



Castle Connect

Friday 11th September 2026

Dear Families,

We have officially wrapped up our first full week back at school, and what a sensational start it has been! The school is buzzing with learning, laughter, and high energy, and it has been wonderful to see all of our pupils settle so quickly into their routines. A seriously strong start back!

I am absolutely delighted to announce the launch of our **Golden Learners**! Celebrating the hard work, positive choices, and outstanding accomplishments of our children is at the heart of our school. A huge well done to every single pupil who was celebrated as a Golden Learner this week! They have set a fantastic benchmark for the rest of the term, showing true dedication to their learning and our school values. We look forward to celebrating many more of our fantastic pupils in the weeks ahead!

There have been so many other fantastic moments across the school this week. It was brilliant to see so many families join us to share the joy of reading. Watching our pupils proudly read with their grown-ups was a fantastic way to start the day. I also had the delight of taking a sneak preview of SIX! Our performers have already been working extraordinarily hard. We are in for something truly special!

My absolute number one highlight of the week was gathering with every single phase and year group for our values-themed assemblies. I was completely blown away by the exceptional attitude, focus, and energy shown by every pupil in the room. They set the standard for what is going to be a brilliant year.

Thank you all for your ongoing support in helping our pupils arrive ready to learn every day.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend!

Warm regards,
Donna Neely-Hayes
Principal



Castle Newnham

ALL THROUGH SCHOOL

YEAR 7
OPEN
EVENING

MONDAY 12TH OCTOBER

5:30PM

TO

8PM

To book a tour in the school day, email the school office at cnsecondary@bestacademies.org.uk



UNCOMPROMISING
EXCELLENCE & AMBITION



CHARACTER, INCLUSION
& HUMAN BRILLIANCE



A CULTURE
OF BELONGING



CHANGEMAKERS
FOR TOMORROW



Golden Learner of the Week



This week we are beginning to celebrate our 'Golden Learners of the Week'. These are pupils who have **demonstrated our CORE values** in each of their lessons, and as a result have achieved the **highest positive points in their class or CORE group this week.**

What will they receive?

Golden Learners of the week will receive a range of rewards to celebrate their success:

- A **Golden Badge** (Y1-Y6) or a **Golden Tie** (Y7-Y11)
- **5 minute early pass** for break and lunchtime
- **Skip the queue** at break and lunchtime
- An invitation to **Tasty Treats with SLT**
- A **shoutout** in Castle Connect
- An **email or phonecall** home from the Leadership Team
- One entry into the **Grand End-of-Year Raffle**

Golden Learners of the Week

KS1		KS2		KS3		KS4	
1AI	Clara	3RG	Rosie	7ES	Ruben	10CS	Oscar
1BB	Estella	3SB	Kaden	7GLH	Georgia	10EP	Lexi
1SA	Dillon	3TK	Gabriel	7IW	Naomi	10HB	Tyler
2AA	Athena	4CE	Oran	7LHO	Rion	10QL	Daniyal
2ED	Skylar	4HQ	Alex,	7RHA	Hoshi	10YC	Jesse
2SS	Rosa	4MH	Oliver	8ADR	Callum	11DM	Caleb
		5BC	Hermione	8AJW	Jack C	11FD	James
		5EK	Charlie	8NCS	Jayden	11GS	Komal
		5IA	Isabel	8PB	Clem	11HL	Tyler
		6EB	Eleanor O	8SK	Isaiah	11PB	Aimie
		6JC	Olivia B	9MW	Aileen		
		6RT	Louis	9PMC	James		
				9RJ	Dejonie		
				9SB	Rebecca		
				9WE	Peter		



Benedicts Law

You may have seen in the news that the government has introduced new statutory legislation for schools, known as Benedict's Law. This law was established following the heartbreaking, preventable loss of five-year-old Benedict Blythe, who suffered a severe allergic reaction at school in 2021.

Normally, you would only complete information about allergies when your child first joins our school. However, with the introduction of new legislation, **we are now requesting allergy information from you at the start of every academic year via this FORM**. It is essential that this form is completed for every single child in our school, even if they do not have any allergies or if their details have not changed. Thank you for your cooperation with this new process.

Under Benedict's Law, maintaining precise records is a critical legal and safeguarding priority. Even if your child does not have an allergy, allergy awareness is a responsibility shared by our entire school community.

