

CCR *Winter 2025*

NEWSLETTER

TRIPS
GALORE

Christmas
at
Casterton

Amazing
CHARITY
WORK

CELEBRATING
ACHIEVEMENT



Celebrating SUCCESS

Congratulations
to all of our
Award Winners.

It has been another successful term and we have been delighted with the attitude and effort of our students. It has been lovely once again to celebrate this with them during the Celebration assemblies. Well done to all our winners!



Pride of Casterton 2025-2026



Head Boy
Barney Cooper



Head Girl
Holly Muxlow



Deputy
Head Boy
Nathan Jordan



Deputy
Head Girl
Bethan Jarvis



Isobel Barkley



Thomas Bone



Clara Hawkins



Eva Hammond



Mia Silva Medd

We are pleased to introduce the Student Council for this academic year. They really are our 'Pride of Casterton'. They help with the running of charity events for our school throughout the year. They are all fantastic ambassadors for our school.

Charity FUNDRAISING



Students were excited to have organised the Advent Fair again this year. Each tutor group planned a stall to raise money for our chosen charity and the Student Wellbeing Fund. There was a Christmas pinata, knock the elf off the shelf, glitter tattoos, lucky dip and of course the tombola, amongst other stalls. The atmosphere was fantastic with lots of smiling faces!

WE MADE A WHOPPING £796



Casterton's CHRISTMAS

Another successful Year 7 Bookbuzz delivery!

Each year, months of planning takes place to ensure every Year 7 student at Casterton has been enrolled onto the Bookbuzz programme, received their Bookbuzz lesson, chosen a book from 16 wonderful titles and that their wishes are sent off to the North Pole!

The aim is to get our Year 7s buzzing about books and promote reading for pleasure. This was our 15th Bookbuzz year and as usual, students were eager to get their books, constantly asking about them throughout the autumn term. Finally, on Thursday 18th December, delivery day arrived. No royal mail or Evri delivery here, it was top notch service from two very special visitors direct from the North Pole.

There was lots of excitement in the air - and not just from the students. Pretty sure Santa must have been hitting the candy canes hard this year as his energy, enthusiasm, and ho ho hos knew no bounds!

As always, Mr Smith, the warm-up act, got students primed and ready for Santa to make his big entrance into each Year 7 English Lesson!

Our English staff were amazing, allowing Santa and his Head Elf to hype up their Year 7s, deliver the books and then make a run for it!

Hopefully our Year 7s can find time over the Christmas break to enjoy their new book!

Bookbuzz is run by Book Trust, the UK's largest children's reading charity. If you want to know more about Book Trus or Bookbuzz please visit booktrust.org.uk.

Merry Christmas!



Castertons Shoebox Appeal 2025

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Castertons Shoebox Appeal this year. Thanks to the generosity and kindness of our school community, we successfully collected 31 shoeboxes to donate.

Each shoebox represents a thoughtful gift that will make a real difference to a child this Christmas, helping to spread joy and kindness during the festive season.

This has been a fantastic team effort, and we are incredibly grateful to all students, families and staff who took part. Your support truly reflects the caring and community-minded spirit of Casterton College Rutland.

Thank you once again for helping to make a difference.



Music Department Update

On Monday 8th December we were invited to take students to perform at Empingham Methodist Church to perform to members of the local community. It was a lovely afternoon which gave students the opportunity to perform in front of a small audience, some were performing in front of an audience for the first time. We would like to thank Rachael Hammerton our piano and woodwind teacher for organising the performance opportunity and we are very much looking forward to taking part again next year!



Christmas Concert

Wow! What an evening! On Wednesday 10th December over 40 students took part in the Christmas Concert which included our dance group, choir, six bands and many solo musical performances, alongside a dramatic performance from 'The Importance of being Ernest'. By the end of the show, both the students and many of the audience were dancing to one of the year 11 bands performing 'Merry Christmas Everyone'.

Well done to all the students who took part! It has taken many weeks and months of dedication to prepare for the concert.



Parent Feedback

Parents were full of praise for the event, with comments including:

"We had a lovely time. The talent was amazing, and it was wonderful to see how respectful and supportive the students were of each other."

"So much talent and creativity on display. We are so impressed and proud that our daughter attends a school where the arts are encouraged."

"We thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas Concert. All

the pupils who took part were so courageous and talented. The Rock School bands were a highlight, and the piano performance was amazing. There is clearly so much musical talent in the school. Fantastic organisation from the teachers, and we really appreciate the extra time and effort that goes into putting on these shows."

Well done to all the students involved for an outstanding evening of music, drama and dance, and thank you to the staff who supported and organised this wonderful event.

Open EVENING

September 2025

What a wonderful evening we had for our first Open Evening of the year back in September. It was fantastic to welcome so many prospective students to our school, from both year 5 and 6, alongside some younger visitors!



Unique EXPERIENCES

Languages

Our GCSE French and Spanish students were recently treated to an inspiring visit from Steve Eadon of Mingalaba Languages, who delivered a thought-provoking talk on languages and careers in Sport.

During his session, Steve shared his personal journey of combining a passion for languages with a love of sport. He highlighted how learning another language can open up opportunities across the globe — from working with international teams and athletes to travelling and building connections with people from different cultures.

Students left the talk feeling motivated and empowered, taking away key messages about the lifelong value of language learning:

- Languages are not just a subject – they are a life-changing skill.
- Learning a language means more choices, more opportunities, and the power to connect with others.
- Languages can give you a competitive edge in sport, careers, and beyond.

