Castle Connect

Friday 25th September 2026

Dear families,

Well done to our Golden Learners this week! You have really worked hard in demonstrating our CORE values.

On Tuesday we held our first SEND information event. As part of this we introduced our SEND team to our families and outlined the provision that is offered to support pupils at Castle Newnham. It was a fantastic platform to highlight the variety of opportunities that we offer our pupils, from support with developing life skills to completing functional skills assessments. I look forward to celebrating many more of our SEND offer with you in future Castle Connects, as there are lots of exciting things planned for this year.

This week has brought with it the excitement of our first residential trip of the year, with our Year 6 pupils travelling to Ironbridge. There was a hive of energy in the Year 6 classrooms, with lots of excitement about the prospect of visiting museums and having a boat trip down the River Severn. I am looking forward to hearing all the stories of the adventures when they are back in school next week.

Year 5 have also been busy with their Greek experience day today. They have been thoroughly enjoying learning about Greek life, including having the opportunity to dress up and take part in a drama workshop re-enacting Greek myths. I have been particularly impressed with the inspiration the pupils have taken from Greek history in designing their own Greek pottery. It is always so lovely to see the creative flare of our pupils.

School tours are continuing ahead of the Year 7 Open Evening. Please do book a school tour during the day should you wish to, email cnseconday@bestacademies.org.uk to book. Our Open Evening is on Monday 12th October- spead the word!

Thank you for your continued support.

Warmest regards,

Hannah Lee
Assistant Principal - SENDCO

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	Euan	3RG	Helen/Melissa/Andrea	7ES	Matias	10CS	Iris
1BB	Arthur	3SB	Matilda/Francesca	7GLH	Olivia	10EP	Finley
1SA	Franklin	3TK	James/Lucas	7IW	Benas	10HB	Xavier
2AA	Orlando	4CE	Harry	7LHO	Flourish	10QL	Itai
2ED	Adaora	4HQ	Ellie	7RHA	Hoshi	10YC	Daniel
2SS	Owen	4MH	Mia/Scarlett/Sophie	8ADR	Olivia	11DM	Sina
		5BC	Freddie/Charlotte/ Emilia	8AJW	Jack	11FD	Bethany
		5EK	Micaela	8NCS	Beatrix	11GS	Komal
		5IA	Niyah	8PB	Clem	11HL	Ollie
		6EB	Emilia	8SK	Isaiah	11PB	Aimie
		6JC	Olivia	9MW	Rui		
		6RT	Orestis/Genevieve	9PMC	Oscar		
				9RJ	Dejonie		
				9SB	Rebecca		
				9WE	Peter		



Flip to Spanish Day

Wednesday 7th October 2026

Castellano pollo con chorizo

Tortilla Espanola

Con patatas bravas

Arroz con leche

Jacket potatoes will still be available on flip to Spanish day.

Flip to Spanish Day Menu Allergen Chart

DISHES AND THEIR ALLERGEN CONTENT – **Flip to spain, Castle Newnham school**

DISHES	Celery	Cereals containing gluten	Crustaceans	Eggs	Fish	Lupin	Milk	Mollusc	Mustard	Nuts	Peanuts	Sesame seeds	Soya	Sulphur Dioxide
Chicken and chorizo														X
Patatas bravas		X												
Tortilla Espanola				X			X							
Spanish rice pudding							X							

Review date:

Reviewed by: Sonia Robson

Food Standards Agency

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

North Site Library

I am absolutely delighted to share a major update on one of our most exciting projects this year: our brand-new School Library interior design is officially on track for completion ahead of half term, and possibly even in time for our Open Evening on 12th October!

I am thrilled to share with you the final designs for what is going to be the most fabulous, inspiring area in our school. Once officially opened, this incredible space will be available every day:

- Before School (from 8:00 AM): Open every morning for quiet reading, homework, or simply a safe, calm space to start the day.
- Break & Lunchtime: Dedicated clubs, reading sessions, and quiet activities.
- After School (3:15 PM – 4:30 PM): Fully accessible for study, homework support, and reading.

This is going to be such a hugely positive development for our entire school community, and we really cannot wait for the grand opening. We will share full details of the official launch shortly. Please take a look at the final design - we hope you are as excited as we are!



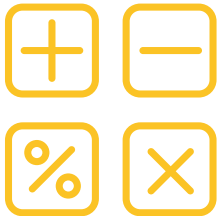


Century Tech for Pupils in Years 5&6

In Years 5 and 6 we will be continuing to use Century Tech this year to support our maths learning. This platform will be used for Maths homework from next week.. Century combines artificial intelligence with the latest research in learning science and neuroscience to identify each student's strengths, gaps in knowledge, and misconceptions. Students can log in and complete work suggested by the advanced recommendation engine, or specific tasks set by their teachers.

To enable your child to benefit from Century, they will need access to an internet-connected device. Please search for 'Century Learning' via your preferred search engine or visit www.century.tech. Your child's login details have been issued and can be found in their school planners.

