



Castle Connect

Friday 15th May 2026

Dear Families,

It has been another jam-packed week at school. I must begin by saying how incredibly impressed I have been with every student who has engaged with examinations this week.

Our Year 6 pupils completed four intense days of SATs; every single child was impeccable. It was a joy to see them out running around today, and I hope they have something special planned this weekend to celebrate their hard work. Similarly, Years 10 and 11 continue to approach their GCSEs with a real sense of maturity. I hope they find the time to balance their revision with some well-deserved downtime.

Following a range of stakeholder feedback, I am excited to share some positive changes to our daily structure. Starting Monday, 18th May, the North Site (Years 5–11) will move from multiple lunchtimes to a more aligned approach. This new model ensures:

- Maximising teaching and learning quality by reducing noise from students on break.
- Improved PE lesson experience by no longer clashing with lunch periods.
- Enriched Extra-Curricular - with more staff available at once, we will soon be able to expand our range of lunchtime clubs and activities.

In line with the importance of enrichment, the next few weeks of our **Views - Voice - Valued survey** will focus on how we can further enrich our "outside the classroom" offer. We want your input on trips, experiences, and ambitious opportunities that help our pupils find their spark. Please do share your views via the link below.

Wishing you all a wonderful and restful weekend.

Warm regards,
Donna Neely-Hayes
Principal



VIEWS



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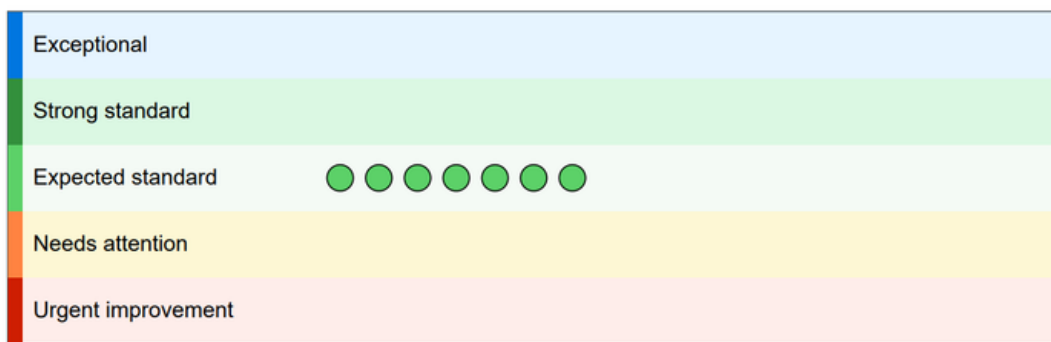
VALUED



Primary Phase OFSTED Report

We are delighted to share that our primary phase inspection in March 2026—the first conducted under the new framework—was a resounding success, achieving the 'expected standard' in every category.

Inspection report: 17 March 2026



Kat Edwards, Former Primary Headteacher, has shared the following message: *'This Ofsted report reflects the hard work, dedication and heart of the entire Castle Newnham community, and it was a privilege to lead the school and ensure this success was secured. The report captures so many of the strengths I saw every day — the calm, purposeful learning, the kindness of pupils, the commitment of staff and the unwavering support of families. Castle Newnham is a special place, and I am delighted that the inspection team recognised the quality of education, care and opportunity that your children experience. Thank you for everything you contributed to this outcome; it truly was a whole-community achievement.'*





Timings of the Day on North Site

As of Monday 18th May the timings of the day for pupils on North Site will look different, these changes will create a focused learning environment and minimise disruption of learning, maximise pupil engagement for the delivery of CORE curriculum, balance the cognitive load of the day specifically for the afternoon and integrate the North Site operations.

To facilitate the smooth running of the afternoon GCSE Exams, Year 5 & 6 will have lesson 4 before lunch and Year 7-11 will have their lesson 4 after lunch. this will swap on **Monday 15th June** once all afternoon exams are finished.

