Castle Connect

Friday 2nd October 2026

Dear Families,

We have enjoyed another vibrant and action-packed week across the school. Pupils have been engaging with a wide range of clubs, rehearsals, and sports fixtures, all while our team prepares for several exciting trips and events coming up next week.

Last week, I had the pleasure of accompanying Year 6 on their residential trip to Ironbridge. It was wonderful to see the children embrace each activity and support one another so thoughtfully while away from home. Members of the public even took the time to compliment our pupils on their exceptional manners, especially during our visit to the shops at Blists Hill Victorian Town!

Looking ahead, as well as currently conducting tours ahead of our Year 7 Open Evening in a couple of weeks, we are pleased to share that bookings are now open for our Reception Open Mornings (for September 2027 entry) taking place in November. This is a fantastic chance for families to tour the school, meet staff, and discover the wonderful opportunities on offer. Please see the booking details below and share them with friends and family.

Finally, a huge congratulations to our Year 10 pupils who have completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying expedition this week, including camping overnight in Bromham last night. Well done to everyone involved for stepping up to the challenge with such great enthusiasm!

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Warmest regards,
Hannah Baxter
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

Castle Newnham

ALL THROUGH SCHOOL

RECEPTION OPEN MORNINGS

(SEPTEMBER 2027 ENTRY)

We would love to welcome you and your child to explore our engaging classrooms, meet our dedicated team, and experience firsthand what makes Castle Newnham all-through School such a joyful place to learn and grow.

TOUR DATES

(All tours begin at 09.30am)

- **3rd, 4th & 5th November**
- **10th, 11th & 12th November**

UNCOMPROMISING EXCELLENCE & AMBITION

A CULTURE OF BELONGING

CHANGEMAKERS FOR TOMORROW

CHARACTER, INCLUSION & HUMAN BRILLIANCE

Spaces on the school tours are limited- Scan the QR code or head to our website to complete the booking form.

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	Iris	3RG	Emmeline	7ES	Jeremy	10CS	Rares
1BB	Fifi	3SB	Sage	7GLH	Savannah	10EP	Liam
1SA	Wren	3TK	Lucas	7IW	Benas	10HB	Xavier
2AA	Emmylou	4CE	Tabby	7LHO	Flourish	10QL	Itai
2ED	Nico	4HQ	Sam	7RHA	Mitko	10YC	Daniel
2SS	Jasper	4MH	Finn	8ADR	Elsina	11DM	Amrita
		5BC	Charlotte	8AJW	Josiah	11FD	Bethany
		5EK	Vivien	8NCS	Esther	11GS	Nathan
		5IA	Eleanor	8PB	Grace	11HL	Morton
		6EB	Charlie	8SK	Orin	11PB	Aimie
		6JC	Scarlett	9MW	Rui		
		6RT	Daniella	9PMC	Luka		
				9RJ	Francesco		
				9SB	Cianna		
				9WE	Riccardo		



Our Social Media

You may have noticed something a little different about our social media page in recent months. Back in the summer term, we made the decision to stop sharing photos and videos showing children's faces.

While schools regularly feature pupil faces online, with the rapid rise of AI technology, publicly sharing children's faces and school uniforms creates privacy and safety risks we are simply not willing to take. Safeguarding our young people will always be an active, everyday commitment for us.

We still love celebrating everything happening across our school! You'll continue to see plenty of hands-on learning, key updates, rehearsals, artwork, projects, and sports - focusing on our pupils' achievements and effort, rather than their faces.

Thank you for supporting us in keeping our children safe, protected, and respected online .

All-Through Scholars Programme



It was fantastic to share our vision for the future of our **More & Most Able provision** at The Castle Newnham. Our Scholars Programme is all about challenging, inspiring and empowering our pupils to reach their full potential, both inside and beyond the classroom.

For Years 3–6, pupils will take part in exciting, project-based learning, developing their research, creativity, communication and problem-solving skills. From exploring our Solar System to building scale models, there will be plenty of opportunities to think big!

