

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2026

Casterton
College
Rutland



Youth Council

Prom 2026

Rewards trips

**Sporting
success!**

**Duke of
Edinburgh's
Award**

Cambridge LITERARY FESTIVAL



During a school trip to Cambridge on 21st May, we attended a poetry event at the renowned Cambridge Union, the oldest debating venue in the world. The poet Jackie Kay performed and discussed her work, with warmth and humour, helping us to develop our understanding of poetry for the upcoming GCSE English Literature.

We also had the opportunity to visit St Catharine's College at The University of Cambridge, where we learned more about student life in higher education. We explored the campus, listened to talks about university courses, and gained an insight into what studying there might be like for us. And of course we browsed the excellent bookshops - a great day out!

Lauren (Year 10)



Student success FUTURES FOR ALL TALK



"The whole afternoon was lovely, fascinating and exciting."

Izzy



We were delighted to host a Speakers for Schools talk by Futures for All, a charity giving state schools access to talks from today's leading professionals and academics. We welcomed Chris Jeans KC, state educated barrister and judge who has been described as "one of the all-time greats" in his specialist area of Employment Law. He has appeared in cases in the House of Lords, Supreme Court and the European Court of Justice. Chris gave an inspirational talk to year 10, followed by a Q+A. Several students joined Chris afterwards for refreshments and he generously answered their many further questions.

Izzy writes: We had the amazing honour to meet Chris Jeans KC, he worked in law as a barrister, he told us all about his job and how he got to where he is now. I personally think he helped a lot of students think about what they might want to do in the future. Throughout the afternoon he told us lots of stories about interesting cases and tactics, plus some of the people he had met along the way. Chris influenced me with his advice to "always take the chance". The whole afternoon was lovely, fascinating and exciting.

Year 9 Geography

REWARDS TRIP

On Monday 29 June, we took 13 of our year 9 geographers on our new end-of-year rewards trip. The students had successfully applied for a place on the trip, which was awarded in recognition of their outstanding commitment and enthusiasm for Geography throughout the year. The visit included several local sites and explored themes such as resources, sustainability and environmental management.

Our first stop was Turners Organic Farm in Little Bytham, where students learned about organic farming practices, including crop rotation and how this helps to maintain soil fertility. We even had the opportunity to sample their oat milk, which is produced on-site using oats grown on the farm.

Next, we visited Ketton Quarry, where students were amazed by the scale of the operations. We saw the cement works in action and learned about the surprisingly rich biodiversity of the site, including its 23 species of butterfly. Throughout the day, students also learned about a range of careers linked to Geography, including opportunities in sustainable farming, environmental management and apprenticeships within the quarrying industry.

Our final destination was Rutland Water, where a relaxing trip aboard the Rutland Belle gave us the opportunity to learn more about the reservoir's role in water storage, as well as the recreational opportunities it provides for the local community.

To round off an informative and varied day, everyone enjoyed a well-deserved ice cream. Throughout the trip, our students represented the school brilliantly, demonstrating great curiosity, enthusiasm and impeccable manners. We were extremely proud of the positive impression they made at each of our destinations.

Mrs. Miller and Mr. Peploe



Science BIG BANG FAIR

On 11th June we took 90 Year 7 students to the Big Bang Fair at the NEC in Birmingham.

This is an annual event aimed at students in Years 5–8, bringing science and engineering careers to life with hands-on activities and shows.

Many different organisations were represented, including universities, easyJet, The Wildlife Trust, EDF Power and Rolls-Royce, to name a few.

Some of the highlights for the students included the flight simulator, the opportunity to fly a drone, making models out of Play-Doh, and watching 'Guess Who' on the main stage.



Subject update MUSIC

The Music Department has been represented at several events this term.

On Wednesday 24th June, children from four of our feeder Primary Schools came to Casterton College to take part in the first, Stamford Sings event. Children from The Bluecoat School, Uffington CofE Primary School, Malcolm Sargent Primary School and St Gilbert's CofE Primary School, came together to sing two songs as a massed choir. The programme also featured performances from our students. It was a wonderful event, celebrating the joy of singing and making music together.

Less than a week later, on Tuesday 30th June, students from Casterton College performed a 'Casterton's Got Talent' showcase as part of the Year 6 Transition week. There were some fantastic performances from the many bands who attend Rockscool every week, alongside performances from the Year 10 BTEC Music students, solo instrumental performances and a song from the choir.



