

CCR *Spring 2025* NEWSLETTER



CHARITY
FUN

CELEBRATING
ACHIEVEMENT

GO
GREEN

TRIPS
GALORE

Celebrating SUCCESS

Congratulations
to all of our
Award Winners.

The Celebration Assemblies seem to come around so quickly each term, and it was a pleasure to reward many of our students with the Subject Awards. The pictures show lots of smiling faces! We hope to see lots more students awarded next term.



House Points

Total House Points for Term 3 & 4
Year 7 - 15487
Year 8 - 16986
Year 9 - 14203
Year 10 - 7485
Year 11 - 9469

Charity

FUNDRAISING

Easter tombola

It was lovely to be able to mark the end of term with the Easter Egg Tombola. Thank you so much to all students, parents and teachers who donated to the event. There was lots of excitement in the room, and lots of chocolate was eaten. All money raised will be split between a donation to the Food Bank, and the rest to CCR Wellbeing to continue to provide opportunities and prizes for our students.



Easter Assembly

We welcomed Rev Don McGarrigle to speak at our Easter Assemblies. Don is the vicar at our village church, St Peter & St Paul in Great Casterton. He has been linked with the school for a long time as his children were pupils with us, however this is the first time he has spoken in one of our assemblies. We were so pleased that he was able to lead our assemblies, and we hope to see him again soon!





Wow! What a show week we had! Our production of 'Oliver' took place from 12th to 14th February this year and was such a success for those involved and those who came to watch. These photos provide a snapshot of the students involved. It really was an amazing experience for all those involved, and one which they will remember for life!



CCR GREEN



Bird Feeders

This term, our CCR Green students met up to make diy bird feeders using lard, birdseed and toilet roll tubes. Afterwards all of the students got to go out and put their bird feeders across our hedges and trees for the birds to have a tasty treat



Cleaning up

CCR Green students spent a couple of hours of their own time last Wednesday cleaning up litter in our community; they spent much time and effort splitting this rubbish into recycling and non-recycling so that it could all be properly disposed of. This experience really highlighted to our group members how important tis is to dispose of our waste in bins and the long-term consequences on our beautiful environment if we fail to do so.

It was great getting to do a litter pick in such nice weather on Wednesday and we found some items you would never have expected to find like individual shoes and even a child's broken bike. The whole experience really shocked me and has made me really think about why binning our waste is important to the world around us and that we all can really make a difference!

Jack Player & Barnaby James



Trips GALORE

Harry Potter Studios

On Tuesday 14th January, 40 year 8 students made the journey to Hogwarts to take part in a Movie Maths lesson. The day started with a lesson exploring scale factor, with Hagrid being the main discussion. The students were able to look at the plans and elevations of the Harry Potter set used for the movies. We explored the importance of having smaller models to shoot certain scenes in the movie and the impact it has on props such as fire. The students also learnt amount the variety of jobs they can do with in the film industry that all connect to maths.

Following the Movie Maths lesson, we had the opportunity to explore the studios. We made our way through the Gryffindor Common room, past the Ministry of Magic and through the Forbidden Forest, where many of our students tried Butter Beer. After lunch, the students had a closer look at the plans and elevations of the Harry Potter set, along with the costume design for many of the characters.

The day was a huge success, well done to all of those who came and took part!



Williams Racing

Year 8 Trip to the Williams Racing, Wednesday 5th March 2025

A group of Year 9 recently enjoyed an amazing STEM Experience held at and run by Williams Racing, at their Experience Centre in Oxfordshire. During the visit, the students had a guided Tour of the Williams Museum as well as the opportunity to compete against each other on Esports simulators similar to those used by Williams in training drivers and testing set-ups or modifications to racing cars. The students also found out about the diversity and complexity involved in running a Formula One Team in addition to the multitude of further education and career options that are available to young people in Motorsport in the UK.