Casterton Debate Club Success

Huge congratulations to the Casterton Debate Club following an outstanding performance at their very first Rotary Youth Speaks competition, held on Monday evening at the Falcon Hotel in Uppingham. Both our Senior and Intermediate teams delivered confident, thoughtful and well-structured speeches on the themes of space exploration and cloning, impressing judges with their clarity, teamwork and persuasive skills.

Competition Results

Senior Team – First Place

Intermediate Team – Second Place

As a result of these excellent outcomes, both teams have qualified for the next round of the competition.

Team Members

Senior Team: Jessica Davies, Annabel Burt and Agnes Garrett

Intermediate Team: Oliver Sas, Rosie Houghton and Lauren Jerram

Student Reflection

Agnes, Senior Team member, reflected on the evening:

“On the 24th we went to the debate competition in Uppingham. The senior team (myself, Jessica and Annabel) came first, with our intermediate team



Our learners were enthusiastic about the talk, sharing reflections such as:

“You can have lots of opportunities by doing a language.”

“Learning a language can help with any job you would like to get.”

“You are more likely to be picked for a job if you can speak other languages.”

“Learning a language can open new doors.”

“I want to do languages at university so I can live abroad.”

“It motivated me.”

At Casterton College, we are committed to showing our learners that languages can shape futures, open doors, and connect the world. This visit was a wonderful reminder that the skills developed in the classroom can lead to exciting, global opportunities beyond school.



(Rosie, Oliver and Lauren) coming second. We are all extremely proud and can't wait to go through to the next round.”

We are incredibly proud of all the students involved for representing Casterton College so positively. Their success is a testament to their hard work, confidence and commitment, and we wish them the very best of luck in the next stage of the competition.

English

After receiving 42 incredible entries, our Praise Postcard Design Competition proved just how creative and talented our students are. The standard was so high that the judges simply couldn't pick just one winner — so we're delighted to announce that 12 students have been chosen, each receiving a prize for their fantastic designs!

Congratulations to our winners:

Daniel Huckle – Crocodile
Beth Izzett – Esio Trot
Austin Webb – Violet
Emmie Burrill – Roald Dahl
Charlie Jones – Mr Fox
Ariana Calleja-Basey – Willy Wonka
Emma Richards – BFG
August Feeney – Danny
Emmie Bromley – Matilda
Joseph Kettle – Stamps
Eva Poole – George
Wallice Wisdom – BFG

The English Department can't wait to start using these brilliant new postcards to celebrate super effort, excellent progress, and all-round English fabulousness in the coming weeks.

A huge thank you to everyone who entered — your creativity, imagination, and enthusiasm made this competition truly special.

Well done to all!

— Mrs Rawes and the English Team



Maths Enrichment with GCHQ

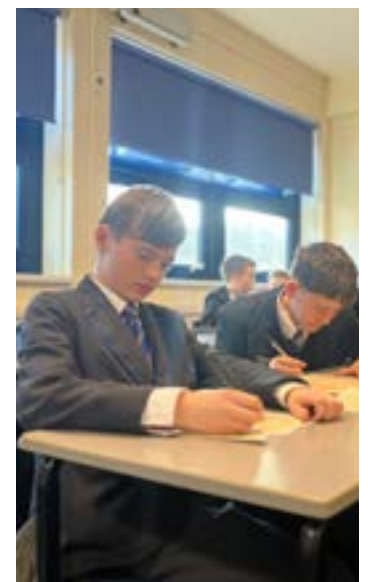
On December 10th, students in Maths had the exciting opportunity to hear from the Director of GCHQ, one of the UK's three Intelligence and Security Agencies. The session offered a fascinating insight into how mathematical thinking, logic and problem-solving are used in real-world intelligence and security work. Students worked collaboratively in teams to tackle the puzzles from the GCHQ Christmas Challenge, applying resilience, teamwork and analytical skills while enjoying the challenge. Families are encouraged to have a go at home by downloading the challenge from the GCHQ website.

Student Reflection

Alice shared her thoughts:

"The ingenious puzzles have really inspired me. I'd love to have a conversation in the courtyard garden of the GCHQ 'doughnut' building — one of the few outdoor spaces in the UK where conversations are classified as top secret!"

This enriching experience highlighted the relevance of mathematics beyond the classroom and inspired students to think about future pathways in STEM, problem-solving and cyber security.





Antarctica Expedition Inspires Year 9

Could you be ready for a trip to Antarctica with just two weeks' notice, or thrive in temperatures as low as -40°C ? Our recent guest speaker, James Veness did exactly that — and completely inspired our students.

James shared powerful stories from his expedition to Antarctica alongside Robert Swan, who fulfilled his childhood ambition to follow in the footsteps of Roald Amundsen. During that expedition, Swan witnessed first-hand the impact of the hole in the ozone layer — an experience that changed the course of his life and set him on a mission to protect the planet. James continues this mission today, and his passion for environmental responsibility truly captivated his audience.

The CCR Green Team and the entire Year 9 cohort thoroughly enjoyed welcoming James to Casterton College. From learning about the school's solar panels to hearing stories of extreme exploration, students were inspired to continue driving forward the green initiatives championed within our school community.

We would like to thank James for an engaging and thought-provoking visit, and for demonstrating that adventure and environmental responsibility can go hand in hand.



