



GETTING TO KNOW YOU!



On Friday 15th October Ella Hobbs, Lucie-Mai Lever, Kacey Groom and Kiera Pasquale, sat down with our new headteacher, Mr Durkin, to get to know him better.

How have you enjoyed your first half term at Castle View?

I've really enjoyed my first half term at Castle View so far. It's been fun getting to know all the staff and students and I really look forward to coming into work every day.

What are your hopes for the future of Castle View?

My goals are for all students to progress and achieve more than they thought was possible with the help of our committed team of staff.

What were you like at school?

I was a big nerd at school! I really enjoyed school when I was younger and loved going to lessons. My favourite lesson was history because the teacher was really friendly and motivated me. I did well in history and this inspired me to become a history teacher as I got older. I remember sitting in my bedroom with a mini whiteboard, making my sister pretend to be a student in my class and trying to teach her!

What positive steps forward has the school made so far this year?

We have made great steps this half term to change people's perceptions of the school and a lot has already been achieved by our staff and students. Many people have come to view the school in the past few weeks and have made really positive comments about our students. I'm really proud to be working as Headteacher at Castle View and it is encouraging that so many people are now making us their first choice of school.

Thank you to Mr Durkin for his time and for allowing us to get to know him better. We feel like all the positive changes so far this year have really made a difference to our learning already and all the students certainly seem more positive about Castle View. This has definitely not left Mr Durkin feeling blue (his favourite colour)! Have a look at the Headteacher's Blog for more news from Mr Durkin

WORLD TEACHER DAY

On Friday 7th October, the Student Leadership Team (SLT) gave every teacher in the school a balloon. The balloons were a symbol of the students' gratitude and to say thank you to all the staff for teaching and believing in all the students at Castle View. Attached to each balloon was a little thank you note. Many of the staff were really taken aback at this gesture and left speechless by the students' thoughtful gift.

The SLT will be meeting every half term to develop exciting new ways for the students of Castle View to give back to the wider community. This small token will be the first of many. Each member of the SLT also took a balloon home to give to people on their way home - a small, random act of kindness that will hopefully stretch a long way.

Reporters: Summer Robinson, Gemma Abery, Nieve Butler, Aimee Bennett, Eve Wood and Libby Wakefield



- Fave Holiday Destination: New York
- Fave Film: Finding Nemo – I can't wait to see Finding Dory!
- Fave Food: Burgers
- Fave Colour: Blue

Reporter: Kiera Pasquale

MACMILLAN CAKE SALE



Friday 30th September was the Macmillan Coffee Morning where staff and students baked cakes to raise money for this worthy cause. Year 9 students led this event which raised a fantastic £284.78 for the charity.

Well done everyone!



INDEE ROSE

The Indee Rose Trust, a charity which Castle View has supported for many years, has won the Pride of Britain Award for the Anglian Area for their outstanding work with children and families who have been diagnosed with a brain or spinal tumour. They will now go to the National Pride of Britain awards which are held in London later this month. Jane Allen, the Charity CEO, told us, "We don't expect to win but are thrilled to have got this far. Most importantly, we're glad the charity will be noticed on a national level and that we can raise awareness for childhood brain tumours and the work we do." At Castle View, we are all extremely proud to work with such a deserving cause.



KS4 FOOTBALL

On Friday 14th October, the Year 11 football team put in a dominant performance in their South East Essex Cup clash with Chase High. Castle View ended victoriously, winning 7-0 against the Southend team. Goals from Teddy Rumsby and Cian White were joined by two goals from Dylan Frost which, along with a hat-trick from Danny Cook, took them to a storming victory. Congratulations to Evan Belford, Teddy Rumsby, Danny Cook, Max Warren, William Carr, Dylan Frost, Reece Ward, Sam Gilbert, Cian White, Owen Bellamy, Sonny Smith, Alfie Banks and Harry King.

Proud coach Mr Thorne commented after the match, "The excellent team work is a product of 5 years of hard work finally paying off and now they are reaping the benefits and rewards they deserve for working so hard and listening to their very knowledgeable manager!"



KS4 RUGBY

The Year 10 and 11 Rugby Team have got off to a fantastic start of the year with a victory against King Edmund School. The final score was 12-7 to Castle View with excellent performances from many of the boys. Following the game, Mr Mann said that he was very proud of the performance and named Jamie Colvill as man of the match.

Also a quick reminder, the Year 7 and 8s Rugby teams are short of players so please see the teachers in the PE Curriculum Area if you are interesting in joining.

Reporter: Ryder Greenaway

YEAR 7 RUGBY

On the 11th October, Castle View Year 7 Rugby Team had their first match as a team. They played against Appleton and the final score was 25-10. Although the team lost, they showed great team spirit and competitiveness. Considering it was their first game, they showed great talent throughout the game and there is plenty of potential for the future. The players are looking forward to the next training session so that they can improve their skills and hopefully win next time. Well done!

