Mr Etherington is a National Award Winner! House Points Totals Announced!

1b

A round up of this year's trips and learning

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WELCOME!

Well I'm struggling to believe that we've come to the end of 2023/24! It's been such a busy year, and you'll see so many highlights in this edition of our Court Fields Magazine, but some of mine have been our whole school production, our Sports Day, our first Careers Fair, our staff nominated for national awards, and our latest cohorts of Transition Leaders & Prefects smashing it at interview.

Thank you so much for your support. There is no school community without the teamwork of staff, students, parents, families and the wider community, and we are one fantastic team! Have a lovely summer. We look forward to working with you next year.

Best wishes, Polly Matthews, Headteacher

Achieve

Belong

Participate



Our Prom Royalty

Students from our General Election student panel

COURT FIELDS

SCHOOL



Mr Etherington being presented with his Silver Award

IRT FIELDS

SILVER AWARD FOR ADAM





ADAM ETHERINGTON



THE AWARD FOR UNSUNG HERO

COURT FIELDS SCHOOL

SOMERSET







HIGHLY COMMENDED

We were also delighted to share that our very own superstar Charity Hunt, our Careers Lead, has been awarded the 'Highly Commended' award for Unsung Hero in the Pearson National Teaching Awards. Thoroughly deserved and we hope you will join us in congratulating Charity and thanking her for all the amazing work she does here at Court Fields School.





On Wednesday 19th June we celebrated National Thank a Teacher (and school support staff) Day. To add to the celebrations, we were very proud to announce that our wonderful team member, Adam Etherington, has won a Silver Award for Unsung Hero in the Pearson National Teaching Awards, selected from thousands of nominees.

Science Technician, DofE Coordinator and an integral part of the Court Fields School team since 2006, Adam is more than an educator – he's an unsung hero whose impact resonates throughout the school community. His

dedication to students is palpable through initiatives such as the highly popular 'Bug Club', which he leads. Attracting over 50 students weekly, the club not only fosters scientific curiosity but also provides a supportive environment for personal growth and friendship. Adam's involvement in outdoor education, including the Exmoor Challenge and DofE programmes, instils resilience and leadership skills in students and his commitment extends to the introduction and training of therapy dogs Spot and Flint, who offer invaluable support to students dealing with anxiety and trauma. Adam's selflessness is evident in projects like the creation of the school's living willow shelter and running 'Wellbeing Wednesday' for staff, showcasing his genuine care for the entire school

community. His passion for creating a nurturing learning envi-

ronment sets him apart, making him a beacon of inspiration and influence.

Mr Etherington is one of 102 deserving teachers, lecturers, leaders, support staff and institutions named as Silver winners in this year's Awards. He will now be in the running for the coveted Gold Award, which will be announced at a prestigious awards ceremony later in the year.

EXMOOR CHALLENGE 2024





We are so proud of our students who tackled the Exmoor Challenge in May. They showed incredible application and passion to take on such a tough task and we would like to congratulate them on their achievement! Thanks must also go to the organisers and all those who have supported our students through this journey.







MADAGASCAR WEEK



WORK EXPERIENCE



A fabulous tearoom situated on Wellington High Street, Odette's takes inspiration from a local World War II heroine and combines a little bit of rustic Somerset with a little French chic. The Tearoom has offered work experience for many years and Liam has had a great week there, and has been offered a job. Well done Liam!

Here is Wilf at The Mole Resort, learning all sorts of culinary skills.



Aiden worked as a Science Technician for the week!





working in Musgrove Hospital). "Robin, Harry & Saxon have completed their week at MK Test Systems. They've done fantastically

Positive feeback!



"Lucas has been a fantastic addition to the school kitchen this week & the staff at school were very lucky to be treated to this delicious cake!"

"Scarlett was great. She is really polite and

keen, introducing herself to the patients and

"We recently had your student Luciano at our workshop. I wanted to express how happy we were with him during this time. He showed great interest and was very responsive to all that he was shown and asked to complete. The whole team was very satisfied with his work ethic as well. It was a pleasure to have him do his work experience with us, and most definitely has a bright future ahead of him.'



Congratulations to our Year 11 Team who finished top of their group with a 3-1 win over Kings College.



Just a snapshot of our sporting news over the last few months. Follow us on social media for all the latest!



A big well done to talented Year 7 golfer George H who competed for Court Fields in the Somerset Schools Golf Championships recently. George competed against students from Yr 7 to Yr 11. George finished an amazing 8th out of over 70 competitors!



What a cracking day and unforgettable experience for our u12 and u15 cricketers who played in the Chance to Shine Cricket Finals at The County Ground in June . Both teams did superbly, coming 3rd overall. Well done to all involved. A great achievement to get this far.



Year 10 B Team played a very competi-



against The Castle School in May, seeing Court Fields come away with a 2-1 victory. POM went to Frankie W. Well done to all involved

A big well done to our Year 9 and Year 10 girl and boy athletes who did superbly in the area athletics competition.



We hosted the Year 10 Rounders CVL in May and came away with a mixture of results! Really lovely to see so many schools coming to Court Fields and making use of our facilities A huge congratulations to Monument House on winning the Court Fields Interhouse Euro 2024.

Monument were deserved winners in the end, with Blackdown in 2nd place and Duke in 3rd. Pictured is a jubilant Charity Hunt (Head of Monument House). A massive well done to all the boys and girls who took part, in what was a feast of football.





SPAIN TRIP 2024

















ASPIRATION, INSPIRATION, DESTINATION FAIR

We held our first Aspiration, Inspiration, Destination Fair in June and what an event! Supported by twenty-two local businesses / education providers and visited by over eight hundred students it was super busy, with conversations ranging from progression in careers, how to find apprenticeships and work experience opportunities, and importantly how to make a good first impression. Our students were eager to speak to all those that attended and endeavoured to get a stamp in their booklets to evidence engagement.

Our thanks to everyone that made this such a fantastic day, our school teams ... Catering, Reprographics, Office and Premises, our students for the high level of engagement and our business community without which this couldn't have happened.

