

The Valley Newsletter

3rd May 2024

On Tuesday we hosted a visit from Hero Slinn, Hertfordshire County Council's Director of Inclusion and skills. She spent a couple of hours with us exploring our curriculum, finances and touring the school. She was mightily impressed with everything we are doing. She expressed her delight in meeting the students; witnessing first hand their outstanding behaviours, friendliness, politeness and hard work.



Ark Farm

A fabulous time was had by all on Wednesday when Ark Farm came in to visit. Students got the opportunity to handle a range of animals and speak with farm staff. Some excellent questions were asked by students and the staff from the farm said how impressed they were with our students!

Year 11 Students Leaving Arrangements

Our Year 11 students leave us on Friday 7th June 2023 although transport will run until Friday 14th June.

The students and staff will plan a number of trips and visits in the first few days after half-term, in celebration of their time at the school.

All of the Year 11 students will be provided with a sign off sheet, which when complete will allow them to leave school. Every member of staff that teaches a Year 11 student will identify the work that needs to be completed for them to finish their course. The teachers will sign these when the work is completed to an appropriate standard.

When all the teachers have signed the sheets off, Mrs Wells will check and counter-sign them, allowing the student to finish their education at The Valley School.



The dates between Monday 10th June and Friday 14th June will be used to mop up any incomplete work and support students until they are done.

If you have any questions about the Year 11 leavers' dates, then please contact us to seek clarification.

Virtual Reality Session at College

Year 11 took part in a virtual reality session at college this week. With a lot of practice and concentration, they created some wonderful paintings.



Year 9 Education Health Care Plan Day

Year 9 Parents please remember that Thursday 9th May is the Year 9 EHCP day. As all of the students teachers will be tied up in meetings, work will be set for students to complete at home.

Please ensure you attend your meeting promptly. Thank you for your support.

Year 9 & 10 Key Stage 4 information Evening

On Thursday 16th May we invite you to a Key Stage 4 information evening. The evening will explain the way in which students are taught within Key Stage 4, the organisation of lessons and the transition programme to prepare them for life after The Valley School.

You will have the chance to meet the subject specialist teachers, who will endeavour to explain the changes in how lessons are delivered through the Upper School, and answer any questions you may have.

Please arrive on Thursday 16th May for a 5:30 pm start; it should not last longer than an hour. We look forward to you joining us at the school. Please report to the main reception on arrival.

EDUCATIONAL HEALTH & CARE PLAN



Year 10 Enterprise

Last Friday the Year 10 finally ran their long-awaited staff/student football tournament. Some impressive skills were on show and it was wonderful to see the mix of teams, ably refereed by our Year 10 students. The hot dogs and popcorn proved particularly popular and students queued in droves to have the chance of winning one of the amazing prizes from the tombola. A massive 'thank you' goes to the Happy Days charity for donating these. The two coveted skate boards were won and many students went home clutching a prize. Well done to Year 10 for providing such a fantastic event.....and the sun shone! ☀️



Aladdin Costumes

Year 11 Performing Arts students had a trip to Stevenage Market to research fabrics for our upcoming production of Aladdin. Izzy has been busy designing some of the costumes and we came away with lots of ideas and samples.

If there are any parents/carers that are able to sew and would be willing to support us in our costume making please let Mrs Crosby know.

(shaunaid.crosby@thevalley.herts.sch.uk) You will be provided with simple instructions and all materials.



Year 8 May Day Assembly

The Year 8 worked very hard all week to, planning an amazing May Day assembly to share with the whole school. Many of the Year 8 students were involved, showing off posters they designed, reading out extracts, or acting in videos they had produced. There was a school poll that voted Mr Pearce as May Day King, Ms Howarth May Day Queen and Archie the dog May Day Prince. The picture shows all three feeling very proud of themselves.



The audience were able to participate in an interactive quiz at the end. An exciting assembly was enjoyed by all!

Year 11 Prom (Year 10 students invited)

The Year 11 Prom will be held on Thursday 20th June at Stevenage Football Club. This will be an opportunity for students to dress up in formal wear, have a meal, music, speeches and celebrations of their time at The Valley School.



The event will begin from **7pm** and will finish at **10:00pm** for Year 11 students.

We request our students attend Prom in smart clothes, no jeans or trainers. Garden House Hospice in Stevenage town are running a pre-loved prom clothing event from now until mid-June to support families with the cost of living crisis.



Year 10s at Prom

As part of the transition to Year 11, the Year 11 students would like to invite the Year 10 students to celebrate their Prom with them. The event for the Year 10s will also begin at 7:00pm but will finish half an hour earlier at 9:30pm.

A separate letter confirming attendance has also been sent out this week.



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.

School 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.

Thank you for your support with this.