



Summer Magazine

July 2021 Edition



Achieve | Belong | Participate

Welcome

Message from Mrs Matthews

Well, what a year that was!!! I feel like we all should have an 'I survived 2020/21' T-shirt to highlight all we've dealt with as a community: school return, 'bubbles', zones, masks, virtual meetings, on-site testing, at home testing, live lessons, remote learning, self-isolations, 2 Proms, Enrichment Week, not to mention 3 visits from Ofsted!!!

I'm so very grateful for all your support, your kind words in person, your thoughtful gifts for our staff, your emails of thanks and so on. It has made what could have been an extraordinarily challenging year just that bit more do-able, and has helped us to continue our school improvement journey. This of course was noted by Ofsted, and it's so exciting to have that external validation that we really are on track to achieve that 'Good' judgement at our next full inspection. More than that though, it's just fantastic to hear parents, students, staff and the community talking about how our school is so much better, that the learning is more rich and the teaching more consistently high quality, that our children feel safer, and our staff feel supported and happy. What an achievement in these challenging times. Thank you to all of you for the part that you have played. I can't wait to see how we continue that improvement in the coming year.

We were also thrilled to have been nominated by our community for the Pearson Teaching Awards 'Secondary School of the Year—Making a Difference'. Again, this was a lovely validation of our work.

Have a lovely summer holiday, take care and see you in September! Mrs Matthews



Work experience

Year 10 Work Experience Week – 5th July

What a fantastic week, which was expressed so well by Susan M when answering the question - How has your placement changed you? "Given me more confidence to try things I have never considered".

Not only did students learn new skills and practise them at work, but many were congratulated by their employers and offered summer jobs so they can continue learning those important employability skills. Thank you to parents and employers for making this happen.



Tom, work experience with Stuart Macey Decorator



Hannah, Esme and Amber-Louise work experience at Court Fields School



Charlie, work experience at The Castle Hotel

Navy Experience

During our Enrichment Week we were really pleased to be able to invite the Navy in to school to work with Year 9s on their employability skills. The students were given the chance to take part in a variety of activities to hone their communication, problem solving, leadership and team work skills. There were representatives present from the Army as well. The feedback from the event from the students and the visitors was incredibly positive and we are really looking forward to inviting them back next year to work with more of our students.



Madagascar Fundraising

Thank you to all students, parents and staff who have supported our annual Madagascar Week this year. The total raised so far is £1,223.71. During the week we have had various fundraising activities, which included lots of cake sales! We also went walking, cycling, swimming and running to Madagascar as a group, virtually of course! We managed 6,199.33 miles through the month of April. This smashed our target of 5,716 miles!

The money raised this year will make a massive difference to the people in Madagascar. Over the years we have put in 3 clean water projects, which has meant hundreds of people in three villages have access to clean fresh water. We have also built a school, which was originally for primary aged children, but in 2018 we were able to extend the school in order to accommodate older children. In 2019 we helped to build a preschool. The money raised this year will be for another, much needed project in Madagascar. Court Fields School works with the Madagascar Development Fund, so when we have a final amount, we will discuss with MDF as to what is needed the most at the moment.

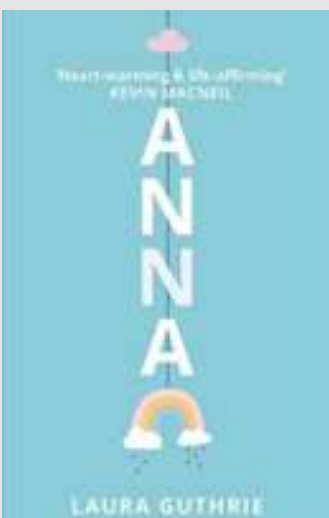
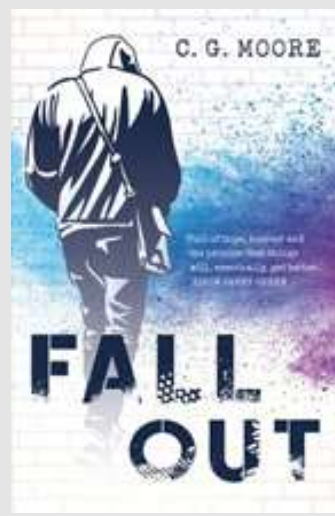
We really can't thank you enough for all your help and support! This is an amazing achievement and we are committed to continue to make a difference.



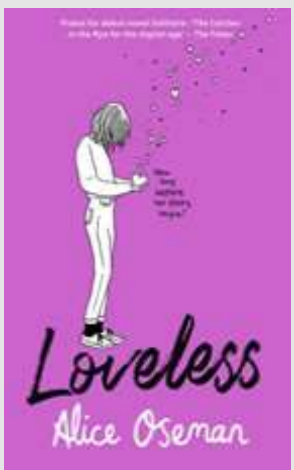
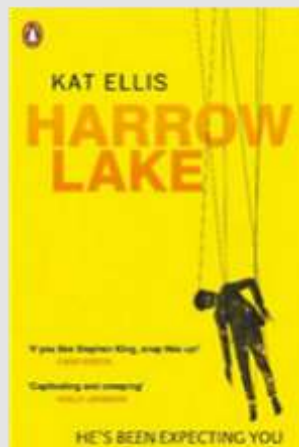
Learning Resource Centre



We often share our 'Book of the Week' in our Parent Bulletin, and here are some of our top picks to keep you going over the summer! See the next page for more online resources and our recommended Apps.



Summer Reading Inspiration



Recommended Websites

Have a look at the following websites for lots of book reviews and activities

www.literacytrust.org.uk

www.booktrust.org.uk

www.worldbookday.com

www.lovereadng4kids.co.uk

www.goodreads.com

Loads of authors are on YouTube reading their books and on their websites. Search your favourite author to find out more!

Don't forget courtfIELDS.net has lots of links including to our Reading Cloud, Accelerated Reader and SORA for eBooks. Post your reviews and you can still do your quizzes.

Remember your log on for Reading Cloud and Accelerated Reader is the same as when you use the school computers and your password is your date of birth.

OverDrive

Open a world of reading

Sora
The student reading app

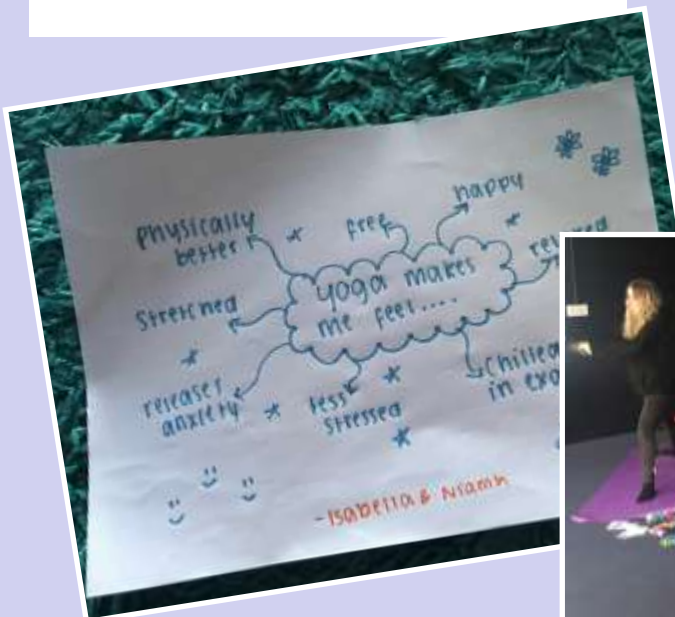
Get Sora and start reading today!

soraapp.com

Brought to you by your school, and built with it by OverDrive

Yoga & Mindfulness

This year has seen the development of our yoga and mindfulness offering to students at Court Fields School. Sessions have taken various guises to teach students skills to support their physical and mental wellbeing. Year 8 and 9 participated in a series of yoga and mindfulness video sessions during tutor time, teaching them some basic chair yoga stretches to improve posture and comfort when sitting, alongside mindfulness and relaxation techniques that can be used when feeling stressed, agitated or anxious. Year 11 were invited to attend afterschool yoga sessions, which moved online during lock down. Sessions were centred around a core theme such as body image, positive self talk, girls' natural cycles, sleep, anxiety or connection with others. In each session we moved through a series of yoga poses, discussed the theme, and practiced breathing techniques and relaxation exercises. Small groups of Year 11 students were also invited to attend lunchtime mindfulness sessions to support them in managing anxiety and stress. As Year 11 have left, Year 10 have replaced them in the afterschool session. With the easing of restrictions and possibility of mixing bubbles we hope to be able to offer more yoga and mindfulness to other Year Groups in the coming year. To find out more and see updates follow us on facebook and Instagram @CourtFieldsTeenYoga.



