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Dear Parents and Carers,

## Headteacher's End of Year Message

This is my last newsletter of the 2021/22 year which has not only seen the end of my first year as Headteacher of the school, but has also been an extremely busy year with many changes as we are still emerging from the Covid pandemic.

It continues to be an exciting time at The Valley School, with the new build finally emerging from a concept into a reality. I have been blessed with a great leadership team which thrives on change, diversity and progress.

The Teaching and Learning throughout The Valley School, has developed across the year and has recently received high praise from our School Improvement Partner. We have been commended for the variety and quality of opportunities being afforded to our learners and the way in which we meet the diverse range of learning needs.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to my team of staff who have been incredibly dedicated and hardworking. I appreciate their expertise and the relentless encouragement they give to our students.

I must also mention the most special component of The Valley School, which is our young people. They have not only been a pleasure to spend time with in school, but proved to be excellent ambassadors in the community, whether on trips, community events or learning excursions; they can all be relied upon to represent The Valley School and their families with pride and dignity.

Sadly, we have to say goodbye to some wonderful Teachers and Learning Partners who will be leaving us this year. Some have been with us for just a short while, while others have been part of our community for a long time. On behalf of your colleagues, parents and of course the students – we thank you for everything you have done and we wish you every success for the future.



## **Extremely Hot Weather**

Please see the letter sent out this morning and respond to the Google form.

## **Awards Day Postponed**

Unfortunately we have had to make the difficult decision to postpone our Awards Day on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July and move it to October, next academic year. This is due to the forecast of unbearably hot weather, making the whole occasion miserable and potentially unsafe, and the worries over rising Covid cases. There has been a 44% rise in cases over the past seven days and the R rate has risen from 1.0 to 1.4 in our local area.

There are still many holiday flights and ferries etc. that are asking for a negative Lateral Flow Test before allowing holiday makers to travel. We would hate to be the cause of ruining families' holidays.

## **The revised plan for Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July**

The last day of school will now run as follows:

- Normal transport into school
- Normal lessons periods 1 -3
- 11:45am return to year groups
- 12 noon virtual assembly
- 12:15pm picnic lunch in year groups
- 12:30pm taxi pick-ups and goodbyes

## **Effect of extremely hot weather on our provision of school lunches**

Due to the extreme weather conditions it has been deemed unsafe for our cooks to provide hot food over the last few days of term. In our out-of-date kitchen the ventilation cannot cope with all the ovens being on and maintaining a safe working temperature. For this reason the students will be provided with packed lunches from Monday through to Thursday. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

## **Reading at the Valley School**

Reading is a whole-school priority at The Valley School that all teachers, regardless of subject area, are committed to developing and promoting. We recognise how crucial being literate is both for accessing the curriculum and also in the wider world, navigating everything from further education to shopping, finance and booking appointments.

To support this priority, we have invested in an online reading programme called Lexia. Your child may have mentioned it to you. Since launching in June, students have been logging onto Lexia regularly at school and in less than a month, 58 certificates have been presented to students which is excellent!

A letter will be coming home with your child next week which explains more about Lexia and will have their login details on should they wish to log on over the summer break.

### **The new build**

We are very excited about our new build which is due to be completed on October 9<sup>th</sup> 2023. Mrs Frost our School Business Manager and one student from Years 8, 9 and 10 started to dig the first hole under the supervision of the ASHE construction team



### **Year 8 Brighton Trip**

Year 8 went to Brighton yesterday, they had the most amazing trip and they did so well! We went on the train to Brighton from Stevenage train station which was a first for some of them and they loved it!

When we arrived, we had a bit of a walk to the fish and chip shop, but they managed it brilliantly and you can see from their faces that they enjoyed it. We then spent some time on the beach where some of the students paddled in the sea and had a great time in the sun!

We then had a chance for them to look around the shops and buy something as a souvenir of their time there. They showed off their money skills and communication with the shopkeepers as well as being so kind and polite to the public when we saw them. We then got back on the train and travelled back to school for them all to be picked up at 6pm.

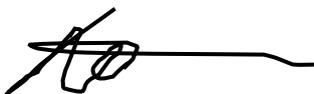


All of the students arrived back with smiles on their faces and lots of stories to be told from the day. Overall it was a fantastic day and staff and students enjoyed the day greatly.

### **And finally.....**

I wish you all a happy, healthy and safe summer holiday. We are expecting our new Year 7s to return on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September and all other students to return at the usual time on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

Yours sincerely



David Pearce  
Headteacher