



Caister Academy Newsletter

May 2018

Issue 30

Upcoming dates for your diary:

- **Monday 14 May**
GCSE Exams Start
- **Monday 28 May to**
Friday 1 June
Half Term

As you all know I will be leaving Caister Academy at the end of the academic year, in order to take up a new principal's role in Nottingham. I have had an amazing three years here and am going to find it very difficult to say goodbye to such a fantastic set of staff, pupils and parents. The progress we have made together since I arrived in 2015 is a credit to the Caister community. It is not a decision I have taken lightly and is one over which I have deliberated long and hard, knowing if I were to accept the opportunity being offered to me, it would mean leaving a school and a community, which I have grown to love.

I know I am leaving the school in a very good place and I have every confidence that Mrs Bridges, the leadership team and the staff will continue to work extremely hard to ensure the school continues to move forward. Mrs Bridges has been key in driving up standards over the last three years and I have no doubt that standards will continue to improve under her leadership.

I will still be part of the Creative Trust and will therefore catch up with pupils and staff in the coming years at cross trust events. I will be in touch again before I leave, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their ongoing support of the school during my time here.

August still seems a long way away and we all still have lots of learning to do between now and then. Year 11 exams have now started and we wish them all well in the coming weeks. Year 9 & 10 exams are also well under way and we hope all pupils take these seriously and show the staff how much progress they have made since September.

As the weather improves, we are trialling allowing pupils to eat their lunches outside. This is something a number of pupils have requested. Hot lunches will still need to be eaten in the dining room, but pupils will be able to take sandwiches and pasta pots outside for the next four weeks. We will be making it clear to pupils that outside means outside and not on the corridors or in classrooms. We will be monitoring the amount of litter very carefully and hope that pupils will use all the bins provided. Failure to do so will result in us reverting to insisting all meals being eaten in the dining room.

Inside this issue:

District Cup	2
Class removals	2
Collection of pupils	2
Cycling to school	3
Debate competition	3
Attendance	4
Readathon	4



Mrs Strong, Principal



Great Yarmouth Schools District Cup – Final

Well done to the year 8 boys' football team who played in the Great Yarmouth schools' district cup final against Lynn Grove. The game started well for Caister with Aaron and Ben dominating the midfield and supplying the two centre forwards with a couple of scoring opportunities. Caister and Lynn Grove shared the possession and it was only the woodwork that denied Kiam from getting onto the score sheet. In the second half, Caister continued to exert pressure on the Lynn Grove defence and it was not long before Kane shot from close range and the rebound was bundled across the line by Kiam. Lynn Grove then responded with well combining several times demonstrating their speed in attack, resulting in two goals in quick succession. Both teams continued to play well but unfortunately the final score was 2-1 to Lynn Grove.

A great performance from the boys, just an unlucky result.



Class removals

Following suggestions put forward by pupils, we have decided to change the detentions slightly for any pupil who is removed from a lesson for poor/ disruptive behaviour. From Tuesday 8th May any pupil who has to be removed from a lesson will have their detention on the same night as the lesson removal took place. This we hope will emphasise to them and others the consequence of the behaviours the pupil has displayed.

The detention will be with the teacher whose lesson the pupil was removed from. The YGMs and the person on call during period 6 will collect the pupils towards the end of that lesson and escort them to the appropriate teacher for their 30 minutes detention. If on the rare occasion they have, on removal from class, refused to go in the back of another classroom their after school detention will be 50minutes. Pupils will be given work to complete within the detention.

As Parents you will be informed via class charts, that your child has been removed and therefore has accrued a detention that night. If a pupil refuses to go with the YGM to the detention they will spend the following day in the Internal Exclusion Room. Please contact the school if you do not have a log in for class charts and one will be sorted for you.

Thank you for your ongoing support with this. As always it is a minority of pupils who disrupt the learning of others and the vast majority of pupils will not be affected by this change.

