

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026


Casterton
College
Rutland

**Legally
Blonde**

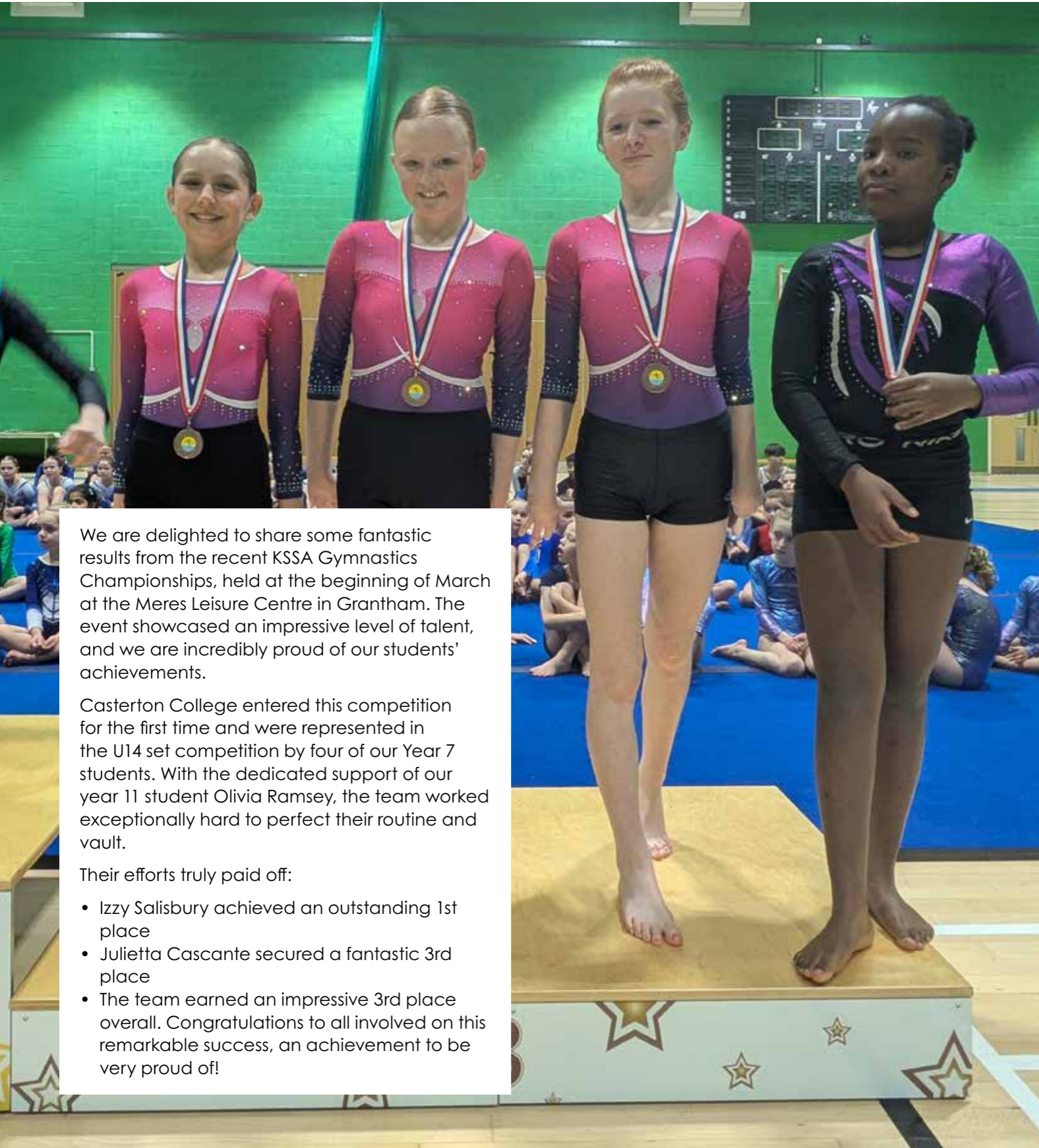
**World
Book Day**

**Sporting
Success**

Easter Fun

**Duke of
Edinburgh's
Award**

KSSA INVITATIONAL GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS



We are delighted to share some fantastic results from the recent KSSA Gymnastics Championships, held at the beginning of March at the Meres Leisure Centre in Grantham. The event showcased an impressive level of talent, and we are incredibly proud of our students' achievements.

