

CARLES SALES

Our students have been to Cambodia, New York, The Ardeche, Cologne, Courchevel and Sorrento this year!

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The Castle School

JAM PACKED WITH NEWS FROM ACROSS THE CURRICULUM!

From developing Alexa skills in Computing to 'Masterchef' style cooking in Food and Nutrition and so much more...

FANTASTIC GCSE RESULTS!

2022-23

Yet another fantastic set of GCSE results achieved by a superb group of students.

from the Headteacher

hope you enjoy looking through some of the achievements, trips and events that have gone on during the last academic year (2022-23). We are hugely proud of the opportunities, achievements and events that we are able to offer our students. Throughout the year we offered 389 (284 last year) clubs as part of our enrichment offer, some of which is documented in this magazine.

Over 50% of students have taken part in at least one enrichment activity every week since the start of September. In addition, the trips students have been on continue to ensure we are committed to giving our students a wide range of universal enrichment. During our six enrichment days students have experienced: Year 7 - Beauty and the Beast - Bristol Hippodrome, Weymouth Aquarium, Exeter places of worship and Chepstow Castle. Year 8 - Bristol Aerospace, Bristol/Cardiff Art Museums. Year 9 - Blackrock Outdoor Ed, Eden Project, Pinkery and Exmoor as part of The Castle Challenge. Year 10 - Shepton Mallet Prison. Year 11 - Wimbleball Lake, University of Bath. Included in those days have been PSHE lessons as well as engaging with employers and outside speakers.

We have also offered the following trips and activities: Woman in Black – London, Northcott Theatre, Discover Ability Day, Blood Brothers – Cardiff, Ice skating trips to Bristol and Clark's Village, Bristol City FC, Glastonbury Abbey - GCSE History, Temple Quay - GCSE Geography, Lyme Regis, Taunton Museum, Tate -London for GCSE Art/Photography/Textiles, Exeter Chiefs Rugby, England ladies FC – Bristol (England v Belgium), Cyberfirst Final - Swindon - February 23, Mandarin Excellence Programme trip to the University of Exeter, Coachbright Graduation also at the University of Exeter, Brewhouse Theatre – Dance, Eden Project - Year 10, Exeter University Maths trip, England v Australia ODI. Residentials:- Pinkery - Yr 7s, Cologne - December 22, New York - February 23, Sorrento April 23, Courchevel skiing April 23, Berlin, Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and The Ardèche and Cambodia this July/August.

There is such a vibrancy around school during the year no more so than when we have the enterprise project taking place and this epitomises that sense of belonging we all have to the school and our community. This is an opportunity for each House to raise money for their chosen House charity and give a little back to our community through volunteering and helping others. It is one of my favourite times of year, when I am asked to have wet sponges thrown at me or for students to be able to sell cakes at lunch time.

There were some significant sporting achievements this year too. Again, this success is testament to the talent and dedication of our students but also to the Health faculty and other colleagues who ensure these opportunities happen.

Forty students went on the German Christmas trip to Cologne in December and trips to China, Spain and France are planned for the next academic year. Year 9 and GCSE languages students have been supported all year by visiting native speakers from Taunton School and Queen's College.



We hosted a German Teacher programme with Frau Merschmann with us for 2 weeks, supporting students in their German lessons and this week we have hosted Chinese students and teaching colleagues. We maintain our strong links with Richard Huish College and good numbers of our students continue with a language to A level. Richard Huish staff have given assemblies and run workshops for Year 9/10 languages students and Year 11 students visited the college to take part in an A level Spanish lesson.

Four Year 8 girls travelled to the Defence Academy on Saturday 4 February with Mrs Chapman to compete in the final of CyberFirst 2023 Competition. This annual event, organised by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) through their CyberFirst initiative, aims to encourage girls to consider a career in cyber security through fun and challenging cyber activities and team exercises. Over 9000 girls entered the competition. The girls' team from Castle came 5th overall. Well done to Heidi, Eloise, Fiona and Willow.

In June our Year 11s (2023 Leavers) left us after a wonderful prom. They have been such a wonderful year group not only in Year 11 but during their 5 years with us. It is such a privilege to see them grow from children to the fine 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 GCSE certificate presentation evening in November 2023.

Congratulations to Lancaster for winning the House Trophy for the third year running. Following our sports day yesterday, 'O' will celebrate their House Trophy win by having Periods 4 and 5 off timetable on Tuesday 18 July; having fun on the 'sizzler', the dodgems, 'Pure Adrenaline' and the inflatables. It's all to play for next year and I look forward to the other Houses trying to knock Lancaster off top spot! I'd like to give a special mention to: Anna 7Y – 100m in 13.31 seconds and shot putt distance 7.82m, Anna, Bethan, Holly and Demi-Louise 7Y – 4 x 200m relay in 2 minutes 13 seconds, Cole 8Y – rounders ball throw distance 58.35m, Mya 9M – 50m in 7.34 seconds, Amelie 10O – 50m in 7.15 seconds, Sami 10R – 100m in 11.16 seconds and Finlay 10R – high jump 1m 86cm, who all broke school records on sports day.



This year, our Year 9 students have taken part in The Castle Challenge. This is a version of the DofE where students take part in an expedition across Exmoor, volunteer in the community and take part in extracurricular activities.

Students can achieve gold, silver and bronze accreditations based on the number of hours they complete in each section.

We are proud to announce that 58 students achieved gold, 45 silver and 105 bronze. Well done to all the students who took part.









KESULTS

Students at The Castle School have had yet another fantastic set of results achieved by 'a superb group of young people who were highly motivated and focused, particularly considering the challenges they have faced during the pandemic and two challenging years' post COVID.' said Mr Lamb (Headteacher).

74% of students achieved a grade 4 or more in As a comprehensive school, we are proud of every both English and Maths, whilst 54% gained a grade 5 or more in English and maths. A quarter of students achieved 5 or more results in grade 7-9s. Three quarters of all grades were grade 5 and above. 86 students achieved grades 7-9 in at least 3 of their GCSEs. 44 students achieved grades 7-9 in at least 7 subjects.

78% of students achieved the equivalent old measure of at least 5 A-C grades including English and maths (now grades 9-4). A fabulous achievement by all of our students and very well deserved.

We are very proud to have some of the best teachers in the South West and our students really benefit from this. This year, students have done particularly well in: English, maths, triple science, music, drama, philosophy and languages, especially French. sport and PE always do exceptionally well and this year was no different.

Yery well done to Chloe Fry and Ella Pal, who achieved 9 and 7 grade 9s respectively. Also very well done to students achieving 9 grade 7-9s (equivalent to A/A*s): Lily Jones, Vasilina Mentzou,

Tom Barnard, Anu Balasubramaniam, Yinggi Cao, Le'Nita Zhang, Ana Arechavala, Amalie Craig, William Dunstan, Joseph O'Connor, Evie Walker, Zebie Trout, Nynitya Kathula, Iris Wood, Robert Undery, Lara Hunter, Maxwell Smyth-Lees, Edith Kearney, Rhiannon Pearce, Farhan Hague.

one of our students and for some students, even though their attainment was not as high, their results represent outstanding achievement and we are proud of every single one of them.

