

WINDSOR ROAD
CAISTER-ON-SEA
GREAT YARMOUTH
NORFOLK
NR30 5LS

PRINCIPAL: HELEN SEATH
EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL: BEN DRIVER

T +44 (0)1493 720542
E enquiries@caisteracademy.org.uk
www.caisteracademy.org.uk



**CAISTER
ACADEMY**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

Wednesday 6 December 2023

Dear Parent

Autumn 2 - End of Term Update

Thank you for your support over another successful and busy half term here at Caister Academy.

This half term we have seen our Year 7 students settling in with us and truly embracing our ethos and core values of Ambition, Opportunity, Character, and Community.

We have also seen our Year 10 and Senior Year students 'step up' in their commitment to their subjects and work incredibly hard to fulfil their Ambition. Over the last two weeks Senior Year students have embraced the full mock examination experience, demonstrating tremendous resilience, and Character along the way.

As a Community this term we have formed our new 'student leadership team', and these young people are already supporting leaders in the academy to continue to improve student experience.

Over the next couple of weeks, we come together as a Community to enjoy our Christmas celebrations:

- Thursday 7 December – Key Stage 3 UV Dodgeball.
- Monday 11 December – CET Joint Carol Service at The Minster, Great Yarmouth.
- Tuesday 12 December – Christmas Show.
- Wednesday 13 December – Christmas Show.
- Thursday 14 December:
 - Christmas Show.
 - Christmas Lunch
 - Young Carers Christmas Celebration.
- Friday 15 December (last day of term):
 - Celebration Assemblies – all year groups.
 - Christmas Jumper Day. All students and staff are asked to make a £1.00 donation to Save the Children. Student's will be expected to follow normal uniform guidelines, but may substitute their shirt, blazer and tie for a Christmas jumper.
 - Attendance Rewards.
 - Special Rewards Event.



Please find a summary below of this half terms work 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.

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. Last half term, we ran our sweet treat reward event for students with 100% attendance and our winning form groups for attendance that were rewarded with a surprise breakfast party were 7NCU, 8VBE, 9SBE, 10ZJA, 11IBI.

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 also gone live and students that are gifted a golden ticket are entitled to a free breaktime snack on a Friday; just for being in attendance.

Please see our current reward and attendance leaders below:

Year Group	Reward Point Total	Winning Form Group	Reward Point Total
Year 7	10725	7DMI	2483
Year 8	8594	8VBE	1981
Year 9	7472	9SWA	2193
Year 10	6938	10ZJA	2044
Year 11	6331	11RWD	1349

- Staff member who has issued the highest number of rewards points this half term:
Mrs Lumley - 3907
- Student who has received the highest number of rewards points this half term:
Daniel Alozie - 170
- Best attending forms:
Year 7 – 7NWR (95.8%)
Year 8 – 8GAB (95.2%)
Year 9 – 9SMA (95.6%)
Year 10 – 10MMA (92.6%)
Year 11 – 11DMC and 11NBA (95.1%)

As we move towards Christmas, we are looking forward to students being able to cash in their reward points for prizes in our new Rewards Shop, and we also look forward to inviting parents to our celebration assemblies on Friday 15 December where we will congratulate the students' success.

On the last day of term, we will also invite students to our secret Christmas reward event where we will celebrate high reward earners and 100% attenders. Students above 90% attendance will also have the opportunity to enter our I-Pad raffle. This year we have two I-Pad raffles, one for Key Stage 3 and one for Key Stage 4.



Electives

Currently, we offer 30 electives within the academy. Our most popular elective to date is still 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 for electives by visiting Miss McClintock during break or lunch. Some of our electives 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.

A reminder that any students not attending an elective must leave school site at 3.00pm.

Student Leadership

We are excited to announce that our new Student Leadership Team has now been created and all roles have been allocated across all year groups. Students within these privileged positions will be instrumental in monitoring, reviewing and promoting positive change within academy life and for student opportunities.

Please see the website for more information regarding student leadership.

The Papillion Project

This term our wonderful group of students have transformed the garden space from a weed-ridden forest into an allotment ready for planting in the spring. The group have worked tirelessly with Matt Willer, founder of the Papillion project, to complete gardening tasks such as:

- building a compost heap
- laying the foundations of growing beds for vegetables
- constructing a gate into the project area
- building a seating area
- creating an orchard space
- fencing off a 'wild area'- with a pond area coming soon.

A massive thank you and congratulations to all our students who have taken part in this project so far. We are keen to see how it develops further over the coming months.

More information on the project and its benefits can be found on the charity's website:

<https://www.thepapillonproject.com/>.

Educational Updates

This half term our students have had an opportunity to put their learning into practice and complete formative and summative assessments. In student workbooks purple pen is used to show where students have addressed any misconceptions or improved their work. In a recent student voice survey, 100% of students who responded noted that they develop their learning to improve in this way, showing a real commitment to our overall aim: for every student at *Caister Academy* to achieve outstanding academic success. Next half term we will continue with this theme by offering students the chance to address misconceptions at both class and individual level. Some lessons will specifically focus on *Reteach* moments that will enable our students to relearn the core knowledge needed for their ongoing success.



Homework

Thank you for supporting your child with their homework. We would like to acknowledge how hard our students work with this important aspect of independent learning. The staff reward students and each fortnight we celebrate the league tables of form groups that are completing the most. Current leading form groups for completing homework across the school are 7RHA, 8LAM, 9CBL, 10ZJA and 11DMC.

