



Mr G Panayiotou – Headteacher
Mr John McNichol – Chair of Governors

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Our Ref: GP/NF

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Dear Parents/Carers

We hope this letter finds you and your family well.

The Castleford Community Challenge

Well done to everybody who has taken part in the Castleford Community Challenge, we are amazed at how the challenge has taken off, so much so that Look North are interested in running a story about the challenge at some point next week. Please look out for Castleford on the news and thank you to the whole community for getting involved!

Half Term

The academy will be closed to all pupils over half term. In order to give pupils a break from screens, we are not expecting pupils to complete work over half term. We do encourage them to read, get outside for daily exercise, do something creative such as drawing, writing or photography. If pupils are looking for something to do, the technology department have put together a series of challenges that they have posted on SMHW. We always love to see pictures of pupils taking part in challenges, baking or just being out and about. Have fun and please keep us up to date over Twitter. If you need to get in touch with the academy over half term, please email admin@castlefordacademy.com.

Year 8 Options

Usually, next term, we would put on a range of activities for pupils in Year 8 so that they could make their option choices. This would include assemblies, careers meetings, options afternoon and parents' evening. These activities are important so that pupils can make knowledgeable and informed choices about the subjects they want to take in Years 9, 10 and 11. In order to ensure that Year 8 are fully prepared for their option choices, we have made the decision to pause the Year 8 options process. We are hopeful that we will be able to run this process later in the year when pupils have had an opportunity to experience their subjects in greater depth and we are able to offer all of our usual support and guidance. We will update Year 8 pupils and parents when we know more about how and when schools will reopen.

CyberFirst Girls' Computing Competition

Congratulations to our Year 8 girls who found out earlier this week that they have successfully made it to the semi-finals for the CyberFirst Girls Competition Semi-final 2021. The competition aims to get girls more involved in computing so that hopefully they will consider a future career in the computing industry. Team Cobra girls had to take on a host of challenges designed to make them think outside the box. This was all completed remotely via Teams which makes it an even greater achievement. Well done to all involved.

Safer Internet Week

Our wellbeing focus this week has been staying safe on line. Pupils were reminded to be SMART and make sure that they only accept or meet up with people they know with permission from their parents and to always tell an adult if they have any concerns about something they have seen on-line. Our amazing pupils also produced a video in conjunction with West Yorkshire police which you can view on our Twitter page by following the link below: <https://twitter.com/castlefordacad/status/1359062782541455360?s=24>

The 100 Club

In honour of Sir Captain Tom, the PE department have launched the 100-club challenge. The aim is an activity or exercise of your choice that you do either 100 times or for 100 seconds or 100 minutes e.g. 100 times up and down the stairs, 100-star jumps, 100 minutes of walking.

Change for Life Lunch Planners

If you are struggling for inspiration for lunches over lockdown, Change for Life have produced some low-cost lunch planners to help families plan out nutritious and affordable lunches for the week. Some of the meals look delicious and make a change from the same lunch routine [Change 4 life](#).

Support for Parents

Young minds have launched a parent help finder. Parents can follow the link to the site and answer six simple questions about their child and the site will recommend tips and activities that you can complete with your child. [Supporting Parents Helpfinder \(youngminds.org.uk\)](http://youngminds.org.uk)

Twitter updates

For regular information on school events, news and subject updates, please make sure you follow our twitter account @CastlefordAcad which is updated daily and includes the impressive showcase of pupils work and achievements.

Finally, we wanted to say a huge thank you to all parents and carers who have supported their children with remote learning. We know at times, it hasn't been easy but we wanted to let you know that your efforts do not go unnoticed. Please take time to have a restful half term break. Hopefully, by the time we return we will be able to share an update about the timeline for pupils returning to school. We look forward to seeing everybody again soon.

Stay safe.

Yours faithfully



Mr G Panayiotou
Headteacher

Yours faithfully



Mrs D Cook
Associate Headteacher

