



# Castle Connect

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Dear Families,

I must start with the most phenomenal news around our Year 6 SATs results. WOW! What an incredible group of young people. We are absolutely thrilled to share that our pupils have achieved remarkable outcomes.

|                                                    | Reading | Writing | Maths | GPS   |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|-------|-------|
| % achieving expected standard                      | 87.23   | 82.98   | 81.91 | 82.98 |
| % achieving greater depth standard                 | 45.74   | 8.51    | 42.55 | 30.85 |
| % achieving expected standard combined in RWM      | 76      |         |       |       |
| % achieving greater depth standard combined in RWM | 5       |         |       |       |

An achievement like this is a true team effort, and a huge thank you must go to our dedicated staff. Every teacher and support staff member who has guided, taught, and cared for these children at any point during their first seven years of education has played a vital role in reaching this magnificent milestone. We also extend our deepest gratitude to you, our parents and carers, for your incredible support and partnership along the way.

Most of all, however, our focus and congratulations must go to the children themselves. To our wonderful Year 6 pupils: we are so incredibly proud of your fantastic SATs results, but we are even prouder of the people you are becoming. Beyond these academic achievements, you have grown, excelled, and shone in so many ways both inside and outside the classroom. Congratulations to each and every one of you on all your wonderful accomplishments this year!

As we reach the final day of the school year, this milestone marks the completion of my very first term as Principal and I write with a heart full of gratitude, reflection, and immense pride. Over the last few months, every single morning as I have driven into work each day fills me with a true sense of purpose. Guided by ambition and a fierce devotion for this incredible community, I am constantly inspired by what we can achieve together.

Over the summer months, our senior leadership team will be hard at work finalising our strategic plans for the upcoming school year. I look forward to sharing these exciting next steps with you all as soon as we return in September.

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly into the Castle Newnham family this term. I wish you and your loved ones a safe, happy, and sun-filled summer holiday.

Warmest wishes,  
Donna Neely-Hayes  
Principal



VIEWS



VOICE



VALUED



Parents & Carers: Views - Voice Valued - Google Form



# Update of SEND provision

As we prepare for the new academic year, we want to share an important update regarding our SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) provision at Castle Newnham.

At our school, inclusion is absolutely paramount to ensuring a safe, happy, and successful environment for every single child. Throughout the summer term, we have been thoroughly reviewing many of our systems, processes, and structures to ensure we are delivering the best possible support. Our SEND team has been an area of significant focus during this process.

To provide extra clarity for our families ahead of our return in September, please see below the leadership structure for SEND across our All-Through School:

## SEND



Mrs H Harwood  
Senior Vice Principal



Mrs H Lee  
Assistant Principal (All-Through SENDCo)



Miss K Bloor  
Deputy SENDCo (LINK)



Miss E Allen  
South Site SENDCo (Year R-4)



Miss E Bain  
Deputy SENDCo (Ark)



Miss S Garsellis  
SEND Administrator

We are incredibly excited about these refined structures and the enhanced clarity and support they will bring to our entire school community. More detailed information about the provision and support moving forwards will be shared as we start the new academic year.



## Staffing updates

As we look toward the future, we must also bid a fond farewell to members of our school community who are moving on to new chapters.

We extend a very special note of gratitude to **Carrie-Anne Licchelli**, who has been a part of our school family for an incredible 18 years; originally working in Years 5 and 6, she later transitioned to secondary to share her passion and expertise for reading and literacy. We also say goodbye to **Samantha Cash**, our Teacher of History and Head of Year, who began her teaching career with us 11 years ago and now leaves to take on new challenges at a school setting closer to her home. We want to express our appreciation and good wishes to **Gareth Jell** as he also leaves us this year after being with us for over a decade, and thank him for his leadership in shaping the North Site's Ark provision and guiding its journey since its very inception. Our Head of Art, **Emily Robinson** leaves behind a fantastic artistic legacy showcased across our corridors and classrooms which reflect the immense talent and success she has nurtured in pupils during her time at Castle Newnham. We wish her well in the future as she moves to a role in a local independent school.

We also wish a fond farewell to **Ayesha Mahmood**, **Esther Richardson**, **Kirstie Maddock** and **Olivia Kirkham**. We wish them all the very best in their future endeavors. **Esin Eskici** also begins her sabbatical, we wish her an exciting new adventure.

This month, we have welcomed back **Hatti Maguiness** from her maternity leave as she rejoins the English Department, and also wish **Jess Cain**, Cover Supervisor, and **Hannah Millers**, Class Teacher, all the best wishes as their maternity leaves begin.

We will be updating you on the new staff joining us for the new academic year in our first Castle Connect in September.