Homework will be set on Century each Friday, where every child will receive Maths tasks to complete. These should take approximately 20-30 minutes. When completing their work, we encourage children to make full use of the videos and slides provided to support their understanding. They may also wish to make jottings on paper or a whiteboard if this helps them work through their ideas.



We would like children to complete their homework as independently as possible, as this allows Century's intelligent algorithm to identify each child's needs and suggest personalised next steps in their learning.

Homework can be completed on a phone, tablet, or laptop. However, if your child does not have access to a suitable device at home, we will offer a paper alternative, please speak to your child's class teacher if you would like to arrange this.

Even though we are launching Century for Maths, children are still expected to complete their homework in other areas of the curriculum as usual. Thank you for your continued support in helping your child develop confidence and independence in their learning. Should you have any further questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Date Change- Glorious Grandparents Day

Please note that there has been a date change for the Glorious Grandparents event (Reception to Year 7). It will now take place on Thursday, 8th October.

Check out next weeks Castle Connect for more information.

Year 5 Greek Workshop

Year 5 have had a brilliant Ancient Greek workshop today to support their history topic. They were given a brief and entertaining overview of the Ancient Greeks - led by Zeus from Past Productions. They then worked in small groups to perform a selection of Greek Myth and then used these myths to inspire a craft session creating Ancient Greek (paper) plates. The children were entertained and engaged throughout and it was such a brilliant way to bring the topic to life.









GCSE Music Trip to Spirit Studios



A reminder that GCSE Music pupils have the opportunity to visit Spirit Studios on 6th October.

They will be touring a music studio, be able to ask about University courses, career options and take part in a songwriting workshop with industry professionals. If your child would like to attend, please check your trips on MCAS and make the payment before the end of the week.
If there are any questions or concerns with the short turnaround, please do not hesitate to email us on cnperformingarts@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 @ Bedford Academy (Yr 10 & 11)

Standout Performances: Big shout out to all 6 who took part.Get well soon Flynn!
Summary: A depleted squad due to injuries means we had a training match with Bedford Academy. A game played in great spirits and some good rugby on display. An unfortunate injury to Flynn cut his evening short but other than that a success time!



Rubgy @ Various (Yr 7)

Result/Score: 5th overall out of 10 schools
Standout Performances: Well done to Alfie for scoring a few of our tries throughout the tournament!
Summary: Well done to everyone for competing in their first T1 Rugby competition. A real development throughout led to us nearly qualifying for the semi finals but a defeat in our last game (our only defeat) stopped this from happening! In our last match the 5th/6th play off, we won by 2 tries to none.

Football vs STM (Yr 10 & 11)

Result/Score: CN 2 - 4 STM
Standout Performances: Jacob and Isaac in defence, David's debut, and Nyakwan's running up top.
Summary: Last season these two teams faced off in the game of the season that included an outstanding penalty save by Euan and an injury time winner by Nyakwan in a 2-1 win, and this time STM got their revenge as they came out victors in a hard fought 4-2 loss. The game started on the back foot conceding two set piece goals, but a great counter led by Carter and finished off by Nyakwan, meant we went into half time 2-1 down, but well in the game. We came out of the blocks fighting with lots of running in midfield led by Ollie and partnered by debutant Ken, but another two goals from STM seemed to kill of the game. A late flurry of chances for CN meant that Bogdan picked up a fine finish from outside the box, but despite the best efforts from the likes of Harrison, other debutant David and Lewis, the game finished 4 -2. MOTM - David.

Year 5&6 Football vs?

Result/Score: 2-1 loss
Standout Performances: George B
Summary: The boys played amazingly! They fought and contested a close game but narrowly lost 2-1. All players showed the CORE values and a huge well done to the five Year 5 players who stepped up and represented Castle Newnham phenomenallyy!





Basketball vs Goldington (Yr 8 & 9)

Result/Score: 65-8 loss
Standout Performances: James L
Summary:The boys worked really hard to score their 8 points but unfortunately, Goldington were very impressive in how they play

Football @ Kempston (Yr 10 & 11)

Result/Score: 2-4 win
Standout Performances: Sav & Sofia B
Summary:Good close game but 2 goals in the last 5 minutes clinched the win.

Classics at Castle

Our Year 10 and 11 Classicists have really 'hit the ground running' this term!

Year 10 have settled into their Classics lessons really well and have been engaging in their first topic of Greek and Roman gods. Pupils have made lots of interesting observations and have been asking lots of fantastic questions about the role of the gods and their responsibilities. Keep it up Year ten!

Year 11 have been learning about what happened after the assassination of Julius Caesar and how Augustus (Caesar's nephew and adopted son) became the first emperor of Rome. Pupils have been encouraged to become 'teacher' and teach a member of their family about this topic - parents of Year 11, please interrogate them at home!
Questions to ask:
- How did Augustus become emperor?
- Why was he keen **not** to be seen as a king or dictator?
- Why was the battle of Actium important for Augustus?



