



Message from the Federation Principal

Dear Families,

We are all looking forward to a nice (and hopefully spring-like) break over the Easter holidays.

I'd like to pay tribute to our staff across Castle Newnham who work hard to ensure that the experience of school and extra-curricular activities for our pupils is full, happy, varied and successful. I always enjoy meeting visitors to our sites and they invariably comment on the warm and happy atmosphere. Very many families also express their appreciation of those going above and beyond a paid job of work to care for and encourage their children and this recognition is so appreciated and spurs us even more in our dedication. If, as is inevitable from time to time, you are less than happy about a decision we've made or a course of action involving your child it is so helpful to raise this with respect and understanding, wanting to find out any context or different point of view. Children of any age can sometimes present an issue in school without a full understanding of the whole picture or even with the intention of avoiding a consequence either at home or at school. These instances are thankfully rare but just occasionally I find myself shocked and disappointed at the way a colleague has been spoken to or approached via email by a parent or carer. I am especially mindful of this in the case of our office staff who do a wonderful job in greeting visitors in person and callers calmly and respectfully, whilst trying to find the right member of staff to deal with a matter raised. I'm sure our families would join me in appreciating all these colleagues do for the school.

I hope you enjoy this summary of events of the last month and reminders for what's coming up in the Summer. Once again I wish you all a very happy holiday and look forward to seeing our pupils again on Tuesday 16th April following a training day for staff on the Monday.

With best wishes

Ruth Wilkes
Federation Principal





THANK YOU!

We would like to wish **Joe Thompson** (Teacher of Maths & Science) and **Duncan Wrigglesworth** (DT Technician) a fond farewell and good luck as they move onto new opportunities. Thank you to these colleagues for their commitment to Castle Newnham.

MEAL PRICE INCREASE

The cost of a school main meal price will increase to £2.60 from Tuesday 16th April



World Book Day



Red Nose Day

In primary, we hosted a non-uniform day to raise money for Comic Relief. It was fantastic to see so many children with red noses! The children participated in some fun red nose activities too. Thank you to everybody who donated to Comic Relief.



PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING EASTER HOLIDAYS 2024

moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free



ASDA

Kids eat for £1 All Day, Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.

TESCO

Kids eat free with a purchase of 60p+ from From Mon 12th - Fri in Half Terms 2024

SAINSBURYS CAFES

Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult

TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase an adult's main meal (App needed)

PUREZZA

Children under the age of 10 get free pizza at Purezza with every adult meal purchased

TRAVELODGE & PREMIER INN

Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

SIZZLING PUBS

Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

COCONUT TREE

One child (10 & Under) eats free per paying adult. Valid from 23/03/2024 - 14/04/2024

MORRISONS

Spend £4.49 and get one free kids meal all day, every day.

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

WHITBREAD INNS

Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.

BILLS

Two kids can eat free ALL DAY (Weekdays) from Monday 25th March - Friday 12th April 2024, with one adult main dish.

DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES

At Dobbies, for every adult breakfast or lunch purchase, kids eat for FREE. Every Day!

TABLE TABLE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.



Rotary Club Competition

The Young Chef cooking competition continues...

Our wonderful year 10 Hospitality & Catering pupils have all participated in Rotary's Young Chef Competition. The competition was judged by Phil Fanning (from Paris House in Woburn) and Melody H, James H, Alessia F & Henry M were selected to go on to the District Finals. Castle Newnham School was selected as the District Final Hosts and on Saturday 2nd March, pupils from schools across the three counties gathered in our kitchen to cook their best 2 course meal in 2 hours.

Castle Newnham pupils were outstanding and James H was selected as the District winner and Alessia F was selected as the runner up! Both pupils will now compete at the Cluster Finals in Newbury. We wish them both the best of luck!

