



Castle Connect

Friday 26th June 2026

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of what has been an incredibly intense week, I am writing to you with a real sense of pride and gratitude.

When we talk about our CORE values at Castle Newnham, Community is always at the heart of that conversation. What I have witnessed this week, however, was not just us talking about it, it was the absolute lived version of that value. The sense of community across the school has been profound, as we all came together with support and togetherness to navigate the extreme heat.

I want to say a big thank you to you as parents - you have been a spectacular support to us. Your kind messages of thanks and appreciation have quite literally kept our team going during the toughest moments of the week. I am tremendously proud of each and every pupil. They have been nothing short of delightful. Not only did they look out for one another and support their peers, but they also showed a maturity beyond their years in acknowledging how tough the conditions were for our staff. They have been a credit to themselves and to you.

I also want to express my thanks to our entire staff. Challenging weeks like this truly show you the depth of a team's work ethic. When it could have been very easy to have a school half-empty due to absence, we experienced the exact opposite. Every single member of staff turned up and worked their socks off to ensure Castle Newnham remained open, functioning, and safe for your children.

It goes without saying that we can expect these types of weather periods to become more common. I want to reassure all families that we will be thoroughly reviewing the temporary measures we put in place this week to create a strategic action plan for future periods of intense heat. We will be looking at this plan during the winter months - purchasing extra fans, specialised cooling systems, and other resources is far more accessible and cost-effective in the middle of winter, ensuring we are fully equipped well ahead of next summer.

While the weather forecast looks far more manageable next week, we want to ensure our pupils remain comfortable. **We have decided to allow the PE kit as an optional uniform choice for all pupils for the remaining 3 weeks of term**, as I am sure we will still see the odd hot day or two before summer.

Thank you once again to the entire Castle Newnham community. I hope to see many of you at CNS Fest tomorrow, and I wish you all a wonderful, restful, and well-deserved weekend.

Warm regards,
Donna Neely-Hayes
Principal



Paul Dawson

Assistant Principal

I greatly enjoy working at Castle Newnham School, as its all-through structure provides opportunities for both pupils and staff to thrive. Now in my third year at the school, it has been a pleasure to witness our growth and success over this period.

Throughout my almost twenty-year career across both the state and independent sectors, I have taught across most Primary year groups. This classroom experience grants me a deep, well-rounded understanding of the educational journey, allowing me to effectively support and guide our highly receptive teaching body. Additionally, having served as a senior leader for the past eight years, I bring a wealth of strategic experience that can benefit our school community. Currently, I oversee the Curriculum and Teaching & Learning from Reception to Year 6, and I have a real passion for driving academic excellence and fostering an inclusive, engaging learning environment where every child can succeed.



Lauren Crowley

Business & Operations Manager

Having been part of the Castle Newnham family for over 11 years, I've had the privilege of watching our school community grow and evolve - from a two-tier school, to an all-through school, and most recently as part of BEST Trust.

Today, as Business and Operations Manager, much of my work takes place behind the scenes. A key part of my role is helping the school make careful financial decisions, ensuring we spend money wisely while continuing to provide the best possible environment, resources and opportunities for our children. I am incredibly proud to support our dedicated staff team and to play a part in ensuring that every pupil has the tools, experiences and support they need to flourish both in and beyond the classroom.





VIEWS



VOICE



VALUED



Parents & Carers: Views - Voice Valued - Google Form



Classics at Castle

As this month is pride month, we will be shining a light on how Classics promotes inclusivity and diversity. LGBTQ+ themes are deeply woven into classical Greek mythology, as well as ancient Greek and Roman culture.

Examples in Mythology:

Apollo and Hyacinthus

Apollo (Greek god of the sun, music and prophecy) fell in love with a beautiful young man called Hyacinthus. When Hyacinthus died, Apollo created a flower from his spilled blood - a hyacinth - and then brought his lover back to life and gave him immortality.

Zeus and Ganymede

Zeus is a god primarily known for having affairs, one of which was the relationship he had with the Trojan prince Ganymede. Zeus loved Ganymede so much that he took him to Olympus to be his cupbearer.