SPORTS DAY



Earlier in June we held Sports Festivals for every year group and Sports Day for the whole school. We are delighted to say that every student in years 7 - 10 participated in the Sports Festivals, choosing from rounders, handball, netball, or capture the flag.



The Sports Festival results were combined with the Sports Day results, and every student deserves huge credit for their effort, determination, and support for their teammates throughout the week.



Well done to everyone involved – a brilliant week of participation, teamwork, and sporting achievement!



JUNIOR SCHOOL RESULTS

- 1 1st - Endeavour
- 2 2nd - Fortitude
- 3 3rd - Aspire
- 4 4th - Perseverance



SENIOR SCHOOL RESULTS

- 1 1st - Aspire
- 2 2nd - Endeavour
- 3 3rd - Perseverance
- 4 4th - Fortitude



OVERALL HOUSE RESULTS

- 1 1st - Endeavour
- 2 2nd - Aspire
- 3 3rd - Fortitude
- 4 4th - Perseverance



Top individual scorers

Congratulations to our individual medal winners, who achieved the highest points in the Lower and Upper School competitions:



Archie Relph

(who also broke the Year 7 Boys' High Jump record!)



Jess Glover



Hugo McMurray



Willow Gaunt



*Sporting
success*

LEICESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS COUNTY ATHLETICS

A fantastic achievement for our Casterton athletes, with medals, personal success and a new Year 7 Boys' High Jump record.

We had 4 athletes competing in the Leicestershire Schools County Athletics at Loughborough University on 11th June. We achieved 3 medals, Xia Crisp bronze in the U13 girls Shot Putt, Archie Relph achieved a Gold in the U13 boys High Jump and Jake Henson got a Bronze in the Junior boys 800m, a great achievement considering he was competing against boys a year older. Joe Cripps finished a creditable 4th in the Junior boys 1500m, a very good result as he was again competing a year younger than his opposition. All our athletes were a credit to our school.





YEAR 9 ART

Year 9 art students have recently finished their mixed media self-portraits and the results are brilliant. Well done to Stan K, Tilly L, Cherry D and Daisy G for putting so much effort into their detailed pieces.

Jessie Represents Casterton College at Prestigious Speak Out Challenge Final

On Tuesday 30 June, Jessie (Year 10) proudly represented Casterton College at the East Midlands Regional Final of the Speak Out Challenge, held at the Y-Theatre in Leicester and organised by the Speakers' Trust.

This prestigious event marked the culmination of our school's strong focus on developing oracy skills this year. Back in February, students benefited from an inspiring 'Speak Out' workshop delivered by the Speakers' Trust. Following a closely fought in-school competition, Jessie was selected as our Year 10 finalist to progress to the regional stage.

The final brought together 15 outstanding young speakers from across the East Midlands, creating an event of exceptional quality. The standard was incredibly high, and the competition was closely contested throughout. Participants performed in front of a distinguished judging panel, including a broadcaster, a radio presenter and a CEO, with awards presented by the Lord Mayor of Leicester.

Jessie rose superbly to the occasion, presenting herself with remarkable poise and confidence. She delivered a compelling and personal speech entitled "More Than a Game", exploring her experience of women's rugby and the many personal benefits she has gained through participation. Her message powerfully encouraged others to take up sport and highlighted the importance of opportunity, resilience and teamwork.

We are immensely proud of Jessie's achievement and the way she represented Casterton College on such a prestigious stage. Her performance is a testament not only to her own dedication, but also to the value of fostering confident, articulate young people through our oracy programme.

Congratulations, Jessie, on an outstanding accomplishment.

Year 9 adventure

UP AT THE O₂

On Thursday 11th June, 45 of our Year 9 students enjoyed an exciting trip to the iconic O2 Arena in London.

Students quite literally rose to the challenge, climbing to an incredible height of 52 metres over the top of the O2! Despite wet and windy conditions, spirits remained high and students were still able to take in the impressive sights across London.

After the climb, students had the opportunity to explore the O2 and enjoy a meal with friends. With a wide range of restaurants on offer—from Five Guys to Pizza Express to Nando's—there was something for everyone!

We are incredibly proud of all students who attended. Their behaviour throughout the day was exemplary, and they represented the school brilliantly. Well done, Year 9!



