



# Castle Newnham

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ALL THROUGH SCHOOL





## OUR CORE VISION - THEIR BRIGHT FUTURE

Our CORE values of Community, Opportunity, Respect, and Excellence guide us in everything we do and support our mission to nurture the whole child. An education at Castle Newnham provides pupils with the academic, social, and emotional foundations they will need to thrive in the future.

Throughout their education we provide pupils with opportunities which enable them to achieve their very best in all aspects of their school life. We achieve this through high standards of teaching, encouragement and care. The importance of learning and working together with mutual respect underpins everything we do.

# A SCHOOL FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

I am incredibly proud to welcome you to Castle Newnham All-Through School. As Principal, I believe our school represents a unique advantage for every pupil: the ability to shape a child's journey from their first steps in the classroom to their final steps into adulthood.

We have the rare privilege of providing a seamless, unbroken thread of support, curiosity, and excellence that spans 12 years of a young person's life. This "all-through" journey allows us to truly know every child, fostering a deep sense of belonging within a school that blends traditional values with an ambitious approach to learning. This continuity enables us to foster a "family feel" built on our CORE values: Community, Opportunity, Respect, and Excellence.

Our Castle Newnham family continues to grow at Year 7, where we are delighted to welcome new pupils and their families into our school community. As they join us for this pivotal next stage of their education, they benefit from the same established culture of belonging and high expectations that defines the Castle Newnham experience.

We have high expectations of all our pupils and regard them as individuals with unique strengths. We are committed to identifying and nurturing the talents of every learner, ensuring everyone has the chance to shine. This commitment extends far beyond the classroom; we believe that for pupils to do their best, they must feel happy and valued. By balancing these high expectations with genuine care for the individual, we prepare our pupils for whatever the future holds.

This prospectus offers a flavour of our wonderful school, but there is no substitute for seeing our community in action. Whether you are a prospective parent or a future colleague, I would be delighted and proud to show you around our exceptional school.

**Mrs Donna Neely-Hayes**  
**Principal**





# ENSURING PUPILS ARE WELL CARED FOR, CHALLENGED, MOTIVATED

Pastoral care is at the heart of school life at Castle Newnham. From the moment they enter the school, to the day they graduate as Year 11, we provide them with a comprehensive support system to ensure they feel safe, happy, enjoy school and are ready to learn. We help them to understand how to stay safe and keep healthy and to feel secure and confident enough to take on challenges in their learning and address any issues they may face.

All members of the teaching staff have a responsibility to ensure the well-being of each individual. Pupils are encouraged to care for each other, with older pupils helping the younger members of the school in the classroom through initiatives such as our Year 9 Reader Leaders, our Sports Leaders and our Year 10 Language Leaders programmes. Links between all parts of the school are close and encourage pupils to feel very much at home as they progress through their academic and personal development.

# HIGH EXPECTATIONS INSPIRING SUCCESS

We encourage pupils to do their best in all areas and for the whole school community to aim for the very highest standards they can achieve. In order to do this we provide a dynamic and inspirational learning environment and top quality teaching across the whole curriculum. We have high expectations in terms of learning and behaviour. It is our belief that every child should have the opportunity to learn in an environment which is warm, calm and purposeful.

**“The commitment and standard of the teaching at Castle Newnham underpins a fantastic environment in which to learn and achieve.” Parent Comment**





# A VIBRANT AND INSPIRATIONAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

We ensure that our resources are used well to improve learning and that lessons are challenging and enthuse and excite pupils. Our excellent facilities offer a wealth of opportunities for our pupils to flourish and grow in all areas of learning.

**'Pupils experience a broad curriculum' OFSTED 2024**



# ENCOURAGING, VALUING AND PRAISING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

We work with each individual pupil to build self-esteem and to encourage ambition and aspiration. We want our pupils to see their time at Castle Newnham as part of a life-long learning journey that paves the way to a successful future. We believe that a happy child will flourish and reach their potential.

**“My son has gained so much confidence in his abilities since joining the school.” Parent Comment**





# A SEAMLESS JOURNEY AND SMOOTH TRANSITION

Castle Newnham offers a seamless educational journey, starting with three Reception classes on the South Site. As pupils progress to Year 5, they transition to the North Site, where they benefit from subject-specialist teachers for subjects like art, performing arts, French, and physical education. This allows them to utilize secondary facilities like music classrooms, the sports hall, and the dining hall.

The transition to Year 7 is smooth for pupils who have been at Castle Newnham for the primary phase. New friends join from other schools, expanding the community to 150 young people. Our newest members to the family from our feeder schools find themselves at home very quickly.

The secondary phase fosters further independence and advanced study skills, supported by a bespoke transition process.

High expectations are set for both pupils and teachers, ensuring a rigorous and supportive learning environment. Castle Newnham's close-knit community ensures that every child is known and understood, providing a unique environment for personal growth and achievement.

Whether your child stays with us or joins us at any point along the way, sending them to Castle Newnham is the best decision you will ever make.



# THE HOUSE SYSTEM

Castle Newnham fosters school spirit through its house system. Each pupil proudly wears a badge representing their house: Kenilworth, Stirling, or Conwy, named after historic castles renowned for their strength and resilience.

Throughout the year, friendly competition ignites during house events. From academic quizzes to thrilling sports matches, pupils come together to earn points.

