



Wellbeing Hub Grand Opening

**What's On
In our
Faculties**

Sports Updates

THEATRE TRIP TO LONDON

**Christmas
Concert**

**Court Fields in the
Community**

Achieve | Belong | Participate



**NORDMAN
FIRS** **LANGFORD LAKES**
CHRISTMAS TREES

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our Court Fields Magazine!

We've been very busy since September. We have been focusing on our three clear core priorities: teaching & learning, behaviour and student/staff wellbeing. We have continued to develop our links in the community, visiting a range of locations with the school choir, supporting local organisations and events, and ensuring that Court Fields School is at the centre of the community.

We look forward to continuing this work over the coming months and carrying on with our school improvement journey throughout 2020. Thanks to the hard work and support of our staff, students, parents/carers and community we have already come so far in the last 9 months.

We are committed to continuing to ensure that Court Fields continues to improve and provides exceptional academic and pastoral support for all our students.

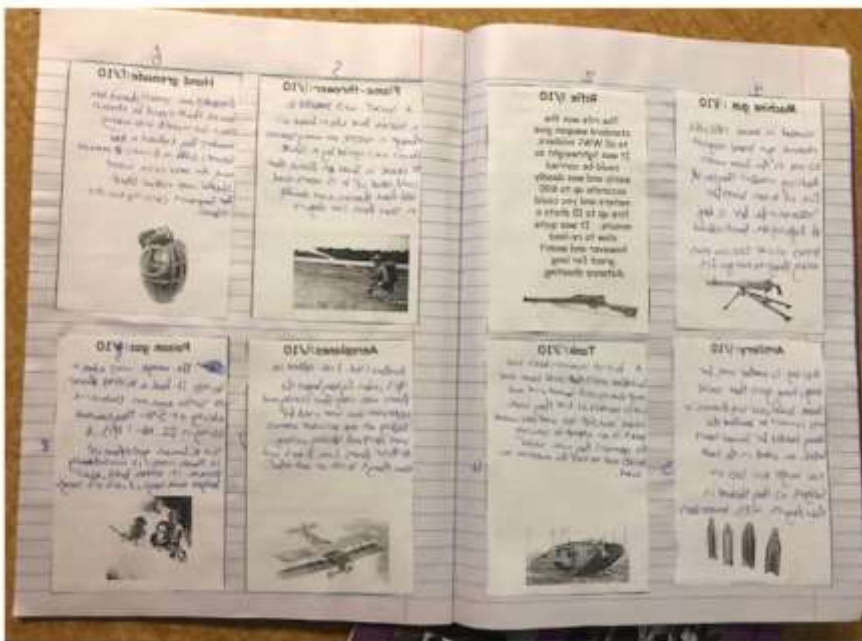
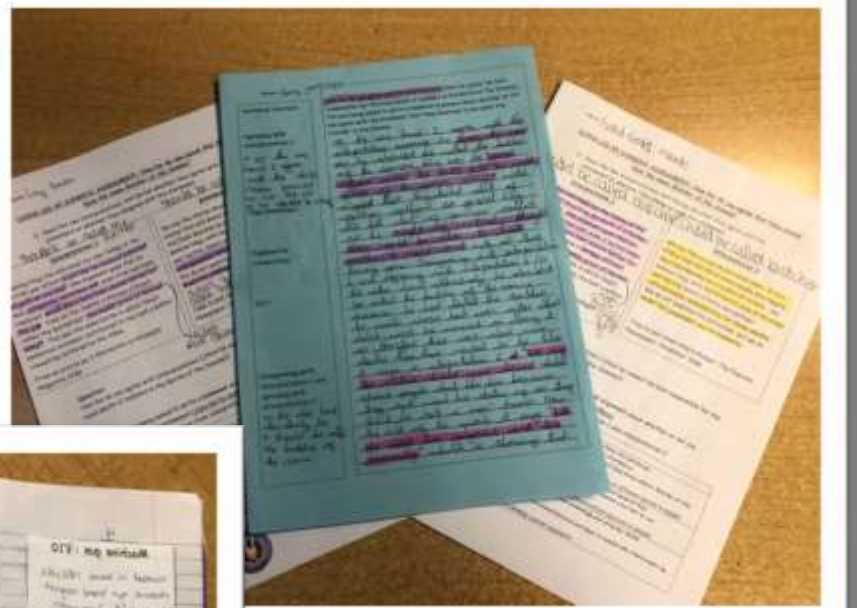
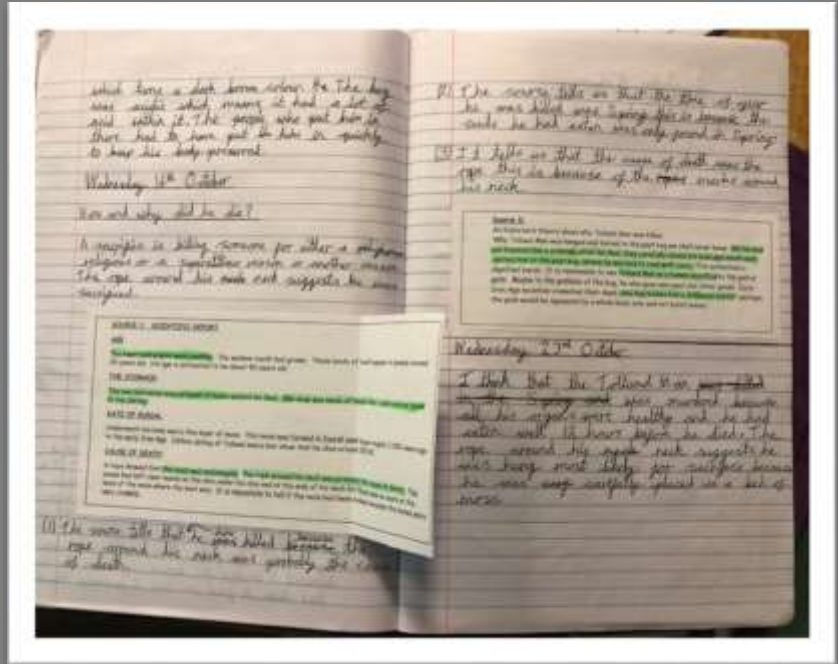
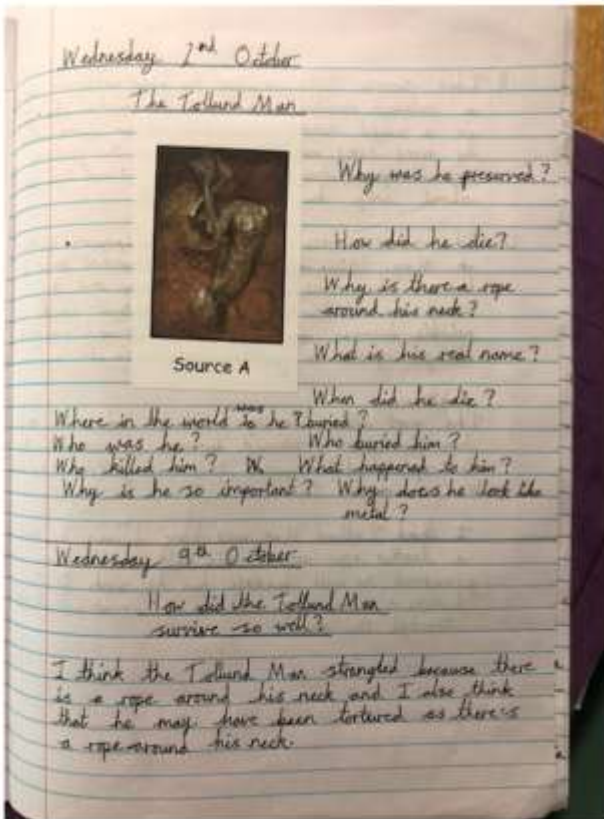
Have a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

**Mrs Matthews
Acting Headteacher**



Humanities

Year 7 have been investigating the mystery of the Tollard Man's death through source analysis. Some high level source analysis before writing a detailed report.



