

**WINTER
2025**

COURT FIELDS NEWS



Trips & Events

All the latest extra-curricular news



Year Group Updates

Our Heads of Year review the term



Subject News

Learning updates from each faculty

WELCOME!

Dear Court Fields School Community,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Winter 2025 edition of our School Magazine. This publication celebrates the incredible learning, creativity, and achievements that have taken place throughout the Autumn Term.

Inside, you will find a snapshot of the rich and varied experiences that make Court Fields such a vibrant community. From inspiring classroom activities and innovative curriculum projects to exciting trips, visits, and whole-school events, this term has been full of opportunities for our students to grow, learn, and thrive.

I am immensely proud of the hard work and dedication shown by our students and staff, and supported by parents, families and our wider community. Their commitment to excellence and enthusiasm for learning shines through in every story and photograph featured here.

Thank you for your continued support, and I hope you enjoy reflecting on the highlights of this fantastic term. Together, let's look forward to an even more successful and inspiring 2026!

With festive best wishes,

Polly Matthews
Headteacher



Remembrance

Thank you to the Wellington branch of the Royal British Legion and Mayor of Wellington, Cllr Janet Lloyd, for joining our Remembrance Day ceremony.

It was wonderful to see so many of our students in service uniforms, representing the Scouts, St John's Ambulance and Cadets. Following an immaculately observed two-minute silence across the school, the reading of the Affirmation, and the Kohima Address, Senior Prefects Rosie S and Sam F laid a poppy wreath on behalf of the staff at students.

We raised a total of £67.72 for the Poppy Appeal.

Site updates

Court Fields School is undergoing a remarkable transformation, with recent and ongoing building works bringing exciting new spaces and opportunities for students and staff.

Among the latest upgrades are a newly extended dining area, a revitalised assembly hall with an expanded stage, and several new classrooms designed to support modern teaching and learning. A dedicated activity studio for drama and dance is also nearing completion and will soon be fitted with mirrors along one wall to enhance performance and rehearsal experiences.

Headteacher Mrs Polly Matthews shared her enthusiasm for the improvements, saying:

“These developments are a fantastic step forward for our school community. We’re committed to creating an environment where students feel inspired, supported, and proud of their surroundings. The new spaces will not only enhance learning but also provide greater opportunities for creativity, collaboration, and wellbeing.”



Year 7 Camp

Our Year 7 cohort kicked off their secondary school journey with an unforgettable residential trip to the Ultimate Adventure Centre in Bideford, North Devon last week. Over three days and two nights, students immersed themselves in a thrilling programme of outdoor activities designed to build confidence, teamwork, and resilience.

The camp featured a wide range of adrenaline-pumping experiences including surfing, coasteering, high ropes, wipeout-style obstacle courses, and team-building challenges. For many students, it was their first time tackling such adventurous activities, and they rose to the occasion with enthusiasm and courage.

The camp is a cornerstone of Court Fields School's commitment to helping students achieve, belong, and participate. Headteacher Mrs Polly Matthews emphasized the importance of such experiences in shaping confident, well-rounded learners:

"We want every child to feel part of our community from day one. The Year 7 camp is a fantastic way to build friendships and foster independence."

As students return to the classroom, they bring with them not only stories of adventure but also strengthened friendships and a renewed sense of confidence—setting the tone for a successful and enriching year ahead.



A special donation

A huge thank you to Andrew and Jon Govier who kindly presented the school with a cheque for £1,050 during November in their late father, George Govier's, memory.

Head of PE Mr Conway accepted the cheque on behalf of the school, which is to be used to support students who might not be able to afford the equipment they need to pursue a sporting career.

The money came from a collection in George Govier's memory, after he passed away earlier this year. The attached story written by George explains why he would have wanted the money used in this way.

Mr Conway is going to identify students that he thinks would benefit from this kind donation.



My Football Boots by George Govier

World War Two had ended and I spent my school days at Trull School. People my age had to spend an extra year at school. I loved all sport and played any sport I could. Four of us were picked to play football for Taunton Schools, three were in the team and I was the reserve. My Dad died in 1945 and money was always short. So, when I told my mum, she said you need new boots. I had always played in a pair of rugby boots given to me by my Dad's employer's son who went to Queens College. But my mum insisted!

We lived at Boxenhedge and had to walk to Taunton. On the way, we passed Hillbrook House and Trull Cricket Field. We also passed Trull Green where an evacuee hut had been built. It was a haven of peace for evacuees and others. It provided tea and cakes for everyone including airmen from the airfields on the hills above Blagdon, Trickey Warren, Smeathorpe and Dunksell. We headed for Taunton. On the way, we passed the Old Vicarage where my rugby boots came from. We passed Queens College and had a wave from the sentry at Sherford Camp. Further along the road, we walked past Belmont sick bay where wounded servicemen were treated. We passed Shire Hall and Taunton Police Station.

At the shoe shop, my Mum told the man in charge that we needed a pair of cheap football boots. He told us the cheapest were about two pounds. My Mum said we could not afford them. The man said 'Hang on a minute!' and he disappeared. He returned with a pair of green football boots. My Mum said 'They are green.' I loved them, they were two shillings and sixpence. We bought them, thanked the man and headed home. There were many laughs in the family about the green boots. I smiled. On Saturday, another Trull player nearly fell off his bike when he saw the green boots. At the football pitch at Amberd Lane, all the team gathered around laughing.

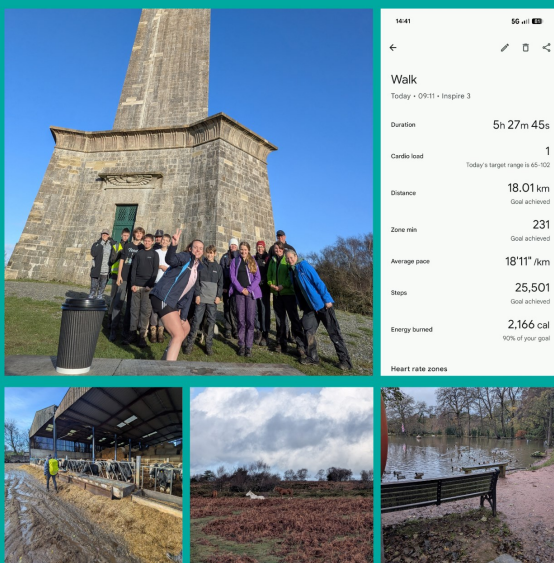
I believe my green boots helped me during my football days, looking and laughing at my green boots, they hardly noticed me! Haha!

#THIS IS COURT FIELDS

Exmoor Challenge

Well done to our students and staff who completed their Exmoor Challenge practice walk at the end of November.

They walked from school, out through Rockwell Green and up onto the Blackdown Hills. After a short break for lunch at Culmstock Beacon, the team made their way to the Wellington Monument. They got back to school in a shower of rain at about 2.45pm, earlier than expected despite Mr. Etherington adding another mile or so to the route for good behaviour! They walked a healthy 12 miles and the students and staff were all amazing.



#THIS IS COURT FIELDS

Court Fields helps open new classroom in Madagascar



Court Fields School has once again demonstrated its commitment to global education and community development by co-funding the construction of a new pre-primary classroom at Antsampanimahazo Primary School in Madagascar. The classroom was officially inaugurated on 25th September in a joyful ceremony attended by local dignitaries, including the Member of Parliament for Antsirabe 2.

This latest initiative is part of a long-standing partnership between Court Fields School and the Madagascar Development Fund, aimed at improving educational opportunities for children in some of Madagascar's most underserved communities. The project was also supported by Friends of Hassocks Infant School, whose contributions helped bring the classroom to life.



For many of the young pupils, this classroom marks their first experience of formal education, offering them a brighter start and a stronger foundation for future learning.

A detailed report on the inauguration is expected to follow, but early feedback from the school and local community has been overwhelmingly positive. "The new classroom is making an enormous difference to young children who are attending school for the first time," said a spokesperson from the Madagascar Development Fund. "We, the children and their teachers, are very, very grateful."

Court Fields School's continued support for international development projects reflects its values of compassion, global citizenship, and educational equity. This latest success adds to a growing legacy of meaningful contributions to Madagascar's educational infrastructure.

St Ives Trip 2025

A group of our students kicked off October half term with an unforgettable creative adventure, as they enjoyed an Art trip to St Ives. Students started the trip in style with a visit to the Eden Project, where the stunning biomes and immersive exhibits sparked inspiration and curiosity. With everyone settled in and excited, the group looked forward to a busy few days ahead.

Surf, Sun, and Sketchbooks

Day two began bright and early, with students enjoying a rare moment of sunshine. Donning winter wetsuits, they headed out for a surf lesson, embracing the waves and the challenge with enthusiasm. The experience was both exhilarating and energising. An ideal way to connect with the coastal environment before diving into the day's artistic activities.

Mark Making in the Mist

Later that afternoon, the group engaged in experimental mark making—not quite on the beach due to the classic English drizzle, but still full of creative energy. Students explored texture, gesture, and spontaneity, using the surrounding landscape as inspiration. The weather didn't dampen spirits; if anything, it added character to the work.

