



# Newsletter Secondary - July 2017

TRADITIONAL VALUES, BRIGHT FUTURES, ONE JOURNEY

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## A NEW CHAPTER

The focus of this newsletter is our secondary provision, Years 7-11. This reflects our excitement at welcoming our first Year 9 cohort of returning pupils in September 2017. We're absolutely delighted that more than 90% of our existing Year 8 pupils are choosing to stay on to complete their GCSE courses with us as the best vote of confidence we could possibly have in our dedicated team of staff and in our commitment to supporting and challenging each pupil to be and to achieve their best. A number of additional pupils from other schools will be joining us in Years 7 and 9 too and we will be welcoming them during taster days this term, confident that they will find their place at Castle Newnham quickly and easily.

We really believe that our small scale (year groups of between 100-130 in secondary) and our emphasis on traditional academic subjects, expertise in the arts and PE, courteous, kind and respectful behaviour and strong values based on serving our community lie behind this vote of confidence. We have had many visitors this year including lots of current and prospective parents as well as visitors from as far afield as Denmark, Finland, Spain, Germany and France and they have invariably



commented on the calm and happy atmosphere of the school coupled with lessons where high expectations of every pupil are evident. We are proud of our pupils and the way in which they represent our school and support one another.

I hope you enjoy the taste of our secondary provision that this newsletter provides and I'd like to thank all of our and staff parents for their magnificent support for our school as well as our pupils and staff for all of their hard work and enthusiasm this school year with much, much more to come!

**Mrs Ruth Wilkes, Federation Principal**

## New MP for Bedford & Kempston visits school Open Morning

We were delighted to welcome the newly elected Member of Parliament Mohammad Yasin to Castle Newnham recently. He has kindly offered to take some of our pupils on a visit to Westminster.

*Left to Right: David Wood, (Chair of Governors), Ruth Wilkes, Mohammed Yasin MP*



# OUR NEW VICE PRINCIPAL - CURRICULUM

**From September our school will have two new Vice Principals - Jenni Gayter and Nik Maund**

I am really excited about my new role as Vice Principal – Curriculum, focusing on a high quality secondary curriculum which will ensure pupils have the required knowledge, skills and preparation to confidently approach their GCSE's in Year 11.

In preparing for this I have had a long-term secondment in a secondary school in a senior leadership capacity.

We are building our secondary curriculum from an understanding and knowledge of the new and more rigorous KS2 tests and recognise the need to prepare our pupils for exams where coursework for most subjects is no longer a feature. In fact pupils will need to learn and be able to apply vast quantities of knowledge in all subject areas. We are also in the fortunate position of being able to see the first new GCSEs being undertaken and use the reflections on these about expectations to refine our practice.

Curriculum, wellbeing and behaviour and expectations are interlinked and I really look



forward to continuing to work with Mr Maund and Miss Boston in their new roles, to make sure all our pupils achieve their best in terms of behaviour, outcomes and preparation for adult life. Having a strong partnership between home and school is really important and during the course of the autumn term we will be holding a number of curriculum evenings to share relevant topics for all our year groups:

- homework and secondary subject expectations in Year 7
- developing independent study and being responsible for their learning and knowledge in Year 8
- an options evening and how to choose the right courses up to GCSE

**Mrs Jenni Gayter**

## MEET OUR NEW HEADS OF DEPARTMENT

My name is John Shippen and I will be joining Castle Newnham School in September as the new Head of Science. Currently I work in an independent school near Dorking and I have two roles as Head of Year 10 and Subject Leader of Physics. I've been teaching for over twelve years now and I have worked overseas in Rome and then in Istanbul.



I am passionate about science education, and I am looking forward to developing the subject and inspiring a generation of science pupils in Bedford.