For Years 7–11, our Apps for Good programme will challenge pupils to become ethical technology innovators. Through exploring artificial intelligence, tackling real-world environmental and social issues, and developing their own app prototypes, pupils will learn to turn their ideas into meaningful solutions.

Learning beyond the classroom will also be a key part of the experience, with planned visits to places such as the National Space Centre and Cambridge University, alongside opportunities to meet inspiring professionals and discover future education and career pathways.

And this is just the beginning! Our wider vision includes national competitions, debating, poetry, mathematical challenges and so much more, ensuring our pupils are continually stretched, inspired and encouraged to develop intellectual curiosity and resilience.

We are incredibly excited about what lies ahead and the opportunities this programme will create for our pupils. By nurturing curiosity, celebrating ambition and embracing new challenges, we hope to help every Scholar discover just how far their potential can take them.

Glorious Grandparents Event

As previously communicated, we are delighted to invite grandparents to our **Glorious Grandparents event.**

Join us for a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time with your grandchild(ren) and other members of our school community, while engaging in some enjoyable games, puzzles and outdoor activities.

Classrooms will be open for puzzles, board games and card games and, weather permitting, the playground/outside area will be supervised to allow for outdoor play. We will provide a variety of puzzles in classrooms and equipment for outdoor play but adults are encouraged to bring in board/card games from home to play with their children and/or in small groups with others.

This is a fantastic chance for families to:

- Spend precious time in the children's school environment.
- Meet and connect with other relatives in our school community.



When: **Thursday 8th October 2026**

Times:

- **8:40 – 9:10am: Year 7**
- **9:00 – 10:00am: Reception to Year 4**
- **10:15 – 11:00am: Years 5 and 6**

Entry:
Reception to Year 4 Please wait on the playground after drop off and then enter your grandchild's block with your ticket when instructed to by a member of staff who will be there to collect your ticket and greet you or enter via the school office if coming from the Year 7 event.

Years 5 and 6 Please enter via the Year 5 and 6 office with your ticket. You will be greeted by a member of staff.

Year 7 Please enter the Main Hall via the main Year 7–11 gate and walk towards the Main Hall located next to the Main Office. A member of staff will be there to greet you and collect your ticket.

This will be a ticketed event. One ticket will be given to each child (in Reception to Year 7) next week for entry to the event.

There is no need to let us know in advance if you are attending. Numbers are limited to one adult per child due to space restrictions within classrooms and halls.

As with previous family-focused events, we want to ensure that this event is inclusive and therefore welcome another family member to come if grandparents are not an option for your family.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Glorious Grandparents Morning!

Reception - Year 7 Pantomime Trip



Oh Yes It Is... Panto Season! You should have recently received a letter regarding
our annual festive trip to the Royal & Derngate Theatre in Northampton to see this year's production of Beauty and the Beast. The letter contains essential details about dates, ticket pricing, and payment deadlines so please check your email or MCAS app as soon as possible. Further communication regarding parent volunteers will be shared soon—if you haven't received your letter or have any questions, please contact cnperformingarts@bestacademies.org.uk

Reception - Year 6 Consultation Evenings

The Reception - Year 6 Autumn Consultation Evening sessions will be held **in person** after school on Monday 19th October and Wednesday 21st October 2026.

These will be **booked via Bromcom/ the MCAS app (through the Parents Evenings Icon)** and appointments will go live for booking at **6:00pm on Monday 5th October 2026**.

If your child has two class teachers, the booking system will only show one of their names, however the appointment will be with either teacher or both of them.

The appointments are scheduled in 10-minute intervals and during the appointment the class teacher(s) will discuss your child's attendance, behaviour and attitude, attainment, progress and target areas moving forwards. Pupils' books will also be available for you to view.