Stamford Rotary Young Chef Competition Success

On 19th November, six talented students from Casterton College took part in the Stamford Rotary Young Chef Competition, hosted by Stamford School.

The standard of cooking throughout the competition was exceptionally high, with all students producing dishes that impressed the judges with their creativity, presentation and technical skill. We are delighted to share that Lily Murton, Year 11, was awarded second place for her dish — a fantastic achievement in a highly competitive event.

Student Reflection

Lily said:

"I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to take part in this competition and for all the support I've received from Miss Ward and Mrs Greenwood throughout my time at Casterton."

We are incredibly proud of all the students who represented Casterton College so positively and commend them for their hard work, commitment and enthusiasm. Our thanks also go to the staff who supported and prepared students for the competition.



Big Congratulations to Harvey

We are delighted to celebrate the success of Harvey, a Year 8 student who was crowned the winner of the Year 8 Scratch Challenge following some very strong competition.

Harvey impressed judges with his creativity, technical skill and determination, building on his previous project 'Adventures of Steven' from Year 7 to produce an outstanding final submission.

Reflecting on his achievement, Harvey said:

"I really enjoyed building on my 'Adventures of Steven' from Year 7. I genuinely can't believe I won!"

This achievement highlights Harvey's enthusiasm for computing and his commitment to developing his skills. We are extremely proud of his hard work and creativity.

Well done, Harvey — a fantastic achievement and a great example of student success in STEM.

GCSE Author Visit – Stephen Kelman

We were delighted to welcome Stephen Kelman, one of our GCSE English Literature authors, to school for an inspiring and engaging visit. Students took part in an insightful question and answer session, followed by a workshop that deepened their understanding of the author's intentions and the key influences behind Pigeon English. The sessions encouraged thoughtful discussion and helped students to further develop their analytical skills and appreciation of the text. Staff were extremely proud of the students, who demonstrated excellent behaviour, high levels of engagement and a consistently positive attitude throughout the day. They were a real credit to the school.

Student Reflections



Arthur shared:

"I believe Stephen Kelman's visit was extremely insightful for all students. Knowing the context behind the novel can greatly improve exam answers and make it easier to understand the text. In addition to this, he was an extremely thoughtful and kind person who showed great passion for his work."

Jasper added:

"Kelman's visit this week was both insightful and eye-opening, offering us a wider and more in-depth understanding of the context surrounding the events within the novel. The second session, in particular, gave us the opportunity to discuss and explore the personal thoughts that influenced his decisions. By applying this to exam technique, we were able to significantly develop our understanding, which I'm sure will help us greatly with our assessments. A truly valued experience."

Visits such as this provide a valuable opportunity to bring literature to life and inspire a genuine love of reading and learning.



Year 10 GCSE Art Trip to London

Our Year 10 GCSE Art students had a fantastic trip to London in September visiting the Natural History Museum and the V&A Museum to gather primary research for their Natural Forms projects, capturing photos, creating drawings, and writing critically about sculptures of their choice. Students represented the school brilliantly, showing creativity and focus throughout the day. The trip concluded with a visit to the Paradox Museum, where immersive, interactive installations sparked laughter, creativity, and plenty of amazing photo opportunities. Students shared their highlights, including Pixi, who said, "It was a lovely trip and I really liked researching and drawing," and Eisha, who commented, "I really enjoyed looking at the frogs! It was great to be out in London."

Trips GALORE



Year 11 GCSE Art Trip to London

Our Year 11 GCSE Art students enjoyed a fantastic and inspiring trip to London, where they explored both the National Portrait Gallery and Tate Britain. The visit provided a valuable opportunity for students to gather inspiration for their ongoing Identity projects.

Throughout the day, students took photographs, produced observational drawings, and wrote thoughtful reflections on the artworks that inspired them.

"We learnt about the history and deep meanings behind paintings and sculptures, motivating us to convey the same passion in our own art." – Malgosia

"We were able to see a variety of different artists' work and styles." – Isobel

We are incredibly proud of how well our students represented the school — it was a day full of creativity, curiosity, and artistic growth.



Panto - Jack and the Beanstalk

We were delighted to once again offer every Year 7 an opportunity to go to the pantomime as a reward for a fantastic start to CCR. In total 113 students went to the New Theatre in Peterborough to see Jack and the Beanstalk and what a brilliant production! Students were fully engaged interacting with the cast and joining in with jokes and sing songs. They were a real credit to the college!



Tuesday 7th October - "Movie maths trip to Harry Potter studios"

The Warner Brothers studio tour of the Harry Potter trip run by Casterton College Rutland was an amazing experience filled with so much to do. The start of the workshop was really enjoyable as we had to guess the parts of the film that needed maths skills. Once we completed that task we got the chance to look at the true size of Hagrid's costume.

Once we finished with this activity we had an actual tour of the studio itself. We started in the Great Hall at Hogwart's Castle and then moved to Dumbledore's Office and the Gryffindor common room. We then went to Platform 9 3/4s and got the chance to go on to the train and look around. After that we then were allowed to go and try butterbeer, which in my opinion I didn't really enjoy but it was nice to try out. At the end of the tour we saw a big replica of the castle, which looked amazing and was incredibly detailed. Overall I really loved the trip and recommend it for a family day out.

Review by Ayden (Year 8)

In the maths lesson workshop we learnt how maths can be used in filmmaking. For example, making props, scaling things up or down and the money involved in making films. We also learnt about dimensions like the size of the doors in the Great Hall.

