

# The Valley Newsletter

## 10th May 2024

Although this has been a shorter week, with the Bank Holiday Monday, it has been no less busy. We have had Dance Workshops on Tuesday, an 'Options' assembly and taster lessons on Wednesday, and our Year 9 EHCP day on Thursday. Alongside this, the students have been rehearsing hard for the whole school production whilst continuing their normal studies.

### Cultural Diversity Day

On Tuesday 21st May, we will be celebrating Cultural Diversity Day with a change of menu. If you have already booked a lunch for this day, please update your child's choice using the menu attached.



### Don Rae Academy

We were really fortunate to have Don, from the Don Rae Academy in school with us on Tuesday. He ran some fantastic dance workshops for all of Year 9 and KS4 Performing Arts Students. He was really impressed with the creativity and hard work of our students and really challenged them with some intricate choreography. You will be seeing some of it in our upcoming production of Aladdin. It was wonderful to see the students responding so positively to this new experience, we certainly have some amazing movers! Year 9 will be evaluating the workshop as part of their Arts Award Explore and we were fortunate to have received an access grant from Arts Award for this workshop.



## Year 11 College

This week our year 11 students were introduced to the cooking room at NHC. We went shopping to Asda for ingredients and then used them to make MASSIVE mug cakes!



## Year 8 Parents' Evening

A School Cloud email has been sent to all parents in Year 8 for the Parents' evening on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 between 4pm – 7pm. Please make sure you book on soon to get the timings you would like. You have the option to book a maximum of 3 appointments. 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. If there are any issues with booking, please contact your child's form tutor and they will be able to support you.

Please note that if you want to speak to further teachers this can easily be arranged outside the Parents' Evening window.

## Data reports

In order to support with your understanding of your child's data reports, please see the explanation of how it works below.

In the data report it will always give you a baseline of where your child started at the beginning of the year and also their current mark of where they are working at now, as shown below.

Baseline	Current mark
1.7	2.5
3.3	4.8
R7	R9
R5	R5
R9	R9

The table below gives you the breakdown of what you may see in your child's report.

Our grading	WTEY1-EY4	PR1 – PR4	R1- R9	1.0-1.9	2.0-2.9	3.0-3.9	4.0-4.9	5.0-5.9	6.0-6.9	7.0-7.9	8.0-8.9	9.0 – 9.9	10.0 -10.9
What it means	Early Years	Pre-reception	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10

## Social and Emotional Development

As we know, many children’s social and emotional development is as important, if not more so, than their academic development. So we also make sure to look at five different areas of development to support your child whilst they are with us at school. These are:

Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, Self-Awareness and Responsible Decision Making.

Staff score students from 1 to 4 on how students respond to certain situations, from being interested in the world around them, to making friends with the opposite sex, to managing change and each area is out of 40.

**1 Almost never**

**2 Seldom**

**3 Usually**

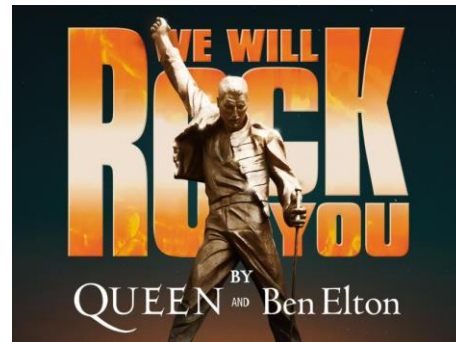
**4 Almost always**

There are no ideal scores in the measuring system, so it is not a case of a student passing or failing. The aim is to target the areas where the scores are lowest and to show improvement next time.

We hope this makes the report clearer for you. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

## Well Done Miami

The Valley School would like to congratulate Miami in securing a role in the Gordon Craig’s production of ‘We Will Rock You. The competition for these roles is notoriously fierce and she has done so well in successfully auditioning. Shows will be on tonight and tomorrow’s matinee.

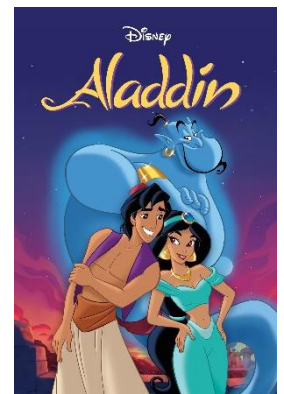


## Aladdin Trip

The trip to see a performance of Aladdin will take place on Wednesday next week, 15th May. Students attending will receive a separate school comms. We are delighted to say that we have been able to secure more tickets and all students who applied by the deadline are able to attend. We do have a waiting list, so if for any reason your child is not able to come please let us know as a matter of urgency so the place can be offered to another student.

I'm sure it will be a wonderful experience and give us lots of ideas for our own production!

[shaunaid.crosby@thevalley.herts.sch.uk](mailto:shaunaid.crosby@thevalley.herts.sch.uk)





### Change of English Staffing

It is wonderful news for Mrs Borrie that she will be leaving us for a few months on maternity leave. We wish her a happy and healthy pregnancy.

During the time she is away, Mrs Pomeroy will be taking over her Literacy Lead and Teaching responsibilities. We are very lucky to have her and wish her every success in her new role.

### Ofsted - The Big Listen – we want to hear your views!

The National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) is carrying out a short survey on behalf of Ofsted. We want to hear from parents/carers of children who are under 18 years old. It should only take around 10 minutes to complete. We are interested in views of, and any experiences with, Ofsted, including Ofsted's inspection, regulation and reporting practices. We really want to hear from a wide range of parents and carers, even if you don't have strong opinions about Ofsted, or haven't had much experience of Ofsted.



Please click on the following link to find out more or take part in the survey:

[survey.natcen.ac.uk/TheBigListen](https://survey.natcen.ac.uk/TheBigListen)

You can look at our [Taking Part webpage](#) for more information about the research, and our [Privacy Notice](#) for what will happen to any information you give. Links to these webpages are also included in the survey.

### School Uniform

We have had a big push on school uniform this term and the majority of students have responded well. We still have a few tricky customers that are insisting on wearing woolly hats indoors and/or tops that are not grey.

Please could you support us by ensuring that your child leaves your house in the proper attire, avoiding a needless daily confrontation. Thank you.

### Black trousers, skirt or tailored shorts.



### White shirt or polo shirt



### Grey jumper



**Completely black shoes or trainers**



**P.E. Kit**

**Black shorts or tracksuit trousers**



**White polo shirt**



**Black sweatshirt**



### **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.

### **Year 9 & 10 Key Stage 4 information Evening**

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.



### Year 11 Prom (Year 10 students invited)

The Year 11 Prom will be held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> 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.



**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](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.