



## Message from the Federation Principal

Dear Families,

The exam and testing season is now at an end and I would like to pay tribute to pupils and staff who have worked hard to achieve their potential. Year 6 have enjoyed a post SATs trip to Grafham Water. Year 11 are looking forward to celebrating the end of their Castle Newnham journey at the prom - we wish them all the very best and thank them for their contribution to the school community over the many years, for lots of them this has been an age 4 to 16 journey with us.

We are working really hard to achieve our aim of transferring to Bedfordshire Schools Trust (BEST) in September. We would like to take this opportunity for you to meet some of the key people in the trust who introduce themselves in this newsletter. We are all really excited to be working together and taking CNS into its next era of success.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to two very long-standing members of our team. **Mrs Sarah Walkling-Lea** is moving on in July after her 14 years of dedicated service to our very youngest children in the nursery. We wish her all the very best with her future plans. **Mrs Jenni Gayter**, who has served the school in senior leadership (most recently as Vice Principal) is retiring at the end of August after 23 years at the school and many more before that as a teacher of mathematics. We thank her for her service to education and to Castle Newnham. A full update of staff moving on, new staff appointed and those returning from maternity leave will be provided in the July Monthly Matters.

With best wishes

**Ruth Wilkes**  
Federation Principal





## Welcome from the CEO

Dear Families,

I am absolutely thrilled that Castle Newnham School will become the next member of our BEST family of schools and nurseries. This is hugely positive for both the school and our trust, as well as our local communities in Bedfordshire. When Castle Newnham officially joins, our learning community will grow to over 7,500 children and more than 1,000 staff, giving many more opportunities for us to collaborate and 'grow the BEST in everyone'

With best wishes

**Dr Alan Lee**  
CEO of Bedfordshire Schools Trust (BEST)





## Central Team at BEST From September 2024

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## Ark Football match

On the 7th June, The Ark welcomed The Grange for our first ever football match. It was a fantastic game and was very even from both teams. Football won on this day and the sportsmanship shown from both teams remarkable.

Well done The Ark! We look forward to our next match and hopefully some other sports as well.



## DofE Awards Evening

Our first Awards evening was a fantastic event where we were able to celebrate all those who have completed their Bronze or Silver Awards. Well done to all involved.

## Uniform Store

Should you have any of the following uniform items, in good condition, we would very much welcome them as a donation to the uniform store.

- Grey Trousers, Skirts, Shorts
- CNS Blue Jumper (Primary)
- CNS Tie (Secondary)
- CNS Blue Blazer (Secondary)
- CNS Grey Jumper (Secondary)
- CNS Performing Arts Top
- Navy PE shorts
- Black school shoes

We would ask that you or your child please drop donated uniform items off at the main reception in a carrier bag.



## Transition Events

We have held the following events across the school to support the transition:

### Reception Information Evening

### Year 4 to 5 Transition Evening

Both evenings provided opportunity for families to meet teachers and find out about what the next year will bring, from classroom learning, extra curricular activities and how pupils can be supported with their learning at home.

### Year 4 to 5 Transition Sessions

On Tuesday 11th June Year 4 pupils walked to North Site where they took part in sessions to experience learning in specialist rooms, including music and DT. In addition, they had a tour of North Site Primary Block.

### Year 6 to 7 Meet the Tutor

We invited all our new Year 7 pupils and families onto our green outside the main hall to meet their new form teachers and begin to get to know each other. It was wonderful to see so many people in attendance and thankfully the sun shone throughout for us. We are looking forward to our transition days next week.

We are looking forward to our Transition Days on 2nd and 3rd July where Reception to Year 6 meet their new teachers, and we also welcome new pupils to Year 7 too!





Community

CN CORE Values

# Last Remaining Tickets Available



CASTLE NEWNHAM SCHOOL'S AWARD WINNING  
**4SIXTEEN THEATRE COMPANY**  
PROUDLY PRESENTS

BY KIND PERMISSION OF MTI EUROPE



LIONEL BART'S  
**Oliver!**  
JR!