Examples in Classical History:

Sappho

Sappho was a female Greek poet from the island of Lesbos. Although we know little about Sappho, and only a few of her poems survive, she is credited as one of the best poets from ancient Greece. She wrote exclusively of her love for women and she is the namesake for the term "sapphic" desire.

Classics Champions

A reminder to complete the [sign up form](#) if you are interested in becoming a Classics Champion. Details below:

Do you love Greek mythology? Do you find the ancient world fascinating? Then you could become a Castle Newnham Classics champion!

What does the role involve?

You will need to meet as a group with Mrs Scott once every half term to help promote Classics across the wider school community. You will have the opportunity to become involved in Classics based activities across the primary and secondary sites.

The criteria?

You must be enthusiastic and have a love for everything Classics!

When does it start?

Classics Champions will be selected before the end of the summer term, and the first official meeting will be in September to start planning activities for next academic year.



CNS Fest - Saturday 27th June



Castle Newnham and the PTA presents...

CNS FEST

£2 Adult* | Children Free

*Online tickets £2, tickets purchased on the door £4

All proceeds shared between the PTA and school departments for school development

LIVE MUSIC | FOOD | BAR
FACE PAINTING | BOUNCY CASTLE AND LOTS MORE!

**SATURDAY
27 June
12-4PM**



HOT WEATHER PLAN

HERE'S EVERYTHING WE'RE DOING AND SUGGEST TO PREPARE FOR THE WATHER TOMORROW

- WATER STATIONS
- WATER FOUNTAINS
- SHADE PROVIDED WHERE POSSIBLE
- AIR CON ROOM ACCESS

WHAT WE RECCOMEND YOU BRING

- WATER BOTTLES
- HATS
- SUNCREAM
- UMBRELLAS



4SIXTEEN

THEATRE COMPANY



Disney
THE LION KING

[Click here
for tickets](#)

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

4SIXTEEN

THEATRE COMPANY

Castle Newnham School's award winning 4SIXTEEN Theatre Company are proud to present a production of:

SIX: Teen Edition

Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th September 2026

Saturday 19th September 2026

Studio One Performance Theatre, Castle Newnham, North Site

Tickets are on sale now. To purchase tickets, please visit our box office website through:

<https://www.castlenewnham.school/box-office>

Tickets are priced at £10.00 (with an additional booking fee per ticket). Payments should be made via this website only.

***Please note:** once you have purchased your tickets you will be sent an e-ticket, this must be presented to one of the front of house team on the evening performance you have purchased your tickets for. If an e-ticket cannot be presented to our front of house team, you may not be admitted into the theatre.*

If you are experiencing any problems with the online booking system, please contact our office: by email cnperformingarts@bestacademies.org.uk; or by phone 01234 300801

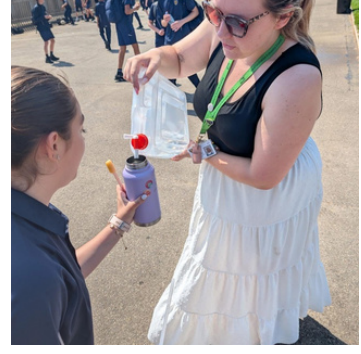
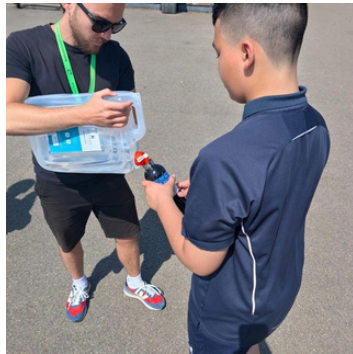
May we take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you at the performance.





Beating the Heat

As temperatures soared this week, we have had to get creative to find ways of cooling down, staying safe and staying hydrated. At break and lunch times, staff across the school have been providing additional hydration stations for pupils to fill up their water bottles this week.



SEND Coffee Afternoon

A warm invitation to all our SEND parents and carers! Please join us for our upcoming SEND Coffee Afternoon. It's a wonderful, informal opportunity to meet other families, chat with our wonderful SENDCos and school team, and with the opportunity to connect with visiting professionals.

