

Date: Friday 24th April 2026

The Valley Newsletter

Important Dates Coming Up...

Week: 27th April – 1st May 2026
<p><u>Monday 27th April</u> Police Cadets workshop Yr9 Yr7 Church Farm Trip</p> <p><u>Tuesday 28th April</u> Student MHST workshop at The Valley School</p> <p><u>Wednesday 29th April</u> Police Cadets Workshop Sky/Yellow Class Masonic Fish event</p> <p><u>Thursday 30th April</u> 5-6pm KS4 Curriculum Information Evening- Parents & Carers of Yr9 & Yr10 are warmly invited to attend Senior Football Tournament at The Valley School Yr9,10 &11 DofE Volunteering</p> <p><u>Friday 1st May</u> DEAR P6 (Drop Everything and Read)</p>
UPCOMING EVENTS
<p><u>Wednesday 6th May</u> Police Cadets Workshop Sky/Yellow Class</p> <p><u>Thursday 7th May</u> Yr11 College KS3 Swimming DofE Volunteering Dodgeball at St Luke's Yr7,8,9</p>

As we move into the second week of the summer term, the school has settled quickly back into its routines. With the warmer weather making a welcome appearance, it has been lovely to see students enjoying their social time outdoors while continuing to apply themselves positively in lessons.

For our Year 11 students, this week has been firmly focused on their mock examinations. They have approached these with commitment and maturity, recognising the importance of this stage as they prepare for the final weeks leading into the summer assessments. While it has been a relatively calm week across the school, this steady momentum provides a strong foundation for the many activities and events to come later in the term.

Drop Everything and Read

As part of the 2026 National Year of Reading campaign, and our commitment to Make Reading Fun, we are holding a Drop Everything and Read session (DEAR) on Friday 1st May during period 6. Everyone across the school takes part in the session, and students will be able to choose whether to listen to a story being read by a teacher, listen to an audio book, or read independently.

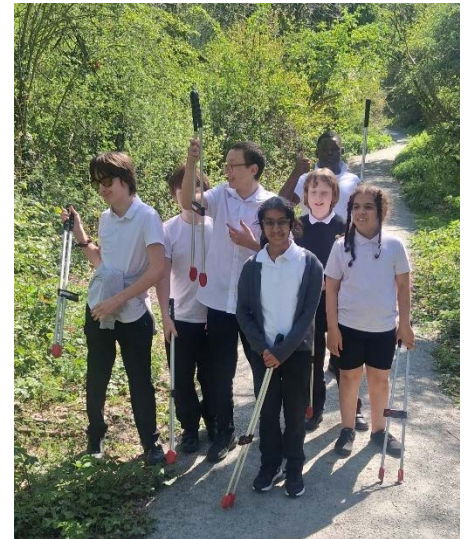
We want to do everything we can to make it relaxing and enjoyable for the students, and to reinforce the link between reading and pleasure, so we would like to encourage students to bring in a soft toy, favourite cushion or small blanket on the day, to snuggle up to while they read or listen to a story. Students can also, of course, bring in a reading book from home, if that is what they would like to do.



Year 8 Outdoor Learning

This week in Outdoor Learning, our Year 8 students celebrated Earth Day by taking part in a litter-picking walk around the local area. The students showed great teamwork and awareness of the environment as they helped to keep our community clean and safe for wildlife.

Alongside this, we have been developing our navigation skills by learning how to use a compass. Students have enjoyed practising direction-finding and building their confidence in outdoor exploration.



Duke of Edinburgh Award Practice Walk

Earlier this week, our Year 11 students took part in a practice walk as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award preparation. Setting off from school, they navigated a range of footpaths and woodland routes, finishing close to Fairlands Valley Park. In total, the group walked for 1 hour and 10 minutes, covering approximately two miles — just one mile short of the total distance they will complete for their award. It was a fantastic experience for everyone involved, and the students had plenty of fun along the way while building their confidence and teamwork.



Services for Young People

Services for Young People will be hosting a drop-in session on Friday during lunchtime. This session is open to all students and provides an opportunity to learn more about the range of support, activities, and clubs available.

