

**Date: Friday 10th January 2025**

### **The Valley Newsletter**

I hope you had an enjoyable, restful and relaxing Christmas and would like to wish you all a happy New Year. The spring term has started extremely well with the students coming back in good spirits, learning ready and comfortable in the day-to-day routines of school. As always, we have hit the ground running with a successful coffee morning and sports fixture this week. Please note that clubs start next week, so if your child is interested please ensure you return the reply slip so they don't miss out.

### **Year 10 EHCP Day**

The Year 10 EHCP Day is on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January. The paperwork associated with the event will go home with the students when they leave school today. All Year 10 students will work from home on this day as their staff will be conducting meetings and will not be available to teach them. We apologize if this causes any inconvenience.

### **KS4 Boccia Competition at Garston Manor School – January 8th**

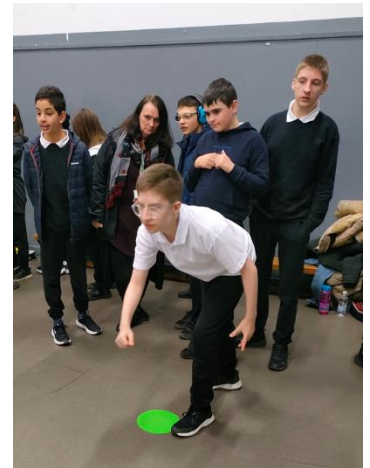
The KS4 Boccia Competition at Garston Manor School on January 8th was a fantastic showcase of skill, strategy and teamwork! Six teams from different schools participated in the event, competing in an engaging league format that kept everyone on the edge of their seats.



The Valley School had an outstanding day, demonstrating focus and determination throughout the competition. Tied at the top of the standings with another strong team, we secured the top spot thanks to a crucial head-to-head advantage—a testament to our students' excellent performance under pressure.

The event wasn't just about winning; it was also a celebration of inclusivity and the spirit of fair play. Players from all schools displayed remarkable sportsmanship, supporting one another and forging new friendships along the way.

A big thank you to Garston Manor School for hosting such a well-organized and inspiring event. Congratulations to The Valley team for their incredible achievement—you've made us proud once again!



### **Maroon Outdoor Learning**

This week, as part of our Outdoor Learning, Maroon have collected wintery items from around the school site such as holly, leaves, bark etc. and used these to create ice decorations. We learnt how to remove some of the gas from the water by boiling it so we could create clear ice or use cold water for cloudy/frosty looking ice. We hung them up on the fence by the allotment so everyone can see them.



### Year 11 Catering students

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January, the Year 11 Catering students supported at the MHST coffee morning serving teas, coffees and biscuits. The



students were absolutely fantastic and made us all so proud! Even when a queue built up, the students remained calm and focused and served

all customers with a smile. Thank you to all parents, staff and students who supported the team; it's greatly appreciated and helped to give the Year 11s the chance to shine and show off everything they've learnt!



### School lunches

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents to pre-book their child's school lunches. Thank you!



### Lost Property

Our Year 10 community group displayed the lost property in each of the year groups, in the hope of reuniting items with their owners. Unfortunately, they were only partially successful. Here are some photos of some unnamed coats and jackets which are yet to be claimed. If you recognise any of them then please contact the office so we can return them to their owners.

If the items remain unclaimed by the end of the month then they will be donated to one of our local charities.

Please can you ensure that students attend school with names in their coats, jackets and jumpers. Thank you.







### Year 10 Community Group

Our community group are keeping everyone updated with newsletters on the noticeboards around school.

### Year 9 Lime Investigate Crimes

The Year 9 Lime Group have been busy investigating crimes around The Valley School. They have been learning about the different roles within law enforcement and who is responsible for what. As crime scene investigators, they have taken responsibility for gathering evidence and then sending it to the crime lab. They had to dress in special suits so that they didn't contaminate the crime scene.



### School Uniform

We have noticed a spate of hoodies being worn instead of school jumpers by several of our students.

We would like to take a measured approach in tackling this. The students should wear a plain grey top if they don't have PE that day, and a plain black top if they do have PE.

Hoodies are **NOT** part of the school uniform.

We **WILL** allow students to wear their hoodies before and after school, at lunch and at break time as their coat if they wish.



They should not be wearing a hoodie in lessons unless there are specific reasons written into that child's EHCP.

This has been made clear to the students in assembly. It has also been explained to the students that if they persist in wearing a hoodie in lessons, they will lose two points from their rewards, every lesson. This will equate to over £50 per year.

To support us in tackling this, please can parents/carers reinforce students entering and leaving home appropriately dressed.

Thank you for your support. We are hoping that these steps will put the onus on students making the right choices and have the desired effect, without creating any difficult confrontations with students.



### **Warming Fires in Outdoor Learning**

Year 9 will be refreshing their knowledge of fire safety, fire management and lighting survival fires in Outdoor Learning this half term. We started off by enjoying the fires set up by Year 10 D of E students. It was lovely and warm but the smoke smell was not enjoyed by everyone! Then we tried to light our own fires using flint on steel. It was hard to get the spark to land on our tinder, but everyone persevered to light mini fires and then extinguish them at the end of our lesson.



### **Clothing on Outdoor Learning Days**

Could parents/carers please support students to remember to wear warm clothing and bring a coat on their Outdoor Learning days, it is chilly out there!

### **Royal Albert Hall Concert**

Students from Performing Arts Club have been invited to participate in a concert in March at the Royal Albert Hall. Letters have been sent out electronically today.



### **After School Clubs**

We shall be starting our after-school activities again from Tuesday 14 January 2025.

The activities are from 3.15pm until 4.15pm.

Parents/carers will need to collect students at 4.15pm from reception. The clubs on offer are as follows:

**Tuesday** [Mr Gomes](#) - KS3 (Years 7, 8 & 9) multi-sports (max 14)

[Mrs Crosby](#) - All year groups Performing Arts (max 30)

Please note that if your child is already attending the Performing Arts club, then they automatically have a place (this club is at full capacity). We will be preparing for the Royal Albert Hall Concert, and all students are welcome even if they may not be attending the concert.

**Thursday** [Miss Barber](#) – KS4 (Years 10 & 11) multi-sports (max 14)

[Mrs Duffy](#) - All year groups Art and Craft Club (max 14)

Please note that the clubs have a maximum number of students and therefore requests for after-school club will be on a first come first served basis.

We will send out a list of the students who are attending a club for the following week as an attachment every Friday in our Newsletter email.

If your child is not on this list but wishes to attend a club, please contact the school office. If your child is listed to attend a club and for any reason cannot attend, please let us know by contacting us.



