COURT FIELDS SCHOOL









Achieve | Belong | Participate





Welcome

I am delighted that you have decided to find out more about the opportunities available for students at Court Fields School. We are very proud of our school and our students.

Together with our staff, Governors and our wider community in Wellington, we are working to provide the very best education for our children, both academically and pastorally. Our students' achievements include performing at the highest levels in Sport and the Arts, developing wider skills via the National Citizenship Service and Duke of Edinburgh Awards, competing in national challenges in Maths and Science, to name just a few.

Our aim is for every child to achieve, belong and participate and this is at the heart of everything we do at Court Fields School. We believe in the absolute moral responsibility we have for equipping students with the best possible exam results. We know that this opens doors for students and prepares them with outstanding attitudes and a strong moral foundation.

We are ambitious for our students and our school. Our improvement, particularly over the last academic year has been noted by OFSTED. We will be relentless in ensuring that this progress continues.

Court Fields School is an academy and part of The Castle Partnership Trust. We work closely in collaboration with schools in this partnership to share excellent practice and ensure the best outcomes for the children in our care. We develop young people with outstanding attitudes and integrity, and prepare them well for life in an ever-changing world.

I would encourage you to visit us and meet our students. They represent the very best of Court Fields School. Visitors to our school always comment on their courtesy and politeness. Our students are an absolute credit to us, themselves and to their parents and carers.

If you would like to find out more about Court Fields School, please do contact us to make an appointment to visit, or come to one of our Open Mornings. Our students are always delighted to show off their school and answer any questions. We look forward to meeting you, and your family joining our community at Court Fields School.

Mrs Polly Matthews
Acting Head of School



Our approach

ACHIEVE I BELONG I PARTICIPATE

"I couldn't be happier with the progress my son made at Court Fields School. He always felt safe and supported here and has gone on to achieve an amazing set of GCSE results. Thank you to all the staff who have taught him over the years and contributed to his success".

Parent of Year 11 Leaver 2019

Our aims and values

Every Child Achieves. Every Child Belongs. Every Child Participates.

Our aims are simple. We want every child at Court Fields School to achieve their potential, participate in the school and the wider community, and enjoy a strong sense of belonging.

Our foundations for this are high quality teaching and learning, a broad and balanced curriculum, and a safe environment. We support all of our students to be ambitious, and have a positive attitude towards every aspect of their school life.

We are proud of our students. Our values demonstrate a commitment to developing them as individuals, leaders of others, team players and advocates for those who need support. Our school ethos is one of hard work and empathy, embodied by our values of:

- Integrity
- Respect
- Kindness
- Resilience
- Responsibility

Our school

"My daughter is happy and settled at Court Fields. She enjoys coming to school and has a lovely group of friends. She gets great support when she needs it from both the teaching and pastoral staff, and she has made really good progress."

Year 10 Parent

Court Fields School converted to an academy in January 2014 and is part of The Castle Partnership Trust. We teach nearly 800 students aged 11-16 at our campus in the Somerset town of Wellington.

Wellington is a thriving market town on the Devon/Somerset border, enjoying easy access to the M5 corridor, the stunning Jurassic Coast, the Blackdown Hills (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and our County town of Taunton. At Court Fields School, we value greatly the relationships in our local area and are keen to be involved in many aspects of Wellington community.

Our Facilities

Court Fields School enjoys a large semi-rural position, with an enviable amount of open space for students to enjoy.

Sports Facilities

The school has excellent sporting and recreational facilities, with two large sports fields, tennis courts, outdoor basketball courts, a recently refurbished gymnasium, fitness studio and an impressive modern multi-purpose Sports Hall.

The Arts

We have enviable Arts facilities, including a modern dedicated Music and Drama wing, refurbished in Spring 2019. This includes specialist studios and practice rooms, well equipped with musical instruments for students' use. Students have access to subsidised instrumental lessons and a developing range of music bands, choirs, dance and drama groups. There are public and in-school performances in which students can become involved as performers or technical support roles.

Main School Facilities

Our main school hall provides a venue for many of our school events and well equipped catering services and a large stage for productions. We have excellent specialist Design and Technology facilities, an in-house ICT suite. In addition, we have dedicated ICT classrooms as well as Wi-Fi throughout the school site, so that students can use school or their own devices to enhance their learning. Our school library has an extensive range of books and is used as an integral learning space, managed by our dedicated Learning Resources Manager. The English Department benefits from the brand new purpose built 'Elliot' Block, which provides a stimulating learning environment across three classrooms.

