

Friday 9 May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I write to you as the newly appointed permanent Headteacher of Carisbrooke College. From my very first day, it has been clear that Carisbrooke is a truly special place. Your children are a joy to work with, and I'm excited to get to know them better as we continue building on the strong foundations laid by our dedicated staff community.

It is an honour to lead this school, and I am committed to working in close partnership with you to provide the very best educational experience for every student. Together, we will continue to strengthen what the school already does well and focus on key areas for improvement—particularly in supporting those with additional needs, so that every young person can thrive.

Over the past year, I have actively sought your views to help shape the direction of our work. I'm pleased to share that your feedback has already helped drive positive changes, including greater consistency in addressing concerns and enhanced support for students with SEND.

You also told us that recognition for students' positive behaviour, attendance, and effort matters. We've listened. This year, all students will be invited to take part in our end-of-year trips as a celebration of their hard work and commitment. Our Year 7 students will continue the cherished tradition of visiting Splashdown. Information about this trip will be shared with you soon.

We are especially proud to support our local economy by choosing Robin Hill Adventure Park, now featuring over 10 new attractions, as the destination for our Year 8–10 trips. The cost will be approximately £17 per student. Trip dates are as follows:

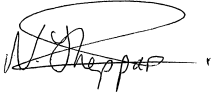
- Year 8 – 16 July
- Year 9 – 23 July
- Year 10 – 24 July

To express interest in your child taking part, please visit Arbor and navigate to the 'Robin Hill' link under school trips. Kindly do this by 16 May, so we can finalise numbers. Further trip details will follow shortly.

As your Headteacher, I am deeply committed to ensuring Carisbrooke College remains a thriving, inclusive, and ambitious school for all. I look forward to working with you—as well as with HISP, our local authority, businesses, schools, and the wider Island community—as we realise our shared vision of Carisbrooke as a centre of teaching excellence, where “Education is Our Castle.”

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any questions or concerns.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Sheppard', with a large, loopy flourish above the name.

Natalie Sheppard  
Headteacher  
Carisbrooke College