PE Department

As the 2020/21 school year draws to a close, it's good to reflect on all the fantastic opportunities and experiences the Court Fields students have had in PE. Despite some obvious barriers in the last year, students have still learnt a range of new skills and sports in PE. In addition to this, students have been extremely lucky to have a broad range of clubs on offer, as well as proudly representing the school in competitive fixtures. Some stand-out moments from this year include the introduction of the really popular Court Fields Trampoline Club at Whirlwinds Academy, Blaze Martial Arts taster sessions, the attitude and success of our sports teams, and the fantastic progress on our application to have a 3g pitch at Court Fields.

Lots more exciting things to look forward to next year!

Have a terrific summer!

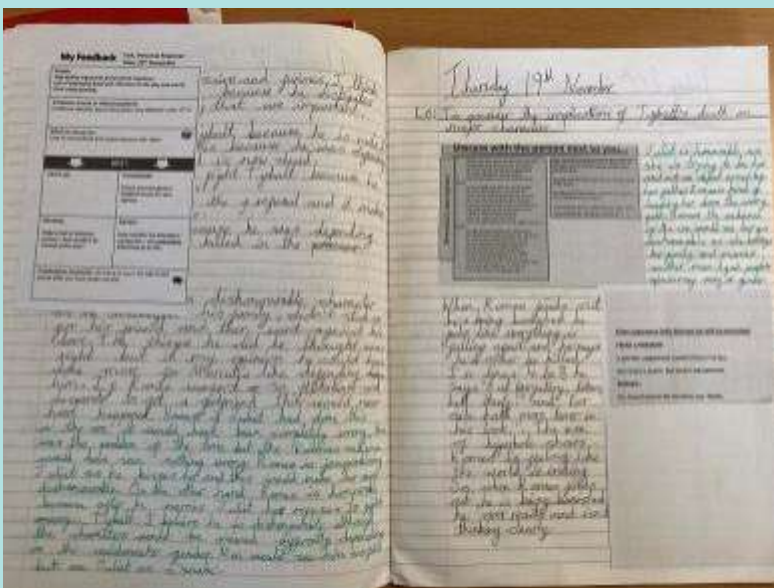
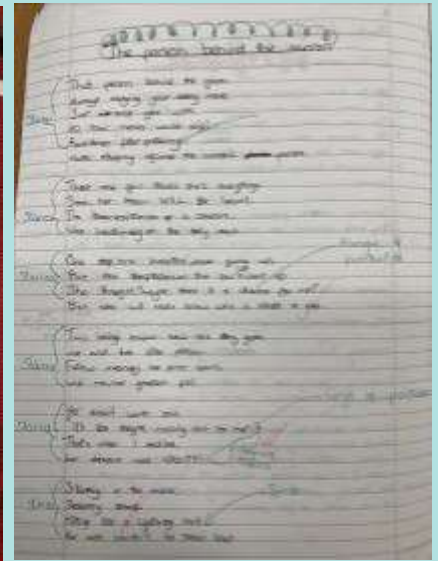
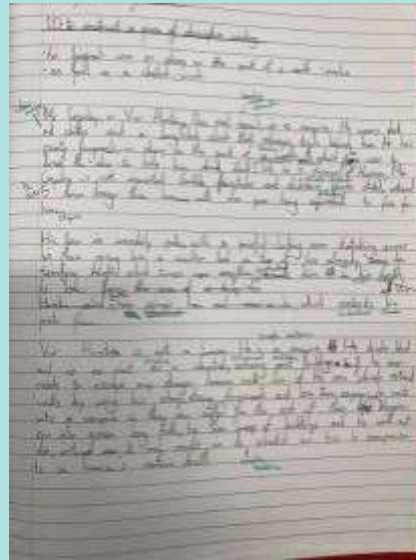
The PE Team



English

Year 7:

Year 7 began the year being introduced to a range of Shakespearean characters and they had a tough decision to make: which ones are heroes? And which ones are villains? They then moved on to gain an understanding of what life was like for many people living in Victorian England through studying '*Oliver Twist*' and a range of other Victorian texts. Finally, they were introduced to Shelley's '*Frankenstein*' before exploring the modern Gothic text, '*Cirque Du Freak*'. Here are just a few examples of the outstanding work Year 7 have completed this year.

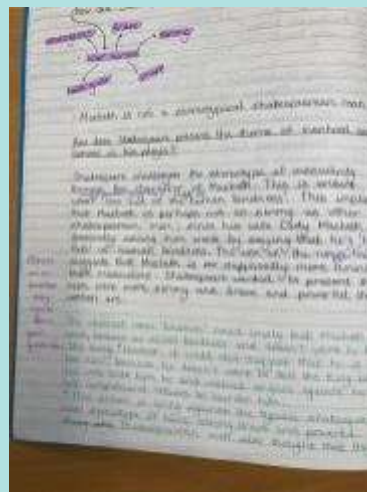


Year 8:

Year 8 started the year immersed in the tragedy of '*Romeo and Juliet*'. They then studied a range of Crime Fiction short stories and poems. They explored some of the most famous detectives and considered how writers describe their unique characteristics. They then completed the year by studying John Steinbeck's classic, '*Of Mice and Men*'. Here is an example of some excellent analysis of '*Romeo and Juliet*'.

Year 9:

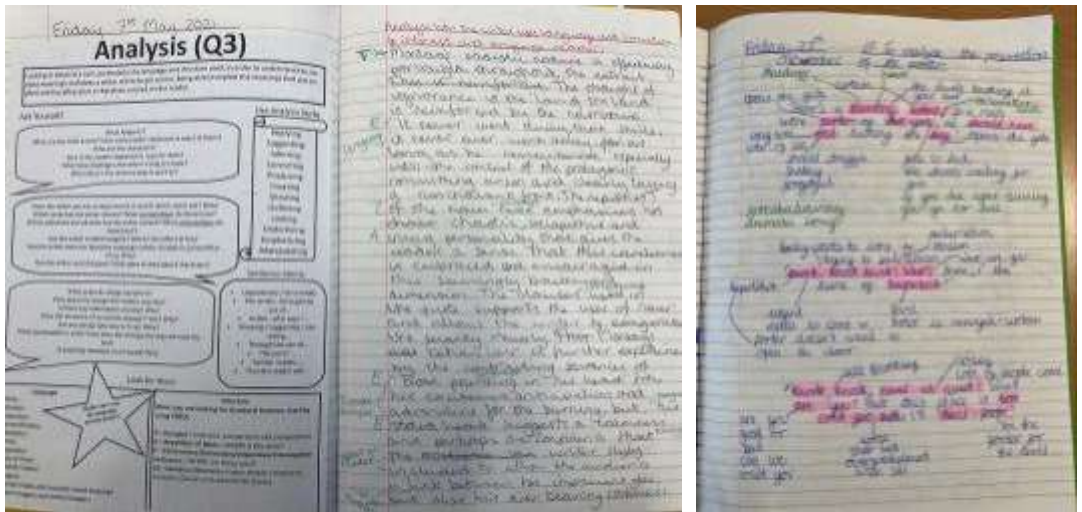
Year 9 began the year exploring the Shakespearean comedy, '*Much Ado about Nothing*'. They were introduced to the trickery and deception of the characters who were all just attempting to find love and happiness. They then travelled to Victorian society and explored '*Great Expectations*' in detail along with a range of other Victorian texts and poems. Finally, they completed the year by studying Malorie Blackman's '*Noughts and Crosses*', a dystopian novel that has had our Year 9s glued to the pages of their books. Please see a small selection of the brilliant work they have completed this year.



English

Year 10:

Our Year 10 students have made an excellent start to their GCSE course. They started the year by analysing Shakespeare's tragic hero, 'Macbeth'. They explored his relationship with his wife, his best friend, and his forbidden alliance with the three 'Weird Sisters'. They then continued to



explore the theme of conflict by studying the famous Victorian novella, 'The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde'. We would also like to praise Year 10 for their exceptional attitude to their PPEs, and we look forward to seeing them continue to excel in Year 11.



