

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Headteacher:
David Pearce



The Valley School
Broadhall Way
Stevenage
Herts SG2 9BN
Tel: 01438 747274
admin@thevalley.herts.sch.uk

Friday 9th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing this newsletter after leading on an assembly celebrating the life of our Queen. It was an unfortunate and sad way to finish a lovely week with our children.

Our young people have made a great start to the year, adapting well to the many changes they have confronted over the past few days. They have made the new staff feel very welcome and are thoroughly enjoying many of the new subjects on offer.

I am sure you would like to join me in welcoming our new staff:

Salam Choudhury IT Lead
Shaunaid Crosby Performing Arts Lead
Jade Mole PE and Science teacher
Rachel Kerslake Learning Partner
Suzanne Adams Learning Partner
Linsey Ashley Year 9 Teacher
Callum Russell Head of Year 10, PE and Maths Teacher
Faye Gross Learning Partner
Melanie Grundelingh Year 7 Teacher
Jessica Wilson Interventions Teacher
Paul Holop Design and Technology Teacher
Chris Jones Outdoor Learning
Mandy Curson Cleaner
Sandra Shirley Learning Partner
Catherine Weynberg Learning Partner

I know that this looks like a lot, but we have benefitted from additional funding to increase our school role, and this has allowed us to appoint new staff. We also had a few staff leave us last year due to retirement, or entering full time education to become a teacher.

Summer School

During the summer holidays we held a summer school for a mixture of the current students and the new Year 7s who joined us this September.



It was a great success with each day starting with breakfast and social activities. They then split into groups and took part in different activities ranging from cake making, to outdoor learning and building a water filter to making shapes with marshmallows and spaghetti. Megan from the MHST led a wellbeing session for each group. It was a wonderful experience for the students who left each day smiling.



Prizes and Awards (Thursday 6th October)

Our revised plan is to hold Prizes and Awards on Thursday 6th October.

The basic plan of the day will be as follows.

Normal lessons until 10:30am

10:30am -11:00am rehearsal for Year 8,9,10

12:00pm - 12:40pm Packed lunch for all in Year areas

12:40pm - Year 7 Trip to Library

12:40pm - Drop down afternoon for Year 11s (helping with lower school Prizes and Awards.

1:20pm - 3:00pm - Years 8,9,10 Prizes and Awards afternoon

3:10pm - Taxis for all but Year 11

4:30pm - 6:00pm Year 11 and Year 12 (Last years' Year 11) Prizes and Awards evening.

A far more detailed letter explaining what this means for parents/family that would like to attend the event will be circulated by the middle of next week.

Outdoor Learning

Being led by two of our new members of staff, outdoor learning has generated a great deal of enthusiasm.



This week's focus of learning was centred on the safe use of tools and equipment along with learning how to build safe fires using flint and steel. Some students were able to recall learning from other parts of the curriculum such as the fire triangle taught in science lessons to help them understand how fire works and what is needed to keep it going.

Students were able to pick up the tasks quickly and safely and had a lot of fun learning new skills.

Enterprise Lessons

Year 10 had their first taste of Enterprise this week and participated in some team building activities. During one of the sessions they were given balloons, newspaper and sticky tape and asked to build a tower. The results were indeed enterprising!



Family Engagement and Flexible Learning

Miss Casey and Ms Richman are very excited to be starting their new roles this term as part of The Valley School ethos to offer 360° wrap around care to our students and their families. Their roles mean that we can support a wider range of needs and requirements. You are very welcome to visit them at school or they are able to come to you.

Please contact them directly to arrange an appointment

Miss Louise Casey Family Engagement and Therapies 07413153911

Ms Jude Richman Flexible Learning
Teacher 07401440399

PE Update After-School Clubs

We will be sending a letter out on Monday with more information on what after school clubs we will be running this year. We will ensure that we have a variety of extra-curricular clubs to suit all of our students.

With trampolining and Balance and Ride being so popular last year we will look to run them again this year and introduce some new clubs to the timetable as well. Please keep an eye out for the letter next week.



Swimming

We will be continuing to offer swimming lessons to our Year 8 and 9 students and a letter will be sent out next week with more information regarding the lessons. The swimming lessons last year were a huge success and we were able to give a significant number of students the opportunity to learn this important life skill.

PE Kit

Just a reminder that our students will now be changing for PE again and the PE kit is a plain white t-shirt, black shorts or joggers and trainers. If you have an old grey PE polo that still fits then this can also be worn.

Wishing you a relaxing, safe and very enjoyable weekend.

Yours sincerely

David Pearce
Headteacher