

# Court Fields Newsletter

## Recent News and Updates



**Court Fields  
Community  
School**

### Open Evening and Roadshows

We have had a very busy start to the term with our Open Evening and recent Roadshows which were held in Beech Grove, Wellesley Park and St John's primary schools. A highlight of these events has been the participation of our students who spoke to parents, guide parents and participate in learning activities. I was particularly pleased to see a number of our existing parents at the Open Evening who despite the wet and windy weather enjoyed seeing our new facilities in our Sport and Learning Support Centre.

### School Calendar

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of our school calendar which gives parents information on INSET days, parent consultations, reports and other key events. We will give you short term reminders each newsletter but our full calendar gives you an overview for the year ahead.

### Staff Update

I am sorry to report that Miss McGill, our new Head of Drama, has been taken ill since the beginning of term. I hope she will soon be feeling better and able to return to school after half-term. In the meantime I am grateful to the specialist drama staff who have been covering her classes and I want to reassure you that we are doing our best to ensure that no student is affected by her absence.

## Governors Visit School

On Monday 29th September we welcomed members from our Governing Body into school in order to meet with staff and students as part of their review of recent school developments.

Mr Altria, Mrs King, Mr Hooper and Mr Pritchard spent the day talking to groups of students and staff from across the school as part of our review of our new Behaviour for Learning policy, including internal isolation.

Mr Ashmore and Ms Silk reviewed the introduction of our Learning to Learn programme with Year 7,8 and 9 students.

Ms Holloway and Mrs Atyeo met with a wide range of people in order to review the various ways we support young people.

Governors enjoyed the day and reported very positive findings at the Full Governors meeting in the evening. If you think you would be interested in being a Governor please speak to Mr Cox at the school.

**Volume 8, Issue 2**

**Wednesday 8th  
October 2008**

### Key Dates in October and November

Year 10 Parents Evening 7.00pm	9/10
Year 7 Parents Evening with tutors 4.00- 6.30pm	16/10
Curriculum Enrichment Day 1 All Years	17/10
New York visit for Year 10 and 11	23/10- 28/10
INSET Day School closed to students	24/10
Half-Term— We return on Week1	25/10- 2/11
Curriculum Enrichment Day 2	5/11
Maths Modules—Year 10/11	13/11
Parent Forum—7.00 Vertical Tutor Groups	13/11
Year 10 Business Trip	16- 17/11
Science Modules— Year 10 /11	20/11

## Curriculum Enrichment Days

I am sure you will have read in the national press that this year represents major changes in the school curriculum with less of an emphasis on what is taught and more of an emphasis on learning and how it is taught. Following our Curriculum INSET day in March staff have been planning a series of days throughout the year which will provide opportunity for more "applied and extended" learning, which will involve in and out of class opportunities with departments working together. On these days normal lessons will be suspended and students will work in their Year group on a particular activity.

The first of these Curriculum Enrichment Days will be on **Friday 17th October**.

Year 11 will focus on Careers—hearing from Colleges, Connexions and other training providers. At the end of the day they will also have prepared for interviews and produced their CV. (see details)

Year 10 will be working on Speaking and Listening as part of their GCSE English Language course.

Year 9 will be working on a joint DT, Music, Drama and Dance project looking at advertising and packaging a food product

Year 8 will be working on a joint Humanities and Science project

Year 7 will be working on a joint PE, Art, Business and IT project based at Paignton Zoo

More detailed information will be given by key staff organising the events.

## Forthcoming Parent Events

### **Year 10—Introduction to KS4—Thursday 9th October—7.00pm**

This is a reminder to all Year 10 students and parents that we have an Introduction to KS4 Evening which will focus on exam / module procedures and ways in which parents can support young people study. A particular focus will be on Maths and preparation for the forthcoming Maths Modular exams.

### **Year 7 Parents Evening—Thursday 16th October**

I have been delighted with the way our new Year 7 have settled into secondary school. I would like

to take this opportunity to welcome all Year 7 parents and carers to attend an informal meet the tutors evening on 16th October 4.00—6.30pm

### **Parent Forum—Thursday 13th November**

We are holding our next Parent Forum focussing on our plans to introduce Vertical Tutor Groups in May on Thursday 13th November at 7.00pm in the LRC. For parents who have not attended a forum before—this is an informal evening which will clarify our forthcoming plans as well as provide opportunity for parents and carers to ask any questions or give us any comments. I hope students and staff who will have completed fact finding visits to other schools will also be there.

## Learning to Learn goes across the curriculum

This year we have further developed our Learning to Learn programme across the school. For the last two years previous Year 7 and 8 students have had lessons which have focussed on Learning skills which they can apply in any subject to help them study. Our programme has now been developed further as part of the national secondary strategy focus on SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspect of Learning). This means that Year 7 students are developing skills in Resilience, Reflectiveness, Reasoning, Responsibility and Resourcefulness (the 5 Rs) across their lessons. They will also go onto develop their skills in the 6 Cs (Co-operation, Communication, Confidence, Consideration, Common Goal and Competition) and Empathy during the year.

Other Year groups may also talk to the Rs and Cs as these are a focus of our assemblies.



## Clubs and Activities

I am pleased to include a list of the sports clubs currently taking place. Any students interested in taking part should see a member of the Sports Staff.

Next month I will ensure that parents know what other clubs and activities are running.

I am very grateful to those staff who run these extra-curricular activities.