There's no need to book in advance—all parents and carers are very welcome. Pop in for a cup of coffee or tea; we look forward to seeing you there!

- When: Thursday 2nd July
- Time: 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Where: Polhill Avenue - Primary Hall, North Site

RH & RP Theatre trip



On Tuesday RH and RP really enjoyed a local walk to The Place Theatre for a lively story session. The children had a great time joining in with the tales and experiencing the magic of being inside the theatre. The theatre team did a fantastic job of bringing the stories to life, and a brilliant time was had by all!



Ice Lolly Art

The giant ice lollies reception pupils decorated in their art workshops are up! Looking sweet and colourful hung on the fences of the south site playground.



Peripatetic Piano lessons for pupils in Years 1-4

A Message from the South Site Piano teacher



My name is Vicki Edwards, I work as a piano teacher with the Bedford Music Co-Operative and I am very privileged to teach in your child's school. From September, children in Year 1 at Castle Newnham will have the exciting opportunity to learn to play the piano!

Individual 20-minute piano lessons cost £14.33 per lesson which is payable by monthly Direct Debit. Keyboards can be hired from Bedford Music Service, please see this link for details. <https://bedfordmusic.org.uk/get-started/#how-to-hire-an-instrument>. Your child's first tutorial book will cost no more than £10.00.

If you would like your child to receive piano lessons then please apply using the following link by Monday 6th July. <https://www.bedsmusic.coop/sign-up-for-lessons>. Places will be given on a first come, first served basis.

I very much look forward to hearing from you!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs V.C. Edwards BMus (Hons)
vedwards@bedsmusic.coop



Sports Day for Pupils in Year 3&4



Thank you for your patience regarding the Year 3 and Year 4 Sports Day which has been rescheduled for a second time due to the rain. We have rescheduled the event for Friday, 3rd July.

This will be a slightly adapted version of the original plan, taking place at the Goldington Road site from 9:10 until approximately 11:00. While pupils will still experience all the traditional activities and races, the picnic lunch will no longer take place so we can limit their exposure to the midday sun. Parents and families are still warmly invited to attend if available.

Please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kit/house colours, wearing sun cream, and bringing a sun hat and a refillable water bottle.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. We look forward to seeing you there and enjoying the day together!

Year 4 Art Workshop



On Wednesday Year 4 pupils printed on the collage surfaces prepared last week using their poly tiles. There were some great results! Finishing touches will be added during Transition to Year 5 day next week.

Lion King Prop making

Here's a taster view of our herd of wildebeest, 3 walking giraffes and a proud Pumba! Don't miss out on seeing these masterpieces in action- head to our [Box Office](#) to get your tickets!





New Performing Arts Studio

We are absolutely thrilled to announce a major expansion of our multi-award-winning Performing Arts provision at Castle Newnham All-Through School! Celebrated throughout the local community for our professional-standard productions and offering a full, wide range of performing arts subjects across our entire school, we are officially growing our current spaces to give our pupils on North Site even more room to shine.

Please join us in welcoming a brand-new studio to the Castle Newnham family!

Our Growing Facilities

Here is a look at how our spaces are evolving across the school:

- Studio 1: Our incredible Performance Theatre that pulls double-duty as a vibrant Drama & Dance studio during the school day.
- Studio 2: Our dedicated Music Teaching Space.
- Studio 3: Our cutting-edge Music Technology iMac Suite.
- Practice Rooms: Our specialised, dedicated spaces for musical instrument rehearsal and practice.
- **NEW North Site (Studio 4): A brand-new, second drama and performance studio, fully kitted out with the latest, state-of-the-art lighting and sound equipment.**

We cannot wait to open the doors to Studio 4!

A Massive Thank You!

None of this would be possible without the incredible support our 4SIXTEEN Theatre Company productions. Because of your community support and attendance, we have been able to direct ticket profits and funds straight into this exciting building projects.



Thank you for helping us invest in the future of our talented pupils and the arts.



This photo is an illustrative impression of the new Studio 4

Sports Day- Year 7 to Year 10



We are pleased to inform you that the KS3 & KS4 Sports Day is being held on the North Site on Friday 10th July.