Where the students really shone and exemplified the Casterton College ethos, however, was in completing a Composites Challenge: After a briefing on composites engineering and design, the students were required to put their engineering, team-working and project management skills to the test in designing, fabricating and testing prototype racing nose-cones. There was a tight deadline, during which students had to use a crash-test rig to check whether their designs satisfied strict safety and strength criteria before going back to the drawing board several times to finalise their designs. Once the challenge was complete, each team had to give a group presentation explaining and justifying their decisions before a winning team (Yasmin Gardiner, Evie Howard, Annie Lees and Brayden Tinsley) was chosen. It was a close call due to all students having applied and involved themselves so well!

The Year 9's were so amazing throughout the day that this was noticed and remarked upon by all of the Williams Staff!

The Winning Composites Challenge Team!



Radar

UPDATE

Radar has completed his foundation Level in Good Companion Award (GCA).

Pet Therapy

Having a dog in school, with the appropriate calm temperament and good-nature can make a hugely positive impact on the children at Casterton College; not only can they be a sensitive, listening companion but they can also be that calming influence that helps our children at times when they need it. Dogs are being used in therapy around the world, and they are recognised as being especially helpful with children who struggle with social, emotional and behavioural issues. Whether the dog is being read to, or just being there for a pupil, a Therapy dog can be a wonderful addition to any school.

Ways in which a Therapy Dog can help in school:

- Improve academic achievement
- Increase literacy skills
- Calming behaviours and positive attachments
- Increase in social skills and self esteem
- Increase confidence
- Teach responsibility and respect to all life
- Help prevent truancy and improve attendance
- Motivate children who are often less attentive within classroom environments

Casterton College's therapy dog 'Radar' lives with the Social, Emotional and Mental Health Lead, Mrs Anelli, and her family. Radar is a 3 year old Cocker Spaniel. He has the right temperament and intelligence and has become a real asset to the Casterton College Community. Radar's Mother (Mouse) is a black Cocker Spaniel and Father (Gunner) is a tan and white Cocker Spaniel like Radar.



Radar has regularly visits to the vets for check-ups. Whilst there they administer worm and flea treatments as well as make adjustments to the dog food intake to ensure he remains a health weight. In addition to the 5 key reasons for Radar joining us outlined in the purpose we also believe that he will improve the children's abilities within the school's core ethos and help to improve and secure pupil outcomes. Radar is be based in the Mental health Surgery (with Mrs Anelli) but will move around the school building and grounds to work with children and adults in line with agreed protocols.

Purpose

1. Dogs teach children responsibility. Having to remember to feed, provide water and show support for a dog can give children a sense of importance and satisfaction that they can't get from school or other chores. The relationship that develops can be life-changing for a child and a great support system as they themselves continue to grow and develop.
2. Dogs teach children patience. Dogs do not always do as they are told first time!
3. Dogs teach children compassion. Just like humans, dogs feel emotion and pain. They are prone to injuries and the infirmities of age during their relatively short lives.
4. Dogs teach children about socialisation. Like most of us, dogs are social animals who enjoy and need attention and affection. By learning how to interact with a dog, children can learn how to better socialise with other children. If they can learn the social cues of a dog, then interacting with humans who can talk will be a walk in the park (pun intended).
5. Dogs are fun. Last, but certainly not least, dogs are a lot of fun. They greet you with a wagging tail every day and can cheer you up even on your worst day.

Pastoral



UPDATE

Our heads of year at Casterton College are passionate and dedicated.

They each aim to inspire our students and foster a thriving educational environment. They serve as the crucial link between students, teachers, and parents, ensuring that everyone is supported and engaged in the school community.

As the Head of Year, they are committed to their individual year group's educational journey and personal development, guiding students through their academic and social challenges. At Casterton, our year heads pride themselves on creating a positive school culture for both students and staff. Their role also includes collaboratively designing and executing year group events and activities that enhance student involvement and school spirit.

Each of our year heads brings something different to their roles and this is why they work so effectively together to support the students in the school.