During the session, representatives will be on hand to offer information about the services they provide, including any ongoing programmes, extracurricular clubs, and ways students can get involved. It is a great chance for students to ask questions, explore new interests, and find out how these services can support their wellbeing, personal development, and social engagement. Further information can be found below:

Services for Young People runs youth work projects and youth councils specifically for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in all districts of Hertfordshire.

The MegaMix Project, which is ran in Stevenage, is designed for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 13 to 17. The focus is on developing communication and interpersonal skills, confidence, and self-esteem in a safe and supportive environment. Young people will get support from qualified SfYP youth workers, meet other young people with SEND in their area and learn skills to help them live more independently. SfYP Youth Workers also offer individualised support with emotional wellbeing, healthy relationships, staying safe, nutrition and cooking, and managing money. This project runs every Tuesday during term time, 6.30–8.30pm at Stevenage Young People’s Centre, St George’s Way, Stevenage, SG1 1XY.



The Stevenage Youth Council for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 11 to 17 gives young people opportunities to express their views on issues that are important to them. They also contribute to the improvement of services and opportunities for young people in their local communities and Hertfordshire. This project runs every Wednesday during term time, 6-8pm at Stevenage Young People’s Centre, St George’s Way, Stevenage, SG1 1XY.

For more information about Services for Young People in the Stevenage district, or to join the Stevenage Youth Council or MegaMix projects for young people with SEND, please:

Email sfyp.stevenage@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Call 01438 843340

Text 07507 240014

Or complete an online referral form on the Services for Young People website.

Girls' Tag Rugby Festival at The Valley School

On Thursday 23rd, The Valley School organised a Girls' Tag Rugby Festival, welcoming students from Pinewood School to take part in a fun and engaging session of tag rugby.

The session began with a range of practical exercises focusing on passing, movement, and tagging.

The festival concluded with a three-round round-robin tournament with mixed teams. This encouraged teamwork, communication, and fair play, while giving students the opportunity to apply their skills in a game setting.

It was excellent to see such positive attitudes, strong teamwork, and high levels of engagement throughout the event.



Key Stage 4 Information evening

Parents and carers of **Year 9 and Year 10** students are warmly invited to our Key Stage 4 Information Evening on **Thursday 30th April**, from **5:00–6:00pm** at **The Valley School**.

This event will provide important information about the Key Stage 4 curriculum and how we can support students through this next stage of their learning. A letter will be sent to all families, which will include a link to confirm attendance.



Year 9 Coffee morning

Thank you to year 9 parents/carers for your responses regarding the coffee morning. We greatly value the feedback received, as it plays an important role in shaping opportunities that best support our school community. We are pleased to confirm that the Year 9 coffee morning will take place on Thursday 21st May at 9.30am-10.30am. A letter and sign-up form have been sent to year 9 parents/carers. Kindly confirm attendance by **8th May**. We appreciate your time and engagement and look forward to working collaboratively with you.



Congratulations to Immy – East Region Trampolining Champion!

We are incredibly proud to celebrate Immy’s fantastic achievement at the East Region Trampolining Finals last weekend. Competing against talented trampolinists from across the region, Immy delivered an outstanding performance to secure **first place**, becoming the **East Region Champion**.

Congratulations, Immy — very well done!



Year 11 Coral

Team Builders worked collaboratively to design and create junk space-eating robots. During the activity, students chose to cover their robots with reflective materials, consolidating prior learning about space blankets and their properties. This practical application helped students deepen their understanding of how reflective materials can prevent objects from overheating, while also developing their teamwork and design skills.





After-School Clubs

After-school 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

Trampolining Club - Change to Tuesday Sports Afterschool Club

Unfortunately, due to low attendance, we are no longer able to offer the Trampolining club after Tuesday 28th April for Key Stage 3 students.

Instead, we will be introducing a **“Learn to Cycle”** club, which will be open to students of all age groups. This club is designed for students who are not yet confident riding a bicycle and would benefit from additional support.

The club will have a maximum capacity of 14 students

The school office will be sending consent out on Arbor next Monday 27th April if you would like your child to attend,

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.