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**CAISTER
ACADEMY**
*Creative
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Tuesday 22 October 2024

Dear Parent

Autumn 1 - End of Term Update

Thank you for supporting us and your child throughout the first half term. 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, and I wanted to include some of the highlights below:

- **Trips** – So far this year, students have taken part in the following trips:
 - Kingswood Residential
 - London Theatre Tours
 - Lockton and Globe Theatre Visit
 - East Norfolk Food Security and AgriTech
 - Norfolk Broads Authority
 - St George's Park
 - Come from Away, Theatre Royal, Norwich
- **Attendance** - Our whole school attendance has once again improved from the same point last academic year, and we are currently sitting above national average. Thank you for the part that you play in this. We would like this high attendance to continue throughout the year, therefore, as the winter months draw closer, please encourage your children to wrap up warm with a winter coat and if they are feeling under the weather, please send them in and they are able to leave medication at our student office should they need to. It is vital to remember that students need to attend to succeed.
- **Independent Study (Homework)** - Student completion of independent study has improved markedly from last academic year. Independent study is a key tool to support students in continuing to develop their skills and knowledge and helps create positive learning habits that will be invaluable as they prepare for their formal examinations at the end of Senior Year.

Round up of Autumn Term 1 – Wednesday 4 September to Friday 25 October

Personal Development

Safeguarding

During the Autumn term students have been focusing on our theme of Celebrating Diversity & Tolerance across the personal learning and PSHE curriculum. This has included key learning around subject matter such as combating extremism, terrorism, radicalisation and exploring LGBTQ+ and transphobia.

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As a school we recognise the importance of educating our community to identify contributing factors linked to child criminal exploitation (CCE). We have commissioned the Joe Dix Foundation to deliver bespoke workshops as part of our personal learning offer next term. The sessions will be using the Joe Dix story to develop our student's awareness of child criminal exploitation, gang violence and knife crime in the UK. The following dates have been scheduled for the workshops during personal learning sessions:

- Friday 15 November – Year 8
- Friday 29 November – Year 7
- Friday 13 December – Year 10

Rewards and Attendance

We are delighted to have increased our rewards offer to students this year specialising in academic excellence, and as part of this offer, we have introduced Caister Coins, where year groups are collecting for a half termly reward. This term we have introduced fortnightly subject personalised postcards and principal's learner of the week. Please use the link below for further information about the amazing rewards we offer.

[Academic Excellence Rewards Brochure.](#)

This half term:

- 25,361 Caister Coins and points were given to students.
- 94 students received subject specials postcards.
- 5 students achieved Principal's learner of the week.
- 30 students achieved Head of Year reward.
- 174 students will receive subject badges.

The staff member who has issued the highest number of rewards points this half term is Mr Harmer, Teacher of English.

- Congratulations to the students who have received the highest number of rewards points this half term:
Year 7 - Isla Adcock-Henderson
Year 8 - Trent Rawnsley
Year 9 - Jake Albone-Lacey
Year 10 - Amelia Moreby
Senior Year - Charlotte Munday

A huge well done to every student who has received reward points, caister coins, subject postcards, or a Head of Year award. The Caister Coin winning year group are Year 9. A massive well done from all staff and the points total will be reset for the start of Autumn Term 2. Year 9 have won a private year group theatre screening, which will take place on Thursday this week.



A huge well done this half term to all students for attendance. Please see the best attending form groups below:

- 7PCU (96.2%)
- 8RMA (96.7%)
- 9ATO (94.0%)
- 10BAT (95.4%)
- 11MMA (95.5%)

Electives

Electives this half term have had amazing attendance, it is lovely to see students enjoying our extra-curricular opportunities. Examples of the wide range of electives we are providing are catering, multisport, climate change at Caister, STEM, make do and mend, and 3D club. Please see our full list of electives [here](#).

Student Leadership

We are currently in the process of recruiting students to develop and extend our Student Leadership Team. This is an exciting opportunity for students to join our existing team who are the voice of the student body, and instrumental in monitoring, reviewing, and promoting positive change within academy life and student opportunities. If students would like to join our student leadership team, they can complete an application form from their form tutor or pop and see Mrs Ford.

Inclusion Framework

Our inclusion framework promotes personal development by providing a clear framework, using a graduated approach; to identify, support and review the progress of our most vulnerable learners at Caister Academy.

We are currently beginning the first cycle of passport creation for new students, along with a review of existing passports. In order to support your child's progress and any additional needs, the Inclusion Team will be regularly monitoring their progress and ensuring reasonable adjustments are in place to support learning and development.

