
Date: Friday 5th September 2025

The Valley Newsletter

We've thoroughly enjoyed welcoming back our Year 8 to Year 11 students this week, and it's been a real pleasure to extend an equally warm welcome to our new Year 7s as they begin their journey with us.

A particular highlight was Tuesday's Year 7 students and parents' lunch, which saw a fantastic turnout and some well-deserved praise for the chicken pie! A huge thank you to our brilliant kitchen team for their hard work and support in making the event such a success.



Mrs Roberts (Family Support Lead)

The Valley School is pleased to introduce Mrs. Jade Roberts as the new Family Support Lead, taking over from Ms. Casey. Mrs. Roberts is excited to begin this role and looks forward to working with students, families, and the wider school community.

The role of the Family Support Lead is to offer guidance and practical support to families to help ensure the wellbeing and success of students, both in school and at home. Mrs. Roberts is a friendly and approachable point of contact for any concerns parents or carers may have - whether around attendance, behaviour, emotional wellbeing, or accessing additional support services.

Some of the ways Mrs. Roberts can support families include:

- One-to-one or family support sessions
- Guidance on routines, boundaries, or parenting challenges
- Signposting to local services and organisations
- Support with emotional wellbeing or mental health concerns

- Help with improving school attendance and engagement
- Encouraging positive communication between home and school

Mrs. Roberts believes in working in partnership with families, recognising that every family's needs are unique. Her aim is always to offer a supportive, non-judgemental service that helps children thrive.

She can be contacted via email at jade.roberts@thevalley.herts.sch.uk or by phone on 07413 153911.

The Valley School looks forward to the positive impact Mrs. Roberts will have in supporting families and strengthening the home-school partnership.

Instrumental/Singing Lessons

These will start from next week and are offered to all children in the school. If your child was previously having lessons, they will automatically be included in the timetable. Mrs. Crosby will also be speaking to students to remind them that these sessions are available to try.

If your child is in Year 7 and has requested lessons these will start after half term and will be on a rotation. We are currently waiting for confirmation from Hertfordshire Music Service about our new teacher's start date. Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Crosby if you have any questions about instrumental/singing lessons.

shaunaid.crosby@thevalley.herts.sch.uk



Year 11 Exam Success

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our Year 11 students in their recent exams. This year, our students have achieved more formal qualifications - and at a higher level - than ever before in the history of The Valley School.

This is a fantastic accomplishment, especially within a specialist setting for students with learning difficulties. It reflects not only the hard work, determination, and resilience of our students, but also the dedication and expertise of our staff, and the unwavering support from families throughout the year.



Every qualification earned is a testament to the belief we hold in our students' potential and the strength of our school community. These results show what can be achieved when we work together to nurture confidence, independence, and ambition.

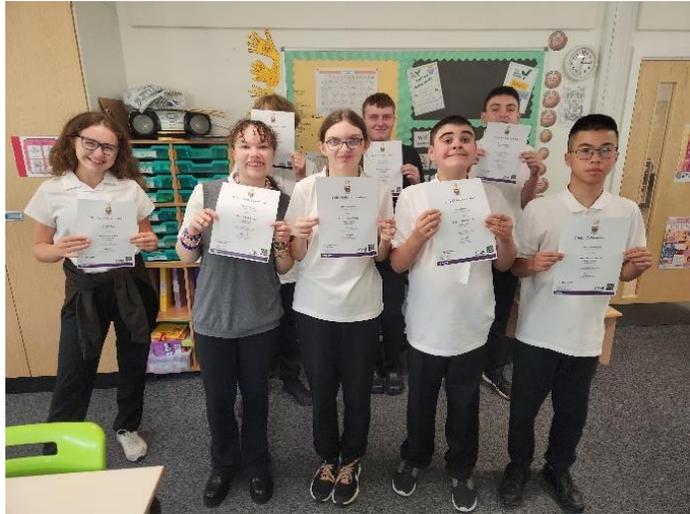
To our Year 11 students: congratulations on your success - you have made us all incredibly proud. To our staff and families: thank you for everything you've done to support our learners on their journey.

Here's to even more success in the future!

Bronze Arts Award

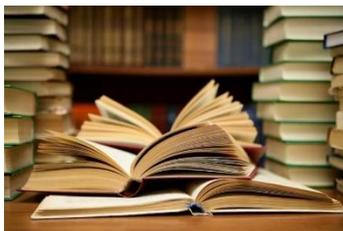
We are thrilled to share that a group of our talented Year 11 students have successfully achieved their Bronze Arts Award following their hard work and dedication in Performing Arts lessons last year.

The Bronze Arts Award is a nationally recognised qualification that celebrates young people's creative achievements and helps them develop as artists and leaders. Our students explored a wide range of performance skills, reflected on their progress, and shared their passion for the arts with others.



This award is a testament to their commitment, creativity, and resilience. We are incredibly proud of each one of them for reaching this milestone.

Well done to you all! Your success is an inspiration to others and a fantastic way to round off your Performing Arts journey at The Valley School.



Autumn Reading Challenge!

It is that time of year again to welcome back our students with a reading challenge. This time we are challenging students to read a range of books and texts by different authors in a range of genres. Students can collect a bingo sheet from their form tutor or from Mrs Pomeroy.

Students will need to write the name of the book or similar where appropriate to evidence their reading.

Entries must be submitted by Friday 5th December to Mrs Pomeroy so we can celebrate the students before the end of the Autumn term.

