

Date: Friday 13th October 2023

The Valley Newsletter

It is amazing how quickly this half-term has flown by. We have continued with providing our young people a full and varied programme of learning activities, inside and outside of the classroom. There have been many trips and visits to complement their classroom lessons. We are all excited about leaving this tired, old building behind and moving into the new one in the New Year. Next half-term will be full of seasonal fun, packing and familiarisation visits to the new school. We will ensure that although these are important, they will not detract from the day-to-day learning of our young people.

Teal Class Have a New Furry Student

Teal class met their new hamster this week. His name is Bobby and he has received a lovely warm welcome.



Year 7 Science

Year 7 have been learning about our organs and the different jobs they do. Students have made an organ puzzle using salt dough.



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

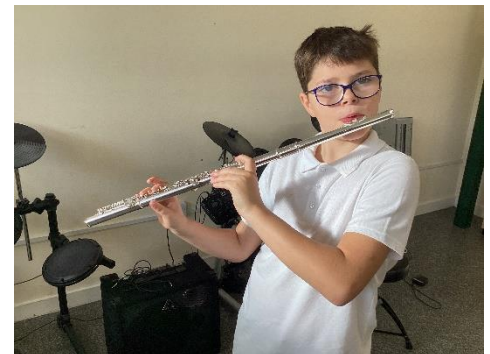
or:

iona.varol@thevalley.herts.sch.uk



Instrumental Lessons

Instrumental sessions with our staff from the Hertfordshire Music Service are now in full swing. Year 7 students who requested sessions have been rotating to give everyone the opportunity to participate. Some



students in the older years are forming bands which will perform at our Christmas Performing Arts event in December. Two of our Year 7 students expressed an interest in learning to play the flute. These sessions have now started, which is fantastic, we look forward to hearing them in the future. Well done Elliott and Helen!

Prizes and Awards

On Thursday 16th 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.

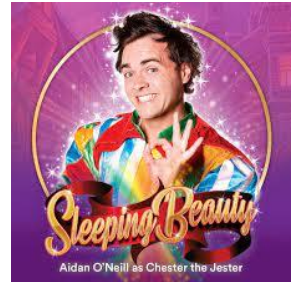
Please look out for the letters regarding both of these events as replies will be required.



Sleeping Beauty Pantomime Trip – Early Notification

On Wednesday 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 (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 23rd September. The final date for confirmation and payment is today, 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 16th 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.



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. 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.

Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Lessons

Year 10 have begun their CPR training this week in their Duke of Edinburgh lessons. They have been learning about the correct technique and when they would need to use it. The students have been really engaged in the process.



Design and technology

The Year 10s were completing some finishing touches to the new chairs they had built for the outside spaces for the new school.

Some of the joints were constructed with impressive dowel work.



Year 10 Enterprise

Y10 Enterprise have been working hard to learn a new skill – making paracord bracelets and keyrings. They are very much looking forward to their trip on Monday to OTG in Bassingbourn to have a go on the assault course. After half term the Enterprise team will be constructing an assault course in the woods for students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 11 to try out (for a small charge). The paracord bracelets, keyrings, as well as other 'outdoorsy' items will be available for students to purchase in November.



Clubs

There will be no clubs on Tuesday as it is the last day before half term and there will be **no Art Club** on the first week back after half term (Thursday 2 November).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Pearce', followed by a horizontal line.

David Pearce