



STOUR VALLEY

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Parent/Carer Bulletin

Autumn Term Dates

Half Term

Monday 25 October - Friday 29
October 2021

Non-pupil Day

Friday 19 November 2021

Autumn Term ends

Friday 17 December 2021

Christmas Break

Monday 20 December 2021 -
Tuesday 4 January 2022

Spring Term starts

Wednesday 5 January 2022

Dates for your Diary Week Commencing 13 September

- Wednesday 15 September - Year 7 & 9 individual photograph session with *Kittle Photographic*, 8:30-11 am
- Thursday 16 September - Year 7 & 9 Meet the Tutor Evening, 5-7pm
- Friday 17 September - Jeans for Genes non-uniform day
- Sunday 19 September - Year 10 & 11 GCSE History visit to USAAF Lavenham

Uniform Expectations

Today all students were reminded of our expectations across a number of areas in an assembly and we would like to remind you and ask for your continued support of two aspects in particular of our uniform policy:

Upcoming Events this September

Wednesday 15 September

Year 7 & 9 individual photographs with Kittle Photographic, 8:30am-12:00pm

Thursday 16 September

Year 8 WW1 themed day including workshops, 8:30am-12:55pm

Thursday 16 September

Year 7 & 9 Meet the Tutor Evening, 5-7pm

Friday 17 September

Jeans for Genes non-uniform day

Sunday 19 September

Year 10 & 11 GCSE History visit to USAAF Lavenham

Thursday 30 September

Year 11 Information Evening

Firstly, skirts should be worn to the knee or below. Whilst we know that many teenage girls roll their skirts up deliberately and are told regularly to pull their skirt to their knee, there are a growing number of girls whose skirts do not fall to the knee without being stretched, or at all. Please do check your child's school skirts and ensure that they conform with our policy.

Secondly the rule for all students regarding piercings remains that one small stud is allowed in each earlobe, and that is all. Any additional visible piercings will be confiscated and held at reception for an adult to collect. It is not acceptable for students to wear clear plastic spacers in place of a piercing, or tape/plasters over them. Having only recently had a piercing procedure carried out is not an excuse for wearing it to school. We would advise that if you are considering allowing your son/daughter to have any additional piercings, these are done at the very beginning of a summer holiday in order that they can fully heal before students return to school and therefore be removed during the school day.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us uphold our high expectations of appearance and behaviour. We know that you appreciate how hard the staff at Stour Valley work in order to uphold the high standards for which the school has always been recognised. For the most part, our students make that quite straightforward; which is a credit to you and to them. It is fantastic to see the vast majority of our students returning to school this term immaculately turned out and ready to learn.

Year 10 & 11 Visit to USAAF Lavenham

A visit to the World War Two USAAF Lavenham bomber base will take place on Sunday 19 September. The visit is open to all Year 10 and 11 GCSE History students and provides them with further insight into the part of their GCSE course known as the 'Site Study'.

Guides will be showing students around the site looking at how the B24 and B17 bombers were maintained, what bombing missions entailed and how the service personnel interacted with the local community. They will also explore the role the crews played in the liberation of Europe.

We look forward to a great day! - *The History Team*

2021 Post-16, College & Sixth Form Events

Framlingham College Sixth Form

Open Morning - Saturday 18 September

<https://www.framlinghamcollege.co.uk/join/visit-us/>

University Studies at West Suffolk College

Open Event - Saturday 16 October, 9:30am-12:30pm

Long Road Sixth Form College

Open Evenings - Tuesday 21 & Wednesday 22 September

Ipswich School

Open Morning - Saturday 25 September

Sixth Form Information Evening - Tuesday 28 September

<http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/news/item/ipswich-school-open-morning-and-sixth-form-information-evening>

Suffolk New College

- Ipswich Campus Taster Event - Thursday 7 October, 5:30-8pm

- Suffolk Rural: Otley Taster Event - Saturday 16 October, 9:30am-12pm

- On the Coast: Halesworth Taster Event - Saturday 16 October, 9:30am-12pm

The Sixth Form College Colchester

College Open Events - Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 October

West Suffolk College

Open Events - Saturday 6 November 9:30am-12:30pm and Thursday

25 November, 5:30-7:30pm

This section will be updated regularly as we receive event information and dates from colleges and sixth forms.

PSHE at SVCS

For your information, listed below are the topics SVCS students will be covering in PSHE this half term, along with some suggested resources/information if you'd like to have conversations at home to support your child's understanding. Please contact the school if you have any questions or concerns. Our full PSHE Curriculum can be accessed

here: <https://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/curriculum/pshe>.

Year 7: Transition to secondary school and personal safety in and outside school including first aid

<https://www.think.gov.uk>

<https://www.sja.org.uk/get-advice>

Year 8: Alcohol and drug misuse and pressures relating to drug use

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/media/xaflna50/drugs-and-alcohol-updated-feb-2020.pdf>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/you-your-body/drugs-alcohol-smoking/>

<https://alcoholeducationtrust.org/parent-area/>

<https://breathe2025.org.uk/resources/>

Year 9: Healthy and unhealthy friendships, assertiveness, substance misuse and role models

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice/personal-safety/knife-crime>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/you-your-body/drugs-alcohol-smoking/>

Year 10: Mental health and ill health, stigma, safeguarding health, including during periods of transition or change

<https://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/svcs-wellbeing/particular-concerns>

<https://riseabove.org.uk/>

<https://www.knifefree.co.uk/>

<https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/advice-for-young-people/>

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice/personal-safety/knife-crime>

Year 11: Self efficiency, stress management, and future opportunities.

