
Date: Friday 15th September 2023

The Valley Newsletter

As expected we had another busy week with our young people. We are in the midst of the season for tours of the school by Year 5 and Year 6 parents looking for a school for their children. Consequently I have been taking them around the school once or twice a day all week. The feedback from the parents has been outstanding and they have all commented on the excellent behaviours, learning and sociability of our students. They are an absolute credit to you as parents and carers.

Thank you to Leigh Davies from Wickes in Stevenage

Mr Holop took a trip to Wickes to purchase the materials students needed to build outdoor furniture for the quads in the new build. Ms Davies kindly agreed to donate all the good to The Valley School for free. This amounted to five cans of Dulux outdoor paint and over 1000 screws. We would like to extend a massive thank you on behalf of our school community to Leigh and her team.



Year 7 work

The Year 7s have been creating fact files about themselves to share with their peers and teachers. They have also been learning about the proportions and symmetry of their faces.



PE Kit

As with many of our mainstream colleagues we have been finding it increasingly difficult to encourage our young people to change for P.E. since the Covid pandemic. We obviously don't want to stop students taking part in physical activities, but we also don't want to compromise on safety. For these reasons we have decided to allow students to attend school in P.E. kit on the days they have P.E.

The P.E. kit is as follows

Plain black shorts or tracksuit trousers.
White polo shirt and black hoodless sweatshirt.



We are avoiding hooded tops to ensure the hoods aren't used as handles to pull each other backwards, and also to stop students putting up their hoods preventing them from being identified from a distance.

The table below shows when your child has P.E.

Please ensure they come in to school wearing it on the appropriate days.

PE Timetable		
11 Navy	Tuesday	Friday
11 Peach	Tuesday	Wednesday
11 Maroon	Tuesday	Thursday
10 Silver	Tuesday	Friday
10 Violet	Tuesday	Friday
10 Orange	Tuesday	Friday
9 Teal	Wednesday	Thursday
9 Purple	Monday	Wednesday
9 Bronze	Tuesday	Wednesday
8 Gold	Monday	Wednesday
8 Red	Monday	Tuesday
8 Lime	Wednesday	Thursday
7 Green	Monday	Thursday
7 Yellow	Monday	Thursday
7 Sky	Monday	Tuesday

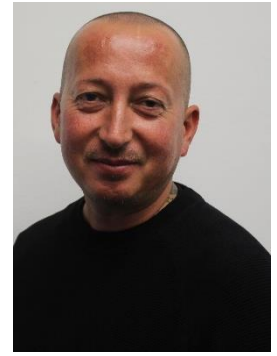
New Staff

We would like to welcome Mr Puszko who joined us as a Learning Partner on Monday.

Events coming up before Half Term

Please look out for information being shared about the following activities.

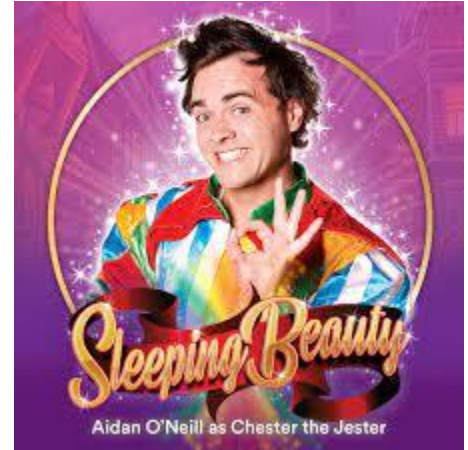
- Year 9 trip to the Royal Gunpowder Mills on Wednesday 27th September.
- Year 10 and 11 Information Evening on Thursday 12th October.
- Year 7 parents' coffee morning on Tuesday 17th October.



Sleeping Beauty Pantomime Trip – Early Notification

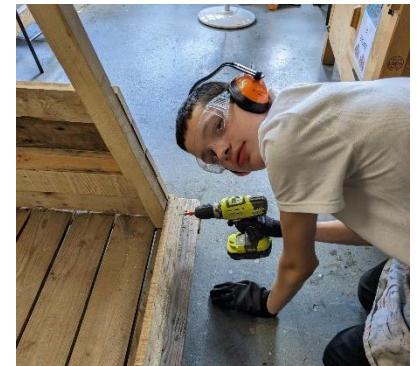
On Wednesday 6th December we will be running a trip to The Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage to see their production of Sleeping Beauty. Unfortunately finish times of the show will be after taxi pick-up time so students will need to be picked up from the Leisure car park or school by parents/carers if they are going to attend.

Please look out for a letter which will be sent out in the next few days.



Design and Technology after school club

The students and staff had a thoroughly enjoyable time in the Design and Technology after school club where they were working together to build wooden teepees for the outdoor area.



Year 11 Performing Arts Group

The Year 11 Performing Arts group have made a fantastic start to their course. They have been learning Rock Around the Clock as a band and have really impressed with their wonderful playing and singing.



Year 11 College Afternoons

To start preparing our students for college they attend taster classes every Thursday. There was a sense of nervous anticipation leading to their first session, but once they arrived this quickly dissipated. They are all looking forward to their next session in a weeks' time.



Friday Afternoon Sewing

Some students learned a new skill using the 'Quick Un Pick to take stitches apart on a piece of material.


Clubs

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'David Pearce', written over a horizontal line.

David Pearce