



# Castle Newnham

## Monthly Matters



**October 2024**

Year 5 Autumn Leaves





## Message from the Headteachers

Dear Families,

Welcome to the October edition of the Monthly Matters.

You will notice that the front cover now features a piece of pupil artwork. We receive many comments from pupils, families and visitors about the quality of the pupil artwork that is displayed across the school sites and we look forward to showcasing a range of talent and skills in each edition of the Monthly Matters moving forward.

We have had a busy start to the academic year with many achievements, trips and experiences. Secondary Leaders have been busy giving tours to families who are interested in joining us next year in Year 7 and after half term Primary Leaders will be leading open events for families with children starting school in 2025.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a fond farewell to Nicola Woodward who is leaving us as she is relocating to the North of England. Nicola has worked as a Nursery Nurse at Castle Newnham for 23 years and will be greatly missed. We wish her well for the future!

We hope this edition of Monthly Matters gives you a flavour of the activity that has already taken place this year and want to take this opportunity to wish you a restful half term break and thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

**Kat Edwards**

**Headteacher - Primary**

**Sara Levesley**

**Headteacher - Secondary**





## Junior Leadership Team (JLT)

With our Junior Leadership Team Head Pupils and Deputy Head Pupils in place throughout primary and secondary, every class now has a JLT representative.

All of the JLT members will be meeting to discuss initiatives and plans going forward.

Plans include work around improving the outdoor areas, working with local charities and general fundraising for the school.

## FLIP to Spanish

Secondary pupils enjoyed a FLIP to Spanish day where all lessons featured an element of Spanish language. The kitchen served a tasty lunch for pupils to enjoy.

We are looking forward to FLIP to French in the Spring Term for all pupils across the school to enjoy.



## Introducing Castle Newnham's Pupil Reading Leader!

Hi, I'm Clem and I'm in 6JC. I will be taking on the role of the Whole School Reading Leader. I will be working closely with the Head and Deputy Head Pupils, the Junior Leadership Team and the Primary and Secondary Librarians to encourage a love of books throughout the whole school.

I hope to help students find the genre that suits them. My favourite genres are fantasy and sci-fi. I also like mysteries. Some of my favourite book series are the 'Land of Stories' by Chris Colfer, the 'School for Good and Evil' by Soman Chainani, and 'Percy Jackson' by Rick Riordan.

As well as reading, I enjoy acting, (which is great as Castle Newnham puts on so many productions) and building Lego.

I will do my best to help all three libraries to develop an 'all-through library,' and improve the selection of books. I want to encourage every pupil to explore lots of books and to love reading.





## Year 7 Admissions

The deadline for Year 7 Admissions is on  
31st October 2024

## Primary Open Events

Due to overwhelming demand, we have increased the spaces at our Primary Open Events for after half term. Please visit the website for further details

## Victorian Day

Year 6 were treated to a Victorian Day which involved experiencing life in a Victorian school reciting time tables, phrases, spellings, using chalk and slates, as well as dipping their fountain pens into ink in order to write. The children also made embossed coins and a thaumatrope, which was a popular Victorian toy. Each class had the opportunity to participate in a selection of drama activities, whereby they took on various roles within Victorian society.

## New Prospectus!

Introducing the BRAND NEW Castle Newnham prospectus!

Please visit the school website to see an online version. Hard copies are available at Open Events and the school office.





# PRIMARY SPORTS UPDATE

## Football

We have had a fantastic run of results in our year 6 boys football league. The boys have recently played four fixtures against a range of local schools, winning all four and having a goal difference of 22, only conceding 4 goals! We were awarded the win in our final game this half term due to our opposition being unable to compete. The performances have been outstanding by all of those pupils involved and have been a real credit to our school by showing great sportsmanship.

## Multi-Sports Festival

The first of our multi-sports festival has taken place this half term with 3TK and 4CE visiting another local primary school where the session was led by some sports leaders. All pupils were involved in either OAA, tag rugby or goalball. It was great to see all the children being active and having a smile on their faces whilst they learnt new skills and had a chance to participate in sports they may never have tried before. Throughout the event, the children all demonstrated the school games values of determination, honesty, self belief, passion, teamwork and respect. Well done to all involved!



