



New buildings on both sites

Our two sites have seen the completion of some significant building works.

The roofing of the South site is looking really smart. The new security gates and fences are now complete and have had a very positive effect on security.

On the North site the refurbished primary block is providing a great space for Year 5 and for Year 6 too from September.

A new teaching block of four classrooms, a new science lab and a wonderful new sports hall have all been completed and are now in full use

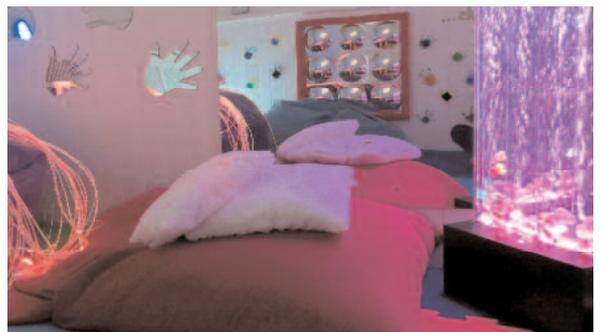
Work has now begun on the new music and performance area which should be ready to use from around Easter time. We have been pleased to show a number of visitors our new facilities including our local MP and look forward to the official opening of the sports hall in February.

Our new sensory room

We are delighted to have opened our new sensory room on the South site.

The room was gratefully funded by money raised by the PTA and was converted by our dedicated site team. Miss Millers, Ms Giles and Mrs Ruta have been working hard to create timetables, resources and activities for use in the room and it has been enjoyed by pupils across the South site as a place to relax and learn.

We are incredibly lucky to have this fantastic resource, which isn't often available for pupils in mainstream schools, and we will continue to look at ways to develop and widen its use over the course of the year.



Welcome to 2018 at Castle Newham - Federation Principal



A warm welcome back to school and a very Happy New Year to all our pupils and families with very best wishes for 2018.

As the new year starts I'm delighted to welcome some new members of staff to our federation - please see facing page.

The autumn term was a particularly packed one for us as we adjusted to full capacity with three classes in each year group on the South site and our first Year 9 cohort on the North site.

Pupils new to the school in reception classes, as well as in other year groups, have made a great start and the transition of our pupils from Year 4 to Year 5 has been seamless, which is exactly as we wanted it to be as part of our 'all-through' vision.

Our Year 9 pupils are already well into the process of choosing their GCSE courses and are enjoying the individual mentoring and guidance they have had from members of staff which has been possible as part of a relatively small secondary school.

We are particularly proud of the way in which they support and act as role models for our younger pupils and are keen to help

out at school events such as Open Evenings and the recent PTA Christmas Fair.

We are pleased that Mrs Eastwood (Year 6) and Mr Cleaver (Year 2) have new roles working together to enhance and align our primary teaching to help secure a coherent, happy and fulfilling journey through primary education. Mrs Eastwood and Mr Cleaver report that so far they have started to look at how we can assess across the foundation, subjects such as history, geography, RE, music, art and science and will be introducing topic quizzes across all of our science units this half term. Year 5 and 6 will also be using quizzes in lessons to assess their knowledge of the particular topic.

This half term we will be looking at work in both topic and science books across both sites to see how we can ensure we are aligning work for the whole phase.

We are also looking into developing our schedule of trips for the 2018-2019 school year with ideas from staff about further opportunities.

We are excited about these and other developments and look forward next term to getting fully prepared for our first Year 10 in September and adding further to the staff team to deliver our first full GCSE courses. Recruitment has already begun and we have appointed high-quality teachers to science and PE, languages and geography.

As we move into 2018 I would like to thank our newly-reformed senior leadership team as well as all the staff for their hard work and dedication and our families for their support for the school as well as our pupils for their fantastic enthusiasm and approach to life at school.

I wish you all a very happy new year.

Mrs Ruth Wilkes
Federation Principal

We are delighted to welcome the following new staff who are joining us this term.



Miss Cherrelle Augustine (pictured left) will be joining Castle Newnham in January in the role of Primary SENDCo. Miss Augustine will be relocating from London and comes to us with a range of experience both in schools and in the SEND department within a local authority. She is excited about the opportunity to work in an all-through school and is looking forward to working collaboratively with Mrs Kerridge, staff teams on both sites and families to continue to provide the very best support for pupils with SEND.

We also welcome the following additional staff on the South site

Mrs Mehmi, Ms Wheatley and Mrs Santos as mid-day supervisors.

Ms Wheatley, Miss Massey and Mrs Gribble as care club assistants.

