

CASTLE HALL ACADEMY MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2026





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

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support at our recent Parents' Evening. Your involvement plays a vital role in ensuring that students feel supported, motivated, and confident in their learning.

As we move forward through the school year, we continue to reinforce the importance of our daily procedures and routines. These structures help students feel settled, organised, and ready to learn, and we greatly appreciate your partnership in encouraging them to follow these expectations consistently.

We would also like to acknowledge the hard work and commitment students have shown throughout their Semester 1 assessments and year 11 mocks. Their focus and determination have been evident, and we are proud of the positive attitudes they have demonstrated. Thank you for the support you have provided at home in helping them prepare.

Attendance remains a key priority for us. Every day in school matters, and strong attendance has a direct impact on progress, confidence, and wellbeing. Your continued encouragement to ensure students attend regularly and punctually is greatly valued and makes a significant difference.

We are delighted to share some news with you from Bridget Phillipson, Secretary of State for Education, congratulating the school on the excellent outcomes achieved by students at the end of 2024/25. This recognition is a tremendous source of pride for our whole school community. It reflects the hard work, determination and resilience of our students, alongside the dedication and commitment of our whole staff body, and the ongoing support we receive from you as parents and carers. The letter can be found below.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support. Working together, we can ensure that our students continue to thrive and feel confident in the months ahead.

Kindest regards,



Mr P Brook
Headteacher



Miss Rankin
Head of School





A message from Bridget Phillipson



Dear Paul,

Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at Castle Hall Academy achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.

This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Your school's achievements demonstrate what is possible, and I hope you will continue to share your experience and best practice with others. Even the strongest schools can go further. We encourage you to lead the way as a system leader - sharing effective practice, championing networks, supporting collaboration, and helping raise standards across the sector.

There are real opportunities available for you to support improvement for a wider group of pupils including through:

- engaging actively with [your region's RISE networks](#) and partnering with nearby schools and trusts;
- contributing to regional roundtables and professional communities to spread the approaches that are working in your context; and
- sustaining excellence by continuing to focus on disadvantaged pupils

Please pass on my thanks and **congratulations** to your staff and pupils. I look forward to working with you as we strive together to raise standards for all.

Your sincerely,
Bridget Phillipson

Bridget Phillipson
Secretary of State for Education





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

Please do this by 8:00am each day.





COMMUNICATION

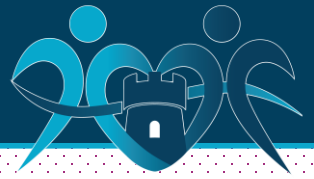
It is important that we have up to date information for your child. Please inform the Academy of any changes to your contact details via the MCAS App or by emailing office@castlehall.com

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	rclarkson@castlehall.com	07708 796626
Mr Pearson, Head of Year 8	jpearson@castlehall.com	07895 746870
Mr Johnson, Head of Year 9	djohnson@castlehall.com	07708 795466
Mrs Bonham, Head of Year 10	lbonham@castlehall.com	07708 795385
Miss Ennis, Head of Year 11	cennis@castlehall.com	07565 399941





CHARITY

We're delighted to share that our amazing students and staff have raised an incredible £674 for Candlelighters!

Thank you to everyone who contributed and supported this fantastic cause – your generosity will make a real difference.

£674

for Candlelighters

Candlelighters 

ENGLISH LITERATURE

In January, our Year 10 and Year 11 students had the exciting opportunity to experience A Christmas Carol live on stage at Leeds Playhouse. These visits formed an important part of their English Literature learning journey and brought Dickens' timeless novella to life in a very memorable way.

For many students, this was their first experience of professional live theatre, the production provided an invaluable opportunity to deepen their understanding of one of their key GCSE set texts. The performance supported their study of the Victorian context, key themes, character development and Dickens' powerful message of compassion, redemption, and social responsibility.





SPORTING STARS

It was another fantastic evening for our Girls U13 football team as they were crowned winners of the North Kirklees Football Tournament. The girls put in an outstanding performance, showing skill, teamwork and determination from start to finish.

A huge well done to Mia, Florence, Shauna, Erin (Player of the Match), Felicity, Mia, Rosie, Grace and Holly, who all played their part in a memorable victory. Their commitment on the pitch and support for one another truly reflected the spirit of the team.

