

Sixth Form Newsletter

October 2023



**THE CASTLE ROCK
SCHOOL**
Lionheart Educational Trust

Gatherings	Topic
WB 2 nd October 2023	Black History Month – Mrs Parker
WB 9 th October 2023	Celebration gathering – Mrs Parker
WB 23 rd October 2023	World Mental Health Day – Mr Thompson
WB 30 th October 2023	Conversations with Businesses and how to approach for work experience – Ms Dhameja

Personal Development	Topic
WB 2 nd October 2023	Year 12 – Gender Equality Year 13 – Future Career Decisions
WB 9 th October 2023	Year 12 – Effective Communication (BSL) Year 13 – CV's and Cover Letters
WB 23 rd October 2023	Year 12 – Cultural differences Year 13 – Green Careers
WB 30 th October 2023	Year 12 – LGBTQIA+ Year 13 – Interview Skills

Focus and preparation

Throughout the month, we have invested heavily in ensuring that our Sixth Form students are best prepared for lessons, study time and the quality of the work they are undertaking outside of the school day. With this in mind, we continue to offer an extended hours service of 8am-4.30pm each day in the Sixth Form Centre for students to utilise the learning environment beyond their lessons. Focus and preparation are key to the success of our students and our designated areas in the new Sixth Form Centre allow them to focus and practice the skills of knowledge retrieval, consolidation and application to examination conditions.

In addition to this, we have now opened a 'Past Paper Library' in the Sixth Form Centre for students to access past papers from the last five years for each of our curriculum areas. In order to prepare our students to utilise the additional resources that support excellent outcomes, next month our students will be learning how to use academic sources in their study time and how to reference appropriately across a range of subjects. Heads of Faculties are also working on supporting documents that break down the type of activities that students can be undertaken at different times of their working day – in silent study, in study periods, at home and wider reading to support getting the best grades possible.

We have also been providing your child with 'examination bitesize' sessions where students are able to discover the science behind learning and apply these strategies to their own revision. We have also been sending these out to parents so we do encourage you to listen to them if you haven't already so you can discuss these with your child. Topics have included: Metacognition and how our memory works, spaced retrieval, preparing for trial exams and consolidation of information.

Of course, this only works if students are actively engaging with the considerable support that is being provided alongside using their study time appropriately. Please do continue to encourage your child to access these fantastic resources and we hope that they provide support and guidance to you.

Sixth Form weekly rundown

Each Friday, students are emailed with a weekly rundown of messages and notices for the week ahead. Through this, our students are also sent opportunities and careers links for further research and reading. Our full time Careers Advisor is available to book through our Sixth Form Tutors and some students have begun to make use of this system. Some of the opportunities we have sent this month are:

- Realising Opportunities <https://www.realisingopportunities.ac.uk/> – a widening participation scheme that can lower entry requirements for many Russell Group Universities for students from areas of low Higher Education progression.
- Pathways programmes with universities <https://www.suttontrust.com/> - pathway programmes with leading universities for students to explore areas at Higher Education in greater detail.
- Folder drop off – new storage facility to place heavy folders at the start of each day so students are not needing to carry these around the campus.
- Content lists now available for all subjects ahead of the trial examinations

Learning opportunity

IntoUniversity is a service that provides local learning centres where young people are inspired to achieve. They offer a safe space for students to learn, explore and succeed in a welcoming and supportive home-from-home environment. As a partnership school, we have access to their facilities and their academic support. They run sessions for free with friendly, trained staff on Monday's and Thursday's 4-5.30pm at Barley Croft Community Centre LE4 0UT. This programme is run in collaboration with the University of Leicester and DeMontfort University and if students are able to attend, we would highly suggest they participate. Please see the attached poster for further information regarding their services and support.

Amazing Apprenticeship – Parent Podcast

Amazing Apprenticeships run parent podcasts to provide advice and guidance for parents with children wishing to pursue apprenticeships. They can be listened to online or via your podcast service such as Apple Podcasts. Please find the link below to access this guidance:

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/the-parent-perspective-podcast/>

Supporting your child as they apply to university

What I wish I knew about university or WIWIKAU is a Facebook support group for parents going through the university process. It is run by parents who work alongside the University of Leicester Pathways team to provide support and guidance at all stages of the university application process. They cover numerous topics such as life skills, how to support in the application process, what to expect from accommodation bookings and key dates for applying to student finance. Please do check it out if you have Facebook and are supporting your child to apply to university.

Key events coming up:

Higher and Degree Apprenticeship Event – Wednesday 15th November (letter to follow)

Remembrance Art installation – running throughout November and located in our Bletchley atrium

Year 13 Trial examinations – Beginning 17th November and running until 30th November 2023