



Castlebrook High School
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Dear Parent/Carers

For parents new to the school this year, we are pleased to report that our new Year 7s have settled in very well at Castlebrook. We hope that they continue to do well and enjoy their education with us. A Newsletter will be issued each month (usually the third week of the month). Please ask your children regularly if they have received one and the numbers will allow you to check for missing issues. This is Newsletter 1. Please sign the 'Messages between school and home' page near the front of their planner to show that you have received the Newsletter.

At the start of the new school year, we are pleased to welcome the following staff to the school:

- Mrs R. Diggle (Girls PE)**
- Miss C. Taberham (Drama)**
- Mr R. Dallow (Technology)**
- Mrs S. Smith (Science Technician)**

Please join us in welcoming them to Castlebrook and working with them to fulfil the school's aim of providing and achieving **'THE BEST FOR ALL'**

Mr A. Roberts Headteacher

Traffic Safety

It has again been brought to my attention that in using Castle Road as a pick up and drop off zone for their children, parent/carers are causing chaos to local traffic.



Please refrain from parking illegally and also blocking Castle Road. This has also been raised as a safety concern from parent/carers when their children are crossing Castle Road on their way to and from school.

Equipment brought into school

School will not be liable for the loss of expensive items brought into school. These include bikes, mobile phones, electronic gadgets, designer wear, jewellery, cameras etc. Although in some cases items can be locked up for safety, they are left at the owner's risk. All items should be covered under the family's house insurance in case of loss.

Sports Day 2011

Castlebrook held their annual Sports Day in July. The whole school competed against each other in their various houses and an excellent day was had by all. The event gave the learners a sense of community and it was an excellent way of promoting the house system.



Cheering on the winners - Simpson house!

Year 7 Ready to Learn Evening
Monday 12th September

This most informative event was extremely well attended by our new Year 7 learners and their parent/carers, with the main school hall filled to capacity.

The aim of the evening was to provide our new Year 7 parent/carers with important information on how they can best support their child's learning at Castlebrook. Here is just a taste of the positive feedback we received:

'Excellent, very informative', 'Very useful evening', 'Our child has grown in confidence whilst attending Castlebrook. Thank you so much for the smooth transition'.



Year 5/6 Open Evening Monday 19th September

Once again the school was packed for our Open Evening, which provides us with a fantastic opportunity to showcase the wonderful work of our school. The pride that all the staff and learners have for Castlebrook was evident for all to see. All the learners who supported activities in curriculum areas or acted as tour guides were once again an absolute credit to the school. The evening was followed by three Open Mornings where prospective learners and their parent/carers had an opportunity to see the school on ordinary working days. There was a fantastic atmosphere throughout Open Week and it is quite clear that as a result of everyone's hard work, Castlebrook is now the school of choice. A great big thank you to everyone involved who helped to make our Open Week so successful. Here is just a taste of the excellent feedback we received from prospective parent/carers:

"We really enjoyed our visit to the school. Staff and pupils were very helpful. Thank you so much".

"Very impressed. Can see how pupils love the school".

"Very well put together. Fantastic pupils, really enjoyed it - thank you. Your students are a credit to you all". "Best school open evening I have been to so far. Very informative and love the systems here".

Stock Market Challenge

Year 10 learners took part in the Stock Market Challenge in July. Working in pairs, they had £50,000 to invest in different companies or the US dollar. The value of these varied in relation to good or bad media given via news clips, newspapers or radio reports. The team with the highest overall value at the end won.

Learners enjoy the team work aspect of the challenge and gain experience from using and applying maths, interpreting media (news, papers, radio coverage) and decision making skills.



Year 10 Stock Market Challenge in the Independent Learning Zone

Privacy Notices

All parent/carers of Year 7 learners will have received a Privacy Notice to take home this week from the Department for Education. For existing learners, parents can access the information by following the link to Bury Local Authority internet page:

<http://www.bury.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3500>.

If you have any further queries, please e mail or ring the Information Systems Co-ordinator at Bury Council on 0161 253 6500.

School Uniform

As detailed in previous Newsletters, uniform is compulsory for all learners and the co-operation of parents/carers in ensuring a high standard of dress is requested. No jewellery or make-up is to be worn except a watch and at most one small stud in each ear for pierced ears. Outer coats should be plain black or blue and must not be worn inside the school building. Hoodies, leather or denim jackets are not allowed and will be confiscated.

