

## Safeguarding Update

Social Gaming - is your child addicted?

What Are the signs?

- Preoccupied with gaming to the point where they are agitated when away from it.
- Downplaying the amount of time they are playing on games.
- Avoiding spending time with family and friends because this takes them away from gaming.
- Neglecting personal hygiene.
- Becoming defensive when questioned about the amount of time spent playing games.
- Extreme fatigue from lack of sleep and lack of concentration in school.
- Headaches/migraines due to eye stress.
- Carpal tunnel syndrome from excessive use of controller or mouse.

While games can encourage the development of some skill sets as with anything in life moderation is key. Over use or exposure will have a negative impact on the child. So what can parents do?

- Encourage children to reduce the time playing the game. Suggest they engage in some other interest preferably a physical activity.
- Try to be supportive and encourage efforts of a child who wishes to withdraw from games if this has become an issue.
- Remind children that access to these devices is a privilege, not a right.
- Restrict access to devices, or set a period of time before the device can be used again. Try to limit game play to no more than 2 hours a day.
- Stay involved when your child is gaming. Ensure it is not the primary source of entertainment.
- Make sure you know who your child is contacting online.

**Mrs E Wells - Assistant Headteacher**

## Working in the Hearing World

As part of the Careers Week celebrations, our Deaf and Hearing Impaired base invited pupils and parents in for a 'Working in the Hearing World' event for our deaf pupils to see that not only are there role models who they work with everyday (deaf instructors and teachers of the deaf) but that there are also other career opportunities available to them. Pupils and parents met with a deaf architect and a past pupil (who formerly attended the resource base here at the academy) who is currently completing a sport level 3 course at Wakefield College and hopes to work as a personal trainer. The event celebrated that, with hard work and dedication, deaf pupils can achieve in a wide variety of careers. With over 50 guests in attendance, we hope that this valuable event will continue to grow each year.

**Mrs K Chippendale - Assistant Headteacher**

## Topic Magazine Competition Winners

As part of careers week, 7A1 and 7B1 English groups submitted articles to Topic Magazines article writing competition. The pupils were asked to submit an article about their future career, how to achieve their goals and what inspired them to want to choose that career. 15 schools participated, 100s of articles were submitted, and only 3 winners were chosen. A massive congratulations goes to two of the winners, Luca Manfredi and Sophie Tordoff, who made our school incredibly proud with their high quality work. Their articles will be published in Topic Magazine on the week of 8th April.

**Mrs K Chippendale - Assistant Headteacher**

## Castleford Academy

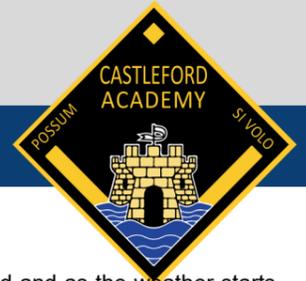
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# Newsletter

Castleford Academy | **Care Aspire Succeed** | Spring 2019



## Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to the spring edition of the school newsletter. Another busy term has come to an end and as the weather starts to improve and we see lighter mornings and nights, we look forward to the summer term.

I would like to start by thanking all of the parents who completed the parent survey. The feedback we received was extremely positive, with some good suggestions to improve practice further. Further information regarding the parent surveys will be included within the summer newsletter.

The school appears to be very popular for prospective Year 6 pupils. Over 340 applications have been received by Wakefield for our 300 places. If you have any queries in regards to admissions please contact Wakefield Admissions on 01924 306052.

This year is another busy year for trips abroad. During the February holidays, the English department took 65 pupils to Belgium to explore the setting for Private Peaceful, which they have been studying in class. During the Easter holidays, 73 Y8 pupils will be visiting Paris. During the summer, 23 Y8 boys will be taking part in the Australia rugby league and 4 Y11 boys will be taking part in the rugby exchange programme to Mackay. In October, 25 current Y7 & 8 girls will be taking part in a rugby league tour to Toronto. The trips are a great opportunity to broaden horizons and provide new experiences and knowledge.

The Senior Prefect Team have yet again raised the profile of our annual charity projects at Castleford Academy. The team collected 15 large bags of clothes to be donated to Christians Against Poverty for the homeless. £280 was raised on Odd Sock Day as part of Anti-Bullying Week for Young Minds and over £80 raised from the gingerbread people sale (using Fairtrade chocolate and sugar!) for Fairtrade Foundation. Well done Senior Prefect Team!