If you would like to attend the Aspiration, Inspiration, Destination Fair 2025 please get in touch with Charity at <u>chunt@courtfields.bep.ac</u>.

"I think this went really well and should definitely happen again. It was actually enjoyable meeting new people and talking about my future. I didn't have enough time to talk to everyone so please can we have more time next year. I really liked the ASK programme and had a long conversation about the kind of apprenticeship I could look for. Now I have a passion for food and am wanting to mange my own restaurant where I want to contribute to everything and help my employees and staff."

Roxy Year 8.











ASPIRATION INSPIRATION DESTINATION FAIR









BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

Marble Run Challenge

We had great fun in science lessons celebrating the 30th anniversary of British Science Week. The theme this year was 'Time!' so we set Year 7 a special Time Challenge Activity to make a Marble Run that has the SLOWEST time! That's right, their marble had to take the longest time to travel from the top, to the bottom, of their marble run. Students used this challenge to develop some important skills such as being logical, imaginative and collaborative. They did a fantastic job and there were some very creative marble runs created.







EXETER ART TRIP

In March we took the Year 10 art and photography students out to Exeter for the day. We explored the Royal Albert Memorial Museum before exploring the city. Students made sketches and took photos of what they saw ready to populate their trip concertina sketchbooks as part of their GCSE course. They have been working on these booklets since we returned and from what we have seen they have maintained that exceptional level of ability. These are due in for assessment at the end of the Summer term.



ENRICHMENT

CHESS CLUB

This year has been a packed year for the Chess Club. We have regularly had over 30 members attend each week.

Pictured are :

The Year 9 – 11 outright winner Aiden Isaacs.

The Year 7 and 8 roll of honor with the top spot shared between Caleb M and Tyler J.

The Year 11 leavers who have been attending since Year 7.

And finally a snap of chess club taken this term.

Thank you all for attending and see you next Year!

Miss Murphy







CREATIVE WRITING CLUB



Our young authors have had another fantastic year publishing a range of short stories and entering a number of competitions. It has been great to see lots of new faces joining from Year 7. We look forward to seeing their achievements continue next year.

YOUTH SPEAKS

Our young speakers have had an amazing year entering a number of competitions and representing the school in spoken performances . It has been wonderful to welcome lots of new students from Year 7 who were

inspired by their rhetoric lessons in English . We look forward to seeing the club grow next year and our success continuing.



MFL CLUB

MFL Club has continued to thrive , with a group of students attending regularly every Tuesday lunchtime. The purpose of the club is to take an informal look at languages that we would not normally study during curriculum time. Languages covered across the year have included: Welsh, Danish, Maltese, Sicilian and Dutch.



CSI CLUB

Our afterschool 'CSI Club' continued to captivate students with forensic science activities, including bug analysis at crime scenes, facial reconstruction, food tests, code-breaking, explosive film canister rockets, secret writing, and the thrilling 'blood elephants toothpaste' experiment for crime scene cleanup.





GLEE CLUB

The CFS Glee Club has had a remarkable year, earning a stellar reputation with their captivating performances. They kicked off the festive sea-

son with a heartwarming Christmas concert, as well as delightful performances at the town centre's Christmas light switch-on, the Wellesley, Waitrose and IKB Primary School. Their lunchtime shows in the school hall have also been a hit, providing wonderful entertainment for fellow students. The recent cabaret, *West End comes to Welling-*



ton was a standout event, showcasing incredible talent from soloists, groups, and even teachers, who collectively wowed audiences and inspired generous donations. Currently, the Glee Club is gearing up to per-



BUG CLUB

Court Fields Bug Club is on Monday and Friday lunchtimes in B3. We have lots of different bugs, books, models and information on bugs and how to look after them.

Bug Club is perfect for any students who want a bit of peaceful quiet time. It's not all about the bugs, we may watch a video, play music or cards, I have 4 different types of UNO if that's your thing.

Come along and see for yourself!



ART CLUB

Here are some images from our popular Art Club. Students from all key stages are welcome in Art Club, and they can come and do their own style of work or finish off pieces from the lessons. There is a choice of materials to work with, and the atmosphere is very relaxed.



ENGLISH

<u>Year 7:</u>

Year 7 started the year by learning about famous Greek philosopher, Aristotle, and his power of persuasion, using this knowledge to become successful orators themselves! Following this, we travelled to a remote island to learn about Prospero's power and his daughter Miranda's oppression from the patriarchy in Shakespeare's 'The Tempest'. Later, students were able to explore the eerie elements of the Gothic genre through their study of the works of Shelley, Stoker and Gaiman. Students had the opportunity to craft their own supernatural settings and spooky characters. Finally, our Year 7 cohort began their study of the contemporary novel, Refugee Boy, which enabled our orators to engage in some thoughtful discussions and develop their analytical skills further.

<u>Year 8:</u>

Year 8 started the year stuck in the conflict between Beatrice and Benedick as

they attempted to dismiss

their love in favour of independence and power. Stu-

knowledge of Shakespeare

and Elizabethan society to

understand his intentions for

writing the play, 'Much Ado

about Nothing'. Later in the

Orwell's 'Animal Farm' and

year, our critics engaged with

discovered the power of prop-

dents were able to apply their





<u>Year 9:</u>

Our Year 9 literary critics have engaged with the theme of conflict this year. They have studied Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet', a range of Dickens' stories and a collection of conflict poems. These have enabled our students to demonstrate their understanding of how context influences a writer's presentation of characters, themes and ideas. Additionally, our students have created a range of their own short stories and monologues to present the theme of conflict.

<u>Year 10:</u>

Our Year 10 students have made an excellent start to their GCSE course. They have studied half of the Literature content through their analysis of Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' and their commitment to understanding the complex nature of Shakespeare's tragic hero, Macbeth. Additionally, Year 10 have also studied half of their Language GCSE by focusing on their evalu-



ative skills as well as their transactional writing. We were incredibly proud of our Year 10s as they experienced their first course of PPE exams. Their commitment to revision has set them in good stead for next year.

