

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Headteacher:
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Friday 4th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you about the wonderful week we have just had at The Valley School. It was fantastic to be able to welcome two hundred plus parents and families on site for our open mornings on Wednesday and Thursday this week.

The staff and students were amazing at making them feel comfortable around the school, showing off work and engaging them in conversations.

Special thanks need to go to Miss Heller and the Year 10 and 11 Teams that supported the KS4 Hospitality Groups that provided coffee and cake to parents on both days.

Well done to Yasmin, Jack, Kwasi, Brooke, Isabelle, Alfie, Cameron, Malakai, Orion, Connor and Harmony from Year 11 and Vinnie, Lewis, Leyland, Ryan, Alfie, Jamie, Ankit and Tyla from Year 10.

Year 7 Boat Trip

Our Year 7s have been on a boat trip today from Ware to Stanstead Abbots and back. This is to celebrate all the work they have been doing on the Titanic over the last term. The special effects department outdid themselves, as there was actual snow falling when they left us in minibuses this morning. Hopefully no icebergs will be formed in the River Lea! I am pleased to say that the weather has brightened up during the day and that at least some of the trip was in relatively clear skies and sunshine. Some pictures were posted back to the school of the students enjoying themselves on board the boat, and I am pleased to say that they seemed to be having a fabulous time.

EHCP Day

Please remember that we are holding our Education Health Care Plan Day on Thursday 10th February. Arrangements are different than in previous years as we are freeing up staff who really know and work with the children to conduct meetings with you. We will also have College staff for Year 11s and other external support teams on site to facilitate the day.

To ensure we have appropriate staff available your child will only be on the school site for his or her meeting and will learn from home for the rest of the day.



We appreciate that this is not ideal, but recognise how important Education Health Care Plans are and want to invest the appropriate amount of time and staffing into it. We can only do this by trading off teachers attending meetings rather than teaching lessons on that day. This is a pilot and we will canvas your feedback after the event.

Staff will be parking off-site to ensure there will be plenty of onsite parking for parents during the day.

School Uniform

We are very much aware that there can be a squeeze on family budgets after Christmas and that replacing school uniform as children grow can be expensive.

We have a large selection of items that we will have out on display on EHCP day. We will be charging 50p an item and have an honesty box to make contributions. Please help yourself to anything you need.

Any money raised will be directed towards resources for the children's learning.

Youth Projects Pop-Up Stand

The Services for Young People were promoting their youth projects by setting up some lunchtime pop ups at the school today. Youth workers set up a stall with a display board and leaflets which they handed out to students over the lunchtime.

Easter Extravaganza

Again a brief reminder that the new date for our Easter Extravaganza is Thursday 31st March 2022 between 6pm and 8pm. We have rebooked the Mayor, Fire Service, Police and a Magician.

The students that have been rehearsing and practising are very excited about their performance and we hope you can keep the date free to join us.

Hirings

If you are a member of a club or society that are looking for a space to perform, practice or rehearse then please contact our Business Manager Paula Frost by calling (01438) 747274. We have a hall and a gym which we would like to hire out at £30 per hour each. The money accrued would be directed back in to the school to improve the learning experiences of our young people.

Wishing you a relaxing weekend

Yours sincerely



David Pearce
Headteacher