

# HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Headteacher:**  
David Pearce



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Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

This was our first week without our Year 11s on site and although we are missing them as a year group, the timing has been fortunate as we have again been struck by Covid. Along with the normal run of ailments, we have averaged seven staff being off each day as a consequence.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff that have stepped up to cover their colleagues, which is extremely tough when they are having to do their own job as well as someone else's. Particular plaudits should go to Ms McLay whose Year 9 team have been decimated this week, where on more than one occasion she has been the only one left standing.

## **School Uniform**

With a mind to the current financial crisis and the sharp rise in the cost of living, we have reviewed our school uniform to ensure it remains smart but affordable. All students currently at the school can continue to wear the uniform as it currently stands, but when it wears out, or the student grow out of it, please replace it with the new one.

To ensure the uniform is good value for money, there are no logos and can be sourced from anywhere.

The uniform will be:

- A white shirt or blouse (this can be a polo shirt if students prefer, but it must have a collar).
- Black trousers or skirt
- Grey jumper or cardigan
- Black footwear.

## **Headphones**

As a school we have invested in a whole school approach to literacy through the Lexia programme. This involves students using a Chromebook with headphones a few times a week. We appreciate that some students don't like to share headphones and would rather have their own. We are quite happy for students to bring in their own headphones but they would have to stay in school all week; we don't want students saying they can't do their Literacy work because they have forgotten their headphones. We will obviously supply headphones for any students that would prefer to use school ones.



### **Goodbye to Carly O'Shaugnessy**

Carly has been the cook at The Valley for the last few months and she has been absolutely amazing. So good in fact that she has been relocated to take charge of a completely different area. Our loss is very much their gain. We know that the students will really miss Carly, but we wish her well in her new role.



### **Student Water Bottles**

Due to Covid we took responsibility for supplying and cleaning water bottles for students. Now that we are in a 'life after Covid' situation we are very much aware that most students would prefer to bring in and use their own water bottles. We are now happy for students to do this. We will always have spare bottles at school if students need them.

### **Year 7 Doughnutting Trip**

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June the Year 7 had a lovely afternoon Doughnutting. It began with a picnic at Stanborough Lakes before heading off to the slope.



Everyone followed instructions and had a great time sliding down the slope. It was a lot harder work pulling the doughnut back up the slope (especially in the heat) but we all had lots of fun.

All the staff were very proud of how well the children behaved throughout.

### **Prizes and Awards Thursday 21st July,**

As explained last week, we are trying to establish travel arrangements for our Prizes and Awards day which 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 Years 9, 10 and 11 to attend between 11:45am and 1:15pm. We have so many awards to give out (over £4000 worth) sponsored by the construction companies ASHE and MACE. We are very much looking forward to sharing this occasion with you.

Unfortunately we are negotiating a headache with regards to travel arrangements. The transport to and from school will run as normal, but there needs to be a switch of year groups at the end of the Year 7 & 8 ceremony and the beginning of the Year 9,10 & 11 ceremony; school taxis will not be running at this time.

We are calling for any support possible to help with bringing the Year 9, 10 and 11 students in and dropping the Year 7 & 8 students off between 11am and 11:45am. If there are any opportunities where you could collect or bring in your child between these times, or car share with a student who is a neighbour, that would really help us out and ensure the day runs more smoothly. Thank you in anticipation of your support with this.

### **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 long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Pearce  
Headteacher