On Thursday 19th selected pupils will compete in field events and the 1500m. Please check with your child to see what event they are taking part in and be aware that not all pupils will be competing in a track or field event.

During Friday 10th in the morning, pupils will take part in a variety of different activities.

On Friday 10th of July your child will be able to have lunch in school as normal, but will require extra drinks and healthy snacks to have with them on the field. There will be an assortment of House themed items, food and drinks available in each House area so please ensure they bring some loose change! We strongly encourage pupils to not bring bags to school on this day if at all possible.

In order to build house spirit on Sports Day pupils may come to school in full CNS PE kit on both days with the exception that their sports tops, hair, hair accessories and hats can be the colour of their house. Pupils may also wish to wear house themed face-paint however we remind pupils that designs must be appropriate (no full face covering). We remind pupils to bring a rain jacket or sun hat and sunscreen, depending on the weather.

Track Events - Friday 10th of July

Event No.	Age	Event Name	Start Time
1	Y7/8 Girls	800m	1:10pm
2-9	All	100m	1:15pm
10	Y7/8 Boys	800m	1:30pm
11-18	All	200m	1:35pm
19	Y9/10 Girls	800m	1:50pm
20-24	All	300m	1:55pm
25	Y9/10 Boys	800m	2:10pm
26-31	Y7/8	Relay	2:15pm
32-37	Y9/10	Relay	2:35pm
38-39	Staff & Parents	100m	2:50pm

Parental Involvement

Track events for all pupils in Years 7-10 start from 1:00pm on Friday 10th of July. Families are able to sign in through the Year 5&6 gate from 1:00pm. Please note that there will be a specific area set aside for parents to spectate from and we ask that families remain in this area only. Unfortunately, pupils are unable to come over to this area. Tea and coffee will be available to purchase. Toilets will be available in the Sports Hall.

We appreciate families may wish to share their children's activities and achievements at school with their friends and family, however we draw parents' attention to GDPR regulations: Any photos or videos taken should be of your own child/children. Any photos and/or videos of staff or other children are not permitted to be taken or used on any social media platforms. This includes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Pinterest and all other social media services.

We look forward to a fantastic 2026 Sports Day and some good weather!



Year 7 & 8 Athletics

On Friday we took 31 athletes to the District Athletics Championships.

It was wonderful to see so many of our pupils showcasing their best in a variety of athletics events. Overall we finished 15th out of 26 schools. Our best performing team were our Year 7 girls who finished 10th and our Year 8 girls finished 11th overall.

Highlights below:

Year 7 Girls High Jump- Amelia B 3rd

Year 7 Boys Discus- Leo Y 5th

Year 8 Boys hurdles- Logan E 4th

Year 8 Boys 800m- James L 4th

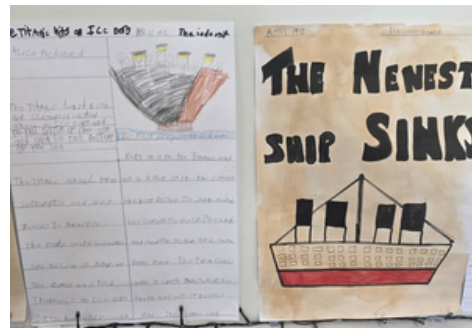
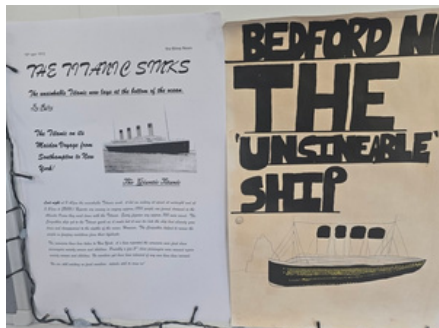
Year 8 Girls Discus- Chana B 3rd

Year 8 Girls High Jump- Amelia D 4th Tied the school record

Creativity in Ark 1

Pupils in Ark 1 have been busy getting creative in their lessons.

In DT they have been designing and creating shields and while learning about the Titanic in their English lessons they have made broadsheet newspapers.