This tournament win is a brilliant achievement and a proud moment for everyone involved. Congratulations to the players and staff on a well-deserved success – we look forward to seeing what this talented group achieves next!





SAFER INTERNET DAY 2026

Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI

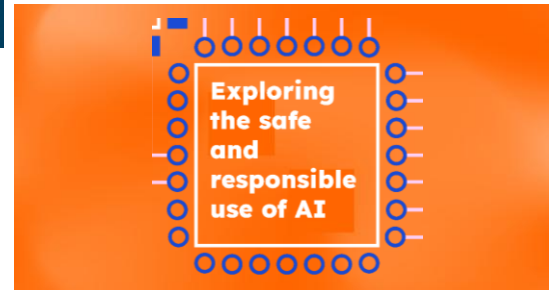
Castle Hall Academy joined others nationwide to celebrate Safer Internet Day 2026, the largest global online safety campaign. This year's theme, 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI,' focuses on teaching children and young people the skills to use AI technology safely and responsibly, and highlights available support.

From voice assistants, to chatbots, to algorithms, AI technology is playing an increasingly large role in all our lives. It is important that we find time to discuss these tools and the impact they can have on our own and our families' online experiences, including:

- the news and content we see,
- the way we work, including using AI for homework or studies,
- and the risk of misuse of AI, for example to create realistic scams or non-consensual nude images.



Scan the QR code and have a go at the **Safer Internet Day** quiz with your child



UK Safer Internet Centre

Top Tips for parents/carers



You may like to use one of these prompts to start a conversation with your child:

- What's your favourite thing to do online?
- Have you ever used an AI tool? How did it make you feel?
- What do you like about AI technology?
- Do you have any worries about AI technology?
- What advice would you give to your friends about using AI?
- Who would you talk to if you saw something worrying online?
- What more can I do to help you feel safe online?





KIRKLEES DOMESTIC ABUSE SPECIALIST SERVICES

STRENGTH SAFETY SUPPORT

A life free from abuse

Are you looking for support?

If you would like to find out more about the services we provide at KDASS, or would like to speak to somebody getting support, contact us using the details below. If you are concerned for yours or somebody else's safety, please contact 999.

Our Partners



Contact Us

- 01484 218 620
- hello@kdass.org
- www.kdass.org

Get in touch



STRENGTH SAFETY SUPPORT

A life free from abuse

Domestic Abuse Drop-in – Greenwood Centre, Ravensthorpe

You're welcome to come and speak with a member of our team at our weekly domestic abuse drop-in.

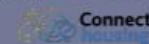
Every Thursday, 1pm–3pm, at the Greenwood Centre, Ravensthorpe.

We offer a safe, confidential space where you can talk, get advice, and access support.

Legal Drop-in – Last Thursday of Every Month

On the last Thursday of each month, representatives from Switalskis will be available at the drop-in. They can provide guidance on:

- Accessing Legal Aid
- Protection Orders
- Family arrangements



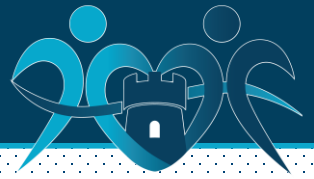
Switalskis

Contact Us

- 01484218620
- hello@kdass.org
- www.kdass.org

Get in touch





INCLUSIVE HOLIDAY CAMPS YOUNG PEOPLE

Open for participants with disabilities/ SEND

THE DATES

Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th February
(individual booking dates available)

TIMES

09:30 - 13:30

AGES

8 - 17 years

COST

FREE







01484 442235
jordan@hgct.co.uk

Location: The Zone, St Andrews Road, HD1 6PT




PROJECT COMMUNITIES CIC FEBRUARY SEND HAF CAMPS

THURSDAY 19TH & FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY
@ HONLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE, HD9 6DY

10 AM
UNTIL
2 PM

FREE WINTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SEND

**MULTI-SPORTS INCLUDING FOOTBALL,
CRICKET, DODGEBALL, ARCHERY AND
MANY MORE!**

Ages
8 - 18

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY:

EMAIL: PROJECTCOMMUNITIES@OUTLOOK.COM



CHILD'S NAME, CHILD'S DOB,
ANY MEDICAL INFORMATION,
AND DIETARY REQUIREMENTS,
SEND DETAILS, POSTCODE, HOUSE NUMBER,
DATES REQUIRED, CONTACT PHONE NUMBER





Where children with SEND thrive!

