

Newsletter

Castleford Academy | Care Aspire Succeed | Autumn 2019



Summer Enrichment

Over the summer, pupils were given an Enrichment Passport to enrich their summer! The passport encourages pupils to get out there and do five completely new and different things during their summer. Pupils had to describe what they did and get a parent or carer to sign. If they did, I gave them five epraise to make a great start to their school year. Employers and Colleges often tell us that they want pupils to be able to talk about a wide range of interests and achievements in interviews, enriching your life is a great way of doing that and building confidence by getting out of your comfort zone. Thank you to all of those pupils who enriched their summer and handed in their passport at the start of the year. We had a range of activities completed: cooking for family, fishing, helping parents at work, 10 mile hike, swimming, baking a cake, visiting a museum, kayaking and paddle boarding to name a few! Pupils do not need to wait until next summer to add to their enrichment! Encourage your child to continue building their interests and achievements as they journey through the year.

Mrs K Chippendale—Assistant Headteacher

Northern Ballet

As part of the Burberry Inspire project this year, pupils in year 7, 8 and 9 will have the opportunity to work with Northern Ballet in PE, art, DT, drama and media to produce a dance for a film, which will be showcased to staff, parents and pupils at the end of the year. As one of only two schools in Wakefield selected to take part in Burberry Inspire, we want our pupils to take every opportunity to engage in the project whether this be attending the dance workshops every Thursday after school or producing set design for the film in our art club every Thursday. In December, Northern Ballet have also invited all pupils across KS3 to Leeds Grand Theatre to see their production of Cinderella and there will be two further workshops held at Northern Ballet in Leeds for pupils interested in dance or technical stage support. If your child is interested in the dance workshops or the art club, they will need to see Mrs Rostron or Mrs Davies for further information.

Mrs K Chippendale - Assistant Headteacher

Stonewall and Re-Start A Heart

Castleford Academy is delighted to announce that we are now a Stonewall School Champion. This means that we actively celebrate diversity, especially across the LGBTQ+ community. Pupils are fully aware of the 9 Protected Characteristics promoted in The Equality Act 2010, and feel confident in challenging stereotypes and misconceptions.

Another achievement which we are really proud of is that on Wednesday 16th October, the whole of Year 8 took part in the national event : Re-start A Heart Day. This is an annual event in which a variety of volunteers from different agencies (St John's Ambulance, British Heart Foundation and Yorkshire Ambulance) teach our pupils how to perform CPR. This means 291 of our pupils have learnt a new life saving skill! We were even lucky enough to receive a visit from Lizzie Jones who is a Re-Start A Heart Ambassador!

Mrs M Page - Senior Leadership Team Designate

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Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to the autumn half termly newsletter.

The first eight week half term has flown by. The new Year 7 year group have settled in well with 300 pupils joining us in September 2019.

We are looking forward to celebrating yet another fantastic year of results at our GCSE presentation evening on Thursday. Year 11 pupils achieved 79% A*- C English, 76% A*- C Maths and 65% A*-C Science. Also, 24/29 subjects achieved above the national average for grade 5 and above. We achieved a progress score of +0.40, meaning, on average, all pupils achieve over half a grade better than expected across their subjects.

As you are aware, the academy was inspected by Ofsted on the 9th and 10th October. We are delighted to announce that, following a rigorous inspection process, the academy has been judged outstanding across all aspects of the new Ofsted framework (which has only been in place since September 2019). Castleford Academy is the first secondary school in the country to be recognised as outstanding under this new, more challenging framework.

During the inspection, inspectors spoke with over 100 pupils and were blown away with how confident, articulate and polite all pupils were. They were extremely impressed by the exceptional behaviour and conduct displayed by pupils around the academy. They noted that pupils were kind towards each other, that they valued equality and considered the rights of others. Inspectors were also impressed with the knowledge children gained and the exceptional progress that pupils made. Inspectors were astounded by the amount of trips and extra-curricular activities staff put on for pupils and how many pupils take part in the opportunities on offer.

