Castle Connect

Friday 16th October 2026

Dear Families,

This week has been another busy and exciting one across the school, with a wide range of clubs, sports fixtures and performing arts rehearsals continuing to take place.

On Monday, we held our Year 7 Open Evening, which was a spectacular success! Mrs Neely-Hayes and Mrs Harwood delivered four presentations throughout the evening to approximately 1,000 attendees. We were incredibly proud of the pupils in years 7 to 11 who volunteered to lead tours and welcome visiting families around the school. We received some truly heart-warming feedback, and we would like to thank all the pupils involved for representing our school so wonderfully.

It was particularly lovely to see so many of our current Year 5 and Year 6 families exploring the opportunities available as they step into Year 7. We look forward to supporting them as they continue their educational journey at Castle Newnham All Through School. A huge thank you also goes to all our staff who worked so hard behind the scenes and throughout the evening to make the event such a success.

On Wednesday, our Year 7 pupils enjoyed a live, interactive experience exploring the Bayeux Tapestry. They had the opportunity to ask questions, deepen their understanding of Norman history and bring their learning to life in a memorable way. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm with which they left the session, eagerly sharing what they had discovered! Looking ahead, our Reception Open Events will take place after the half-term holiday. If you have a child due to start school in September 2027, please take a look at the available events and book your place. We would also be grateful if you could share this information with friends and family, as we still have places available.

Next week, we look forward to welcoming families to our Reception to Year 6 Consultation Evenings on Monday and Wednesday. These will be a valuable opportunity to share how your child has settled into the school year so far and discuss their learning and progress.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable weekend, and we look forward to seeing everyone next week.

Warmest regards,
Hayley Grady
Vice Principal

BEST
BEDFORDSHIRE
SCHOOLS TRUST

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 (Y5-11)
- **Skip the queue** at break (Y7-11) and lunchtime
- An invitation to **a Catch up 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 L-S	3RG	Yusuf H	7ES	Matias M-M	10CS	Sienna M
1BB	Yahya S	3SB	Ashhab F	7GLH	Rosey D	10EP	Liam D
1SA	Zachary W	3TK	Arlo W-E	7IW	Qayyuumat A	10HB	Sadie M
2AA	Ezra D	4CE	Lucas O	7LHO	Liza R	10QL	Benjamin M
2ED	Imelda G	4HQ	Ilana A	7RHA	Dylan K-M	10YC	John S
2SS	Robyn H	4MH	Scarlett M	8ADR	Olivia M	11DM	Fatima H
		5BC	Sebastian W	8AJW	Ruby A	11FD	Sina D
		5EK	*Joe*	8NCS	Isaac A	11GS	Joseph S
		5IA	Seb P	8PB	Kian G	11HL	Danylo B
		6EB	Reggie K	8SK	Enes O	11PB	Tyler C
		6JC	Asha G	9MW	Rui F-M		
		6RT	Hamish	9PMC	Harvey C		
				9RJ	Francesco M		
				9SB	Erin H		
				9WE	Riccardo M		



Poppy Appeal



From Monday 19th October, pupils will have the opportunity to purchase Poppies and Poppy Appeal merchandise in exchange for a donation.

A range of items will be available from the school offices, paper poppies, wrist bands, snap wrist bands, pencils, stickers and reflective key chains.

Please note that this is a cash only collection. Poppy appeal merchandise will be available to purchase from either main office. On South Site pupils can come at the start and end of the day, pupils on North site can puurcahse their poppy appeal merchandise at break or lunchtime.

Thank you for your support of the Poppy Appeal.

Year 7 Open Evening

On Monday evening, we opened our doors to around 1,000 visitors for our Year 7 Open Evening, proudly showcasing the strength and spirit of our school.