Around two children in every average classroom live with a food allergy, and a significant percentage of severe reactions occur in children with no prior diagnosis. To ensure a safe environment for everyone:

Snacks and packed lunches: Please be mindful of our school food policies. When we request that specific items (such as nuts or specific foods) are not brought into school, it is to prevent accidental cross-contamination that could cause a reaction.

Talk to your children: We encourage you to talk with your children about the importance of not sharing snacks or food with friends at breaktime or lunchtime.

Our highest priority is ensuring that every child can learn, play, and thrive in a safe, inclusive environment. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in keeping our school safe for all students.

Please complete the form at your earliest convenience.

Message from Bedford Borough Council



Back to school: four things to help keep your child well this winter

A new school term brings lots to look forward to, but with children mixing more closely, infections can spread more easily. A few simple actions now can help keep your child well, reduce time off school and protect those around them this autumn and winter.

1. Respond to your child's flu vaccination invitation

Flu can make children very unwell and can sometimes lead to complications or a hospital stay. Vaccination also helps protect vulnerable family members.

School-aged children will be offered their flu vaccine at school by Vaccination UK. Hertfordshire Community Trust will provide flu vaccines for children at SEND schools. The school immunisation teams will use the MAVIS electronic consent system, so when you receive the consent information, please follow the link provided and respond promptly.

If your child misses their school flu vaccination, there will still be opportunities to catch up through community clinics. From 1st December 2026, eligible school-aged children will also be able to use participating community pharmacies for catch-up vaccination.

Children aged 2 and 3 years can receive their flu vaccine through their GP from September and participating pharmacies from 1st October 2026.

If your child has SEND or additional needs and may need extra support to have their vaccination, please contact the vaccination team named in the information sent by your child's school. They can advise on suitable support or alternative arrangements.

2. Check their routine vaccinations are up to date

Vaccines protect children from serious infections such as measles and whooping cough. Check the NHS App or contact your GP practice or HCT School Aged Immunisation Service on 0300 555 5055, option 5, if you are unsure whether your child is up to date. It is never too late to catch up.

3. Know when to keep your child at home

It can be difficult to know when to keep your child at home. A mild cough or cold is usually fine for school, but if they have a high temperature or rash, keep them at home and speak to your GP. Antibiotics do not work for most coughs and colds. If your child has vomiting or diarrhoea, they should stay off school until 48 hours after symptoms have stopped.

4. Help stop infections spreading

Encourage regular handwashing with soap and water, particularly before eating and after using the toilet. Remind children to use a tissue when coughing or sneezing, put used tissues in the bin and wash their hands afterwards.

Thank you for helping to keep children, families and our communities healthy this winter.
Yours sincerely,

Vicky Head
Director of Public Health





Parking considerately around the school sites

A friendly reminder to all families to please avoid driving onto the school premises or using the staff car parks during the busy morning and afternoon peaks. As the signage indicates, these areas are reserved for staff, and keeping them clear helps prevent gridlock and ensures a much safer environment for our pupils walking into school. Thank you so much for your understanding, cooperation, and help in keeping our school community safe and moving smoothly!



North Site Vehicle access

The main gates on the North site will be closed to all vehicles between 8.20am - 8.45am & 3.05pm - 3.25pm each day to increase pedestrian safety. If you need to visit the site by vehicle during this time, please park in the laybys on Polhill Avenue and use the main pedestrian entrance.

Year 3 and 4 Reading Morning

This morning, we held our very first Reading Morning of the academic year for Years 3 and 4. It was wonderful to see so many families joining us in the classrooms, sharing stories and helping to foster a love of reading right from the start of the term. The children were thrilled to show off their new classrooms and explore books alongside their parents and carers.



Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and make the morning so special. If you couldn't make it today, don't worry, we will be hosting another Reading Morning next week and would love to see you there!



iRock Taster Sessions for pupils in Year 1 to 4



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. **Sign up for a free taster session**

Let your child experience the fun of being in a band, with no commitment to continue. To book, email your school's Band Coach with your child's name, class and September year group.

Music for all

Whether your child has never picked up an instrument or already loves making music, iRock band lessons support them at every stage. Children build musical skills, confidence and teamwork, prepare for unforgettable live performances and work towards exam-free qualifications awarded by RSL Awards, which is regulated by Ofqual.



