

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 7 February 2024

Dear Parent

Spring 1 - End of Term Update

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

All students have completed assessments over the last few weeks, and we are very proud of the way they have prepared for and undertaken these. Though testing can be a point of pressure for our young people, it does give us vital information about our children's academic achievement and allows us to reteach learning that is not yet secure. At Caister Academy we ensure that this assessment information is used purposefully, enabling students to improve their learning for the future.

Whole school attendance remained high this half term, ensuring that all students get the very best opportunities in school. I know how challenging January can be for general sickness and I wanted to thank you for encouraging your child/children to attend with minor illnesses.

As a community we have looked at digital footprints and online safety. This is a key strand of our personal development education, and our goal is to ensure that all young people are secure in their understanding of personal safety and will take these skills forward into adulthood.

Next week as the half term draws to a close, we will stop to celebrate the success that individuals have achieved. Whether this is a certificate in assembly, phone call home as a 'hardworking hero', or winning an iPad.

Please find a summary below of this half term's work in the key areas of Personal Development and Education. I have also included the 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

Our new Rewards Shop and Caister Reward Coins have been extremely successful. We enjoy sharing student success weekly by seeing students' cash in their coins and well-earned reward points. Last half term, we celebrated success with our celebration assemblies, and it was great to see so many parents/carers in attendance. Students with brilliant attendance and our highest reward earners also attended our silent disco, which was a fantastic event.

I am pleased to announce that our iPad winners for amazing attendance were won by Elliot Clark, Year 9 and Jemma Todd, Senior Year.

A reminder that we have also increased our free breakfast offer on Fridays. This offer is available to all students, free of charge from 8.00am. Our form tutor golden ticket prizes are also a success and students that are gifted with a golden ticket are entitled to a free breaktime snack on a Friday, just for being in attendance. We have also introduced Marvellous Mondays where students can receive a free cheese topped bagel and a hash brown as part of an increased breakfast offer. We hope this will increase Monday attendance as students can enjoy this warm breakfast before form time.

Please see our current reward and attendance leaders below for this half term so far:

Year Group	Reward Point Total	Winning Form Group	Reward Point Total
Year 7	3103	7RHA	846
Year 8	2442	8VBE	518
Year 9	2915	9SWA	714
Year 10	2540	10VSA	771
Year 11	1878	11DMC	393

- Staff member who has issued the highest number of rewards points this half term:
 - Mrs Rodwell (10VRD) - 1408
- Student who has received the highest number of rewards points this half term:
 - Nethmin Wijewardhane (9SWA)
- Best attending forms:
 - Year 7 – 7DMI (95.8%)
 - Year 8 – 8GAB (91.5%)
 - Year 9 – 9SWA (94.9%)
 - Year 10 – 10VSA (91.3%)
 - Year 11 – 11DMC (95.3%)

As we move towards Easter, we look forward to inviting parents to our next round of celebration assemblies on Thursday 28 March. During these assemblies, reward winners will also have photographs taken with parents/carers.



Electives

Currently, we offer 30 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. After half term, we look forward to adding KS4 Pilates to our offer.

Remember that each day, we offer refreshments for all students staying for an elective, 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

As previously mentioned, our new Student Leadership Team is up and running with students from all year groups. Students within these privileged positions are instrumental in monitoring, reviewing, and promoting positive change within academy life and for student opportunities. So far, this academic year, students have assisted us at parent's evenings, the Creative Education Trust Carol Service, touring visits and answering questions about the academy in our brand-new diary room.

Please see the website for more information regarding student leadership.

The Papillon Project

We look to offer our congratulations to The Papillon Project's founder, Matt Willer, who was awarded the Medal of the Order of the British Empire (also known as the British Empire Medal or BEM) in the 2024 New Years Honours List. We are lucky to have access to this wonderful project at Caister Academy.

Our dedicated students and volunteers have been working tirelessly to transform our once forgotten garden into a vegetable growing paradise. Since our last update we have completed multiple important steps in our project's journey, ready for growing season come March.

Students have laid the foundations of growing beds, fully completed with manure and topsoil ready to grow. We have planted strawberries and beetroot, some of which were gifted by one of our very own students. We have planted apple trees and used up-cycled materials to create dividers between these and the path. The group had enormous fun laying lots of straw around the project to create accessible pathways that stop weeds from sprouting through.

Our keen students have now turned their attention to painting some artwork for the project, themed around sustainability and the preservation of our amazing planet and wildlife. In the Spring I will be advertising for green fingered volunteers from our wider community to support the project.

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



Young Carers

Caister Academy has been recognised by the Caring Together Trust for their ongoing work to support our students who have the added responsibility of being a Young Carer for a member of their family.

The award of a National Kitemark acknowledges our commitment to ensuring our Young Carers are visible, acknowledged and supported across all areas of school life, the curriculum and are provided with equal access to rewards and enrichment activities. We are supported in our endeavors by the Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Young Carers who visit weekly and provide one-to-one for our students as well as extra-curricular and holiday activities.

Many young people do not get the recognition they deserve for caring roles. If you believe your child is a young carer, please get in touch with Mrs Read via email rachel.read@caisteracademy.org.uk to discuss identification and support.