Day	Activity	Year	Time	Venue	Gender	Staff
MON	Fitness / rowing	All	3.30 - 4.30	Gym	Mixed	Jo Lee
	Hockey	All	3.30 - 4.30	Field	Mixed	SAB
	Girls Football	All	3.30 - 4.30	Field	Girls	Gemma
	Badminton	All	3.30 - 4.30	Sp Hall	Mixed	DR/RS
TUE	Basketball	7,8,9	1.15 - 1.45	Sp Hall	Boys	JN/RSS/PG
	Basketball	All	3.30 - 4.30	Sp Hall	Girls	KB
	Rugby	All	3.30 - 4.30	Field	Girls	KG
	Rugby	8,9	3.30 - 4.30	Field	Boys	JN/RSS
	Transition sports	7	3.30 - 4.30	Field	Mixed	M Parsons
WED	Basketball	10,11	1.15 - 1.45	Sp Hall	Boys	JN/RSS
	Table Tennis	7,8	1.15 - 1.45	Gym	Mixed	R Selway
	Trampolining	All	3.30 - 4.30	Gym	Mixed	GH
	Rugby	7	3.30 - 4.30	Field	Boys	RS
	Netball	9,10,11	3.30 - 4.30	Courts	Girls	KB
THUR	Volleyball	All	1.15 - 1.45	Sp Hall	Mixed	JN/RSS/KB
	Table Tennis	9,10,11	1.15 - 1.45	Gym	Mixed	R. Selway
	Badminton	All	3.30 - 4.30	Sp Hall	Mixed	DR/RS
	Dance	All	3.30 - 4.30	Hall	Mixed	KG
	Rugby	10,11	3.30 - 4.30	Field	Boys	JN/RSS

## LRC news

The **Year 7 Reading Club** runs every Tuesday lunchtime and includes games, word puzzles as well as reading many of our newly acquired books.

All Year 7s are welcome to come along. The club is held every Tuesday in the LRC from 1.15 pm to 1.45 pm.

### Opportunities Club

**Opportunities Club** is held Monday to Thursday from 3.15 pm to 5.15 pm. This is an excellent opportunity for all students to do their homework before going home. They are able to use all the resources in the LRC as well as having access to staff for help.

### Library Registration

In the LRC we use a fingerprint as part of the booking out system which incorporates ICT. Fingerprints are not stored or able to be reproduced. If any parents have concerns or wish to have further details, please contact Mrs Robertson in the LRC.

## Fair Processing Notices

Attached to this newsletter is standard information regarding fair processing notices. This is a legal requirement for us to inform all parents, carers and students about what data we keep and how it is used and shared with local and national agencies. Parents of Year 7 and 8 students will already have received a copy with their Data Collection sheet.

**This letter should be read by the following groups of people:**

- All parents of current Court Fields' students**
- All students aged between 12 and 15** (because you are required to be informed of your legal rights under the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998)
- All Court Fields students who have reached their 16th birthday** (because of the above reason and also because at 16 you are legally entitled to prevent the school passing on more than basic information about you to the Connexions service if you so wish)

I hope the letter is self explanatory, but if you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

## And finally...

### Careers Information—Year 11

On the 17th October, all Year 11 students will be attending a Careers Day at school. They will sign up for and attend 3 workshops from a choice of options, including sessions from local colleges, modern apprenticeships, job hunting, NHS careers and the armed forces. The day will provide students with the opportunity to explore some of the post 16 options open to them. The day will also include observations of interviews which will enhance the students awareness of the skills and techniques of a good interview.

Year 11 students will also be given some information on the new diplomas which will become available from September 09. They will get a diploma pack which also contains some specific information for parents. I would encourage you to read this, as diplomas will become an important option for some students to consider.

Please note that the careers day will be a non uniform day.

Paul Cowling—Careers/Work Experience Co-ordinator

### Mathematics News

The Mathematics department has an exciting new website: [mymaths.co.uk](http://mymaths.co.uk)

All students have been given a letter with the school's login and password. Also included in the letter is their unique login and password. All students should use mymaths for their homework and revision. If your son/daughter has lost their login and password or you have any problems please contact your son/daughter's Maths teacher.

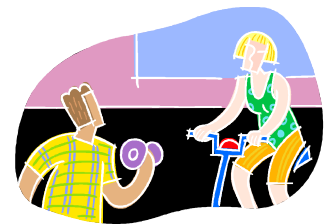
The first Maths module examination is on 13th November 2008 for express Year 9, all Year 10 and Year 11 resits. Please be aware revision classes are held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

Mr S Owens—Maths Dept

### Photo permission

If any parent/carer of our new Year 7 students does not want photographs of their child in the press or in school displays and brochure, please would you contact your child's tutor or Mr Alfano and we will ensure photos are not taken or used. Parents/Carers of other students new to the school should contact their child's form tutor or Year Head if they would prefer not to have their child's photograph used in any publicity.

**Wellington Sports Centre** have asked us to let parents know of a free Fitness Night for under 18s. This is a new group which will run for 1 year every Friday night, starting on 7th November at the Sports Centre from 7.30-8.30 pm. For more information, contact Danny Earls at the Sports Centre on 01823 663010 or 07882 689440.



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## Reply Slip

### October Newsletter

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor Group: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We have received the October Newsletter

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Carer Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please sign and return to your child's Form Tutor by Monday 13th October 2008**