Enrichment Week:

Year 9: Our Year 9s truly brought Shakespeare's tragedy 'Macbeth' to life during Enrichment Week. The students were placed into 4 groups, and they all had an integral part to play in producing the final show...and what a delight it was! The students presented their commitment to the final performance through the making of props and rehearsing their scenes. We had a range of Macbeths, Lady Macbeths and Macduffs and each one brought something unique to the afternoon. It was a brilliant day and an excellent opportunity for Year 9 to get to know the plot and characters of Macbeth prior to studying it at GCSE next year. Well done Year 9!

Year 10: Our Year 10s watched a live performance of Macbeth and engaged in a conversation with the actors after. They asked a range of interesting questions and received insightful answers, which have further supported their understanding of Shakespeare's plot and characterisation. They then used their impressive knowledge to present their opinion on '*who was responsible for the death of King Duncan?*' They produced a range of insightful arguments and persuasively presented these to their groups. We were very impressed by their commitment to their presentations – well done Year 10!

Modern Foreign Languages

Year 8 French students produced profiles of their favourite singers as part of the module on TV, Music & Social Media.



Year 8 Spanish students researched traditional dishes from the Spanish-speaking world as part of the module on Food & Drink.



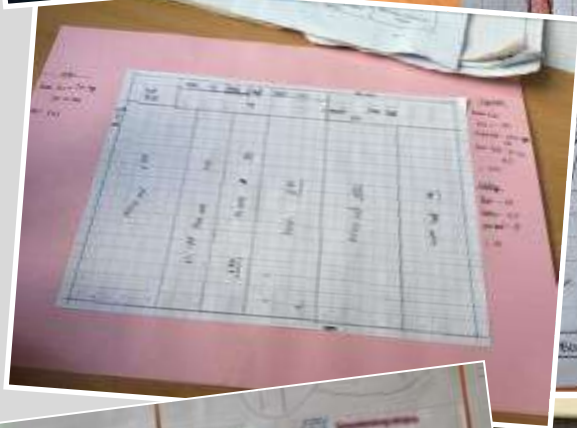
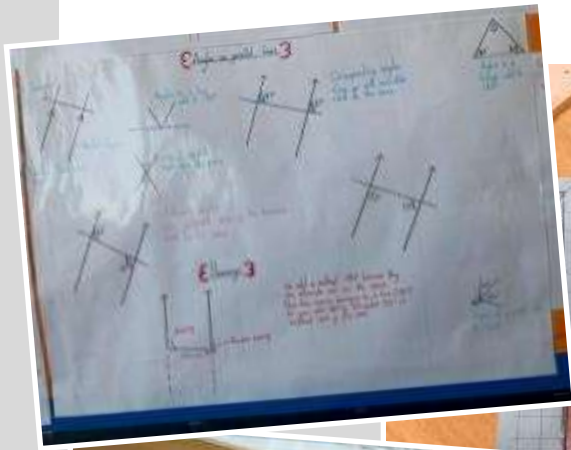
Year 9 Spanish students described people that they admire as part of the module on Interests and Influences.



Year 9 Spanish students produced profiles of major Latin American cities as part of the module on My Town & Region.

Maths

This year has been filled with challenges for the maths department and our students but we have been really impressed with how our young people coped with learning in lockdown and how they showed real tenacity and diligence to the online learning. But it is so nice to have them all back in school! Since their return in March we have taken every opportunity to make the learning as hands on and collaborative as possible, exploring how maths skills can be used in the wider world with the use of geometry and statistics, looking at how we navigate and how data might be presented. We are really looking forward to seeing all our students back in September, safe and sound and ready to continue their journey.



Design and Technology

Technology

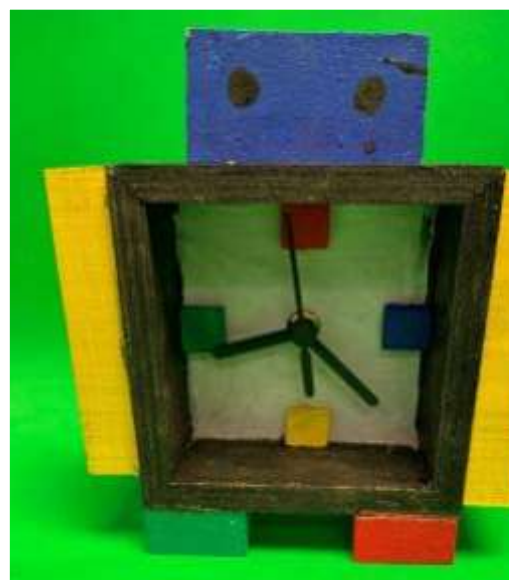
This term in technology, Year 7 have been working on their pewter casting and money boxes, Year 8 have been making mood lights and sweet dispensers, and Year 9 have been creating clocks based on a design era of their choice, as well as practising their woodworking skills.

Some of the work shown has been created by:

Year 7 - Gaby G, Willow BC, Jacob A, Katie S and Danielle D

Year 8 - Everlyn H, Hannah P, Harry A and Tallulah P

Year 9 - Ben C, George W, Ruby S, Imogen S, Evie R, Indian R and Katie M



Design and Technology

Computing

In computing this term, students in Year 7 and 8 have been creating radio adverts, creating websites and using Desktop publishing to create their own lifestyle magazines. Year 9 have been working on their idea award.

Lifestyle magazine work shown from James G, Mia F, Bruce C. Ethan S and Sam V.



Food

Food students have been very busy in the last few weeks! Year 7 and 8 have been creating gourmet burgers as well as muffins and pasta dishes. Meanwhile, Year 9 have been working on their NHS project, creating a menu suitable for a client with specific dietary needs.

Food students:

Year 7- Lauren N, Scarlett H, Wyatt H

Year 8-Alfie B, Byron P, Chelsey M, Harriet G, Liam M and Zak C

Year 9-Frankie T, Liam B and Ignas B



Science

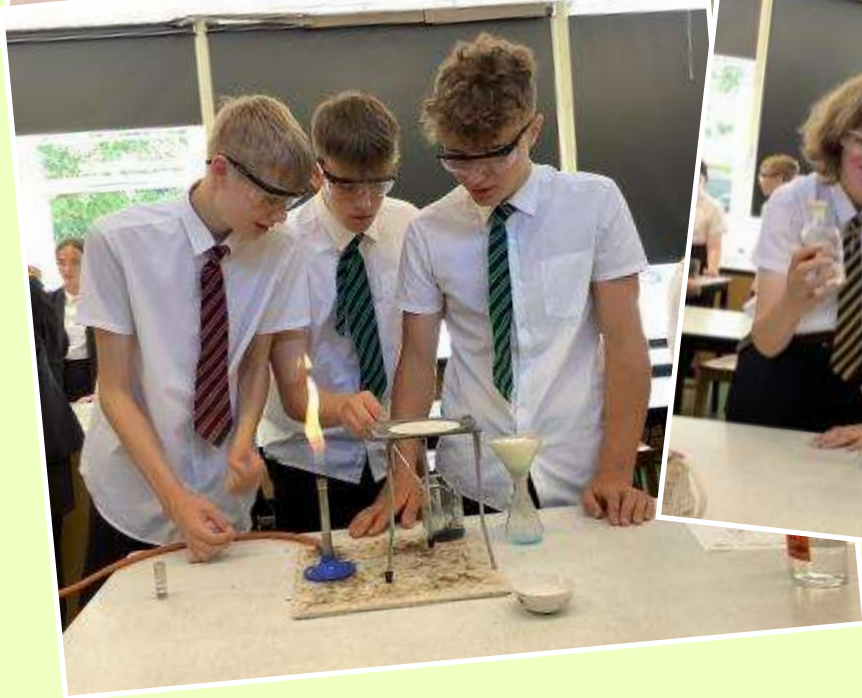
During Enrichment Week this summer, Year 10 took part in a Science Curriculum day. They spent time completing GCSE core practicals, where they used microscopes to explore cells as well as completing flame tests. They also took part in STEM activities, including engineering structures out of spaghetti, using quadrats to sample local wildlife and designing and launching water rockets.

Year 8 took part in the Digital Big Bang Festival in their Maths and Science lessons. Although virtual, students got to participate in activities run by a variety of companies and organisations, including the British Army, The Environment Agency, Specsavers and the NHS. Students got to take part in activities including filtering dirty water, investigating how vaccines work and discussing ways in which to solve climate change.

