



Castle Connect

Monday 31st August 2026

Dear Families,

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer break filled with plenty of quality family time, fun adventures, and happy memories.

As we prepare to welcome everyone back to school on Friday, I am absolutely delighted to share that an incredible amount of site work has taken place across both of our school sites over the holidays. The improvements look fantastic, and the upgraded spaces will provide a brilliant environment for our students to learn and thrive.

I also want to take a moment to reflect on our recent Year 11 success. Celebration and optimism filled the halls last week as our Year 11 pupils gathered with family, teachers, and school leaders to collect their GCSE and vocational qualifications. After years of hard work and dedication, pupils reaped the rewards of their efforts, securing high-level results that pave the way for exciting next steps in sixth form, vocational training, and modern apprenticeships. We couldn't be prouder of the resilience and determination shown across the entire year group.



This year's outcomes demonstrated remarkable academic growth across the curriculum. We saw a significant increase in Grades 9–5 across English, Science, and Art & Design, alongside outstanding 9–7 performances in Music, Spanish, and Religious Education. Crucially, headline measures for combined English and Mathematics also saw a clear uplift across all performance levels. Congratulations to every student on these well-deserved achievements, the entire school community wishes you the very best as you take your next steps!

Looking ahead, I am incredibly excited for the start of the new academic year. We have so many ambitious and positive plans in store for our pupils, and it truly promises to be a year to remember.

Enjoy the final few days of the break, and we look forward to seeing all of our pupils back on Friday 4th September.

Warmest wishes,
Donna Neely-Hayes
Principal





Site Developments

Lots of exciting building works are happening at Castle Newnham this summer holiday.

We've been busy working hard behind the scenes to give our school some fantastic upgrades ahead of the new academic year.

Here is a sneak peek at what's been happening across North and South sites:

Deep clean of all classrooms and spaces around the school.

Studio 4 will soon be ready for our talented pupils. A brand new studio theatre fitted with the latest technical equipment for rehearsals and small showcases. Watch this space: an additional Music teaching space is coming soon to South Site. Studio 5 is also on its way!



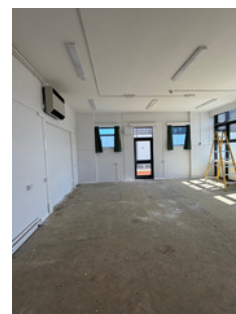
Brand-new Sensory Rooms have been created on both sites to support our pupils' well-being. On South Site we are busy creating a dedicated SEND area for small groups of children, similar to the successful spaces in The Ark on the North Site.



The North Main Hall has had a revamp, featuring new entry doors and a brand new direct corridor connecting to the Performing Arts building.

Corridors on the North site have been redecorated for a sleeker, more professional look.

Work continues on completing our wonderful North Site Library. We can't wait to see the designers visions and ideas come to life!



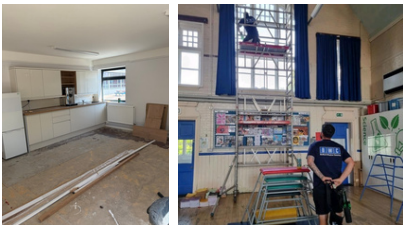


Site Developments

Smoother, safer pathways with repaving, resurfacing, and improved accessibility ramps on North Site.



New cycle storage and dedicated pathways, perfectly complementing our outdoor dining area. Enhanced site security with updated fencing.

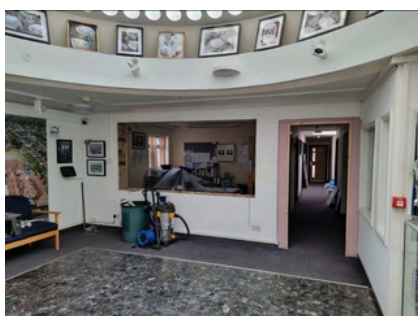


Roof and window refurbishments completed on South Site's Block 2.



Refurbished and newly reorganised staff hubs across both sites to support our brilliant staff team

Brand new main reception for North Site with a larger window!



Bromcom



As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we are currently in the process of transitioning our Bromcom system from separate primary and secondary setups to one all-through school system. As with any major integration, we are experiencing a few technical issues, all of which have been entirely beyond our control. We were informed that all data would be transitioned quickly and smoothly by mid-August; unfortunately, this has not been the case. Our team is working hard behind the scenes to resolve these issues and get everything running seamlessly before the children return.

This means you may encounter temporary hurdles or glitches when using the MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) app. We are aware that wraparound care bookings are currently unavailable. We plan to open bookings on Tuesday, 1st September at 3:00 PM, by which time the full Bromcom merge should be complete.

If you still experience problems booking wraparound care after this time, please contact the finance team, who will be able to book your slots manually. cnfinance@bestacademies.org.uk

We do understand how frustrating communication systems can be when they are not working effectively, and we sincerely apologise for any inconvenience during these early days of our transition.

Our office staff will be back in school from Tuesday, 1st September, and all remaining staff return on Wednesday, 2nd September. We will be fully available to help should you need to contact us. In the interim, please keep an eye on our social media channels for key updates and messages.