Casterton College entered this competition for the first time and were represented in the U14 set competition by four of our Year 7 students. With the dedicated support of our year 11 student Olivia Ramsey, the team worked exceptionally hard to perfect their routine and vault.

Their efforts truly paid off:

- Izzy Salisbury achieved an outstanding 1st place
- Julietta Cascante secured a fantastic 3rd place
- The team earned an impressive 3rd place overall. Congratulations to all involved on this remarkable success, an achievement to be very proud of!

Update

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Our Bronze and Silver DofE students enjoyed a highly successful and engaging training weekend on the 21st and 22nd of March.

On Saturday, both cohorts took part in a series of practical workshops led by accredited activity provider Badger Adventures. These sessions, led by experts in outdoor pursuits, covered essential expedition skills, including basic first aid, meal planning, kit selection and packing, navigation, and stove safety. Students showed great enthusiasm and maturity as they developed the knowledge needed for their upcoming expeditions.

On Sunday, our Bronze group met at Sykes Lane, Rutland Water to complete a challenging 17 mile

sponsored walk around the reservoir. The walk is organised not only to raise funds to maintain our expedition kit, but also to give participants a good indication of the fitness levels required to complete their award expeditions while carrying a full rucksack. The students demonstrated excellent determination and teamwork throughout the walk, and we are delighted to report that nearly everyone completed the walk successfully. They were fortunate to enjoy perfect weather conditions, which made the day even more enjoyable.

A huge well done to all participants involved for their effort, resilience, and positive attitude and a big thank you to the staff that made it possible, it was a fantastic weekend all round!



Update ANTI-BULLYING

Listening, Learning and Strengthening

Our Response

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring every student feels safe, respected and included, we recently invited parents and students across Years 7–11 to complete questionnaires about bullying, reporting procedures and confidence in the college's approach.

We are grateful to everyone who took the time to share their views. The results provide both reassurance and important areas for development.

Parent voice

Strong confidence in the college

- 100% of parents who responded agreed or strongly agreed that the college takes bullying seriously and responds appropriately when concerns are raised
- 80% of parents said they know how to raise a concern about bullying
- There is a strong understanding of the college's definition of bullying and how it differs from relational conflict
- Confidence increases as students move up through the year groups, suggesting our systems and communication become increasingly embedded over time.

Student Voice

Safety, Respect and Inclusion

Most students report feeling physically safe in college, typically rating their safety 3–4 out of 5. Many highlighted:

- Supportive teachers and teaching assistants
- Strong friendships and trusted peer groups
- The visible presence of staff around the college
- However, the survey also shows that a minority of students would like to feel more included within the college community
- Students are clear in distinguishing between physical safety and emotional wellbeing.

Our Commitment Moving Forward

We must continue strengthening:

- Our consistency in applying the definition of bullying
- Our follow-up procedures after incidents are reported
- The students' confidence in the reporting systems
- Our visible and decisive action when bullying occurs
- That bullying is not dismissed as 'banter.' Every student has the right to feel respected, included and heard
- Our clear reporting pathways, including anonymous options
- Our impact when reviewing sanctions and follow-up procedures
- Our preventative education around respect and online conduct
- Student awareness around the colleges safe spaces and trusted adults for students
- Our inclusion across the college community, ensuring that every student feels valued, connected, and fully part of college life.



INTEGRITY: I am an honest individual and I have strong morals and principles.

PASSION: I am passionate and committed to the cause at hand.

AMBITION: I have a strong desire to achieve real change in my school.

COLLABORATION: I can work with others to achieve success.

UNITY: I know that we are all in this together.

