



Castle Connect

Friday 3rd July 2026

Dear Families,

It has been an absolutely incredible week of transition events here at Castle Newnham. It was a joy to see such a well-organised few days run so smoothly, with pupils across all year groups confidently stepping into their next chapter. Watching them embrace their new classrooms, teachers, and peers made me incredibly excited for what lies ahead for every single child. I am deeply proud to be on this educational journey with you all.

Without a doubt, the absolute highlight of my week was our very first Library Ambassador meeting. We brought together 45 inspiring young readers who shared their passion for books and talked about how they want to leave a lasting legacy of reading at our school. Together, they officially agreed on our new whole-school reading mission statement:

“Seeds of early reading. Growing in knowledge. Blooming for life.”

As an all-through school, we have the unique opportunity to nurture our pupils’ reading journey from the very first seed. We begin by planting vital roots through early reading and phonics, helping them stem into deep comprehension, and ultimately watching a lifelong love for reading blossom. This passion doesn’t just help them flourish academically; it enriches their lives far beyond the school gates.

I left that meeting feeling humbled, proud, and completely inspired by our pupils. I truly cannot wait to share the journey of our reading strategy and the development of our fantastic new library space with you over the coming months!

On a separate note, please could I ask you to take just five minutes to complete our final parent survey of the year. The results of this survey are reported directly back to BEST, so we would love to have your feedback shared to highlight the strengths and next steps for our school.

Finally, we know the weather is forecast to be warm again next week. We have included a dedicated safety and information message about this within Castle Connect, so please do take a look at the adaptations we are making to keep everyone comfortable.

Whatever you get up to this weekend, I hope you have a wonderful time and enjoy yourselves.
Warm regards,

Warm regards,
Donna Neely-Hayes
Principal



Matt Herridge

Vice Principal

I am approaching the end of my 6th Year at Castle Newnham and have enjoyed the variety of roles and challenges I have had over the past few years. I joined as the Head of Science before joining the Senior Leadership Team and after a brief stint as the Acting Headteacher I am now the Vice Principal with responsibility for Behaviour and Attitudes.

Castle Newnham pupils already showcase the strong behaviour and values that reflect who we are. Our next chapter is about fostering a culture where work ethic meets an unwavering sense of safety and belonging. Together, we are going to cultivate a learning environment that isn't just effective, but truly inspiring and exceptional.

The journey to become a truly all-through school is something I am heavily invested in on both a personal and professional level. Four years ago I chose to start an Educational Doctorate and the focus of my research is primary to secondary transition in an all-through school. I truly believe that an all-through school is well placed to eradicate the discontinuities at this key transition point and therefore maximise attainment in Year 11.



Parents & Carers: Views - Voice Valued - Google Form

Classics at Castle



Classics Champions

Thank you to all the pupils who have nominated themselves to become Classics champions! Pupils in Years 7-10 will receive a letter next week to confirm the first meeting. This will take place at lunchtime on **Monday 13th July** in **E1**. More details will be provided in the letter.

There will be further opportunities for pupils to join in September.

This will include KS2 pupils - keep an eye out for further updates in Castle Connect in September.



Happy birthday Athene!

The ancient Greeks celebrated the goddess Athene's birthday during the **Panathenaea**, the biggest religious festival in Athens. The festival took place during the month of July which marked the birth of the goddess.

The occasion was marked by a grand procession, athletic and musical contests, poetry recitations, and the weaving of a new peplos (robe) for her cult statue in the Parthenon.

Talking point!

How was Athena born? The story involves Hephaestus, the blacksmith god.

Find out about the story in next week's Castle Connect.