Sketchbook Reflections and Comfort Food

After warming up with some delicious mac and cheese, the evening was dedicated to sketchbook work. Students reflected on the day's experiences, layering their pages with drawings, notes, and mixed media. The quiet focus of the evening allowed ideas to settle and take shape, setting the stage for deeper exploration.

Capturing Light with Chris Webber

The next morning featured a photography walking tour led by Chris Webber Photography, who shared expert tips on maximising natural light in compositions. From narrow alleyways to sweeping sea views, students learned to see St Ives through a new lens—literally and figuratively—capturing the town's unique atmosphere with skill and creativity.

Cyanotype Workshop: Art Meets Science

The trip culminated in a cyanotype workshop, where students created striking blue-toned prints using natural and UV light. As the pieces developed over the afternoon, anticipation grew. Watching the images slowly emerge was a magical moment, blending science and art in a way that captivated everyone.

Court Fields students returned not only with prepped sketchbooks, for further personal develop in response to the trip, but with memories of shared laughter, learning, and artistic growth.



Rights Respecting Schools

A **Rights Respecting School (RRS)** is an educational approach developed by UNICEF that embeds the principles of the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)** into the school's ethos, curriculum, and daily practices.

Here's what it means in practice:

Child-Centered Philosophy: The school ensures that every child knows their rights and understands the responsibilities that come with them.

Respect and Equality: It promotes respect for the rights of others, fostering an inclusive and safe environment.

Participation: Students are encouraged to have a voice in decisions affecting them, such as school rules or learning activities.

Global Citizenship: It helps children understand their role in a wider world and the importance of human rights globally



Bronze Award

We are thrilled to announce that Court Fields School has been awarded the Bronze UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award (RRSA)!

The RRSA is a UK-wide initiative led by UNICEF that supports schools in embedding the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into their ethos and curriculum. The aim is to create a school environment where children's rights are learned, taught, respected, protected, and promoted—empowering young people to become active, engaged citizens.

Headteacher, Mrs Matthews shared her pride in the achievement:

"We are incredibly proud to have achieved the Bronze UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award. This recognition reflects our commitment to creating a school environment where every member of our community feels valued, heard, and empowered. At Court Fields, we believe that teaching children and young people about their rights—and the importance of respecting the rights of others - helps build a stronger, kinder community both within and beyond our school gates. We are now excited about our journey to achieving Silver."

This award marks an important milestone in our journey to becoming a fully Rights Respecting School. We look forward to continuing our work to ensure that every student at Court Fields feels safe, supported, and inspired to make a positive difference in the world.

Weekly RRSA programme

At Court Fields School every student focusses on RRS during an am registration once a week, where students work on building their knowledge about rights and work through rights. Each half term we focus on specific convention on the rights of the child.

Rights Respecting School Focus for 2025 - 2026		
Term 1	Article 28	Right to Education
Term 2	Article 12	Respect for Children's Views
Term 3	Article 6	Life, Survival and Development
Term 4	Article 17	Access to Information
Term 5	Article 27	Adequate Standard of Living
Term 6	Article 22	Refugee Children

(A)	I achieve because I am:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ambitious	<input type="checkbox"/> Inquisitive	<input type="checkbox"/> Reflective	<input type="checkbox"/> Resilient
(B)	I belong because I have:	<input type="checkbox"/> Courage	<input type="checkbox"/> Empathy	<input type="checkbox"/> Integrity	<input type="checkbox"/> Listening Skills
(P)	I participate because I demonstrate:	<input type="checkbox"/> Initiative	<input type="checkbox"/> Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Motivation	<input type="checkbox"/> Teamwork

Model UN

Eight of our Year 11 students recently attended the Queens Model United Nations all-day conference, where they engaged in lively, topical political debates with peers from across the region. Representing different countries and viewpoints, our students tackled global issues with professionalism and enthusiasm, gaining invaluable experience in diplomacy and negotiation.



Debate Club: A Term of Big Ideas and Bigger Voices

This term has been an exciting one for our Debate Club, as students have embraced opportunities to speak up, think critically, and engage with the world beyond the classroom. Every Tuesday after school in Room D3, Debate Club has been hard at work preparing for the Youth Speaks competition. Members have explored a wide range of thought-provoking topics, from "Graffiti: Art or Vandalism?" to "Films versus Books – Which Tells the Better Story?". *These sessions have helped students develop persuasive arguments, confident delivery, and the ability to see issues from multiple perspectives.*



Somerset Youth Parliament

A few students have also taken their passion for debate into the political arena by applying for the Youth Parliament programme. This initiative gives young people a voice in shaping policy and understanding democratic processes. Our club has supported applicants in crafting compelling statements and preparing for interviews, ensuring they feel ready to represent their peers on the national stage.

RRSA Steering group

At school we have put together a working party of staff and students to begin to help roll out the RRSA award. We are hoping to be Silver awarded by June! The steering group meets each half term to come together for training, and the splinter groups develop actions which are then taken out to whole school. We have many exciting splinter groups from World's Largest Lesson, Mental health, Cultural Champions, Reading, Curriculum, the environment, LGBTQ+ and many others. Throughout the year you will be hearing about all the wonderful events they have organised. Such a wonderful group of global citizens. We are looking for parent members so if you are interested please do contact front office and they will forward your email.

RRSA Enrichment Day

All staff and students paused for the day on 18th November to consider Article 2, Non-Discrimination.

In tutor groups students explored why the UN wrote Human Rights in 1947. They considered what a world would be like if people didn't have access to Human Rights. Students evaluated why it took until 1989 for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) to be written. Tutor groups considered what improved for young people under the UNCRC. The session closed with all tutor groups across the school writing their own class charter using the UNCRC.

In the second session we considered the attitude towards woman and girls by firstly understanding when the difference in roles came into light. Tutor groups considered what it means to be treated fairly, and all tutor groups understood what the white ribbon promise means, and they took the pledge if they wished.

It was wonderful as a school to step forward in our learning journey in understanding the integral importance of belonging to a school which puts the convention of the Rights of the child up front and centre.

Students had the opportunity to listen to a band who put non-discrimination at the centre of the music. It was wonderful to see students enjoy this experience.

All students throughout the day also considered the language they use and the negative impact it can have towards others. We are already looking forward to the next RRSA Enrichment Day!





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Finally, eight of our Year 11 students recently attended the Queens Model United Nations all-day conference, where they engaged in lively, topical political debates with peers from across the region. Representing different countries and viewpoints, our students tackled global issues with professionalism and enthusiasm, gaining invaluable experience in diplomacy and negotiation.

Debate Club continues to be a space where ideas matter and voices are heard. Whether it's competing, campaigning, or collaborating on international issues, our students are proving that the power of words can change the world. Interested in joining? Come along every Tuesday in Room D3 and be part of the conversation!

We have also been tracking the progress of a British Antarctic Survey research expedition. The names of participating schools are touring Antarctica with the research scientists who are currently located at Camp REWIND collecting climate data from ice cores. One of our next projects will be to collect hard-to-recycle plastic waste and to use it to create a mural in order to raise awareness of plastic pollution in the ocean. Please keep an eye on social media for the list of materials we will be collecting for our project.

Work Experience

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the local business that offered our Year 10 students work experience last month. We had a very successful week and everyone really enjoyed their placements.

If you would like more details about offering work experience or would consider exhibiting at our Careers Fair next April, please contact our Careers Lead, Charity - chunt@courtfields.bep.ac.



Christmas Concert

We celebrated the festive season in style with a magical Christmas concert that showcased the incredible talent and dedication of our students. The Glee Club, who have been rehearsing tirelessly since September, wowed the audience with a stunning mix of traditional carols and modern favourites. One audience member summed it up perfectly: *"They get better every year!"*

The evening was packed with variety and festive spirit. Highlights included a solo guitarist and pianist, dynamic bands performing hits from The Waitresses, Mariah Carey, and Slade, as well as heartwarming Christmas jokes and readings. Solo singers and small group performances added even more sparkle to the night, leaving the audience in awe of the talent on display.

Adding to the festive fun, a raffle was held during the event, raising funds to support our Performing Arts Department. These contributions will help us continue to provide exceptional opportunities for students to shine on stage and develop their creative skills.

This concert followed a busy season of performances beyond the school walls. Our students brought Christmas cheer to local nursing homes and primary schools, and the Glee Club proudly represented Court Fields at the Wellington Christmas Lights Switch-On and the Christmas at the Wellesley event.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported these events and to our incredible students for making this Christmas truly unforgettable!



Learning Support



For ALL children and young people in Somerset with a disability or additional needs
*You DO NOT have to be referred to any service to access these activities, unless otherwise stated.

