



CASTLE DONINGTON COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A warm welcome back to all our students and staff.

We have finally realised the 11-16 status that we have been working towards and this autumn our pupil numbers swell to almost 550, with 120 new Year 7 students on role. In addition, we welcome a further 14 students in Years 8, 9 and 10, who have chosen to join us from local schools.

We look forward to our first set of GCSE results this year and are focused on preparing and supporting our Year 11 cohort to fulfil their potential and achieve success.

This year, we will continue to offer opportunities and experiences to ensure every child can be successful and develop their individual skills and talents. Our teaching staff, new and existing, are as dedicated and committed as ever and our new Pastoral Team are on hand to provide the support and care when it is needed. My first assembly, to the students, focused on change and continuity. As you will see, some big changes have already taken place but as we grow, we are determined to maintain our values and ethos. It is wonderful to see the students return with smiling faces, smartly dressed, and ready to learn and I thank you for your support in this.

You will see, in this shortened edition, some of the changes we have made to the College over the summer break. We received news of a successful bid just before we broke up which resulted in £276,000 worth of work, to improve our building in order to meet new fire regulations. We took the opportunity to enhance some of our corridors and classrooms. We hope you like the changes we have made. The students have been very excited about them!

PERMISSIONS

Just a quick reminder to complete, sign and return your Permissions and Consent forms by **Monday 3rd September**. School photographs will be taken on Wednesday 5th September, and we need to ensure your child/children have permission to have their photographs taken. If you have already signed and returned your form, many thanks.

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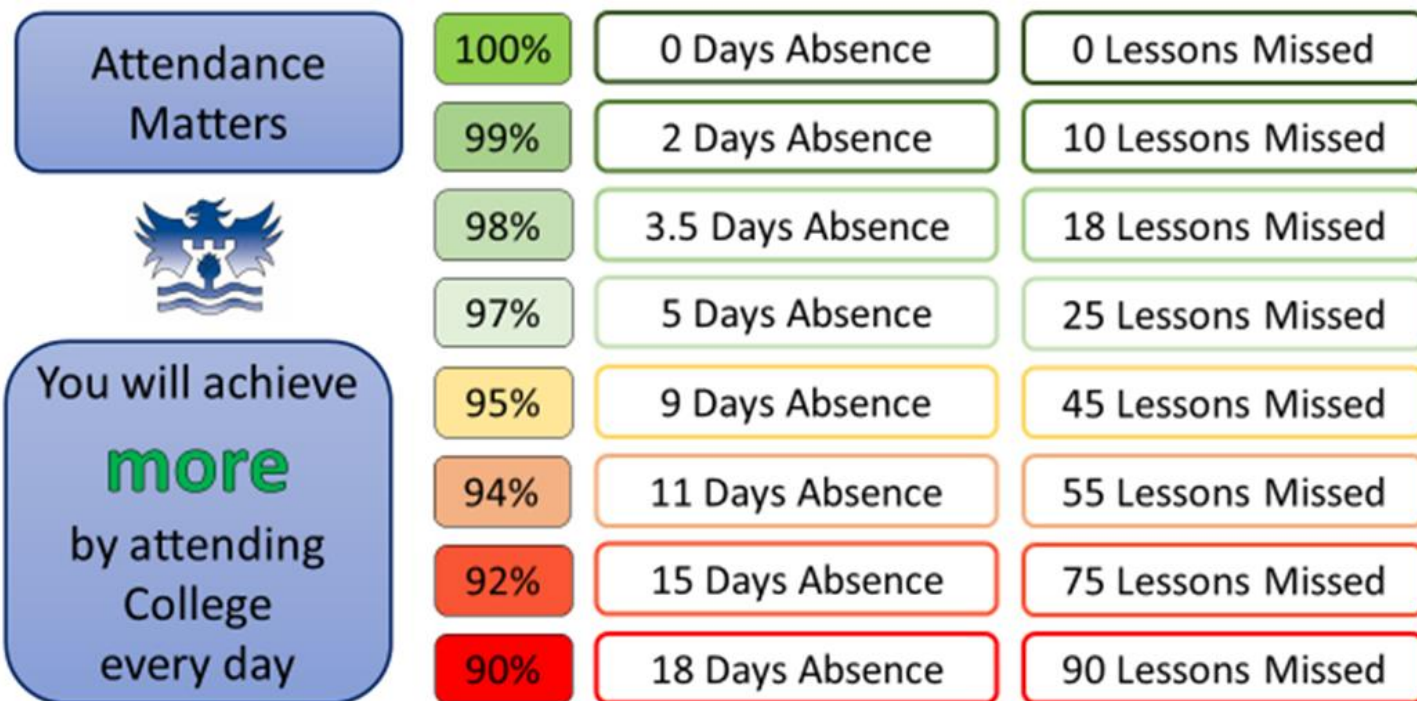
Twitter: @CastleDcollege