YOUR ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADOR JOURNEY

TRAINING DAY
Gain all the skills you need!

ONE MONTH
Talk to our team on a catch-up call

THREE MONTHS
Share your achievements with a progress form

SIX MONTHS
You may be ready to apply for a badge!

TWELVE MONTHS
This is your best chance to become our School of the Month!

Become an Anti-Bullying Ambassador

Are you passionate about creating a kind, safe and respectful college environment, free from bullying behaviour?

Do you want to learn about strategies to tackle bullying behaviour to improve the safety and wellbeing of your peers?

Can you identify the current issues that the college is facing and have creative ideas about how to address these?

Becoming an Anti-Bullying Ambassador is an exciting opportunity that will allow you to make positive change within our college community.

As part of this team you will be responsible for helping to tackle bullying behaviour in the college.

Working together, you will have the opportunity to have your voice heard by students and staff when it comes to current bullying behaviour issues that our college is facing.

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors will always be expected to show respectful and kind behaviour towards peers, acting as a role model for others.

Full training will be provided for successful applicants. If you are interested please email Mrs Bowers a couple of sentences to say what would make you a great ambassador.

Charity FUNDRAISING



Two fantastic Year 7 students recently delivered a PowerPoint presentation during Year 7 tutor times about scoliosis. Through their presentation, they shared helpful facts and information about the condition, helping to break down taboos and encourage open discussion. They also answered questions from their peers with confidence, helping others better understand scoliosis. It was wonderful to see them taking the initiative to raise awareness and support learning among their fellow students.



Easter Tombola and cake sale

The end of term was marked with our Easter Tombola and cake sale which was organised by the members of the School Council. All students, in year groups, were given the opportunity to come along to the main hall to try and win a prize on the Tombola and buy one of the many cakes.

Thank you so much for all of your donations of Tombola prizes and cakes. The money raised will go into the Student Wellbeing Fund and to buy new books for the school Library.



Claire's fundraiser for Cancer Research UK



Claire Rawes is raising money for Cancer Research UK

[Create a team](#)



In memory of Dads

London Marathon 2026 · 26 April 2026

Claire's story

Last year, I ran London and raised money for Cancer Research as a friend's loved one had recently been diagnosed.

This year: same race, same charity but for my dad who died in January. In fact, three good friends have also lost their dads this year so this is for them too.

Dad was our superhero when my brother and I were little: nothing would harm him. But cancer is cruel and indiscriminate. Whatever we can do to fight it, needs doing.

Thanks for taking the time to visit my JustGiving page.

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Your details are safe with JustGiving - they'll never sell them on or send unwanted emails. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to the charity. So it's the most efficient way to donate - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.

[View gallery](#)

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JustGiving



Scan to visit Claire Rawes's JustGiving Page

Subject insights SPANISH

This edition is designed to give you an overview of the learning that has been taking place across the department. Below, we explain what each year group has been studying this term, highlight key skills and cultural knowledge being developed, and celebrate student success across the department.

Why are languages so important?

Learning a language is more important than ever in today's global society. Languages open doors to new cultures, improve communication and problem-solving skills, and enhance future career opportunities across a wide range of industries. Whether in business, travel, technology, diplomacy or sport, the ability to speak another language is a highly valued skill that helps students stand out in an increasingly competitive world.

In MFL, we aim to equip students not only with linguistic skills, but also with confidence, resilience and a curiosity about the world around them.

Languages and careers

Enriching Experiences Beyond the classroom

Last term, we were delighted to welcome, Steve Eadon, an external speaker who delivered an inspiring talk to our Key Stage 4 students on the role of languages within the world of sport. Students learned about how languages can support careers in areas such as sports management, journalism, coaching and international events. This visit helped students to see the real-world relevance of language learning and how it can open unexpected and exciting career pathways.

What have we been learning?

Key Stage 3: Students have been building strong foundations in vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation while exploring topics such as personal identity (Yr 7), hobbies (Yr 8) and holidays (Yr9). Cultural understanding has been woven throughout lessons to help students appreciate life in other countries.