Mr Astles - Year 7

Being a head of year offers the opportunity to support the growth of young people over the course of their time in secondary school. As head of Y7 it is my job to ensure that the Y7 cohort feel happy and settled in school, to enable them to access the broad range of opportunities and subjects at Casterton and to support them in forming relationships with others in school. I also try and foster a sense of self-reliance, responsibility and maturity, whilst allowing the students to have fun and explore new things. This hopefully helps our newest additions to adapt to the new educational environment they find themselves in, and set them up well for the next four years in education with us.

Miss Nichols - Year 8

I was offered the role of Head of Year 7 last year, and I have followed that year group through to year 8. I truly believe good relationships are at the heart of teaching and pastoral care, so I try my best to be approachable and helpful, but also strict and consistent where needed. The relationships I now have with many of our students are what make my job so special.



Mr Perry Year 9

Ever since working in Secondary Education, I have been passionate about working with young people. They are interesting, funny, thoughtful, imaginative, and passionate. . . and make my job so enjoyable!

I believe in the power of self-awareness and emotional literacy. As Head of Year, a major part of my role as teaching young people to recognise their thoughts and feelings. How to manage the stresses of school life and relationships is a big part of our work together.

My founding principles are responsibility, respect, kindness, dignity, and doing your best—as it is “the best.”



Mrs James - Year 10

This academic year sees my 17th at Casterton and my third as Head of Year and I could not be prouder of the year group as they have now well and truly started their GCSE courses. There is no denying that Year 10 is a crucial year, where strong foundations are set for the all-important examinations in Year 11. It marks not only one in which students explore subjects in more detail but also a year for personal growth; students are beginning to see the connections between their studies and their future goals. Developing our students in an academic sense is key but so is developing them as human beings and I feel that embedding resilience is paramount to ensuring that our young people are supported effectively to achieve their academic potential and become well-rounded individuals.

Mrs Henriet - Year 11

As Head of Year 11 at Casterton College, I am immensely proud to help our most senior students achieve their goals. I strive to create a safe environment for all students to feel heard and part of our community, helping them to learn, flourish, and advance in all aspects of their education.

In my opinion, relationships are the main component to assisting our students in reaching their goals and feeling encouraged. As Head of Year 11, I focus on supporting students through a demanding year, helping to complete applications, teach revision strategies along with how to cope with exam stress. As a school we are preparing our pupils for life after Casterton, to ensure they are ready to play a role in the wider society. As Head of Year 11, a main aspect of my role is supporting the emotional well-being of the students. I have an open-door policy, where students feel safe to pop in to discuss any concerns or difficulties they are experiencing. We work together to create a plan, helping the student to feel in control of any situation.

The amazing team of 11 tutors have built amazing relationships with our Year 11 students, getting to know them and helping them with everyday challenges.

Every Year 11 student has made tremendous progress since being at Casterton, I am immensely proud of them.



SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT

Art

Year 8 Art

During term 4, year 8 students worked collaboratively to create Exquisite Corpse drawings. Exquisite Corpse is a collaborative drawing approach first used by surrealist artists to create bizarre and intuitive drawings. Students started their own drawings and passed it on to other peers to continue. Students found the results very amusing and had a good laugh sharing them with each other.



Rutland Youth Open Art Exhibition

Seven of our Year 11 students had their work accepted into the Rutland Youth Open Art Exhibition 2025 at Rutland County Museum in February. Ace Hulme, Tilly Easton, Suvi Land, Lily Cade-Stewart, Anna Brostrem, Liubava Shevchenko and Katrina Tarvida all created beautiful artworks about their own identity. All of the pieces were exhibited in the museum to the public for a month. All students, their families and their friends should be extremely proud of their work. Katrina Tarvida was awarded a certificate and prize as the overall winner of the exhibition in the Y10-Y11 category.



Extra CURRICULAR

The 10X Challenge

This term Years 7-9 were given the opportunity to take part in the 10X Challenge. They had four weeks to come up with ideas, carry out market research, develop their product, bring it to market and sell. This has developed their entrepreneurial skills including communication, innovation, team working and organisation.

Alfie Webb set up Webb Enterprises which offers car washing services.

Webb Industries

- We will make your car sparkly clean!