Mr Lamb also said, 'We want our children to leave school ready to tackle the challenges of adult life, by being positive and hardworking; this shows in the results. We pride ourselves on the relationships we build with our students and so it is no surprise that staff here give up so much time to work with our students at lunch times, after school and during the holidays. We know exam performance is important but so are the memories and experiences they have over five years with us. What matters most is that our students take this and go on to have happy and prosperous lives.'

Mr Lamb paid tribute to the staff at The Castle School, 'I am hugely proud of the hard work, dedication and resilience all colleagues at The Castle School have shown. I know our families appreciate the work the school does for their children.'











Klassenfahrt nach Köln und Aachen DECEMBER 2022







IN DECEMBER, A GROUP OF 41 STUDENTS VISITED Köln (Cologne). The Vorweihnachtszeit (the TIME LEADING UP TO CHRISTMAS) IS A SPECIAL TIME IN GERMANY AND THE PICTURE-PERFECT COLOGNE CHRISTMAS MARKETS ARE A WINTER WONDERLAND OF TWINKLING LIGHTS, CHRISTMAS TREES, FESTIVE MU-SIC AND AROMAS OF DELICIOUS FOOD FROM THE HUN-DREDS OF TRADITIONAL WOODEN HUTS AND STALLS. STUDENTS MADE THE MOST OF THE OPPORTUNITIES TO BUY HANDMADE GIFTS AS CHRISTMAS PRESENTS AND TO TRY THE HUGE VARIETY OF FOOD; FRESH WAF-FLES, DOUGHNUTS, GINGERBREAD, CHOCOLATE DIPPED FRUIT, CURRYWURST AND MANY OTHER TYPES OF GER-MAN SAUSAGE!

STUDENTS LOVED THE DARE-DEVIL RIDES AT PHANTA-SIALAND THEME PARK, AS WELL AS SHOWS, ICE SKAT-ING AND A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS ATMOSPHERE.

CONSTRUCTION OF COLOGNE CATHEDRAL BEGAN IN 1248 AND IT WAS THE TALLEST BUILDING IN THE WORLD UNTIL 1884. THIS IMPRESSIVE AND IMPOSING BUILD-ING IS A MUST-SEE FOR ALL VISITORS TO COLOGNE. MANY OF OUR STUDENTS CLIMBED THE LONG NARROW SPIRAL STAIRCASE TO THE TOP OF THE SOUTH TOWER AND WERE REWARDED WITH STUNNING VIEWS OF THE CITY AND THE RHINE.

STUDENTS ALSO EXPERIENCED A CRUISE ON THE RIVER RHINE, COMPLETE WITH CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT, AND A VISIT TO THE COLOGNE CHOCOLATE MUSEUM. A FABULOUS TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

THE NEXT TRIP TO COLOGNE IS PLANNED FOR DECEM-BER 2024.

-Тову

HAT SPAß GEMACHT."

"ICH BIN MIT DEM SCHIFF AUF DEM RHEIN GEFAHREN und ich bin nach Phantasialand gefahren. Das

-Poppy

"WIR HABEN EINEN WEIHNACHTSMARKT BE-SUCHT UND ICH HABE ANDENKEN UND EINE HEIßE Schokolade gekauft. Ich liebte die Lichter auf den Bäumen."

-DAPHNE

"AACHEN WAR ECHT SPANNEND UND GROßARTIG. ES GAB EINEN WEIHNACHTSMARKT UND ES GAB VIELE ANDENKEN UND VIEL ESSEN, ZUM BEISPIEL POMMES UND LEBKUCHEN. AUßERDEM WAREN DIE MENSCHEN SEHR FREUNDLICH UND ICH HABE MANDELN GEKAUFT - SIE WAREN SÜß UND LECKER."

-LOUIE

IN AACHEN HABE ICH CRÊPES GEGESSEN. DAS WAR LECKER."

-AMELIA

"IN KÖLN HABE ICH DEN DOM BESUCHT. DER DOM WAR SEHR GROß UND HOCH, UND DIE AUSSICHT WAR SEHR SCHÖN."

"Köln war sehr gut. Am ersten Tag haben wir

AACHEN UND DEN WEIHNACHTSMARKT BESUCHT.

-Alex

"DIE SCHOKOLADENFABRIK WAR MEIN LIEBLINGSBE-SUCH!"

-THOMAS R

"Wir sind mit dem Reisebus nach Köln gefahren. Das Sportmuseum hat viel Spaß gemacht - es GAB EINEN FUßBALLPLATZ AUF DEM DACH! AUF DEM WEIHNACHTSMARKT WAREN DIE WAFFELN KÖSTLICH."

SPAß GEMACHT." -BRONTE

HABE EINEN ENGEL GEKAUFT. ES WAR WUNDER-SCHÖN." -MADISON

"WIR SIND SCHLITTSCHUH GELAUFEN. ES HAT VIEL

"ICH WAR AUF DEM WEIHNACHTSMARKT UND ICH

WHAT DID OUR STUDENTS THINK OF THE TRIP?





Some of our year 11 GCSE students visited Richard Huish College to take part in an A level Spanish lesson. We are very proud of the strong links that we have with the languages department at RHC and each year we have students from The Castle School who go on to take A levels in French, German or Spanish. Some of these go on to study a language as part of the university degree - including a year living and working abroad - and to use the language in their chosen career.



Thank you to the local employers who hosted groups of our Year 9 students on our enrichment days. Students visited employers to gain an insight into the world of work and to find out about what skills employers look for. Here are some of our students enjoying their time at Taunton Fabrications and Kier Construction.

Other employers involved were: Lush, Evo Agency, Somerset Heritage Centre, South West Hair Academy, RSPCA, Musgrove Park Hospital, Yeovil Town F.C., Barchester Manor Care Home, Barclays Bank and Bridgwater & Taunton College (Cannington campus). We are so grateful for your time and effort, thank you.









CLEEFFFF5

Four Year 8 girls travelled to Defence Academy on Saturday 4th Feb with Mrs Chapman to compete in the final of CyberFirst 2023 Competition. This annual event, organised by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) through their CyberFirst initiative, aims to encourage girls to consider a career in cyber security through fun and challenging cyber activities and team exercises.

Women represent just 22% of the cyber industry in the UK. The Girls Competition is an important initiative in addressing this imbalance by inspiring girls and raising awareness that cyber is a rewarding and accessible career.