SATURDAY 20th DEC

Childrens World
The Pilton Stage, St Mary's Lane, Pilton, BA4 5NF.
Children's World Xmas Family Race and Interactive DJ Experience in partnership with Big Farm Disco. Fun for all ages and abilities. Experience and learn to DJ with Big Farm Disco and with a dedicated team of staff you can have some quiet time trying out DJ equipment and creating your own Gracie Big Farm Logo. 2-4pm. For all ages. £5 per person.
To book, please contact Angela Bolton 01458 463492 or email info@childrensworld.org.uk

Purple Elephant
The Assembly Rooms, Christchurch, Dorset, Dorset, BA11 1EL.
Family Holiday Fun! Christmas party with festive crafts, Santa, and a hot meal, followed by a silent disco. 9am - 2pm. For all ages. £2 suggested donation. Free to those on home school.
To book, please email rebecca@purpleelephant.org.uk

SUNDAY 21st DEC

Wilderness
Wilderness Forest School, Drayton Woods, Langport BA10 6LZ.
Midwinter Candlelit Celebration. Decorations, candles and songs in the woods with refreshments. 5-6pm. For all ages. £8 (1 child/adult). £15 per family (max 2 adults, 3 children). Additional children/adults £5 per person.
To book, please call Hannah Allister on 01799 683264 hannah@wilderness.org

Rainbow Roots
Dove Barn, Manor Farm, Silver St, Barton St David, TA11 6DB.
Midwinter Christmas Crafts. Join us at Rainbow Roots for a magical mix of creativity and calm! Each morning, children will make festive crafts and learn simple mindfulness techniques to help them feel relaxed, focused, and joyful through the Christmas season. 10am-12:30pm. For 5-11 yrs. £7.50 per person.
To book, please email Lou Stockley on hello@rainbowroots.co.uk

MONDAY 22nd DEC

Rainbow Roots
Dove Barn, Manor Farm, Silver St, Barton St David, TA11 6DB.
Gifts from the Heart. In our cozy afternoon sessions at Rainbow Roots, children will craft thoughtful handmade gifts to share at Christmas. We'll explore gratitude, kindness, and the joy of giving - celebrating how special it feels to make something with love for someone else. 1:30-3:30pm. For 5-11 yrs. £7.50 per person.
To book, please email Lou Stockley on hello@rainbowroots.co.uk

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TUESDAY 23rd DEC

Rainbow Roots
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To book, please email Lou Stockley on hello@rainbowroots.co.uk

WEDNESDAY 30th DEC

Community Inclusion Activity Team
Winter or Christmas themed activity packs, containing arts & crafts, puzzles and more! £3 per pack, to be paid prior to delivery. Please ensure payment is made by 23 Dec.
To order, please email ciateam@somerset.gov.uk by 8 Dec with your child's name, age, address of disability, address, phone number and where we can safely leave the pack if we're not at. Delivery will be 23 Dec.

Mad Community CIC
The Mad Hub, Unit 14 Orchard Shopping Centre, L10 1TP.
New Year's Eve inclusive disco with lower volume music to create a lively but sensory-friendly environment. There will be gentle disco lighting & party decorations to build excitement in a welcoming, festive space. TV-projected countdown with fireworks will give children the full New Year's experience in a way that suits their needs. 12:45-1:45pm. For 4-11 yrs. 2:30-3:30pm. For 11-19 yrs. £2.50 per person.
To book, please call Kelly Gaslett on 01458 223667 or email thumadhub@outlook.com

Midweek Eye
Midweek Eye Centre, 18 Mart Road, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 5BA.
Enjoy games, music, sensory room, arts and crafts, water and sand play activity! Café style space available for parents. 2 youth workers on hand for support and advice. 2-4pm. For 4-19 yrs. £1 per person.
To book, please email reception@midweek-eye.co.uk

Escape Support Group
Somerset's Escape Support Group, 18 Mart Road, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 5BA.
Join us for the festive season at Clark's Village magical ice skating rink! Penguin and seal skating aids will be available for help with balance. 1-4:30pm. For all ages. Children 12 and under £5. Adult & children 12+ £6. Cash - Free. Wheelchair user £5.
To book, fundraise! escape@supportgroup.co.uk Bookings through the website escape@supportgroup.co.uk

For more inclusive activities, groups and organisations in your area, please visit the Local Offer: www.somerset.gov.uk/send-events where you can search by (keyword) or (location).

Useful Information

Who are the people offering the activities? Organisations who have experience of working with children and young people with a disability or additional need and their families. Activities can be adapted to suit the children and young people who would like to attend. Please call them to chat about your child / young person's needs.

Key for activities:

- Family Activity** - for all members of the family to attend
- Child/Young person can attend on their own under group supervision or with parent/carer if additional 1:1 support is required** - please call the organisation to have a chat
- Child/Young person must attend with a parent or carer**
- Staff provided by the organisation to support the child/young person 1:1 if required** - please call the organisation to see what they can provide as this may not include personal care
- Some parts of the activity are wheelchair accessible please call the organisation to find out more**
- Accessible changing facilities are available please call the venue to find out more**
- Activities aimed at young people/teenagers/young adults**

Activities offered by the Community Inclusion and Activity Team
Dependent on the child / young person's needs, we can provide a day out without parent / carer as well as group supervision. If it is the first time your child / young person has accessed a trip with our team, a parent / carer will need to attend. We require payment of a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the day. Please note: spaces for children and young people with a disability or additional need will be prioritised first, with spaces offered to siblings once bookings have closed if we have room.
Online payment at www.somerset.gov.uk/cwd

Don't forget our Activity Day Passes - Available to ALL families in Somerset with a child or young person with a disability or additional need - Puxton Park, Noah's Ark, The Bristol Zoo Project, Abbotsbury Farm, Animal Sanctuary, Hestercombe gardens, Court Farm. Email ciateam@somerset.gov.uk to find out more or visit www.somerset.gov.uk/activity-passes to view the flyer.

Max Card - A FREE card for all children and young people with a disability or additional need in Somerset aged 0-25 years. This card can be used at many places all over the UK offering discounts and special rates when you show the card. Visit www.somerset.gov.uk/max-card for more information on how to access this card. Cards can ONLY be issued by Somerset Council to people living in Somerset.

If you would like help with the calendar and how to access activities, please email ciateam@somerset.gov.uk and someone will be in touch to support you.

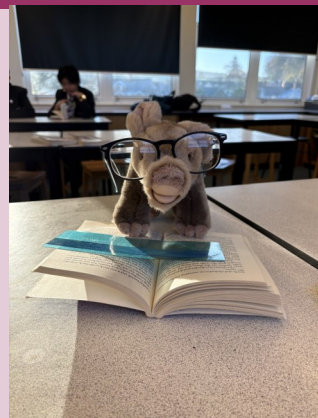


Head of Year
Mrs Samuel

Year 7 Update

What a fantastic start to their Court Fields journey it has been for Year 7. I am so proud to be their Head of Year with the way they have embraced new experiences and risen to every new challenge. We have been so impressed by their attitude to learning in lessons and their energy in participating in extra-curricular clubs. The residential trip back in September was a

great success, with students trying new activities and making new friends. We have also been introduced to the House Points Hippo and Attendance Aardvark and had great fun sharing photos of the exciting activities they have been getting up to with their winning tutor groups each week. We still have the panto trip to look forward to before we all have a well-deserved break for Christmas. Keep it up Year 7 and here's to a brilliant 2026!



Year 8 Update

I am absolutely delighted to share how proud I am of our Year 8 students for their outstanding efforts and focus in lessons this term. Their commitment to learning and positive attitude have truly set a high standard, well done, Year 8!

Beyond the classroom, our students have also shone brightly in sports. The Year 8 Boys Rugby Team has demonstrated incredible teamwork and resilience in recent fixtures. Our Girls Football and Netball Teams have impressed with skill and perseverance, showing some strong performances. We look forward to the sporting opportunities on offer next term. As well as sporting clubs, students have embraced other opportunities attending all types clubs from Chess Club to Mindful Craft Club, and many more. This involvement highlights their curiosity, creativity, and commitment to making the most of school life. A huge congratulations to all involved. Some Year 8 students took part in the Cyber Horizons trip, where they explored the exciting world of cybersecurity and digital innovation. In addition, the recent STEM Week was a huge success, sparking interest in science and astronomy through different hands-on activities.

As we approach the Christmas period, the Year 8 Team would like to wish all our students and their families a joyful and restful holiday. We hope you enjoy a well-deserved break and return refreshed and ready for another fantastic year ahead. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us!



Head of Year
Mr Seaton



Year 9 Update

It has been a real pleasure for me to see the Year group come back from the Summer term and really hit the ground running. I have been really impressed with the significant jump in maturity that many students are showing. This is reflected, not only in the work they produce, but also in the participation in many of the after school clubs on offer.



**Head of Year
Mr Nicholls**

I was fortunate enough to be able to drop into one of the many sports leader festivals and it was a real joy to see the year group taking on these leadership roles and provide a valuable experience for the younger students. On top of this, many of the students have also been on educational trip to Hinkley Point, which was a really inspirational visit for many. It was great to hear the valuable contributions made by the student council and this will feed in to our commitment to continue to improve all aspects of student life. I look forward to seeing many of the Year group on stage for the Christmas production which I'm sure will be a great way to finish the term. May I wish you all a fantastic holiday.



Year 10 Update



**Head of Year
Mr Williams**

This academic year for our students has marked the start of an exciting stage in their academic journey. The Year 10 students have begun GCSE option choices, demonstrating courage and motivation throughout this term. This year is all about exploring your interests and committing to subjects that will help you achieve your goals and hopefully offer the possibility of long term outcomes and potential careers. Commitment to your GCSE options is important, these subjects could form the foundation for your next steps. Many of our year group have undertaken extra-

curricular activities such as sports leadership, representing the school in sports fixtures and subject competitions, auditioning for the school play as well as helping out with important school events. Alongside GCSE studies, students have the opportunity to take part in work experience. A fantastic way to gain real-world insight into different professions. Work experience allows individuals to develop practical skills, build confidence, and understand what employers value, helping them to make informed decisions about the future. Work experience is also a chance to discover strengths and passions. Every lesson and opportunity counts towards building the skills and knowledge needed for success. Students have embraced this year with enthusiasm, they must take advantage of the support available, and make the most of every challenge. Year 10 is the start of an exciting journey—your hard work now will open doors to endless possibilities.





