

Date: Friday 18th September 2026

The Valley Newsletter

Important Dates Coming Up...

Week: 21st – 25th September 2026
<u>Tuesday 22nd September</u> DofE practise expedition walk <u>Wednesday 23rd September</u> Services for Young People- Coming into school; pop up at lunchtime to see students <u>Thursday 24th September</u> KS3 Swimming for identified students Yr11 College <u>Thursday 1st October</u> No mobile phone use during school day
UPCOMING EVENTS
<u>Tuesday 29th September</u> DofE practise expedition walk <u>Thursday 1st October</u> KS3 Swimming for identified students Yr11 College Outdoor Learning – Adventure Evening - Yr7 <u>Tuesday 6th October</u> School Photos

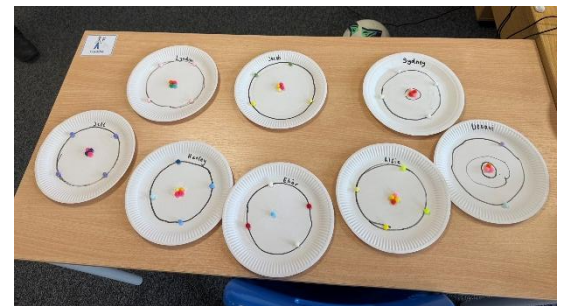
It has been another excellent week at The Valley School, and I continue to be impressed by how positively our students have settled into the new academic year. Across the school, students have quickly re-established routines, demonstrated excellent attitudes to learning, and approached each day with enthusiasm and maturity.

This week also marked the start of our Year 11 College Programme. It has been wonderful to see our students embrace this important next step in their educational journey with such confidence and responsibility. Their mature engagement and positive approach have been a credit to themselves and to the school.

We have also welcomed several prospective Year 5 and Year 6 families into school over recent weeks. It is always a source of great pride to hear visitors comment on the qualities they observe in our students. Families have consistently remarked on our students' excellent learning behaviours, their politeness and friendliness, and the genuinely happy and welcoming atmosphere that exists throughout the school.

Science With Navy Class

In science, Navy class have been finding out all about materials and elements, and how they are the building blocks of the entire universe! We've been looking VERY closely at what makes these very things and have discovered lots about atoms. The class had a great creative science lesson making their very own atom for our science display. Well done!



Year 7 and Year 11 Parents and Carers Evening

We are looking forward to welcoming our Year 7 and Year 11 parents and carers to our upcoming Parents' Evening on Thursday 8th October, from 4:00pm to 7:00pm.

The evening will take place online via SchoolCloud, giving you the opportunity to speak with your child's teachers and hear about how they are getting on.

On 24th September, all parents and carers will receive a link to SchoolCloud, where you can book your appointments. You will be able to book a maximum of four appointments, and we recommend using one of these to meet with your child's Form Tutor.

If you have any questions or need a little help making your bookings, please don't hesitate to contact the school office. Our team will be very happy to support you.

Year 10 Pre Voc

This half term our Year 10 Pre Voc students are learning about healthy and nutritious breakfasts and the health benefits of eating a well-balanced breakfast.

Please see the photo of the group after they had made their own pancakes and chosen their healthy toppings.

The pancakes were very much enjoyed by all!