During the event, Mrs Neely-Hayes made our mission clear: We want Castle Newnham All-Through School to be the BEST school in the country.
As Senior Vice Principal Mrs. Harwood highlighted, visitors experienced first hand our blend of high aspirations and a caring environment—a reflection of our core values: "Excellence in everything we do, kindness in every step we take."

A huge thank you to our dedicated staff and the more than 350 pupil ambassadors who volunteered to support the night, as well as every family who joined us.
Year 6 families - if you missed the event or would like to see the school in action during normal hours, please contact the main school office to book a daytime tour.

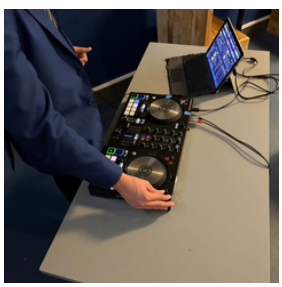




















Reception - Year 6 Curriculum Newsletters

The curriculum newsletters are now available for Reception to Year 6, please use the links below to find out what your child has been learning this half term.

Reception

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Year 5

Year 6

Reception to Year 7 Pantomime Trip

Don’t forget, the payment deadline for this Years Reception to Year 7 pantomime trip is Sunday 18th October! if you are having any issues making payment, please contact the school office before this date. Once the deadline has passed we will not be able to add any pupils onto this trip.



Year 1 to 6 Clubs Reminder

A reminder, as previously communicated during club sign up, there will be no clubs running for Year 1-6 pupils after school on Monday 19th or Wednesday 21st October due to Consultation Evenings.
Please ensure that your child is collected or booked into Care Club for Years 1-4 and that in Years 5-6 they are aware of their home time arrangements or are booked into Care Club.

iROCK RSL Awards

Families of pupils in Year 2-6
Your child could earn a Music qualification - This year!

As your child is in **Year 2** or **Year 6**, they have the opportunity to work towards a **nationally recognised music qualification** through in-school iRock band lessons this academic year.

To be eligible to achieve the qualification this year, your child must be enrolled with iRock by Friday 6 November 2026.

Enrol your child with iRock

The qualification is awarded by **RSL Awards, which is regulated by Ofqual**, and recognises the musical and wider skills children develop through playing as part of a band.

There is **no separate exam day or added pressure**. Children are assessed naturally through their weekly iRock lessons and termly performances.
In the 2025/26 academic year, **97% of iRockers working towards their RSL Awards qualification successfully achieved it.**

To find out more about the qualification, how children are assessed and what they will work towards throughout the year:

Find out more about the qualification

If you have any questions, the iRock team will be happy to help. Please contact them on 0330 174 2655 or info@irockschool.com.

Year 3 Reading Cafe

We would like to invite our Year 3 families to their Reading Café on **Friday 23rd October.** This will be slightly longer than our standard Reading Mornings, running until approximately 9:30 am, and will take place in the Block 2 Hall instead of the classrooms.



The hall will be transformed into a buzzing café with new, high-quality books from a range of cultures and genres tailored to suit all learners. There will be book reviews and quizzes for everyone to complete, as well as refreshments to enjoy!

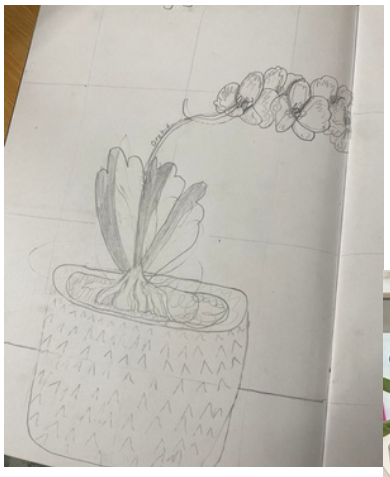
As with the reading mornings, there is no need to sign up. Please wait outside Block 2 after drop-off, and Mr Dawson will direct you into the hall at the slightly later time of 8:50 am (giving children time to be registered by their class teacher).