My favourite part was when one of the staff brought out the blueprints of Hagrid's hut and how many numbers were included.

The Harry Potter Studios Tour is an enjoyable trip, especially if you like the films. You get to walk through famous sets like the Great Hall and Diagon Alley, and it's interesting to see the actual props and costumes up close. The Forbidden Forest is a bit spooky but fun, and you can even try Butterbeer at the Backlot Café. The best part is the huge model of Hogwarts at the end, which looks amazing. My favourite part of the trip was in Gringot's Bank when the dragon came out. The effects of the smoke and fire made it feel so realistic like we were part of the film.

Overall, it's a great place to visit and gives you a good idea of how the films were made.

Review by Oliver (Year 8)



Year 9 Geography Trip to Cornwall

Despite an eventful start involving road closures and a small number of delayed buses, the Year 9 Geography trip to Cornwall quickly became a memorable and highly successful experience. On the first day, students visited Geevor Tin Mine, where they learned about the history of tin mining and the working conditions faced by miners. The group then travelled to Lizard Point, braving winds of up to 55mph while taking in the dramatic coastal landscape, before finishing the day with an atmospheric walk along Hayle Beach at dusk. Day two included a visit to Bodmin Jail, where students explored the historic cells and learned about the site's criminal history. Later in the day, the group visited Land's End, capturing the iconic photograph at this famous landmark. On the final day, students travelled to the Eden Project, where they attended an inspiring talk on climate change and the important work the Eden Project undertakes to protect the environment. Before heading home, students explored both the Rainforest and Mediterranean biomes, providing a fitting and educational end to the trip. The Cornwall experience was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and students would like to thank the staff who planned and supported the visit, making it such a valuable and enriching opportunity.

— **Poppy and Daisy, Year 9**



Tuesday 18th November – Year 10 STEM trip to Silverstone

“The school trip I went on to Silverstone was amazing from start to finish. We were able to watch proper F4 cars go round the track, which was incredible to see up close. The staff there told me, and my friends loads of cool history and info about the track, which made the whole experience even more interesting.

The Silverstone Museum was fantastic; there were plenty of great displays and we even got to sit in a few cars and take loads of pictures. One of the highlights was the racing simulator, where we could drive around the Silverstone circuit ourselves & with friends. It felt really realistic and was so much fun.

When it came to having lunch, we had a beautiful view of the track where we could watch the cars go by while we ate. After that we were also shown how a F1 car is built and learnt how expensive the materials and technology are which honestly shocked me. I have had a past visit to Silverstone before with my dad, but honestly, the school trip was just as good – if not better. We did loads, learnt a lot, and had a fantastic time. I'd definitely recommend it.”

Review and photos by Peter (Year 10)



Year 11 Scarefest Trip to Alton Towers

Over the half-term break, 80 of our Year 11 students had an unforgettable day at Alton Towers for the Scarefest event, organised by Mr Monteforte. From riding terrifying rollercoasters in the dark to braving the heart-pounding scare mazes, the trip was packed with adrenaline, laughter, and plenty of screams! A huge thank you goes to Mr Pitselis, Mr Crisp, Mr Scott, Miss Lydon, Mrs Gardner, and Mrs Grice, who voluntarily attended and helped make the day such a success. Their support, enthusiasm, and bravery—especially in the scare mazes—made this experience truly special. It was a fantastic day full of unforgettable memories!



Wellbeing UPDATE

At CCR, student wellbeing isn't just a priority – it's a commitment.

Mrs Anelli has developed a bespoke wellbeing support package in partnership with Rutland County Council, Life on Time, St Gilbert's Church, and Stamford College, ensuring our students receive the care and guidance they need to truly thrive.

Currently, 57 students benefit from weekly counselling, with many more supported through regular welfare check-ins led by Mrs Anelli, Miss Farnsworth, Teaching Assistants, Tutors, the Pastoral Team, and Heads of Year.

Our Wellbeing Wednesdays, delivered through YouHQ, also provide an accessible platform for students to reach out and connect with our caring staff team.

A snapshot of our weekly wellbeing provision:

- Monday: External Counsellors (4 students)
- Tuesday: Teen Health group and individual support (35 students, including 34 Year 7s receiving transition support)
- Wednesday: Mentoring (5 students)
- Thursday: Casey Counselling (5 students)
- Friday: External Counsellor (2 students)
- Internal Counselling with Miss Farnsworth (6 students)

We also work closely with external services such as CAMHS, Healthy Minds, and Young Minds to ensure continuity of care and comprehensive support.

At CCR, we are proud to nurture, support, and empower our students every single day.

A Soleful Act of Kindness

Today, we were deeply moved by the generosity of an anonymous donor within our community, who kindly gifted brand new school shoes to support some of our most vulnerable students.

This thoughtful gesture goes far beyond providing footwear. It offers dignity, confidence and a renewed sense of belonging to young people who need it most, helping to remove barriers and ensure every student feels ready to engage fully in school life.

To our anonymous donor: thank you for walking alongside us in our mission to nurture care, inclusion and opportunity for all. Your compassion has made a meaningful difference, and we are sincerely grateful for your kindness.

We are proud to be part of a community that continues to demonstrate such generosity and care for one another

Meet Your New Well-being Ambassadors

We are excited to introduce our new Well-being Ambassadors: Agnes, Rosie, and Bella! Their role is to help make school a kinder, calmer, and more supportive environment for everyone.

