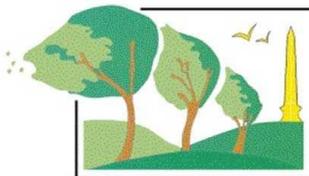


Court Fields School

Achieve | Belong | Participate

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Executive Head: Mrs S Watson

April 2019

Dear Parent/Carers and Students

The Ofsted team of three inspectors visited the school late last term and we have just had notice that the report is now published and is on our website. It can be reached here: <http://www.courtfields.net/ofsted-inspection-report/>.

The judgment is that Court Fields continues to be an improving school, although we are disappointed that those improvements are not quite embedded enough to attract a judgment of Good. However, we are pleased that Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare are judged Good. The report states that 'Leaders have made changes to the way in which behaviour expectations are managed. There are clear expectations and a strategic overview of incidents.' Inspectors also report that 'pupils say that behaviour has improved.' The support from parents in making these improvements has been crucial and shows what we can achieve when we are all working together for our children.

I have to congratulate the students on their exemplary behaviour, especially throughout the two days of the inspection. The report also compliments the school on the relationships between staff and pupils, commenting that 'the relationships observed ... between pupils and teachers were polite and respectful.' They also commented that 'the learning environment is typically conducive to learning.'

Safeguarding is judged as being effective with good systems in place to keep children safe.

Regarding the Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment, the inspection team acknowledged that 'the quality of teaching is improving and there are many examples of effective practice.' Humanities, Science, English and MFL are mentioned in the report as well as Mathematics. I know that other subjects were mentioned positively in the feedback to the school, although this did not make it into the report. Overall the quality of teaching is much improved although the inspection team are right to point out that there is still variation in quality and we need to continue to share the best practice across the school so that there is a greater level of consistency, with teachers assessing the needs and then planning the progress for every child. However, the Ofsted team judged that the Heads of Department and Heads of Year are very effective and we have confidence that the improvements already made will be embedded over the next year.

One of the key improvements we need to make is to ensure that we tell students what has happened if they report bullying. The inspectors agreed that the school deals well with bullying but that some children and parents do not know what the actions have been. We have already put things in place to remedy this and the impact will be measured through our next parental survey.

The inspection team acknowledge that the outcomes for the last two years have been below the national average, however they also note that the changes made to the curriculum in

Year 10 will yield considerably better results. The inspectors tell us that they have seen evidence of stronger progress in Key Stage 3.

We will be looking carefully at all the recommendations and considering how we respond to these in order to accelerate our rate of improvement in terms of the progress of students. Governors would like to thank the very many of you who took the time and trouble to fill in the parent survey. Governors have been regularly using the parent survey to find out how parents are feeling about the school and will continue to do so. Please do use the survey to give your general feedback but if there are any specific concerns, as always, contact the school in the first instance and then use the proper complaints procedure on the website if you are not satisfied with the outcome. We have set up a separate email account for responses and comments regarding the report so that Governors can consider any concerns (ofsted@courtfields.net) However, we only ever accept comments/feedback from bona fide email addresses and parents of children at the school.

If you are interested in greater involvement and would be interested in becoming a governor at the school, we would be very pleased to talk to you about what is involved. Please contact the Clerk to Governors, Miss J Gregory at this email address: JGregory@castle.somerset.sch.uk.

As you know, Ms Bennett is on compassionate leave for the time being and Mrs Matthews is Acting Head. Your support for our community's school is important for all of our children and staff. We want to thank you for your feedback and comments, and for the work we are all doing together to build a better education for all of our children. You are important in helping us to do this.

Best wishes

Sheila Naylor

SHEILA NAYLOR
(Chair of The Castle Partnership Trust)

David Taylor

DAVID TAYLOR
(Chair of Governors)

Sarah Watson

SARAH WATSON
(Executive Head/CEO)