House rivalry extends beyond the classroom walls too, with pupils working collaboratively to raise funds for local and national charities. This system not only fuels a sense of belonging but also teaches valuable lessons in teamwork, sportsmanship, and the importance of giving back to the community.



# “EVERY CHILD IS AN ARTIST.”

PABLO PICASSO

The creative and performing arts are a strong thread that runs right through Castle Newnham. There are endless opportunities at every stage of a child's journey through the school where their passion is nurtured and talent is celebrated. From the visual to the performing arts, a love and appreciation of the arts opens the door to endless possibilities and supports the development of the whole child.

Our 4SIXTEEN Theatre Company is unique in the local area. It is our award-winning in-house theatre company which produces full scale theatrical productions which include musicals, plays and other performance events. These give pupils from all across the school opportunities to perform and be involved in theatrical processes. 4SIXTEEN also gives pupils the opportunity to work backstage or front of house through the making of props, costume or scenery and making of refreshments.

**“If you are serious about performing arts in Bedford, you are unlikely to do better than to start off by going to Castle Newnham School” Production Review**



# “CREATIVITY IS AS IMPORTANT IN EDUCATION AS LITERACY”

SIR KEN ROBINSON

At Castle Newnham, pupils are exposed to countless opportunities that will enable them to live healthy lives.

Our PE programme is fully inclusive. We provide opportunities for participation by pupils of all levels of age and ability. Pupils are offered a wide range of sports and an extensive range of clubs, activities and teams, with pupils representing the school in many local and county competitions. Clubs include football, rugby, hockey, netball, basketball, dance and athletics.

Our extensive range of extra-curricular clubs give pupils the opportunity to participate in a range of interesting activities, including: chess, art, drama, singing, manga and tabletop games as well as countless opportunities to receive extra help and extension in their learning.

We are similarly proud of our Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, whose philosophy is all about ‘having a go’. We run the Bronze and Silver Awards with many students in Year 9, 10 and 11 currently completing their award successfully.

# “OH, THE PLACES YOU’LL GO!”

DR SEUSS

Pupils at Castle Newnham are encouraged to develop a deeper understanding of the world and their place within it through an exciting range of enriching experiences that start from as young as 5. These include international trips, theatre trips, field work and visits to art galleries, museums and places of historical, scientific and technological interest. All of these experiences make an essential contribution to pupils’ development and education and will stay with them for life.

**“The curriculum is enriched by a wide range of clubs and educational visits” - OFSTED 2024**



Kenilworth Castle



End of Year Trips including Legoland and the Zoo



Ironbridge



Caythorpe Court



Local visits, including the river



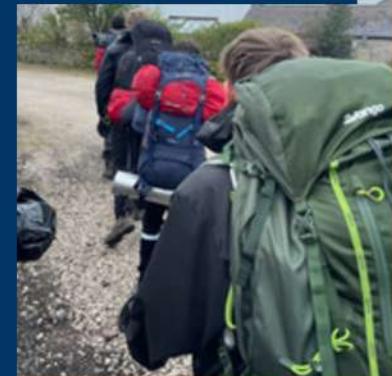
Theatre visits, including West End, London



Water Sports



Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions





# PLAYING OUR PART IN THE COMMUNITY

We believe that a first-rate education should not only lead to excellent results but should also focus on how our pupils interact with each other and develop as valuable members of society. At Castle Newnham, we believe that a rounded education involves experiencing and understanding the multitude of ways an individual can express their ideas to others and, by doing so, interact more profoundly with each other and the local community. There are many opportunities for our pupils to work with other Bedford schools and organisations as well as supporting multiple charities.

**“Pupils value the many opportunities beyond the classroom...these broaden pupils’ interests, experiences and understanding of the world.” - OFSTED 2024**



Secondary pupils on a Duke of Edinburgh exhibition





French Law & Law  
Cardiff University



Digital Marketing  
London



Medicine  
Anglia Ruskin University



Musical Theatre  
Arts Educational School, London



Professional Football  
Luton Town FC

“A community with a great sense of family, which enables you to achieve your own excellence through networks of support”

“Castle Newham was more than just a place to learn. The extracurricular activities, like the school shows, provided invaluable opportunities for personal growth and self-expression”

“Learning French at Castle Newham was a highlight of my school experience. The teachers made the classes engaging and fun, and I gained a strong foundation in the language”

“The sports provision at Castle Newham was amazing! The sense of team spirit was incredible”

“The teachers know me really well. I made so many friends during my time at Castle Newham”

“I loved my time at Castle Newham! The teachers encouragement and mentorship were instrumental in my academic success”

# BRIGHT FUTURES



## Castle Newnham is the newest member of the Bedfordshire Schools Trust (BEST)

BEST is a growing multi-academy trust which provides exceptional education to 8,000 children across its community of schools and nurseries.

While we are all unique, we share a core belief of the importance of high expectations, hard work and community-based provision. Being part of BEST gives us access to an extensive range of dedicated shared services in areas such as finance, human resources and estates management, which support the day-to-day running of our school.

The BEST Education Services and School Improvement Team also supports us to develop our curriculum, while our staff all have access to an extensive range of free or subsidised training courses and CPD opportunities.

**Find out more about BEST at [www.bestacademies.org.uk](http://www.bestacademies.org.uk)**



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