

Dear Parents and Carers

Well, we come to the end of the first six weeks of school online in the latest lockdown. We know that there will definitely be two more, the two weeks after half term, and we wait to hear what plans will be for children to return to school. We have been so impressed with our Stour Valley students and how well they have engaged with their online lessons. We have all had to adapt to new routines, but staff and students alike have done a great job. I recommend a complete break from screens next week, some fresh air and exercise and hopefully the opportunity to notice those first signs of Spring and some warmer, brighter weather.

### **Snow Day**

On the subject of weather, the beginning of this week saw an old-fashioned snow day on Monday. I hope that staff and students alike took the opportunity to wrap up warm and get outside and enjoy the snowy conditions.

### **COVID Testing**

SVCS LFD Testing Centre opened to staff today - G6 has been transformed. A huge thank you to governors, parents and staff who have volunteered to help us run this. We started with testing staff today and the week after half term and then will offer to students who are currently coming into school during lockdown in the week beginning 1st March. We will need more volunteers when all children return and if you are able to help, please do email the school - [info@stourvalley.org](mailto:info@stourvalley.org) If you follow us on Facebook, take a look at some of the photos from today.

Many thanks to those who responded to last week's update to offer their help. I apologise for not having got back to you yet; I will email you later today before the half term break.

### **Year 9 Technology rotations**

From Monday 22nd February Year 9 Technology students will move on to their next Technology subject. Students will rotate in the following way - Resistant Materials to Food, Food to Textiles, Textiles to Graphics and Graphics to Resistant Materials.

This change will happen at the end of the day on Friday 12th February in order to allow teaching staff to set up new groups and send out lesson invites over half-term.

### **Food Technology – message to Year 7 and 8 parents**

If your child is currently in the Food Technology rotation - they are invited to participate in a practical cooking lesson at home on the following date:

Class 7.1 - 22nd February - Choc chip cookies  
Year 7.2 - 23rd February - Choc chip cookies  
Year 8 - 1st March – Pizza

Students have been told about this, what ingredients they will require and instructions on how to complete the task will be shared at the start of their lesson. We hope they will have remembered to share this with you but just in case they forget and to give plenty of notice for sourcing ingredients we thought it would be helpful to share these dates.

### **Bedrock – Notice to Years 7, 8 and 9 from the English Department**

As lockdown fatigue kicks in we have seen the numbers of students completing their TWO Bedrock sessions decline. Students are able to do Bedrock in their English lessons so should have no real issue with keeping on top of this extremely useful task. Please would you take a moment to check that your child/children are doing their Bedrock work.

All that is left is for me to wish you and your families a restful, safe and happy half term break. We will welcome students back to school on Monday 22nd February, for a prompt, 8:30am start.

With kind regards

Rachel Kelly  
Headteacher

