



Castle Connect

Friday 22nd May 2026

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of this half term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly wonderful few weeks. As my first half term as Principal, it has been an absolute joy to begin really getting to know everyone within this school community.

I want to really thank our dedicated staff, who work tirelessly every day, and to you, our parents and families, for your warm welcome and ongoing support. Most importantly, I want to thank our wonderful pupils. Their enthusiasm, kindness, and hard work are the heart of our school.

Looking ahead, the next half term promises to be an incredibly vibrant time. I am so excited to start announcing some really wonderful new developments within our school. We have been working hard behind the scenes, and I look forward to sharing updates regarding upgraded resources, enhanced facilities, and a fantastic range of new pupil opportunities.

I wish you all a wonderful, sunny half-term break filled with rest and relaxation. I very much look forward to welcoming everyone back and sharing these exciting next steps with you all.

Warm regards,

Warm regards,
Donna Neely-Hayes
Principal



VIEWS



V



VALUED






Mindfulness for Parents & Carers



FREE Mindfulness Course for Parents & Carers

INTRODUCING MINDFULNESS IN 5 ONLINE SESSIONS

Open to **ALL Parents & Carers of BEST students**, this course provides a taste of mindfulness, exploring key themes and practices to support you in your everyday life:

-  Improve your sense of wellbeing • cultivate calm and self-compassion
-  Reduce stress and anxiety • learn to manage thoughts and emotions skilfully
-  Be more present and effective • live life more intentionally, less reactively



with Will George
BEST Mindfulness Coach

SUMMER TERM 2026 DATES

Thursdays: June 11th • 18th • 25th • July 2nd • 9

Choose your preferred time:

12.15pm-1.30pm or **6.30pm-7.45pm**

TO REGISTER

and view the [course introduction video](#)

visit bestacademies.org.uk/mindfulness

(places are limited and offered on a first come, first serve basis)





Mindfulness Club - Year 7 to Year 11

Castle Newnham is introducing a Mindfulness Club for pupils in Years 7–11.


The club provides a calm and supportive start to the day, running every Tuesday morning from 8:00am–8:30am in Room W6.

Sessions are led by two members of staff, Mrs Williams and Ms Ali, both trained to deliver mindfulness in school. Pupils will take part in short, guided mindfulness practices, breathing exercises, and moments of quiet reflection designed to support wellbeing and help them feel settled and focused for the school day ahead.



Pupils are welcome to attend in whatever way feels most comfortable for them, whether fully participating, observing, or simply taking time in the calm environment.

Mindfulness Club


Pause. Breathe. Begin.

 **When?**
Tuesday Mornings
8:00am - 8:30am

Where?
Room W6

  **What Happens?**
Short, guided sessions
Calm and supportive space
Activities

Who?
Year 7 - 11





Year 1 to Year 6 Great Athlete Visits

Have you heard?
**GB Paralympic Skier
SEAN ROSE**
is coming to our school

Scan to sponsor
Search our school



- Get the children moving in a fun fitness circuit
- Witness the strength, talent & resilience of a top athlete
- Raise money for new sports equipment

This week, we revealed the Great Athlete who will be visiting Year 1 - Year 6 in just a couple of weeks!

Don't forget to sponsor your child for their sponsored fitness circuit – you can sponsor online by following the QR code and searching for the school name.

Please note we are only accepting online sponsors, no money should be brought into school.

Year 3 Dragon Eyes

This week, Year 3 pupils decorated their Dragon Eyes in their Art Workshop. Beautifully colourful results and each eye uniquely creative!



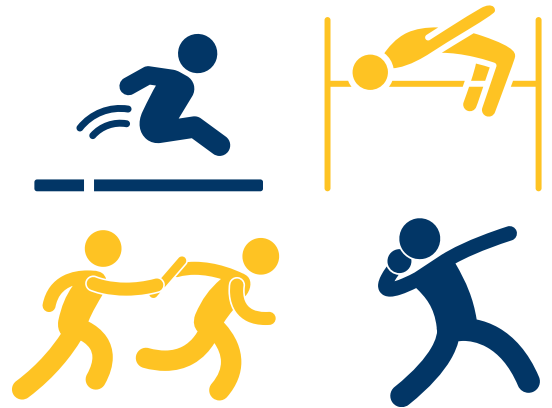


Sports Days

Reception & Upper Key Stage 2

This week, both sites were full of energy as we held our Reception, Year 5, and Year 6 Sports Days. It was wonderful to see the pupils' enthusiasm, determination, and sporting excellence on full display, with every child trying their absolute best.