Enrichment:

For enrichment this Year, students in year 7 became detectives and had to work in teams to solve 'The Curious Case of the Clockwork Cleaner'. They needed to examine a range of evidence to establish who was responsible for the death of Conan Drum, a cleaner employed by the school from the list of four possible suspects: Barbara Ross (the kitchen assistant),



Nieve Farius (the head cleaner), Shay Dowey (the lab technician) or Anna Sailant (the receptionist). Students needed to make inferences from evidence in the form of emails, images and physical items around the crime scene and relied on communication skills to share their ideas with their teammates to come to the right conclusion in their final reports.

There are definitely some future Sherlock Holmes, Hercule Poirots and Miss Marples in the year group!



MATHS

Things have been busy in the Maths department this year! Here is a summary of what has been happening:

Interhouse Maths competition

Some students in Years 7 - 10 have been competing in a countdown (numbers) style contest as part of the interhouse competitions. We'd like to thank all of the pupils who participated. Congratulations to pupils in the following tutor groups, who came first in their year group:

- Aiden and George in 7M1
- Finley & Jack in 8D1
- James & Daisy (9B2) and Nicole & Malakai (9D1)
- Thiago & George (10D2)

Are you able to solve this countdown puzzle within 60 seconds?

Here are the numbers you can use: 50, 9, 8, 75, 3, 8

Target: 212

No calculator allowed! You can use the numbers only once, you don't have to use them all. You can add, subtract, multiply and divide (no squaring or square rooting) to make 212.

Solution below for those of you who want to check!



Solution: 75 x 8 = 600 50 x 8 = 400 600-400 = 200 9+3 = 12 200+12=212

SPARX Maths homework

We have continued with homework on SPARX this year for all students. SPARX provides excellent retrieval practice which helps students to embed learning from Maths lessons. It also gives opportunites to earn experience points by completing extra "boost" tasks.

For students that need some support with homework, or just a quiet place to complete it, the Maths department run a SPARX clinic every Wednesday, which is very well attended and has really helped students to progress. Special mention goes to the following students, who have all received a certificate and House Points for their efforts:

Year 7	Luca C – 43,003 XP		
Ashley V – 68,875 XP	Roxana C - 27,161 XP		
Beatrice V – 61,610 XP	Year 9		
Olivia F – 50,110 XP	Yakub M – 40,314 XP		
Warren P – 35,538 XP	Rebecca W - 17238 XP		
Imogen P – 33,510 XP	Aimee E – 14,704 XP		
Nicole C – 32,210 XP	Year 10		
Leah-Louise G – 31,557 XP Year 8	Millie H – 23,443 XP		
	Cerys H - 18,742 XP		
	Zakaria FT - 18,487 XP		
Hettie F – 44,050			

Maths competition at Queens College

On Monday 29th April, Miss Harrison took eight Year 8 students to Queen's College to compete in their annual maths challenge. Court Fields were among the few state schools to attend the event and one of our teams came 3rd place overall!

It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to experience complex mathematic problem solving, and each round relied on their resourcefulness, patience and teamwork. All excelled and should be really proud of their efforts.



Year 9 UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge 60 of our most able Year 9 Mathematicians took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge in January, which is open to students from Years 9-11 across the UK. We were impressed to see that despite being the youngest year group eligible for this challenge, 13 of our entrants went on to achieve Bronze or Silver medals for their exceptional performance. The winner of Best in Year went to James R, an outstanding achievement, and well deserved for such a conscientious student.







YEAR 7

Year 7 explored the parallel line work of wall artist Sol Lewitt as part of their poly printing unit of work. We learnt how colour and shapes can create illusions of movement and how to analyse artwork effectively alongside present-

YEAR 8

Year 8 have worked super hard this year in creating realistic artworks in both gouache paint and biro pen. Each technique is completely different, but both equally need superb control and attention to detail. We have been blown away by the standard of painting after we looked at artist Sarah Graham, and now the progress they are making using pen in the style of Oscar Ukonu. The quality of tonal variation and confidence shown is going to be something extraordinary once these guys hit YR10/ 11.





ing the work of others. We discussed/ designed and applied our understanding of parallel lines and colours to create beautiful repeat patterns inspired by this artist. They did so well on this, we are very excited to see how they develop these presentation skills over the next two years ready for GCSE where this work would be worth 25% of their final mark.



YEAR 9



After working with Lino print and architecture students continued to explore the work of Irvin Amen and move into ceramics where they designed and built a slab pot clay vase using the architecture we drew earlier in the year in Wellington. Students then had the opportunity to develop their slabs by adding areas of emboss-

ment and relief to add another dimension to the slabs before securing the structure together ready for the kiln. For the first time we were able to allow students to add ceramic glaze to their work to give their pots a really professional finish. We even managed to source 4 new glass display cabinets from The Wellington 'Talent Gallery' in which to display them.

YEAR 10

Year 10 artists are blowing us away with their out of this world standard of work. They are really enjoying the freedom to explore areas they choose in media they are confident and developed in following the media, techniques and processes unit we covered earlier this year. We think you will agree the standard of work is just amazing. Once we come back from the summer break we can't wait to see where they go with their research towards a final piece that will 'realise their intention'. We think these will be exceptional.











A series of the series of the











What another fantastic year of PE at Court Fields! Let's first start with The Court Fields Miles 4 Mind Interhouse Charity Run, where students, staff and others in the Court Fields community raised over £4000 for the mental health charity Mind.

As well as students developing their skills in a broad range of sports in lessons, outside of lessons yet again the Court Fields students flourished in our extracurricular clubs and teams.

Firstly, our amazing under 13 girls football team made it to the quarter finals of the national cup, seeing off teams from all over the country to make it that far! In addition, the success of The Court Fields Trampolining Club with lots of students competing in the regional finals. Furthermore, our amazing u12 and u15 boys cricket teams qualified for the county cricket finals and had the "once in a lifetime" opportunity to play at Somerset County Cricket Club, where they came 3rd in the whole county. Moreover, our boys and girls athletics teams in each age group had lots of success in the area and county games, with 2 relay teams breaking long-standing school records. Also, 2 teams are area champions and 4 came runners up. Lastly, the Court Fields Interhouse Euros was thrilling! Hundreds of boys and girls in different year groups represented their houses superbly in what was a fantastic whole-school event.

