Castle Connect

Friday 18th September 2026

Dear Families

What a vibrant and inspiring week it has been across the school!

It has been fantastic seeing our Golden Learners celebrating their top positive points, huge congratulations to our second set of pupils to earn this recognition for the week ahead. There was such a brilliant energy around the school about it (and the healthy competition has really begun). This initiative is designed to recognise and celebrate pupils who consistently embody our CORE values in every lesson and earn the highest positive points across the week.

Our Year 11 Conference today was a resounding success, equipping pupils with essential revision and study strategies. Every Year 11 pupil has been issued a Learning Wallet and must bring it to school daily to support their ongoing journey. A heartfelt thank you to guest speaker Laura Deller, alongside alumni Gemma James and Alana Crooks, for their deeply inspiring talks. We look forward to replicating this success for our upcoming Year 6 'Stepping up to Year 7 Day', watch this space for further details!

We are also thrilled to launch our new Clubs@Castle programme this week. Be sure to check out the full schedule featured in this edition to explore all the extra-curricular opportunities on offer.

On stage, our 4SIXTEEN production of SIX: Teen Edition has been a huge highlight, concluding with final performances this Saturday - the final 5 tickets are available to purchase (correct at the time of print). Pupils from Year 6 and our feeder schools; Hazeldene, Brickhill, Edith Cavell, and The Hills thoroughly enjoyed the dress rehearsals earler in the week too.

Auditions for Les Misérables have officially concluded for Years 8-11, and the cast list was announced today! Year 3-6 pupils will soon have the chance to audition for select younger roles. Marking a historic first, this production will feature pupils from such a wide range of year group. Performances of Les Mis will take place in February.

With the Year 6 residential on the horizon, we know things will not be slowing down just yet! Looking ahead, school tours are now running during the school day, and our Year 7 Open Evening is fast approaching. Please encourage anyone in your network to book a tour and attend our open events. We also have a limited number of spaces available across select year groups.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Luke Skeel
Assistant Principal

BEST
BEDFORDSHIRE
SCHOOLS TRUST

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

BEST BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST

We look forward to welcoming you and your children very soon

Phone: 01234303403

Email: cnsecondary@bestacademies.org.uk

Golden Learner 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	Alex	3RG	Sybil	7ES	Zain	10CS	Harry S-N
1BB	Matilda	3SB	Francesca	7GLH	Savannah	10EP	Eva
1SA	Zachary	3TK	Eden	7IW	Naomi	10HB	Sadie M
2AA	Joyce	4CE	Jediel	7LHO	Rion	10QL	Ben M
2ED	Ilyana-Rose	4HQ	Ellie	7RHA	Mitco	10YC	Vivi
2SS	Ethan	4MH	Saara	8ADR	Callum	11DM	Jasper
		5BC	Florence	8AJW	Jack C	11FD	James B
		5EK	Micaela	8NCS	Beatrix	11GS	Nathan P
		5IA	Eloise	8PB	Clem	11HL	Ella W
		6EB	Emilia	8SK	Orin	11PB	Alex B
		6JC	Romeo	9MW	Rui		
		6RT	Orla	9PMC	Joshua		
				9RJ	Ruby-May		
				9SB	Muqhlisa		
				9WE	Cecilia		



Census Day

Thursday 1st October 2026

Pick and mix pizza and pasta

Pick a pizza slice, choose a pasta and add salad:
Choose from:

- Pepperoni pizza
- B.B.Q Chicken pizza
- Tomato, basil and mozzarella pizza

and

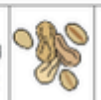
- Fresh tomato and basil pasta
- Creamy cheese pasta
- Chicken and sweetcorn pasta

Choose your own salad selection.

Jacket potatoes will still be available on Census day.

Census Day Menu Allergen Chart

DISHES AND THEIR ALLERGEN CONTENT – Census Day Pizza and pasta

DISHES	 Celery	 Cereals containing gluten	 Crustaceans	 Eggs	 Fish	 Lupin	 Milk	 Mollusc	 Mustard	 Nuts	 Peanuts	 Sesame seeds	 Soya	 Sulphur Dioxide
Tomato mozzarella pizza		X					X							
Pepperoni pizza		X					X							
BBQ chicken pizza		X					X							
Tomato basil pasta		X												
Creamy cheese pasta		X					X							
Chicken and sweetcorn pasta		X					X							
Gluten free tomato and basil pasta														
Gluten free cheese and tomato pizza							X							

Review date:

Reviewed by: Sonia Robson

Food Standards Agency

You can find this template, including more information at www.food.gov.uk/allergy

4SIXTEEN Theatre Company

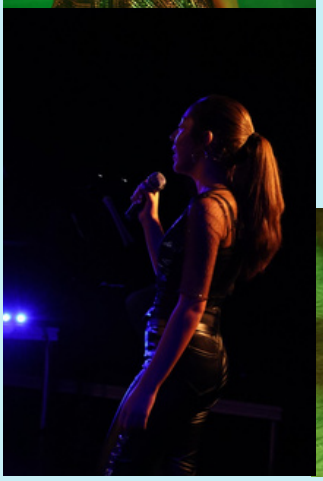




4SIXTEEN Theatre Company's 10th year has begun with bang!

