

January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

### Year 9 Spring Newsletter

It was a great start to year 9 with an excellent average attendance, with so many students graduating and with teachers being able to give so much positive feedback to parents regarding academic progress at our subject evening back in November.



Mr Morgan  
Deputy Head



Miss McManus  
Assistant Head



Mrs Banwait  
Assistant Head



Year 9 Leader  
Mrs Devine

The tutors remains the same as last term and will continue to see the students each day:

9.1 Ms Ivin

9.4 Ms Walch

9.7 Ms Mallett

9.2 Mr Ison

9.5 Mr Waine

9.6 Mrs Duffield

9.3 Mrs Warde

9.8 Miss Harris/Mrs Geddes

9.9 Miss Newton

We reported in our last newsletter that a key change this year is the choice that students have made in relation to the subjects they study. Making the best of this experience is ideal preparation for their GCSE option choices as they move into Key Stage 4 next year. The tutor programme, combining the successful S4L (Skills for Life) and ACHIEVE programmes will continue this term as students focus on Resilience and Initiative while also carrying out self-set challenges for Organisation and Resilience.

### Year 9 into 10 Options

This half term brings with it the next opportunity for students to tailor their learning to their strengths and interests through the Year 9 into 10 options process. Students will be able to select the subjects they will study at GCSE, which includes a range of new subjects. There will be a number of assemblies to support student choices later in the term and subject staff will be spending time talking to students in lessons. We want students to make appropriate and balanced choices which maximise their opportunities in the future. There is a parent and student information evening on Tuesday 11 February where options subject staff will be available to provide more detailed material about their particular GCSE courses.

### Attendance

Last term our attendance was 96.2%, which is quite impressive, and should improve, as health improves, to hopefully at least match last year's 96.4%. During last term, out of 240 students in year 9, 74 gained 100% attendance, 183 had an attendance above 95% and just 20 were classed as PA (persistent absent), with an attendance at 90% or below. We would like to thank you for encouraging your children to access their learning so consistently.

Registered Office: Castle Phoenix Trust, Axholme Road, Wyken, Coventry CV2 5BD | Registered Number 8331385  
T: 024 7644 4822 | F: 024 7663 6282 | [www.caludoncastle.co.uk](http://www.caludoncastle.co.uk) | E: [enquiries@caludoncastle.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@caludoncastle.co.uk)



Headteacher  
**Mrs M Marr**



## Graduation

We were also delighted with the graduation success of students over last term where 85% graduated. In order to graduate at the end of each term in Year 9, students will still need to show that they are engaging with their learning and their personal progression, by gaining 100 or more points each term. Points will be awarded for attendance, punctuality, behaviour, progress, attitude to learning, and a range of magic moments throughout the year. Graduation is marked at the end of each term but, most significantly, there is the Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 ceremony in July. Parents and carers have already been given a date to save for attendance at this event where, symbolically, students exchange their Key Stage 3 tie for a Key Stage 4 tie.

### Key Dates for Year 9: (Other term dates can be found on the school's website)

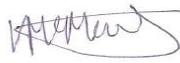
Tuesday 11 February	Year 9 Options evening (5:30 – 6:30)
Friday 21 February	Teacher training day (school closed)
Thursday 9 April	School open to Year 11 and Year 13 students only
Week beginning 11 May	Year 9 tests
Wednesday 8 to Friday 10 July	History: Trenches trip
Tuesday 7-9 July	Graduation ceremony as per individual invite
Week beginning 13 July	Creativity, Culture and Charity week
Friday 17 July	Last day of the summer term

We look forward to seeing you at various events over the next two terms.

Yours faithfully



Mr Morgan  
Deputy Head



Miss McManus  
Assistant Head



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Assistant Head



Year 9 Leader  
Mrs Devine