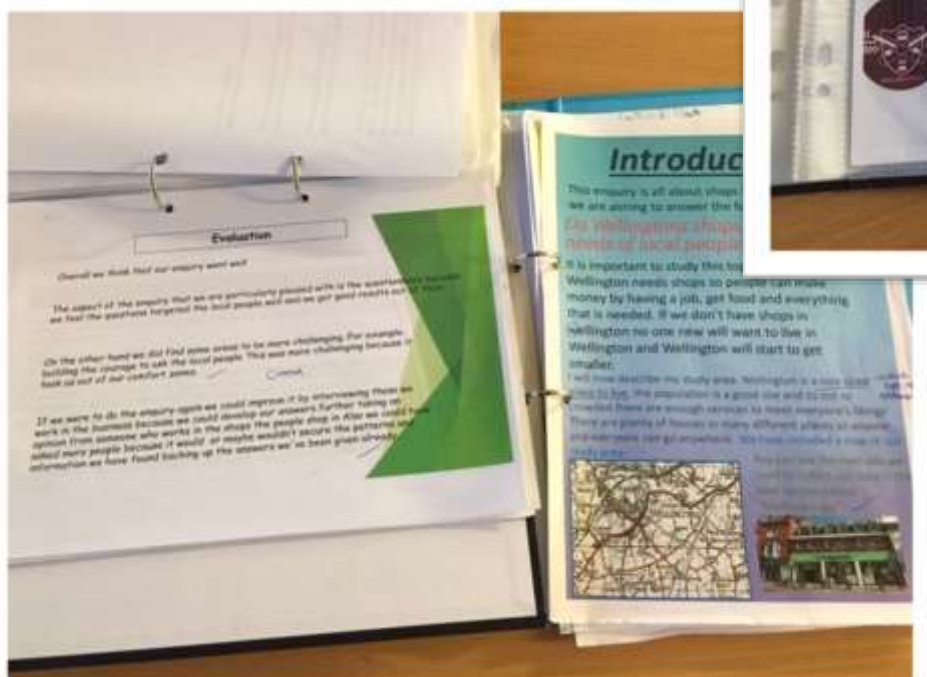
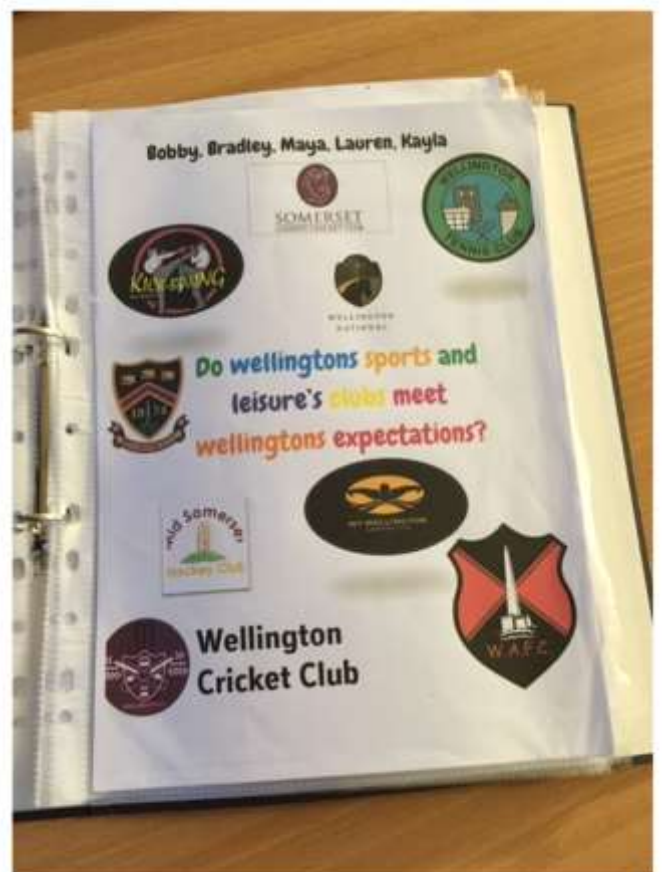
Year 9: Investigating how warfare developed in WW1 through Top Trump cards and investigating whether General Haig should be considered a 'Butcher of the Somme' before writing a GCSE style exam question- one of the hardest!

Humanities

Year 8 have all been undertaking their Wellington Enquiry task which is getting them to practice teamwork and GCSE skills relating to fieldwork.

All the students were put into groups and have decided their own topics which they have used to create their fieldwork questionnaires; they then asked these to the public in Wellington to collect their own data. The students produced their projects individually and presented some high level skills verging on a KS4 level.

We have received many compliments from the public regarding how students conducted themselves- they all produced some fantastic work and should be very proud!