Key Stage 4: Students have been developing their exam skills alongside more complex language structures. They have been practising speaking, listening, reading and writing skills while exploring themes such as free time and technology (Yr 10) as well as healthy living and school life (Yr 11). Celebrating Success in Our Key Assessments

We are extremely proud of the effort and progress students have shown in their most recent key assessments. Pupils have produced some excellent pieces of written work, demonstrating strong vocabulary knowledge, increasing accuracy with grammar and a growing ability to express ideas independently in the target language.

Departmental badges have been awarded to the following students in recognition of their sustained effort and commitment over the past two terms.

Year 7

Benjamin Buckman
Ivy Loughton

Year 8

Oliver Sas
Sophie Ratcliffe

Year 9

Huey Turner
Frankie Anelli

Year 10

Fraser Reid
Annabel Burt

Year 11

Thomas Bone
Evie Smith



Independent learning

Dreams Don't Work Unless You Do

We are also delighted to recognise our Memrise Language Stars – students who have shown outstanding commitment to independent vocabulary learning. Regular practice on Memrise plays a crucial role in building confidence and fluency, and these students' dedication has not gone unnoticed. Well done to all those recognised below for their exceptional effort.

Celebrating Our Memrise Language Stars

- **Year 7:** Grace Webber, Seth Lesiakowski, Billy Harvey
- **Year 8:** Daniel Walne, Olivia Mason, George Freeman
- **Year 9:** Gabby Marr, Lily-Sun Bailey, Waisea Bolatolu
- **Year 10:** Annie Lees, Agnes Garratt, Annabel Burt
- **Year 11:** Ella Parkinson, Darcie Ramshaw, Bella Goodwill.

Year 7 Spanish colour poetry competition

Over the Christmas break, Year 7 students were invited to take part in a Spanish Colour Poetry competition using similes. This creative task was designed to help students consolidate their knowledge of colours while enthusing them about using Spanish in an imaginative and enjoyable way. We were thrilled with the enthusiasm and creativity shown, and the poems produced were a fantastic example of how language learning can be both educational and fun. Well done to all students who took part. Our winners are

- Marley Medwell
- Adrija Fedorova
- Kaya Laszkiewicz



A brilliant year in GEOGRAPHY

It has been an exciting and enriching year for our Geography students, filled with hands-on learning, fieldwork, and unforgettable experiences beyond the classroom.

In September, our Year 11 students travelled to Hunstanton to complete their physical fieldwork. They investigated whether groynes are effectively protecting the coastline from longshore drift and erosion. Using a range of fieldwork techniques, students collected accurate data and demonstrated impressive maturity in their approach, producing thoughtful and well-supported conclusions.

November saw 50 of our Year 9 students take part in a four-day residential trip to Cornwall. During their stay, they explored a variety of coastal landscapes, including Lizard Point, while developing key geographical and teamwork skills. The trip provided a fantastic opportunity for students to build confidence and deepen their understanding of the natural environment.

In December, over 40 Year 10 students embarked on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Iceland. Highlights included glacier walking, exploring a lava cave, and visiting the Secret Lagoon. This incredible experience allowed students to witness physical geography in action and brought their classroom learning vividly to life.

Back in school, students across all year groups have been equally engaged in their studies. Key Stage 3 students have developed a broad range of geographical knowledge, from learning compass skills in Year 7 to exploring the challenges and opportunities facing the UK in Year 9. Meanwhile, Year 11 students have been working hard in preparation for their Paper 2 and Paper 3 PPE exams, focusing on important case studies such as Nigeria, Bristol, and Rio de Janeiro.

We are extremely proud of the enthusiasm, curiosity, and maturity shown by all our Geography students this year. We look forward to many more exciting geographical opportunities in the months ahead.