In Years 5 and 6, the pupils showcased their skills across a wide range of field events, including the long jump, high jump, shot put, and ball throw, alongside a variety of inclusive activities. In the afternoon, the excitement shifted to the track. Pupils gave it their all in both short sprints and longer-distance races, before wrapping up the day with the relays, where their teamwork and encouragement truly shone.



Meanwhile, our Reception pupils celebrated a major milestone: their very first Sports Day at Castle Newnham School! They completed a carousel of action-packed activities, demonstrating fantastic balance, jumping, throwing, and running skills. It was wonderful to see them listening so well, cheering on their friends throughout the morning.

Of course, Sports Day wouldn't be complete without our community! At both events, families and teachers got in on the action, bringing plenty of laughs and healthy competition to the traditional egg and spoon races. Thank you to everyone who came along to support.

Finally, a massive thank you and well done to all the pupils who took part - thank you for giving your absolute all and making us so proud!












District Athletics

Year 9 & Year 10

On Wednesday we took 29 pupils down to the Bedford International Stadium for our annual athletics championships. Everyone competed to the best of their ability and we ended the day with 3 Gold medals! A few highlights below:

- Intermediate Girls Long Jump- Keira 
- Intermediate Girls Triple Jump- Jess 
- Junior Boys High Jump- Ken 
- Intermediate Girls 1500m- Jess 
- Intermediate Girls High Jump- Katie 
- Intermediate Boys High Jump- Noah 
- Intermediate Boys Javelin- Euan 



Year 7 & Year 8

Unfortunately, the weather got the better of us again this week, so we were unable to finish the final event for the league. A massive well done to everyone who competed. We are looking forward to the Year 7 & 8 District Athletics Championships on the 17th June. We do have a few Gold medallists who have won their respective events across the 3 weeks of competition. Well done to:

- Year 7 Girls High Jump- Amelia B 
- Year 8 Girls High Jump- Amelia D 
- Year 8 Boys Hurdles- Logan E 



Father Figure Friday

We are delighted to invite dads, granddads, uncles, and other special male relatives to the **"Reception to Year 6 - Father Figure Friday"**

When: Friday 13th June 2025

Time: 9 - 10.30am - Reception to Year 4 and/or 10:45 - 11:45am - Year 5 & 6



Join us for a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time with your child(ren) and other members of our school community, while engaging in some enjoyable games, puzzles and sporting activities.



Classrooms will be open for puzzles, board games and card games and, weather permitting, the playground will be supervised to allow for outdoor play. We will provide a variety of puzzles in classrooms and equipment for outdoor play but adults are encouraged to bring in board/card games from home to play with their children and/or in small groups with others.

This is a fantastic chance to:

- Spend precious time with your child in their school environment.
- Meet and connect with other dads and male relatives in our school community.

There is no need to let us know in advance if you are attending. Numbers are limited to one adult per child due to space restrictions within classrooms and if you have more than one sibling on a school site you will be able to move between children.



We look forward to welcoming you to our "Father Figure Friday" event



CNS Fest - Saturday 27th June

Get ready for the 4th Annual CNS Fest!

Join us for a fantastic day packed with incredible live music from our talented pupil performers, a vibrant variety of pupil led stalls, department fundraising stalls, and a sizzling BBQ and refreshing bar run by our amazing PTA. Don't miss out on the best community event of the year—secure your discounted tickets below to join the fun!



Tickets for CNS Fest are available to purchase online at £2 for an adult ticket, [tickets purchased on the door will be £4.](#) All persons aged 18 and over will need an adults ticket. Child tickets are free but all children in attendance should have their own ticket.

Important Info: Cashless Stalls & Token Updates for CNS Fest!

This year, the school-run stalls at CNS Fest are going cashless! Instead of cash, these stalls will use tokens.

Here is what you need to know:

- Stall Tokens: You can pre-buy your tokens now with your tickets or purchase them on the day.
- Token Collection: All pre-purchased tokens will be ready for pickup at the front gates when you arrive.
- The Exception: The Pupil Enterprise Zone is CASH ONLY, so please remember to bring some change to support our pupil entrepreneurs!

