A Message from Mrs Matthews

Wow! What an amazing Summer Term. It has been an absolute pleasure and privilege to be back at Court Fields as Acting Head since Easter. The school is clearly showing the accelerated progress that we know is vital to ensure that the outcomes for our children are as good as they can be.

Our recent visit from our Somerset Education Partner (an external consultant and expert leader in education) described a 'culture shift' that was impressive in such a short time since Easter 2019. The entire community should take credit for this. Students, staff, parents, carers and our many partners in Wellington and wider across Somerset have all played a role in helping to move our school forward. I am so proud to be working as part of such an impressive team, and I cannot wait to see how we develop further from September.

Thank you so much for all your support. Please keep working with us. Every little thing you do really does count. Those positive conversations with your children and in the community, those reminders to your children to be on time and uphold our expectations, and those opportunities to encourage your children to be the best they can be – they help build our school every day. Thank you again, and have a lovely summer.

Year 11 Privileges

Congratulations to our Year 10 students as they move into Year 11 from September. As you will recall I challenged them collectively to show improvements in attendance, behaviour and progress over the second half of the summer term, so that they could be rewarded with privileges as they start Year 11.

Overall, they have responded very positively across all these areas. Their attendance has increased, behaviour points and detentions have decreased, and their behaviour in the PPE (mock) examinations was excellent. Consequently, the first two Year 11 privileges will start from September 3rd 2019. These will be the privilege of wearing a plain black jumper instead of a blazer in Year 11, and the privilege of being able to go straight to the front of the canteen queue. Jumpers should have the current version with the school logo or alternatively a plain black knitted 'V' neck (with no logo).

This is just the start of our work to acknowledge our Year 11s' journey towards their GCSE examinations. There will be further privileges available throughout the year. These will have to continue to be earned through collective hard work and upholding our expectations. I have no doubt that our new Year 11s will rise to this challenge and prove to be excellent role models.

Start of Term Reminders

Below are some reminders and information for the start of term. I hope that these will help provide clarification and guidance for you. Thank you in advance once again for your help and support.
First Day Back Details

Year 7 and 11 students only will start the Summer Term at 8:40am on Tuesday 3rd September. School will finish as normal at 3:15pm. All students (including Years 8-10) will be in school from Wednesday 4th September from 8:40am.

Uniform

I’m aware that many of you will be buying new uniform over the summer holiday. Please see the guidance below regarding key areas to note. Thank you for your support in ensuring that your child’s uniform meets our expectations. We do realise that sometimes this may be a challenge. We are open to developing our uniform policy where appropriate (see shoe guidance below) but we do need your support. If Tutors or teachers have to stop lessons to address uniform, it means that students are not having opportunities to learn. As we also know, most jobs have some guidance on clothing or dress, so we are additionally supporting our children for the world of work outside of Court Fields.

Trousers: Should be straight black school trousers for all students. Jeans, jeans-style, chinos, leggings, jeggings or joggers are not appropriate. Knee length tailored black shorts (not chino-style) may be worn in hot weather in the summer term only.

Skirts: Should be knee-length and not of a tight, stretchy style. Please see the Taunton Uniform website for example styles. Short skirts are not appropriate for school.

Shoes: Should be plain black (with black soles) and polishable. They should not be suede or canvas. Boots, heeled shoes, trainers or ‘Converse-style’ shoes are not acceptable. Some parents have told us that they struggle to find school shoes and so we have, for September, included plain black leather ‘Vans-style’ shoes as acceptable.

Jewellery: earrings should include one pair of small studs only. Facial or body piercings including nose studs or plastic retainers are not allowed at school. Tongue piercings are not allowed and are not recommended for children as they can significantly damage their teeth. Students may wear one necklace (under their shirt), bracelet and ring. All jewellery of any sort must not be worn during PE for health and safety reasons. Should students wish to get their nose pierced, the 6 week summer holiday is a perfect opportunity. This allows time for the piercing to heal before the start of term when piercings will have to be removed whilst on the school site in uniform. This is in line with the vast majority of schools across the UK. Thank you for your support in ensuring that your child keeps within these expectations.

Attendance & Punctuality

Thank you for your support as regards attendance this year. Court Fields has been noted as having the second highest attendance in Somerset for secondary schools. This is a fantastic achievement, but we need to ensure that we keep this up. There is one reason for this – our children’s outcomes. If children are not in school, they can’t learn and can’t develop relationships within our community. Even if absence is for illness, it does impact on those academic and pastoral outcomes. Please support us by ensuring that your child is in school as much as possible, and their attendance is above 96%.

Punctuality is vital as a life skill, as we all know! Thank you for your support in ensuring that our children are in school in time each day. To ensure that we maintain our high standards of punctuality we will be introducing a clarified system for lateness from September. The warning bell to go to registration will ring at 8:35am. A second bell will ring at 8:40am to signal the start of registration. Any students not in their registration room by this time will be marked as late. These students will have an automatic 15-minute break detention in C4. Once again, thank you for your ongoing support.

Dates for September

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd September</td>
<td>INSET Day, students not in school</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd September</td>
<td>Year 7 &amp; 11 students only in school</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th September</td>
<td>All students in school as normal</td>
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