

Headteacher News



Term : Autumn 2016

Whole School Topic: My Wonderful Self

Welcome to the first newsletter of this school year. Everyone has been very busy and there has been lots of very exciting learning taking place.

Our staff and pupils proudly showed off their work at the Newbury Show this year. The display was awesome and we received many lovely comments about how amazing the work is. Our pupils from Tintagel Class kindly set the whole display up and it did look very good indeed. We again thank parents, pupils and staff for their support of Jeans 4 Genes day. We had lots of wonderful activities for our pupils during the day including making cards for Genetic Disorders UK. The Orchestra of St John's visited again, led by our friend John Lubbock. John's wife, Christine Cairns, founded the charity 'Music For Autism', 14 years ago. The purpose of the charity is to give interactive concerts to children and staff at special schools throughout the UK. We have benefitted many times from their brilliant concerts and look forward to the next time they head our way. Pupils, as always, really enjoyed the interactive nature of the show, getting involved in conducting, singing and playing instruments.

Café 16 is in full swing. This is a student-led enterprise that offers a variety of products including our speciality fresh, home-made muffins and mouth-watering, luxury hot chocolate. Our friendly and vibrant atmosphere allows you to enjoy your visit in the improved Cafe 16! The café is open between 1.30pm and 2.45pm on Wednesday afternoons. Please remember that there is much more to see

Some photos of our learning



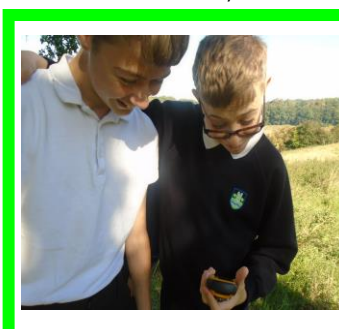
Pupil proudly present work at The Newbury Show



Pupils working together for Jeans 4 Genes Day



Café 16 Team ready to serve you



Pupils working together on a Geocaching exercise

on our website. Just visit www.thecastleschoolnewbury.org.uk

Please note that the last day of term is **Thursday 20th October 2016**. Pupils return to school on **Tuesday 1st November 2016**. I look forward to seeing everyone next term.

Thanks, Jon Hewitt (Headteacher)

Governors' News

Having reached the end of my four year stint as a Governor at the Castle School, I thought this might be an opportunity to let you all know what is actually involved in being a Governor and hopefully to encourage those of you who might be interested in joining either our Governors when there is a vacancy, or to join up as a Governor at another school.

The role of a Governor is to act as a "critical friend" to the school – they are responsible for the strategic direction, (making sure that the vision, ethos and strategic aims are clear), for pupil progress and welfare and also for overseeing the financial performance of the school (the budget) - but not the day to day running of the school. This is the responsibility of the Headteacher.

Governors are responsible for the welfare of all the pupils and they work as a team for the good of the school. The role has changed quite a lot over the last ten years in particular and now Governors skills and experience in a range of environments are sought from the people who volunteer. Our current Governors have experience in community work, charities, finance, marketing and law as well as education – and as such are able to bring a range of insights and skills.

Governors are encouraged to visit the school both to attend events, staff training and also talk to pupils and staff. Most Governors work full time, so don't manage to come in as often as they would like.

It has been a great privilege and pleasure to work with the Castle School's Governing body, and I leave knowing that there is a group of people who will work tirelessly for the pupils and staff at the school.

Ola Cassels-White