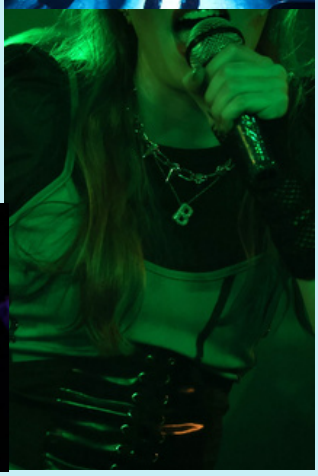
SIX: Teen Edition has opened to an incredible response from public and pupil audiences alike. Four in school and two public performances down- only two more to go!

There is still time to get the last available tickets for tomorrows 4pm performance, head to our Box Office to avoid missing out!







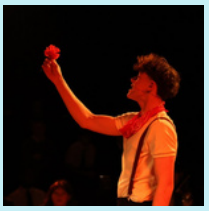


We would like to wish a huge congratulations to the following pupils and productions for their nominations in the NODA East District 2 awards:

- Best Lighting - Reuben C - Wizard of Oz
- Rising Star - Noah W, Flynn S
- Best Choreography - The Lion King
- Best Set - African sunset floor - The Lion King









Les Mis Auditions for pupils on the Year 6 Ironbridge trip:

- Tuesday 22nd September at Lunch - 12:45 - 13:15PM
- Pupils need to ensure they are in the clubs queue in order to eat lunch before their audition.
- Pupils will be expected to attend rehearsals that fall on Tuesdays and Thursdays. As these are featured roles it is likely that they will not be called to rehearsals on a weekly basis. Half termly rehearsal schedules will be sent home.
- Please ensure you have filled out the form sent in last week's Castle Connect to confirm pupil attendance.

Individual School Photos



The school photographer will be in school on **Tuesday 22nd September** to take individual photographs of pupils from **Reception through to Year 11.** Please note the following arrangements for pupils whose photographs are scheduled around PE or swimming lessons:

- **Years 8, 9 and 11:** Pupils should come to school in **full school uniform** and bring their **PE kit** with them, as their photographs will be taken either before or at the start of their PE lesson.
- **6RT & 6EB:** Pupils should come to school in their **PE kit** and bring their **school uniform** with them, as their photographs will be taken after their PE lesson.
- **6JC**: Pupils should come to school in **full school uniform** and bring their **swimming kit** with them, as their photographs will be taken before they go swimming.

SEND Information Event

We would like to invite you to our:

SEND information event happening on the 22nd September 4:30pm – 5:30pm.

This is an opportunity for you to meet our SEND team and find out more about the support that we provide for pupils with additional needs.

Within our presentation we will highlight:

- Key members of staff who support pupils with additional needs.
- Spaces within school that pupils are able to use to access additional support.
- How we support pupil's learning within class.
- How we support pupil's independence and effectively prepare them for their next stage in their learning or life.
- What transition looks like pupils joining Castle Newnham.

Following the presentation there will be an opportunity for you to meet with staff from the SEND team, to provide further clarity on anything discussed during the presentation. If you require a slightly longer conversation about your child, you are welcome to arrange an appointment, we will have our diaries with us at the event.

As we are an All-through school, we will be providing information about how we support pupils with additional needs at all points through their educational journey at Castle Newnham. If you are unable to attend the event, the presentation will be put on the school's website for you to access.

I look forward to meeting you.
Mrs Hannah Lee
Assistant Principal – All-through SENDCo

Medical Needs and Dietary Form

Thank you to all families who have completed the Medical and Dietary Needs Form sent out on Friday 11th September in the letter regarding Benedict's Law.
If you haven't filled it in yet, please do so today—even if your child has no allergies or dietary requirements. We need a completed form for every student to ensure our records are up to date. Going forward, this information will be reviewed annually.

Link to the form - Medical and Dietary Needs Form
Thank you for your cooperation!

Pitching for Excellence at Aston Villa

We are thrilled to celebrate an extraordinary milestone for one of our sporting stars!

Towards the end of last academic year, Jess (Year 11) successfully secured a coveted place at the Aston Villa Women Football Club Academy. Joining an elite academy setup is a remarkable achievement that reflect s immense dedication, talent, and hard work, and our whole school community couldn't be prouder.

To support her growth as a elite student-athlete, Jess is taking part in Aston Villa's Monday Day Release programme. Each week, she trains at the state-of-the-art Bodymoor Heath Training Ground, balancing elite sports performance with her academic journey in her final year with us.



Stepping into an academy environment requires resilience, focus, and drive. We are fully committed to supporting Jess as she pursues her sporting dreams while continuing to excel in her schoolwork. Please join us in congratulating her on this incredible achievement—we look forward to cheering her on every step of the way!

Reception to Year 4 - Temporary Delay in September Dinner Account Deductions letter

Due to a recent system update and data merge, we have experienced technical difficulties that are preventing us from processing charges for meals taken in September.

The software development team is actively working to resolve this as quickly as possible. As a result, no deductions have been processed for dinners taken this month.

Please rest assured that your child will continue to receive their daily meal and will not be refused lunch under any circumstances.

Our midday supervisors are maintaining a complete record of all lunches provided, and once the technical issue is resolved, the charges will be applied to the accounts accordingly.

We truly appreciate your continued patience and understanding while we work through this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions or concerns.