Need a cheap easy car wash? Try Webb Industries, we offer low prices and high rewards. We can come to you (if you are local) or you can come to us! We guarantee great service and awesome prices.

Try Webb Industries Today:
WebbIndustriesCarWash.square.site

World Book Day

Casterton students have celebrated World Book Day by spending their £1 book token at The BIG Little Book Sale, held in our library during lunchtime. Over 85 students exchanged their token for a World Book Day. There is a free book available for every student in college and, with 33 different WBD titles to choose from, students can also purchase further £1 books if they wish.

The BIG Little Book Sale: It was wonderful to see so many students from Year 7 through to Year 11 coming up to the library over the last week to spend their £1 World Book Day token at our book sale. A marvellous 157 £1 tokens were exchanged for books and, with 34 titles on offer, some students returned with money to buy a second or even third book. Year 8 student, Alfie Hart, came back almost every day of the book sale. "World Book Day was great at Mrs Scott's BIG Little Book Sale. I used my token to get Dave the Pigeon for free and I have bought 8 more books because they are a bargain, at £1 each and they are really fun to read!"

Thank you to all our students who got involved in the book sale and helped us celebrate World Book Day together. There was a lovely atmosphere and a buzz of excitement in our library.

Oliver Sas made and sold wax melts in the run up to Mother's Day.

Oliver Hilton made and sold fudge.

Caleb Redding produced fiddle toys with the help of his Marketing Manager, Sebby Barber.

Thomas Sambrook and Dexter McCarthy made and sold chocolate crispy snacks which regularly sold out.

On sale in IT2 every day this week






the best fidgets for you

Amazing prices from £20 to 50p





Please go ask Caleb Redding or seb barber if you want to get One of these awesome fidgets!!!

Prices of fidget star:
Small-£2
Large-£5

Prices of rexi's:
Extra small-50p
Small-£1
Medium-£3
Large-£20

If seb or caleb are not at IT2 tell Mrs martin your Order!!



Shao Dow

The Northamptonshire and Rutland Music Hub, in partnership with UK Music, funded the rapper, Shao Dow to come into school on Thursday 27th March. He is an award-winning rapper, Manga author and occasional Ninja! Shao did a talk to a group of year 9 students who have expressed an interest in choosing Music or Drama as one of their option choices, and a talk with current Music and Drama students in year 10. He spoke about his career, facilitated an in-depth question and answer session, played some footage of two of his compositions and performed for the students. In both workshops, the message was very positive about perseverance and how to build your own creative industry. It wasn't just about his career as a rapper but more about having the self-belief and USP to promote himself.



Rutland Music Big Sing

On Monday 31st March a group of singers joined with singers from across the Primary Schools in Rutland to sing in the Rutland Music Big Sing at De Montfort Hall in Leicester. In the first half the choir sang an unaccompanied version of the song 'How High the Moon' and the year 10 band, currently called ORBS, performed their self-penned Britpop inspired song 'Never Thought'. Casterton College was the only school to perform items in the running order.

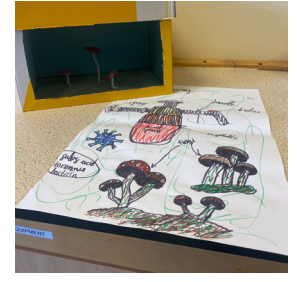
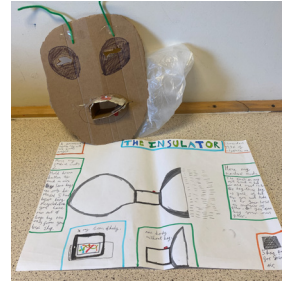
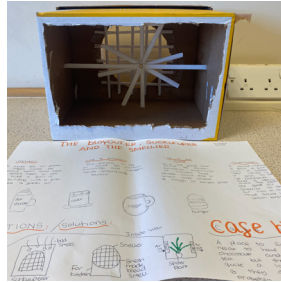
In the second half, the choir sang in the massed choir for the second ever performance of Pied Piper. Three of our students auditioned for solo parts and were successful in being chosen to sing lead roles. Heather Moores and Lucy Shaw shared the role of the Pied Piper, while Barney Cooper sang the role of the mayor.



