

# HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Headteacher:**  
David Pearce



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

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you enjoyed a relaxing half-term and made the most of the fact that many of the Covid restrictions had been lifted.

The guidance received from County regarding the Covid announcement earlier this week has meant that we have revised our strategy slightly, but not comprehensively.

It is important to note that the key changes are the lifting of the legal requirement to comply with restrictions, not the lifting of the restrictions themselves.

As a school we will be continuing to:

- Provide LFTs to staff and pupils.
- Ask staff opted in to the testing programme to continue to test twice weekly (Wednesday and Sunday).
- Encourage students to test twice weekly.
- Expect staff and students who test positive to isolate for a least 5 full days, and continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.
- Use CO2 monitors.
- Provide enhanced cleaning of the site.
- Support staff to wear face covering in communal areas, where they wish to do so.
- Refer to our outbreak management plan and step up measures if an outbreak is identified or if advised by Public Health England.
- Support those who are self-isolating because they have tested positive to work or learn from home if they are well enough to do so.
- Maintain our capacity to deliver high quality remote education when students are unable to attend, for example when self-isolating
- Facilitate the vaccination programme.



### **Key Stage 4 Rewards Trip**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> February there was a Rewards Trip for Key Stage 4 during the afternoon. Students chose either bowling or trampolining and they used their reward points to pay for their activity. It was an amazing success and I would like to thank Ms Small, Ms Heller and the rest of the Year 10 and 11 teams for their time and effort in organising this.



### **World Book Day**

World Book Day is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Staff and students are being encouraged to dress up as a character from a book to celebrate reading. Dressing up is optional and does not have to be a bought costume - an accessory associated with a story

would work equally as well. There will be activities for the students to complete in their English lessons and a themed assembly.

### **Coffee Mornings**

Starting from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, we will be holding a coffee morning every fortnight to share information about SEND, supporting children with various needs, online safety and much more. The mornings will run from 10am to 11am in the dining room. Please arrive through reception. Our Enterprise group and Hospitality group in Years 10 and 11 will host the mornings, providing coffee, cake and biscuits. Our hope is that parents will find the sessions, relaxed, comfortable, informative and supportive. The intention is to rotate them between Wednesdays and Thursdays to ensure everyone can access them. More details about times will follow in my next letter.

### **Easter Extravaganza**

Again a brief reminder that the new date for our Easter Extravaganza is Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

## PE Update

Mr Walker has expressed how proud he has been of all the students who have taken part in stage two of our bike riding programme. We had Phil Rowe from 'Herts Balance and Ride' join us to help teach the students in Upper School how to ride a bike. The week was very successful and we had 11 students who could not ride at the start of the week balancing and riding on their own. The students' engagement was excellent and the satisfaction of seeing their hard work was simply amazing.

We will now embed this new method of teaching into our curriculum and after Easter we will have a dedicated after school club on a Thursday for the students who cannot ride. Over time we will then open it up to students that can.



Once we have established a significant number of students who can ride we will look to complete "Bikeability" and then look to have students offsite riding on our new bikes.

I want to say thank you to all the staff that have helped the children this week. It has enabled them to make great progress.

### Reminders:

A letter about after school clubs has gone out today detailing the programme starting from Tuesday next week.

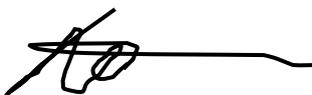
Year 8 and 9 will be starting swimming during the curriculum time and a letter will go out with a questionnaire on Monday. We ask Year 8 and 9 parents to return this to the office by Wednesday 2nd March.

## 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, safe and enjoyable weekend

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D Pearce', followed by a horizontal line.

David Pearce  
Headteacher