Homework for Reception to Year 6

Please find below a breakdown of the weekly homework expectations for Reception to Year 6:

Reception

- Reading: We expect all children to read with an adult five times a week. We will send home reading books after the October half-term.
- Phonics: Each week, we will send home a phonics support sheet that includes letter formation (handwriting). Please practise this regularly.
- Maths: All children will have a login for Numbots (they are still in the process of being set up), an online tool designed to help children become more proficient with their number bonds. We recommend engaging with this little and often; three minutes a day is ideal to develop fluency and number confidence.

Ye**ar 1**

- Reading: We expect children to read a few pages of their reading book five times a week. Adults can support comprehension by asking questions about the text or making predictions. Reading books will be changed in school once a week, provided the child has finished their book and it is noted in their planner.
- Number Bonds: All children have a login for Numbots. We recommend engaging with this little and often; five minutes a day is ideal to develop fluency and number confidence.
- Handwriting: We expect children to complete handwriting practice weekly. This will be sent home every Friday.
- Spellings: From January, spelling lists will be handed out to learn at home and will be tested weekly in phonics groups. We expect children to practise their spellings daily. Tests take place on Fridays, and scores will be logged in the back of their reading records.

Homework for Reception to Year 6

Year 2

- Reading: We expect children to read a few pages of their reading book five times a week. Adults can support comprehension by asking questions about what has been read or making predictions. Reading books are changed in school once a week.
- Spellings: Spelling lists will be handed out half-termly for children to learn at home and will be tested weekly. Lists are sent out half termly, and tests take place the following Friday.
- Number Bonds and Times Tables: All children have logins for Numbots and Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS). Later in the year, we will ask children to begin using TTRS to build their knowledge of multiplication and division facts. We recommend engaging with these apps little and often - five minutes a day is ideal.
- Maths and Writing: Each week, your child will be set either writing or maths homework on an alternating basis. Homework is sent out on Friday and is due back the following Friday.

Years 3 & 4

- Reading: We expect children to read at home for 5–10 minutes a day, at least four times a week. This can be done independently or with an adult, but please ensure it is recorded in their reading record. Children can change their books at school as soon as they finish them.
- Spellings: Lists are sent out at the start of each half-term for daily practice at home. The breakdown will indicate which list of words to focus on each week. Tests take place every Friday.
- Times Tables:
  - Year 3: We expect children to complete 25 minutes of Times Tables Rock Stars/Numbots practice each week.Pupils will begin on Numbots until we cover the multiplication topic, which typically starts after the Christmas break.
  - Year 4: We expect children to complete 25 minutes of Garage mode and 2 minutes of Soundcheck each week. Your child will be set twenty-five 1-minute games on TTRS with the expectation that they complete what they can. Children are set to 'automatic training mode', which moves them through the levels as their speed and fluency increase. Homework tasks will also be set directly on their profiles.
- Maths and Writing: Each week, your child will receive either writing or maths homework on an alternating basis. This is set on Friday and due back the following Friday.

Years 5 & 6

- Reading: We expect children to read for 10 minutes daily, at least five times a week. This must be acknowledged with a signature from an adult or older sibling.
- Spellings: Half-termly spelling lists are sent out at the beginning of each half-term for daily practice at home. The breakdown indicates which list to practice each week, and children are tested every Friday.
- Maths: All children will have logins for Times Tables Rock Stars and Century Tech to support their maths proficiency through home practice.
- Maths and Writing: Each week, your child will receive both English (writing or reading) and maths homework. Homework is handed out on Friday and due back the following Friday.

Homework for Reception to Year 6

In all Year Groups

Class or specialist teachers may occasionally ask children to complete a specific task or bring items in from home to prepare for a lesson (for example, ingredients for food technology).

If you have any questions about homework, please contact your child's class teacher.

Please note: Logins for TTRS, Numbots and Century Tech are currently being generated and will be stuck into your child's reading record as soon as they are created.

In next week's Castle Connect, we will share hints and tips on how you can support your child's learning at home

Junior Leadership Team

This week we will be running the elections for the junior leadership team.
Students across the school will be voting in elections to decide who represents them.

What will happen this week?

Teachers will guide students through age-appropriate activities explaining the purpose of democratic elections, local leadership, and how student council representatives amplify their voices. Students will then stand in a class or CORE 'election'.

How can we help at home?

Y1–Y6: Ask your child what makes a good helper or leader, and talk about why voting is a fair way to make group decisions.
Y7–Y11: Discuss what changes or ideas they would like to see brought to the Student Council, and encourage candidates as they prepare for the elections.

Payment Reminders

- Year 5 Ancient Greek Workshop - Due date 25/09/2026
- Hospitality & Catering Chef Jacket - only year 10HC1, 10HC2 - Due date 2/10/2026
- Music Performance workshop by Spirit Studios in Manchester on 6th October - Due date 27/09/2026
- Trip to Nice (fully booked) - 2nd instalment due 18/10/2026
- Phone Pouch Annual Lease £6.00 - No deadline / asap
- Year 4 Caythorpe Court Residential - 3rd instalment 30/08/2026
- GCSE Geography trip to Hunstanton - No deadline / asap

Young Voices 2027 trip reminder- Years 5 &6

Just a reminder that we are inviting all Year 5 and 6 pupils to Young Voices on January 11th 2027. The Young Voices experience gives pupils the opportunity to perform as part of the largest children's choir in the world alongside 5000 - 8000 other children at a world renowned arena - For us this year, it will be the PB Pulse Arena, Birmingham!