**Head of Year
Mr Reed**

Year 11 Update

Year 11 have truly stepped up this term, showing determination and resilience as they prepare for their GCSE exams in 2026. The recent PPE exams were a valuable chance to reflect, learn, and push forward with confidence. Our prefects have led by example, setting high

standards and inspiring others through their commitment and leadership. With college applications and interviews now in full swing, students are embracing exciting opportunities for the next stage of their journey. This term has been all about ambition, hard work, and looking ahead to a bright future!

As we head into the festive season, I want to wish all Year 11 students a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I am incredibly proud of the effort, maturity, and positivity you have shown this term, and I look forward to seeing all that you will achieve in 2026. Keep aiming high—you've got this!



Behaviour & Attendance

Behaviour Awards

150 Bronze awards

20 Silver awards

4 Gold awards

Attendance Awards

Gold 100% attendance – 180 students

Silver 98+% attendance - 156 students

Bronze 96+% attendance - 195 students

Our end of term celebration assemblies have been happening this week .
546 subject awards were given out!

Attendance is still strong but we can always improve further.

We also felt it was worth identifying those students with zero negative behaviour points across the last half-term. This was an incredible 588 students!

Year 7 incentive

This half term we launched our House Points Hippo and the Attendance Aardvark with Year 7!

Each week the House Points and Attendance totals for each tutor group are calculated and the Hippo and Aardvark are presented in assembly! The winning group then share images of what they got up to with Hippo/Aardvark.

Well done to all the winners so far!



#THIS IS COURT FIELDS

- ★ Week 1
7B2 - House Points Hippo
7M2 - Attendance Aardvark
- ★ Week 2
7C1 - House Points Hippo
7B2 - Attendance Aardvark
- ★ Week 3
7D2 - House Points Hippo
7M2 - Attendance Aardvark
- ★ Week 4
7D2 - House Points Hippo
7D1 - Attendance Aardvark

Sparx Homework Awards

This term we have been rewarding students for completing their Sparx homework in Maths, English and Science.

Our Homework Stars, who won a chocolate treat, were picked randomly from every pupil that had completed their homework in each subject. For the final week, we also picked students randomly, who won a queue jump for the canteen.

Our Homework Champions were the top performers on Sparx and won a voucher.

Our Homework Mastery winners are students who have been consistently at the top of the KS3 Sparx leaderboard and KS4 students who have continually demonstrated excellence in their homework. These students were rewarded with a £20 Amazon Voucher.

Below are all our winners to date. Well done all!

Homework Awards		
Science Winners		
Homework Mastery (£20 Amazon gift card)	Frankie-Belle P	
Homework Stars (Chocolate Bar)	Homework Champions (£10 Amazon voucher)	Homework Queue Jumpers!
Yr 7 - Jack H	Will M	Zander D
Yr 8 - Erin B	Jasmine P	Atlan P
Yr 9 - Faith S	Tyler P	Alfie L
Yr 10 - Arnold C	Princess N	Luca C
Yr 11 - Harley Q	Jakub M	Daisy P

Homework Awards		
English Winners		
Homework Mastery (£20 Amazon gift card)	Fynley G	
Homework Stars (Chocolate Bar)	Homework Champions (£10 Amazon voucher)	Homework Queue Jumpers!
Yr 7 - Imogen C	Maria C	Katie J
Yr 8 - Ellie S	Arya C	Hattie S
Yr 9 - Samuel S	Molly M	Hayden B
Yr 10 - Rhys A	Harrison H	Isla C
Yr 11 - Aimee E	Rosie S	Sam F

Homework Awards		
Maths Winners		
Homework Mastery (£20 Amazon gift card)	Jonrick C	
Homework Stars (Chocolate Bar)	Homework Champions (£10 Amazon voucher)	
Yr 7 - Maxwell R	Nhyira B	
Yr 8 - Mariia B	Jasmine P	
Yr 9 - Poppy S	Rayon M	
Yr 10 - Lewis U	Orla P	
Yr 11 - Jakub M	Blessing T-J	

Homework Awards		
Maths Winners		
Homework Stars	Homework Champions	
Yr 7 - Ned P	William P	
Yr 8 - Tuana A	Chloe M	
Yr 9 - Sahra B	Ashley U	
Yr 10 - Lily H	Rosie G	
Yr 11 - Bea S	Editch K	

Homework Awards		
Science Winners		
Yr 7 - Nojus B		
Yr 8 - Theodore W		
Yr 9 - Kacie W		
Yr 10 - Phoenix W		
Yr 11 - Huey N		

Homework Awards		
English Winners		
Homework Stars	Homework Champions	
Yr 7 - Martha B	Fynley G	
Yr 8 - Jack F	Arya C	
Yr 9 - Matilda D	Poppy M-T	
Yr 10 - Will C	Seb N	
Yr 11 - Florence S	Kelsie T	

Homework Awards		
Science Winners		
Homework Stars	Homework Champions	
Yr 7 - Fynley G	Keren A-S	
Yr 8 - Shanieise A	Jasmine P	
Yr 9 - Olivia U	Nicole C	
Yr 10 - Holly B	Princess N	
Yr 11 - Malakai C	Elsa J	

Homework Awards		
English Winners		
Yr 7 - Imogen C		
Yr 8 - Ellie S		
Yr 9 - Samuel S		
Yr 10 - Rhys A		
Yr 11 - George D		

Homework Awards		
Maths Winners		
Yr 7 - Demi P		
Yr 8 - Kierstin S		
Yr 9 - Leah W		
Yr 10 - Harry G		
Yr 11 - Charles U		

Friday Challenge

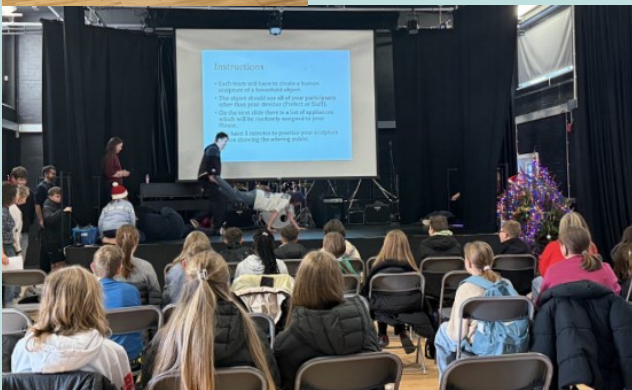
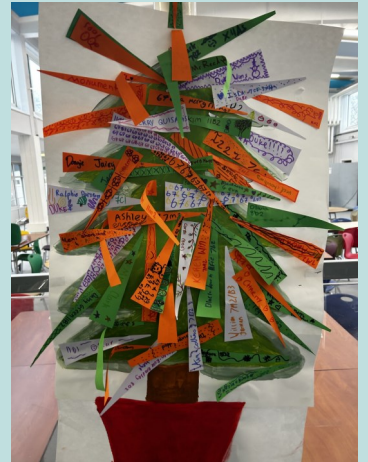
The Friday Challenge kicked off this year with the Big CF Quiz! Students raced around the school hunting for answers to all sorts of Court Fields-themed questions, though one hot debate was whether the LRC really counts as a classroom in B Block!

Blackdown stormed ahead with an impressive quiz performance, but it was Monument who dribbled their way to victory in the Basketball Hoop Challenge.

This term also marked our first collaboration with Eco Club, featuring a tree-mendous Nature ID Quiz. Blackdown claimed yet another unbe-leaf-able win!

Thank you to all that supported the Taskmaster Challenge on 12th December. It was a really lovely and entertaining lunchtime with a winning performance from Monument!

Over the Christmas holidays, everyone has the chance to complete Christmas Bingo - don't forget to submit your entries by Friday 9th January.



PE

Another fantastic feast of sport and PE at Court Fields this term. Our successful sports teams have been "pitting their wits" against different schools from around the county in a variety of sports including; football, basketball, badminton, rugby netball, trampolining, x-country and many more. Our trampolinists did exceptionally well at the recent regional champs, with lots qualifying for the Southern Finals. In addition, our KS4 boys badminton team have qualified for the county finals after being crowned area winners. In PE lessons, students in KS3 have been learning invaluable life concepts, alongside learning sport-specific skills. Next term there are many more exciting opportunities, with the start of the district football cup, district netball cup and lots more opportunities.

Merry Christmas from Mr C and The PE Team



Library News

The new school year has got off to a tremendous start in the library. With the new changes to the library layout and a fresh coat of paint, we have been delighted with the positive comments from staff and students regarding the appearance and accessibility of the space. We also received lots of positive feedback about the atmosphere and range of reading material at Open evening from both parents' and children.

Our Year 7 students have benefitted from the Bookbuzz scheme. They have all received a brand-new book of their choice to start them on their reading journey at Court Fields. The books were funded by the library to show our commitment and support to students reading for enjoyment.

