

Court Fields School

What's Happening: Information for Parents, Carers & Families
27th January to 2nd February 2020



A Message from Mrs Matthews

Not much space for me this week! I would like to say a very brief thank you to parents, staff and students for their support. Over the next few weeks, we will be continuing to focus on our school improvement. We will be concentrating on developing friendships and kindness in Years 7 & 8 (skills for life as we know, but skills that are not always easy when you are 11 or 12). We are celebrating Australia Day, thinking about the impacts of climate change and the environment, as well as those affected by the devastating fires. Year 9 will continue their Futures Focus, including Options Evening and Futures Interviews, to ensure that they are best prepared for their option choices and Key Stage 4 courses. We will focus on Children's Mental Health Week and Safer Internet Day so that our young people are equipped to keep themselves safe and healthy. We have visits from external speakers to educate our students regarding the risks posed by knife crime and drugs. We have two teams competing against local secondary and private schools in the Rotary 'Youth Speaks' competition. These are just a few of the events coming soon.

We are absolutely committed to continuing the development of our school, which has been recognised in the last 2 weeks by external safeguarding and whole school reviews. We are not there yet of course, and there will always be things that we, like any organisation, can do better, but with your feedback and support, I know we will get there.

Australia Day Fundraiser – Monday 27th January

Following suggestions from students, in particular the Court Fields Eco Group, we will be running an Australia Day Fundraiser on Monday 27th Jan (the day after actual Australia Day). This is in response to the devastating fires and the subsequent humanitarian and ecological impact. This will feature

an additional £1 per student/staff non-uniform day on 27th January, with a break and lunch cake sale and Australia Day- themed activities.



Australia Day Fundraising Quiz Night

A fundraising quiz night will also take place on 27th Jan at the World's End from 7pm! It will be open to staff, parents and our community. Quiz entry will be £3 per person, including raffle entry. Teams should be 4-6 people. We will be splitting all the proceeds between the Australian Red Cross (Humanitarian support) and the Australian Wildlife Rescue (Animal support). Please do join us to raise money for this cause that is clearly important to our children.



Chess Club roundup



Monday lunch time we had a Chess club post Christmas party. This was attended by well over 20 of our regular chess club members. There was lots of food and cakes, hot chocolate and drinks, not to mention some cracking chess games played. The highlight of the event was our members proudly receiving their anticipated shiny new red chess club badges. If anyone is interested in joining this popular club on a Monday lunchtime or see Miss Murphy or Mr Woodward for details. We cater for everyone from expert to complete beginners.



Opera 2020 Workshop

Music students were given an introduction to The Stylist of Somerset, based on the Barber of Seville recently. There is another workshop with around 100 of our primary school pupils and professional soloists and musicians taking place in March before two performances take place on the 21/22 April.



Maths House Competition

There will be another Maths House Competition focussing on times tables. We're giving all students in year 7, 8 and 9 a login for the Pixl times table app which will allow them to learn and practice their times tables. There are tutorials, tests and also games included. We know how important times tables are, and how well they are taught in primary school, but it's often something that slips as students move up through the school. We want to bring this back and encourage a bit

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of light-hearted competition. The games can be played against other's who are online in a safe and secure environment. It's a great way to build confidence and fluency with this essential skill. Any participation at whatever level will count towards the house competition. Thank you for supporting your child in taking part.



Netball

The Year 7 Netball team travelled to Bishop Foxes on Tuesday evening for their first Netball fixture of the term. The girls really thrived from this experience both positionally and competitively despite this being a friendly fixture. With several more fixtures forthcoming, please keep encouraging participation at extracurricular clubs!

Careers

A group of students will be going to the National Apprenticeship Show on Thursday the 30th at Westpoint Exeter. This event will be a great opportunity for students to meet and talk to colleges, potential employers and others who may offer apprenticeships. Students will be off school site during lessons 1-3.



As part of our higher aspirations careers programme students and staff will also be visiting Plymouth University on Thursday the 5th March. Letters containing further information about the University visit will be available in the next few weeks.

Application forms for Year 11 college/further learning must be completed asap so colleges can arrange interviews. If you need more information or help, please contact Mrs Barrett asap.

Keeping your Connected Home safe for your Children

More and more families now regularly use a range of devices that connect to the internet, such as smart speakers, smart meters, fitness trackers, and even toys. Alongside the excitement and convenience of these devices, we also need to be aware of the risks associated with any device that connects to the internet. ThinkUKnow say that these risks include:

- Concerns have been raised about whether these devices are collecting **too much personal information** from children.
- Some children (either accidentally or on purpose) are able to search for and access **age-inappropriate material** via a connected device such as a smart speaker.
- Children may make **in-app purchases** and spend money, which is often taken from their parents' bank account without their knowledge or consent.
- Some of these devices may be more vulnerable to hacking and monitoring, as there are currently no security standards in place for connected devices.



Luckily, they have also released guidance to support us in keeping their connected homes safe for children: These tips, as well as further details can be found at:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-the-internet-of-things-iot>

Workshop opportunity for Parents/Carers

Resilience Voyage will be holding a '**Drugs Bus**' Family Workshop on 3rd February, 6pm to 7.30pm on school site. The Workshop will give parents/carers an opportunity to work with young people in order to gain knowledge and understanding about issues relating to substance misuse. If you are interested in taking part in this very exciting opportunity and joining the workshop, please contact Mrs Westwood via the school email address sch.552@educ.somerset.gov.uk



Opportunity to join the team at Court Fields School

We are seeking to appoint a School Cleaner. The hours are 16.15 to 18.45, Monday to Friday, term time plus 5 weeks and INSET days. Details can be found on our website, by telephoning the school on 01823 664201 or by emailing Mrs T Morcom on tmorcom@educ.somerset.gov.uk. We are a fantastic place to work. Our recent survey of support and teaching staff found that 97% enjoyed coming to work, an increase of over 30% on March 2019. We look forward to hearing from you.

Events This Week and Coming Soon

27 January	Australia Day Fundraising
29 January	Yr9 Group Knife Crime Workshop
30 January	Yr11 Trip – The Apprenticeship Show
30 January	Yr10 Parents' Evening
5 February	Year 9 Futures Evening (formerly Options Evening), 6.15pm start.

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