

# The Valley Newsletter

## 14th June 2024

This week has seen many of our Year 11 students sitting their examinations. They have shown incredible maturity and resilience at a time that is stressful for any young person tackling this stage of their educational journey. I would like to extend my thanks on their behalf for the care and consideration shown by the rest of the school community in supporting them, whether this was through kind words and actions, or just walking quietly past the exam rooms. We wish our Year 11 students every success when they pick up their results in the summer.

### The Valley School Wins an Education Business Award



On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May we received an email from the organisers stating that we had been shortlisted to the final five for an Education Business Award.

The schools shortlisted were:

#### 2024 Shortlist

Livingstone Academy, Dorset  
The Valley School, Hertfordshire  
Silverdale School, Sheffield  
St. Leonard's Primary School, Staffordshire  
The Charter School, London

We were told that congratulations were in order because...

*"When selecting the shortlists, our researchers examine many information sources, such as positive news reports, case studies, Ofsted inspections, information supplied by parents or local authorities etc."*

Ms Howarth (Deputy Head) and Ms Heritage (School Finance Manager) attended the event on Thursday 12 June and, when we were announced as winners, were extremely proud to pick up the award on behalf of The Valley School. We would like to extend a huge thank you to Mace and Ashe who designed and built our new school. It has improved our whole school community with an amazing environment in which to teach our young people, allowing them to learn and prepare themselves for the next stages in their lives.



### Year 10 Carpentry

This week the Year 10 Carpentry class have been working on a small bench that will fit under an awning outside the school.

### Aladdin

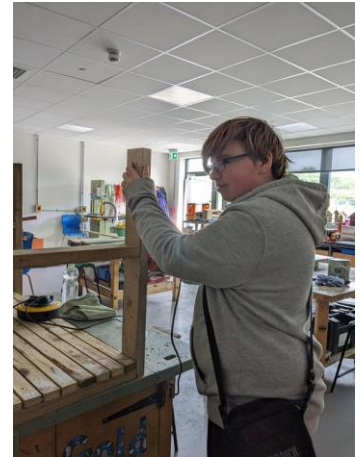
We had our first long rehearsal this week and the students were amazing at remembering the songs and choreography.

Please can I remind all students (other than named principals), that they will need black

leggings/tracksuit bottoms and a brightly coloured

plain T Shirt. This should be brought into school with a coat hanger as soon as possible please.

Thank you to Year 9, 10 and Art Club who have been working on creating Agrabah, they are doing a fantastic job.



### 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 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

**Please note that there will be the following changes to after school clubs over the next two weeks due to the Year 11 Prom and The Whole School Production of Aladdin.**

**Tues 18th June** - Clubs as normal

**Weds 19th June** - Clubs as normal

**Thursday 20th June** - No clubs due to staff commitment to Year 10/11 Prom

**Tues 25th** - Clubs as normal

**Weds 26th and Thurs 27th** - No clubs due to staff commitment to Whole School Production of Aladdin.

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](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.

