

Date: Friday 23rd January 2026

The Valley Newsletter

Despite the challenging weather, our students and staff have shown great resilience, keeping spirits high and continuing to make the most of every learning opportunity. It has been a busy and positive week across the school.

A huge **well done to our Upper School students** who have worked incredibly hard while tackling their Science exams. Their focus and determination have been excellent, and we are very proud of the way they approached this important milestone.

Our **Year 8 students enjoyed a fantastic visit to the Cambridge Museum**, where they explored a wide range of fascinating exhibits and represented the school beautifully throughout the day.

Meanwhile, in Lower School, a group of students had the exciting opportunity to **represent The Valley School in a basketball competition**. They demonstrated great teamwork, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm—well done to all involved.

Thank you once again for your continued support, and we hope you enjoy reading the rest of this week's updates.

Sky Class Colour Experimentation

After Sky began work on chromatography (the Science lab method of separating out mixtures of substances) they noticed that their felt-tip colours were made up of several other colours- some of them surprised us, like the lovely green which we separated from the black pen colour! The class found this interesting and were keen to further explore colour, so they enjoyed a student-led session, where they experimented, found out new information and even taught the teachers new things about colour mixing. We were shown how to lighten colours by adding white, darken with black and even how to create completely new colours, some of which we named after ourselves! (You might spot 'Aisha Sky Blue' in the images below!) Super scientists!



The KS3 Boys' Basketball Festival

The KS3 Boys' Basketball Festival took place on Wednesday 21st January, hosted by St Luke's School. The Valley School faced strong opposition throughout the event, competing against teams from Brandles, St Luke's, Pinewood and Hailey Hall.

The results were as follows:

- The Valley 12–0 Pinewood
- The Valley 4–0 St Luke's
- The Valley 2–12 Brandles
- The Valley 6–2 Hailey Hall

These results saw The Valley School finish 2nd overall. The boys worked incredibly hard across all four games, consistently demonstrating excellent teamwork, determination and camaraderie. They represented the school superbly and should be extremely proud of their efforts.

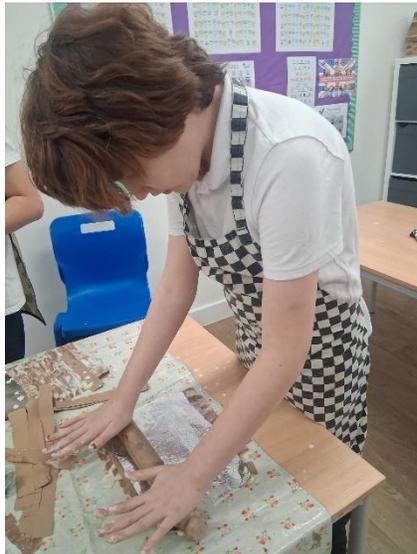


Year 8 Step Back in Time with Hands-On Papyrus Making

As part of their Ancient Egypt topic this half term, Year 8 have been diving into the fascinating world of early writing materials. This week in science, 8 Navy brought history to life by creating their very own sheets of papyrus paper.

Students explored each step of the traditional papyrus-making process, from mixing their own glue to carefully layering strips to form a sturdy sheet. The classroom was full of focus, creativity, and plenty of teamwork as they assembled their creations.

The finished papyrus looked fantastic, and students were rightly proud of their craftsmanship. It was a brilliant blend of science and history—showing just how resourceful and inventive ancient civilizations were.



Head Lice Notification for Parents & Carers

We would like to inform parents and carers that we have had confirmed cases of head lice within the school.

