



NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 September 2016

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Message from the Principal

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2016, with an especially warm welcome to our new Year 6 pupils . The term has got off to a fantastic start with incredibly high standards of uniform and behaviour. I feel very proud of the positive and enthusiastic approach to learning I have seen from the pupils so far. We are delighted to welcome five new staff to the College. As I take up the role of Principal, Mr Barratt joins us as the new Vice Principal. Ms Cooper (Science) and Mr Saunders (Maths) take up posts as Heads of Department. Mr Leckie begins as

our new teacher of Science and Mr Wickens joins the English Department, for the Autumn term, following the departure of Ms Busson during the summer break. Finally, we welcome back Ms Jenkins (English teacher and Head of Year 9) and congratulate Mr Nelson as our new Head of Year 8. This academic year marks the beginning of the College as an 11-16 school where all current pupils stay with us until the end of Year 11 when they complete their GCSE exams. We have a busy term ahead and I look forward to a productive and successful year.



Amazing Art

Once again Mr Brennan, our Art teacher, has secured a spectacular collection of original art pieces from the Leicestershire Creative Learning Services. The Collection includes a signed print of 'Femme en bleu' by Picasso (left) 'Hands' by Henry Moore and

'Architecture' by Patrick Hughes amongst others . All pupils will explore the pieces in their art lessons and use them as inspiration. Our 'Art Detectives' set about investigating each piece at Art Club and present their findings in a College assembly.

Relate Counselling Service

We are very pleased to continue to offer Relate Counselling Service to any pupil who needs it. This takes place on a Tuesday morning in one hour slots. There are 3 ways pupils can be referred: self-referral, by a teacher, by a parent. If you would like more information, contact Mrs Johnson.

Website

We are currently updating several pages on our website, please bear with us .

Dates for Your Diary

Year 6 Team Building Day	15th September
Open Mornings - 10.00am	6th - 29th September
College Open Evening - 6.30pm	Thurs 29th Sept.
Year 8 Girls HPV vaccinations	Mon 3rd October
College Disco 6.30-8.30pm	Thurs 6th Oct
Year 6 Tutor Evening—5.30pm	Thurs 13th October
Non-Uniform Day	Fri 14th October
End of term	Fri 14th October

New Assessment Grades 9-1 Key Stages 3 and 4

As many of you will be aware, there have been some major changes to GCSE grades and Key Stage 3 levels recently. GCSE grades are changing from A*- G to 9-1 and Key Stage 3 levels are no longer being used.

We have decided to introduce a new assessment scale 9-1 grades, across Years 7 to 11, for all of our key assessments. We hope this will make it simpler and more straightforward for you to track your child's progress throughout Key Stage 3 and 4.

Here is a guide to how the grades relate to each other.

Assessment	Grade/level								
New GCSE grades and Assessment grades used at Castle Donington College (Y7-11)	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Old GCSE grade		A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Old KS3 National Curriculum level				8a 8b	8c 7a 7b	7c 6a 6b	6c 5a 5b	5c 4a 4b 4c 3a	3b 3c 2a 2b

More in depth guidance will be given when your child receives their first Progress Report.

Parent Teacher Association

It has been some years since the College had a PTA and I have seen the valuable work and contribution a vibrant PTA can have on a school and the local community.

Therefore, we would like to invite parents and carers of current pupils who have time, energy and a genuine interest in the College to help us establish a PTA which will support the further development of the College and help to organise fundraising and social events for our children. 2017 marks the sixtieth anniversary of the College which would be a great focus for this group.

If you have an idea, time, enthusiasm or are a good organiser please express your interest in helping us create a new PTA by contacting Lorraine Deley, Principal's PA, at the College or by emailing postroom@castledonington.leics.sch.uk

Uniform

We appreciate some parents have experienced difficulties with our uniform supplier this year. Delivery and quality have not been up to the usual standard.

We have been in touch with School Trends to express our disappointment on your behalf and received an apology and discount for future orders. The letter from School Trends is attached with this newsletter.

We are now pursuing additional local suppliers and will keep you informed of progress.

We would like to compliment all pupils on their smart appearance and standard of uniform despite the problems many of you have faced.

Shorts

We are considering the introduction of formal school shorts to our uniform and are currently investigating appropriate styles and suppliers. Pupils are able to wear PE shorts during lunchtime, particularly in the hot weather, however must return to full school uniform during lesson times.

Open Mornings

Mon 25th to Thurs 29th September

We are opening the College to local residents, businesses and parents for four mornings this month as an opportunity to see the College in action, meet our staff and pupils and experience the ethos and culture for yourself.