As Young Voices is a completely free event to all schools, the only monetary commitment will be for the cost of travel. We estimate the cost will be between £38 - £45. The final cost depends on the amount of pupils that sign up to take part and we will communicate this as soon as possible after the sign-up deadline.

If your child would like to take part in this wonderful opportunity, we have been informed of a new way of signing up this year that is a little bit more complicated, so can I please ask that you have a look at this sooner rather than later.

All pupils need to have been signed up by a parent onto the Young Voices Music Room using this link https://yvmusicroom.com/auth/parent/journey/welcome

This needs to be completed by 30th September 2027 to guarantee your child's space on the trip. After this date, Young Voices freezes entry and we can no longer add anyone to the list, there will be no back up option/waiting list.



We would also be very grateful if there are any parents who know they will be able to come and support as a parent helper on the trip. If you think you may be able to attend on the date above and help out for the duration of the trip, please send us an email on cnperformingarts@bestacademies.org.uk. Once you have registered interest, there is no guarantee that you will be a parent helper but you will be contacted closer to the date to confirm whether we require your support.

If you have any questions or concerns about the cost but would still like for your child to attend, please do not hesitate to get in contact with the Performing Arts office on cnperformingarts@bestacademies.org.uk or call us on 01234 300801.

NSCA Chess Tournament

Exciting Chess Opportunity at Castle Newnham School for pupils in Years 2-7!

Northamptonshire Schools' Chess Association



Autumn Junior Congress Saturday 17th Oct 2026,

Primary Children Years 2-6 and Year 7 (Under 12 age)

at

Castle Newnham School
South Site
77A Goldington Rd
Bedford
MK40 3ND

Players of all abilities will be welcome.

Closing date for entries: Wednesday Oct 13th.

No late entries will be accepted.

This is a great chance for beginners (and more experienced players) to play in an official tournament. The Northamptonshire Schools Chess Association team are really supportive and CN Chess Club teacher Mrs Collacott will be present throughout the tournament.

For more information and entry details please contact Mrs Collacott at: cnprimary@bestacademies.org.uk

PE & Sport at Castle Newnham

PITCH TO PITCH — weekly update

TOP 5 CLASSES THIS WEEK

1. 7X3 — +76km
2. 7X1 — +66km
3. 7X2 — +63km
4. 8Y1 — +61km
5. 8Y3 — +47km

Rugby @ Various (Yr 10 & 11)

Result/Score: There was no overall winning team, rather an opportunity to experience competitive rugby.
Standout Performances: All seven of the Year 11 players performed exceptionally well. Jamie, Noah, Flynn, Caleb, James, Euan and Ollie all put in performances of a high standard. Of particular note was that it was Caleb's first ever game of Rugby.
Summary: A truly great day of Rugby was experienced by the pupils at a very well run and organised event through Bedford Blues Foundation.



Football vs Edward Peake (Yr 7 & 8)

Result/Score: 5-1 win
Standout Performances: Alessia T scored a hatrick! A debut goal for Georgia M! Solid defending from all!
Summary: A great first game for the girls. Many playing their first match for the school team. I could name them all as they were all excellent! We look forward to next weeks match and beyond! Well done again girls!

Football vs Goldington (Yr 8)

Result/Score: 5-1 loss
Standout Performances: Well done to Barney on scoring on his debut! Jack C also played for the first time in the school team!
Summary: A tough opening game for the Y8 boys. They started well in a real battle with Goldington and were unfortunate to go in at half time 2-0 down. As we tried to come back into the game it left us more open and we conceded a few more goals. Right at the end we scored from a corner, with Barney on his debut scoring a great header! Positive efforts from all!





Football @ BGI (Y10 & 11)

Result/Score: 7-2 Win!
Standout Performances: Erin B for her work rate playing left back. Sav H-L for her work rate and goals and Lola B for scoring on her debut.
Summary: A fantastic team effort by the whole team.

PE Pupil Voice Survey - Pupils in Year 5-11

Please can families take time this week to complete the Pupil PE voice survey before the deadline of Friday 25th September- Link here.
We want to know what you think about PE so we can make it even better this year! It will only take about 5 minutes. Your answers will not be shown with your name — we just want your honest thoughts. Thank you for helping us! 🏃

Clubs@Castle

Our Clubs timetables are now available to view on the school website.

All clubs with an asterisk are run by external providers and payment is required. All clubs for pupils in Year 1-6 require booking through forms that have been sent via MCAS. Bookings for these clubs will be reopened each half term.



TUESDAY
CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

CLUBS @ CASTLE – MORE ENGAGED COMMUNITY

CASTLE NEWNHAM ALL-THROUGH SCHOOL

Be the best version of you

BEFORE SCHOOL

Club / Activity	Year Groups	Location / Venue	Staff	Time
Sports Stars	Year 5&6	Smooga	Hannah Davies*	08.00-08.30
Winnie's Welcome *A calm, friendly start to your school day*	Years 5 to 7	LINK	Miss Bloor	08.00-08.30
Girls Basketball	Year 7-11	Sports Hall	Mr Phillips	08.00-08.30