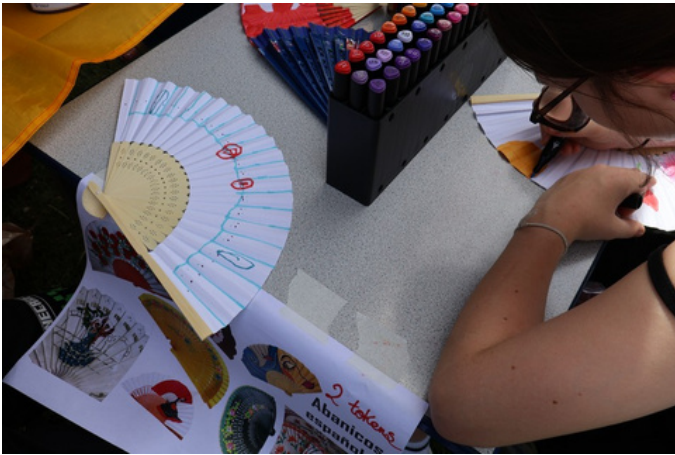
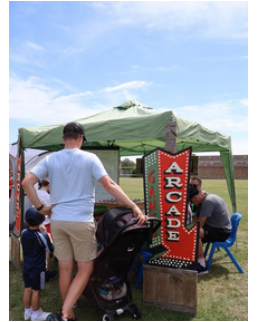
CNS Fest 2026



A huge thank you to everyone who made CNS Fest 2026 so special:

- ☀️ Our amazing staff, pupils and PTA members who worked hard running the stalls
- ☀️ Our talented pupil performances who kept us entertained
- ☀️ Our wonderful families and community for coming to support us!

The day was a resounding success, raising funds for departments and projects across the school!



4SIXTEEN

THEATRE COMPANY

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

4SIXTEEN

THEATRE COMPANY

*Click here
for tickets*

SIX

SEPTEMBER 2026

WEDS 16TH

THURS 17TH

SAT 19TH

SAT 19TH

7PM

7PM

4PM

7PM

GOOD AVAILABILITY

LIMITED AVAILABILITY

SOLD OUT



Celebrating Excellence

On Monday evening, we got to celebrate our top achievers at the Academic Excellence Awards.

The highest achieving pupil in each Key Stage/ Year Group for every subject were invited to celebrate their hard work. We also welcomed back alumni Alexandra Pocol (Class of 2021), who shared how her time at Castle Newnham helped her strive for excellence and get to where she is now!

Well done to all pupils nominated and all of our winners!



Young Carers Award

The school has been nominated for a Young Carers Award! This is a wonderful recognition of the support that we as school provide to our young carers, and we are incredibly proud of this achievement. The awards ceremony and celebrations will take place on Wednesday, 8th July, during our termly Young Carers Breakfast for invited pupils. We would like to say a big thank you to Sara Cain and Fudge Togara for all the work they do with our young carers across the school.



School Street- Volunteers wanted!



We are looking for volunteer marshals to help out on York Street near the South Site gate during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times. Now in its third successful year, this simple role has made a massive difference by improving local air quality, ensuring family safety, and encouraging lifelong habits of walking and cycling to school. Even if you only have 30 minutes a week to spare, we would love your help—please reach out to Councillor Lucy Bywater (Lucy.Bywater@bedford.gov.uk) to find out more!

Transition Days at CN



This week pupils in Reception- Year 6 had the opportunity to have a taster of what school will be like in September for them.

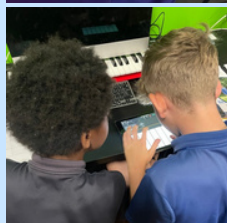
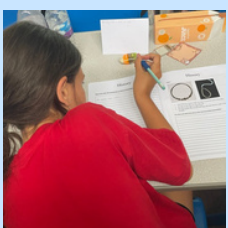
The new Reception cohort (Class of 2038), have started to come for their 'Stay and Play' sessions, they have been exploring their classrooms, meeting their teachers and getting everything lined up for an exciting September!



Pupils currently in Reception - Year 5, got to spend two days with their new class teachers, with the current Year 4 pupils experiencing what it will be like when they step up to North Site. As well as spending time in their new classrooms, they got to have some lessons in our specialist teaching spaces. As part of the Year 5 into Year 6 transition this week we invited some outgoing Year 6 children to take part in a Q&A session with the cohort that will be moving into Year 6 next year. The current Year 5 pupils had the opportunity to ask questions about life at the top end of Primary including, 'what is the best thing about being in Year 6, what are SATs really like, what advice can you give to us about next year, can you tell us more about our teachers, what clubs have you participated in and what is the homework like?' The questions were answered with enthusiasm and raw honesty, and resulted in lots of positive feelings about moving up next year.