Year 7s have been attending a weekly Bug Club with Mr Etherington, where they have been finding out all about stick insects including where they are from, what they eat and how to keep and handle them carefully. They also experienced the launch of a 3-stage chemical rocket and discussed how to calculate the altitude. Year 7 have had the opportunity to use key practical skills in their lessons, including using a Bunsen burner and designing and carrying out a scientific experiment.



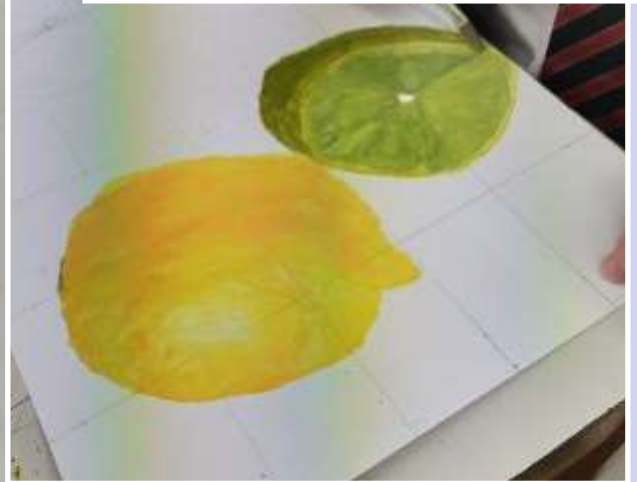
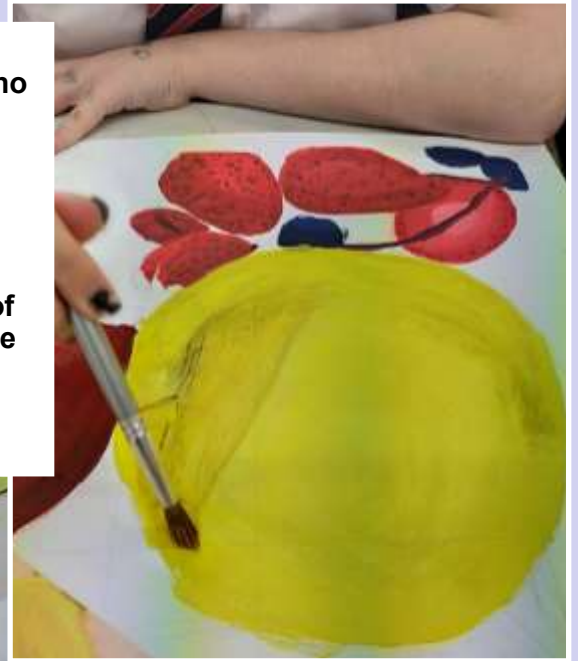
Science



Art, Design



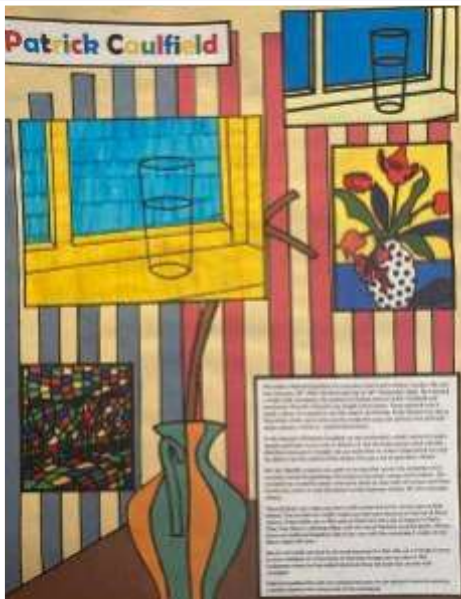
Here is some work from our Year 8s who have been working super hard to finish the year with some excellent Hyper-realistic art work. They created focused paintings of fruits using gouache paints, which were inspired by artist Sarah Graham.



We were so impressed by these stunning drawings from our Year 10 GCSE students. Some fabulous skill shown here, well done!



& Photography



Check out these responses to artists' work for assessment objective one, from Years 7-10.



During lockdown our GCSE photography students explored using mini figures in everyday contexts. Some excellent ideas here, well done!



Drama



It has been an exciting year for Court Fields Drama Department. Despite the challenges, students have continually risen to adaptations and gone above and beyond to create excellent, interesting and creative work! Highlights include some outstanding work from our Year 10s! They left audiences wondering where Jennie really is in our murder mystery showcase. Year 7 have been continually impressive in all lessons, and Year 9 have shown real talent, with a special mention to those beginning their KS4 journey. Year 8 have continued to build on solid foundations from their previous year—well done all!

Stay tuned for our exciting plans next year! Including: a revamped Drama Club, Christmas concert, trip to London and much more!



Drama Learning Legends—2021

Year 7 - Lailah W, Aiden I, Oliver B, April M, Zak F-T, Aniya S-T, Tori.S, Emma P, Scarlett G, Isabelle M, Brooke J, Chelsea B, Danielle D, Serena L, Blake B-M M, Joshua R, Milly H, Taylor S, Benji T.

Year 8 - Millie Mae S, Evie W, Byron P, James G, Leo H, Isabella V, Charlie W, Emily S, Eva M, Jonathan D-V, Martha V.

Year 9—Lilly C, Bea G, Lilly G, Riley I, William B, Imogen S, Ella B, Daniel B, Amelia B,

Year 10— Maddison B, Hannah P, Julie W, Imogen R-S, Mary S, Daisy H, Sean C, Esme P, Tabitha R, Damilare O, Raul L.

Outstanding contribution and creativity across all lessons.



Music



Students from all Year Groups have been busy developing their practical skills this term.

Year 7s have been learning Ukulele, while our Year 8s have been performing leitmotifs and themes from famous films as they explore how music is used in Film.

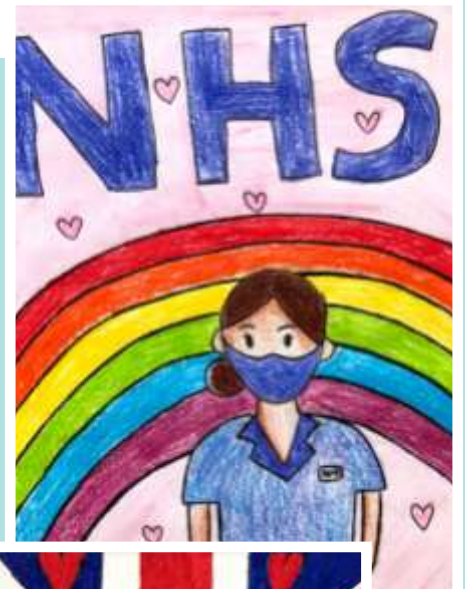


Our Year 9s have been creating their own performances, either as a live performer or using music technology.

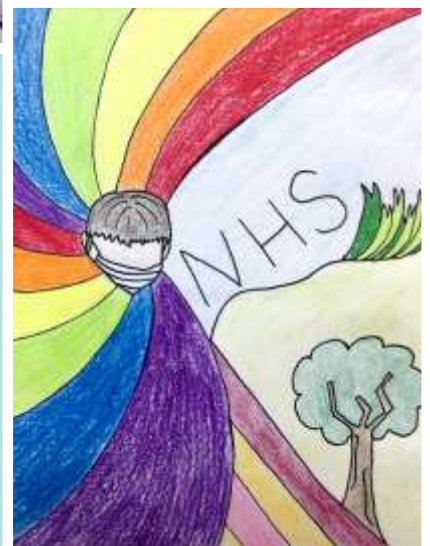
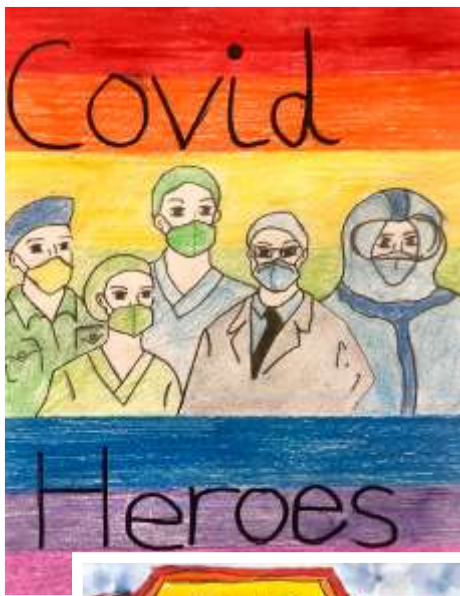
Here are some pictures of our Year 9 band performing at the launch of the new mural in June.