Accessibility

Court Fields School is a flat site with excellent wheelchair access. There are two lifts to the first and second floor. We are committed to ensuring that our site is accessible for all of our students and their families. We are continually seeking to improve our campus where necessary, to provide excellent facilities and opportunities for all of our children.

Equality for All

We are fully committed to providing equality of opportunity and access to all of our students. Please see our equalities statement on our website: **www.courtfields.net**







Achieve

Our aim is that every child achieves, which is realised through the excellent teaching and learning that your child will experience at Court Fields School. We have a commitment to ensuring that your child is challenged to be ambitious, inspired to learn, and equipped with the very best examination results. This will increase our students' opportunities and give greater choices in future qualifications and employment.

We aim to ensure our students achieve their full potential, and for our more able students to achieve the highest grades. Our aim is also for teachers to challenge all of our students in lessons and to encourage their ambition to be the best they can be.

Many of our students participate in at least one of the enrichment activities on offer at the school including:

- Maths Challenge
- School Council
- Prefects/Senior Student Leaders
- Go4Set Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths Challenge
- Rotary Youth Speaks, debating and public speaking
- Music
- Creative Writing
- Sporting fixtures
- Year 10 Work Experience

We have a rich programme of Careers Information, Advice and Guidance (CIAG), along with the Personal Development curriculum in line with the Gatsby Benchmarks. This enables students to take part in university visits, work experience, interactions with a range of employers and ensure that they are fully prepared to take their next successful steps beyond Court Fields School.

Elevate

Our successful Elevate programme is designed to enrich children's school experience, develop ambitions and help to fulfil their potential. It identifies students who may benefit from additional opportunities and mentoring. Recent opportunities have included working with national organisations such as Lloyds Bank and Waitrose, and participation in articulacy workshops, author visits and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)

Our Achievement for All (AFA) Learning Support Department offers extra help to students experiencing a range of learning difficulties. We offer a range of support to students with social, emotional or mental health issues, physical disabilities, medical needs, communication needs and cognitive concerns. Help is available in the classroom, individually or in small groups (depending on circumstances) as well as at our Opportunities Club which runs after school Monday to Thursday. The team includes a range of teachers with specific SEND experience, specialist teaching assistants and school counsellors. The department is housed in a suite of bright, purpose built rooms, providing an inspiring and nurturing space for our students.

Please ask to see the school's policy on SEND, or refer to the School Offer, which is on the school website.



The curriculum

"Thank you so much for making my daughter's year a fun, positive and successful experience. I really appreciate all the hard work and effort that goes into making things work. Well done Court Fields."

Year 8 Parent

The Curriculum

The school ethos of all students achieving, belonging and participating to secure the best possible qualifications in a positive and resilient way is fundamental to our philosophy.

Our curriculum is designed to ensure that our students experience a balanced and broad range of subjects. We actively promote our students' spiritual, moral, cultural, emotional and physical development, preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Our aim is to provide a curriculum that is highly effective in delivering outcomes and caters exceptionally well for all our students' needs.



Subjects for Years 7, 8 and 9

All students are taught core subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Education and Physical Education (PE).

In addition, they will also be taught the following:

- Humanities subjects: History and Geography
- Modern Foreign Languages: either one or two languages from French and Spanish
- Arts: Art, Drama and Music
- Design Technology, Computing and Food

Subjects for Years 10 and 11

All students study English Language and Literature, Mathematics, Science, Religious Education and PE. Students select a further three option subjects which include:

- Modern Foreign Languages: French, Spanish
- Humanities: Geography, History, Philosophy & Ethics
- Computer Science or Information Communication Technology
- The Arts: Music, Drama, Performing Arts, Photography, Fine Art
- Design Technology
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- GCSE Physical Education or Sports Studies
- Health & Social Care

Personal, Social and Health Education and Careers Guidance are an essential part of our students' preparation for life. These subjects are taught through curriculum lessons and enrichment activities throughout the year. We teach students to make good decisions on issues that may affect them now, such as bullying and internet safety, and in the future, such as personal finance and risk-taking behaviour.

Homework

We believe that homework makes an invaluable contribution to students' progress, and so we support them to find good independent learning habits either at home, or in the school Learning Resources Centre with its extensive IT facilities. Our ClassCharts online system is available for parents and students. This provides easy access to all homework, with resources and deadlines, to enable parents and carers to support learning at home.