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)

Choose your instrument...



VOCALS



GUITAR



DRUMS



KEYS



Start your child's iRock journey!

ENROL NOW

www.irockschool.com/enrol

0330 174 2655

info@irockschool.com

*Monthly cost shown after selecting your child's school (before enrolment is confirmed).



Les Mis Auditions for pupils in Year 3 to 6

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.

Pupils in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are able to audition for the following featured roles: Gavroche, Young Cosette and Young Eponine. Below is everything you need to know about the audition process and how to get involved.

Year 3 & 4 Auditions

Wednesday, 23rd September | 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM (South Site)

- Pupils will sing a specific character song from the list provided below based on the role they would like to play in the production.
- Please follow [this link](#) to sign your child up to audition

Year 5 & 6 Auditions

Thursday, 24th September | 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM (Studio 1, North Site)

- Pupils will sing a specific character song from the list provided below based on the role they would like to play in the production.
- Please follow [this link](#) to sign your child up to audition

Younger roles

Role	Audition Song
Gavroche	Look Down (Gavroche's section)
Young Eponine	Castle on a Cloud
Young Cosette	Castle on a Castle

Your child will be expected to join us for rehearsals which will fall on a Tuesday and Thursday after school. It is likely that these roles will not be called to rehearsals every week. Once the roles have been cast you will receive a rehearsal schedule indicating when pupils are needed - these will be sent out every half term.

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.



Introducing Pitch to Pitch!

This term, our Year 5–9 pupils have kicked off an exciting new challenge:

Pitch to Pitch.

At the start of each PE lesson, classes complete a dedicated 5-minute run, with the distance covered logged for their class. Each class is working towards their own cumulative 2,000km target, "travelling" to all 20 Premier League grounds and back as they go! It's a brilliant way to bring an extra bit of purpose and excitement to PE, encouraging pupils to give their all, knowing every run brings their class closer to the next ground. Keep an eye on future issues of Castle Connect for updates on how classes are progressing — and feel free to ask your child which stadium their class is heading for this week!



PE Kit — Reminders for Families

At Castle Newnham we expect all pupils to arrive in the correct PE kit for every lesson, ready to take part safely and confidently. Correct kit isn't just about appearance — it protects pupils during activity and helps lessons run smoothly for everyone. Please check the school website for details of the correct PE kit.

For pupils in Year 5 to 11: if a pupil is missing an item or wearing incorrect kit, our PE staff will log this and you'll receive an automated reminder email shortly afterwards. This is simply a courtesy heads-up so you're aware and can help your child prepare for next time — no action is needed for a first or second reminder.

If kit issues happen repeatedly (on the 3rd, 6th, or 9th occasion in a term), the email you receive will ask you to get in touch so we can understand what's going on and support your child in coming prepared for their lesson. This isn't a punishment — it's our way of catching a pattern early and working with you to sort it out.

If you have any questions about PE kit, or there's a reason your child is struggling to bring the right kit, please contact the school office — we're always happy to help.

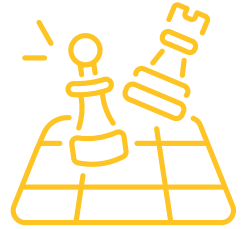
PE Survey- North Site (Year 5-11)

This Friday, 18th September, our annual PE survey will go out for pupils in Years 5 to 11. For Years 7 to 11, the survey will be sent directly to your child, with a request to complete it by Friday 25th September. For Years 5 and 6, the survey will be sent to parents, as we'd love your help supporting your child to complete it by the same date. It only takes a few minutes, but it makes a real difference — it's how we find out what's working well in PE, what we could do better, and what activities pupils would love to see more of. We'll be using these answers to shape our curriculum and clubs going forward, so your child's voice genuinely helps decide what PE looks like at our school. Thank you for encouraging them to be honest and thoughtful with their answers, and for supporting them to complete it by the 25th!



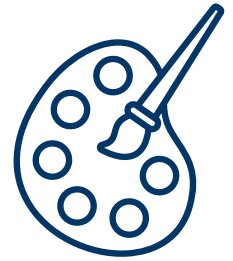
Clubs@Castle

As an all-through school, we are thrilled to unveil an exceptional, high-quality clubs package next week, showcasing an array of sports, creative arts, academic enrichment, and skill-building opportunities tailored for each age group. These extra-curricular sessions will officially launch the week commencing 21st September.



