



Castle Connect

Friday 12th June 2026

Monumental Announcement: A Brand-New Library is Coming to the North Site!

Dear Families,

I am absolutely thrilled to share some truly monumental news with you all. Project plans are officially well underway for the creation of a brand-new, state-of-the-art Library on our North Site, with a Grand Opening planned for this September!

As many of you know, I hold an absolute passion for reading. For me, reading is not just an academic requirement; it is a vital, life-changing skill that unlocks the world for our young people. It sparks imagination, builds empathy, boosts mental well-being, and empowers pupils with the critical thinking skills they need to succeed in life. This new space represents our unwavering commitment to giving every single pupil the very best tools for their future.

Located right in the very heart of the school, we know this incredible space is going to bring a huge number of new opportunities to our pupils and breathe fresh energy into our entire school curriculum.

Library Ambassadors Wanted!

Because this library belongs to our pupils, we want them to help us build its legacy. With that in mind, we are officially opening applications for our very first cohort of Library Ambassadors!

This is a crucial leadership role within the school. We are looking for passionate, reliable pupils who want to help shape the new library, recommend books, run exciting events, and inspire their peers. It is a fantastic opportunity for them to leave their mark on the school's history. Pupils in Years 5 - 10 simply complete the [google form](#).

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We cannot wait to welcome your children through the doors of this amazing new space.

Warmest regards,
Donna Neely-Hayes
Principal





Could you be a Library Ambassador?

We are looking for pupils in Years 5-10 to help with the design and running of our brand new North Site Library!

What does this mean?

You will be part of a team making decisions on the look, layout, theming and design of our new North Site Library. You will also have a say on the books and specialist areas!



How do I get involved?

Complete the [sign up form](#) and let us know why you want to be a Library Ambassador!
(Pupils in Year 5 to 10 only)





Hannah Baxter

Assistant Principal

I am proud to be in my tenth year at Castle Newnham, where over the past decade, I have been fortunate to see the school and pupils grow across both sites. In more recent years, it has been lovely to see pupils that I previously taught in Year 5 and 6, complete their GCSEs at the school and go onto further studies and careers.

As Assistant Principal leading on Behaviour in Reception to Year 6, I support staff and pupils to ensure that our school is a safe, respectful and positive place to learn. My role also includes helping pupils to navigate through and reflect on behaviours, as well as celebrating pupils' positive behaviour with praise and rewards. As we approach the end of the academic year, it is exciting to have many rewards events planned for pupils following their efforts all year.



Jon Mills

Assistant Principal

I've been at Castle Newnham now over a decade and recently returned to being responsible for Teaching and Learning.

Think of Teaching and Learning as the heartbeat of our school. It's not just about lesson plans; it's about figuring out how children learn best and making sure every classroom is an exciting, inspiring place to be. Great T&L ensures that no time is wasted and every child thrives.

My biggest motivation is to give the children here the absolute best opportunity to be successful in life. I look forward to working alongside you all to help our pupils be their best!





VIEWS



V



VALUED



Parents & Carers: Views - Voice Valued - Google Form



Classics at Castle

Welcome to the first 'Classics at Castle' update.

This is where you will find up to date news of all things Classics at Castle Newnham. This will include upcoming Classics events, updates on what our GCSE pupils are currently covering in class, as well as some interesting facts from the ancient world to get us talking!

Mrs Scott is on a mission to get all year groups (from primary through to secondary) involved in promoting Classics within our whole school community. Stay tuned for more news on how pupils can get involved in the upcoming weeks.

Etymology of the week

Did you know the month of June is named in honour of an ancient world figure? It is derived from **Juno**, the ancient Roman goddess of marriage and childbirth, and queen of the gods. Her Greek equivalent is Hera.



Talking point!

Why is Hera known as the 'vengeful' goddess? If pupils know the story of the **golden apple**, this might help them explain the answer to families at home. Find out the answer in next week's Castle Connect.



Lion King Prop Making



Year 6 have been busy helping paint props and masks for the upcoming Lion King production in their Art lessons.

Including a herd of Wildebeest, Giraffes, Zebras and Gazelles!

Head to our [Box Office](#) to get your tickets now to see their hard work in action!



Upcoming Sports Fixtures

Monday 15th June

Year 7 & 8 Girls District Tennis Tournament

Tuesday 16th June

Year 5 & 6 District Athletics League

Wednesday 17th June

Year 9 & 10 District Athletics League

Year 7 & 8 Rounders away vs Bedford Academy

Thursday 18th June

Year 9 Rounders home vs St. Thomas More

Friday 19th June

Year 7 & 8 District Athletics Championships



Ark 2 & Food Etc.



Pupils from the Ark were given a fantastic opportunity to participate in a local charity event organised by 'The Food Charity'. Volunteers from Bedford Borough provided ingredients, passion and enthusiasm to create a wonderful learning environment in which children were able to gain an insight into cooking from scratch, with affordable ingredients, to create healthy wholesome meals! Some of the meals included toad in the hole, quesadillas, shepherds pie and plenty of desserts!

Academic Excellence Awards Evening



The final decisions are currently being made for this year's Academic Excellence Awards, taking place on Monday, 29th June.