LUNCHTIME CLUBS

Club / Activity	Year Groups	Location / Venue	Staff
Book Club	Year 3&4	2ED	Mrs Eastwood
Chess Club	Year 5&6	5BC	Mrs Collacott
Art Club	Year 5	Primary Practical Room	Ms Haddon
Library for quiet study	Year 5-11	Library	COMING SOON
Music Practice Rooms	Year 5-11	Available to book at break time in PA	-
Board Games Area	Year 7-11	Main Corridor	COMING SOON
Music Tech Club	Year 7-11	Studio 3	Mr Serino
Year 7-11 Mindfulness Club	Year 7-11	W6	Mrs Willaims & Miss Ali
GCSE English practice	Year 10&11	E2	Miss Maguinness
GCSE Art	Year 10&11	ART room	Mrs Lamprecht & Mrs Watt
Italian Club	Year 10 & 11	W7	Miss Drodtloff

AFTER SCHOOL

Club / Activity	Year Groups	Location / Venue	Staff	Time
Yoga Club	Year 1&2	Dining Hall	Lenka Powell	15.45-16.15*
Song Squad	Year 1&2	Block 2 Hall	Lisa Collier	15.45-16.30*
Gymnastics Club	Year 3&4	Block 1 Hall	Mel Hale	15.45-16.30*
Chess Club	Year 3&4	3TK	Mrs Collacott	15.45-16.30
Tabletop Games Club	Year 5-11	W4	Mr Winter & Mr Bogacki	15.30-16.30
Homework Club *(invite only)*	Year 6	6JC	Mrs Cleary & Mrs Bailey	15.30-16.15
Netball	Year 7-9	Netball Courts	Mr Dean	15.30-16.30
Rugby	Year 7-11	Field	Mr Chapman	15.30-16.30
Drama & Dance Rehearsal Space	Year 7-11	Studio 1 & 4	Mr Hope	15.30-16.30
4SIXTEEN Les Mis rehearsals	Year 8-11	Studio 1 &2	-	15.30-17.00

Wednesday

CLUBS @ CASTLE — MORE ENGAGED COMMUNITY

CASTLE NEWNHAM ALL-THROUGH SCHOOL

Be the best version of you

BEFORE SCHOOL

Club / Activity	Year Groups	Location / Venue	Staff	Time
Health & Fitness Club	Year 1&2	Block 1 Hall	Mr Crowley	08.00-08.45
Winnie's Welcome *A calm, friendly start to your school day*	Year 5-7	LINK	Miss Bloor	08.00-08.30
Boys Basketball	Year 7-11	Sports Hall	Mr Phillips	08.00-08.30

LUNCHTIME CLUBS

Club / Activity	Year Groups	Location / Venue	Staff	Time
Sketching Club	Year 1&2	RKC	Mrs Kearney-Collins	12.00-12.30
Magic Club	Year 3&4	3TK	Miss Paste	12.00-12.30
Junior Dance Company	Year 5&6	Studio1/ 4	Miss Kelk	12.00-12.30
Junior spotlight Singer	Year 5&6	Studio 2/3	Mrs Smith	12.00-12.30
Library for quiet study	Year 5-11	Library	COMING SOON	12.00-12.30
Music Practice Rooms	Year 5-11	Available to book at break time in PA		12.00-12.30
Board Games Area	Years 7-11	Main Corridor	COMING SOON	12.00-12.30
Art Club	Year 7-9	ART room	Mrs Lamprecht	12.00-12.30
Band Jam	Year 7-11	Studio 2	Miss Green & Mr Serino	12.00-12.30
Debate Club	Year 7-11	E3	Mrs Payne	12.00-12.30
Craft Club	Year 7-11	A2	Miss Walsh	12.00-12.30
Green Club	Year 7-11	E5	Mrs Mohrasri	12.00-12.30
Languages Choir	Year 7-11	W7	Madame Young & Miss Drodtloff (**From 14/10)	12.00-12.30

AFTER SCHOOL

Club / Activity	Year Groups	Location / Venue	Staff	Time
Sports Club	Year 1&2	Block 1 Hall	Mr Crowley	15.45-16.15
Gymnastics Club	Year 1&2	Block 2 Hall	Mel Hale	15.45-16.15*
Ballet Club	Year 3&4	Dining Hall		15.45-16.30*
Sports Stars Multi Sports	Year 5&6	Smooga	Hannah Davies	15.30-16.30*
Dance Company	Year 7-11	Studio 1	Miss Kelk	15.30-16.30
Boys Football	Year 7-11	Field	Mr Phillips	15.30-16.30
Netball	Year 10&11	Netball Courts	Miss Crawford-Smith & Miss Browning	15.30-16.30
GCSE Drama Intervention	Year 11	Studio 4	Mr Hope	15.30-16.30

THURSDAY

CLUBS @ CASTLE – MORE ENGAGED COMMUNITY

CASTLE NEWNHAM ALL-THROUGH SCHOOL

Be the best version of you

BEFORE SCHOOL

Club / Activity	Year Groups	Location / Venue	Staff	Time
Winnie's Welcome A calm, friendly start to your school day	Year 5-7	LINK	Miss Bloor	08.00-08.30
Indoor Rowing	Year 7-11	Sports Hall	J Foster	08.00-08.30