There is still time for pupils to sign up to be involved! Complete the [CNS Fest- Pupils Involvement Sign Up](#) form before Monday 1st June!





Year 7 Sports Trip

On Monday we took 7AJW, 7DR and 7NCS down to the University to experience Rhythmic Gymnastics, Parkour and Cheerleading. Each class spent 40 minutes on each activity and thoroughly enjoyed the experience delivered to them by the 2nd Year QTS PE students from the university. We are hoping pupils from 7MP & 7SK will get the opportunity to go down to the university later in the year.



Year 4 Reading Cafe

Last Friday Year 4 pupils and their families were invited to attend the Reading Cafe for their year group. A selection of new books, purchased thanks to the sponsored read money raised by Primary pupils, were available for perusal alongside a number of book/character quizzes. The event was well attended and continues to promote reading for pleasure across the school. The final Reading Cafe this year will be on Friday 10th July for Year 1 - we look forward to seeing families of Year 1 children there.





Year 6 Artists

Back in November 30 Year 6 pupils participated in a workshop with a visiting artist to create entries for the Harpur Trust 2026 Schools Art Competition.

Very well done to Layla 6EB, Anisha 6RT and Pia 6RT who's Artwork has been chosen for the summer exhibition at the Higgins.

We've been informed that Layla and Anisha have also won a prize and will be attending a prize giving ceremony in June.

Reception to Year 6 Art Competition

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.



Art Competition 'My Favourite'

Reception - Year 6





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



BY KIND PERMISSION MTI



Disney
THE LION KING

MONDAY 4TH - SATURDAY 11TH JULY 2026

MONDAY - THURSDAY PERFORMANCES 6PM

FRIDAY PERFORMANCES 4PM & 7PM

SATURDAY PERFORMANCES 3PM & 7PM

TICKETS: £10.00

WWW.CASTLENEWNHAM.SCHOOL/BOX-OFFICE

**TICKETS ON
SALE NOW!**





TOTAL
C L O T H I N G


**15 %
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.
Minimum spend £35.

In-store & Online

Use Code: **SAVE15 at checkout.**

Shop online today and start saving!

 totalclothing.co.uk

From 18th May - 26th May

Yoga and Wellbeing in the Park

Sunday 7th June 2026 • Bedford Park, near the Pavilion



Yoga Session for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Kids, Adults and Families with OmMoShantiYoga

(this session will be signed by a British Sign Language interpreter)

ZONE B • 11:00-11:45am

No booking necessary – just fill out a disclaimer and join in!

This yoga session is aimed at Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Kids, Adults and Families but also open to anyone. It offers a unique approach to well-being, focusing on physical and mental health in a non-threatening environment. It's a practice that emphasizes personal limits, promotes empathy, and encourages individual growth.

Key Aspects of SEND Yoga:

- **Inclusivity:** SEND yoga welcomes all, regardless of ability, creating a space where everyone can participate and feel successful.
- **Physical Benefits:** Yoga improves balance, coordination, strength, flexibility, and motor skills.
- **Mental Benefits:** It reduces stress and anxiety, increases focus and concentration, and enhances self-esteem.
- **Emotional Well-being:** Yoga promotes relaxation, self-regulation, and sensory processing, helping individuals manage their emotions.
- **Social Interaction:** Group yoga classes encourage teamwork and collaboration, fostering positive social interactions.
- **Adaptive Approach:** Yoga can be adapted to individual needs and abilities, making it suitable for a wide range of learners.

Benefits for SEND Children:

- **Increased Confidence:** Achieving yoga poses and participating in a supportive environment boosts self-esteem and confidence.
- **Improved Communication:** Yoga can help develop language and communication skills, even for non-verbal individuals.
- **Better Focus:** Breathing exercises and mindful movement can improve concentration and attention.
- **Stress Relief:** Yoga's calming effect can help reduce stress and anxiety, promoting relaxation and emotional stability.



In essence, SEND Yoga is a holistic practice that provides a safe, supportive, and fun environment for individuals with SEND to improve their physical, mental, and emotional well-being.