Appointments will be at the site where your child attends school so please keep this in mind when booking appointments and leave an appropriate amount of time if needing to travel between sites. Please see specific locations below for the evening appointments:

- Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 teachers - Block 1 Hall (South site)
- Year 3 and 4 teachers - Block 2 Hall (South site)

The entrance to these blocks will be via the blue doors on Goldington Road.

- Year 5 & 6 teachers - Studio 4 (North Site)

The entrance will be via the side door (past the bike racks) through the Year 5 & 6 entrance on Polhill Avenue.

If your child is mainly based in ASPIRE then you will be contacted separately regarding an appointment and therefore do not need to make one with this booking system. However, if your child is on the SEND register but is mainly based in class then please book an appointment with the class teacher through the MCAS app.

If you have any issues with booking an appointment then please contact one of the primary offices or email cnprimary@bestacademies.org.uk

Clubs@Castle- Timings update

There have been some revisions to the timings of some of our after School clubs.
Please see details below:

Tuesday
Gymnastics finishes at 4:15
Wednesday
Sports after school M Crowley finishes at 4:15
Gymnastics 4:15 finish
Sports stars Y5&6 finishes at 4:20
Ballet finishes at 4:30
Thursday
Y5 Football with Mr Tuffrey 4:15 finish
Sports stars finishes at 4:30
Yoga finishes at 4:15

Year 6 Ironbridge Resitdential Trip

Last week, our Year 6 pupils participated in their residential trip, engaging in a wide range of activities and memorable experiences across Shropshire.

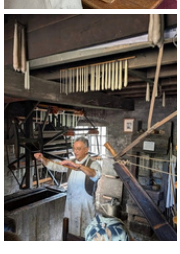
The first museum they visited was Enginuity where they participated in an engaging and fun workshop making a jitterbug which involved them putting their knowledge of electricity and circuits to the test. Next, it was a visit to the Museum of Iron where they were able to view many interesting exquisite fine art castings and ornate items.

Pupils began the second day with an immersive visit to Blists Hill Victorian Town. Dressed in authentic period attire, pupils attended a Victorian classroom to have a lesson from the 19th-century! Following the lesson, the pupils explored the historic town, observing a traditional candle maker at work and visiting preserved Victorian residences to learn about domestic life during the era. The excursion also included visits to the local sweet shop and gift shop, as well as a visit to the historic Ironbridge.

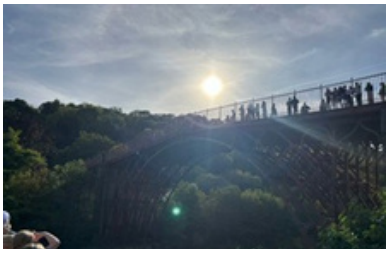
On their final day, after breakfast at the youth hostel, the pupils travelled to Shrewsbury to conclude their trip with a scenic river boat cruise along the Severn and outdoor activities in Shrewsbury Park.

It was an incredible experience for the pupils and they represented the school excellently!









Year 6 Launchpad Day

Year 6 families will have recieved a letter today reagarding the Year 6 launchpad day.

It promises to be an action-packed day packed with engaging activities, creative challenges, and interactive workshops across a range of subjects.

THE CASTLE NEWNHAM
ALL-THROUGH SCHOOL

Community
Opportunity
Respect
Excellence

Year 6 Launchpad Day

STEP INTO YEAR 7!

An exciting, hands-on day for our Year 6 pupils to experience life in Year 7, explore new subjects and help shape the future of our school.

Friday 9th October

The Castle Newnham North Site

Full school uniform
Normal drop-off and collection times

Science
Hands-on experiments to spark curiosity and experience secondary-level science.

DT & Food Technology
Get creative, build and explore new practical skills.

Classics
An exciting journey into the ancient world – at the top of the tower!

Trip Planning
Take the driver's seat to plan your very first official Year 7 trip.

Café Re-Launch Project
Work together to design and pitch ideas to re-launch and enhance our school café area.