Chris Ensor, NCSC Deputy Director for Cyber Growth, said:

'Congratulations to all the teams taking part in this year's competition – and especially to those who emerged victorious in their respective finals. The 2023 CyberFirst Girls Competition has been a great success, and I'd like to pay testament to the teachers who have inspired and supported their students throughout and also thank industry partners for their support in making this all possible. It's heartening to see so many young people engage with cyber security, and I hope that many of you will pursue a career within the industry and protect the UK from future online threats.'

Over 9000 girls entered the competition this year bringing the total number of participants since the competition began in 2017 to more than 65,000. The event was one of 13 regional finals which all took place simultaneously across the UK. The finalists, aged 12-13, worked in small teams to crack challenging cyber-related puzzles to score points for their school.

The Defence Academy proved to be a brilliant venue and the girls had lunch surrounded by tanks and planes. After a very long day of solving cyber challenges the girls came 5th overall. Well done to Heidi, Eloise, Fiona and Willow



This year we embarked on our 12th visit to Courchevel in the French Alps. We set off one day early and stayed in the PGL centre outside Paris for one night where students enjoyed using the sports facilities followed by the evening entertainment of Bingo. Hearing that there were huge delays at Dover we were so relieved to be in France and on the Saturday, we started the long journey down to the Alps.

The students picked up skis and then unfortunately the power steering went on the coach which meant that we were without a coach for most of the week. Fortunately thanks to Mr James, we managed to get all skis back to the hotel and PGL upgraded the students lift passes, so they skied the whole of the 3 valleys.

The rest of the week was just amazing, we were fortunate to have 5 exceptional instructors in which some we have had for 11 years and one coming out of retirement to coach us. The snow was superb, and the students loved every moment on the mountain demonstrating their skills, tricks, jumps and falls.

The days were always full on with skiing, but we ensured that the nights were full of fun and entertaining. The students enjoyed the swimming pool at Courchevel which was full of slides and jumps, where Mrs Curno created another Castle gala. We had our usual Crepe night, the epic Easter egg hunt on the green outside the hotel, we watched an ice hockey match in meribel and the final night we sang away in the hotel with some Karaoke.

I know I say it every year about how this group was one of the best we had taken, but they were definitely up there. They were fun, supported each other and were true credits to us as staff and the school.

hard work.

we go again.



Massive thanks need to go to all the staff that went on the trip Mrs Curno, Mrs James, Mr Clapp, Mr Boyland and Mrs Jenkins for all their

The good news is that ski trip 2024 is already fully booked, next year

THE CASTLE SCHOOL STUDENTS **DESIGN ALEXA SKILLS TO SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH ALZHEIMER'S**

THE CASTLE SCHOOL students named runners-up in the Alexa Young Innovator Challenge - Amazon's UK-wide AI coding contest – by designing Alexa Skills that aim to help people with Alzheimer's

Competition judges included TV presenter and STEM education advocate Carol Vorderman and computing prodigy and Stemettes founder Dr. Anne-Marie Imafidon

Students think AI can help solve mental health, environmental welfare and household budgeting in the face of the cost-of-living crisis.

School in Taunton have been named as runners-up in Amazon's inaugural Alexa Young Innovator Challenge after designing two new Alexa Skills that aim to help people with Alzheimer's. Skills are like apps for Alexa, allowing you to use voice commands to perform everyday tasks like checking the news, listening to music, or playing a game.

Kalina Djoukleva, Ellie Selby and Jared Johnn, designed Alexa Skills to help assist people with Alzheimer's. Kalina and Ellie's Skill acts as a reminder for vulnerable people to take their medication on the right day and at the right time, while Jared's Skill helps people understand and plan their week, ensuring they don't miss important events or family occasions.

Kalina, Ellie and Jared's Alexa Skills saw the local voungsters named as two of the runners-up in the national competition in the 13-14 age group. The pair won a £500 Amazon voucher for their school, while also taking home a £250 Amazon voucher each to spend personally.

Competition entries were picked by a judging panel including STEM advocate Carol Vorderman, computing prodigy Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon, YouTuber and computer science graduate Tobi Brown, and Lauren a career in STEM. Working alongside the industry to

Three secondary school students from The Castle Kisser, Amazon Technology Director and UK ambassador for Amazon Future Engineer.

> Speaking after her impressive performance in the UKwide competition, Kalina and Ellie said:

> "My Skill will especially benefit the elderly who suffer from dementia or Alzheimer's who might forget to take medication, which could be detrimental to their health. I created different daily routines which means depending on the day of the week, Alexa will say that there either is or isn't medication for that day, and offer other activities help support them."

> Jared added: "My Skill helps people with dementia or Alzheimer's to know what's happening on a particular day. This will allow them to see what events they have taking place, and what events they could plan, like having a relative come over. Due to the main group of people with Alzheimer's and dementia being elderly people, having information on how to spend their spare time such as if their children or grandchildren are at w ork or school through this Skill could greatly benefit them."

> Headteacher, James Lamb said "At the Castle School, we are committed to making sure our students are equipped with the skills and knowledge to pursue



Dr. Anne-Marie Imafidon said: "The tech revolution never make sure the education and skills we are teaching are current and relevant is an integral part of the curriculum. stops and we know that AI is going to be a vital part of We are very proud of Kalina Dioukleva. Ellie Selby and the future of the industry so it's great to see the Alexa Young Innovator Challenge identifying some amazing Jared Johnn and I would also like to thank their teacher young people who are taking the first steps on this journey Mr Mark James for his hard work and support. The new Skills our students have developed will undoubtedly to be our future scientists and technologists." make a big difference to improving the lives of the elderly and those suffering with dementia or Alzheimer's Amazon supports the education and skills development and that is a massive achievement." of students from all backgrounds through Amazon

To enter the Alexa Young Innovator Challenge, students across the UK were invited to follow a free online learning programme with curriculum-linked lesson plans and resources, created by Amazon to support the development of AI learning in UK classrooms and STEM clubs. Computer science and AI related roles could contribute £71 billion a year to the UK economy to 2030, according to research commissioned by Amazon from Capital Economics, with demand for jobs that require computer science, AI or machine learning skills expected to increase by 40% over the next five years . In order to have enough AI talent in the UK workforce to fill these jobs, students need to experience some form of Albased learning during secondary school.

"We were blown away by the innovation and imaginative thinking that was evident in many of the entries we received for the Alexa Young Innovator Challenge," said Lauren Kisser, Technology Director at Amazon and UK Ambassador for Amazon Future Engineer. "The challenge forms part of our Amazon Future Engineer programme, designed to upskill young people in Artificial Intelligence and computer science, and inspire them to consider a career in STEM. If more young people like Kalina and Jared play an active part imagining ways AI can be used to tackle social issues in their communities. just think of the good that technology could achieve in the future."