Student development

"Thank you for everything you've done for me. You've done so much and I'm so thankful. You've made me realise I can do it and be the best I can. I'll never forget you".

Year 11 Leaver 2019

Whilst qualifications are vitally important, we also want to equip our students with the knowledge, skills and attributes required to succeed in life. We do this by motivating students to participate in enrichment, which develops their wider skills. We also ensure that students receive a wide range of information and guidance regarding careers, further education, health and sexual relationships.

Recognising success

We have high expectations of our students, and recognise and reward those who achieve success. We also ensure that we reward students' effort and progress appropriately, as well as pastoral and academic improvements. These awards come in many shapes and sizes, from 'colours' awarded for sport, music, dance and drama, to achievement awards given for a student's contribution to their House. Our online system Class Charts enables students, parents and carers to see at a glance House points and rewards via the internet or a dedicated app. Our Presentation Evenings and Key Stage 3 Graduation in July recognise student progress and effort across the curriculum, as well as attendance and participation.

Student leadership opportunities

At Court Fields School, there are significant and increasing opportunities for students to take leadership roles. We also encourage students to develop their independent learning skills and self-regulation, helping them to be leaders of their own learning. Students are supported to take on leadership roles from Year 7, with Transition Leaders assisting with all aspects of our work with our local primary schools and transition. Throughout their time at Court Fields School, students are able to take on further roles, with Prefects in Year 11 leading in subject areas, with the community or on a variety of whole school projects.

Current leadership opportunities include:

- Year 7 Transition Leaders
- Year 11 Prefects
- Head Boy & Girl and Deputies
- Anti-Bullying Ambassadors / Wellbeing Champions
- Faculty Leaders
- Tutor and Year Representatives
- House Captains
- Sports Leaders and captains of sports teams

Careers Guidance

We employ a dedicated Careers Advisor who works closely with students in all Years. We are extremely successful in providing the right careers advice and guidance so that all of our students go on to further education, training or employment. Careers education is delivered across the curriculum and we provide Year 10 parents with a dedicated career and work experience evening. Our work experience week for all Year 10 students is an incredibly valuable learning experience. Many students have gone on to secure part-time and holiday jobs or even apprenticeships because of their work experience. Our students also receive guidance on careers during their Personal Development lessons, enrichment activities, careers interviews, University and employer visits.

Personal Development, Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) and Religious Education (RE)

We develop students' awareness of healthy lifestyles, keeping safe and maintaining positive relationships. We teach tolerance, the importance of empathy and encourage students to be understanding and respectful of others. Students take part in discussions on ethical issues and on the different beliefs, cultures and attitudes that exist in society.

We deliver these topics through Personal Development lessons (encompassing all Personal, Social and Health Educations topics), Religious Education (RE) and Science, as well as our Tutor Programme and enrichment activities. From 2019 we will be teaching Relationships and Sex Education in line with new statutory guidance. As part of our sex education programme, we invite health professionals to work with students and we liaise closely with the local School Nursing Team. Our school nurses offer students drop in sessions to discuss any health needs and work with individuals and parents as required.

If you are concerned about any aspect of this teaching, please contact the school. All parents have a right to withdraw students from Religious Education and Sex Education classes.

As a school we have a strong tradition of participation and supporting each other. We have great respect for all individuals and we promote the core British Values. We encourage all our students to be fully involved in school life, to be tolerant, respectful of rules and to value others.

Mental Health & Wellbeing

We employ our own counsellors to provide additional support to individual students as well as work with small groups of students who may need additional input such as mindfulness and anger management. We support students' mental and emotional health through the Personal Development lessons and enrichment. It is vital that we encourage a culture of openness regarding students' mental health and wellbeing. In line with this we work extensively with our in school counselling and pastoral teams and external agencies to raise awareness and support our young people.

Belong

"Court Fields approached the Community engagement officer for the National Trust and asked if we would like to get involved with designing a fabulous activities booklet for the students. NT were delighted to help. This is the first school that we know has done this; Court Fields is leading the way."

National Trust Community Engagement Officer

Our students, parents, carers and local community are central to the life of Court Fields School. Our role in the community continues to develop. Recently this has involved our students running holiday activities for children, supporting the Wellington Street Fair, working with Wellington Churches together on transition projects, and developing our '100 Things to do Before Year 11' project with the National Trust.

