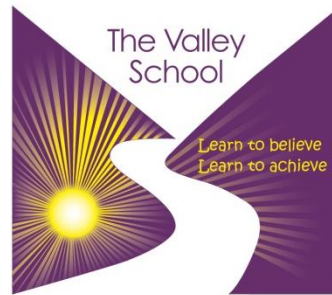


Headteacher:
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The Valley Newsletter **Friday 19th May 2023**

We have had a very busy week with the students balancing their school work with the final preparations for the Lion King Production. Everyone is very excited watching all their hard work come into fruition.

Year 9 English project on Japan

Annabell took it upon herself to take home the resources and research the Year 9s conducted in their English lessons and then made this very beautiful and detailed information leaflet all about the flower viewing festival in Japan. She has worked very hard to develop the writing as well as ensure that it is eye-catching.

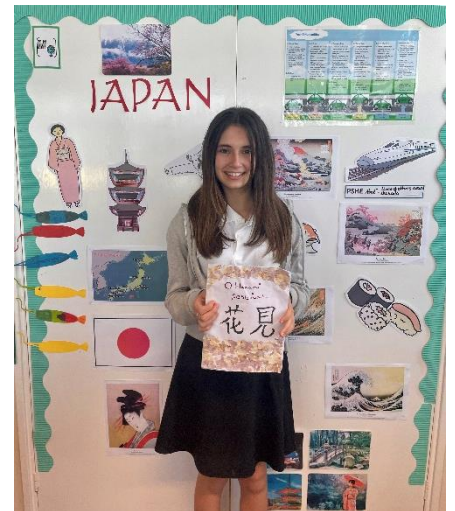
Yes We Can

We have been offered the opportunity to participate in an event as part of the Stevenage Arts Festival at the Gordon Craig Theatre. 'Yes We Can' is described as a special event with creativity at its heart, celebrating the talent of performers of all abilities and those with special needs. This will be a relaxed, supportive performance for both those on stage and the audience.

We are planning to perform three numbers from our production of The Lion King as part of this event. It will be a wonderful opportunity for our students to perform on a professional stage and take what they have been doing in their school production to the next level.

Tickets for the event can be purchased by following the link below:

<https://www.gordon-craig.co.uk/stevenage-festival-yes-we-can!-i3453>



Friends of the Valley School

We're pleased to provide an update on all things FoVS!



Stevenage Day, Sunday 11 June

Exciting news that FoVS will have a pitch at the upcoming Stevenage Day on Sunday 11 June from 12pm - 5.30pm. We intend to have a tombola, book and toy sales along with pre-loved clothing. In order to run this event we'd appreciate help with the following support from the school community (everyone is more than welcome to support, not just parents):



- volunteers to help us cover our pitch or set up / clear away, even if it's just 30 mins it would be a tremendous help as we can't do it on our own, to volunteer please
 - email fovs@thevalley.herts.sch.uk
 - advise one of the committee
 - sign up at the Lion King production next week where we will have a table and be happy to chat
- donations, a great opportunity to have a bit of a clear out at home
 - items suitable for the tombola
 - books or toys in good condition
 - pre-loved clothes, washed and in a condition you would be happy to buy yourself

Volunteers at School

As we are all aware finances are tight across the board at all schools. It would be a huge help to our school if any parents / friends / families of school students would be able to help with volunteering opportunities as this would free the time of Learning Partners and teachers to allow further teaching and also to allow greater access for students to school activities. Whilst it would be great to have volunteers on a weekly basis, even if you feel able to volunteer monthly this would also be a huge support. Following are some examples of activities where we as members of the school community could support the school and students:

- reading with pupils any day / time during the school day
- escorting pupils in the school minibus to swimming lessons Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 10.30am - 1pm
- lifts home from after school clubs Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays collection from school at 4.15pm
- school trips - as required

Please contact admin@thevalley.herts.sch.uk if you are able to support any of the above school activities.

Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh

Last Friday the Year 9 DoE group made a huge donation of tinned and packet foods to the 'Kaotic Angels Food Angels', for their food station. The Food Station is run on a Saturday morning (10am) at Longmeadow Evangelical Church, Stevenage. The donation was shared between 80 families. Thanks go to Mrs Wharton for selecting the Food Angels to support with this marvellous donation.



School Meal Pricing

Please be aware that due to increased costs Hertfordshire Catering Limited are having to increase their price by 40p per meal. This means the new price per meal will be £3.40 per day. If your child has a school meal every day the weekly cost will be £17.00 per week.

This price increase will take effect on Monday 15th May.

Students are able to select from 4 meal options per day, and from a selection of desserts. Salad and fruit are also available in addition to their main selections.

School meals can be paid for via Arbor, and we ask that they are paid for in advance.



Depending on your circumstances you may be eligible for Free School Meals. You can find further details on the link below.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx#year3>

If you require any support with payment or free school meals please contact the school office.

Lion King Arrangements

There will be no parking on site due to build works except for those with mobility concerns.

There are three performances and these will take place at **6.00pm on Tuesday 23, Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 May.** Students will need to be brought back into school for **5.00pm** and will need to be picked up at **7.00pm.**

The drop off and pick up point for students will be the fire door of the gym. Here students will be signed in and out of the building. Parents and guests will enter the school through the main entrance. This will hopefully avoid any congestion or confusion.

Students should wear their black trousers/leggings, black socks and plain black shoes into school. They will change into their t-shirts when they get here.

If your child was not asked to bring a t shirt, one will be provided.



Lion King Tickets

Now all requested tickets have been allocated, spare tickets are available for anyone that wants them on a first come, first served basis.

We will be offering tea, coffee, biscuits & squash to purchase on the evening of the productions.

Hot food should have been pre-ordered. Cash only! Please provide the correct change if possible.



2023 Parent Governor

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join the Governing Body of The Valley School as one of our Parent Governors.

In its strategic role, the Governing Body enjoys a close working relationship with the SLT in this warm and welcoming learning environment, and is involved in all aspects of school life.

If you are looking for a rewarding experience and are interested in finding out more about our friendly team and how you can support our school community, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact:

Liz Ellis

Chair of Governors

l.ellis@thevalley.herts.sch.uk

or: iona.varol@thevalley.herts.sch.uk



Volunteer Readers

With our literacy drive across the school and us celebrating a culture of reading, we are always on the lookout for volunteers who would be willing to listen to children read and/or read to them. If you have a couple of hours to spare and think that this is something you would like to do, then please contact us for more information through the school office.



Year 11 Students Leaving Arrangements

Our Year 11 students leave us on Friday 9th June 2023 although transport will run until Friday 16th June.

The students and staff will plan a number of trips and visits in the first few days after half-term, in celebration of their time at the school.



All of the Year 11 students will be provided with a sign off sheet, which when complete will allow them to leave school. Every member of staff that teaches a Year 11 will identify the work that needs to be completed for them to finish their course. The teachers will sign these when the work is completed to an appropriate standard.

When all the teachers have signed the sheets off, Miss Heller will check and counter-sign them, allowing the student to finish their education at The Valley School.

The dates between Monday 12th June and Friday 16th June will be used to mop up any incomplete work and support students until they are done.

If you have any questions about the Year 11 leavers' dates, then please contact us to seek clarification.

The Year 11 Prom will be held on Thursday 22nd June at Stevenage Football Club. This will be an opportunity for students to dress up in formal wear, have a meal, music, speeches and celebrations of their time at The Valley School.

After School Clubs

There will be no after school clubs next week due to the Lion King Performances. Clubs will resume as normal the following week, with Performing Arts Club reverting to how it used to be prior to the three rehearsals with the principals.

Thank you for your support with this.

We wish you a safe, relaxing and enjoyable weekend

Yours sincerely

David Pearce