

Court Fields Newsletter



**Court Fields
Community
School**

Gold medallist opens Sports Hall

Our new school year kicked off to an exciting start with the Official Opening of our new Sports Hall and Learning Support Centre which took place at the end of the INSET day on Wednesday 3rd September.

I was delighted to welcome Olympic Gold medallist Paul Goodison who was our guest "ribbon cutter" and motivated students, staff and visitors with his account of his sporting journey to Beijing. Paul won his gold medal in the Laser Sailing event which is recognised to be the most difficult of the sailing events. Paul inspired us with his story of determination, positive attitude, encouragement to the students and his generous nature. We were impressed with the opportunity to see, handle and for some wear an Olympic gold medal.



Besides Paul Goodison, visitors were impressed with the excellent display of trampolining and basketball from current students. Everyone agreed the new block is a real asset for all students and staff. Students are now enjoying using the facilities. Parents are welcome to come and see for themselves at our Open Evening on 2nd October.



Volume 8, Issue 1

**Tuesday 8th September
2008**

For new parents :

Please look out for our monthly newsletter.

We aim to publish our newsletter during the first week of every month and send home with the youngest member of the family. So if you have not received one please look at the bottom of your son/daughter's bag or contact us at the school by phone or by email.

A copy of the latest newsletter is published on our web-site.

Phone : 01823 664201
Email:
sch.552@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Key Dates in September and October

Year 7 Multi-Sports Day—	25/9
Open Evening 6.00- 8.00pm	2/10
Year 10 Study Skills Evening	9/10
Parents Evening for Year 7—4.00— 6.30pm	16/10
Curriculum Enrichment Day for all	17/10
KS4 New York Art Trip	23/10 - 28/10
INSET Day	24/10
Half-Term	25/10 - 2/11

Welcome back

This is a special newsletter for the start of term in order to let you know of new changes for September.

A further newsletter will be issued at the beginning of October with our homework programme, calendar of events and reports cycle for the year.

A warm welcome to all of our students, parents and carers.

On Thursday we welcomed 167 students into Year 7 and the start of their Court Fields career. I am grateful to the Year 10 student mentors who were very supportive in helping them to settle into the school.

A particular welcome also goes to a number of new students and their families who have also joined Years 8, 9, 10 and 11.

For further information on the calendar and events please visit our new web-site www.courtfieldsschool.co.uk, which is currently under development.

Staff changes

As well as new students we also welcomed a number of new staff to Court Fields. Mrs Wingrove is our new Head of Creative and Performing Arts, replacing Mrs Hudson, she has been joined by Miss McGill who is our new Head of Drama. Both Miss McGill and Mrs Wingrove are keen to establish after school clubs this year and are already planning an exciting school performance of "Grease" in the Spring Term. Mrs Osborne has joined our DT Faculty to take over Mr Stockton's classes. I am very grateful to Mr Walton who has temporarily taken over the responsibility of Head of Design and Technology. Mrs Keating has joined Mr Evans as our Learning Supervisors. This role involves them covering for absent teachers and taking their classes. Mrs Alford and Mrs Brown have joined our Learning Support team and Learning Support Assistant.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr Ford for all of his support for students over the last two years in our Student Support Centre. Mr Ford will be leaving in the middle of September in order to return to full-time education at SCAT. I know he will be greatly missed by staff and students but I am pleased that there will be continuity as Miss Alcock is taking over the role of Student Support Co-ordinator. We wish Mr Ford well in his new career.

I am sure students and staff will make them all welcome and help them settle into their new position quickly.

Student Planners

All students have a student planner which contains very useful information. Please can I ask you to look at it and sign it each week. You may also use it to communicate messages to us.



Exam Report—More highest grades than ever!

Year 11 results

Congratulations to all of last year's Year 11 who received their GCSE and vocational results in August.

This year's successes include the highest number of students achieving the highest grades of A or A* and for this first time students sitting A/S Level Maths as well as A/S Level Art. These results are particularly exceptional as students are sitting courses they would normally take at Richard Huish College a year later.

Congratulations go to Claire Hicks, who besides achieving 12½ GCSEs, 9 at A or A* also achieved an A grade at A/S level Art and a B grade at A/S level Use of Maths. Kelly

Barratt and Naomi Mitchell also did well with 12 A/A* grades and a B at A/S in Use of Maths. Their high results were closely followed by Jennifer Atkinson who achieved 12 A/A* grades plus a C grade at A/S Use of Maths. These are outstanding achievements and I could continue with a further 30 students who achieved at least 5 A/A*. Congratulations to them all.

