

Court Fields School

Achieve | Belong | Participate

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Acting Head of School: Mrs P Matthews

Executive Head: Mrs S Watson

Ref: General Update Letter 300620 V5

1st July 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and keeping safe at this difficult time. Thank you for your ongoing support as we near the end of the Summer Term. The challenges of school closure, lockdown and Learning@Home have been significant for all of us, and I would like to say thank you to you and your children for your understanding, hard work and flexibility as we have adapted to this 'new normal'.

I wanted to give you an update on our development as a school this year, along with details of staffing changes and our planning for September. I am very proud of our journey this year. Students, staff and parents tell me that Court Fields is a different place, and has significantly improved over the last 12 months. We are absolutely committed to ensuring that this continues, despite school closure, and we are excited about the opportunities that the next year will bring.

Recently we have had feedback from our School Improvement Partner (an external independent consultant with significant experience of school leadership and the OFSTED Inspection Framework), and from Dr James Rogers, who has been supporting our development of teaching & learning as an external consultant. This has validated the good progress we have made this year, particularly in teaching & learning, and staff development, and has built solid foundations for next year. We also have ensured that there are improved systems and structures in place across all aspects of the school, which more effectively support behaviour, teaching and learning, and student progress. There is, of course, more to do, but this year has marked a significant step forward.

One aspect of concern for many schools is teacher retention and recruitment, and over the last 2 years, teaching staff turnover at Court Fields has been at a high level. This affects our students, families, other staff, and the school as a whole, and hinders consistency and the building of positive relationships. I am very pleased to say that we have reduced our teaching staff turnover by 71% this year, with only 4 staff leaving us, for promotions or to move into specialist or independent provision. This is again a reflection on the work we have done to improve our school, and will help to ensure a consistent improvement next year.

At the end of this term, we will say goodbye to Mrs Cummins after 14 years working within the Castle Partnership Trust and 6 years at Court Fields. She has worked over the last 5 years as Assistant Headteacher for Teaching & Learning, and leaves us to take up an Assistant Headteacher role at Robert Blake School in Bridgwater. Mrs Towler-Williams, who has been at Court Fields for 5 years as SENCO and Assistant Headteacher, leaves us for a promoted post as Headteacher at a specialist SEN provision. Mrs Anstice leaves us after 4 years for a promotion to Assistant Headteacher at the Taunton Deane Partnership College, having worked at Court Fields in our AFA Team and as a teacher of English. Miss Stanfield has been with us as a Science Teacher for a year, and will be moving to the independent school sector. After working in the Technology Faculty at Court Fields since 2003, Miss Poole is taking well deserved retirement, although we hope that she will continue to support us through her enrichment and community work. We also say goodbye to Mr Hall, Mrs Joyce and Miss Black, who have supported us at Court Fields as maternity cover for Miss Swannack, Mrs Brown and Mrs Normanton, who return to us for September. Miss Clark also returns from Maternity leave to our Modern Foreign Languages Team. It is always sad to say goodbye to any of our team, but we thank them for all their hard work, and wish them well for the future.

We are also thrilled to welcome some new staff to join our team:



- Miss Harrison, who many of you will know from the Maths Team, joins us as a full time teacher of Maths. It is a further mark of our development as a school that we are 'growing our own' superb staff, and we're delighted that, having trained with us, Miss Harrison now will stay with us.
- Miss Clark and Miss Mercer join our Science Faculty.
- Miss Fear joins us for the coming year as a Teacher of History during Mrs Mossman's maternity leave.
- Ms Arnold and Mr Waterton join us as a trainee teachers, in our English & Technology Faculties.

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

- Miss Martin will be leading our Teaching & Learning Development as Assistant Headteacher.
- Mr Williams will continue as Head of Year 11, and will also be seconded to the Senior Leadership Team, to support the development of our new staff and Early Career Teachers.
- Mrs Binmore continues as Head of CPA, and will also be seconded to the Senior Leadership Team, to support our Teaching & Learning Development.
- Mrs Hutchinson, who continues to lead the Maths Team, is also seconded to the Senior Leadership Team, with a focus on timetable and our Careers programme.
- Miss Prouse will lead the Geography Team and Mrs Joyce the History Team during Mrs Mossman's maternity leave.
- Mrs Bruce steps up to lead the English Faculty as Head of English, supported by Miss Evans as Second in English.
- Mrs McCarthy will continue as Head of Year 9 (Year 10 in September), and will also take over as SENCO from Mrs Towler-Williams.
- Mrs Westwood continues to lead our Pastoral Team as Assistant Headteacher, and Miss Stephenson will continue as Head of Year 7 next year.

