

THE SUNDAY TIMES

**SCHOOLS
GUIDE
2021**

**EAST MIDLANDS
STATE
SECONDARY
SCHOOL
OF THE DECADE**

“

Caistor Grammar School is a vibrant learning community where we work hard to enable our students to make the most of their ability, to be happy and to be fulfilled. We help our students gain an enviable academic education, to learn practical skills and to develop their power to reason. Learning, for us, goes beyond the classroom. We promote learning to foster an understanding of the other aspects of life: social, moral, cultural, spiritual, aesthetic and physical.



ALISTAIR HOPKINS

Headmaster



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A school that offers an all round education, not just good grades... Children are taught an excellent work ethic, independent thinking and are well set up for later life, nurtured and encouraged within a very tight, close-knit community.

— THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE



Our Aim

We provide a challenging, rigorous, engaging and broad curriculum for able and ambitious students within the framework of a caring community. Students are guided to be independent thinkers, emotionally resilient, empathetic, well behaved and socially responsible. Our students are prepared to make a constructive contribution to society as a result of the experiences they encounter, and the example set by others.

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Caistor Grammar School is the Sunday Times

Parent Power East Midlands Secondary State

School of the Decade.

'EVER TO EXCEL'

Caistor Grammar School

We seek to use lively minds, to work hard, to develop all our talents and to grow through sharing, to be the best version of ourselves.

Caistor Grammar School is a selective academy and one of the leading schools in the East Midlands. We are proud of our academic record at GCSE and A level, but equally proud of our community spirit and outstanding pastoral care. Our students leave us to lead fulfilling, successful and happy lives. The vast majority of our students join us Year in 7, while a small number join us for their A level studies in Year 12.

We work a 45-period week over five days, starting at 8.50am and finishing at 3.45pm. There are 9 periods in a day, 5 periods before lunch and 4 periods after. We have breaks at mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Lunch break is from 12.00pm until 1.05pm, enabling students to pursue a range of extra-curricular activities.



Curriculum Key Stage 3

Students in the first three years follow a programme which includes the core and foundation subjects prescribed for Years 7-9 of the National Curriculum.

These include:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| – English | – Design & Technology | – Music |
| – Maths | – French | – Philosophy, Religion & Ethics |
| – Science (<i>Biology, Chemistry & Physics</i>) | – Geography | – Physical Education |
| – Art | – History | – PSHE (<i>incorporating careers & citizenship</i>) |
| – Computing | – Latin | – RSE |
| | – Modern Languages (<i>French & German</i>) | |

In Year 7 students will study German or French. In Year 8 there will be the opportunity to start one out of Latin or German as a second language. Students do not formally start their GCSEs until Year 10.

Personal, Social, Health, Economic and Education (PSHE) is delivered in a number of ways: through a programme of tutor lessons, assemblies and through a series of special days and occasions. Please see [Page 11](#) for further information on PSHE.



Curriculum Key Stage 4

Pupils take 10 GCSEs at KS4. The vast majority achieve a minimum of a good pass (grade '5' or better) in 10 subjects. Most students progress onto A level, with the majority joining our Sixth Form. Our KS4 curriculum is constructed around the EBacc.

All students study:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- A Language (*French, German or Latin*)
- Triple Science (*Biology, Chemistry and Physics*)
- A humanities subject (*History or Geography*)

Plus two optional subjects chosen from:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| – Art | – History |
| – Computer Science | – Latin |
| – Design & Technology | – Music |
| – French | – PE |
| – Geography | – Religious Education |
| – German | |

Some students have the opportunity to take Level 2 Further Mathematics.

All students take courses in Religious Education, Personal and Social Education (which includes Careers and Citizenship), RSE and Physical Education.



Sixth Form

The School offers breadth of choice at A level (Years 12-13). Most of our students will study three A levels. Some students may choose to study four A levels. We expect and encourage students to choose subjects for the right reasons; especially enjoyment, career choice and ability in that subject.

