Paper 1 - Foundation (Non-calculator)
	13:15	1hr 20	Music Listening
Tue 17th Nov	09:15	2hr 15	English Literature
Wed 18th Nov	09:15	1hr 30	Option C: Geography
	09:15	1hr 45	Option C: Citizenship
	09:15	1hr 30	Option C: History
	09:15	1hr 15	Option C: Child Development
Thu 19th Nov	09:15	1hr 15	Option D: PE
	09:15	1hr 30	Option D: Design
	09:15	1hr 45	Option D: Citizenship
	13:15	1hr 15	Combined Science Biology Paper 1 - Higher
	13:15	1hr 15	Combined Science Biology Paper 1 - Foundation
	13:15	1hr 45	Biology Paper 1- Higher
	13:15	1hr 45	Biology Paper 1- Foundation
Fri 20th Nov	09:15	2hr 05	English Language
Mon 23rd Nov	09:15	1hr 30	Maths Paper 2 - Higher (Calculator)
	09:15	1hr 30	Maths Paper 2 - Foundation (Calculator)
	13:15	1hr 30	Option A: History
	13:15	1hr 30	Option A: Geography
	13:15	1hr 15	Option A: PE
	13:15	1hr 10/15	Option A: French Written Paper F and H
	13:15	1hr 10/15	Option A: Spanish Written Paper F and H
Tue 24th Nov	09:15	1hr 15	Combined Science Chemistry Paper 1 - Higher
	09:15	1hr 15	Combined Science Chemistry Paper 1 - Foundation
	09:15	1hr 45	Chemistry Paper 1- Higher
	09:15	1hr 45	Chemistry Paper 1- Foundation
Wed 25th Nov	09:15	1hr 15	Combined Science Physics Paper 1 - Higher
	09:15	1hr 15	Combined Science Physics Paper 1 - Foundation
	09:15	1hr 45	Physics Paper 1- Higher
	09:15	1hr 45	Physics Paper 1- Foundation
	13:15	35/45 min	French Listening- F/H
	13:15	45min/1hr	French Reading F/H
	13:15	35/45 min	Spanish Listening F/H
	13:15	45min/1hr	Spanish Reading F/H
Thu 26th Nov	09:15	1hr 45	Option B: Food
	09:15	1hr 30	Option B: Computer Science
	09:15	1hr 30	Option B: Design
	09:15	1hr 30	Option B: Media
Fri 27th Nov	SCHOOL CLOSED		

SOCIAL PRESCRIBER SATURDAYS

Need support for your child/young person?

Come along and have an informal chat with our Social Prescribing Link Workers for both Families and SEND Families.



First Drop-In Session

24th October

2:00pm

Castle Medical Group
Ashby De La Zouch

Or book a 1:1 appointment
Available Saturday Mornings

We can help with:

- Navigating SEND services
- School, EHCP and education support
- Benefits and finances
- Housing concerns
- Accessing local services and activities
- Parent/carer wellbeing support
- Connecting with community groups and resources
- Finding the right support for your family

FREE FRIENDLY CONFIDENTIAL

No diagnosis needed

Parents and carers welcome



NWL GP Federation
Working together for our patients

"Helping families find the right support, at the right time." 💙