



Castle Connect

Friday 5th June 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the new Half Term. I am delighted to start sharing information about the wider Senior Leadership Team over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,
Donna Neely-Hayes
Principal

Hannah Harwood **Senior Vice Principal**

I am delighted to introduce myself as the Senior Vice Principal here at Castle Newnham. My journey in education began as a secondary trained Dance teacher, and I completed my PGCE right here in Bedford.

Pastoral care is my absolute passion. Having previously served as a Head of Year, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), and lead for both SEND and behaviour, I am deeply committed to ensuring every pupil reaches their full potential. I firmly believe that no barrier should stand in the way of a child's achievement. I have absolutely loved my first half term at Castle Newnham and look forward to many more successful years ahead.



Hayley Grady **Vice Principal**

My name is Mrs Grady, and I am proud to be a Vice Principal at Castle Newnham School, where I have worked for the past 14 years. During this time, we have been through many changes and developments. I have had the privilege of supporting our pupils, staff and wider school community, and I remain committed to helping every young person achieve their full potential.

I lead on achievement, assessment and outcomes across Reception to Year 6, working closely with colleagues to ensure that all pupils are supported to make excellent progress. A key part of my role is monitoring achievement and using assessment information to help drive high standards and improve outcomes for all learners.

I am also passionate about supporting vulnerable pupils and ensuring that every child receives the opportunities and support they need to succeed, regardless of their starting point or circumstances. My aim is to ensure that every pupil feels supported, challenged and encouraged to achieve their very best throughout their time at Castle Newnham School.





VIEWS



V



VALUED



Parents & Carers: Views - Voice Valued - Google Form



A warm welcome to

Amy Selwood

Attendance Officer

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Attendance Officer here at Castle Newnham. I am thrilled to be joining the school to promote excellent attendance, which is truly one of the greatest foundations for your child's success.

I join the school from a school in Luton, where I worked for seven and a half years across both attendance and safeguarding. My focus has always been to ensure that students feel safe, supported, and ready to learn.

I look forward to connecting with families across both our Primary and Secondary phases. Please know that my goal is to work closely alongside you and your child, offering support and guidance so we can work together to achieve the very best outcomes.



A warm welcome back to

Mrs Abi Edwins, Head of Hospitality and Catering, who has returned to Castle Newnham following her maternity leave.

Father Figure Friday Date Correction

Father figure Friday will take place on **FRIDAY 19th JUNE**

South Site (Reception -Year 4) 09.00-10.30am
Norht Site (Year 5 & Year 6) 10.45-11.45am



Musical Instrument Audit

We are currently auditing the musical talents within our school community.

We are fortunate to have a fantastic range of peripatetic teachers who provide music lessons right here at school, but we also know that many of our pupils take music lessons externally. Whether your child learns an instrument in school, has private lessons outside of school, or is a self-taught budding musician, we want to know!

Please take two minutes to fill out our quick [Musical Instrument Audit Form](#). We kindly ask that you complete the form regardless of whether your child's lessons take place inside or outside of the school grounds. Your feedback will help us better understand our students' musical interests, celebrate their talents, and plan future ensembles, concerts, and resources.



Lesson Transitions for pupils in Years 5-11

From Tuesday 16th June we will be introducing bells to support smooth transitions between lessons on North Site.

Please discuss this with your child - especially if they benefit from advance warnings of changes to their sensory environment.



Girls Cricket Tournament & Rounders Matches



Unfortunately due to our wonderful British weather, both these events were cancelled.

Cricket East are looking into new dates for when these can be rearranged in July.

All rounders matches this week have been unfortunately washed out this week! We do have some of the games rearranged.



Year 1 to Year 6 Great Athlete Visits



Have a look at what the Year 1 - Year 6 pupils got up to at their Great Athletes athlete visit on Tuesday!

As you'll see, they all worked really hard and learned some really important and inspiring lessons from their athlete. If you've not sponsored your child yet, now is a great time to reward them for their hard work. You can sponsor them here:

<https://sportal.greatathletes.org/events/landing>

Sponsorship will close on Monday night, so if you are planning to donate, please do not miss this deadline.