🎵 Christmas Concert 🎵



Art & Design



This is just a small sample of the amazing work that the Year 11 students have produced for the GCSE in Art & Design this term

PE Department

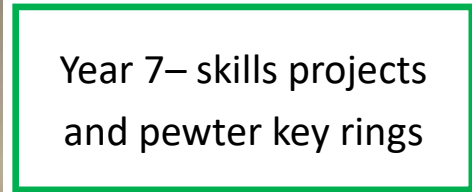
We are very proud of our sporting students this term, there have been lots of great matches from including Badminton, Football and Rugby. We are especially proud of our Year 8 Boys who are now County Futsal Champions after beating Holyrood.

Huge congratulations to Brooke in Year10 who has once more been selected for England U15's Football.

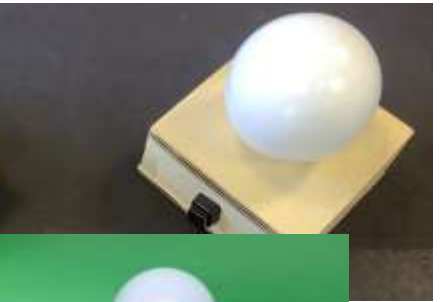
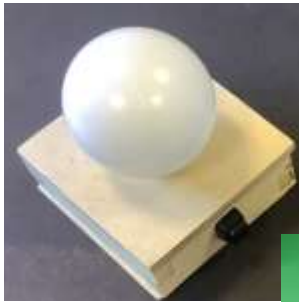


TECHNOLOGY

Year 7– skills projects
and pewter key rings



Year 8– mood lights
and pocket board
games



CyberFirst Girls Competition

In January next year our year 8 girls will battle it out with schools across the country in this competition inspired and led by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), a part of GCHQ. CyberFirst began as a programme of opportunities helping young people explore their passion for tech by introducing them to the world of cyber security. The NCSC are working hard to get more girls interested in a career in cyber security. The CyberFirst Girls Competition provides a fun but challenging environment to inspire the next generation of young women to consider a career in cyber security. We are incredibly excited that we have seven teams of super enthusiastic girls entering the competition. Hopefully we'll make it through to the semi-finals in February and perhaps even the Grand Final in March!



& COMPUTING

TECHNOLOGY



Year 9– clocks
and cakes!



KS4– Practical
Skills



& COMPUTING

Prefects



Year 11 WW2 Project

The GCSE students teaching each other was a huge success. Their ideas were unique! The Year 11 boys loved getting into the role of being soldiers when we were learning some of the GCSE war poems.



Year 9 STEM Works



Year 9 were involved in a workshop with EDF energy. Students were given the opportunity during the workshop to interview industry experts currently working at Hinkley Point about sustainable energy generation to design and make a wind turbine. Students then tested how well their wind turbines generated electricity. This led to discussions about how the angle and size of wind turbines effects electricity generation. The workshop improved students awareness of the careers available in STEM whilst also giving them the opportunity to learn about electricity generation through discussions and practical based work.



Year 10

Chloe, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Aiden, Ana, Isabella have all been involved in Wacky Wednesdays which saw the students helping at community events during the school holiday. Pictured above are the Court Fields students being presented with their certificate and chocolates for their excellent commitment in the community by Bob House from Churches Together



