

Date: Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2026

## The Valley Newsletter

# Important Dates Coming Up...

| <b>Week: 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2026</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| <u>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October</u><br>School Council meeting<br><u>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October</u><br>School Photos<br><u>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October</u><br>Yr9 Trip to Stevenage Museum WW2 Exhibit<br><u>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October</u><br>Yr7 & Yr11 Parents Evening<br><u>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October</u><br>Visit from PCSO to see Maroon Class |
| <b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <u>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October</u><br>Whole School Flu Immunisations<br><u>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October</u><br>School Council Meeting<br><u>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October</u><br>Enterprise Halloween Event                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>HALF TERM</b><br><u>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October</u><br>School finishes at 15:10pm<br><u>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</u><br>First day back for students                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

It has been another positive and productive week at The Valley School. I would like to take this opportunity to commend our students for the mature and sensible way they have adapted to the new expectations around mobile phone use during the school day. Change can often be challenging, but students have responded exceptionally well and have demonstrated the responsibility and good judgement that we see in so many aspects of school life.

This week, we were delighted to welcome families to our Year 8 Coffee Morning. The event was extremely well attended and provided a great opportunity for students to proudly share their work and achievements with their parents and carers. It was also valuable for families to spend time with Year 8 staff and members of the Senior Leadership Team, discussing progress, aspirations and the many opportunities available to our students. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the morning such a success.

We continue to welcome a significant number of prospective parents and visitors to the school. It is always pleasing to hear their feedback, and I am particularly proud that so many comment on the maturity, positive learning behaviours and respectful attitudes of our students.

### **Year 10 students are hosting their first enterprise event.**

The event is a Halloween party being held on the last day of the half term, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October over electives at 2pm in the hall. Students will be able to purchase a ticket using their reward money for £1.50 to attend the disco. The enterprise team have already started signing students up to the event who would like to attend. There will also be some Halloween themed games included in the ticket price. Sweet treats and drinks will be available for purchase at the party and students attending will be invited to wear a Halloween costume.



### **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

Don't forget  
parents'  
evening!

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 8 Science

Year 8 have been learning about the Heart and Circulation this week. Having watched Mrs Cheung dissect a pig's heart last week, the students learned about the four chambers of the heart, and how the heart pumps blood to the lungs to become oxygenated and then pumps it around our body through arteries to provide oxygen to our organs. Students also learned that the deoxygenated blood then comes back to our heart through our veins to start the process all over again. To reinforce their learning, Silver class made their own models of hearts using red and blue plasticine, using blue for the right chambers where the blood is deoxygenated, red for the left chambers where the blood is oxygenated, and adding the veins and arteries. It was a difficult task, but they did very well and were proud of their models!



### School Photos

Maximus Photography

We are visiting your school  
**Tuesday 6th October 2026**  
offering individual photos.  
(Please ensure your child is wearing  
full school uniform where applicable)



### **Coffee morning**

The Year 8 Coffee Morning was a great success and provided a lovely opportunity for parents and carers to come together, meet one another, and enjoy some informal time over coffee. The children were very proud to show their parents and carers some of the work they have been doing, and it was a wonderful opportunity for families to visit the Year 8 area and see where the children spend their school day. It was lovely to see the children confidently sharing their work and to hear positive conversations about how well they are settling into Year 8. The morning was a great opportunity to celebrate their progress and see how well they are transitioning into their new year group. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the morning such a positive and welcoming occasion.



### **The Year 7 and Outdoor Learning**

The Year 7 and Outdoor Learning team would like to invite our Year 7 students to participate in an Outdoor Learning experience on Thursday 15th October 2026, from 3:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

Students will stay after school and should be collected by parents after the event.

The afternoon will provide an opportunity for students to socialise with their peers, take part in a range of games and activities, and enjoy a BBQ for dinner. If you would like your child to participate, please provide consent via Arbor. Please note students should be collected promptly at 7:30 pm.



### **Year 10 Food Technology**

Our Year 10 Food Technology students have been learning about healthy, balanced breakfast choices.

This week our students taste tested a variety of fresh fruits, including dragon fruit, passion fruit, kiwi, a variety of melons, mixed berries, mango, and avocado. They evaluated each one with the following outcomes; dragon fruit was the least liked and the winning favourite was the honeydew melon. The students then chose which fruits they wanted to add to a healthy yoghurt pot. Well done to all of them for getting involved and trying them all... Even the ones they didn't like!





### Year 9 Cyan class

Year 9 Cyan class have had a wonderful outdoor learning session this week learning about how to build, start and maintain a fire safely whether it's for camping or survival! The class gave brilliant ideas for why fires are important such as keeping warm, signalling for help and cooking food. As one half of the group tried to get a fire going, the other half helped saw wood into smaller chunks ready for adding to the fire. They did such a great job, we now have plenty of wood for next time! After almost having no fire because it had been wet the night before, we managed to get one going and even roasted some marshmallows! Well done, Cyan!



### **Year 10 Emergency Services group**

On Thursday, Emergency services group went to visit Stevenage Police Station. The group had the opportunity to look around the gun room, we looked at all the confiscated bikes and e-scooters. We looked at and sat in a police car with the sirens blaring and asked an Inspector some relevant questions on how to deal with emergencies. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were a credit to The Valley school.



### **After-School Clubs**

Parents will need to collect students at 4.15pm from reception. A separate email was sent out previously 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**

Art Club (max 14)

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](mailto: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.