Please see the below timings:

MODEL 1 (KS4 Exam Period)	Year 5 and 6	Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11
AM CORE	8.30 - 9.10	
Lesson 1	9.10 - 10.10	
Lesson 2	10.10 - 11.10	
Break	11.10 - 11.30	
Lesson 3	11.30 - 12.30	
Lesson 4 / Lunch	12.30 - 1.30 Lunch 1.30 - 2.15	Lunch 12.30 - 1.15 1.15 - 2.15
Lesson 5	2.15 - 3.15	2.15 - 3.15
PM Reg	3.15 - 3.20	3.15 - dismissal from school

As of Monday 15th June:

MODEL 2 (Non Exam Period)	Year 5 and 6	Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11
AM CORE	8.30 - 9.10	
Lesson 1	9.10 - 10.10	
Lesson 2	10.10 - 11.10	
Break	11.10 - 11.30	
Lesson 3	11.30 - 12.30	
Lesson 4 / Lunch	Lunch 12.30 - 1.15 1.15 - 2.15	12.30 - 1.30 Lunch 1.30 - 2.15
Lesson 5	2.15 - 3.15	2.15 - 3.15
PM Reg	3.15 - 3.20	3.15 - dismissal from school



Fun 4 Young People

We've been asked by Fun 4 Young People (F4YP) to help share a quick survey designed to improve the free and heavily subsidised after-school clubs available to students across Bedford. F4YP wants to hear directly from young people to better understand what they want from local activities and to identify any barriers that might be stopping them from getting involved. Your feedback is essential for shaping a program that is truly relevant and accessible to everyone, so please take a moment to **complete this form** and help ensure our local after-school provision meets the needs of our students!



F4YP have asked that this form is completed in respect of pupils in Year 7 to Year 11 however their provision can be accessed by all Year groups

Year 7 to Year 11 PE Kit

As we are now fully into the exam season, pupils are coming into school in their PE kit. Please could you support us in ensuring your child is wearing the correct kit. **They should wear the Navy School PE top and navy shorts, tracksuit bottoms, shorts or leggings.** We are noticing a rise in pupils wearing black items, which are not acceptable. If you have any issues with obtaining navy kit, please get in touch as we can direct you to suitable retailers.

Thank you from Year 3

A big thank you from everyone in Year 3 to Hannah Hurd from Rosehip Bespoke Floristry in Cople for donating some of their beautiful flowers for us to use in our science lesson where we will dissect them!





Sports Days 2026

Reception to Year 6

Get Ready for Primary Sports Days 2026!

It's time to lace up those trainers! We are thrilled to announce the upcoming Primary Sports Days. This year, we're bringing more energy than ever as our House System takes centre stage. It's a fantastic opportunity for pupils to showcase their skills, represent their teams, and wear their house colours with pride!

Event Schedule

Year Group	Date	Time	Location
Reception	22/05/2026	09:30 – 11:10	South Site (Goldington Rd)
Years 1&2	04/06/2026	09:30 – 13:00	North Primary Site (Polhill Ave)
Years 3&4	11/06/2026	09:30 – 13:00	North Primary Site (Polhill Ave)
Years 5&6	20/05/2026	13:10 – 15:15	North Primary Site (Polhill Ave)

Show Your House Spirit!

To keep the motivation high and the atmosphere electric, we want to see a sea of colour! We encourage all pupils to wear at least one item of clothing representing their house - the more colour, the better!

- Stirling: Blue ●
- Kenilworth: Yellow ●
- Conwy: White ●

Your child's house name was written in their planner on Monday. If they don't have something in their house colour, don't worry - we'll have plenty of stickers on hand so everyone feels part of the team!

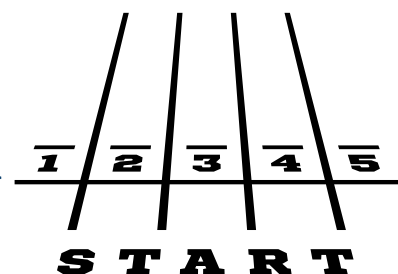
Beyond the Finish Line

It's not just about winning the race; it's about how we play the game. House Points will be awarded throughout the day to pupils who best demonstrate our school's CORE values.

We can't wait to see you there cheering on our young athletes. Let the games begin!

Year 7 to Year 10

Sports day for pupils in Year 7 to Year 11 will be on Friday 10th July, families are invited to spectate the track events taking place from 1-3pm. Keep an eye out for more information coming soon!





Chess Success



At the weekend, a small number of intrepid chess players travelled to the magnificent Stowe School to take part in their Chess Championships. They all played brilliantly and should be proud of their performances and their resilience. Congratulations to Wolf (Year 6) who came 3rd in the Under 14 category



Choral Scholarships at St Pauls

As part of their plans to develop the choir at St Paul's, we are delighted to announce the creation of eight choral scholarships for the academic year 2026–27 for students in Years 10-13 (**Applicable to our current Year 9's and 10's**). These scholarships will provide a singing and music education whilst being an excellent opportunity for young people who love singing to perform regularly within a supportive choral setting.