Royal Mail

Earlier this year our students took part in the Royal Mail Hero Stamp competition. This design challenge was a brilliant opportunity for them to publicly recognise those heroes that they feel worked tirelessly to support our country during the pandemic and helped to get us all moving again. Here are just some of the entries! We have been astounded by the quality of the entries and humbled by the gratitude our students feel for their COVID 19 heroes.



Stamp Competition



Geography

Year 7:

Year 7 have spent their summer term brushing up on their map skills. They have shown some fantastic geography skill and are certainly on their way to becoming excellent geographers. They have also shown some impressive knowledge when studying about Africa and its features.

Year 8:

Year 8 are currently wowing staff with their weather forecast presentations! Students have been independently developing their own weather forecasts for the UK after studying our weather and climate topic - including how we measure the weather, the types of weather and extreme weather!

Year 9:

After working exceedingly hard throughout lockdown, Year 9 have continued to impress with their work on global ecosystems. Students have been learning all about tropical rainforests and hot deserts to help develop their global awareness of climate and species. Students are now starting to develop their own educational ecosystem board games, which can be used with younger years to educate them about these amazing environments!

Year 10:

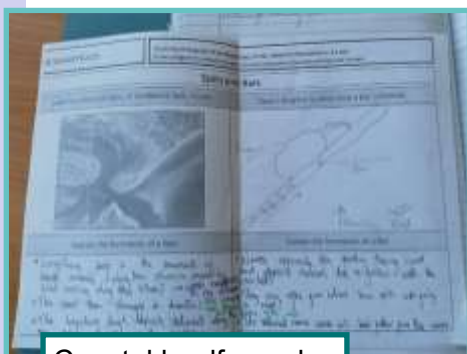
To round off an excellent start to their first year of GCSE Geography, Year 10 are now preparing and finalising their Dawlish Warren fieldwork, where they are going to investigate the use of coastal defences at this popular tourist location! Students have shown resilience and teamwork skills to organise and carry out this fieldwork, which will continue to improve their progress for their GCSE and more importantly, the skills they will take out into the wider world.



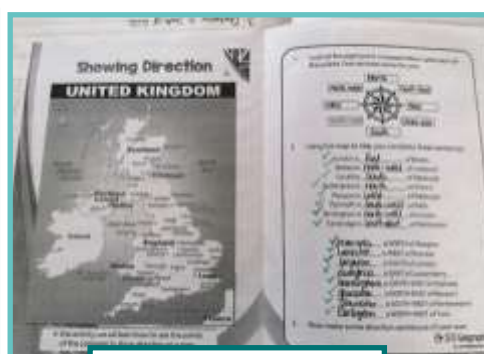
Map skills being brought to life by Liam B (Year 7)



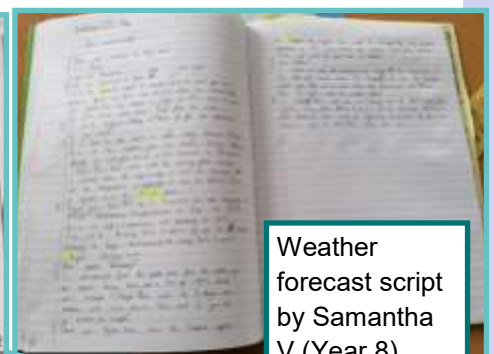
Rainforest and hot deserts board game by Tilly, Georgia and Zoe (Year 9)



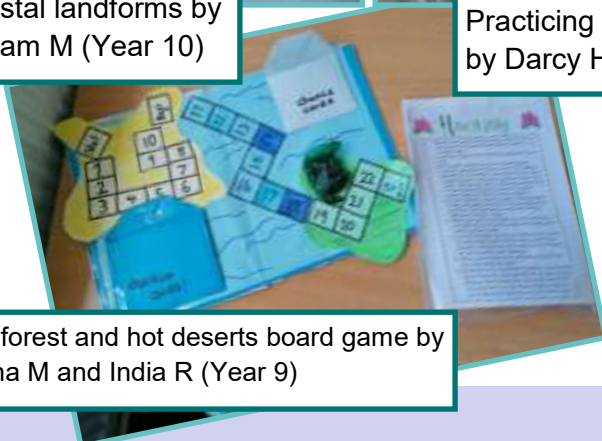
Coastal landforms by William M (Year 10)



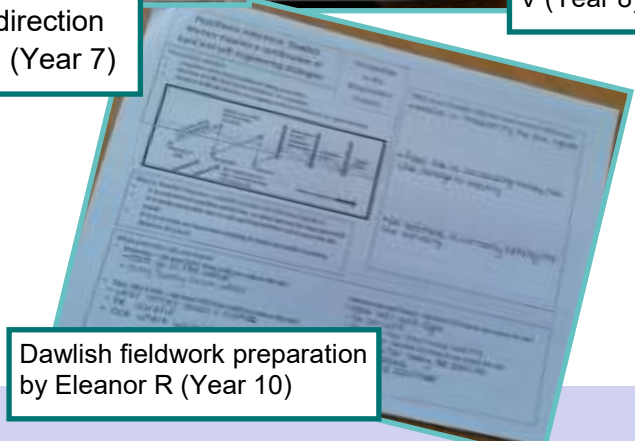
Practicing direction by Darcy H (Year 7)



Weather forecast script by Samantha V (Year 8)



Rainforest and hot deserts board game by Allana M and India R (Year 9)



Dawlish fieldwork preparation by Eleanor R (Year 10)

History

This term, our Year 9 History students have been working hard on projects for the Historical Association's WW1 and WW2 competition, and the completed projects are in! Here are some of our favourites below.



Above: 'Women in WW2' by Daisy

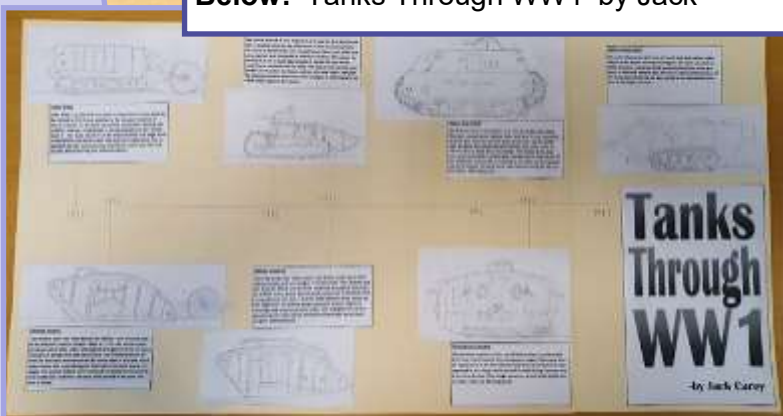
Right: Cake Trench Model by Evie R and Elena



Above: Model of a Trench by Daniel

Right: 'Your Country Needs You' by Charlotte

Below: 'Tanks Through WW1' by Jack



SEN Department

It's been a busy year in our Learning Support Faculty, responding to the challenges of the Covid pandemic and supporting our students within the 'bubbles' across the school.

We have developed our focus on inclusion and equity of access to the full curriculum, ensuring that our SEN students have effective preparation for adulthood, and have access to learning the knowledge that they will need for the future. This means that we will work increasingly closely with Heads of Faculty, helping to ensure that the most difficult knowledge is sequenced in the curriculum, so our SEN students can know more and remember more.

We have been developing an increasingly robust system for Annual Reviews, with a clear focus on making them 'Person Centered' for our young people. Using Google Forms we have streamlined the process of gaining Parent and Pupil Feedback, which helps us to identify what's gone well, and even better if, improving our reflection and planning for next steps.

As part of our whole school focus on developing Pedagogy to ensure consistency and embed High Quality Learning for all students, we have worked closely with teaching staff, modelling the effective development of our 'Pupil Passports' for SEN students. This gives teachers the additional information they need to plan effectively for all their students.

We have also spent considerable time this year developing our Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) provision to help students to get the support they need to ensure that they can be successful in Mainstream Education, and attend their local school. This has centered around effective interventions both in and out of class, and has shown real impact in supporting our students with SEMH needs, to be effective learners in the classroom.