## Uniform for September

We expect our children to look smart and take pride in their appearance at all times and we ask that our families support the uniform requirements. Whilst you may not be thinking about uniform for the new school term just yet, please bear in mind that any branded items take at least 10 days to be delivered.

Details of the uniform expectations and a link to the online store can be found on our website: <https://www.castlenewnham.school/uniform>

If parents need help with purchasing uniform, please ask us about our second-hand uniform store (please contact the relevant school office). If you have any uniform you no longer need but it is still in good condition, please consider donating it to our second-hand uniform store (please bring the uniform to the relevant school office).





## Office Drop Offs

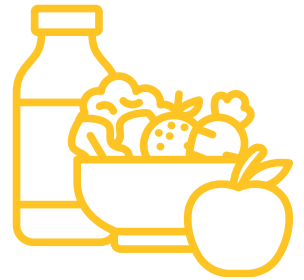
On **Tuesday 1st September**, school offices will be open should you wish to drop off any medication or other essential items prior to the official start of the academic year.

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

## Menus for the next Academic Year

Our school menus for the upcoming 2026/27 academic year are now available to view on the [school website](#)! Our in school catering team have put together a delicious, balanced variety of healthy meals that we know the pupils will love. To help you make safe, informed dining choices, our comprehensive allergen charts have also been published alongside the menus.



## Medical update form

As we prepare for the upcoming academic year, we are updating our school medical records to ensure we have the most accurate information for your child.

Please could you kindly complete the form below to provide us with their up-to-date medical details. Ensuring this information is current allows us to provide the best possible care and support for your child while they are at school.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

[Medical Update Form](#)



# PE Kit in September

In September, we will again be asking all children, in Years 1–11, to come to school wearing their PE kit on their designated PE days.

Below are the PE days for each class (Years 1–6) for the Autumn Term. Pupils in Year 7 to Year 11 will be able to access their timetables on MCAS when the timetables are updated for September. Please ensure your child's PE kit follows the school's uniform requirements, including appropriate footwear. Pupils in Year 7 to Year 11 will also need to come into school wearing their PE kit on days that they have dance lessons.

Thank you for your continued support.

| Class           | Days                          |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1AI             | Monday & Wednesday            |
| 1BB             | Monday & Friday               |
| 1SA             | Monday & Tuesday              |
| 2AA             | Tuesday & Wednesday           |
| 2SS             | Monday & Wednesday            |
| 2ED             | Tuesday & Friday              |
| 3RG             | Thursday & Friday             |
| 3TK             | Monday & Thursday             |
| 3SB             | Monday & Thursday             |
| 4CE             | Thursday & Friday             |
| 4MH             | Wednesday & Friday (Swimming) |
| 4HQ             | Wednesday & Thursday          |
| Year 5 - Week A | Tuesday                       |
| Year 5 - Week B | Monday, Wednesday & Thursday  |
| Year 6 - Week A | Tuesday & Thursday            |
| Year 6 - Week B | Monday & Tuesday              |

Pupils in 6JC will have their swimming lessons on Tuesdays in the Autumn term.

Swimming lessons for pupils in 4MH and 6JC will commence on the week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> September.



# JLT Applications are now open!

Applications are open to all who will be in Year 1 to Year 10 as of September 2026.

**Apply to be on  
the Junior  
Leadership Team!**



After the holidays the elections  
will take place.



Last Friday, Block 1 Hall hosted another successful Reading Cafe and this time it was Year 1 who enjoyed new books and quizzes with their families. These events will return next year and we look forward to welcoming families and promoting reading for pleasure.

# PTA School Lottery



**YOUR  
SCHOOL  
LOTTERY**

**SUPPORT  
OUR LOTTERY  
TODAY**

**£1 per  
week**

**Weekly  
cash prizes**

**£25,000  
jackpot**



**Splitting the £1.00**



**40p** to our school  
**25p** guaranteed prize  
**35p** other prizes & running costs

**How it works...**



It's simple - just choose 6 numbers between 0-9, and if they match the weekly lottery draw, you win great prizes. One of our players will win a cash prize every week, maybe even the £25k jackpot! Tickets cost just £1 per week and the proceeds are donated to **Castle Newnham**

Every Saturday at 8pm the numbers are drawn and posted online. Winners are notified by email and winnings paid into the account of your choice.

The easiest way to join our lottery is online by direct debit or debit card.