My name is Mawgan Sturge and I am the new leader of the secondary English team. I have spent ten years working in schools in the county and have

been instrumental in supporting secondary English departments develop excellent practice. I believe that the ability to read widely and confidently is crucial to unlocking pupils potential across all subjects, and this will be a key priority for me. I live locally and my son was lucky enough to get a place in Reception this year. We are both excited to be joining the Castle Newnham family this September.

# OUR NEW VICE PRINCIPAL -PASTORAL



possible chance to succeed.

To help explain the importance of attendance the information in the table below is extremely useful.

To take this further, if a child has an attendance rate of 90% from Y7-Y11, they will have missed nearly half a year of their education – this could have a huge impact on GCSE performance!

Next year, we will continue to work with pupils and parents to ensure this figure remains high.

In addition to attendance, the pastoral team of Mrs Watts and 'Chef' will continue to work with our pupils next year, extending our environmental area to help create a calming and supportive area for pupils and opportunities for self esteem work and team building.

They will of course be joined by Mr Sherratt and Mr Phillips as Heads of Year 7 and 8 respectively.

Working together, I am confident that the pastoral provision for our pupils will continue to be one of the school's notable strengths.

**Mr Nik Maund**

I am very much looking forward to my new role as a Vice Principal of Castle Newnham, with responsibility for pastoral provision. My aim of excellent standards of behaviour and attendance remains the same.

As the end of yet another academic year is quickly drawing in, we continue to work towards the next academic year which will see three years of KS3 pupils at Castle Newnham for the very first time.

A recent meeting with colleagues from the borough confirmed that pupil attendance remains above 95% for the secondary phase. As well as being pleasing to note, this clearly indicates that our pupils value the importance of excellent attendance, giving them the best

## **There are 190 school days in which pupils are expected to attend school**

<b><u>Attendance Percentage</u></b>	<b><u>Approximate number of days absent</u></b>	<b><u>Approximate number of weeks absent</u></b>	<b><u>Approximate number of lessons missed</u></b>
95%	9	2	50
90%	19	4	100
85%	29	6	150
80%	38	8	200
75%	48	10	250

## INTRODUCING OUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL FOR ACHIEVEMENT AND ASPIRATION



From September my new role will be Assistant Principal for Achievement and Aspiration.

This is an exciting role and my main aim will be to track the achievements of our secondary pupils and work closely with our staff to make sure that no pupil falls behind on their journey towards GCSEs. I will also be coordinating the extra-curricular activities of our pupils, ensuring that they have a range of opportunities during and after school.

My new role also includes managing the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme in school. I will be introducing the D of E Bronze Award to Year 9 pupils in September and coordinating the different aspects involved such as volunteering, physical, skills and expeditions. This is an exciting opportunity and one I'm sure the pupils at Castle Newnham will love to take part in.

I will also be coordinating careers advice and giving our pupils an informed choice of their post 16 educational route, whether it is moving onto A Levels, apprenticeships or a college study programme.

I will be working with our colleagues in local sixth form centres, colleges and SEMLEP (South East Midlands Enterprise Partnership) to ensure that Castle Newnham pupils leave our school with bright futures ahead of them.

Please do get in touch if you have any ideas or expertise for further developments in this area:  
aboston@castlenewnham.school

**Miss Ali Boston**



@CastleNewnham  
@HazeldeneSch

## MEET OUR NEW HEADS OF YEAR



I am very excited and motivated for the Head of Year 7 role and am looking forward to a new challenge with our secondary pupils.

I have a strong bond with all our pupils, but in particular the present Year 6, having worked closely with them this year as a form tutor and teacher. I hope they would agree that I am very open and fair with them all.

The pupils know they can approach me if they have a concern and that I will support them.

**Mr Andrew Sherratt**



I am delighted to be taking over as the Head of Year 8 in September.

It is great to teach the pupils at Castle Newnham and I am expecting them to work hard and to always put maximum effort in. It will be a pleasure to work with such a talented group of pupils and to help them achieve their hopes and dreams for the future.

**Mr Craig Phillips**