



Message from the Federation Principal

Dear Families,

We are fast approaching the February half term, the half-way point in the school year and a good time to take stock and recognise all of the many achievements of our pupils and staff. Whether in sports, in the arts, in designing and making something practical, in support for their community, in displaying excellence in their academic work we are proud of the hard work, commitment and creativity which has gone into many of these achievements. I'd also like to personally thank Mrs Edwards and Mrs Levesley as our Heads of School for their commitment to ensuring our school is the best it can be in both primary and secondary phases. Some great strides forwards have been made this year, from the adoption of new systems for ensuring a great school culture of conduct to the introduction of new ways of improving children's writing. I'm really looking forward to seeing how the new initiatives show themselves in outcomes for children at the end of the school year. I hope you follow all of this work in school in detail via our weekly communications and / or via our social media platforms and that you take part in our regular Quick Questions which provide us with really valuable feedback on various aspects of school life.

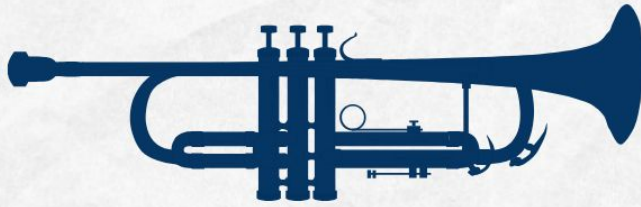
Meanwhile, behind the scenes, work has been ongoing with BEST to further our work towards joining the trust. We have already begun partnership working at curriculum level in a number of areas and taken advantage of some training events for staff and pupils alike. We understand that by the end of March our application to join will have been considered by the Department for Education and that the formal process can be concluded by the end of the academic year.

With the winter months almost behind us I wish all of our families a very happy half-term break when it arrives as we look forward to spring and summer.

With best wishes

Ruth Wilkes
Federation Principal





Updated Cafe

Thank you to the site team for their tremendous work over the Christmas period reconfiguring the secondary cafe. The space has dedicated seating for each key stage, it's brighter, and provides a more easily accessible queue for purchasing food.



The Brass Academy

The Brass Academy is based at Castle Newnham School. Its primary objective is to promote brass playing at the school. There are now several places available for pupils from across all school years - primary and secondary. We would also like to hear from families, as we have several Castle Newnham parents learning to play. Tuition is free, with a small charge made for instrument hire. All sessions are held in the Primary Hall on the North site Tuesdays and Thursdays between 5pm and 7.30pm.

If you would like to be part of the Brass Academy and learn to play a brass instrument, please speak to the Performing Arts Department or email on performingarts@castlenewnham.school. Alternatively, for more information or enquiries about our training groups for parents please contact:-

Peter Berrington
Academy Manager
Email: peterberrington@btinternet.com

BEST Student Conference

Selected members of the JLC across primary and secondary were invited to the BEST Student Conference this month. The sessions focused on 'promoting wellbeing in schools'. Pupils listened to a talk from a visiting speaker and devised a presentation which they will be sharing with the rest of the JLC and members of the senior leadership team.



The House System

Total points across Primary and Secondary

Stirling

117,070

Conwy

111,130

Kenilworth

109,290



Opportunity

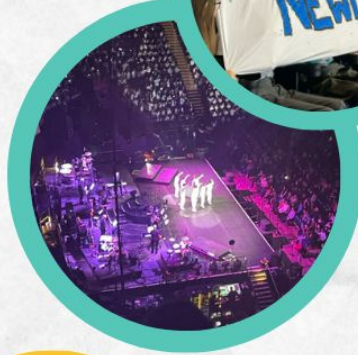
CN CORE Values

Performing Arts UPDATE



54 Year 9 pupils went to see Frozen in London's West End!

Follow us on Instagram and Twitter:
@CN_PerformArts



107 pupils from Years 5+6 went to London's O2 Arena to take part in Young Voices!



Well done to the Year 11 GCSE Drama pupils for completing their performance exam




Primary Musicians Evening

Pupils from across Primary came together for a night of musical showcasing with a lovely intimate set of performances. A big well done to all pupils that took part, especially those who had their first experience performing in front of an audience!