To help pupils explore their options, class teachers and CORE tutors will run through the club package with their groups next week. The complete timetable of clubs will also be published in next Friday's Castle Connect.

Please note that select Years 1–6 clubs, specifically those previously communicated by Mrs Wallinger, will commence next week (14/09/2026) as scheduled.



North Site Primary Library

Whilst the merger/relocation of the Year 5 & 6 library is taking place this term, we are keen to value the importance of reading for pleasure for our UKS2 pupils. We would therefore like to offer these pupils the opportunity to 'borrow' a book from some donated stock that we have in school.

In order to facilitate this, we would be most grateful to receive any unwanted/previously read books as donations to supplement this stock of books as this will then ensure that there will be enough books for the inevitable demand. Please be mindful that as these books are being donated, your child is happy to relinquish ownership before they agree to bring any into school.



This new service will begin w/c 14th September and we ask that donated books are brought in and given to your child's class teacher, who will then pass them onto Mrs Litchfield who will be supervising the 'borrowing' during library sessions in the Autumn term.

In addition, and as a reminder, the North site primary classrooms have reading areas where books can be borrowed and signed out on loan from their class teacher.



Thank you for your support.

Apply to be on the Junior Leadership Team!



After the holidays the elections
will take place.



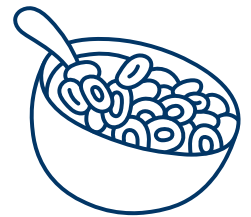
Year 5 to 11 Breakfast Club

Year 5-11 Breakfast Club, Main Hall, North Site

Pupils coming into Breakfast Club should enter through the Main hall door (by the Year 7-11 Reception) from 7:30am each morning. Whilst attending, pupils can purchase breakfast, play games or sit and talk with peers. They do not need to purchase breakfast to be able to attend.

If pupils are purchasing food, they must have enough funds on their MCAS account. Please note that pupils who have free school meals need additional funds for breakfast purchases as their allowance is only available to be used at break time (yr7-11) or lunch time (yr5-11).

Items available to purchase at Breakfast club will be available to view on the school website shortly.



Punctuality to school Year 7 to 11

As we begin the new academic year, we are placing a strong focus on improving punctuality to ensure every student gets the absolute best start to their day, pupils need to be in school by 8:30. We fully recognise that morning delays can occasionally happen through no fault of your own, please rest assured that if a child is late due to circumstances beyond their control, we will be completely understanding and no sanctions will apply.

To help streamline our morning arrivals, our "late gate" location for pupils in years 7-11 will move to the end of the performing arts. This will start from Monday 14th September. Students arriving here will be signed in and sent straight to CORE. Any student arriving after 8:50 AM must enter through the main reception. Please note that starting the week of September 21st, any student who accumulates two unexcused lates in a week will receive a Friday after school detention until 4pm. Thank you so much for your continued partnership and support in helping our students arrive on time and ready to learn.



Behaviour Updates- Year 7 to 11

740 positive points have been awarded over the past 5 days - an excellent start to the year!

Detentions will start being set from Monday 14th September.

If a pupil displays 2 poor behaviours (from Monday), they will receive a 20-minute lunchtime detention.

Failure to attend a lunchtime detention will result in an escalation to an afterschool detention.

If a pupil displays any unacceptable behaviour, they will receive a 45-minute afterschool detention.

Examples of poor and unacceptable behaviours are included in our [behaviour ladder](#).

Following parent feedback, all detentions will now be scheduled for the next academic day. Parents will be notified via MCAS of any detentions that are set and can also see any detentions that have been set in the detention module of MCAS.

Phone Pouches (Secondary)

The use of phone pouches has so far been exemplary. The removal of this distraction is an important part of creating a focused learning environment for all.

Phone pouches are leased annually and so there is a £6 payment required at the start of every academic year. Payment for this year is now active on MCAS - thank you to those that have already paid.

If a pouch is lost or damaged, we still have to pay the lease company the annual lease fee and pay for a replacement. Following parental feedback from last year, we have held discussions with our lease provider that means going forward we can reduce the replacement fee to £6 (instead of the higher fee charge last year).