At Court Fields school we continue to celebrate reading for enjoyment. Wider Reading has been popular this year, and we have been impressed by the volume and standard of book reviews we have received so far. Well done to all students who have submitted a review, especially those students who reached their bronze and silver award and to Fynley G for reaching his Gold and Platinum awards. Well done to Fynley G and Nia W for winning "Book review of the Month"

Reading is more than just a hobby; it is a vital activity for overall well-being, reducing stress and improving memory and focus. It also expands knowledge and imagination. With that in mind, and 2026 being the year of reading, why not start the holiday season by reading one of the books from our winter recommended reads and ignite a love of reading. Happy reading!



Recommended Websites

Have a look at the following websites for lots of book reviews and activities :

www.literacytrust.org.uk

www.booktrust.org.uk

www.worldbookday.com

www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk

www.goodreads.com

Loads of authors are on YouTube reading their books and on their websites. Search your favourite author to find out more!

Don't forget courtfields.net has lots of links including to our Reading Cloud, and SORA for eBooks.

REMEMBER your username for Reading Cloud and is your school email address and your password is your date of birth.

SORA password is your school/ courtfields.bep.ac email address.



12 recommended reads for Christmas.

Virtually Christmas
David Baddiel
Humour



Snow in Love
Aimee Friedman
Romance



Winter Magic
A witches Yule
Sara Haydon
Fantasy



Lost Christmas
David Logan
Adventure



The boy who slept through Christmas
Matt Lucas
Humour



Ice Children
M.G. Leonard
Fantasy



A boy
Called Christmas
Matt Haig
Adventure



Only for the
holidays
Abiola Bello
YA



The Snow Girl
Sophie Anderson
Mystery



Christmas

The Christmas Carrolls
The Christmas Club
Mel Taylor-Bessent
Humour



Goosebumps The 12
Screams of
Christmas
R.L. Stine
Horror



All wrapped up - Geek Girl
Special
Holly Smale
Humour



Happy holidays!

English



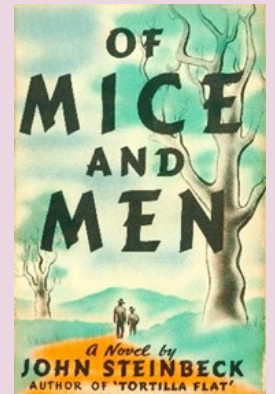
The English department have had a wonderful start to the year! Here is an update of what we've been working on...

Our new **Year 7** students began their journey at Court Fields in the Den - 'Dragons' Den! They applied their newly acquired knowledge of persuasive techniques and Aristotle's famous rhetorical triad to convince their peers to invest in their creative product ideas. We saw some extraordinary concepts and a range of deserving winners. To conclude the unit, students used their understanding of rhetoric to deliver highly persuasive speeches on how we could make our school even more environmentally friendly.



Year 8 students are currently immersed in the dystopian genre - dictators, surveillance, ruined landscapes, loss of freedom, and a struggle for individuality? Check! They have explored these conventions through a range of powerful extracts, from Orwell's *1984* to Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*. Embracing the role of a dystopian author, students have produced some outstanding short stories. Well done, Year 8!

Students in **Year 9** were transported back to 1930s America to analyse John Steinbeck's '*Of Mice and Men*'. They have been deeply engaged with the friendship between Lennie and George and were outraged by the hardships faced by many individuals living the isolated life of a ranch worker. We are proud of how thoughtfully, sensitively, and respectfully our students explored the novella's themes, including race, gender, ableism, age, and more. They also considered Steinbeck's intentions in writing the text and produced some fantastic analytical essays. In January, we will take our students back to Elizabethan England to immerse them in the conflict between the Montagues and Capulets—will love triumph? We can't wait to study '*Romeo and Juliet*'!



Year 10 students have made an impressive start to their GCSE English Literature course, delving deeply into the characters and themes of '*A Christmas Carol*'. As the festive season approaches, their focus will shift to exploring Dickens' purpose in crafting a moral tale rooted in Christmas traditions. Students will also have the chance to watch a film adaptation, but this time through the lens of a literary critic—seeing the characters not as simple caricatures, but as deliberate constructs designed to convey Dickens' views on social inequality in Victorian society.

Year 11 began the year by seeking justice for Eva Smith's tragic death, following the Inspector's interrogation of the Birling family through their study of *An Inspector Calls*. It was fantastic to see students engage so thoughtfully with J.B. Priestley's political play. Since then, they have completed their PPEs in both Language and Literature. We look forward to using these papers to target in-class revision and support students in the lead-up to their second round of PPEs in March. Keep going, Year 11!



Maths

It's been an incredibly busy and exciting term in the Maths department!

We've loved welcoming our new **Year 7** students, who have made a brilliant start to their secondary Maths journey. They've been tackling topics like simplifying algebraic notation and measuring length, mass, and capacity. Recently, they've been learning how to convert between different metric units—so why not get them involved in some festive activities over the holidays? Encourage them to help in the kitchen to practise converting measurements of mass, or let them join in with wrapping presents to work on converting between millimetres and centimetres.

Years 8 and 9 have been focusing on fractions, percentages, and a variety of algebraic equations. **Year 10** has taken its first steps into the world of trigonometry, while **Year 11** has been working hard to prepare for their first PPEs. Many of them can now sing along to the Circle Song and the Trigonometry Song—Mrs Smith's favourites! Congratulations to Jonrick C (Year 7), Blessing I-J (Year 11), and Jasmine P (Year 8) for claiming the top three spots on the Sparx Maths XP leaderboard for homework completed since September. On the right, you'll find four festive Maths puzzles to enjoy over the Christmas break. Answers are at the bottom of the page - no peeking!



Math Game

Work out the contents and the cost of the Christmas boxes from the given clues

READY FOR A CHALLENGE?
Find the value of each icon.

$\text{Gingerbread Man} = 8$, $\text{Star} = 2$, $\text{Tree} = 6$, $\text{Snowflake} = 4$
 $\text{Star} + \text{Tree} + \text{Gingerbread Man} = \square$
 $\text{Tree} + \text{Snowflake} - \text{Star} = \square$
 $\text{Gingerbread Man} - \text{Star} + \text{Tree} = \square$

$\text{Grinch} + \text{Hat} + \text{Tree} = 33$
 $\text{Grinch} + \text{Hat} = \square$
 $25 = \text{Grinch} + 7 + \text{Grinch}$
 $\text{Grinch} + \text{Hat} + \text{Grinch} = ?$

Answers: **Gingerbread game** - 16, 8, 12. **Grinch Game** - Grinch = 11, Hat = 2, Tree = 9, Final answer = 22 **Present game** - Present 1 = Calculator £6, Present 2 = Ball £3, Present 3 = Abacus £10, Present 4 = Diary £7.



Performing Arts



We have had an extremely busy term so far this year. We have been to see Six The Musical, and are off to Dick Whittington with the Year 7s this week. The GCSE Music students have even composed a piece of music that was performed by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. Glee Club have been performing all over Wellington, switching on the lights in Town and at the Wellesley Theatre.

On top of this, we have been preparing for our Christmas run of shows in our brand new theatre space: we performed to Reminiscence Learning, some of our wonderful feeder schools from Year R to Year 5, and the main show looks to be a smash with duets, solos, bands and choirs in the mix.

We have already completed an audition process for the musical where 45 of our students will be performing Mary Poppins. Rehearsals are going so well with some impressive choreography and some incredible harmonies that we cannot wait to show off.

In lessons, students have been getting used to a new teacher in music and have been working on the Decades project, where we perform significant songs such as Golden Slumbers, Fortunate Son and Just can't get enough. In Year 8, we worked on Samba and have composed some Japanese music. Year 7 have performed the Classical masterpiece Ode to Joy and are now engaged in band instruments.

We are looking forward to setting up our next event The Battle of The Bands 2026 - the show will be after school on the 5th February. IKB are invited to watch a rehearsal run through the day.

So don your gym socks and neon headbands for a trip down memory lane as we perform our 80s BOTBs in the new Theatre - get your entries in as soon as we get back!

Thank you for all of your support and Merry Christmas from us all in the Performing Arts Department. Look out for opportunities and Trips coming up in the new year.

Food Technology

This term our students have once again been getting creative in the kitchen.

Year 7 started by covering basic skills, with a focus on health and safety, in preparation for their first enrichment experience with UCS (formally BTC). We were lucky enough to have a day of master class instruction from UCS Taunton in November. We had 200 students all making Mille Feuille in one day. They learned how to prepare some more exotic unusual fruits such as dragon fruit and papaya as well as piping creme diplomat and decorating. A fantastic experience enjoyed immensely by every student and staff member, not to mention the yummy eating element!



Year 9 have had a new Scheme of Learning this year, Love Your Food. They have been working together for the group projects, including pasta and sauce reduction making. They have been creating family classics such as Lasagne, pizza and curry. They have also been creating technically challenging dishes, with the ever popular Star Bread featuring this week.

Year 10 have been looking at Macro and Micronutrients and special diets and have been preparing food related to the topic. A variety of high-quality dishes have been produced from healthy soups with brioche rolls, to technical Lattice pies with other dishes being more organisationally challenging in nature such as mini roast dinners with own choice of accompaniments.



