



Stour Valley Community School
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Headteacher Mrs Rachel Kelly BA (Hons)

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Dear Parents and Carers

Term 2 is now complete and it has been another busy one. In this term's newsletter I will reflect on the term's highlights and look forward to the summer term.

Sporting Achievements

The Spring Term has seen our netball, football and rugby teams compete locally and we have had particular successes in Year 7 and 8 Rugby, where our boys' teams progressed to the county finals.

Year 7 and 8 students made the semi-finals of the area competitions in basketball.

The Sports Department also ran a trip to watch the British Basketball Finals in Birmingham.

Coaches came from Sudbury RFC to coach Year 8 and 9. Three students have been scouted for Sudbury as a result.

Inter House Competitions

There has been an inter-house football competition, very well supported and hard fought.

We also had a Rugby Six Nations Predictor competition between houses, an Egg Drop, as a part of Science week and a Catapult competition, as a part of Technology week.

We have also had writing competitions.

Today we have had a Bake Off competition organised by our Student Leaders, Year 9 Student Lauren Webb was our winner with a fantastic Easter themed red velvet cake.

Creative Arts Highlights

There have been a number of highlights from this area of the school this term. In February our whole school production, High School Musical, took place over three nights and was a resounding success. It was such an enormous amount of hard work and commitment on the part of students and staff but anyone who saw it would agree that the end result made it all worthwhile.

A selection of our musical students competed in the Sudbury Music Festival, where we won six categories – a real achievement and congratulations to all involved.

And just this week the Dance Show – 75 students from all year groups took part. It was a show of well-rehearsed, athletic performances with the two student presenters making the show run smoothly with much humour and hilarity. Well done to all who took part.

Charity Fundraising

We have had two non-uniform days this term. In January 'Wear Red Day' (for a heart defibrillator in school) where we raised £1009. Thank you to all parents and carers for your generous donations to such a worthwhile cause.

Then more recently a day for Comic Relief, where we raised £775.

Curriculum Enrichment Days/ Events

The English department have launched 'Bedrock Vocabulary' to Years 7, 8 and 9 and students are completing activities twice a week to extend their vocabulary. In addition, Year 11 and Year 9 watched performances of Macbeth and Romeo and Juliet respectively by the Box Clever Theatre Company. The performances injected a fresh energy to the Shakespeare plays and brought the stories to life with a modern twist.

We have had a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) week – this included a 'BIG BANG' STEM Fair where local businesses and industries in those areas came in to exhibit and talk about what they do and encourage our students to consider STEM pathways for their futures. We have also had a separate Science Week and a Technology Week.

Our Languages students have done really well in the 'Have Your Say Competition' with six of our eight pairs through to the regional finals. Good luck to them for the final next term.

In Humanities there have been two GCSE Religious Studies trips, one to Clare Baptist Church and another to the Cambridge Abu Bakr Mosque; and the Geography department has taken GCSE students to do fieldwork in Clare.

We have also had Year 7 Safety Day where Year 7 students did workshops with Suffolk Fire and Rescue, Suffolk Police Road Safety and Suffolk Cycle Safe; and a St John's Ambulance 'Start the Heart' session was also a part of the day.

School Trips

There have been a number of trips out this term.

The Ski Trip went out over February half term and we have had a Year 7 and a Year 8 trip to Duxford as well as a trip to Cambridge University.

Thank you to all the staff that have organised these trips.

Changing of the Guard

The new prefects have been through a selection process this half term and were presented with their badges in assembly this week. They will take up their duties from after Easter. Thank you to all the Year 11 prefects who will now step aside and focus on their final preparations for their GCSEs.

The Year 9 Options process is now complete, our Year 9 students have made their all-important choices for next year.

And so my second term at Stour Valley Community School comes to a close.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your on-going support and remind you that we return on Tuesday 23 April.

On behalf of all the staff and governors, I wish you all a restful Easter break.

With best wishes and kind regards

Rachel Kelly, Headteacher