CASTLE NEWHAM SCHOOL'S AWARD WINNING
4SIXTEEN THEATRE COMPANY
PROUDLY PRESENTS



Goldilocks And The Three Bears

TUESDAY 13TH & WEDNESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2024

TICKETS: £8.00
WWW.CASTLENEWHAM.SCHOOL/ABOUT-US/BOX-OFFICE



CASTLE NEWHAM SCHOOL'S AWARD WINNING
4SIXTEEN THEATRE COMPANY
PROUDLY PRESENTS



GHOST THE MUSICAL

MONDAY 4TH - THURSDAY 7TH MARCH 2024
SATURDAY 9TH MARCH 2024

EVENING PERFORMANCES 7PM
SATURDAY MATINEE 2PM
TICKETS: £8.00
WWW.CASTLENEWHAM.SCHOOL/ABOUT-US/BOX-OFFICE

Hollands Smith



Tickets selling fast for our upcoming productions

[BUY TICKETS HERE](#)





PE & SPORT UPDATE

Follow us on instagram @castle_newnham_PE

Follow us on twitter @CN_PE



Well done to the amazing runners at the District Cross Country event. 5 secondary pupils have qualified for next week's County event! We even got a Silver medal!



Meet the new Primary Sports Assistant

We are really excited to have welcomed Mr Crowley to Castle Newnham who has joined us as the new Primary PE and Sports assistant.

"As the Head of Strength and Conditioning at Richmond Rugby, I am looking forward to bringing some of that expertise into a school environment. I am very passionate about sport and PE and am highly motivated to ensure that children can find their own way to enjoy physical activity whilst developing fundamental skills" - Mr Crowley



NORTH SITE: PE & SPORT



SPRING TERM	BEFORE SCHOOL (8- 8:30AM)	AFTER SCHOOL (3:15- 4:30PM)
MONDAY	N/A	N/A
TUESDAY	YEAR 5 SPORTS CLUB (PRIMARY HALL) MR CROWLEY SECONDARY INDOOR ROWING (SPORTS HALL) MR MULKERRINS	YEAR 5 & 6 NETBALL (NETBALL COURTS) MISS MARTIN YEAR 5 & 6 TABLE TENNIS (SPORTS HALL) MISS TAYLOR SECONDARY RUGBY (FIELD) MR STARK/ MR CHAPMAN/ CHEF SECONDARY NETBALL (GCSE COMPULSORY) (NETBALL COURTS) MISS HUSSAIN GCSE REVISION (SC5) MISS REID YEAR 10 & 11 FOOTBALL (GCSE COMPULSORY) (FIELD) MR SAUNDERS
WEDNESDAY	YEAR 8 FUTSAL (SPORTS HALL) MR GRAY	SECONDARY FITNESS (FIELD) MR PHILLIPS & MR STARK
THURSDAY	YEAR 5 & 6 DODGEBALL (SPORTS HALL) MISS OWEN YEAR 6 SPORTS CLUB (PRIMARY HALL) MR CROWLEY	N/A
FRIDAY	YEAR 5 & 6 BASKETBALL (SPORTS HALL) MR PHILLIPS	N/A



SOUTH SITE: PE & SPORT



SPRING TERM	AFTER SCHOOL (3:30- 4:30PM)
MONDAY	YEAR 1 MULTI SPORTS (BLOCK 1 HALL) YEAR 2 SPORTS CLUB (DINING HALL) UNTIL 4:15PM
TUESDAY	YEAR 2 MULTI SPORTS (BLOCK 2 HALL)
WEDNESDAY	YEAR 1 GYMNASTICS (BLOCK 2 HALL) UNTIL 4:15PM YEAR 4 SPORTS CLUB (DINING HALL) UNTIL 4:15PM YEAR 3 MULTI SPORTS (BLOCK 1 HALL)
THURSDAY	YEAR 5 MULTI SPORTS (BLOCK 1 HALL)
FRIDAY	YEAR 2, 3 & 4 GYMNASTICS (BLOCK 2 HALL) UNTIL 4:15PM YEAR 3 SPORTS CLUB (DINING HALL) UNTIL 4:15PM



One-Way-System

The new one-way-system in the secondary building has been really well received by pupils and staff alike. It has made a noticeable difference in pupils arriving on time to lessons and being able to start their learning quickly.

“The corridors are calmer and we can get to lesson quicker”

- Year 8 pupil



Track-it Lights

Thank you to the **81% of primary families** that have signed up to 'Track-it Lights'. This new app ensures smoother communication between home and school, allowing families to see the behaviour of their child in school.

Punctuality Pays

We've been working really hard with secondary pupils and families to improve punctuality to school in the morning. This is primarily so that pupils are in the best place to start learning at the start of the day. We have seen a significant reduction in secondary pupils arriving late by a **whopping 75%**.