A big well done to all the Court Fields students on how well they have done in PE this year. Excitingly, next year we will have a full size state-of-the-art 3g pitch which will elevate PE at the school even further.

Up next- Court Fields Sports Day 2024!

Mr C and the PE Team





SPORTS DAY

What a fantastic day of sport, with students competing in their houses to be crowned Court Fields Sports Day Champions 2024!

Throughout the whole day the performances were outstanding, rallied on by the wild spectators in the house pens. A very big well done to Charity and Monument House on deservedly being crowned Court Fields Sports Day Champions 2024! Nobody does Sports Days like Court Fields - well done to all involved!













SCIENCE

As we wrap up another exciting term, it's time to reflect on the incredible journey our students have taken in the Science Department. Across all year groups, students have delved into fascinating topics and participated in enriching activities that have broadened their understanding and ignited their curiosity about the world around them.

Year 7 Adventures: Year 7 students kicked off the term exploring the dynamic topics of energy, ecosystems, and electricity. They wrapped up the year with an awe-inspiring look at space. These foundational topics have equipped our young scientists with a solid understanding of the natural world and the universe beyond.

Year 8 Explorations:

Our Year 8 students embarked on a geological journey, studying rocks, motion and forces, electricity, and magnetism. They concluded the term by expanding their cosmic knowledge with Space 2. This diverse range of subjects has provided them with a comprehensive overview of physical and earth sciences.

Year 9 Discoveries:

For Year 9, the focus was on the intricate concepts of waves, separating mixtures, and atomic theory. This deep dive into complex scientific principles has prepared them for more advanced studies as they move into their GCSE years.

Year 10 Studies:

Year 10 students have been immersed in all three branches of science, attending separate lessons for each:

Biology: Covered natural selection, genetic modification, health, disease, and medicine development.

Chemistry: Explored acids and alkalis, mass calculations, and electrolytic processes.

Physics: Investigated energy conservation, waves, light, the electromagnetic spectrum, and radioactivity.

These subjects have not only enriched their knowledge but also honed their practical and analytical skills.

Year 11 Triumphs:

Year 11 students dedicated themselves to preparing for their final GCSE exams. Their hard work, supplemented by well-attended intervention sessions, has set them on the path to success. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

STEM Enrichment Beyond the Classroom:

Our commitment to STEM education extends beyond the classroom. There have been some memorable outings during the year such the Year 8 trip to Paignton Zoo where a sustainability workshop was attended, and a group of our Year 9 student had the fantastic opportunity to visit Hinkley Point C to learn more about ongoing sustainable energy production and take a tour of the site (viewing in ore the largest crane 'Big Carl').

Additionally, KS3 students enthusiastically engaged in additional holiday enrichment tasks, earning the prestigious 'STEM Champion' badges. To support British Science Week, Year 7 students showcased their creativity and engineering skills in a challenge to build the longest but slowest marble run. The innovative designs were a testament to their ingenuity and teamwork.

Our afterschool 'CSI Club' continued to captivate students with forensic science activities. See page 9 for an update and images.

Year 10 students enjoyed a break from their PPE (mock) exams with engaging STEM tasks during Enrichment Week. They were challenged to designed helmets, built the tallest paper towers to support a can of food, and constructed boats capable

of carrying the most weight. These activities fostered teamwork, problem-solving, and creativity. Overall, this term has been an enriching and inspiring time for our students, and we look forward to continuing this journey of discovery and innovation in the next school year!







HISTORY

<u>Year 7</u>

The Year 7s have been learning about 'How did William gain control of England?'. Students have looked at the wide variety of problems that William faced when he became King. Students then looked at the various ways that William established his control through violent methods such as the Harrowing of the North, and other methods such as the Domesday Book and



castles. During Enrichment Week, the Year 7s visited Chepstow Castle to learn about its history, how it acted as a gateway to Wales, why it was located on a river next to Bristol, and how it developed throughout the medieval times up to the 17th century. Students were able to explore Marten's Tower, walk the walkways and enter the prison. This is hugely important in bringing our local history to life but also to be able to visualise and explore how castles developed and changed over time.

<u>Year 8</u>

Following Year 8's trip to Bristol to look at its involvement in the slave trade, they focused their study on the impact slavery had on the countries involved in it. Students looked at West Africa and the Kingdom of Benin, comparing and contrasting its culture before and after its people were captured and transported to the Caribbean as slaves. Students moved their focus onto the Caribbean, studying the colonies of Jamaica, and looked at how the emancipation of slaves led to indentured labour, and judged how far the people of the Caribbean gained independence. Students then looked at Bristol, and focused on Pero (an ex-slave), and assessed how far Bristol accurately remembers the slave trade, and whether this is appropriate for its level of involvement. This completes their learning on empire for Year 8, as they move onto the Industrial Revolution, looking at the causes of it, and the impact this had on agriculture, law and order, society and medicine.

<u>Year 9</u>

As part of their unit on 20th century, Year 9 students have looked at how dictatorships appeared in the 20th century due to the horrific aftermath of WW1. Students



compared the dictatorships of Stalin, Mussolini and Hitler and looked at how different political extremes (fascism and communism) were quite similar in terms of what this looked like under a dictatorship (propaganda, indoctrination, police control



and terror). After Year 9 did a depth study on the Holocaust, we had the pleasure of welcoming a Holocaust Survivor who did a talk to all of year 9 on his experiences as a young Jewish child, at the hands of the Nazis and their Final Solution. We were incredibly proud of the thoughtful questions that the students asked, and how sensitively they approached the topic.

FOOD













Check out these brilliant examples of Year 11 Food Tech final coursework!



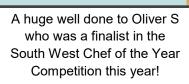
Year 8 making their choice of fruit or cheese scones. The girls here show both being enjoyed.



Year 9 Group experiment, creating their own pasta in small groups, then their choice of shaping.