**It's so easy to join and will make a real difference to** **Castle Newnham**

**The maths...**



**100 weekly tickets** means:  
 A £25 guaranteed weekly prize  
 £2,080 a year for your school



**Play Now**

GambleAware 





# 'My Favourite'

## 2026 Primary Art Competition Winners



Winner Elizabeth W-H 6EB

### Year 6



Runner up Adelina Luna B 6RT



Highly Commended Beatrice F 6RT



Winner Sanidyha 5EK

### Year 5



Runner up Olivia S 5EK



Highly Commended Louis J 5HQ



Winner Tilly F 4ER

### Year 4



Runner up Evelyn D4EB



Highly Commended Elise 4ER and George L 4ER



Winner Amelia O'B 3JA

### Year 3



Runner up Kinoli G 3TK



Winner Eloise G 2SS

## Year 2



Runner up Valentina C 2SS



Winner Imelda G 1SE

## Year 1



Runner up Orlando M 1BM



Winner Rueben C RKC

## Reception



Runner up Summer O'B RKC

## All Entries Displays



Year 5 and 6 North Site



Reception to Year 4 South Site





# iRock Assemblies



A huge well done to all of our iRock bands who had their first performances this week. On Tuesday pupils in Reception to Year 6 had the opportunity to share what they have been learning in their bands and show their families how they rock out!

Our pupils have had an excellent time learning their instruments and forming their bands.

There are more spaces available for pupils in Reception to Year 6 to become iRockers too! Follow the instructions below to secure your space!



iRock School of Music runs weekly in-school lessons at your school! Led by passionate and professional Band Coaches, children practise together for 30 minutes every week.

## Music for all!

Never picked up an instrument? iRock band lessons are designed for children at any stage in their musical journey. Children build musical skills, confidence and teamwork as they work towards exam-free music qualifications and unforgettable performances.

## Feel like a rockstar!

Every lesson contributes to a child's journey through the iRock curriculum, guiding them towards exam-free music qualifications offered by Ofqual-regulated global awarding body, RSL Awards.

## Choose your instrument...



Hassle-free, rolling **monthly subscription**\*



**No experience required** and all instruments are provided



Every lesson supports progress towards music qualifications with **RSL Awards**



View **progress comments, updates and photos** on the iRock online portal



**First lesson money-back guarantee** (and you can cancel at anytime)







# 5EK Pop Art Self Portraits







# 5BC Pop Art Self Portraits







# 5HQ Pop Art Self Portraits





# 4SIXTEEN presents Les Misérables: School Edition



4SIXTEEN Theatre Company, Castle Newnham's award winning in-house theatre company are incredibly excited to announce our next production of **Les Misérables: School Edition**.

Auditions will be open to any Castle Newnham pupil going in years 8, 9, 10 or 11 in September. Below is everything you need to know about the audition process and how to get involved.

## Ensemble Singing Workshop

Wednesday, 9th September | 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

- During this workshop you will learn an ensemble song and work on harmonies with the music team. The workshop will conclude with small group performances to the audition panel.
- Anyone interested in being in the production must attend this workshop.

## Main Part Auditions

Thursday, 10th September | 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

- Pupils will sing a specific character song from the list provided below. This audition is only required for pupils who wish to be considered for a main role. All pupils auditioning for a main role must also attend the ensemble singing workshop to be considered for a main role.

## Cast Announcement

Friday, 11th September | Break time

- The Production Team will officially announce the cast list.

*(Note: We will also be looking for younger cast roles from years 3 to 6 following this phase).*

## Female Lead

| Role    | Audition Song                            |
|---------|------------------------------------------|
| Fantine | I Dreamed a Dream                        |
| Eponine | On My Own                                |
| Cosette | A Heart full of Love (Cosette's section) |

## Male Lead

| Role         | Audition Song                |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| Jean Valjean | Bring Him Home or Who Am I?  |
| Javert       | Stars                        |
| Marius       | Empty Chairs at Empty Tables |

## Supporting Role

| Role                                    | Audition Song       |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Enjolras (male)                         | Red and Black       |
| Thénardier (male comedic role)          | Master of the House |
| Madame Thénardier (female comedic role) | Master of the House |

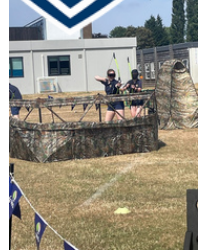
Your child will be expected to join us for rehearsals on a Tuesday and Thursday after school until 5:15pm. These rehearsals will begin from the week beginning 21st September and a rehearsal schedule will be sent out once the show has been cast.

The production dates will be on the week beginning Monday 1st February with a dress rehearsal on Sunday 31st January. Successful auditionees will be sent a Cast Contract with all production week details.



## SSG Rewards Day

Yesterday, the pupils with the most achievement points in Years 5 to 10 spent their day on the field for their rewards day with SSG. To celebrate their consistent hard work and positive attitude, they got to spend the day taking part in a mix of activities and games, including slingshot darts, bin ball and archery tag. Everyone had a fantastic time, showed great sportsmanship, and represented the school brilliantly.



