

Court Fields School

Achieve | Belong | Participate

Mantle Street
WELLINGTON
Somerset
TA21 8SW



Tel: 01823 664201
Fax: 01823 660812
sch.552@educ.somerset.gov.uk
www.courtfields.net
<https://twitter.com/CourtFieldsSch>

Acting Head of School: Mrs P Matthews

Executive Head: Mrs S Watson

13th November 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and keeping safe. I appreciate this is a very uncertain time for our students in Year 11 and that they are concerned about their GCSE examinations however at present the Government is still planning for children in England to sit their GCSEs in June 2021.

To prepare for these examinations students will be sitting two sets of Pre-Public Exams (PPEs) this year in each of their subjects. The first in December (Monday 7th – Wednesday 16th December) and the second in March. These examinations will provide your child with an opportunity to test their knowledge and understanding and identify some topics that will need further improvement before the final GCSE examinations in June.

The PPE examinations will also provide teachers with key information that would be used in the event of the GCSE examinations being cancelled in 2021. We do not yet know if this will be the case, but it is vital that we allow students to achieve the best they can in the PPEs, in case this data is needed. If the Government does confirm that the GCSE examinations are cancelled, we will continue with both sets of PPEs to assist teachers in calculating a Centre Assessed Grade. Therefore, whilst there is some uncertainty about the GCSE exams I can confirm the PPEs will be going ahead, and students should treat these as they would the real thing.

Preparing thoroughly for these PPE examinations will give your child the best opportunity at achieving success in their GCSEs. This preparation will allow your child to identify which areas they need to focus on, act on teacher's advice on how to improve their work, and help your child to make the progress they deserve. Below is some key information to help and support you and your child over the coming weeks.

Lesson Time

There are three weeks before the first PPE examinations and students should make every lesson count. Lessons over the coming weeks, are key for teachers and students to identify what students have understood, and also the bits that might need some more work. They will also be working on exam technique and coaching students how to apply their knowledge in the best way to gain the most marks from each question. Please talk to your child at the end of each day, go through what they have done in each lesson, and encourage them to take their teachers' advice on board and complete any activities that they suggest. Similarly, if they ask students to complete practice questions, they should complete these to the best of their ability. Otherwise teachers will not be able to identify where there are gaps in a student's knowledge. Students should come to every lesson focussed, well equipped and ready to learn.

Homework / Independent Work

Working outside of the school day is crucial to your child being successful and students will need to get in to the routine of working for between 2-3 hours each evening and 4-5 hours per day at the weekend. Running up to the PPEs the focus for homework has changed to exam preparation and teachers will be setting specific tasks for students to complete. If however students have not got any homework tasks they should be revising. **There is no such thing**



as **'No homework' over the coming weeks and months in Year 11!** Homework will continue to be set on ClassCharts and students have been provided with revision topic lists for all of their subjects to use when revising.

Revision / Quiet Work Space

Students can stay after school every day until 17:00 and work in the common room or A1 which has computer access. If your child is struggling to work at home or does not have a quiet space to work then please do encourage them to stay after school.

Parent Guide

To help you support your child to be successful in their examinations we have produced a parent guide which has lots of advice and practical ideas to help. The parent guide is available on our school website at courtfIELDS.net. (Parents, Information for Year 11 page)

Revision Guides

Revision guides can now be ordered online using Scopay. Details of the revision guides available and how to order can be found on our school website at courtfIELDS.net. (Parents, Information for Year 11 page) Orders made up until 8:00am on Friday morning will be available for students to collect in school each Friday. Students have been made aware of the revision guides they require however if your child is unsure please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

December Pre Public Examinations Timetable

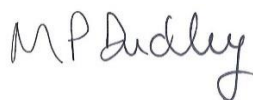
I will write to you again closer to the start of the PPE examinations with further information however I have provided a timetable with this letter.

This is a really important time for your child and together we can support your child to be successful this year. You do not need to be an expert in the |GCSEs your child is studying. You just need to know how to support them effectively. Hopefully the information in this letter will help you support your child however if you have any questions/queries please do not hesitate to contact the school. Telephone lines are manned between 8am and 4pm, but may be busy, so you may wish to use our key email contacts as follows:

- For any queries regarding your child's academic or pastoral wellbeing, please email their **Tutor** in the format initialsurname@courtfIELDS.net. They are your first and key point of contact.
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- **Head of Year** – Mr Williams dwilliams@courtfIELDS.net
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- For **general enquiries**, please use the main email address: sch.552@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Thank you for your continued support. Keep safe and keep in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Martyn Dudley
Deputy Headteacher

YEAR 11 EXAM TIMETABLE December 2020

	MONDAY 7 th	TUESDAY 8 th	WEDNESDAY 9 th	THURSDAY 10 th	FRIDAY 11 th	MONDAY 14 th	TUESDAY 15 th	WEDNESDAY 16 th
Period 1&2	Maths Paper 1 1hr 30	English Language Paper 2 2hr 05	Maths Paper 2 1hr 30	English Literature Paper 2 1hr 20	Option B Paper 1	Science: Physics Combined 1hr15 Separate 1hr45	Geography Paper 2 1hr & Catch Up Exams	Art – All Day in C8 Both Option A & B BTEC Performing Arts Practical Exam (Small Groups)
3	LATE BREAK AS REQUIRED DAILY THEN P3 REVISION SESSION AS PER YEAR 11 NORMAL TIMETABLE							
LUNCH BREAK 12.30 – 13.00 LINE UP OUTSIDE SPORTS HALL AT 13.00								
Period 4&5	Science: Biology Combined 1hr15 Separate 1hr45	Science: Chemistry Combined 1hr15 Separate 1hr45	Option A Paper 1	Maths Paper 3 1hr 30	Option C Paper 1	History Paper 2 1hr 20 & Catch Up Exams	French & Spanish Paper 2 (Writing) 1hr & Catch Up Exams	