Year 6 Geography Trip to Bedford Park

Year 6 conducted their geography field trip by walking to Bedford Park to collect their data. Their inquiry is: 'What activities and facilities are there for 10 and 11 year olds in our local area?' This will inform part of their unit for Welcome to the UK where they have looked at settlements, topography of the UK and the geography and history of Bedfordshire.





GHOST THE MUSICAL

4SIXTEEN's production of Ghost:The Musical was a huge success. A week of sell-out performances had audience members **"blown away by the talent in this production"** (Audience Review).

Here is one of the many reviews we received:

Something amazing is happening this week at Castle Newnham and it's called Ghost The Musical. I have seen many youth productions over the years, but I honestly don't think I have ever seen anything as accomplished as this. If your idea of a school production is something you have to endure rather than enjoy, you clearly haven't been to Castle Newnham. Sometimes you see a show and know that you are privileged just to be there. This is one of those shows.

It's not just that these young performers are good (though they are good - my goodness, they are SO good, such mature performances from these young actors/singers/dancers, handling quite challenging material like they're born to it), but everything about the production is hugely impressive, from the atmospheric lighting to the judicious use of the smoke machine (how did they make the ghosts appear? It got me every time), from the brilliant choreography and movement (the torchlight scenes!!) to even the set changes (oh, please - the set changes are an art form in their own right). It is truly top-drawer entertainment.

Anyone who has seen any show at CN over the last few years knows that the performing arts team is packed full of talent, and they all seem to be at the top of their game for Ghost, but what I love the most about what they do is they make it all about the performers. All the lighting, sound, direction (and yes, even the set changes) are there to highlight what the kids can do.

There are no background performers here, everyone is allowed to shine, which is exactly what a good school production should do. Top marks all round. Encore!





SEND Workshop



Families from across the school came together for the latest SEND Workshop.

For further information on future workshops and support, contact the school office.



Young Carers Day

Young Carers from primary and secondary met for Cake, Games and Catch Up to mark Young Carers Action Day on Wednesday 16th March.

Castle Newnham School Safeguarding Team



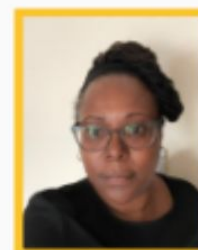
Mr M Cleaver
DSL Primary



Mrs K Edwards
Head of School - Primary
DSL Primary



Mrs R Wilkes
Federation Principal
DSL



Mrs B McWilliams
DSL Secondary



Mrs S Levesley
Head of School - Secondary
DSL Secondary

All members of the Senior Leadership Team have the appropriate DSL training and can support safeguarding questions or concerns



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about **CLICKBAIT**

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Clickbait is a controversial online marketing strategy which uses sensationalist (and frequently misleading) headlines to encourage engagement with an article, image or video – often playing on users' emotions and curiosity, while much of the actual content is of questionable accuracy. Clickbait is also sometimes used to disguise scams, phishing sites and malware.

HARMFUL MISINFORMATION

Clickbait tends to play fast and loose with the truth, opting for eye-catching content over objectivity. This is particularly dangerous for younger internet users, who are generally more susceptible to that type of material. A child could be presented with fake news, misleading articles and – in some cases – outright lies without fully understanding what they're viewing and why it's harmful.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Due to the misleading nature of many examples of clickbait, what may seem to be innocuous and child friendly could actually contain age-inappropriate material such as extremist political views or violent, pornographic or sexually explicit content. This is clearly a hazard for young people, who could be upset, disturbed or influenced by exposure to such subject matter.

HIDDEN MALWARE

While most clickbait is simply trying to promote engagement to earn companies additional revenue, some of it does redirect to dubious sites with the potential to infect devices with viruses or malware. This could put a child's sensitive data – such as their name, their location and their date of birth – at risk of being accessed and exploited by malicious hackers.

PRIVACY PROBLEMS

Some clickbait leads to sites which could coax a child into volunteering their personal data – using pop-ups to ask them for their email address and phone number, for example, in exchange for accessing additional content or subscribing to various services. Normally, this harvested information is then sold to third parties, who often utilise it for targeted adverts and other sales schemes.