Future Engineer, a comprehensive childhood-to-career programme. The initiative is designed to inspire, educate and enable children and young adults, particularly those from underserved and underrepresented communities, to realise their potential in computer science through free online coding programmes, teacher training opportunities, and virtual career chats. Since launching in 2019, Amazon Future Engineer has reached over 400.000 students across the UK.

Women are still significantly underrepresented in engineering and technology in higher education. UCAS data on university application and acceptance figures for the 2021 cycle highlighted that women represent just 16% and 18% of accepted applications to computer science and engineering degrees respectively. To help address underrepresentation and accelerate the rate of progress, in 2022 Amazon awarded bursaries worth up to £20,000 each to 31 women students from low-income households studying computer science or related engineering courses at UK universities.



very year we book Pinkery Outdoor variety of activities including bush craft, low Education Centre on Exmoor. It is a very ropes, moorland walk, mountain boarding and remote centre with indoor dormitories. The other team building exercises. The children purpose of the trip is to develop team building always have a wonderful time with much skills and to help the students to make friends laughter, mud and plenty of washing to take with the others in their tutor group. There is a back home!







The Castle students were exemplary and found fun everywhere they went. In February we took 50 GCSE Drama and Dance students to the city that never sleeps. In 4 days, we packed in as much as we could in this unforgettable adventure.

We arrived in the Big Apple late Saturday evening staying at Hostelling International on the Upper West Side of New York, right by Central Park on Amsterdam Ave. On Sunday we started our sightseeing tour with views over the magical city at Top of the Rock viewing platform at The Rockefellar Centre. After lunch we headed to Times Square to watch the multi Tony Award winning musical 'MJ The Musical' at the Neil Simon Theatre. We were blown away by performance that showcased some of the biggest hits of The Jackson Five and Michael Jackson. On Monday we started our day heading back downtown to do a VIP backstage tour of Radio City Hall where we got to meet a Rockette and perform the world renown line kick on stage. We then headed to Fifth Aven for shopping and lunch. On Monday afternoon we made our way to Pearl Studio for our MJ the Musical with Ryan Vanderboom one of the stars from the show. That evening we sang our hearts out at the famous Ellen's Stardust Diner.

Tuesday was another busy day as continued with sightseeing. We headed to the South Ferry Terminal to do some shopping on Staten Island and sailed past the Statue of Liberty. We then had lunch at Hudson Eats overlooking the Hudson. We continued our walking tour past the World Trade National Memorial, Brooklyn Bridge and the Bull of Wall Street. We headed back to Times Square to see Moulin Rouge at the Al Hirschfeld Theatre on Valentine's Evening. Moulin Rouge was spectacular and made extra special as it was the day to celebrate love.

Wednesday started with a morning workshop with one of the cast from Moulin Rouge - Clay Rice-Thomson. Students learnt choreography from the musical number 'Shut up and Dance with me.' Next, we headed to Central Park for lunch and a last-minute shop before heading back to the hostel to fly home.

The Castle students were exemplary and found fun everywhere they went. Subway journeys were filled with song and dance. I am sure the trip was a life-changing experience for some students, and we certainly made memories that will last a lifetime. It was a very special trip and a pleasure and a privilege to enjoy it alongside the students and be part of their excitement.





















The students had an amazing time on the Ardèche river in France. We covered 24km of water, surrounded by spectacular scenery and the gorge was filled with fun and laughter! We had kayak wrestling, the washing machine, wombling and high rock jumping! The children did us proud, making significant improvements in their paddling skills by day 2. We also spent a day on the high wires, a trip to the local market and some beautiful walks through the gorge. So many amazing memories were created that will last a lifetime.









NEWS FROM THE FOOD & NUTRITION DEPARTMENT





It has been a busy year in The Food and Nutrition Department. We started with the opening of our fantastic new rooms – now called The Frances Gormley Suite – which have transformed the teaching and learning for students. The dark grey and lime green finish looks so smart!

Students are enjoying having their own kitchen area to work in and the quality of the work being produced by all year groups has been amazing.





Bake-Off competition

Our Bake-Off competition 'Under the Sea' was won by Lucy Collings in Year 8 who made some exquisite mermaid cakes. Byron and Muna came in second and third places. Well done to everyone who took part in this challenge, - it was incredibly hard to judge.



Willy Wonka's delight

Enrichment Days in January became Willy Wonka's delight as Year 7 learned about food provenance and how chocolate is made from bean to bar. Students were able to see and touch the actual cacao pods that came from the Caribbean. Delicious chocolate cupcakes were made, beautifully piped and decorated before being presented in a lovely gift box.





'Masterchef' style cooking

Year 10 students were lucky enough to visit The Quantock restaurant at Bridgwater and Taunton College where they learned how to fillet fish and present their final dishes 'Masterchef' style.



BRAINSTORM ' JANUARY 2023



Year 10 and 11 students performed the breath-taking Brainstorm in January 2023.





THE SHOW HAD BEEN CAREFULLY CRAFTED BY THE STUDENTS TO OFFER AN INSIGHT IN THE TEENAGE BRAIN. IT WAS A THRILLING EXPLORATION OPENING THE LID ON TEENAGE BE-HAVIOUR AND EMOTIONS - SHOWING THAT LIFE IS A ROLLERCOASTER DUR-ING THESE FAST PACED YEARS.

THE CAST SHARED THEIR STORIES OF HEARTBREAK AND FALL OUTS, FIRST LOVES AND PARENT BUST UPS. WE CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED THE NAR-RATIVE AROUND THESE MOMENTS OF JOY AND DESPAIR. THE CAST PARTIED HARD AND DELIVERED HOME TRUTHS TO ENLIGHTEN US ALL THAT TEEN-AGERS ARE INSPIRING, WILD AND CAN CHANGE THE WORLD. IT WAS A PLEASURE TO BE ALLOWED INTO THEIR BRAINS AND BE PART OF THEIR JOUR-NEY.



NEWS FROM THE DANCE DEPARTMENT

t has been a vibrant year in the Dance In March dancers will be part of the department with heaps of opportunities for students at The Castle School to share their talent and hard work.

House Dance was a huge success, and the community. studios were full every lunch and after school with students hoping to win the GCSE dancers got to learn challenging much-coveted House Dance Trophy. This year's winners were Sandringham with their highly polished choreography and participation across all year groups.

GCSE dancers were taken to see Alice by the year. Jasmin Vardimon Company at The Exeter Northcott Theatre. Year 9 and 10 students were fortunate to have professional workshops with Swindon Dance, Centre for artists from the Royal Opera House and Advanced Training (CAT) and also a workshop called 'Infra' led by an artist from the Royal Opera House.

Spring Forward Platform at The Tacch Morris Theatre. This is a great opportunity to perform alongside other dance groups and share performance work with the local

choreography with cast from MJ The Musical and Moulin Rouge in professional dance studios on Broadway. We are looking forward to offering more exciting professional opportunities and trips next

Year 9 and 10 students were fortunate to have workshops with professional dance Swindon Centre for Advanced Training. The workshops involved contemporary technique warm-ups, learning routines, exploring creative tasks and building confidence in contact work.