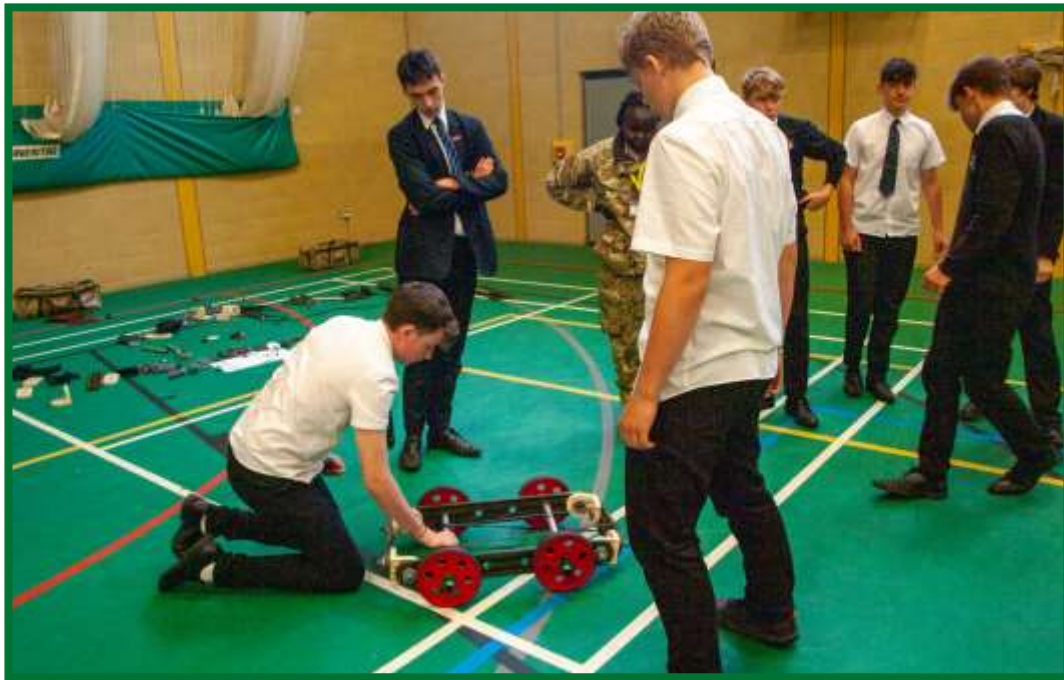
Congratulations to Jamie who won the Year 10 boys' race and Elisha who won the Year 10 girls' race. Elisha has also been selected to represent The Taunton Area in the Somerset County Championships in January.



Brooke has again been selected for the England School Girls Under 15 squad, in which she captained last year. Brooke now plays for Bristol City Ladies and plays some of the best teams in the country on a weekly basis.

Honey will represent England in Double Mini Trampoline (DMT) in the up coming season, Honey who trains in Exeter has her eyes firmly set in gaining a Great Britain spot in the future.

Army Visit



Challenge for Women Science Tech Engineering & Maths Project



Year 9 who have been selected to attend Bridgwater & Taunton College's Challenge for Women Project . It was a fun opportunity for girls to gain hands-on experience of construction and engineering, practise engineering techniques and meet female role models from within the industry

Wellbeing Hub Opening

Our Wellbeing Hub officially opened on 11 October and was attended by Members of the community and professional colleagues from within and outside the school. The opening also featured on BBC Points West.





Two of our students, Maxx C and Maya P, had their hair cut off for the Little Princess Trust Charity.

The hair is turned into wigs for young people undergoing chemotherapy.



Charity Haircuts!

In the Mix!

Year 9 took part in workshops to raise awareness of road safety as part of our Road Safety Week focus.



Year 12 Presentation Evening

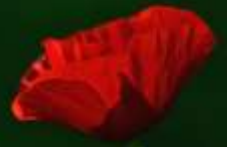


Remembrance Day



Year 7 and Year 8 Art students created a poppy tree inspired by the poppies at Westminster by Paul Cummings. It was the focal point of our Remembrance commemorations on the 11th November., where we were joined by the British Legion. There was student representation from the Scouts, Guides and St. John Ambulance and Gareth S played the Last Post.

Court Fields Remembrance Tree



Inspired by the poppies at Westminster by Paul Cummings, made by Yr7 & Yr8 students.
November 2019.



Excluded by Intermission Theatre



Fourteen students organised a trip to London to see 'Excluded' a play about school exclusion,. The theatre group used Shakespearean characters from different plays to tell this story. During the evening of the play students also had the privilege to meet Miss Dennehy's research partner from UCL, Dr Alison Macdonald. The trip was also featured in the UCL newsletter.

EXCLUDED



SCREEN TIME ADVICE

Screen Time Guidance for Parents and Carers from the National Online Safety Service

Screen time can be a source of tension for families. We all use screens for entertainment, information and to connect with others, so how can we prevent this time from becoming unhealthy? Childnet had produced this excellent guidance for parents and carers to *'help children get off to a good start using digital devices'*.

They say, the most important tips are:

1. Use digital devices together with your child
2. Think through the rules you want to set for social media and technology use at home
3. Learn more about services, content, technology and age ratings
4. Teach children good internet habits early on—you are their most important role model

Find a healthy balance



Spot the signs



Find advice and resources

Download the guide! <https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Screen-Time-and-Healthy-Balance-Quick-Activities.pdf>

Eco Council



Our Eco Council were very busy in the run up to Christmas designing and creating alternative Christmas Crackers in an effort to help tackle the growing plastic issues the world faces. The contents of our crackers were almost 100% recyclable and feedback from the students was that they loved them! They even received a special voucher for 50p off a plated meal in the canteen!



