

The Valley Newsletter

10 November 2023

We have had a lovely week at The Valley School. The students have engaged well in their learning, the Year 11s have settled well into their Thursday College afternoons and there is a good spread of students enjoying extracurricular activities across all year groups. Our Years 7 and 9 had their Parents' Evening this week and we were extremely pleased with the excellent attendance across both year groups.

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

Staff Governor Opening

Are You Interested In Being A Staff Governor?

We are looking for staff who are interested in becoming a staff Governor. If you would like to contribute to the strategic leadership of the school, have an interest in why decisions are made, and would like to play a part in shaping the future of The Valley School, then please contact Liz Ellis (Chair of Governors) l.ellis@thevalley.herts.sch.uk.

There are five Full Governing Body meetings a year and five Sub-Committee meetings. The Full Governing Body meet face-to-face and the Sub-Committees meet virtually.

If you have ambitions of progressing into school leadership, or just want to be more actively involved in the school's systems and processes, this may well be an exciting opportunity for you to consider. We are looking forward to hearing from you.



Well Done Faris

Faris Has Been Amazing

Faris in Year 8 Lime has been a 'super student' this week. He has been a wonderful friend, supportive of his classmates and showing frequent acts of kindness. Ms Oakes has been so pleased with Faris that he will be receiving a certificate at the end of the week, celebrating his success.



Year 9 Science

Science Experiments In Year 9

Teal class were learning about the anatomy of the human body. They spent time making lungs and the diaphragm using a bottle, straws and balloons.

This is an excellent example of the imaginative approach teachers take to bring a practical approach and application to theoretical knowledge.



The students learnt a lot, were fully engaged and thoroughly enjoyed their lesson.

Year 7 Literacy

Sharing Written Work

This week the Year 7 students worked really hard on their written work. They then took great pleasure in sharing their wonderful literary masterpieces with the rest of the class.



Attendance

Attendance Guide for Parents/Carers

What YOU will do:

Report your child's absence to the school office. Try to telephone or email by 9am.

Tell the school in advance of any medical or dental appointments, using the Leave of Absence form that is on the school website. A hard copy can be obtained from the main office.

Check the NHS guidance if you are unsure whether your child is well enough to be in school. The guidance is clear that it is fine to send them in with a minor cough or cold, provided they don't have a temperature.

Have a backup plan if your child misses transport.

Attendance Matters



What WE will do:

Check your child's attendance every day.

Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.

Our Family Engagement and Therapies Lead will work with you to offer support or guidance.

Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.

Working together to improve attendance

We understand that attending school can be tricky sometimes. We want to work with your child and you to ensure they feel confident to come to school.

If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance the talk to as a first step so that we can work together to help.

If you need to ask for absence during term time for exceptional circumstances please submit the Leave of Absence form that is on the school website or available from the main office.

Festive Showcase Jingle All The Way

You are warmly invited to attend our Festive Showcase. This will be held from 5.30pm on Thursday 7 December in the school theatre. The performance will consist of some KS3 classes singing, songs from our school bands, some instrumental music, a special performance from the Performing Arts Club and a short pantomime from our Year 11 Performing Arts Students.

All KS3 students have been learning the songs in their lessons and it would be fantastic to have as many as possible participating. KS4 Performing Arts students and Performing Arts Club have been rehearsing hard this half term and are all performing. If your child has instrumental sessions with Matthew and Jim and is in a school band, they have been rehearsing hard and have some fantastic songs to share. Participating students will need to

be back in school by 5.15pm. They should wear something festive, reindeer antlers and Father Christmas hats are particularly encouraged!



Family Support Coffee Morning **Coffee Morning Monday 13th November**

From 10:00am to 11:30am we would love to see you at our 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 louise.casey@thevalley.herts.sch.uk



Would You Like To Volunteer At The Valley School? **Volunteering At The Valley School**

We are 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 from The Valley 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 off 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.

After School Clubs (No clubs on Thursday 16th November) 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.

(There will be no clubs on Thursday 16th November as it is our Prizes and Awards Evening)

Thank you for your support with this.

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.



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.

