

Court Fields School

Achieve | Belong | Participate

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Headteacher: Mrs P Matthews

CEO: Mrs L Heath

23rd July 2024

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and looking forward to the summer holidays. Personally, I'm hoping that they will bring an extended period of warm and sunny weather, but I'm not convinced!!

Thank you for your ongoing support as we near the end of the Summer Term 2024. As is usual, I wanted to update you on the end of this term and preparations for the start of next academic year, so that you have plenty of notice regarding information and details. I am aware that it is a long letter, but parents often feedback that they prefer all the information for next year in one place, so please keep going to the end!!

Ongoing School Improvement

As you will know, I underlined earlier this year the importance of continuing our journey of school improvement following our Ofsted visit in March 2023, and our 'Good' report published last May. We have focussed on assessment, developing perseverance in student learning, subject pedagogy, continuing to refine our curriculum, and supporting our students both pastorally and academically. As you know, in September we, as part of the Castle Partnership Trust, merged with Uffculme Trust to create the Blackdown Education Partnership. This Trust gives all its member school significant capacity in terms of staff training, recruitment and retention, and school development. In line with that, over the last few months we have had three very successful reviews: Whole School, SEND and Safeguarding, conducted via the Trust, and quality assuring our continued improvement as a school.

As always, the support of our students, parents/carers, the local community, the hard work of our staff, Local Governing Body and the Trust has been a key part in this development, so I would like to thank you for your role in that process.

Next year, we will once again focus on our clear priorities: high quality adaptive teaching, ensuring all students are confident readers, student participation in learning and enrichment, and student/staff wellbeing. This is part of our 3-year school improvement plan to ensure that our school continues to support the outcomes and ambitions of our students.

Staffing & Recruitment

As you will know, recruitment in schools is a challenging issue nationally, but I am very pleased to say that we are fully staffed with specialist teachers for September. I am also pleased to say that we have only a small number of staff leaving us, including those on short term contracts, wishing to move closer to home, relocating or to enjoy a well-deserved retirement! At the end of this term, we will say goodbye to:



- Mrs Liz Amos, retiring from her post as Finance Assistant, having worked with us for 6 years.
- Mrs Gould-Haines, who leaves her role as Head of PSHCE to take up a teaching position closer to home.
- Mrs Greenfield, retiring from her role as Learning Resource Centre Manager, having worked at Court Fields since 2002.
- Mrs Lowe, who has worked with us in the Hub since 2020, leaves us to undertake training as a Primary School Teacher.
- Mrs Miles, who worked with us for 2 years between 2018 and 2020, and returned this year, leaves us to teach Maths closer to home.
- Mrs Ramirez-Burgos, Forest School Lead, and TA with us for nearly 4 years, leaves us to return to sunnier climes in Spain.

We are also thrilled to welcome some new staff who have joined since May Half Term, or who join our team in September:

- Miss G Thomas – Head of PSHCE, Teacher of MFL & Court Fields Experience Lead
- Mrs S Murray – Head of Science & Disadvantaged Lead
- Louis Wones – Teacher of Physical Education
- Hannah Derbyshire – Teacher of English
- Nick Baker – Teacher of Science

We also welcome the following staff into new or developed roles this year, which will ensure that we provide stability and consistency, as well as further improvement over the coming months:

- Miss Etherington, who has successfully completed the Graduate Teaching Programme and who joins us as a permanent Maths Teacher
- Miss Rendell, who is joining the Science Department to complete a Graduate Training Programme
- Fiona Carter, who is joining the Technology Department (Food Technology) to complete the Graduate Training Programme to teach Food
- Claire Ayshford-Smy, who is joining the Humanities Department to teach World Views.

Of course, those staff leaving, joining and being promoted to new roles have an impact on our Pastoral Structure. We also have to fit part-time staff with others whose timetables match across the week. We have a number of changes in place in terms of Tutors, to ensure that we provide the best support for our students, both this year and moving forward.

The Pastoral Structure for 2024/25 is below. If there are changes to your child's main Tutor, you will have been contacted directly by email regarding this change. Please be reassured that we put extensive thought into our Pastoral Structure to ensure that we have the appropriate balance of experience, specialist knowledge and consistency across each Year group.

