

# Stour Valley Community School

1 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As promised, a final update before children return to school. I will be repeating key points from my update on August 21<sup>st</sup> as well as adding new information about changes with regard to wearing face masks.

Staff have all been in today and there is a buzz of excitement and anticipation as we look forward to welcoming all our students back over the course of the next week.

I have attached the updated Parent and Student Information sheet with two key changes since July, namely with regard to students coming to school in PE kit on days when they have PE and the recommendation for face masks to be worn in communal areas. Please take time to read through this information with your child before they return.

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> Do 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.

I also want to emphasise that students will be spending break and lunchtimes outside in all but the most inclement weather and should therefore ensure that they have suitable outdoor clothing to keep them warm and dry in all weather conditions.

One key recent change on our risk assessment is in response to the Government's revised position on the wearing of face masks at school since my last update, giving schools discretion to require face mask in areas outside of the classroom where social distancing cannot be easily maintained.

Although the wearing of face masks in school is not compulsory in our region at present, we will be recommending the responsible wearing of face masks by students and staff when they are in indoor communal areas (hall, corridors, toilets, queuing for lunch) of the school to further reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission. Some staff may wear visors in classrooms, in line with individual risk assessments. **The wearing of face masks is mandatory on public transport and school buses.**

Please ensure that your child understands how and when to wear a face mask safely. It must be worn so that it covers the mouth and nose. Please also ensure that your child has access to plain or patterned face coverings and brings a clean face mask to school each day (no images or slogans).

Year 7 will return tomorrow, 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 – I emailed it last week and have attached again to this email. If you have any queries about buses, please contact the company directly or the school's business manager [kcullimore@stourvalley.org](mailto:kcullimore@stourvalley.org) may be able to help.

We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students tomorrow, Year 10 and 11 on Thursday and Years 8 and 9 on Monday 7th.

From Friday 4th September, communication will be weekly via the Parent/Carer bulletin.

With best wishes and kind regards

Rachel Kelly, Headteacher



**STOUR VALLEY**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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