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**CAISTER  
ACADEMY**  
*Creative  
Education  
Trust*

Thursday 12 October 2023

Dear Parent

### **Autumn 1 - End of Term Update**

Thank you for supporting us and your child throughout the first half term of this academic year. This letter is the first of our half termly updates offering you more information about our successes, changes, and a look ahead to next half term.

This half term has been extremely positive with us having our Trust Safeguarding and Teaching and Learning visits. I wanted to include some of the highlights from both below:

Safeguarding visit feedback:

- Students can identify an adult in school whom they would speak to if they were worried about something, students are confident that staff would listen and take them seriously.
- Students say they feel safe in the academy.
- Students say bullying is rare and dealt with swiftly if it does occur.
- Students say they feel confident that any member of staff would take a report of Sexual Violence or Sexual Harassment seriously and it would be followed up appropriately.
- Students speak highly of the safeguarding team and wider inclusion staff. They feel well supported.

Teaching and Learning visit feedback:

- Climate for learning is a strength, students understand what they should and should not do during each phase of the lesson.
- Students get lots of opportunities to practice and review in lessons.
- Lessons are well planned and have a purposeful start.
- All lessons incorporate retrieval practice.
- The academy is secure in all areas of teaching and learning.

Below I have included a summary of this half term in the key areas of Personal Development and Education.

I have also included the 'new look' safeguarding bulletin which gives you details on sensitive topics studied this half term, and our focus for next half term as we explore anti-bullying.



## Round up of Autumn Term 1 – Monday 4 September to Friday 20 October

### Personal Development Updates

#### Rewards and Attendance

We are delighted to have increased our rewards offer to students this year, and as part of this offer, we have introduced a brand-new Rewards Shop and Caister Reward Coins. This half term, we ran our reward pizza lunch for students with 100% attendance, and our winning form group parties take place next week.

We have also increased our free breakfast offer on Fridays, this is available to all students from 8.00am. Our form tutor golden ticket prize has gone live and students that are gifted a golden ticket will be entitled to a free breaktime snack on a Friday; just for being in attendance.

Please see our current rewards and attendance leaders below:

Year Group	Reward Point Total	Winning Form Group	Reward Point Total
Year 7	5126	7DMI	1261
Year 8	3873	8VBE	898
Year 9	3878	9SWA	1252
Year 10	3645	10ZJA	1232
Year 11	3705	11ALU	786

- Staff member who has issued the highest number of rewards points this half term: Mrs Lumley - 2308
- Student who has received the highest number of rewards points this half term: Harry Whiteley, 9SWA – 97
- Best attending forms:
  - 7NCU
  - 8GAB
  - 9SBE
  - 10MMA
  - 11DMC

#### Electives

Currently, we offer over 44 electives within the academy. Our most popular elective to date is our multi-sports club. It is fantastic to see students getting involved in extracurricular activities at the end of the school day.

Just a reminder that each day, we offer refreshments for all students staying for an elective, these are served from 3.00pm until 3.10pm in the dining hall. Please find a copy of our current electives offer attached. Students can sign up to electives by visiting Miss McClintock during break or lunch. Some of our clubs such as cooking, and art are at full capacity. However, students can register their interest and Miss McClintock will add them to the waiting list. Students will be notified if a space becomes available.



## **Student Leadership**

We are in the process of creating a new Student Leadership Team with various roles that students are currently applying for. This is an exciting opportunity, and our aim is to create a team of students who are the voice of the student body, and instrumental in monitoring, reviewing and promoting positive change within academy life and student opportunities.

## **Introduction of the Inclusion Framework**

This year will see the introduction of the new inclusion framework which has been carefully constructed to support the progress and wellbeing of all learners. The framework focuses on promoting inclusion using a graduated approach; to identify, support and review the progress of learners with SEND. The inclusion framework will be monitored by the Academy's Inclusion Board and will gradually replace the SEND passports that were previously used.

Within the framework, form tutors will be allocated as key adults to those with additional needs. Some students who require more targeted or specialist support may be allocated a member of the Inclusion Team. The initial phase will see the Inclusion Passports being created and updated over the next two terms, where key adults will then review and monitor progress of the students. We anticipate that all students will have a revised passport by April 2024.

Details of students newly assigned mentors will be communicated within the coming weeks.

## **The Papillion Project**

We are incredibly fortunate to have been selected by the Papillion Project charity, who work with schools and sixth forms all over Norfolk. With their help we are going to transform one of our long-forgotten garden spaces into an allotment, educating our students in the art of vegetable growing. The project will be student led and focus heavily on the importance of sustainability, up-cycling, recycling, and building connections with the wider community.

The project will be led by Matt Willer, a member of the charity, and Miss Megan Wright our Food Technology Technician.

More information on the project and its benefits can be found on the charity's website:  
<https://www.thepapillonproject.com/>

## **Educational Updates**

We aim for every student at Caister Academy to achieve outstanding academic success. As part of this drive students have focused on how they enter the classroom ready to learn. This has been really successful, with learners being on time, fully equipped and then immediately completing a retrieval activity designed to help them recall prior learning.