Subject success in ART

Rotary Young Artist

In term two, Annabel Burt came first place in the local round of the Rotary Young Artist competition 2026. Annabel originally entered her artwork inspired by "Happiness in Nature" into Casterton's own school competition and came second place. With the encouragement of the art department at Casterton, Annabel also entered her piece into the local Rotary competition and came first. The judges said that the piece made them smile. Annabel received a certificate along with a £20 gift voucher. Well done Annabel, we are very proud of you!



First Place
Sophie Ratcliffe Y8
Digital Painting

Casterton Art competition winners

Earlier this year, the art department ran an art competition open to all students. The theme of the art competition was 'happiness in nature' and there were wonderful interpretations from all entrants. Sophie Ratcliffe, Annabel Burt and Tilly Mabbitt achieved 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. The winners were chosen by the Expressive Arts department. All winners received 5 achievement points, and an arty prize. Every student that entered work received 2 achievement points for demonstrating creativity and effort.



Second Place
Annabel Burt Y10
Drawing



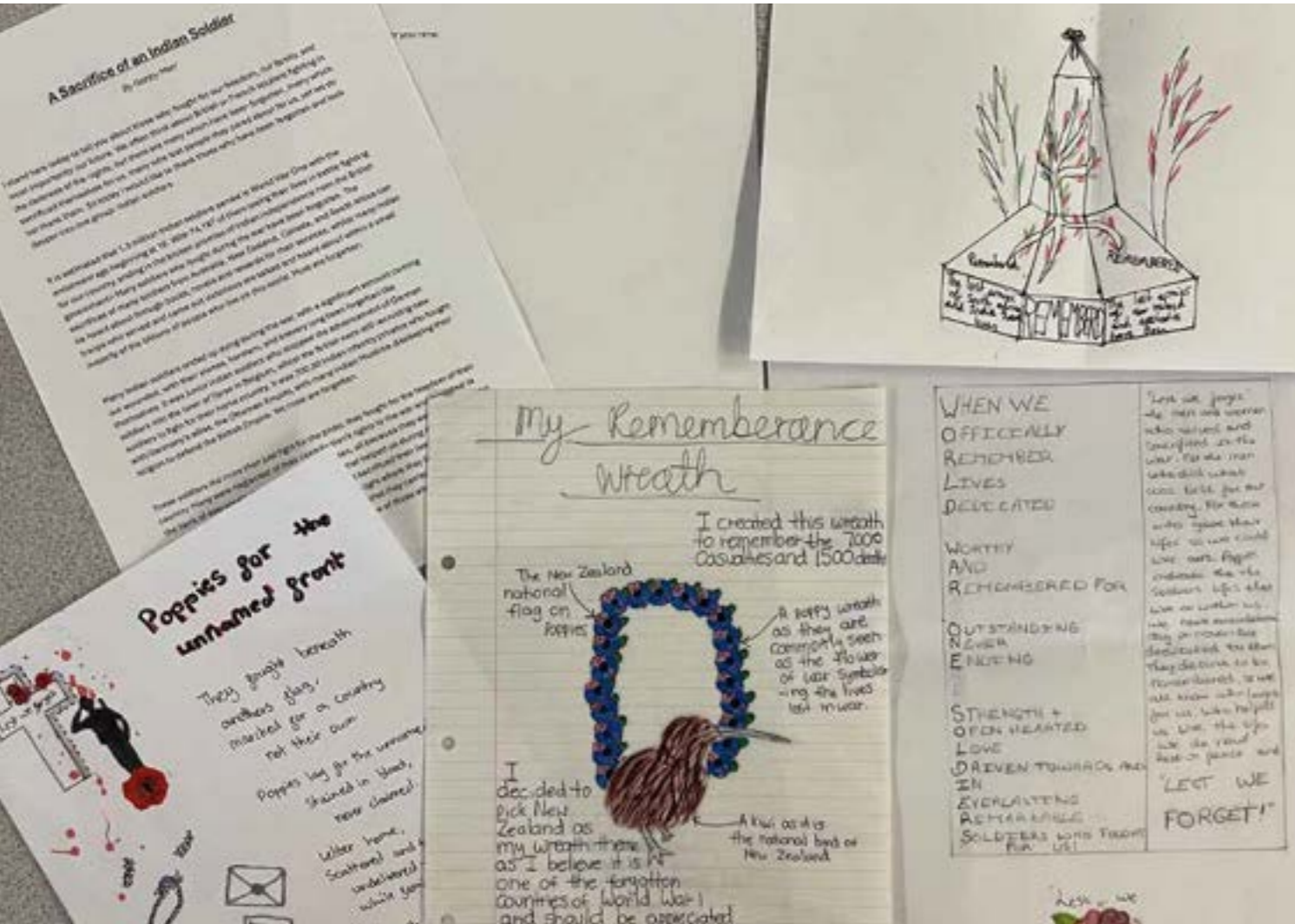
Third Place
Tilly Mabbitt Y7
Drawing

GCSE Art

During term 2, our Year 10 students experimented with clay. Students have been studying natural forms and are hand building sculptures, taking inspiration from the artist Fenella Elms. All students have taken to using this medium brilliantly and we are excited to see the final outcomes after they have been fired our kiln.



Year 9 WWI HISTORY COMPETITION



At the end of last year Year 9 students were invited and encouraged to join in a national competition to remember the 'Forgotten Armies' of WWI.