LUNCHTIME CLUBS

Club / Activity	Year Groups	Location / Venue	Staff
Library for quiet study	Year 5-11	Library	COMING SOON
Music Practice Rooms	Year 5-11	Available to book at break time in PA	-
Board Games Area	Years 7-11	Main Corridor	COMING SOON
Cheerleading Club	Year 5&6	Studio 4	Miss Crawford-Smith (Week A Only)
Library for quiet study	Years 5-11	Library	COMING SOON
Art Club	Year 6	Primary Practical Room	Ms Haddon
Drama Club	Year 7&8	Studio 1	Mr Hope
Board Games Area	Years 7-11	Main Corridor	COMING SOON
Castle lecture series	Year 9-11	Room TBD	Mrs Payne & Mr Winter
GCSE Music Composition Intervention	Year 10&11	Studio 3	Miss Green
GCSE Art	Year 10&11	ART room	Mrs Lamprecht & Mrs Watt

AFTER SCHOOL

Club / Activity	Year Groups	Location / Venue	Staff	Time
Sports Stars	Year 3&4	Block 1 Hall	Hannah Davies	15.45-16.15*
Yoga Club	Year 3&4	Block 2 Hall	Lenka Pwell	15.45-16.30*
Football Club	Year 5&6	Smooga	Mr Tuffrey	15.30-16.30
Table Tennis	Year 7-11	Sports Hall	Miss Taylor	15.30-16.30
Girls Football	Year 7-11	Field	Mr Phillips	15.30-16.30
Photography Club	Year 7-11	W2	Mr Westley	15.30-16.30
Drama & Dance Rehearsal Space	Year 7-11	Studio 1 & 4	Mr Hope	15.30-16.30
4SIXTEEN Les Mis rehearsals	Year 8-11	Studio 1 &2	-	15.30-17.00
Polish Club	Year 10&11	W7	Miss Drodtloff	15.30-16.30

FRIDAY
CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

CLUBS @ CASTLE – MORE ENGAGED COMMUNITY

CASTLE NEWNHAM ALL-THROUGH SCHOOL

Be the best version of you

BEFORE SCHOOL

Club / Activity	Year Groups	Location / Venue	Staff
Health & Fitness Club (08.00 – 08.45)	Year 3&4	Block 2 Hall	Mr Crowley
Winnie's Welcome (08.00 – 08.30) *A calm, friendly start to your school day*	Year 5-7	LINK	Miss Bloor

LUNCHTIME CLUBS

Club / Activity	Year Groups	Location / Venue	Staff
Lego Club (12.30 – 13.00)	Year 1&2	1AI	Miss Iqbal
TTRS Club (12.30 – 13.00)	Year 3&4	3RG	Mrs Grassi
Debate Club (12.30 – 13.00)	Year 5&6	6JC	Mr Dawson
Library for quiet study	Year 5-11	Library	COMING SOON
Music Practice Rooms *Available to book at break time in PA*	Year 5-11	PA	–
Board Games Area	Years 7-11	Main Corridor	COMING SOON
GCSE Music Performance Intervention	Year 10&11	Studio 2	Miss Green
GCSE Dance Intervention	Year 11	Studio 1	Miss Kelk
GCSE Art	Year 10&11	ART room	Mrs Lamprecht & Mrs Watt

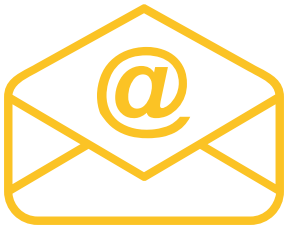
AFTER SCHOOL

Club / Activity	Year Groups	Location / Venue	Staff
Ballet Club (15.45 – 16.30*)	Year 1&2	Block 1 Hall	–
Sports Club (15.45 – 16.15)	Year 3&4	Block 2 Hall	Mr Crowley

Punctuality in Years 7 to 11

Thank you so much for your fantastic support with our renewed focus on punctuality across Years 7–11; it has been wonderful to see such a huge improvement this week, with so many more students arriving promptly by 8:30 AM. As a reminder, starting next week, any student who is late to school twice within the same week will receive a Friday after school detention. We completely understand that morning delays can occasionally be unavoidable, so please rest assured that genuine, unavoidable circumstances will always be taken into account and will not result in a sanction. Thank you once again for your support with this.

Year 7-11 Pupil Emails



We are rolling out new email addresses for all pupils next week. Early next eek, the main family contact will receive a message through MCAS (MyChildAtSchool) containing your child's new email address and temporary password to set up their new Google account. Please keep an eye on your MCAS app for these details, and if you run into any issues or need a hand getting set up, simply get in touch with the school office for help.

Year 9 Unique Learner Number

We are writing to inform you that your child has been issued with a Unique Learner Number (ULN).

The ULN is a unique 10-digit number that is designed to work with the Personal Learning Record (PLR), of anyone over the age of 14 involved in UK education or training, as proof of their learning and achievements. The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) uses ULNs to help with effective management of information within the Department for Education.

Please refer to the privacy policy detailed below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lrs-privacy-notices/lrs-privacy-notice

Year 11 Year Group Photo

Y11 photos have been sent home this week and that the deadline date for return is on the sample proof.

Castle Horizons

Key dates

Open Days for Year 11 Pupils (dates released this week)

Institution	Upcoming Open Days / Evenings	Direct Link
Bedford College	Saturday 14th November 2026	Bedford College
Shuttleworth College	Thursday 17th October 2026	Bedford College- Shuttleworth
Mark Rutherford School	Thursday 12th November	Mark Rutherford
St Thomas More	Thursday 1st October 2026	St Thomas More

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

- Biddenham International School Biddenham School
- Redborne Upper School Redborne Community College

Each week in Castle Connect we will be giving you an overview of different area in Careers focusing on either pathways, different sectors, local businesses and skills needed. This week is our Sector Spotlight

Sector Spotlight – Advanced Engineering & Aerospace

Feature Spotlight: Bedfordshire is a major national hub for advanced engineering, aerospace design, and automotive technology. Partly due to the links with Oxford and Cambridge, our region leads the UK in cutting-edge transport innovation, zero-emission flight, and defence engineering.