Our Year 6 pupils had the chance to step up to Key Stage 3, as well as being joined by pupils from other schools who will be in our Year 7 cohort in September. Pupils had the opportunity to experience what life is like at Castle Newnham. They spent time getting to know their CORE tutors and had a fantastic time trying tasters of some of the lessons they will be having in September.





Warm Weather update

As we head into next week, we are aware from the latest forecasts that temperatures are set to increase again. Thankfully, the forecast indicates it will not reach the extreme peaks of the previous heatwave, but it will still be considerably warm.

We want to reassure you that the health, safety, and comfort of our pupils remain our top priorities. We will be building directly on the successful measures we put in place during the last spell of hot weather, and we will be implementing even more adaptations across the school day wherever possible.

School will remain open as usual. Our team is fully prepared to adapt routines, monitor outdoor activities, maximise ventilation, and ensure that our classrooms and communal spaces remain as safe and comfortable as possible.

To help us keep the children cool, we kindly ask for your support with a few simple reminders:

- Water Bottles: Please ensure your child comes to school with a refillable water bottle. We will provide plenty of opportunities for them to top up throughout the day.
- Sun Protection: Please apply high-factor sun cream to your child before they leave for school in the morning.
- Hats: Pupils are encouraged to bring a sun hat or cap for outdoor break times.

Class and Year Group Assemblies

Next week, our Reception pupils will be showcasing their learning from this academic year in their class assemblies. If you are attending, please come to the school office on Goldington Road, and you will be taken to the Block 1 Hall where the assemblies will take place.

The dates and times for each class are:

- RKC: Tuesday 7th July at 14:45
- RP: Wednesday 8th July at 14:45
- RH: Thursday 9th July at 14:45

The following week, Year 6 will hold their year group assembly on Tuesday 14th July. This will take place at Christ Church on Dudley Street, starting at 10:15.

We look forward to welcoming families to these special events!



Library Ambassadors

Yesterday, we held our first-ever Library Ambassador meeting, and it was nothing short of incredible.

We brought together pupils all the way from Year 4 to Year 10, and seeing the cross-year collaboration was pure magic. The older pupils took on incredible leadership roles, while our younger ones brought endless energy and fresh ideas.

The room was packed with:

🔥 Unmatched passion for reading and literacy.

🐝 An incredible buzz as ideas flew across the tables.

🤝 A shared mission to make our new library the beating heart of our school community.



Watch this space—our new ambassadors have some massive plans in store, and we couldn't be prouder of this amazing team!

Reception- Year 6 Library Books



Please make sure that all library books, from the Primary Libraries, are returned to class teachers next week

Year 4 Artwork



During transition days this week Year 4 pupils added camouflaged chameleons as a finishing touch to 3 weeks of work. Pupils experienced the north site primary practical room where they will be having Art and DT lessons in year 5 and 6.





Year 3&4 Sports Day

What an action-packed morning! Our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils took to the playground for an unforgettable Sports Day filled with energy and determination.

The children gave it their absolute all across a variety of events, showing steady hands in the egg and spoon race and bean bag throw, agility in the hoop up and over, and fantastic skill during the football and basketball dribbles. The excitement peaked with some impressive athleticism in the hurdles and the lightning-fast sprint races.



Beyond the sporting talent, our pupils truly championed our school's CORE values at every turn. Collaboration and respect were on full display as teammates cheered each other on and celebrated each other's successes.

The competition was fierce, and the points remained neck-and-neck until the very last race. It all came down to the wire, but a massive congratulations goes to Kenilworth, who emerged as the overall winning house in an incredibly tight contest. Well done to all houses for making it such a thrilling race from start to finish.

Finally, a huge thank you to all the wonderful families who came out to support. Your cheers and encouragement from the sidelines created an amazing atmosphere that truly carried the competitors through. Our pupils were simply incredible, and they should all be immensely proud of their achievements. Roll on next year!