## End of Year Trips

What an excellent week of end-of-year trips we've had, with pupils in Years 7 to 10 making the most of the summer term! The excitement kicked off on Monday as Year 9 went wild exploring conservation and wildlife at Whipsnade Zoo, followed by Year 8 building lasting memories on the thrilling rides at LEGOLAND on Tuesday. Year 7 blasted off for a day of cosmic discovery at the National Space Centre, and today, Year 10 rounded off the week in style by making a massive, high-energy splash on the inflatable obstacle courses at Box End Water Park. A huge thank you to all the staff who made these fantastic experiences possible, and well done to our pupils for representing the school with such brilliant energy and exemplary behaviour!





# Classics at Castle



With the summer holidays ahead of us, this week's Classics at Castle is dedicated to films you can enjoy whilst learning about the ancient world.

## **The Odyssey (2026, age rated 15)**

The long awaited film *The Odyssey* is out in cinemas **today!** Directed by Christopher Nolan, it follows the adventures of the Greek hero Odysseus. After ten long years at the war in Troy, king Odysseus sets sail for his home of Ithaca, eager to reunite with his wife and son. But his journey home is far more treacherous than the battlefield, as he must face deadly monsters and vengeful gods to survive. This film has been well received by film critics and has been highly praised as a successful adaption to Homer's original epic poem.



## **Other recommendations:**

Wrath of the Titans (2012)

Troy (2004)

Spartacus (1960)

Hercules (1997)

Gladiator (2000) – **Year 10 GCSE pupils take note!** - This film will be very useful for you to watch as part of the Leisure and Entertainment topic we are starting in Year 11 next year.

We hope you have a brilliant summer!

Mrs Scott

# 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



# Signposting for SEND families



## Autism Central

England's peer education programme



Autism Central is an NHS funded, free service for families and support networks of autistic people of all ages. We offer families education, coaching, and connection through resources, one-to-one peer support, and community events.

### Group learning

Join us online for group events including drop-ins, education family guide sessions and reflective sessions.

### One-to-one coaching

Book confidential and personalised coaching from trained peer guides with lived or family experience. Practical guidance and signposting.

*"Connecting to someone who gets it."*

*"Being able to talk freely with ease."*

*"It was amazingly helpful."*



[autismcentral.nhs.uk](https://autismcentral.nhs.uk)



## Summer SEND Fun Day



Addison Centre, Kempston, MK42 8PN

28th August  
11.00am - 1.00pm

Join BBPCF for a fun-filled Summer Fun Day for children and young people with SEND and their families



- Arts and Crafts
- Gamerzbus
- Inflatables
- Pete's Activities and Minions Game
- Disney Crazy Golf

👉 Book via your BBPCF Membership Portal: [www.bbpcf.member365.org](http://www.bbpcf.member365.org) or scan the QR code

👉 Not a member yet? It's quick and free to join: [www.bbpcf.co.uk/membership](http://www.bbpcf.co.uk/membership)

👉 £3.50 per child. Parent carers attend free



Event booking

# Upcoming Dates



**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September**

School Offices Open for Medication Drop Off

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**

INSET Day - school closed to pupils

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

INSET Day - school closed to pupils

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September**

Autumn Term Begins  
PTA Reception Tea and Tissues Event

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September**

Year 8-11 Auditions for Les Misarables: School Edition

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September**

Year 8-11 Auditions for Les Misarables: School Edition

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

Year 3 & 4 Reading Morning

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September**

PTA Reception Picnic

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

PTA Castle Quarter Jumble Trail

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September**

4SIXTEEN Presents: SIX: Teen Edition

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

4SIXTEEN Presents: SIX: Teen Edition

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

Year 3 & 4 Reading Morning

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

4SIXTEEN Presents: SIX: Teen Edition



**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

PTA Fun Run

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

Year 6 SEND Information Evening (Transition)

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

PTA AGM  
Year 6 Ironbridge Residential Trip Starts

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September**

PTA Uniform Sale

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September**

PTA Uniform Sale  
Year 3 & 4 Reading Morning  
Year 5 Greek Workshop  
Year 6 Ironbridge Residential Trip Ends

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September**

Year 11 GCSE Drama Component 2 NEA

# 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](http://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

|                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br><b>Mr M Cleaver</b><br>DSL Primary       | <br><b>Mrs H Grady</b><br>Vice Principal          | <br><b>Mr M Herridge</b><br>Vice Principal                   | <br><b>Miss H Baxter</b><br>Assistant Principal              |
| <br><b>Mrs B McWilliams</b><br>DSL Secondary | <br><b>Mrs H Harwood</b><br>Senior Vice Principal | <br><b>Miss S Cain</b><br>Pupil & Family Support Lead<br>DDSL | <br><b>Mr D Chapman</b><br>Pastoral Intervention Lead<br>DDSL |
|                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                      | <br><b>Mrs H Clements</b><br>Head of Year<br>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.