Local Bedfordshire Companies :

- Cranfield Aerospace Solutions (Cranfield Airport): Based at Europe's only university with an operational runway, leading Project Fresson—converting commercial passenger planes into hydrogen-electric, zero-emission aircraft right here in Bedfordshire.
- UTAC Millbrook (Ampthill area): A 70km track for testing vehicles in a variety of different environments. The site is also at the forefront of electrification.
- Lockheed Martin UK (Ampthill): Specialising in electronic systems, land defense manufacturing, and software engineering integration.

UK National Picture: The Royal Academy of Engineering estimates that engineering contributes over £700million to the UK economy, with aerospace alone directly employing over 100,000 specialists across high-tech manufacturing, defense, and research.

Castle Horizons

Entry Requirements & Routes into the Sector:

A-Level Route:

- Essential (Non-Negotiable): Mathematics. Maths is required for almost 100% of
- engineering degrees and degree apprenticeships because the field relies heavily on calculus, algebra, and mechanics.
- Essential / Strongly Preferred: Physics. Highly expected for Mechanical, Civil, Aerospace, and Electrical Engineering streams.
- Recommended 3rd Subject: Further Mathematics, Design & Technology (Product Design), Computer Science, or Chemistry (essential specifically for Chemical or Materials Engineering).

T-Level Route (Technical / 80% Classroom + 20% Industry Placement):

- T-Level in Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing OR T-Level in Maintenance, Installation and Repair Typically 4 GCSEs at Grade 4–9, including Maths, English, and Science.

Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship

- Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeships (e.g., UTAC, Lockheed Martin): 4–5 GCSEs at Grade 4 (C) or above, explicitly requiring Maths, English, and Science/Design.

Alternative Option: Pupils who do not study A-Level Maths or Physics can still access university engineering degrees by choosing a 4-year course that includes an Engineering Foundation Year.

Labour Market Information (LMI) & In-Demand Roles:

- Average Regional Salaries: Entry-level technicians and graduate engineers start around £28,000–£35,000. Qualified Aerospace & Systems Engineers in the UK average £55,000+ per year, with senior specialists earning £60,000 to £90,000+.
- In-Demand Local Roles: Hydrogen Fuel Systems Engineers, Battery Safety Technicians, CAD Design Technicians, Avionics Technicians, and Flight Test Analysts.



Did You Know? The historic giant Cardington Sheds in Shortstown—visible across Bedford—housed the original British airship fleet in the 1920s and continue to inspire modern green aviation projects like Hybrid Air Vehicles in our region.

Family Conversation Starter: "If you could design a new vehicle or airplane powered entirely by clean energy (like hydrogen or sunshine), what would it look like and where would it fly?"

Autumn Term, 2026

hello.cnpta@gmail.com

CASTLE NEWNHAM PTA NEWS

UPCOMING PTA DATES

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

Moving to One All-Through PTA – Questions & Answers

As our primary and secondary schools come together, a proposal is being put forward to bring our two PTAs together into a single all-through PTA. This isn't yet decided — it will be put to a vote at the AGM. All parents/caretakers with a child currently enrolled at Castle Newnham and staff automatically are members of the PTA. That means you all have a vote.

Here's what it would mean if approved:

Question

Why is this being proposed?

Answer

With the schools merging/sharing a site, it would make sense for the parent community to come together too. One PTA would mean one committee, one calendar of events, and one point of contact for the whole school family — rather than duplicating effort across two separate groups.

Question

Would my child's year group lose its own events?

Answer

No. If approved, the new PTA would still run age-appropriate events for younger and older children — think a summer fete for everyone alongside things like a primary disco or a secondary quiz night. The all-through structure would let us keep the events that work well for each phase while sharing the organising load.

Autumn Term, 2026

hello.cnpta@gmail.com

Question

Q: What would happen to the money currently held by each PTA?

Answer

Money raised by Primary PTA in the past will be ring-fenced for Trim Trail playground upgrade, which we have been fundraising for over many year. This would be confirmed as part of the proposal before any vote.

Question

When and how do we vote?

Answer

At the AGM (Annual General Meeting) on September 23rd at 7pm on the South Site. All parents are encouraged to attend and have their say.

Question

How would the new committee be formed, if approved?

Answer

Current committee members from both PTAs would be invited to continue on the combined committee. New roles would also open up, so if you'd like to get involved — whether your child is in Reception or Year 11 — you'll be very welcome to stand.

Question

Who do I contact with questions before the AGM?

Answer

hello.cnpta@gmail.com

Castle Quarter Jumble Trail

Thank you all for making this a huge success!
We raised £315 pounds!!



And thank you to everyone who came out to our PTA-Reception Picnic!