Signed Yoga Sessions

Signed by British Sign Language Interpreters



Zone B – 11:00-11:45

Yoga Session for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Kids, Adults and Families with OmMoShantiYoga

This yoga session is designed for SEND children, adults, and families, while remaining open and welcoming to everyone. It offers a supportive approach to wellbeing, nurturing both physical and mental health in a calm, non-threatening environment. The practice encourages self-awareness, respects individual limits, fosters empathy, and supports personal growth. Sessions can be adapted for chair-based practice and wheelchair users—everyone is welcome.

Zone B – 12:00-12:45

Breathwork for adults and all abilities with Mark from Pure Breath

Relaxing / downregulating breathwork session based on principles from Oxygen Advantage / Buteyko Breathing and traditional pranayama. Teaching techniques to help reduce stress and anxiety, promote better sleep, cultivate calm, hone faculties of interoception, focus and concentration.

Zone A – 13:00-13:45

Creative Vinyasa and Spoken Word for over 14's, all abilities with Lauren Aimée Yoga

Lauren's yoga style is a creative, fluid vinyasa that invites you to move with intention rather than urgency. The pace is steady and spacious, allowing time to land in each shape, soften into your breath, and truly feel what's unfolding in your body. Woven throughout the practice is gentle spoken word, adding an extra layer of depth - subtle prompts and reflections that encourage you to turn inward, explore your inner landscape, and connect more meaningfully to your experience. It's a practice that's accessible to all levels, offering both grounding and expansion in equal measure.



Kindly sponsored by: The Harpur Trust and Delomac



For more information about the session please visit www.bedford.gov.uk/yogaday



Bedford Borough Council • Sports Development

Yoga and Wellbeing in the Park

Sunday 7th June 2026 at Bedford Park

Free Yoga Sessions

Zone A

10:00-10:45	Morning Surya Namaskar - Sun Salutations for all ages and abilities with <i>Yoga with Bal (B Ascending)</i>
11:00-11:45	YoQi: Yoga & Qigong for adults and all abilities with <i>Patrizia from yogaforlifecycles.com</i>
12:00-12:45	Vinyasa for all ages and abilities with <i>YC from Your Celestial Light Yoga</i>
13:00-13:45	Creative Vinyasa and Spoken Word for over 14's, all abilities with <i>Lauren Aimée Yoga</i> - this session will be signed by a British Sign Language interpreter
14:00-14:45	Ignite your Power Flow for all ages and abilities with <i>Alannah from BodyWise</i>
15:00-15:45	Beginners Flexibility Focused Practice for all ages and abilities with <i>Hollie Cameron Yoga</i>
16:00-16:45	Yin Yoga for all ages and abilities with <i>Rosanna from Peacethruyoga</i>
17:00-17:45	Balance and Chair Yoga for all ages and abilities with <i>Emma from Balanceworks Yoga</i>
18:00-18:45	Unwind & Flow for all ages and abilities with <i>Bex Ellis Yoga</i>

Zone B

10:00-10:45	Vinyasa inspired Yin Yang Yoga for adults and all abilities with <i>Genevieve Shaw</i>
11:00-11:45	Yoga session for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Kids, Adults and Families with <i>Mo from OmMoShantiYoga</i> - this session will be signed by a British Sign Language interpreter
12:00-12:45	Breathwork for adults and all abilities with <i>Mark from Pure Breath</i> - this session will be signed by a British Sign Language interpreter
13:00-13:45	Women's Core Strength & Stillness for all women, pregnant, post birth, hormonal, peri / menopausal with <i>Pippa Moss from the Space Within Wellbeing Studio</i>
14:00-15:00	Shift Your Energy: Cacao, Breath, Movement & Sound Bath for all ages and abilities with <i>Yoga with Lenka</i>
15:15-15:45	Mindful Games and Story Massage for families and all abilities with <i>Anne from Mindfulness & Massage</i>
16:00-16:45	Sound Bath for all ages and abilities with <i>Nathan Sounds</i>
17:00-17:45	Laughter Yoga for all ages and abilities with <i>Cheryl Green</i>
18:00-18:45	Japanese Reiki Sessions for all ages and abilities with <i>Florenca Menna</i>

Also between 11am-3pm

Wellness Chair Massages available for all with *Linzi from LM Fitness and Wellbeing*

Regulation Station with sensory regulation activities for children & teenagers with *Barnes Active*

For more information about the sessions please visit www.bedford.gov.uk/yogaday

Wellbeing Information Desk

Information and advice available from local mental health services and charities. Visit the Wellbeing Information Desk after your yoga session and speak to the Mindful sport team about regular weekly activity sessions which focus on improving mental health and wellbeing. Plus find information on self-help concepts and the wellbeing service.

