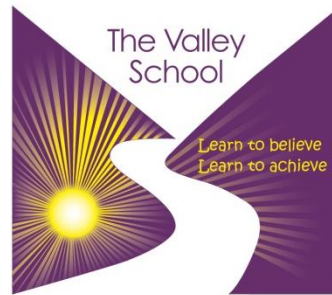


Headteacher:
David Pearce



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The Valley Newsletter **Friday 26th May 2023**

This has been a really busy week ending a hugely busy half-term. Not only have we had our Year 10 and 11 students completing their exams but this has been achieved alongside our Whole School Production of The Lion King. The latter has provided us with the wonderful opportunity of meeting many of our parents again during the three evenings of the show, alongside the Stevenage Mayor, Governors and other special guests from our community.

The Lion King

If you really enjoyed the show and would like something to remember it by, we have some small noughts and crosses games left that were made especially as a souvenir.

Please let the school office know if you would like to purchase one for £2:00.

I have already written a number of comments about the Lion King. So I thought it would be best to let some of your feedback speak for us.

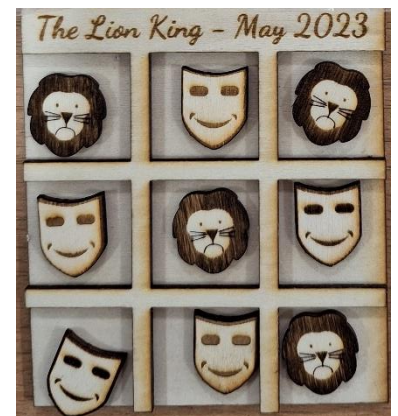
"Myself and my husband had the pleasure of coming to watch the performance of the Lion King on Wednesday evening. We thought the performance was absolutely amazing, the best school performance we have ever seen, and we have seen a lot."

I was honestly moved to tears by the wonderful performance of every pupil and wanted to say thank you to all the staff for their hard work and dedication.

We hope we have the opportunity to come along in the future and watch some more amazing performances."

"I just wanted to pass on huge congratulations to the whole Valley community for such an amazing production. Both Sue and I loved every minute. It was joyous."

"I would just like to offer you our warmest congratulations and say how much we enjoyed The Valley School production of The Lion King yesterday evening. It was a brilliant, moving event in so many ways and clearly appreciated by cast and audience."



I fully understand how much commitment, hard work, time (and the occasional headache!) goes into a production and to witness such joy, talent and engagement from the students is a most memorable privilege. Please pass on our very best wishes and thanks to the whole cast, crew and staff “

“I just had to send this e-mail to say how much I enjoyed this outstanding performance and to see what an invaluable contribution to the students’ confidence and team building skills that shone through.

I also would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for all the hard work and effort that was involved which makes all the difference in the performance being a great success.”

Please see the page of pictures at the end of the newsletter.

Yes We Can - Stevenage Arts Festival

Monday 19 June, 7.00pm Gordon Craig Theatre

We have been offered the opportunity to participate in an event as part of the Stevenage Arts Festival at the Gordon Craig theatre

Please follow the link to the Google Form by **Friday 26 May** to give permission for your child to participate. We expect to have a rehearsal at the Gordon Craig during the day on 19 June. Year 11 students should be available for this in order to be involved.

<https://forms.gle/RZkusadyGwJFtpbc7>



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

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

Royal Albert Hall Gala

The video of the performance is now available to purchase directly from Black Swan at the link below. Please ensure you are purchasing the 1.45pm, afternoon concert.

<https://bsfv.co.uk/product/hertfordshire-schools-gala-2023-give-life-to-music-online-video-only-royal-albert-hall-london-1-45pm-concert-30-04-2023/>



Stevenage Day, Sunday 11 June

A reminder 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 preloved 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 during opening times and also to set up / clear away, even if it's just 30 minutes 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
- 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.



A huge thank you to those who signed up at the Lion King this week to help FoVS at Stevenage Day and to those who have already brought donations into school!

School leaver's careers fair

Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust (HCT) will be hosting a school leaver's careers fair on Monday 12th June at Welwyn Civic Centre Prospect Place, Welwyn AL6 9ER.

The event will run from 11:30am - 4pm, targeting years 11-13 (including school leavers). Students and their parents are welcome to come throughout the day to see the different roles and career pathways HCT has to offer.



A full agenda will be shared closer to the time but you can expect:

- Interactive Stalls.
- Guest speakers from registered professions to non-registered.
- Talks on the apprenticeships we have to offer.
- A video interview booth (CV's are welcome).
- Lunch will also be provided.

Parent Feedback from Questionnaire May 2023

Thank you so much to all the parents that took the time to complete the parent questionnaire. Your feedback is invaluable to allow us to reflect on our practice and continue to improve as a school.

We were so pleased to receive so many positive comments about how happy your children are at the school and how pleased you are with their progress.

We recognise that we can't be complacent however, and that there are always things we can improve on.

Actions we will be taking in response to your requests are:

- The continuation of the use of Class Dojo into Years 10 and 11 and
- Opening up the Arbor App to allow you to see your child's progress at a touch of a button from September.



Student Feedback May 2023

We have been canvassing feedback from our students over the last fortnight to ascertain how they feel about their educational experience at The Valley.

Again the responses were overwhelmingly positive with 100% of students stating that teachers made it clear what

was expected of them, that there was someone they could talk to if they were worried or upset, and that they were rewarded for producing good work.

Students also made it clear that they felt that bullying was dealt with effectively, behaviour was good around the school and that they enjoyed their lessons.

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



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.

Year 10 Invitation to Year 11 Prom

We would like to invite the Year 10s to the Year 11 Prom at The Stevenage Football Club on Thursday **22nd June from 7:30pm – 9:30pm.**

They will be expected to adhere to the 'Smart' dress code. There will be no charge for this event.

If you are a Year 10 student please let us know if you can attend by emailing Miss Heller before Friday 9th June 2023.

We would love you to join us and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

chaleen.heller@thevalley.hertc.sch.uk

Year 11 Parents Non uniform information for the Year 11 activity week

From Monday 5th June- 9th June we are suggesting that your child can arrive in non-uniform on the following days:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

Please make sure your child's clothes are sensible for the activities they are taking part in and that they dress appropriately for the weather. Please send your child in with sunscreen if it's hot. We have spoken to them regarding appropriate clothing. If you have any questions around this please email Miss Heller

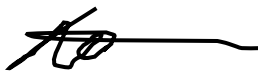
After School Clubs

Clubs will resume as normal after half term. The list of students expected to attend clubs on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after half term 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.

We wish you a safe, relaxing and enjoyable half-term

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Pearce', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Pearce