

Headteacher:
David Pearce



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Friday 25th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

After a couple of busy weeks with numerous larger trips going out, things have been a little quieter and back to normal over the past few days.

The Valley World Cup Experience

For many of our younger students, this will be the first football World Cup that they will remember. With the game against Iran being England's first match and the only one scheduled to be during school time, we decided to provide the students and staff an opportunity to watch the game.

There was a great atmosphere with lots of chanting and cheering, and some fantastic celebrating when England scored. It was a lovely afternoon seeing staff and students enjoying the occasion together.



Donated Piano

A huge thank you to Mr Brian Phillips and Terry at Safemove Removals who have both donated a piano to the school; we now have two instruments. Here is a picture of one of them arriving!



School Uniform

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the majority of our students who look really smart in our new grey and black uniform. These items are widely available at a number of retail and online outlets at very competitive prices. Students should be travelling to and from school in their school uniform unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please also ensure your child has a coat with them as the weather becomes colder. All items of uniform should be clearly named so we can easily return lost items to their owners. Thank you for your continued support.

Cinderella Pantomime Trip (Wednesday 14 December)

We are running a school trip to see the pantomime 'Cinderella' at the Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage, on the afternoon Wednesday 14th December. Students will be driven to the theatre after lunch to see a matinee performance. This will 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 children from The Gordon Craig Theatre or organising for them to get home with friends or other family.**



Thank you for your support with this.

Flu Immunisation

The school nursing team will be undertaking a flu immunisation catch-up session on Tuesday 29th November for any students who were absent for the previous session, or for those who consent has been received for since then.

HPV Immunisation for Year 8

The HPV immunisation session for Year 8 is due to take place on Tuesday 29th November. Thank you to those who have already completed the consent form which was sent out on the 30th September. A copy of this is being included with this letter.

Volunteering

I have been asked to share again any areas where we would welcome volunteer support, so please see below.

As stated last week, there is no expectation from anyone for help, but any support for the following would be gratefully received.

- 1) Swimming Monday and Tuesday 11:00am – 12:30pm
- 2) Tuck shop 11:35am – 11:50am every day
- 3) Lunchtimes to free up staff to run clubs 12:55pm – 1:45pm every day
- 4) Waste-Not-Want-Not work experience Monday and Tuesday 1:45pm – 3:00pm
- 5) Performing Arts Club Thursday 3:15pm – 4:30pm
- 6) Farm Trip 9:00am – 3:00pm 30th November
- 7) Cinderella Pantomime trip 12 noon – 4:00pm 14th December
- 8) New Year celebration 4:00pm – 6:00pm 19th January

Other events that are coming up in the future

- 1) Royal Albert Hall concert 30th April all day
- 2) Duke of Edinburgh Award Expeditions

Areas where businesses may be able to support us through donations or discounted prices

- 1) Website provision and design with new branding to coincide with new school build.
- 2) Signage provision and design with new branding to coincide with new school build.
- 3) Mock job interviews for KS4 students preparing for post 16
- 4) Work experience opportunities.

Parents' Evening (4:00pm – 7:00pm 1st December 2022)

Please note that you will be receiving a bespoke letter with dates of all the written reports and Parents Evenings across the year for your child in the next few days.

Parents evening **for years 7, 9 and 11** will take place online via video call on 1st December 2022. This is an important evening and provides you with an opportunity to discuss your child's learning and achievements at The Valley School.

To facilitate the evening the school will be using School Cloud, an online appointment booking system. This will allow you to choose your own appointment times with teachers and have them confirmed via email.

Appointments can be made from Wednesday 16th November 2022 at 3:30pm and will close on Wednesday 30th November 2022 at 3:30pm. Appointments for this evening will be available from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. You have the opportunity to book a maximum of 3 appointments with different staff members. We strongly recommend booking an appointment with your child's form tutor and two optional additional appointments with subject teachers that you feel you need to discuss anything else.

Please visit <https://valleyschool.schoolcloud.co.uk/> to book your appointments. A short guide on how to add appointments is included with this letter.

Parent Feedback

During the EHCP day we conducted a survey of parents so that we could receive feedback on how you felt we were doing as a school.

On the whole the results were extremely positive with excellent feedback on children being happy in school, students making great progress, us knowing and understanding your child, and that we keep you well informed about what is going on.

What was noted as an area for improvement however, was that there were a few Year 7 parents who indicated that they were 'unsure' about a number of the statements. On reflection we have recognised that we have not provided enough opportunities to engage with our Year 7 parents in the first half term to let them know how their child has settled in, and how much progress they have made. We have learned from this and have already pencilled in a coffee morning and an information evening in the first half term for new Year 7 parents next year.

School rebranding competition

With the build of the new school and the change of colour scheme (green and grey) to blend in with the valley in which the build is situated, we are looking to launch the 2022-23 academic year with a new school logo.

We are opening this up as a competition to our community.

The design needs to be simple enough to be printed on letter heads, signage and the school website.

We are not looking for superb artists as we would have the final design drawn up by professionals; it is an amazing concept that we are hoping for.

If you would like to submit an idea, please scan and send your designs to admin@thevalley.herts.sch.uk by 3:00pm, Tuesday 31st January. There will be prizes for the ten shortlisted designs and a prize for the winner and runners up. How wonderful would it be if your design was chosen as our new The Valley School logo?

After School Clubs

The list of students expected to attend clubs next week is attached to this newsletter. If your child is on this list then it means that we have received your permission and that arrangements regarding transport home for your child have been agreed with you. If this is not the case you need to contact admin@thevalley.herts.sch.uk so we can address any anomalies well before the evening. Students will not be able to join a club after this list has been published, until the following week, as organising transport and supervision is too complex to do well with very short notice.

Thank you for your support with this.

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 extending to the right.

David Pearce
Headteacher