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**Date: Friday 21st November 2025**

## **The Valley Newsletter**

### **Welcome to this week's edition of our newsletter!**

Yesterday, we held our Prizes and Awards Afternoon, a truly special occasion where we celebrated the incredible achievements of our wonderful students. It was inspiring to see their hard work and dedication recognized.

A huge thank you goes to Martina Barber—our special guest, staff member, former student, and World Athletics medal winner—who joined us to make the event even more memorable.

In addition, we've recently welcomed many prospective parents to The Valley School. They were deeply impressed by the positive attitudes, excellent behaviour, and the strong, respectful relationships between students and staff. All of this has taken place alongside our usual high standards of teaching and learning, which remain at the heart of everything we do.

### **Prizes and Awards**

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November we held our Awards Afternoon to celebrate the achievements of our young people during the academic year of 2024-2025.

Our special guest, presenting the awards was ex-student and current member of staff Martina Barber, who has recently returned from Brisbane Australia where she was flag bearer and competitor in the 2025 Virtus World

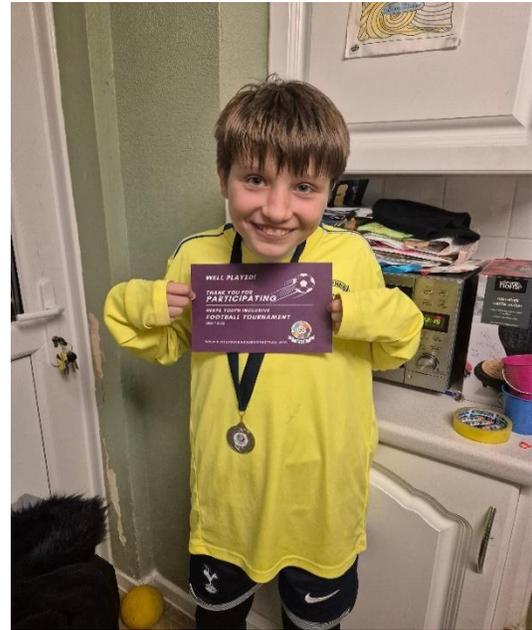


Athletics Championships. Thank you to The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Governors, Parents and Carers, who supported the event. The students really enjoyed the whole occasion. Well done to All the musical performers: Miami, Scarlet, Destiny, Sienna, Ciara and Sofia.



### **Aiden's Tournament Success**

We're proud to share that Aiden was selected to represent his club in an Under-16s tournament—his first competitive event outside of school. His team delivered an impressive performance, finishing in second place overall. Aiden made a significant contribution, scoring four goals throughout the tournament, and was further recognised with a medal for sportsmanship and fair play. A fantastic achievement—well done, Aiden!



### **Autumn Reading Challenge Reminder**

This term we have been 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.

Have fun everyone!



### **2025 Parent Governor**

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join the Governing Body of The Valley School as one of our Governors. In its strategic role, the Governing Body enjoys a close working relationship with the SLT in this warm and welcoming learning environment and is involved in all aspects of school life.

If you are looking for a rewarding experience and are interested in finding out more about our friendly team and how you can support our school community, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact:

[iona.varol@thevalley.herts.sch.uk](mailto:iona.varol@thevalley.herts.sch.uk)



### **Coral College Transition**

As part of North Herts College transition experience, Joshua and Indi were busy finding items in ASDA, then deciding which were the cheapest and most expensive.

### **Personal Health and Wellbeing**

In our Personal Health and Wellbeing classes we have been thinking about how to keep ourselves healthy and happy. We have found out about how the nutrients in some foods keep us healthy, and some foods are full of sugar which does NOT keep us healthy! We tried fruit, some of which was new to us, and decided that a juicy peach was nearly as tasty as sweets- and much better for us!



### **Message from Our Family Support Worker**

As the weather gets colder, we understand that some children may begin to feel a little unwell. We encourage pupils to continue attending school wherever possible, even if they have minor symptoms such as a cold or a mild headache.

To help them stay comfortable during the school day, we can provide hot water bottles, regular snack opportunities and hydration breaks. If needed, we can also administer medication for minor illnesses. Please make sure a medication form is completed and that any medication is brought to the school reception in its original packaging (including the outer box, not just blister packs). If your child has been given medication at home, please let us know the time and dose. For over-the-counter medicines, we can only administer the dosage recommended on the packaging.

Please remember that if your child has vomited or had diarrhoea, they must stay off school for 48 hours after symptoms have stopped.

If you would like more information or wish to discuss anything in more detail, Mrs Roberts, our Family Engagement Lead, will be happy to help.

## Parent Support Workshops

Thank you to all the parents who attended and found our first Mental Health Workshop on Anxiety useful and informative. Next week's workshop will focus on **Co-regulation**. You can reserve your place using the link below:

Date	Workshop	Link
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	<b>Co-regulation</b> Understand what co-regulation means and how it supports emotional development.	<a href="#">Click here to reserve a space on the SEND MHST Co-regulation Workshop</a> Sign up by 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	<b>Behaviours of Concern</b> Understand the reasons behind behaviours and learn strategies to support your child.	<a href="#">Click here to reserve a space on the SEND MHST: Behaviours of Concern Workshop</a> Sign up by 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	<b>Understanding emotions</b> Understand emotion regulation and learn strategies to support children's emotional wellbeing.	<a href="#">Click here to reserve a space on the SEND MHST: Understanding Emotions workshop</a> Sign up by 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	<b>Christmas holidays</b> To help families prepare for the Christmas break and manage changes in routine positively.	TBC

## Austin Shines at Football Tournament

Austin took part in a football tournament and proudly earned a medal for his outstanding participation. Beyond his performance on the pitch, Austin demonstrated incredible kindness and empathy. At the start of the matches, he supported a player from another team who was experiencing anxiety, helping him to feel calm and ready to play. Austin's actions reflect the values we celebrate at The Valley School—teamwork, compassion, and resilience. Well done, Austin!



### **Dick Whittington - Tuesday 9 December**

We are delighted to inform you that we are offering all students the opportunity to see the pantomime 'Dick Whittington and His Cat' at the Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage on Tuesday 9 December. Students will be driven to the theatre after registration to see a mid-morning performance. This will take place during the normal school day and students will therefore be able to go home on their transport at the usual time. If your child comes to and from school independently, i.e. **not** on county transport, we are asking that they **arrive at the Leisure Centre car park at 9:30am**, rather than at school. A letter has been sent out about this so please respond as requested to enable your child to attend this fantastic event!



### **Save The Date!**

Our Seasonal Celebration will take place on Thursday 11 December at 5.00pm in the school hall. All KS3 students are invited to participate in addition to many KS4 students who attend clubs and have instrumental lessons. It promises to be a wonderful, seasonal showcase of our Performing Arts.



### **After School Clubs This Term**

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.