



## Farewell Message from the Federation Principal

Dear Families,

I write to you at the end of a 35- year career in education and after almost 11 years as headteacher of first Newnham and then Castle Newnham. What a pleasure it has been to teach and support your children and to work alongside so many wonderfully dedicated colleagues. I am grateful to each member of our lovely school community for the warmth and support and trust you have shown me as we have worked to ensure that each one of our children is happy, fulfilled and successful in school. There is always more to be done but I reach my retirement immensely proud of our commitment to inclusion, to a rich and diverse curriculum and opportunity, to valuing each and every individual and to allowing each pupil to thrive and to experience success.

I have been given the most wonderful send off by colleagues former and present and I'd like to thank them and the very many of our families who have taken the time and trouble to express their thanks. Thanks are not sought or needed (but welcome all the same) as my professional life has been such a joy. I now plan to spend much more time supporting my own family and especially my four grandchildren as well as planning some exciting adventures overseas.

I wish every success to Mrs Edwards and Mrs Levesley and their teams as the school moves forward to its next chapter as part of BEST and to all of the additional opportunities this will bring.

Thank you all so much, children and families of this very special place - Castle Newnham.

With best wishes

**Ruth Wilkes**  
Federation Principal





## Meet the Senior Leadership Team for September

**Mrs Kat Edwards** - Headteacher - Primary  
**Mrs Sara Levesley** - Headteacher - Secondary

**Mrs Hayley Grady** - Deputy Headteacher - Primary Assessment & Outcomes  
**Mr Jonathan Mills** - Deputy Headteacher - Secondary Pastoral  
**Mr Matthew Herridge** - Deputy Headteacher - Secondary Assessment & Outcomes

**Mrs Lauren Crowley** - School Business & Operations Manager

**Miss Hannah Baxter** - Assistant Headteacher - Primary Pastoral  
**Mr Paul Dawson** - Assistant Headteacher - Primary Curriculum  
**Mr Shaun Stevens** - Assistant Headteacher - Secondary Curriculum  
**Mr Luke Skeel** - Assistant Headteacher - School Community & Communications

Joining the secondary senior team from September in an associate capacity for the academic year will be **Mrs Philippa Dawe** (Head of Secondary Science), **Mr Eric Boakye** (Head of Secondary Maths) and **Mr Dave Chapman** (Pastoral Intervention Lead - secondary).

## Meet the Phase Leads & Heads of Year for September

**Mrs Jo Kearney Collins** - Early Years & Key Stage 1 Phase Leader  
**Miss Jodie Wallbank** - Key Stage 1 Phase Leader  
**Mr Matt Cleaver** - Lower Key Stage 2 Phase Leader  
**Mr Gareth Thomas** - Upper Key Stage 2 Phase Leader  
**Mrs Hannah Clements** - Head of Year 7  
**Mrs Ambia Waheed** - Head of Year 8  
**Mrs Maria Newbury** - Head of Year 9  
**Mrs Sam Cash** - Head of Year 10  
**Miss Jess Martin** - Pastoral Support Manager Year 10  
**Mrs Abi Edwins** - Head of Year 11  
**Miss Jai Chana** - Pastoral Support Manager Year 11



# Staffing changes

Castle Newnham School

After a 23 year career in leadership at first Newnham and then Castle Newnham, **Mrs Jenni Gayter** is retiring at the end of the school year. Many of our families know and appreciate the care Jenni has shown to generations of pupils and we thank her for her exceptional loyalty and dedication to the school.

**Mrs Donna Hannent** is also taking a well-earned retirement following 24 years of service to the school. As well as a long teaching career, Donna has in the most recent years led and managed our teacher training programmes and dozens of teachers owe her a great deal for her care and support during the crucial period of their training.

A warm welcome back from maternity leave to **Miss Jodie Wallbank** who will be in Year 2 and Y1/2 Phase Lead. We also warmly welcome back **Mrs Louise Brierley** from maternity leave who will be teaching in Year 2. A fond farewell to **Mrs Kate Airey**, **Mrs Hannah Niro** and **Miss Sofia Aden** who are moving on to pastures new and they leave with our thanks and appreciation for all they have done for our primary children. From September we welcome **Miss Ayesha Iqbal** and **Miss Sappo Holland** who join us in primary teaching Year 1 and Year 2 respectively.

