

# HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Headteacher:**  
Corina Foster



**The Valley School**  
Broadhall Way  
Stevenage  
Herts SG2 9BN  
Tel: 01438 747274  
[admin@thevalley.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@thevalley.herts.sch.uk)

Monday, 07 June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## REF: BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

I am delighted to be able to send you a link to the website that showcases our plans for The Valley School premises for the future. Paula Frost and I have been heavily involved with the project and the extensive team of architects, designers, project managers, energy consultants, landscaping experts & many others have fully embraced our model for learning and have created something that is very special and finally worthy of what our pupils and staff deserve.

<http://www.thevalleyschool-consultation.co.uk/>

Please take a moment to look at it and make your comments. It is a public forum and we need to work together to ensure that the voice of our Valley family is heard and understood. It is to be expected that any planning process will meet with mixed responses, but as we are looking to replace a very unattractive and inappropriate set of buildings with a set that will sit snugly into the landscape, will be barely visible from the road & the neighbouring community, with no change to existing roads or access, we are hoping that it will be seen in the positive light that it deserves.

Attached to this letter is an excerpt which form part of the formal planning brief, but I wanted to share it with you first.

Thank you again for your support in getting this far.

Yours sincerely

*Corina Foster*

Headteacher



The design principles that underpin the model for a new build are fully aligned to the belief set, vision and values of The Valley School and its commitment to meeting the needs of our community, present and future. The model has been carefully and thoughtfully developed in line with how we believe learning happens best and how we can enable our pupils to balance the growth of their curiosity, resilience and confidence with the acquisition of skills and knowledge that will enable them to flourish and become independent and influential adults.

The main building is enveloped in a series of smaller National Curriculum year areas, each containing classrooms, social and dining areas, toilets, offices and a variety of different learning spaces, both inside and out, to ensure that our pupils learn within groups that are large enough to support dynamic learning activities and small enough to embed secure and deep relationships with each other and with a dedicated team of adults.

A "ladder" of specialist rooms and creative outdoor courtyards forms the backbone of the design and ensures that our pupils have access to a broad, balanced and creative curriculum.

We believe in "**Cracking the Learning Code**", based on a set of pre-requisites that are required for our pupils to become "**Super-Learners**" for their independent and influential futures.

## **CRACKING LEARNING**

<b>Curiosity</b>	<i>the desire to know and learn more, to be interested in the world around us and the people and opportunities that we meet</i>
<b>Resilience</b>	<i>the skills to face challenge and to overcome adversity</i>
<b>Access</b>	<i>the essential levels of literacy, numeracy, visual/aural reception and use of technology that allow us to engage with what is around us</i>
<b>Confidence</b>	<i>self-belief, high self-esteem, the ability to enjoy what makes us different</i>
<b>Knowledge</b>	<i>information, techniques, understanding and skills that we hold with us and can recall when we need to</i>

The design for our new premises has been developed to ensure that our pupils build and strengthen the following core **relationships**, so that learning can happen successfully:

<b>With ourselves</b>	<i>self-belief, confidence, self-awareness, resilience</i>
<b>With our learning</b>	<i>belief that learning is possible, enjoyable and successful</i>
<b>With each other</b>	<i>problem-solving, working collaboratively, listening and understanding, empathy</i>