	YEAR 7			YEAR 8			YEAR 9			YEAR 10			YEAR 11		
HOY	Mr Ross Seaton			Mr Jason Nicholls			Mr Danny Williams			Mr Jackson Reed			Mr Matthew Rooke		
SLT Link	Mrs Sarah Westwood			Mrs Kate Clough			Mr Daniel Whelan			Mr Daniel Whelan			Mr Martyn Dudley		
Tutor Team	7B1	Danielle Brown (M-Th-F) & Abbie Rendell	B8	8B1	Polly Stephenson	D2	9B1	Ian Keitch	C12	10B1	Lisa Bulmer	D3	11B1	Aggie Clark	B9
	7D1	Thom Hold	C2	8D1	Oona Bradshaw	C4	9D1	June Sibley	C11	10D1	Neil Piper	A2	11D1	Adam Bailey	E3
	7M1	Alex Mossman & Claire Smy (T-W-Th)	C3	8M1	Bethany Channon	B18	9M1	Bryony Burke	B16	10M1	Kirsty Miquite	B15	11M1	Alex Dudal	A3
	7B2	Carl Whiteoak	B6	8B2	Leona Alge & Ross Waterton	B14	9B2	Mia Cridge	A4	10B2	James Conway	C9	11B2	Jo Binmore	C8
	7D2	Louis Wones	D1	8D2	Verity Tucker – Brown	B3	9D2	Nick Baker (M-T-Th-F) & Charlotte Robbins (M-W-Th)	B5	10D2	Richenda Battisbill	C6	11D2	Vicki Ware (M-T-Th-F) & Rachel West (T-W-Th)	B13
	7M2	Hannah Derbyshire & Jo Andrews	C7	8M2	Alice Etherington	B11	9M2	Sophie Heys	B17	10M2	Jessica Reyland	C5	11M2	Annabel Harrison & Becky Casson (M-W-Th)	B12
				7C1	Megan Evans & Fiona Carter	E2									
			7C2	Michelle Murphy	C10										
Assembly Day	Friday			Tuesday			Wednesday			Thursday			Monday		
PSHCE Day	X			Wednesday			Friday			Monday			Friday		
House Assembly Day	Blackdown (Aggie Clark) - Thursday				Duke (Ross Waterton) – Wednesday				Monument (Charity Hunt) - Tuesday						

Arrangements for September

Opening Schedule for September

2024 Date	Year Group in School	Times of the school day
Monday 2nd September	Inset Day – No students in school	
Tuesday 3rd September	Inset Day – No students in school	
Wednesday 4 th September	Years 7 and 11 Only	8:35 am – 3:15 pm
Thursday 5 th September	All Years	8:35 am – 3:15 pm

Students will still be able to make use of the LRC from 8.00 to 8:35am each morning if they wish. The Canteen is also open and provides a free breakfast for students from 8.00 to 8:35am. Homework Club is available Monday to Thursday, from 3.15 to 4.30pm in the LRC and is open to all students.

Minor Change to Lesson Times

Literacy underpins academic success in every subject and is fundamental for building fulfilling careers and rewarding lives. As a Trust and School wide priority, it is imperative that we improve students' literacy by exposing them to a range of high-quality challenging literature. As part of our successful reading strategy over the last 2 years, we introduced the Tutor Reading Programme. This programme will be developed further over the year utilising an additional time allocation with Tutors, as outlined below. These changes do not impact the start or end time of the school day, or students' social time allocation.

School Timings 2024/2025

Students should be on site at 8.30, ready for 8:35 - Warning bell and 8:40 – Tutor Time
9:15 - P1
10:15 - P2
11:15 – Break to 11:35 - P3 (Warning Bell at 11:30)
12:35 - P4
1:35 – Lunch to 2:15 – P5 (Warning Bell at 2:10)
3:15 – End of school

Site Updates

For the first term Year 7 students only should use the Top (Beech Grove) Gate. Year 8-11 should use the Side Gate.

This will also mean that students are not able to access from the front of school/car park area and unless they have a medical exemption or registered disability, should be dropped at the bottom of the site, by the Youth Centre, so they can use the footpath to access the Side Gate (Y8-11) or Top Gate (Y7).

The Top Gate and Side Gate will be open from 8:00am to 8.35am each morning.

Students who are late to school (after 8.35am) will have to arrive at the Hub via the sensory garden. If students receive more than 20 minutes late across the week, they will be expected to attend a 30 minute after-school detention.

Astro

Many of you will have noticed the new 3G astro-turf pitch being constructed over the last year. This is a fantastic facility for the school and the wider community. In order for the pitch to be maintained, students will only be allowed to use this space with the correct footwear, please see below: No other footwear is permitted.

This is also applicable to social times; where Year 9,10 and 11 will have access to the 3G. At these times students must wear Astro/Turf Trainers only as studs will not be allowed at social times.

NB: Standard trainers, including Air Force style are not allowed on the 3G Pitch.

PERMITTED FOOTWEAR:



Artificial Ground (AG) RECOMMENDED

Specifically designed for extra abrasion, these boots usually feature more numerous and densely concentrated studs that vary in height and may be hollowed out.



Firm Ground (FG) RECOMMENDED

Sole plates feature moulded studs which are evenly dispersed across the foot to offer enhanced traction and comfort.



Hard Ground (HG) RECOMMENDED

Sole plates utilise a harder Thermoplastic polyurethanes compound for enhanced durability and typically feature multiple slightly shorter, evenly dispersed studs for optimal pressure distribution.



Turf Trainer (TF) ONLY WHEN DRY

Otherwise known as Astro's, they feature a solid rubber outsole with numerous, small multidirectional lugs spread across the sole, which offer limited grip in wet conditions.

Mobile Phones

Currently students in Years 7 and 8 should have their mobile phones off and away during the school day. This will be extended to include Year 9 students from September 2024. This means that only students in Year 10 and 11 are permitted to use their mobile phones during the school day. For year 10 and 11 students' phones should only be seen during social times and not between lessons. We may review the privilege of Year 10 and/or Year 11 students being able to have phones at social times if they do not adhere to the rules around use between lessons/in lesson time.