A lot of people will imagine that most soldiers in this conflict were young white European men who were fighting in France and Belgium. In fact, the war was being fought in Turkey, the middle east and parts of Africa too and, because Britain and France had empires, people involved in the conflict included those from many other countries across the whole world: from India and Africa, and from China for example. Indigenous people came from Canada, Australian and New Zealand as well as people of European descent. It really was a World War. Some were involved as soldiers but a war requires people doing many other jobs too. Many were recruited as

labourers, for example, and what they were asked to do was often as dangerous going into battle.

Students were encouraged to either write a speech or a poem that could be read at a Remembrance Assembly or design a war memorial or a wreath dedicated to one of these groups. We had some fantastic entries, which showed real passion and depth of research for this task. Two of our students also received a special commendation from the Western Front Association who organised the competition. Many congratulations to the following students who really did the school proud:

- Gabby Marr
- Sophie Carlill
- Ailish McMullen-Kennett
- Mia Needham
- Gracie-May Roberts.

EASTER ASSEMBLY



We were delighted to welcome Matt Wild, Youth Pastor at St George's Church in Stamford, who led our Easter assemblies this week. Matt delivered a thoughtful and engaging talk, encouraging students to reflect on the meaning of Easter and how we all make mistakes in life, but that we can learn from these mistakes.

His message was brought to life through a series of readings that told the Easter story, led by our Year 11 Student Leaders. Their contributions helped to create a reflective and respectful atmosphere across all assemblies. The programme also included a beautiful musical performance of Vienna by Billy Joel, performed by two talented Year 10 students.

The assemblies provided a valuable opportunity for students and staff to come together as a community, to pause during a busy term, and to reflect on the significance of the season.

We wish all our students and members of the College community a restful and enjoyable Easter break. We hope everyone has the opportunity to recharge, spend time with family and friends, and return refreshed, motivated, and ready for another busy and successful term ahead.