Students with a passport have been allocated a member of school staff as a mentor. In most cases the mentor will be a form tutor or subject assistant who should communicate with you this term and should, alongside your child's Head of Year, be your key contact to discuss SEND.

Further information about our SEND offer and associated policies can be found on the Academy website <http://www.caisteracademy.org.uk>.

The Papillion Project

This September saw one full calendar year since the initial clearing of the ground that became the school community garden, and it is now well on its way to becoming a hub of cross-curricular activity.



Throughout this half term there has been a continuation of developments within the grounds, harvests have continued to be prolific and while much of the produce was utilised in catering lessons, the vast majority has been donated to the local community. This included a large donation for this year's harvest festival at Caister Trinity Church. The days may already be drawing in, but that hasn't stopped the team preparing for next year by planting hardy vegetables both outside and within the polytunnel. We greatly look forward to the coming growing season.

Educational Updates

In line with the fantastic results achieved by Senior Year in the summer, we continue to drive academic achievement for every student, giving them every opportunity to excel. This half term we have really focused on the review phase of lessons, ensuring that students can consider how successful they have been in the lesson and – most crucially – that they know how to improve their learning, where needed. This has aligned nicely with celebrating students' achievement at the end of every lesson, whereby teachers identify up to three students to receive a 'Caister Coin' and give clear explanations as to how the recipients' learning and attitude resulted in the coin being awarded. We are incredibly proud of students' achievements and know that this desire to be successful and 'excel' will continue with all.

Running alongside excellent lessons is our 'gold standard' curriculum provision. We are committed to giving our students every opportunity to see how what they are learning in lessons links to real-life contexts, and our extensive trips and visits programme directly aligns with this. All curriculum leaders have identified out-of-school opportunities – across all year groups – that enrich students' understanding of the subject. One trip of note this half term, amongst many, was the Year 10 visit to Lloyds of London and Lockton Companies Ltd, followed by a performance of *The Taming of the Shrew* at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. Students were able to immerse themselves in the London business world and gain an insight into a range of interesting and varied career opportunities. As the year progresses there will be many more opportunities for our students to experience the curriculum in varied and wonderful settings.

Part of the 'gold standard' curriculum offer we have, is to continue to teach the curriculum right up until the end of each term. For this reason, please do continue to book holidays outside of school term time, to enable your child to receive the very best education.

Independent Study & Student Planners

Independent study is issued in line with the schedule 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. In total, 3129 independent study reward points have been issued this term. Thank you to all parents who support our learners in completing these tasks. Students should refer to Arbor as the main place for managing the completion of independent study, however they should also record key deadlines in their student planner. This acts as a single point for students to organise themselves.



Library and Reading

The school library, newly renovated and better than ever, has quickly become a vibrant hub of activity throughout the academic year. With refreshed spaces and an inviting atmosphere, the library has started this term with a flurry of events. We have recently appointed 10 dedicated student librarians who are actively engaged in updating and revamping our collection of reading books, ensuring that students have access to an exciting and diverse range of titles. The library serves as more than just a place for study; it's a welcoming space that encourages a love of reading for pleasure as well as independent study. Students are regularly invited to explore new books, share recommendations, and dive into the joy of reading beyond their academic requirements.

In our continued effort to foster a culture of reading, we place great importance on creating fun and engaging experiences around books. This week, the library is hosting a Halloween-themed event, complete with a spooky short story contest, book-themed games, and a lunchtime reward for students who have excelled in reading this half term. These activities not only promote literacy but also help students discover the excitement that comes with reading for enjoyment. We believe that by encouraging reading in a positive and stimulating environment, we can cultivate lifelong readers and learners.

Curriculum

We are extremely proud of our Year 10 students as they begin their options courses. Some subjects will feel familiar as it will have been studied in key stage three, other subjects like photography, health and social care, and graphics are completely new. This quote, from a teacher of an options course, sums up how Caister Academy students have approached their studies. *"The way students have adapted to their new courses has been amazing – students are demonstrating a real determination and excitement to begin learning new knowledge and skills!"*

Assessment

Assessment cycles have begun in all subject areas and student reports will be issued on Thursday 24 October and Friday 25 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 which has enabled us to check that students are in the right sets and receive the appropriate support.

Next half term, our Senior Year will sit mock examinations. Please see the mock examination timetable [here](#). Examinations begin on Monday 11 November 2024 and finish on Friday 22 November 2024. The timetable will mimic a normal summer examination day, so we expect students to arrive at the dining hall at 8.00am for registration and subject-specific warm-ups. Afternoon examinations begin at 1.30pm and the duration will take the academy day beyond 3.00pm. Students will receive personalised examination timetables – please check carefully for any late finishes to exams.



