

7 April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

We reach the end of a challenging term. Despite a high-level staff absence, Stour Valley is gradually reverting back to some normality with the return of extra-curricular activities, trips and school events.

Mr Leppard organised a British Basketball League trip in late January and last Saturday a number of students and their families benefitted from the school receiving free tickets to the AFC Sudbury vs Hullbridge United match. I am pleased to report that sporting fixtures are now being played again.

Miss Duffy organised a theatre trip in early March to see 'The Bone Sparrow' at the Theatre Royal in Bury, which was also a popular trip.

Miss Terry and Miss Howard organised a Year 9 'Immigration Nation' Day at the end of March where the whole of year 9 attended sessions where speakers shared their own very personal stories from Ukraine, Calais, Kosovo and Zimbabwe.

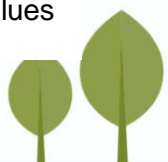
There is a Year 9 and a Year 10 Physics trip to Thorpe Park organised for the summer term, a Year 8 Zoo trip (Science) and a number of other trips and activities in the planning. The first week back after Easter is Earth Week and Year 7 will be off timetable for a range of activities on the 26<sup>th</sup> April including learning about bee keeping, building a 'wobble chair' out of recycled materials and considering how big their carbon footprint is.

Currently, Year 11 students are working hard as we approach the summer examination period. We wish all our Year 11 students the very best over the next few months and we are looking forward to holding a prom this year, the first since the pandemic began. We held our first ever prom dress sale a couple of weeks ago, with over 50 dresses available priced between £15 and £30. It was a very popular event.

This week Mr Leppard has been interviewing for next year's prefects. There were 47 Year 10 applications (the highest number ever) and 25 students were interviewed. Those students are finding out this week whether they have been successful.

This means that we will soon be 'changing the guard' and this year's wonderful group of Year 11 prefects will be stepping aside to let the Year 10 prefects take over from early May. This year's group of prefects have been an absolute credit to the school and I want to thank them most sincerely for all they have done this year. They are: Toby Bush, Beatrice Walker, Nancy Williams, Molly Anderson, Daisy Strowger, Josh Rooke, Lily Grace, Mark Knock, Eleanor Young, Florence Anderson, Gabriel Barksfield and Teri Hubbard.

This half term all tutor groups have been considering what they want our Stour Valley stated school values to be. Form representatives met with me last week to give me their feedback and I have put together a video to show all staff and governors on our training day tomorrow where staff will have a session considering the same thing. Watch this space, as we intend to launch the SVCS school values next term when we have reached a consensus.



We have two staff leaving us at the end of this term and one member of staff leaving us just after Easter. Mr Sodey, Head of Music, is leaving us to pursue an alternative education route (not in mainstream education) supporting students with their musical ambitions. Mrs Bruton, teacher of Textiles, is leaving us and Mrs Brooker, Exams Officer, will be leaving shortly after Easter. I am sure you will join me in thanking them for all they have done for the students of Stour Valley during their time at the school and wishing them well for the future.

We will welcome Mrs Hutchinson, our new Head of Music, after Easter and Mrs Eady will move into a slightly different role in school, a part of which will be to replace Mrs Brooker as Exams Officer.

### **Covid-19 update**

As you are aware, regular asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended in any educational setting. Therefore, we will no longer be issuing test kits to students or staff. Most of the specific Covid-19 guidance for education and childcare settings was withdrawn from GOV.UK on Friday 1 April.

### **DfE Updated Guidance (from 1 April 2022):**

- adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature
- **children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend**
- adults with a positive Covid-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. **For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days**
- **regular asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended in any education or childcare setting**, including in SEND, alternative provision and children's social care settings. Therefore, settings will no longer be able to order test kits

Finally, I would like to thank all the Stour Valley staff and governors for their incredible efforts during this term. All staff have worked collectively to ensure that students have received face-to-face education throughout this term.

The Easter break will provide a well-earned rest for all members of the school community.

Have a relaxing and enjoyable Easter.

With kind regards

Rachel Kelly  
Headteacher