Miss Cain - as a teaching assistant apprentice.

Miss Mabbott will be working in the school offices across the sites as an Admin Apprentice.

We are pleased to let parents know that our EYFS teacher Ms New will be helping to lead and develop provision in the nursery next term, bringing her previous experience as an EYFS lead to the role. This will complement Ms Kearney's EYFS leadership and allow her to focus fully on the reception classes next term.

Cover supervisors

The role of cover supervisor is absolutely vital to the smooth running of any school and we are proud to introduce our three colleagues in this area of work to any parents who haven't met Mrs Clearly (pictured top right) and Ms Pryar (South site) or Mr Westley (North site) in person. Cover supervisors are able to teach classes either in the short-term unexpected absence of a teacher or where teachers need to be released from the classroom for essential planning, preparation and assessment work. The huge advantage of having our own staff in this role is that the pupils are taught by a person they know and are known by and the cover supervisor can liaise directly with the regular teacher to ensure continuity of learning and pass on any issues which need to be followed up very quickly. The cover supervisors not only take classes themselves but also ensure on a daily basis that each class is covered if not by one of them then by either another teacher or by a supply teacher should this become necessary. We are very grateful to Mrs Clearly, Ms Pryar and Mr Westley for the excellent work they do in supporting us across the federation.



Introducing you to... Miss Hayley Smith



I am delighted to be the Assistant Head Teacher for Year 3 and 4. I joined the school as a class teacher in 2012. Throughout my teaching career I have taught across many different year groups, and am currently a Year 4 teacher too alongside my leadership role.

I am passionate about providing our pupils with a range of learning experiences throughout their journey at Castle Newnham School. I am working closely with the leadership team, teachers and support staff to provide excellence throughout. I thoroughly enjoy being a part of a school that has the children at the heart of all that we do. Away from school life I enjoy travelling, baking and spending time with my family and friends.

Last term we introduced the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award into Year 9.

We are delighted to report that 41 pupils have signed up to this and have already started the course.

Miss Boston is the DofE Manager for our school and Mr Phillips is the DofE leader. We are lucky enough to have two Gold DofE Award holders on our team, Miss Coulter and Mr Almen.

The DofE team meet weekly and are working with the pupils on their different sections of physical, skill and volunteering. Pupils have learnt to use e-DofE and understand that they need to work for three months on two of the sections and six months on the other.

Once pupils have logged the completion of all three sections on DofE they will be ready to go on their Bronze expedition in the summer.

Miss Boston said: "We are very proud to be one of the few schools in Bedford to offer our pupils the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. The DofE Awards are highly regarded in many walks of life, but more importantly the activities undertaken are thoroughly enjoyable, though at times, quite demanding."

**Full details can be found at:
www.dofe.org/take-part.**

Keeping you informed

We hope that our parents in primary appreciate the now half-termly newsletter on the curriculum that the children have been following.

There is also further information for both primary and secondary in the curriculum section of our website including information about option choices for Year 10. We are really interested to hear your views as parents and anticipate further parental engagement groups over the coming term on such matters as:

- **Personal Social Health and Careers.**
- **Education (including values).**
- **Homework in primary (we have recently surveyed secondary parents about this).**
- **Fundraising and charity events.**

We will let you know the format of such engagement and hope to involve as many parents as we can.



Working in Partnership with Scandanavia

At Castle Newnham we are committed to sharing and learning from the best, both nationally and internationally.

Castle Newnham is one of four local partner schools working on an innovative Erasmus project, looking at and sharing expertise and best practice with schools in Finland and Denmark.

The project is based on the 3T's advocated by Pasi Salsberg; Time, Talent and Technology. So far delegates from Finland and Denmark have visited our schools in Bedford, and we have visited theirs in Helsinki and Copenhagen. Representatives from Bedford schools are due to go onto the second round of visits later this year.

So far presentations on each visit have been shared with headteachers in Bedford, educational leaders and university lecturers in Helsinki, as well as at Copenhagen City Council, in front of the Mayor and a number of head teachers and other education committee members. The Duke of Cambridge recently visited Innokas, the 3T partner organisation from the University of Helsinki who told him about the project and how we are working together.

Jenni Gayter, Vice Principal - Curriculum and Standards says, "Finland is at the forefront of educational practice in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) tables, with Denmark ranking the same as the UK. We have very different social contexts but are all committed to best experiences/outcomes for the pupils we teach."

Follow the project on twitter @3TProjectinfo