



Dear Parents and Carers,

27th November 2018

It suddenly feels like Christmas is coming, the weather has turned colder and the nights are drawing in. We have 4 weeks still of learning and focus before that break begins but we are starting to look forward to the festive events ahead. Mrs Horne will be writing to you with some information about our Christmas events and celebrations in a separate letter but I am looking forward to joining in with students enjoying celebrations. If when you are doing your Christmas shopping you would like to gift a book for our library as we restock then we do have a gift list here and would be delighted to receive your donations. https://www.amazon.co.uk/registry/wishlist/218MWGT55PTF9/ref=cm_sw_r_cp_ep_ws_p_M9BbF1ZD0P0

We had a very successful and well attended parents evening for Year 9 last week. The first of these more traditional evenings as we have moved away from Academic tutoring days. We are always pleased to hear feedback and if you have any additional feedback regarding this evening please do email Mr Gosden on JGosden@castlemanor.org.uk

We have started seeing some of the seasonal bugs that tend to be around this time of year and impact on attendance. Please can you ensure that you are notifying us of any illness absence promptly so that we can support and monitor across the school. A reminder that we can support students if they are feeling just a little under the weather and often they perk up and are absolutely fine, but also acknowledging that sometimes we need to rest and recover. Our attendance as a school is improving slowly but is still a high priority to keep on top of, and the links between academic achievement and emotional wellbeing are very clear. If a child has attendance of even 90 %, which would be considered good in a test, it means they are having a day per fortnight on average off school. Those at this point in the term with less than 90 % attendance have had over a week off school. Thank you all for your support on this really important area.

There have been many sporting fixtures in recent weeks, Year 10 teams are through to County finals in Volleyball, and some great outcomes for Year 10 boys in the Suffolk cup to name a couple of successes. I have really enjoyed talking to lots of rugby players on our girls team who attended a tournament recently, trying something a little bit different and really enjoying it. Many thanks to our PE team who are so committed to taking children to fixtures.

As always if you would like to contact me please email me on VWhitcombe@castlemanor.org.uk or phone the school and ask to speak to my PA, Gill Mitchell if you would like to arrange an appointment

Yours sincerely,

Vanessa Whitcombe
Headteacher

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