PERFORMING ARTS Department!

Another fun packed year in the Performing Arts Department!

We have been really busy this year in Performing Arts this year. As well as all of our extracurricular Dance and Drama clubs we offer we have also enjoyed theatre trips and visits.

We finished the academic year 2022 with an amazing weekend in London to see Hamilton and take part in a fast-paced and challenging workshop with one of the ensemble. We also had a tour of The National Theatre on the South Bank.

teaching choreography and song from the show. It was made extra special as the students designed roses with their Art teacher. For many students this was their first visit to a big theatre to see a musical.

In December Year 10 and 11 Drama GCSE students have a fun day in Cardiff watching Blood Brothers at the Millenium Centre. Blood Brothers moved us to tears and it was great to see the set text brought to life.



We took the whole of Year 7 (our current Year 8s) to see Mamma Mia at the Bristol Hippodrome in July after a successful morning of theatrical workshops and costume/set design in school.

In October it was a pleasure to take the whole of Year 7 to the theatre to watch the magical Beauty and the Beast. The day was particularly enriching because the Arts Faculty put on workshops





On the first day back after the Christmas break, we visited London to watch The Woman in Black at The Fortune Theatre. After lunch in Covent Garden, we settled into our seats to watch the famously scary gothic horror play.

We had another enriching day for Year 7 in January as we emerged students in everything Charlie and The Chocolate Factory. Students left very happy with chocolate cupcakes and a day of creating and learning choreography from the stage show and singing some of the iconic songs.

January was also school production time. Please look at the longer article about the show 'Brainstorm' that was a huge success.



We headed to the February half term with focus and excitement as we entered our final preparations for the New York trip. Please see the article to find out what we got up to. We run this trip for GCSE Drama and Dance Students in Years 10 and 11. Our next trip will be in February 2025 and then again in February 2027.



During the Spring Term we launched our next major musical and start our auditions. This is always a huge hit in the local community so please spread the word and bring the whole family along.





The Castle School students had the opportunity to experience Italian life. Starting dinner with only pasta and then having everything else afterwards took a bit of getting used to. A lot of pizza was consumed. Students managed to make nearly 50 pizzas in less than 30 minutes at an organic farm, we were captivated by the ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum (you could stand behind shop counters and imagine customers walking down the raised pavements to avoid the carts going up and down the street). We attempted to summit Vesuvius but we're thwarted by strong winds. A trip to Capri was a particular highlight for many of the students, getting to see all of the typical coastal landforms from a boat - educational but also incredibly beautiful!











Eight expedition groups from Year 10 successfully completed their DofE Bronze award assessed expedition on the Quantock Hills on the weekend of 1st and 2nd of July. All groups showed significant improvement in their navigation, teamwork and morale.

Well done to all who took part and a massive thank you to our dedicated volunteers who make the expedition possible.







HUISH ON MUSIC ON TOUR

In June, we were visited by Richard Huish College music department with Huish Music on Tour'. Outdoor rock and pop performances from ex-Castle students, Huish Bands and solo artists as well as our Year 11 band 'Monday Common' and the Year 7 band 'Flame Throwers'. They entertained students across the field from a stage in a lorry!



THE LAST BLAST BTEC GIG

Our Year 11 students played a fantastic mixture of rock, pop and musical theatre songs at The Last Blast BTEC Gig. The atmosphere was electric and the audience had a fantastic night!



GAMELAN ORCHESTRA

In November, we had the amazing Nick and Charlie in school from Actiontrack Performance Company, with the Gamelan Orchestra. Students had an incredible time creating a traditional Javanese piece of music on authentic instruments.









CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Christmas Concert was amazing, as always! It was so good to be able to perform live again. Thank you for the our musicians, and student tech team for making this possible. We are very proud of our students and their wonderful talent.



INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF MUSICIANS

As part of our Year 9s enrichment days, Pop The Top came in to show what they do, how the music industry works and how to get into it - hopefully encouraging some students to consider a career in music!

This was made even more special by the fact that Joe first studied here and later taught at the school!

SUMMER SHOWCASE

Yet another fantastic evening of entertainment to end the year! Well done to all the musicians, the choir and tech team!



TROMBONE OCTET PERFORMANCE – YEAR 7

Our Year 7s were fortunate enough to take part in a trombone workshop led by the Royal College of Music and organised by Sound Foundation Somerset!

COMMUNITY CONCERT

The Castle in the Community Concert is an opportunity for surrounding primary schools and The Castle School to work together showing off their amazing musical talents, it was enjoyed by more than 250 students and parents who came to watch. It has been noted as the 'musical extravaganza of the year'.









Seren Rodgers wins pentathlon gold athletics championships

▲ t just 16 years old, ex-Castler, Seren over-Acame some older opponents in a very hard fought competition in January, where the lead was constantly changing.

"Seeing as it was my first under-20 competition, I was just treating it as a training day to see where I'd end up for the rest of the season so to come out and win it, I just can't believe it," Rogers said.

She added the highlight of the day was the hurdles event. "The hurdles I was particularly pleased about because we train outdoors so, coming indoors, there was no wind or anything.

Also the long jump, to get back on track, because my indoor long jump season hasn't gone amazingly, so to get back where I was made me so happy."

53

After a see-saw tussle which saw four different leaders after each of the first four events. Rodgers hung on gamely in the final exhausting 800m to take gold.

Despite this being her first year in the under-20 age group, she scored 3657 to beat Zara Tyas from Stockport T&F into second by 61 points. But it was Chapman who then went into the lead for the first time as she recorded 5.67m.

Article by Lewis Wiseman, Somerset County Gazette

Sporting role models talk to our Year 8s about ambition



Ex-Castler, Harvey Skinner, from Exeter chiefs, and Jack Leach from Somerset CCC and England, came to The Castle School to speak to our Year 8s as part of the Achieve your Ambition programme. They were involved in a fantastic Q and A for an hour and discussed everything from best wickets/conversions, the Ashes, fractured shoulders, resilience and discipline, the importance of hard work in school, and a mutual love for dogs!



Besuch aus Deutschland

We were delighted to host Frau Merschmann from Werner-von-Siemens-Gesamtschule Königsborn for 2 weeks in March via the UK-German Connection. Our students had the opportunity to learn and speak lots of German and to deepen their cultural understanding, for example learning about how Karneval is celebrated in Germany.

Mr Floyd's Year 9 German class will continue with their letter exchange project with Frau Merschmann's Year 9 English class.

The programme was a huge success and we look forward to future links between our schools.

前進樂團

前進樂團 (Transition) is a British indie rock band with a large following in Asia, who sing in Mandarin Chinese. They have performed around the world, including many concerts in Taiwan and in Trafalgar Square as part of the Chinese New Year festivities in 2018.

