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Friday 27th May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that this is my last letter of this half term. Time seems to be flying by, but that is probably because we are all so busy on a week by week basis.

I am pleased to announce that we have finally received some great news about our new build. The additional funds required to make up the shortfall as a result of rising costs has been agreed by cabinet. We are expecting spades in the ground before the summer holidays. I must confess that to the embarrassment of all I did a little dance in the office when I received this information.

Performing Arts

Last Friday, a group of students from all year groups attended Nobel School to perform in the Stevenage Charity Concert for Ukraine. Our students waited eagerly but also very patiently backstage to perform to the packed theatre, making good use of the time to do some additional practising.

On stage, the pupils gave their all, performing 'Lean On Me' followed by a blues piano solo from Orion. The audience absolutely loved it and gave our students a rapturous applause, as well as enthusiastically clapping along to 'Lean On Me'.



Our students made us proud that evening and were positively buzzing after the show; satisfied with their performance and eager for more. Well done to everyone involved!



Year 11 Students

In the front of all of our minds is that the Year 11's time at The Valley School is rapidly coming to a close. There are a number of big characters in the Year Group and the school will not be the same without them; the whole cohort will be missed.

Over the last few weeks they have made a massive contribution across the school, from delivering food parcels, to working for local charities, and supporting our younger children in a mentoring/Learning Partner capacity.

They are a mature and sensible group of young people and we wish them well on their journey after The Valley School.

As a big thank you to all that they have done for the school, the Year 11 team have planned a celebration week for them after half-term. Please see the plans below.

General arrangements

Our Year 11s leave us on Friday 10th June 2022 although transport will run until Friday 17th June.

All of the Year 11 students will be provided with a sign off sheet, which when complete will allow them to leave school. Every member of staff that teaches a Year 11 will identify the work that needs to be completed for them to finish their course. The teachers will sign these when the work is completed to an appropriate standard.

When all the teachers have signed the sheets off, Miss Small will check and counter-sign them, allowing the student to finish their education at The Valley School. They will not have to return until our Prizes and Awards day on the last day of the summer term, Thursday 21st July, which will be a celebratory occasion with final goodbyes and shirt signing.

The dates between Friday 10th June and Friday 17th June will be used to mop up any incomplete work and support students until they are done.

The Year 11 Prom will be held on Thursday 23rd June at Stevenage Football Club. This will be an opportunity for students to dress up in formal wear, have a meal, music, speeches and celebrations of their time at The Valley School.

If you have any questions about the Year 11 leavers' dates, then please contact us to seek clarification.

Year 11 Celebration week

Please see below an overview of what has been planned between the dates of Monday 6th and Friday 10th June.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group 1	London Dungeons	AM – Fairlands Park PM – Movie Afternoon in school	Mr Mulligans (crazy golf) Stevenage Leisure Park	AM - Final session at North Herts College (normal arrangements)	AM – Bowling Stevenage Leisure Park PM – BBQ at school
Group 2	Church Farm, Ardeley	Mr Mulligans (crazy golf) Stevenage Leisure Park	AM – Fairlands Park PM – Movie Afternoon in school	PM – Sport activities in school	

Lunch arrangements:

Group 1 will need either a packed lunch or money to purchase lunch on Monday and Wednesday.

Group 2 will need a packed lunch on Monday. On Tuesday they will need either a packed lunch or money to purchase lunch whilst we are out.

Food Parcels

The Year 10 and 11 students spent over £500 on food parcels for our local community. The Year 11 students put together the parcels and have delivered them across the local area. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience, receiving genuine thanks from the recipients.



PE Department

The PE department would like to thank Rob Hart (a parent) for donating a significant amount of football equipment. We are very grateful for his generosity which will enable the students to join in with more football at social times.

When we return after the summer half-term break we will be hosting a sports week at school. Within PE lessons there will be multiple competitions with a range of sports and opportunities. Competing in teams in their year groups, the learners will be able to represent a small group and earn points to enable their team to be successful.

Prizes and Awards Thursday 21st July,

Our Prizes and Awards day will be held on the last day of the summer term. Due to the capacity of our hall, the plan is for our Years 7 and 8 to attend between 9am and 11am and Year 9, 10 and 11 to attend between 11:45am and 1:15pm.

We will be sending out a reply sheet after half-term so we can establish how many parents/carers will be attending and the numbers of students that will require transport.

We have been lucky to secure sponsorship for the trophies from the construction company ASHE and are very excited about celebrating our students' achievements at the end of the year.

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 half-term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D Pearce', followed by a long horizontal line that tapers to the right.

David Pearce
Headteacher