

# CASTLE HALL ACADEMY MAGAZINE

## DECEMBER 2025





## Characteristics of Exceptional Learners



### Reasoning

I ask questions about my learning and independently work things out for myself.



### Resilience

When things get challenging, I never give up and learn from my mistakes.



### Responsibility

I choose to do the right thing even when nobody is watching.



### Respect

My behaviour is exceptional. I show respect for all in my community.



### Reflection

I take every opportunity to review and develop my learning and behaviour.

**Work hard, be kind and follow staff instructions - everybody, everyday**



### Contact Details

Castle Hall Academy  
Richard Thorpe Avenue  
Mirfield  
West Yorkshire  
WF14 9PH

### Headteacher:

Mr P Brook  
Head of School:  
Miss E Rankin  
T: 01924 520500  
E: [office@castlehall.com](mailto:office@castlehall.com)

It is important that we have up to date information for your child. Please inform the Academy of any changes to your contact details via MCAS or [office@castlehall.com](mailto:office@castlehall.com)

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's Head of Year in the first instance. Full contact details are within this magazine.

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support in everything we do at Castle Hall Academy. Your commitment is greatly valued as we work together to ensure students maintain the highest standards of punctuality, attendance, behaviour, and effort—both in lessons and through home learning.

Upcoming Key Events in 2026:

- Semester 1 Assessments - 8 to 14 January
- A Christmas Carol, Leeds Playhouse Y11 - 7 January
- A Christmas Carol, Leeds Playhouse Y10 – 14 January
- Educational Experience Visits/Day – 29 January
- World Book Day – 5 March
- Pi Day – 13 March
- GCSE Drama Group Theatre trip – 18 March
- Academy Production – High School Musical – 28, 29 & 30 April

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026. We hope everyone has a happy, healthy and safe Christmas break. When we return, we'll continue striving for academic excellence, developing character, and raising aspirations for all.

Kindest regards,



Mr Brook  
Headteacher



Miss Rankin  
Head of School





## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

### Why Attendance Matters: Building Strong Foundations for Success

Every school day counts. Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in a child's academic success and overall well-being. When students attend school consistently, they gain more than just knowledge—they develop habits, friendships, and skills that will serve them for life.

#### 1. Learning Happens Every Day

Lessons are designed to build on each other. Missing even a few days can make it harder for children to keep up, leading to gaps in understanding. Regular attendance ensures your child stays on track and feels confident in their learning.

#### 2. Attendance Builds Resilience and Routine

Being in school teaches responsibility, time management, and resilience—skills that are essential beyond the classroom.

#### 3. Social Connections Matter

School is not just about academics; it's where children form friendships and learn to work with others. Absences can make it harder to maintain these connections, which are vital for emotional and social development.

#### 4. The Long-Term Impact

Research shows that students who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve higher grades and have better opportunities later in life. Good attendance habits now set the stage for future success.

#### How Parents Can Help

- Establish a morning routine to make getting ready stress-free.
- Schedule appointments outside school hours whenever possible.
- Communicate with school staff if your child faces challenges that affect attendance—we're here to help.

**Let's continue to work together to make sure every child gets the best start possible.**

**Any absence must be reported to the Attendance Office by:**

- phoning 01924 520500 and selecting option 2
- phoning 01924 523232
- Emailing [studentabsence@castlehall.com](mailto:studentabsence@castlehall.com)

**Please do this by 8:00am each day.**



## REMEMBRANCE DAY

We are incredibly proud of our Year 7 students who represented the Academy at the Mirfield Remembrance Service. A special commendation goes to Frederic, who delivered a poem with confidence and brilliance, embodying the spirit of the occasion. Back at the Academy, staff and students united in a solemn one-minute silence to honour and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.



# MAGAZINE



**CASTLE HALL**  
ACADEMY

## ANTI-BULLYING ODD SOCKS DAY

By taking part, our students showed their commitment to celebrating diversity and standing united against bullying. Every pair of odd socks reminded us that our differences make us special and that kindness and respect should always be at the heart of our school community.





## COMMUNICATION

It is important that we have up to date information for your child. Please inform the Academy of any changes to your contact details via the MCAS App or by emailing [office@castlehall.com](mailto:office@castlehall.com)

Your main point of contact is your child's Head of Year. The Head of Year team spend the day with their year groups in lessons, at break and lunch, they also supervise after-school detentions and support extra-curricular.

