

Stour Valley Community School

13 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We have now made plans for a full return to school for all students in September and they have been reviewed by the Local Governing Body and Board of Trustees. The bus companies are in the process of completing their own risk assessment but it should be presumed that students travelling by bus will need to wear a face mask, as per current government guidance on public transport. Current guidance from the government and Public Health England (PHE) is that face masks are not needed in schools.

I have attached a guidance document for parents/carers and students and I would ask that you read it carefully with your child(ren). We also have a full and comprehensive risk assessment document that you may request to see by calling Reception this week on 01787 279342.

I would emphasise that this is a plan for 8 weeks' time and there may well be revised COVID-19 guidance that we will need to incorporate by then. I will write to you again formally with any amendments/updates twice in the school holidays, once on Friday 21st August, the day after GCSE results and again on Tuesday 1st September (following a review of the RA prior to opening on September 2nd to Year 7).

Year 7 will return on Wednesday 2nd September; Year 10 and 11 will return on Thursday 3rd September; and Years 8 and 9 will return on Monday 7th September. This staggered start will allow us to carefully induct our students into new routines and expectations. Students will return in full uniform.

We are prioritising a return to something as 'normal' as possible, to quickly restore relationships and keep a broad and balanced curriculum whilst following PHE guidance about a 'system of controls'.

Whilst current Government guidance suggests creating 'bubbles' of students to keep year groups completely isolated from each other, this is not possible in a small building. With all students using the same corridors and same toilet blocks, complete isolation is not achievable. Many primary schools are able to achieve this by keeping each group in the same room; this is impossible when delivering the full broad and balanced secondary curriculum. Where secondary schools are able to isolate a year group this is due to the use of part-time timetables or a restricted curriculum, both of which do not support the full return to school. Therefore, students will be taught in groups made up from their own year group but they are likely to come into minimal contact with other students during the school day.

Students that have borrowed laptops will not need to return them before the summer break. We will collect them back in September.

All parents and carers eligible to receive Free School Meal vouchers will receive vouchers to cover the 6-week summer break.

Thank you for your ongoing support in these challenging times. I will write a final weekly update on Friday to mark the end of the summer term.

With kind regards

Rachel Kelly, Headteacher.



STOUR VALLEY
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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