Welcoming new staff members

We are looking forward to welcoming the new staff members who will be joining us in September:

Paul Rodgers - Teacher of Science

Gemma Lamprecht - Head of Art

Faith Warren - Cover Supervisor (Primary) (Maternity Cover)

Althia Singh - Teaching Assistant SEND (Primary)

Tracey Osborne - Teaching Assistant SEND (Primary)

Mireille Harvey - Primary Teacher

Please join us in giving them a warm welcome to our community when you see them next month! Keep an eye out for more detailed introductions in the upcoming Castle Connects.



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.

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).

PE Kit

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.

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. Pupils in Year 1-6 can check their designated PE days [here](#). Pupils in Year 7-11 can look for their

Year 1 to 6 PE Kit (logo preferred but not expected):

- Plain royal blue PE polo top or t- shirt
- Plain navy blue or black tracksuit bottoms, shorts or appropriate sports leggings
- Plain navy blue or black coloured sweatshirt or quarter-zip top (Hoodies are not permitted)
- Suitable trainers for physical activity (that are different to school shoes for hygiene reasons)
- Plain navy blue or black base layers are encouraged in the winter periods

Year 7 to 11 PE Kit

- School navy PE polo shirt with school logo
- Plain navy tracksuit bottoms or plain, opaque good quality navy sports leggings (with or without school logo)
- Plain navy shorts or skorts. Plain navy cycling shorts are permitted but must be **mid-thigh in length**, opaque and of a good quality material
- Plain navy sweatshirt or quarter zip fleece top (with or without school logo)
- Suitable sports trainers for physical activity (that are different to school shoes for hygiene reasons)
- Plain navy base layers are encouraged in cold weather
- Football boots, shin pads and gum shields are all required for safety purposes



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

As of September the price of school meals will increase to £2.75, payment for lunches should be made via the MCAS app.

Don't forget, you can have a look at the menus for the upcoming academic year on the [school website](#).



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](#)



Autumn Term, 2026

hello.cnpta@gmail.co

CASTLE NEWNHAM PRIMARY PTA NEWS

UPCOMING PTA DATES

SATURDAY, SEPT 12 RECEPTION PICNIC - RUSSELL PARK
SUNDAY, SEPT 13 - JUMBLE SALE (SEE FLYER FOR MORE DETAILS)
SUNDAY, SEPT 20 - FUN RUN
WEDNESDAY, SEPT 23 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)
THURSDAY, SEPT 24 - SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SALE (DROP OFF)
FRIDAY, SEPT 25 - SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SALE (PICK UP)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING INFO



**CASTLE
NEWNHAM PTA
2KM - FUN RUN**

**SUN SEPT 20TH
NORTH SITE 10AM**

Tickets on MCAS. £3 for one child. £5 for two. Each child gets a medal.

OPEN TO WHOLE SCHOOL

Becoming an All-Through PTA

This 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 at this meeting.

The AGM will take place on Wednesday, 23 September at 7pm on the South Site.

We will set the agenda and funding goals for the new school year! We hope to see you there!



Autumn Term, 2026

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Upcoming Dates



Tuesday 1st September

School Offices Open for Medication Drop Off

Wednesday 2nd September

INSET Day - school closed to pupils

Thursday 3rd September

INSET Day - school closed to pupils

Friday 4th September

Autumn Term Begins

Wednesday 9th September

Year 8-11 Auditions for Les Miserables: School Edition
[Year 11 Leavers Photo](#)

Thursday 10th September

Year 8-11 Auditions for Les Miserables: School Edition

Friday 11th September

Year 3 & 4 Reading Morning

Saturday 12th September

PTA Reception Picnic

Sunday 13th September

PTA Castle Quarter Jumble Trail

Wednesday 16th September

4SIXTEEN Presents: SIX: Teen Edition

Thursday 17th September

4SIXTEEN Presents: SIX: Teen Edition

Friday 18th September

Year 3 & 4 Reading Morning

Saturday 19th September

4SIXTEEN Presents: SIX: Teen Edition

Sunday 20th September

PTA Fun Run

Tuesday 22nd September

Individual School Photos
Year 6 SEND Information Evening (Transition)

Wednesday 23rd September

PTA AGM
Year 6 Ironbridge Residential Trip Starts

Thursday 24th September

PTA Uniform Sale

Friday 25th September

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

Tuesday 29th September

Year 11 GCSE Drama Component 2 NEA

Thursday 1st October

Census Day
Year 10 DofE Bronze Qualifying Expedition begins

Friday 2nd October

Year 3 & 4 Reading Morning
Year 10 DofE Bronze Qualifying Expedition ends

Monday 5th October

Year 3 Trip to Hammerton Zoo
ACT!26 Theatre Workshop at Bedford Modern School

Tuesday 6th October

Year 7 to 11 Musicians Evening

Wednesday 7th October

Flip to Spanish Day
Year 11 GCSE Geography Fieldwork Prep

Thursday 8th October

Year 11 GCSE Geography Coastal Fieldwork Trip

Friday 9th October

Glorious Grandparents Day

Monday 12th October

Year 6 into Year 7 Open Evening

Tuesday 13th October

Flu Vaccinations

Wednesday 14th October

Flu Vaccinations
Year 11 GCSE Geography Fieldwork

Thursday 15th October

Year 11 GCSE Geography Fieldwork

Friday 16th October

Year 3&4 Reading Morning

Saturday 17th October

Northamptonshire Schools Chess Association Matches

Friday 23rd October

Year 3 Reading Cafe

Saturday 31st October

Deadline for Secondary School Places



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

WEEK

A

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.