Pastoral System

On joining Court Fields School students are supported pastorally by a Tutor, Head of Year and wider pastoral support staff. Students spend part of each school day with their tutor groups, which are linked to one of our four houses, helping to develop a sense of belonging. Tutors provide valuable care, support and guidance and a key point of contact for parents and carers. Tutors usually stay with their tutor group throughout the full five years and will oversee your child's progress providing vital knowledge of their personal development.

In the first term you will have an opportunity to meet with the Tutor and Head of Year to check how your child is settling in. Later in the year there are opportunities to meet with subject teachers and Tutors at parents' evenings.

You will receive regular reports and access to online information that tracks your child's progress. We do encourage parents to contact Tutors or subject teachers with any concerns. Parents, students and staff enter into a home-school agreement, which outlines everyone's responsibility in supporting the aims and values of the school.

The Houses

Our House system is an essential part of our ethos and community at Court Fields School. Students belong to one of our four Houses: Emerald, Ruby, Sapphire or Topaz. Our House Co-Ordinator leads an exciting and extensive programme of inter house competitions which culminate in the annual awarding of the prestigious and fiercely fought for House Cup. Our House competitions are wide ranging, from chess to computer programming, singing to swimming, so that every child can contribute and display their knowledge, skills and talents. Siblings always go into the same House on entry to the school, fostering a sense of belonging and togetherness.











Participate

"Court Fields encouraged my son to take part in the National Citizenship Service in 2019, which was a fantastic opportunity. My son grew in confidence beyond anything I could have expected. He learnt about team work and giving back to his community, and also gained some great life skills to equip him for the next stage of his education."

Parent of Year 11 Leaver 2019

Participation in extra-curricular activities is a vital part of life at Court Fields School. Taking part enables students to explore new interests, develop leadership skills, and pursue a diverse range of activities. We encourage students to cultivate creativity, sporting talents, travel, and musical ambitions as part of our thriving school community.

Our clubs range from public speaking, debating, drama, photography, pottery and science, through to chess, choir cooking, maths and Eco-Club. We provide enriching activities, both in lunchtime and after school to develop students' art and craft skills, musical, dance , and drama talents, and students regularly perform in the local and national community. Our impressive new Music and Drama wing comprises well resourced, specialist studios and practice rooms for students' use. Visiting peripatetic music teachers provide one to one lessons in a wide variety of instruments.

Sport and PE

Court Fields School has a strong sporting reputation at county, regional and national level. Our current students and alumni include rising and established stars in football, women's football, rugby, shooting, to name just a few. We have a very popular lunchtime and after-school club system, catering for a huge range of sporting abilities and interests. Our clubs range from the traditional sports (rugby, hockey, football, netball, cricket, rounders, badminton, basketball, tennis, and athletics), to more diverse activities such as futsal, trampolining, and dodgeball. We also ensure that we promote healthy lifestyles and participation in physical activity with initiatives such as #ThisGirlCan and GirlPower.

Community links

Our students are encouraged to make a positive contribution to the community in school and in the wider Wellington area, such as raising money for local charities and participating in local exhibitions, performances and sports clubs. Over the last 12 months, students at Court Fields School have raised over £8,500 for charity. Students regularly approach us with initiatives to fundraise for charities close to their hearts, raising money through sponsored events, cake sales and more. We encourage our Year 11 leavers to take part in the National Citizenship Service, through which they volunteer and fundraise for local and national projects. To enrich our students' experience and knowledge of the wider world we have developed strong links with local businesses, charities and community leaders and we regularly invite speakers, lecturers and performers to the school.

One of our wider projects involves our links with communities in Madagascar. Over the last 10 years Court Fields School has raised in the region of £30,000 for this project alone. This has been used to develop water projects into three separate villages, build and a primary school and extend the school for use by older children. Our students have also visited Madagascar to be part of the development process, and this will continue over the coming years.







Clubs, activities and expeditions

We offer a wide range of outdoor education and teambuilding activities for all students, starting with Year 6 to 7 transition.

This helps to develop a collective spirit and enables students to easily settle into their new school. We run a camp in Year 7, including adventurous activities and water sports, and reward students' progress into Year 11 with a teambuilding day and BBQ. Other Year groups enjoy an extensive menu of outdoor activities such as horse riding, mountain biking, coasteering, fishing, surfing and kayaking. Learning new skills outdoors in a safe environment allows students to build resilience and confidence, supporting their pastoral and academic development.

The school actively promotes the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, which gives an invaluable opportunity for older students to experience a physical and mental challenge, and develop their team and leadership skills.