Please email cnperformingarts@bestacademies.org.uk for an application pack and application form for you to read.

Thank you from Primary PE



AA huge thank you from the primary PE department to Chris Smyth and family for an amazingly generous donation of dodgeballs, which has allowed us to replace many of the 'well used' ones, thank you very much!



Great Athletes Event

We are thrilled to be able to share some information about our upcoming Great Athletes event. Information about the event will be shared with the **pupils in Years 1 to 6** next week, this will include who our athlete is and what the day includes.

We are excited to announce that the athlete who will be visiting us will be Sean Rose!

On the event day, all pupils will take part in a sponsored fitness circuit run by their athlete, a terrific way to get all children excited about sport and realise that getting moving is really fun! Their athlete will then share their incredible sporting journey, a story of resilience and determination in a fun and interactive assembly. There will also be an opportunity to ask any burning questions in a Q&A session with their inspiring role-model at the end!

Fundraising for the event is now live and can be set up following the instructions below, children will be bringing home a sponsorship form later on this week.

You can follow the instructions below, or watch the video here: <https://vimeo.com/1148909287>

1. Go to the Great Athletes website <https://greatathletes.org/>
2. Click on 'set up a fundraising page':
- 3.



4. Click on 'find my school'.
5. Start typing your school name and select your school from the dropdown – check that the postcode matches!
6. This should take you to a page with your school's name at the top and information about your visiting athlete. Click on set up a fundraising page.

1. Create an account by filling in your details.
2. Enter your child's details and click publish. You can sponsor your child straight away so type in your name and the amount you'd like to sponsor and you're all set - you can also share this page with friends and family!



The money raised for the event will help us to purchase new sports equipment and improve levels of physical activity in our school!



Upper KS2 Art work

Year 5 Pencil Portraits

Year 5 are currently working on a 'Dare to Stare' topic in Art and have been challenging themselves at self-portraits.

Here are just a few examples of the amazing standard of work.



Year 6 Animal Paintings

Year 6 have also been hard at work completing beautiful watercolour paintings to complete this terms Animals topic.

Pupils used a grid method to enlarge and accurately draw their chosen animal and layering painting techniques.

Pupils from top left
Caspian 6JC, Matteo 6JC, Jamie 6JC
Orla 6RT, Clementine 6JC, Vicky 6JC
Remy 6RT and Tom 6JC



Sporting Success!

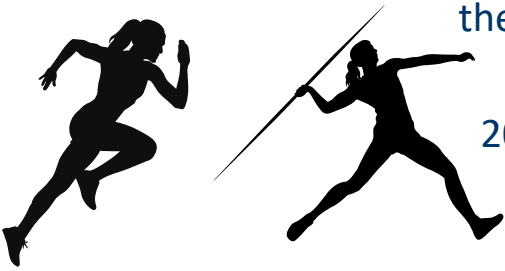
Year 7&8 Athletics

We took 24 pupils across the two year groups down to Bedford International Stadium for their 4th District League event. A great effort by all and we look forward to the finals night next Tuesday!



Year 9&10 Athletics

On Wednesday we took 26 pupils down to the stadium for their 2nd District League event. It was a great atmosphere all around and some excellent performances. On Wednesday 20th May, we have their District Championships event which will be during the day. Look out on MCAS for further information.



Duke of Edinburgh

Year 9 Bronze Practice Expedition

This week we took out 19 pupils on their training expedition! The weather was varied but they all were in high spirits and have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We look forward to their qualifying expedition at the end of September.



DofE Pupils in Years 10 &11

Our team are working hard behind the scenes to support all pupils that undertook their DofE Award last year to get their sections signed off. To support your child to do this please take a look at this [link](#). Those who have completed their Awards, the certificates are printed and ready to be given out during the next assembly slot.



CNS Fest- Pupil involvement

Join us for Castle Newnham's CNS Fest, an annual whole school event, which has developed out of the previous Summer Fair/BBQ, working in partnership with the PTA, to celebrate the summer. With live music and performances through the day, food stalls, sports games, face painting, a bar and raffle. This is an event you do not want to miss. CNS Fest will take place on Saturday 27th June, 12-4pm on Castle Newnham North Site. **Tickets on sale soon!!**

We are delighted to be bringing back our 'Pupil Enterprise Zone', an opportunity for pupils to run their own stalls and potentially make some profit!