The uniform can be bought from Monkhouses (86 The Rock, Bury) or from Pretty Things (14 Market Parade, Bury or 7 New Road, Radcliffe).

Suitable footwear should be worn by all learners, ie sensible black leather shoes. The following footwear is **not** appropriate in school (boots, trainers, pumps or canvas shoes):



Travel & Tourism Visit

Blackpool Pleasure Beach Education Centre

A group of 13 learners enjoyed a visit to Blackpool on 13th September, to complete primary research for their BTEC module on Customer Service in Travel & Tourism. All of the learners behaved brilliantly and were a credit to the school.



Year 11 College Applications Day

Year 11 learners enjoyed the opportunity to find out more about courses at our local colleges on 23rd September. Representatives from Bury College, Holly Cross College, Manchester and Salford College gave presentations to learners about possible choices. All learners were also given information and guidance on how to write a successful application and took their turn to use a career programme to help with their choices.

Acorn Adventure

Just before we broke up for the summer holidays, Miss Ayris, along with Mr Peacock and Mrs Freedman, had the pleasure of taking some Year 11 learners on an outdoor adventure residential to the Brecon Beacons in South Wales. A fantastic time was had by all, despite the sometimes cold and wet weather.



All the learners threw themselves into every activity whether it be scrambling up a climbing wall or kayaking on the windswept lake, and inevitably ending up in the water after the kayak capsized. One of the best times was the fancy dress evening on the final night, where learners pulled out all the stops on their costumes and even Mr Peacock managed to dust down a clown outfit, while Miss Ayris and Mrs Freedman resurrected the dodgy fashion of the 1980's.

A huge big thank you to all of the Year 11's on the trip for making it the most memorable one we have done to South Wales. Your positive attitude and the ability to not take yourselves too seriously on the weekend created some brilliant memories even for the teachers. A big thanks also to Mr Peacock who spent some of his summer putting the pictures into a film of our time there for you all to see - a screening evening will be arranged soon for you to see it and get a copy if you wish. Watch this space.

Holidays in Term Time

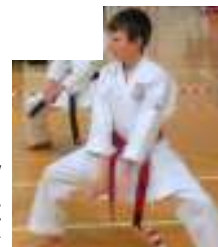
We would like to remind all parent/carers that in accordance with Bury Local Authority's policy, holidays and extended leave during term time will not be authorised unless in very exceptional circumstances. We would ask that **no** holidays are arranged during term time.

Please sign your child's Learner Planner to acknowledge receipt of this Newsletter.

Past copies of Newsletters are available on the school website and also from the school reception.

Paul Grindley Form 1R

"My name is Paul Grindley and I started Karate when I was 8. I started grading after a few months and am now a brown belt (3kyu). I have also joined the UK GKR squad.



I go to lots of seminars and tournaments. It took 4 tournaments before I won a medal. I now have 2 gold, 4 silver and 2 bronze. I qualified for the World Cup as a red belt so wasn't allowed to grade until after that was over.

It was fantastic, 1500 competitors from USA, Australia, New Zealand and UK! I have 4 more tournaments this year, 2 GKR (National Qualifiers), the Nationals, and the NAS (National all Styles). Karate has taught me respect for others, self respect and discipline".

Forthcoming Events

Day	Date	Time	Event
Fri	7th Oct		Year 11 Take Your Child to Work Day
Th	13th Oct	7.00 pm	Years 10 & 11 GCSE Presentation Evening
Wed	19th Oct	7.00 pm	GCSE Presentation Evening (last year's Year 11)
Th	20th Oct		Year 11 Preparation for Working Life Day
Th	20th Oct	4.00-6.30 pm	Form Mentor Evening All Years
Fri	21st Oct		School closes at 3.05 pm for Autumn Half Term holidays
Wed	2nd Nov		School re-opens
Week comm.	7th Nov		November GCSE exams
	9th-11th Nov		Year 7 Residential
Fri	25th Nov		PAD closure

Sponsorship

It is customary when we award prizes at our annual awards ceremonies to have some sponsored prizes either in memory of or in celebration of a special person or occasion.

If anyone is interested in sponsoring an award to be presented at our Awards Ceremonies, please contact Mrs Kaye, School Business Manager to discuss the most appropriate arrangement.