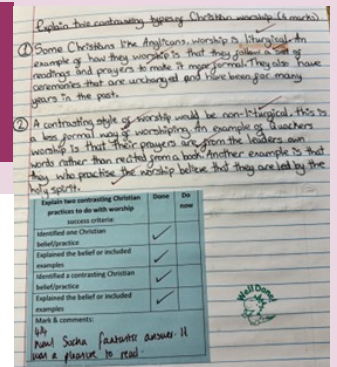
Year 11 have been very busy with their focus on coursework NEA 1, NEA 2 and PPEs.

Have a fabulous fun and food filled Xmas

The food tech team.

World Views

Year 7 have started World Views with a bang! Their philosophical and debating skills have been impressive. We have had many enjoyable lessons exploring what makes the identity of not only ourselves but also our local community. Our recent discussions around the Church and asking, 'Is it still important for Wellington today', was lively and resulted in a unanimous decision that it is still important due to all the support, guidance, groups and celebrations it holds for the local community.



Since September **Year 8** have been considering in a growing climate crisis, we explore the impact we have personally and as a society on the environment. We evaluate the concept of Stewardship and Dominion has had upon our environment. Through studying Neo-Pagans and indigenous communities we investigate how these communities treat the environment and think about what we can learn from them. Finally, we explore possible strategies to bring about change – individually/ as a community/country/globally to work towards sustainability.

In **Year 9** students have been retrieving knowledge about Judaism from primary school and we have been building upon this prior knowledge. They have learnt about the Shema prayer and the importance of the Jewish covenant. They have investigated the discrimination of the Jews throughout history and understood what was the causing factor. They have then moved onto understanding the plight of the Jews throughout the Holocaust and Hitler's final solution to the Jewish problem. Finally ending in the philosophical question around how can Jews still believe in God after the Holocaust?

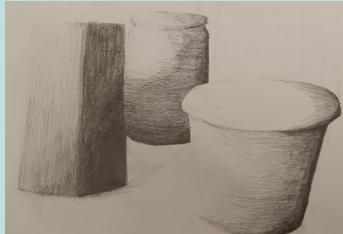


In core World Views lessons in **Year 10** students have been focusing upon medical ethics. As we advance in medicine, we must begin to consider the ethics behind the choices we make. During the course students have been considering various issues such as abortion, euthanasia, animal testing, fertility treatment, surrogacy, and genetic engineering. Students have enjoyed evaluating current issues which have appeared in the news and evaluated the response of government and religion.

It has been exciting to introduce Religious Studies to Court Fields School this year. Currently the two GCSE option groups are studying Buddhism. As we explore this philosophical approach to life, we have considered what led Prince Siddhartha to reject his wealthy life and pursue a life as an ascetic. We have explored how living a balanced life can lead to inner peace and happiness. Currently we are considering how karma could have a positive impact upon global ethics.



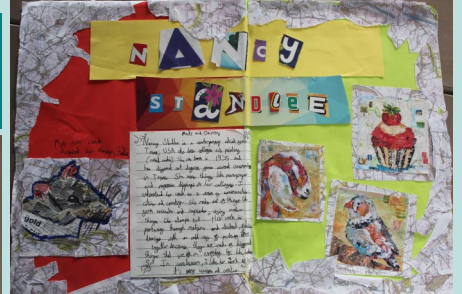
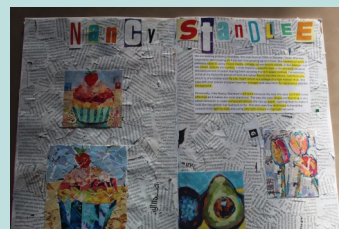
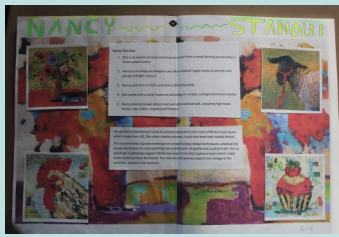
Art



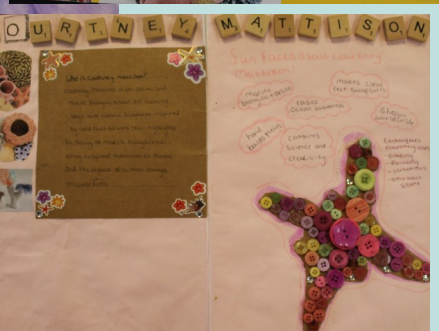
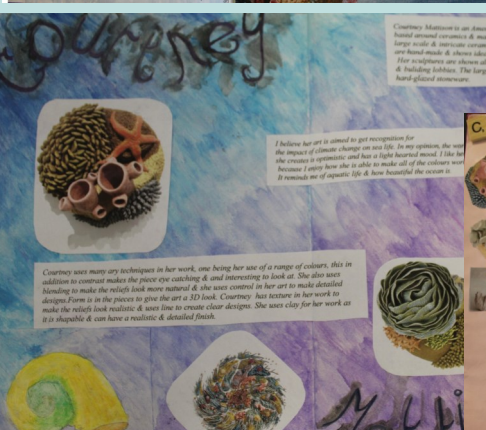
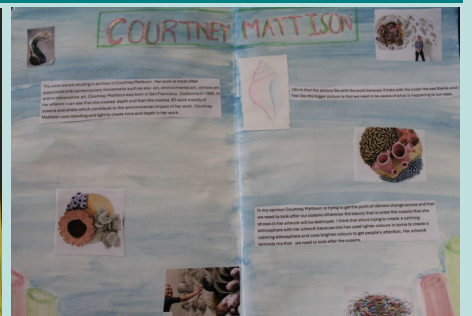
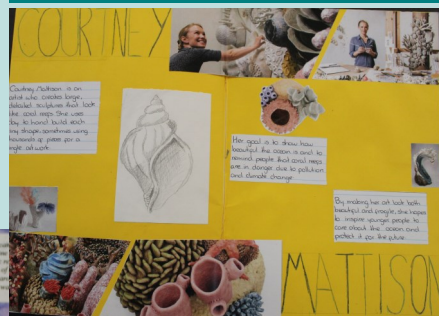
Year 7



Year 8



Year 9



Year 10 Art work



Year 10 Photography work



Science

This year has been an exciting and enriching one in the Science Department, with students across all year groups immersing themselves in new topics, practical investigations and a wide range of special STEM enrichment opportunities. Each year group has built on their scientific understanding through hands-on learning, curiosity and collaboration, and their enthusiasm has been clear to see.



Our **Year 7** students have made an excellent start to secondary science. They began the year learning about cells, using microscopes to explore the tiny structures that make up all living things. They then moved on to studying particles, discovering how the behaviour of solids, liquids and gases can be explained at a microscopic level, before investigating forces and the ways pushes, pulls and gravity influence movement. To celebrate World Space Day, Year 7 took part in an off-timetable STEM session where they were challenged to design a habitat suitable for human life on Mars. Their futuristic ideas and imaginative engineering solutions demonstrated impressive creativity.

Year 8 students have continued to develop their scientific understanding by exploring body systems and learning how different organs work together to keep us alive and healthy. They have also studied methods of separating mixtures, carrying out practical work using filtration, distillation and chromatography. Their unit on waves allowed them to build on their knowledge of how sound and light travel. To mark World Astronomy Day, Year 8 enjoyed an astronaut training session in which they tested their teamwork, resilience and problem-solving skills through space-themed challenges.

In **Year 9**, students have been delving into chemical reactions, observing how substances change and exploring the patterns that help chemists predict reactivity. They also studied enzymes, discovering how these biological catalysts play essential roles in digestion and other life processes. Their work on electricity involved building circuits and investigating how energy is transferred and transformed. To celebrate Earth Science Day, Year 9 students took part in a STEM challenge to design and build their own water filtration systems, applying their scientific knowledge to real-world environmental issues. A lucky few also enjoyed an exciting science trip to Hinkley Point C, where they saw the development of large scale nuclear engineering in action and learned about the future of low carbon energy production.



Year 10 students, now well into their GCSE studies, have been developing deeper knowledge across all three sciences. In biology they have been learning about cell biology, examining the structures and functions that underpin life. In physics, their studies on energy have focused on energy stores, conservation and efficiency, while in chemistry, they have explored atomic structure and the ways the arrangement of particles inside atoms explains patterns in chemical behaviour. These topics form a vital foundation for the more advanced GCSE units to come.



Our **Year 11** students have been working hard as they approach their final examinations.

In biology they have studied homeostasis, gaining an understanding of how the body maintains stable internal conditions. Their physics lessons have focused on forces, motion and the mathematical relationships that describe how objects interact, while in chemistry they have investigated rates of reaction, examining how factors such as temperature and concentration can influence the speed of chemical change. Their commitment and focus this year have been impressive.

It has been a brilliant year so far, filled with discovery, imagination and practical science in action. We are immensely proud of our students' enthusiasm and hard work, and we look forward to many more exciting lessons, experiments and STEM opportunities throughout the rest of the academic year. Science is thriving at Court Fields School, and we thank all our parents and carers for supporting their children as they explore and understand the world around them.



