

The Valley Newsletter

9th February 2024

We have had another interesting week where in true British style we have experienced every season's weather in one week.

Despite this, our young people have demonstrated their resilience; throwing themselves into all activities on offer, both indoors and out.

Year 11 Parents' Evening

Parents' evening for Year 11 is on Thursday 15th February 2024 from 4-7pm and takes place online via video chat. This is an important evening and provides you with an opportunity to discuss your child's learning and achievements at The Valley School.

To facilitate the evening the school will be using School Cloud, an online appointment booking system. This allows you to choose your own appointment times with teachers and have them confirmed via email.

You have the opportunity to book a maximum of three appointments with different staff members. We strongly recommend booking an appointment with your child's form tutor and two optional additional appointments with subject teachers that you feel you need to discuss anything else.

Please visit <https://valleyschool.schoolcloud.co.uk/> to book your appointments.

If you want a longer discussion or additional conversations with staff after the Parents' Evening, then please feel free to make another appointment through the school office.

EHCP Annual Review Days

Year 10 EHCP Annual Review Day is taking place on [Wednesday 28th February](#).

Paperwork in preparation for this will be posted home to Parents/Carers next week.

Year 10 students will not be in school on that day as all their teachers will be involved in meetings.

The reviews are being conducted virtually, for which you should have already received an invitation via School Cloud.

A reminder will also be sent nearer the time.



Annual Review Days for other year groups will follow the same format and are as follows:

[Years 7 and 8 - Wednesday 13th March](#)

[Year 9 - Thursday 9th May](#)

Don't forget
Parents'
Evening!

Duke of Edinburgh

The Year 10 students have been practising their first aid skills in their Duke of Edinburgh lessons. Blake did a wonderful job putting a sling on Teigen's arm.

Uniform

We are aware that clothes are expensive and that sometimes it is hard to get clothes washed and ready to wear for the next time they are needed; especially when some of our young people seem to be drawn to the messiest and dirtiest activities.

If you need support in any way, please contact Ms Casey (Family Engagement) who will do all that she can to support you. Please email louise.casey@thevalley.herts.sch.uk



Year 7 Cinema Trip

We are very excited to let you know that on Tuesday 12th March Sky Class will be heading out for the day. We will be watching 'Trolls Band Together' at Vue Cinema in Bedford, this is a free showing for schools. We will then travel to Baldock Services where students will use their reward money to purchase their lunch from McDonalds. Students do not have to buy their lunch if they want to save their points, however if they choose not to, they will need to bring a packed lunch or order one from school.

We will be leaving promptly at 9am using school vehicles and making our way to Vue Cinema in Bedford to see a showing of the Trolls Band Together Movie, which has a U certificate. Following the film we will be travelling to Baldock Services for lunch. After lunch we will return to school in time for usual end of day arrangements.



If you would also like to provide a small nut free snack for your child to eat during the film please do so because we will not be able to visit the shop at the cinema. Filled water bottles should also be provided. We will be representing The Valley School while we are out, so full school uniform must be worn.

Year 10 Maths

During their Year 10 Maths lesson, students have been practising buying and selling things from their 'mock' shop. Lewis showed me how he worked out how much money he had to spend and whether he had received the right amount of change.



Year 7 Science

The students have been discussing air resistance in Science. We looked at how shape affected the friction by folding paper aeroplanes and had great fun testing them out in our playground.



Food Tech

Students used blenders to make their own milkshakes and were amazed at how easy it was to make their own one at home.

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



Year 10 Childcare

Our Year 10 Childcare students have been doing a brilliant job at getting involved in a range of activities as we continue to explore how children learn through play. Highlights have included decorating biscuits, play dough and a particularly noisy music workshop! Well done Year 10, keep up the fantastic approach to learning.



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.

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.

Please note that if your child has 90% attendance by the end of the school year, they have effectively missed a months' worth of schooling.

Attendance Matters



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.



Open Mornings

On Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th 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 David Start Dining Room finish Dining Room	Tour of School Taney Start Dining Room finish Dining Room	Late refreshment to 10:15 Tour of School Iona Start Dining Room finish Dining Room
10:30	Leave		
10:45			Leave

Year 10 Design and Technology

Liam finished his BTEC frame making project to a very high standard! We are so proud of the effort he has put into this work and his willingness to help others in the group. Liam has shown a real aptitude for the subject and should be commended for his efforts.



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

There will be no Clubs next Thursday (15th February) as we have Year 11 Parents' Evening. Sorry for any inconvenience.

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 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.