## Netball

The year 5 team were brand new to this sport at the start of the year and have made tremendous progress in their understanding of the rules and their play. They have played three fixtures so far against local schools with one still to play. Although we have not picked up a win so far, this has not stopped the players from playing with a smile on their faces, always being willing to try new positions and showing fantastic teamwork.

The year 6 team have continued to develop their netball skills and understanding of the game throughout this half term. The team has played four games so far with one more still to play, they have managed to win one of these games. Each week they have grown into the game and shown fantastic potential against some very tough opposition. The year 6 team have also supported their peers in the year 5 team to learn and understand the sport which has been fantastic to see.



# SECONDARY SPORTS UPDATE

## Football

A great start to the school year for the year 7 boys football team. Some solid performances have resulted in 3 wins and only 1 narrow defeat. 2 games left to play for the team who will be hoping to excel moving forwards. They are still in the County Cup and we will be facing the winners of Queensbury Academy and Mark Rutherford in the second round. Training will be continuing to be on Wednesdays after school, so come along and get involved.

The Year 7/8 girls had 3 weeks of fixtures against other local schools in the area. A very competitive league which saw the girls win 2 matches and lose 3. Every week we can see the progress they are making and we are looking forward to the upcoming futsal league. Training will still be on a Tuesday after school, so get along to practice!

Year 10 Boys have recently played their National Cup game at home against a very strong Redborne School team. Unfortunately the result didn't go our way but they should be very proud of the effort and commitment they displayed in the game and also in training every week.

Year 11 Boys have played one of their district matches recently. The first match against Goldington was a very close game, with Goldington just edging the result 2-1. Their next game is against Samuel Whitbread on the 16th October. They have also played their National Cup 1st round match, where they lost out on penalties to Lincroft. A shout out to Ollie W for saving a last minute penalty to take the game to penalties.

Year 10/11 girls also competed in the National Cup against St. Ivo School, against coming close to winning but just missing out and being beaten 4-2. A really great effort by the girls considering they haven't had much opportunity before to compete at this level.

Well done to Theo S & Jessica I-H for making it into their respective County Football teams. They will be representing Bedfordshire throughout this year and Jess has even had the opportunity to play at Arsenal's training ground. Well done to all others who were put forward for the trials: Miles V, Archie R, Reece E and Sam M.



## SECONDARY SPORTS UPDATE CONTINUED

### Rugby

Our rugby programme is well and truly up and running. At practice we have seen a drastic improvement in the numbers attending with over 30 pupils attending, we would love to see more!

Our Year 8 boys competed in the district competition and really enjoyed the experience. They have some more fixtures coming up so we look forward to seeing their development along the way!

Today our Year 7/8 and 9/10 girls are taking part in a rugby festival, 15 girls are in attendance with more wanting to play. We hope to see them all at training on a Thursday after school.

### Year 7 Sports Festival

Every Wednesday this half term, some of our Year 7s have competed in various sporting events, ranging from, dodgeball, sportshall athletics, cheerleading, table tennis and tchoukball. On the 23rd October they will be competing in a rugby festival (contact for the boys and touch for the girls). We have seen over 40 different pupils from year 7 take part which is great to see.

### Netball

Our netballers have been practising hard this half term with over 50 pupils consistently turning up to practise on a Wednesday after school. The Year 9 & 10 teams have had some of their fixtures already with a mixture of results and showing a great level of improvement along the way. Our most recent fixture for Year 10 was rained off whilst we were 4-0 up!

### Table Tennis

Year 7/8 boys had their table tennis tournament on Monday just gone and we took one team of 5. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and finished 4th in their group.

Year 9-11 boys had their first part of their table tennis tournament this week just gone. We entered 3 teams and the boys really enjoyed themselves. Most of those playing have chosen table tennis as one of their sports to be assessed for in GCSE PE. Our A team finished 3rd in the group, with our B team finishing 1st in their group and the C team also finished 3rd in theirs. Well done to all involved.