In addition, all Sixth Form students will have the opportunity to be involved in a programme aimed at enriching their academic studies. This programme will include sport, Performing Arts Leadership Award, Sport Leadership award, private study, work experience placements, volunteering, the Extended Project Qualification and the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme at Gold level.

A level subjects that we offer are:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| — Art & Design | — French | — Mathematics |
| — Biology | — Further Mathematics | — Music |
| — Chemistry | — Geography | — Philosophy & Ethics |
| — Classical Civilisation | — German | — Physical Education |
| — Computer Science | — Government & Politics | — Physics |
| — Design & Technology | — History | — Psychology |
| — English Literature | | |



“

CGS 6th Form is not just a 6th Form but also a tight knit community, that is closely related to the rest of the School. The opportunities available are so varied and beneficial for growing as a person.

— A LEVEL STUDENT



“

It's a great school. Everyone made me feel welcome. The teachers really care. — YEAR 7 STUDENT

“

The lessons are brilliant and the clubs, teams and trips mean that there's a lot more than just excellent teaching. I have really developed my confidence and discovered new things about myself. — YEAR 9 STUDENT

“

There's a sense of community here which I never thought possible in a school. The size of CGS means that year groups mix really well and your teachers get to know you as a person. — YEAR 10 STUDENT



PSHE incorporating Careers, Citizenship and RSE

We aim to deliver a Personal Social Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum which is relevant to the needs of our students, with a focus on developing the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to keep themselves healthy and safe to manage their life now and in the future.

We aim to do this through timetabled PSHE lessons, assemblies, off timetable days and visiting speakers, broadly under the headings of Health & Well being, Relationships and Living in the Wider World

Our **Careers education and guidance** aims to prepare students for life and work in modern Britain. Our Careers Coordinator maps and reviews this to ensure we are doing our best for the students in our care. In addition, we employ an independent Careers Adviser who has one to one interviews with students in Year 11 and above. We hold a Careers Fair every other year and have strong links with several local and national industries as well as universities.

Our **Citizenship** work encourages students to discuss topical issues, in an informed manner, allowing them to develop their own voice to become critical, independent thinkers. We promote British values – the key concepts of democracy, justice, rights & responsibilities, identities and diversity.

We aim to develop strong, supportive relationships between students and staff across the school, which supports our delivery of **Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)**. Our RSE focuses on equipping students with the information that they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, from developing respectful relationships and friendships to family relationships and online safety.





**We seek to use
lively minds,
to work hard,
to develop all
our talents and
to grow through
sharing, to be
the best version
of ourselves.**



Music

Music plays an important part in our school and our students' cultural development. As well as timetabled music lessons students can learn a musical instrument, take a role in a music ensemble or perform in our annual school production.



Supporting our expert permanent staff, we have a talented and dedicated team of specialist teachers and instrumentalists who deliver individual lessons in the department's suite of rehearsal rooms. Students are able to take part in the following school ensemble:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| — Whole School Choir | — CGS Orchestra | — Intermediate Strings |
| — Lower school Choir | — Chamber Choir | — Senior Strings |

There are two main concerts each year, at Christmas and at the end of the school year. The School Choir and Orchestra also perform in these concerts. The school production in October is a highlight of the year. Recent productions have included *West Side Story*, *Beauty and The Beast*, *Sweeney Todd* and *The Addams Family*.



Physical Education and Sport

Physical Education at CGS is a compulsory activity and involves students in a variety of activities – games, gymnastics, dance, fitness and athletics – twice a week. Across the activity range students can improve their skills, understanding and confidence in physically-demanding activities.

Students also have the opportunity to extend their skills as part of our extra curricular programme and to excel in competitive sport. Our sports teams compete against local schools and participate in regional/national competitions in athletics, badminton, cricket, cross country, football, netball and rounders.

Additionally, individuals have competed at regional and national level in cycling, equestrianism, judo and even motocross.

We have an indoor gym, a fitness suite and an extensive playing field, off site, with a changing pavilion and a floodlit all weather pitch.