With so many outstanding student achievements to celebrate, the competition is fierce! Please keep a close eye on your MCAS account over the coming weeks, as invitations for the nominees and their families will be sent out via the app very soon.



Communication Friendly Award

Castle Newnham (Reception to Year 6) has successfully achieved the Communication Friendly Award!



The Communication Friendly Award celebrates communication and language excellence in schools, highlighting schools who embed communication and language in their daily practice. We are very proud to have achieved this award, as it showcases how we help our young people to be confident communicators, with the whole of the Primary phase being committed to supporting and developing communication and language skills for all students who need it.



Year 3 Trip to Woburn Safari Park

Despite the rainy weather, Year 3 had a fantastic and unforgettable day at Woburn Safari Park last Wednesday! The damp conditions didn't dampen anyone's spirits as the children eagerly spotted a wide variety of amazing animals throughout the safari. A highlight of the trip was visiting the Educational Experience Centre, where the pupils enjoyed an interactive lesson and even got the unique opportunity to touch real cheetah fur. Throughout the entire day, the children demonstrated excellent behaviour, showing curiosity and respect, making them an absolute credit to the school.



Art Competition

Art Competition 'My Favourite'

Reception - Year 6

There is only one week left to submit your entries for the Art Competition!

It is open to all pupils in Reception to Year 6, submissions should be handed to Miss Haddon (North Site) or the South Site office.



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

Year 10 Next Steps Fair



Castle Newnham School is excited to share with you that it is hosting its annual Year 10 Next Steps Fair on **Wednesday 24th June** from 11:15 - 13:15.

The purpose of the event is to allow pupils to meet with providers of post-16 education, and begin to have discussions about what their futures may tangibly look like immediately after Castle Newnham School. We will work with pupils prior to the event to support them thinking about appropriate questions to ask so they can make the experiences as useful and impactful as possible.

We hope that the event will be useful in supporting the young person and yourselves to having further discussions over the summer break and plan for which open days the pupil will attend, as when we return in the winter term application windows open and we will be working with pupils to submit strong applications with confidence in good time - preferably before Christmas so pupils can be interviewed and then turn their attentions fully to their Y11 GCSE exams without worrying about securing a post-16 place.

So far we have confirmed (but we will be working to grow this list up until the date):

- Bedford 6th Form College
- Bedford College
- Health and Care Academy
- Biddenham 6th Form
- Mark Rutherford 6th Form
- Samuel Whitbread Academy Sixth Form
- RISE Space
- SSG
- Bedford Town FC
- Susan Young Garden and Design
- NHS
- RAF
- Ann Collins Coaching
- EasyJet



For those who will be seeking an apprenticeship, it's imperative that the pupil has a strong CV available as they will have to be regularly looking out for when positions of employment arise and can apply with very little notice (although typically most Apprenticeships are advertised from Easter of that academic year). It would be useful if all pupils devised a CV over the Summer break, as it can also be used to secure part-time employment once they turn 16 years old. We strongly encourage the use of Unifrog and the CV builder tool to do this. Pupils have an account and log in using their school email address.

If you have any questions at all, please contact the school office.



Year 7 to 10 Rounders

We managed to get in 1 night of rounders this week. On Tuesday our Year 7 and 8 teams faced Goldington. Our Year 7's, playing for the first time together, came away with a defeat but some encouraging signs in their play shows they are willing to improve. Shout out to Abi for her amazing bowling.

The Year 8's showed their class and were too strong for the Goldington team and ran out comfortable winners. Shout out to Sav for her amazing batting throughout. No players of the match however, as the hailstorm put an abrupt end to the proceedings!

Unfortunately, the year 9/10 games that were due to be played on Wednesday and Thursday were rained off! We are hoping to get these rearranged for future weeks!



Class & Year Group Assemblies

Please join us for an opportunity to watch our Reception classes and Year 6 showcase their learning from this academic year

Reception Class Assemblies (South Site)

- Tuesday 7th July (14:45): RKC Class Assembly
 - Location: South Site
- Wednesday 8th July (14:45): RP Class Assembly
 - Location: South Site
- Thursday 9th July (14:45): RH Class Assembly
 - Location: South Site

Year 6 Year Group Assembly (Christ Church)

- Tuesday 14th July (10:15): Year 6 Assembly
 - Location: Christ Church, 140 Dudley Street, MK40 3SX

Office Drop Offs

On **Tuesday 1st September**, school offices will be open should you wish to drop off any medication or other essential items prior to the official start of the academic year.

The following offices will be open from 10:00am to 12:00pm and 2:00pm to 3:00pm:

- South Site Reception to Year 4 Office (please use the Goldington Road entrance)
- North Site Year 5 & 6 Office
- North Site Year 7 to 11 Office

Sports Notices



Youth Sport Trust Survey

The survey has been sent to all pupils in Year 7-11. Please can you encourage them to complete this by the 19th June.

Year 9 & 10 Girls District Tennis

Another one that fell to the weather! It has been rearranged for Monday 29th June!



