PARENT CARER BULLETIN

STOUR VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Week Commencing 19 October 2026







Autumn Enhancement Day

Broadening horizons together:

We had a fantastic Autumn Enhancement on Thursday with all students off their usual timetable to develop their skills, collaborate with each other and explore their future options.

Year 11 explored post-16 options, improved their interview skills, heard about possible health concerns (Home - It's On the Ball), developed their understanding of driving theory, safety and maintenance.

Year 10 have learnt about contraceptives and self-examination with our school nurses (School Nursing Service - Suffolk County Council), drug awareness with Turning Point (Suffolk Drug and Alcohol Service | Turning Point), the world of work with the Department for Work and Pensions (Department for Work and Pensions - GOV.UK).

Year 11 and 10 ended the day with an assembly on Progressive Masculinity (Home - Progressive Masculinity). Following this student session, staff will also be undertaking training with this to better support all our students.

Year 9 have look at options for workplace experiences, risks involved with sexual images and county lines with Suffolk Constabulary (Home | Suffolk Constabulary) and the importance of water safety and hygiene (with resources from Add water to your will | Legacy giving | WaterAid).

Year 8 have learnt about supporting people with and understanding cancer (Lennox Children's Cancer Fund Charity and Support Services), and options for workplace experiences.

Year 7 have shown their enthusiasm and energy in a Musical Theatre workshop, collaborated in a STEM bridge building challenge and developed their understanding of Humanism.

In addition, all year groups have had the opportunity to provide feedback on the Futures curriculum (Futures (PSHE Plus) – Stour Valley Community School and support offered at SVCS (SVCS Wellbeing – Stour Valley Community School).

Year 7 to 10 have also been engaging with current affairs and questioning the reliability of different media sources and their biases.

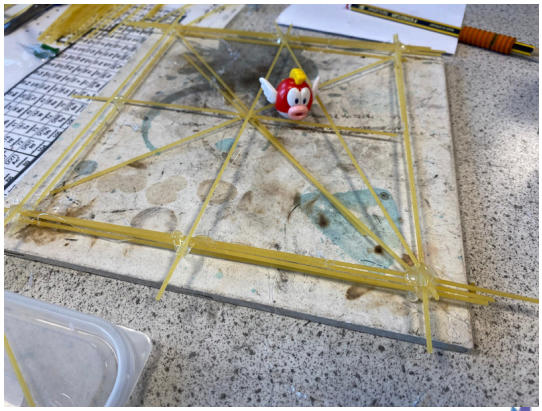
Finally, year 7 and 8 have begun their trial of 'Open Sessions' with their form tutors. This will be an activity they undertake during form time once every four weeks after half term. This is designed to give out students the opportunity to share their worries, concerns, joys and successes and receive support and advice from other student members of their tutor groups. We are very excited to start this trial and will soon be asking our students and their parents and carers for feedback on its impact.

As always, we are grateful to our expert external providers and to our own staff for making this day such a success. We are also incredibly impressed by the attitude of our students who throughout the day have shown their ability to be kind, be brave, be ambitious and collaborate.









Thriftwood Summer Camp: Important Information for Year 7 Families

Deposit deadline, trip details, and an invitation to our Information Evening on 12 November 2026:

You should now have received an email containing the Year 7 Thriftwood Summer Camp letter.

If your child would like to attend, please note that a non-refundable deposit of £25 is required by Friday 6 November 2026 to secure their place.

We would also like to invite parents and carers to an Information Evening on Thursday 12 November 2026 at 6:00pm, which will be held at Stour Valley Community School. This will be an opportunity to find out more about the trip, ask any questions, and receive further information about the camp.

We look forward to seeing you there and to what promises to be an exciting experience for our Year 7 students.

Your Futures Update

Available via our website:

https://stourvalley.org/downloads/FUTURES_Autumn_1_Weeks_5-6.pdf

https://stourvalley.org/downloads/FUTURES_Autumn_1_Weeks_7-8.pdf



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Events this November

Keep track of important events this month:

- Monday 2 November – Non-pupil Day.
- Friday 6 November – Influenza vaccination session 2, 8:50am–12pm.
- Thursday 12 November – Year 7 Thriftwood Parent Carer Information Evening, 6pm.
- Tuesday 17 November – Year 9 Of Mice & Men Theatre trip, 7:15–10pm
- Friday 27 November – Non-pupil Day.

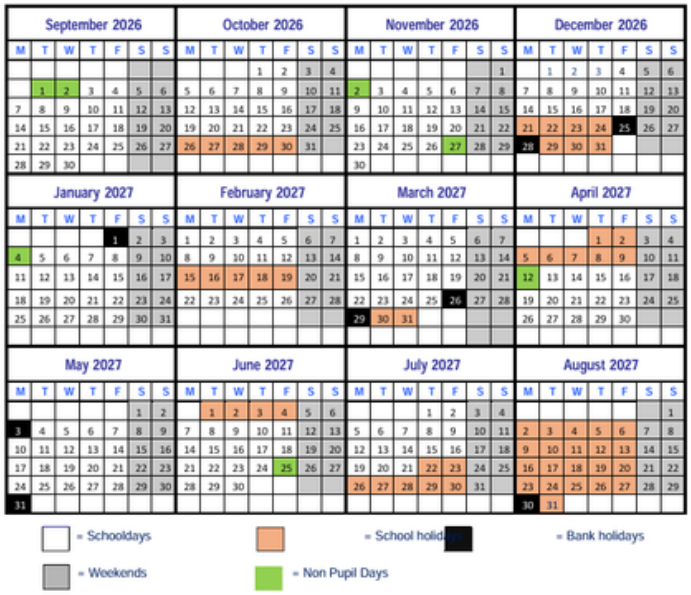
Autumn Term Dates

This season's term dates at a glance:

- 26–30 October 2026 – Half Term.
- 2 November 2026 – Non Pupil Day.
- 27 November 2026 – Non-pupil Day.
- 21 December 2026 – 1 January 2027 – Christmas Break.

Academic Year 2026-2027

Stour Valley Academic Year 2026-2027



Autumn Term:	Tuesday 1 September 2026 – Friday 18 December 2026 *Half Term 26 October – 30 October*	74 days
Spring Term:	Monday 4 January 2027 – Thursday 25 March 2027 *Half Term 15 February - 19 February*	54 days
Summer Term:	Monday 12 April 2027 – Wednesday 21 July 2027 *Half Term 31 May – 4 June, and May Bank Holiday - 3 May*	67 days
		195 days

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ANGLIAN LEARNING