

**Date: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

## **The Valley Newsletter**

As we move further into the term, the positive energy across The Valley School continues to grow. It's been fantastic to see our students so engaged - not just in the classroom, but in every part of school life. We are excited to share some updates on our outdoor spaces. The new outdoor learning area is nearly complete and will soon be ready for students to enjoy. Meanwhile, the football pitch is finished and already proving popular - students have been making great use of it during break, lunch and electives, bringing even more vibrancy to our school day.

Thank you once again to our staff, students, and families for your continued support in making this such a positive start to the academic year.

### **Thank You to Liz Ellis – Our Chair of Governors Steps Down**



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to **Elizabeth (Liz) Ellis**, who is stepping down as Chair of Governors at The Valley School.

Liz joined our Governing Board in **January 2020** and became Chair in **2022**. With a rich background in education - including teaching French and English, and several years as a class teacher at Woolgrove School - Liz brought deep insight and dedication to her role. She is also a writer and a director of the Baldock Arts and Heritage Centre, and holds a diploma in French from the Chartered Institute of Linguists.

During her time as Chair, Liz has guided us through some of the most significant moments in our school's recent history: an **Outstanding Ofsted**, a **whole-school move to our new premises**, and a period of growth that has seen The Valley School become **oversubscribed and thriving**.

We are incredibly grateful for her leadership, wisdom, and unwavering support. We're also delighted that Liz will continue to serve as a Governor, and we look forward to her continued involvement in our school community.

Thank you, Liz!

### **Welcome to Our New Chair of Governors – Martin Denmark**

We're pleased to announce that Martin Denmark has been elected as the new Chair of Governors at The Valley School, taking over from Liz Ellis.

Martin first joined the Governing Board as a Parent Governor in April 2018. He brings a wealth of experience and dedication to the role, having already contributed significantly as the Health and Safety representative, Year 11 Link Governor, and Chair of the Resources Committee.

With over 25 years in the aircraft industry and a background in both large and small businesses, Martin offers valuable expertise in business management, teamwork, and clear communication. His understanding of human factors and attention to detail have made him a strong advocate for ensuring our students have the best possible environment and resources to thrive.

Martin is deeply committed to supporting The Valley School and is honoured to take on this leadership role. We look forward to working with him as he helps guide the school through its next exciting chapter. Welcome, Martin!



### **Could You Be Our Next Parent Governor?**

We are currently looking for a new **Parent Governor** to join our Governing Board at The Valley School.

This is a fantastic opportunity to play a key role in shaping the future of our school. Parent Governors bring a vital perspective to our leadership team, helping to ensure that the views and experiences of families are represented in decision-making.

You don't need any specific qualifications - just a commitment to supporting the school, a willingness to learn, and the ability to work collaboratively with others. Training and support are provided, and the role can be incredibly rewarding.

If you're interested in finding out more or would like to put yourself forward, please contact the school office.

We'd love to hear from you!



### MHST Workshops For Parents

Some upcoming workshops for parents, developed in partnership with the Mental Health Support Team (MHST), have just been announced. These sessions aim to provide valuable insights, resources, and strategies to support the emotional well-being of children and families. To ensure these workshops are accessible and effective, MHST highly value input from parents regarding the most convenient times for attendance. Your feedback will enable them to schedule the sessions at times that best fit your needs, maximizing participation and the overall success of the program - working together to create a supportive community focused on mental health and family resilience.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RN5YNQP>



### Balancing the scales

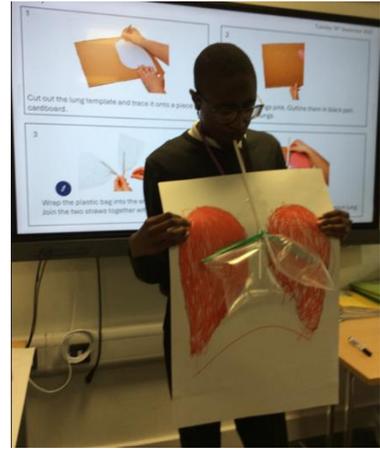
At the start of our Maths learning about measuring, Sky Class have been using balance scales. They had to first find two items from around the classroom which could make the scales balance; this meant they had found two items with equal weights. The students then progressed to finding the weight of items by using blocks to measure how heavy they were - our cuddly pig from the Calm Corner weighed more than all the blocks we had in class! We finished by ordering our items from lightest to heaviest.



## Year 10 and 11 Science and PSHE

Students in Coral Class have been learning how our lungs work. They have labelled the trachea /windpipe, lungs and bronchioles. Making models of the lungs was fun and students were delighted to share their finished models with their classmates.

This area of study has linked closely to our PSHE focus, which aimed to encourage students to recognise changes in their bodies when they feel anxious or stressed. They have referred to the Zones of Regulation when finding solutions to anxiety such as breathing slowly, with emphasis on the outward breath.



## School Photos

Maximo 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**

These started again on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

The clubs on offer are as follows:

#### **Tuesday**

Sports Club (max. 14)

Performing Arts Club (max. 30)

#### **Thursday**

Art and Craft Club (max. 15)

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