If students ever feel worried, stressed, lonely, or simply want to talk to someone their own age, they are here to listen and support. Students can find them around school every Wednesday wearing their green lanyards.

The ambassadors will also be visiting Lower School tutor groups to share their favourite tips on managing homework, boosting well-being, and navigating friendships.

No problem is too small, and students never have to face challenges alone. Keep an eye out for Agnes, Rosie, and Bella—they are here to help and support all students



Celebrating Our Fantastic Year 7s

Following the publication of the first Year 7 reports, we were delighted to invite 23 outstanding students to enjoy a special pizza lunch in the Boardroom with Senior Leaders and Miss Smith, Head of Year 7.

This reward recognises the excellent start these students have made at Casterton College. They have consistently demonstrated a strong attitude to learning, excellent behaviour and a positive approach to their first term of secondary school. Out of a cohort of 177 students, these pupils have truly stood out.

The good news was shared during assembly, and we hope families will join us in congratulating the students on their hard work, commitment and positive contribution to school life.

Ronan, Year 7, said:

"Some Year 7s were picked for a pizza party because of their good attitude to learning and their good report. This pizza party was rewarded as recognition for their good behaviour".

Well done to all our Year 7 students for such a positive start at Casterton College. We are very proud of you and look forward to celebrating many more successes in the future.



Celebrating Our Brilliant Year 10s

Following the release of the first Year 10 reports last week, we are delighted to announce that a group of exceptional students have been invited to a special pizza lunch in the Boardroom with senior leaders and Mr Perry, Head of Year 10.

This reward recognises the fantastic start these students have made to their GCSE journey. They have demonstrated outstanding effort, maturity and a consistently positive attitude towards their learning. Out of the entire year group, these students have truly distinguished themselves as positive role models.

The students received the exciting news during assembly, and we hope families will join us in celebrating their dedication, determination and impressive approach to this important stage of their education.

Well done to all of our Year 10 students for their hard work and commitment. We look forward to supporting and celebrating many more successes as they continue their GCSE journey.

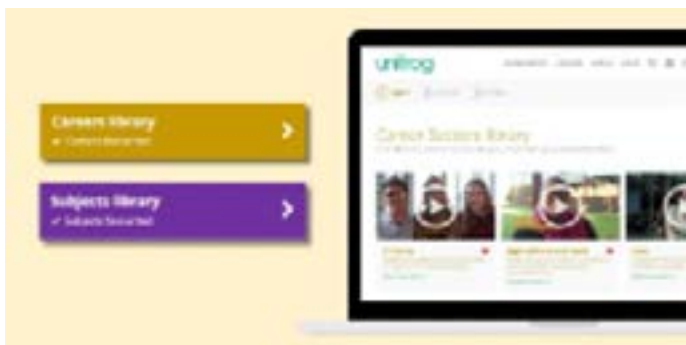


Careers Update - What is Unifrog?

Unifrog is a universal destinations platform designed to support young people to make informed decisions about their futures. There are a range of tools students can use to do this, whichever year group they are in. All students have now logged onto Unifrog, and will be using the platform throughout their time at Casterton College. Please ask your son/daughter to show you the platform!

The Careers library and Subjects library

The Careers Library offers over 600 profiles to help students explore different jobs, with information on what each role involves, the skills required, entry routes, and local labour market insights. The Subjects Library features over 100 profiles outlining what each subject covers, key topics, wider reading, and the prerequisites for higher-level study. Together, these tools guide students in making informed choices about their future.



The Activities and Skills tools

Students can use the Activities tool to record things they've done, and the Skills tool to record each time they showed a skill. If they go on a school trip and help their group to organise transport, they could use the Activities tool to record that they did the school trip, and the Skills tool to record the example of organisation. When it comes to making applications in the future, they will have a bank of effective examples ready to use.



The Apprenticeship, College, and University tools

Tools to help them find and compare apprenticeships, colleges, and university courses across the world that are taught in English, and financial support and activities to support their studies. The search tools allow students to compare opportunities based on things that are important to them, like accommodation costs for universities and weekly wages for apprenticeships.



The Personal Statement, CV, and Writing tools

Whether students are writing a CV, a cover letter for work experience, or an application for university anywhere in the world, they can use Unifrog's tools to write and structure their work. There are also helpful examples to support them along the way.



Careers Meetings

All year 10 students will be invited to attend a one-to-one meeting this academic year. Our Careers Advisor, Cheryl McCarthy from MYPATH will be coming into school one or two days a week until the end of May.

Why do we offer these meetings?

They are an opportunity for students to meet with an unbiased Careers Advisor. Students will be able to talk openly with Cheryl about their attitude towards school and the progress they are making, their ideas for a future career, and their thoughts about next steps after Casterton College.

How will students know when their meeting is?

Students will be given a green card by their Form Tutor on the morning of their appointment. They will need to go to the room specified on the green card. Students will need to come out of their timetabled lesson to attend.

Careers Fair 2025

Thank you to everyone who joined us on Wednesday 5 November for our third annual Careers Fair. The event provided a valuable opportunity for our Year 10 and Year 11 students to explore their Post-16 options and speak directly with representatives from local Sixth Forms and Further Education providers.

Students engaged in informative discussions, gained insight into a wide range of courses, and received guidance to help them make confident decisions about their next steps.

The positive impact of the event was clear from student feedback. One student commented:

"It was great having all the different Colleges together in our hall. It really helped us see all the courses and opportunities available to us."