This year girls did particularly well in achieving 5 or more higher grades of C or above. Overall 58% of students achieved at least 5 A*-C grades with 84% of students achieving at least one higher GCSE grade. All students achieved a pass in at least one GCSE. Besides GCSE we also did well in

vocational NVQ and OCR national diploma qualifications.

Year 10 results

Many Year 10 students took GCSEs early in Maths and Statistics. Congratulations also go to Aaron Richards who achieved an A* in Spanish and Monica and Kornelia Wirenska who achieved A's in Polish.

Year 9 SATs

We have now received all of the results for Year 9 SATs and these will be given to students in the next few days.

Although we are pleased with many of the results we are appealing for some of the English papers. When our maths papers are returned we may also be appealing for some of these.

A few reminders

Lunchtime passes

Please can I ask you to remind your son/daughter that unless they have a lunchtime pass they are not allowed out of the school grounds at lunchtime. Lunchtime passes are issued on the understanding that students will go home for lunch and not stop in the park, town or chip shop.

Labels on clothes

Please can I ask you to ensure all students have their names in their clothes so they may be easily returned if they become mislaid. All general unnamed lost property is kept in the School Office for a few weeks and finally passed on to a charity shop. Lost property PE equipment is kept in the PE department.

Dropping off/collecting students

I would also like to request that parents do not drop off/collect students in the school car park at the beginning/end of the day. It causes congestion and health & safety problems when staff are trying to come into school and park their cars before school, or leave at the end of the day. Students can be dropped off/collected at the Youth Centre, and I am grateful to those parents already doing this.

Study Skills Evening for Year 10— 9th October

The change from Year 9 to Year 10 can seem like a big change for both students and parents. This year there have been significant changes to GCSE coursework requirements. Some students will also be working towards Key Skill qualifications. In order to help you understand the changes to GCSEs, modular courses and coursework and help your son/ daughter study more effectively we have arranged a Study Skills Evening on **Thursday 9th October at 7.00pm** in the Hall. This is an important evening for Year 10 and we would ask all parents/ carers to try to attend. In order for us to plan for numbers I would be grateful if you could complete the attached response sheet.

There will also be a special evening for Year 10 parents/carers on Work Experience later in the term.

For Year 11 students and parents there will be an Exams revision evening on Thursday 27th November in order to help later inform and prepare you for your final exams in the summer.

If you have any concerns about your son/daughter not keeping up with coursework or worrying about exams then please contact their tutor or Head of Year.

Holidays and other absences

Although we enjoy excellent attendance at Court Fields, Government and Local Authority directives ensure that we must keep the number of absences to a minimum. Wherever possible please would you avoid any unnecessary absence from school. I would be grateful if scheduled medical or dental appointments are kept to holidays or organised for the beginning or end of the day so students can be in lessons for most of the day.

As good attendance is a national focus for the DCFS and Education Social Workers. Authorised absence will not automatically be granted to go on holiday. However in exceptional circumstances holiday forms are obtained from your Head of Year.

If you do need to take a holiday please will you avoid SAT tests in May if you are in Year 8 or 9 . Students in Year 10 and 11 should not miss school for holidays as GCSE modular exams are throughout the year. All of these exams cannot be rearranged and must be taken on the prescribed day. If in doubt, check with Mrs Dunton first.

New Developments for the new Year

FRONTER - The School Learning Environment

Developments are well underway to allow students and parents access to the school's learning environment from anywhere with Internet access. Some students and staff have already begun developing Fronter and it will soon be available to all students and all parents.

The school is currently developing a new website which will contain up to date news items and notices that will be relevant to anyone interested in life at Court Fields. The new address is www.courtfieldsschool.co.uk.

Curriculum Enrichment Days

As part of our review of the Curriculum held in March we have introduced six Curriculum Enrichment days throughout the year. These are days when normal lessons are collapsed for the day and each Year group will take part in extended work on a particular subject or participate in a field work. The aims of this programme is to provide greater depth and enrichment. In the Autumn Term there will be two of these days on Friday 17th October and Wednesday 5th November. On the 17th October Year 7 students will take part in a joint Art, ICT and PE topic based at Paignton Zoo; Year 8 students will take part in a joint Humanities and Science focused day; Year 9 will be working on a Performing Arts and Design and Technology project; Year 10 will be focussing on an English speaking and listening project and Year 11 will have a Careers day with opportunities to meet local colleges and training providers as well as completing their cv.