We were delighted to host the band at The Castle School in March 2023. They led song-writing workshops in Chinese for Mandarin students in Year 8 and 9, culminating in short performances by our students of the Chinese lyrics that they had written.

Students of Mandarin in all year groups - as well as a number of our musicians - enjoyed an inspiring and uplifting performance. One of the most popular songs with our Mandarin students was 对不起我的中文不好, with many students singing along! As part of the set, students also learned about the band's journey over the years, life in Taiwan, the backstory to some of the songs, and were encouraged to continue to develop their musical and linguistic talents.

















HE CASTLE SCHOOL



Our Year 11s looked sensational at this year's prom! We wish them every success! #WeAreCastleForever

























































CAMBODIA 2

2023













In August, 16 students travelled 6,200 miles to Cambodia in Asia for an expedition of a lifetime. Whilst there, we completed a huge amount of project work for local communities. To name a few: a well, two gardens, a toilet and a chicken coop. It is fair to say we left our mark on the communities we visited and provided families with a better quality of life. As well as this, we completed a 50km trek through the Cambodian Jungle, where we explored hidden temples, waterfalls, and Buddhist monasteries. On our days off, we were able to explore famous landmarks including Angkor Temples, Cambodian Killing fields and the Cambodian Circus. It really an eye-opening was experience!

























ENRICHMENT NEWS

Year 10s mock interviews

We ran two successful mock interview mornings for our Year 10s with 25 employers coming into school. Students really valued their experience and said that it has helped to boost their confidence and prepare them for future interviews.

These are some of the comments from the employers

"It was a pleasure to be involved. The students were exceptional."

"What a great bunch of students, it was great to see the different characters between them all!

"Amazing bunch of inspiring people!"

"It was a great morning with the students, Hayley and I were both very impressed with the professionalism shown by all. We both agreed that it was a great representation of your school."

"A real privilege to spend time with the students. There are some real stars there!"









We are delighted that The Castle School has achieved 100% of the 8 Gatsby benchmarks. Rob Morrish from the Heart of the South West Careers Hub presented the certificate to Julia Corbett, Careers Leader and Polly, the school's careers link governor.

The eight Gatsby benchmarks of Good Career Guidance are:

1. A stable careers programme

- 2. Learning from career and labour market information
- 3. Addressing the needs of each pupil
- **4. Linking curriculum learning to careers**
- 5. Encounters with employers and employees
- **6. Experiences of workplaces**
- 7. Encounters with further and higher education
- 8. Personal guidance



OOV

castle_pe Friday lunchtime! Badminton and Trampoline club! Great to see so many involved!

castle_pe Well done to our U14 girls

football team who progress through to the next round of the County Cup

castle_pe Fantastic performance by

progress through to the next round of the county cup!!

leathfield played in good spirits this

Some tough results but the boys very

castle_pe Year 7 Rugby CVL at

afternoon, despite the heavy rain.

heathfield 30-0 kings mead! Well done to everyone who participated

Liked by thecastleschool and 130

castle_pe Super performance from

ing through to the second

nd of the county cup after a 5-0

the year 8 boys football team!

close to their first win! 10-0

courtfields 15-15 foxes 25-5

the year 11 rugby team, winning to

mber 2022

vith a 5-0 win. Fabulous

erformance! 🖲 🤝

10 October 2022

QOV

144 likes

QQV

125 likes

mber 2022

91 likes

26 Se

OOV

139 likes

QOV 134 likes castle_pe Congratulations to the year 10 girls hockey team, first game and win of the season against Taunton Academy, Well played all!



Q Q A 90 likes castle_pe Congratulations to Hannah who won gold in London (9th October) at the Camden Leon Paul Junior Series U11 Girls Sabre competition!! What an amazing

achievement!

QQA 145 likes castle_pe Well done to our Year 10/11 basketball team, some fantastic individual performances and solid team display in tonight's game against Heathfield 🤝 🚳

2 November 2022

USU MALLY

See. O O V 90 likes castle pe Well done to our Year 7 girls football teams competi first matches tonight! 🛞 👸 ting in their



QOV

others

QQA 139 likes castle_pe Congratulations to the Year 11 rugby team on progressing through to the semi final of the ounty cup, after winning the uarter final yesterday 34-08! An cellent team performance! mbar 2022



AI8 *

QQA 122 likes ons to Bonita castle_pe Congra

who came 3rd in the U16 cyclocross race at Cricket St Thomas! Ellie was 3rd in the U14's race! Amazing efforts! 4 October 2022

1000



castle_pe Our Year 10 BTEC Sport students had a great time stand up paddleboarding at the local COACH centre. The session included health safety, benefits of outdoor & adventurous activities and barriers to participation! 🏂 💦 10 October 2022

Q 🕀 🗊 ۲ 6



80 likes castle_pe Thank you to Bishop Foxs for hosting the year 7 hockey tonig Some lovely competitive games of hockey. Great stuff year 7! 9 November 2022

TH

castle_pe Great to have a table

nber 2022

11.17

OOV

102 likes

tennis match vs Heathfield tonight, played in great spirit. Thank you for Heathfield to coming over!

194

castle pe Year 7 and 8 boys hockey.

Well done to all, a fantastic day at Millifield, played lots of hockey,

scored some goals and a penalt

shuffle or 2. Thanks to SASP for

organising and to all the schools who participated!

ber 2022

QOA

84 likes



QOV 124 likes castle_pe Huge congratulations to our year 8 girls for their selection into the Somerset Netball Satellite Academy! So proud of their hard work and achievements so far and more to come!!!Well done Girls!



OOV 119 likes castle_pe Congratulations to the year 11 girls hockey team on a winning performance. Thank you Kingmead for a great game! 1 October 2022



castle_pe School trip to watch the Lionesses v Belgium at Ashton Gate Stadium, Bristol. Please collect a letter from the PE office 😅 🐵 🖶 v 6 Q € • 0



QUA 142 likes

castle pe Year 11 2nd XI football Vs Queens! A great first football fixture for many of the squad! Well to veryone 17 November 2022



QOV

98 likes castle_pe Last CVL for the year 7's. Made excellent progress throughout the year, well done to the boys and the boys at the other schools



152 likes castle_pe A fantastic team castle_pe A fantastic team performance from the Year 11 Boys football team today. In wet and windy conditions they won 4-1 against last years County Cup winners Worle to progress to the next round. 🖲 💛 ober 2022



160 likes castle pe What a pleasure to watch both Castle and Holyrood year 10's play out a draw in a game which was played in the correct spirit throughout. Congratulations to those players that played their first ever



112 likes castle_pe Well done to the year 9 asketball team for their first fixtures of the season! Many thanks to Heathfield and Taunton Academy for a very enjoyable CVL! r 2022



castle_pe Fantastic to see state schools from the area take part in a friendly cross country fixture on lon run me dow today. A big succe next one will be a real Thank you ber 2022



63

176 likes castle_pe Exeter chiefs 50-33





QQA

castle_pe Well done to all the girls

Teline.

castle_pe Year 11 boys "B team

football! A great 2-1 win away Vs Queens in a very competitive close

contest! Well done to everyone involved, a very enjoyable fixture!

castle_pe The year 8's had a treat

today as we welcomed ex student

and Exeter Chiefs players Harvey

Skinner and Somerset and England

they achieved their dreams, both

inspirational characters that spoke

beautifully and gave great advise to

the students on how to achieve their

success. We wish them both the best

spinner Jack Leach into school to talk

to students about ambition and how

who played in the basketball CVL last night. Some great sportsmanship shown and some super basketball

88 likes

skills!