We are grateful to all the providers and staff who supported the event and helped make it such a success. The future is looking bright for our students as they plan their next stage of education.



Do students need to take anything?

No. The Careers Advisor will have a copy of their current report to refer to during the conversation.

Do students need to prepare anything?

Not necessarily, but it would be a good idea to think about their ideas for after Casterton College, for example Sixth Form, Further Education College or an Apprenticeship. It would also be a good idea for students to think about future jobs and careers that might interest them, and whether University is an option.



Remembrance DAY

Year 9 WWI Competition – Remembering the “Forgotten Armies”

On 11 November, or the nearest Sunday, people across the UK paused to remember those who had given their lives in conflict, a tradition that began after the First World War with the signing of the Armistice at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. While many imagined young white European men in trenches, WWI was also fought in Turkey, the Middle East, and parts of Africa, involving soldiers and labourers from across the British and French empires, including India, Africa, China, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. These contributions, often little known, were called the “Forgotten Armies.” This year, Year 9 students at Casterton College took part in a special competition to honour these groups by writing a speech or poem for a Remembrance Assembly, or designing a war memorial or wreath dedicated to one of these communities. Entries were submitted to Miss Quigley by Friday 7th November, with an internal competition held to select the best. Students played an important role in remembering history and sharing these untold stories.

Rutland Festival of Remembrance Performance

On 7th November, a group of talented singers from Casterton College Rutland took part in the annual Rutland Festival of Remembrance, hosted by the Lord Lieutenant of Rutland, Dr Sarah Furness, at Rutland Hall. The group performed a moving rendition of “Imagine” by John Lennon and Yoko Ono, captivating the audience with their beautiful harmonies. They were an absolute credit to the school, representing Casterton College Rutland with pride and professionalism.



Supporting Our Military Families

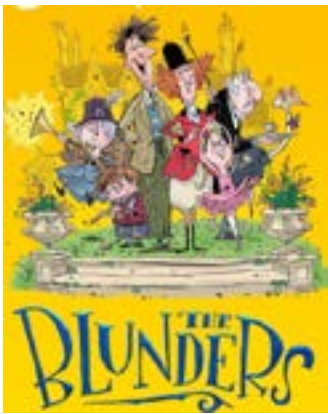
At Casterton, we recognise that military life comes with unique challenges, and we are committed to supporting you and your children every step of the way. If you are expecting an upcoming deployment, exercise, or posting, or if there are any changes you feel we should be aware of, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Our aim is to ensure the right support is in place during times of transition and change. Let us help make the journey a little easier. You can contact us anytime via our inquiries email address, where messages will be passed on to our Armed Forces Champion, Mrs Henriet.



Student BOOK REVIEWS

Book Review: Sunrise on the Reaping - Reviewed by Jessica

Sunrise on the Reaping is an incredible story of loving too much, losing too much, and the desperate hope of one boy trying to change his world. Year 10 student Jessica explores the journey of Haymitch Abernathy, one of many children struggling to survive in the impoverished districts of Panem, who is forced to compete in the 50th Hunger Games. Through this experience, Haymitch comes to understand the full extent of President Snow's power and cruelty, even as unrest begins to build. The novel intricately connects with both the original Hunger Games trilogy and The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes, providing rich backstories for key characters while creating a new, unforgettable narrative. Jessica highlights the fascinating parallels between Haymitch and Katniss, showing how history repeats itself, with Haymitch potentially becoming the spark of rebellion just as Katniss might have been broken by the Games and turned to drink. The events of Sunrise on the Reaping lay the foundation for the main series, mending Panem's fractures with threads of lost love and final promises. She recommends this ingenious book to fans of the main series or anyone who enjoys dystopian fiction such as Gone, Divergent, or 1984, noting that for the greatest impact, it is best read after the original trilogy.



Book Review: The Blunders - Reviewed by Ivy

The Blunders is a brilliantly funny and fast-paced story that keeps readers entertained from start to finish. Each chapter follows the wonderfully chaotic Blunder family as they get up to something new, silly, and unpredictable — making it impossible to put the book down.

My favourite character was Old Lady Blunder, who is absolutely hilarious. Her outbursts, especially when she shouts at Butler to “get on with it!” or fires her blunderbuss at anyone who annoys her, had me laughing out loud. I also loved the two mischievous siblings, whose constant pranks and playful rivalry added even more fun to the story.

I've read many of David Walliams' books, and this one is definitely among his best. The lively illustrations and clever humour make it a great choice for Year 6 and Year 7 readers — or anyone who enjoys a good laugh!

A highly entertaining read full of fun, mischief, and laughter.

Book Review: Sam Wu is Not Afraid of Space - Reviewed by Skylar

Skylar in Year 7 recommends this humorous and adventurous story: “I really like Sam Wu is Not Afraid of Space because it's funny, full of adventure and just like Tom Gates.”

This fast-paced book is ideal for readers who enjoy comedy, excitement and stories that will make them laugh.