Year 8 preparing and enjoying their home made version of a Pot Noodle.





TECHNOLOGY

Year 9 have been working on a more sustainable design problem this year by creating a recycled USB light using an old tin can. The lights were developed to include a filter and gobo which the students designed to their chosen shape.

Work shown: Rebecca W, Archie S, Sidney B, Elsa J and Kelsie I









Maths & Technology Enrichment Day All of year 8 have participated in an inter-

house challenge based around activities in Maths, Computing and Technology. Students worked in small groups and rotated round 5 different challenges themed around space.

Challenges involved students coding from scratch, designing space headgear, solving clues to win prizes and launching rockets (not quite into space but they tried!).

Points were awarded in each activity and bonus points were available, winners will be announced before the end of term but well done to everyone who participated!





MUSIC

All key stage 3 students have engaged really well with the new music curriculum and we have been impressed with their resilience to change and challenge during the past several weeks. Students have been engaging with a variety of instruments and building skills on the keyboard, guitar, bass guitar and drums. Students have shown a fantastic ability to collaborate and learn effectively from each other in our guided learning model.



Our Year 7 students are enjoying music from the blues. During this scheme of learning students are made aware of the structure of a 12 bar blues chord sequence and how this sequence is used in creating music from different styles of music and understanding the use of primary chords. They have learned the sequence from 'Hound dog' and are now enjoying the feel good factor with James Brown's 'I Feel Good'.

In Year 8 students are engaged with 'Genres'. Students are gaining insight into the idiomatic use of instrumentation when playing and composing for different styles of music including Reggae and Rock. Students have taken a song out of it's original context and applied cliches and devices to change the feel and style of the song 'Love is all around' into our very own reggae and rock cover version.

Currently Year 9 are considering 'Influences in Music' and how this is essential in composing. So far stu-



dents have engaged with music from Pachelbel's Canon to Don't Look Back in Anger by Oasis. Students are gaining fantastic insight into how music is structured through chords, harmony and the construction of melodic pattern.

I would like to take an opportunity to thank our community for donating this fantastic electric drum kit to our department. Our students are enjoying this thoroughly and here is a picture of Weronika and Lexi-Safia developing their instrumental skill on the electric drum kit. We would always welcome donations of any unused equipment and ensure it is coming to good use by our students at the school.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the students and parents for making me feel so very welcome at Court Fields School.

Mr Whiteoak

DRAMA

It has been another positive and productive year for the Drama department at Court Fields School.

Notable highlights include the captivating production of

"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," an inspiring trip to see the musical "Wicked," and our talented students' performances at the TYCA Performing Arts Festival. Beyond the stage, enriching activities strengthened teamwork and camaraderie among our Drama enthusiasts.

We would like to extend a personal thanks to the Wellington Arts Association whose support has been invaluable over the last year.

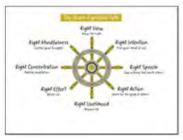
As we reflect on these achievements, we look forward to another year of creativity, dedication, and artistic growth. The Drama Department remains committed to nurturing young talent and inspiring a love for the performing arts. Bravo to all involved!

Mr Reed

WORLD VIEWS

In **Year 7** World Views this term students explored the internal journeys that individuals make to progress spiritually. They discovered and analysed the benefits of following guidance within the faith of Islam. Students also explored the value of physical journeys that people of faith make. They investigated the largest gathering of people on the planet hajj and the importance both physically and spiritually for Muslims. I have been impressed with the development of reflective questions within the classroom and







the inquisitive nature of Year 7. We have also been discovering what it takes to lead a happy life and exploring the beliefs and practices of Buddhism. It has been wonderful to explore ways in which we can adopt a calm and happy lifestyle.





Year 8 focused this term on the causes and impact of human action on the environment, at a local, national, and global level. Students learnt about the concept of Justice, inequality, community, and respect. They considered the complexity and impact of environmental issues we are facing in modern society. Through studying the case study of Sacred Mountain, students could consider the impact modern life can have upon indigenous communities.

Student had to write an evaluation on whether Vedanta a British mining company should be able to mine Sacred Mountain for bauxite. It has been a pleasure to see some incredible evaluations, within the year group.

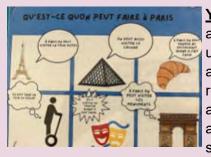
This term **Year 9** students completed an in-depth investigation into the conscientious issue of Crime and Punishment. Our exploration began with student's looking into contemporary UK law. They looked at a range of laws that exist within the UK, consider their relevance today and discovered how laws are created and updated. Students learnt



about the intrinsic link between laws and the Christian tradition. Students considered what motivates people to commit crimes and allows students to assess whether we can do more as a society to prevent crime, or whether some are simply born evil. Students explored the recent increase in hate crime in the UK and considered reasons for such crime before they move on to discuss the punishments that exist in the UK for those who commit crime. Students found it interesting to look at young offenders and particularly found the case study of Jamie Bulger moving. Students have enjoyed the discussion and debates in the classroom and are able to argue beliefs using excellent supporting evidence.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

<u>Year 7</u> French and Spanish students have been busy learning the basics of the language, including phonics (how to pronounce the words in the foreign language), and key grammatical concepts such as word order and gender agreement. They have learnt how to introduce themselves, talk about their likes and dislikes, describe their school, discuss what they like to do in their free-time, and talk about their local area.



<u>Year 8</u> Spanish students deepened their knowledge of the language through a range of topics, such as describing a past holiday, discussing how they use their phones and other mobile technology, talking about their musical and TV preferences, and discussing food and drink. This last topic involved researching typical dishes from Spain and Latin America, and also preparing a "restaurant dialogue". Meanwhile, Year 8 French students have completed a module all about the geography, history and culture of Paris, and have also been describing family members in increasing detail.

<u>Year 9</u> French students have been discussing their social media usage, talking about sports and the importance of healthy eating and keeping fit, and discussing their future plans post-16. In Spanish, students completed a unit of study on cinema, and have also learned how to talk about the world of work in a variety of contexts and time frames. More recently, they have been discussing environmental issues.