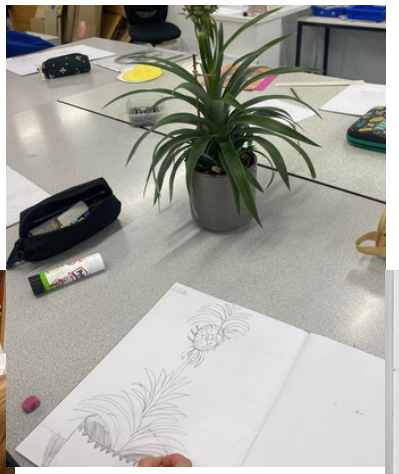
Please note: there will be no Year 4 Reading Morning this week.

After the half-term break, it will be Year 2's turn for Reading Mornings. These will start on Friday 6th November.

Year 5 Still Life Drawing

Over the last couple of weeks year 5 artists have been building drawing from observation skills and confidence sketching a variety of real plants.









Year 7 Bayeux Tapestry event

On Wednesday, Year 7, attended a live stream event hosted by the British Museum, a wonderful, enriching experience for all involved. There were lots of inquisitive questions asked by pupils and many felt frustrated that certain knowledge was lost to history. They also really enjoyed the medieval period coming to life outside of our classrooms. Please talk to your children about bias, perspective, and storytelling.








Year 11 Citizenship action

This week Year 11 pupils have been carrying out their Citizenship Action coursework. The pupils have spent the last half term carrying out research into an issue that is linked to their studies including democracy, youth justice, disinformation and food banks. Pupils have delivered assemblies and lessons to younger pupils in KS2 and KS3 and the sessions went very successfully with one more group due to complete their action next week. Well done everyone!




PE & Sport at Castle Newnham

PITCH TO PITCH — weekly update

TOP 5 CLASSES THIS WEEK

11. 9X2 — +107km
2. 9Y1 — +42km
3. 9Y2 — +28km
4. 8X1 — +26km
5. 7X3 — +26km



Football Vs Goldington Green (Yr 5&6)

Result/Score: 1-0 win

Standout Performances: Romeo was dodging and weaving constantly leaving the opposition players in his wake but it was Lucas that was positioned perfectly to finish a great cross for the only goal of the game.

Summary: Playing 9 a side on a much larger pitch than they are used to, the Y5&6 players put on a great display of both attacking and defending against a Goldington Green team that were strong in all areas. Captain Archie had little to do in goal thanks to his very impressive and reliable back line including some hefty clearances by George Johnson. The opposition attacked with pace and accuracy but were always second best. Castle Newnham were equally effective in attack, especially along the wings with Eli and Lucas causing all sorts problems for the Goldington defence. A superb team performance making us very proud of the players once again.



Upcoming Fixtures

Monday 19 October

- Year 7 & 8 Football vs STM Mr Phillips

Tuesday 20 October

- Year 8 Football vs Mark Rutherford with Mr Phillips
- Year 10 & 11 Netball @ Lincroft with Miss Crawford-Smith

Wednesday 21 October

- Year 10 & 11 Football vs Stratton with Mr Dean

Thursday 22 October

- Year 7 Rugby @ Various with Mr Chapman





Classics at Castle

Our Classics students have been very busy the last few weeks!

Year 10 have started their topic on Greek and Roman temples 🏛️

Year 11 have started their in depth study on Roman Culture and Literature 📚

Many pupils have also been attending Classics club on Friday lunchtimes. For the first session Mrs Scott taught some basic Latin phrases which students will build on each week.

Year 6 Launchpad day 🚀🏺

The 'hype' of Classics continued on Friday last week when Year 6 pupils took part in Launchpad day.
Year 6 were given a taste of what studying Classics at secondary was like, and there was lots of enthusiasm in the room!
Mrs Scott and the Year 6 teachers were very impressed by the knowledge that Year 6 had about Greek mythology and the Classical world - well done Year 6!



