

Stour Valley Community School

20 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Today student absence is similar to yesterday, with 249 students off school; and we have a slightly increased number of students self-isolating due to having cold symptoms or potential COVID-19 symptoms themselves or family members with symptoms or in the at-risk category. This figure is at 198 students today.

Today is the last day of school for a number of weeks for the vast majority of our students. We wish you and them well in the coming weeks and we will continue to send out a pack of suggested home learning activities every two weeks. We have emailed this work home and also put it in a folder entitled '2020 School Closure' in the Student Shared area. We are working on the assumption that students will contact their teachers by email if they need support. Students should save work completed electronically or on paper and bring it into school on their return.

There will not be a Parent/Carer bulletin today as this communication and the daily communications this week have covered everything that we need to communicate at this time. I do intend to continue to send out a weekly communication in the coming weeks.

Staff are contactable by their email, initialsurname@stourvalley.org and we have reminded students of the safeguarding email safe@stourvalley.org and of IT support, itsupport@stourvalley.org. Mr J Nunn, Miss C Bank and Mr R Lee are our designated safeguarding officers and they have access to the safeguarding mailbox. Your children's Year Leaders and Tutors will also be accessing their emails regularly. There will be a skeleton staff in school each day to look after the children of key workers in the coming weeks. Please do bear in mind when contacting staff by email, that staff may be ill, focusing on looking after their own relatives and/or simply not have access to internet at any given time. Be reasonable in your expectation of response times, as we will not necessarily be able to respond as quickly as we usually would.

We will issue those eligible for Free School Meals two weeks' worth of vouchers by email today. We will do this every two weeks, including over the Easter break until further notice. We will also give girls eligible for FSM sanitary products today and organise delivering free sanitary products to those students eligible for Free School Meals who are not in school today.

Children of key workers and some of our more vulnerable learners will be attending from Monday. These children do not need to wear school uniform. They will need to bring a packed lunch, snacks and drinks for the day, as our canteen will not be open. We will have a rota of staff in school from Monday, including someone who is First Aid trained and someone trained in Child Protection. Staff will be supervising the children whilst they complete the tasks teaching staff have set for the next two weeks, get some regular fresh air and we hope to organise some other activities, depending on which staff we have available on any given day. We are working to normal school day opening times.

We are still awaiting an update on what will happen with GCSE results. Staff and Year 11 students are shocked and upset by this abrupt end; there is a great deal of understandable sadness and frustration all round. We are enormously proud of our Year 11 students who have been working hard towards their final examinations. We have to trust the government reassurances that they will be awarded what they deserve. As I said in my communication yesterday, we will look to reorganise the Year 11 Leavers' Event as soon as we are able.

This week has been one like no other, responding to a constantly evolving situation. Thank you for your understanding and patience. On behalf of all the staff at Stour Valley, I want to wish you and those close to you safe passage through these uncertain times. We look forward to the time when our school will be fully open again and welcoming your children back.

Kind regards



STOUR VALLEY
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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