This year we are pleased to announce that Mrs Passmore has completed her Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) training and has already been busy supporting our students via interventions. We have also used INSET and Staff Training to develop staff awareness of Emotion Coaching, emotional literacy, trauma-informed approaches, as well as strategies for the classroom such as the 'Invisible string', which helps students to feel safe and ready to learn.

Finally we have, despite the best efforts of the Covid pandemic to thwart our plans, completed our full programme of SEN Transition. This has been redeveloped and enhanced for this year, to provide a planned, progressive and staged approach, which is school specific, to support each SEN student. This has included an opportunity for SEN students from each school to walk to the school gate as a group, for parents to meet with myself as SENCO at their school, to have a tour of Court Fields and to meet school staff and our Transition Leaders.

The response from Primary staff, parents, children and our staff and children has been fantastic, and this will certainly form part of our planning for next year. Alongside this, Mrs Westwood (Pastoral Assistant Headteacher) and Mr Reed (Head of Year 7 from September) have planned and developed a full Transition Programme for all new students, and we are putting this in place to ensure that all our students have



Frankie W in Year 7 supported Beechgrove Enhanced Transition for Year 6 SEN students. They completed a Treasure Hunt on their last visit to find clues and find a mystery phase.

Update from Miss Passmore

From the summer term, pupils are now able to access ELSA support with me. Our ELSA room is up and running to support the emotional development of our children. I really look forward to continuing this work next year.

Young Somerset has resumed on Tuesdays, offering the 'green activities programme' to a handful of students. We have been rhododendron clearing, birch removing and cooking sausages over campfires to name just a few activities.

The Allotment is looking good. We are beginning to enjoy some of the produce we have grown and reaping the rewards of all that digging, weeding and watering we have been up to over the last few months. Looking forward to a few cooking sessions with the student using the fruit and vegetables they have tended.



Update from Mr Hutchinson

Our SEMH provision at Court Fields is based mainly in the AFA classroom, and throughout mainstream lessons. We aim to support students with specialist SEMH strategies and offer support in order to achieve their full potential. This is done through small interventions during the school day or down in the AFA room, with specialist staff for a certain amount of time.

We offer a large range of provision, either through class room based learning about their emotions, how to understand themselves and coping strategies for their needs, through to offsite activities where students are taught different life skills. These include working on the school allotment to enhance mental wellbeing, encouraging a more healthy, active past time, as well as maintaining the allotment and producing their own food, which we hope creates a sense of achievement. Other interventions that we offer to support our students include, cooking, working on the school boat, local walks, team building, fishing, sports and many more.

Our overall outcome is to support students to be able to access mainstream lessons and to unlock their barriers for learning. If the student has been down in the AFA room then a phased return back into lessons will be required. This will be done through considerable planning and thought to which lessons the student will go back into to begin with, and having support from TAs as well as support from the SEMH lead and AFA staff.



Update from Mr Redwood

In September 2020 I took on the role of Assistant SENCO for a year, and I have enjoyed doing annual reviews, initially via phone calls, and more recently in person. It has been good to get to know some of our families better through the past year.

Throughout the last year I have enjoyed getting to know the Court Fields students better within the challenges of the Lockdowns I have been impressed with the resilience they have shown in embracing the different methods of learning forced on us by Covid. This has been a real highlight for me and I am extremely proud of our students and families resilience.



SEN Department

Update from Miss Etherington

Corrective Reader is one of our interventions for Year 7 who, following Transition, need further and additional support in their Reading. Students read a story and answer questions on what we have read, some stories can be a little strange, however the class love it and their reading and understanding has improved throughout the year! Another highlight has been the progress of Year 8 in their Literacy support, whether in an intervention or in class. Students have worked hard on a variety of things such as spellings, word classes, writing and even some essay style questions! Another highlight has been supporting some Year 9 students with pre-teaching them Geography, ready for when they start their Geography option in Year 10. We have covered OS Maps, earthquakes, typhoons, and volcanoes. My final highlight is starting to work with a group of Year 10s with a programme called Read Write Gold, which is an exams access arrangement for those who qualify for this as tested by an external assessor.

Homework Club after school is always a highlight, too! I enjoy seeing students working hard and independently, furthermore, watching their progress over the year is simply brilliant! This is in a computer room Monday – Thursday until 5pm and students from any Year Group can come and do their homework, read, and look things up for their lessons. I look forward to supporting more pupils at Homework Club next year.



Year 9 update from Mrs Poole

It has been a positive year, despite the obvious challenges around COVID restrictions and months of home learning!

We managed to support many students during lockdown, both in school and at home, and in choosing their options for GCSEs. Being in regular contact with students and their families during lockdown has enabled relationships to be formed and, in some cases, has strengthened the link between home and school.

Highlights have been:

Seeing Chloe S working in a team with other Year 9 students on an Art project, which is now installed on E Block.

Seeing Dominic A return to mainstream lessons in English, Maths and Science.

Emily M continuing to shine both academically and in maturity and independence.

Starting to build a social group with Ella S and Shakira C,

Building relationships with the wider Year 9 student group in lessons and supporting them with pre teaching and possible Access Arrangements.





Update from Miss Hill

Reading groups are going very well! Currently some of the Year 7s are reading *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo. There has been a huge difference in reading as time has gone on; so many have developed a level of confidence to read out loud, which is really nice to see! We have also mastered the word 'colonel'!

Update from Mrs Thomas

A very proud moment for me was when Charlie W (Year 10 student) came bounding into my class, bursting to share his good news of securing a work experience placement at The Castle Hotel in Taunton, after independently attending an interview. Brilliant!



Year 8 update from Miss Hurford

A number of the Year 8 students have really come out of themselves during PE over the past two terms and developed their social and interaction skills. Some individuals have had to overcome physical difficulties and now, after some initial apprehension, whole heartedly get 'stuck in' and enjoy the session. I was proud of how they have all taken the last minute changes to camp and enrichment activities so well and were great ambassadors for the school whilst out in the public eye. Everyone I came across seemed to be having a good time. Finally, well done to Toby B, who has been selected by the school to go forward to the National Finals in an art competition to design a new stamp.



Year 7 Update

Wow! What a year we have had!

Things were pretty tough back in September; you were restricted to your tutor group bubbles and had all of your lessons in the same classroom. This is very far from the experience we would have hoped for you as you started your journey into secondary education! You started Court Fields with enthusiasm and good cheer and it was a pleasure to get to know you all.

As lockdown restrictions lifted and you were given more opportunities to investigate the school site, it was great to see you grow in confidence and to experience the different subject areas. You were let loose in Technology, Art, Drama and Music, which gave you the opportunity to explore your creative talents and to meet some other Year 7s.

As the year progressed, you continued to grow in character and you have shown yourselves to be a funny, charming and friendly Year Group. You learnt pretty quickly how much I love cake and I am thankful for all of the Pokémon chats and offers of biscuits at break and lunch. I am so impressed with the resilience, perseverance and adaptability you have all shown during such a tough year.

We ended the Year with a fantastic celebration at Woodlands Theme Park, Croyde Beach and at the Ultimate Adventure Centre. Somehow some of you managed to talk me into sitting on a raft you had constructed, and pushed me off into the lake wearing a devilish grin!

I'd very much like to thank the parents for all of their help, support and encouragement this year and for their unwavering understanding as we navigated our way through restrictions imposed by Covid. I'd also like to thank all of the Year 7 Form Tutors for their help and outstanding pastoral care - we are so lucky to have such a dedicated bunch of teachers who care so greatly for our students.

It is now time for me to pass the Head of Year baton over to Mr Rooke, who I know is going to be a fantastic Head of Year as you enter Year 8. I am returning to my role as Second in Maths, so I will continue to see you all around school and I look forward to hearing all about your adventures as you help to welcome in our new Year 7s in September 2021.

Take care of yourselves (and please continue to pass any samples of cakes you have made in Food Tech to B10.....I still need to check they are not poisonous!)

Miss Stephenson, Head of Year 7



Year 8 Update



Year 8 have worked through a difficult year and come out the other side being more confident and resilient students. It has been great to get some normality back with sports teams, team building sessions from the army, and our modified camp activities.

They say that you will always remember the trips and activities you do in school, and I hope this year has made many memories for our Year 8 to remember. It was so rewarding as a Head of Year to see our students working together and encouraging others within challenging situations, and the smiles on their faces when they have accomplished something they thought they could not do.

Here's looking forward to the new challenges Year 9 has to offer.

