



Dear Parents and Carers,

9th September 2019

We have had a really positive start to term, I have been so impressed with how our students have settled in well. Thank you for your support in ensuring that your child is on time to school, fully equipped and in appropriate uniform, ready to learn.

I am very lucky in my job that I get to pop into classrooms all the time and see learning in action, and it has been a fabulous week, seeing students really working hard, thinking hard and succeeding.

We welcomed some new faces to our team last week, Mr Griffiths, Physics teacher, Miss Hornby, Languages Teacher, Mr Amankwah, Maths Teacher and Mr Fellows, Cover Supervisor. We have a fabulous team of teaching and non teaching staff and are fully staffed. Our training days at the beginning of the week concentrated on our Castle Manor Way and how working together 'swimming in the same direction' has huge impact.

That impact can be seen in the GCSE results which once again were very positive. This year we saw record numbers of the very highest grades of grades 7-9, putting us amongst the top 5% of similar schools nationally. We have been delighted to hear of our Year 11 students enrolling at 6th forms and colleges and heading off to apprenticeship learning.

I have been notified of a search for Parent Ambassadors to help to support Parents who are new to having a child who is interested in going to University. If you have a child who has gone to University and are interested in this opportunity to support others please see this link <https://www.uos.ac.uk/content/parent-ambassadors-expressions-interest?fbclid=IwAR35ILSA0ABCo9NUTnpoFMMMgccoVoNhKdumDznpVfaC4P2JOnSQ1nLu9KU>

Finally I wanted to add my support to our attendance team, please make sure that you are communicating with the team on LFreds@castlemanor.org.uk or KDoBell@castlemanor.org.uk or by telephoning the school. Our attendance improved last year but there are still too many students who are not at school regularly enough. There are many students who are at school for a very high percentage of the year or even 100%. Our target is for every child to have the highest attendance they can, whilst being understanding of genuine illness or medical situations. Our whole school target is 96%, I'll keep reporting to you where we are and you can check your own child's attendance as well as homelearning and reports on Go for Schools.

I look forward to the year ahead, if you have any issues, good or bad, that you wish to raise with me please do contact me on VWhitcombe@castlemanor.org.uk or by phoning the school and asking for my PA, Mrs Mitchell.

Vanessa Whitcombe
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mrs. Vanessa Whitcombe

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