Court Fields Christmas Cracker Voucher 2019

This voucher entitles you to 50p off a **plated main meal** in the school canteen. Merry Christmas!

Voucher valid until 31 March 2020

Supporting charities

The school have many different charities and projects since September. As well as raising over £2500 The Madagascar Development Fund, money which will go towards our next project. Court Fields staff and students have also raised £90 for Save the Children on Christmas Jumper day and £722 for Children in Need. We continue to support the Wellington Monument Project and the Royal British Legion, amongst other charities too.



Careers Fayre



SEN and Elevate

Our Nurture Group and Elevate students have been busy designing our Sensory Garden, ready to plant out in the Spring. We have put in a bid for additional funding from Somerset County Council to hopefully turn this into a really exciting space. A Year 9 Elevate student said; "it will be really nice to have somewhere go where we can really smell the plants and flowers."



Our Science Technician Mr Etherington, visited our Nurture, AFA and Elevated students with his elderly pet python. Our students were able to hold and interact with the snake, and learnt about what it ate and what its habits were.

We're delighted that Dr Fiona Mann, our school Educational Psychologist has been working with the Wellington Cluster of Schools, to raise awareness of how we can support our young people with anxiety and social emotional and mental health issues. She led a parent workshop at Wellington Rugby club, organised by the Cluster SENCOs, which was attended by over 70 parents. This was then followed up by a training session for teachers and teaching assistants at Court Fields School. Many parents reported back that they found the sessions really helpful.




Keeping our Children Safe

ONLINE DURING HOLIDAYS

"When we buy our children their first bike we know we have to teach them to ride it. It's the same with technology. Make sure they have the best possible experience using it by teaching them how to use it safely".

Vicki Shotbolt, Executive Board
Member of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE

Tips for adults and carers

Explain	Explain how children can use privacy settings	Check	Check tagging settings so child's identity not revealed when sharing posts/photos
Disable	Disable location services on mobile devices to avoid being tracked	Encourage	Encourage children to talk if they see anything that upsets them
Show	Show them how to report offensive comments or block people if necessary	Ask	Ask them to show you which social media apps they use

YOUNGMINDS

We all know the whirlwind the end of term can be, with plays, sport days, fairs, trips and proms! It's also a time of goodbyes for students, with new classes and new teachers.

But often the frenzied activity of the final weeks means we collapse into the holidays, without taking stock of how far we've come, marking those 'endings' or considering how the stress may have affected us.

Our children may be riding the wave of the end of term buzz, but for lots of them the lack of routine and structure can be unsettling, especially as they are reminded of the changes (big and small) that lie ahead.

The Young Minds website is full of activities and resources to help students deal with change and reflect on the year.

For some students, the summer represents a time when they may feel bored, unstimulated, unmotivated or even unsafe. The Young Minds website includes resources for your pupils, to help them stay mentally healthy and safe

Find out more at youngminds.org.uk

#Pledge2Game - New campaign

The **Internet Matters** team are challenging you to '**Play Your Children at their Own Game**' this summer! Playing video games with your children is one of the best ways to keep them safe and healthy when they are gaming and we all know that kids love to beat the adults! To support parents, Internet Matters have also created a **Gaming Hub**, which has fantastic tips on gaming to support families.

Find the advice at: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-gaming-advice/> and **#Pledge2Game** with your children to help them develop healthy gaming habits this summer holiday!

Read more about the #Pledge2Game campaign at: <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/play-your-child-at-their-own-game-this-summer/>

Worried about how you're feeling?




Check out youngminds.org.uk/find-help



Over the next year we're seeking to develop our wellbeing services for students at Court Fields. If you have any ideas or would like to get involved please contact us on the school email: sch.552@educ.somerset.gov.uk

We're also looking for students who would like to volunteer as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors or Peer Supporters to help promote positive mental health and wellbeing. Any students who are interested in either of these roles should see Mrs Towler-Williams for more details.



ChildLine

0800 1111

Whatever your worry, it's better out than in.