Journey to the River Sea

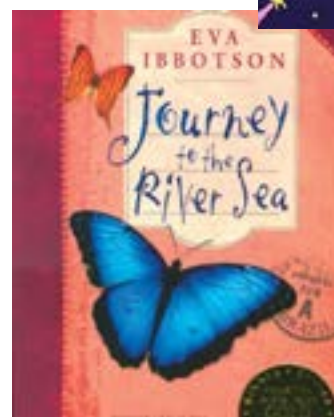
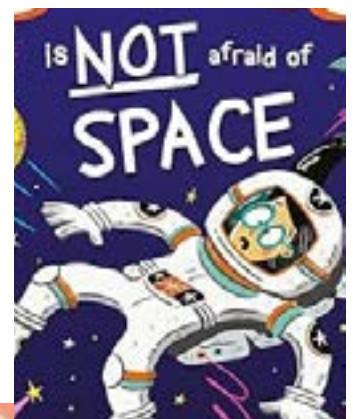
Book Review: Journey to the River Sea- Reviewed by Wallice

Wallice in Year 7 describes this novel as a memorable and inspiring read:

“An amazing book filled with adventure and true friendship. Maia's courage and Miss Minton's kindness make it a joy to read — perfect for anyone who loves exploring and discovering new worlds.”

Set in the Amazon rainforest, this story celebrates courage, friendship and discovery.

It is wonderful to see students sharing their enthusiasm for reading and recommending books to one another.



What is the best book you have read recently?

Sports UPDATE

Sports this term

This term has been an incredibly exciting one for school sport, with outstanding success across netball, football and basketball involving students from Year 7 through to Year 11. The level of commitment, enthusiasm and teamwork on display has truly been something to celebrate.

Our netball teams across multiple year groups have shown excellent progress, with strong performances in fixtures and competitions. Students have demonstrated improved skills, tactical awareness and fantastic sportsmanship. The dedication shown in training has clearly paid off, with confidence and cohesion growing week by week.

In football, teams from Years 7–11 have competed with determination and resilience. There have been some impressive results alongside noticeable development in teamwork and match awareness. Players have worked hard in training sessions and have represented the school with pride, showing real commitment both on and off the pitch.

Basketball has also seen great success, with students embracing the fast-paced nature of the sport and making excellent progress. Skill levels have improved significantly, and matches have been played with energy, discipline and enthusiasm. It has been particularly pleasing to see students supporting one another and pushing themselves to improve.

A special mention must go to the amazing club turnouts this term. Training sessions have been extremely well attended across all sports, reflecting the passion and dedication of our students. Their positive attitude, hard work and willingness to learn have been exemplary.

Overall, this has been a fantastic term for sport. Our students' commitment, effort and progress across all year groups deserve huge praise, and we look forward to building on this success in the coming term. Well done to everyone involved!

Looking Ahead to Next Term - We hope next term brings the same levels of enthusiasm and success as we expand our sporting opportunities. Students can look forward to competitions in badminton, gymnastics and girls' futsal. In addition, we will be offering sessions in the gym, providing further opportunities for students to develop their fitness, confidence and commitment to a healthy, active lifestyle.

A Successful Start with Inspire+

We are delighted to share the fantastic success of our new partnership with Inspire+, which has already provided valuable opportunities for our students to develop leadership, confidence and real-world experience.

Our Year 9 and Year 10 students have made an excellent start, volunteering at a range of local community events. They have supported inclusion-focused activities and tag rugby events, where they have represented the school exceptionally well. Feedback from event organisers has been overwhelmingly positive, praising our students for their professionalism, enthusiasm and willingness to get involved.

These students have shown maturity, responsibility and a strong commitment to helping others. Their ability to communicate clearly, support participants of all abilities and work effectively as part of a team has been particularly impressive. They are a real credit to themselves and the school.

It has also been encouraging to see growing interest from other students who are keen to volunteer over the Christmas period and into the New Year. This enthusiasm highlights the positive impact of the Inspire+ programme and the desire of our students to give back to the community while developing valuable life skills.



Looking Ahead

We are also excited to announce that the Year 7 and Year 8 Inspire+ programme will be launching in the New Year, with in-school training sessions beginning in January. This will give younger students the opportunity to start developing leadership skills early and prepare them for future volunteering roles within school and the wider community.

In addition, students involved in the Inspire+ programme for Year 9 and 10 will be offered the opportunity to gain an additional qualification, with the SLUK course taking place in May. This is a fantastic chance to further develop leadership skills and enhance future opportunities. Please look out for an interest request in your inbox with further details.

We are extremely proud of all students involved so far and look forward to seeing this partnership continue to grow, offering even more opportunities for leadership, inclusion and community engagement in the months ahead.

Inspire+ Leadership Training Day

Forty of our Year 9 and 10 students recently took part in their first Inspire+ Leadership Training Day, preparing to volunteer at local sports festivals throughout the year. The students approached the day with enthusiasm and energy, gaining valuable skills in leadership, teamwork, and event support.

Yasmin in Year 10 reflected on her experience:

"The Inspire+ day was so much fun. We learned new leadership and teamwork skills throughout the day. The coaches were so lovely and so much fun. I can't wait to get more involved throughout the year. It was an amazing experience and I'm so glad I did it."

We are incredibly proud of all students for their positivity, commitment, and willingness to step up as young leaders. We look forward to seeing the impact they will make at upcoming sports events and beyond.



Stamford Tag Rugby Festival Highlights

We enjoyed a fantastic day at the Stamford Tag Rugby Festival, where 50 enthusiastic pupils from five local primary schools came together to develop their skills, confidence and love of sport.

The event was expertly supported by our Casterton College Year 9 Student Leaders, who demonstrated outstanding teamwork, leadership and professionalism throughout the day. Their energy and enthusiasm helped create a fun, inclusive environment where every child felt encouraged to take part — including many who were trying rugby for the very first time.

