



Caister Academy Newsletter

September 2017

Issue 25

Upcoming dates for your diary:

- **Friday 29 September**
Macmillan Coffee Morning
- **Monday 16 October**
Yr 8 Parents evening
- **Friday 20 October to Friday 27 October**
Half term

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The summer holidays already seem like a distant memory, especially now the weather has turned wet and windy. I hope you all managed to have a very enjoyable summer and got some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

Lots of decorating work took place in school over the summer. However, it is not just the building that has improved. We have replaced 'Show my Homework' with a much improved and more comprehensive system called 'Class Charts'. This system enables staff to allocate positives and negatives for pupils as well as set homework tasks. It also enables you as parents to access your child's attendance, achievements and behaviour from your computer, laptop or mobile device. If you have not yet received your password please contact the school.

One thing that hasn't changed however, and will not change, is our relentless focus on being the best we can be. Last year's Year 11 cohort proved that with hard work and commitment you can be successful. Results day saw them achieving the school's best GCSE outcomes; 60% achieved the government's standard pass, grade 4+ in both English and Maths, with 40% achieving the government's strong pass, grade 5+ in both subjects. These headline figures have proven that we are one of the best schools in the local area.

And so, another year has begun, with I am sure many new challenges ahead. I am very much looking forward to another positive year, building on last year's successes. As a school, we ask all pupils to work hard so they will leave us being the best they can be. I have every confidence that the staff we have at the academy will continue to work with all pupils, challenging and supporting them and ensuring that all make good progress. I also believe that, for the most part, pupils want to succeed and they will do so, if they are challenged and apply themselves in every lesson. So far they have made a good start. All have returned looking smart, wearing their uniform with pride. They have settled back into the new school year well and there was lots of learning taking place in the lessons I have witnessed in the last few weeks.

Year 11 have realised that time is running out for them and before they know it they will be sitting their final exams. We have very high expectations of them and they have already been told we expect them to do even better than last year's cohort. As I said in assembly last week, it is down to them. The staff will push them all the way, but they have to put the effort in themselves and do the best they can in every lesson. They cannot afford to waste time. They need to put themselves first and work hard even if their friends are doing different.

Our new Year 7s have settled extremely well and seem to be enjoying their initial days at Caister. I spoke to several different groups last week and all had lots of positives to tell me. Long may this continue. We have also had several new pupils join from different schools, as well as several new teachers this year and it is lovely to see them being made to feel very welcome. I was very proud to watch some older pupils helping out some younger ones who were clearly lost and even prouder to see another group going out of their way to help out a new member of staff. These random acts of kindness and friendship are what makes Caister the school it is.

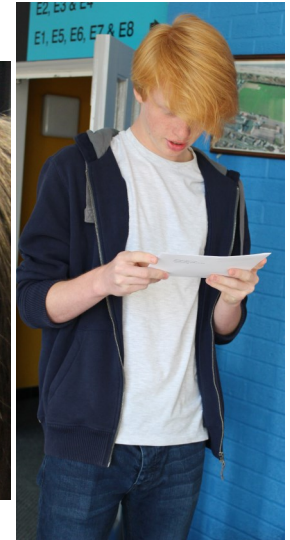
I hope you will agree that there is currently much to be positive about and lots to look forward to this year. I very much look forward to sharing the journey with you all.

Mrs Strong, Principal



Results Day

It was lovely to share the pupils' successes on results day. There were lots of tears, but once again they were mainly tears of joy and in many cases disbelief at how well they had done. We wish them all well in the next stage of their lives, whether that be at sixth form, college or in an apprenticeship.



Open Evening

Our annual open evening for prospective pupils and families proved to be very popular last week, with more families than ever attending and seeing for themselves the recent improvements to Caister. Throughout the evening, prospective families were able to gain an insight into how we challenge, inspire and support all our pupils every day. Families were treated to a wonderful performance from the choir before hearing from Mrs Strong about the recent school successes, the direction the school is going on and her vision that in the future Caister will be an outstanding school, where all pupil leave being the best they can be.

Current pupils acted as tour guides throughout the evening and were on hand to help out and answer questions. Staff showcased different lessons and demonstrated both practical and written elements; pupils were able to experience different experiments in science, have a go at playing table tennis in the sports hall, visit the school library, see the different activities on offer in the design area and take part in a drama activity in the drama studio.

Thanks must go to the staff and pupils who made the evening a success. The feedback from prospective pupils and parents as they left was extremely positive and we hope the young people were inspired by what they saw and will join us in Year 7 next year for the next stage of their educational journey.

If you missed the evening and would like a tour of the school or indeed if you would like to see the school in action during the day, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are always happy to show families around and answer any questions you may have. Our open morning will be on Tuesday 10 October. Further details will follow shortly.





Netball

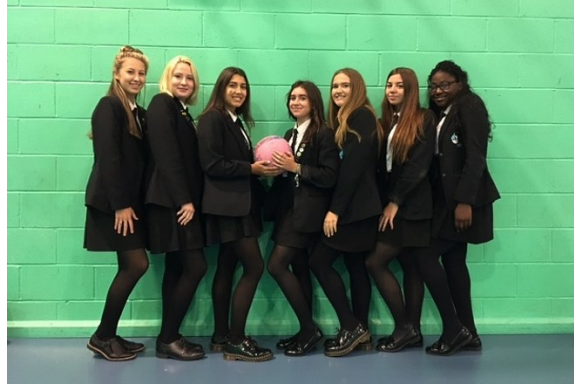
Recently, our Year 11 netball team played at a tournament at Ormiston Venture Academy. They competed in three games against three different schools and won all of them. In a few weeks, they will be going to a National Schools Competition. Well done to all the girls for their hard work and dedication as a strong team. All of us at Caister Academy are very proud of them all and wish them luck in the future.

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Redecoration

South block was completely redecorated over the summer and is certainly much brighter. Central block toilets have been totally refurbished. The hall has been redecorated and a new floor has been laid in the dining room. Pupil feedback has been very positive and they all seem to appreciate the work that has been put in to brighten up and improve their learning environment.

None of these changes could have happened without the hard work of the site team and various other members of the support staff team. Thanks must go to them, as they worked tirelessly throughout the summer to ensure that the school was ready to welcome pupils back last week.

WE ARE ON THE WEB!
WWW.CAISTERACADEMY
.ORG.UK/



As you may have noticed the school gates are being closed by a senior member of staff at 8.20 every morning and again at 3pm every afternoon. This is primarily to ensure pupils arriving and leaving school are safe. Can I request that parents dropping off and/or collecting pupils do so with consideration for others. There have been a number of near misses on both Windsor Avenue and Braddock Road in the past two weeks. Please can parents also refrain from parking on the pavements as pupils then have to use the road, something they are being told not to do.