

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

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



**CAISTER
ACADEMY**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

Friday 6 February 2026

Dear Parent

Spring Term – Principal’s Roundup - 5

Another busy and successful week here at Caister Academy.

Please see highlights from the week below:

- Year 7 students have been practicing the skill of GCSE narrative account questions in history, along with testing out our new gym equipment during physical education lessons.
- Year 8 physical education students received a lesson on ribbon techniques. Miss Jackman, Teacher of Physical Education, couldn’t wait to share their success and enthusiasm with staff. Miss Jackman is looking forward to watching their sequences in full next week.
- Miss Willingham, Lead Practitioner of English, had the pleasure of launching the Year 9 Options Process during assembly on Wednesday. Students' engagement was fantastic. A big thank you to Mr Fisher, Head of Year 9, who reiterated the importance of the process, and will work alongside students to offer support and guidance during this time.
- Year 10 health and social care students have been congratulated on their work ethic and focus during PSA lessons.
- Senior Year Passport to Prom launched on Monday. The passport allows students to collect prom points to access their invite to prom, as well as a reduction in ticket price. Since the launch, students have been working incredibly hard to gain signatures and stamps. Great work Senior Year!
- Well done to our best attending form groups so far:
 - First place - 7LGO (96.0%)
 - Second place - 11SMA (95.7%)
 - Third place - 7KLO (93.9%)
- And to the form groups with the highest rewards this week:
 - First place - 8VRO
 - Second place - 7LGO
 - Third place - 9RMS

Principal’s Learner of the Week

Congratulations to Alfie Benson-Tunncliffe, Year 10, who won this week’s Principal’s Learner of the Week. Alfie received this award for his constant hard work and dedication in lessons.

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Reminders for next week and beyond:

- Monday 9 February – Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
- Wednesday 11 February – Year 9 Options Evening
- Friday 13 February – End of Spring Term 1 - School closes for half term
- Monday 23 February – School reopens for Spring Term 2
- Thursday 26 February – Senior Year Parents Evening.

Year 9 Options Evening

A reminder that our Year 9 Options Evening will be taking place on Wednesday 11 February from 4.30pm-6.30pm (presentation begins at 4.30pm). This will provide you with lots of information to help your child choose their options and support you throughout the process.

Senior Year Parents Evening

We look forward to welcoming Senior Year parents to our parents' consultation evening on Thursday 26 February. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to meet with class teachers and discuss all aspects of learning linked to your child's achievement. Appointment bookings can be made via Arbor.

Career of the Week

Each week during form time, students explore a different career path, discovering the skills and opportunities each one offers. This week, they investigated the role of an electrician and were intrigued to learn that there are 352,758 electrician positions across the UK, including 5,636 right here in Norfolk. As part of their research, students also examined the valuable transferable skills needed in this field, gaining a deeper understanding of how versatile and in-demand the profession truly is.

Catapult Reading: Accelerating Literacy in Year 7 & 8

One of the standout successes of the year has been our Catapult Reading intervention, delivered to selected students in Years 7 and 8. This structured programme focuses on building essential reading skills, including comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, and confidence, through carefully designed small group sessions. The impact has been exceptional.

So far this year, students in literacy intervention have collectively made over 1,000 months of reading progress. This extraordinary figure reflects both the dedication of our staff and the hard work of our students, who have embraced the programme with enthusiasm and determination. Many pupils have not only closed significant gaps in their reading ages but have also rediscovered a sense of achievement and enjoyment in reading.

Year 8 Spelling Bee

Our recent Year 8 Spelling Bee was a huge success, with students fully embracing the challenge and cheering each other on throughout the event. They loved the friendly competition and the chance to showcase their growing confidence with words. Activities like this not only build enthusiasm but also significantly strengthen students' reading skills by expanding vocabulary and improving word recognition.

A special shout out goes to Chloe (Year 8) who took the victory.



PSHE

This fortnight, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be completing the PSHE student voice survey to determine their enjoyment and engagement with the PSHE curriculum. The survey will allow students to share their views on gender bias, friendships, consent, and bullying, as well as PSHE lessons.

PSHE key themes during personal learning time will be as follows:

Year 7 - Online grooming and online safety

Year 8 - Alcohol safety

Year 9 - Drug safety

Year 10 – Exploring and debating the concepts of AI use, fake news, and continuing work on targeted advertising.

Archaeological Dig

A group of students visited the Persimmon Homes site in Caister earlier today, where they had the exciting opportunity to explore rare objects and structures uncovered by the team onsite. They were fascinated to see archaeology in action and enjoyed discussing what a career in this field involves. Despite the wet weather, the students had a fantastic time and returned to school buzzing with enthusiasm.

Lunchtime Games Room

Our lunchtime games room has become incredibly popular, with students enjoying the chance to relax and have fun together. To support this growing interest, we are kindly asking for donations of games suitable for secondary school-aged children, such as Guess Who, Jenga (not giant), and Snakes and Ladders etc. Any contributions can be dropped off at main reception and would be greatly appreciated.

Attendance

Attendance has been lower than we would like this week, however we're hopeful to see an improvement as we head into next week. To help give things a positive boost, we're launching our Valentine's 5-Day Countdown! Students who attend school every day next week will receive a sweet treat on the final day of term. Let's finish strong together!

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 next week. During the 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. During the drill students will be asked to turn off their mobile devices.

Last year we had some important parent, student and staff feedback that we should not give advance warning on the specific day and time of the drill which is why we have not released this information this time round.



Thank you for your continued support, I look forward to writing to you again next week.

Yours faithfully

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

Helen Seath
Principal