

# Stour Valley Community School

1 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Well, here we are – the 1<sup>st</sup> May - and it has been six weeks since schools closed. We hope that you are all keeping well in these strange times. Next Thursday the government will let us know whether there will be any changes to the current lockdown restrictions. There is certainly plenty of speculation on what might happen with schools, but we continue to watch closely and abide by the official advice.

We are sending out work today, via parent and student emails and placed in the Student Area, for weeks 7 & 8. As time passes, we are aware that students are working through tasks at different speeds. It may be that some children are ready to start the new tasks immediately, whilst many are completing work from previous weeks, especially those who had a break over the Easter holidays. It is entirely up to you, as a family, to decide how best to structure the work. Staff are all on hand, via email or phone, to offer advice if you feel you need support with home learning.

To supplement the work that we send out don't forget the national organisations who are providing learning resources, which we flag regularly on our Facebook page. The Oak Academy, for example, publishes work for 180 videoed lessons each week, across every year group from Reception through to Year 10: <https://oaknat.uk/3avNzUQ>

## **Year 9 Options Process**

We are going to conduct the Year 9 Options process next week, 4-8 May, with the deadline for forms to be submitted on Monday 11 May. Please note, this is not a first-come-first-served system and the forms will not be looked at until after 11 May. Year 9 parents and carers have received a full and detailed email about this, but key points are reiterated here:

The 2020-22 Options Booklet has been issued to students already and there is a copy on the school website if a reminder is needed. [?http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/index.php/gcse-subjects](http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/index.php/gcse-subjects)

All Year 9 students will have a 1:1 phone interview during week of 4-8 May to discuss their thoughts, as they would if we were in school. This may be with a tutor, careers advisor, SENCo or member of the leadership team.

Once students have had their 1:1 interview they should email any other questions to the Head of Department for that subject - the person to email is at the bottom of each page of the Options booklet. If you do not have access to email then please phone Reception and we will arrange for the relevant person to call back.

If there are any questions about any aspect of the process then please contact Mr Lee - rlee@stourvalley.org - in the first instance.

## **Secondary Ready and A level Ready Maths Materials**

We shared this on Facebook this week:

Free maths lessons - this week for Year 6 students to get the 'secondary ready' and for Year 11 students to get the 'A level ready'. [https://learning.sparx.co.uk/live-lessons?fbclid=IwAR0VBOvxgEORTF-mty0241q-Zw100ewprKPautSGO\\_-tcznITT\\_2laNV\\_XQ](https://learning.sparx.co.uk/live-lessons?fbclid=IwAR0VBOvxgEORTF-mty0241q-Zw100ewprKPautSGO_-tcznITT_2laNV_XQ)

## **Year 11 transition materials**

All applicants to Abbeygate Sixth Form received an email this week which contained this link <https://bit.ly/AbbeygateYr112020> which took them to Abbeygate's Moodle page. Students need to log in as guests and they can then select the work for the subjects they have chosen to study. Those students who may be in two minds about a subject should try some of work from the other subjects they might be considering. There are a range of activities and tasks that students can select. Abbeygate have indicated a minimum that they would like students to complete so as not to overload them, but encouraged them to complete as much as possible so they are fully prepared to thrive and flourish at A-level.

West Suffolk College has put summer work for Year 11 students onto the 'Schools' page of their website, and it can be accessed on the following link: <https://www.wsc.ac.uk/schools/year-11-summer-project-work>.

## **IT updates and changes**

### **SECOND STAGE OF IMPORTANT CHANGES ON TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MAY – PLEASE NOTE**

We are looking to enhance what we are offering in terms of remote learning and in order to do so we are making changes to our system. A part of this will be to create a single login for students, where they will access their emails and the school resources area from one login. This change is happening in two stages. Stage 1 happened on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April when all student email addresses changed to initialsurname@stourvalley.org.

Stage 2 is next Tuesday and student email passwords will change to be the same password as the remote access login.

The school email is our main way of communicating with our students. They should be checking their school email regularly. Would you please remind your children to keep in touch this way and check school email regularly. We continue to include Year 11 in our regular communications. Please do not ask staff to use alternative email addresses as our main student communications go to Stour Valley student email and they should be in the habit of checking this.

Once again, do continue to email itsupport@stourvalley.org for any technical issues.

## **Free School Meals**

You may already be aware that part of the government support package during the coronavirus pandemic is to provide all parents with children eligible for free school meals with a £15 voucher each week to help towards the additional cost of food from having your child/children at home.

Some of you will already be in receipt of this, but we wanted to reach out to those of you who have recently been financially affected by the outbreak through either unemployment or a reduction in your income.

If you have recently been awarded Universal Credit or other income based benefit, you may also be entitled to free school meals and we would urge you to make a claim with Suffolk County Council to see if you may also be eligible for this government scheme.

Please visit the following website where you can find additional guidance on eligibility and also how to apply.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-meals-uniforms-and-trips/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

Once you have confirmation, please contact Mrs Eady by email, keady@stourvalley.org and we can set you up to receive weekly shopping vouchers which can be redeemed in most of the main supermarkets.

## **Competitions**

Congratulations to 17 of our year 8 students whose poetry has been selected by Young Writers to be published in a national competition. Students had to write with empathy 'through the eyes' of someone/something else. We had some truly excellent entries. Well done to Jordan Wright, Haydn Restarick, Miriam Bursell, Henrietta Walker, Aurelia Stonehouse, Charlie Harrington, Abigail Nicholas, Olivia Webb, Tilly Drakard-Lester, Ewan Bank, Ishka Mallon, Jerry Zhao, Niquita Birkett-Sharp, Mabel Stocker and 3 others. We are very proud of you!

And Stour Valley have launched their own competitions this week (with prizes!). There is a wide range from which to choose, from writing creatively, to taking pictures, to designing something, to growing something - there is a competition to allow everyone to get involved. Some parents have been having a go too! For further details, look out for the email sent to all students this week, which explains rules, gives guidance, point of contact and deadlines for entries.

Stay safe and don't hesitate to email staff with any concerns or to share good news and positivity. There is also someone available to answer the phone in school on weekdays between 8:30am and 3pm.

With kind regards

Rachel Kelly, Headteacher



**STOUR VALLEY**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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