QOV

141 likes

VOV

261 likes

in the future!

20 January

OOV

95 likes

7 December 2022

QOV 146 likes

castle_pe Year 11 boys rugby away Vs Kingsmead! A great team performance sees the boys progress to the next round of the county cup! Thank you to Kingsmead for hosting! 600



QQA 163 likes castle_pe House x country! Well

done to everybody who run in both the juniors (7&8) and senior (9,10&11) races! Great efforts from all students senting their houses! Results to follow shorth



120 likes castle pe Thank you to Kingsmead for hosting us tonight, a really enjoyable game in which the boys enjoyed, they even managed their enjoyed, first try!



84 likes castle_pe What a great night of Hockey for the year 7's. So proud of what they did tonight. Thank you Heathfield for hosting. Well played veryone















QQV

in the yr 9/10/11 girls house foo

92 likes



O O V

102 likes



QOV

castle_pe Well done to all badmintor 100 likes players taking part in matches tonight urtfields. Thank you courtfields castle_pe Congratulations to the and Tiverton for the fixture! under 13 girls indoor cricket team for progressing to the County finals. A very good team effort. Well done!



castle_pe Year 9 boys basketball! Great effort from the team despite

having no subs! Many thanks to

Heathfield for hosting!

success tonight, congratulations to Lancaster for the win, it took the last QOV throw to win it. Epic ending

castle_pe House boccia was a huge

82 likes

OOV

99 likes



QOV nool and 177 Liked by theca

others astle_pe The rugby sea for the term with some compet population PE rugby matches. The season continues after Xmas with the year 11's County Cup Semi Final!! Well

done boys! 4 December 2022

QOV

their participation, commitment and achievements in basketball, whilst at school! The match finished Staff 26 -14 Students! @thecastleschool 5 December 2022

others

for the match

QQV

casue pe

castle_pe Congratula

QOV

195 likes



Liked by thecastleschool and 71

year 7 netball teams. Some great

netball played. Thank you to queens

tions to the

castle_pe A great occasion to top off

5 years of basketball at The Castle

School! Year 11 Vs Staff at lunchtime

Congratulations to all the students for

102 likes castle pe Well done to Bonita. finishing on the podium in a 2h enduro MTB race in Nev 30 January





ourtfields.

23 likes castle_pe Well done to year 10 & 11 pallers tonight. Some really petitive netball played by all competitive netball played by all teams. Well done and thank you for coming!



QQV 66 likes castle pe Congratulations to year 7 netball players for the amazing

castle_pe Well done to all taking part netball played tonight. Thank you to Fox's for hosting and Courtfields as Fox's for hos 22 February





V O V 154 likes

castle_pe 7-0 win in the county cup for the year 9 boys Football team! A fantastic team performance! 7 December 2022



QOV 144 likes

castle_pe U15's boys basketball! A great basketball tournament! Thanks you to Taunton Academy and Heathfield for excellent games!



Liked by theca chool and 127 others

castle_pe Well done to year 8 girls playing some great netball tonight. Thank you to Queens for hosting!



81 likes

castle_pe Congratulations 15 to the year 9 and 10 netball teams. Some fantastic netball played. Thank you to Taunton Academy for the game



QOV 86 likes

castle_pe Congratulations to the boys under 13 indoor cricket team that now progress to the County Final @ SCCC. Played brilliantly well in both games! Well done!



QOV 105 likes

castle_pe Well done to the year 9 boys B team footballers! Great performances from all, thank you to Courtfields for the fixture. 1 March



140 likes

castle_pe Congratulations to all the x-country runners at the Taunton area competition. Some excellent individual performances!



QQV 165 likes

castle_pe An incredible 3-2 win away from home Vs Nailsea school in the county cup for the year 11 boys football team! A dogged defensive performance and clinical counter ttacking play helped the tea s through to the quarter finals



QQV 112 likes

castle_pe Congrats to our Year 7/8 girls yesterday who competed in the House football comp! Well done to M who were the winners 😸 🔍 🕭 🏃



castle ne Great team performance by the year 9 boys football team this afternoon! A hard working display to be proud of! 9 February



QOV

castle_pe Ryan and Charles representing Somerset.

The boys intermediate Somerset team came second in the South west Both Ryan and Charles have been selected to represent Somerset at the English Schools cross country Championships in Nottingham in March! Well done Boys! 23 February

In P. Pale QOV 167 likes

castle_pe Congratulations to the year 11 boys football team who progress through to the semi final of the county cup with a comprehensive 3-0 display!



QQA 167 likes

castle_pe Congratulations to Windsor House for winning the house Rugby competition. A superb competition from all houses and well supported. Population rugby next week to finish!



QOV 102 likes

castle_pe Lovely to see the year 7's playing football tonight, all teams played in the correct spirit throughout. Thank you to Kingsmead and Danesfield for attending!



77 likes castle pe Congratulations to the Year 9 and 10 netball teams v Bishop Fox's. Some fantastic netball played ox's. Some fa 6600





103 likes castle_pe Year 7 boys football away Vs Minehead Middle school in the District cup! February



109 likes castle_pe Congrati tions to the girls under 15 cricket team for progressing through to the County finals!



125 likes

the schools cross country in Bristol



QOV 173 likes

2 March

castle_pe Congratulations to the Year 11 Rugby team who played thei last game today losing to Churchill academy in the semi final of the County Cup. Thank you for 5 amazin years in rugby, you boys have been a class act throughout. Well done!



QQV 130 likes

castle_pe Throughout lunchtime this week year 7 to 10 students have been competing in population footbal matches! All of the matches were played in good competitive sprit. Well done to everyone involved!



QQV 216 likes

castle_pe Congratulations to the year 11 boys football team for a fantastic 5 years of football at The Castle School! Finishing the seasor as semi finalists in both the county end ditect such and district cup!