Mr Seaton, HOY 8



Year 9 Update



First of all I would like to take this opportunity to reintroduce myself as your child's Head of Year. As you are aware, Mr Smith left the school at Christmas and he will be greatly missed by staff and students alike. We all wish him well in his new ventures. Due to Covid my opportunities to meet parents/carers have been much reduced, but I hope to see you in the Autumn Term.

Since taking on the role I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the Year 9s over the last few months.

Welcome to all the new students who have joined us this year (8 in total). You have settled in well and I look forward to continue getting to know you all in Year 10.

We are fortunate that the Tutor Team will be remaining pretty much unchanged. We will be sad to wave goodbye to Ms Spiers who is seeking out new adventures abroad. That said, we are extremely fortunate that she is being replaced by Miss Murphy. As some of you will be aware, she has a wealth of experience and I know she will be ideally suited to continue the excellent work and support given by Ms Spiers over the last few years.

This year has certainly provided a real mix of uncertainty and change. However, I am immensely proud of how the Year group have not only coped, but also thrived in immensely challenging circumstances. I would like to thank you all as parents/carers for the huge amounts of support you have given your child and the school during this time.

Do not underestimate how much your child has learned in terms of developing resilience in coping with unexpected circumstances. They will have picked up invaluable life skills over the past few months and this will be of great benefit to them .

It has been a real pleasure to hear about some of the excellent activities that have been going on during Enrichment Week. The stand out event for me was the Navy day. All our students were perfect ambassadors for the school and our visitors could not be more complimentary about how students engaged with the day.

Other events happening included Enrichment activities in DT, PE and Art. Trips out to We the Curious, Splashdown and Go Ape, a day focusing on PSHE and a Theatre workshop day on the Friday, to round off a superb week.

I honestly believe we are now in a very strong position to look forward to a fresh start in September. Not only in terms of COVID restrictions but also with the options that your child has carefully considered and chosen in preparation for their final two years with us.

Take care and have a great Summer

Mr Nicholls, Head of Year 9



Year 10 Update

Year 10... where do I start?

As we approach the end of your Year 10, and my two years as your Head of Year, I could not have imagined the unique journey we have been on together with a global pandemic thrown into the mix. I have an immense sense of pride in you, for the amount in which you have grown individually, as well as a collective group. I still remember my visit two years ago, popping in to all your tutor groups and meeting you, setting out my high expectations of you, for your future and to encourage you to have absolutely having no regrets in terms of your education, as well as wider opportunities in this chapter of your lives. I have seen you grow in terms of many important life experiences, showing resilience and a growth mindset that will support you throughout your life. I enjoy, and will continue to enjoy, our conversations, seeing you working so hard in class as well as chatting to you in social times.

My time has come to hand you over to Mr Williams, which I do with a very heavy heart, however, I know you could not be in better hands. Mr Williams has been HOY 11 for three years and you are his 4th cohort. He brings in all the experience of supporting you in your final year with exams, college applications, yearbook, Prom planning and much much more. Also 25 % of the Year group had Mr Williams as Head of Emerald House when they were Year 7 - that will be fun! As our school's SENCO I will still be working with many of you, and I will be there cheering all of you on every step of the way in your last year at Court Fields.

Year 10, I know Heads of Year often say how good their Year Group is... But I can say, with the experience of having led 3 Year Groups and several House groups, that you really are a very, very special year group. Build on the work we have done together on #bekind, demonstrate this each day, as well as your individual strengths and your collective awesomeness. I will still be coming into lessons; I am still here for you if you need me.

Please spend the summer looking back and appreciating how far you have come and progressed, as well as resting, and looking forward to your final year at school, and those exciting decisions and applications you will be making very soon. You are an amazing Year group, hold on to that and give Year 11 everything you have.

Mrs McCarthy, Head of Year 10



Year 11 Update

Year 11 Celebration

Court Fields School staff and students were very proud to line up as an honour guard, to clap the Year 11s as a part of the Year 11 Celebration back in June.

As a school, we marked our celebration for our Year 11 with a full schedule of specially planned events to commemorate the students' five years with us. The celebrations began with some time spent with tutors, exchanging cards and gifts before the students were brought together in the school gym. In the school gym, our students had photos taken with friends they had attended primary school with, to mark and record the journey they have all been on during their time at Court Fields School, along with informal photos of friendship groups enjoying time together.

Many of the Year 11 students entered into the time-honoured and traditional ritual of signing each other's memory books and shirts to offer messages and best wishes for the future. The canteen staff provided excellent catering in the form of a buffet, during the students' scheduled break time, with snacks and refreshments being very popular and gratefully received by all.

Year 11 students then sat for a celebration assembly in the school's main hall, hosted by Mrs Matthews and Mr Williams. Mrs Matthews' address to the students summed up perfectly the high regard that this Year group are held in by the staff and students alike. They have been a wonderful Year group throughout their time at Court Fields School. During the assembly, students were awarded certificates for achieving 100% attendance, exceptional behaviour standards, amassing high quantities of House points, as well as gifts from the Year 11 prize raffle representing impressive performance in lessons.

In the assembly, Mr Williams presented a collection of our fondest memories of the Year group in the form of photos amassed over five years, beginning with the Year 6 visit day and the first day of Year 7. There was a wide variety of learning experiences documented, along with extra-curricular activities to celebrate in the assembly. Highlights included the overseas trips to the Ardeche in France, fabulous Sports Day competition, Activities Week events over several years, as well as academic challenge days designed and coordinated by national companies and colleges. This cohort of Year 11 students impressively illustrates the school ethos of Achieve, Belong, Participate with the enthusiasm with which they have taken part in



Year 11 Update

each and every opportunity offered to them.

At the end of the assembly, students were presented with an envelope containing congratulatory messages from parents, guardians and carers, to mark the positive achievements of the students in what has been an unusual academic year for all concerned.

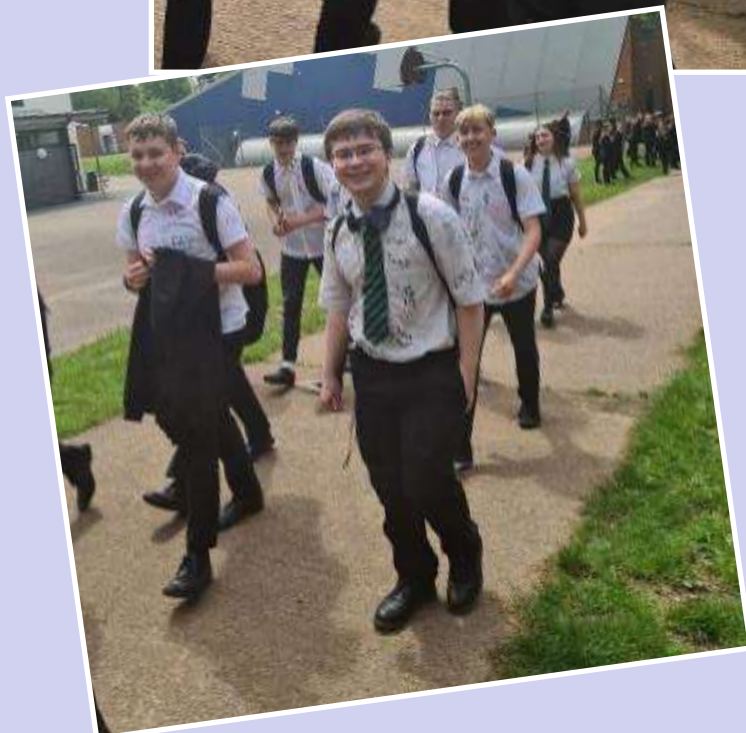
Upon departing the Main Hall, the younger students of the school had formed an honour guard to clap the Year 11 students as they walked through the school grounds.

Term 6 for Year 11 involved an array of talks, experiences and opportunities, with face-to-face meetings in school arranged by Mrs Hunt – our new Careers Advisor, with all of the local colleges our Year 11 students have applied to study with during Years 12 and 13 of their education. Somerset Works are provided opportunities at the Kilve Centre for students to be involved in hands on activities in preparation for the next stage of their education journey. Somerset Works opportunities included personal development, work experience and getting ahead with curriculum sessions.