Year 10: A Strong Start & Important Options Deadline

We would like to congratulate all our Year 10 pupils on a fantastic start to Key Stage 4. They have settled brilliantly into their new routines, showing real commitment and maturity as they begin their GCSE subjects.

If your child is considering a change to one of their selected GCSE options, please take note of the crucial deadline below:

- Final Deadline: Friday, September 18th
- Strict Cutoff: No option change requests will be accepted after this date.
- Reasoning: Beyond this point, students miss critical course content, making it exceptionally difficult to catch up without compromising their achievement.
- How to Request: Families must contact the school by emailing csecondary@bestacademies.org.uk as soon as possible.

Please note that all option changes depend on timetable availability and course capacity. We appreciate your support in helping our Year 10s stay on track for success

Opportunity for Year 11 GCSE Dance pupils

We are excited to revisit the potential opportunity for CNS Year 11 dancers to become involved with the Sharnbrook Academy Dance Company during the autumn term of the new academic year.



As we now approach the start of the new academic year, I am revisiting this opportunity to get some **firm numbers from CNS pupils** who would be interested in taking part. The project would involve weekly rehearsals on Mondays from 4:00pm–5:30pm, working towards a performance in the Dance Showcase on Wednesday 16th December between 4-8pm.

Dancers would work alongside Sharnbrook Year 11, 12 and 13 students to create a blended company, developing their performance skills and experience in a collaborative environment. This would also provide a fantastic opportunity for students to experience dance at Sharnbrook as they consider their sixth form options.

If your child would be interested in taking part, please complete the expression of interest form by this Monday, 14th September.

[Expression of Interest Form](#)

At this stage, completing the form is simply an expression of interest and does not commit your child to taking part. Once I have firm numbers, I will be able to confirm whether the project can go ahead and provide further details.



CASTLE NEWNHAM
ALL-THROUGH SCHOOL

YEAR 11 CONFERENCE DAY

LAUNCHPAD TO SUCCESS

To ignite ambition, equip students with practical academic tools, and provide the mental resilience strategies needed for a successful Year 11.

*Your
Next Chapter
Starts Here*



DATE

Friday
18th September



PUPILS

8.30am – 3.15pm



PARENTS

4.00pm – 4.30pm

An opportunity for parents to hear about key takeaways and how to support at home.



VENUE

Sportshall



INSPIRING TALKS

Real stories.
Real possibilities.



PRACTICAL TOOLS

Proven strategies to revise smarter.



MENTAL RESILIENCE

Build confidence and manage pressure.



FUTURE PATHWAYS

Explore opportunities beyond Year 11.

OUR VALUES



COMMUNITY

Stronger together.



OPPORTUNITY

A brighter future for all.



RESPECT

Kindness in action.



EXCELLENCE

Always our best.

"Nothing can stop what we can do together"



Year 11 Conference Day: Launchpad to Success



"Nothing can stop what we can achieve together"

Objective: To unleash your inner drive, equip you with smart, proven academic strategies, and build the mental strength that turns Year 11 challenges into your greatest successes.

Time	Seminar Detail	Lead
8.30 - 8.45	Line up and registration	Mr Saunders, Mr Mills & Tutors
8.45 - 9.00	Arrival into sports hall and light breakfast (free)	Mr Saunders, Mr Mills & Tutors
9.00 - 9.15	Keynote 1: Principal Welcome - The mission for the day <i>"Nothing can stop what we can do together"</i>	Mrs Neely-Hayes
9.15 - 9.30	Keynote 2: The Importance of Today - The day to "make a change" Make the most of the opportunity, and use today as a springboard to begin to become the best version of yourself.	Mr Saunders
9.30 - 10.00	Seminar 1: Mindset, Stress & The Balancing Act Acknowledging that Year 11 can be tough, but success is manageable with the right strategies, personalised support, and consistent attendance.	Mrs Harwood
10.00 - 10.30	Guest Speaker: Laura Dellar - The Power of self belief	
10.30 - 11.10	Seminar 2: Your Targets - Your Future Designed to help you set clear academic goals and map out the exact steps needed to unlock your potential to succeed.	Mr Stevens & Mr Herridge



