

Headteacher:
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Friday 30th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have had a lovely week. After last week's long weekend it has been good to get back into a normal routine. The students have been really engaged in their learning and it has been a lovely week.

The Valley School Outdoor Learning Project

We would like to say a massive thank you to Michael McGregor (Store Manager) from Stevenage Wickes who has organised his store to make a £200 donation for our Forest School Outdoor Shelter.



The Outdoor Learning Team led by Mr Holop and Mr Jones will be building a shelter so that outdoor learning can continue throughout the winter months. I am very excited about showing the pictures as the students engage in the whole construction process.



Design and Technology

This week the students have been building boxes and decorating them.



Science OCR Entry Level Year 10s and 11s

Many of our Year 10 and 11 students sat their first Science tests this week. These are actual components of the final qualification. We are extremely pleased with the outcomes as every student that sat the test past it. A huge congratulations to Mr Walker, Miss Howard, Miss Houghton and Miss Mole for their sterling work and an even bigger 'well done' to all the students involved.

KS4 Information Evening

We will be holding an Information Evening for Y10 and Y11 students and families on 13th October. Further information about this will be sent out by Miss Heller on Monday.

Open Mornings

We will be opening the school up for prospective students during the second week of October. We are expecting a number of current Y5 and Y6 families to attend, but are also open to students of other year groups who will be joining us.

An open event will be held later in the year for all families of our current students, with more details to follow closer to the time.



Year 10 Enterprise

Some of Year 10 students had a trip to Costco this week as part of their Enterprise course. They bought a variety of sweets for their upcoming Spooky Halloween event. They then made up sweet cones and decided how much they should charge in order to sell as many as possible and still make a profit. Mrs Crosby said that it was a pleasure to take such a well behaved group who were genuinely interested in finding the best deals for their project.

EHCP Annual Review Day

Following the success of this day last year and listening to feedback received, we will be holding the EHCP annual review day on November 10th.

Please put this date in your diaries. Further information will follow in the newsletter next week.



New Build Progress

The build team has installed a timelapse camera that looks across the rebuild site and takes a picture every three minutes. The link is below if you would like to see what is going on behind the large mud mound.

<https://api.t-lap.se/5b2136/>

Our Performing Arts, D&T and Interventions teams are also looking at latest design plans and are starting to make decisions on power points, flooring, and the placement of large equipment.

School Uniform

As you know we have changed our school uniform to make it more affordable and easily accessible to all of our parents. Unfortunately we are now starting to see branded sweatshirts creeping in to the school, which defeats the purpose of our 'poverty proofing' measures.

Please can you ensure the shirts are plain white and the sweatshirts are plain grey. We do not want to see logos of football teams, pop bands or brands plastered all over the students' tops. Thank you for your support with this.

Term dates

We are heading towards October half term, which begins on the 19th October. Students return to school on the 31st October.

All term dates for the coming year can be found on the school website.

Cinderella Pantomime Trip (Wednesday 14 December)

In response to demand we have decided to run a school trip rather than a **whole-school** trip to see the pantomime 'Cinderella' at the Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage on the afternoon Wednesday 14th December. Students would be driven to the theatre after lunch to see a matinee performance. This would finish at approximately 4.00pm, therefore later than the usual end of the school day.

As this is a school trip we have asked parents to support us by collecting their students from school or organising for them to get home. We would not be able to re-arrange taxis as they will have to do their normal school run.

We are asking for a voluntary contribution of £10 per student. If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals the amount would be £5. Both prices are significantly reduced and excellent value for money considering this is a professional production.

Payments can be made via Arbor Parent Portal at <https://login.arbor.sc/> or if you have activated your account and downloaded the app, the Arbor App on Apple or Android. If you need any support with this, please contact the school office.

The closing date for the trip is Monday so please respond quickly if your child would still like to go. Unfortunately the tickets will then be ordered so we will be unable to facilitate late requests.

For the last time in our newsletter, please see the rearranged Awards Afternoon and Evening times below.

A reminder of our revised plans to hold Prizes and Awards on Thursday 6th October. As previously explained 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.

Wishing you a relaxing, safe and very 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