



**THE CASTLE ROCK  
SCHOOL**

Lionheart Educational Trust

The Castle Rock School  
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Executive Principal Julia Patrick  
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Dear Parent/Carer,

I write to share a number of positive news items with you and to tell you how delighted both I and all of the Castle Rock staff are to welcome back your sons and daughters. Pupils have made an excellent start to the new academic year, arriving smartly dressed and ready to learn. I have personally met with all pupils and outlined our drive to push on with our improvements. I have explained what both they and we as staff need to do to make The Castle Rock School the 'good' school our community deserves.

We will continue with our high expectations of behaviour and our teachers are continuing to refine their teaching techniques. From this year you will receive information at least three times per year to tell you how your son/daughter is performing. You will have information on their attendance, punctuality, reward points, behaviour points, effort score and the grades/levels he/she is reaching in each subject. This information will be available via the new Beehive App on a daily basis.

### **GCSE and A-Level Results (2022)**

Firstly, I am delighted to inform you that we have celebrated some great individual results over the last three weeks with students achieving target grades and securing their preferred next steps. We are delighted to welcome back many of our Year 11 students and some new students from other institutions as they begin their A-Level journey with us. This is a good news story and it should give all students the encouragement to know that with great attendance, enthusiasm, and hard work, they can achieve the highest grades and access the broadest opportunities in the future.

### **Facilities**

During the summer term you and pupils shared with us how concerned you were about the state of the toilet facilities in parts of the school. I agree, these were not up to scratch and over the summer with the support of Lionheart Educational Trust we have been able to invest and upgrade these, substantial sums have been made to ensure these are clean and of an acceptable standard.

We have carefully reviewed and improved the stock of books in both of our libraries and sourced librarians so now both libraries will be open to all pupils every day.

Could we please make you aware that unfortunately the pre-order and pre-payment app for food ordering will no longer be available this academic year.

We are incredibly excited to announce that The Castle Rock School has moved onto the next project phase of the School Rebuilding Programme. The School Rebuilding Programme carries out major rebuilding and refurbishment projects at school and sixth form college buildings across England, with buildings prioritised according to their condition.

The next phase of the project is procurement of a contractor prior to continuing the detailed design of the scheme. At this stage, the estimated start on site is the summer of 2023. This will see some older facilities replaced with brand new building purpose built for our school and community. We cannot wait to get going on this project and will consult students to hear their voice as we progress.

## **Ofsted Update**

You will be aware that Ofsted inspectors visited our school in the summer term to inspect the progress we had made since the October inspection. I am very pleased to share with you their recent report which will be published in the next few days. We are particularly pleased to see they noted *“Lessons are much calmer. Most pupils’ learning is not routinely disrupted by the poor behaviour of others”*. I congratulate our young people for their efforts and desire to drive the school forward and look forward to us all continuing to improve.

Please see the full report attached as a PDF.

## **Uniform**

We believe that our uniform plays a huge part in contributing to the positive and collective culture of our school: It signals our high standards and the expectation to work hard; it protects our students from feeling the social pressures of having to dress in a particular way; it prepares our students for the world of work where dress code is typical and expected; and is used to identify us in our local community and allows students to reflect the respectful and positive ethos of our school. We are making two changes to the manner in which we will respond to uniform that is not stated in our policy:

- Non-school uniform jumpers will be confiscated for the day, these items can be collected by students at the end of the school day
- Students will be asked to loan items of uniform if they arrive with missing items or items that are not in line with our policy

It is worth reminding students, a blazer must be worn at all times, jumpers are an additional option not a replacement.

Thank you to all those students who show commitment to the policy at all times.

## **Internal Exclusion**

We are making a subtle change to the opening time of Internal Exclusion. Should you be informed your child will be in Internally Excluded for the day, 10.00am will be the start of the school day. Students should arrive on-site no earlier than 9.50am and will finish at 4.30pm. It is important our Pastoral staff are freely available to all pupils at the beginning of the day, this change allows us to support a wider cohort of students.

## **The Future**

On the September 1<sup>st</sup> our official transfer to Lionheart Educational Trust took place, we are now excited to be working amongst a much bigger educational community, we believe this sharing of best practice will be very advantageous for your children.

Our priorities for this term include developing teaching and learning, developing our use of data and sharing of performance data, and developing student leadership opportunities and student voice.

With warmest wishes



Alex Grainge  
**Associate Headteacher**