FOOTBALL & SPORTS CAMP

FUN ACTIVITIES FOR 8 - 17 YEAR OLDS WITH DISABILITIES
AND LEARNING DISABILITIES

"Before joining, I didn't like or do any sports! I am now more confident
and now take part in football, netball and athletics."

WHEN?
TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY
WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY

10AM - 2PM DAILY
FULL WEEK AND DAILY BOOKINGS AVAILABLE

WHERE?
HAT-TRICKS, MILFORD STREET, HUDDERSFIELD (HD1 3DY)

FREE | ALL SPORTING ABILITIES WELCOME | LUNCH INCLUDED

YOU CAN BOOK YOUR PLACE BY:

EMAILING: help@htaFOUNDATION.com
CALLING: 01484 503773
ONLINE: www.officialsoccerschools.co.uk/huddersfield

All of our staff are FA/UEFA Qualified, have completed qualification in delivering disability sport and hold up to date Safeguarding and First Aid Certification





LITERACY MILESTONE

A huge congratulations to our fantastic students for achieving an outstanding reading milestone — an impressive 500,000 words or 20 books read!



SUDUKO STARS

A big well done to all the students who took part in our recent Sudoku Challenge.

It was fantastic to see so many students getting involved and rising to the challenge with confidence and perseverance. Sudoku is a brilliant way to develop mathematical thinking, and everyone who participated should be very proud of their effort.

The winners from each year group were:

- Year 7 – Emma
- Year 8 – Erin
- Year 9 – Jibrán
- Year 10 - Ethan



UNIFORM EXCHANGE

**UNIFORM
EXCHANGE**

What we supply to families



Blazers



Cardigans



Coats & Jackets



Dresses



Jumpers



Polo Shirts



Pumps



Shirts



Shoes



Skirts



Socks



Sports kits



Tights



Trainers



Trousers

Get free school uniform for your child

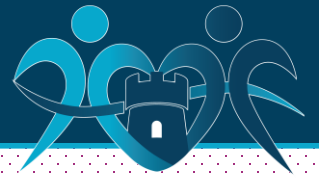
People need free school uniform for 2 reasons ... they either can't afford it or they want to wear reused uniform to help save the environment.

That's why Uniform Exchange provide uniform and it's so easy to get it.

Poverty affects 1 in 3 households in Kirklees and we estimate at least 7,000 schoolchildren will benefit from the service in 2023 so if you need help you're certainly not alone.

Simply fill in the online form and your free uniform will be delivered to your school or nearest library within days.

REQUEST UNIFORM <https://www.uniform-exchange.org/free-school-uniform/>



SEMESTER 1 REWARD TRIP





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





KEY DATES 2026-27

TRAINING/REVIEW DAYS

(staff only)

Tuesday 1 September 2026

TBC

TBC

TBC

TBC

FIRST DAY BACK DATES

Year 7 Wednesday 2 September 2026

Year 11 Wednesday 2 September 2026

Year 10 Thursday 3 September 2026

Year 8 Friday 4 September 2026

Year 9 Monday 7 September 2026

2026-27 TERM 1

Wednesday 2 September 2026 to Friday 23 October 2026

Holiday: Saturday 24 October 2026 to Sunday 1 November 2026

2026-27 TERM 2

Monday 2 November 2026 to Friday 18 December 2026

Holiday: Saturday 19 December 2026 to Sunday 3 January 2027

2026-27 TERM 3

Monday 4 January 2027 to Friday 12 February 2027

Holiday: Saturday 13 February 2027 to Sunday 21 February 2027

2026-27 TERM 4

Monday 22 February 2027 to Thursday 25 March 2027

Holiday: Friday 26 March 2027 to Sunday 11 April 2027

2026-27 TERM 5

Monday 12 April 2027 to Friday 28 May 2027

Holiday: Saturday 29 May 2027 to Sunday 6 June 2027

2026-27 TERM 6

Monday 7 June 2027 to Friday 16 July 2027

Holiday: Saturday 17 July 2027 onwards

BANK HOLIDAYS

Monday 3 May 2027

INFORMATION/PARENTS' EVENING DATES

Year 7 TBC

Year 11 TBC

Year 7 TBC

Year 10 TBC

Year 9 TBC

Year 8 TBC

Year 11 TBC

Year 10 TBC

Inset and Parents' Evening Dates will be shared at a later date.

