

Date: Friday 8th May 2026

The Valley Newsletter

Important Dates Coming Up...

Week: 11th – 15th May 2026
<u>Monday 11th – Friday 15th May</u> Yr10 Work Experience Tuesday 12 th May Student MHST Workshop <u>Wednesday 13th May</u> Yr9 Science Museum Trip DofE Practice Walk <u>Thursday 14th May</u> Yr11 College KS3 Swimming Tag Rugby Yr7, 8, 9 at St Luke's DofE Volunteering GCSE Maths Exam Paper 1 Calculator
UPCOMING EVENTS
<u>Monday 18th May</u> Yr7 London Trip Orange, Violet & Silver class School Council meeting <u>Tuesday 19th May</u> Level 1 Maths exam Shopping trip to Food Warehouse- Yr10 <u>Wednesday 20th May</u> Waste Not Want Not DofE Practice Walk Fairlands Picnic Student Council <u>Thursday 21st May</u> KS3 Swimming Yr11 College Girls Football at The Valley Yr11 Workshop- Herts Young Homeless Next Steps DofE Volunteering Yr9 Coffee Morning Girls Football Tournament at The Valley

Despite it being a short week following the Bank Holiday Monday, it has certainly been a busy one across the school. We've seen students actively sharing their views at the School Council meeting, taking part in engaging Police Cadet workshops, enjoying the energy and teamwork of a Dodgeball tournament, and being discussed in the Year 9 and 10 Parents' Evening. As always, it's been wonderful to see our students so involved and engaged in a wide range of activities.

Year 11 Take to the Woods for Navigation Training

Year 11 students recently spent time out in the woods honing their navigation skills as part of their preparation for an upcoming three-hour walk next month. The session focused on map reading, navigation techniques and, most importantly, working effectively as a team.

Students were set the challenge of navigating back to a specific point using their maps and teamwork—and they did so with great success. Their careful planning, communication and determination meant that everyone returned exactly where they intended to, safely and confidently.

Well done to our Year 11 students for their excellent teamwork and navigation skills. A brilliant effort and a great step forward in preparing for their longer hike ahead!



Drop Everything and Read

Last Friday, we ran a Drop Everything and Read session (DEAR). A beautiful feeling of calm fell across the school as students dropped what they were doing to snuggle under a blanket with a favourite book or put their heads on a pillow listening to a story.

In a world of screens and devices, the aim of DEAR is to reinforce the link between reading and relaxation, and it was wonderful to see this happening across the school.

Some of the highlights were Jack in Cyan class, quietly reading a story to the guinea pigs, Laurence in Coral reading poems to his class as they lay on bean bags in their reading corner, and the whole of Year 7 enjoying a cinema style experience with popcorn as Ms G read stories to them.

We are looking forward to another DEAR event later in the summer term.



Building Skills Beyond the Classroom

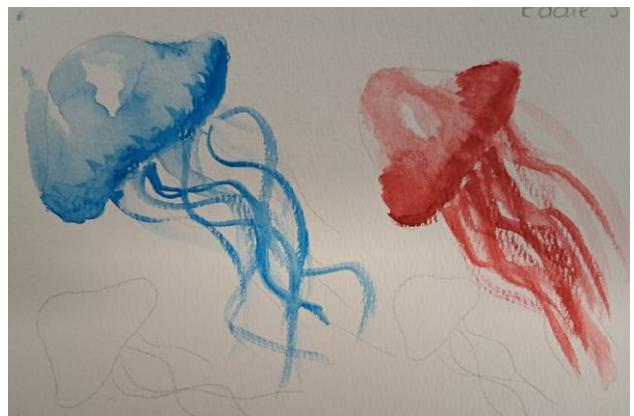
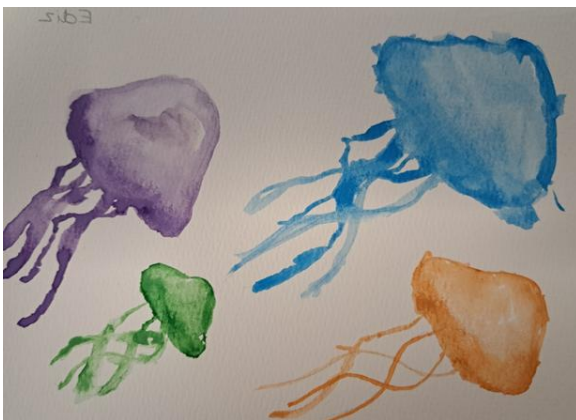
A group of our students enjoyed a fantastic community visit to Wickes this week as part of an exciting new project. They are currently working on building a sweet trolley that will be used at the school prom and for future events.

The visit was a real highlight. The boys were warmly welcomed by two Wickes store managers, who took time to support them and show interest in their project. Some of the students even had the opportunity to take items to the till and experience checking them out at the register. Trips like this are a wonderful example of learning beyond the classroom, helping our students develop confidence, independence and practical life skills. We would like to thank the Wickes team for their hospitality and support, and we look forward to sharing photos of the finished sweet trolley very soon!



Year 7 Art

Students in Year 7 have been practicing their watercolour skills. Here are some of the fabulous jellyfish they have painted this week.



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.



Supporting Reading

Next Page Books in Hitchin is an independent bookshop that specialises in books and reading events for Neurodiverse children. They are running some lovely events over half term, but they

do require tickets, so if you are interested, [book your ticket now via Eventbrite here](#) or scan the QR code on the posters below.

COMIC BOOK EVENT WITH ZAK SIMMONDS-HURN



TUESDAY 26TH MAY
2.30-3.30PM

Join **Phoenix** artist Zak Simmonds-Hurn as he shows you how he draws the heroes of his new book, Legacy: The Shadow Rises.



Age 8+ Tickets available on Eventbrite

NEXT PAGE BOOKS

CHILDREN'S • NEURODIVERSE • INCLUSIVE

Interactive Author event with Emily Snape



Saturday 30th May
2-3pm

Join Emily to celebrate the wonderful world of neurodivergence and the power of thinking differently.

Jai and their friends are a brilliant bunch of little monsters who can't wait to meet you! They're all on the autistic spectrum, and in this book, they each share what that means for them - from things they find challenging to the amazing strengths their unique brains bring.

£3 per child
or £6.99 inc the book



Age 4-12 Tickets available on Eventbrite

NEXT PAGE BOOKS

CHILDREN'S • NEURODIVERSE • INCLUSIVE

College

Students in Year 11 continued to enjoy off-site learning experiences at North Hertfordshire College by making bird feeders. Students proudly displayed their pinecone bird feeders, which are perfect for attracting a variety of garden birds.



Y10 Catering

Yr10 catering have finished up their culinary journey through America by making homemade S'mores. Using the melting method, they produced their own digestive style biscuits then headed outside to toast their marshmallows on the BBQ.

All the students have enjoyed the American cuisine with sticky chicken, fluffy pancakes and burgers and are looking forward to moving on to Thai food and traditional British picnic foods.





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.