We have continued our PE success in 2018/19 with the following achievements: Year 9 Boys Football Wakefield Cup Finalists, Year 11 Boys Football Wakefield Cup 1/4 Finalists, Year 7 Girls Football Castleford and Pontefract Champions, Year 8 Girls Football Castleford and Pontefract runners up, Year 7 Boys Wakefield Indoor Athletics Champions, Year 7, 9 & 11 Girls Rugby Yorkshire Finalists, Year 11 Girls Rugby National Finalists and National success in a range of cheerleading competitions. Wow, what an achievement already this year, we are so very proud of all our pupils and staff volunteers for their commitment.

To celebrate National Careers Week, every pupil engaged in various activities across the academy, including mini careers fairs and various speakers holding assemblies throughout the week. The Resource Base also held a fantastic event 'working in the hearing world'. The aim of the event was to inspire and inform deaf pupils and their parents by inviting role models from the deaf community to give their experiences about working in the hearing world. Further information on careers week is available within the newsletter.

In March, a team of twelve Y8 & 9 pupils were introduced to what it would be like to work in Law by taking part in the National Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition. The competition took place in a real courtroom, with lawyers, witnesses and even defendants themselves. This was a challenging competition which followed months of preparation and dedication by the pupils involved, and we are very proud of them all.

The Music department recently held their annual "Headliners" concert, a showcase for KS4 pupils and extra-curricular groups. An outstanding display of talent with particular thanks to our wonderful Year 11 pupils who performed for the last time here.

We are delighted to announce that our Music Department have been awarded Champion School Status for Musical Futures. Both our Head of Music, Miss Weatherley and Head of Performing Arts, Miss Moran, have been made Champion Teachers; the only school in the country to have two champion teachers! To add to this success, we have also been chosen as one of the top 10 schools in the country for Music Technology and have been awarded Tech Champion School Status. Our Music Department have been committed to providing a fully inclusive and inspirational curriculum in Music for years, and this Champion School Status gives us access to new software and opportunities, allowing pupils to be even more creative and inspire more talent.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a happy Easter and hope you all have a lovely relaxing break.

**George Panayiotou**  
Headteacher



## School Dates

Fri 5th April—School closes for Easter Holiday  
 Tues 23rd April—School reopens for all pupils  
 Thurs 25th April— Year 11 Parents' Evening  
 Thurs 9th May— Year 9 Parents' Evening  
 Mon 6th May—School closed for May Bank Holiday  
 Fri 24th May—School closes for Half Term

### Attendance

Can we take this opportunity to thank all of our pupils and their families for their support with attendance at the academy. Attendance is fundamental to progress at school and we employ lots of strategies to ensure that your child has the highest levels of attendance possible. Last year, overall, our attendance levels were 95.1% which is 0.6% above the national figure. Thank you to everyone who was involved in this fantastic achievement and your thank you for your continued support.

**Mrs S Salmon - Assistant Headteacher**

### Year 6 Transition

I am pleased to say that once again, our incoming year group for Year 7 2019 is full. All of the places we have for incoming Year 7 pupils have been allocated. We look forward to working with our new pupils over the coming months through our extensive transition programme. Our transition programme will give them the opportunity to get to know the academy before they start with us later this year. We look forward to welcoming our new intake in September.

**Mrs S Salmon - Assistant Headteacher**

### The Hepworth Gallery

As part of the Burberry Inspire project, pupils in Year 7 and 8 were given an exciting opportunity to visit the Hepworth Gallery to work with artists and discover more about the exhibitions displayed there. The day involved pupils taking inspiration from the gallery where local artists Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth have their work exhibited. Following visits to the gallery, pupils worked in artist areas within the gallery to create their own sculptures, prints and clay pots.

Following our trip to the Hepworth Gallery, we will have an artist in residence who will come to the academy and work with our pupils to create artwork together. We look forward to welcoming them.

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the gallery and artists at the Hepworth were extremely complimentary of our pupils. Thank you to all pupils who came along for the trips. You were a credit to the academy!

**Mrs K Chippendale - Assistant Headteacher**

### The Academy does World Book day

Once again, World Book Day has been celebrated throughout the academy with staff coming in to work dressed as characters from famous books and library prefects dressing up as characters from David Walliams' novels, creating a real buzz of excitement. This year, all pupils were read a short story, 'Lamb to the Slaughter' by Roald Dahl in 3 separate parts during periods 1,2 and 3 with staff speaking in a range of different character voices to really bring the story alive. All pupils then completed activities around the story - complete with a prediction of the murderer, murder weapon and motive. Finally, pupils started to write their own short story 'Doctor Death.'