Please allow 24 hours for a response to anything that isn't urgent, this allows the team sufficient time to respond. Below is a reminder of their details:

Staff	Email – allow 24hrs for a response	Mobile – urgent
Miss Clarkson, Head of Year 7	<a href="mailto:rclarkson@castlehall.com">rclarkson@castlehall.com</a>	07708 796626
Mr Pearson, Head of Year 8	<a href="mailto:jpearson@castlehall.com">jpearson@castlehall.com</a>	07895 746870
Mr Johnson, Head of Year 9	<a href="mailto:djohnson@castlehall.com">djohnson@castlehall.com</a>	07708 795466
Mrs Bonham, Head of Year 10	<a href="mailto:lbbonham@castlehall.com">lbbonham@castlehall.com</a>	07708 795385
Miss Ennis, Head of Year 11	<a href="mailto:cennis@castlehall.com">cennis@castlehall.com</a>	07565 399941





## PUBLISHED AUTHORS

We're incredibly proud of the talented students from our Creative Writing Club, who have had their amazing short stories published in the latest Young Writers anthology! 📖 ✨

Well done to Emma, Eliza, Tyler, Tom, and Amelia 👏



## 12 DAYS ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE



Congratulations to all our students who achieved 100% attendance during this period! Your commitment and dedication are truly commendable. A special well done to those who were the lucky winners in our attendance prize draw – keep up the fantastic effort!

## YOUTH SUMMIT 2025



Castle Hall students recently had the incredible opportunity to take part in Youth Summit 2025, an event designed to empower young people with knowledge, confidence, and a deeper understanding of leadership in public life.

The summit opened doors for students to learn more about the role of a Member of Parliament (MP), offering a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to represent a community and influence national decision-making.

Youth Summit 2025 wasn't just about learning—it was about inspiring action. By connecting with experienced professionals and peers, Castle Hall students left with a renewed sense of purpose and the confidence to shape the future.



## CHOIR IN THE COMMUNITY

A huge congratulations to our wonderful Choir! Their beautiful performance at Hopton Cottage Care Home filled the rooms with festive melodies and a true sense of community spirit, bringing joy and warmth to residents this Christmas season.





## CAROL CONCERT

Our Christmas Carol Concert at Saint Mary's Church, Mirfield brought everyone so much joy and happiness. Thank you to everyone who attended.



## Y8 PANTO TRIP

Y8 students had a fantastic morning at The Victoria Theatre, Halifax watching Beauty & The Beast! 🎭

CHA even got a special shout-out from the Fairy — who is a former student and now a performer after training at a School of Performing Arts in London. What an inspiring journey! 🙌



## CHRISTMAS LUNCH

This year's Christmas lunch was a joyful occasion, filled with laughter, festive spirit, and delicious food. A huge thank you to our catering team for their hard work and dedication – you helped make this celebration one to remember!





## CHRISTMAS LUNCH





## REWARDS





## KEY DATES 2025-26

### TRAINING/REVIEW DAYS

(staff only)

Monday 1 September 2025  
Friday 21 November 2025  
Thursday 29 January 2026  
Friday 30 January 2026  
Friday 13 March 2026  
Thursday 2 July 2026  
Friday 3 July 2026

### FIRST DAY BACK DATES

Year 7 Tuesday 02 September 2025  
Year 11 Wednesday 03 September 2025  
Year 10 Thursday 04 September 2025  
Year 8 Friday 05 September 2025  
Year 9 Monday 08 September 2025

### 2025-26 TERM 1

**Tuesday 2 September 2025 to Friday 24 October 2025**

Holiday: Saturday 25 October 2025 to Sunday 2 November 2025

### 2025-26 TERM 2

**Monday 3 November 2025 to Friday 19 December 2025**

Holiday: Saturday 20 December 2025 to Sunday 4 January 2026

### 2025-26 TERM 3

**Monday 5 January 2026 to Friday 13 February 2026**

Holiday: Saturday 14 February 2026 to Sunday 22 February 2026

### 2025-26 TERM 4

**Monday 23 February 2026 to Friday 27 March 2026**

Holiday: Saturday 28 March 2026 to Sunday 12 April 2026

### 2025-26 TERM 5

**Monday 13 April 2026 to Friday 22 May 2026**

Holiday: Saturday 23 May 2026 to Sunday 31 May 2026

### 2025-26 TERM 6

**Monday 1 June 2026 to Friday 17 July 2026**

Holiday: Saturday 18 July 2026 onwards

### BANK HOLIDAYS

Monday 04 May 2026

### INFORMATION/PARENTS' EVENING DATES

Year 7 Thursday 18 September 2025  
Year 11 Thursday 27 November 2025  
Year 7 Thursday 5 February 2026  
Year 10 Thursday 12 February 2026  
Year 9 Thursday 26 February 2026  
Year 8 Thursday 12 March 2026  
Year 11 Thursday 26 March 2026  
Year 10 Thursday 9 July 2026





## Helping local parents, children and young people to thrive.

Our single gateway gives you access to a wide range of services, information, advice and support for you and your family, including:

- One-to-one support
- Guidance around being a parent or carer
- Support with young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health



We support families with children or young people aged 0-19, or up to 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Scan the QR code to contact the Kirklees Families Together Gateway



[www.kirklees.gov.uk/families-together](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/families-together)  
Or telephone: 01484 456823

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