

Mental Health and Online Safety

Supporting pupil's mental health plays a vital role of the work we do at Castleford Academy. We aim to create an environment where everyone is welcome, supported and cared for.

There are a number of ways we support mental health in school from Step Up to our coverage of the PSHE and RSE curriculum. Form tutors deliver Wellbeing Wednesday each week and these cover a variety of topics. This half term, we have also delivered our safeguarding assemblies to all pupils. This helps to raise pupils' awareness of the provision we have in school to support mental health. In addition, we also work as part of the Future in Mind programme, Kooth and other external agencies including the Child and Adolescent Mental Health service (CAMHS). As parents and carers, you can now self refer your child to CAMHS on 01977 735865 or by completing a referral online. Searching for CAMHS Wakefield takes you to their referral process.

For further information on our mental health offer, please see our waves of intervention in the safeguarding section of our website. The safeguarding section of our website also includes links to information that can support families who are concerned about their child's mental health. These include;

www.kooth.com

www.papyrus-uk.org

www.wynightowls.org.uk

www.samaritans.org

www.youngminds.org.uk

www.nspcc.org.uk

If you have any concerns about your child and their wellbeing, please contact the pastoral or safeguarding team at school.

Ms M Page - Assistant Headteacher and Mrs S Salmon - Assistant Headteacher

Be Safe and Healthy Day

On Friday 15th October all Year 8 pupils learned CPR as part of their "Be Safe and Healthy Day". They joined millions of children up and down the country who also took part in Restart a Heart Day.

CPR is now part of the health education curriculum for secondary school pupils aged 12 and over in England. The workshops were taught by the Yorkshire Ambulance Service, who have already provided life-saving training to more than 150,000 young people since they started their Restart a Heart campaign in 2014.

The workshops taught pupils how to identify whether someone is in cardiac arrest (has collapsed and stopped breathing normally) and how to perform hands-only chest compressions to give the person their best chance of survival before the arrival of an ambulance.

As 80% of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen in the home, you can be reassured that they will be learning skills that may one day help someone close to them.

Your child/children may have questions about some of the related topics and themes that were explored at school, and we would encourage further discussion at home wherever possible. For more information, we would recommend visiting the Yorkshire Ambulance Service Restart a Heart website at www.restartaheart.yas.nhs.uk.

Not only did pupils study CPR, they also had the opportunity to study a variety of other important topics as part of their PSHE curriculum entitlement. Guest speakers from The Samaritans, Sexpression, Alcoholics Anonymous, The Cross Project and Change4Life all delivered workshops on healthy minds, healthy lifestyles and healthy relationships. As always, we would encourage further discussions at home in relation to these areas and would recommend visiting the websites below for further information should it be required;

<https://www.samaritans.org/>

<https://sexpression.org.uk/>

<https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/>

<http://www.crossproject.co.uk/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life>

Year 8 pupils were a credit to the academy during their 'Be Safe & Healthy Day', and we are exceptionally proud of their conduct and efforts throughout the day. Please keep a look out on the academy's Twitter page and school website for photos and videos of the day!

Ms M Page - Assistant Headteacher and Mrs M Frampton - Drop Down Day Coordinator

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Newsletter

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Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to the autumn half term newsletter.

I want to start by thanking all the staff, pupils, governors and parents/carers of Castleford Academy for making me feel so welcome in my first half term as Headteacher. It has been such a pleasure to see our young people return to the academy, working hard, being polite and striving to make progress in all aspects of school life. The happiness and wellbeing of all pupils and staff has been paramount and will continue to be our primary focus as we continue to deal with the effects of a pandemic.

We would like to thank parents and carers for your continued support during these challenging times. Our attendance continues to be above both national and local averages due to the academy and parent/carer support to ensure our pupils are in the academy and learning. Thank you for all your help with this aspect of school life.

We are pleased that the new Year 7 group have settled in well with 300 pupils joining us in September. At the same time, we would like to wish our ex Year 11 and ex Year 13 pupils who achieved so well with their qualifications, the very best of luck for the future.