Teaching Assistants **Miss Georgia Marshall**, **Miss Stephannie Wainwright**, **Mr Ollie Gray** will also be moving on and we warmly welcome **Mr Shane Moulds**, **Miss Francesca Baio**, **Mrs Monica Memet** and **Miss Aisha Johnson-Dass**

We would like to thank **Mr Glen Mulkerrins**, our primary design technology teacher, who is taking up a position at a school in London.

A warm welcome back to **Mrs Vicky Adams** who returns to the secondary Geography department following her maternity leave. We thank **Mr Steve Nicolson** for his work in the department and we wish him all the best.



# Staffing changes

Castle Newnham School

We want to thank **Mrs Mawgan Sturge**, who is moving to a new post in a local school, for all she has done as the secondary Head of English. We congratulate **Mrs Lorna Wood** who will be stepping into the Head of English post from September. Also moving on is **Mr Tom Rooney** and we wish him all the best with his future plans. Joining the English department from September is **Miss Ellen Stanton** who is already very well known to pupils having completed her teacher training with us this year.

In the science department, **Mr Darren Gray** is moving to another local school and we wish him the best. We welcome back **Mrs Amy Dyer** from her maternity leave and also welcome **Miss Charlotte Parker** to the department who successfully completed a teacher training placement with us a couple of years ago.

There are big changes afoot in the PE department. **Mr Craig Phillips** is taking up the post of Head of PE from September and we extend our grateful thanks and wish all the very best to **Miss Amy Owen** who is relocating to London. We wish all the best to PE teachers and heads of year, **Miss Beth Reid** (relocating to Dubai) and **Miss Shaan Hussain** (moving to another school in BEST). Mr Phillips' PE team will be completed by the very experienced **Miss Natalie Crawford-Smith** and **Mr Karl Dean**, who join us in September.

From September, our SEND team at Castle Newnham will be led by **Miss Emily Allen** and **Mr Alex Robinson-Welsh**, both of whom many families already know well. We say goodbye to Secondary SENDCo **Mrs Cat Magee** and SEND Administrator **Mrs Vivien Criddle** who are both moving on in September. They leave with our thanks and appreciation for the work and support they have contributed to our children and families during their time with us.

**Miss Zoe Stafford** who joined us last year to teach Art has secured a position at another local and we wish her the best. Our art department will be complemented by **Miss Sophie Kelk** who will be teaching across performing and visual arts.

Congratulations to **Miss Bayley Longmuir** whose baby is due in the Autumn term and we welcome **Miss Astrid Drotloff** who will be teaching in the languages department next year.



## **“We are thrilled” – Bedford’s Castle Newnham School soars in academic achievement at primary level**

Castle Newnham School, Bedford is celebrating their best set of academic outcomes, in early years foundation stage, KS1 phonics, and KS2 SATs.

Kat Edwards, Primary Head of School, expressed her pride in the pupils’ achievement, “We are thrilled with these results. They demonstrate the hard work and commitment of our entire school community.

“Our teachers are passionate about creating a fun and engaging learning experience, and it’s fantastic to see that reflected in the progress of our pupils who work and achieve well every day.”

Ruth Wilkes, Federation Principal added, “These outcomes are a strong foundation for our pupils as they continue within our all-through community.

“The outcomes are a testament to everyone living our CORE values of Community, Opportunity, Respect and Excellence.

“These results have been achieved without a single compromise to the richness of the curriculum and without a single compromise to our ethos of inclusion”



As seen in the

**BEDFORD INDEPENDENT**

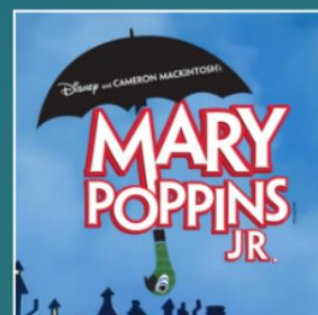
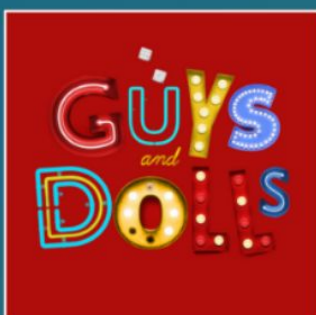


## 4SIXTEEN presents Oliver

Thank you to everyone who came to watch any of our sell out performances of Oliver - performed by Year 5, 6 and 7 pupils! As every year, we are so proud of the dedication and commitment our pupils have to the Performing Arts and our productions. Oliver looked amazing, the talent was so impressive and we aren't alone in thinking this, our NODA review states, **"the singing in this show was outstanding and certainly demonstrated the depth of talent of 4SIXTEEN"**. We can't wait for another new season of shows in September bringing us Peter Pan, Mary Poppins and Guys and Dolls.