I would stress that the day is not optional for students as important curriculum studies will happen on these days. Further details on the first of these days will be provided in the next newsletter.

Learning to Learn—Year 7

Year 7 have a new national curriculum which incorporates providing a range of learning opportunities which held students to be more independent learners. Over the last two years we have introduced a very successful Learning to Learn programme and now intend to extend this by incorporating Learning to Learn into every subject. This means that besides a lesson having a discrete subject objective, lessons will also have a learning objective which will focus on developing one of the following skills; Resilience, Reflection, Reasoning, Resourcefulness, Responsibility, Co-operation, Common Goal, Competition, Communication, Consideration, Confidence and Empathy.

Modifications to B4 Learning Policy

Following the introduction of our Behaviour for Learning Policy last year we will be continuing to ensure a consistent approach. We will also extend the time for detention if a student is given a C2 sanction to up to 30 minutes rather than 5-10 minutes. In doing this we hope students will see this as a greater deterrent and therefore avoid getting a C3 sanction which may lead to exclusion or isolation.

Vertical Tutor House System—Parent Forum

As mentioned last year we are intending to move to a House system of tutor groups which are made up of mixed age groups. This change aims to provide students with greater opportunity to mentor others and accept responsibility. During the next term students will have contact with other schools and together with staff make decisions on the names of Houses etc. A Parent Forum will take place on Thursday 13th November where parents will have the opportunity to find out more about the new system.

Locality Team

The Local Authority have re-organised their extended services for 0-19 year olds into locality teams. Their aim is to avoid parents and carers having to see many people when they need help from Social Services, Connexions, Youth Services or Health. For Court Fields this means that Stephanie Mangeolles our Parent Support Advisor is now located at the Youth Centre and will be helping parents and families from the primary schools as well as Court Fields.

Reply Slip—Can You Help?

Student Name

Tutor group

Parent name and contact number

Please tick as appropriate

I would like to join the 100 Club

I would like to help at PTFA events

I would like to become a Mentor to a Year 10 student

I would like to help on school trips/field studies

I would like to help with exam invigilation activities

My business/place of work could offer a work experience placement

Details:

I am unable to do any of these but would like to help by offering skills or knowledge in the following areas:

(Parents will be contacted by relevant members of staff if their services are required at any time)

Reply Slip

September Newsletter

Name: _____ Tutor Group: _____

I/We have received the September Newsletter

Signed: _____ Parent/Carer Date: _____

**Please sign and return this slip to your child's Form Tutor by
Friday 12th September 2008**

Can you help ?

Often when children move from primary to secondary school parents and carers feel as if they are less able to be involved with school life.

We would still ask you to be involved by showing an interest in their school activities and work. Please spend a little time going through their planner, talking about the topics they are learning and looking through their school books .

There are lots of other ways you can be involved. We have an active PTFA. As parents and carers you are automatically members. You may wish to join our 100 club, join the PTFA committee (about 6 meetings a year) or attend any of the organised events that may be arranged.

As a school we often need help with volunteers. It wouldn't matter if you could give the odd hour or day we will find something for you to do! Particular help is required for adult helpers when we have trips and fieldwork, or with exam invigilation. No one would ever be left with students on their own and training would be given.

If you think you could help in any way please complete the relevant section on the reply slip at the back.

Parent Governors

We currently have 3 vacancies for Parent Governors on our Governing Body. If you are interested, please see the attached letter which gives details on becoming a Governor.

Lockers

Students are now able to apply for lockers for this academic year. The cost is £10.00, unless sharing with another student, when each will pay £5.00.

Locker application forms have been issued through the Form Tutors on the first day of term or are available at the School Office and should be returned signed by parents and students with payment in a sealed envelope with the child's name and tutor group on the front and marked 'Lockers'. Cheques should be made payable to 'SCC Court Fields School'. Students will then be notified of their locker and padlock combination.

Once allocated, lockers and/or padlocks must not be swapped around. If a padlock goes missing, we may have to make a charge to cover the cost of replacing it.



New Opportunities with the opening of the Sports Hall

Court Fields Badminton Club



Starts
Tuesday 7th October
6.30 pm - 9.00 pm
In the Sports Hall

This will be a new badminton club for all players over the age of 16.
Younger players may be invited to join.

We will be playing league badminton at a later date.

Adult visitor £5.00
Junior visitor £3.00

No charge on the 7th October

For more information phone Mrs Bunyan at the school