

Court Fields School

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Ref: Update Letter re Jan Opening 311220

31 December 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

Further to my brief email last night I wanted to give you more details on the plans for the start of term, following the announcements from the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Education yesterday.

The details in this letter are primarily for Year Groups 7 to 10. Year 11 parents and carers will receive a separate letter.

As I explained yesterday, the key points are as follows, although these may be subject to change by the Government should infection rates increase:

- **students will not return to school for face to face lessons during the week commencing the 4th January.**
- students in Year 11 will return from the 11th January for face to face teaching.
- students in Years 7-10 will return from the 18th January for face to face teaching.
- online learning will be in place for all students from 4th January, as per their normal timetable.
- mass testing will be implemented, with Year 11 as a priority, starting during the week commencing the 5th January, and continuing during the following week. This will allow all students to be tested before they return to face to face lessons.

Of course, you may have questions regarding the testing process, or the tests themselves. I attach an information leaflet from the Government which explains more about the testing procedure. We will also be producing our own video on Tuesday, which will walk you through the entire testing process as it will happen at Court Fields, so that you can feel reassured. I will share this with you on Tuesday.

We will need a Consent Form to be completed by all parents/carers by Monday 4th January please for Years 7-10. This can be done simply online, and this will be sent to you in a separate email.

We have been directed by the Government to prioritise Year 11 for testing, but following that, we have made the decision to prioritise Year 8 as the next year group to undertake testing. We currently anticipate that their testing will start from Thursday 7th January, however this will depend on the arrival of the tests on time, and the schedule proposed by the Government working effectively for Year 11. Once Year 8 tests are completed we will continue with Years 10, then 9 and 7.

I will confirm the exact details for testing each year group in the coming days, and you will receive a letter with a testing time-slot for your child, so that we ensure that groups of students arrive at school and are tested in a controlled manner. Of course, we are in Tier 4, so students must not mix with anyone outside their household on the way to or from school, or outside school at any time.

Online Learning

Students will follow their usual timetable, and will start with 2 days of online learning (4th and 5th January). Following this, they will undertake a mix of 'live' lessons and online learning, again, following their usual timetable.



Because of the proximity of their upcoming GCSE exams, Year 11 lessons will be all 'live' lessons from the 6th of January to allow increased teacher support. Because they have lost a significant amount of learning already due to Covid, Year 8 and Year 10 will have between 50% and 75% 'live' lessons this week and will move to 100% 'live' lessons for the week commencing 11th January. Years 7 and 9 will have a mix, with between 50% and 75% of 'live' lessons across both weeks. For example, 1 lesson per week subjects = 100% will be 'live', 2 lesson per week subjects = 50% will be 'live', 3 lesson per week subjects = 66% will be 'live', 4 lesson per week subjects = 75% will be 'live'.

Students will be expected to 'check-in' between 8.30 and 9am every day except Wednesday, on which they will have a 'live' Tutor Time. This will be the same for Key Stage 3 & 4.

We will email an update version of our Online Learning Guide for Parents before 4th January for your information and support.

There may be no more challenging time to be a school leaver, than in the coming few years. Whether students are at home, online learning, or in school, it is vital that they undertake the learning set. ClassCharts will still be used by staff to record rewards (and, if necessary, sanctions), so please do look at your child's ClassCharts details and discuss with them regularly, as you always do.

Updated Guidance on Main Covid Symptoms:

As always, please contact the NHS for guidance and book a test if anyone in your household displays any of the following symptoms:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

What to do if your child (or you/anyone you live with/anyone in your support bubble) displays one or more of these main symptoms:

- Get a test to check if they have coronavirus as soon as possible.
- Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get the test result – only leave your home to have a test.
- Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get the result.

Finally, I would just like to repeat my thanks to you for your support. My very best wishes go out to you and your families.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any other questions/queries. 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 safeguarding concerns, please use the following email address: safeguarding@courtfields.net
- For ClassCharts or any other IT technical enquiries, please use the following dedicated email address: classcharts@courtfields.net
- To contact our SENCO, or for SEN questions, please use the following email address: sen@courtfields.net
- For any contact or 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. We have also sent the email address for each Tutor to the parents/carers of all members of their Tutor Group earlier this week for your convenience.
- For general enquiries, please use the main email address: sch.552@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Take care and keep safe.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Polly Matthews
Acting Headteacher