The money raised will help us purchase new sports equipment, which will help to bring a new excitement to sport and improve levels of physical activity and mental wellbeing across the whole school.



Reception Art Workshop

On Wednesday, all Reception pupils took part in the first of 2 workshops with our Primary Art Specialist Miss Haddon.

Pupils began decorating giant ice lollies for the fences of their playground area. These will be given some sparkle and finishing touches next week. Yummy!





Year 9 & 10 Athletics

Despite the weather, we managed to get the event to go ahead on Wednesday evening. A wet and windy event but well done to all who took part. A few highlights below:

Boys

Ken - 2nd in High Jump & 3rd in Hurdles

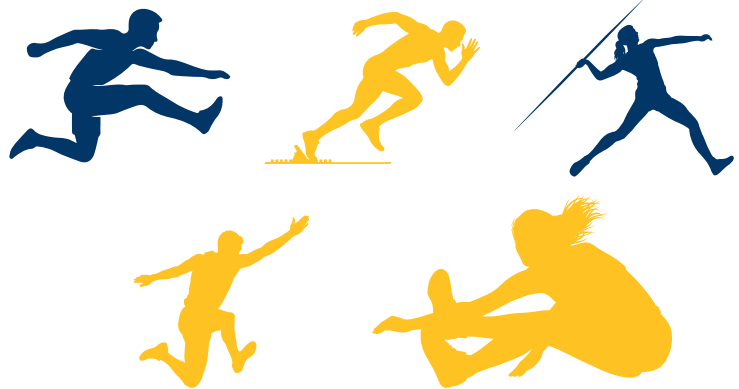
Noah - 3rd in 100m

Euan - 3rd in Javelin

Girls

Keira 2nd in 100m & 3rd in Long Jump

Jess 2nd in 300m & 2nd in Triple Jump



Egg-citing Visitors in the Ark

We have had some very special, fluffy arrivals at the Ark this week! Our pupils in the Ark have been working as mini-scientists, closely observing the eggs that were delivered to us on Monday and waiting in anticipation for the big moment. We are thrilled to share that 9 of the eggs have successfully hatched! As part of their learning about the life cycles of chickens, the pupils have been charting their growth by weighing the chicks daily and ensuring they are thriving. Of course, the most popular task on the roster has been giving our newest, tiniest residents plenty of gentle cuddles. It's been a wonderful experience for everyone involved, and we can't wait to watch our little chicks continue to grow!





Booktastic Book Festival



Pupils in Year 5 had a fabulous time at the Booktastic Book Festival this week. Author Patrice Lawrence and illustrator Onyinye Iwu talked about their lives, influences and their short story *The After Ever After Bureau* in the book *Happy Here* by Sharna Jackson. The children created some amazing illustrations and each child was given a signed copy of the book. Thankyou Booktastic and thankyou to the parent volunteers who supported us!



iRock - Reception to Year 6

SPACES NOW OPEN FOR SEPTEMBER!

At iRock, children experience the excitement of being in a real band, learning instruments, playing songs they love and building confidence through music. Led by passionate and professional Band Coaches, our fun and inclusive in-school sessions help children develop teamwork, resilience and musical skills in a supportive environment. Every term ends with a live concert performance for family and friends, giving children the chance to shine like real rockstars and celebrate everything they've achieved!



[Full details on how to sign up can be found here.](#)



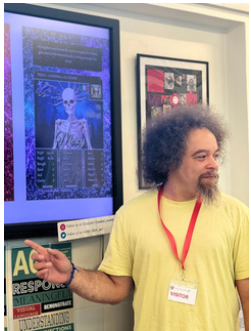
Joseph Mitchel Art Workshop



The Art Department recently hosted an inspiring workshop for 20 of our talented Year 9 pupils, led by local artist Joseph Mitchel, the brilliant mind behind the collectible card game SK Dynasty.

Mitchel shared insights into his creative journey and passion for art, before introducing the pupils to the vibrant characters of his game. Our pupils then got to flex their creative muscles by developing existing characters and designing their own unique creations. In an exciting twist, some of these pupil designs will actually be developed into official cards for the game and featured on future promotional materials!