A brilliant day of climbing, sightseeing, friendship and resilience at London's iconic O2 Arena.



RUTLAND YOUTH COUNCIL

A visit that highlighted student leadership, local democracy and the positive impact young people can have in their community.

On Wednesday 20th May, members of the Student Council, other selected pupils, and I attended an assembly hosted by former Deputy Head Boy, Liam Laing. He spoke to us about the work of the Rutland Youth Council and the ways in which it helps support our community.

The assembly was incredibly interesting, and it was inspiring to hear Liam talk about his work experience with Alicia Kearns and confidence he gained after joining the council. At the end of the assembly, we had the opportunity to ask a variety of questions, which gave us a greater insight into the impact the Rutland Youth Council has on young people's lives.

Overall, the assembly was both informative and engaging, and it has most definitely inspired members of our school to consider joining the Rutland Youth Council in the future. Thank you Liam!

Annabel B. Year 10 Student Council Representative.



Year 10 PARIS TRIP

What a fantastic few days in Paris!

37 Year10 students enjoyed a memorable trip, visiting the Eiffel Tower and taking a sightseeing cruise along the Seine to see some of Paris's most famous landmarks. They also spent an exciting day at Disneyland Paris, where everyone made the most of the rides and attractions.

Students had a wonderful time discovering Paris, practising their French, and making lasting memories. There were plenty of opportunities to bond at the hotel, and we even finished the trip with a surprise stop at the beach in Calais for a wander and an ice cream in the sunshine. A fantastic trip from start to finish!



Year 11

GOOD LUCK ASSEMBLY AND PIZZA LUNCH

As the Year 11 exams got underway, we wanted to mark the occasion of the exam season starting by wishing our Year 11 cohort the best of luck.

On Friday 1st May we had a good luck assembly where all students received messages of support from parents and staff, along with a surprise pizza lunch. The atmosphere at both events was superb and really helped to give our Year 11s a boost.

We then had such a lovely end to term 5 celebrating our wonderful Year 11s on their Leavers Day. From getting creative with their shirts to collecting their colourful hoodies, it was a fantastic day full of memories. After lunch, we cooled down with ice creams before coming together for a brilliant Leavers Assembly

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed — including a fantastic match day report from Mr Rawes, heartfelt thank yous to our Student Leaders from Miss Mistry, special memories shared by Mrs James, and some valuable advice and guidance from Mrs Henriët.



A memorable few days for Year 11, with messages of support, pizza, shirt signing, hoodies and a final Leavers' Assembly before exam season began.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SUCCESS

A huge congratulations to all our Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants for an outstanding year of achievement and dedication.

Throughout the year, students have shown incredible commitment, perseverance and resilience as they worked hard to complete every section of their Award. From developing new skills and volunteering within the community to improving their physical fitness, each participant embraced the challenges of the programme with enthusiasm and determination.

We would also like to recognise all members of our bronze and silver cohorts for their excellent performance during both their practice and qualifying expeditions. Students demonstrated fantastic teamwork, navigation skills, independence and problem-solving abilities, often overcoming challenging conditions with positive attitudes, resilience and maturity.

Congratulations in particular, go to Poppy Goode, Cara Young, Elin Evans, Daisy Grove, Frankie Anelli and Thomas Burdock, who have successfully completed their Bronze or Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award in full and will receive their certificates and badges during our end-of-term celebration assemblies.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is designed to challenge young people and encourage them to step outside their comfort zones, and this year's participants have certainly risen to that challenge. They should be immensely proud of everything they have achieved and the personal growth they have demonstrated along the way.

As we celebrate these achievements, we are also excited about the opportunities ahead. Students who have completed their Bronze Award are encouraged to continue their DofE journey by progressing to Silver, while those finishing Silver can look forward to the challenge of the Gold Award when the time comes. These next steps offer even greater opportunities for adventure, leadership, skill development and personal growth, helping young people build confidence and gain experiences that will stay with them for life.

We are also pleased to announce that applications for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award are now open for students returning to Year 9 in September. The Award is a fantastic opportunity to develop new skills, make a positive contribution to the community, build confidence and enjoy the challenge of expedition life. We encourage all eligible students to read the application pack emailed to families and consider starting their own DofE journey.

Well done to all involved and thank you to the staff and volunteers who supported our students throughout the year. We look forward to celebrating many more Award completions and supporting even more students as they take part in future DofE opportunities.