Parents we would urge you to encourage your children to speak to Court Fields staff if there is an issue as in most cases it will be easier and quicker for us to resolve once we are made aware of the situation.

Uniform

As you know, we actively listen to feedback from parents/carers and, if appropriate, develop our uniform to ensure it is as reasonably priced, hardwearing and easy to keep as possible, whilst ensuring our students look smart as they represent the school. We have reviewed our uniform, alongside that of other schools in the Taunton area to ensure that it is in line with or cheaper than other schools locally.

Full details regarding the house/uniform are as follows:

- The school tie continues to be available direct from the school via Scopay. The price is £4.25. Payments can be made online and students can then collect from finance. All students are expected to wear a tie.
- Prefects will be given a teal-coloured tie and will have the opportunity to purchase hoodies for September.
- Year 11s who are not Prefects can wear either a blazer or a plain black knitted style jumper in either a V or crew neck. Black sweatshirts, even if they are plain, are not allowed.
- The House pin badges will be available to order via Scopay for all students at a cost of £1. These include the new House logos, designed by our students. Students in Year 7 will have 1 free badge, those in Years 8-11 can wear their current plain badge, or a new badge. House badges must be worn by all students.
- All branded uniform items should be purchased from Workwear online [Workwear Online - Workwear Online \(workwearonline.com\)](https://www.workwearonline.com) or South West Schoolwear [Home - South West Schoolwear \(swschoolwear.co.uk\)](https://www.swschoolwear.co.uk) apart from the ties and house badges, which should be bought directly from us on Scopay.

- School skirts: all new Year 7 students will purchase the standard school skirt from South West Schoolwear or they may wear trousers. Mrs Westwood is conducting an audit of current students this week and a letter regarding any student skirts in current Year 7 – 10 will be sent out advising if their current skirt can remain for next year or will need to be changed. A separate email with links to the school skirt and acceptable types of trouser has been sent to parents already.
- All other uniform remains the same as this academic year, and of course can be purchased from Supermarkets, Retail Stores, Workwear Online or South West Schoolwear online or at their shop in Taunton.

We look forward to seeing students in their full uniform in September, working across all aspects of their school life to contribute to their House and develop the characteristics of Court Fields School students that will equip them for their successful futures.

A reminder of a few key uniform reminders are as follows:

- All students must wear black socks/tights only. No white socks are allowed. Black sports socks are now required for PE also, so there will be no white socks in school at all.
- All shoes must be plain black and polishable. Silver tags must be removed from Nike Air Force One shoes.
- Except for 1 small stud per ear, facial/body piercings are not allowed, nor are clear retainers. Please do not allow your child to have piercings that they will not be able to remove in time for the start of term.
- Blazers must be worn by all students every day but may be removed once seated in a lesson.

Full details of our uniform policy are on our website here: www.courtfields.net/uniform-equipment.htm

As for this academic year, we will hold a stock of clean uniform so that...if for any reason a student forgets or had lost any element of their uniform they can still attend lessons in their full school uniform. Students will be loaned uniform, which we will expect to be returned once it is no longer needed

Enrichment & Celebrations

From September 2024 students' House points on ClassCharts will build towards milestone awards. It is essential that we continue to recognise and reward students for their efforts and their successes, building on the culture of celebrating success that we have developed over recent years. These will be highlighted on your child's ClassCharts and will also be celebrated in school, with certificates, badges and other prizes. Please do log onto ClassCharts regularly and talk through your child's House Points, homework, attendance and any sanctions. This helps us to work as one team to support your child.

Please do read our Summer Magazine, which will be emailed out to you this week, and is a celebration of all the super events and learning that have taken place this year.

Please keep your eye on our Facebook, where we will post details of activities for your child over the summer, should they be at a loose end, as well as useful information and revisiting our 23/24 Highlights!! Year 10, of course, may wish to spend some time keeping their knowledge up to date over the 6-week holiday with revision activities, ready for entry into Year 11. Optional activities to support them will be posted on our website and linked on ClassCharts.

Finally, I wanted to wish you all a fantastic summer, and look forward to working with you over the next year.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any other questions/queries. Please note that phone lines are set to an answer service during holiday periods as we have limited staff team in school. Please email us as follows:

- For safeguarding concerns, please use the following email address: safeguarding@courtfields.bep.ac
- For ClassCharts or other IT technical enquiries, please use the following dedicated email address: classcharts@courtfields.bep.ac
- For pastoral concerns please contact your child's Tutor by email using the format initialsurname@courtfields.bep.ac

- For general enquiries, please use our main email address: **schooloffice@courtfields.bep.ac**. This address is monitored intermittently during holiday periods, so please do not use it for any urgent enquiries.

Our updated Parent Guide will be available from 22nd August for 2024/25 and linked on our website here. This is a helpful A to Z for parents of all Year Groups.

Thank you once again for your support, which is always very much appreciated. I hope you have a lovely summer and look forward to seeing you in September.

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Polly Matthews', written in a cursive style.

Polly Matthews
Headteacher