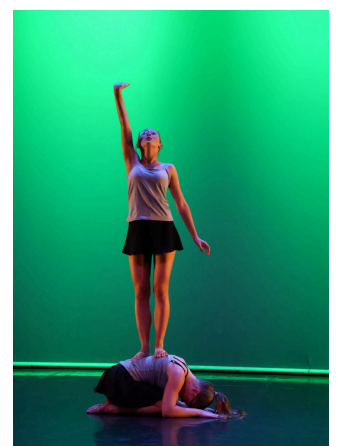
We are also on the look out for Pupil Marshals to help with the smooth running of the day.

If your child would like to be involved in the Pupil enterprise Zone or as a marshal, please complete the below form:

CNS Fest- Pupils Involvement Sign Up

Dance Showcase Photos

Photographs taken at the Dance showcase will be available for families to purchase soon!





**YOUTH
SPORT
TRUST**

Girls Active Research

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Girls Active research

Your child's school is taking part in a national initiative called Girls Active. As part of this, they are asking students to complete an online research survey. This letter is to tell you more about the survey.

The survey will help both the Youth Sport Trust and schools to understand participation levels, attitudes, motivations and barriers to taking part in PE, sport and physical activity, as well as how these may differ across genders. The Youth Sport Trust will also use the responses from all schools to write a national report about girls' and boys' participation, attitudes, motivations and barriers to taking part in PE, sport and physical activity.

Your child's school will also receive a bespoke report based on the responses from pupils at the school. The information in this report can be useful for the school to make the changes to their PE, sport and physical activity offer to engage young people in ways that appeal to them.

If you **do not** want your child to complete the survey and be part of the research, then please return the opt out form to your child's school. You do not have to provide a reason. There is no need to do anything if you are happy for your child to be involved.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff at your child's school or contact the YST research team at: research@youthsporttrust.org.

Yours sincerely

Alice Lambert

Evaluation & Research Officer

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www.youthsporttrust.org

President
Sir John L Beckwith CBE
Vice President
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The Youth Sport Trust is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England, number 4180163

Registered charity number 1086915

Registered office address:
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Loughborough University
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Girls Active Research

Parent/ Guardian Information

The Youth Sport Trust (YST) is a national children's charity. We are inviting all pupils to take part in an online survey called the 'Girls Active' Survey, delivered by the Youth Sport Trust (YST) and funded by Sport England. The survey is open to all genders your child's school will complete the survey at some point between 8th May and 19th June 2026.

This document provides more information about what we are doing. It provides you with the chance to choose for your child to **not** participate in the survey.

About YST research

Our research is for the public good. It helps the YST to make evidence based, informed decisions about what they do as a charity. This helps them to make the best use of public money. The YST's vision is of a future where every child enjoys the life-changing benefits that come from play and sport. Our research aims to support this vision and to achieve the best outcomes for all young people.

What will this research involve?

The Youth Sport Trust want to understand young people's participation, attitudes, motivations and barriers to taking part in PE, sport and physical activity. This is to gain knowledge and understanding to help to engage all girls in PE, sport and physical activity in ways that appeal to them. Your school may just be asking girls to complete the survey or it may be asking all young people, and not just girls, to complete the survey so that they can understand all young people's perspectives too.

We are asking pupils at your child's school to complete an online survey. There are up to 35 questions and they will ask young people about:

- What they think about physical activity, sport, PE and learning at school
- How much physical activity they do, and if/how they think it helps them
- If/how their school and family support them to do physical activity and sport
- Any changes they would like to see in PE, sport and physical activity at their school
- Whether they lead any sport or physical activity or if they want to lead any
- What encourages and motivates them to do physical activity at school and outside of school
- What stops them doing more physical activity at school and outside of school
- Their body image, school uniform and PE/sports kit
- How their uniform/kit makes them feel and if it could be improved
- Opportunities and views of physical activity, sport and PE for all genders
- Their screentime, wellbeing, resilience and belonging to school

Secondary aged girls will also be able to choose whether they complete an additional 4 short questions about taking part in PE or school sport when they are on their period, as well as how comfortable they are talking to their teacher about periods. Even if they do choose to take part in the survey, they do not have to answer these 4 questions if they don't want to.