CASTLE NEWNHAM
PE TEAM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



At Castle Newnham, we are looking for passionate, specialist volunteer coaches to help take our PE and sports offer to the next level.

If you have coaching skills to share and can spare just one hour a week (3:30 PM – 4:30 PM), you can make a massive difference in our pupils confidence, teamwork, and love for the game!

We need help for:

- ✓ Any Team sports
- ✓ Any individual sports
- ✓ Strength & Conditioning
- ✓ Sport Psychology

Starting

September 2026



GET IN TOUCH TO FIND OUT MORE



Rescheduled Sports Days

With the unseasonal rain that has descended upon us over the last two weeks, we have had to postpone both the Key Stage One and Lower Key Stage Two sports days. The new dates are listed below. The events will still run as originally planned; please feel free to stay for the whole morning or drop in as your schedule allows.

- Thursday 18th June: Year 1 and Year 2 Sports Day
 - Location: North site
 - Time: 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
- Thursday 25th June: Year 3 and Year 4 Sports Day
 - Location: North site
 - Time: 9:30 am – 1:00 pm



Year 1 Reading Cafe

We would like to warmly invite our Year 1 families to our Reading Café. This session will be slightly longer than our usual Reading Mornings, and it will take place in the Block 1 Hall instead of the classrooms.

- Date: Friday 10th July 2026
- Time: 8:50 am – approximately 9:30 am

The hall will be transformed into a buzzing café featuring new, high-quality books from a vibrant range of cultures and genres tailored to suit all learners. There will be book reviews and quizzes for everyone to enjoy, alongside light refreshments!

Year 2 Art Work

Some of the beautiful mixed media collages pupils have made in Art within their nature theme.



CNS Fest - Saturday 27th June



[Click here for tickets](#)

Castle Newnham presents...

CNS FEST

£2 prebook Adult | £4 on the door
Children Free

Most stalls on a token system

[Tickets and tokens available online here](#)

LIVE MUSIC | FOOD | BAR
FACEPAINTING | BOUNCY CASTLE AND LOTS MORE!

**SATURDAY
27 June
12-4PM**

**Castle Newnham, North Site
Polhill Avenue**

BEST
BEDFORDSHIRE
SCHOOL 1997

A reminder that prebooked tickets are £2 per adult compared to £4 on the door. We are also operating a token system for all department stall which can be prebought online and also on the day. Our pupil led stalls will still be taking cash.

Don't forget to pre-purchase your stall tokens via TicketSource when booking your event tickets! While tokens will be available to buy at CNS Fest, please note that on the day sales are card only.

The PTA are looking for volunteers to help at CNS Fest this year. We are looking for people to help in the kitchen, the barbecue, the bar, the tuck shop and supervising the bouncy castle, and also with setup (10-12pm) and clear up (4-6pm). Please contact Lottie (PTA Secretary) on 07846 973133 (text or WhatsApp is best) if you are able to help



Athletics Events

Years 5 & 6

A team of Year 5 and 6 athletes competed at the first of the district athletic fixture this week. The children had lots of fun throwing, jumping and running and they were very supportive of each other's performances. All of our CORE values were shown throughout the event, and the children should all feel very proud of themselves. Special mention should go to Jackson, who won the Javelin, James, who comfortably won the 150m and Josh, who eventually dominated in an exciting 1200m. Josh also equalled the school record which has stood for 17 years!



Years 9 to 11

On Wednesday evening the following pupils took part in the County Athletics Championships. This brought together all of the top athletes from across Bedfordshire to compete for their own District. We are extremely proud of all these amazing athletes. Results below:

Junior Boys High Jump- Ken U 1st Place 1m 70 (Only 4cm off from qualifying for English Schools)

Intermediate Boys High Jump- Noah W 2nd Place

Intermediate Boys Javelin- Euan D 3rd Place

Intermediate Girls High Jump- Katie B 2nd Place

Intermediate Girls 1500m & Triple Jump- Jess I-H 3rd and 2nd

Intermediate Girls Long Jump- Keira F 4th

Senior Boys 400m- Theo S 2nd



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 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 9 Experience of Work Day - selected pupils 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
Thursday 25th June	Sports Day for pupils in Years 3&4
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

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

Wednesday 8th July

RP Class Assembly
4SIXTEEN's The Lion King Jr.
Year 1 Perform for Schools workshop

Thursday 9th July

RH Class Assembly
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 6 Group Assembly at Christchurch Year 8 End of Year Trip to Legoland
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 10 Rewards SSG Day
Friday 17th July	Last Day of Term PTA Break the rules day for pupils in Reception - Year 6 KS3 Enrichment Day Year 10 End of Year Trip to Box End Park

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

WEEK







Safeguarding Spotlight


Welcome to the first Safeguarding spotlight- each week we will be sharing information and support on how to keep your child safe.


Check out the NSPCC's tips on how to keep children safe online:


Five tips to help children stay safe

1. Review safety, wellbeing, and privacy settings 

2. Check age ratings and platform features 

3. Talk openly about social media 

4. Encourage safe and thoughtful sharing 

5. Support positive online experiences 

For more information - visit the [NSPCC website](#).



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.

