



Castle Newnham

Monthly Matters



“Once again Castle Newnham have shown the world (well, anyone lucky enough to have a ticket) that they know how to put on a show”

Social Media Review

January & February 2025



BEST
BEDFORDSHIRE
SCHOOLS TRUST

Rosie (Year 9) as Sarah Brown in
4SIXTEEN Theatre Company's production of
Guys and Dolls



Message from the Headteachers

Dear Families,

We hope you enjoy reading through this edition of the Monthly Matters. It seems like only yesterday we were starting the new year, and already January (and February) have flown by in a whirlwind of activity, filled with many learning opportunities and memorable experiences for our pupils here at Castle Newnham.

We were absolutely thrilled with the incredible success of our recent production of 'Guys and Dolls' featuring Year 8 to 11 pupils. The talent on display was truly remarkable, and the hard work and dedication of the pupils and staff involved shone brightly. It was a fantastic community event, and we'd like to extend our sincere thanks to the staff who worked behind the scenes to making it such a triumph. We are very excited for Peter Pan featuring Year 3 and 4 coming up in March.

Beyond the 4SIXTEEN Theatre Company stage, our pupils have benefited from a wide range of trips, visits, and enriching experiences. We also continue to do very well in sporting activities and feel very proud of the sporting offer available to pupils across the whole school (see the sporting activity and achievements in the pages to follow). All opportunities are invaluable in bringing learning to life and broadening horizons. We believe in providing a well-rounded education, and these experiences are a vital part of that.

As we look forward, the promise of warmer weather and the arrival of Spring is just around the corner. The lighter evenings and blossoming flowers always bring a renewed sense of energy and optimism, and we know our pupils are looking forward to enjoying the outdoor spaces as the weather improves.

We are incredibly proud of all our pupils and staff for their achievements so far this year. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to a successful and fulfilling rest of the Spring term.

Best wishes

Kat Edwards Sara Levesley
Headteacher - Primary Headteacher - Secondary

THANK YOU!

We would like to wish **Aimee-Louise Walker** well as she moves on from Castle Newnham to join another local school. Miss Walker has worked in many roles including teaching assistant, pupil and family support and more recently as a member of the Cover Team and Breakfast Club Supervisor on North Site. We also wish the very best to **Emily Allen**, Primary SENDCo who begins her maternity leave.

We welcome **Cerys Davies** as a new Pastoral Support Manager in secondary.





Monthly Matters

January & February 2025

4SIXTEEN
THEATRE COMPANY



This month Year 8 to 11 pupils took to the stage to perform *Guys and Dolls*. Studio One Theatre was transformed into New York City in an immersive experience for the audience watching. The cast performed to 830+ audience members across the week! Congratulations to all involved in this triumphant production. To read the NODA review, please visit the school website.





FOOTBALL SUCCESS!

Due to the Year 6 boys' success in a previous tournament they have had the opportunity to participate in the Bedfordshire County tournament, held at Powerleague Luton. This consisted of 14 teams from different parts of the county. They got off to a fantastic start winning their first two games in great style. The standard of the teams participating was extremely high with some teams fielding academy players, and acquitted themselves well in their remaining matches. As a result, of their good start they progressed to the quarter final against Etonbury. It was a close game with action at both ends. Unfortunately, the boys came out on the wrong side of the result and went down with a spirited 5-4 defeat. The boys should be very proud of their efforts, and not only represented themselves well but also represented the school in an exemplary manner. Well, done boys!

SATs Information Talk

Thank you to those families who were able to attend the Year 6 SATs information Meeting. Please find further information via ParentMail for your reference.

End of Key Stage 2 SATs
Information 2025





Young Chef



Castle Newnham hosted the local finals of The Rotary Club's Young Chef competition on Saturday 8th Feb. The cooking lasted 2 hours and was judged by Ian Marvell from Marmite Fine Dining Catering. Paige, Emel, Joel & Sophia (pictured) from Year 10 participated in the event and competed against pupils from other schools in the local area. We were very proud of their efforts and the standard of cooking was outstanding.