OOV Liked by the others eschool and 87

castle_pe Thank you to TauntonAcademy for organising a the rounders tournaments this year. A lovely afternoon with year 7's today and great rounders played by all. Too ose to call the result at the m but the teamwork and skills on sho excellent. Well done and



SYME

QOV

City on their pror

92 likes

QOV

93 likes

girl's s

astle pe Con

QOV

castle_pe Was a privilege to take the under 15 Girls indoor cricket team today at Somerset CCC in the County

Finals. The girls played extremely we

coming runners up to Taunton School. Thank you to the Somerset

n for a grea

74 likes

castle_pe Well done to the Under 13's boys indoor cricket team for

QOV

127 likes





DENISTOL CITY QQA

C

tions to the

icket teams. U13

up and U15 Winners at the

165 like castle_pe A fantastic trio of District castle pe Congratulations to former cup five Castle student Emily syme and Bristol Our Year 7 boys were runners up in the district cup after a nail biting 2-2 draw and 4-3 loss on penalties.

Year 8 lifted the district cup with a 2-1 victory in a very tight encounter, capping off a great season!

Our Year 9s finished off a fantastic season with a 1-0 win to lift the trophy in a closely fought contest. Thanks to Bishops Lydeard for osting the finals





OOV 175 likes

castle_pe A very fitting way to finish 5 years of outstanding football at The castle school! The annual staff Vs students match finished 3-2, with a closely fought encounter, and a battling performance from the students until the end! Thank you for all of your participation and t over the last 5 years!



others castle_pe Congratulations to the u15 cricket team for winning the Somerset Cricket Foundation State School County Cup!





127 likes castle_pe Under 15 boys indoor

Castle took on Backwell in the first semi final choosing to bat first. The team showed great composure finishing with 98 off the 8 overs. In nd innings, two early wick the se ented the opposition from finding feet who went on to score 69 all

In the final, castle won the toss and decided to bat. Castle were electric with wickets coming nearly every other ball. Haygrove finished all out for 64. In reply, castle retiring their first 4 batters and winning with only 1 wicket lost and 3.5 overs remaining, and were cro ned county champions! 17 March



133 likes castle_pe Castle year 9 progress to the final of the area cup after an impressive 4-0 win. Game played in great spirit with some well taken goale

QQA

20 April



114 likes castle_pe First rounders match of the year, Well done to all involved and thank you Heat



Liked by thecastleschool and 140 others

castle_pe Thank you to Hannah Czeres for coming in to do a taster session for a potentially cheerleadi club! Well done to everyone who got involved. Fingers crossed for a club in involved. Fingers crossed for September, watch this space. 3 July

THE CASTLE SCHOOL WINS **AWARD FOR YOUNG CARER** SUPPORT

The Castle School in Taunton has been given a bronze award for their work to make sure students don't miss out on an education because they are young carers.

The Young Carers in Schools programme helps primary and secondary schools improve outcomes for young carers and celebrates good practice through the Young Carers in Schools Award.

Headteacher James Lamb said "I am delighted that The Castle School has been awarded the Bronze Carers in School Award, I would like to thank Mrs Annette Horsley for all her hard work in supporting our young carers and achieving the award for the school. It is incredibly important to recognise and support our students who have additional responsibilities and commitments outside of school. We want them to know they are not alone and that there is help and support available."

Young carers are responsible for emotional, practical or physical care for a parent, sibling or other family member who has a physical disability, mental health issue or substance misuse issue.

The 2011 Census statistics revealed that there are just over 166,000 young carers in England, but research reveals that this is just the tip of the iceberg.

.The true figure could be closer to 800,000 young carers in England, equivalent to one in 5 secondary aged school children many of whom are unrecognised and unsupported.

Research carried out by Carers Trust and The Children's Society shows that, on average, young carers miss or cut short 48 school days a year and often have lower levels of self-confidence, mental wellbeing and significantly lower educational attainment at GCSE level, because of their caring role. Ofsted's Common Inspection Framework states that inspectors will look at how well schools support young carers. While some schools are doing this really well, others struggle and this causes real problems for young carers.

"To achieve their Bronze Award. The Castle School has demonstrated that it supports young carers in many ways, including homework clubs and drop-in sessions with a member of staff who is responsible for this vulnerable group of pupils. Vital information about how to identify young carers is made available to all school staff, and noticeboards and the school webpage let students and their families know where to go for help"

Yr 7/8 Boys County Runners Up

Football Year 7 - District Runners Up

9 rounders team for some aweson batting and Fielding. Thank you to Kingsmead for the fixture!

Indoor Cricket

QOV

81 likes

Yr 9/10 Boys County Cup Winners Yr 9/10 Girls County Runners Up

castle_pe Well Done the year 8 and

Year 8 - District Winners Year 9 - District Winner



Yr 8 District Winners Yr 9 District Winners Yr 10 District Winners

Rounders

Year 9 - District winners Year 7 - Joint District Winners

Notable sporting achievements

Nethall Yr 11 District Runners Up Yr 7-10 District Winners

Athletics

Year 7/8 Boys and Girls District Team winners Year 9/10 Boys and Girls District Team winners







nions with a

QOV

cricket

castle_pe Well done to the under 13 girls cricket team for coming 3rd in the County Finals today at SCCC. Thank you again to Somerset

Foundation for another good day o

castle_pe Congratulations to Thomas who achieved an amazing 22nd place out of a field of 358 runners in the English Schools

Championship Finals at Wollaton Pa in Nottingham on Saturday!

castle_pe Well done to our Year 7 sports leaders who delivered a fun filled multi skills festival for reception

children from our local feeder primary

lved in the day. 뵺 🙌

schools. Thanks also to SASP and the Year 6 leadership academy students

Congratulations Tom, an amazing

ation Cross Country

athletics Associ

achievement

QOV

69 likes

20 March

76 likes castle_pe Congratulations to Castle year 7 for winning the Taunton Area Netball Finals. Some fantastic netball played by all teams and some exciting games. Thank you to Kingsmead for organising and running the competition



OOV 121 likes castle_pe Thank you to the year 11

netball team for the 5 years of commitment and participation it has been an absolute pleasure.

Congratulations the annual staff v students netball match. A well fought game until then end. Thank you to Abbie Pepperell and Kerry Nelson for Umpiring it was

nnethallclub

greatly appreciated.



Giles Meyer, Chief Executive of Carers Trust, today congratulated Awardwinning schools, saying: "The Young Carers in Schools programme is helping to transform schools and support staff across England. Schools play a vital role in a young carer's life, as many care for relatives without their teachers even knowing what they do.

Luella Goold, Service Manager at The Children's Society, is delighted that the Young Carers in Schools Programme is bringing about national change. "Hundreds of schools across England are participating in the Young Carers in Schools programme, using the tools and resources to improve their support systems, and ensuring that no child need miss out on educational opportunities because they are a carer. 74% of schools who have achieved a Young Carers in Schools Award have noticed improved attendance among their young carers, and 94% have noticed improvements in their wellbeing and confidence."



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