



**STOUR VALLEY**  
— COMMUNITY SCHOOL —

Stour Valley Community School  
Cavendish Road, Clare  
Suffolk CO10 8PJ

01787 279342

[info@stourvalley.org](mailto:info@stourvalley.org)

[www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org](http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org)

Headteacher Mrs Rachel Kelly BA (Hons)

20 December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We have reached the end of our 15-week Autumn Term and this year we have decided to really focus on celebrating success and recognising achievements of students in as many ways as we can.

You will have been receiving updates for any achievement points your child(ren) has been awarded since September and we have been adding layers to that in school. Our 'Learning Champions' rewards each lesson have proved popular, and students have been dropping the tickets they have been given into a prize draw for a weekly, termly or annual prizes. Each week three student names are drawn for a choice of smaller prizes; once a term there is a draw for two £25 vouchers and the prize at the end of the year will be a pair of Apple Air pods.

We have held Rewards assemblies this week to recognise a large number of students in every year group for their successes this term. I had the pleasure of personally signing four hundred and ninety Subject Reward certificates and these were awarded in the formal assemblies. We had Year 11 musicians performing as a part of the assembly and there was such a positive and celebratory tone to every assembly.

This week has been a busy one, with all of Year 7 going to the pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk, on Tuesday and the Christmas concert on Wednesday. Thank you to Miss Wright and Ms Hutchinson for all their hard work in organising these events.

The library has been the recipient of over £8000 worth of investment this term and has undergone a much-needed transformation. The old shelving has been removed and all the books have been re-catalogued, over 4500 books. The library now has child-friendly organisation so that the students can find what they want more easily. Ms Milburn is now looking to add more manga and graphic novels as these are very popular and a section that is under-represented.

In November a group of 12 CEC students attended the mock COP29 at Ipswich High School and represented either Indonesia or the EU. The two teams had to study the environmental policies of their given territories and prepare an opening statement. Then during the debate had to speak according to their territory's own environmental stance. The students were eloquent and knowledgeable, but also respectful to the other students. After the mock COP29 they were able to interview councillors from Babergh and Mid Suffolk as well as environmental officers from local companies. Our students were lauded for their knowledge and hard-hitting questions. After lunch they met representatives from lots of local organisations to find out what is being done for the environment and how they can join in. They had a very successful day. Thank you to Ms Milburn for leading the students in this work.



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The English Department took some Year 7 students on a trip to Cineworld as a reward for being the top-performing Bedrock students earlier in the term. They watched a film version of Michael Morpurgo's book 'Kensuke's Kingdom'. And in November Year 10 and Year 11 English classes had the opportunity to see a production of A Christmas Carol by Quantum Theatre. It was great way of both learning and revising the novella. Thank you to Mrs Gill and the English department for arranging these activities.

At the start of October, we held a fantastic Collaborate event celebrating our students' work in Art, Photography and Food. Also in October, some of our GCSE Art and Photography students went to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. They enjoyed looking at the artwork and artefacts on show and were given a guided tour by gallery staff who explained lots of interesting facts about the work. The students were amazing, behaved exceptionally and enjoyed a day of learning outside of the classroom. Thank you to Mrs Mayes, Miss Tibbles, Mrs Iannone and Mrs King for organising these events.

There has also been a number of sporting events and competitions, football, netball and cross-country events. Our school representatives have done us proud. Thank you to Mr Leppard and the PE staff for organising these fixtures.

We don't have any staff leaving us at the end of this term.

Mr Lee has decided to step down from being the Year 9 Year Leader at the end of this term and Miss Cooper is going to pick up the year group in the new year. Miss Cooper will oversee Year 9 and Year 10 from January. I would like to thank Mr Lee for all his work with the year group.

Mrs Chester is on a phased return from Maternity Leave and will be the named SENDCO once again from January. I would like to thank Miss Woods for covering the role whilst Mrs Chester was on Maternity Leave.

In other SEN news, we have created a new position of Assistant SENDCO and Miss Rimmer has been appointed to this position from January.

And to all our parents and carers, thank you for all your support this term and always. Your support is valued and we couldn't do it without you.

All that remains is for me to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Students return to school on Tuesday 7 January.

With best wishes and kind regards

Rachel Kelly, Headteacher

