

**Y9 ROA Results Day**



**Valentines Day Celebrations**



**Y8 Change Maker Day**

## A message from Mr Tucker

Another challenging half-term has passed. As we emerge from the pandemic, I believe we are getting a glimpse of what the future holds for COVID. The Prime Minister is now considering removing isolation periods, which will undoubtedly create anxiety, but it also acknowledges that we will have to learn to live with this for some time.

The number of pupils testing positive has been growing since the Autumn term, making the last few weeks challenging for parents. Thankfully, this number has begun to decline, and it appears that this wave has passed. Our website provides clear instructions on how to access homework materials, and we urge that students who are positive but not symptomatic perform this work while they are off.

Last summer, I reported that the local authority had issued over £6000 in fines for poor attendance. I stated that I hoped to lower this number by working with families to boost attendance. Regrettably, we now know of nearly £2,000 in fines that have already been imposed. I would encourage parents to make every effort to ensure that their children attend school every day and that any absences are recorded via the Academy's online absence form. The absence will be marked as unapproved if no cause is given. Our attendance staff are also working hard to ensure that there is help available when students are sick on a regular basis. A referral to the Local Authority's School Nursing Team, which can provide assistance and advice, is one way to achieve this. We want to increase the number of referrals to this service during the next half-term as we identify persistent patterns of non-attendance. If you need a reference, please contact Wayne Fewings, our Attendance Officer, who can assist you.

This week, we're honouring students who have maintained a perfect attendance record for the whole term. Students who completed this for the first half of an academic year received a Bronze 100% badge, followed by Silver for the second half. Some pupils have now completed three half-terms with perfect attendance, and they will all be awarded the Gold badge.

Our homework processes were also relaunched this term. Homework is an essential aspect of a child's growth since it allows

them to consolidate the skills and knowledge they've learned in class. We know that many parents are enthusiastic about this and make sure that their children complete their homework on time. However, some students frequently receive detention for not completing homework, causing them to lag behind. The following bullet points are extremely useful for parents who receive texts for homework detentions on a regular basis:

- Discuss homework with your child, post the timetable somewhere accessible, and inquire about their assignments.
- Each evening, have a consistent and set time for the family to complete homework. At this time, turn off all screens to create a relaxing atmosphere.

When they have detention, some children ask their parents to call and make an excuse for them. While this is tempting, it teaches the child that they are not responsible for their behaviors. By working together, we can ensure that students establish strong work habits that will benefit them in the future by working together.

If you have any questions or issues concerning homework, please contact your class teacher or Assistant Principal Matt Gill, who oversees this at the Academy.

The half-term break is a wonderful time to update your child's uniform and equipment needs. The Academy's uniform policy is available on our website, but I'd like to draw your attention to a few points:

- Trainers are never authorised unless they have a medical exemption that is backed up by documentation. Dispensation may be granted in extraordinary situations for a short length of time (3 days) to allow for the purchase of a new pair of shoes.
- Only one pair of gold or silver stud earrings is allowed.
- Tongue studs and hair colours which aren't natural aren't allowed.
- All rings, bracelets, and necklaces should be taken off or left at home.
- Socks should be either black or grey in colour. Our uniform does not include white socks.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I wish you a relaxing half-term break.

## Careers

Over the previous half-term, students at the Academy have participated in a range of career-related events.

Working with the "Up for Uni" team, Year 7 students have had a number of trips to Portsmouth University. The goal is to start getting students thinking about the possibilities that higher education might provide for young people.

All Year 8 students have begun to use the Career Pilot website, which is a great resource for providing students with a variety of activities to get them thinking about future career options. Year 8 students completed a Skills profile, which then provided them with a list of professions that matched their skills.

A group of Year 8 students attended a workshop hosted by Price Waterhouse Coopers LLP, a financial services firm. This programme presented students to the vast number of occupations available at a company like PWC, as well as getting them to think about how they overcame problems in school and how it relates to the potential problem solving that would occur in a financial setting.

Students in Year 9 have also begun to use Career Pilot as a warm-up for the choices process. Students looked at the courses they liked and were thinking of taking as a GCSE option, and Career Pilot pointed them to various careers and salaries associated with these subjects.

On the 10th of February, a number of colleges and apprenticeship providers attended the Year 9 parents evening. We believe it is vital that students investigate prospective college courses even before they begin their GCSE courses in order to ensure that they are fully motivated to realise their maximum potential and are completely aware of the choices open to them.

