



Welcome to the first Court Fields School Elevate Newsletter of 2022-23

Headteacher's Message

Welcome to our first Elevate Newsletter of 2022/23. We hope to give you information on our Elevate Programme in school, led by Mr Dudley and Mrs Hutchinson, as well as a flavour of the wide ranging and rich experiences available through our lesson curriculum and broader enrichment at Court Fields School.

Three years ago, as part of our School Improvement Plan we committed to developing a programme to provide support, mentoring and challenge for a range of students identified by our Pastoral and academic Teams. Since then we have successfully improved outcomes for our Elevate group as well as the wider cohorts in the school.

The team and I look forward to working with you over the coming year, fostering ambition, opening up opportunity and supporting the very best outcomes for your child.

Mrs Matthews



Dates for your Diary

21st October—Break for Half term

31st October and 1st November—INSET days

20th October —Year 11 parents evening

9th December—Year 9 parents evening





What is Elevate

The Elevate program at Court Fields School is a wide reaching and diverse collection of support measures that we put in place to boost the outcomes for students who may otherwise find it hard to reach their potential, or may simply benefit from a range of support, opportunities or challenges to exceed that potential. These measures could include additional academic support, support in school, extra curricular opportunities or more help with transitions such as starting secondary school, choosing options or applying for college. Some of the funding for this program comes from the Pupil Premium fund, a fund which comes directly from the government to help finance support for students who statistically may not perform as well as their peers.

Why is my child on the Elevate program?

The majority of students on the Elevate program will be classified as Pupil Premium students, or students who would receive this additional funding from the government. This may be because they have received free school meals, because they are in foster care for more than 6 months, been adopted from care or children who have parents in the armed forces. They may be in the Elevate group because they have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities. They may also be in this group because it has been recognised that they are experiencing difficulties which could impact their ability to develop and learn as they would otherwise be able to, which could be wide ranging, including for example shyness or anxiety impacting on their confidence in class.

What does this mean for them?

Being part of the Elevate group will mean that they have access to additional opportunities. These newsletters will share what has been going on with the group. If at any time you are concerned about your child's participation in the Elevate group, please contact the school and ask to speak with Mrs Hutchinson. Being part of this group does not mean that your child is underperforming academically, and it is not a reason to worry. It means they will be given opportunities that might not be available to other students, for instance last year some of the Elevate students went to the Mendip Outdoor Centre and had taster sessions for some apprenticeships. Some of the Elevate students had enhanced transition to college, and more support with choosing their year 9 options. Some of the younger Elevate students experienced an enhanced transition to Court Fields School, with more visits before they started. We are hoping to build on this now that COVID restrictions are fully dispensed with.

Useful support

Chat Health: Parents of children 5-19 years: Looking for confidential help and advice? Just send a text to your school nurse team on 07480 635515

Young Somerset: Free wellbeing support for your people experiencing low level mental health needs. Find out more at <https://www.youngsomerset.org.uk/pages/category/wellbeing-support>

Somerset Big Tent: A one stop shop for a variety of support services. Empowering young people to find the right wellbeing support <https://www.somersetbigtent.org.uk/>

Kooth: Safe and anonymous support online for young people until 10pm. [Kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com)





Young Somerset

The Young Somerset program is an initiative to provide additional experiences to support the well being and growth of some of our Elevate group. They take part in a variety of activities, learning valuable life skills. This is what one of our group said.

“At Young Somerset, we have acquired new learning that will be of great value throughout our lives. During this school year, we have made great friends with whom we have worked, laughed, competed and shared.

Together we are a great team that respect and help each other. We like to enjoy nature, be it a beach or mountains, forests or rivers, because we like to know and learn from our environment.

It has been a fantastic time and we look forward to next year enjoying this fantastic privilege that Young Somerset has to offer.



Links with Bridgwater and Taunton College

A selection of our Elevate students have been given the opportunity to attend courses at Bridgwater and

Taunton College as part of their timetable. These students are getting the opportunity to experience a range of fields, including automotive engineering, horticulture, construction, hospitality and hair and beauty. These taster courses will allow students to get a feel for working in a college environment and get a head start with the skills that they will need if they choose to follow a career in these areas. This is a great opportunity to work in partnership with Bridgwater and Taunton College.



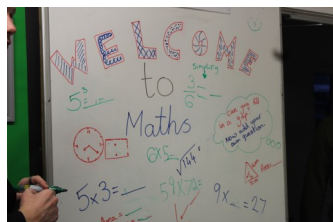
Mental Health

We are very supportive of all our students Mental Health, but none more so that those in our Elevate group. If you are concerned about your child's mood or their self esteem there are lots of online resources that can help. We also have the Wellbeing hub in school where students can seek and receive support during times of stress.





Open Evening



The School Open Evening was held on the 21st September. We were delighted to see so many students and parents come to see what we are all about. We were particularly impressed with the number of Elevate students who gave up their evenings to talk about subjects, do demonstrations of their skills or show people around. This is a great opportunity for them to develop their essential skills, for example self-confidence, meeting and talking to new people, and public speaking.



The Skills Builder Program

We are delighted to be working in partnership this year with Skills Builder. There is so much more to our young people than their academic qualifications. The Skills Builder framework allows them to assess and develop their essential skills of speaking, listening, creativity, problem solving, aiming high, staying positive, teamwork and leadership. Over the next few months all our students will be finding out about these essential skills and developing them in their lessons. As our Elevate group, we would like you to be the first parents invited to use the Skills Builder Homezone. Here you can find fun activities to share with your child, to work on your essential skills together. You don't need a log in, just search in google for Skills Builder Homezone.



Clubs list

What clubs and activities does your child take part in? What might they like? If they are too nervous or shy to go to a club please let the school know. We can find a buddy from the club to go with until they have built their confidence.

Are there any additional clubs that your child would like? Please let Mr Williams know so we can try to include more.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime 1.30pm-2pm	Bug Club All Years Mr Etherington in B2	Chess (Y7-10) Miss Murphy in A3 Futsal (Y7-8) Mr Seaton in Sports Hall Cars Club All Years Mrs Hutchinson in B1 Choir All Years Mrs Chidgey in Music Room 1.40pm Origami All Years Mrs Alge in B14	Gym Club (Y10-11) Fitness Suite Benchball (7-9) Miss Cridge in Sports hall	Spanish Club (Y7) Mr Piper in A2 Futsal (Y10-11) Mr Conway in Sports Hall	French Club (Y7) Ms Clarke in B16 Cipher Club All Years Mrs Ware in B12 Bug Club All Years Mr Etherington in B2
After School Sports Clubs 3.25—4.25pm	Photography Support (Y10-11) Mrs Binmore in Art Studio Yoga (Y7-9) Mrs Brown in Drama Studio. 3.15-4.15pm Badminton All Years Ms Greenfield in Sports Hall	Photography Support for KS4 Mrs Binmore in Art Studio Photography (Y9) Mrs Binmore in C8 Girls Football (Y7-8) Miss Cridge on Sports Field Girls Football (Y9-10) Ms Overington on Sports Field STEM Club (Y7-9) Miss Mercer in B2/B3	Rugby (Y7-8) Mr Seaton / Mr Conway on Sports Field Boys Football (Y9) Mr Dudley on Sports Field Creative Writing for All Ms Evans in E2	Rugby (Y9-10) Mr Seaton on School Field	Yoga (Y10-11) Mrs Brown in Drama Studio 3.15 - 4.15pm Wider Reading for All Years Miss Dennehy in E2