TRY NEW SUBJECTS | TAKE PART IN EXCITING ACTIVITIES | HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE

4SIXTEEN Theatre Company

NODA Review of SIX: Teen Edition

This is the second time I have reviewed SIX: Teen Edition for 4SIXTEEN, the last time was four years ago back in Oct 2022. I was pretty impressed then and four years later I came away equally as blown away. It was an extremely confident high energy production that kept the audience absolutely enthralled. Once again directed by Luke Skeel, with musical direction by Kate Brewster and choreography by Sophie Kelk and Molly McCarthy was particularly impressive.

The set was simply the studio floor which was made atmospheric by the use of smoke effects as we all took our seats. One of the long sides of the auditorium was taken up by the band and control desk, so viewing was only on three sides, which had the positive effect of actors not having to turn their backs on any part of the audience. Lighting played a crucial part of the set in this production, which I have mentioned on many occasions is one of the strengths of 4SIXTEEN. This time in the hands of Luke Skeel and Reuben Clooney. They had six intelligent spots positioned on the edge of the stage at floor level, which dramatically sent thin lines of light skyward at various points of the production. A superb effect, cued to perfection. Sound by Lyra Coliss was good, with an interesting twist where although all six had face mics they all also had hand-held mics as a prop and used them as if they were live.

Costumes, designed by Sophie Kelk were something else, each queen kitted out in their own distinct costume, from vibrant skirts to leather trousers, fabulously patterned tops, different coloured tights complete with bejewelled heavy boots. Basically, what any teenager would wear to a party if she wanted to stand out, and boy did they stand out! In fact, jaw-dropping might be an apt description.

4SIXTEEN have stepped up a notch recently with the introduction of their very own staff-pupil band showing how steeped in performing arts they really are. We had Emily Green on Guitar, Jack Serino on Piano, Noah Wosahlo (year 11) on Bass, Genevieve O'Brien (year 11) on Drums and additional sound effects from Riccardo Marra (year 9).

The Choreography was drilled to perfection, confidence doesn't even begin to describe it. Not only the body, hand and foot movements were mesmerising to watch but the facial expressions that fully engaged and enthralled the audience were on a different level.

The six actors were all at the top of their game, and two of them were reprising their roles, Talia Banda now in year 11 was playing Catherine of Aragon for the second time and Sami Clements now at six form college playing Jane Seymour for the third time, including their original 4SIXTEEN versions from October 2022. Annabel Goodbody, now in year 11 has an acting pedigree of at least three generations and she certainly showed what she is capable of as Anne Boleyn. As she states in the programme, having the freedom to be able to bring her own take on the character and she certainly did that very well indeed. Newcomer Keira Flanagan as Anna of Cleves in her first production for 4SIXTEEN, fitted into this high class cast like a glove with a top-quality performance. Leah Clarke-Cree was the youngest member of the cast as a year 10 student but is already highly experienced having already done five previous shows at Castle Newnham, which she certainly brought to the party with a superb portrayal of Katherine Howard and like the other five a great singing voice. Finally to complete this highly talented group we had Annalise Reveglia from year 11 in as she notes her sixth show for 4SIXTEEN as the survivor, Catherine Parr. Another great job.

I really couldn't fault any of them. You could have put these girls on any stage and they would still have got the standing ovation they received. Admittedly a partisan audience of family and friends but they were certainly giving more than any of the cast expected. So once again 4SIXTEEN lived up to its reputation as the school in Bedford for Performing Arts. Well done indeed to Luke Skeel, his cast and crew.

