



STOUR VALLEY

— COMMUNITY SCHOOL —

Parent/Carer Bulletin

Autumn Term Dates

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

Upcoming Events this November

Wednesday 17 November

Dates for your Diary Week Commencing 15 November

- Wednesday 17 November - Year 11 Art Practical Mock Exam Day 1
- Thursday 18 November - Year 11 Art Practical Mock Exam Day 2
- Thursday 18 November - School Nurse student drop-in service in G6, 1-2pm
- Thursday 18 November - Year 9 & 11 Netball at Home, commencing 3:30pm
- Thursday 18 November - Hip Hop Workshop 1:30-3pm
- Friday 19 November - Non-pupil Day

Thank you to Parents/Carers

Thank you to all parents/carers for their patience and support this week whilst our entrance road was shut - your co-operation was very much

Year 11 Art Practical Mock Exam Day 1

Thursday 18 November

Year 11 Art Practical Mock Exam Day 2

Thursday 18 November

School Nurse student drop-in service in G6, 1-2pm

Thursday 18 November

Rescheduled Hip Hop Workshop, 1:30-3pm

Friday 19 November

Non-pupil Day

Monday 22 November

Year 11 GCSE Written Mock Exams commence

Thursday 25 November

Whole school Influenza immunisation session (all year groups), all day event

appreciated!

Headteacher Update

The following message has been distributed via email to all parents/carers this afternoon at 1:15pm:

As promised, today we have reviewed our temporary measure of asking staff and students to wear face coverings in all indoor areas in school.

Student and staff case numbers have dropped – today we have six active student cases and on Monday, five of those students are due to return to school. We currently have two active staff cases.

We are very pleased that case numbers have dropped but have taken the decision to remain cautious and extend our temporary measures for another two weeks and then review again.

For the next two weeks (up to and including Friday 26 November) we will continue to require staff and students to wear face coverings in classrooms and all indoor areas. Please provide your child with a mask to wear at school. We will then review these measures again.

If you have already let us know that your child is exempt from wearing a face covering, you do not need to inform us again as we have that information. If your circumstances have changed and you now wish your child to be exempt, please log in to the SIMS Parent app and tick the 'Mask Exempt' box or email keady@stourvalley.org

The SIMS Parent app user guide is on our website:

http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/Call_to_a_member_function_getElements_on_null/sims_parent_app_guide.pdf

Lateral Flow Testing

In addition, please make sure that your children do a lateral flow twice weekly. You should still be getting email reminders to upload your results to the Test Register portal. If your child is unwell, do not send them into school; and if they have any COVID symptoms, please keep them at home and get a PCR test.

Thank you for your continued support. - *Rachel Kelly, Headteacher*

Non-pupil Day

We would like to remind our parents/carers and students that we have a non-pupil day next week, Friday 19 November.

Autumn Term - School Uniform

Some Year 10 students have acted as a 'Student Voice' and approached the Senior Leadership team, with a campaign to amend the school uniform policy, as a result of the colder weather. It has been agreed that as effective immediately students are permitted to wear their SVCS PE sweatshirt for extra warmth.

The following conditions must be met:

- The PE Jumper is to be worn over the shirt and tie, *and* under the blazer
- It *is not* an alternative to the blazer
- If students get warm – the jumper is the piece of uniform to be removed
- Coats are only worn outside and removed when entering the building
- Hoodies are not to be worn and will be put into form tutors 'contraband box'



Student Bus Passes

Bus companies will continue to do spot pass checks. Please ensure your child has their correct pass each day for travel. If your child does not hold a valid pass or has since lost the pass, please contact *Suffolk On Board: 0345 606 6067* or *Essex County Council: 0345 603 2200*. Please note that we cannot issue temporary bus passes without authorisation from these councils - thank you.

Gardening Club Update

The Gardening Club has met this week for that last time until Spring. Transformation of the school grounds started with all the current Year 9 students who replanted the exterior spaces during the summer term, making a huge difference to the outdoor environment. We are very grateful to all the students and staff who helped out, the Technology Department for making planters and the nature board, Governors and parents who dug and donated, along with Perrywood Garden centre for advice and some donated plants.



We recorded our efforts, with thanks to Alisdair, Daisy and Honey for being presenters, and have sent this to Gardeners' World to see if they will put us on air in 2022. Plans for next year already include developing the allotment, planting new hedging and adding climbing plants to the area outside the Art room. If you would like to get involved then please look out for information in the Spring.

GCSE Psychology Revision

Psychology revision sessions for the next two weeks will be on Wednesday and Thursday in U5. Students are welcome to attend one or both sessions!

School Medical Cabinet Notice

As we enter the time of year when colds, headaches, sore throats etc. 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.