## 4SIXTEEN THEATRE COMPANY





## CNS Fest

We had such a lovely, sunny (!) Saturday seeing the community come together at CNS Fest this year. Thank you to everyone who either helped with the running of the event, had a stall or came along to take part and listen to the music. Thank you to the PTA for the BBQ too! We are so proud of our school and its community and this event is the epitome of our CORE values.





## Mock Election 2024

On the 4th July, pupils in both primary and secondary voted in a mock election. The pupils learnt about the candidates for Bedford and their manifestos before voting and visiting our in-school polling stations. This was both a fun experience for the pupils as well as an opportunity to learn about democracy, British Values and the election process. Labour secured the most votes in the Castle Newnham election.



## Dance Company Workshop

On the 3rd July, Dance Company had the opportunity to work with Owen Lane, director and choreographer of Milton Keynes Dance Theatre. Pupils participated in various exercises to build their confidence, technique and strength in dance. They also learnt some of the professional repertoire from MK Dance Theatre's recent production of 'Pandora'.





## Art workshop

Thank you to Mrs. Tymbal for hosting a workshop for Year 8 pupils. The pupils designed some really fetching Tote Bags, and all of the money raised will go directly to children in Ukraine. Mrs. Tymbal will be using the donations to buy art supplies and then will be running workshops when she returns to the Ukraine this summer.





## Secondary End of Year Trips

Pupils have enjoyed the following trips this month to celebrate the end of the academic year

Year 7 - Science Centre



Year 8 - Legoland



Year 9 - Whipsnade Zoo



Year 10 - Box End Park



## MP visits Castle Newnham

Mohammed Yasin MP visited Castle Newnham this month and had the pleasure of meeting staff and pupils on the North Site. Meeting with the Mrs Wilkes, Mrs Levesley, and Mrs Edwards.



Special thank you to Bella in Year 9 and Jasmine in Year 10 who gave a great tour of the school site.





## BEST Assemblies

Castle Newnham pupils have had an assembly over the last week to explain the exciting next chapter of joining the Bedfordshire Schools Trust (BEST) in September.



# SECONDARY SPORTS DAY

Castle Newnham's Secondary Sports Day was a triumph! From races to the cheering crowds, pupils demonstrated amazing teamwork, school spirit and sportsmanship. A day to remember!

# SECONDARY SPORTS AWARDS

Castle Newnham School has had another successful year of sport, so we took the opportunity to host our annual sports awards on Tuesday 16th July. We saw the team of the year being awarded to the year 10 boys, who retained the district plate for the second year in a row. We heard about success in dodgeball where y9 girls and y10/11 girls both were undefeated and won the district. Role models in young sports leaders were celebrated and individual success, in and out of school, was recognised. Well done to all of our nominees!



## Year 11 Prom

We held our Year 11 Prom at Bedford Blues. It was an incredible evening of awards, food and dancing. It was a true celebration of the year group and a display of how much they have achieved and developed over their time with us here.

We'd like to extend out thanks to Hannah and Zannah from Rosehip Bespoke Floristry, who are also CNS parents, who gave us their time and skill to make beautiful arrangements for us- thank you for being part of our CNS community. The foliage was picked from South Site - where many of the pupils started their school journey with us 12 years ago.

### **A part of their beginning is with them at the end**

Thank you to families and staff alike for your incredible support of this cohort of young people, it's a pleasure to send them off out into the world knowing they have the potential to achieve great things.





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**Wishing our families a  
wonderful summer holidays.  
Thank you for your support  
this academic year!**

## **RETURN TO SCHOOL**

**Reception to Year 7 & Year 11**

**Thursday 5th September 2024**

**Year 8, 9, 10**

**Friday 6th September 2024**