
Date: Friday 29th November 2024

The Valley Newsletter

This week our Ofsted report 'landed' and we were extremely pleased with the outcomes. It was fantastic that the students were recognised for their outstanding learning behaviours. We were also justifiably proud that the school was judged as outstanding in the way in which we prepare our young people for adulthood and life after the Valley School.

It was lovely to celebrate last year's achievements with past and present students at our Prizes and Awards ceremonies this week. We would like to extend a massive thank you to our amazing guest Danny Crates, who did a tremendous job as guest speaker and was a real advocate of the school.

We now have our Pantomime Trip next week, Christmas Dinner and the Seasonal Celebrations at the end of term, to really get us into the Christmas spirit!

Prizes and Awards

On Thursday 28th November we held our Awards Afternoon to celebrate the achievements of our young people during the academic year of 2023-2024.



We were lucky enough to secure the services of Gold Medal Olympian and BBC and Channel 4 commentator Danny Crates as our guest speaker.

The students spent time with him during lunch and also had time to chat with him between ceremonies.



Congratulations To Ms Howarth

It is a bitter-sweet situation we find ourselves in, as we congratulate Ms Howarth (Deputy Head) on her successful appointment as the new Headteacher of Pinewood School in Ware. She has been an amazing Senior Leader at the Valley and we will all miss her. Pinewood are very lucky to have secured themselves such an outstanding Educational Practitioner. We wish her well.



Cyan Class Numeracy

Cyan class have been working hard categorizing shapes. Today the students came up with their own categories to sort the shapes into.



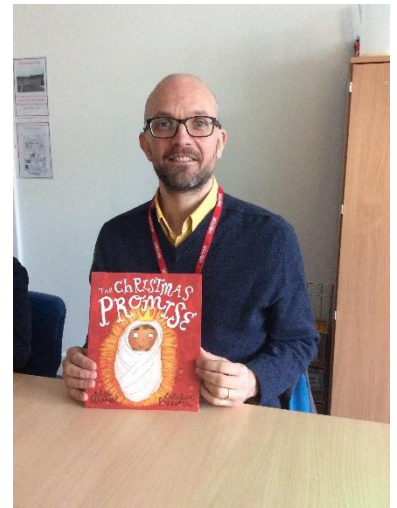
Year 11 BTEC Art

In our Year 11 BTEC Art lesson Sophia was taught how to use a sewing machine and sewed together two pieces of material to make an African inspired hair wrap and then she dressed it on one of her classmates as part of her final piece. Well done, Sophia!



Pastor Ben's Visit

This week Pastor Ben from Longmeadow Evangelical Church visited Maroon class. He led a pass the parcel activity, where each layer of wrapping paper depicted a different section of the Christmas story. Ben shared a video of the story - A Christmas Promise and led a discussion about it. Finally, he taught us the BSL signs for God and Jesus. Students have asked Ben to visit again next term and tell them about Easter.



The Valley Community Group

Attached are photos of the community elves preparing the care boxes full of kind donations from The Valley families. We appreciate your donations thus far and welcome more! The more you can bless us with, the more we can bless others!



Robin Trail

Our Year 7 students have all been busy in their art lessons using their fingerprints to create robins. These have been put together on a branch to create a wonderful picture that will be displayed as part of Creative Stevenage's Christmas Trail. There are 12 different robin themed pictures displayed in shop windows in the Westgate Centre in central Stevenage. Can you find them all and make a word?



The Pantomime Trip

The Panto this year is 'The New Adventures of Peter Pan' which will be at The Gordon Craig theatre, Stevenage.

It will take place on Wednesday 4th December at 1.15pm. Students will need to be collected from the Leisure Park Car Park at 4pm. Further details about this will follow.



Save the date: Seasonal Celebration

Our annual Performing Arts Showcase will take place on Thursday 19 December from 5.30 – 6.30pm.

There will be performances from KS3 classes, KS4 Performing Arts groups, Performing Arts Club, school bands and the ever-popular Year 11 Drama.

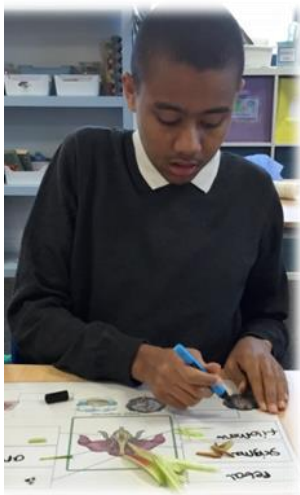
Year 10 Enterprise students will be running a café for you to enjoy snacks and drinks before the event.

Please do put the date in your diary, it promises to be a wonderful evening.



Lime Class Science

In science we dissected a flower to identify the reproductive parts. It made so much more sense to us to do this activity today.



Year 7 Cinema Visit

Yesterday the year 7 students took their first trip from The Valley School to Harlow for a cinema and soft play visit. The Year 7 team were incredibly proud and impressed with the level of exceptional behaviour and maturity shown by all who attended. Every student enjoyed themselves and were a credit to the school whilst out. It was brilliant to see so many smiling faces throughout the day.





KS4 Dodgeball Thrills at St. Luke's School – November 27th, 10 AM - 12 PM

The KS4 Dodgeball Competition at St. Luke's School on November 27th was an action-packed and memorable event! Five teams competed in a thrilling league format, showcasing impressive skills, teamwork, and determination. The Valley School had a fantastic run, finishing tied at the top of the standings with Brandles School. This led to an exciting final match, where Brandles narrowly clinched the victory.

Despite the close loss, our students showed incredible resilience and positivity throughout the competition. The day ended on a high note with friendly mixed-teams' games, bringing together players from all schools. The sportsmanship, fair play, and camaraderie on display were truly outstanding, highlighting the power of sport to unite and inspire.



A huge thank you to St. Luke's School for hosting such a well-organised event and to all participants for making it a day to remember. Well done to The Valley team—you made us proud!

After School Clubs This Term

Please Note:

There will be no after school clubs on Wednesday due to the Pantomime

The list of students expected to attend clubs on Tuesday 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 organizing transport and supervision is too complex to do well with very short notice.

Thank you for your support with this.

The activities are from 3.15pm until 4.15pm. Parents will need to collect students at 4.15pm from reception.

The clubs on offer are as follows:

Tuesday

Mr Russell - KS3 Football (max. 14)

Mrs Crosby - All year groups Performing Arts (max. 30)

Wednesday No Clubs

Thursday

Miss Barber and Miss Doyle - All year groups Inclusive Sports (max. 14)

Mrs Duffy - All year groups Art and Craft Club (max. 14)

