

Date: Friday 3rd October 2025

The Valley Newsletter

It's been a busy and rewarding time across the school. Upper School students have been working hard on their science exams, and we've been genuinely impressed by their maturity, focus, and dedication—well done to all involved!

We'd also like to congratulate our students for how brilliantly they handled their flu immunisations. The visiting nurses were full of praise for both the conduct of the students and the excellent organisation shown by our office staff—thank you all!

Meanwhile, Lower School had a fantastic time welcoming a police visitor (Neil) to the site. The session was engaging and enjoyable, and we're grateful for the positive relationship we have with our local force.

A quick reminder for Year 7 parents: our Parents' Evening is coming up on **9th October**—please remember to book appointments.

The Use of Mobile Phones at Our School

Some parents have asked why we allow students access to mobile phones whilst at The Valley School, so we are taking this opportunity to explain.

At our school, we take a thoughtful and balanced approach to the use of mobile phones. As a secondary SEN school, we recognise that our role is not to shield or “bubble wrap” our students from the realities of modern life, but rather to support them in developing the skills they need to thrive in it.

Mobile phones are an everyday part of society, and our young people will continue to use them as they grow and become more independent. Instead of banning them outright, we believe in teaching our students how to use their phones responsibly, safely,



and respectfully. This means understanding when it is appropriate to use a phone, how to manage distractions, and how to stay safe online.

Allowing the use of mobile phones in school provides us with real opportunities to guide students in making the right choices. Our staff can model and encourage positive behaviour, helping students to build healthy habits around technology. We see this as an important step in preparing them for adulthood, where responsible phone use will be essential in work, relationships, and daily life.

By supporting students in this way, we aim to foster independence, resilience, and responsibility – key skills for their future.

Year 7 Science

Year 7 used plastic bags to demonstrate how our lungs inflate and deflate during a science lesson this week.

We are using practical activities to understand the different organs and their functions. Everyone is very excited to learn about the digestive system next. We have a very messy experiment planned for next week!



A Special Visit for Maroon Class

This week, Maroon Class had a special visit from our local PCSO, Neil. He spoke to us about the important role the police play in keeping our community safe and what to do in an emergency—reminding us to call 999 when we need urgent help.

We had great fun taking our fingerprints and trying on police gear, including Hi-Vis jackets, hats, and even riot helmets! Neil also gave us a demonstration of the police car's lights and sirens, and those who wanted to had the chance to press the buttons themselves.

To top it all off, Neil kindly took us for a short drive around the car park in the police car. It was an exciting and memorable morning for everyone.

A big thank you to Neil for such a fantastic visit!



Maroon Class

As part of our *Me and My Community* topic, Maroon Class took part in a litter picking expedition around the school grounds. Everyone got involved—some of us carried the rubbish sacks while others used grabbers to collect litter. We were proud to find fewer than 30 pieces of litter, which shows that students at The Valley take great care of their environment by using bins and keeping the site clean.



Knife Angel sculpture

This October, Welwyn Garden City is hosting the powerful *Knife Angel* sculpture — a 27-foot monument made from 100,000 surrendered knives, aimed at raising awareness of knife crime and its tragic consequences. While Hertfordshire continues to see relatively low levels of knife-related incidents, the presence of the sculpture offers an important opportunity for reflection and education. As educators, we support the message behind the Knife Angel and are working with students to promote respectful choices, personal safety, and the importance of community. Alongside the police-led knife amnesty and awareness campaigns, schools across the county will be engaging in activities that encourage open conversations around violence prevention and youth wellbeing. Together, through education and community partnership, we can help keep our young people safe. [Knife Angel in Welwyn Garden City for month-long amnesty - BBC News](#)



Reminder: MHST Parent Workshops – We Need Your Input

We're pleased to be working with the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) to offer a new series of workshops for parents, focused on supporting children's emotional well-being. These sessions will provide practical tools and strategies to help you navigate common challenges and promote positive mental health at home. To make sure the workshops are scheduled at times that work best for families, we'd really appreciate your feedback. Please take a moment to complete this short survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RN5YNQP>. Thank you for helping us shape a supportive, inclusive programme for our school community.

Year 8 Outdoor Learning

Year 8 have been working hard in their outdoor learning sessions, gaining valuable hands-on experience in the allotment area. They have been learning to identify the difference between weeds and flowers, an important step in maintaining a healthy garden. Using the correct tools, students have been carefully weeding the allotment and preparing the space for new growth. They have also laid down fresh soil, getting the area ready for planting a variety of new flowers and vegetables. Their efforts are helping to create a thriving and sustainable garden space for everyone to enjoy.



Coats 4 Kids

FREE PRELOVED WINTER COATS
FOR FAMILIES IN NEED.
ZERO COST. ZERO JUDGEMENT.



NEXT
POP UP
EVENT

SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER 10-12PM
WILBURY COMMUNITY CAFE, WILBURY HALL,
BEDFORD RD, LETCHWORTH.

PLEASE DONATE YOUR COATS TO YOUR LOCAL FIRESTATION
STEVENAGE, HITCHIN, LETCHWORTH/BALDOCK OR ROYSTON



FOR URGENT COAT REQUESTS PLEASE EMAIL LAURAHHAZELTON@GMAIL.COM

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 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.

The clubs on offer are as follows:

Tuesday

Sports Club (max. 14)

Performing Arts Club (max. 30)

Thursday

Art and Craft Club (max. 15) Cancelled Due To Year 7 Parents' Evening



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 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.