Year 6 Workshop

Year 6 had the exciting opportunity to participate in a Crime and Punishment Workshop. The pupils enjoyed the day and seeing the work they have been exploring in lessons 'come to life'!

UPDATE

The BEST Admissions Policy for September 2026 has been determined and published, and can be found via the school website.



National Apprenticeship Week

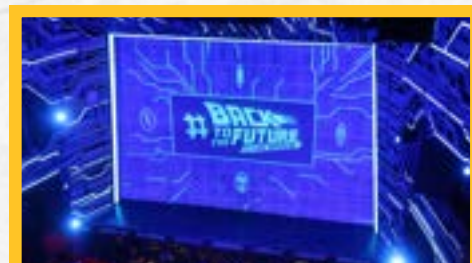
**NATIONAL
APPRENTICESHIP
WEEK 2025**

To acknowledge National Apprenticeship Week, secondary pupils received an assembly outlining routes into apprenticeships. In the classroom across departments, pupils explored future careers and pathways.

Performing Arts THEATRE TRIPS

76 pupils in Year 9 visited London's West End to watch 'Mrs Doubtfire' - a musical adaptation of the beloved movie.

Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Drama, Music and Dance pupils also visited London's West End this month to watch 'Back to the Future the Musical'. GCSE Drama pupils will review the production as part of their written exam.





Battle of the Band Winners!

Our Year 9 Band, **Blue Flame**, went to their third and final KS3 Beds Band Factory Battle of the Bands competition. This year they were the only group to play their own original song and they did it with such style! We are extremely proud to say that they won the competition, not only winning in their final year but also winning the school a brand-new Kawai Piano. Well done to Noah, Flynn and Genevieve for their performance on the night and a special mention to Caleb, the band's Pianist, who wasn't able to make the performance but supported in writing the song. We're so proud of you all!

You can watch a video of their performance on the Performing Arts Instagram page!



@cn_performarts



Performances on Tuesday
25th - Wednesday 26th
March 2025



Auditions for Year 5, 6 and
7 in March - more details to
follow after half term!



SECONDARY PE & SPORT UPDATE

Overall it has been a very busy half term for the PE department and I would like to thank the team for all their hard work in putting on clubs and fixtures. Across the school we have seen large numbers attending these. In Year 7, 48% of pupils have attended a club this year. In Year 8 45% have attended. Year 9 43% and KS4 is at 20%. As we move forward into the Spring term, we are introducing a new Flag Football club on a Thursday. This new addition will support the new clubs we have already established in Cheerleading (Year 7/8) and Rowing. It would be great to see more pupils who haven't yet attended a club, come along to one either this half term or even in the summer term.

Mr Phillips - Secondary Head of PE

Cross Country

We took a selection of 24 secondary pupils over to Sharnbrook for the District Cross Country event. Martha J-A finished 3rd in the Y8/9 girls event a highlight. 7 pupils qualified for the County finals. At the County finals Jess I'H finished 10th in the Y8/9 girls, Martha finished 15th and Fraser finished 21st in the Y6/7 boys event. Jess I'H has been selected as a reserve for the English Schools Bedfordshire Cross Country team.

Boys Football

Year 8 - They had their first league game last Tuesday against Bedford Free School and ran out comfortable winners. An excellent performance by all and the team spirit was excellent. After half term they have another 5 matches every Tuesday.

Year 9- The boys have begun their season against Wootton. Unfortunately a defeat, but it was pleasing to see some new faces joining the team from last season. 4 boys playing their first ever match for the school. After half term their season continues as they have another 3 matches to play.

Year 10- Their season started with a narrow 3-2 defeat away at Mark Rutherford and then with another close 2-1 victory over Wootton. A wonder strike from Joel F sealed the victory. They have a few more matches after half term and we are excited to see how they progress.

