

# The Valley Newsletter

## 17 November 2023

This week has culminated in our Prizes and Awards event. We were very lucky to have two players from Stevenage Football Club to present the trophies during the lower school ceremony. The whole occasion was a great success and a fitting way to celebrate the achievements of last year. The Year 7s didn't miss out, enjoying a marvellous trip to Cine World in Luton followed by bowling.

### Prizes and Awards 2022-23

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

Daniel Sweeney (Centre Back) and Harry Anderson (Right Wing) supported us from Stevenage Football Club, as our guests of honour.



We would also like to extend our thanks to ASH and MACE who sponsored some of our trophies.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the occasion and we are looking forward to holding the next one in our new build.

We will inform you on how you can access the photos of your child over the next few days.





## Friends of Valley School

### Friends of Valley School Fundraising

As previously advised we had a FoVS fundraising meeting last Wednesday, 8 Nov, and were thrilled to welcome some New Year 7 parents.

We are focusing our fundraising activities in the wider community rather than within the school community however, we would like to ask parents to investigate if their companies offer match funding opportunities.

**Match funding** is an arrangement between a company and their employee. Not all companies offer matched funding but those that do will pledge a sum of money relating to the amount their employee has raised for or donated to the charity of their choice. We would be grateful if parents / carers could reach out within their places of work to ask if fund matching is available to them as this could be a great way to increase our fundraising.

#### How match funding works

A parent who works for a company that offers match funding, volunteers to work on the refreshment stall at the PTA summer fair. The profit made by the stall is £100. The parent's employer will then match this amount with a further £100.



Some organisations will match fund on a pound for pound basis, while others will stipulate what they are prepared to give. It is likely that an upper limit will be applied along with certain criteria such as the recipient organisation being a registered charity.

Some companies will also pledge time and resources instead of money, so enabling their employees to support a cause during their working week, or offering a tangible service such as the opportunity to print posters, programmes, newsletters and so on.

Alternatively, a parent may opt to make a cash donation to the PTA, which again could be matched by their organisation.

### **S'mores and More**

#### **Student's Enterprise Event**

From Tuesday 21st November students will have the opportunity to use their reward money to buy s'mores and paracord bracelets whilst out in the woods at break time. They should also look out for exciting news about the assault course challenge and survival goodies that are coming up soon.



### **Lime Class Cinema Trip**

#### **Year 8 Lime watch Epic Tails at the Cinema**

Year 8 Lime took a trip to the cinema this week to support their studying of 'Film', this half-terms topic. The plan was to see 'Early Man' however due to a technical fault they watched 'Epic Tails' instead. All students coped with this last minute change really well. The staff and students had a great time.



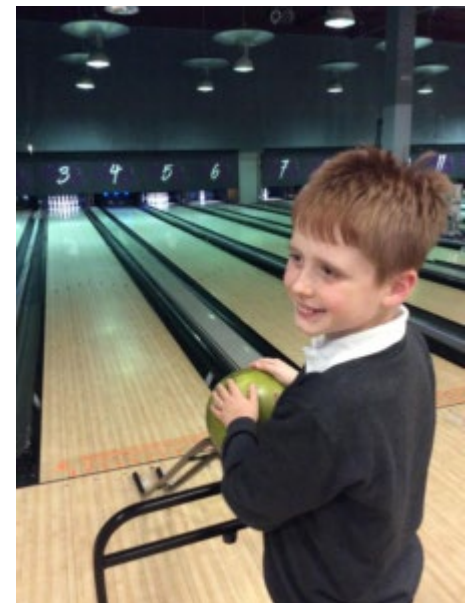
### **Year 7 Cinema and Bowling Trip**

#### **Year 7 Go To Cine-World and Bowling In Luton**

Year 7 had a wonderful time at Cine-World in Luton on the 16<sup>th</sup> November.

The students were great ambassadors for the school. They were treated with their own private screening of Super Mario Bros.

They then enjoyed a game of Ten Pin Bowling which concluded a great day out for Year 7!



### **Year 9 R.E.**

#### **Making Candle Holders For Diwali**

The Year 9 students have been exploring Diwali during their R.E. lessons. They have been making candle holders for Diwali out of salt dough and then decorating them. They not only found the whole process informative, but they had great fun designing and constructing them.



Year  
9  
Arts



**Year 9 Arts Award**  
**Teal Class Inspired by Pablo Picasso**

The Year 9 students have been working on their Arts Award. The pictures below show Teal class developing their final pieces. These are all inspired by Pablo Picasso and his Cubism style.



## **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! Please give consent for your child to participate via Arbor. There is no charge for tickets, but do indicate how many you require.



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

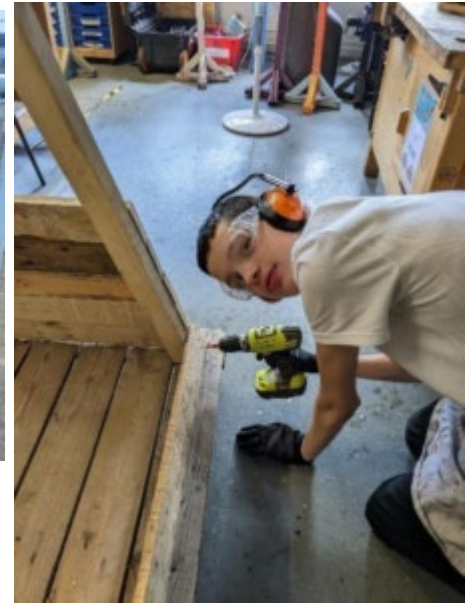
There are five Full Governing Body meetings a year and five Sub-Committee meetings. The Full Governing Body meet face-to-face and the Sub-Committees meet virtually.

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.



## 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](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.

## Sleeping Beauty Pantomime Sleeping Beauty School Trip

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 has passed.



### **Year 9 trip To Junction 7 Creatives**

#### **Year 9 Arts Award**

Over the last three weeks all of Year 9 have had the opportunity to visit Junction7 Creatives in Stevenage as part of their Arts Award Explore. They had fun looking at all the different styles of art and choosing their favourite and were given the opportunity to create a piece of art of their own.

Thank you to Junction7 for offering our students this opportunity.



### **Parent Governor Opportunity**

#### **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 Senior Leadership Team 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)



### Year 11 Trip to The Stevenage Museum

On Thursday 16th November the Year 11s took a trip out to Stevenage Museum before attending their placements. This was the first trip they had been on this academic year and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The students were excellent ambassadors for the school. Thank you to the Year 11 team making the trip possible.



for





## Remembrance Day

### Callum Parades on Remembrance Sunday

We are extremely proud of Callum who cut a smart and commanding figure in his cadets uniform on Remembrance Day. We all respect the sacrifices made by generations that have come before us. Callum did himself and his family proud.

## EHCP Annual Reviews

### EHCP Annual Review Meetings

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

Y11 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023

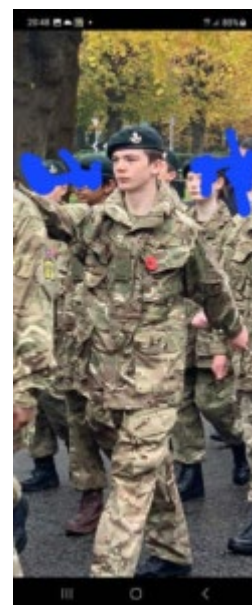
Y10 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Y7 & Y8 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Y9 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024

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](mailto:senco@thevalley.herts.sch.uk)



# EDUCATIONAL HEALTH & CARE PLAN