Coming up in Classics club …

Friday 16th October - Latin part ii 🏛️

Friday 23rd October - Witches of the ancient world 🧙
(Circe, Medea and the Witches of Thessaly)

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
Biddenham International School	Tuesday 3rd November
Central Bedfordshire College	Saturday 21st November
Kimberley College	Tuesday 10th November Thursday 12th November
Mark Rutherford	Thursday 12th November
Bedford College- Shuttleworth	Saturday 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

Sector Spotlight – Healthcare & Life Sciences

Feature Spotlight: Healthcare and life sciences represent the single largest public sector employer collective across Bedfordshire. Bedford Hospital (part of the Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust), local GP networks, community care providers, and the East of England Ambulance Service drive an enormous variety of career opportunities right in our town.

Local Bedfordshire Impact: Bedford Hospital alone employs thousands of local residents. Beyond doctors and nurses, health networks rely heavily on non-clinical and technical teams: biomedical scientists running blood labs, radiographers operating MRI scanners, medical equipment engineers, health data analysts, IT systems managers, and estates teams.

UK National Picture: The NHS is the UK's largest employer (with over 1.3 million staff), while the UK life sciences sector generates over £108 billion annually. With an aging population and breakthroughs in digital healthcare, genomic medicine, and medical tech, health and bioscience careers offer job security and long-term progression.

Entry Requirements & Level 3 Subject Choices (Sixth Form & College): To enter healthcare, medicine, or biomedical sciences through university degrees or NHS Degree Apprenticeships (e.g., Registered Nurse, Diagnostic Radiographer, or Paramedic degree apprenticeships), pupils should target the following Level 3 choices:

- **A-Level Route (Traditional Academic):** For Medicine, Dentistry & Veterinary Science: Chemistry and Biology are compulsory, combined with Mathematics or Physics (typically requiring top GCSE grades of 7–9 in Sciences/Maths and A-Level offers of AAA–A*AA). For Nursing, Midwifery, Paramedic Science & Allied Health: Biology, Psychology, Sociology, or Applied Science (typical university offer ranges from BBC to ABB). For Biomedical Science & Healthcare Tech: Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, or Computer Science.
- **T-Level Route (Technical / 80% Classroom + 20% Industry Placement):** T-Level in Health (Supporting Nursing/Care Teams) OR T-Level in Healthcare Science (Laboratory & Diagnostic Science). Progression: High-performing students (Merit/Distinction) can progress directly into NHS Degree Apprenticeships or university degrees in nursing, allied health, and healthcare science.
- **BTEC National Level 3 Route (Vocational / Continuous Assessment):** BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Health & Social Care OR BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Applied Science. Progression: Widely accepted by universities for nursing, occupational therapy, paramedic science, and healthcare management (typically requiring Distinction/Distinction* grades).

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

- **Average Regional Salaries:** NHS roles follow standardized Agenda for Change pay bands. Healthcare Support Apprentices start around £20,000–£23,000. Newly qualified Nurses, Midwives, Radiographers, and Biomedical Scientists start on Band 5 (approx. £29,900–£36,000). Advanced Clinical Specialists, Ward Managers, and Consultants earn £50,000 to £110,000+ per year.
- **In-Demand Local Roles:** Registered Nurses (Adult, Children, and Mental Health), Diagnostic Radiographers, Occupational Therapists, Biomedical Scientists, Medical Equipment Engineers, and Health Data Analysts.

Did You Know? There are over 350 distinct career roles within the NHS ecosystem—and more than 50% of the total healthcare workforce works in non-medical, scientific, or technical support roles!

Family Conversation Starter: "If you could spend a week learning in a specialist workspace—like a race car garage at Silverstone, an animal sanctuary, a digital coding lab, or a commercial kitchen—which would you choose and why?"

Castle Newnham

PTA News

October 2026

We're an all-through PTA!