Year 10 assemblies have been attended by local institutions as students begin to think about their next steps following Castle View. We're also in talks with colleges about students attending face-to-face taster days over the summer term, which will be a welcome return after the disruption of the previous two years.

Year 10 and 11 students were treated to a fantastic presentation by local apprenticeship provider PETA, which explained the various sorts of apprenticeships available at PETA, how to apply for them, and where these apprenticeships can lead. Apprenticeships are the fastest-growing post-secondary entry route into the workforce, and we consider ourselves fortunate to have such a solid partnership with such a great Apprenticeship provider.

Year 11 students have now had their individualised career meetings with Mandy Haddigan, our external career counsellor. Please



contact me at [dan.waldren@castleviewacademy.org.uk](mailto:dan.waldren@castleviewacademy.org.uk) if students or parents have any concerns about college applications or have any other career-related questions.

## Year 11

As we get closer to half-term, I'd like to remind all year 11 students about the importance of the final set of Mock Examinations, which will take place the second week back following half-term, beginning March 7th. This is the last chance for students to show their teachers their present progress and, more significantly, to identify the areas in which they need to focus in order to attain their target marks in the final exams, which begin in May. Since September, students have worked tremendously hard, and it is critical that they maintain this work ethic until they finish their final GCSE paper this summer. Now is not the time to slow down or give up!

I spoke to students in assembly about the benefits of developing a 'routine' for revising and working outside of school hours, which, once established, will make it simpler for them to develop the habit of performing the 'extra' work required to succeed in both these mocks and the final exams. Please discuss students' current revision plans with them and encourage them to revise as much as possible between now and the mock exams. Students will have plenty of time to relax during their longer summer break before starting college in September!

## A message from Mr Down

It's hard to believe we're nearing the end of this half-term and will be halfway through the 2021-22 academic year. With the various changes, we've experienced over the previous half-term, our staff and students have shown incredible resilience. Have a wonderful half-term break and keep up the good work!

## Y9 Celebration & Options



Congratulations to all our Year 9 students on their fantastic ROA results! The Year 9 Options process is now underway. For all the information please check our website: Options 2021 ([castleviewacademy.org.uk](http://castleviewacademy.org.uk)).

## Y8 Change Maker Day



"What drives you?" "What matters to you?" "What needs to change in 'your world'?" These are the types of questions that our friends at Unloc posed to all of Year 8 on Wednesday, February 2nd (a local organisation which helps to develop student leadership). The entire Year group spent the day developing their leadership abilities, learning more about democracy, and establishing long-term development objectives.

The students were explained what it meant to be a "changemaker" and how they might help at the first session. While brainstorming ideas, the students had a blast flinging inflatable globes about the theatre. After a short break (and for the remainder of the day), the students worked in groups of six to pick a development goal (such as reducing disparities, improving education, or addressing climate change), research it, and make a presentation. During period 4, all of the groups presented their ideas; our students' ability and confidence were impressive.

A reminder that there is the opportunity to be involved in an Unloc residential event taking place throughout April (every weekend), see link for details: [unloc.online/opportunities](http://unloc.online/opportunities).

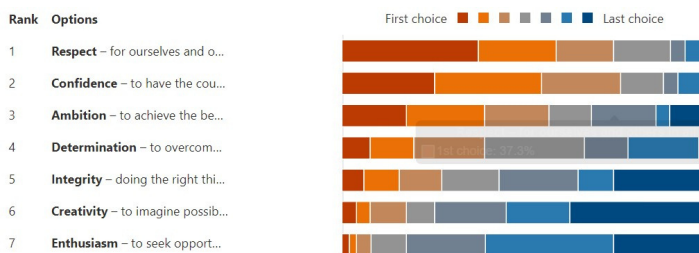
## CVA Values

Thank you to all of the parents who participated in the CVA Values poll in November and December. We were able to relaunch our three basic values thanks to your comments (see graph of parental preferences). We agreed that 'Respect' should be included to the CVA Values ('Ambition, Determination, and Respect') based on student and staff feedback.

These qualities are characteristics that we encourage all of our students to take. CVA students are expected to have high aspirations ('Ambition') in whatever they do, to be resilient ('Determination') in overcoming hurdles to their goals, and to have integrity ('Respect').