Don't wait until it gets too much. Talk to ChildLine. We're the UK's free, confidential 24-hour service for children and young people.

www.childline.org.uk/school

Wellbeing at Court Fields

SHARE (Schools Health & Resilience Education) is delighted to be working with Court Fields once again from January 2020, with the aim of working together closely to promote a Whole-School Approach to mental health and emotional wellbeing.

SHARE is a countywide project commissioned by the Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group and being delivered by Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to improve the mental health and emotional wellbeing of young people aged 11 to 18 years across Middle and Secondary schools in Somerset. The service has been running since September 2017, having already worked with a large number of Schools across the county.

The team is based in Taunton within the CAMH (Child & Adolescent Mental Health) Service*. We also collaborate with Somerset Public Health to promote the Somerset Wellbeing Framework (www.cypsomersethealth.org/the_somerset_wellbeing_framework)

SHARE Project Workers will be regular visitors to the school from September to support the development of Mental Health & Wellbeing provision within the school.

Please visit our website www.sharesomerset.co.uk and follow us on Twitter [@SomparShare](https://twitter.com/SomparShare) to find out more.

We are looking forward to working with the students and staff at Court Fields and getting to meet more of you in the near future too.

Best Wishes,

The SHARE Project

SHARE wants to improve the mental health and emotional well-being of our young people in Secondary and Middle Schools in Somerset. We want to change our culture by breaking down the stigma of mental health issues, and by helping our young people become more resilient so they are better equipped to understand and manage their

SHARE will do this by involving everyone in schools – teaching professionals, young people and parents, volunteers and support staff - and provide them the tools and resources to help recognise, manage and sustain good mental health and emotional well-being.



The National Citizens Service (NCS) is a fantastic opportunity after you have finished your exams in year 11. It starts with a 2 week residential which includes team building and life skills. The first week is adventure filled and fun packed and an incredible chance to meet lots of new people. The second week gave us the opportunity to become more independent, we even managed to cook for ourselves.



The next two weeks are about delivering a social action project within your community. Working with our team of colleagues from other local schools, we have decided to raise funds for The Archie Project. This is a local Wellington based dementia awareness charity. We have chosen to support this charity as dementia is an illness that impacts upon so many families. In order to raise money we held two cake sales in Taunton, have collected in the street and we are delighted to say that Court Fields have agreed to support us in our fundraising efforts by donating to our chosen charity. We would like to thank Mrs Matthews and all the staff at Court Fields for their support.

To any students in year 10, NCS will visit Court Fields in year 11, we would highly recommend that you take up this fabulous opportunity. It may look good on your CV and university applications but it is also a great way to meet new people, build your confidence and have fun.

Benjamin L, Matthew C, Xander BC, Adrian A

National Citizenship Service

Year 11 can find out more about the National Citizenship Service on their website <https://www.ncsyes.co.uk/>. The team will be visiting Court Fields to hold assemblies and workshops in the New Year so that the students can find out more.

Reminiscence Learning is a Regional and National Award winning registered charity based in Wellington, Somerset. They provide a specialist training experience for three main areas within the care industry: dementia, reminiscence and activities.

The Archie Project

The Archie Project is an intergenerational dementia awareness project that links primary schools, care homes, sheltered housing schemes, business/services and community members to ultimately create dementia friendly communities.. Find out more at www.reminiscencelearning.co.uk





Court Fields School

Year 10 Work Experience

Parent/Carer Handbook 2019-20



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to Year 10 Work Experience 2020.

This summer Court Fields School will be providing the opportunity for our students to take part in a one-week work experience activity. This is a key activity for your child during their time at school. It helps build confidence as well as giving them a valuable insight into a career path in which they have an interest.

This guide has been created to give students everything they need to secure a placement.

It is expected that every Year 10 student will be on a work experience placement between Monday 6th July until Friday 10th July 2020.

Our students should drive the process of applying for and securing a placement, but your support is invaluable. Although we are here to help and guide students, it is their responsibility to find a placement.

We are very pleased to be offering work experience to Year 10 this year, and we feel sure that the students will rise to the challenge.

Top Tips

July 2020 may seem far away but the deadline for placements to be secured is February 24th 2020. The earlier the placement is secured, the better.

- Use your friends and family network to help find a suitable employer
- Use the web portal Link2 on the next page to identify potential employers
- Use the covering letter guide to send to employers

Employers should be approached by the student and not by the parent.

Employers will respect the direct approach and are more likely to respond in a positive way.