School Photos

Maxims Photography

We are visiting your school
Tuesday 6th October 2026

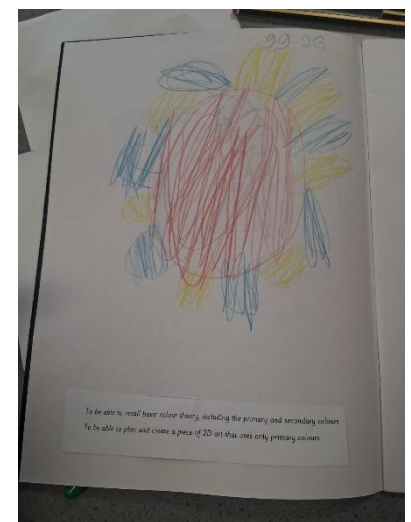
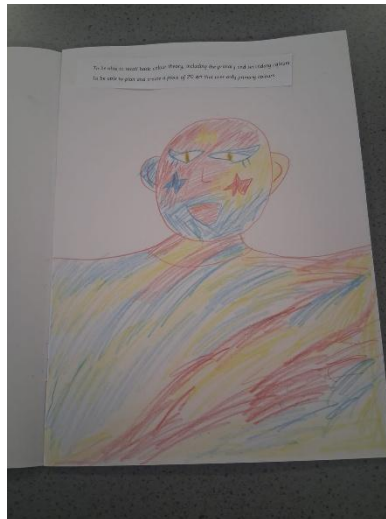
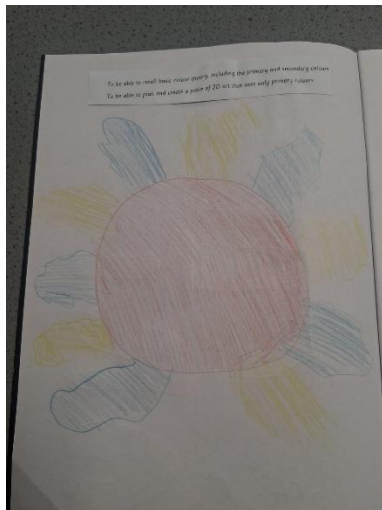
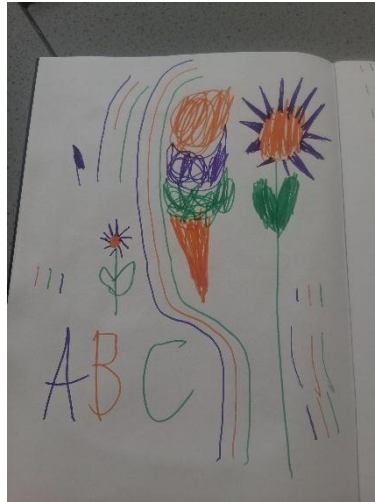
offering individual photos.

(Please ensure your child is wearing
full school uniform where applicable)



Year 8 Art

8 Orange have been getting creative in Art this week as they explored the wonderful world of primary and secondary colours! The students have been experimenting with different colour combinations and have created some beautiful and colourful pieces of artwork. It has been lovely to see their creativity, enthusiasm and individual personalities shine through in their creations. We are very proud of their fantastic work!



Year 8 Coffee Morning

Thank you to all parents and carers who shared their feedback. We are pleased to confirm that the Year 8 Coffee Morning will take place on Tuesday 29th September, 9:30–10:30am.

This is a great opportunity to meet with school staff, build positive relationships and strengthen our partnership in supporting students. An email with more information will be sent out to year 8 parents and carers.

We look forward to welcoming you!



Mobile Phone Use

At The Valley School, we are incredibly proud of the maturity, responsibility and good judgement consistently demonstrated by our students. Historically, mobile phone use has not presented any significant issues within the school. Students have used their devices sensibly and have responded positively to the expectations set by staff.

However, in line with statutory guidance, we must introduce revised arrangements for student mobile phones from **1st October 2026**.

Statutory Guidance

The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 requires state-funded schools to have regard to this guidance when exercising their functions. This effectively gives the guidance legal force.

"All schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default; anything other than this should be by exception only.

Schools should develop a mobile phone policy that prohibits the use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones (for example, the ability to send and/or receive notifications or messages via mobile phone networks or the ability to record audio and/or video) throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime."



New Procedure

Students who bring a mobile phone to school will be required to hand it to their Form Tutor during morning registration.

Phones will be placed in individually named pouches and securely stored in a locked location throughout the school day. They will be returned to students at the end of the school day before students leave the site and before taxis depart.

Students who choose not to bring a mobile phone to school will not be affected by this procedure.

Contacting Your Child During the Day

Should a parent or carer need to contact their child urgently during the school day, the School Office will be happy to assist. Likewise, if a student needs to contact home, appropriate arrangements can be made through the School Office.

After-School Clubs

Parents will need to collect students at 4.15pm from reception. **A separate email was sent out last week confirming clubs on offer and how to apply.**

The clubs currently on offer are as follows:

Tuesday

Multi-Sports Club KS4 (max. 12)

Performing Arts Club (max. 30)

Wednesday

Multi-Sports Club KS3 (max. 12)

Art Club

On a Thursday after school we will also be offering an Art Club until 4.15pm. Please sign up via Arbor as per other after school clubs.



The list of students expected to attend clubs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays will normally 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.