**MONDAY 8TH-SATURDAY 13TH JULY 2024**  
MONDAY - THURSDAY PERFORMANCES 6PM  
FRIDAY PERFORMANCES 4PM & 7PM  
SATURDAY PERFORMANCES 3PM & 7PM

TICKETS £8.50- £10

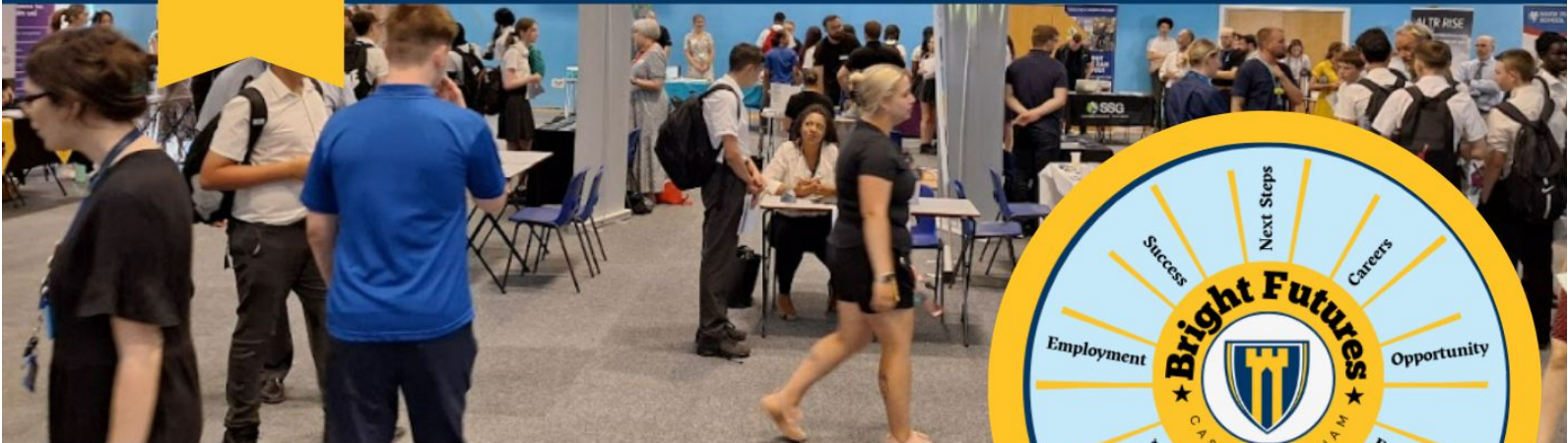
Member of  
**noda**  
We inspired by amateur theatre

STUDIO  
**one**  
PERFORMANCE THEATRE



# Community

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# Next Steps Fair



Year 10 pupils had the opportunity to meet with Post 16 providers as part of their careers programme. A whole host of colleges, schools and companies were present. Pupils were able to ask questions to providers about their next steps and enquire what qualifications they needed to enter the course and information about the application process.

## PROVIDER FEEDBACK

“Thank you for having us here, a great day”

“Pupils were exceptional”

“I was very impressed by the pupils' mature attitude!”

“Good vibe and buzz in the hall”



## Artist workshops

Looking at the work of a wide range of artists is an important part of a pupils journey in Art and we have been fortunate to welcome well known graffiti artist Pure Evil to hold a workshop with Year 10. This was an amazing opportunity for our GCSE Art pupils to find out more about the life and work of a professional artist who has worked alongside the likes of Banksy.

We have local artist Marcus Knight running a workshop and Ukranian artists Maria and Seryozha Tsymbal next month too.



Year 4 have taken part in ceramic workshops this month with Miss Haddon. As part of a transition activity pupils have made butterflies for the primary north site fence. Once fired to a glossy finish these will greet pupils when they start Year 5 in September.



## Sports Residential to Dorset

We took 35 pupils down to Dorset to experience a wide range of multisports. The trip was enjoyed by all, especially the Dorset Adventure Park, which had a combination of “Box End” style water park and also a mud adventure trail.

If you wish to see what we got up to then please go on instagram and search for [castlenewnham\\_multisports](#).





## Trip to Cambridge

Secondary pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL) spent a sunny day in Cambridge.

## Year 6 Grafham Water

Year 6 enjoyed a residential trip to Grafham Water this month.





# PRIMARY SPORTS DAYS

Across all Primary phases we held our annual Sports Days. On all five days, we were very lucky with the weather, with the sun shining throughout.

In Reception, Key Stage One and Lower Key Stage Two we had a revamped format with Reception Sports Day being held at our North site for the first time. Key Stage One and Lower Key Stage Two's events gave pupils the opportunity to compete in sprint races and enjoy a picnic lunch with friends and family.

Pupils showed considerable sporting excellence to win house points for their respective houses. They also displayed determination, perseverance and a great amount of effort.