All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Information will be provided by a wide range of external providers and only information with a council or NHS logo is officially endorsed.

Kindly sponsored by: The Harpur Trust and Delomac



Upcoming Dates



Monday 25th - Friday 29th May

May half term (School Closed)

Monday 1st June

Year 5 Booktastic Book Festival at the University of Bedfordshire

Tuesday 2nd June

Year 7 & 8 Girls Cricket Match

Wednesday 3rd June

Year 3 Trip to Woburn Safari Park

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

Year 9 & 10 Girls Tennis

Tuesday 9th June

Key stage 3 Junior Maths Challenge

Wednesday 10th June

Multisports trip to Daubeny for pupils in 1BM and 2AB

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 to Year 6 Father Figure Friday Year 10 Geography Local Fieldwork GCSE Exams End
Monday 22nd June	Year 4 to Year 5 Meet the Team Year 10 Academic consultation evening
Tuesday 23rd June	RP & RH Trip to the Place Theatre Year 6 to Year 7 Meet the tutor Event Year 10 Geography in-school fieldwork day
Wednesday 24th June	Year 2 Geography trip to Russell Park and the Embankment Area Year 10 Next Steps Day
Thursday 25th June	Year 10 Geography Local Fieldwork
Friday 26th June	Reception & Year 1 Reading Morning 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

Friday 3rd July

Reception & Year 1 Reading Morning
Key Stage 3 Reports go home
Year 10 GCSE Geography In- School Field Work

Monday 6th July

4SIXTEEN's The Lion King Jr.

Tuesday 7th July

Year 2 Trip to Hamerton Zoo
Year 4 Trip to Mosbury Park
4SIXTEEN's The Lion King Jr.

Wednesday 8th July

4SIXTEEN's The Lion King Jr.

Thursday 9th July

3TK & 3JA Geography trip to Castle Road
4SIXTEEN's The Lion King Jr.

Friday 10th July

Year 1 Reading Cafe
3RG Geography Trip to Castle Road
4SIXTEEN's The Lion King Jr.
Sports Day for pupils in Year 7 to Year 10

Monday 13th July

Year 9 End of Year Trip to Whipsnade Zoo

Tuesday 14th July

Reception to Year 2 PTA Disco
Year 8 End of Year Trip to Legoland
Year 7 to Year 11 Sports Awards

Wednesday 15th July

Year 10 GCSE Drama Non Exam Assessment

Thursday 16th July

Year 3 to Year 6 PTA Disco
Rewards SSG Day

Friday 17th July

Last Day of Term
Year 10 End of Year Trip to Box End Park



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

WEEK

A



Senior Leadership Team



Donna Newell-Royes
Principal



Hannah Harwood
Senior Vice Principal



Hayley Grady
Vice Principal



Matt Hemidge
Vice Principal



Paul Dawson
Assistant Principal



Hannah Baxter
Assistant Principal



Luke Steel
Assistant Principal



Jon Mills
Assistant Principal



Shaun Stevens
Assistant Principal



Matt Cleaver
DSL - Primary



Beverly McWilliams
DSL - Secondary



Lauren Crowley
Business Manager



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

CORE Values



CN CORE School Values

Community

Treating everyone kindly
Supporting and caring for people who need help
Following the school rules
Being good friends and neighbours

CN CORE School Values

Opportunity

Taking part in school life
Considering our own strengths
Setting goals and trying hard
Growing as a person

CN CORE School Values

Respect

Valuing everyone around us
Listening to others ideas and opinions
Using good manners
Looking after our school

CN CORE School Values

Excellence

Being proud of our achievements
Working our hardest all the time
Overcoming challenges
Making best use of our talents, time and resources

OUR VISION

Our vision is for a highly successful educational journey through which each of our pupils can flourish in a safe, happy and stimulating school community from age 4-16. We set and ensure high expectations of ourselves and of others as we strive to teach knowledge and inspire curiosity about the world. We encourage positive attitudes, contribution to community, resilience, creativity, integrity and kindness.



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.