Over the last five years, we have consistently been recognised as a Champion School by the National Citizenship Service, with a significant proportion of our students taking part in this excellent programme of leadership development, voluntary work and community fundraising.

Other opportunities for travel include skiing trips to Austria, France and Italy, a water sports activity visit to the Ardèche in France, and community development in Madagascar, as well as various other activities such as ballet, opera, theatre and more. Regular visits are organised through subject departments, both within the UK and abroad, which enable students to enrich their curriculum or cultural experience.

We also continue to develop links with our local community to provide enriching activities for students. Examples of these are the Wellington in Bloom, Youth Speaks and the Rotary Club Young Chef and Young Writer competitions.











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Joining the school

Open Mornings

Choosing your child's secondary school is a key decision for every parent. You will want to ensure that it reflects your child's academic, sporting and creative ambitions, and that the culture suits their individual needs and personality. More than that, you will want to know that it 'feels right' for your child.

That is why we encourage every prospective parent and student to visit us during one of our open mornings. Our students will give you a tour during a normal school day. This way parents can imagine their child attending lessons, making friends, using the library, playing sports, and enjoying our clubs and activities.

To attend an open morning, please call the School Office or email us:
sch.552@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Year 7 Transition

We work very hard to ensure that the transition to Court Fields School feels as smooth as possible. We know that it can be a stressful time for students and parents/carers. With this in mind, we have a dedicated specialist Head of Year 7 & Transition. Our Year 7 Transition Leaders support our local primary students on a regular basis at a range of events, so they are familiar faces to our new students.

All students joining us for Year 7 in September spend two days at the school during the summer term, and we hold a Welcome Evening for parents. If your child has special needs, we liaise with you and your child's primary SEN Team throughout Year 6 to discuss their requirements in more detail and plan effectively for their transition.

Our teachers also work closely with staff at our local primary schools to devise appropriate projects to bridge the end of primary and a student's first few weeks at Court Fields School, This helps to provide continuity and confidence for our students and enables teachers to effectively plan for challenging lessons.

Our Transition Leaders provide an additional level of peer support for our new students as they embark on the Court Fields journey. They act as guides, buddies and mentors, and many of our new students will go on to become Transition Leaders themselves.

Admission to the School

If you would like to apply for a place at Court Fields School, Somerset County Council operates a co-ordinated admissions process for the Year 6 to Year 7 transfers in September. Parents and carers should visit the Somerset County Council website (www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions) where information and an application form are available.

For in-year admissions, please contact the Admissions Officer at the school. Further information is available on our website, along with our Application Form for In-Year Admissions.

Prospective parents are encouraged to learn more about Court Fields School by visiting our website at www.courtfields.net, and particularly to visit us. We would love to meet with you and give you the opportunity to discover for yourselves how much Court Fields School has to offer your child.

The safety of students

At Court Fields School, the safety and welfare of our students is paramount. There is nothing more important to us than the physical and emotional health and well-being of our pupils and staff alike. As such we have created and work hard to maintain a vigilant climate in which staff, pupils, parents and governors feel able to articulate concerns comfortably; safe in the knowledge that effective action will be taken, as appropriate.

We work closely with other agencies such as Children's Social Care, the Police and health professionals to ensure we provide the most effective early help and support for our community. If any student or adult has a concern about a child's safety, they should please contact Mrs Westwood, Assistant Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead.

We take Child Protection very seriously and all allegations or concerns will be fully investigated. There are links on our website to take parents or students straight to the Child Exploitation & Online Protection (CEOP) website, Childline and other sources of help and support if anyone, child, parent or staff member, feels uncomfortable with any safety concerns.

Communication

Parents are kept up-to-date with the achievements of our students and detailed information about our school through our website: www.courtfields.net and via our online system, ClassCharts. Parents/carers and students can view detailed information regarding attendance, rewards, behaviour, homework and more via this easy online portal or app.

Our Parent Bulletin, 'What's Happening at Court Fields School' is published every Friday, updates parents on key dates for the week ahead, celebrates our successes and supports parents with important information. We use text and email regularly to inform and remind parents of events. We publish a termly school magazine packed full of news, information and feedback about all aspects of school life.

For day-to-day aspects, our tutors are the first port of call for parents regarding their child's schooling. They are easily able to answer routine questions or escalate appropriately should the need arise.



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Court Fields School
Mantle Street
Wellington
Somerset
TA21 8SW

t: 01823 664201
e: sch.552@educ.somerset.gov.uk
w: courtfields.net

@CourtFieldsSch
CourtFieldsSchool