A big thank you to all parents who volunteered their time to support and teachers who, as always, worked extremely hard to make the days such a success!



# SECONDARY SPORTS DAY - JULY 2024



# GEOGRAPHY FOCUS

## OUR LOCAL AREA

### Year 2

Year 2 visited the River Ouse and the Embankment. The sun was shining but the breeze kept us cool. Year 2 enjoyed looking at all the leisure activities and even identifying a few that I had overlooked. Well done, Year 2! The amazing volunteers were the reason this trip was able to happen. We are grateful to everyone.



### Year 4

Year 4 assembled at Mowsbury Park to conduct their Geography fieldwork. Pupils completed a land use survey, identifying all of the different facilities at Mowsbury Park, a visual survey of people using the park to identify who is doing what in the park and had a tour of Putnoe Woods with Lynn from the Friends of Mowsbury Hillfort.

We are looking forward to seeing how the children use the data they have collated in their project on why Putnoe Woods has reduced in size.

Thank you to all of our volunteers, who we could not have run the trip without!

### Year 10

This month we saw the first of our field trips for Year 10 GCSE Geography - our urban enquiry. Pupils walked into Bedford Town and back, collecting a variety of data at different sites. This is then used to see how the urban characteristics of Bedford change from its suburbs to its centre - and to explain why. As expected, pupils were a credit to the School, and to our families, showing good manners towards members of the public and collecting data carefully which will lead to reliable conclusions and a high level of fieldwork overall. Well done Yr10 Geographers!





## What is on this summer



### Mental Health Support Team

The Mental Health Support Team are excited to have created a number of online and face-to-face groups for those attending secondary school in Bedford and who feel they would benefit from accessing support over the summer break.

### CREATIVE WELLBEING

This group has been created to help empower and encourage young people to learn strategies to express, explore and learn about themselves in a creative using a range of art materials.

Join us for a creative, interactive and fun session to boost self-esteem and confidence.

This group will be four sessions which will be face-to-face with each session lasting two hours.



### KEEPING WELL THIS SUMMER

Focusing on positive mental health can enhance our mood, reduce anxiety, build a positive sense of self and improve our ability to sleep.

Join us online as we undertake different fun and creative activities to promote wellbeing. We will explore activities such as mindfulness, practising gratitude and selfcare. (Arts and craft resources will be sent home prior to sessions taking place)

This group will take place online for six weekly one hour sessions



### RETURNING TO SCHOOL

Going back to school can bring up lots of different feelings. This group has been developed for those who can find returning to school after a long break particularly difficult.

Join us as we explore different strategies and skills which will allow you to prepare for and manage feelings of worry, fear or anxiety when returning to school.

This group will take place online for four weekly one hour sessions



If you would like to attend any of these groups please email your name, year group and school name to

[elft.camhs-mhst-bedfordshire@nhs.net](mailto:elft.camhs-mhst-bedfordshire@nhs.net)

Parental consent will be required.



East London  
NHS Foundation Trust



# Excellence

CN CORE Values

We love to celebrate the creative genius of Castle Newnham pupils and our Year 11 GCSE Pupils are no exception! They have produced some fantastic work which we invited pupils and families to view at the annual GCSE Art Exhibition!



## Year 11 Art Exhibition



## Year 6 Inflatables



## Harpur Trust 2024 Schools Art Competition Success

Both Primary and Secondary pupils collected awards for their competition entries last week. Helena Year 7 received 1st prize and James P Year 6 received 'Highly Commended'.

Entries by Zuzanna Year 7 and Lyra Year 6 were selected from over 400 entries to be included in the competition exhibition at the Higgins which will be open to the public all summer. Congratulations to all, a fantastic achievement.





## Year 10 Academic Consultation

Thursday 20th June saw us trial a new format for academic consultations in secondary with pupils leaving school at 1:15 to do their lesson 5 work remotely with in-person Year 10 consultations starting at 2pm. **86% of families attended** - a high figure that exceeds the average 72% attendance we have seen at other consultation evenings that have taken place this year.

A questionnaire given out to Year 10 families as they left found:

- **91% preferred the in-person format**
- **100% agreed that the discussions they had with teachers were useful and will help them support their child as they prepare for their GCSEs**
- **80% identified 2pm-6pm as the ideal time for them to attend consultations**

## Speech & Drama Showcase

It was so lovely to see so many pupils showcasing their talent and hardwork from their LAMDA lessons. A huge thank you to Kitty Benford for working with our pupils throughout the year and organising such a wonderful event.