PE & Sport at Castle Newnham

PITCH TO PITCH — weekly update

TOP 5 CLASSES THIS WEEK

1. 8Y1 — +205km
2. 6EB — +139km
3. 8X1 — +86km
4. 7X1 — +73km
5. 7X3 — +69km



Netball vs Biddenham (Yr 10 & 11)

Result/Score: 20-5
Standout Performances: Keira F and Ella E
Summary: First game of the season and a solid win for the Year 11 netball team against Biddenham. Players of the match were Keira and Ella. Keira made some fantastic interceptions on the defensive circle to limit Biddenham attacking opportunities. Ella was on fire in the attacking circle scoring lots of goals

Netball vs Edward Peake (Yr 10 & 11)

Result/Score: 7-10
Standout Performances: Keira F and Tiffany C
Summary: A very close game against Edward Peake with 50/50 battles all over the court. At halftime the score was 4-4 but Edward Peake took their chances in the second half to run out 10-7 winners. Players of the match were Keira and Tiffany



Table Tennis @ Various (Yr 7 & 8)

Result/Score: 5-1 vs Bedford Free School
Standout Performances: Some great individual performances but special mention to Orin who was unbeaten as the #1 ranked player and Cinar who stepped in to play for BFS after an illness.
Summary: A good afternoon of table tennis to start the season. Several pupils making their debut for the school and everyone improved their play. The team represented the school really well supporting each other and their opponents. We look forward to the next round.

Football vs Oakley Academy (Yr 5&6)

Castle Newnham Year 5 and Year 6 boys football team played Oakley Academy on Tuesday after school. The boys played with a lot of energy, communicating positively and always showing our value of respect.
Even though there were some impressive passages of play, Oakley managed to win. Oakley were very good opponents but the score line did flatter them as the ball hit their post twice and their goalkeeper nudged the ball onto the crossbar after a very impressive long range shot from the captain, Lucas. Well done boys!



Football @ Mark Rutherford (Yr 7 & 8)

Result/Score: 4-0 Win
Standout Performances: Alessia hit a hat trick of goals! Great all round team performance.
Summary:A solid victory which was never in doubt. Some excellent defending from our backline- marshalled well by Vivianna and Amelia! With wonderful football played by all saw us win 4-0. 3 goals for Alessia and one for Elsina! Well done girls!

Football vs Lincroft (Yr 8)

Result/Score: 5-2 loss
Standout Performances: Simon scored a brace and Jack R was relentless in his dribbling and work ethic.
Summary: A tough match with a few injuries meant we only had 9 players today. Started well going 1-0 up but then falling to 2-1 down at half time. Their ability to make changes helped to keep their legs fresh whilst ours grew tired. 4-2 down and chasing the game, we conceded right near the end. They all kept giving it their all and never gave up!

Year 7 Parents: Cognitive Abilities Tests (CAT4)

As our Year 7 pupils settle into secondary school life, we are preparing to conduct their Cognitive Abilities Tests (CAT4) during the week beginning **Monday 5th October.**

Why do Year 7 pupils take CATs?
Transitioning to secondary school is a big step, and these tests help us get a well-rounded picture of how your child thinks, learns, and processes information. CATs assess reasoning skills across four key areas:

- Verbal: Thinking and reasoning with words
- Non-Verbal: Solving problems using shapes and patterns
- Quantitative: Thinking with numbers and numerical relationships
- Spatial: Visualising and manipulating 3D shapes and spaces

The results provide teachers with valuable baseline insights so we can tailor classroom learning, offer the right level of support or extension, and help your child reach their full potential.

How can you help your child prepare?
Because CATs evaluate reasoning abilities rather than subject knowledge, no revision or test preparation is needed. In fact, standard revision can create unnecessary pressure. You can best support your Year 7 child by helping them feel calm and ready:

- Ensure they get plenty of rest and a good night's sleep.
- Make sure they have a healthy breakfast before coming to school.
- Remind them to bring their usual school equipment (and a pair of wired headphones if advised by their teacher).

If you have any questions about the tests or your child's transition, please reach out to their Form Tutor or Head of Year 7. Thank you for your support as we help our new pupils thrive!

