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**CAISTER
ACADEMY**
*Creative
Education
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Friday 1 May 2026

Dear Parent

Summer Term – Principal’s Roundup 3

Another busy and successful week here at Caister Academy.

Please see highlights below:

- A massive thank you to everyone who attended our Year 7 Parent’s Evening last night. It was wonderful to see so many parents engaging in constructive conversations about how we can continue to support students to make strong progress.
- A group of Year 7 students enjoyed a memorable and educational visit to Jimmy’s Farm in Ipswich. Every student demonstrated outstanding behaviour throughout the trip, and there were many lovely moments to celebrate, including students forming new friendships during group activities, and choosing to stay together during their free time. Excitement peaked when the students spotted the capybaras, and their enthusiasm was infectious. A huge thank you to the science team for their fantastic organisation, and to all staff for their support in making experiences like this possible.
- Year 8 had an excellent week, showing great enthusiasm and engagement throughout. Students particularly enjoyed their SEAL (Stop Everything And Listen) reading, approaching it with genuine interest. A highlight of the week was the RNLI assembly, where students were fully engaged and gained valuable beach-safety knowledge, leaving them feeling confident and summer-ready.
- Mr Fisher, Head of Year 9, would like to commend Year 9 students for their excellent attendance this week. He has also praised their consistently positive attitude to learning, noting how settled they are in lessons and always ready to engage with their studies. A fantastic effort all round — well done, Year 9!
- Mr Eidrys-Tuite, Teacher of English, gave a shout-out to Year 10 students for their hard work in English lessons. Students are currently reading *An Inspector Calls* and have made fantastic contributions to discussions, as well as confidently sharing the text through reading aloud.
- A huge well done to our Senior Year art and photography students, who successfully completed their exam on Friday. Completing ten hours of controlled assessment over two days is an intense challenge, and students approached it with resilience, trust in their own judgement and confidence in the creative process. The outcomes were truly impressive, showcasing a fantastic range of media, techniques and highly individual ideas. Students worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of what they achieved.

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- Well done to our best attending form groups so far:
 - First place - 11 SMA (96.3%)
 - Second place - 7ATM (95.8%)
 - Third place - 11SWA (95.7%)
- And to the form groups with the highest rewards this week:
 - First place – 9RHA
 - Second place – 8VRO
 - Third place – 7ZJA

Principal's Learner of the Week

Congratulations to Joe J, Year 8, on being awarded Principal's Learner of the Week. Joe works incredibly hard across the curriculum and shows a positive attitude towards all tasks given to him. Great work Joe!

Attendance

We have seen a small improvement in attendance this week, which is really encouraging. Thank you for your support in helping your child attend school regularly. We would now like to see attendance improve even further, as being in school every day makes a significant difference to learning, progress, and wellbeing. We kindly ask for your continued support by ensuring your child attends each day, communicating with us promptly about any absences, and working with us to overcome any barriers. Together, we can help every student achieve their best.

Bedrock Learning

To help students confidently access challenging texts across every subject, we use Bedrock Learning. Bedrock Learning is a digital literacy program designed to improve students' vocabulary, grammar, reading comprehension, and academic writing. It uses adaptive technology to tailor content to each learner, ensuring they work at a level suited to their needs while still promoting ambitious progress. Students work through immersive, curriculum aligned lessons that introduce and revisit Tier 2 and Tier 3 vocabulary, helping them access more complex texts across all subjects. The program includes regular assessment points, ensuring teachers can monitor progress and identify areas for targeted support. Its structured online format encourages independence, consistency, and long-term language acquisition, which is vital for academic success.

Restrictive Interventions in Schools

From 1 April 2026, the Department for Education has replaced the 2013 *Use of Reasonable Force* guidance with new guidance titled "Restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, in schools." This update places a stronger emphasis on de-escalation and student wellbeing, while making expectations clearer. Reasonable force remains a last resort, used only to keep pupils and others safe.

Our school has reviewed its policies and staff training to ensure we fully reflect and comply with this updated guidance.



Reminders for next week and beyond:

- Wednesday 6 May - Year 10 Pathways Trip to UEA
- Friday 15 May – Year 9 ElevatEd Workshop
- Saturday 16 May - Senior Year Science & English Pizza Party
- Friday 22 May - School closes for May half term.

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

Yours faithfully

Helen Seath
Principal