



Dear Parents and Carers,

16<sup>th</sup> April 2018

The signs of summer are slowly starting to come through, although it does feel like we have hardly had a spring! I hope that the Easter holidays have brought some rest and reflection time, although I know for many the holidays are a very busy time. The turn in seasons certainly brings me to reflect on new growth and change. At Castle Manor we are committed to doing our very best for every child and have been reflecting on our vision and how we express our goals and expectations. We have had a lengthy school vision for some time and have come up with an idea to really simplify it. Our latest suggestion is -

We work hard.  
We are kind.  
We are PROUD.

We think that this expectation can be made true for everyone who learns and works within our school, with our PROUD values of Professional, Resilient, Optimistic, Understanding and Driven being the centre of what we use for our decision learning, behaviours and decision making. I am really interested if you have any views on this and would welcome discussion.

In assembly at the end of term I told students and staff how proud I am of them. I had a fantastic week in the last week, where many things came together to remind me of how lucky I am to do the job I do. I was fortunate enough to accompany two of our students, Emily and Mattie to an awards dinner for the Rotary Club. We celebrated their 'Service above self', Emily through her work with the local Guiding community and Mattie through extensive voluntary work. We then had excellent success in Basketball where we saw our Under 13 team become County Champions. We also had some excellent performances from our Year 7 and Year 8 students sharing their learning for the term in their creative subjects with students from some of our feeder primary schools. It was wonderful to see children learning together and developing confidence in their new skills and performances. Young people often get bad press in society, yet we know different and get to see so many fantastic things in school.

This term we of course are supporting Year 11 extensively in their preparations for exams and practical exams start this week. It was really powerful to meet and talk with so many parents with their children at our Year 11 parents evening just before Easter, working together makes such an impact. We look forward to seeing parents of other years on Wednesday this week for our final Academic Tutoring Day of the year. If you have not yet booked please do so on <https://www.schoolinterviews.co.uk>

We are working on even higher expectations to ensure learning is as good as it can possibly be. Mr Gosden outlined this in his recent letter and we have spoken with some students and parents who wanted to discuss things in more detail. We have had a positive response to these moves to make things even better than they already are at Castle Manor. Thank you for the support that you as parents give to the school and our work.

The coming term will be as packed with activity and hard work as the first two terms of the year. I look forward to working with your children to ensure they make the best possible progress, enjoy school and are happy. As always please contact me on [VWhitcombe@castlemanor.org.uk](mailto:VWhitcombe@castlemanor.org.uk) if you would like to speak to me or to arrange a meeting.

Vanessa Whitcombe  
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mrs. Vanessa Whitcombe

Samuel Ward Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 07400386. The registered office is at Samuel Ward Academy, Chalkstone Way, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 0LD.



Castle Manor Academy  
Eastern Avenue  
Haverhill  
Suffolk CB9 9JE

Tel: 01440 705501  
Fax: 01440 714050  
Email: [info@castlemanor.org.uk](mailto:info@castlemanor.org.uk)  
Website: [www.castlemanor.org.uk](http://www.castlemanor.org.uk)