ATTENDANCE

We are rightly proud of our College attendance record which is regularly above national averages. It is fantastic to work in a school where parents understand so well their responsibility to ensure full attendance (unless there is a good reason for not attending, of course).

In tutor time on the first day, students were shown the following table and we thought you'd be interested to see it. Research clearly shows that time missed from school does have an impact on attainment, particularly when it falls below 97%.



Mr B Wilkinson, Assistant Principal

APPOINTMENTS

When making medical appointments for your child, please try to arrange them so that students come into College for 8.50 before being collected and returned. Alternatively please make the appointments after 12.20. This will then ensure that they get their both morning and afternoon session marks. We expect students to return to College after an appointment.

Mrs S Harrison, Attendance and Welfare Officer



QUICK UPDATE FOR YOU ...

LOCKERS

We are currently reorganising the distribution of lockers to create 'Zones' for each Year group. This is an ambitious plan and involves some students having to relocate. Unfortunately the ongoing building work has caused some delay to the process but we are hoping all students who have paid for a locker will be allocated one by September 7th.

PLANNERS

By popular demand, the Planner is back! It is designed to be a useful point of communication between home school. Letters about absence, illness, uniform, homework can be written here (please make sure they are dated and signed). It is also a handy place to keep a timetable and to record Commendations and Awards. Please ask to see your child's planner every day – there may well be a message for you there.

SAFEGUARDING

You may have seen in the media news of a former teacher who has been prohibited from working with young people. We would like to reassure all parents that we fully support the TRA in the action taken to ensure that the behaviour of members of the teaching profession is appropriate and safeguards all young people. All activity carried out by the teacher involved was entirely away from the College and no child in our community was ever at risk.

We continue to have robust processes and procedures in place which safeguard all young people in our care.

UNIFORM

A big thank you to all parents and carers who have made such a great effort to ensure that uniform at the College is of such a high standard. A reminder that hair dye that is not of a 'natural' colour is not allowed (no bright reds or purples); skirts should be 'just above the knee' and black shoes (not boots) should be of the type appropriate for formal business wear or formal interview (not, for example, 'Converse' style black leather boots. You'll find our uniform list and regulations on our website, under the 'Parents' tab, along with a list of suppliers, if you need more information.

BEFORE



DURING AND AFTER



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Event	Date
School photographs	5 September 2018
Welcome to KS4 Information Evening	12 September 2018
Year 6 Open Morning 0930 -1030 (Orchard/St Hardulph's)	17 September 2018
Year 6 Open Morning 0930- 1030 (St Edward's/Diseworth)	18 September 2018
Year 6 Open Morning 0930 -1030 (Kegworth/Hemington)	19 September 2018
Open Evening 6.00 – 8.00 pm	19 September 2018
Year 8 Girls HPV (1)	27 September 2018
College Disco	21 September 2018
Break for half term	12 October 2018

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