Employers are busy people. One email or phone call may not be enough. Encourage your child to persevere. It is also important not to focus on just one employer. It is better to speak to several.

Make sure that the employer is willing to provide support for the whole week and that they understand that the student will be with them all day.

Please Note:

All employers must have up to date Employer's Liability Insurance in place. This must be in place to protect your child. Many self-employed people will not have this insurance so they must be willing to purchase this, for the duration of the

Deadline for options choice
form submission:

**9am Thursday 13th
February 2020**



Ambition

Qualifications

Career Pathways

My Informed Decision, for My Future

Research

Guidance

Advice

Court Fields School

Year 9 Options 2020

Course Selection Booklet



Achieve | Belong | Participate

Dear Parents & Carers,

Year 9 students are now at the stage where they need to choose an appropriate course for Years 10 and 11. Between us, we must help them make this important choice, especially in the light of changes in Government legislation.

Traditionally the focus has been on achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths. This collection of qualifications has then opened the door to further and higher education opportunities. The most recent initiative that the Government is promoting is for students to study a wider breadth of subjects. Schools will now be measured on the progress and attainment in **eight** subjects. These are called **Progress 8 and Attainment 8**. This does not mean a student will only study eight subjects, but the best eight grades will be used to measure the progress and attainment for each individual.

Another of the Government measures is the English Baccalaureate, which recognises good GCSE passes in English, Mathematics, the Sciences, a Modern Foreign Language and **either** Geography or History. This combination of subjects **may** facilitate entry into **some** Universities.

An important message is that you should choose a **broad range of subjects, which suit you**, within the guidance we have given.

Choices should be made according to these principles:

- ability in the subject;
- interest in, and liking for, the subject itself;
- relevance of the subject to the student's future career (if known);
- balance of the student's chosen overall choices;

Please don't choose a subject because a friend has also chosen it or in the hope of getting a particular teacher. We cannot guarantee friendship groups will be in the same class or that a student will be with the teacher of their choice.

Where a student does not have any definite career ideas, it is wise to aim for balance of course choices, which would ensure a good all-round education as well as flexibility for the future.

All students will be expected to take GCSEs in:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (most will take two GCSEs in Science)
- Philosophy and Beliefs short course (though students can choose this as a full course in the options)
- In addition, all students will take part in Physical Education and Personal Development.

Students will then make 3 further choices, the vast majority of which will lead to terminal exams in the summer term in 2022.

Students must choose one subject from the National Expectation choice (Geography or History or Computer Science or a Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish).

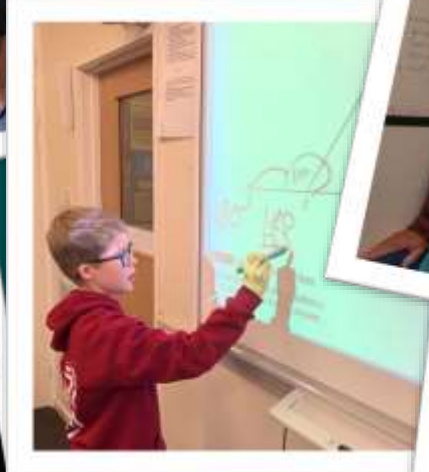
Details of the option subjects are printed in the Course Selection booklet which you will receive in January. We have tried to give you as much information as possible to help you and your son or daughter to make your decision. When you have made your decision, you will need to return the form, which is with the booklet, to your child's tutor by **Thursday 13th February 2020**. There is a spare form, which may be kept by you, for reference.

If you have any questions which are not able to be answered on the Year 9 Options Evening on 5th February please contact your child's Tutor. We look forward to seeing you on Options Evening.

Mrs Cummins, Year 9 Options Lead



100 CLUB



ELECTION RESULTS



Court Fields School

Achieve | Belong | Participate

This year our students have requested that we do not send printed Christmas cards, but instead make a donation to a charity.

They have chosen this year to sponsor a puppy via the Support Dogs Association, who provide dogs to support those with a range of disabilities including autism and epilepsy. For more information about this project please visit supportdogs.org.uk

Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year
From the Staff and Students at Court Fields School

Thank you to Ben F in Year 9 whose photograph is featured on our front cover, and on our Christmas e-card.

Thank you to our partners who are supporting us as part of our Wellington and Somerset community



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