



Castlefort Academy - Newsletter



Date: Friday 11th September 2026

Welcome back to Castlefort Academy! I hope you all had a lovely summer and that the children have enjoyed being back in school this week. Over the last two weeks, it's been fantastic to see the school come alive again, with lots of smiling faces, smart uniforms and, of course, plenty of stories about what everyone has been getting up to over the summer!

A particularly warm welcome goes to all of our brand-new parents and carers who have chosen Castlefort Academy for their children. We are delighted to welcome you to our Castlefort family and I hope you have already begun to feel part of our wonderful school community. We are very proud of our school and look forward to working closely with you over the coming years.

A fantastic start to attendance

Thank you to all parents and carers for your support in making sure that children arrive at school on time and ready to learn each morning. Good attendance continues to be a very important priority for us at Castlefort. Every day really does matter, and being in school regularly gives children the best opportunity to learn, make progress and enjoy all that school life has to offer.

This year, we have introduced a little extra incentive to celebrate those classes who are doing particularly well with their attendance. **Each week, the class with the highest attendance will get to choose five songs to listen to as they walk into school the following week!**

We are particularly excited to make use of our new school tannoy system to bring a little music and fun to the start of the school day.

A huge well done to Year 1, who have made a fantastic start and achieved an amazing **98.3% attendance this week!** What a brilliant achievement – let's see who can take the top spot next week!

Jeans for Genes Day - Friday

Next Friday will be a non-uniform day in support of our annual **Jeans for Genes Day**.

Children can come to school wearing their jeans and other non-uniform clothing and we encourage every pupil to bring £1 to school as a donation towards this very worthwhile cause.

We are looking forward to seeing Castlefort looking a little different for the day!

Looking very smart!

It has been lovely to see the children looking so smart in their new school uniforms this week. Thank you to all parents and carers for your support in getting everything ready for the new school year.

A special reminder for our pupils in **Years 3-6** – please remember that **ties should be worn every day** as part of the school uniform. We know there is always plenty to remember when getting everyone out of the door in the morning, so thank you for your help with this.

We have also made a few phone calls home this week regarding **ear piercings**. Just a reminder that children are unfortunately unable to participate in PE lessons, or after-school sports clubs, while wearing earrings, and staff are not permitted to remove them for children.

If your child has recently had their ears pierced, please bear this in mind and inform your child's class teacher when they will be able to start participating in PE or sporting activities coming up. Thank you for your understanding and support with this.

Our new House Captains

There has been some exciting news for our Year 6 pupils this morning, as our House Captains have been chosen! A huge congratulations to all of the children who put themselves forward. It takes courage and confidence to stand in front of your peers and put yourself forward for a leadership position, and we were incredibly proud of all of those who did so. Commiserations for those who didn't get chosen too.

Of course, a special **well done to our successful House Captains** – we know that you will be fantastic role models for the rest of your house and represent Castlefort brilliantly.

Democracy in action!

There is more excitement to come next week, when our **Head Boy, Head Girl and their deputies** will be chosen. This year, we are going to make the process particularly special by holding a proper **school election**, complete with ballot boxes and voting!

It will be a fantastic opportunity for the children to experience democracy in action and to understand one of our key **British Values – Democracy**. The children will have the opportunity to listen to the candidates, make their own choices and cast their votes.

It has been a really positive start, and I would like to thank all of our parents, carers, pupils and staff for the fantastic beginning we have made to the new school year. There is a real sense of excitement around school already, and I am looking forward to everything that the year ahead will bring.

Following feedback from parents last year, newsletters will be issued every fortnight this year. Have a lovely weekend, and I look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday.

Best wishes,

Mr Hawkins
Headteacher

CASTLEFORT ACADEMY

Autumn Diary Dates

SEPTEMBER 2026

- Tuesday 1st • INSET Day – School closed to pupils
- Monday 7th • Photo Day – all pupils 📷
- Friday 18th • Jeans for Genes Day 📄 (£1 donation)
- Monday 28th • Harvest donations into school 🌾

OCTOBER 2026 • Black History Month 🌍

- Tuesday 6th • Castlefort Bake Off / MacMillan Coffee ☕🍰
- Thursday 22nd • Halloween Disco – all year groups 🎃
- Friday 23rd • Teddy bear donation for Christmas Fayre 🧸
- Half Term: Mon 26th – Fri 30th October ☔

NOVEMBER 2026

- Wednesday 4th • Parents' Evening (2pm finish) 👤
- Friday 6th • Cosmetics / toiletries donation for Xmas Fayre 🧴
- Friday 13th • Children in Need – wear yellow 🟡 (£1 donation)
- Monday 16th • Odd Socks Day – Anti-Bullying Week 🧦
- Friday 20th • Chocolate donations for Xmas Fayre 🍫
- Monday 23rd • Test Week starts 📝
- Friday 27th • Bottle tombola donation for Xmas Fayre 🍷

DECEMBER 2026

- Thursday 3rd • Cake donations for Xmas Fayre 🍰
- Friday 4th • Christmas Fayre ❄️
- Thursday 10th • Christmas Lunch – pupils & staff 🍽️
- Friday 11th • Nativity Show – AM & PM performances ★
- Monday 14th • EYFS / KS1 Christmas Party 🎉
- Tuesday 15th • Year 3 / 4 Christmas Party 🎉
- Wednesday 16th • Year 5 / 6 Christmas Party 🎉
- Thursday 17th • Castlefort's Got Talent 🎤
- Friday 18th • Christmas Jumper Day ❄️ Close at 1:30pm
- Christmas Holidays: Mon 21st Dec – Fri 1st Jan 🎅

JANUARY 2027

- Monday 4th • INSET Day – Pupils return Tuesday 5th January 🏠