11.10 - 11.30	BREAK - AS NORMAL	
11.30 - 11.35	Line up and registration	Mr Saunders & SLT
11.35 - 12.30	Seminar 3: Essential Careers Information & Guidance Tailored insights into dynamic career pathways, helping you discover your options, align your strengths, and take confident steps toward your future career goals.	Mrs Moore & Mrs Selwood
12.30 - 1.30	Seminar 4: The Science of Smart Revision Understanding proven, evidence-based study techniques to help you learn faster, retain more, and dramatically boost your exam efficiency without burning out.	Mr Mills & Mr Saunders
1.30 - 2.15	LUNCH - AS NORMAL	
2.15 - 2.20	Line ups and registration	Mr Saunders & SLT
2.20 - 3.00	Guest Speaker: Alumni	
3.00 - 3.15	Closing message "The future belongs to those who prepare for it today."	Mrs Harwood
3.50 - 4.00	Parents and Carers arrive <i>(Year 11 pupils are welcome to stay, however it is not compulsory)</i>	
4.00 - 4.10	Principal Welcome - "Nothing can stop what we can do together"	Mrs Neely-Hayes
4.10 - 4.20	Supporting Smart Study - Practical, evidence-based revision strategies to help your child study smarter, retain more, and reduce exam stress at home.	Mr Mills
4.20 - 4.30	Wellbeing First - Highlighting how your child's wellbeing and consistent attendance creates the strongest foundation for long-term confidence and academic success.	Mrs Harwood
4.30 - 5.00	Various senior leaders and pastoral leaders will be available for discussions	


"Nothing can stop what we can achieve together"


Castle Horizons



We are proud to launch Castle Horizons; this is our school Careers, Enterprise and Aspiration program. Our program makes sure that our pupils are supported all the way, from their first steps with us to the big horizons beyond.

Your Careers Co-Ordinators are



Amy Selwood



Rachel Moore

Each week we will be providing some information in the Castle Connect for all our families to build and learn from. There will be information that is for specific year groups but also something for everyone to reflect upon. Each week will focus either on the different pathways available to pupils at key transition points through their school careers and beyond, a spotlight on local industries or essential skills.

Key dates

Open Days for Year 11 Pupils

Institution	Upcoming Open Days / Evenings	Direct Link
The Bedford Sixth Form	Saturday 26 September 2026 (10:00am – 1:00pm)	<u>Bedford Sixth Form</u>
National College of Motor Sport (through Bedford)	Thursday 17 September 2026 (5:00pm – 7:00pm)	<u>Bedford College Group</u>
Kimberley College	October 2026- no date confirmed but applications	<u>Kimberley College</u>
Bedford School	Wednesday 23 September 2026 (6:00pm)	<u>Bedford School Open Mornings</u>
Bedford Modern School	Thursday 1 October 2026	<u>Bedford Modern Open Events</u>
Bedford Girls' School	Thursday 5th November	<u>Bedford Girls' Open Events</u>
Bedford Greenacre Independent School	Saturday 26th September 9:45-12:00	<u>Bedford Greenacre Independent School</u>
Sharnbrook Academy Sixth Form	Thursday 5 November 2026	<u>Sharnbrook Admissions</u>

Castle Horizons



The following have not yet released information for their Open events but please keep checking back

- Shuttleworth college [Shuttleworth Events](#)
- Bedford College [Bedford College Group](#)
- Mark Rutherford School [Mark Rutherford Open Evening](#)
- Biddenham International School [Biddenham School](#)
- St Thomas More [St Thomas More Sixth Form](#)
- Redborne Upper School [Redborne Community College](#)

Spotlight: Pathways

This week we are trying to demystify all options post GCSE. We know this can get confusing and our Year 11s will be spending time in their CORE groups looking through this, but as a bit of an introduction for everyone Post-16 choices in England generally fall into three distinct learning styles, each catering to different strengths:

- Academic Route (A-Levels): Focused on subject theory, deep analysis, and end-of-course written exams. Typically taken across three subjects over two years at a Sixth Form or college. Ideal for pupils who enjoy independent study, essay writing, and traditional academic testing.
- Technical Route (T-Levels): Designed alongside major employers, T-Levels equal three A-Levels and blend 80% classroom theory with a compulsory 45-day (minimum 315 hours) real-world industry placement. Perfect for students who want deep technical knowledge alongside structured workplace experience in sectors like digital, engineering, health, or construction.
- Work-Based Route (Apprenticeships): Combines 80% paid on-the-job training with 20% off-the-job study (usually at a local college or provider). Apprentices earn a wage, gain a recognised qualification (from Level 2 up to Degree Level), and build a professional network from day one.