We are incredibly proud to be the top academy within our trust for work completed on Seneca. Sparx Reader which is new for this year for Years 7-9 is a powerful tool to support with increasing reading ages. Please do encourage your child/children to use this programme in their spare time.

Library

The library is a popular area within the school, but even more so at Christmas. Some of our more experienced student librarians, have spent time training our new librarians, and they have embraced their new roles and responsibilities.

Students have the opportunity to use not only physical resources but also digital; the chrome books are available to all, and students can stay after school to catch up on any homework. The library has a plethora of books of all genres, and we encourage children to access this calm space, keep reading and take out a book that supports their development on Sparx Reader.

Curriculum

Across the curriculum, in every subject studied, students will engage with reading in some form. This half term we have refocused students on our whole school approach to reading texts, known as *Reading for Meaning*. Students across the school *read to learn* carefully, following texts line by line, underlining and highlighting information the teacher has directed them to and then responding to questions to check comprehension. We are incredibly proud of how well our students apply themselves to this cross-curricular reading approach and will continue to focus on this throughout the academic year.

Senior Year

This half term Senior Year once again have been exceptional in their attitudes and maturity, students have:

- taken part in a Humanutopia workshop.
- completed their further educational choices, some of which have already been accepted.
- completed their first Senior Year mock examinations.
- increased attendance to step ups.
- attended bespoke morning intervention in mathematics and English.
- submitted their coursework that equates to a third of their courses in enterprise, dance, health and social care, and sport.

We are extremely proud of how Senior Year have presented themselves throughout what has been a busy half term. We look forward to evaluating mock examination results and applying even more support for this amazing year group.



Assessment

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

Years 7-9 will begin their assessments in Spring 1 and there will be some additional reading tests to move students into and out of our reading programme.

Catering Provision

Last term I announced that we were opening another eatery in school as students wanted more choice in their dining experience. We opened this at the start of this half term, and I am pleased to report that this has been extremely successful.

Student feedback is positive and taste tests took place last week to inform the new winter menu choices in January. Please see our updated menu for January 2024 [here](#).

Lockers

As part of our refurbishment, we are replacing carpets within the sports hall area over the Christmas holiday. In-order to assist us with moving the lockers over Christmas, please ensure that your child has emptied their locker and removed their lock before the last day of term.

Please be advised that due to lockers being relocated, we will be re-issuing locker numbers to students upon our return. Students will be informed of their new locker numbers during form time on Wednesday 3 January. A reminder that student lockers can be accessed through placing a £10 refundable deposit on ParentPay.

Looking ahead to Spring Term 1

Lockdown Procedure

It is important that in the event of an emergency, we are able to keep staff and students safe. Therefore, we will be running our annual lockdown drill in January. Further information will follow in my parental roundup letters nearer the time. During this drill parents will receive an in-app message from Arbor explaining that we are having the drill, and that we will be unable to have visitors or calls at this time. Once the drill finishes, we will communicate this with you in the same way. All students will be trained on this procedure during assemblies on their return in January.

Equipment

To avoid unnecessary disruption to learning on our return, please do check that your child/children have the full equipment as detailed on the attached equipment list.



Communications

To support you in being able to submit enquiries to the correct member of staff, I have included a contact list below:

Role	Name	Email
Head of Year 7	Alison Baldwin	alison.baldwin@caisteracademy.org.uk
Assistant Head of Year 7	Lorraine Newbury	lorraine.newbury@caisteracademy.org.uk
Head of Year 8 and 9	Dean Fisher	dean.fisher@caisteracademy.org.uk
Assistant Head of Year 8 and 9	Tammy Gayson	tammy.gayson@caisteracademy.org.uk
Head of Year 10 and Senior Year	Tom Osben	tom.osben@caisteracademy.org.uk
Acting Designated Safeguarding Lead and E-Safety	Claire Neave	claire.neave@caisteracademy.org.uk

If you are unsure of who to direct your enquiry to, please email us at enquiries@caisteracademy.org.uk, and we will direct this to the most appropriate member of staff.

Final Word

As this term ends, we start to look forward to the lead up to the new year, I wanted to leave you with some dates for your diaries for the term ahead:

- Wednesday 3 January – All students return to school.
- Thursday 11 January – Senior Year Parents Evening.
- Thursday 25 January – Year 10 Parents Evening.
- Tuesday 13 February – Year 9 DTP, Meningitis and ACWY Vaccinations.
- Friday 16 February – School closes for half term.

Over the Christmas period we will be refurbishing the Year 8 and 9 bathrooms. Though this will cause some temporary disruption for approximately two weeks following Christmas, it will mean that all student toilets are brand new, built to a high quality and have improved privacy.

On students return in January, Year 9 students will share the newly refurbished bathrooms with Year 10 and Senior Year, and Year 8 students will share with Year 7. As always, all bathrooms will be well supervised at social times.

Finally, you will be aware we welcomed Ofsted to the school on Tuesday and Wednesday last week. The Ofsted team fully immersed themselves in the student experience. We told the lead inspector he would find a happy, welcoming, and inclusive school, with amazing staff, parents, and students, which he did. I look forward to sharing the outcome of this with you over the weeks ahead. I must say how incredibly supported by parents and students we felt as a team, and I sincerely thank you for this.



Thank you for taking the time to read this update. From all at Caister Academy we wish you a happy and safe holiday and look forward seeing your child on Wednesday 3 January.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "H Seath".

Miss H Seath
Principal

Enclosed:

Safeguarding Newsletter
Electives List
Equipment List