DofE Bronze Expedition

Following May's practice expedition, all 35 of our Year 10 Bronze DofE pupils officially passed their qualifying expedition this week—bringing incredible energy and determination to the trail!
Starting out from Harrold Country Park with heavy packs and sharp navigation skills, the teams hiked to Leslie Sells Campsite in Bromham. Pitching their own tents and cooking dinner over camping stoves, the teams quickly made themselves at home before relaxing in the evening to share stories with the staff who visited. Bright and early on day two, pupils packed up camp and completed the final leg back to Harrold Country Park, completing their journey with flying colors.
A fantastic achievement by all 35 pupils—huge congratulations!











GCSE Drama NEA

This week, our Year 11 GCSE Drama pupils performed their devised pieces as part of the Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) for Component 2: Devising Drama. Pupils have been developing and rehearsing their pieces over recent weeks, and it was great to see their ideas come together in performance as part of their GCSE. Well done to all the pupils involved.

Year 11 GCSE Geography

Next week, our Year 11 geographers will be heading out on their coastal fieldwork trip to gather essential data for their GCSE course.

We are leaving school at 7.00 am. This is based on the day's tide times and will ensure that we are able to work on the beach without the tide being too far out - or too far in! Please make sure that your child is in school between 6.30 and 6.45 am and on the school playground. We are due to return between 6.30 and 7.00pm, but, in the event of being much later than that, will ask pupils to message you to let you know.



Pupils need to wear comfortable clothing - suitable for all weathers - and also comfortable footwear. They will also need to bring their pens/pencils for the day's work. In addition, pupils must also bring a packed lunch and water as there will not be an opportunity to buy food or drink until later in the afternoon. Those pupils who have requested a school packed lunch - and are entitled to a free school meal - will be provided with their lunch. If your child wishes to buy food later in the day, they may bring some money, but this will be their responsibility as will their mobile phone.



Most pupils should have forty to fifty minutes of free time once all the fieldwork has been carried out. We are confident that pupils will have earned this by following expectations, working well in their groups and gathering data that will be very useful for their GCSE Geography fieldwork studies. If there are instances where this falls short, then pupils will stay with a member of staff for the free time.

The field trip is just part of our fieldwork focus next week.
On Wednesday 7 October, all pupils will have two lessons of preparatory work in school and will then have a day of follow-up work in school after the field trip on Wednesday 14 or Thursday 15 October. Your child will be told which sessions they will attend on all of these days.

If you have any further questions, please contact Mrs Mohrasri via the school office.

Castle Horizons

Future Pathways- a post 16 opportunities event at The University Bedfordshire (Bedford Campus)- Saturday 7th November

Institution	Upcoming Open Days / Evenings
Bedford Academy	Thursday 12th November
Bedford College	Saturday 14th November
Bedford Sixth Form	Saturday 17th October
Bedford Girls' Open Events	Thursday 5th November
Central Bedfordshire College	Saturday 21st November
Kimberley College	Tuesday 10th November, Thursday 12th November
Mark Rutherford	Thursday 12th November
National College of Motorsports	Tuesday 6th October
Bedford College- Shuttleworth	Thursday 17th October
Milton Keynes College	Saturday 14th November
Northampton College	Wednesday 21st October
Redbourne Upper School	Tuesday 20th October
Samuel Whitbread	Thursday 12th November
Sharnbrook Academy	Thursday 5 November
Tresham College Kettering	Saturday 10th October
Tresham College Wellingborough	Tuesday 10th November

Castle Horizons

Feature Spotlight: Local and national Labour Market Information (LMI) consistently shows that employers across every single sector—from local healthcare to global tech firms—rank Communication and Active Listening as one of the most critical core skills when hiring school leavers and graduates. Technical knowledge can be taught on the job, but the ability to listen, process information, and communicate clearly is foundational.

How is this developed in school and at home?
All Years: Listening attentively to instructions, taking turns during group discussions, showing empathy, and learning to ask clarifying questions when something isn't clear.
As children get older this will develop further through delivering class presentations both on their own and in groups, resolving group project disagreements constructively, and communicating professionally with teachers and employers.

In the Workplace
Active listening prevents costly mistakes, improves team efficiency, and ensures client needs are met accurately from day one.