It is our great pleasure to report that our senior prefects team, led by Head Girl Erin Cook and Head Boy Daniel Boyd, have taken to their new responsibilities brilliantly. So far their duties have included, taking a lead on supporting the academy at our recent Year 5 and Year 6 Open Evening and providing detailed and helpful feedback on daily life at the academy to the senior leadership team.

We are delighted we have been able to organise an extensive extra-curricular programme across all curriculum areas. It is important that pupils are given a wide variety of opportunities to further extend their learning and experiences. We hope you are able to join in with our pupils' achievements and success's by following the academy's extensive social media platform on Twitter. To see our extensive offer of extra curricular clubs, please visit the academy website.

Staff have worked tirelessly since returning to the academy to ensure we have identified gaps in pupil's knowledge in all subjects and have created a recovery curriculum to make sure all our pupils can continue to make outstanding progress. We are extremely proud of the forensic nature of this work that staff have undertaken and how well our pupils have risen to the challenge.

During the coming months, it is important to keep a positive mindset for our pupils whilst we make the necessary plans to ensure they can attend school safely, whilst maintaining an outstanding education. Hopefully, the pandemic will be behind us soon, in the meantime thank you to parents/carers, staff and pupils for your on-going efforts.

Wesley Bush
Headteacher



School Dates

Monday 1st November - School reopens for all pupils
Thursday 18th November - Year 11 Parents' Evening
Thursday 25th November - Year 12 & 13 Parents' evening
Friday 26th November - INSET DAY
Friday 17th December - School Closes for Christmas

Transition and Open Evening

On Thursday 30th September, children and parents from Years 5 and 6 were in high attendance at our hugely successful open evening. Activities included: 4 x 4 Land Rover challenge, binary buns and historical food tasting to name but a few. This year, our admission number will be 300 places for our incoming Year 7 for 2022. Current Year 7 is full and 2022 looks to be the same again! In addition, on Thursday 7th October we welcomed families to visit our school during the school day. With Year 7 pupils 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 2022 are submitted through Wakefield admissions and the deadline for this is the 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 five years.

Mrs K Chippendale - Assistant Headteacher

Show My Homework

Alongside the use of the school planner to record homework, Castleford Academy have continued to invest in the online homework package, **Satchel One** (Show My Homework). As well as being a simple online homework calendar showing homework information, deadlines and attachments for pupils and parents, Satchel One (Show My Homework) will also be the main source of pupil classwork and homework should the Academy be placed into any type of partial or full lockdown. This will enable pupils to continue with their planned classwork and homework should any situation arise. At this point, pupils would be expected to complete the work set from teachers at home to ensure their learning continues in line with the Academy curriculum.

Castleford Academy would like to thank all parents who regularly log on to view homework set, support and prompt their child to complete homework and discuss their child's work with them. As an Academy, we would ask all parents to regularly log on (at least twice a week) to support their child with homework. It has become clear after numerous discussions with parents that they often use their child's log in to view Satchel One (Show My Homework). Although this will still enable you to access previous homework tasks and future tasks, it is advised that you use your own unique access code to set up your own account to the platform. If you would like your unique code to log on, or if you want to know the email address that you initially logged on to Satchel One (Show My Homework) with, please email admin@castlefordacademy.com for the information ensuring that you include the reference SMHW and your child's name and form. For more information regarding the Satchel One (Show My Homework) package and to see the benefits of using the system, please view the information on our Academy website.

Mr R Guest - Deputy Headteacher

Achievement update - Year 11 Leavers

I would firstly like to thank all of last year's leavers for their patience and maturity over the summer holidays whilst awaiting their results. I would secondly like to offer congratulations, from all the staff here at the academy, to all of our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils who received their long-awaited examination results and have successfully moved on to the next phase of their life. Whatever that next step is, we wish them the very best of luck and really do hope that they are now able to continue on the path they planned.

I am delighted to report that despite no formal examinations, pupils at Castleford Academy made outstanding progress and achieved exceptionally well, in-line with what we were expecting before school closures and with previous years.