A DRAINING DISTRACTION

Clickbait encourages spiralling consumption of online content, which could easily result in a young person spending hours scrolling aimlessly instead of doing something productive or interacting with family and friends. This can leave them tired, apathetic and lacking focus – and, in the long term, can negatively impact their social skills, education and mental wellbeing.

IMPACT ON BEHAVIOUR

Depending on the type of clickbait a child is interacting with, you might notice negative changes in their behaviour. Weight loss scams, for example, are common among clickbait and have the potential to influence eating habits and body image – while deliberately inflammatory 'rage bait' articles can leave impressionable young people feeling irritable, restless or argumentative.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START A CONVERSATION

The sheer volume of clickbait can make protecting children against it quite challenging. It's vital to talk to young people regularly about the types of content they encounter online, so that they understand the risks of engaging with clickbait. If you're still concerned, it may also be wise to keep an eye on children's online activity to ensure they're not being tempted by clickbait headlines.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Encouraging children to question the legitimacy of sensational headlines and too-good-to-be-true promises will help them to become savvier online – and far less likely to be drawn in by clickbait content. These critical thinking skills will also serve to protect them in other areas of the digital world where misinformation is becoming increasingly common.

SPOT THE TELLTALE SIGNS

There are certain common elements in clickbait, including headlines and images that use shock and outrage to grab people's attention – as well as numbered lists, such as '8 Facts You Won't Believe Are True'. Some clickbait combines several of these tactics to snag users' interest. Learn to recognise these techniques for yourself so you can teach children to notice them as well.

TAKE CONTROL

Many parents opt to place limits on how long their children can spend online each day, which obviously reduces the chance of exposure to clickbait. Alternatively, most internet-enabled devices have built-in controls that allow parents to manage what sort of online content their child can access – including filtering by age, which can screen out a percentage of inappropriate material.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology writer with more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of Tech Tabloid The Inquirer, she is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant who writes for Forbes, TechRadar and Wired, among others.





'New Forest' planted at Castle Newnham School



The donation of 420 saplings has allowed a secondary school in Bedford to plant its own 'New Forest' within the school grounds.

Through the curriculum, pupils at Castle Newnham School on Polhill Avenue have been considering deforestation – its causes, impacts and the part it plays in global warming.

They have also been learning about the importance of replanting trees.

Last week, with the support of The Woodland Trust, the school had the chance to put words into action as pupils from the Secondary Green Team planted trees in parts of the school field, starting their very own 'New Forest'.

The project was led by Katherine Mohrasri, Head of Geography at Castle Newnham, who said: "The area will provide shade for pupils, make our environment even more pleasant and, of course, go some way to absorbing more carbon dioxide from the air.

"Pupils were very pleased to take part and the saplings look very comfortable in their new surroundings.

"At Castle Newnham, we take every opportunity to be thoughtful citizens of our Earth and always try to 'think global, act local' which links to our CORE value of community. Well done to all involved."



GCSE Exams

Year 11 are busy preparing for their GCSE exams which commence in May.



Paris House Visit

Paris House is a beautiful Michelin restaurant set in the stunning deer park of the Woburn Estate. Phil Fanning, executive chef and owner of Paris House, participated in Junior Master Chef as a child and is passionate about teaching the younger generation about the life skill of food. Phil visited Castle Newnham to judge the Young Chef cooking competition and when he selected his 4 winners, surprised them all with a trip to Paris House and taste his recipes! James, Henry, Melody & Alessia were treated to an afternoon sat at 'Chefs Table' learning about food production, japanese flavours and sampling the 6 course taster menu. A few weeks later, James was selected as the District Winner of Young Chef and Phil invited him over to spend the day at Paris House working in the kitchen as a Commis Chef. A huge thank you to Phil for providing our pupils with these memorable experiences!

Inspired to Write

Do not miss the latest edition of Inspired to Write, showcasing writing excellence in primary.





