

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

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



**CAISTER
ACADEMY**
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2 December 2020

Dear Parents

Vice Principal's Christmas Update

As we approach the end of a demanding but successful term, we would like to keep you informed of our end of term and Christmas celebration arrangements.

Though difficult to arrange this year, we are keen to celebrate our students' achievement, dedication, and resilience, and raise money for charitable causes.

At the same time, we must not compromise our COVID-19 safety arrangements. Our overall goal remains for our students and staff to arrive at the Christmas holiday healthy, ready for much needed time with their family and a well-deserved rest.

Below is a timeline of our Christmas activities:

Christmas Tree

Tuesday 1 December

A Christmas tree has been erected in the heart of the Academy. Final decorations will be placed by the Student Council year group with the highest reward points so far this term.

Christmas Food Bank

Tuesday 1 December to Thursday 17 December

In the UK more than 14 million people are living in poverty, including 4.5 million children. Food banks rely on the support of their local communities to help people in crisis.

Caister students are invited to contribute to our nearest community food bank by bringing in to school any of the items on this list <https://www.greatyarmouthfoodbank.co.uk/supplies-list-donate/>, that they can spare. Donations will then be collated in form, with the winning year group selected to attend our special rewards event on Thursday 17 December.

If you or anyone you know needs to access the food bank for your family over Christmas, please visit <https://www.greatyarmouthfoodbank.co.uk/>.

Christmas Dance-Off!

Tuesday 1 December to Thursday 24 December

As an individual or family, choose your favourite Christmas song that you would like to dance to. Once chosen, record your own dance video, then email it to sarah.sharpe@caisteracademy.org.uk by Thursday 24 December.

The video will be judged by the Caister Academy Performing Arts team on Christmas Day and the winner announced in the New Year.

10 Days of Christmas

Monday 7 December to Friday 18 December

In order to celebrate students who have maintained excellent attendance throughout the last term, we will be presenting attendance rewards in assemblies over the next fortnight. The highest attending form in each year group will also be celebrated with a pizza party.

Please be aware that attendance marked as self-isolation due to coronavirus, does not count against student's attendance record in a negative way.

Special (secret) Rewards Event

Thursday 17 December

All students who have received rewards throughout the term, have excellent attendance, or have won the form group food bank competition, will be invited to participate in an amazing Christmas themed experience.

All will be revealed on Thursday 17 December.

Last Day of Term

Friday 18 December

To make the most of every minute at school, the timings of the last day of term will remain as a normal school day. Lessons will run as normal from Periods 1 to 4, with Period 5 an opportunity for students to spend time in their form groups. In addition, to celebrate our students' successes this term, we will be running the following events:

Christmas Jumper Day

All students and staff are invited to make a £1 donation to Save the Children and wear a Christmas jumper for the day. Please note that this is not a full non-school uniform day. Student's will be expected to follow normal uniform guidelines but may substitute their blazer and tie for a Christmas jumper.

Celebration assemblies

All students will attend a rewards assembly at the following times:

- Year 7 8.45am – 9.15am
- Year 8 9.30am – 10.00am
- Year 9 11.40am – 12.10pm
- Year 10 12.30pm – 1.00pm
- Year 11 2.40pm – 3.10pm

The assemblies will take place in our largest space which is the Sports Hall. During the assembly we will present certificates, badges, and medals for rewards gained during the

term, celebrate our Principal's Reward earners, and present a very special award, *The Beauchamp Award for Exceptional Character*, which is new this year and will be awarded at the end of every term.

Christmas themed lunch

Students are invited to pre-order their Christmas themed lunch through completing a menu request in form time:

- Hot dinner – Roast turkey with all the trimmings.
- Festive bag – Turkey, bacon and sausage sandwich.
- Dessert – Chocolate cake or a chocolate brownie.

This can then be paid for via Parent Pay.

Students who are eligible for free school meals need to order as normal but are not required to pay on Parent Pay. Students who are currently self-isolating will be sent a menu via email.

These meals will be served in a biodegradable container and include a Christmas Cracker. Over lunch time Christmas music will be played, and Father Christmas will visit, spreading good will to all.

Norfolk Winter Support Package – Free School Meal Vouchers Christmas Holiday

Norfolk County Council is working with the food voucher company EdenRed to provide vouchers for the Christmas holiday period to children eligible for free school meals.

If your child is eligible for free school meals you should have received a text from us yesterday, asking you to confirm where you would like the voucher codes to be sent. Vouchers will then be issued on Monday 14 December. Please contact us for support if you have not received yesterday's text, or not yet been able to tell us where to send your voucher code to.

Thank you

Finally, I would like to thank you as parents for supporting our school community this term. I cannot remember a time in education where we have had to work together so closely to create a safe but ambitious environment for our young people to remain focused and overcome challenges.

We look forward to another successful term in the spring.

Yours faithfully



Helen Seath
Vice Principal