Lion King Prop making

A huge thank you to Miss Haddon and the Year 5 and 6 pupils for their hard work on the Lion King masks and props! They have made giraffes, zebras, wildebeest, Pumba, lionesses, Mufasa, Simba, hyenas and Timon! We can't wait to see them all in action next week!



Year 6 Celebrations



On Monday 29th June, the PTA very kindly paid for inflatables for Year 6 pupils to use a reward for working hard during SATs week. The children had a fantastic time playing on the slides, bouncy castles and the bungee run with their friends.

CASTLE NEWNHAM PTA NEWS

UPCOMING PTA DATES

Friday, July 10 - Final PTA meeting of the term, 8pm, location: Mala Dragon

Tuesday, July 14 - Reception, Y1 & Y2 *Summer Disco* (South site). Pick up at 5pm from classrooms. Snacks included. Tickets on MCAS: £6.

Thursday, July 16 - Year 3&4 *Summer Disco* (4:15-5:15). Snacks included. North Site. Tickets on MCAS: £6.

Thursday, July 16 - Year 5&6 *Summer Disco* (5:45-6:45) Snacks for purchase. North Site. Tickets on MCAS £3.

Friday, July 17 - Break The Rules Day (Reception to Year 6 only)

● THANK YOU TO ALL CNS FEST VOLUNTEERS ●



Special thanks to all the work parent Lottie Bagnall put into organizing and running stalls during CNS Fest. You are brilliant!

TEA TOWELS

Tea towels will be coming home at the end of term in your child's backpack! If you've made other arrangements with the PTA, those will be followed instead.

LOOKING AHEAD

Becoming an All-Through PTA

Next year, we'll be voting at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on becoming an all-through PTA.

At the moment, we have separate Primary and Secondary PTAs, but we believe there's real value in joining forces. By working together, we can strengthen our fundraising efforts and better support the needs of our whole school community.

All parents and staff are automatically members of the PTA, so everyone is eligible to vote.

If we do decide to join together, any funds already raised for the South Site playground upgrade will remain set aside specifically for that purpose. We're also hoping to have plans ready to share and vote on in September.

The AGM will take place on Wednesday, 23 September at 7pm on the South Site. We hope to see you there!

OTHER DATES

- **Saturday, September 12:** PTA-Reception Picnic, 10am-1pm (Russel Park)
- **In September:** Meet the PTA Coffee Morning, (South Site). More details to come



Year 7 to 10 Sports Day



Unfortunately, due to the forecast we have made the decision to cancel Year 7 - 10 Sports Day - we know this is disappointing for everyone, but we do not feel it would be safe to proceed given the high temperatures and the nature of the event.

Year 7-10 EAL Trip to Herring Green Bird of Prey Centre and Farm

On Monday we went to Herring Green Bird of Prey Centre and Farm in Wilstead. We are all secondary pupils who are learning English as an Additional Language. We were very excited.

First we saw the owls and we got to hold an owl on our arm using a special glove. The owls were so cute and very beautiful.

After that we got to fly an owl. The owls flew from one student to another. It was amazing!



Then we watched a Bird of Prey display. The birds were majestic! They flew very close to us.



In the afternoon, we went to the farm and held some animals - a snake, a bearded dragon, a rabbit, guinea pig, giant cockroach and a skunk. Some pupils were scared but they were very brave and held the animals anyway.

We had a super day!

Written by Caleb 7DR, Vlad 8RH, Enio 8RH, Ibrahim 8IW and Hadyeh 10CFA



District Tennis

Year 7 & 8 Boys

On Monday we took 16 boys to compete in the District Tennis tournament. Our A team finished 5th place overall whilst our B team finished 7th. In the B standard competition our C team finished in 7th and our D team finished 8th. Well done to everyone who competed! It was great to see some new faces representing the school in this competition too!

Year 9 & 10 Girls

Also on Monday we took 17 girls to the event. Our A team finished as the best state school in 3rd, only losing to both Bedford Girls School teams, once in the group stage and then unfortunately in the semi final. In the 3rd/4th play off they beat Bedford Modern. Our B team finished 5th overall, having been 3rd in their group and then beating Sharnbrook in the 5th/6th playoff match. Our C and D teams finished 10th and 12th overall and really enjoyed the opportunity to represent the school.