Members voted unanimously to join the Primary and Secondary PTAs into one for Castle Newnham School, mirroring the all-through model of the school. Money already raised by Primary families for playground improvements will be ringfenced, and fundraising will be shared fairly across the whole school.





Your PTA

- Co-Chairs: Andrea DiCenzo (Primary) and Mawgan Sturge (Secondary)
- Vice Chair: Lottie Bagnall
- Treasurer: Lewis James Lawrence
- Technology Officer: Nicolo Graziano
- Communications Officer: Natalie Morris

If you're a parent or carer at Castle Newnham, you're automatically a member of the PTA. Everyone is welcome at our meetings, and you can come along as often or as rarely as you like.

Where does your money go?

2026-27 priorities include:

- Shade and seating for the playgrounds on both sites
- A trim trail on the South Site
- Money towards the mini bus
- Reading resources (Reception books, reading book bag and snacks, magazine subscription)
- Reception party and year 6 party
- And a small amount of our funds help support families with trip sponsorship when needed.

PTA Activities

We run events all year to raise money for our school. Here's what's coming up this term

- Break The Rules Day: Friday 23rd October
- Chess tournament: 17th October (refreshments available)
- Reception Party: 26th November
- Christmas Fair: Saturday 28 November - Volunteers welcome!
- Christmas Discos: Y1-4 on 15th Dec, Y5-8 on 16th Dec.
- Christmas Cards: coming soon!

Volunteers Needed!



Can you help serve refreshments at the chess tournament on Oct 17th?


Castle Newnham PTA
PRESENTS
RECEPTION- YEAR 6
BREAK THE RULES DAY
Friday 23 Oct!
Pay 50p per rule broken!
Choose which rules to break and pay via MCAS!
RULES TO BE BROKEN INCLUDE...
❌ No unhealthy snacks
❌ No crazy hair
❌ No colorful or mismatched socks
❌ No nail varnish
❌ No baseball caps in class
❌ Do not eat your pudding before lunch
❌ No own clothes or fancy dress
❌ Water bottles must only contain water
NO NUTS!!

Upcoming Dates

Monday 19th October	Reception to Year 6 Pastoral Consultation Evening
Wednesday 21st October	Reception to Year 6 Pastoral Consultation Evening Reception Reading Afternoon Year 6 Height & Weight checks
Friday 23rd October	Year 3 Reading Cafe
Monday 26th- Friday 30th October	**October half term (School Closed)**
Monday 2nd November	Year 11 in Class Mock Exams Begin
Tuesday 3rd November	Reception Open Mornings
Wednesday 4th November	Reception Open Mornings 10HC2 Young Chef Event
Thursday 5th November	Reception Open Mornings 10HC1 Young Chef Event
Friday 6th November	Year 2 Reading Morning
Monday 9th November	Year 1 Mock Phonics Screeners Begin
Tuesday 10th November	Reception Open Morning 2ED 2SS Multi sports Event
Wednesday 11th November	Reception Open Morning Remeberance Day

Thursday 12th November	Reception Open Morning
Friday 13th November	Year 2 Reading Morning Mock Y4 Multiplication Tables Checks End KS3 Reports Go Home Year 11 in Class Mock Exams Begin
Monday 16th November	Flu Vaccinations Odd Socks Day KS3 Drama Club ACT!-26 Theatre Performance at BMS
Thursday 19th November	SEND Coffee Morning Year 7 Consultation Evening
Friday 20th November	Children In Need Year 2 Reading Morning
Monday 23rd November	Reception - Year 5 Assessment Fortnight Year 6 Writing Moderation
Tuesday 24th November	Year 9 DTP/Men & ACWY Vaccinations
Friday 27th November	Year 2 Reading Morning Year 10 Target Grade Reports Home
Saturday 28th November	PTA Christmas Fair
Monday 30th November	Year 11 3D Design Mock Exam

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

WEEK



Lunch Menu: Week One

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.