

16 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We made it! And this term has not been without incident, of the COVID nature. I will get the COVID bit out of the way first.

Thank you for your support and understanding with measures to mitigate against the spread in our community this term and for your continued support in these uncertain times.

COVID Measures for January return

We will continue to ask all students to wear face coverings indoors next term and will review this after the first two weeks.

You received a communication on 15th December from the school about testing before term begins. There is a link to it here:

[https://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/files/letters/Important information regarding COVID testing before the term begins in January.pdf](https://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/files/letters/Important%20information%20regarding%20COVID%20testing%20before%20the%20term%20begins%20in%20January.pdf)

I would urge you to send your children in during the day on Tuesday 4th or to ensure that they test at home before returning and upload the results to testregister.co.uk.

Onto the stuff to celebrate.

SVET 10th Anniversary Celebrations

In September SVCS was at the heart of the Stour Valley Educational Trust 10th Anniversary celebrations. During the afternoon on the 22nd there was a filmed assembly to whole school from Miss Terry showing how SVCS came about and what school life was like in 2011. There was also a P5 collapsed timetable for the whole school to create a digital album of SVCS in 2021. Every student was offered a space in the digital album to include what they think the school today stands for, what they like the most about school, their hopes for the future and what they think the school will be like in 2031. Students have submitted their contributions and they are being scanned into the digital album. Then after school on the 22nd, SVCS and CCPS staff, governors and trustees congregated in a marquee outside for a presentation and the GCSE Food students did us proud by making and serving the most delicious canapés.

Learning in our local community

Clare Archaeology Dig 2021 took place at Clare Country Park in September. Some of the SVCS Year 7s took part in the following activities: sifting earth, washing finds such as bones and pottery, a tour with archaeologist Jo Caruth to look at the skeleton of an Anglo-Saxon man found in this excavation site, digging in one of the excavation areas and a workshop with Caroline Adams. SVCS students and staff thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon at the dig.



The return of PE Fixtures and Clubs

Amid the chaos that COVID has bought, the SVCS PE department has been continuing to deliver extra-curricular activities in netball, dance, football, martial arts and rugby this term. The school teams have also been out and competing in football and netball fixtures with plans next term for sports hall athletics, 10 Pin Bowling, inter-house competitions, rugby and girls' cricket, among others. The department also ran a very popular trip to watch England vs Tonga in the Autumn International Series at Twickenham and the tickets have arrived for January's trip to watch the Men's and Women's National Basketball finals in Birmingham. The students must be congratulated with the way they have stuck to their training, showing up in all but the worst of the weather.

Creative Arts News

This term, Miss Duffy and the Creative Arts team have been delighted to be back performing and getting creative. Following the challenges and restrictions of the past 18 months, they have been working hard to rebuild student confidence and enjoyment of the creative arts subjects. This term, students from all years have been working hard towards the 2021 Christmas Concert. Thanks to all staff involved in preparing students for their performances, and particular thanks to Mr Sodey for planning, coordinating and producing the concert; it is a huge undertaking and the students have really enjoyed the opportunity to perform once again. Coming up in 2022 the team will be working towards the annual Dance Show in the spring term, and the summer term will bring the return of the Whole School Production - two events we know students (and staff) have sorely missed in the last two years.

Student Action Showcase

To finish, I am going to showcase the work of three groups of students as I am very impressed with the work they are doing and want to spread the word so that they get the recognition they deserve.

Charity Council

There are 12 members of the new Charity Council at SVCS, organised by Miss Woods. All went through an application process which allowed them to outline their views upon charity and fundraising, whilst also detailing how they would like to build upon the hard work and success of previous charity councils. Once each member was inducted into the Charity Council, they were raring to go. Firstly, they had to advertise the Christmas Jumper Day for *Save the Children*, whilst also encouraging donations for *Haverhill Food Bank*. In addition, the members of the Charity Council had to organise a Christmas Pop-Shop with the aim to sell pre-owned and pre-loved items to raise money for *Make A Wish*. Members gave up lunchtimes to staff the shop and ensure everyone who wanted to come to the shop got the best experience possible. This was a huge challenge which required Charity Council members to show organisational skills, resilience, determination and patience. Miss Woods is hugely proud of each member of the Council and they have been a credit to the school as a whole and our wider community.

The new council are: Thomas Yeo, Leigha Latarche, Evie Henderson, Ellen Billimore, Tula Benwell, James Moye, Daisy Bowden, Will Iannone, Macie Smith, Bobbi Clark, Shannon Walsh and Thomas Wordingham.

We look forward to future events to raise money for charity.

Climate Emergency Committee (CEC)

Ms Chappell and the CEC have been busy this term. Led by prefects Molly, Nancy and Mark, the CEC has steadily tried to introduce a new, greener way of thinking. They have delivered plants to classrooms, voted on the best upcycled/ recycled pot design, reduced plastic waste from the canteen and had many discussions about what happens next. Plans are currently underway for our next Green Day as well as a day off timetable for the Year 7s in April to inspire and increase awareness of recycling, sustainability and biodiversity. A particular mention should go to Milo, Hope, Jacob, Maisy, Josh and Fern, who have gone the extra mile by planting our outdoor beds with plants that are appealing to bees and butterflies. Meanwhile, Stour Valley are going to be joining forces with community interest company Greener Growth who will turbo charge our wish list of having an allotment on site.

Introducing the CEC Team: Molly Anderson, Nancy Williams, Mark Knock, Milo Campbell, Hope Hargest, Jacob Folwell, Maisy Learmouth, Josh Oswald, Fern Pritchett.



The Stour Valley Code of Ethics

A group of students have worked with Miss Howard over the past two terms and taken ownership of facing the thorny issue of sexual abuse in schools head on and have been so brave to show their commitment to this cause in front of our entire school community. They have worked diligently and with maturity to raise awareness and to take ideas from the whole school and implement and present these into the final Code of Ethics. They are passionate about making sure our school environment is safe and is a place where all of us can experience a sense of belonging. As such they are already planning ways to fundraise and raise further awareness to this cause, in particular giving students techniques and the confidence to stand up to anything that contradicts the Code of Ethics.

The Code of Ethics group are: Mabel Stocker, Miriam Bursell, Darcy Hertz, Freya Baird, Ellis Beetles, Seth Loader, Tilly Drakard-Lester, Olivia Webb, Grace Mitson, Ryn Pitson, Esther Lawson, Molly O'Leary.

I think it is fantastic that we have students who are working on such important issues in our school community and doing such great work. Well done to all and I look forward to their continued work for these causes into next year.

And finally

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Stour Valley staff for their unerring commitment to delivering the best learning experiences for the students in their care, through some challenging situations this year. Not only have they delivered in the classroom and online, but we have also managed to do a growing number of extra-curricular activities and continue to strengthen our sense of community at Stour Valley.

Your children have been an absolute credit, going along with various restrictions and COVID rules and yet still contributing and giving of their best to make the school the great place it is. And thanks to you, for your support and encouraging messages throughout this year. We have, together, navigated some choppy waters and we are very much still afloat.

School will finish at the earlier time of 2pm tomorrow.

I wish you all, on behalf of the staff and governors at Stour Valley Community School, a happy, healthy Christmas and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Kelly
Headteacher

