

Headteacher:
David Pearce



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Friday 1st July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is amazing how rapidly the weeks are flying by and how close we are to the end of term. Other than our normal weekly activities we have had a number of trips and visits out, from the Year 10s' visiting the Stevenage library to the Year 7s' rewards trip to 360.

Stevenage Schools Concert

On Wednesday our students performed at the Stevenage Schools' Concert at Stevenage Leisure Centre. The students were amazing when performing 'Lean on Me' with a vocalist and an instrumentalist. All these students have learnt the skills to perform during their instrumental lessons with Mr Dear and Mr Lanning; we have been impressed by the significant progress the students have made from one performance to the next.



Please see below a lovely letter from a representative of the Herts Music Service:

"Dearest Elliot,

We wish to congratulate you and your students on their exceptional performance and their impeccable behaviour in the theatre last night. They did a phenomenal job and made us very proud. They were fabulous young musical leaders and also a wonderful inspiration for the younger students listening to the variety of instruments you provided. Kindly please congratulate them on our behalf. We hope that they had a delightful musical day!

Thank you very much for taking part. Please also thank all other staff involved. We've had a wonderful time listening to your fantastic instrumentalists and vocalists.

With much appreciation for your support.

*Regards
Christina"*



Balance and ride afterschool club

On Thursday we had the Stevenage Sports' Partnership and some local councillors come to visit the 'Balance and Ride' afterschool club. They were impressed with our student's behaviour and eagerness to learn. They commented on the excellent way in which the students conducted themselves whilst learning this important life skill.

We have had brilliant successes with the introduction of 'Balance and Ride' onto the curriculum which has allowed a number of students to be able to ride a bike.

Year 9 into 10 information Evening

On Thursday evening we held a Year 9 into 10 evening to support students and their families through this important 'across key stage' transition. The students have been provided with booklets and Ms Heller, ably supported by Ms McLay talked through Options, Pathways and Certification.

If you are the parent of a Year 9 child and missed the evening, please look at the website to pick up a copy of the booklet and look at the slides. If you need any follow-up advice and guidance, please contact the school in the normal way.

An introduction to our 'Services for Young People' Personal Advisor

Hi, my name is Bridie and I just would like to introduce myself for those who have not met me yet. I am a Services for Young People Personal Advisor. Part of my role is to support young people (and their families) with information, advice and guidance from age 13 to 19 (up to 25 if they have a learning difficulty and/or disability) to support planning for the future.



I work with young people from The Valley School and with their parents and carers from Year 9 upwards, exploring ideas and options and to start to plan for leaving school in year 11 which can come along all too quickly.

In Year 11 when students are looking at leaving school and need support to find the best learning opportunities that will be suitable for them, I will work with them, the school, colleges, training providers and any other appropriate organisations to support transition and to help it run smoothly. As well as continued learning opportunities, some students may also be considering part-time work, voluntary work or additional activities in their spare time and I can help signpost them to these.

So please if you wish to discuss future planning, have any worries or concerns, or even if you are interested in clubs and activities or support services that are available please just call me on Tel-07812324682 or email me at Bridie.mcdonald@hertfordshire.gov.uk and I will try and help.

You can also find more information about Services for Young People from our website: <https://servicesforyoungpeople.org/>

Prizes and Awards Day - 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 & 8 to attend between 9am and 11am and Years 9, 10 & 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 & 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 that tapers to the right.

David Pearce
Headteacher