Hip Hop Workshop

The rescheduled Hip Hop workshop is going ahead on Thursday 18 November, 1:30-3pm - attendees are to wear PE kit for the day, bring a water bottle(s) and arrive at the dance studio on time. If your child signed up please remind them to attend as all places have been filled (a student name list at the back of the studio is available if your child needs to check).

Xello Careers Website

We have recently upgraded our Careers package to allow parents/carers to login and support their child when making decisions about Year 9 options or looking at post-16 opportunities. Please would you email keady@stourvalley.org by **Friday 12 November** if you **DO NOT** wish your email address to be passed onto Xello to allow them to create your parent/carer account. For your information, the link to the Xello website is: https://help.xello.co.uk/en-gb/Content/Get-Started/Xello-Families/GS_Families.htm

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 would 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, 8 and 9 will all be looking at different aspects of different careers. Year 7: Developing Skills and Aspirations, Year 8: Community and Careers and Year 9: Setting Goals.

<https://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/curriculum/careers/useful-career-links>

<https://barclayslifeskills.com/young-people/>

<https://www.ucas.com/careers/careers-quiz>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/znpsgk7>

https://www.worldskillsuk.org/educator-resources/careers-advice-toolkit/?gclid=EAlaIQobChMI2v6yoM_v8wIVTLdtCh1gzQYuEAAAYASAAEgIOZ_D_BwE

Year 10: Religion and global issues, whilst in tutor time students will be looking at options for Work Experience as they should try to apply for a placement as soon as possible. To find out more about careers and post-16 choices you can use the links for year 7-9 and 11.

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/>

Year 11: Next Steps

<https://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/curriculum/careers/apprenticeships>

<https://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/curriculum/careers/useful-career-links>

<https://barclayslifeskills.com/young-people/>

<https://www.ucas.com/careers/careers-quiz>

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/skills-assessment>

Local Post-16 Institutions:

West Suffolk College: <https://www.wsc.ac.uk/>

Abbeygate Sixth Form: <https://www.abbeygatesfc.ac.uk/>

Haverhill Community Sixth Form: <http://haverhillcommunitysixthform.co.uk/>

Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form: <https://tgschool.net/sixth-form/welcome-to-tgs-sixth-form>

Colchester Sixth Form: <https://www.colchsfc.ac.uk/>

Colchester Institute: <https://www.colchester.ac.uk/>

Suffolk One Sixth Form: <https://www.suffolkone.ac.uk/>

Suffolk New College: <https://www.suffolk.ac.uk/>

Saffron Walden Sixth Form: <https://www.suffolk.ac.uk/>

Long Road Sixth Form: <https://www.longroad.ac.uk/>

Hills Road Sixth Form: <https://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/>

Student Planners

May we kindly ask for your support in ensuring your child has their student planner for school each day, this will allow them to regularly check their lesson timetable, make required notes and keep record of homework tasks - thank you.

Year 11 Mock Exam Timetable

Please view the following Year 11 GCSE Mock Exam timetable for your information, this is also displayed to students via the daily Student

Bulletin: https://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/downloads/Year_11_GCSE_Mock_Examination_Timetable.pdf

Year 11 Mock Exam Support

Year 11 have all received the mock exam timetable and with this in mind here is some advice for supporting them through this

time: <https://charliewaller.org/media/mwvfpddi/parent-guide-gcses-08-2020.pdf>

School Nurse Drop-in Service

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

Written Exams Summer 2022

16 May 2022 – 27 June 2022 The JCQ designated national exam contingency day for 2022 is 29 June 2022 and candidates must ensure that they are available to sit exams up to and including this date, should the need arise. Candidates and their parents/carers are advised not to book holidays to commence until after 29 June 2022.

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

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

West Suffolk College

Open Event - Thursday 25 November, 5:30-7:30pm

Abbeygate Sixth Form College

Open event - Saturday 15 January 2022, 9am-2pm

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

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

Year 11 NCS Assembly

We are pleased to confirm that NCS (National Citizen Service) have scheduled an assembly with our Year 11 students on Monday 31 January 2022 during afternoon tutor time, 1:40-2pm <https://wearencs.com/>

Food Technology Take Home Containers

We would like to remind all year groups to always bring their take home containers for Food Technology lessons involving cooking projects. Any donations of sweet/confectionary tubs would also be gratefully received by the department for student use, as well as being a great way to recycle, thank you.

Important Letters & Notices

<http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/news/item/extra-curricular-activities> - *Autumn Term Extra-curricular Activities*

http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/files/letters/SCC_Communication_regarding_vaccinations_for_12_to_15_year_olds.pdf - *Suffolk County Council Covid-19 vaccinations ages 12-15*

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/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*



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