There was a tangible amount of excitement and chatter amongst pupils, all trying to piece together the clues in the story and attempting to work out why this was a 'perfect murder.'

Prizes were awarded to the best department – science this year being judged as outstanding for their amazing take on Peter Pan - and the best individual - won for the second year running by Mr Fortune, Head of English, for being a truly inspirational Oompa Lumpa. He even sat through a serious weekly meeting with Mr Panayiotou in full costume and make-up.

All in all, a truly memorable and fantastic day for all our pupils and staff.

**Mr G Vessey - Teacher of English**

### Building Character @CastlefordAcad

To promote the development of character skills, the academy have recently designed and fitted a character wall in school to encourage pupils to reflect how many opportunities they take to build their character as they journey through school. The wall focuses on the 5 foundations for building character and resilience: sport, creativity, performing, volunteering, membership and world of work. Taking part in these additional activities across school will help them to build their confidence and develop as young people to realise their potential.

**Mrs K Chippendale - Assistant Headteacher**

### Term Times

It's been brought to our attention that there are various websites that claim to provide the dates of all schools holidays. If you go on some of these sites and select Castleford Academy, you get the incorrect term dates. Can I please urge parents to check either the school's website or Wakefield Local Authority's website. We have informed these websites but many of them just use a computer program to copy dates. We aim to align with Wakefield Local Authority so that we are in line with our local primaries as many of our parents have pupils at more than one school. The term dates for next year are as follows:

<b>October Half-Term</b>	<b>School Closes</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>25.10.19</b>
	<b>School Opens</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>04.11.19</b>
<b>Christmas Holiday</b>	<b>School Closes</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>20.12.19</b>
	<b>School Opens</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>06.01.20</b>
<b>February Half-Term</b>	<b>School Closes</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>14.02.20</b>
	<b>School Opens</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>24.02.20</b>
<b>Easter Holidays</b>	<b>School Closes</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>03.04.20</b>
	<b>School Opens</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>20.04.20</b>
<b>May Day Holiday</b>	<b>School Closed</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>04.05.20</b>
<b>Spring Bank Holiday</b>	<b>School Closes</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>22.05.20</b>
	<b>School Opens</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>01.06.20</b>
<b>Summer Holiday</b>	<b>School Closes</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>17.07.20</b>

### INSET days to be confirmed

**Mr S Prinsep - Deputy Headteacher**

### BBC See Hear Programme

The BBC recently visited our Deaf and Hearing Impaired Department to film pupils and staff for the 'See Hear' programme which is a programme produced by deaf people about aspects of the deaf community. They wanted to film a successful resource as many of the resources such as the one we have at the academy are closing nationally so their intention was to find out more about what we do and the importance of the resource for deaf children. Pupils were a credit to the school and the BBC thoroughly enjoyed working with our team throughout the day. See Hear was televised on BBC 2 on 3rd April at 8am.

**Mrs K Chippendale - Assistant Headteacher**

### Core Skills

Just before Christmas, Year 7 Core Skills pupils worked very hard in their Enterprise lessons to make tree decorations, candle jars, paperback book Christmas trees and angels. They sold these to staff and raised a brilliant £80.48 for the children's cancer charity Candlelighters. Well done Core Skills!

**Mrs A Asvadi - Leader of Core Skills**

### National Careers Week

To celebrate National Careers Week, every pupil engaged in several activities across the academy. From discovering career pathways in all subjects to self-evaluating their employability skills, pupils fully engaged in all activities and enjoyed having the opportunity to find out more about the options available to them after sitting their exams. Year 9 and 11 visited a mini careers fair where they were able to speak to staff from Pontefract New College, Leeds College, Wakefield College, Castleford Academy 6th Form, Go Higher West Yorkshire and our careers advisor to gain further information about careers they have an interest in. Our computing department also taught lessons throughout the week using JED, an online careers tool where pupils searched for jobs and careers. Various guest speakers visited the school throughout the week to inspire our pupils in assembly. Our Year 11 apprenticeship group also enjoyed listening to a presentation from one of our ex-pupils who followed the apprenticeship pathway and wanted to share his experience and advice with pupils who are hoping to follow the same route. If your child is interested in finding out more about careers and would like further guidance, they can see Katie Oldroyd in the library to book an appointment.

**Mrs K Chippendale - Assistant Headteacher**