Collecting Pupils

Unfortunately we have recently had a number of complaints from local residents as well as from some of our pupils, about how parents are parking at the end of the school day when collecting their children, both on Windsor Road and at Westgate entrance. Could we therefore please ask that parents do not park on the pavement or the grass verges. Pupils have reported that they cannot always walk down the pavements as there is often no space due to parents in parked cars. In addition, local residents are unhappy that the grass verges outside their properties are becoming ruined by cars continually parking on them. We spend time in school reminding pupils how to behave and keep safe when coming to and going from school and remind them of the need to walk out sensibly using the pavements. This is difficult for us to reinforce if pupils can't actually use the pavements and are forced into the road. Therefore we would very much appreciate your support in this matter.

Cycling to School

We have had an increase in the number of children using bicycles in order to travel to and from school, and unfortunately an increase in complaints from local residents regarding how pupils are riding them, please be reminded all of our guidelines in relation to bike safety:

- All pupils using a bicycle are strongly encouraged to wear an appropriate fitted cycle helmet for the entirety of their journey to and from school.
- All bicycles to be stored at school should be in a roadworthy condition with two brakes, lights, reflectors and a bell.
- Pupils should, where possible, wear high visibility clothing and in winter parents should fit adequate front and rear lighting to bicycles.
- Cyclists MUST dismount as soon as they approach the school gates and push their bicycles to the storage area.
- The school cannot accept any responsibility for loss, theft or damage to any bicycle or associated items brought to school. Bicycles should be locked securely in the cycle storage area. The gate to the storage area will be closed after the first morning bell and will only be opened again at the end of the school day.

LET'S
LOOK
OUT
FOR EACH OTHER

These guidelines are there to help ensure the safety of all pupils and to promote safe practices when cycling and the principal reserves the right to withdraw permission to store cycles at school should the above guidelines not be adhered to. Parents are reminded that how their child(ren) travel to and from school is ultimately the responsibility of parents. Pupils have however been reminded that riding two and three abreast on main roads is dangerous, as is pulling wheelies.

We thank you for your support in relation to this matter.

Great Yarmouth Schools' Debate Competition

Well done to Year 10 pupils Chloe, Raniyya, Maisie and Holly whom advanced through to the finals of Great Yarmouth Schools' Debate Competition, where they went up against year 9 pupils from Great Yarmouth Charter Academy to present their arguments on US gun laws and the gender pay gap.

The event was held at Great Yarmouth Town Hall on Thursday, April 26, and was presided over by Mayor Kerry Robinson-Payne and judges from each of the local political parties





Attendance

Disappointingly pupil attendance has dropped recently. Please can all parents be reminded that we expect all pupils to be in school every day. Term time holidays cannot and will not be authorised and we do fine families. Medical appointments do not usually take all day and we would expect pupils in before and/or after the appointment. Currently many pupils appear to be being allowed the whole day off by parents. Even one day missed means they miss six lessons and therefore six periods of new learning.

It has been great to see almost 100% attendance this week for Year 9 and 10 during their exams. This shows how serious they are taking them. However they will only be successful in the exams now and in the future, if they are in all their lessons prior to the exams in order to cover all the work. We really do hope they now continue to attend so well after the exams, when staff will be going over areas they have struggled with.

We are currently monitoring closely pupils whose attendance is currently causing concern and will be contacting parents requesting meetings to discuss if no improvement is seen. We are also rewarding pupils weekly if they had 100% attendance the previous week. Hopefully we can all work together and raise the attendance again in the coming weeks.

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Readathon

Well done to the year 7 pupils who participated in the Readathon for Read for Good. Pupils raised a total of £274.65, with the money going towards the Read for Good project which support children in hospital. Books and stories are particularly important – they comfort, distract, reassure and entertain. Read for Good provides a regular supply of brand new books along with storyteller visits to brighten up the days of children in all of the UK's main children's hospitals. Children unable to leave their beds can choose books from their specially designed mobile bookcase, which wheels right up to their bedside. Because they are brand new, the books are safe for those at high risk of infection.

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