Mitchel was incredibly impressed by the sheer talent on display at Castle Newnham School and noted how much he is looking forward to working with our Year 5 and 6 pupils in a few weeks. The pupils absolutely loved the experience, and we want to extend a massive thank you to Joseph Mitchel for his time and inspiration—we cannot wait to see our pupils' work published!



Girls Active Survey

The survey has been shared with pupils in Years 7-11 via their MCAS homework app. Please encourage your child to complete the survey before the 10th June. If they cannot find the link it is here: <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/yst-summer-26?u=12744>

We look forward to seeing the results!

CNS Fest Teddy Donations

The pupils and staff in the Ark are preparing for their stall at the upcoming CNS Fest and need your help to make it a success! If you have any soft toys or teddy bears looking for a new home, we would be incredibly grateful for your donations. Please ensure that all teddies are clean and in good condition before bringing them into school. Donations from pupils in Reception to Year 4 can be dropped off to the South Site office and donations from pupils in Years 5-11 can be brought straight to the Ark anytime from now until Friday, 19th June.



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!



[Click here for tickets](#)

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 8st June!





North Site PE Fixtures

Monday 8th

Year 9/10 Girls District Tennis Championships at Gordon Fields

Tuesday 9th

Year 5 & 6 Athletics at Bedford International Stadium

Year 7 & 8 Rounders at Home vs Goldington

Year 9 & 10 District Volleyball Tournament at Mark Rutherford

Wednesday 10th

Year 9 Rounders at Home vs Mark Rutherford

Year 10 Rounders at Home vs Sandy

County Athletics Championships at Bedford International Stadium

Thursday 11th

Year 9 & 10 Rounders at Home vs Goldington

Friday 12th

Year 9/10 Boys District Tennis Championships at Gordon Fields



School Street - York Street

As implemented by Bedford Borough, this zone is strictly pedestrian-only during peak morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times, these times are displayed on the entrance to the road via an official road sign. The purpose of this initiative is to ensure the safety of our pupils and families when dropping off and collecting.

Please be aware of the following strict guidelines:

- Even as members of staff, we must adhere to these road closure rules. Staff vehicles are not permitted to drive through or park within the restricted zone during enforcement hours.
- The only vehicles permitted to use the School Street on York Street during these times are emergency services, blue badge holders and the local residents who live in that section of the street.
- The scheme has volunteers supporting the implementation of this safety scheme. Please treat them with respect as they work to keep our community safe.
- The council actively monitors this zone. Anyone choosing not to follow these set expectations may face automatic fines issued directly by the council.

Thank you for your cooperation to keeping our school environment safe for everyone.

4SIXTEEN Presents: The Lion King Jr.

[Click here
for tickets](#)



Disney
THE LION KING

JULY 2026

MON 6TH

6PM

TUES 7TH

6PM

WEDS 8TH

6PM

THURS 9TH

6PM

FRI 10TH

4PM

FRI 10TH

7PM

SAT 11TH

3PM

SAT 11TH

7PM

GOOD AVAILABILITY

LIMITED AVAILABILITY

SOLD OUT

Upcoming Dates



Monday 8th June	Year 9 & 10 Girls Tennis
Tuesday 9th June	Key stage 3 Junior Maths Challenge
Wednesday 10th June	Multisports trip to Daubeney 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	Starting Castle Newnham (New Reception Intake 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	Sports day for pupils in Years 1&2 Year 11 Prom
Friday 19th June	Reception to Year 6 Father Figure Friday Year 10 Geography Local Fieldwork GCSE Exams End
Monday 22nd June	Stepping up to North Site (Year 4 to Year 5 Transition Event) Year 10 Academic consultation evening

Tuesday 23rd June	RP & RH Trip to the Place Theatre Stepping up to Key Stage 3 (Year 6 to Year 7 Transition 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
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
Thursday 2nd July	SEND Coffee Afternoon
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. Year 1 Perform for Schools workshop
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 7 End of Year Trip to the Science Centre
Year 10 GCSE Drama Non Exam Assessment

Thursday 16th July

Year 3 to Year 6 PTA Disco
Year 7 to Year 11 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

B



Senior Leadership Team



Donna Neely-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.

