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**CAISTER  
ACADEMY**  
*Creative  
Education  
Trust*

Monday 27 September 2021

Dear Parents

## **Welcome back**

As we begin our fourth week since students have returned, I wanted to write to share news of a successful start to the academic year, and highlight some upcoming events to look forward to.

### **A sense of normality**

It has been lovely to see students settling back into their studies in a calm and purposeful manner, with teaching staff back in their specialist areas. It has also been impressive to see how quickly students have learnt the new one-way system, which is supporting safe and calm movement between lessons. And, looking at the numbers of rewards recorded on Go4schools, it is clear that students have embraced the high level of effort expected of them, in all subject areas.

There is no such thing as a normal day at Caister Academy – there is always so much going on beyond five periods of lessons. However, in terms of having students back in the building, using the full site and enjoying their learning, it has been fantastic to return to the sense of normality that the easing of restrictions for schools has brought.

### **Behaviour**

You will recall that we made a number of changes to our behaviour expectations and systems at the start of last year. As a result, it was pleasing to hear staff and students feedback that they felt student behaviour around the academy improved significantly. In addition, we worked closely with local residents to raise awareness of the importance of good conduct in the community. Again, students responded positively, and it was rewarding to hear residents and community leaders feedback that our students are well mannered, courteous and kind.

Our primary behaviour focus this year is on ensuring there is no low level disruption in lessons. As such, we have further simplified the consequence system, allowing for even swifter intervention if a student is disrupting others' learning. The vast majority of Caister students do make positive behaviour choices and so far, the new system is working well. However, we will continue to monitor its impact and review the process at half term.

Students also fed back that incidences of bullying within school were significantly reduced last year. However, this is not something we take for granted. Celebrating diversity will be a focus for us this year, as will continuing to raise the importance of being kind to each other. As always, any student who feels they are a victim of bullying should be encouraged to report this to any adult within the school straightaway, so we can address it.

### **Rewards**

Caister students regularly achieved success last year, both in the classroom and beyond. Our new rewards system saw over one hundred and twenty thousand reward points issued over the year, with success recognised and celebrated through regular assemblies and rewards events.

As we move into the second year of this new system, we have made some changes to incorporate student feedback, and build upon last year:

- Reward points will continue to be issued in line with our core values of ambition, opportunity, character and community.
- Star badges will continue to be awarded every time your child achieves fifty reward points. However, these can now be traded up as follows:
  - Five Star badges = Bronze Caister Academy Logo badge
  - Ten Star badges = Silver Caister Academy Logo badge
  - Fifteen Star badges = Gold Caister Academy Logo superstar badge
- We will continue to award The Beauchamp Award each term. This is to a student in each year group who has demonstrated exceptional character, and is in recognition of the connection our community has to our lifeboat station and its crews' historical and ongoing commitment to save the lives of people at sea.
- Finally, our students voted last term for a school mascot. The winner was the Caister Seal, who has now arrived and can occasionally be seen congratulating hard-working students around the school. We will be running a competition later this term to name our new mascot.

## **Coronavirus updates**

You will be aware that following a change in Government guidance at the start of the summer, schools are no longer responsible for informing parents and students of positive coronavirus cases within the community. Instead, those identified as close contacts will be contacted directly by the NHS and advised as to next steps. There is no longer the requirement for close contacts under the age of 18 to self-isolate, however, current guidance is to take a PCR test as an additional precaution.

As you might expect, we have been experiencing some positive cases within the community. We continue to remain vigilant by taking sensible precautions and liaising with Norfolk County Council who advise us of any additional measures to take when we have cases. Thank you for your continued support with regular lateral flow testing, and your understanding when staff have had to be absent.

## **Electives**

Another of the areas we sought to develop last year was the range of enrichment activities on offer for students. It was a credit to our staff that whilst many schools paused their provision, we continued to run after school clubs, albeit by year group.

This year, we have been able to expand our provision once again and our electives programme has been up and running since the second week of term. Providing these opportunities for students is something that we feel is incredibly important, and as such, every member of teaching and teaching support staff runs at least one after school elective a week. I have attached the latest list of electives and would encourage all students to attend at least one a week on a consistent basis.

In addition, we will be continuing to expand our offer using external providers. With this in mind, please continue to feedback any ideas you have for future electives, or areas where you would be interested in supporting us.

## Events and Evenings

We held our annual Open Evening on Tuesday, inviting prospective Year 7 students and their parents to tour the school and meet our students and staff. It was hugely rewarding to see the school so busy after what has felt like a long time without events of this nature. We were especially proud of the students who gave up their evening to support the event, delivering inspiring performances, sharing their positive experiences of the school, and supporting in departments. Feedback from prospective parents was consistent and effusive in its praise of our students and they are to be commended for being such a credit to the school.

To support you in planning for the year ahead, please find enclosed the latest list of events and evenings for the academic year. There will be more dates to add for the Spring and Summer terms later in the year, but this list should allow you to see the main evenings taking place. As always, full details of each evening will be shared in the weeks before the event.

Thank you for your ongoing support throughout what has been a busy but rewarding start to term. I look forward to writing with further updates nearer to half term.

Yours faithfully



Ben Driver  
Principal

Enclosed: Events and Evenings 2021-22  
Attached: Electives – Autumn 2021

## **Events & Evenings 2021-22**

<b>Autumn 2021</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Tuesday 21 September 2021	Year 6 Open Evening
Thursday 30 September 2021	Year 11 Raising Achievement Evening 1 (Celebration & Careers)
Friday 1 October 2021	Class of 2020 Alumni Ball
Thursday 21 October 2021	Year 11 Progress Evening
Thursday 18 November 2021	Year 7 Settling in Evening
Thursday 25 November 2021	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 1 December 2021	Christmas Show – A December to Remember
Thursday 2 December 2021	Christmas Show – A December to Remember
Thursday 2 December 2021	Class of 2021 Graduation Ceremony (tbc)
Thursday 9 December 2021	Year 11 Raising Achievement Evening 2
Tuesday 14 December 2021	Creative Education Trust Carol Service

<b>Spring 2022</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Thursday 20 January 2022	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Thursday 24 February 2022	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Thursday 17 March 2022	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 22 March 2022	Year 9 Options Evening
Thursday 31 March 2022	Year 11 Raising Achievement Evening 3

<b>Summer 2022</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Thursday 12 May 2022	Year 10 Raising Achievement Evening
Thursday 19 May 2022	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Friday 1 July 2022	Year 11 Prom (tbc)