

18 July 2025

Headteacher End of Summer Term Letter to Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of another school year, I would like to begin by expressing my sincere thanks to you all for your continued support throughout the year. Today marks the completion of my seventh year as Headteacher of Stour Valley Community School — a role I am both proud and privileged to hold. The journey would be far more challenging without the unwavering support of our students, parents and carers, along with the dedication and commitment of our staff and governors.

The summer term has been a busy and enriching one, with students taking part in a wide range of exciting and educational activities.

Summer Term Curriculum Enrichment Round-Up

We commemorated **VE Day** with themed events, including code-breaking, design projects, and tea parties. History students explored Auschwitz through virtual reality and heard testimony from Holocaust survivors.

Year 7 enjoyed a memorable, if rainy, **residential trip to Thriftwood**, developing resilience, independence, and teamwork. They also visited **Jimmy's Farm** to enhance their science learning on organisms and life cycles.

The final **Enhancement Day** saw Year 9 preparing for Key Stage 4, Year 8 exploring topics like democracy and resilience, and Year 7 taking part in safety, science, and health sessions. Some completed their **Crest Award** in Science.

A new team of **Year 10 prefects** has been appointed, chosen from 47 applicants. We're proud of their commitment and leadership. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing team of prefects — they set a high standard.

The **Climate Emergency Committee** won the **Suffolk Biodiversity Competition** and were presented their award by Steve Backshall. The prize will fund a new school pond and wetland area.

Our annual **Sports Day** was a vibrant event with over 300 competitors. Deben House claimed the 2025 SVCS Sports Cup, and new school records were set in High Jump and Shot Putt.

The much-loved **Stour Valley's Got Talent** showcased a range of student acts. Congratulations to Freddie and George (Year 7) for winning with their duet of 'Lovely'.



Students enjoyed a live Spanish-language performance of *Primera Cita* by the **Onatti Theatre Company**, enthusiastically joining in with the immersive experience.

Year 8 visited London to watch *Wicked* and took part in a pre-show singing and dancing workshop led by West End professionals — a highlight for many.

A group of Year 9 Science students visited **Suez Recycling**, learning about sustainable waste management and taking part in interactive STEM activities.

We also welcomed **Clare Community Primary School** pupils to take part in a printmaking workshop and our Year 8 **Science Fair**.

Finally, our **Year 11s** celebrated the end of their school journey with a joyful prom at AFC Sudbury — a wonderful evening to mark the start of their next chapter.

We're also delighted to celebrate **Edith Dubery**, who placed third in the regional final of the **Speak Out Challenge**, delivering a powerful speech on *Modern Feminism*.

I am very grateful to the Stour Valley Staff who organise these additional activities which add so significantly to the experience of all the students at Stour Valley Community School.

Staffing Update and Pastoral Changes

As we come to the end of another school year, I wanted to share some important staffing updates with you.

From September, we will be introducing a new pastoral structure to further strengthen the support and academic progress of our students. Rather than having five separate Year Leaders, we will now have three *Raising Standards Leaders* (RSLs) focused on different year groups:

- **Mr Sims** – RSL for Year 11
- **Ms Cooper** – RSL for Years 9 and 10
- **Ms Hutchinson** – RSL for Years 7 and 8

To support students with day-to-day pastoral care and safeguarding, we're pleased to welcome **Mr Jeggo**, who will join us in September as our third *Student Support Officer*, focusing on Years 8 and 9. He joins **Mrs Pearson** (Year 7) and **Mrs Hare** (Years 10 and 11).

We also say farewell to several valued members of staff:

- **Miss S Tompkins** (Maths) is moving to The Boswells School.
- **Miss North** (Science, PE, and Year Leader) is heading to The Trinity School.
- **Mrs Higgins** (Second in English) is retiring – we thank her for her years of service and wish her a joyful retirement. She will be succeeded by **Ms Savage**.
- **Miss H Cooper** (Cover Supervisor) is relocating and will be replaced by **Mrs Brett**.
- **Mrs Tsanaktzidou** (Finance Officer) leaves us with our warmest thanks.
- **Mrs Cullimore** (Trust Business and Finance Officer) is also retiring. Her impact on the school and Trust has been immense, and she will be truly missed.

We are grateful to all our departing colleagues for their dedication and contribution to the school community and wish them every success for the future.

Looking forward to September

Students will return to school on Wednesday 3rd September, following two teacher training days on 1st and 2nd September.



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 2 HB pencils
- Minimum of 2 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 ([Uniform Policy - Stour Valley Community School](#)), 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 Only pleated skirts from September. Recommended that skirts are purchased from our supplier, Price and Buckland, as they do a range of waist sizes. All skirts worn must sit and remain on the knee or below.

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.

Once again, 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 3rd September.

With kind regards

Mrs R Kelly
Headteacher

