



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

18 July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We come to the end of another successful and vibrant academic year at Stour Valley Community School. This letter outlines a few key changes for next year and provides some expectations reminders to ensure that we get off to a good start in September.

Anglian Learning Developments

One of the main events of the term, taking up the entire six weeks between the Easter holidays and May half term, was the due diligence process for the merger with Anglian Learning. A comprehensive report was written, and SVET Trust Board and Anglian Trust Boards both voted unanimously for the merger to go ahead. Due to the General Election being called, regional DfE boards were suspended. We therefore await the final authorisation from the DfE to continue from the September meeting of the regional board. We are still on track to become a part of Anglian Learning Trust from 1 January 2025.

SVCS Curriculum Enrichment, Trip and Visits

There has been a packed programme of curriculum enrichment at Stour Valley. Please check out the SVCS website newsfeed and/or Facebook page to see what has been happening: [Welcome to Stour Valley Community School. - Stour Valley Community School](#)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Stour Valley staff for all the opportunities they offer our students.

Changes to Pastoral Structures and Timings of School Day Next Year

We have reviewed how we organise year groups and tutors and from September a year leader will take a group on the full 7–11 journey. Additionally, we have unpicked the mixed system we have with Year 7 and 8 students in mixed tutor groups. From September 2024, there will be separate Year 7 and Year 8 tutor groups. The tutor groups will be named after the four school Houses: Deben, Kennett, Waveney and Orwell.

Each Year Leader will write to you at the start of September with key information for the year, including any changes of tutors and main points of contact.



From September the Year Leaders will be as follows:

- Miss North, Year 7
- Mrs Hutchinson, Year 8
- Mr Lee, Year 9
- Miss Cooper, Year 10
- Mr Mansfield, Year 11

We are also going to change the timings of the school day. This is to make better use of form time, which amounts to two and a half hours per week. When students arrive each morning, there will now be a 30-minute slot with their tutors. One day per week will be an assembly, and Personal, Social and Health Education will also be taught in these slots.

Rewards and Awards

The awards and rewards systems will be strengthened from September 2024 by the addition of three new 'passports' which focus on the development of our students. Initially these will focus on learners exhibiting the school values before moving to developing leadership skills.

In Key Stage 3 students will follow the **Stour Valley Passport**. This has four levels: bronze, silver, gold and platinum each with its own specific criteria. Students will review their achievement points and attendance weekly, as well as having regular opportunities to review their progress towards the criteria. In the final half term, they will write an application detailing their evidence as to how they have met the criteria. Year leaders will then work with tutors to ensure that there is consistency in the awarding of these across the key stage.

In year 10 students will complete the **Stour Valley Passport to Leadership**. This will further develop the way they demonstrate the school values but also provide them with opportunities to develop the skills required to undertake a student leadership position. This will also involve regular review of data and review of progress. At the end of year 10 students will have the opportunity to apply for prefect and will be able to use the evidence from their passport to strengthen their application. Additionally, students will also be able to apply for bronze, silver, gold and platinum awards.

An awards evening will be held for those who achieve the Passports with parents and carers invited to attend. This will be held up as a prestigious event and something that students should aspire towards and feel a real sense of achievement if they are invited.

Finally, in year 11 students will follow the **Stour Valley Passport to Prom**. This will focus on rewarding students who have shown outstanding learning habits throughout year 11 in preparation for the GCSE exams. Students will review their achievement points and attendance throughout the year whilst also reflecting on their successes and next steps.

All previous rewards systems will remain in place alongside this.



Staff Leaving and New Appointments

Mr Spalding will be retiring at the end of the summer term. He led the English department until recently when he decided to step down and work part-time and move towards retirement. He has contributed so much and will be sadly missed.

Mrs Clark has been on a fixed term supply contract teaching Maths for the past 18 months. She will be leaving at the end of the summer term.

Mr Owen has also been on a supply contract covering Miss Cooper's Maternity Leave. He will also leave SVCS at the end of the summer term.

Ms Johnstone is leaving to relocate to Norfolk. She has done some outstanding work with students struggling to read. She will be a big loss to the Learning Support Department.

Mrs Kemp, our Finance Officer, will be leaving us at the end of August and we will be advertising for a replacement in the coming weeks.

I am happy to say that we are fully staffed for September.

Mr Charlton will be joining us as a full-time teacher of Maths.

Ms Stokes will be joining us as a part-time teacher of English.

Mrs Cichorska will be joining us as a Learning Support Assistant.

And finally, Mrs Chester is going to return one day per week. She will return to full time in March 2025. Miss Woods will remain the named SENDCO until March.

Expectations Reminder for the New Start in September

All students must come to school equipped with the following:

A pencil case, with their name on containing a:

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

Uniform Expectations

Please refer to our policy and the uniform section of the website for further information, but below are some key areas I want to draw your attention to:



Footwear: Shoes are required for daily wear. They must be leather/leather-effect and be a school shoe, not a trainer or a boot. They must not be canvas or mesh. The Air Force style of shoe is allowed.

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.

Makeup, Hair and Jewellery: Makeup should be discreet and acrylic/gel/false nails and nail varnish are not allowed. False lashes are not permitted, and the uniform policy will be amended to reflect this clarification. No piercings are allowed other than one small stud in each earlobe. No jewellery other than a watch. Hair must be of a natural colour.

Please ensure that your child is fully equipped and wearing uniform that follows our school policy on their return in September.

Thank you for your ongoing support throughout this year and always.

All that remains is for me to wish you all a good summer and we will look forward to seeing your children again on Wednesday 4 September.

With kind regards

Rachel Kelly, Headteacher

