

Dear Parents and Carers

28 March 2024

My end of term letter is split into the following sections:

- **Events and activities throughout this term**
- **Staffing changes for the summer term**
- **Uniform and equipment expectations reminders**
- **Proposed changes to Stour Valley Educational Trust**
- **Key dates for the summer term**

It has been another busy term and I would encourage you to have a look at our website news section [Welcome to Stour Valley Community School. - Stour Valley Community School](#) and/or to follow Stour Valley Community School on [Facebook](#) for details of some of the enrichment activities our students have been involved with this term.

Here follows details of some of this term's activities related to our Personal, Social, Health Education curriculum and Careers Education:

On Year 9 Careers Day on 14 February there were four sessions focused on future career opportunities and post-16 plans. There were two hours with the Medical Mavericks looking at skills in health and science including drunk goggles, keyhole surgery and taking blood. They had one hour with the police learning about the risks of County Lines as well as careers in policing - some students even had an experience in handcuffs. In another session students accessed Morrisby, our careers platform to consider GCSE options and career aptitude. Their final session was a careers enterprise task which was judged by local professionals. As well as this they had an assembly from the Eastern Education Group outlining post-16 opportunities including apprenticeships, A Levels, College courses and others.

Year 10 are in the middle of a schedule providing them with 1:1 support from our new Careers Advisor. This will help to prepare them for Work Experience as well as post-16 applications; and Year 11 have had visits from our school nurses in their PSHE lessons to support with making more independent health choices concerning RSE.

Miss Howard presented our Code of Ethics and response to Sexual Harassment to PGCE students at the UEA in January; and our Diet Culture Awareness non-uniform day raised £511 and encouraged us all to focus on our positive attributes.

SVCS were lucky enough to be donated a bundle of books from The Swan in Clare to celebrate Children's Mental Health Week. This was facilitated by Louise Fuller from Fox Tales Book Den in collaboration with Usborne Books. We are very grateful to all involved and we look forward to seeing the first of these books borrowed from the library.



Staff leaving and new appointments

Mrs Mayes, who left at Christmas, has re-joined the school as Head of Art and Photography. She started back at Stour Valley as Head of Photography and Art in the week before half term.

We have appointed a Head of RS, Mr Livermore, to cover Mrs Chester's Maternity Leave. He started with us on 4 March.

Miss Woods will cover Mrs Chester's SENDCO position while she is on Maternity Leave.

Miss Cooper, English teacher, has returned from Maternity Leave this week.

Mr Morris, second in Science, has accepted a position at Gosfield School. He will leave us at Easter. We have appointed Miss Rais to replace him. She will start with us after Easter.

Finally, Mr Thompson, Head of PE, will be leaving us at Easter. Mr Leppard, who left us last Christmas, applied for the job and we have re-appointed him. He will start after Easter.

Uniform expectations: Thank you for your ongoing support with ensuring that your child(ren) wear the correct uniform. Here are some reminders prior to the return on 15 April.

Jewellery: A watch and one pair of stud earrings are allowed. All other jewellery should be left at home. No visible piercings are allowed, other than a single 'stud' type earring in the lobe of each ear. This includes nose piercings, tongue piercings and other body piercings. Please note that any piercings will need to be removed for PE and Technology.

Skirts: All skirts worn must sit and remain on the knee or below. Cotton jersey and thin lycra are not allowed. There are acceptable skirts available through our uniform suppliers, Price and Buckland, or you can purchase a similar style from any other supplier. If you would like to see an example of the skirts, we have a few sample sizes in school.

Hair and makeup: Extremes of fashion in hair styles and hair colours are not allowed. Natural hair colours only are allowed. Shaved designs of any kind are not permitted. A small amount of make-up is allowed provided it is discreet and unobtrusive. Students will be asked to remove make-up where this is not the case. Coloured nail polish/varnish (including 'French Manicure'); 'gel' or acrylic nails are not allowed.

The school should be contacted prior to purchase if there is uncertainty about whether certain styles of uniform items are acceptable. Below is a link to the uniform policy, which can be found on our website. [School Uniform Policy SVCS - July 2023.pdf \(stourvalleycommunityschool.org\)](https://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/School%20Uniform%20Policy%20SVCS%20-%20July%202023.pdf)

Equipment your child should have every day - All students must come to school equipped with the following:

A pencil case, with their name on containing

- Ruler
- Minimum of 2 HB pencils
- Minimum of 2 black or blue biro pens
- Pencil sharpener
- Eraser
- Scientific calculator

Every student should also have a reading book



The future of Stour Valley Educational Trust

After much deliberation and consideration over the past three years, the Trust Board took the decision to look at other local trusts in the area with a view to a potential merger. We wanted to see whether there is a trust that would be a good fit with the community culture and ethos of the two schools in SVET. Both our schools are in a strong position and we will be entering into this process with plenty to offer as well as looking to benefit from being a part of a larger, collaborative group of schools who can be proactive in addressing school improvement needs.

SVET has reached its current stage of development through fairly organic means with a great deal of relational investment; it is important that both schools are in a trust that has the right foundations, values, culture, structures, systems and resources moving forward. I, as headteacher of SVCS, am confident that we have found a suitable trust.

After the Easter break, we will share more information and we will begin engaging with all key stakeholders and embarking on a process of due diligence with a view to CCPS and SVCS joining a successful and larger Multi Academy Trust.

Key dates for the first half of the summer term

Weds 17/4 – Year 8 author visit – Damien Hine

Thu 18/4 – Y11 exam stress workshops *

Fri 19/4 – Non-Uniform Day – Green Day (as a part of Earth Week)

Thu 25/4 – Y10 Parents' Evening

Thu 2/5 – Year 7 PSHE Day

Weds 8/5 – St Giles Trust County Lines sessions – Years 7, 8, 9 and 10

Thu 9/5 – Year 7 Parents' Evening

Weds 22/5 – Fri 24/5 – Year 7 Camp - Thriftwood

*Year 11 Wellbeing Workshops (Exam Stress)

Year 11 students are being offered exam stress workshops with OM Health and Wellbeing Consultancy ([OM Health & Wellbeing Consultancy | Bury St. Edmunds | Suffolk \(omhwc.org.uk\)](https://www.omhwc.org.uk)) on Thursday 18 April. A number of students have already requested to be part of these, but if you would like your child to join one of these hour long workshops, please email Miss L Howard directly at: lhoward@stourvalley.org before Tuesday 16 April, thank you.

All that remains is to wish you all a Happy Easter and remind you that the summer term starts on Monday 15 April.

With kind regards

Rachel Kelly, Headteacher

