



Dear Parents and Carers,

16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Another week has flown by, and this week we have really enjoyed our Love it, Try it week, where our teachers have spent time visiting each others lessons, seeing children working in different subjects and learning from each other. It has been an incredibly powerful week and we have been really impressed by the learning and hard work taking place.

When I last wrote I focused on some changes to the way we dismiss students at the end of the day, with Year 7 leaving earlier at 3.05pm to help with the flow of students. There is no doubt that it is much busier on the roads than it has been - I think that additional parents deciding to collect by car from our school on top of the staggered finish of local primaries has contributed to this. We have additionally this week made changes to how we are lining Year 7 and Year 8 up at the beginning of the day to avoid the gathering of lines of children on the path outside school. Children should aim to arrive at school not before 8.30am to try to aid with this flow. We have also talked to students about road safety and crossing roads, this is a work in progress and it can be scary how children just step into a road without looking - you might think that as Secondary school children they have already learned and are good at road safety but they are certainly needing constant reminders - please reinforce at home too.

We have some positions currently advertised at our school if anyone you know is interested in joining our team - Learning Mentor and Exam Invigilator, the links are here <https://unitysp-careers.co.uk/job-search/>

I wrote a couple of weeks ago about a laptop purchase scheme, we have had some interest and are taking this forward with our Trust for a Trust wide scheme. It will be open to all parents, and if you are interested and haven't already let us know please email Ian Messal on [IMessal@castlemanor.org.uk](mailto:IMessal@castlemanor.org.uk). It is looking like a payment of approximately £13 per month for 3 years including warranty and insurance for a laptop, with other payment lengths possible.

I wanted to finish by reminding you that if you would like your child to wear a mask around school or by arrangement in lessons please let us know. I know that for some students and families this is aiding with support for anxiety. We are monitoring local cases carefully and advice is currently that masks are not required in school but we will of course act if this changes.

As ever please do contact us with anything you need and thank you for your continued support.

Vanessa Whitcombe  
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mrs. Vanessa Whitcombe

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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)