The players were: Blake Eyre, Daniel Axford, Fu Snikaew, Alfie Thorne, James Pope, Billy Watkins, Ryan Beaumont, Jed Thomas, Archie Beadle, Ryan Stocking, Ollie Whelan, Sam Merrion, Brad-Lee Stone, Calum Bailey, Harvey Conlon and Daniel Shields.

Reporter: Blake Eyre

Year 9 Rugby won 45-0 v Cornelius

FOOTBALL

Coaches from Southend United have been coming in every Wednesday to coach our Girls' football team. We have had an average of 40 girls attending the workshops each week where specialists have been working with them on skills such as tackling and shooting. The Girls entered the Essex Cup but, unfortunately lost their first game to last year's finalists. However, last week, the U13 team entered the District competition and finished in third place showing the brilliant progress that they have made. A few girls have also now trialled for Southend United following their sessions; congratulations to Connie Lynn who has now secured a place on their youth team.

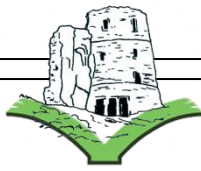
On the 12th October, the Castle View School Year 7 Football Team took on Cornelius Vermuyden for the first time. Castle View have only had 2 or 3 warm-up games so before the game started, the players said they were nervous but also that they were looking forward to the match. The final score was 6-0 to Cornelius but they have played a lot more games than us.

Taking away the score-line, it was a very good game and great talent was showed with lots of opportunities to get back into the game. Every single player worked hard and gave it their all. Following the game, the boys displayed great fighting spirit saying that they are looking forward to getting back to training and starting preparation for the next game.

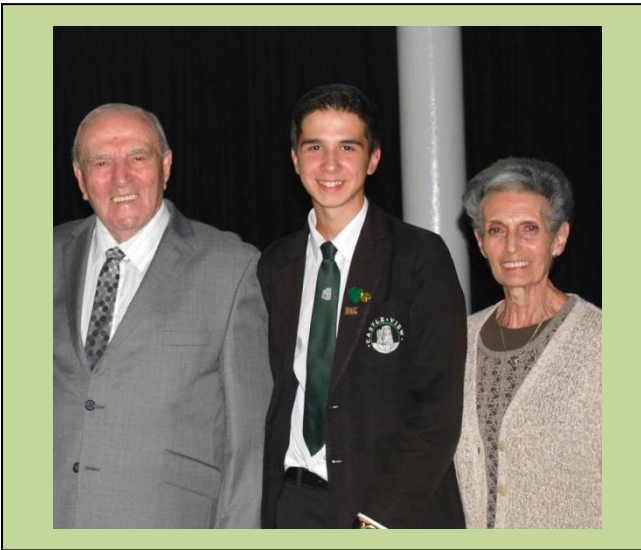


Well done to Archie Beadle, Jed Thomas, Aiden Brown, Alfie Thorne, Calum Bailey, Brad-Lee Stone, Billy Watkins, Ronnie Nash and James Pope.

Reporter: Blake Eyre



LESLIE KLEINMAN VISITS CASTLE VIEW



On the 22nd September Castle View School was pleased and honoured to welcome Leslie and Miriam Kleinman to give a talk about their first-hand experience of the Holocaust.

Leslie's moving speech had a visible effect on the 200 strong audience which included Castle View governors, staff, students, parents, grandparents, Canvey U3A, the Jewish Community and various other members of the local community. Many of the audience were moved to tears by the Kleinmans' words and left feeling a great sense of sorrow at the terrible atrocities that Leslie had endured.

Students found Leslie's account vivid and emotional with many commenting how it brought their learning to life. Guests commented that the talk was excellent, very enlightening and delivered with passion and vigour.

His message of hope and acceptance was very fitting in our current global climate and the audience all took a great deal from it. He highlighted the importance of young people in our society and the role they play in shaping the future. Mr Kleinman urged the students to work together to make hatred a thing of the past and create a safer world for everyone.



Leslie spoke at length about growing up as the son of a Rabbi in Romania, his experience at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp and moving to England to start a new life. His anecdotes about the Holocaust, his time at Auschwitz and his childhood made the audience both laugh and cry.

GEOGRAPHY VISIT

On Friday 30th September and on Monday 3rd October, year 11 Geography students went on a trip to the Epping Forest Centre where they spent the day completing activities to help with their GCSE coursework. In the morning they were in the centre learning about rivers and in the afternoon they went to three sites to measure the different levels in the Debden Brook. Despite getting covered in mud, the students all found it to be a really fun day and a great way of learning.

Miss Marchant commented, "Overall it was a fantastic two days where, not only did we get some great information for our coursework, but I also had the opportunity to get to know some of the amazing Year 11s."

Reporter: Danny Donovan

DANCING WITH JUSTIN BIEBER!