<https://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/svcs-wellbeing/exam-stress>

<https://barclayslifeskills.com/educators/lessons/>

Jeans for Genes Day

On Friday 17 September SVCS are having a non-uniform day to support the charity Jeans for Genes. With a suggested donation of £1, students can wear denim clothing instead of their uniform. *(Just a reminder: all clothes and footwear will need to be appropriate for lessons in school. The usual hair, make up and jewellery rules apply too. Don't forget planners, bus passes and equipment for the day).* The Jeans for Genes campaign raises awareness of the daily challenges faced by those living with a genetic disorder and raises money to fund projects that make a tangible difference to the lives of those affected. Most importantly, the campaign:

brings together the genetic disorder community in order to make a loud noise about the issues that matter to them, shines a light on the organisations that work tirelessly to improve the lives of affected individuals; and celebrates the achievements of those living with a genetic disorder. <https://www.jeansforgenes.org/funding-in-action>

Gardening Club

We are starting a new gardening club which will be after school on Thursdays. Students will require a suitable pair of shoes and should meet in the heart space from next Thursday. Please note, the club will run until half term and then stop until the Spring.

Boys PE this September - Football

Boys PE classes will be starting with football and outside games in September and will need studded boots and shin pads. Please encourage your son to check that their items still fit. Boots can be any colour or material, but studs and shin pads are required for safety during the Autumn term.

Year 7 Bedrock Vocabulary

The English department at Stour Valley Community school use an innovative literacy improvement tool called Bedrock Vocabulary. It is a website that helps children to learn important academic vocabulary, whilst encouraging them to read regularly. Academic studies show that there is a direct link between a pupil's vocabulary size and their academic achievement.

As your child progresses through the curriculum, they will study hundreds of words, whilst reading fiction and non-fiction texts regularly.

They will also fill in an online vocabulary notebook to practise using this vocabulary, which you can view.

Each week, your child will need to complete a minimum of **2 Bedrock lessons**. Their English teacher will set this as homework and monitor their progress. Students will be given their log in details in their English Skills lessons in the next two weeks. If you would like to log on to see how they are getting on, you will be able to see the vocabulary your child is learning. By following the steps below and the guidance PowerPoint attached, you can create your own account:

Step 1: Visit app.bedrocklearning.org.

Step 2: Click on the 'Guardian/Teacher' tab.

Step 3: Complete the parent signup sheet and enter the access code to enable you to create an account. This will have been given to your child at school and should be written in their planner.

Step 4: Check your email for your password, and then log in. Be sure to check your junk folder if no email arrives.

For further information and guidance, please refer to the '**Using Bedrock at Home**' guide at this link: <https://bit.ly/2TrdZ4h> - *Mr Spalding, Head of English*

World War One Themed Day for Year 8 Students

On Thursday 16 September all Year 8 students will take part in a World War One themed day in school.

The English and History teams have joined forces to provide students with a series of workshops run by actors and staff that include:

- 'Becoming and Tommy' (recruitment, propaganda and training)
- 'Women of war' (WW1 at home and women's war efforts)
- Trench life

The workshops will take place in the Gym, Hall and Activity Studio. The morning sessions are with actors who will be coming into school especially and the afternoon workshops will provide a chance for all students to work with SVCS staff to create a response to what they have experienced earlier in the day.

There is no cost to parents/carers and students will need to come into school in PE kit. All the activities will take place within the school day with normal lunch and break times.

We look forward to a great day! - *Miss Terry, Mrs Higgins, Miss Howard and Miss Savage.*

School Nurse Drop in Clinic

We are pleased to confirm that the School Nurse drop-in Clinic will be running in G6 for our students on the first Monday of each month this Autumn Term, commencing Monday 4 October.

Year 11 Psychology Sessions

Year 11 after school Psychology sessions are re-commencing every Wednesday in U5.

Draw and Talk Group

Draw and talk group with Miss S Brown will be every Thursday lunch time this term.

Important Letters & Notices

[http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/Call to a member function getElements on null/Covid Contingency Plan 2021-22.pdf](http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/Call%20to%20a%20member%20function%20getElements%20on%20null/Covid%20Contingency%20Plan%202021-22.pdf) - **Covid Contingency Plan 2021-22**

[http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/Call to a member function getElements on null/Remote Learning 2021-22.docx 1.pdf](http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/Call%20to%20a%20member%20function%20getElements%20on%20null/Remote%20Learning%202021-22.docx%201.pdf) - **Remote Learning Plan 2021-22**

safe@stourvalley.org - **Stour Valley Community School Safeguarding email address**

[http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/Call to a member function getElements on null/sims parent app guide.pdf](http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/Call%20to%20a%20member%20function%20getElements%20on%20null/sims%20parent%20app%20guide.pdf) - **SIMS Parent App Guide**