Student Leader Reflections

Isla, Year 9, shared:

"It was a great experience seeing so many younger kids eager to join in with the drills. Even those who had never held a rugby ball before now want to keep going and join groups! It was lovely getting to know each and every one of them. I had so much fun and am so glad I got to be part of the event. I'd really recommend Inspire+ to anyone who gets the chance!"

Frankie, Year 9, added:

"We came up with ideas for games to teach the kids, then practised and adapted them to suit their ages and abilities. I thoroughly enjoyed coaching them and had a great time meeting everyone!"

Inspire+ Feedback

Inspire+ staff were full of praise for our students, commenting:

"The Casterton College leaders today were fantastic! You wouldn't have known it was their first festival — they put into practice everything from their training. All the teachers commented on how capable, enthusiastic, energetic and professional they were with the children."

We are incredibly proud of all the students involved for representing Casterton College so positively and for making the festival such a success. Well done to everyone who took part!



We are thrilled to celebrate Alfie's incredible golf season this year. Over the summer, he won the Lincolnshire County Nicky Molson Trophy (for boys over 14.3 handicap), claimed first place in the Nett Greetham Valley Junior Club Championship, and triumphed in the Age 12 & Under Qualifier for the Ping Junior Masters at Thonock Park, with the final scheduled at Close House in October. On top of these successes, Alfie proudly represented Lincolnshire for the first time in the 2025 Midlands U14 Boys County Championship. Alfie then went on to compete in the national final of the Ping Junior Masters Golf Competition, held at Close House Golf Club near Newcastle.

It was a challenging day for all competitors, with winds reaching 50mph, but Alfie showed great determination and skill throughout the competition. Despite the tough conditions, he thoroughly enjoyed playing on such a prestigious course and finished with 29 points, placing 5th in the Under 12s category and tied 9th overall out of a field of 69 players. A fantastic achievement — well done, Alfie!



We are delighted to celebrate the outstanding achievement of Lila, who has been selected to join the Lincolnshire County Netball U13 Squad. This is a remarkable accomplishment, particularly as Lila only turned 11 in August and will be competing alongside older players. Her selection reflects her hard work, dedication, and impressive talent on the court.

Lila's commitment to developing her skills and her positive attitude make her a wonderful role model for others. We are extremely proud of her success and look forward to seeing her continue to flourish in the seasons ahead.

Congratulations, Lila — a true inspiration to others!



We are delighted to celebrate the achievement of Cadet Sergeant Ruby from 2071 (Stamford) Squadron, who has been selected as The Mayor's Cadet.

This prestigious appointment will see Ruby support the Mayoress at community events throughout the year. She has already represented both her Squadron and the school at the Battle of Britain Parade and took part in the Remembrance Sunday Parade.

Ruby's commitment, leadership, and dedication have earned her this honour, and her family, Squadron, and school community are all incredibly proud of her success.

Congratulations, Ruby — an excellent role model and a true ambassador for Casterton College Rutland.

Over the summer, Finley took part in the Hansa TT at his local sailing club, competing in the Hansa 303 two-person class.

Despite being one of the youngest participants in a competition that typically attracts experienced adult sailors from across the country, Finley demonstrated outstanding skill, confidence, and determination on the water.

We are incredibly proud of Finley's achievement and look forward to following his sailing journey as he continues to build on this fantastic experience.

Well done, Finley — a true example of courage, commitment, and talent.



We are delighted to celebrate George's passion for mountain biking which continues to drive his determination and creativity. Over the summer, he built a new bike completely from the frame up, funding the project himself through hard work in the community — helping neighbours with gardening and animal care.

George is regularly praised for his politeness, dedication, and strong work ethic. He is a shining example of perseverance and commitment, and we are incredibly proud to see him thriving.

Well done, George — a true role model for others.



We are incredibly proud of Year 7 student Freddie, who has officially achieved his black belt in Mixed Martial Arts.

On 28th September, Freddie, along with five other members of the Inspired Martial Arts team, took part in a demanding five-hour grading that tested both physical and mental endurance.

Freddie demonstrated outstanding leadership throughout the session, leading the class in an extended warm-up before showcasing his skills through sparring rounds, martial arts techniques, and a series of intense fitness challenges.

This remarkable achievement reflects Freddie's hard work, determination, and commitment to excellence — qualities that make him a fantastic role model for others.

Well done, Freddie — a brilliant accomplishment and thoroughly deserved!



After being unwell last month, Harvey decided to rebuild his fitness and help the planet — two things he has always been passionate about. Back in primary school, Harvey helped introduce crisp packet recycling and even ran a toothpaste tube recycling appeal, collecting an impressive 178 tubes to take to his dentist for recycling. This September, he took on The Conqueror Challenge, choosing the Marathon to Athens route (26.2 miles) and completing it in just seven days by walking every day after school. Even better, Harvey's challenge helped rescue 50 plastic bottles from the ocean through PlasticBank, all funded by his own money. His well-earned medal arrived today, marking a fantastic reward for his hard work, determination, and environmental spirit. He's already planning his next — and even longer — challenge!



Adrija's Gymnastics Success!

A huge congratulations to Adrija in Year 7 for her outstanding performance at the GFA Novice Floor and Vault Leicestershire Gymnastics Competition. Adrija impressed the judges with her skill, focus, and energy, earning an incredible 1st place in her age group!

This is a fantastic achievement and a reflection of Adrija's dedication and determination. Well done, Adrija — we are all very proud of you!

Congratulations

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