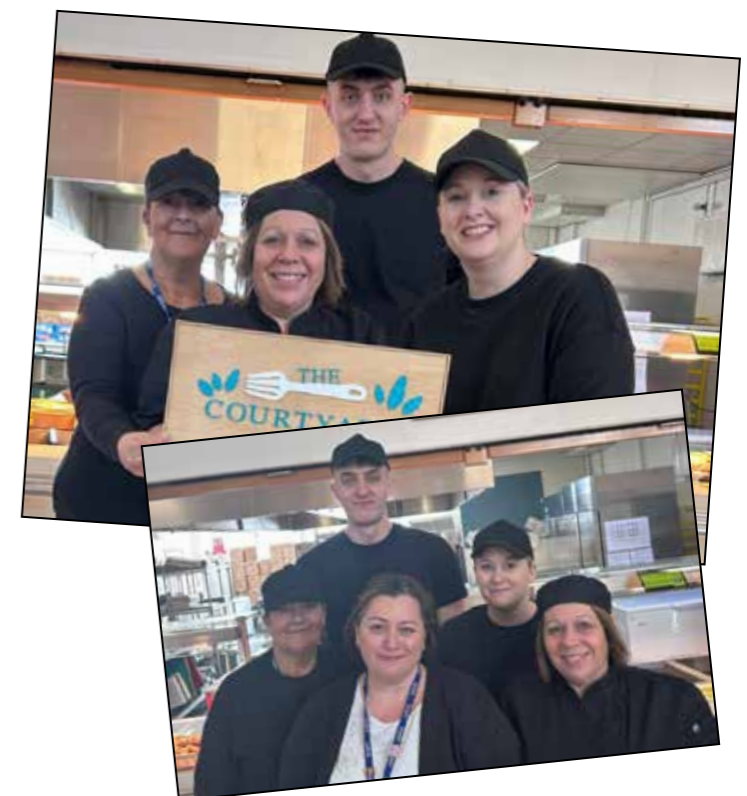
Exciting changes at THE COURTYARD

Since September, The Courtyard has been buzzing with positive changes and exciting developments!

From delicious new menu options to a fresh, modern logo, and even brand-new uniforms for the team, it has been a busy and successful start to the year. These updates have helped create an even more welcoming and vibrant space for our school community to enjoy.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all our students and staff for your continued support, it truly means a great deal to the entire team.

We look forward to sharing even more exciting updates and improvements in the months ahead, so keep an eye out for what's coming next!



Pastoral UPDATE



'You're Not the Only One'

Our Year 10 Wellbeing Ambassadors recently delivered a powerful and reassuring session to Year 7 students, focusing on the realities of settling into secondary school. Through honest and relatable reflections, they spoke about their own experiences; from getting lost in the early days, to worrying about homework and navigating new friendships. Their message was clear and comforting: these feelings are completely normal, and no one is alone in experiencing them. They reminded Year 7 students that even those who appear confident now once felt exactly the same.

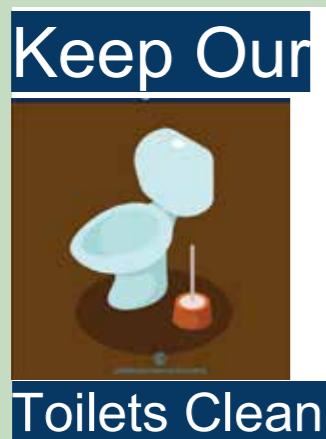
The ambassadors also addressed some of the common challenges students may face, helping to normalise feelings of worry or being overwhelmed. Importantly, they emphasised that students do not need to be facing a "big problem" to ask for help. Support is always available, whether from friends, tutors, pastoral staff, or the Wellbeing Ambassadors themselves.

Key messages shared:

- You're not failing if you are struggling
- Other people feel this too
- Help is there if you need it

We are incredibly proud of our Year 10 students for delivering such a thoughtful and compassionate presentation.

Their efforts have helped our Year 7 students feel reassured, supported, and reminded that they are not alone.



Clean Wall, Clean Hall!

We are proud to highlight a fantastic student-led initiative, as our Year 7 Tutor Captains take the lead in promoting respect for our shared school spaces. Following a small number of incidents involving graffiti in the school toilets, students have come together to raise awareness of the impact this has on the wider community. While only a few individuals may be responsible, the effects are felt by everyone. The message from our students is clear: the condition of our facilities reflects how we choose to treat them.

Through Debate Club, students discussed this issue and reached a unanimous decision, agreeing that: 'People who misuse the toilets at school (e.g. writing on walls or putting food in them) are damaging the rights of others to a safe and clean environment.'

In response, our Tutor Captains are leading a positive poster campaign to encourage pride, responsibility, and respect across the school. Their aim is to inspire all students to take ownership of their environment and act as role models within the school community.