Tours are at 10.00am and last approximately 40 minutes. Refreshments will be available after the tour and there will be the opportunity to meet and ask questions of the senior team. As these mornings are part of the normal working day, it is essential to book a place on the tour.

For further details please call the College or email Lorraine Deley via postroom@castledonington.leics.sch.uk

Open Evening

Thursday 29th September 6.00pm

As an 11-16 College we look forward to welcoming our new Year 10 intake from September 2017. Parents of all pupils are welcome to attend our Open Evening but we particularly invite parents of pupils in Year 8 and Year 9. The evening will be an opportunity to find out about our KS4 curriculum and our expectations for pupils following GCSE courses. Staff will be on hand to talk about the KS4 curriculum in all subjects and answer any questions you have about the transition into Year 10 and beyond.

Congratulations

I am sure we have many hidden stars amongst the pupils and we enjoy finding out about and sharing their successes with you. If your son or daughter has achieved something fantastic, please let us know so we can publish their story in future newsletters. For this edition I would like to congratulate:

Will Kibble who has been chosen to join the Leicester Tigers Youth Squad over the summer holiday following some rigorous training sessions, **Mollie Leonard** awarded overall winner in the Nottinghamshire County Gymnastics Championships following success in beam, bars, floor and vault events, **Dylan Samson**, overall winner in his gymnastic club's competition for his scores in pommel, vault, high and parallel bars and rings, **Katie Januszewska** who travelled to Madrid to play for Leicester Warriors U16 basket ball team in addition to a week of intensive cricket training for Derbyshire U13 Cricket Squad and **Jessica Taal** who received a merit for her Grade 3 Piano exam. **6SA** have also been busy over the Summer and have some fantastic achievements that they would like to share: **Harrison Straw** raised £250 at football club and **Evie Ball** raised £800 by selling tombola tickets and both donated to Cancer research, **Katie O'Connor** Joined the National Ice Pops Synchro team, **Lauren Taylor** achieved Level 6 in gymnastics, **Luke Campbell** and **Hugo Henderson** took part in and won the biggest football tournament in the East Midlands and **Jack Morgan** achieved Gold in gymnastics

Well done to these and all pupils who achieved success over the Summer break



Attendance

Overall attendance last year was 95.7% and we are proud that this rate is above the national average. However, we would like it to be even higher and you can play your part:

- * Ensure pupils arrive before 8.45am as late attendance can be recorded as non-attendance
- * Book medical appointments outside of school hours whenever possible
- * Don't book holiday or family events during term time
- * Get pupils back to College as soon as possible after an illness

Safeguarding

Safeguarding children is the most important thing that we do as adults at the College and we take this responsibility very seriously. All our staff receive training that is over and above that recommended.

All staff are going to have PREVENT training this term. PREVENT' is short for 'Preventing Violent Extremism'. The overall aim of Prevent is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism by raising awareness of the issues and supporting people who may be vulnerable.

If you ever have any concerns about the safety of a child, please contact us at the College or make a referral via the Leicester Safeguarding Board website. (Irsb.org.uk)

Extra Curricular Activities

Our Autumn Term extra curricular programme is up and running and we encourage all pupils to participate in a lunchtime or after school activity. Our library is open every lunchtime too.

To join a club or activity pupils should check the Pupil Bulletin or ask any member of staff.

Unless otherwise stated, the clubs listed are on at lunchtimes

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Art Club	Lego Club	Multi Sports (Yr6,7,8,9)	Cheerleading Club	Drama Club
Gymnastics	Boys Basketball	Netball (Yr9)	Volleyball	
Girls & Boys Football	Netball (Yr6,7,8)		Table Tennis	
Homework	Homework	Homework	Homework	Homework
ICT Club	ICT Club	ICT Club	ICT Club	ICT Club
	Lunch Club		Lunch Club	Lunch Club
Riders Basketball (after school) date TBC			Rugby Club (after school) date TBC	Orchestra (after school)

School Trends
10 Carley Drive
Westfield
Sheffield
S20 8NQ

1st September 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Castle Donington College is a much valued customer and as a company, School Trends would like you to be satisfied with our garments and service, as an employee owned company nothing is more important than our relationship with you.

We would like to apologise for the recent delay in getting your uniform orders to you and for your frustration in trying to get through to us. This is not our usual standard of service and we are working hard to correct the issues that have caused the delays and the unprecedented volume of calls and emails it has created.

By way of an apology and as a gesture of goodwill we would like to offer parents/carers 10% discount on all future orders plus free home delivery until July 2017.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, enjoy the new school term.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "K. Hardwick".

Karen Hardwick
Head of Sales
School Trends