Throughout the inspection, inspectors noted that the quality of education provide by the academy is exceptional. *'Castleford Academy is an exciting place to learn. Pupils follow a fulfilling curriculum. They gain deep knowledge and understanding across a wide range of subjects. Effective teaching helps all pupils to make exceptional progress across the curriculum.'*

The inspectors were also keen to highlight that leaders, trustees and governors hold a clear vision for success leading to an outstanding quality of education for pupils. They recognised that those responsible for governance understand their role and carry this out in a highly effective way. We would like to take this opportunity to remember how proud our late Chair of Governors, Bill Clift MBE, would have been and also recognise the contribution he made over many years to the success of the academy.

This is a tremendous outcome for our community and we are immensely proud of all our pupils and staff who have enabled us to be recognised with such high praise from Ofsted for our day to day work. We also want to thank parents, governors, trustees and our community for their on-going support and championing of Castleford Academy. We look forward to celebrating our success with our entire school community and continuing the excellent work of the academy on behalf of the Castleford community.

Over the summer holidays, 4 of our Year 11 pupils and 23 of our Y9 pupils visited Australia as part of an exchange programme with Mackay State High School, Queensland. We are extremely grateful to all families who hosted, providing our pupils with an amazing experience whilst building some great friendships. The boys were a credit to the school as they battled fixtures in Brisbane and Mackay as well as visiting The Gold Coast, Great Barrier Reef and Sydney Bridge. We would also like to say a special thanks to our families who hosted Mackay pupils for a week when 27 of them visited in October.

Over the October half term, 25 girls from the Year 9 & Year 10 rugby league teams embarked upon a trip of a lifetime to Toronto, Canada. The girls had an action packed week, from taking in the natural wonder of Niagara Falls and the heights of the CN Tower, to experiencing an NBA game and training at Toronto Wolfpack's stadium. The highlight of the tour has to be the cultural exchange between our pupils and the girls from the Toronto Amazon's rugby team. It was definitely a Halloween to remember! The girls success follows in the footsteps of ex pupils H Dodd, who this year became the youngest ever player to make a super league debut for Castleford Tigers Women in the Challenge Cup Final and J Wilkinson, who followed up her 2019 National Amateur Women's Championship, to become a Great Britain Tri Nations Elite Champion and has now been selected as a member of the World Class Program for Team GB Boxing. A great achievement for Castleford Girls!

Congratulations to this year's Cas Factor winner C Ryan (Year 8) who won with her incredible original song, 'Nobody's perfect' and L Gibson (Year 10) who achieved runner-up. Everyone enjoyed a fantastic evening with amazing performances from all contestants. In addition, the Head Boy and Girl, along with the Senior Prefects, kicked off their first charity fundraising event with a MacMillan Coffee Morning, raising in excess of £450 for a worthy cause, close to many people's hearts. Well done!

George Panayiotou
Headteacher

School Dates



Thursday 14th November - GCSE Presentation Evening (Ex-Year 11 pupils)

Thursday 21st November - Year 11 Parents' Evening

Thursday 28th November - Year 12 and 13 Parents' Evening

Friday 20th December - School closes for Christmas

Transition and Open Evening

On Thursday 3rd October, children and parents from Years 5 and 6 were in high attendance for our hugely successful open evening. Activities included: The wonderful microscopic world, binary buns and Lexia to name but a few. This year, our admission number will be 300 places for our incoming Year 7 for 2020. Current Year 7 is full and 2020 looks to be the same again! In addition, on Thursday 17th October we welcomed families to visit our school during the day. With Year 8 as tour guides, families were able to see what Castleford Academy is like during the day. Applications for a place at Castleford Academy in September 2020 are submitted through the Wakefield admissions procedures and end on 31st October. We would also like to take the opportunity to say how well our current Year 7 have settled into life at Castleford Academy. They have had an excellent start to the year and we look forward to working with them for the next few years.