History

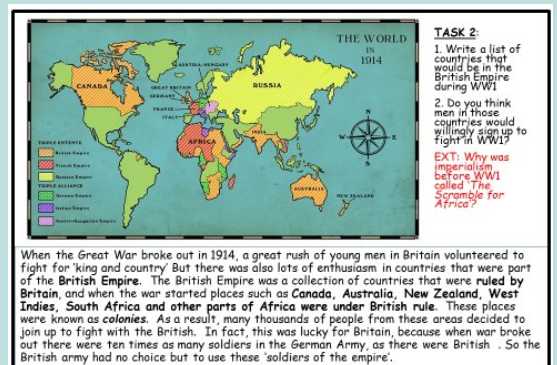
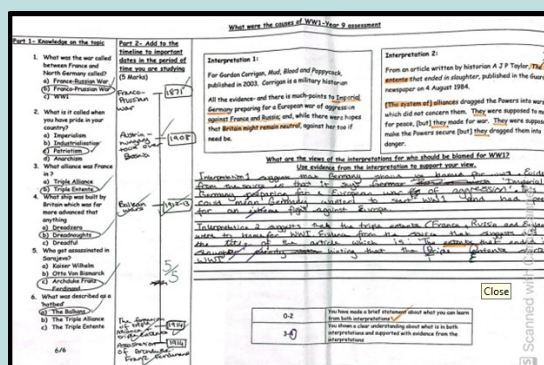
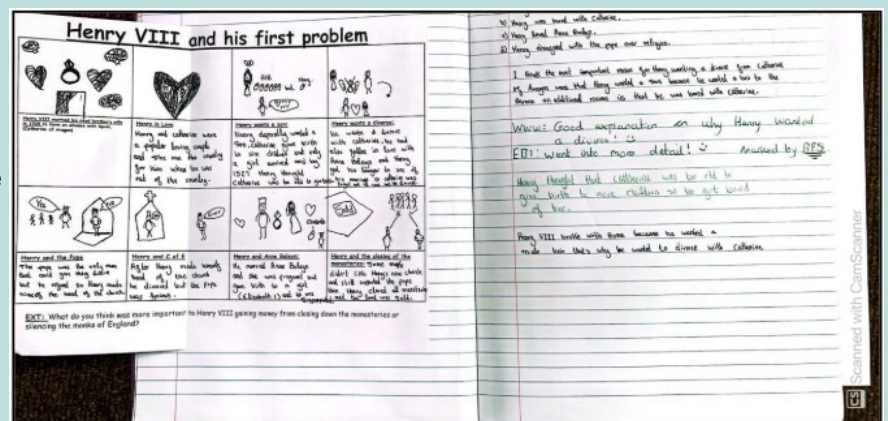
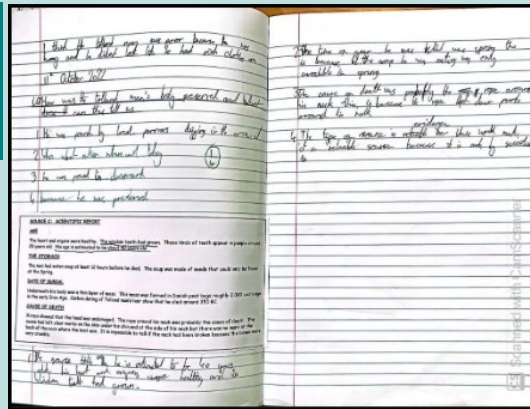
Year 7 started off with an introduction to Historical Skills and have since moved onto develop their enquiry skills on 'How did the Tollund Man die?'. Students look at a range of sources, their content, their origin and their nature to decide how valid they are in helping them answer the question. Student are also introduced to the concept of 'significance' and why the Tollund man is how unique in how he was preserved.

Students have since moved onto the settlers and migrants that came to England during the Dark Ages, to forge a comparison to the following topic on The Battle of Hastings and the impact that William I had on England.

Year 8 started their academic year with a new topic, where they learnt about the causes and consequences of the Renaissance, and how this sparked the Reformation that enabled Henry VIII to break with Rome, form his own church and re-marry. Student's within each lesson analysed the issue of religion and how this led to the Tudor 'religious roller-coaster' which stemmed from the changes in Europe, and Henry VIII's desire for a male heir.

Students are now learning about how far Elizabeth dealt with her problems, looking at Spain, marriage, colonisation and Mary Queen of Scots.

Year 9 began their academic year by looked at the 'Causes of WW1', looking at the MAIN issues (militarism, alliances, imperialism and nationalism) beginning with the rise of German nationalism from winning the Franco-Prussian war and Serbia rising out of the Balkans Wars as a challenge to Austria-Hungary. These complicated political issues really put into context why the Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand happened and students could compare, analyse and evaluated the most significant cause/s of WW1 in the short and long term. Students are looking at historians' interpretations of the past in both their lessons and assessments to draw links towards how historian's form opinions and why they differ. In the second part of the term, students are learning about the impact and changes that WW1 brought to those in the 20th century; looking at topics such as medicine, military technology, the Home front, soldiers of the empire and women.



LANGUAGES DAY 26TH SEPTEMBER

How much do you know about different languages?
Try out this quiz to find out!



14. In which of these African countries is PORTUGUESE an official language?

- a) Senegal
- b) Angola
- c) Egypt
- d) Namibia



Modern Foreign Languages

As always, it has been a busy term in the Modern Foreign Languages faculty!! At the end of September, we held our annual House & Tutor Group competition to mark the European Day of Languages, and to promote the importance of language skills in today's multicultural society. The winning tutor groups in each Year were: 7B1, 8M2, 9M1, 10B2, 11B2 with **MONUMENT** emerging as the overall winning house!

In curriculum time in Spanish, **Year 7** have been finding out more about Spanish-speaking countries and communities around the world, and learning the fundamentals of the language. The particular focus has been upon the way words are

pronounced (phonics), as well as using an increasing variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures to talk about their age, birthdays, pets, siblings and personality. In **Year 8**, students have been learning to talk in greater depth about a range of different aspects of holidays, such as transport, accommodation, activities and opinions. In **Year 9**, students have written about their varied likes and dislikes, learned to talk about what they do in their spare time and discussed how they plan to celebrate an upcoming birthday.

Students in Year 10 have begun their GCSE courses, while Year 11 students have been revising hard for their recent PPEs.



Open evening: A few Year 11 students had a great time whipping up fresh crepes for open evening. Guests could choose between strawberry, honey or the classic sugar sprinkle. The smell of warm crepes and the friendly chatter contributed to the success of the evening!

French exchange: Students from Years 7 to 9 have been getting ready for the upcoming French exchange by meeting up at lunchtime to get to know each other. They've enjoyed playing board games together, sharing laughs, and building friendships as they prepare for the exciting trip ahead!



Geography

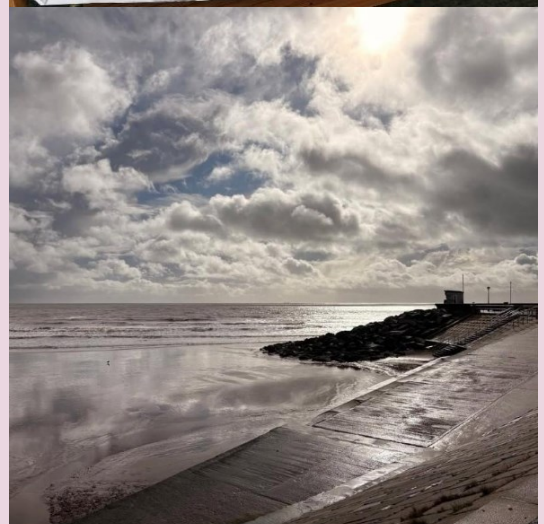
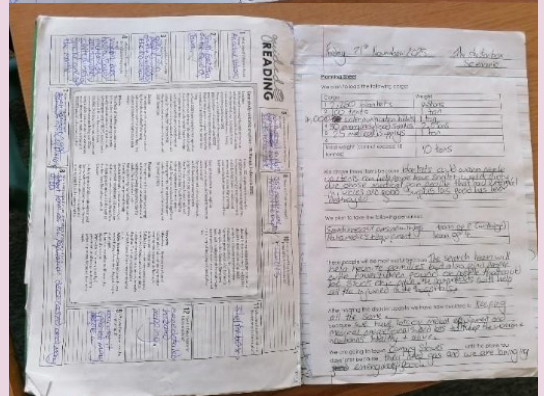
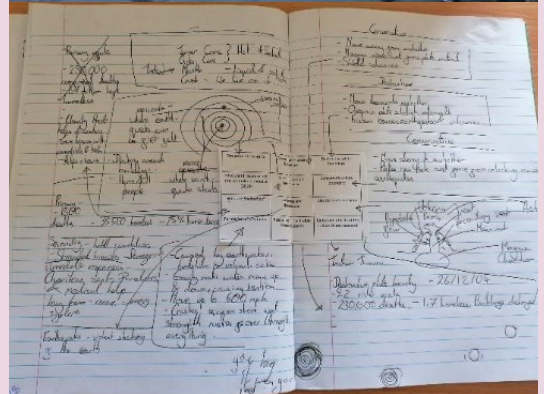
Year 7 started off with an introduction to the continent of Africa. Students have shown a fantastic awareness of the world around them and have developed an understanding of some of Africa's human and physical features, as well as their ecosystems. In addition to this, our year 7 students have started to develop their awareness of global issues and showed fantastic maturity and consideration for those that are less fortunate when looking at the issue of famine and drought in parts of Africa. A big well done to year 7! As we look ahead our year 7s will now begin to look at landscapes and the impact of climate change.

