

Date: Friday 1st May 2026

The Valley Newsletter

Important Dates Coming Up...

Week: 4th – 8th May 2026
<u>Monday 4th May</u> Bank Holiday <u>Tuesday 5th May</u> Herts music SEND Inclusion Committee Visits School Council meeting <u>Wednesday 6th May</u> Police Cadets Workshop Sky/Yellow Class <u>Thursday 7th May</u> Yr9 & Yr10 Parents evening Yr11 College KS3 Swimming DofE Volunteering Dodgeball at St Luke's Yr7,8,9
UPCOMING EVENTS
<u>Tuesday 12th May</u> Tag Rugby Yr9,10,11 at St Luke's Student MHST Workshop <u>Wednesday 13th May</u> Yr9 Science Museum Trip <u>Thursday 14th May</u> Tag Rugby Yr7, 8, 9 at St Luke's DofE Volunteering GCSE Maths Exam Paper 1 Calculator

As ever, the week has been filled with our usual purposeful learning across the school. Years 9 and 10 were well supported at Thursday's Options Evening, an important milestone as they begin to shape their next steps. Year 7 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the farm, bringing their *Farm to Fork* topic to life through first-hand experience. With the welcome return of Spring sunshine, it has been a positive and productive week for everyone, and we now look ahead to the May Day Bank Holiday long weekend.

Year 7 Visit to Church Farm – Farm to Fork Topic

On Monday, Year 7 visited Church Farm as part of their Term 4 *Farm to Fork* topic. Students thoroughly enjoyed exploring the farm, meeting a variety of farm animals, and having the opportunity to feed them.

They took part in an exciting minibeast hunt before working creatively to build their own insect hotels, which they were able to take home. One of the highlights of the day was the welly wanging activity, which proved very popular with everyone. The winning team was proudly awarded a certificate. It was an engaging and memorable trip that brought classroom learning to life.



Uniform

Thank you to the parents and carers who have kindly donated school uniform. We are very grateful for your support and welcome donations throughout the year to help maintain our supplies.

Senior Boys Football Tournament – 30th April

On the 30th of April, The Valley School proudly hosted a Senior Boys Football Tournament, welcoming five visiting teams alongside our two Valley teams for a highly competitive and enjoyable event.

Across the day, the tournament proved to be extremely balanced, with all teams showing strong organisation, effort, and determination. Our players represented the school brilliantly, demonstrating excellent teamwork, resilience, and a clear understanding of the game.

We finished in 4th place, and while this is a strong result in such a competitive field, it does not fully reflect the quality of our performance. Throughout the tournament, we created numerous chances against every opponent and were often the stronger side in key moments. However, the key area that limited us was our ability to consistently recover and track back, particularly in preventing counterattacks, where stamina and quick transitions proved decisive.

Most importantly, we are incredibly proud of how our students have developed. Their confidence on the ball, decision-making, and teamwork continue to improve, and this tournament was another positive step in their journey.

Well done to all players involved for their effort, attitude, and commitment.





Year 9 Coffee Morning

The Year 9 Coffee Morning will take place on Thursday 21st May from 9:30–10:30am. This informal session will provide an opportunity to meet staff, view students' work, and gain an insight into the Year 9 learning environment.

An invitation and sign-up form have been sent to Year 9 parents and carers. Please ensure you register your attendance so that we can prepare for your visit.



Suncream

As the weather becomes warmer, students may wish to bring a sun hat and wear suncream to school.

Please note that staff at The Valley are unable to apply suncream to students. We kindly ask that suncream is applied before school, or that students bring their own to apply independently during break times if needed.

Parents and Carers: Talk about mental health within a family and recovery

Is your child or young person receiving support or on a waiting list for a mental health service? Join us at an information session to learn more about mental health within a family and get practical ideas and strategies to help your child towards recovery.

When: Tuesday 5th May, 7pm to 9pm over Zoom

Book online: [CYPMHS - Mental health within a Family - Support for Parents and Carers - Carers In Herts](#)

Years 9/10 Parents' Evening

This is a quick reminder that the Year 9 and Year 10 Online Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday 7th May, from 4:00pm to 7:00pm.

We look forward to speaking with you and discussing your child's progress.



A Reel Success at Three Lakes

Five of our students enjoyed a memorable day out on a fishing trip to Three Lakes in Ware, accompanied by Mr Deamer and Mr Holop. The visit was kindly arranged by the Masons, who generously shared their expertise and taught the boys how to fish.

Thanks to their guidance and plenty of patience, the boys experienced real success on the day. Our school was proud to be the only one to catch fish, with three impressive catches brought back at the end of the trip.

Fishing in glorious sunshine, the students showed excellent focus, teamwork and enthusiasm throughout the day. Most importantly, everyone had a fantastic time and returned full of stories—and big smiles.

Please enjoy the lovely photos attached, which capture the boys making the most of a brilliant day outdoors.



Fantastic Lego Achievement!

A huge well done to Daniel, who completed an impressive nearly 2,000-piece Lego set in one evening! Daniel started building at 3:30pm and finished at 7:45pm, taking just a 30-minute break along the way.

What makes this achievement even more special is that Daniel saved for over a year to buy the Lego set using his school reward money. This shows wonderful determination, patience, and commitment – as well as some excellent building skills!



Sharp Skills in the Kitchen!

Our Year 7 students have been brilliant this week during their knife safety sessions. It was wonderful to see them approach the lessons with such a high level of responsibility and focus. They remained incredibly sensible throughout, showing great curiosity by engaging with the demonstrations and asking thoughtful questions. Their hard work and maturity truly paid off, as every student successfully earned their Knife Safety Certificate by the end of the lesson. I am incredibly proud of how well they conducted themselves—well done, Year 7!



Annie

Rehearsals continue to progress well. Please do encourage your children to access the Annie TEAMS via their school account as they will then be able to listen to the songs.

If anyone has any of the following, they could lend or donate, we would be really grateful:

Old blankets, sheets and pillows (These will be returned)

Smartish trousers (chinos) in sizes suitable for our boys.

Suits and jackets

The show is set in the 1930s so the clothing is more formal than modern day. A more detailed costume letter will be sent to cast members soon.

The students in our fantastic DT department have made some staging blocks for us to use and these have now all been painted. They are a useful resource for drama lessons in addition to us being able to use them in the show.



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

Learn to Cycle Club (max.14) - This club is designed for students who are not yet confident riding a bicycle and would benefit from additional support.

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.