

**Date: Friday 6th October 2023**

### **The Valley Newsletter**

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.

### **2023/24 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](mailto:l.ellis@thevalley.herts.sch.uk)

or:

[iona.varol@thevalley.herts.sch.uk](mailto:iona.varol@thevalley.herts.sch.uk)



## Prizes and Awards

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November we will be holding our Prizes and Awards Afternoon to celebrate the achievements of our young people during the academic year of 2022-2023.

As our Year 7 students were not at the school last year, they will be out on a trip to the cinema and bowling to help develop relationships and social skills.

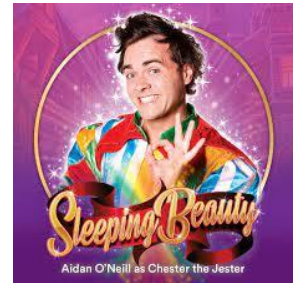
Please look out for the letters regarding both of these events as replies will be required.



## Sleeping Beauty Pantomime Trip – Early Notification

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> 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 (4:00pm) so students will need to be collected from the Leisure car park or school by parents/carers if they are going to attend.

We are asking for a voluntary contribution of £10.00 per student. If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals the amount will be £5:00. Please contact the office if you require any support in funding this trip. Payments can be made through Arbor.



The letter for this went out on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September. The final date for confirmation and payment is Friday 13 October.

## Halloween Dress-Up Day

As part of our Duke of Edinburgh volunteering we are looking to

support a local independent food bank with donations of canned and packet foods.

To help with the donation process we are organising a spooky dress up day on October 31st where students bring in a donation of food in support of the Foodshed.



Year 11 Duke of Edinburgh students will collect and sort the items and then deliver them to the charity. Please note that any food items donated must be in date.

### **Year 9 Arts Award**

As part of their Arts Award Explore, each Year 9 class will be visiting Junction 7 Creatives in the centre of Stevenage. Junction 7 is a community centre 'for artists and anyone who wants to get creative'.

As part of their Arts Award, students have to visit an arts organisation and find out what they do. They will be asking questions of staff and finding out what is on offer. Students will then be participating in an Art workshop run by the centre.



The trip will be taking place during the school day and is free of charge. Students will be driven to the Junction 7 in Stevenage town centre after assembly and return in time for lunch.

Year 9 Purple Friday 3 November

Year 9 Bronze Friday 10 November

Year 9 Teal Friday 17 November

### **Y10 Enterprise trip to OTG Assault Course Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

As part of the Enterprise unit of work for this term, we are very excited to be able to offer Y10 the opportunity to go to the OTG Assault course in Bassingbourn.

The trip will take place during school hours and we will return in time for usual transport arrangements at the end of the day. We are asking for a voluntary contribution of £8 per student. If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals a contribution of £4 is requested.

We will be leaving school at 12pm after an early lunch. Students who usually have a school dinner will be offered a school packed lunch.

Your child will need to bring a drink in a named water bottle.



### **7 Sky**

This week Sky class has been reading a story about an octopus who cleaned up the sea and helped people to recycle. We sorted our rubbish into different groups for recycling, learnt how to draw an octopus and made an octopus. We have some very talented artists in Sky class.

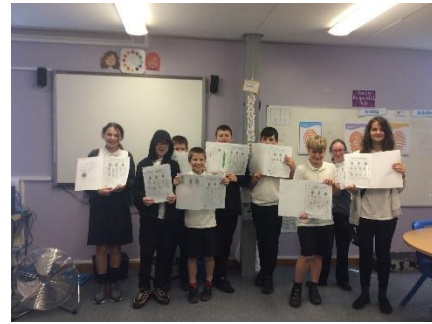


## **8 Gold Fingerprints**

Year 8 have been doing Crime and Punishment and learning about fingerprints.

This week 8 Gold have taken their own fingerprints and analysed them to decide whether they have whorl, arch or loop fingerprints.

Well done 8 Gold!



## **Swimming**

Thank you to all Year 7, 8 and 9 parents who have returned the Finn Divers questionnaire relating to their son/daughters competency within water.

To provide some clarity, Mr Russell has been collating the data to establish which of our students are unable to swim or are not competent within water. We will then be offering a select few students with the highest need the opportunity to learn to swim. This is not part of the Physical Education Curriculum and is not for all students.

Starting from next week we will have some Year 8 and 9 groups begin their lessons and a Year 7 group will begin after the Christmas holidays once we are happy that they have settled into life at The Valley School.

Swimming is a life skill we feel strongly about as a school, which is why we have prioritised those students initially unable to swim.

## **Electives**

Friday afternoons are a hive of activity. Masks have been made on one session, which look fabulous.





## Y8 Art

Year 8 students have been working on colour theory for the past half term understanding primary and secondary colours and how to mix these.

They have also produced some excellent work on hot and cold colours using blending and colour mixing skills.



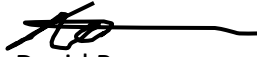
## Clubs

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](mailto: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 read 'DP', is written over a horizontal line.

David Pearce