

Valence News

Community

Dear Parents and Carers

As always, it has been a very busy start to the new academic year, and over the last week, the Valence Community has enjoyed welcoming the new students and staff that have started following transition programmes and induction training. 'Team Valence' is certainly in full flow, and you can see from the reports in this week's issue of the newsletter from English and the REP, that there is already a lot going on.

Last weekend, although the alterations to the 'Friends of Valence' shop are not complete, we opened the doors and marketed the work of the school as part of the Westerham Autumn Fair, and it was lovely to see students, parents and staff all involved. We are now recruiting volunteers to support within the shop once it opens and details can be found on the 'work for us' section of the school's website. We are also now accepting donations to be sold in the shop and these can be left at the school reception. Please do spread the word to friends and family so that we can maximise the success of this new venture.



If you are shopping in Tesco's this weekend, do be aware of the opportunity to nominate the school to receive a £5000 'Golden Grant' – details are within this newsletter and again, please spread the word!

We are well into Autumn after last week's heat wave - enjoy the weekend and all it brings.

With kind regards .

Matt Strange (Vice Principal)

Westerham, Kent TN16 1QN t 01959 562156 f 01959 565046 e valence@valence.kent.sch.uk www.valenceschool.com

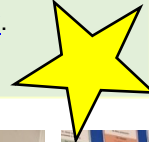
News from English

Phonics Superstars!

Primary students have returned with lots of enthusiasm for their RWI phonics lessons; Mrs Glover exclaimed: "it's as if they have never been away!" Thank you, parents, for continuing to support students to read over the summer holidays, it has clearly made an impact. Students are currently undergoing baseline assessments and are being taught in differentiated groups according to their level. If you have any questions about phonics, please reach out to Mrs Claire Warren, our phonics lead at cwarren@valence.kent.sch.uk.



Keep an eye on school bags as Fred the Frog (a learning aid) will be making his way to the homes of phonics superstars very soon!



Entry Level

Students in Simmonds 4 and 5 have made a wonderful start to their course on Exploring Events and Characters in Audio and Visual Texts. Here are Dom, Sam and Scarlett working hard to independently complete their coursework.



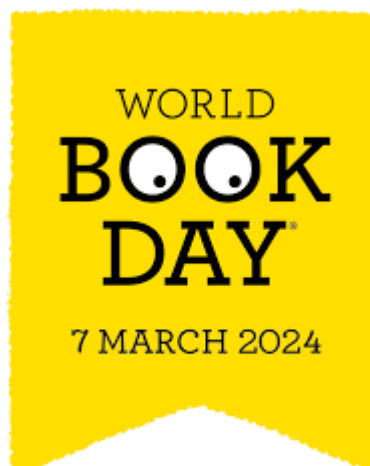
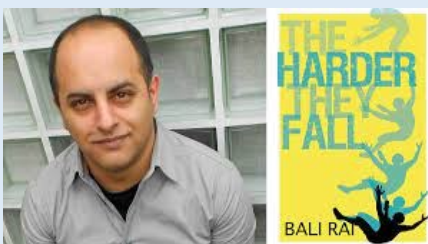
GCSE

Well done to the eleven students who sat GCSE English Language and Literature examinations this summer; we are very proud of your dedication and achievements. We now look forward to supporting you with your next steps and new courses. I have included below a few sentences from Evie Fuller's recent essay on the

Furthermore, in Act 1, Scene 3 Macbeth and Banquo are both tested by the witches, yet it is Macbeth who falls and Banquo who resists. Macbeth is the first character to be put on trial when the witches prophesy, "All hail, Macbeth that shalt be king hereafter!" The effect this exclamation has on Macbeth is all consuming and Banquo comments his partner is "rapt withal", highlighting his fascination with the supernatural prophecies.

Coming soon...

A virtual workshop with author Bali Rai for students in Hawking 3, who are currently reading his book 'The Harder They Fall'.



13th March 2024

VALENCE SCHOOL TERM DATES

ACADEMIC YEAR 2024 - 2025

Autumn Term

Staff Training 1 & 2 : Monday 2 September – Tuesday 3 September

Term 1 : Wednesday 4 September – Wednesday 23 October

Staff Training 3 : Thursday 24 October

Half Term : Friday 25 October – Friday 1 November

Term 2 : Monday 4 November – Friday 20 December

Christmas Break : Monday 23 December - Friday 3 January

Spring Term

Staff Training 4 : Monday 6 January

Term 3 : Tuesday 7 January – Friday 14 February

Half Term: Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February

Term 4 : Monday 24 February – Friday 4 April

Easter Break : Monday 7 April – Monday 21 April

Summer Term

Staff Training 5 : Tuesday 22 April

Term 5 : Wednesday 23 April – Friday 23 May

Bank Holiday : Monday 5 May

Half Term : Monday 26 May – Friday 30 May

Term 6 : Monday 2 June – Wednesday 23 July

Governors approved 19th September 2023



Residential Educational Provision
enabling independence



Residential Education Provision

Welcome back, I hope you had a lovely summer. Firstly, I would like to share the Ofsted inspection early in the year.