Please check your child's hair regularly and follow the NHS guidelines on head lice and nits to help spot and treat any cases quickly. You can find the official NHS advice here:

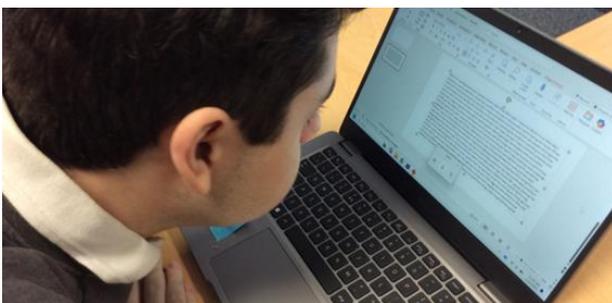
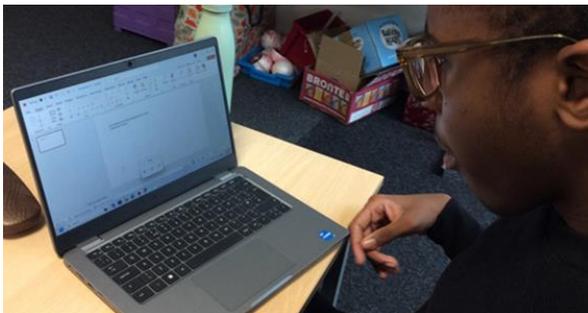
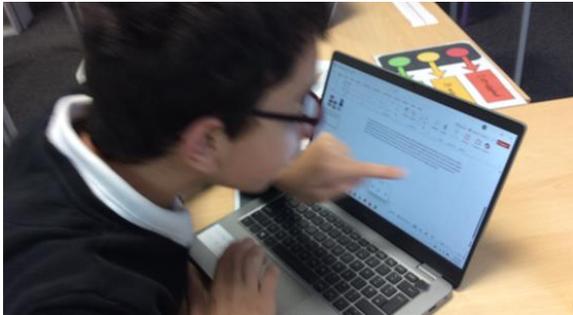
[NHS Head lice and nits guidance \(NHS.uk\).](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice/)

Early checking and appropriate treatment will help prevent further spread and keeps everyone comfortable.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Coral ICT

Students in Coral Class learnt to use the Windows dictation function to convert speech to text on their laptops. Students shared recent experiences in a more fluid manner, supporting communication and ICT skills.



Team Building

Team Building students worked together to plan a trip to Burger King. They showed excellent resilience when the tills were down accepting a visit to Marks and Spencer's café instead.

Science in Coral

Students in Coral Class have been learning that animal and plant cells share main components i.e. nucleus, cell wall and cytoplasm. Building models of plant and animal cells supported understanding and reinforcement of key vocabulary.



Year 8 Enjoy a Successful Visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum

Our Year 8 students recently enjoyed an inspiring and highly successful trip to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. Throughout the visit, the pupils represented the school brilliantly, conducting themselves with maturity, respect and enthusiasm.

The highlight of the day was the Egyptian exhibition, where students immersed themselves in the fascinating world of ancient history. They explored the artefacts with curiosity, demonstrating a genuine interest in the displays and the stories behind them.

Museum staff were particularly impressed by the students' thoughtful engagement. Year 8 asked insightful questions and listened attentively to the explanations provided, making the most of this valuable learning opportunity.

It was truly a pleasure to accompany such a motivated and well-behaved group of students. Their positive attitude made the trip both enjoyable and enriching for everyone involved.



Year 7 Put Their Designs to the Test in the Egg Drop Challenge

This week, our Year 7 students took part in an exciting hands-on science activity exploring material strength through the classic egg drop experiment. After designing and building their own

protective structures, students put their creations to the test by dropping them from a height to see which materials offered the best protection.

The atmosphere was full of anticipation as each design made its descent. To everyone's delight, most eggs survived with only a few minor cracks—an impressive result that showcased the students' creative design thinking, problem-solving abilities and growing scientific understanding.

The experiment proved to be not only fun but also a valuable learning experience, helping students explore concepts such as impact force, cushioning and material properties in a practical and memorable way.



After-School Clubs

After-school activities began again on Tuesday 13th January. 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

KS4 Trampolining 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.