



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

23 July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

We are approaching the end of another busy term and the end of this academic year – my first year completed as Headteacher of Stour Valley Community School. I feel privileged to be leading a school with such a great staff team and I want to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work this year to support your children in being the best they can be. The students are a delight – a real credit to you, their parents and carers; and I take particular pride in seeing the positive relationships that the staff have with the students at Stour Valley. Thank you for your ongoing parental support in working with us to maintain our community ethos and uphold our policies and values.

In the letter that follows, I will look back on the term and let you know about staff who are leaving and any staff changes in September.

A summer term to celebrate

Year 11 students and their teachers spent the early part of the term preparing for GCSE final examinations. In total, there were 36 written examinations, 8 practical examinations and a team of 10 invigilators who managed the process. The students' behaviour during this period was impeccable. My particular thanks to Mrs Brooker, our exams officer, who managed the whole process efficiently and effectively. Year 11s finished their time at Stour Valley in style, with a leavers' assembly and barbecue in school, and a wonderful leavers' prom event at the end of June. Mrs Mayes and her team of tutors made sure that their final celebrations were enjoyable and fun after all the hard work. My thanks to them for their support for our Year 11 students throughout KS4. All that remains now is the final analysis – GCSE results day is Thursday 22 August.

Year 10 have also had a busy term. The newly elected prefects have stepped up admirably to their new duties and Year 10 have all sat formal examinations, their first real taste of examinations at GCSE level. They have just completed two weeks of work experience and we are delighted to have received so many positive reports of the experience from the students, and also such good feedback from the employers themselves.

Year 9 Cricketers finish the year as County Champions - a particular well done to them and Year 9 all enjoyed a trip to Thorpe Park as a reward for all their hard work this year. Year 9 Option choices have now all been confirmed and Year 9 will return as Year 10 to officially start their GCSE courses.

Year 8 have had a trip to Colchester Zoo and a select group of Year 7 students got a reward trip to the beach. Year 7 also had a three-day camping trip to Thriftwood, where a great time was had by all. Mrs Plumb did a great job of organising this and making it a memorable experience for her Year 7s before she passes them onto Mrs Mayes in Year 8.

We welcomed our incoming Year 6 into 7 students for three days of transition and we are delighted to be oversubscribed once again for Year 7 places. We are now full to capacity in every year group.

Student Leaders have been to Clare Primary School for an eco-project and there are plans for more joint eco work with Clare Primary next year. In addition, our Sports Leaders helped out at Hundon Primary School's Sports Day.

Sports Day was rained off on first attempt, but the sun shone bright and warm for our reserve date Sports Day. A big thank you to Mr Leppard for organising the event. Waveney House have swept the board with victory on Sports Day as well as being overall winners for the House Points competition this year. They were rewarded with an afternoon of inflatables and much fun was had by all (teachers included!). Congratulations to all Waveney students for their successes.

The Rhineland Trip is out now, at the end of term – due to return at 9pm on Tuesday 23 July. Thanks to Mrs Brown for organising this trip.

Stour Valley's Got Talent was a resounding success – we all got to enjoy some great acts and some real talent was revealed. Many thanks to Miss Garrett for all her hard work in organising this event. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon was had by those who took part and those in the audience.

Staff Leaving at the end of the summer term

Miss Garrett will be leaving us at the end of the summer term. After an awe-inspiring 36 years in teaching, the last 8 of which have been at Stour Valley, Miss Garrett is retiring. She is one of the founding members of staff at the school and has been on board since the very start when the school first opened in 2011. She will be sadly missed. We wish her well in her retirement and thank her for establishing such a successful Music department at Stour Valley.

Mr Watson, a new member of staff to the school, will be replacing her as Head of Music from September.

Miss Basham will also be leaving us. Miss Basham has also been with the school since the start and was a teacher at the Middle School on the site prior to that. Miss Basham has done a fantastic job of covering teachers' lessons when absent – a tough job, at times, to turn your hand to every and any lesson type. Miss Basham has been a valued member of staff, a real team player and she too will be sadly missed. Her contribution in supporting the Music and Drama departments with their shows is also worthy of note. We wish her well with her future plans.

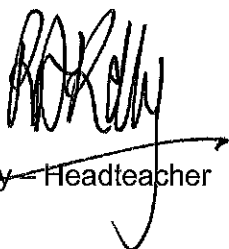
Finally, Mrs McGlue is leaving us. She has been a Learning Support Assistant (LSA) at the school since it opened. She has helped many students who have needed extra support in lessons to achieve their potential. She has also covered lessons from time to time and has helped with running the Library in the past term. A real team player. She is leaving us to continue being an LSA at another local school which is closer to home. We thank her for her contribution and wish her well in her new job.

Arrangements for the start of the new academic year

Students return to school on Wednesday 4 September 2019 following two staff training days on the 2 and 3 September.

All that remains is to thank you once again for your support throughout the year and to wish you all a very happy summer.

With kindest regards and best wishes



Mrs R Kelly – Headteacher