How This Skill Connects to Level 3 Study & Post-16 Pathways:

- **A-Level Route:** Essential for subjects that rely heavily on debate, analysis, oral examination, and critical evaluation (e.g., English, History, Psychology, Modern Foreign Languages, Politics, and Law).
- **T-Level & BTEC Route:** Crucial for completing the compulsory 45-day industry placement, conducting professional client briefs, and presenting continuous practical coursework projects.
- **Apprenticeships:** A primary criteria during employer assessment centres. Apprentices must listen carefully to workplace mentors, follow safety protocols, and communicate confidently with colleagues and clients.

Labour Market Information (LMI) & Employer Insights:

Employer Demand: Employers consistently rate listening and speaking as essential for entry-level roles—often ranking higher than technical computer skills or specific subject grades.
Career Progression: Workers with high-level communication and listening skills are promoted faster into supervisory and management roles, where leading teams and understanding customer needs are primary daily tasks.

Practical Action Tip: Try practicing the "3-Second Pause & Summarise”: After someone finishes speaking to you, count silently to three before responding. This prevents interrupting and shows you are processing their words. Repeat back the key point in your own words (e.g., "So what you're saying is...") to confirm you understood accurately before answering.

Did You Know? Research shows that people typically retain only 25% to 50% of what they hear in a conversation. Practicing active listening can double your information retention—making classroom revision and exam preparation far easier!

Family Conversation Starter: "How can you tell when someone is truly listening to you versus when they are just waiting for their turn to speak? What can we do at home this week to be better listeners?"

BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

School Admissions Service

Information Sheet Starting School 2027

This leaflet for parents / carers of children starting school (Year R) for the first time in September 2027explainshow to apply for a lower / primary school place for a child born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023.

All the information you need to apply for a school place is available in our Starting School Booklet (PDF) and on our website; please scan the QR code, or go to **www.bedford.gov.uk/startingschool**. This explains how we process your application for a school place. Please read this carefully before you apply.

SCAN ME

The website also allows residents of Bedford Borough Council to apply for a place online at **www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions**.

You may apply using a paper application form if you prefer, please contact the School Admissions Service via email **admissions@bedford.gov.uk**, or call 01234 718120

If you live in another Local Authority, you **must** complete your home Local Authority's application form and return it to them. Contact information is overleaf.

Application Deadline: 15 January 2027

Starting School Admissions Timetable

September 2026
We will publish information about the Starting School process.

26 September 2026 – 15 January 2027
You can apply online **or** you can complete and return a paper application form to the School Admissions Service. **Do not do both**.

15 January 2027
Closing date for applications.

16 April 2027
If you have applied online, you will receive an email to let you know the outcome of your application. If you have not applied online we will post a letter to you on this day.

Upcoming Dates

Monday 5th October	Year 3 Zoo Trip ACT!-26 Theatre Workshop at BMS
Tuesday 6th October	PTA Meeting - 8pm, The Devonshire Arms 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	Launchpad to Year 7 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 Year 6 Height & Weight checks
Friday 23rd October	Year 3 Reading Cafe

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

WEEK



Lunch Menu: Week Five

PRECISION PATH
ACADEMY
OCTOBER HALF TERM 2026

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
Castle Newnham
ALL THROUGH SCHOOL

BOOKING NOW OPEN • CASTLE NEWNHAM SCHOOL

FOOTBALL CAMP

MON 26 – FRI 30 OCTOBER



CASTLE NEWNHAM SCHOOL • POLHILL AVENUE • BEDFORD • MK41 9DT

AGES 5–16 | 9:00AM – 3:30PM | FA QUALIFIED COACHES

£19 PER DAY | **£90** FULL WEEK

LIMITED PLACES • SAVE £5 ON THE FULL WEEK

BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE TODAY

precisionpathacademy.co.uk/summer-camp/register

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Safeguarding Spotlight



Safeguarding Spotlight





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.