

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

Dates for your Diary Week Commencing 18 October

- Monday 18 October - Year 7, 8 & 11 commence one week of home learning
- Tuesday 19 October - Year 10 & 11 Prince's Trust, Mersea Boating at the Aqua Park, 8:30am-2pm
- Friday 22 October - Last full school day before half term

Update from Headteacher

Christmas Break

Monday 20 December 2021 - Tuesday 4
January 2022

Spring Term starts

Wednesday 5 January 2022

Upcoming Events this October

Sunday 17 October

Year 6 Guided Tours

Monday 18 October

Year 7, 8 & 11 commence one week of
home learning

Tuesday 19 October

Year 10 & 11 Prince's Trust, Mersea
Boating at the Aqua Park, 8:30am-2pm

Friday 22 October

Last full school day before half term

This morning I met representatives from local education and public health about COVID rates in our school. They support my decision to put some year groups onto online learning for next week. **This is to break the chain of transmission that is apparent in some year groups and to protect our staff.** With the school breaking for half term next Friday, 22 October, this will provide a two-week break in the chain of transmission.

As of today, we have 33 students who have tested positive and this is quite a jump from the end of last week - at least doubling in Years 7, 8 and 11 and hitting the threshold for linked cases in Year 11 and Year 8.

We have 6 staff who have tested positive for COVID and have all been pretty unwell. We also have staff off with other flu-like/chest infection symptoms. There are 9 teaching staff off and being covered today.

The decision as to which year groups to put onto online learning is being made based on the rates of infection: Years 7, 8 and 11. I do not take the decision lightly. I am confident that our staff will deliver quality online lessons based on the success of online learning in the Spring Term of last year. All of Year 7 have now been inducted on using Teams.

We will organise Free School Meals for the families that receive them and will communicate with them separately.

I intend to visit each Year 7, 8 and 11 class in person this afternoon and explain what is happening and why.

In addition, I am recommending mask wearing for staff and students (Year 9 and 10) who are in school next week – in communal areas and classrooms. Staff will also be reminding everyone of their responsibility for good hygiene and following measures in place as part of our COVID risk assessment.

If your child is unwell, please do not send them into school. We are seeing an increase in colds and flu-like illnesses, as well as an increase in children testing positive for COVID.

Decisions I have made this week have not been easy and I hope that you understand and support my chosen course of action.

Thank you for your continued support. - Mrs R Kelly

SVCS Ski Trip 2023 - Italy

We have had a fantastic response to the launch of the next SVCS Ski Trip, and I am pleased to announce that we will be taking 53 students to the

Artesina and Prato Nevoso ski areas in Italy during February half term 2023, this will be the largest SVCS Ski Trip we have ever run.

However, as you are undoubtedly aware demand for the Ski Trip has been unprecedentedly high, there have been almost three times the number of applicants than we had places for. Unfortunately, this means that a large number of students will be disappointed in not gaining a place on the trip, and I would like to extend my personal apologies that we cannot take everyone who has applied.

For the parents/carers of those students who have a place on the Ski Trip may we remind you that the initial deposit needs to be paid via ParentPay before the end of the school day (3pm) on Friday 22 October. This amount has been added to your ParentPay account today. If payment is not made by this date/time the place will be offered to a student on the reserve list.

Mr Coe - Ski Trip Leader

Year 11 Mock Exam Support

Year 11 have all received the mock exam timetable this week and with this in mind here is some advice for supporting them through this time: <file:///N:/My%20Settings/Downloads/parent-guide-gcses-08-2020.pdf>

Hip Hop Workshop

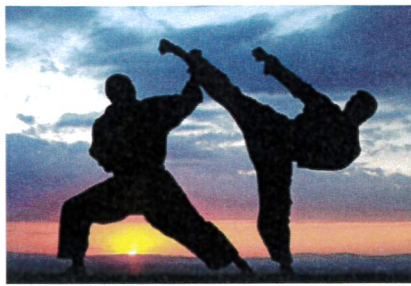
The Hip Hop workshop on 21 October has unfortunately been cancelled, we hope to update you all soon with a possible rescheduled date.