British Science Week

To celebrate British Science Week, Mrs Talkington's Year 7 class have been taking part in this year's national poster competition designing innovative ways to filter the air in public spaces. They were then challenged to build a prototype of their designs using mainly recycled materials from around the college.

We have had some fantastic creations! Head of Year 7 Mr Astles chose his winner as the "Shoe Sucker" created by Grace, Isabella and Emily. Well done to everyone and their amazing creations!



Health & Social Care

Last week Year 10 HSC students attended the Career Expo with a focus on health and social care.

The students had many opportunities to speak to staff working in these roles and hear what their work is like, take part in interactive activities, understand the different career routes into health and social care and speak with universities and colleges.

"The health and social trip was very informative surrounding future careers involved in medicine, care and health. It gave me more of an idea of what career I want to join in the future. I found the stand with the mannequin with a beating heart you could listen to very interesting, and I did not expect food and nutritional jobs to be involved with the trip. Overall, I found it very educational and inspiring."

(Emmi Woods)



'Speak Out Challenge'

On Friday 14th March, Casterton College held the final for the Speak Out Challenge.

The competition, organised by the Speaker's Trust, is designed to encourage students to develop their skills in oracy.

10En6 took part in the competition and five finalists were selected to give speeches in front of an audience of Year 7 students.

We are delighted to announce that Jack Fisher was selected as the winner of the competition and will be advancing to the Regional Final in July.

Congratulations also to our runner up, Millie Scholes.

Careers UPDATE

Mock Interviews

At the end of last term volunteers from our community came in to school to offer all our year 10 students an opportunity to complete a mock interview. This is part of the Careers programme offered here at Casterton College Rutland. All of year 10 attended the interview and answered a series of questions they are likely to receive in a job interview. They will then receive feedback directly from the interviewer identifying what went well and areas for improvement. We would like to thank all the volunteers who have gave up their time to work with us, and we hope that all our year 10 students found this experience useful in preparing for the future.

On March 17th, CCR had the privilege of hosting the Institute of Engineering and Technology's Faraday Challenge. 24 of our Year 8 students, along with two teams from Stamford Welland Academy, took part in the day, which involved designing, building and presenting a prototype. The students needed to use their knowledge of electrical circuits and structures to help them with the challenge as well as learning new skills such as how to work with motors. Each group nominated a project leader and finance manager to oversee how the budget for materials was spent at the shop. After presenting their Ideas to the judges, the winning team was from CCR! Well done to everyone involved who all had a great day taking part.

Mock Trial

In January the High Sheriff of Rutland invited the College to take a group of students to a mock trial at Oakham Castle. The Year 9 students took part in the fictional trial of Joseph Jones, taking on different roles including Usher, Legal Adviser, Witnesses and Magistrates. The students were also given the opportunity to ask questions about different careers in the field of Law and found out how the punishment for a crime is decided.





An interactive theatre experience in schools. Tackling under-age drinking with positive thinking

On Thursday 20th March 'Smashed' theatre production came to deliver some interactive workshops to our year 7 and 8 students around underage drinking. Smashed is a powerful and realistic story of young people and alcohol.

Students got to observe, explore and reflect on vital underage drinking themes including:

- The social and emotional causes
- The impact on young lives
- Social influence and decision making
- Where and how to help yourself and others

By interacting with the characters, they were able to rapidly identify the causes and consequences of underage drinking. They got the chance to play director, and re-shape the story in order to develop new attitudes and behaviours that will help them

make the right choices in their own lives.

Students learnt to recognise social dynamics at play, personal responsibility, decision making and communication. We believe these are the essential building blocks to guarding against many risks and creating positive futures.

The performance was fantastic and the students were eager to get involved in the workshops after. Student comment- I really enjoyed it and found it very educational. It reminded me of how bad alcohol can be and the effects after you drink it. They also told us about the consequences if you bought alcohol and the impact it can have on our future.