Glitz & Glamour YEAR 11 PROM



The prom this year was such a special occasion. The students were fantastic, the venue, The Barnsdale, looked wonderful and the hospitality was first class. It was a lovely event and a fitting celebration of the end of their time with us.





Rewards TRIPS



Our Rewards Trips started with a splash on Monday 6th July as we took 102 year 7 students to Adventure Nene, at Sibson Lake for outdoor activities, including axe throwing, kayaking, rock climbing and raft building. As you can see from the pictures, we all had a fabulous day, topped off with the ice-cream van coming! More trips will be taking place during the last week of term for years 8 – 10.





BATTLEFIELDS TRIP

After a wonderful three-day tour in Ypres and the Somme Year 9 students have returned from the WWI Battlefields trip with a greater understanding of the horrors of this conflict, as well as the importance of continuing to remember.

On the first day we journeyed to Belgium to visit the grave of Nellie Spindler and look at the importance of the work of women in the war, as well as learning about the ethos of cemeteries. We then ventured to a trench system that students could travel around before ending the day at the Menin Gate and taking part in the ceremony which happens every night at 8pm. On our second day we journeyed to the Somme in France and visited Sunken Lane to understand the landscape and plan for the Battle of the Somme before visiting the Thiepval memorial to the missing. Our final day saw us back in Belgium visiting the wonderful museum at Passchendaele and Tyne Cot cemetery for our final reflection of the trip.



'I had an amazing time and our tour guide Tim was super good. I learnt so much more about WWI and it was a very great experience.'

- Lily-Sun Bailey



'I really enjoyed walking around the trenches and seeing how largely populated the cemeteries really are. The museum was also very good being able to see the variety of uniforms and guns used in the war.'

- Kai Watson.



Drama

THEATRE VISIT

On Tuesday 7th July the Year 10 Drama GCSE students went to Tolethorpe Outdoor Theatre to watch their production of *Animal Farm*. It was such an inspirational trip to be able to see how much dedication and energy they had towards the performance.

It was also so amazing to see two ex-students, Tom and Holly Muxlow performing.

Overall, if I could recommend a performance to see again, it would be this one. They showed so many dramatic features in the performance and didn't once go out of character.

Nieve (Year 10)

The performance was by TYD Theatre Makers, a unique training programme for young actors and forms part of Tolethorpe Youth Drama.



OPEN DAY

We held our second Open Evening on 2nd July, and it was another successful evening.

There was a very positive atmosphere with our students showing off our school with pride! These photos give a taster of the activity's visitors could take part in. Our next Open Evening will be on Wednesday 16th September.



Pastoral UPDATE



Wellbeing Ambassadors

Our Wellbeing Ambassadors have recently visited all Year 7 tutor groups to talk about something really important: belonging.

They shared how feeling accepted, included, and valued can boost confidence, support friendships, and improve overall wellbeing. When people feel like they belong, they're more likely to be happy, get involved, and do their best.

We're encouraging everyone to be kind, inclusive, and to look out for each other — because even small actions can make a big difference. Together, we can help make our school a place where everyone feels they belong.

CAREERS UPDATE

This term, we have been busy preparing for exciting changes to the careers programme, which will come into place next academic year. The first is for year 9 with 'Take Your Child to Work Day'. Next academic year, we are encouraging all year 9 students to be taken to work for the day by their parent/ carer or close family friend on Wednesday 14th October. More information has been emailed to all parents and carers.

Another new addition to the programme is the introduction of work experience for all year 10 students from Monday 5th to Friday 9th July 2027. It has been several years since students from Casterton College have had the opportunity to complete a period of work experience, and we are excited that this will now form part of the Careers Programme. We know that experiences of the workplace can be some of the most transformational experiences young people have during their education. More information has recently been sent to parents and carers.

ALUMNI NEWS



Finally, we were so pleased to hear recently that an ex-student has received the British Empire Medal in the King's New Year's Honours List for her services to early years education. Emma Green, (nee Altham) has co-founded two nurseries' locally welcoming about 500 children and employing 40 staff, all while raising money for causes close to her heart. The fundraising, which has included activities such as bike rides and cake sales, has mostly supported the neonatal unit at Peterborough City Hospital, where Emma worked as a nursery nurse before starting the nursery.

We really enjoy hearing from ex-students! If you would like to update us with your news, do get in touch!