

# Court Fields School

## Parent Weekly 'What's Happening' Bulletin



### Message from Mrs Matthews

Thursday 1st April 2021

Thank you so much for your support as we reach the end of the Spring Term. We know that returning to school whilst in lockdown has been difficult for our students, and this has been a theme across the country. When we returned in September the students had been able to have time together in the summer holidays, going places, going shopping etc, and it's been so much harder without any of those freedoms since the return on the 8th March. Now our families deserve time to relax, be together and be with others, doing more 'normal' things like visiting shops and relatives. This will help our students to return after Easter ready to participate in their learning and the enrichment activities that will be on offer. We are also awaiting the green light from the Government for residential trips to resume, and when that happens, we will release details of our Year 7 & Year 8 Residentials, which I know will provide a much needed opportunity for our students to be together, have fun and let off steam.

We are also developing our programme for Year 11 throughout the Summer Term, ensuring that they are able to finish their courses and give themselves the best chance of getting the results they deserve via the Teacher Assessments in place instead of the Summer Exams. The PPEs will form a significant part of these grades, and I know that our Year 11s will balance down-time and revision through the Easter Holiday, and focus their efforts on those PPEs and lessons until their courses are completed and grades finalised. The Government will be giving more clarity on the final school date for Year 11 over the coming weeks, but we will also offer a substantial enrichment programme for Year 11 students throughout June and July. We would also recommend that Year 11 take part in the National Citizenship Service this year, which is a fantastic opportunity to enhance their CV, develop personal skills and qualities, meet new friends and help others. Please email Mr Williams for more information or visit [wearencs.com](http://wearencs.com). The cost is only £50 and we have bursaries available for students, so please ask for details.

Thank you again for all your support.

Please don't forget that student home testing must continue during the Easter Holidays, ready for a safe return on the 19th April.

Take care and keep safe.

Mrs Matthews



### Communication update

We will be upgrading our communications system to parents soon. Further details will follow, but we're hoping this will provide new and improved communication options for all our families.



**Reminder!**

### Equipment for music lessons

All students need a pair of headphones to be able to take part in practical Music. The headphones should have a standard or small jack, not the iPhone compatible connector. Headphones are available to buy from school either online or by bringing £1 to the Music lesson. Many thanks.

### Music Lessons

Music Lessons are resuming after Easter. If you would like your son or daughter to take extracurricular music lessons, please contact the tutor direct using the emails below. Things are slightly different in that the tutor will invoice you directly and be responsible for dealing with all aspects of the lessons. If you would like more information, you can still contact Mrs S Chidgey at school.

[quitartuition@robtribe.plus.com](mailto:quitartuition@robtribe.plus.com) for guitar, ukulele, bass, piano and keyboard

[mattgroves41@gmail.com](mailto:mattgroves41@gmail.com) for Drum lessons. Details for singing and wind to follow shortly.

Please contact Mrs Chidgey to express an interest in these.

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**Book of the Week Shortlisted for the 2021 CILIP Carnegie Medal: *Clap when you Land*, by Elizabeth Acevedo**

Camino Rios has always lived in the Dominican Republic with her aunt Tia, "a woman who speaks to the dead, who negotiates with spirits", a woman who's like a mother to her: "Even when Mama was alive, Tia was the other mother of my heart." Life's not easy for them on the island, but they have it better than their neighbours as a result of Camino's beloved Papi working in the US for most of the year. To Camino, Papi is a "A king who built an empire so I'd have a throne to inherit", and she lives for the summer months when he comes home to them. But all life is thrown into terrible disarray when she goes to meet Papi at the airport and learns that his plane has fallen from the sky, and then: "I am swallowed by this shark-toothed truth." This story is blessed with such divinely piercing language throughout.

At the same time, across the Atlantic, Yahaira Rios learns that her hero Papi has died in a plane crash. She already knew he had a wife on the island (but not of his secret daughter), and has always longed to reconcile her Dominican heritage with her American life: "Can you be from a place you have never been? You can find the island stamped all over me, but what would the island find if I was there? Can you claim a home that does not know you, much less claim you as its own?" When it emerges that Papi wishes to be buried back in DR, Yahaira's Mami insists that she will never let her "touch foot on the sands of that tierra." But Yahaira has other plans, not least when she's contacted by a girl named Camino Rios who bears an undeniable resemblance to Papi, and to her too.



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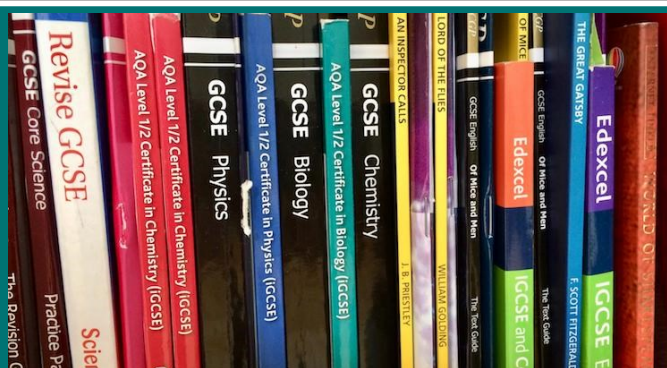


**Revision Guides**

Revision Guides will be given out after Easter as we are waiting for delivery.

Students must collect their guides from the LRC Wednesday break time.

They will not be able to collect at any other time. Year 10 and 11 must use the LRC door next to the Hall to access the LRC.



**Forward diary dates**

Thursday 1st April - Inset Day

Friday 2nd - Friday 16th April - Easter Holidays

Monday 19th April - Students return to school

26th April - 30th April - Madagascar Week

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