



21 September 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

The governors of Castle Lower School, Hazeldene Lower School and Newnham Middle School are delighted to announce that, on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, all three governing bodies voted to enter into federation from January 2016.

This decision followed an extensive consultation with the community where the proposals to federate and develop an “all-through” model of schooling were overwhelmingly supported. Further detail on some of the questions raised and views offered during the consultation will be shared via the schools’ websites.

We now look forward to developing the strong and growing partnership, with Castle and Newnham in hard federation (one governing body and one headteacher) from January 2016 and Hazeldene in soft federation (better curriculum, staff and pupil links), also January 2016. We are pleased that our vision for providing continuity and excellence from 4-16 is wholly compatible with Bedford Borough’s announced intention to support schools in converting to two-tier education: we believe our all-through model will enable the transition to go all the more smoothly for children.

The plan (outlined visually in the attached diagram) is that:

- pupils currently in Year 3 (or below) at Castle will remain at Castle (but on the Newnham site) for Years 5 and 6 from September 2017 and;
- pupils currently in Year 3 (or below) at Hazeldene will remain at their own school for Years 5 and 6, transferring into Year 7 for secondary education on the Newnham site.
- pupils already at Newnham in Year 7 (or below) will be able to stay right through to year 11 (16 years old) and take GCSE examinations. Work is already underway to develop a top-class secondary curriculum building on our excellent subject specialism in Key Stage 3.

Opportunities will be made available to parents who wish to discuss our plans in more detail and, of course, you are welcome to arrange visits to any of the schools to see for yourselves the quality of provision on all three sites.

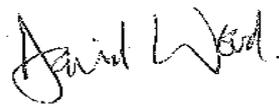
Please do get in touch if you have further questions and look out for a growing range of communications via our three websites, a federation newsletter and twitter account. Your children will also be fully involved in our plans as we work on a wide range of joint teaching and learning activities as well as extra-curricular activities and plans for buildings and new designs.

We thank you for the very helpful and extremely positive way in which you have engaged with us in bringing about this exciting new partnership for excellence in education for present and future generations of children.

Yours Sincerely



Mr T. Barwood  
Chair at Castle



Mr D. Wood  
Chair at Newnham



Mrs V. Cromwell  
Chair at Hazeldene

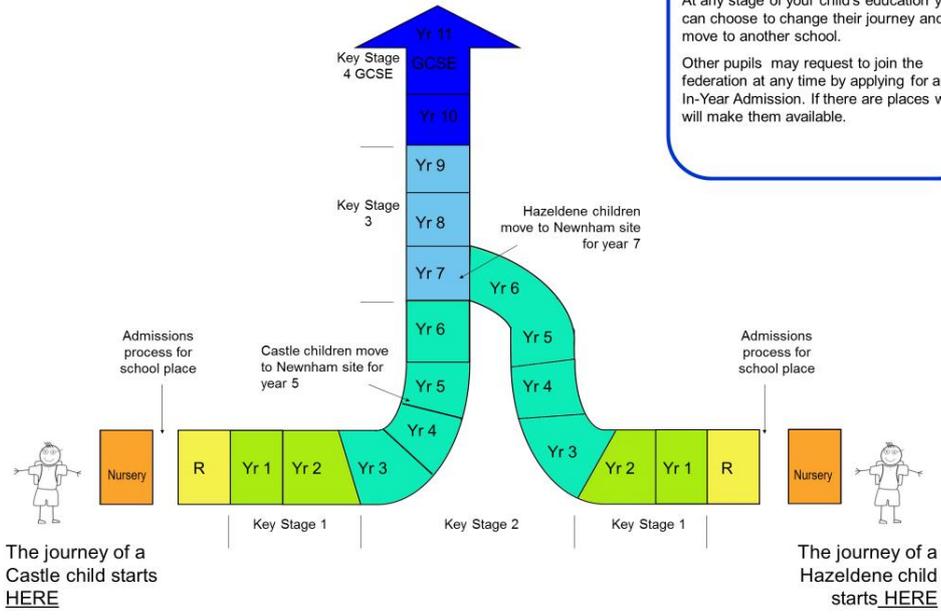
# What does our federation look like?



*Working together for excellence in education*

Students can carefully choose from a wide range of 6<sup>th</sup> forms & other post 16 options available locally

**Parental Choice**  
Remember you have parental choice. At any stage of your child's education you can choose to change their journey and move to another school. Other pupils may request to join the federation at any time by applying for an In-Year Admission. If there are places we will make them available.



	Nursery	Primary Education						Secondary Education				Post 16	
Castle & Newnham		Castle site until the end of year 4				Newnham site from year 5 until completion of GCSEs in year 11				Students can carefully choose from a wide range of 6 <sup>th</sup> forms & other post 16 options available locally			
Hazeldean & Newnham		Hazeldean site until the end of year 6						Newnham site from year 7 until completion of GCSEs in year 11					
Years	N	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Key Stages	N	R	Key Stage 1		Key Stage 2			Key Stage 3			Key Stage 4		