New! - Classics club
We are excited to announce a brand new Classics club open to all year groups in Year 7 through to Year 11.
Come along, bring your lunch and get ready to discuss all things Classics!
When?
Friday lunchtimes, 1:30-2:00pm
Where?
E1

Look out for the poster around school!



Classics Champions
Our Secondary Classics champions will be meeting on Friday 2nd October in E1 - please come to Classics Club first and then we will have a short meeting at 2pm to discuss plans for the Autumn term. I am looking forward to seeing your designs for our new logo!

Mrs Scott

Castle Horizons

This week we are focusing on the local business opportunities available in and around Bedford. For each '**Business Spotlight**' we will be choosing a different company in Bedford and explaining the different jobs that may be available and the pathways to entry.

Belron / Autoglass HQ (Business, Finance & Global Operations)
Feature Spotlight: Located at Priory Business Park, the UK headquarters of Belron (the parent company of Autoglass) represents the vibrant commercial, financial, and business service sector in Bedfordshire. Whilst known for vehicle glass, running a major international enterprise requires a massive team of corporate, legal, and operational specialists right here in town.

Local Bedfordshire Impact: The Priory Park head office manages nationwide customer service operations, corporate legal strategy, financial accounting, human resources (HR), digital marketing, and supply chain logistics, connecting Bedford directly to Belron's global network across 37 countries.

UK National Picture: Corporate services, business management, finance, and marketing represent one of the UK's largest employment sectors. Over 4.5 million people in the UK work in professional business, financial, and administrative roles, making it a cornerstone of the national economy.

Entry Requirements & Level 3 Subject Choices (Sixth Form & College):
To secure a place on a Higher or Degree Apprenticeship in Business, Finance, or Marketing (e.g., Chartered Manager Degree Apprenticeship) or to study business, law, or finance at university, pupils should target the following Level 3 choices:
A-Level Route: Recommended Subjects: A combination of Business Studies, Economics, Mathematics (essential for finance, accounting, and data analytics), Law, Psychology, English Literature/Language, or Modern Foreign Languages (valuable for international commercial trade).

T-Level Route: T-Level in Finance OR T-Level in Management and Administration OR T-Level in Legal Services. High-performing students (Merit/Distinction) are often fast-tracked into corporate degree apprenticeships, junior management trainee schemes, and undergraduate business degrees.

Labour Market Information (LMI) & In-Demand Roles:
Average Regional Salaries: Business Admin & Finance Apprentices start around £18,000–£22,000 (with fully funded qualifications). Junior Executives and Management Graduates start around £26,000–£32,000. Experienced HR Directors, Financial Controllers, Operations Managers, and Marketing Leads in Bedfordshire earn £50,000 to £85,000+ per year.
In-Demand Local Roles: Corporate Accountant, Digital Marketing Specialist, Human Resources (HR) Advisor, Supply Chain Planner, Commercial Law Paralegal, and Customer Operations Manager.

Did You Know? Belron's Bedford headquarters oversees a fleet of over 1,000 mobile technicians across the UK, coordinating thousands of customer requests every single day through advanced real-time scheduling technology!

Family Conversation Starter: ""Besides the people who make or fix products, how many different behind-the-scenes jobs (like managing money, advertising, or helping customers) do you think it takes to run a large global company?"

Upcoming Dates

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	Glorious Grandparents Day- Reception to Year 7 Year 11 Costal Fieldwork Trip
Friday 9th October	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 Four

Online Safety: *Strengthening Safeguarding Practise in 2026*

Tues13th October(1300-1400)TEAMS

Deliveredby: NSPCC

Safeguarding Bedfordshire are pleased to be working with the NSPCC to offer a free webinar aimed at parents/ carers and those working with children, young people and/ or families.

This interactive session explores children's online lives, the opportunities and challenges they may encounter, and how adults can support them to stay safe. Using children's voices, real-life scenarios and practical resources, the webinar covers topics including online relationships, image sharing, grooming, sextortion and where to access support when concerns arise.

Participants will leave with greater confidence in having conversations about online safety and an understanding of the support available through Childline, the NSPCC Helpline, Report Remove and other trusted resources.

Audience:

- Parents and carers
- Foster carers and kinship carers
- Childminders and nannies
- Early years practitioners
- School staff and governors
- Youth workers
- Sports clubs and uniformed organisations (e.g. Scouts, Guides, Cadets)
- Community and voluntary sector organisations working with children and families

How to book: Please request a place here. If you are allocated a place, you will be sent the TEAMS joining link by 5th October.

Need Help? Contact Us

Safeguarding Spotlight

POWER YOUTH ACTION

power to the parents

07th Sept to 28th Sept '26

Every Monday from 5pm to 6pm via Teams (online)

A series of interactive online discussions allowing parents to share their views around young persons at risk of exploitation and the violence associated with it.

We will discuss:

- The current education system;
- Supporting our children at home;
- Online harms & online safety;
- Signs of grooming and coercion;
- Understanding the pressures of childhood in this day and age;
- The challenges of parenthood

VEPP

Please email gemma.hoddle@beds.police.uk for the link

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.