

The Valley Newsletter

7th June 2024

It is lovely to welcome back our students and staff after the half term break. We have an exciting few weeks ahead with particular highlights being our Whole School Production of Aladdin, the Whole School Trip to Whipsnade Zoo and the Year 11 Prom to look forward to.

Teal Class Learning about the structure of planet earth

On Wednesday Teal class were exploring the structure of the earth, and how it was made up of many different layers. They immersed themselves in building their own planet earths, demonstrating everything that they had learned.



All Aboard Phonics

As part of the DfE guidance and National Curriculum requirements to support the teaching and learning of phonics and reading at The Valley, we will be implementing 'All Aboard Phonics'. We have been using the scheme to explicitly teach phonics in KS3 and have already begun to see successes. By implementing this school wide, we hope to continue seeing our students thrive. Within the next coming weeks, you will receive an email invitation to the learning platform where you will be able to play games and much more to support your child's progress in phonics.



Year 8 Science

Year 8 Lime Class have been learning about light sources and have started working on how shadows are created. We had some fun making some shadow puppets.



Year 11 Activities Week

This week Year 11 have had a fantastic week celebrating all that they have achieved at The Valley School. For their final week at school our students have taken part in a fun filled week of activities. We have visited Gosling Park, Great Yarmouth, Chessington, Fairlands Park and InflateBounce. It has been a pleasure spending the week with our wonderful students, they have made us all very proud. Although today we say goodbye to formal schooling, we look forward to seeing them all again for their leavers prom on Thursday 20th June.

Year 11 Duke of Edinburgh students have had an amazing time hiking and camping overnight at Phasel's Wood. All students have been excellent ambassadors for the school. It has been brilliant to see them share stories, work together and build lasting memories! We all managed to get some rest and I am incredibly proud of each of them. Well done!





Whole School Trip to Whipsnade Zoo

On Monday 22nd July we will be taking the whole school community on a trip to Whipsnade Zoo near Dunstable.

The school site will be closed for the day as every member of staff, including the site and office team, and every child will be attending.

The motivation for the trip

We have very high aspirations for our young people and have set some clear targets for them to meet for this trip to go ahead. They have responded amazingly - really enjoying the rewards culture within the school. I know that the staff and students are looking forward to the day and the many opportunities it will provide - from engaging in new experiences to building new relationships.



Arrangements

We will be travelling to and from the venue by coach. The Interventions Team will also be taking a minibus for those students who may need slightly different arrangements.

The trip will only be during school hours so 'normal' transport arrangements to and from the school will be maintained.

Each Year Group will have their own coach and each Head of Year will make the more specific arrangements for their Year Team.



Please look out for a follow up letter which will be sent out by your child's Head of Year in the next couple of weeks.

If you have any further questions please email admin@thevalley.herts.sch.uk

Free School Meals

Your child could be eligible for free school meals.

If your child is eligible you can apply at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals. If successful, your child will get a free school meal every school day and a £60 food voucher for the summer holidays.

If you have already applied, or your child is receiving a meal already, please disregard this message. For every eligible child, The Valley School also gets over £1,000 from the government which can be spent on education and support for children entitled to free school meals – this is called pupil premium.

The County Council identified children who may be eligible, but aren't claiming, using data from the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) as part of the Household Support Fund project. Look out for a separate letter if they identify your child as eligible.

If you need any support with the application please contact Ms. Casey at The Valley School.



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 and have a meal. There will be 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**.

School Clubs

Performing Arts Club will be running as additional rehearsals for Aladdin. Only students with principal roles will be required to attend. Please see the list attached to the newsletter. The club will resume as normal on Wednesday 10th July.

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.

