

# Court Fields School

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Acting Head of School: Mrs P Matthews

Executive Head: Mrs S Watson

Update Letter to Parents 190620 V1

19<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope that this email finds you well, and that you and your family have been keeping safe. I hope that you will manage to enjoy some time this weekend, particularly if the weather improves. Thank you once again for your ongoing support as we continue supporting our students via the **Learning@Home** programme, which will help to prepare our students to be able to return positively once school is able to start fully once more.

As you will know from my recent letters, we have responded to the Government guidance to secondary schools, which directed schools to implement '*some face to face contact*' with Year 10 in the remainder of the Summer Term, with remote learning '*the predominant mode of learning*'. This has resulted in us planning a graduated approach for our Year 10 students, including:

- tutorial style mentoring sessions for all Year 10 students
- face-to-face intensive small group lessons in English, Maths and Science for all Year 10 students
- 1:1 in-school and virtual tutorials for option subjects for identified Year 10 students
- increased 'live' or pre-recorded 'lessons' for Year 10 students.

This is alongside our Learning@Home Programme and our range of support measures, for all our students, over the remainder of this school year. Our programme is being reviewed and fine-tuned on an ongoing basis, to ensure that it provides appropriate challenge, support and preparation for students' learning once school resumes. We have focussed on equipping our students with the essential knowledge and skills to ensure that they make good progress and will be successful in their futures.

This week, we have welcomed back our Year 10 students for their first Tutorial Meeting, as well as continuing to provide childcare for our keyworkers. It was so lovely to see our Year 10 students, as well as those parents who accompanied their children to the meetings. We welcomed a fantastic 98% of our Year 10 students for their Tutorial Meetings, which focussed on their academic and pastoral progress since lockdown, as well as setting targets and arranging support for the coming weeks.

The process was very positive, and we have received excellent feedback from students, parents/carers and staff regarding these, particularly highlighting the way that these meetings have reduced students' anxiety by introducing them to the 'new normal' on our school site. Our students adapted with maturity to the changes on the school site and to the way that they were expected to behave, in line with social distancing and safety guidelines.

Following these successful Tutorials, we will also be identifying specific students in other Year Groups, who are struggling to engage with Learning@Home, and putting in place Tutorials for these students, to ensure that they re-set their learning and prepare effectively for September. This is in line with this week's amended Government guidance that we can offer some 'face to face support to children in other year groups', as long as this is able to happen within safety, rooming and staffing guidance. We will contact those families involved directly, following identification by our Pastoral Team, and this week's Year Team Meetings.

The plans above are, of course, assuming that there will be no further amendments to the Government guidance, but as always I will keep you posted as soon as I have any more information.



Year 10 families will have received their first letter regarding on-site lessons (posted 1<sup>st</sup> Class yesterday). This gives details regarding English lessons next week, and this will be followed by a letter on Tuesday regarding Maths lessons the following week, and another regarding Science lessons in the week of the 6<sup>th</sup> July. This is in addition to the students' second Tutorial Meeting. Options subjects will contact students directly over the next 2 weeks.

As you can imagine, planning for the in-school support has been a complex process, balancing the need to adhere to social distancing, Public Health and Government guidance, ensuring that we keep our students and staff safe, whilst keeping a separate provision open for the children of Key Workers and our most vulnerable students. This means that we will have no more than a quarter of Year 10 students on site at any one time over the next 4 weeks, in line with Government guidance. I review the school's COVID risk assessments daily, in line with current government guidance, to ensure that the safety of our community remains a top priority. This is posted on the school website (<https://courtfields.net/coronavirus-guidance/>) and will continue to be updated on an ongoing basis.

Apart from the small number of face-to-face meetings, all other Year Groups will remain as previously, with the Learning@Home programme in place until the end of the Summer Term. Our school will remain closed, apart from providing care for those vulnerable students and children of keyworkers who cannot safely remain at home, in line with Government guidance. We will offer an enrichment and 'masterclass' programme of activities that students may undertake, if they wish, over the Summer Holidays, but there will be no obligation for them to do so.

Please do remember that next week is a Revision Week for Key Stage 3, with Assessment Week in the following week (commencing 29<sup>th</sup> June). More details will follow for parents/carers, as well as an updated Parent Guide to Learning@Home early next week.

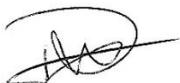
Additionally, I would also like to remind parents that we have two INSET days next week: 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June. Work will not be set for students on these days, as our staff will be using these times to plan effectively for our ongoing Learning@Home provision, as well as a range of options for return to school in September. This will ensure that we can react to the guidance from the Government, once that becomes clear. The school will remain open for the children of Key Workers and our most vulnerable students. Students will, on these two days, be able to access our enrichment activities, or use the time to revise or catch up on any work set. We also have a final INSET day this term on the 20<sup>th</sup> July. School will be fully closed on this date.

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 as we have a limited staff team in school so we keep as many staff safe and at home. It may, therefore, be easier for you to email us as follows:

- For Year 10 specific concerns or questions, please contact Mr Seaton, Head of Year 10 by email
- For safeguarding concerns, please use the following email address: [safeguarding@courtfields.net](mailto:safeguarding@courtfields.net)
- For ClassCharts or other IT technical enquiries, please use the following dedicated email address: [classcharts@courtfields.net](mailto:classcharts@courtfields.net)
- For Year 6 transition enquiries, please use the dedicated email address: [transition@courtfields.net](mailto:transition@courtfields.net)
- If your child has a query with their **Learning@Home**, they should simply email their class teacher in the format [initialsurname@courtfields.net](mailto:initialsurname@courtfields.net)
- If you are struggling to ensure that your child completes their **Learning@Home** and would like support, please contact your child's Tutor by email (using the format [initialsurname@courtfields.net](mailto:initialsurname@courtfields.net))
- To notify us that you may have key worker status, please use the dedicated email address: [keyworker@courtfields.net](mailto:keyworker@courtfields.net)
- For general enquiries, please use the main email address: [sch.552@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:sch.552@educ.somerset.gov.uk)

Thanks for your support throughout this extraordinary time. My very best wishes go out to you and your family.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Polly Matthews  
Acting Headteacher