



STOUR VALLEY

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Parent/Carer Bulletin

Autumn Term

Dates

Half

Term

Mon 26 Oct - Fri

30 Oct 2020

Non-pupil

Day

Fri 20 Nov 2020

Dates for your Diary

- Monday 28 September, West Suffolk College present live stream assembly for Year 11
 - Tuesday 29 September - Year 7 & 9 Individual Photographs with *Kittle Photography*
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**Autumn Term
ends**

Fri 18 Dec 2020

**Christmas
Break**

Mon 21 Dec
2020 - Fri 1 Jan
2021

**Spring Term
starts**

Mon 4 Jan 2021

**Upcoming
Events this
September**

**Monday 28
September**

West Suffolk
College present
live stream
assembly for
Year 11

**Tuesday 29
September**

Year 7 & 9
individual
student
photographs
with *Kittle
Photography*

Year 11 Post-16 Information

The Year 11 students should now start to look at their post-16 options for next year, it will come round very quickly! Due to the current situation, we are unable to hold whole year assemblies, so we have asked each post-16 provider to send us a presentation which the tutors will show during tutor time. Prospectuses are being sent in the next few weeks and we will advise you of the open evenings (these will be virtual) in due course. We would like all students to have applied to their chosen college/sixth form by Christmas. Students can apply for more than one course, with more than one provider. They can then make a decision when they receive their GCSE results next year. If you have any questions, please contact keady@stourvalley.org

Year 11 Post-16 Open Events

Ipswich High School, Ipswich - 30 September 2020

Contact Rebecca Geoghegan - r.geoghegan@ipswichhighschool.co.uk 01473 780201

Suffolk One, Ipswich - 10 October 2020, 9:30am-12:30pm

Colchester Institute, Colchester Virtual Open Event - 13 October 2020, 6-8pm.

Book online - <https://www.colchester.ac.uk/events/#open-events>

Otley College, Ipswich Virtual Open Event - 15 October 2020, 5:30-8pm

Book online -

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ipswich-campus-taster-event-tickets-120180937419>

1 December 2020 – 5:30-8pm

27 February 2020 – 9:30-12 noon

5 May 2020 – 5:30-8pm

Long Road Sixth Form, Cambridge Virtual

Tour - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-fN8xSWEiU&feature=youtu.be>

Microsoft TEAMS

Some teachers are now using Teams for setting homework, as we want students to 'keep their hand in' and remain familiar with Teams should we have another full or partial closure and students need to go back to remote learning. In addition, it is a good way of setting and marking work without having to quarantine books before handling them. We have set all of Year 7 up on Teams and we are doing reminder

and refresher sessions with all other year groups. There are two guides below for students and parents/carers to have a read through, explaining key functions of Teams. If there are any further questions, please contact us and we will be happy to help:

<http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/images/SVCSHowtoUseTeamsforParentsandStudents.pdf>

<http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/images/QuickStartGuideStudents.pdf>

Work for Students In Self-Isolation

If a student needs to self-isolate because they are unwell, there is no expectation that they should be completing school work until they are feeling better. Those students who are self-isolating because they have been instructed to do so, or have received a positive Covid-19 test but are feeling well, will be provided with a pack of work from school which we will deliver to their home address. Work is not being provided on Teams or emailed for individual absences due to the amount of time it takes teachers to create these activities whilst also teaching the normal timetable. The pack will include work from each subject area and will match what is being covered in lessons. Where an exact match to the work is not possible, for example in a practical learning subject, then work which contributes to the overall project will be provided.

If a student has Covid-19 symptoms and is waiting for a test we will provide work once the positive test result is confirmed. As you will appreciate, we are receiving calls each day about different students being in self-isolation. It is not an efficient use of staff time to set up and arrange delivery of work packs, only to find the student has returned to school within 48 hours after a negative test result. Whilst they are at home, students can use a range of resources to continue their learning, if they are well enough. These could include Mathswatch, Bedrock (Years 7-9), Bitesize, Oak Academy, Seneca, code.org or any of the other online resources which students have been shown.

Staff can be emailed with any questions. Please be aware that these may not be answered until the end of the day as lessons are continuing as normal in school. The work packs will remain under review and different arrangements will be published for a lockdown or partial closure situation.

Coats for Autumn Weather

Please ensure that your child/ren have a waterproof jacket/coat as they will be spending all break and lunchtimes outside in all but the most inclement weather. This means they will be sent outside in rain and cold weather and must be prepared for that. Students will be able to hang coats on the back of chairs in classrooms or hang them on a hook outside, depending on the classroom. It may well be a good idea to bring in a carrier bag for the coat if your child is concerned about where to put it whilst lockers are out of use.

Hoodies and non-uniform sweatshirts are not school uniform and are not acceptable as a layer to keep your child/ren warm.

Young Minds Wear Yellow - World Mental Health Day

SVCS will be having a non-uniform day on Friday 9 October 2020 to raise money for the mental health charity Young Minds. Students are encouraged to donate £1 and can wear their own clothes for the day. The theme is 'wear yellow', however, students do not have to do so. Clothing and footwear must be suitable for lessons in school, and please ensure your child has their bus pass, planner and equipment for lessons. The usual make-up, hair and jewellery policies will still apply. Should you have any enquiries, please contact Miss Woods, Miss Howard or Mrs Bruton:



Free School Meals

Please find below the link to apply for a Free School Meal (if your child already has a Free School Meal, you do not need to reapply). Should you have any enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Suffolk County Council on: 0345 606 6067 for advice.

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-meals-uniforms-and-trips/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

Updating Student Data

We use a system called SIMS Parent Lite to allow parents to update us with changes to their contact details, medical conditions etc. We have sent you an invite this week to enable you to do this. The user guide is attached for your information, if you do have any queries please do not hesitate to contact kedy@stourvalley.org

<http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/images/simsparentappguide.pdf>

The SIMS Parent Lite app is GDPR compliant

Attendance Guidance for Parents/Carers

Please view the following link for guidance regarding attendance if your child is unwell:

<http://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/images/Guidanceforparentsrefattendanceatschoolifchildisunwell.pdf>