<u>Year 10</u> students of both Spanish and French have begun their GCSE courses, with a more in-depth focus upon the key pillars of language learn-



ing: phonics, vocabulary and grammar. They have been applying this knowledge to a range of contexts, and have been producing longer and more-detailed pieces of writing in their chosen language.

MFL Club

Would you like to find out a bit more about different countries, their languages and their culture?

If so, why not try MPL-Club? Open to ALL year groups!

When: Tuesday lunchtime (1.30 till 2.00 – bring your lunch along!) Where: A2



MFL Inter-House Competition

As part of the school's Enrichment Week in June, Year Nine students took part in an Inter-House MFL Language and Culture competition. This was a great event, and the results were extremely close. When all the scores were totted up, 9M2 emerged as the overall winning tutor group, with Monument taking the House prize!

See updates from our MFL Club on page 13!

Conton to Baby Jamping Pathwal A ritual to banish exil apilits, and bring good luck and prosperity to bables born over the previous 12 months.

In which country does it take place?



A: Peru B: Spain C: Norway D: Belgium



GEOGRAPHY

<u>Year 7</u> have had a fantastic year in Geography, they have shown a curiosity for the world around them and encountered lots of new knowledge about different environments around the world. They started the year looking at the features of Africa and developed an understanding of the challenges faced in other parts of the world. With many, also getting involved in the landscape in a box house competition – some very impressive examples this year, with lots of creativity on show. More recently, they have been putting their map skills to the test and checking their navigation on OS maps. Year 7 have shown brilliant resilience so far this year, and we look forward to working with them further in year 8!





Year 8 kick started the year looking at local settlements and contrasting this with the challenges faced in our largest urban environments, megacities! We then helped to foster their independence and supported them to achieve their own Wellington Enquiry project. We were really impressed with the bravery and teamwork on show as they carried out their own questionnaires with the local community. Year 8 have shown a keen interest in our changing world, having looked at the impacts of more extreme weather due to climate change, and the impacts the UK landscapes such as rivers have on the environment and how people affect them. We look forward to continuing this hard work with them in September, when they start to explore tectonic events!

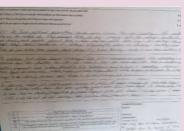




<u>Year 9</u>

The Geography department have been really impressed with the attitude Year 9 have shown in Geography this year! From the beginning of the year, they have been developing their knowledge of complex phenomena such as globalisation, interdependence and sustainability. Year 9 have developed their critical thinking when considering some of the physical and human challenges facing the world. With many Year 9s continuing

man challenges facing the world. With many Year 9s continuing onto GCSE Geography in Year 10, they have aimed to develop their evaluation skills and extended their knowledge of key terminology. As we are currently ending the year looking at extreme environments, students are looking at tropical rainforests and glaciation, some of the most important environments on the planet. We look forward to welcoming them back in September!



Year 10 have had a busy year in Geography, and have shown a focused start to their GCSE. Having recently finished their end of year exams, many have shown an impressive attitude to their studies and presented some brilliant work and revision. To finish off this academic year, year 10 are completing their Dawlish Warren GCSE fieldwork, having enjoyed a lovely sunny day, they have completed their independent enquiry which they will use to test their human and physical hypothesis. It has been amazing to watch year 10 flourish this year, and adapt to the demands of a GCSE, they have faced it all with grit and determination and we look forward to continuing our work with them into year 11!

Our <u>Year 11</u> Geographers rounded off a superb 5 years of Geography by focusing in on their GCSE



exams. Whilst this was a stressful period for all, many students approach this with resilience and a can-do attitude. The hard work for their time at Court Fields was about to pay off, many joined us for final revision sessions and were able to enter their exams with confidence. We wish them all the luck for results day, and all the best for their futures!

LEARNING SUPPORT



Channel Adventures

Our Learning Support team were offered the opportunity to take a group of students ranging from Years 7-9 to participate in 3 separate days at Channel Adventure in Taunton.

The students enjoyed various activities such as axe throwing, paddle-boarding, tree climbing and bushcraft. The activities were not only fun but also provided valuable learning experiences promoting teamwork, problem solving and physical skills. These adventure days were a memorable and enriching experience for our students and staff that attended.



<u>ELSA</u>

We have had an enjoyable year supporting our students with our ELSA sessions this year.

ELSA is a child-centred holistic intervention that links to social and emotional aspects of learning. This supports students within school to raise attendance and attainment as their emotional needs are met through a personalised programme.

We have been helping with Emotional regulation, understanding our thoughts and feelings and learning to improve our communication skills. Anxiety can be a problem for some students, so we learn how to use positive self-talk, helping with the "What if" thinking and generally boosting self -esteem and self-confidence.

As the students develop a greater emotional understanding, this results in greater motivation and resilience, enabling the students to

maintain healthy relationships with others and to enjoy life more.

We also use Art therapy and here are some photos of their amazing creations.

Maths Intervention

We have started a Year 7 maths intervention which has involved a small group of students, identified by the maths team, that require some additional support with certain aspects of the subject. We have spent the first few weeks assessing the students and working out the areas that they would benefit from some extra support with. We aim to produce an individually tailored work programme for the next academic year, to ensure that their confidence with maths increases and they feel more comfortable with the content in lessons.



Phonics Interventions

Lorraine Salter has joined us as a Learning Support Assistant from Rockwell Green School this year and is busy getting to know all our Court Fields students. As well as being in class, she is helping with some Phonics interventions to support selected Key Stage 3 students. During these sessions the students have been re-visiting and securing their knowledge of variations of graphemes. This has had a positive impact on the students and given them more confidence moving forward in their lessons and with their written work.



OUTDOOR LEARNING

Cultivating Growth and Learning in Our School Allotment

At our school, the allotment has become a cherished space where students engage in the rewarding experience of planting and nurturing plants. This hands-on approach to learning offers a wealth of benefits, from understanding the life cycle of plants to fostering a deep appreciation for nature.

