

The Valley Newsletter

12th January 2024

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our students back to The Valley after what we hope was a lovely, relaxing and safe Christmas break.

We are anticipating another busy term this spring, in our lovely new building, with our usual vibrant and engaging lessons, educational trips, visits and experiences.

New School Tours For Parents/Carers, Systems and Processes

With a new school there will inevitably be some teething problems as we find out what works and what doesn't.

Please be patient with us as we find our way. There may be a number of false starts before we get it right. Already we have tried a couple of different ideas on how best for parents/carers to pick up and drop off students.

After a couple of weeks I am sure we will have settled in and then we will start offering tours of the new site to our parents/carers.

Students Enjoying Break Time



New School Lunch System

Cypad Meal Selection has been introduced into school for all lunch meal ordering.

Thank you for registering with School Gateway and pre booking your child's school meals.

Don't forget to book any required lunches for next week, if you haven't already. Please remember to cancel any meals that aren't required due to absence by 9am.



If your child attends college on Thursdays and you would like them to have a school packed lunch before they go, please remember to book the sandwich option on School Gateway before 8am on that day. Details on how to set this up have been sent to you, but if you need help please contact the school office.



Festive Showcase

We are delighted to be able to share the recording of our Festive Showcase - Jingle All The Way! Please be assured that this is a private link and will not appear as a result of any internet search. Huge thanks goes to Mr Chamberlain who recorded and edited the show.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I560RlyZfCY>

Design and Technology

Year 7 Sky class had an amazing lesson! They reviewed safety rules and had some introduction to safe use of hand tools, starting with hammers and nails. They were so involved that they opted to miss snack time to stay in the lesson; they did make it to break on time!



After School Clubs

These will continue to be on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. They will start up again from Tuesday 16th January.

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.

The Witches at the National Theatre - Wednesday 24 January

On Wednesday 24th the Performing Arts students are taking a trip to London to watch *The Witches*.

The plan for the day is as follows:

Lesson 1 as normal

Students to meet in the Drama Studio at the start of Lesson 2

Minibuses and car to Stevenage Train Station

Train 10.47 from Stevenage to London Blackfriars (11.23)

Walk from London Blackfriars along the Thames to the National Theatre (20 minutes approximately, however with sightseeing this may be longer)

12.00 arrive at the National Theatre

Have lunch in the foyer

1.00 show

Running time 2 hours 30 minutes (including a 20 minute interval)

Finish 3.30

Walk back to London Blackfriars.

Train home (16.22 - 16.58)

Students to be collected from the Leisure Park car park, as per the pantomime, at 5.00pm

If your child is attending the trip and you have any questions, please contact the school office.



Hiring Facilities

We are exploring opportunities to let our facilities to create another funding stream for the school.

If you know of any groups or clubs that might be interested, please encourage them to contact the school.

The details regarding prices and availability are listed below.

Facilities Available and Pricing

Hourly Rates

Area	Community Use	Commercial	Dimensions
	Out of School Hours	Out of School Hours	
Hall	£25	£30	12.6m x 9.5m
Sports Hall	£25	£30	18m x 10m
Fitness Studio	£20.00 p/m (mship)	£30 per class	12.46m x 5.90m
Natural turf playing pitch	£25.00 per match	£30 per match	60m x 30m

Hours of Access

Term- Time			
Users	Days	Times	Notes
Community	Mon - Fri	16:30 to 22:00	Daylight Permitting
	Saturday	08:00 to 22:00	
	Sunday	08:00 to 22:00	
Holidays			
Users	Days	Times	Notes
Community	Mon - Fri	08:00 to 22:00	Daylight Permitting
	Saturday	08:00 to 22:00	
	Sunday	08:00 to 22:00	

Subject to the School providing appropriate justification to the management committee, the School may restrict the use of grassed sports areas to protect them to fit in with the school requirements.