Finally, we will also ask your child some personal information, such as their gender, year group, ethnicity, faith/religion, disability and their free school meal status. This helps us to understand the diversity of the people that respond to the questions in the survey. It will help us improve our work in the future and enable us to understand the activity levels and views of young people from different characteristic groups.



At no point throughout the survey will your child be asked to provide their name. All activities will be designed to be fully accessible to all young people. We ask for the survey to be completed in school and not at home, and for a teacher to be present whilst the young people are completing the survey in case they have any questions.

Does my child have to take part?

No, your child does not have to take part in the survey. If you do not wish them to take part, please complete the [form linked here](#) and return it to your school by Thursday 21st May. You do not have to give a reason. The survey will also be explained to your child so that they can make an informed choice about whether they are happy to take part in the survey or not.

What will happen to the results of the research?

All information from the research is kept safe by the research team at The Youth Sport Trust. Girls Active is a national programme, with schools across England completing the survey. The Youth Sport Trust will use the responses from all schools to write a national level report about girls' and boys' participation, attitudes, motivations and barriers to taking part in PE, sport and physical activity.

We may share the data we collect with universities/external parties for the purpose of future research only. The data we share will be anonymous so no one will be able to identify your child from the data. Data will be shared securely. Sharing data in this way helps to maximise the impact of our work.

If enough young people from your child's school take part, we will also use the responses from all students at your child's school to write a school level report about the participation levels, attitudes, motivations and barriers to participation. The report will be given to the school so they can understand more about these factors that may affect participation in PE, sport and physical activity.

Both the school's and the Youth Sport Trust's reports might be shared with other people, like the people who funded the project, other schools, or other organisations, so they can understand more about these factors that may affect participation in PE, sport and physical activity. The reports might be shared through printed publications, go on our website, other organisations' websites, be shared on social media, used in newsletters and shared with the press.

Within the school report, no individual person will be named or be able to be identified either directly or indirectly. Within the national level report, no individual schools or young people will be named.

Data protection and confidentiality

The YST will comply with all applicable Data Protection Legislation, including the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR. For further information on the lawful basis for processing any personal information and how we are committed to respecting your privacy, please see our full privacy notice on our website found here: <https://www.youthsporttrust.org/privacy-policy>.

Our research ethics

The YST observes the Code of Practice of the [Market Research Society](#) and works within the boundaries of the Code of Ethics outlined by the [Social Research Association](#). As well as informing you about the research, we will also ask the young people if they are happy to take part in the research. No one has to take part if they do not want to.

Who can I contact to find out more?

If you have any questions or would like any more information about the research, please contact: research@youthsporttrust.org. Please mention 'Girls Active Survey' as part of any contact. For more information about the Youth Sport Trust, please visit: www.youthsporttrust.org.

Thank you for reading this information.

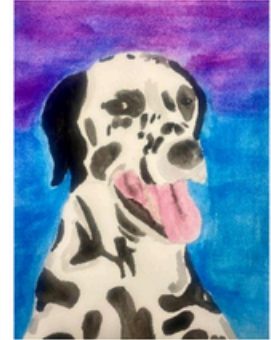
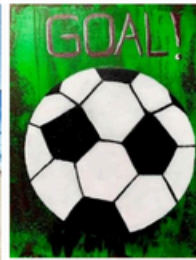


Reception to Year 6 Art Competition



Art Competition 'My Favourite'

Reception - Year 6



Calling all Artists who love an Art Competition!
We are very excited to see more fantastic Artwork again this year

This year's theme is 'My Favourite'

What are your favourite places, foods, people, characters, toys, animals, sports, colours etc?
You can choose to draw, paint, print in any size or you could make a 3D sculpture.

By entering you will earn 2 house points; the winner and runner-up will receive extra points and the winner a fantastic art prize! There will be a winner and a runner up for each year group.

All work must be a physical submission.

Closing date for this competition is Friday 19th June.

Please hand named entries to the South site school office or Miss Haddon on the North site



TOTAL
C L O T H I N G

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off**

This promotion applies to in-stock uniform items only. The code SAVE15 must be used at the time of purchase orders cannot be amended or cancelled if the code is not applied.
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 totalclothing.co.uk

From 18th May - 26th May



CASTLE NEWNHAM PRIMARY PTA

NEWS

UPCOMING PTA EVENTS

FRIDAY, MAY 22 BREAK THE RULES DAY (LAST DAY OF TERM)
SATURDAY, JUNE 27 - CNFEST (SEE FLYER FOR MORE DETAILS)
TUESDAY, JULY 14 - YEAR 1&2 SUMMER DISCO (SOUTH SITE)
THURSDAY, JULY 16 - YEAR 3&4 AND YEAR 5&6 SUMMER DISCO (NORTH SITE)

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Castle Newnham PTA
PRESENTS

BREAK THE RULES DAY

Friday 22 MAY!

