

The Valley Newsletter

3 November 2023

Initially I would like to explain the new format of the newsletter. This is our first attempt at integrating our newsletter with the website. All the items included here have been drawn from the news pages. We hope you find this informative and helpful.

We have had an extremely busy first week back from half-term with nearly 300 parents touring the school in the hope of attaining a placement for their young person. All the feedback has been extremely positive and the students have been excellent advocates for the school.

EHCP Annual Reviews

In response to feedback we have made changes to the annual review process. Year groups will be reviewed on the following dates:

Y11	5 th December 2023
Y10	28 th February 2024
Y7 & Y8	13 th March 2024
Y9	9 th May 2024

EDUCATIONAL
HEALTH & CARE
PLAN

The reviews will be held remotely on SchoolCloud, which is the same platform we use for parent consultations. As usual, you will receive a paper copy of an amended plan 14 days before the review date, in order for you to prepare for the meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact senco@thevalley.herts.sch.uk

Parents' Evening

Years 7 & 9 Parents' Evening

On Thursday 9th November we are holding our Parents' Evening for Years 7 & 9.



We have responded to parental requests asking us to conduct these remotely. We appreciate how hard it is for families, particularly those who have other children, to come onto the school site in the early evening.

By holding Parents' Evenings this way it cuts down on issues of transport, parking and childcare.

Please make sure you have accessed the booking and log-on information from Class Dojo; it has also been sent by email via Schoolcloud.

Please contact the school office if you are experiencing any difficulties.

Friends Of The Valley School

FoVS (Friends of the Valley School)

FoVS (Friends of the Valley School) are meeting online on **Wednesday 8 November at 7.30pm** to discuss fundraising ideas. All parents / carers / friends are warmly invited to join us.

Here is the link to the meeting.

<https://teams.live.com/joinmeeting/9470729619799?p=WjVRABJY0jHxVeQX>

We are also looking for volunteers to support with transporting students who attend alternative provisions during the day.

If you have a clean driving licence, feel confident in driving one of our school cars, are happy to have a DBS check and would be willing to complete a short competency assessment with our Site Manager, we would love to hear from you.

The dates and times can be seen below:

Monday: 9:45am collection and drop off at The Block, Hitchin

Monday: 2:30pm collection from The Block and return to The Valley

Tuesday: 9:45am collection from The Valley and drop off at The Block

Tuesday: 2:30pm collection from The Block and return to The Valley



Wednesday: 9:10am collection from The Valley and dropped off at EOB, Letchworth

Wednesday: 2:30pm collection from EOB and returned to The Valley

Thursday: 9:10am collection from The Valley and dropped at EOB

Thursday: 2:30pm collection from EOB and returned to The Valley

Any support offered would free up staff whose professionalism could be redirected elsewhere.

Thank you for your anticipated support

Halloween Fund Raising

Halloween Fundraising

The Year 11 Duke of Edinburgh Group encouraged staff and students to dress up for Halloween to support our local food bank (Food Shed). They were extremely pleased with their efforts as the group were able to make a substantial donation of produce.



Herts Arts

Herts Arts

On the 10th of October I had the privilege of attending the Herts Arts concert which celebrates the creative talents of our young people.

Miami, one of our Year 8 students, performed an amazing solo of the Foo Fighters song, "Times Like These" supported by a group of young people from all across North Hertfordshire, whilst playing the Ukele. In this group were two former Valley School students, Yasmin and Dan.

Miami made us so proud; she performed with confidence and sang beautifully. She should be commended for all her efforts and was an amazing ambassador for the school. Well done Miami.



Coffee Morning For Year 7

Parents

Coffee Morning Tuesday 7th November

From 9:30am to 10:30am we would love to see you at our Year 7 coffee morning.

There will be an opportunity to talk to staff, chat about your child and enjoy some light refreshments.

If you are interested in attending please email admin@thevalley.herts.sch.uk



After School Clubs Clubs

The list of students expected to attend clubs on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday will be sent as a separate email 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.



Year 10 Assault Course Trip

Just before we broke up for half term, Year 10 had a fantastic day researching an assault course as part of their Enterprise lessons. It was amazing to see the students' resilience and courage as they attempted each of the obstacles. They worked as a real team to support each other when things were tricky and didn't seem to mind getting wet. In fact many of them came back for more.....!



Prizes and Awards

Prizes and Awards 2022-23

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.

Year 9 trip To Junction 7 Creatives

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'.



These trips have started this week, with 9 Purple going today. Students have been preparing their questions and are looking forward to participating in an art workshop.

We were delighted to learn that Junction 7 Creatives have just received a special award at the Pride of Stevenage event. Please see the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JG2S50uD1Qs>

Year 9 Purple Friday 3 November

Year 9 Bronze Friday 10 November

Year 9 Teal Friday 17 November

Sleeping Beauty Pantomime

Sleeping Beauty School Trip

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 has passed.