National T1 rugby Series- Year 9



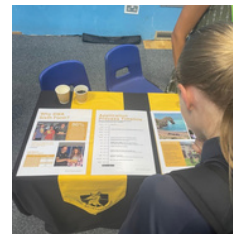
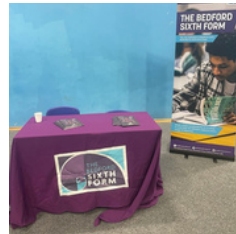
On Monday we took 12 pupils from Year 9 up to Birmingham for the National T1 Rugby Series finals. T1 rugby is a new format of rugby designed to get everyone involved without the contact. We competed against other schools in a group stage where we won 3 and lost 1 game. This put us into the plate semi-final where we won by 4 tries to 1! In the final of the plate, we met a team we had already beaten in the group stage and this form continued as we ran out comfortable winners. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day and it was an amazing experience for all involved.

An Exciting Week for Year 10

Next Steps Fair

On Wednesday, our Year 10 pupils had the opportunity to talk to some local further education suppliers in our Next Steps fair. They got to talk to the different providers about the courses and qualifications on offer to them and what to look out for when deciding on where to go after Year 11. Pupils had an excellent time with many feeling far more confident on where their next steps will take them when they finish at Castle Newnham.

Thank you to providers including Biddenham International School, SSG Training, Ann Collins Coaching, Mark Rutherford Upper School, RISE Space, EasyJet, Samuel Whitbread Academy, Bedford Sixth Form and Bedford College.



Academic Consultation Evening

The Year 10 Academic Consultation Evening was a wonderful opportunity to share progress and celebrate our pupils' growth. Parents shared incredibly positive feedback, noting how much they appreciated the time teachers took to discuss individual strengths, next steps, and potential. It was comforting for families to see that even during challenging times, our staff focus on what pupils do well and genuinely care about their achievements. Ultimately, the evening highlighted a consistent level of support across the school, and we are deeply grateful for this strong partnership with our community.



PRECISION PATH ACADEMY

Bedford - Where players are built

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Summer Football Camp

Real fun. Real coaching. Real development.

Four days for ages 6 to 14. Unlike most camps — every session is led by FA-qualified coaches who genuinely develop your child's technique, decision-making and confidence on the ball.

4-Day Camp

Week 1: Mon 20 – Thu 23 July 2026

Week 2: Mon 27 – Thu 30 July 2026

9:00am – 3:30pm - Drop-off from 8:45am

Third week may be added subject to demand.

Ages 6 to 14

Grouped by age & ability so every player gets the right challenge.

Castle Newnham

Polhill Ave, Bedford MK41 9DT

Please bring a packed lunch, snacks & a refillable water bottle.

More than a holiday camp.

A genuine week of player development.

Technical Precision

Daily drills on first touch, passing, dribbling and finishing.

Competitive Play

Small-sided games, tournaments and a finals-day showcase.

Character & Teamwork

Respect, resilience and leadership built into every session.

Safe & Inclusive

DBS-checked, FA-qualified coaches. Safeguarding first.

Apply online

precisionpathacademy.co.uk/summer-camp

Call or WhatsApp · 07737 923887

Limited places

From £19/day · £70/week · 10% sibling discount

Upcoming Dates



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 Year 7&8 Boys District Tennis Championship Year 9&10 Girls District Tennis Championship
Tuesday 30th June	Transition Day 1 Stepping up to KS3 Transition Event Year 9 & 10 Rounders - Away at Goldington Vs Sandy, Lincroft and Goldington
Wednesday 1st July	Transition Day 2 Year 7 & 8 Rounders- Home vs Lincroft
Thursday 2nd July	SEND Coffee Afternoon Year 9 Rounders Home vs Lincroft & Sandy
Friday 3rd July	Sports Day for pupils in Years 3&4 Key Stage 3 Reports go home Year 7 Boys Softball Cricket 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

A



Safeguarding Spotlight



Follow the below links for more advice on how to stay safe from the Royal Life Saving society UK:

[Royal Life Saving Society UK - Water Safety Code](https://www.rls.org.uk/water-safety-code)

[Royal Life Saving Society UK - Water Safety for Teenagers](https://www.rls.org.uk/water-safety-for-teenagers)

Safeguarding Team



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.