In January, these ideals were reintroduced, along with the inclusion of Personal Development sessions to tutor time. Our students now have short courses every Thursday morning aimed at increasing their overall growth and extending their perspectives. 'Why is Respect Required at CVA?', 'The British Monarchy' (in honour of the Queen's recent jubilee), 'Persecution' (in honour of Holocaust Memorial Day), and 'Leadership' are just a few of the topics covered so far. Future workshops will focus on topics such as online safety, relationships, health and wellness, financial awareness, and democracy. Citizenship classes, Ethics, weekly assemblies, career discussions, and aspects from every topic combine to deliver great Personal, Social, Health, and Economic education (PHSEE).

Again, thank you for your involvement and support. Please continue to help us to encourage the development of our core values at all times.



## Dates for the Diary

### Half Term

Monday, 21st February to Friday, 25th February.  
The school is closed to all students.

### Week B

Monday, 28th February

## Greenhouse Player of the Term

Dorian has demonstrated a strong commitment to Castle View's new Greenhouse Sports program. Dorian's dedication during one-on-one sessions wowed me, and he was a true leader and role model during after-school sessions, assisting the younger participants in improving.



Dorian, you've done a fantastic job! Keep up the good work!  
Coach Ash

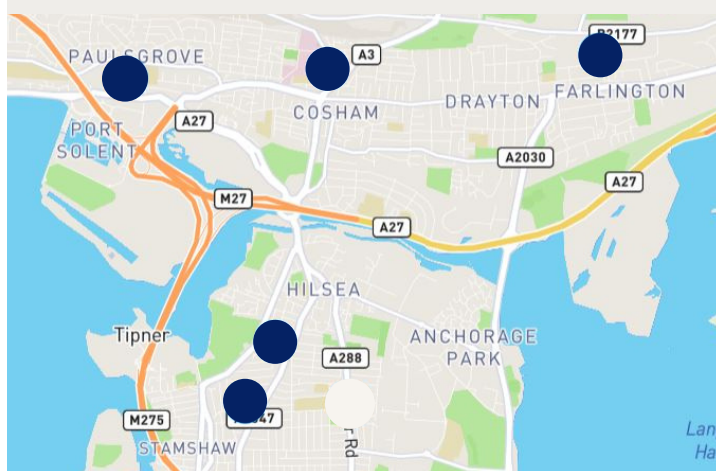
## Breakfast on the Bounce

CVA calls out for votes to get a share of Tesco's Community Grants fund for our "Breakfast on the Bounce initiative". Tesco works with community charity Groundwork to run its community funding scheme, which sees grants of up to £1,500, £1,000 and £500 awarded to local community projects.

"Breakfast on the Bounce" is the delivery of breakfast boxes to support those students and families who are struggling to feed themselves.

Voting is open in Tesco stores listed below in January, February and March and customers will cast their vote using a token given to them at the check-out each time they shop.

### Vote now in participating Tesco Stores



Participating Tesco Stores: Cosham Metro, Copnor Express, Portsmouth North Harbour Extra, London Road Portsmouth Express, North End Portsmouth Express.

## Breakfast Club

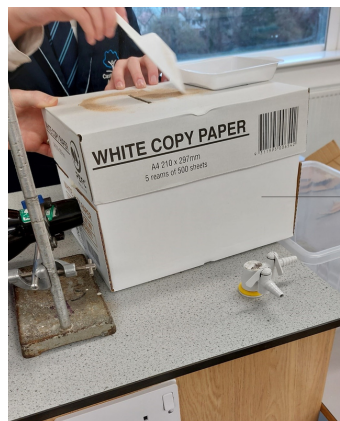
Breakfast Club has returned! Breakfast Club is open to all students in Te2 every morning from 7:30 to 8:25 a.m. If students wish to attend, they must arrive before 8:00 a.m. and enter through the gate near the bike shed.



## Science Club

Students have been challenged to see if they could survive an asteroid impact during the first half of Science Club! They started by looking at the effects of acid rain on various materials to see what would happen to structures and clothing. Students then pondered how plants might react if the sun were obscured by massive volumes of dust in the atmosphere.

Students are presently experimenting with various materials for use as gas mask filters in order to prevent humans from breathing toxic air.



They built experimentation chambers (as seen in the photo) to test their filters by blowing sand through them using a hairdryer. The students' goal is to find the optimum material for allowing air to pass through without sand.

Science club is every Monday after school, in Sc6. New members are always welcome.