On the school site, an IT suite was made available to Year 11 for enrolment purposes. Some colleges have expressed a preference for students to enrol online instead of advertising and running visit days due to the present situation. In addition, Year 11 students made use of the IT facilities, to begin their Year 12 summer studies as distributed by the local colleges. We have also been able to arrange visits from a variety of guest speakers including the National Citizen Service, the Department of Work and Pensions and uniform services including the Army Team.

Mrs Hunt has also provided access to valuable Ted Talks, stimulating Podcasts and Online skills and communication courses such as Eton X. The 2021 Get Ahead programme provides free Microsoft tutoring sessions with fully qualified teachers covering Science, English and Maths.

All details are available on the school website www.courtfields.net



Year 11 Update

Enrichment Opportunities

Considering the sun has been shining ever since they've left, the engagement from our Year 11 students has been simply amazing. We've hosted both virtual and live sessions with our local colleges and not only were our students impeccably well behaved they were engaged and asked many questions like "How's college going to support me over the summer?" and "what's it like to be a new student at college?" I hope that all our students are starting to feeling excited for September.

We have also had further sessions to encourage thinking over the summer holiday about studying for a Degree or Degree Level Apprenticeships and various life skills.

Charity Hunt -
Careers Advisor



Year 11



Year 12 Prom



Year 12 Prom



Year 11 Prom



Year 11 Prom



Wellbeing & Safeguarding

Hello Yellow/100 Things to Do Before Year 11

Throughout the year we have ensured tutor time, PSHCE and lessons support students with their wellbeing and mental health. This has been a challenging time for us all and we have been so impressed with how well our students have adapted to the challenges faced during the pandemic, from Learning at Home to Lateral Flow Testing. We have promoted positive mental health that includes advice and guidance on how to look after ourselves, as well as challenges to complete. We celebrated Hello Yellow day and Mental Health Awareness day, by connecting more with nature. All Year 7s were set the 100 Things to do before Year 11 and we will continue to promote this over their time at Court Fields.



End of Year Awards

With the restrictions lifting we will be hosting our Presentation Evenings in the Autumn term. We value all the hard work and effort our students have been through this year and can't wait to fully celebrate with students and parents/carers next term.



Safeguarding our Students

We have been really fortunate to have external speakers come into school and support our students. This year, Operation Topaz presented to all students about Child Exploitation and how to look after themselves and others. The assembly was really informative, and staff also attended training to support students and families. Safelink provided workshops for all Year 10 students, exploring consent and healthy relationships. The workshop leaders were really impressed with the maturity shown and the support for their peers. Next year we will be welcoming more speakers, including Stand Against Violence, to support our safeguarding

education for our students, which we are excited about.

Transition for Year 6

Transition to secondary school is an exciting yet nervous time and this year is no different. We have been navigating the world of 'Bubble Transition', and it was great to meet students onsite last week. Students got to tour the site, watch Staff and Transition Leader presentations and they certainly enjoyed the Pizza from the canteen. We would like to thank, Wellington One Team, Churches Together and Wellington Town Council, who have supported funding for all Year 6 students to receive a goodie bag. These include a filled pencil case, student planner, and in September, students will have a book to support alongside the Go Big Be Awesome project. We are excited to meet our new cohort in September and wish all our students a happy, safe and relaxing summer holidays.



Wellbeing & Safeguarding

Mental Health & Wellbeing Help for Young People & Families

Mindline Somerset
Emotional support helpline
Coronavirus



01823 276 892

Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Open **24 hours a day, seven-days a week**, Mindline is open to people of all ages who need urgent mental health support. The helpline is the first port of call for mental health help – it is operated by people in your local area who will know how best to support you.



Parents of children 0-4:
Confidential help from the Health Visiting Team **Just send a text 07480 635514**

ChatHealth is a mobile health service for parents and young people in Somerset making it easier to get health and wellbeing advice.

Monday-Friday 9am - 5pm.

Parents of children 5-19 years: looking for confidential help and advice? Just send a text to your School Nurse Team. **Text 07480 635515**

Young People 11-19 years: Discreet and quick, it only takes one text to start making a difference. You'll get confidential advice from a local School Nurse. You don't have to give your name if you don't want to. **Text 07480 635516**



Young Somerset's Wellbeing Service - Free wellbeing support for young people experiencing low level mental health needs. Find out more here: www.youngsomerset.org.uk/wellbeing-support

Somerset Big Tent brings together local organisations that offer support to children and families [Somerset Big Tent](#)

Take a look at our previous hubs for parents and young people covering a range of topics from anxiety to stress to online safety: [Virtual Hubs Archive - Somerset Big Tent](#)



Kooth – Safe and anonymous online support for young people **until 10pm** – friendly counsellors, self-help and community support. kooth.com

EVERY MIND MATTERS

Having good mental health helps us relax more, achieve more and enjoy our lives more. We have expert advice and practical tips to help you look after your mental health and wellbeing. [Every Mind Matters - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

Wellbeing & Safeguarding



Suicide is the biggest killer of under 35's in the UK

[Home](#) | [Papyrus UK](#) | [Suicide Prevention Charity \(papyrus-uk.org\)](#)

Somerset Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) webpages

We offer a variety of teams and services for young people aged 0–18 years old who are struggling with their mental health.

[Somerset CAMHS - CAMHS - Somerset NHS Foundation Trust \(somerseft.nhs.uk\)](#)

NHS Mental Health Apps



[distrACT app - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

The distrACT app gives you easy, quick and discreet access to information and advice about [self-harm](#) and [suicidal thoughts](#).

The content has been created by doctors and experts in self-harming and suicide prevention.



[Calm Harm app - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

Calm Harm is an app designed to help people resist or manage the urge to self-harm. It's private and password protected.



[BlueIce app - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

BlueIce is an evidenced-based app to help young people manage their emotions and reduce urges to [self-harm](#).

It includes a mood diary, a toolbox of evidence-based techniques to reduce distress and automatic routing to emergency numbers if urges to harm continue.

-
- ❖ For further Health & Wellbeing tips, advice & information including self-help support for parents and carers go to the Public Health website: www.cypsomersethealth.org
 - ❖ For further information & support for young people go to: www.youngsomerset.org.uk/coronavirus-support-for-young-people

Wellbeing & Safeguarding



Mrs Westwood
Lead Designated
Safeguarding Officer



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officers



Mrs Heggadon



Mrs McCarthy

Safeguarding Team



Mrs Hembrow
Safeguarding
Governor

Mrs Matthews
SLT Designated
Safeguarding Officer



COURT FIELDS SCHOOL

SCHOOL HOUSE SYSTEM REVIEW

For the coming year I will be seconded to our Senior Leadership Team, and leading on enrichment and the house system. Over the years, and certainly impacted by Covid, we have seen a drop in the importance of the house system, and we would like to address this.

The house system supported enrichment and the wider education of our children in so many ways, and helps develop healthy competition, high standards of behaviour and attendance, and the chance to support your house, in whatever way you feel able, be that through the arts, sport, outdoor education, maths, attendance, volunteering and so much more.

We have a plan to review the current house system over the next year. Throughout that time we will gain the ideas and opinions of students, staff, parents and the community. We will keep you updated on our progress, and can assure you that no uniform changes that impact on parents will take place before September 2022. Even then, students will be provided with a new tie (if that is the outcome of the review) and any change to the PE top (the only other 'house' branded item) will be phased in from September 2022.

One consideration that we do need to address is to transition the Court Fields School House system from four to three houses. The main reason is that having four houses when there are six tutor groups in each year, makes it almost impossible for each house to enjoy the same number of potential participants in any form of activity.

Currently we have the following 4 houses:

Emerald



Ruby



Sapphire



Topaz



We are very interested to receive any ideas for the names of the three new houses from parents/carers/guardians and family members, as well as any other feedback on developing the house system or enrichment.

Please enter your thoughts and ideas for the new house names in the box below and overleaf. Then simply tear out this page if you have printed the whole booklet, or print this page and the next one. These can be handed into reception or sent into school with students to give to tutors. Alternatively you can send your thoughts to schooloffice@courtfields.net

Thank you!

We look forward to receiving your feedback.

Mr Williams

SCHOOL HOUSE SYSTEM REVIEW - FEEDBACK

Please send us your name and feedback using this page, or email to schooloffice@courtfields.net. Thank you!



Court Fields School

Achieve | Belong | Participate

Thank you for all your support and hard work throughout these extraordinary few months. Have a wonderful Summer. Keep safe and see you in September!

*From Mrs Matthews
and all the Court Fields Team*

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



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