

Date: Friday 9th October 2026

The Valley Newsletter

Important Dates Coming Up...

Week: 12th – 16th October 2026
<u>Monday 12th October</u> Whole School Flu Immunisations <u>Thursday 15th October</u> Yr7 Outdoor Evening & BBQ 7:30pm finish <u>Friday 16th October</u> Enterprise Halloween Event- Normal uniform in the morning. Dress up in the afternoon
UPCOMING EVENTS
<u>HALF TERM</u> Monday 19 th October-Friday 30 th October <u>Friday 16th October</u> School finishes at 15:10pm <u>Monday 2nd November</u> First day back for students

As we move through another busy and productive week at The Valley School, it has been wonderful to see so many opportunities for our students. Our Year 7 and Year 11 Parents' Evening was exceptionally well attended, and we are grateful to families for taking the time to engage with staff and support their children's learning journey.

This week also saw our Year 9 students visit the museum, where they represented the school brilliantly. Their conduct throughout the trip was impeccable and they were a real credit to themselves, their families and our school community. Back at school, we hosted our whole-school photographs, which ran smoothly thanks to the excellent organisation and hard work of our administrative team. My sincere thanks go to them for ensuring the day was such a success. With just one week remaining until half term, there is still plenty to look forward to. We are particularly excited about the Halloween Disco taking place on the final Friday before we break up, which promises to be a fantastic way for students to celebrate the end of a busy half term together.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, and I hope you enjoy reading this week's newsletter.

Year 10 students are hosting their first enterprise event.

Note – Students should come to school in uniform but can dress up for the disco.

The event is a Halloween party being held on the last day of the half term, Friday 16th 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.

Reports of headlice

Following reports of headlice, we kindly ask all parents and carers to check their child's hair regularly. If head lice are found do begin treatment promptly. If your child has long hair, please ensure it is tied back while at school, as this can help reduce the spread of head lice.

Thank you for your support in helping to minimise the spread within school. For further information on identifying and treating head lice, please refer to the NHS guidance on Head lice and nits.

[Head lice and nits - NHS](#)



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.



Consider joining the Youth Ambassadors!

Wellbeing Ambassadors

The Valley School has been selected to take part in the Wellbeing Ambassador Programme, an initiative designed to empower students to promote positive mental health and wellbeing across our school community.

The programme has been developed by The Sandbox, With Youth, Just Talk, Signpost and the SEND Mental Health Support Team. Two students from each year group will be selected to become Wellbeing Ambassadors for the academic year.

Ambassadors will receive training, guidance and ongoing support and will work together on wellbeing projects and activities. They will carry out projects each term that help promote positive wellbeing, encourage open conversations about mental health.

Wellbeing Ambassadors will not be responsible for managing mental health concerns. Any concerns will always be supported by trained staff and appropriate professionals.

The programme provides students with an opportunity to develop leadership, communication, teamwork and empathy skills, while making a positive contribution to the wellbeing of our school community.

Year 10 Sports Leaders

Our new Year 10 Sports Leaders have made a fantastic start to their course! They were delighted and incredibly proud to receive their official Sports Leader lanyards and whistles, marking the beginning of an exciting opportunity to develop their leadership skills.

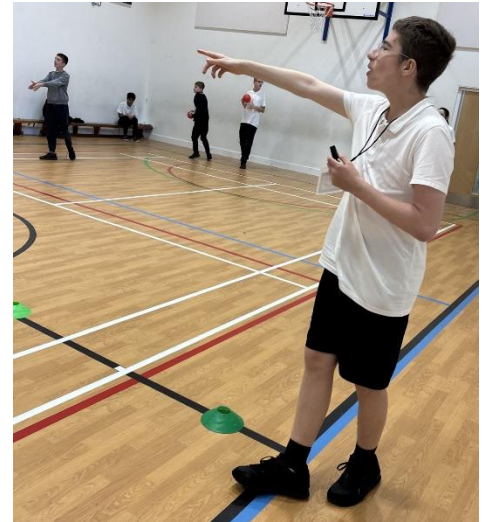
From the very first session, the leaders have shown confidence, enthusiasm and a real sense of responsibility. They have embraced their new roles brilliantly, demonstrating positive leadership and setting a fantastic example to others.

It has been wonderful to see them grow in confidence already, working together as a team and beginning to understand what it means to be a successful Sports Leader. Their positive attitudes and willingness to get involved have made a great first impression.

We are extremely proud of how they have started the course and look forward to seeing them continue to develop their leadership skills and become excellent role models for our school community.

A special mention to Jack P who led an excellent lesson with confidence to Year 8 Silver this week!

Well done, Year 10 Sports Leaders!





Stevenage Museum Trip

Year 9 braved the drizzle (with only a *little* bit of moaning!) to walk to Stevenage Museum as part of their learning about World War Two. They had already found out that after the Blitz and other bombing campaigns, much of London was destroyed and new towns needed to be built. We went to find out more about Stevenage before, during and after WW2.

It was wonderful to see all Y9 engaged with their learning and asking interesting and thoughtful questions to the curator and other adults. The museum is very 'hands-on' and students enjoyed dressing up, pressing buttons and learning about history by handling artefacts. Y9 were great at practising putting on a gas mask and even hiding under tables when the air raid klaxon went off!

A few students asked whether they could go back soon, so the details are:

Opening times: Wednesday to Friday 10am to 4:30pm and
Saturday 10am to 5pm

Address:

Stevenage Museum

St George's Way

Stevenage

Herts

SG1 1XX

[Stevenage Museum](#)





Swimming

The students have been enjoying their swimming lessons, developing their confidence and water skills through fun and engaging activities. They have been practising floating, kicking, swimming with support and building their independence in the water. It has been lovely to see all their smiles and growing confidence!



Art & Crafts Club.

In previous weeks in Art & Crafts Club, the students enjoyed making colourful crafts using lolly sticks. They created picture frames, decorations, and even little models, exploring different ways of joining materials together and using their creativity to bring their ideas to life. The students also made layered sand art bottles, each one unique and full of vibrant patterns!





This week, the students were creative with chalk, designing and creating their own unique pieces of artwork. They had lots of fun experimenting with different colours and patterns and were very proud of their finished creations that they could take home and show off!



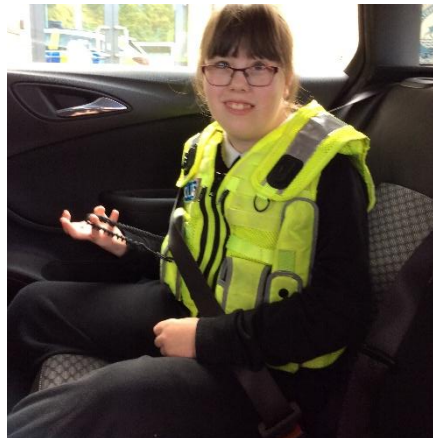
What an exciting visit for Mocha Class!

Today, Neil, our PCSO, came to visit Mocha Class. The students had the opportunity to explore a variety of police uniform items, including high-visibility jackets, police hats and even a riot helmet. Everyone enjoyed trying them on and learning more about Neil's role in the community.

The highlight of the visit was getting to sit in the police car and have a ride around

the car park. Neil kindly let us switch on the flashing lights and sound the sirens, which caused great excitement among the children!

It was a fantastic experience that gave the students a chance to learn about policing in a fun and engaging way. We all had a wonderful time and would like to thank Neil for his visit.



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 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.