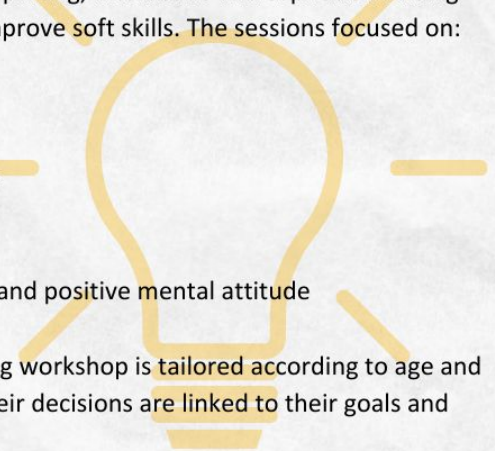


'Positively You' workshops

Year 10 and 11 pupils took part in a workshop on Making Informed Decisions which was an uplifting, interactive and aspiration-raising workshop designed to improve soft skills. The sessions focused on:

- Communication
- Decision-making
- Critical thinking skills
- Raising confidence
- Lifting aspirations
- Developing a strong and positive mental attitude

This multisensory learning workshop is tailored according to age and helps pupils to ensure their decisions are linked to their goals and ambitions.



SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Operation Encompass is a police and education early information safeguarding partnership that aims to reduce the long-term impacts of domestic abuse by enabling schools to offer immediate support and early intervention to children experiencing domestic abuse.

When the police attend incidents of domestic violence or abuse where children are directly or indirectly involved, they notify the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) at the child's school before the start of the next school day. At Castle Newnham all four of our DSLs receive the Operation Encompass notifications.

We are informed whether or not the child was present and if they witnessed the incident, as well as if children's services have been informed and what action we as a school need to take, if any.

For more information please visit www.operationencompass.org/

If you're a parent or carer concerned about a child affected by domestic abuse then please speak to one of our DSLs. This can be done by calling the school office or emailing safeguarding@castlenewnham.school.

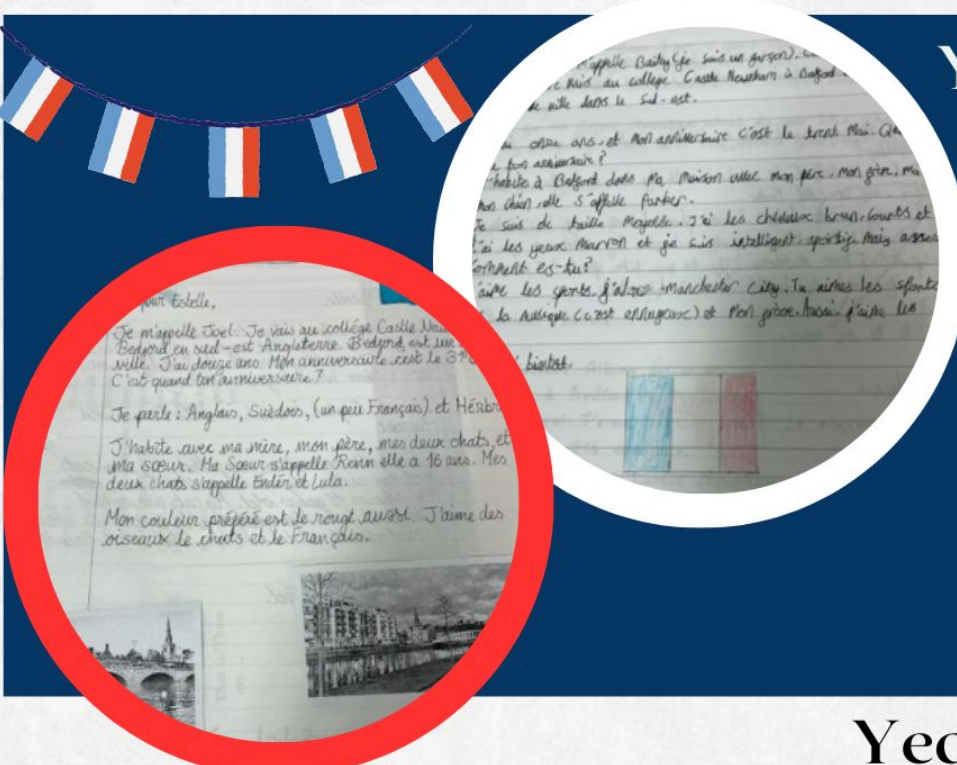


Rotary Club Young Chef

This term our Year 10 GCSE Hospitality & Catering pupils all participated in The Rotary Young Chef cooking competition. The entire cohort of pupils cooked a hot main course dish as part of the first stage of the competition. The Rotary Club of Bedford sponsored 16 pupils to take through to the next round of the competition and paid for the cost of all their ingredients. The 16 pupils planned, prepared & cooked a 2 course meal for guest judges Phil Fanning (Executive chef at Paris House in Woburn) & Josef Plattne (Head Chef at Cranfield University). The judges were blown away by the standard of cooking and gave every pupil detailed, one-to-one feedback. After tough deliberation, they selected James H 10HMG, Melody H 10MS, Alessia F 10HMG & Henry M 10SN as the four finalists who will now receive training from Phil Fanning at the Paris House restaurant and they will cook at the next stage of the competition in Hitchin against other schools.