Retrieval practice is the process of recalling information that has been previously learnt; the more times this is done, the stronger the memory becomes, and this then enables students to recall key knowledge and skills more effectively over time. If you would like more information on our approach to retrieval, parental workshops linked to this will be taking place from 5.45pm on Thursday 19 October at Tutor Evening and from 10.00am until 12.00pm on Friday 20 October during Tutor Day.



## Homework

Homework is issued in line with our homework calendar and students have made a fantastic start to this important aspect of independent learning. A significant number of positive points have been awarded for quality of homework, effort, and completion.

For Years 7 - 9 we have introduced reading to their independent home study through the platform of Sparx Reader. So far, Caister readers have collectively earned 135,169 points. This adds up to an impressive 1300 hours of careful reading already completed in the three weeks we've been live.

## Library and Reading

The school library is a hive of activity throughout the academic year and has so far started with a flurry of activities. We have appointed 15 student librarians who have already begun to update and revamp our selection of reading books. Next week, we will be having a Halloween theme in the library, with a spooky short story contest, book themed games, and a lunchtime reward for students who have excelled in reading this half term.

## Curriculum

This half term mathematicians in Year 10 and Senior Year have been invited to take part in an additional course in Further Mathematics. Students working in conjunction with Sir Isaac Newton College are extending their understanding past that of the GCSE to help encapsulate a more enriched level of understanding. Their first session focused on binomial expansion. Our students have excelled so far, and we are keen to see this develop throughout the year.

We are proud to offer a broad and diverse curriculum to our students. If you are keen to know what your child is learning, our website includes the curriculum overview for all year groups and all subjects studied. Enclosed is an additional summary of what is studied in core subjects across Years 7 - 9.

## Senior Year

Senior Year have made an incredible start to their after-school *Step Up* programme, with an average of 60 students in attendance each evening. The student with the most attended *Step Ups* this half term will be rewarded with a £50 Amazon voucher.

## Assessment

Assessment cycles have begun in all subject areas and student reports will be issued on Thursday 19 October. Please go through your report with your child, looking for areas of success, as well as development.

Year 7 started their assessment journey brilliantly by completing baseline tests in English, mathematics, and science this has enabled us to check that students are in the right sets and receive the appropriate support.

Next half term, Year 10 and Senior Year will sit mock examinations. The mock exam calendar will be issued in November, for exams to begin on the 20th so that you can support your child with revision.



## Looking ahead to Autumn Term 2 – Monday 30 October to Friday 15 December

### Scheduled trips for next half term:

- Friday 3 November - Year 9 UEA Languages Trip
- Wednesday 6 December - KS3 Natural History Museum Trip

### Rewards and Attendance

As we move towards Christmas, we are looking forward to our rewards shop being fully operational so that students can cash in their reward points for prizes or accumulate these across the year. We also look forward to inviting parents/carers to our celebration assemblies at the end of term where we will congratulate student success.

At the end of term, we will invite students to our Christmas spectacular reward event where we will celebrate high reward earners and 100% attenders, with an I-Pad raffle #beintowin.

Finally, I wanted to make you aware of some key dates at the end of the summer term. As a reward, each year group will have the opportunity to attend a celebration trip. These will be:

- Wednesday 17 July - Year 7 - Banham Zoo
- Wednesday 17 July - Year 10 - Paintballing
- Thursday 18 July - Year 8 - Riverside Entertainment Day
- Thursday 18 July - Year 9 - Chessington World of Adventures

More information to follow.

### Catering Provision

Following student feedback, we have worked alongside our current catering provider to offer an additional dining space in the theatre. This will allow students more flexibility over lunchtime, giving them another space where they can enjoy a warm meal.

- Dining Hall Restaurant - For seated, plated hot meals e.g., roast dinner and pasta dishes.
- Theatre Hot Deli – For seated, plated warm deli food e.g., warm paninis and jacket potatoes.
- Outdoor Deli – cold meals e.g., baguettes and sandwiches to take away.

Students who bring a packed lunch to school can choose to eat in the Theatre Hot Deli, Dining Hall Restaurant or outside.

To ensure students are served promptly at lunchtimes, we operate via a thumb scanning system (biometrics). This is easy for us to set up in school, but we do need permission through your Arbor account. Having this activated also allows your child/children to use the internal device to check their balance. To give or check consent, please follow these quick and easy steps:

- Log into the parent portal/app,
- Select 'View Student Profile' located in the top left,
- Scroll down to consents and select Biometric.

The deadline for consenting for your child to be on this system is Sunday 15 October.



## Final Word

Finally, as this term ends, we start to look forward to the lead up to Christmas. I wanted to leave you with some dates for your diaries:

- Monday 27 November – Christmas tree erected & food bank collection starts.
- Monday 11 December – Christmas Carol service at Great Yarmouth Minster, everyone is welcome.
- Tuesday 12 – Thursday 14 December - Christmas performances.
- Thursday 14 December - Christmas lunch.
- Friday 15 December – Christmas jumper day, special \*secret\* rewards event, celebration assemblies.

More information will follow in a separate letter nearer the time.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update. If you have any feedback on anything further that you would like me to add next time, please get in touch. I look forward to sharing more news and information next term.

Yours faithfully

Miss H Seath  
Principal

Enclosed: Autumn Electives  
Autumn Step Up  
Year 7,8 and 9 Curriculum Overviews  
Autumn 1 Safeguarding Newsletter