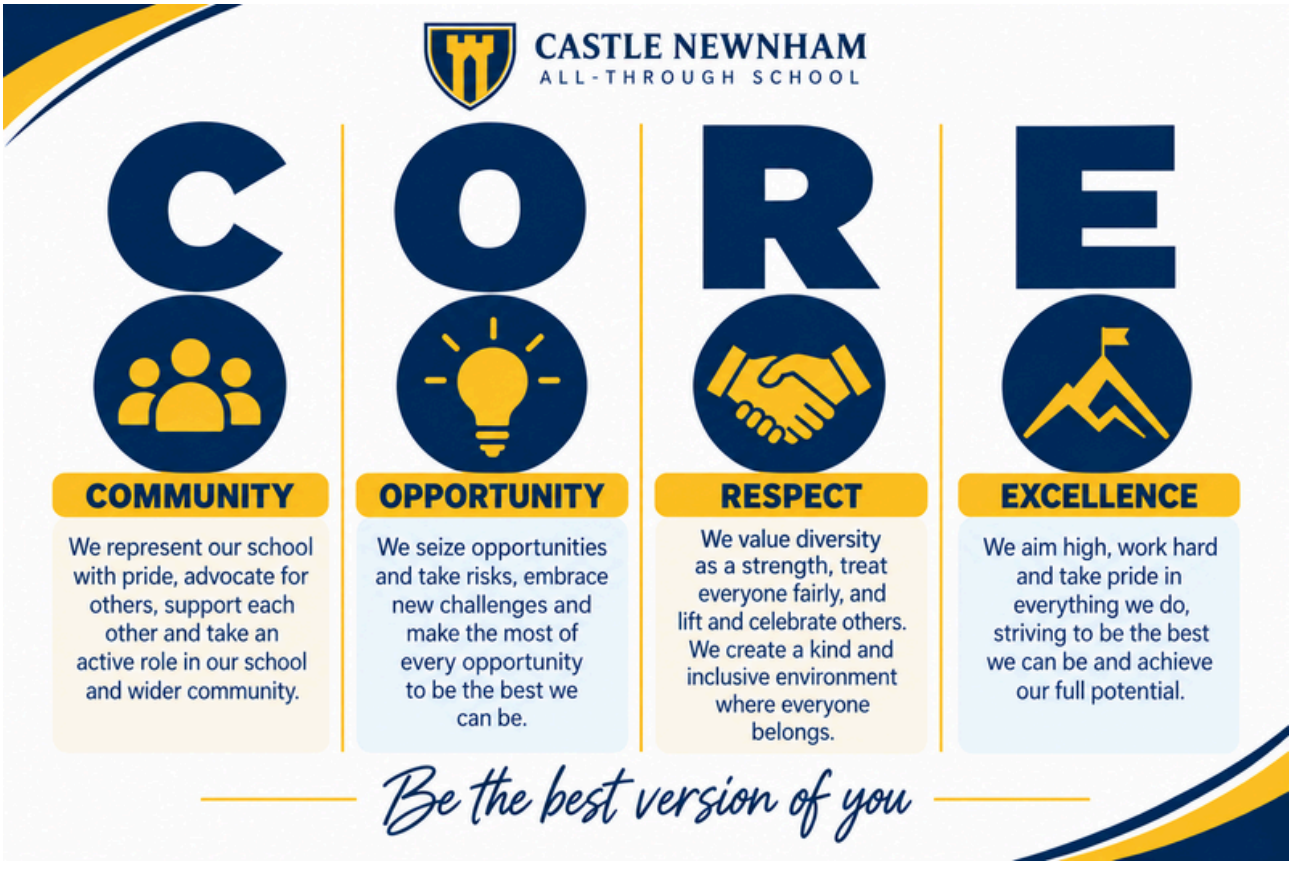

CASTLE NEWNHAM PTA INVITES YOU TO
2KM FUN RUN
CANCELLED
SEPT 20TH
Open to the whole school
Email PTA if you still want to join!
10AM
North Site, Polhill Avenue
£3 one child £5 two children
~~(payment on MCAS by 18th Sept)~~
Kids and adults can run together
Refreshments available for purchase
Every child gets a medal


Second-Hand Uniform Sale!!!
School Uniforms
CASH AND CARD PAYMENTS
THURSDAY, SEPT 24TH 8-9AM
FRIDAY, SEPT 25TH 3-4PM

Upcoming Dates

Saturday 19th September	4SIXTEEN Presents: SIX: Teen Edition
Tuesday 22nd September	Reception - Year 11 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 Workship Year 6 Ironbridge Residential Trip Ends
Tuesday 29th September	Year 11 GCSE Drama Component 2 NEA
Monday 5th October	Year 3 Zoo Trip ACT!-26 Theatre Workshop at BMS
Tuesday 6th October	GCSE Music Careers Trip
Wednesday 7th October	Flip to Spanish Day Year 11 Costal Fieldwork Prep
Thursday 8th October	Year 11 Costal Fieldwork Trip
Friday 9th October	Glorious Grandparents Day Year 11 Reports

Monday 12th October	Open Evening
Tuesday 13th October	Flu Vaccination
Wednesday 14th October	Flu Vaccination Y7 Live Broadcast the Bayeux Y11 Geography Field Work
Thursday 15th October	Y11 Geography Field Work
Friday 16th October	Year 3 & 4 Reading Morning Year 10 MEG Reports Home
Monday 19th October	Reception to Year 6 Pastoral Consultation Evening
Wednesday 21st October	Reception to Year 6 Pastoral Consultation Evening
Friday 23rd October	Year 3 Reading Cafe



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

WEEK



Lunch Menu: Week Three

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



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 recieve 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.