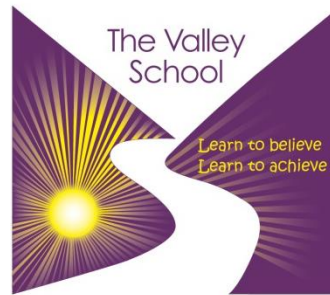


HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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The Valley Newsletter **Friday 21st April 2023**

After a really productive INSET day on Monday, it was lovely to welcome all our students back on Tuesday this week.

All the staff and students hit the ground running with exciting and interesting lessons, supported by trips and visits around the local community.

We have a packed term ahead of us with our Year 11s finishing off their qualifications, enjoying a celebration week and their prom, a whole school trip, and us having to begin the preparations for the move to the new school in earnest.

FURTHER STRIKE ACTION Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May

The largest teacher's union, the NEU, have voted to strike on Wednesday Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May 2023.

Unfortunately this action will prevent us from running a normal school day on each of these days.



A number of our teaching staff have notified me that they intend to strike and an even larger number of staff are unable to come into school as they have to provide childcare for their own children, whose school are also taking strike action.

As a consequence we are asking parents to only send children in to school on these two days if they absolutely cannot make any other arrangements for childcare, or they are designated as 'Key Workers' as we will only be able to operate a very limited service. We have canvassed staff to let us know their intentions.

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.

Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing:

In school we have been receiving a lot of enquiries from parents, as how best to support their child's anxieties and mental health, and we have been exploring a range of ways in which to support students. This can mean waiting for referrals to go through.

In order to support families whilst they do wait for the MHST service and/or while they sit on the waiting lists for PALMS/CAMHS, we have been signposting parents to this site: <https://www.withyouth.org/>

They offer 1:1 online therapy sessions and parents can refer by filling in a simple registration form. It is part of the 'Mind' mental health charity and they are currently leading the way with this kind of provision.

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 10 Outdoor Learning

The Year 10 group have been prepping the roof parts for the outdoor kitchen. This will enable a dry area for storage and preparation for outdoor cooking and having a clean-up station for hot drinks.



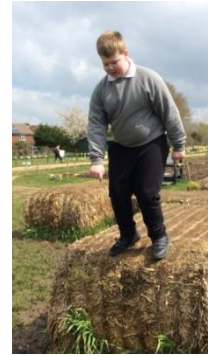
Performing Arts

On Thursday morning a group of students from all years went to Woolgrove School to participate in a rehearsal for their upcoming concert at The Royal Albert Hall. The students sang fantastically and really enjoyed themselves. The students have been working hard in Performing Arts Club to prepare for the concert which is only a week away.....wish us luck!



Year 7 Farm Visit

Year 7 visited Church Farm in Ardeley and enjoyed feeding the animals and walking around the farm. Staff are very proud of the students' behaviour. They were all great ambassadors for our school.



Student Drinks

As a 'healthy school' it is important that we monitor what our students are drinking to ensure they stay hydrated, but also ensure they don't have too high a sugar intake.

Consequently we will only supply water for students to drink in school. If you would like your child to drink squash then please provide this from home.

We will not allow fizzy drinks, high energy or caffeinated soft drinks at school. We thank you for your support with this.



After School Clubs

The list of students expected to attend clubs on Tuesday and Wednesday 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.

There will be no clubs on Thursday as alternative arrangements have had to be made due to strike action.

Thank you for your support with this.

We wish you a safe, relaxing and enjoyable weekend

Yours sincerely



David Pearce