Reading Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to work alongside some of our new Year 7 students to help them improve their reading. It could involve listening to them read, reading to them, or asking questions about what they are reading. Can you offer 30 minutes (2:30-3pm) of your time once, twice, three, four or five times a week? We are proposing to run the programme for 4-6 weeks. If you are interested, please contact Gemma Rule on grule@stourvalley.org to express an interest.

SVCS Martial Arts Club - Sponsored Event

Our club has doubled in size with new members starting this term and we need to purchase some more equipment (gloves, hand held punch bags etc). We have already had a donation from the school and felt that we could raise more by doing a sponsored event. Next Wednesday 20 October, we are going to take on the Thousand Techniques Challenge - your child may have already shown you their sponsor form and I hope they've 'nagged' you about coughing up a penny or two. If there are any benefactors out there who would like to sponsor our club please contact Mr Spalding at SVCS. Thanks for your super support!



Autumn Extra-curricular Activities

Please view the following link to see a complete list of extra-curricular activities at SVCS this Autumn:

<http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/news/item/extra-curricular-activities>

School Nurse Drop-In Service

The next school nurse drop-in service will be available to our students during lunchtime on Monday 1 November in G6 (textiles room). The Nurse will also be with us on Thursday 18 November and Monday 6 December. We will update you with further session dates in the Spring Term.

Kooth Resources

Kooth is designed to support the wellbeing and resilience of young people and is available for 11-25 year olds in Suffolk. Kooth is running free online parent/carer information sessions - designed to help you understand how Kooth can support your child with their mental health and wellbeing, please view the following parent/carer information letter for further details:

http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/files/letters/Parent_Carer_Information_Sessions_-_Sept_to_Dec_2021.docx.pdf

Discover everything Kooth has to offer including free online counselling support for young people:

http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/files/letters/September_Back_to_school.pdf

SVCS Medical Cabinet Notice

As we enter the time of year when colds and sore throats are commonplace, we would like to request that if your child has symptoms that need to be managed throughout the school day, that medication is provided to the front office. Students are not permitted to carry their medication and should deliver to reception upon arrival for secure storage in the medical cabinet, thank you.

Year 7 Art Equipment Packs

The Art department have put together a wide range of Art equipment which will be very useful for Year 7 students in their work at home. The pack includes watercolour paints, fine liner pens, oil and chalk pastels, sketching pencils, coloured pens and coloured pencils. Should you wish to purchase

an Art pack, you can do so via ParentPay until Friday 15 October. The total cost for the Art Pack is £15.

2021/22 Post-16, College & Sixth Form Events

Suffolk New College

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

Suffolk One

Open Event - Wednesday 10 November, 5-8pm

http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/files/letters/Suffolk_One_Open_Events_1.pdf

University Studies at West Suffolk College

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

The Sixth Form College Colchester

College Open Events - Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 October

Abbeygate Sixth Form College

Open events - Thursday 21 October, 5-8pm and Saturday 15 January 2022, 9am-2pm

http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/files/letters/Abbeygate_Open_Events_1.pdf

West Suffolk College

Open Events - Saturday 6 November 9:30am-12:30pm and Thursday 25 November, 5:30-7:30pm

Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form

Open Evening Event - Wednesday 10 November, 6-8pm

<http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/news/item/open-evening>

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

Important Letters & Notices

http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/files/letters/SCC_Parental_communication_enhanced_control_measures_October_2021.pdf - Suffolk County Council Covid-19 enhanced control measures

http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/files/letters/GCSE_Technology_Letter_24.09.21.pdf - GCSE Technology Letter 2021-22

http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/downloads/Sports_Clubs_are_Back_2021.pdf - Sports Clubs at SVCS

http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/downloads/Theatre_Royal_Cinderella_Pantomime_Young_Chorus_Auditions_0eb61853-8bc8-4274-9938-a954eeda1863.pdf - *Theatre Royal Cinderella Pantomime Young Chorus Auditions*

http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/Call_to_a_member_function_getElements_on_null/Key_Stage_3_Design_Technology_2021-2022.pdf - *Key Stage 3 Design Technology 2021-22*

http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/Call_to_a_member_function_getElements_on_null/GCSE_Food_Preparation_and_Nutrition_2021_2022.pdf - *GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition 2021-22*

http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/Call_to_a_member_function_getElements_on_null/Covid_Contingency_Plan_2021-22.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 - *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 - *SIMS Parent App Guide*



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