

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Headteacher:
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Friday 1st April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,



As we come to the end of another busy term, it is fantastic that we can reflect on and celebrate our amazing Easter Extravaganza. It was wonderful to see so many students and staff involved, and the support of so many friends and family was overwhelming.



A massive 'Well done!' must go to all the performers who displayed such confidence and talent on stage. They were a real credit to themselves, their families and the school. The Mayor, who was in the audience, has invited some representatives of The Valley School to perform in 'The Stevenage Concert to raise money for Ukraine,' which would be another amazing opportunity for our students. Thank you to Mr Walker who did such a sterling job in leading the organisation of such a huge project.



An event such as this has allowed so many of our young people to develop their social skills, leadership and ability to take initiative. The young people designing and running stalls deserve real credit as many were incredibly nervous and required a great deal of encouragement to take part through support of staff and I am sure we can all agree that they did an amazing job and helped make the evening so successful.



I would also like to say a big thank you to Lewis Hollingsworth who took all of the amazing photographs. He will be studying Photography next year at Freeman College, and looking at the quality of pictures he took for us, he has a bright future ahead of him.



We took a recording of our show and would very much like to post it on our website with a range of photographs taken throughout the evening. If you have any concerns about this please contact the school so that we can edit the video accordingly. If you could contact the school through the usual admin address by Friday 22nd April we would be very grateful.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Canopy

As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, schools and other organisations are being asked to plant a tree in celebration. As the Stevenage Mayor, Sandra Barr, was already at our Easter extravaganza, we asked her to take part in planting our tree.



Year 9 Science Project

The Year 9 undertook a walk to Fairlands as our students investigated the theft of the Peace Lilies from a classroom in one of their Science lessons. Throughout this project the students learnt how to take fingerprints, lift them from a crime scene, analyse the ink in a ransom note using chromatography and collect evidence without contaminating it. The culprit was proved to be Miss Shears and the lilies were returned safe and well!



Thank you to Miss Jeeves and the Year 9 team for being so creative in their teaching. I know the students thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience.



Learning Partners

We have some Learning Partner vacancies coming up over the next few months and are trying to cast our net as wide as possible to find suitable candidates. If this is a role that you might be interested in, or you know someone who has potential, please contact the school. We would love to organise some days volunteering for people exploring a new, exciting and rewarding career opportunity.



Swimming

It has been a fantastic opportunity for our young people to be able to offer swimming on the curriculum again; we have been visiting Chells Swimming Pool enjoying lessons taught by the teachers at Finn Divers. The response and engagement from the students has been excellent. We have the luxury of the use of a private pool which enables our students to flourish in this environment.



Groups one and two will continue after Easter as some of their lessons have been missed through bank holidays and other things getting in the way. Groups three to six will swim up until the end of the year. When we return from the Easter Break a letter will be sent to the families of the next groups, in time for their lessons to start. If you have not yet signed the

consent form and questionnaire then please do this as soon as possible so your child does not miss out.

We are looking forward to two more new events happening after Easter; these will be Fishing and In-door Skiing. More details about this will follow early next term.

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 Easter Break.

Yours sincerely



David Pearce
Headteacher