PE Kit

We understand that changes to timetables and routines can sometimes cause confusion, especially at the start of a new school year. **We'd like to reassure all families that there is no need to purchase any additional PE kit.**

Students have the choice of wearing PE kit to school on the days they have PE or wearing their normal school uniform to school each day. On days when they have PE, they can change into their PE kit during the school day. PE kits can be kept in school throughout the week and taken home at weekends for washing.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by recent timetable adjustments. These changes have been made to ensure a balanced mix of practical and theory lessons that best support our students' learning and development. While we aim to communicate updates as early as possible, some adjustments are necessary over the summer to finalise the curriculum.



If you have any questions or would like to discuss individual arrangements, please feel free to contact Mr Russell, Head of PE, who will be happy to help. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Exciting News: Football on the New Astro at Stevenage FC!

We're thrilled to announce that Stevenage Football Club has generously allowed us to use their brand-new astro pitch throughout this academic year. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to enjoy high-quality facilities and further develop their football skills.

There is one important condition: students must wear football boots to play on the astro. Trainers are not permitted on the surface. While we do have a small number of spare boots available in school, our supply is limited.

If your child has any football boots they've outgrown, we would be incredibly grateful for any donations. These will help ensure that more students can take advantage of this opportunity.



During Friday afternoon electives, students who choose football and have boots will be able to play on the astro. Those without boots will still enjoy football sessions, but these will take place on the school field.

We will lend out any boots we have.

Thank you for your support in helping us make the most of this exciting partnership with Stevenage FC!

Art

In their first Art lessons, students have been designing title pages for their new sketchbooks. They have taken their time to produce some lovely work. Here are a few examples.

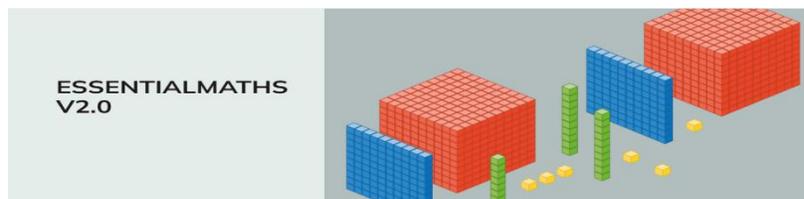
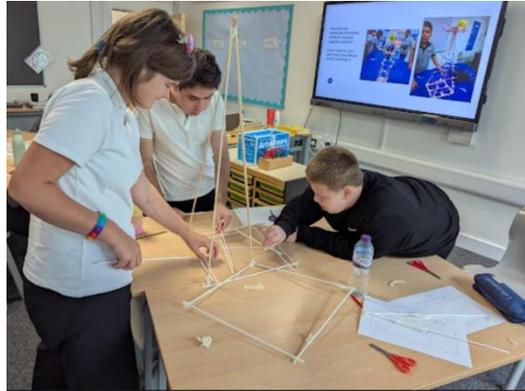


Coral Class Builds Teamwork and Engineering Skills

This week, Coral Class took part in a hands-on team-building challenge that combined creativity, collaboration, and a touch of engineering. Pupils were tasked with designing and constructing a structure made entirely from paper tubes - strong enough to support the weight of a tennis ball. Working in small groups, the children brainstormed ideas, tested prototypes, and refined their designs, all while developing key communication and problem-solving skills. The activity encouraged resilience and teamwork, as students discovered the importance of listening to each other's ideas and adapting their plans when things didn't go quite as expected.

The final creations were impressive, with several groups successfully building sturdy paper structures that held the tennis ball with ease. It was a fantastic opportunity for Coral Class to explore STEM concepts in a fun and engaging way, while also strengthening their collaborative spirit.

Well done to everyone involved!



Essential Maths

We are very excited to start a brand new maths teaching programme this year, called Essential Maths. It is based on the most up to date research, which indicates that students understand and retain maths best when they learn through practical activities, games and conversations. Our maths teachers have spent a lot of time over the last few months getting used to the new programme and we have purchased lots of practical resources to support the learning.

Some of our newer students may already be familiar with the format from their previous schools, where it is used widely.

Although we have only started the new lessons this week, our students seem to be enjoying the hands-on approach and have been getting very excited and competitive in the games. We hope that it will not only improve the outcomes for our students, but it will also make maths lessons more enjoyable and a lot of fun! If you would like any support in understanding how we teach

maths concepts to our students, please feel welcome to get in touch with Mrs Holop (liz.holop@thevalley.herts.sch.uk) or your child's class teacher.

Seussical Video

We are delighted to be able to share the video recording of last year's production of Seussical Kids. Huge thanks go to Mr Chamberlin for all his work editing the film. This is a private YouTube link and should only be accessed through this link. Please do not share any of these images online as this would be contravening copyright.



<https://youtu.be/GeJQPLdeBQg?si=FjWBSbVQeEh4IWmU>

Enjoy!

School Photos

Maxims Photography

We are visiting your school
Tuesday 7th October 2025

offering individual photos.

(Please ensure your child is wearing
full school uniform where applicable)



7x5 mounted print £12

12x8 mounted print £14

Digital download of your photo £4*

*Digital Downloads are only available in addition to purchasing the individual printed photo

After School Clubs This Term

We shall be starting our after-school activities again from Thursday 11th September, 2025. The activities start at 3.15pm and go on until 4.15pm. Parents will need to collect students at 4.15pm from reception. **A separate email will be sent out in due course on how to apply for clubs.**

The clubs on offer are as follows:

Tuesday

Sports Club (max. 14)

Performing Arts Club (max. 30)

Thursday

Art and Craft Club (max. 14)

The list of students expected to attend clubs on Tuesdays and Thursdays 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.