Year 7 Pen Friends

Year 7 pupils have been busy writing pen-friend letters in French to their new pen friends at Collège Pierre Fouché in Ille-sur-Têt, a secondary school in the South of France. Pupils have enjoyed writing about their hobbies, interests and family as well as describing themselves in French. Here are some examples of the wonderful letters they produced:



Year 11 Cooking Exams

Year 11 GCSE Hospitality & Catering pupils all completed their cooking exams after the Christmas break. Pupils had to plan, prepare & cook a two course meal for this year's brief. We are immensely proud of all the pupils for producing such highly skilled dishes and they should all be very proud of themselves and of their achievements in this course so far.

Primary are 'Inspired to Write'

The work showcased in our first **Inspired to Write** includes children's writing from EYFS through to Year 6, and is a clear demonstration of the progression from Early Years through to the upper end of primary. As a school we encourage a focus on audience and purpose when pupils are writing across the curriculum, and this publication serves as an excellent medium to reach an audience.





Our Wider Community

CN CORE Values

The Place Theatre

The Place Theatre is holding a unique, immersive and sensory performance of Autism & Sea this February. Autism & Sea is based on the book Series by Amy Le Dain and this performance will have integrated British Sign Language (BSL).

Tickets for this event are only available online. You can purchase these by following the link below.

<https://www.theplacebedford.org.uk/shows/autism-sea/>

SWIMMING TO A THEATRE NEAR YOU
TOURING FEBRUARY 2024

AUTISM & SEA

10TH FEBRUARY 2024

A UNIQUE, IMMERSIVE & SENSORY PERFORMANCE WITH
INTERGRATED BSL BASED ON THE BOOK SERIES BY AMY LE DAIN

STANDARD £10 CHILDREN £8 FAMILY £32

PLUS THEATRE FEES

THE PLACE THEATRE
Bradgate Rd,
Bedford
MK40 5BE
12 PM & 3PM

SPECTRUM

The PLACE Bedford

Learn to Row!

Star Club
MIND OVER MATTER

LEARN TO ROW
EASTER 2024

YR 8+
ACADEMIC YEAR
2024/25

8 APRIL - 11 APRIL, 2024
(MONDAY TO THURSDAY)
10:00 - 16:00

**LED BY FORMER GB ROWER
COACH TOM BURTON!**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Participants need to be:
• Minimum school year 8 for academic year 2024/25
• Swim 50m in clothing
• Confident in and around water

CONTACT US
✉ info@starclubrowing.co.uk

WHERE
📍 Star Club, Batts Ford, Commercial Road,
Bedford, MK40 1QS

£125
MON- THU

SPRING 2024
HOLIDAY
TENNIS CAMPS
4-18 YRS

FEB, EASTER & MAY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

riverside
tennis

Riverside Tennis

The Spring Holiday Tennis Camps are available to book:

- Available for: February Half Term, Easter holidays, May Half Term.
- Spring Holiday Camp Programme: [please click here.](#)
- Booking: [please book via our website here.](#)



Our Wider Community

CN CORE Values

Bedford Music Hub @ Castle Newnham

**BEDFORD
MUSIC
- HUB -**

Weekly Activities



Is there something for you?

Tuesdays

Kids Chorus (Ages 7-11) 4:30pm
Dhol Drumming (Beginners) 6:30pm
Bedford Town Band Academy 5pm

Wednesdays

Vocal Beats (Beatbox & Rap) 5pm
Digital Beats (DJing) 6pm
Creative Beats (Music Production) 6pm

Thursdays

Bedford Town Band Academy 5pm
Rock School (Ages 12-18) 6pm & 7:30pm
Rox VOX (Ages 11-18) 6:30pm



**LUMA
SOUNDS**



Fridays

Junior Strings 4:30pm
Intermediate Jazz 4:30pm
Intermediate Strings 5:15pm
North Beds Youth Choir 5:15pm
Junior & Intermediate Wind Band 5:45pm
North Beds Youth Chamber Orchestra 7pm

Saturdays

Music Centre - Ages 3-14 (9-12pm)
'Learn To Play' Brass/Strings/Ukulele/Guitar/Drums/Keyboards
Songwriting/Keyboards/iPads/Rock Band
String Group/Wind Band/Jazz Band/Choir
Early years music (Ages 3-6)



Find out more and sign up on our website...

BedfordMusicHub.org.uk or call 01234 718088