Did You Know? A top-tier T-Level distinction grants the exact same UCAS points (168) as three A* grades at A-Level, opening doors directly to Russell Group universities as well as immediate high-skill employment.

Family Conversation Starter (Reception – Year 11): Do you learn best by reading and discussing, or by getting hands-on with practical projects? Can you think of any careers that might suit these skills?



Food for THOUGHT

Chide

Isabel

Sophie

Keira

Do you
want to
help your
local
community
by giving
feedback
on food
banks? -
Scan the
QR codes!



<-- Our Website

Donation Page -->



How can you help?

Visit our website (foodforthoughtbedford.my.canva.site) to give feedback on how you think food banks should improve - this goes towards our GCSE Citizenship coursework at Castle Newnham School. Or, scan the QR code to donate directly to the Bedford Food Bank.

CASTLE NEWNHAM 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 - NORTH SITE

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 23 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) 7PM SOUTH SITE

THURSDAY, SEPT 24 - SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SALE (DROP OFF) SOUTH SITE

FRIDAY, SEPT 25 - SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SALE (PICK UP) SOUTH SITE

Castle Quarter

Jumble Trail

Sunday 13th September 10am-2pm



over 50 stalls!

- Mixed Goods
- Kids
- Homeware
- Food and Drink
- Clothing
- Books

The Jumble Trail is organised by Castle Newnham PTA with all stall fees going towards the school. Thanks to all taking part this year.

Digital Map



Any questions, get in touch with us on email:
hello.cnpta@gmail.com

Autumn Term, 2026

hello.cnpta@gmail.com

RECEPTION PICNIC

SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

Russell Park, by the Mini Golf

12pm-2pm

Bring Your Own Picnic!!



Second-Hand Uniform Sale!!!

School Uniforms



★★★★★



CASH AND CARD
PAYMENTS

THURSDAY, SEPT 24TH 8-9AM

FRIDAY, SEPT 25TH 3-4PM



CASTLE NEWNHAM PTA INVITES YOU TO

2KM FUN RUN



Open to the
whole school

SEPT
20TH

10AM

- ★ North Site, Polhill Avenue
- ★ £3 one child £5 two children
- ★ (payment on MCAS by 18th Sept)
- ★ Kids and adults can run together
- ★ Refreshments available for purchase



Every child gets a medal



CASTLE NEWNHAM SCHOOL



TAEKWON-DO

SPECIAL BEGINNERS CLASS

Every Wednesday Evening In The Sports Hall 6pm-6.45pm

Taekwon-do is **Fun** for Children & gives them an **Edge on School and Education**. Your children will gain tremendous **Self-Confidence, Increased Concentration and Importance of Respect**.

This program is very unique and highly beneficial to **YOUR Child's Growth and Development**. The Class space is limited and always fills up very quickly. **Suitable for year 1 and above**. They will **jump with excitement** when you tell them and you will jump with **pride** when you see the results! If you want your child to gain a strong and unshakable sense of **Self Confidence and Focus**. **ENROL**

THEM TODAY! ONLY £30 PER MONTH!

FREE! Uniform & Gradings.

CALL MASTER T SAHOTA 8th Dan **07932520517**

World Medalist & European Champion
Current National Coach to World & European Champions

4SIXTEEN

THEATRE COMPANY

[Click here
for tickets](#)

SIX

SEPTEMBER 2026

WEDS 16TH

THURS 17TH

SAT 19TH

SAT 19TH

7PM

7PM

4PM

7PM

BEST AVAILABILITY

LIMITED AVAILABILITY/SOLD OUT

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
PTA Reception Tea and Tissues Event

Wednesday 9th September

Year 8-11 Auditions for Les Misarables: School Edition

Thursday 10th September

Year 8-11 Auditions for Les Misarables: 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

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

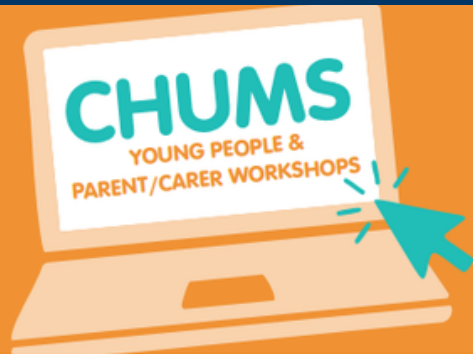


For pupils on a 2-week timetable, next week is:

WEEK



Lunch Menu: Week Two



Our online workshops are designed as a starting point for families with children who have low level difficulties. These are one-off 2-hour sessions conducted virtually via Microsoft teams.