Year 7 to 11 Sports Awards

Secondary Sports Awards Evening - Thursday 16th July

Invitations for the event will be sent out on Monday morning to the nominees. Please confirm your attendance via the link within the invitation. We look forward to celebrating with you on Thursday!



If your child has any out-of-school achievements with sport, we would love to hear about it to share on Sports Awards. Please complete this [form](#) so we can add it in to the evening.

Year 10 GCSE Art Trip



Our Year 10 GCSE Art class recently enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. Although it was an exceptionally warm day—meaning a few galleries were temporarily closed to protect the delicate artwork from the heat—the restrictions didn't dampen anyone's spirits. The pupils thoroughly immersed themselves in the experience, showing great enthusiasm as they viewed the incredible array of artwork and historical artefacts on display. It was a thoroughly inspiring and great day out all round, providing our students with plenty of valuable inspiration for their own portfolios.



GCSE and Entry level

Art exhibition

Art



Friday 10th of July 2026
18:00 to 20:00 Main Hall

HAF Summer Courses



The following HAF courses have places available, HAF courses are free of charge to any pupils in receipt of free school meals!

Bedford Town FC

BEDFORD TOWN FC

SUMMER FOOTBALL CAMP!

FOUR WEEKS!
JULY & AUGUST

TUE 28TH JULY
WED 29TH JULY
THU 30TH JULY
MON 3RD AUG
TUE 4TH AUG
WED 5TH AUG
THU 6TH AUG

MON 10TH AUG
TUE 11TH AUG
WED 12TH AUG
THU 13TH AUG
TUE 18TH AUG
WED 19TH AUG
THU 20TH AUG

£15 PER DAY | £40 3 DAY BUNDLE | 10% OFF FOR BTFC YOUTH

9am to 3pm

£2:50 for 8am early drop off
£2:50 for 4pm collection

HAF programme offers free holiday places for children in Reception to year 11 in receipt of free school meals

FOR CHILDREN AGED 4-16 YEARS OLD
VISIT BEDFORDTOWNFC.KTCKTS.COM TO BOOK

Fun 4 Young People

Get in touch!
www.f4yp.org
0300 102 4541
info@f4yp.org



FUN 4 YOUNG PEOPLE SENIOR DAYS!

Join us for two exciting days of summer fun designed especially for Year 9-11 students! Take part in a range of activities including sports, arts and crafts and more in a friendly and relaxed environment.

**TUESDAY 29TH JULY &
WEDNESDAY 30TH JULY**
Mark Rutherford School
School Years 9-11
Time: 9:30am - 2:30pm

**TUESDAY 5TH August &
WEDNESDAY 6TH August**
Kings Oak Primary
School Years 9-11
Time: 9:30am - 2:30pm



Parents/carers eligible should of recieved HAF codes directly via text/email. To book search F4YP Senior Days on HAF





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



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

Saturday 11th July

4SIXTEEN's The Lion King Jr.

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
Year 7 to Year 11 Sports Awards Evening

Friday 17th July

Last Day of Term
PTA Break the rules day for pupils in Reception - Year 6
Year 10 End of Year Trip to Box End Park

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

WEEK

B

Safeguarding Spotlight





CAMHS

Drop-In's

Do you need advice regarding your or your child/young person's mental health?

Our CAMHS drop-in sessions offer a safe, welcoming space for children, young people, and their parents/carers to get advice around their emotional wellbeing and mental health.

If you would like to book onto a drop in session please scan the QR code or visit the following website: www.elft.nhs.uk/services/north-bedfordshire-community-access-service-cas



Drop-In sessions take place on a Thursday at one of the following locations that you can choose from:

- Bedford and County Golf Club, MK45 6 ET
- The Higgins, Castle Lane, MK40 3XD
- Lakeview Village Hall, MK42 6AB



Safeguarding Team

 Mr M Cleaver DSL Primary	 Mrs H Grady Vice Principal	 Mr M Herridge Vice Principal	 Miss H Baxter Assistant Principal
 Mrs B McWilliams DSL Secondary	 Mrs H Harwood Senior Vice Principal	 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.