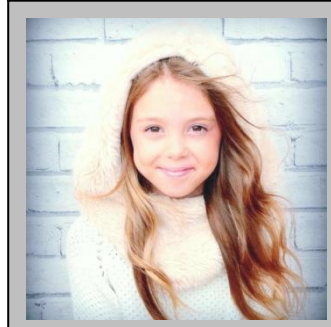
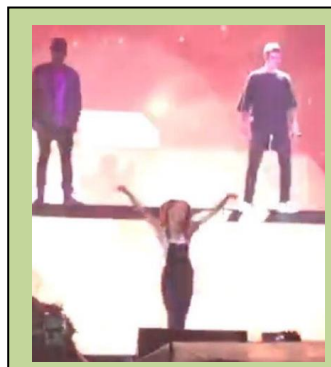
On Friday 14th October, Summer Robinson in Year 7 was one lucky girl when she danced with Justin Bieber at the O2! Summer, who is a member of the iDance Academy, was chosen to dance with Justin alongside 4 other members of her dance group after her dance teacher filmed their routine and sent it to the pop superstar.

All the dancers had to learn a routine which they then performed with Justin to his song 'Children'. In the run up to the show, Summer received a lot of publicity such as being featured in the Echo newspaper and talking on Heart radio.

Summer commented.... "I wasn't nervous before because I knew it was a once in a lifetime opportunity so I was really excited. Justin gave me a big hug and asked everyone to give me a round of applause. It was amazing".

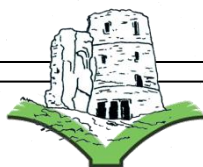
Reporter: Erin Brown

STARS OF THE FUTURE



On Monday 17th October 2016, students from all years joined together to audition in this year's dance drama show. Mr Mechem commented, "this will be the biggest show Castle View School has ever seen and will cement the fact that students at Castle View School are the most talented and passionate students on Canvey Island." Students did magnificent pieces of drama, fantastic dances and collaborative performances as their auditions in front of a panel of teachers including Mr Mechem and Miss Cole. Students then worked in small groups and many students' competitive spirits came out as they competed against each other to produce the best short performance. Miss Cole commented afterwards, "Everyone was passionate, engaged and excited during auditions. I can't wait for the final show".

Reporters: Daniel Harding and Carl Keith



OPEN MORNING

On Saturday 17th September, the Castle View Open Morning was another huge success. Over 100 prospective students, parents and carers visited the school and took part in the many activities there were on offer. Around the school, there were outstanding displays of students' work and many students volunteered to give up their Saturday morning to proudly discuss their school with new students.

Some of the highlights included Narnia in the English area, brilliant performances from the Dance students and a fantastic array of healthy food in the canteen freshly prepared by Castle View's new head chef.

Mr Durkin's Headteacher's Speech Presentations were extremely well received and many students, parents and carers commented that they would now be seriously considering Castle View for next year.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank the reporters and photographers for their hard work and efforts helping with the production of this newspaper.

If any other students are interested in joining the Student Media Team, please see Miss Hursk.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Break up for Half Term

Armistice Day Silence 11am

Year 9 Ypres Visit

Children in Need

Year 9 PACE Evening

Award Evening

Teacher Training Day

Year 7 PACE Evening

Christmas Concert

Last Day of Term

Friday 21st October

Friday 11th November

Friday 18th November

Friday 18th November

Wednesday 23rd November

Thursday 24th November

Monday 28th November

Wednesday 7th December

Thursday 8th December

Friday 16th December

HEADTEACHER'S HALF TERM BLOG

Looking back over the first half term, it is fantastic what a positive start we have made. A few of the highlights have been:

- **Uniform:** with the support of parents, uniform is so much improved. I have had lots of comments from local people, parents and visitors to the school about how the uniform standards are, on the whole, very high.
- **New staff:** lots of new colleagues, most of which have joined from good and outstanding schools. This means our young people have a consistent, subject-specialist teacher every lesson.
- **Our 1st, 2nd and 3rd dismissal process** has been successful, with the number of students leaving on time every day (1st dismissal) going up and less and less students having to remain behind because of poor choices. We recognise the vast majority of our young people make the right choices in every lesson, every day.



In my first few weeks, I have met some fantastic young people who could compete with any other students nationally in terms of their appearance, their attitude to learning and progress. This is a school community that is working hard every day to be a bit better than it was the day before; truly improving upon its best. There are some opportunities that we still need to tackle and need parental support to help us succeed. The key one for me is about communication. Every organisation is constantly working to improve its communication and we have a team of colleagues who are dedicated to ensuring your child is the best they can be. If you have a question, something to raise or want to give feedback, the best way is to speak directly to us. However, a number of parents have been choosing to use social media rather than speak to us. If you use forums on Facebook, which we have no access to or right of reply to, this does not allow us to explain the reasons for decisions. Once we have spoken to parents directly, the frustration that they have put into their "post" often disappears but the reputation of the school has taken an unnecessary battering in a very public forum. Everyone has a vested interest in Castle View being a success. We have had a great start which is destined to continue, with support from every person who cares about our children making the progress they deserve – can I ask you to think before you post.