As the plants begin to grow, we take on the responsibility of looking after them. This includes regular watering, weeding, and monitoring the health of our plants. Through these tasks, we learn about the needs of different plants and the importance of consistency and patience. Each visit to the allotment is a lesson in responsibility and the rewards of nurturing life.

Our school allotment is more than just a garden; it is a place of

growth, learning, and connection. As we continue to plant and care for our plants, we cultivate not only a bountiful harvest but also important life skills and a lifelong love for nature. We are proud of our allotment and look forward to the many seasons of growth and discovery ahead.

Embracing Nature and Learning at Our Lovely Forest School

At our lovely Forest School, students come together to embrace the beauty of nature while gaining invaluable skills and knowledge. This immersive experience has transformed our understanding of the outdoors, teaching us essential life skills in a fun and engaging way.

One of the highlights of our time at Forest School has been learning to build fires safely. Under careful guidance, we've mastered the art of kindling and maintaining a fire, ensuring safety protocols are always followed. This skill not only prepares us for outdoor adventures but also instills a sense of responsibility and respect for nature.



Creativity flourishes in the forest, too, We've had the joy of crafting beautiful decorations using natural materials. These hands-on projects have allowed us to express our artistic sides while connecting with the environment. Each decoration tells a story of our creativity and the inspiration we draw from the world around us.

Safety and skill development go hand in hand at Forest School. We've learned to use knives safely, carving marshmallow sticks and butter knives with precision and care. These activities teach us about tool handling, attention to detail, and the importance of safety measures, all while having a great time.



Our collective efforts have also led to the creation of a lovely pond, a testament to the power of teamwork. Working together, we designed and built this serene feature, which now serves as a habitat for wildlife and a place for reflection. This project has strengthened our sense of community and accomplishment.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the continued development of our outdoor learning area. With the support of the school and parents, we aim to expand and enhance



this space, creating even more opportunities for exploration and discovery. Our Forest School experience has shown us the value of outdoor learning, and we are committed to fostering this environment for future students.

In summary, our time at Forest School has been enriching and transformative. From learning practical skills to fostering creativity and teamwork, the lessons we've gained extend far beyond the classroom. With ongoing support, we look forward to many more adventures and discoveries in our wonderful outdoor learning area.



HOUSE CUP WINNERS!

Final House Cup Results 23/24



Events	Blackdown	Duke	Monument
Attendance (calculated each Half Term as of 17/07/2024 with the lowest 5 students removed)	44	54	30
100% Attendance (new as of 17 th July - awarded annually for each Half Term)	42	60	18
Behaviour Points Total (from Class Charts for each Half Term)	60	42	18
Zero Behaviour Points (new as of 17th July - awarded annually for each Half Term)	60	42	18
Behaviour Ratios (total negative points divided by positive as a %)	18	60	42
House Points Totals (from Class Charts for each Half Term)	42	18	60
Participation Totals (from Absolute Education for each Half Term)	42	18	60
House Events/Competitions	18	42	60
SLT Award at Presentation Evening (new as of 17th July - awarded annually for each Half Term)	18	42	60
Total score	344	378	366

Achieve | Belong | Participate



LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

If you're searching for some great additions to your summer reading list, look no further...





Recommended Websites

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

The

www.literacytrust.org.uk

www.booktrust.org.uk

www.worldbookday.com

www.lovereading4kids.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 morel

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 username for Reading Cloud and is your school email address and your password is your date of birth.

SORA password is your school/ courtfields.bep.ac email address.



RAINBOW ROWELL







YEAR 7 UPDATE

Where has the last year gone?! I can still clearly remember meeting you all on the Year 6 transition days and also on your first day as Court Fields students in September.

Head of Year Mr Nicholls

As a year group you have continued to impress me with how so many of you have really grasped all the opportunities that have come your way. You quickly established yourself as a positive addition to the school and wider community.

I can see that you are making excellent progress in your lessons and achieving some great results. Your sense of belonging is shown through your maintained high standards of uniform and through your high levels of participation in the clubs and activities that we offer.

Your tutors clearly deserve a huge thankyou for helping you settle in and have guided you through your first tentative steps into secondary school. It has been a real privilege getting to know you. Your qualities were clearly demonstrated on the Norh Devon Residential. Whether it was conquering fears on the high ropes, enjoying the fire pit or watching teachers fall off the Wipeout course!! I know all of you will take your own unique memories from this trip and it will have been the perfect platform for you to develop strong friendships.

I feel very proud to be your Head of Year and this was really brought home to me during the transition leader interviews. So many of you spoke in an articulate way, including others in the discussions and demonstrating high levels of creativity. The Year 6s could not have wished for better leaders.

Take time to rest over the holidays and enjoy spending time with family and friends. I'm looking forward to hearing all about what you have been up to when you return. Year 8 will bring with it further opportunities for you to develop and I'm excited to see what the year will bring.

YEAR 8 UPDATE

With the end of your second year at Court Fields School fast approaching, it is the ideal opportunity to take some time, look back and reflect on our collective achievements. We have taken our impressive beginning to secondary school in Year 7 and built upon those strong foundations. Developing our resilience, building our independence and being brave enough to take carefully considered risks with our learning experiences both in and outside of a classroom. You really have embraced our school ethos of achieve, belong and participate.



Head of Year Mr Williams

We must offer our sincere thanks and pay tribute to our terrific set of tutors. Who provide the platform for your successes throughout the academic year. Those same tutors, who help you with organisation support and provide the patience to assist you deal with the day-to-day challenges and obstacles that life can pass our way.

As a year group, you have once again performed brilliantly. With many of you excelling in your timetabled subjects, where some of you are pushing towards 1000 positive house points. This is a superb achievement and deserves recognition for your consistent efforts. I must also highlight your tremendous fundraising activities, in events to support our charitable causes. The biggest achievements so far have been Comic Relief, Miles for MIND and Children in Need, although we must not forget our Madagascar Appeal.