Extra-curricular Activities & Trips

Our extra-curricular provision is one of our key strengths. There are over 50 lunchtime clubs and activities each week. Our vibrant house system encourages healthy competition and builds leaderships skills amongst our students.

Competitions include: football, netball, table tennis, tug of war, chess, general knowledge quizzes, drama, music and even a pancake race. Recent trips abroad have visited China, France, Germany and Iceland while closer to home, students visit the Peak District and the Lake District. We have a dedicated Duke of Edinburgh Awards co-ordinator, with over 100 students per year working towards their Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

Our extra-curricular activities include:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------|
| – Poetry & Prose Workshops | – Rubik's Cube Club | – Board Games |
| – Fitness | – Language Leaders | – Badminton |
| – Organic Chemistry | – Craft | – Biology |
| – Choir | – Warhammer | – Table Tennis |
| – Computing Club | – D&T Workshop | – Composition Club |
| – Art | – Team Sports (<i>Football, Netball, etc</i>) | – Strings |



Pastoral

We want our students to be safe, happy and fully engaged with school life, thereby having the ability to fulfil their potential.

We are proud of the pastoral care and support that we offer students. The form tutor is responsible for the day to day care of students and they are supported by a Head of Section, a senior teacher with responsibility for safeguarding and a Deputy Head (Pastoral). The school provides counselling and a number of staff have been trained in mental health and well-being for young people.





Special Educational Needs

At Caistor Grammar School, we recognise that the needs of our students are diverse. We are committed to the removal of barriers to learning for all students regardless of need.

We provide a range of strategies to support individual needs. We aim to ensure that every student is supported to achieve their potential, both academically and socially, and strive to prepare them for adulthood.



The School is founded by Frances **Rawlinson**, Rector of South Kelsey, and uses the Old Hall as the assembly hall. William **Hansard** supplemented the original gift in 1634. Sir Edward **Ayscough** was one of the original trustees. Our three houses are named after the three founders.

1631

Casterby House (our Sixth Form block) is purchased for the School for £630.

1875

Headmaster Henry Coxon leads the School's expansion, saving it from closure.

1913

1837

Funds raised to repair the Old Hall.

1908

The School appoints its first mistress for girls, Cambridge University graduate, Miss Edith Richards.

1960

Students and teachers walk through the night in wintery conditions to Lincoln to protest against the proposed closure of the School.

1842

Congregational Church is constructed, which houses the School Library.

School becomes a Sports College. Sir Trevor Brooking attended the launch: Manning building redeveloped, Navigation Lane remodelled with construction of the Pavilion, and later the All Weather Pitch was added.

2005

Dining Room is remodelled and expanded.

2018

Manning Building opened.

1984

1993

Design & Technology block is built.

2013

Olympic Torch Building opened by Baroness Sue Campbell, in recognition of five CGS students who were torch bearers at the London 2012 Olympics.

2010

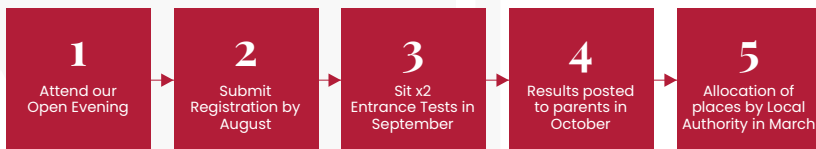
Lindsey Building extended to include new teaching rooms and remodelling of the music department.

Our Heritage



Admissions

We are a selective school and students wanting to join us in Year 7 take our entrance tests at the start of Year 6. Only children who attain a score of 220 or more in the test are eligible for a place. Students that live in the catchment area (within 6.5 miles from the School) and achieve the qualifying score are given priority for places over out of catchment students. More details about test dates can be found on the school website or in the admission pack. Please contact the school to learn more about your catchment status.



**Please see our website for specific dates, latest news and announcements*





Visits to the School

Plans for an Open Event are on hold due to government restrictions. In the meantime, you can watch our virtual tour on our website.

<https://www.caistorggrammar.com/tours-and-open-evening/>

We will update the website with dates once we are able to welcome visitors.





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