I would like to also thank parents and carers for your continued patience and understanding during such unprecedented times.

Mr L Holmes - Assistant Headteacher

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 with their summer. Pupils had to describe what they did and get a parent or carer to sign. If they completed this, they were awarded with 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 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 paddleboarding 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 this year.

Mrs K Chippendale - Assistant Headteacher

Year 11 Exams Update

The Department for Education (DfE) have now confirmed that exams will go ahead next summer. As part of our efforts to support pupils in achieving their very best GCSE and BTEC results, pupils have a series of mock exams starting on Monday 29th November and will last for approximately two weeks, ending around Friday 10th December. These mock exams are crucial in improving a pupils exam technique, building pupils confidence as well as identifying gaps in knowledge which can then be addressed in lessons and in after school boosters.

We recommend pupils in Year 10 and Year 11 spend a minimum of two hours per night on independent study and revision, which includes homework and after school boosters. In order to support your child's independent study at home please encourage them to:

Have a revision plan

We recommend pupils plan out their revision for different subjects, taking on a 'little and often' approach for each subject topic.

Be proactive and use a range of resources available

Pupils have access to a range of web-based programs such as Hegarty Maths, Educake for Science and GCSE Pod for a range of other subjects.

Pupils are welcome to ask their class teachers for additional paper based revision recourses.

Complete homework to a high standard

Pupils are set weekly Maths, English and Science homework that is specifically planned as revision.

Purposeful work should be challenging however, if your child is finding aspects of a topic difficult please encourage them to be resilient, independent and ask for help if they need it.

Understand that testing and reviewing is the most effective revision technique

Past papers are the most effective - 15 minutes reviewing the content/knowledge needed, followed by 30 minutes of answering exam questions, concluded with 15 minutes of marking and correcting answers in green pen.

Have a positive attitude towards revision

Support them in having a quiet revision space away from any distractions such as games consoles, mobile phones and social media.

Getting to bed at a sensible time and being well rested will also help concentration levels both in school time and when revising at home.

Encourage your child to communicate with class teachers if they have any worries about exams in each subject.

Mr L Holmes - Assistant Headteacher

Burberry Inspire

Last year, as part of the Burberry Inspire project, our pupils worked with Leeds Playhouse. Despite the impact of lockdown, we were fortunate enough to host a play performed by actors from Leeds Playhouse titled 'East is East and Cas is Cas.' Thank you to our Year 7 and 8 pupils who inspired the playwright and even helped write some of the script! Every pupil in Year 7 – 9 watched the performance in July to celebrate the end of a very successful year working with Leeds Playhouse. This year, pupils in Year 7, 8 and 9 will have opportunities to work as small teams with Leeds Young Film to produce their own short films. 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 and look forward to seeing the results of their hard work!

Mrs K Chippendale - Assistant Headteacher

Applying For Free School Meals

Many parents do not realise that they are eligible for free school meals or that you have to reapply when your child starts secondary school. I'd like to remind parents that if you receive any of the following, you will qualify for income-related free school meals:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

This also applies to Post 16 pupils. If you think you are eligible then you need to fill in the online form on the Wakefield Council Website at <http://forms.wakefield.gov.uk/forms/schools/freeschoolmeals.aspx>.

Mrs A Wainwright - Associate to Senior Leadership Team

Year 11 Careers

It is an important time for our Year 11 pupils. Not only do they have the most important year of their educational lives but they also need to decide where they are going next! Pupils in Year 11 have been busy completing their applications for college over the last few weeks and this will continue next half term. With guest speakers in recent assemblies from New College, Wakefield College and our own Sixth Form, pupils have lots of information to guide them with their choices for post-16. We will also have an apprenticeship group forming in January to support those pupils who would like to explore this route further. Pupils in Year 11 must stay in some form of education or training until they are 18 and the vast majority of our pupils go on to further study at a College or Sixth Form. If pupils would like further careers support, they can book to see Katie Crashley, our careers-coordinator by emailing koldroyd@castlefordacademy.com.

Mrs K Chippendale - Assistant Headteacher