Year 11- The team have played 1 more district league match against Goldington. Unfortunately, a 4-1 defeat but we are still so proud of the efforts and dedication of the team. Again just a few more matches left for them this season.

Girls Football

Year 7 & 8 - The girls played in the National Cup against Kempston Academy. A very close game which saw us progress with a 2-1 victory. Lily C scoring the winning goal. In the next round of the competition we played against a very good Putteridge side, who on the day ran out comfortable winners. The girls effort and commitment could not have been any higher.

Year 9/10 7-a-side team- This year we have entered this for the first time. We have had 2 matches in the group stage in which both were won by a comfortable margin. The girls play excellent football and we are very excited to see how they get on in their semi-final match, which is still to be arranged.



SECONDARY PE & SPORT UPDATE CONTINUED...

Badminton

Year 7 & 8 Badminton Girls - We took 8 girls over 4 weeks to play against other schools in the district tournament. It was a learning experience for the team as most had never played badminton before. They competed really well and in the finals week they finished top of the 2nd group. Well done all involved.

Year 7 & 8 Badminton Boys - Similar to the girls this was a new event for most of the team. The boys grew in confidence over the weeks and their understanding for the game developed. Well done to everyone involved again.

Netball

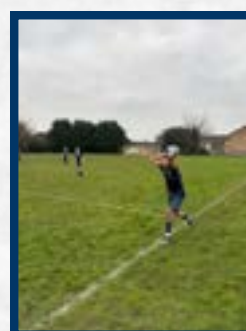
Year 9 completed their league games finishing on 10 points, finishing 3rd in their pool.

Year 10 still have one final match to play but are currently in 4th place in their pool.

Girls Futsal

Year 7 & 8 - The girls played 8 matches over a 3 week period. They finished 3rd in the group which saw them through to the District final night. This was a tough evening for the girls but they should hold their heads high as they finished 6th in the district.

Year 9 & 10 - This league consisted of 9 teams who all played each other. They girls did exceptionally well and did not lose 1 game. They ended up 2nd based on goal difference and have qualified for the county finals which is after half term.





Year 9 GCSE Options Evening

The GCSE options process has begun for Year 9. The Options Evening was a great success and gave pupils and families the opportunity to discuss subject choices with Heads of Department and other teaching staff. Following the evening and over the next month, pupils will be invited to a 1:1 options interview to discuss the option choices further.



Young Voices 2025

100 plus Year 5 and 6 pupils went to the O2 Arena for the 2025 Young Voices - an extraordinary concert experience!

Pupils enjoyed a day full of rehearsals and performances. A day to remember! Thank you to all supported with the trip.



Performing Arts



PTA funded ceramic workshops



All our pupils from Year 1 to Year 11 have the opportunity to work with ceramics. With materials kindly funded by the PTA and the help of our primary art specialist Miss Haddon, our younger pupils participate in ceramic workshops throughout the year. In December, Year 1 created winter snowman scenes and in January Year 2 made decorative Masai shields. In March Year 3 will be making Shang dynasty inspired dragon eyes!



Supporting Everyone in our Community

There have been some difficult moments to navigate in our school community this half term. Pupils have been given information and advice on how to look after their mental health.

Here are a couple of fantastic entries for this week's Year 7 Tutor Challenge - to create a poster about positive mental health.





School Streets - South Site

Message from

Lucy Bywater - Councillor for Castle & Newnham Ward, Bedford

A big thank you to families for continuing to support 'School Street' in York Street, helping make the walk and the wheel to school safer, more pleasant and less stressful for people. It's now been running for **18 months** and it's a delight to see children arriving energetically on foot or on wheels.

Please can we remind all families that children's safety is their responsibility especially crossing the junctions at the Denmark Street and Rosamond Road junctions.

It's useful to remind children that there may sometimes be cycles or vehicles of residents, blue badge holders or even emergency service vehicles coming the other way, so care is still needed.