Year 8 started their academic year with the topic of settlement; within this they have learnt about the different types of settlement and have linked this to the presence of services and the threshold population. In addition to this, they all explored the challenges faced in settlements around the world, such as the megacity of Mumbai. They have now started their enquiries in Wellington and shown resilience and bravery when speaking to the public for their questionnaires, this information is going to be shared with the local council to support the community plan. A huge thank you to Laura from the council who came to speak to some of our year 8s to support them in designing their questionnaires!

Year 9 began their academic year by looked at the tectonic hazards. *In this topic, they explored the earth's tectonic plates and looked at how their movement can cause a range of hazards such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis. Students have been developing their case study knowledge looking at real world examples of each hazard, such as the infamous Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004. As they move towards Christmas, year 9 are going to start looking at population – this will include looking at the reasons for population increase and the challenges this poses. We will be discussing Geography GCSE with them over the coming weeks in preparation for their futures programme, as they begin to decide their options subjects.*

Year 10 have had a wonderful start to the year and have worked hard to adapt to the demands of GCSE Geography. They started the year exploring urban environments including the opportunities and challenges in cities, they have developed their place detail through looking at Lagos and Freiburg. They then had some time to focus much closer to home, with the regeneration of Bristol and the opportunities it brings to the south west. Ending this half term, students have started to focus on weather hazards including global atmospheric circulation and the impacts of Typhoon Haiyan. They will shortly begin to the look at the causes and mitigation of climate change as they head into the new year.

Year 11 have had a busy start to the year in Geography starting the year looking at coasts, this included a slightly wet visit to Dawlish Warren to measure the effectiveness of coastal management. They have then moved on to consider resource management, looking at how we can sustain the water, food and energy resources on the planet. All students have shown a good attitude to their geography PPE and have done their 6 week revision plan to help them prepare and support them in experiencing success in the lead up to their final exams.



Wellbeing & Safeguarding

Power for Good: KS3 PSHCE and Student Wellbeing

This term following on from Anti-Bullying week, our focus has shifted to the theme “Power for Good”, encouraging students to recognise the positive impact they can have within our school and wider community. KS3 PSHCE lessons are now embedded in the curriculum with a strong emphasis on developing the Court Fields Characteristics:

- **Resilience** – building strength to overcome challenges
- **Ambition** – striving for personal and academic success
- **Leadership** – inspiring and supporting others

These lessons aim to empower students to use their voices and actions to create a culture of respect, kindness, and responsibility.

We are fortunate to have many partners keen to work with us over the next year to further develop our curriculum and wellbeing provision. Anti-Bullying Week saw students take part in a range of activities and we continue to spread the message #BeKind. The focus was on peer support and ensuring everyone in our community plays a role in stopping bullying. We continue to work with *Stand Against Violence*, who will return later in the year to deliver assemblies and workshops.

Rights Respecting School Bronze Award

We are proud to announce that we have been awarded the Rights Respecting School Bronze Award. This achievement reflects our commitment to embedding the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into our school culture. To celebrate, we held an Enrichment Day focused on:

- Understanding the Rights of the Child
- Exploring misogyny and its impact on society
- Making the White Ribbon Promise to stand against gender-based violence

These sessions encouraged students to think critically about equality, respect, and their role in creating a safer, fairer community.

Healthy Mobile Phone Usage: Research and Innovation

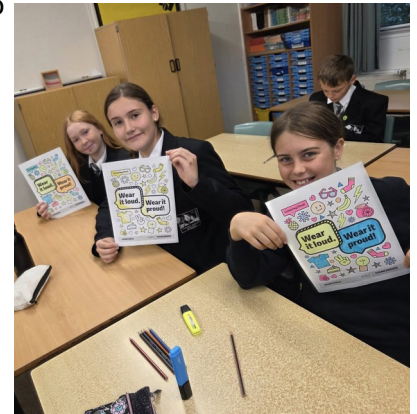
We are excited to share that Year 9 and Year 10 students are taking part in a study exploring the impact of mobile phone use on wellbeing. Alongside this, we are analysing our own school data to shape education that promotes healthy habits online. As part of the project, students will have the opportunity to trial a new app designed to support positive digital behaviours, helping them manage screen time and online interactions effectively. This initiative is not only about empowering students but also about working closely with families—we look forward to developing parental support resources to encourage healthy mobile phone usage at home.

Safeguarding and Mental Health Support

Safeguarding remains at the heart of the Court Fields Experience. We have relaunched the self-referral system for students to seek support if needed. Students can email the school directly to access help for mental health or wellbeing concerns. We are also working closely with the Mental Health in Schools Team to ensure access to both internal and external support.

Our students are fantastic at speaking to us if they ever feel worried or upset. For those who prefer not to talk in person, Tootoot remains available as a confidential reporting tool. We monitor concerns closely and respond quickly to provide support.

Looking ahead, we will host another Enrichment Day in February 2026, covering a range of safeguarding and wellbeing topics.





Mrs Westwood
Lead Designated
Safeguarding
Officer



Mr Canham



Mrs McCarthy



Mr Whelan

**Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Officers**

Safeguarding Team



Mrs Hartnell
Safeguarding
Officer




Mrs Matthews
SLT Designated
Safeguarding Officer

Safeguarding Officers



Mrs K Little
Safeguarding
Governor






Suicide is the biggest killer of under 35's in the UK
[Home](#) | [Papyrus UK](#) | [Suicide Prevention Charity \(papyrus-uk.org\)](#)

Somerset Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) webpages


We offer a variety of teams and services for young people aged 0-18 years old who are struggling with their mental health.
[Somerset CAMHS - CAMHS - Somerset NHS Foundation Trust \(somerstft.nhs.uk\)](#)

NHS Mental Health Apps




distrACT app - NHS ([www.nhs.uk](#))

The distrACT app gives you easy, quick and discreet access to information and advice about [self-harm](#) and [suicidal thoughts](#).
 The content has been created by doctors and experts in self-harm and suicide prevention.



Calm Harm app - NHS ([www.nhs.uk](#))

Calm Harm is an app designed to help people resist or manage the urge to self-harm. It's private and password protected.



Blueice app - NHS ([www.nhs.uk](#))

Blueice is an evidenced-based app to help young people manage their emotions and reduce urges to [self-harm](#). It includes a mood diary, a toolbox of evidence-based techniques to reduce distress and automatic routing to emergency numbers if urges to harm continue.

- ❖ For further Health & Wellbeing tips, advice & information including self-help support for parents and carers go to the Public Health website: [www.cypsomersethealth.org](#)
- ❖ For further information & support for young people go to: [www.youngsomerset.org.uk/coronavirus-support-for-young-people](#)

Mental Health & Wellbeing Help for Young People & Families

Mindline Somerset
Emotional support helpline
Coronavirus
01823 276 892
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

ChatHealth
Parents of children 0-4:
Confidential help from the
Health Visiting Team Just send
a text **07480 635514**

Parents of children 5-19 years: looking for confidential help and advice? Just send a text to your School Nurse Team. Text **07480 635515**

Young People 11-19 years: Discreet and quick, it only takes one text to start making a difference. You'll get confidential advice from a local School Nurse. You don't have to give your name if you don't want to. Text **07480 635516**

Open **24 hours a day, seven-days a week**. Mindline is open to people of all ages who need urgent mental health support. The helpline is the first port of call for mental health help – it is operated by people in your local area who will know how best to support you.

ChatHealth is a mobile health service for parents and young people in Somerset making it easier to get health and wellbeing advice.
Monday-Friday 9am - 5pm.

Young Somerset's Wellbeing Service - Free wellbeing support for young people experiencing low level mental health needs. Find out more here: [www.youngsomerset.org.uk/wellbeing-support](#)

Somerset Big Tent brings together local organisations that offer support to children and families [Somerset Big Tent](#).

Take a look at our previous hubs for parents and young people covering a range of topics from anxiety to stress to online safety: [Virtual Hubs Archive - Somerset Big Tent](#)



kooth
Kooth – Safe and anonymous online support for young people until 10pm – friendly counsellors, self-help and community support.
[kooth.com](#)

Having good mental health helps us relax more, achieve more and enjoy our lives more. We have expert advice and practical tips to help you look after your mental health and wellbeing. [Every Mind Matters - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)



Feeling a little low and need support?

Reach out to a trusted adult such as Tutor, Teacher, Head of Year, the Hub or Support Staff, in person, by email or use Tootoot.

tootoot

Here are some other agencies that can help:

childline
ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME
[childline.org.uk](#) | 0800 1111

NSPCC HELPLINE
0808 800 5000
[help@nspcc.org.uk](#)

Cruse Bereavement Care
0808 808 1677

YOUNG MINDS
Parents Helpline: 0800 802 5544
Website: [www.youngminds.org.uk](#)
@YoungMindsUK

Aged 11-18?
Need someone to talk to?
kooth
How are you feeling today?
I'm feeling awesome!
Free, safe and anonymous online chat, advice and support for young people.
[kooth.com](#)

mind
Open Mental Health
in Somerset

85258

shout

text 85258



Merry Christmas
FROM COURT FIELDS SCHOOL