

# The Valley Newsletter

## 2nd February 2024

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.

### Goodbye to Mr Sheridan (Hugh)

Hugh started at The Valley on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1991; essentially before any of our current students and even some of our staff were born.

He has decided to leave us to enjoy a well-deserved retirement. He has planned to do some D.I.Y and look after his young grandchildren.

We wish him all the best and hope that he visits us often.

### Year 11 RE

Last week Year 11 had the chance to participate in a meditation activity as part of their learning. This week Peach class asked for another opportunity to take part in meditation at the end of their lesson. I was really impressed with how well the class engaged.



### Year 11 Outdoor Learning

The boys in Year 11 have been deconstructing the old outdoor learning hut. They have worked hard to save expensive cuts of wood so that they can rebuild a new shelter at the new school.



### Music Lessons

Our two current flute students are progressing fantastically and have now both purchased their own instruments. This means that we now have two flutes in need of players! If your child is interested in learning the flute, please contact Mrs Crosby on [shaunaid.crosby@thevalley.herts.sch.uk](mailto:shaunaid.crosby@thevalley.herts.sch.uk)



### Inclusive Choir

Inclusive Choir run by Hertfordshire Music Service and our very own Matthew Dear.



If your child is interested in joining this new choir please see the leaflet attached and register directly with the Music Service. There is a free taster session on Friday 15 March.

### **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.

### **Open Mornings**

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March we are holding two open mornings to provide an opportunity for visitors to look around the new school.

An email with booking information has been sent out so that you can sign up.

A plan of the morning can be seen below.

Parents/carers will be divided into different coloured groups on arrival. To mitigate against visitors being rushed/having to hang around, we have organised a 'mop-up' group for late arrivals.

Please do not arrive before 9:30am as this will disrupt our 'Taxi Drop Off' arrangements.

	Group 1 BLUE	Group 2 RED	Group 3 GREEN
9:30 – 9:50	Parents arrive Top/Bottom car Park and Muga	Parents arrive Top/Bottom car Park and Muga	Parents arrive Top/Bottom car Park and Muga
9:30-10:00	Early Refreshments (Enterprise Group)		
10:0 - 10:30	Tour of School <b>David</b> Start Dining Room finish Dining Room	Tour of School <b>Taney</b> Start Dining Room finish Dining Room	Late refreshment to 10:15  Tour of School <b>Iona</b> Start Dining Room finish Dining Room
10:30	Leave		
10:45			Leave

### School Lunches

Please remember to pre-book your child's school meal before 8am. You can order meals up to 10 weeks in advance to save you time doing this each morning. If your child attends college on Thursday, we are not able to offer them a hot lunch due to the time they leave. We are able to provide them with a school packed lunch to eat before they go, but this must be pre-booked on School Gateway.



### 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.*

### School Clubs

These will continue to be on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

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.

