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**CAISTER
ACADEMY**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

Friday 4 September 2026

Dear Parent

Autumn Term – Principal's Roundup – 1

This week marked the return of all year groups to full-time learning. We have been incredibly impressed by how smart, well-equipped, and mentally prepared our young people have been. As a parent, I understand the level of support and organisation this requires at home, and I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for all that you do to help your child succeed.

Our new Year 7's are settling in well, and it has been fantastic to see students in other year groups offering assistance and guidance around the academy.

Please see this week's highlights from attendance and rewards below:

- A special well done to our best attending form groups so far:
First place – 7BAT (98.6%)
Second place – 10RMS (97.5%)
Third place – 11SSM (97.4%)
- And to the form groups with the highest rewards this week:
First place – 7VBE/7IBI
Second place – 7JFE
Third place – 7SWA

Reminders for next week and beyond:

- Thursday 10 September - Senior Year Raising Achievement Evening and Careers Evening.
- Thursday 17 September – Open Evening 2026
- Thursday 22 October - Tutor Evening (all years)
- Friday 23 October – Tutor Day (all years).

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Senior Year Raising Achievement Evening

This term Senior Year students have until Christmas to apply for further education. We are delighted to announce that we will be holding our Senior Year Raising Achievement and Careers Evening on Thursday 10 September at 5.00pm. All students and parents/carers will have the opportunity to speak to local FE providers in one informative and inspiring evening. Please register your attendance here [Booking Form - SY Raising Achievement and Careers Evening](#).

Senior Year Step Up's

Our Senior Year after-school provision, Step Up's, are designed to support all learners in achieving their full potential. Feedback from previous Senior Year students and parents has highlighted the significant impact these sessions have had on students' outcomes and success on results day. Step Up's provide the foundation for accelerated progress and grade improvement, helping students to identify and address misconceptions while building confidence ahead of their final examinations. The programme will commence on Monday 21 September, and we hope to see every student in attendance. As an added incentive, students attending will receive a complimentary bagel and hot chocolate.

Step Up's will take place on the following days:

Monday - Mathematics

Tuesday - English

Thursday - Science and Options

Friday - Options

Electives

After school electives will commence from Monday 21 September, and students will have the opportunity to sign up to these from next week (a message will go out to all parents when Elective sign up is ready on Arbor). Electives timings are 3.10pm until 4.00pm. We look forward to seeing students take up these additional enrichment activities.

UEA Heat Data Letters

We would like to inform parents that a letter from the University of East Anglia (UEA) Outreach Team will be sent home shortly. UEA works with schools to provide impartial information and opportunities relating to higher education, including university courses and degree apprenticeships. As part of evaluating the impact of these activities, limited student information may be shared with UEA in line with UK data protection legislation. This information is used solely for educational outreach and evaluation purposes and is never used for marketing or sold to third parties. The letter provides full details about how data is used, students' rights, and how parents or students can opt out of data sharing or evaluation activities if they wish.



Free School Meals

As a reminder, changes to the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals (FSM) came into effect from September 2026. All children whose families receive Universal Credit and attend a maintained school, academy or free school may now be eligible for free school meals. We encourage all families receiving Universal Credit to apply, even if they are unsure whether they qualify, as the process is quick and confidential. If your child currently receives free school meals, a new application will still be required.

Applying not only helps ensure your child can access free meals at school but also enables the school to receive additional funding to support learning and resources for all students.

The easiest and quickest way to apply is online via Norfolk Education Online (NEO).

Scan the code or visit the link and click 'Apply for free school meals'.



Applying for Free School Meals not only helps your child receive meals at school, but it can also:

- Ensure your child is supported from the start of the school year
- Help the school access additional funding (Pupil Premium) to support learning and resources

We encourage you to apply as soon as possible.

If you have any questions following receipt of your updated eligibility, please contact fsm@norfolk.gov.uk.

Attendance

Thank you all for a brilliant start to the year. As we begin the new academic year, we wanted to make you aware of a new supportive approach to attendance. Following a student's third day of absence during the academic year (whether authorised or unauthorised), they will have a brief supportive attendance check-in with a member of their Head of Year team.

The conversation is an opportunity to welcome students back, check that they are okay, and identify any barriers that may be affecting their attendance so that we can offer support where needed.

Parents/carers will be kept informed, and our aim is to work together with families to support every student to attend regularly and make the most of their time in school.

If students achieve 99% attendance or above this half term, they will unlock their ticket to our Halloween Spooktacular event. Therefore, let's do our best to ensure that our young people attend daily and arrive on time.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



Friday 23 October - Tutor Day

Following the success of tutor day last year, we are delighted to announce that this will take place on the last day of term. The purpose of tutor day is to:

- Enable you as parents, the tutor and your child/children to discuss wellbeing, and their first report
- Offer the opportunity for Senior Year students to seek support with career applications
- Offer support and advice to parents on Academy systems, such as Arbor
- Enable you as parents and your child/children to ask questions, seek re-assurance and raise any concerns.

To enable tutors and key staff to hold these extended 20-minute sessions, students will learn remotely from home and come into the academy with parents for their appointment. For parents that cannot attend a day appointment, evening appointments will be available on Thursday 22 October. Tutor day is in addition to parents evening. We will write to you with more information later in the term on how to book.

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

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in grey ink, reading 'Helen Seath'.

Helen Seath
Principal