Educational Updates

This half term our students have been really focusing on what core knowledge they have retained over time and what core knowledge they need to adapt and refine to improve their learning. Our *Reteach* lessons have been a real highlight – with classroom teachers identifying what students were less secure on in recent assessments/mock examinations, and then reteaching this to enable each individual student to relearn. We have had some incredible success stories with students actioning their targets and making significant progress in a very short space of time. As we move through the school year, we will continue with this focus on *Reteach* to ensure that our students are always supported to be successful in every aspect of their learning.

Homework

Thank you for the continued support of your child with their homework so far this year. We would like to acknowledge and thank the hard work of our students as they enthusiastically make their way through their independent learning journey. Our staff have continued to reward students who go the extra mile and complete their homework in a timely fashion. Forms have been celebrated with our homework league tables and these rewards will continue into the year. An extra well done goes out to our current leading form groups for consistently completing homework across the school: 7RHA, 8VBE, 9CBL, 10MMA and 11DMC.

We are equally proud of the work our students are doing in many of our online homework platforms, such as Seneca and Sparx Maths. Sparx reader has now been embedded as a powerful tool to drive up reading ages amongst our key stage three students. Please continue to encourage your child/children to use these platforms in their spare time.

Oracy at Caister

We are thrilled to announce the integration of Oracy as the next pivotal step in our educational journey, complementing our existing literacy focus. Recognising the transformative power of spoken communication, we believe that fostering effective verbal expression is essential for academic success and personal development.

Oracy, the art of effective spoken communication, empowers students to speak their thoughts with confidence, clarity, and coherence. Through structured discussions, debates, and collaborative activities, we aim to enhance students' ability to express themselves eloquently and engage in



meaningful dialogue. This initiative not only strengthens their communication skills but also cultivates critical thinking, active listening, and empathetic understanding.

We are committed to nurturing well-rounded individuals, and the introduction of an oracy focus reflects our dedication to this.

Curriculum in the Classroom

Across the curriculum, in every subject studied, students are working hard to review what they have learned within each lesson. This half term we have refocused students on our whole school classroom 'exit' expectations. Teachers ask one 'key question' to the entire class at the end of each lesson that reviews if the students have achieved the goal of the lesson through their responses. This is then used to identify individuals that might need support in the next lesson and to inform purposeful lesson planning. The students have been fantastic in responding to the 'key question', often using their mini whiteboards to show what they know and reflect on how well they have remembered key features of their lesson. We will continue to develop this throughout the year in the aim to support every Caister student to remember the core knowledge they have learned within every single lesson.

Senior Year

This half term Senior Year have been exceptional in their attitudes and maturity, please see highlights from the term below:

- Students have addressed misconceptions of mock examinations through re-teach week.
- Students have attended over 450 Step Ups.
- The academy has launched the following:
 - Points, Prizes and Progress scheme linked with Passport to Prom.
 - Fabulous Fridays, which is a strategy that acknowledges two hardworking students a week. Students receive a £5 amazon voucher and a sweet treat.
 - Breakfast Revision Club from 8.00am, where students receive a free breakfast roll for undertaking revision.
 - Lunchtime Step Ups, which is an intervention designed to support students over the lunch period and offers an opportunity to address any misconceptions.

We look forward to celebrating students' hard work through fortnightly and termly prizes.

Assessment

The next set of mock examinations for Senior Year will begin Monday 12 February and will continue the week after the half term break. All staff at the academy are proud of the effort our Senior Year students are showing in preparing for these.

Students in Year 10 will also complete assessments from Monday 11 March to Friday 22 March, in line with the school assessment calendar.

Another huge well done to our key stage three students who have completed assessments to allow teachers to identify strengths and areas of development. Teachers will then plan to reteach, revisit and strengthen students' knowledge. Reports for Years 7, 8 and 9 will be released on Friday 1 March. Please go through this report with your child, looking for areas of success, as well as development.



Years 7-9 will also complete additional reading tests so we can move students into and out of our reading support programme.

Lockers

A reminder that student lockers can be purchased by placing a £10 refundable deposit on ParentPay. Once payment has been received, your child will be issued a locker number via their form tutor. If you have any queries regarding lockers, please do not hesitate to contact us via enquiries@caisteracademy.org.uk, or 01493 720542.

Looking ahead to Spring Term 2

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.

Uniform and Standards

To avoid unnecessary disruption at the start of the day, we ask that students are wearing the correct footwear to school, which does not include boots. With the current cold weather, it is advisable that all students wear a coat on their way to and from school.

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
PA to the Principal	Rachel Grant	rachel.grant@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 term, I wanted to leave you with some dates for your diaries for the term ahead:

- Monday 26 February – All students return to school for the start of Spring Term 2.
- Wednesday 28 February – Year 8 Parents Evening
- Monday 4 March to Friday 8 March – Careers Week
- Tuesday 5 March to Friday 8 March – Iceland Trip
- Monday 18 March – Year 8 and 9 Bletchley Park Trip
- Tuesday 19 March – Year 9 Options Evening
- Tuesday 26 March – Easter Performance
- Wednesday 27 March – Easter Performance
- Thursday 28 March:
 - Rewards Assemblies – All Year Groups
 - End of Term

Thank you for taking the time to read this update. If there are areas that you would like included next update letter, please contact PA to the Principal Rachel Grant.

From all at Caister Academy we wish you a happy and safe holiday and look forward seeing your child/children on Monday 26 February.

Yours faithfully

Miss H Seath
Principal

Enclosed:

- Electives Programme – Spring
- Step Up Programme - Spring
- Uniform, Jewellery and Equipment list
- Safeguarding Newsletter - Spring 1 Update