

Court Fields School

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Ref: Update Letter to Parents re CV 110520 V1

11th May 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

Update on Coronavirus (COVID-19) for Parents and Staff

Firstly I would like to thank you for your support as we start our 6th week of school closure. On 23rd March we launched our **Learning@Home** programme, and our students' response has been superb. We know that this is only possible with your support at home, so thank you. It is indicative of our journey as a community over the last 12 months that we have been able to meet this challenge, respond to it, and to continue to work together. All our staff are very grateful to you for your ongoing support. I hope you had a lovely, if slightly different, Bank Holiday weekend.

Yesterday the Prime Minister announced a 'roadmap' for the country as we continue to respond to the coronavirus pandemic. Further to this, the Government have this afternoon published 'The UK Government's COVID-19 Recovery Strategy' which gives further details on the plan for the coming weeks and months. The document can be read in detail on our website and here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy>

The relevant sections for secondary schools are detailed below:

Step 1: Schools

The rate of infection remains too high to allow the reopening of schools for all pupils yet. However, it is important that vulnerable children (including children in need, those with an Education, Health and Care plan and those assessed as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities) and the children of critical workers are able to attend school, as is currently permitted.

Step 2: A phased return for early years settings and schools

Schools should prepare to begin to open for more children from 1 June. The Government expects children to be able to return to early years settings, and for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to be back in school in smaller sizes, from this point. This aims to ensure that the youngest children, and those preparing for the transition to secondary school, have maximum time with their teachers. Secondary schools and further education colleges should also prepare to begin some face to face contact with Year 10 and 12 pupils who have key exams next year, in support of their continued remote, home learning. The Government's ambition is for all primary school children to return to school before the summer for a month if feasible, though this will be kept under review. The Department of Education will engage closely with schools and early years providers to develop further detail and guidance on how schools should facilitate this.

The essence of this guidance is that for the present time we continue to operate as we have since 20th March. In line with Government guidance our school will remain closed. We will continue to:

- provide **Learning@Home** via ClassCharts for all our students in Years 7-10 and email support from class teachers. This is as outlined in our 'Parent Guide to Learning@Home' attached to this email.
- provide careers and 'next steps' guidance for our Year 11s, as well as opportunities for wider learning and preparation for further study or college courses. Our staff are also responding to the requirements set out by the Government and OFQUAL (the exams regulator) regarding Year 11 assessments in lieu of the summer examinations.



- support our students' wellbeing and mental health via our website, by linking to sources of help such as 'Young Minds' and 'Kooth', and through the work of our Tutors and Pastoral Team. Many families will have received emails or phone calls from Tutors, Heads of Year or the Hub Team, and we will continue this over the coming weeks.
- ensure effective safeguarding of our students and families through the Safeguarding Team, led by Mrs Westwood.
- provide vouchers for our families in receipt of Free School Meals, sent out fortnightly and redeemable at a range of supermarkets.
- work with our SEN students and families via the Learning Support Team, led by Mrs Towler-Williams.
- support the children of key workers and our vulnerable students, and in this the Government guidance remains clear:

Many parents working in critical sectors will be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.
- plan for alternative arrangements for key important events in your child's school life, such as Year 11 Prom, Sports Day, Year 7 Camp, Year 6-7 Transition etc. Details of some of these events have been sent to parents previously, and are available on our website. Further details will be confirmed as we know more from the Government regarding the ongoing situation.
- keep you informed via our Parent Bulletin, ClassCharts, the school website, email, texts and social media accounts.

Over the coming weeks we will plan to support Year 10 students in line with the brief guidance published today, along with further guidance and information that is expected over the next few days. Please be assured that our priority is, of course, the safety of our students and their families, and our staff and their families.

We are very proud of the response of our students to this new way of working. If students follow our **Learning@Home** programme, they will be effectively prepared to return to school when we re-open. Students should check ClassCharts each morning and complete the work on the date on which it was set. Year 10 students should also complete the online daily 'check-in' so that we can evaluate their wellbeing, progress and access to learning. I cannot stress enough that students' outcomes will be significantly impacted if they do not follow the **Learning@Home** set for them. 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.

As always please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any other questions/queries. Please note that phone lines may be busy and we only 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 safeguarding concerns, please use the following email address: safeguarding@courtfields.net
- For ClassCharts or other IT technical enquiries, please use the following email address: classcharts@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
- To notify us that you may have key worker status, please use the email address: keyworker@courtfields.net
- For general enquiries, please use the main email address: sch.552@educ.somerset.gov.uk

The latest guidance from the Government regarding school closure and COVID19 can be viewed here as well as on our website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>. Our website also has a wide range of information and support for families and students.

Thank you for the support and understanding that you have shown to us at this difficult time. Please do keep in touch. Your positive comments and feedback over the last 6 weeks have been very gratefully received by our staff. We will continue to do all we can to support our community over the coming weeks. My very best wishes go out to you and your families.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Polly Matthews
Acting Headteacher