



The Castle School

ACHIEVE | BELONG | PARTICIPATE

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Mr J Lamb
Headteacher

July 2025

Dear families

As the academic year draws to a close, we feel a great sense of pride for our school's collective achievements. Our students have exemplified our continued mission, for every child to achieve, belong and participate, enabling a life of choice and opportunity.

Thank you to you, the parents and carers, for your continued support and partnership, which is fundamental to successes. We are exceptionally proud of our devoted teaching and support staff, whose commitment to our ethos and aims has been instrumental in fostering our students' academic, emotional, and social development this year.

Participation opportunities

This academic year we have offered 245 clubs within our enrichment programme. Over 50% of students have taken part in at least one enrichment activity every week since the start of September. During our six Curriculum Enrichment Days, our students have experienced visits to: *& Juliet* at the Bristol Hippodrome, Weymouth Aquarium, Bristol Places of Worship, Chepstow Castle, Bristol Aerospace, Bristol/Cardiff/Exeter Art Museums and Galleries, the Eden Project, Pinkery and Exmoor as part of The Castle Challenge, Shepton Mallet Prison, Wimbleball Lake and the University of Bath.

We have also had trips to our Pinkery Residentials, Somerset vs Surrey cricket at the County Ground, *Blood Brothers* in Weston-super-Mare, BTEC Sport visit to Crossfit Theta Wellington, Bristol Yr10 GCSE Geography, Pitt Rivers Museum Oxford Y11 Art and Textiles, *Never Let Me Go* theatre trip to The Bristol Old Vic, *Swan Lake* Plymouth, Futurechef at BTC, Ice-skating at Clarks Village, Cologne MFL, Year 11 ten pin bowling, New York Performing Arts, *Heroes & Superheroes* musical concert Exeter, Y9&10 Tacchi Morris Spring Forward Dance Platform, Glastonbury Abbey Yr11 GCSE History, Y10 Buddhist Studies Conference University of Bristol, Dance workshop at The Space, Courchevel skiing, Iceland Geography, *Alice* Exeter Northcott Theatre, Lyme Regis Yr10 Geography, Y10 taster days at Bridgewater and Taunton College & Richard Huish College, Southampton University visit MFL – Mandarin, China trip to Shanghai, Ten Tors and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. Thank you to our wonderful staff who enable these activities to happen, particularly for those trips and visits that happen outside of the school hours. Without their commitment and dedication, these opportunities would not take place.

In June 2025, Year 11s (2025 Leavers) left us after a wonderful prom. They have been such a brilliant year group, not only in Year 11 but during their five years with us. It is such a privilege to see them grow from children to the young adults they are and to have the chance to celebrate their time here. We wish them well and will welcome them back for their Presentation Evening in November 2025.

Congratulations to Lancaster for winning the House Trophy for the fifth year running. Following our Sport and Health Day last week, 'O' celebrated their House Trophy win by having Lessons 3, 4 and 5 off timetable on Wednesday 16 July, having fun on the fairground rides as a recognition of their efforts.



**ANTI-BULLYING
ALLIANCE**

School & College Member

Farewell to Staff

This year, we say farewell a number of staff. Miss Kellock is leaving the TA team to train as a teacher. Mrs Lowe finishes her role supporting the Computing Hub and Miss Arthur leaves the catering team. We say goodbye to Mr Liang as Mrs Morris returns from maternity leave. Mr Carpanini moves to another Trust school supporting the leadership team. Miss Foster leaves the English team to relocate, Mr Walker (Art) is also relocating, and Mr Buckingham leaves the Maths team to take up a new role in a specialist provision school.

We have three colleagues leaving this year after many years of service to the families at The Castle. Miss Marney leaves the Computing team after 21 years. More recently, she has completed the national SENDCo qualification, which has enabled her to use more of her substantive time as the SENDCo for IKB and Orchard Grove primary schools. She has been able to retain one day a week at The Castle, which we have been hugely appreciative of. She is now looking forward to taking on the SENDCo role at Bishops Hull primary, so we will maintain our Trust links with her.

Mrs Hughes also leaves The Castle after 22 years to another opportunity in the Trust, going into a new SEND Lead Teacher role. Mrs Hughes has been a massive part of the success of the PE team over many years, as well as more recently developing and leading the SEND provision at The Castle. Her knowledge and support for students is exemplary and we feel fortunate that we still benefit from her work, as will many other students, families and schools within the Blackdown Education Partnership.

Mrs Parker has decided to retire after 23 years at The Castle. She absolutely epitomises the values of the school and is the most brilliant, determined colleague. Mrs Parker has carried out many varied support roles over the years, most recently managing the cover at 7:00am every morning and balancing this with the administration and finance responsibilities she holds.

We are sure you will appreciate and thank these members of staff for their unwavering commitment, for the individual impact they will certainly have made on many of your families.

Whilst we will miss our colleagues and friends, we are always able to recruit outstanding new staff, and this year has been no exception. We have some wonderful new colleagues joining us in September. New staff are:

Mrs Wilson - Teacher of Art
Miss Chamberlain - Teacher of History and RE
Mrs Smart - Administrator
Mrs Penn - Attendance Officer
Miss Chen – Mandarin Language Assistant
Ms Warman – Assistant SENDCo

September 2025

A reminder that Year 7s and 11s are due back to school on Wednesday 3 September. Other year groups return to school on **Thursday 4 September.**

Timings of the School Day September 2025

8.40 am	School begins
8.45 am - 9.10 am	Registration
9.10 am – 10.10 am	Period 1
10.10 am – 11.10 am	Period 2
11.10 am – 11.25 am	Break
11.30 am – 12.30 pm	Period 3
12.30 pm – 1.30 pm	Period 4
1.30 – 2.15 pm	Lunch

2.20 - 3.20 pm
3.20 pm

Period 5
End of School

Communication

From September, we will be changing our MIS from Bromcom to Arbor. This means that we will be updating and refining our communication with families, including finance and admin, as well as reporting other information to you. Mr Duenas (School Business Manager) has already written to families, and we will be sending further information about Arbor by 1st September, so you can download the relevant app, log in and use the functions available.

Uniform

We would like to reiterate that we expect uniform always to be worn correctly. We thank you in advance for your support - as you know, we feel a smart appearance is important, but also it keeps that sense of belonging and encourages a sense of community, identity and pride. We expect trousers, skirts and shoes to meet that standard – ie no Lycra skirts or trousers, or jeans, or anything stretchy or clingy. Shoes must be black leather or leather-look, as defined in the Uniform Policy (attached).

Mobile Phones and Devices

We are exceptionally pleased with the response from families regarding our changes to mobile phones at The Castle School. These changes will continue when we return, with students having phones switched off and in bags when on the school site, if they choose to have a phone with them. Thank you for your support with this.

We have enclosed a copy of the School Academic Year Diary 2025/26. Some dates may change throughout the year, so please check the school website for the most up to date information. All letters for parents are also on the website, so we would encourage you to check every week to ensure you know what is happening.

We extend thanks to our entire school community for your continued support, trust, and collaboration. We wish you all a safe, joyful, and relaxing summer break.

Best wishes



Mr Lamb
Headteacher



Mr Wordsworth
Head of School

Encs (Uniform Policy, School Academic Year Diary)