Senior Year

Senior Year have made a phenomenal start to their afterschool *Step Up* programme, with an average of 60 students in attendance each evening. Students have taken up every opportunity to excel their outcomes as we move into the mock season. Senior Year have had a variety of external providers in to provide information and guidance on further education and students have begun their applications for FE. The deadline for submitting applications is Christmas.

Looking ahead to Autumn Term 2 – Monday 4 November to Friday 20 December

Safeguarding

Our safeguarding theme for Autumn 2 is Anti-Bullying. Please see the table below with regards to PSHE and personal learning topics:

Year Group	PSHE and Personal Learning Topics
Senior Year	Staying safe Virtual reality Positive relationships Self-worth and self esteem Dangers of cosmetic surgery Alcohol and risk taking Drugs substance addiction Online reputation and digital footprint
Year 10	Violence, Crimes & Seeking Safety Honour Based Violence Forced marriages Causes of knife crime Modern day slavery
Year 9	Respect Peer on peer abuse Up skirting Cyber flashing and unsolicited images Gender stereotypes
Year 8	Proud to be me Employability skills Exploring careers Career choices Career interest and jobs
Year 7	Friendship, Respect & Relationships Consent and boundaries Respect and relationships Pressure and influence Friendships and managing them



Scheduled trips for next half term:

- Thursday 7 November - CET Shakespeare Voice and Text Workshop
- Thursday 7 November - BBC Concert Rehearsal at Great Yarmouth Hippodrome
- Friday 8 November - Year 9 UEA Languages Trip
- Friday 22 November - CET Orchestra/Choir Day
- Tuesday 26 November - BAE Systems Science Show
- Wednesday 27 November - Warner Brothers Studio Trip
- Tuesday 3 December - Greenwich Observatory

Rewards

As we move towards Christmas year groups will continue to compete for the end of term rewards by collecting Caister Coins. We also look forward to inviting parents/carers to our celebration assemblies at the end of term where we will congratulate student success. Further details with regards to these assemblies will be sent nearer the time.

Final Word

Nomination for National Music and Drama Education Awards 2025

Over the Summer holidays Miss Curston, Faculty Leader for Performing Arts, entered Caister Academy into the National Music and Drama Education Awards 2025. I am extremely excited to announce that the Academy has been shortlisted and invited to the awards ceremony in January next year.

This award acknowledges and celebrates an outstanding musical theatre provision in a primary or secondary setting. With the winning school demonstrating that musical theatre is vital to both the music and drama departments and the ethos of the entire school.

Schools will be judged on rehearsal and performance opportunities provided, the educational value and positive influence on students involved in musical theatre, the creativity and innovation of the leadership team, and whether musical theatre brings the entire school and wider community together.

Following the awards ceremony, I will write to you to advise you of the outcome. Please keep your fingers crossed for our incredible staff and students.

Staffing

In addition to the information above I would like to wish the following staff all the best as they move on to new opportunities:

- Miss J Bicker – Cover Manager
- Miss P Mannall – Raising Achievement Mentor - Humanities

I am delighted to introduce you to the following staff who will be joining us:

- Miss J Gibson – Learning Support Assistant
- Miss M Mendes – Teacher of Science



- Ms N Smith – Cover Manager
- Mrs R Martin-Schrader – Teacher of Science
- Mr Z Ravenhill – Raising Achievement Mentor – Humanities

CAI Consultation

We are proposing to make changes to the admissions arrangements for the academic year 2026/27. Please find further information with regards to the proposed changes in the attached letter, along with a copy of our Admissions Policy 2026/27, and details on how to submit your feedback.

The consultation will take place for 6 term-time weeks between Thursday 7 November 2024 and Thursday 19 December 2024.

Your views on any aspect of the admission arrangements will be sent to our Academy Council and the Trust's Board of Directors for consideration. All responses received by the end of the consultation period will be carefully considered and will decide the admission arrangements for the school year 2026/27. Once the arrangements have been determined, they will be published on the Academy's website by 15 March 2025.

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 25 November – Christmas tree erected.
- Thursday 12 December – Christmas Carol Service at Great Yarmouth Minster, everyone is welcome. The service will commence at 7.00pm.
- Monday 16 December to Wednesday 18 December - Christmas performances.
- Tuesday 17 December – Final flu vaccination session (all year groups)
- Wednesday 18 December – Secret Rewards Event
- Thursday 19 December – Christmas lunch
- Friday 20 December – Christmas jumper day, and celebration assemblies.

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

Attachments: CAI Consultation Letter 2026/27
CAI Admissions Policy Final Draft 2026/27