



Castle Newnham

Monthly Matters

September 2024

Message from the Headteachers

Dear Families,

We are delighted to introduce the September edition of Castle Newnham Monthly Matters. As the Headteachers of Castle Newnham, we are incredibly proud to lead this fantastic school. This edition is shorter than usual, with only a number of important updates to share. We look forward to October's edition which will feature a more extensive review of the first half term.

This month marked an exciting new chapter for our school as we became the newest member of the Bedfordshire Schools Trust (BEST). We believe that joining BEST will provide even greater opportunities for our pupils, staff and community.

It has been wonderful to see many of our families at the most recent Information Evenings and Meet the Team events across the year groups and we look forward to our upcoming **Secondary Open Evening** and **Primary Open Events** to showcase our wonderful school to new (and in some cases existing families) for 2025 Reception and Year 7 admissions. More details for these events are on the school website.

We have much to look forward to over the academic year, and would like to thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

Kat Edwards

Headteacher - Primary

Sara Levesley

Headteacher - Secondary





Introducing the Head Pupils and Deputy Head Pupils

Dear Families

We are the newly appointed Head Pupils and Deputy Head Pupils who will lead the school's Junior Leadership Team (JLT). To step into these roles we had to write an application letter and participate in an interview where we shared our vision for the school this year. Over the coming weeks we will be meeting with the representatives from each class which will form the full Junior Leadership Team.

We will represent the pupil body by listening to their views and opinions ensuring that all voices are heard. We are driven by our commitment to the CORE values and will support all in our school to follow these to the best that they can.

In addition to leading the JLT, we have responsibility for the school's house system by leading our house: Kenilworth, Conwy or Stirling.

We are proud to be pupils at Castle Newnham and look forward to working with the school community over the coming year.

Best wishes

Alex, Bilal & Catrin
Head Pupils - Year 11

Samuel, Sophie & Hugh
Deputy Head Pupils - Year 6





Castle Newnham Celebrates GCSE Results



Castle Newnham is celebrating a good set of GCSE results which sees improving grades in a number of areas.

Headteacher of Secondary, Sara Levesley, “We are very proud of the achievements of our pupils. These results are a testament to the hard work of our entire team, not least of which are the pupils themselves. Many pupils have done very well, achieving well above their potential.”

Many pupils have secured places at their preferred sixth forms and colleges. As they look forward to the next stage of their education, Castle Newnham remains committed to supporting their continued success.

We wish everyone the very best as they embark on the next stage of their lives. They will always be a valued part of a community and we can't wait to hear what happens to them in the future.



CN Values Badges

Castle Newnham is all about celebrating its **CORE values**. The new Values Badge system allows pupils to showcase their commitment to these values. It is important that pupils are recognised for their achievements, dedication, and leadership throughout their time at Castle Newnham.

Pupils can earn badges for **consistently demonstrating exceptional behaviour that reflects each CORE value**, and becoming role models for their peers.

Community Badge	Exceeding expectations in and for the community
Opportunity Badge	Exceeding expectations in an opportunity
Respect Badge	Exceeding expectations through respect
Excellence Badge	Exceeding expectations through excellence
CORE Values Badge	Replacing the 4 badges above. Awarded if pupil gains all values badges

The system also recognises involvement beyond the classroom. Pupils who actively participate in **4SIXTEEN Theatre Productions** and **Sport** can achieve **Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards**.

Leadership roles like leading **catering events**, **reading buddies**, **Green Team champions**, and **language learning advocates** are also recognised with badges as part of the system.

Every pupil have been given a **House Badge** (either a blue, yellow or white badge), and those on the **Junior Leadership Team (JLT)** have their own badges to display.





Bedford's Castle Newnham joins Bedfordshire Schools Trust



The 2024/25 academic year marks the start of a new chapter after Castle Newnham officially joined the Bedfordshire Schools Trust (BEST). It becomes the 11th school in the BEST family of schools and nurseries, but the trust's first in Bedford Borough.

BEST chief executive officer, Dr Alan Lee, said: "This is a significant milestone for both the school and the trust. BEST has now grown into an organisation of 11 schools and five nurseries, with over 1,000 staff and 8,000 learners.

"We are considerably stronger together, and very much look forward to developing the many opportunities that now exist for further success."

Castle Newnham Primary headteacher, Kat Edwards, and secondary headteacher, Sara Levesley, said: "We are really excited for this next new chapter in the Castle Newnham story.

"We are a school at the heart of and for the local community, and being part of BEST will bring many added benefits for our pupils and our staff."

Castle Newnham chair of governors, Tom Barwood, said: "We have long felt that joining BEST was the best way forward for our school.

"This is an exciting next step for our community and we are looking forward to the future."



Site Developments



Throughout the summer, the North Site received some light redecoration including some feature walls. See photos below of the transformation.

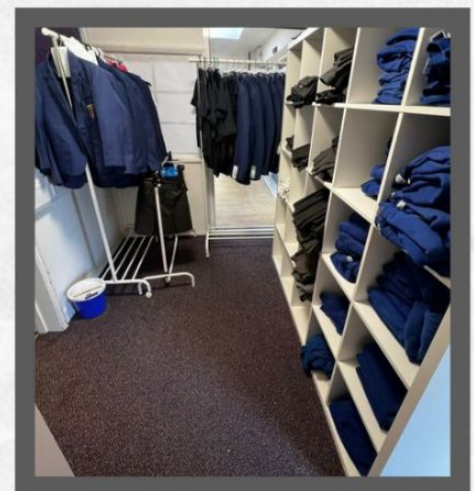
A new toilet block on South Site was built and completed in 6 weeks! The works have increased the number of toilets for our reception classrooms, as well as the addition of a wet room.



New signage was installed across the sites as part of the school joining BEST.



Uniform Shop opens offering pre-loved school uniforms at affordable prices for all members of our community. We operate on a 'pay what you can' basis, with all funds going back into the shop. We have a good selection of most uniform items (primary and secondary) and welcome donations. You can find us at the secondary main reception during school hours.



Interested in hiring our school facilities outside school hours? We host a number of organisations and have some space for even more for the community to use! Please visit our school website for information