



Dear Parents and Carers,

25<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Another fortnight has flown by and school life both inside and outside the school building continues to flourish. This letter has a big focus on some fantastic sporting achievements recently, where our teams and individuals have reached some exceptional levels, with more to come.

On Saturday our Year 10 Volleyball team travelled to Kettering for the National finals. This is such a huge success to even get to this stage. They came 5th overall, which means our school has the 5th best team in the country! We are a small school, so therefore have many less children to select from so the talent is exceptional. Mr Dovaston has trained these students for around a year and they have worked exceptionally hard. A team photo is seen below - with thanks to Dellar Sports for their donation towards new special kit for the event. I am so proud of the students and staff, and look forward to what next year brings. Thank you too to parents who travelled to Kettering to support the team.



Unity Schools Partnership is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 07400386. The registered office is at Unity SP Offices, Park Road, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7YD.

Headteacher: Mrs. Vanessa Whitcombe



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This week our Key Stage 3 girls football team won the Unity Schools Partnership tournament, we reached County Finals with our Year 8 girls basketball team, and our Year 11 boys football won their County Cup semi finals. This takes both Year 11 and Year 10 football teams through to the semi finals! What a fantastic sporting week all round!

We've had students out on their first Duke of Edinburgh Award walk last weekend, enjoyed the spring sunshine and dodged the downpours!

In school we enjoyed Year 10 parents evening last week, and attendance from parents was at 93%. We've found that our parents evenings have been very positive so far this year and look forward to Year 11 on Thursday 4th April.

Year 9 are preparing to choose their subjects for Key Stage 4 study, and thinking about careers and the qualifications they need for their future plans. A reminder that Options Evening is this week on Thursday at 6pm in the hall. It is vital that parents and students attend even if you have had older children at the school going through the process. This is because options change, subject specifications on offer are different so it is important to be up to date with all the knowledge required.

This week we are speaking to students in assemblies about radicalisation and extremism, a very relevant issue given the recent terrible terrorist attack in New Zealand. We tackle these issues regularly in school and remind students of the fundamental British Values of The rule of law; Individual liberty; Mutual respect; Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. If you would like support with how to explore these issues with your child at home then the website link below is very useful

<https://childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world>

I am also really pleased to share with you and thank you for significant improvement in our whole school attendance. It is so far this year above National Averages, with persistent absence (below 90% attendance) being below averages. This is a fantastic outcome so far, with more children in school more frequently. Thank you for your continued support with ensuring your children are in school every day unless too unwell to come to school, and also for avoiding holidays and appointments in term time. Our teachers can do their very best work teaching their students when they are present in all lessons and the correlation between attendance and achievement is very clear.

As ever please do get in touch with me on [VWhitcombe@castlemanor.org.uk](mailto:VWhitcombe@castlemanor.org.uk) if you would like to raise anything with me, or you can book an appointment to see me through my PA Mrs Mitchell.

I wish you a lovely fortnight ahead and a Happy Easter when it arrives.

Yours sincerely,

Vanessa Whitcombe  
Headteacher

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