Pay 50p per rule broken!
Choose which rules to break and pay via MCAS!

RULES TO BE BROKEN INCLUDE...

- ✗ No unhealthy snacks
- ✗ No crazy hair
- ✗ No colorful or mismatched socks
- ✗ No nail varnish
- ✗ No baseball caps in class
- ✗ Do not eat your pudding before lunch
- ✗ No own clothes or fancy dress
- ✗ Water bottles must only contain water

NO NUTS!!

Tea Towels!

Sales are reopened for
Year 2,
Year 5, &
Year 6
on MCAS

Any questions, get in touch
with us on email:
hello.cnpta@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates



Monday 18th May	Year 10 GCSE Art Mock Exam
Wednesday 20th May	Sports Day for Pupils in Years 5 and 6 Year 9 to Year 11 District Athletics Championships
Thursday 21st May	Census Day
Friday 22nd May	Sports Day for Pupils in Reception End of Summer 1
Monday 25th - Friday 29th May	May half term (School Closed)
Tuesday 2nd June	Year 7 & 8 Girls Cricket Match
Thursday 4th June	Sports day for pupils in Years 1&2 Year 9 & 10 Girls Cricket Match
Friday 5th June	World Environment Day Reception & Year 1 Reading Morning
Monday 8th June	KYear 9 & 10 Girls Tennis
Tuesday 9th June	Key stage 3 Junior Maths Challenge
Thursday 11th June	Sports Day for Pupils in Year 3&4

Friday 12th June	Reception & Year 1 Reading Morning Year 9 & 10 Boys Tennis Year 10 Reports go home
Monday 15th June	Reception Meet the Team Event Year 5 & 6 Dynasty Art Workshop Year 7 & 8 Girls Tennis
Tuesday 16th June	Primary Musicians Evening
Wednesday 17th June	Year 10 GCSE Geography Local Fieldwork
Thursday 18th June	Year 11 Prom
Friday 19th June	Reception - Year 8 Father Figure Friday Year 10 Geography Local Fieldwork Secondary Art Exhibition GCSE Exams End
Monday 22nd June	Year 4 to Year 5 Meet the Team Year 10 Academic consultation evening
Tuesday 23rd June	Reception - Year 10 Culture Day Year 6 to Year 7 Meet the tutor Event Year 10 Geography in-school fieldwork day
Wednesday 24th June	Year 2 Geography trip Year 10 Next Steps Day
Thursday 25th June	Year 10 Geography Local Fieldwork
Friday 26th June	Year 10 GCSE Art Fitzwilliam Cambridge Art Trip
Saturday 27th June	CNS Fest

Monday 29th June

Academic Excellence Awards Evening
Year 7 to Year 10 EAL trip to Herring Green Farm and Bird of Prey Centre

Tuesday 30th June

Transition Day 1

Wednesday 1st July

Transition Day 2

For pupils on a 2-week timetable, next week is:

WEEK

B



Safeguarding Team



Mr M Cleaver
DSL Primary



Mrs H Harwood
Senior Vice Principal



Mrs H Grady
Vice Principal



Mr M Herridge
Vice Principal



Miss H Baxter
Assistant Principal



Mrs B McWilliams
DSL Secondary



Miss S Cain
Pupil & Family Support Lead
DDSL



Mr D Chapman
Pastoral Intervention Lead
DDSL



Mrs H Clements
Head of Year
DDSL



SAFEGUARDING CONCERN?

If you are concerned about a child's welfare and safety, contact the safeguarding team via

CN-Safeguarding@bestacademies.org.uk



Social Media

School social media accounts are another useful tool for timely communication, community building, showcasing achievements and advertising upcoming events.



@CastleNewnham.Official



/CastleNewnhamSchool

My Child at School App

MY CHILD AT SCHOOL is the school's platform for families to receive information and communication about their child.



The app can be downloaded from Apple or Google stores onto your phone.
Payments for dinner money and any trips will be via this app.