Mrs S Salmon - Assistant Headteacher

Achievement Update

Year 11 - A huge well done to our current Year 11 pupils for their hard work last year. These fantastic mock exam results have set an excellent platform for pupils going into their final year. I would also like to thank parents for their support in the run up to their mock exams, ensuring pupils revised fully and were well prepared for their end of year exams. The academy recommends that in Year 11 pupils should be spending a minimum of 2 hours per night on their school work. This could involve completing homework, coursework or independent study. Target pupils have been given additional Maths work booklets to support their independent study but if you would like extra maths and English work for your child to complete at home as part of their independent study please contact Mr L Holmes or Miss Garbett. Attendance at afterschool boosters for all subjects has been outstanding this half term and we thank you for your support in ensuring your child is committed to our afterschool lesson 6 programme. All Year 11 pupils are set weekly English Language, English Literature, Maths and Science homework. We would appreciate parental support in ensuring this work is completed in order to support your child in achieving their very best GCSE results. These homeworks are a vital part of eLearning as they allow staff to judge what knowledge and skills students have gained as well as any gaps in knowledge. These gaps can then be addressed through teacher intervention.

Year 11 Key Dates: Wednesday 27th November—Year 11 Mock Exams begin, Thursday 21st November—Year 11 Parents' Evening, Thursday 16th January—Year 11 Mock Exam results morning (pupils only).

Mr L Holmes—Assistant Headteacher

Buildings Update

During the summer holidays, we have been extremely busy making further upgrades to our academy, including the installation of 2 spacious modular classrooms, resurfacing the Astro pitch as a 3G pitch with shock pad, and 2 IT rooms have been refurbished, including the media classroom which now has a state of the art 75" screen and a green wall!

Mrs S Stevens – Director of Business

Year 11 Careers

It is an important time for our Year 11s. Not only do they have the most important year of their educational lives with their GCSEs but they also need to decide where they are going next! Pupils in Year 11 are currently filling in their College Application Forms. Applications for college courses must be either completed through a computer package called eProspectus or, in some cases, directly through the provider's website. We have been assisting pupils in this process since September. Year 11 have had a range of assemblies from New College, Wakefield College, our own Sixth Form and a range of other providers. We will also have an apprenticeship group in January when positions start getting advertised. Pupils in Year 11 must stay in some form of education or training until they are 18 and the vast majority of our pupils attend an open day (if they can, all the open days) when deciding where to go to next and the academy has already taken pupils on taster days in Year 10 as well as attending our own careers fair at Year 10 Parents' Evening last year. Appointments with our careers advisor can be made through the library and there are a range of careers advisors regularly visiting the school to provide 1-to-1s to all pupils (not just Year 11). If you have any questions, please contact our careers advisor Katie Oldroyd koldroyd@castlefordacademy.com

Mr S Prinsep - Deputy Headteacher

Democracy and Student Leaders

During Democracy Week pupils voted in the Make Your Mark Campaign. The results showed that our pupils thought that 'putting an end to knife crime', 'protecting the environment' and 'stopping bullying and cyberbullying' were the most important issues across the academy. These issues will be debated by the UK Youth Parliament in the House of Commons in November 2019. They will also continue to be addressed through Drop-Down Days, Well-being Wednesdays and Life and Society lessons.

The Student Leadership Team has now been elected for this academic year. The Student Leaders in Years 7-10 celebrated their election with a form time event with Mr Panayiotou and Miss Howell. All pupils received a student leader badge and headteacher certificate to celebrate their success in winning the form's democratic vote and dedication to the role!

Student Leaders will have regular meetings and feedback to pupils in their forms regarding issues to improve the school further, they will also have a visit to London to look forward to, congratulations again!

Miss J Howell - Student Leadership Coordinator

Macmillan

On Friday 27th September, the Prefects at Castleford Academy successfully hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning. Sweet treats of all varieties were donated by staff, pupils and their families and close friends. The event resulted in £453 going towards supporting Cancer patients and their carers, which was a fantastic amount of money raised in just 15 minutes! A stall in each year group break area was set up and the Senior Prefects did the school proud with their organisation and communication skills.

Comments from pupils included: "The buns were extremely yum yum", "Cakes were well priced",

"It was amazing!" and "It was better than last year".

Miss J Howell - Student Leadership Coordinator