Please note these workshops do not support moderate/severe difficulties and will not address risky behaviours (self-harm, suicidal ideations).

ANXIETY WORKSHOPS

11+ ANXIETY

10/9/26 @ 4PM - 6PM

(For young people aged 11+, parents also welcome to attend)

This single psychoeducation session explores emotional development in children, emotional regulation, and focuses on anxiety and anxiety management strategies.

PARENT ANXIETY

21/9/26 @ 9:30AM - 11:30AM

(For parents of young people aged 5 - 11 years old)

One-off workshop exploring emotional development in children, emotional regulation, psychoeducation around anxiety and anxiety management strategies.

SLEEP WORKSHOPS

UNDER 12'S SLEEP

11/9/26 @ 9:30AM - 11:30AM

(For parents of young people aged 4 - 12 years old)

One-off workshop which focuses on why sleep is important, what is 'good' sleep, possible causes of sleep difficulties and learning strategies to overcome sleep problems.

OVER 12'S SLEEP

16/10/26 @ 3PM - 5PM

(For young people aged 13+, parents also welcome to attend)

One-off workshop which explores why sleep is important, what is 'good' sleep, sleep hygiene tips and strategies for managing worries at night.

RESILIENCY WORKSHOP

6/10/26 @ 9:30AM - 11:30AM

(For parents of young people aged 5 - 11 years old)

This single session explores relevant child development including and provides psychoeducation on mental health vs mental health problems, emotional regulation, anxiety and low mood. You will leave with a greater understanding of your child's needs and armed with strategies to build their resilience.

EXAM STRESS WORKSHOP

22/10/26 @ 4PM - 6PM

(For young people aged 12+ and parents)

One off workshop which equips teenagers with an understanding of exam stress, strategies for managing exam stress, revision tips and self-care. The workshop also offers parental tips for supporting their adolescent's exam stress.

BEHAVIOUR WORKSHOP

9/11/26 @ 9:30AM - 11:30AM

(For parents of young people aged 5-11 years old)

A one-off workshop that covers the following topics: Emotional development in children, emotional regulation, common behaviour difficulties and strategies to promote positive behaviours.

SELF-ESTEEM WORKSHOPS

TEENAGE SELF-ESTEEM

26/11/26 @ 4PM - 6PM

(For young people aged 13+, parents also welcome to attend)

One off workshop which equips teenagers with an understanding of self-esteem and tools to build confidence through thought challenging, relaxation and activities to celebrate strengths and successes. Workshop also offers parental tips for building self-esteem in adolescence.

PARENT SELF-ESTEEM

9/12/26 @ 9.30AM - 11.30AM

15/1/27 @ 9.30AM - 11.30AM

(For parents of young people aged 5 - 12 years old)

One off workshop which equips parents with an understanding of self-esteem and ways to promote high self-esteem through parenting style and collaborative activities to try at home with their young person.

To register for any of our workshops, please fill in the workshop referral form in the referral form section, state that the referral is for a workshop and include the workshop name/time/date required.

<https://chums.uk.com/emotional-wellbeing-service/>

Safeguarding Spotlight



Bedford's Early Help team are offering a number of free 1–2-hour information sessions and 6-week courses throughout the Autumn term, aimed at supporting parents and families navigate a number of challenges.

These free sessions and courses are bookable through the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/bedford-borough-council-early-help-83894498233?aff=ebdsshcopyurl>

Safeguarding Team



Mr M Cleaver
DSL Primary



Mrs H Harwood
Senior Vice Principal



Mrs H Grady
Vice Principal



Mr M Herridge
Vice Principal



Miss H Baxter
Assistant Principal



Mrs B McWilliams
DSL Secondary



Miss S Cain
Pupil & Family Support Lead
DÖSL



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



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.

