



October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week we met with our Year 11 students in assembly to explain to them, that following the October ½ term, we will be introducing 'period 6' on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 3.05 until 4.05pm.

The purpose of period 6 is to provide additional teaching and learning time. The sessions will be led by subject experts who will be targeting gaps in knowledge and skills. The teaching staff are currently planning the focus of each session which we will share with you next week. Where possible teachers have been encouraged to 'set' students so they can tailor the sessions closely to the needs of the students to provide an appropriate level of challenge and support.

The lessons will work on a two-week rotation. Please see below:

Rotation	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
1 Week commencing 24th Oct, 7th Nov, 21st Nov, 5th Dec	Maths	English	PE (GCSE/ CNAT), Textiles, Art, Hair, RE
2 Week commencing 31st Oct, 14th Nov, 28th Nov, 12th Dec	Science	History/ Geography	Health and Social Care, Food, Computer Science, DT

Students will be issued with a period 6 timetable during registration on the morning of the 25th October detailing the sessions that students should attend. Where there are subject clashes students will be directed to the subject in the group where they are making least progress.

We recognise the importance of sports fixtures to our students and involvement in the pantomime and feel strongly that students continue with these on Thursdays. In January, once the pantomime has finished Performing Arts and Music will join the rotation. Students that opted to study GCSE French after school, should continue to go to these lessons. Period 6 will take priority over all other extra -curricular clubs, including training for sports fixtures.

We have expressed to our students that they need to view period 6 as a 'normal' part of their school day and in our quest to support every student to make better progress we have made attendance compulsory. Whilst we understand that not all students will be able to attend every session due to other commitments/prior arrangements, we would encourage wherever possible that students consider if any alternative arrangements can be made. To support our curriculum in school, students will continue to be set homework and we also recommend that students begin to carryout independent revision at home in preparation for their trial exams which are scheduled to take place week commencing Monday 21st November. Class teachers are currently helping students to identify where they should focus their efforts for independent revision and recommending suitable strategies.

Students will not be punished for non-attendance. We do not want students to view this in any way as a punishment but rather an opportunity for additional free tuition that is there to help them to be successful. We are choosing rather to incentivise attendance. For every session that students attend they will be issued reward points which are celebrated at the end of every half term. In addition, students that attend all three sessions each week will get three

raffle tickets and students who attend two sessions each week will get 1 raffle ticket. Prior to the exams commencing we will carry out a prize draw and issue fifteen golden 'free' tickets to the prom. Students that attend 98% of the afterschool sessions will go into a separate prize draw to win Limousine transport for them and friends to the prom.

Standards of behaviour are a priority of ours and so any student who has been issued a detention (C2/ C3) or in is isolation will not be invited to attend. If a student chooses to behave in a manner that does meet our expectations, then parents will be called and students will be asked to leave the site so as not to disrupt the learning of others.

We are keen to remove any barriers that students might face in accessing period 6 and so should you have any issues that you think we might be able to help with, please contact danielle.clayfield@castlerock.org.uk. We will do our best to help.

The last few years have been a difficult time for our Year 11 students at a crucial stage in their education. We are committed to supporting our students in achieving their full potential in their GCSE's and therefore anticipate your support with ensuring your child has excellent attendance in period 6.

Should you have any questions, please contact danielle.clayfield@castlerock.org.uk.

Kind regards

The Castle Rock School Leadership Team