Of course those staff leaving and joining, as well as our specialist Year 7 and 11 Teams, have an impact on our Pastoral Structure. We have a number of changes in place to ensure that we provide the best support for our students, both this year and moving forward. The full details of the Year Teams and Tutors are at the end of this letter. If there are changes to your child's main Tutor, you will be contacted directly by their Head of Year or current Tutor, and will also be introduced to your child's Tutor for next year before the end of term. 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.

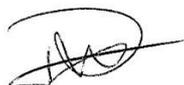
Finally, I wanted to address some questions regarding September. As you will know, the Government has not yet issued clear guidance on the requirements for schools for September. We have planned for a range of eventualities, and will be refining these over the coming weeks as the Government guidance becomes clear. Please be reassured that we will ensure that we focus on a 'recovery curriculum', with appropriate emotional and academic support, alongside considerations of a practical nature, such as uniform and transport. There is some speculation that there will be a Government announcement tomorrow (Thursday). Once this has been made, this will feed into our planning. We will update you with more information once we have confirmed our plans in response to the new guidance.

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. Please, therefore, 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
- If your child has a query with their **Learning@Home**, they should simply email their class teacher in the format initialsurname@courtfields.net
- If your child needs emotional support, if you are struggling to ensure that your child completes their **Learning@Home**, or for other general queries, please contact your child's Tutor by email (using the format initialsurname@courtfields.net)
- For general enquiries, please use the main email address: sch.552@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Thank you once again for your support, which is always very much appreciated. My very best wishes go out to you and your families. Do please keep safe and keep in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Polly Matthews
Acting Headteacher

COURT FIELDS SCHOOL

PASTORAL ORGANISATION 2020-2021



	YEAR 7		YEAR 8		YEAR 9		YEAR 10		YEAR 11	
HOY	Mrs N Stephenson		Mr R Seaton		Mr M Smith		Mrs V McCarthy		Mr D Williams	
SLT Link	Mrs S Westwood		Mrs S Westwood		Mr M Dudley		Mrs L Martin		Mr M Dudley	
Tutor Team	7T	Miss S Overington	8E	Mrs E Lees & Miss R Casson	9R	Miss E Fear	10E	Mr J Reed	11R	Miss S Prouse
	7R	Miss A Green	8S	Mrs D Brown & Mrs R Willson	9T	Miss L Spiers	10S	Mrs S Mackie	11T	Miss K Burns
	7S1	Miss A Harrison	8R1	Mr T Hold	9E1	Mrs V Kennett & Mrs C Borrett	10R1	Mrs J Binmore	11E1	Mrs D Greenfield
	7S2	Miss A Clarke	8R2	Mr J Conway	9E2	Mr I Keitch	10R2	Miss J Normanton & Mrs V Ware	11E2	Mr N Piper
	7E1	Miss A Mercer	8T1	Mrs C Joyce	9S1	Miss M Evans	10T1	Mrs A Ilo & Mr D Younger	11S1	Mrs N Miles & Miss R West
	7E2	Ms A Dudal	8T2	Mrs S Chidgey	9S2	Mrs L Alge & Mrs K Botting	10T2	Miss J Sibley	11S2	Mr J Nicholls
Linked Staff	Miss M Murphy		Miss T Clark Mrs E Hutchinson		Ms MT Warren Miss K Swannack		Mr D Younger Mrs T Bruce		Miss S Dennehy	
Assembly Day	Monday (Sports Hall)		Tuesday		Thursday		Friday		Monday	

Our Year 7 Tutor Team has been planned to ensure a consistent tutor from Year 7, through the students' time at Court Fields.

We currently have a specialist team in place to support Year 11. This has been very successful over the last 12 months, and will be vital this year as we support our Year 11s on their return to school and throughout their final year.

We seek to ensure that students remain with the same Tutor where possible, outside of the specialist support in Year 11. Of course, some changes may need to be made annually depending on leavers, joiners and the timetables of part-time staff.

Any Tutors who are changing Tutor Groups will complete a full handover via their Head of Year. Please continue to address any questions, comments or concerns to your child's current Tutor until the start of the new term. New Tutors will also introduce themselves to their new Tutor Group via email/virtual classroom before a full return to school.

Assembly days and details will need to be confirmed once Government Guidance for September becomes clear. We will advise students, staff and parent as soon as possible.