We are incredibly proud of their leadership and commitment to making our school a clean, safe, and welcoming place for everyone. Let's all play our part!

Careers UPDATE

Year 10 Mock Interviews

Last week all year 10 students were invited to take part in a mock interview so that they could practice for a real job or college interview in a low-pressure setting.

Volunteers from the college community came into college and asked each student a series of questions.

We hope that the students found the mock interviews a useful experience.

The team of interviewers were very impressed with the quality of the responses given by the students, and the preparation they had put into the activity beforehand.



Inspiring Alumni Visit

We were delighted to welcome former students back into Casterton College last week, where they spoke in year group assemblies about their journeys since leaving at the age of 16.

Our alumni shared insights into the qualifications they have completed, what a typical day looks like in their chosen careers, and offered valuable advice on how current students can make the most of their time at secondary school. Their honesty and experience provided a meaningful and relatable perspective for all year groups.

It was fantastic to see our former students thriving and achieving their goals. We hope their stories have inspired our current students to aim high, stay motivated, and confidently pursue their aspirations for the future.



Osprey Leadership in Action!

I am a member of the Osprey Leadership Foundation, and we meet regularly at Rutland Water. Recently, we had the exciting opportunity to create a film all about the ospreys for our sister club in Guinea.



Ospreys migrate all the way from the UK to Guinea, and our film was designed to show students there what happens during the time the birds spend at Rutland. It was a fantastic project to be part of, and we worked hard to capture all the interesting and important moments to share with them.



This experience was both enjoyable and educational. I learned a great deal about ospreys, their migration, and the importance of global connections through projects like this.

It was an amazing opportunity, and one I will always remember!

Alex

Fantastic Achievement for Joe Cripps!

Year 8 student Joe Cripps represented the school brilliantly at the Junior Boys race at the English Schools Cross Country Championships in Liverpool this weekend.

Competing against some of the very best young runners from across the country, the standard was exceptionally high. Despite being one of the younger competitors in the race, Joe delivered an outstanding performance, finishing an impressive 80th out of 351 runners. A fantastic achievement at such a prestigious national event.

To compete at this level and secure such a strong placing is a testament to Joe's determination, talent, and hard work. We are incredibly proud of his success and look forward to seeing what he accomplishes next.

Well done, Joe!



A SPECIAL WORLD BOOK WEEK VISITOR

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, the nursery were delighted to welcome Mr Smith to our preschool setting for a very special storytime reading the much-loved story *The Gruffalo* to our youngest learners.

From the very first page, the children were completely captivated. With great enthusiasm, expression and energy, Mr Smith brought the story to life, filling the room with excitement, laughter and wide-eyed wonder.

It was a joy to see how engaged the children were as they followed the adventures of the clever little mouse and the fearsome Gruffalo. Moments like these highlight the power of storytelling in nurturing a love of reading and sparking imagination from an early age.

A huge thank you to Mr Smith for making this such a memorable experience for our preschool children, it is certainly a storytime they won't forget anytime soon!



WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day was marked in a variety of ways this year. Staff were invited to dress up as a character from a book with lots opting to be Wally from Where's Wally!

The school was also buzzing with excitement as students were given the opportunity to exchange the £1 World Book Day token they received for an exciting new read.

With over 40 fantastic titles available, including brand new releases for 2026, there was something to suit every reader. From adventure and mystery to fantasy and laugh-out-loud stories, students have had plenty to choose from.

Tutor groups in years 7 – 10 entered a competition to decorate the door of their tutor room in the theme of a given book. We were amazed and delighted with the way that students accepted this challenge and produced some wonderful designs. The winners in each year group were:

- Year 7 – Winners 7T3 with Harry Potter
- Year 8 Winners - 8T4 with War Horse
- Year 9 Winners - 9T2 Maze Runner
- Year 10 Winners - 10T4 with Long Way Down

The winning tutor groups were treated to breakfast in the Courtyard on the last day of term. 8T4 were also announced as the overall winners! Congratulations to all of the winning tutor groups.

