

Court Fields School

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Ref: Update Letter to Parents 210520 V1

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

Thank you for your ongoing support as we reach the milestone of 2 months since school closure. On the one hand it seems amazing that we are already at May Half Term, but on the other hand it seems a long time since we have seen our fantastic students, and we miss them! Thank you again for your positive feedback and your support for your child's **Learning@Home**, which will help our students to be able to return positively once school is able to start fully once more.

I wrote to you last week, following the Government's announcements and guidance regarding the recovery strategy for COVID-19, including the specific guidance for schools. The documents can be read in detail on our website here: courtfields.net/coronavirus-guidance

The relevant sections of the guidance 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 schools

Secondary schools should prepare to begin some face to face contact with Year 10 pupils who have key exams next year, in support of their continued remote home learning.

As you will know from my letter last week, the key message from the Government guidance is that for the present time we continue to operate as we have since 20th March. In line with Government guidance for secondary schools, our school will remain closed and all students will continue their **Learning@Home**. However, we have developed an additional programme of support for our Year 10 students in line with the direction from Government.

Of course, the planning above is subject to ongoing Government guidance and our own risk assessments. As a result, it may develop over the coming weeks, including with reference to the Government's 5 conditions for easing the lockdown further being met by 28th May. Please be reassured that the safety of our community is our highest priority.

Year 10:

For Year 10 this will mean that they will receive a Tutorial Pack in the week after half term. This will include preparation activities for their face-to-face 'Tutorials' during the second half of the Summer Term. It will enable us to ensure Year 10 students are on track with their learning for September and their GCSE courses, and to support their wellbeing and progress. Each student will have an individual appointment, and one parent will be able to attend alongside your child if you wish to do so, with full social distancing measures in place.



If you have concerns regarding sending your child into school, the Pack will contain details of how to contact us to request a video or phone meeting instead. We completely understand that at this time there is a lot of uncertainty around the lifting of the lockdown measures, and will liaise with you to ensure that you are comfortable with the plans in place for your Year 10 child.

We will also continue to develop our **Learning@Home** provision for all students, including the use of 'live' or pre-recorded lessons where appropriate, to enhance learning. Year 10 students will be prioritised in the development of this provision in line with Government guidance. Further details will follow after half term. We are also looking to support our prospective Year 7 students for September, by planning some transition work to support them. This will include working with their current primary school, as well as, we hope, an opportunity to meet their Tutor before the end of the summer term.

We will offer additional face to face appointments to specific Year 10 students, if we are concerned regarding their ongoing engagement with learning, or their progress in a specific subject. This may be by invitation in school, or via video or phone contact.

Years 7, 8 & 9:

For Years 7, 8, and 9, this will mean that your child should have a full break over half term, and restart their Learning@Home on Monday 1st June. It is important that they have a rest and time with families over the half term, and I have asked our staff not to set work or submission deadlines over the half term week. We will be in touch after the half term to update you on our developing Learning@Home programme, which we will continue to ensure supports your child ready for the new school year in September.

All students in Years 7-10 will undertake Assessment Weeks in the next half term. This is vital to allow us to evaluate your child's progress whilst learning at home, identify and address gaps, and further tailor our Learning@Home programme to your child's needs. Year 10 Assessment Week will be the week of the 8th June, and Key Stage 3 Assessment Week will be the week of the 29th June. All students will be informed via ClassCharts of their assessment topics/focus and will be provided with a revision, consolidation and preparation week before their Assessment Week.

The focus for the assessments/exams will be mainly the work set during Home Learning and some interleaving/recapping of topics from the rest of the year. We do not want students being anxious about having to revise the content from the whole year, and so they should focus on the topics covered in their Learning@Home. The timetable and details will be posted in advance of each Assessment Week, so that students are able to be fully prepared.

Year 11:

For Year 11, this will mean students are able to access preparation work for their post-16 courses, the EtonX activities, careers activities, or the HPQ qualification via the website, ClassCharts and through contact with their teachers. I would encourage all our Year 11 students to keep their brains active with something, whether this is one of the resources that we provide, or something of their own choice. Young people's brains are still developing at 16, and it is important that they keep them active and developing connections, so they are ready for learning in September, be that of a vocational nature, A levels or other courses.

As indicated above, all students will continue their **Learning@Home**, accessed via ClassCharts. We have updated our Parent Guide to Learning at Home to support you and your child. The Government has today published guidance for parents/carers to support their child's learning during school closure. This can be found on our website and here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

We will continue to 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.

Once again please ensure that your child follows our **Learning@Home** programme, so that they will be effectively prepared to return to school when we re-open. This is of course, absolutely vital for our Year 10

students, whose outcomes will be significantly impacted next year if they do not follow the **Learning@Home** set for them.

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 safeguarding concerns, please use the following email address: safeguarding@courtfields.net
- For ClassCharts or other IT technical enquiries, please use the following dedicated email address: classcharts@courtfields.net
- For Year 6 transition enquiries, please use the dedicated email address: 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
- 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)
- To notify us that you may have key worker status, please use the dedicated 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. We will, as always, keep you informed via our Parent Bulletin, ClassCharts, the school website, email, texts and social media accounts.

Thank you once again for your support, which is very much appreciated. My very best wishes go out to you and your families. I hope you have an enjoyable, if different, half term.

Keep safe and keep in touch.

Yours sincerely



MRS POLLY MATTHEWS
Acting Headteacher