

Stour Valley Community School

15 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this email finds you well in these uncertain times. The government announcement last Sunday and subsequent documents that have since landed in my inbox have only provided clarity about one thing: that Years 7, 8 and 9 will not be returning to school this term. The subject of a return of some sort for Year 10 students ("some face to face contact" is the phrase being used) before the summer is being put forward; but as yet, no firm ideas as to what this might look like. Schools are being encouraged to give it some thought and carry out risk assessments, which we are doing. This is all turning out very differently to how any of us first imagined.

Last week I mentioned that the Stour Valley teachers were going to be receiving some training on using Microsoft Teams. This is a Microsoft 365 platform which we are moving to using in the coming weeks. It will not only allow us to set work, but also to monitor whether it is being completed, feed back on the quality of the work submitted and, where appropriate, add some video content for teaching key topics.

The introductory training session happened on Tuesday and some of your children will have already received invites to join Teams – we are prioritising Year 10 in the first instance, but some lower school groups are also being set up at this early stage. Attached to this letter is an introduction to Teams for students – we will also email this to every student. It is essential that all students are checking and responding to school emails. If there are any issues accessing email accounts, please email itsupport@stourvalley.org as a matter of urgency.

In the meantime we are continuing to send out two-weekly packs of work, the next two weeks (next week and the week after half term) have been emailed to all parent and student email addresses today. The two systems will run concurrently as we change over. Please note that we have not set work for half term.

MORE BEDROCK VOCABULARY VICTORS

In my newsletter last week, I praised some Key Stage 3 students for their Bedrock achievements. This week I have a few more to add to that list – well done!

Each month we receive a usage report from Bedrock showing data regarding achievement, progress and so forth. April usage shows great engagement from many students who are making maximum use of the app. Bedrock is proving to be a very helpful tool for our students to keep the momentum rolling in their English studies (please encourage/nag your son/daughter to keep up their weekly work).

Particular mention (in addition to those mentioned last week) goes to the following students (achievement points on return to school):

Eleanor Tomson
Callum Marshall
Melody Evans
Will Tregoning
James Ward
Megan Cooper

Please do take time to read the attached document about using Teams and ensure that your son/daughter has access to and is accessing their school email account.

Stay safe and keep well

With best wishes and kind regards

Rachel Kelly
Headteacher



STOUR VALLEY
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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