Excellence

CN CORE Values

National Careers Week



CNS Alumni return to discuss their careers and offer advice to our pupils





GCSE English Trip

A group of passionate year 11 pupils took the wonderful opportunity to visit the remarkable Emmanuel Centre in London for a series of invaluable lectures focusing on the immense power of English. Whilst taking on board key advice from industry professionals, the students gained vital knowledge, confidence and guidance in preparation for their upcoming exams.

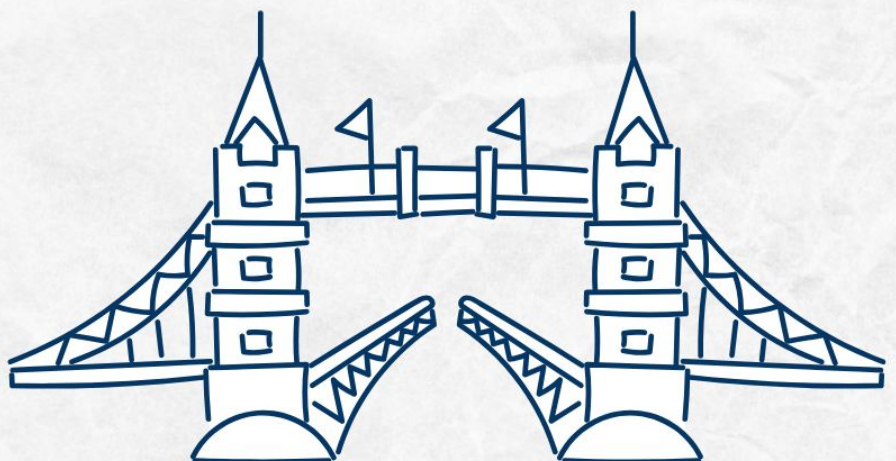
During the morning, the students experienced multiple lectures surrounding English language, non-fiction and unseen poetry. The brilliant speakers intelligently delivered engaging talks to ensure all students were fully equipped for their exams. For example, they each provided the students with knowledge on how to accurately answer the targeted question analytically whilst under exam and time pressure.

This was followed by a thought-provoking lecture from the director of numerous Shakespeare performances at The Globe Theatre, Nick Hutchinson. Throughout his compelling lecture, the students developed an intuitive understanding into Shakespeare's ingenious methodology and why his work is still relevant in today's fast-paced society.

Hutchinson encouraged the students to explore the context of Shakespeare's armoury and recognise how his immaculate writing directs and speaks for itself, linking to the characters in the text.

Finally, the day was finished off by the outstanding poet and author John Agard. Agard educated the students on how to find inspiration within inanimate objects and even explored his own fascination with etymology and why this is so apparent in his work. Agard then explained the significance of combating the symbolism and categorization that is rarely challenged in modern society, and how he does this through the colossal power of words.

Then, the event was concluded by Agard reading aloud his poem 'Checking Out Me History' which the students have studied.





What's on at The Place Theatre

There's magic and mayhem in the rainforest! Animals' homes are at risk as bulldozers and diggers crash through the trees. Who will come to the rescue and fight the evil Endorro? Can we save the rainforest?

Join Indigo Moon Theatre as they present *The Lost Forest*, a mesmerising performance of puppetry and digital projection for young children and families. Discover a tale of climate change and deforestation as small creatures flee the destruction of their natural habitats.

This popular, long running show is timelessly relevant, taking environmental concerns and weaving a fun and dynamic show around them.

Integrating the age-old tradition of Wayang Golek (colourful rod puppets from West Java, Indonesia), stunning rainforest projections, shadow puppet theatre and original musical score, the show embraces innovative and interactive approaches to storytelling. Aimed at younger audiences with lessons for us all to think about nature and the world in which we live.

Performances are in June and are available to purchase at:
<https://www.theplacebedford.org.uk/shows/the-lost-forest/>

