

Stour Valley Community School

26 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I cannot quite believe that this is my fourteenth weekly update. I hope this email finds you all safe and well. Staff have greatly appreciated the positive feedback we have received about use of Teams as a teaching and learning platform. Thank you for taking the time to contact us. I do believe that Teams allows us to keep a greater sense of community and connection with our students, including the possibility for some mental health and wellbeing support as well as Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). I am very appreciative of the efforts of my staff to train themselves up with a completely new skills set in order to deliver effective lessons through Microsoft Teams. It has been a steep learning curve for us all, but one that we all agree is worth the effort to deliver a better quality of education in these unprecedented times.

There are just three weeks left of the summer term and I do want to try and provide some clarity for the final weeks and the start of next term.

It is our intention to close for the summer break unless government guidance changes. We have remained open to the children of key workers and vulnerable students since March 20th, including Easter and half term holidays and bank holidays. Please work on the assumption that we will be closed.

Students that have borrowed laptops will not need to return them before the summer break. We will collect them back in September.

All parents and carers eligible to receive Free School Meal vouchers will receive vouchers to cover the 6-week summer break, as announced by the government last week.

You will be aware that the government have announced a £1 billion Covid “catch-up” package to directly tackle the impact of lost teaching time. To date we have received no further detail or guidance around this.

We are planning for a full return in September and await the government guidance about this. We will continue to teach the Year 10 published timetable this term (to complement their work on Teams), as per government guidance. As the situation stands, Years 7 – 9 will return to school in September.

IT Update

Please be advised that from 3pm today your child(ren) will be able to reset their own Office 365 password. To enable this feature they will need to log out of their Office 365 account and log back in, which will then prompt them to complete some security questions, this will help to verify their account if they need to reset the password. They will be required to provide a mobile number so a confirmation code can be sent to them to complete the configuration and without this, they will not be able to log in.

I wish you all a good weekend

With kind regards

Rachel Kelly, Headteacher



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