We must recognise our Year 8 students who compete outside of school and have reached creditable standards for their various pursuits. Some students are approaching national standards of qualification and in competition events. Other extra-curricular successes of note for this academic year, include the Exmoor Challenge, University visits to Bath and fantastic careers-based experiences. Where we were round-ly complimented about conduct, team work and performance over the entire visit, trip or event cycle from training to competition.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful summer break, please make time to relax, enjoy good company and your friendships, and most importantly remember to stay safe at all times.

YEAR 9 UPDATE

As the summer sun heralds the end of another academic year, the Year 9 students at Court Fields School stand on the cusp of a significant milestone. With the completion of Key Stage 3, they are poised to embark on the challenging yet exciting journey of KS4. This transition is not just about academic progression; it's a testament to their growth and maturation, both intellectually and socially.



Head of Year Mr Reed

It has been my absolute pleasure to see the year group develop over the last three years. Our students have been given a glimpse into the future with college taster days, insightful apprenticeship programs and community projects, which have broadened their horizons and sharpened their focus on the paths they may choose.

I look forward to continuing our journey and hope you have a restful summer.



YEAR 10 UPDATE

The end of Year 10 has come around very quickly after a jam packed, busy year! This year has seen the students have excellent opportunities in preparing themselves for life after Court Fields. These have included Mock Interview Days, College interviews and Taster Days to our local Colleges. Pupils are met these new challenges head on with great confidence and resilience.

Head of Year Mr Rooke view Days, College interviews and Taster Days to our local Colleges. Pupils have met these new challenges head on with great confidence and resilience. The fantastic feedback we receive from all the external companies we work with, show just how amazing the pupils in this year group are.

One of the main opportunities in Year 10 is work experience and the positive feedback I have received from businesses who have taken on our students has been outstanding, and once again shows what a great year group we have.

A personal highlight for myself, was seeing the Year 10 pupils enjoy their residential trip and make the most of what activities were on offer, and really enjoy their peer's company. As well as having the pleasure of being involved in the prefect application process and interviews, which will see next year's student leadership team look very strong, giving the student body a voice and represent our school again, in the local community.

From Sports to the Arts, our Year 10s have taken the opportunities given to them from representing the school in sporting fixtures, putting on theatre productions and volunteering their time to participate in the Exmoor challenge. A big well done to all the Year 10 students who have participated in clubs this year, especially the group of pupils who were outstanding in the Exmoor challenge and represented the school in the best possible way.

As a Head of Year, it has been such a joy seeing the year group develop and mature into young adults preparing themselves for the challenges and opportunities Year 11 will bring.

Have a restful summer break and recharge the batteries so you are all ready to hit the ground running in Year 11.



YEAR 11 UPDATE

Head of Year Mr Seaton So, as we bid our final farewells to our Year 11 students we reflect on their busy year. Not only have all students been working hard on their GCSE subjects, PPEs and final exams but also in all other parts of school life.

A key part of the year involves college and career interviews to plan their next steps. There have been various fundraising events from Comic Relief and Madwe have all participated in and raised valuable funds for the given charities. Many

agascar which we have all participated in and raised valuable funds for the given charities. Many students have continued to be involved in the extra-curricular afterschool with a noted mention to both the Girls and Boys football teams having successes this season.

There were opportunities for student leadership throughout the year. Namely, student voice panels, and our Perfects and Senior Perfects would have been excellent role models to ensure parents' evenings run smoothly and as tour guides for our many visitors to the school.

A final farewell to our Year 11, who have conducted themselves well through a busy year. You have all been a credit to the school and we look forward to seeing you all again soon.

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PROM 2024

































WELLBEING & SAFEGUARDING

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying week saw students take part in a range of activities and really promoted #Bekind and the theme 'Make a Noise About Bullying'. The focus was on peer support and everyone in our community supporting to stop bullying. We continue to work with Stand Against Violence and they returned recently to deliver assemblies and workshops, which was a great success. Next year our senior prefects will be working with students to develop our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors programme.

Safeguarding our Students

We continued to promote safety during the pastoral programme, which this year has included knife crime, road safety, anti-violence on the streets, county lines, alcohol and drug awareness and harmful sexual behaviour. Our students engaged really well in these sessions, and we launched a self-referral form for students to seek support, should they need it. We are continuing to link with the Mental Health in Schools Team to promote access to external school support as well as internal support

Our students are fantastic at speaking to us if they ever feel worried or upset for any reason. In the event any student does not feel they are able to talk directly to us during the school day, they can use Tootoot. We monitor any concerns and pick them up quickly to resolve and support.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Action Group

The senior prefects for 2024/25 have been recruited and they will be creating a Mental Health and Wellbeing Action Group. We are seeking students to support this. We will meet as a group once a half term to discuss matters of mental health and wellbeing and develop further awareness and strategies within the school. This is an exciting opportunity to work with the community and develop education and experiences.

The Court Fields Experience

Our Court Fields Experience ensures all students have a range of education opportunities to devel-

op them as a person and in preparation for life beyond Court Fields. This year our students have explored British Values in tutor time and lessons, attended our Careers Fair which was a huge success, had the opportunities of enrichment trips and visits to places such as Chepstow Castle and taster days at the local colleges. We pride ourselves on celebrating national days such as mental health awareness to ensure students have a wide knowledge of the world and how to keep themselves safe and well. Next year we will be launching our CFS Experience Award Scheme, more information to follow in September.

Transition

We recently held our 2 days of transition for year 6 students starting in September, it was fantastic to meet all the new students and give them a taste of life at Court Fields. Students got to meet their tutors as well as tour the school and try lessons. We look forward to welcoming them all in September. Thank you to Conway Cladding who funded a filled pencil case for each new student. The students were very grateful for this.





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 (somersetft.nhs.uk)

NHS Mental Health Apps



The distrACT app gives you easy, quick and discreet access to information and advice about <u>self-harm</u> and <u>suicidal</u> <u>thoughts</u>.

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



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

Calm Harm app - NHS (www.nhs.uk)



BlueIce is an evidenced-based app to help young people manage their emotions and reduce urges to <u>self-harm</u>.

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.

BlueIce app - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

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



Have a wonderful summer! We look forward to seeing you in September!