## SECONDARY SPORTS IN ACTION

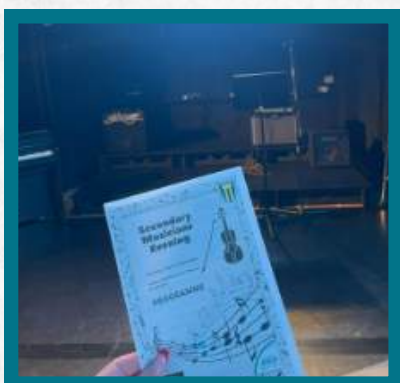




## *Performing Arts* UPDATE

### Young Voices 2025

We have just started teaching the singing content for Young Voices. We're looking forward to taking Year 5 and 6 pupils to the event again this year. Look out for a letter on ParentMail to register your interest in attending.



### Bright Futures

GCSE Dance had the opportunity to participate in a practical workshop led by Bedford Academy. They were also informed about the dance courses available at Bedford Academy and were provided with information on the benefits of continuing dance studies at a higher level.

Year 11 musicians had a visit from Mark Rutherford school with an A level taster session. They got to experience what A level music would look like on a day to day basis but also learn more about the A level course and advantages of taking Music into further education.

### Secondary Musicians

Our Secondary pupils had the opportunity to showcase their musical abilities at Secondary Musicians evening. It was a lovely intimate performance evening showcasing different instrumentalists of varying abilities, all supporting each other in their development.

Primary Musicians Evening is coming later in the year!





# Monthly Matters

October 2024



## AWARD WINNERS

4SIXTEEN Theatre Company were invited to the NODA East District Awards at Sharnbrook Mill Theatre!

Congratulations to Ben for winning the award for Best lighting (Goldilocks and the Three Bears)

Annabel and Lyra both received high commendations in the Outstanding Youth Performance category (Ghost and Oliver Jr.)! Phoebe was nominated alongside both youth and adult performers in the category for Best Musical Performance and was highly commended.

It was a great day for staff achievements as well- Miss Sophie Kelk (4SIXTEEN Coordinator) and Mrs Samantha Smith (Music Teacher) were nominated for Best Costume and Makeup for Oliver Jr. and were highly commended.

Mr Luke Skeel (Assistant Headteacher) received one of three very special recognition awards yesterday. He was recognised for his vision in creating and developing 4SIXTEEN Theatre Company at Castle Newnham School.

Richard Fitt (NODA) commented how amazing it has been to see 4SIXTEEN grow from an acorn in the school hall to the triumph it is today, setting the standard for youth performance and encouraging, inspiring other youth groups.

We couldn't agree more!



**ON SALE FROM 31ST OCTOBER**



## Year 11 Geographahy Field Work

Our GCSE Geographers take part in fieldwork to two places - both a town (Bedford) and the coast.

Year 11 coastal fieldwork at Hunstanton where the weather worked with us - and was glorious! Pupils worked brilliantly and can be very proud of themselves - as we were and are. They considered a variety of coastal features at both Hunstanton and Old Hunstanton, measured and collected data and analysed (and evaluated) this afterwards during a very intense day of follow-up fieldwork in school - Year 11, well done for your efforts and resilience which will pay dividends.

We were so impressed with the way Year 11 pupils conducted themselves, worked in groups - efficiently, accurately and supporting each other - and then drew conclusions from their data. Fieldwork data can often throw up surprises, but pupils used their prior geographical learning to both explain data we expected and suggest reasons for that which we didn't! Well done Year 11 and a big thank you to all the staff involved in running the trip, many of whom also got up in the wee hours, without whose support such trips would not be possible.





## TESLA visits Castle Newnham



We were delighted to welcome Becky Lawton from Tesla to talk to our Year 10 and Year 11 pupils about careers with the company as part of their information, careers and aspirations programme. Pupils received an assembly about what a day in the life of looks like, entry routes and the benefits of working for the company. It was fascinating to hear about the experiences you would receive as a trainee of the company, as well as the future investment and direction Tesla is heading in!

### Open Classrooms

It was lovely to see so many families visit their child's classroom in primary for the Open Classrooms this month.

### Secondary Open Evening

We welcomed over 300 families to our Secondary Open Evening this month. It was a very busy evening with 4 fully booked Headteacher presentations (500 seats overall!)

We were very proud of the pupils who made the evening such a success and perfectly displayed the CORE values when presenting our wonderful school.