

Stour Valley Community School

16 July 2020

Dear parents and carers

I hope that you and your families have enjoyed the summer break with the relaxation of lockdown rules and some semblance of normality.

As promised in my communication before the break, I am writing to you today and will do again before term starts on September 1st.

Welcoming back the whole school in September

I am pleased to say that there has been no major change to our proposed model for the whole school returning to full time education in September. Please refer to my letter and guidance document dated 13 July 2020. I have attached the Parent and Student Information sheet I sent you that day which has been slightly amended with regards to uniform expectations on days when your child has PE or Dance.

On days when students have PE or Dance lessons they should attend school in SVCS PE or Dance kit so as to avoid having to use the changing rooms at this time. Stour Valley PE kit includes branded blue SVCS PE tops and branded navy SVCS PE jumpers, plain navy or black shorts and/or jogging bottoms (small logo or stripes are allowed) with white sports socks or blue football socks. Other jumpers, hoodies and tracksuits are not allowed to be worn. In cold weather PE kit can be worn underneath normal school clothes which can be removed prior to PE lessons starting without having to visit the changing room areas.

For PE kit expectations and all uniform expectations please ensure that you adhere to our uniform policy <http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/images/2020SchoolUniformapprovedJuly20201.pdf> and check with your child's Tutor or Year Leader if you are unsure. Allowing your child to persuade you to buy inappropriate trousers, skirts or shoes which you will then need to replace can be a costly affair.

Year 7 will return on Wednesday 2nd September for three days of transition and will NOT wear uniform on the 2nd September, but will need to be in full uniform from Thursday 3rd September; Year 10 and 11 will return on Thursday 3rd September in full uniform; and Years 8 and 9 will return on Monday 7th September in full uniform. This staggered start will allow us to carefully induct our students into new routines and expectations. Students will be given their timetables on their first day of return and there will be no practical PE lessons delivered on any student's first day, so Years 8, 9 10 and 11 should be in full school uniform on their first day.

For students who travel by bus, Chambers have produced some guidance and asked us to share it with the parents of students who will be using the Chambers service – it is attached to this email. We have not yet received any guidance to share with you from Suffolk Passenger Transport. If you have any queries about buses, please contact the company directly or the school's business manager kcullimore@stourvalley.org may be able to help.

GCSE Results 2020

The past few months and weeks have been challenging for our students in many ways. It was a sad and abrupt end to our Year 11 students' time at Stour Valley but we did the best we could to mark the occasion with a hastily organised leavers' assembly and shirt signing.

Waiting for examination results is always an anxious time and the uncertainty caused by recent events has not helped the situation. We are delighted that students have now been awarded Centre Assessed Grades. We join the students and their families in celebrating their achievements, which represent the culmination of many years spent studying. We congratulate all the students on their GCSE results. We are proud of their resilience in these unprecedented times and delighted to be able to finally give them the recognition their efforts deserve.

Congratulations to all 116 Stour Valley Community School students from Year 11 2019-20, who received their GCSE results today. Top '9' grades were awarded in Drama, Food Technology, Art, English, Maths, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, RE, French, Resistant Materials, Computing, Geography and History. One student achieved grade 9s across the board.

Well Done to the class of 2020 and all best wishes for the future.

Summer site improvements and further development plans

There have been a variety of works carried out over the summer holiday period – from the normal redecoration and maintenance of the building to more specialist items.

Morrison Utility Services were contracted by National Grid Gas to replace the deteriorating gas main in the school grounds and driveway as part of a county-wide ongoing refurbishment project. Work started at the beginning of the holidays and was scheduled to last for 4-6 weeks; unfortunately, this also meant that for the first time in many years we were not able to open our swimming pool to the public, as access was severely restricted during this time. This work is now being finalised, and the site should be back to normal by the beginning of September.

We are also very pleased to advise that the old, inefficient fluorescent lighting throughout the school has been changed to energy efficient LED lighting – this not only provides better lighting quality for our students and staff, it will allow for energy efficiencies resulting in lower costs and a better carbon footprint for the school – something we are very keen to expand.

The last major project has yet to happen, but plans have been progressing throughout the summer. The school has been given the opportunity to bid for several thousand pounds by way of a capital project – i.e. one which will enhance the building and benefit the students. We have identified the need – especially with COVID-19 restrictions impacting space in the dining hall – to provide external shelter for our students so they can be outside whilst under cover. The proposal we have put forward is for a canopy to the rear of the building which has in-built overhead heating. We are currently awaiting the outcome of this bid but will keep you updated.

New Staff

I am very pleased to welcome a number of new staff to Stour Valley. The following staff will be joining SVCS in September and I wish them every success in their new positions:

Mrs S Drury, teacher of Maths; Mrs I Gill, teacher of English; and Miss L Savage, teacher of English.

We look forward to welcoming all the students back in September. We are prioritising a return to something as 'normal' as possible, to quickly restore relationships and keep a broad and balanced curriculum whilst following government guidance about a 'system of controls'. I will write again on Tuesday September 1st.

With kind regards

Rachel Kelly, Headteacher



STOUR VALLEY
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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