Ofsted Report

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	Outstanding
How well children and young people are helped and protected	Outstanding
The effectiveness of leaders and managers	Outstanding



The Residential Special School provides highly effective services that consistently exceed the standards of good. The actions of the school contribute to significantly improved outcomes and positive experiences for children and young people.

Our aim is to continue to provide an outstanding provision for you son and daughters. This week we were pleased to welcome back our boarders and we are looking forward to welcoming all our new boarders when they join us very soon.

The Residential Education Provision Team Structure.

Lisa Kavanagh Vice Principal (Safeguarding & Social Care) Care Manager



Jo Chivers Residential Care Manager



The bungalows are run by Managers and their Assistant.

The teams working in the bungalows are made up of Keyworkers, Student Support Assistants, Health Care Assistants and Waking Night Staff. The Students Support Staff and waking night staff work across all bungalows

Role	Keller	Simmonds	Hawking
Manager	Stacey Holmes	Sam Baker	Julian Harrison
Assistant		Kailey Ram Justyna Clark	Grace Moll
Keyworkers	James Highsted Hanah Langley	Laura Pettet Alisha Adams Sheree Doherty Emma Fitzgerald Kirsty peacock	Ashleigh Pascoe Caroline Frost Tracey Jarred Bernice Maleed
Health Care Assistants	Rachel Lott	Yvette J Smith Nicola S Yates	Rebecca Tawton

What can our Boarders expect to get from the experience of boarding at Valence?

Boarders can take up new skills and experiences. Residential staff work closely with education staff to ensure learning targets are set and worked on in all settings, following the pathways of each student to support them to achieve their potential. All boarders are encouraged to challenge themselves to achieve their future goals, aspirations, and ambitions. We support students to recognise their strengths so that they can build self-esteem and confidence. The REP provides opportunities to enhance independence skills and to recognise achievements as these develop which in turn helps build confidence and resilience. All students are encouraged to actively take part in planning clubs and activities, which have provided greater learning opportunity within the bungalows to work towards targets and develop life skills. We will continue to focus on the Preparing for Adulthood outcomes toolkit for planned activities.

These are Good Health and Well Being, Friendships, Relationships and community
Developing Independent living skills and life/ employment skills.

Activities and evening entertainment

Evening activities include a mixture of sessions that provide the opportunity to work on targets as well as new experiences.

Physical Management & Exercise

Well, Being Evening

Drama club

Powerchair football

Arts and Crafts

Karaoke Night

Encouraging Connections (communication skills)

Board games Wii Games

Shopping online/local shopping when able

Music sessions

Trips out with friends

Theme nights

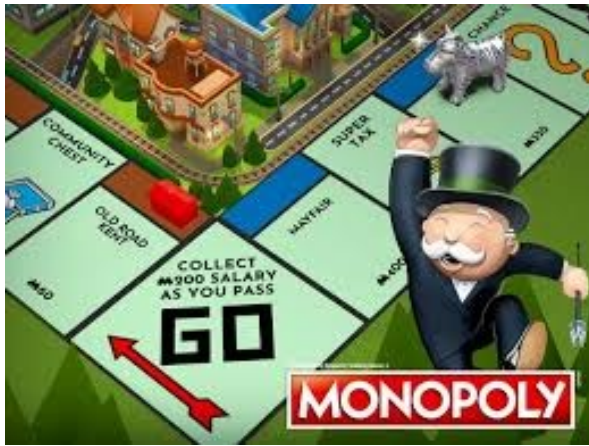
And many more.

Students have meeting with their manager or assist where they can give their views and be respectful of other student's views. Each home living area is set up to suit the student's individual needs. Our aim is to support each student to reach their full potential linked to the pathways. Each student is encouraged to focus on what they can do, while developing independent living skills such as budgeting, shopping, washing their clothes and cooking. The students have a budget for food and cook for themselves with support from staff if needed this maybe in the form of directing staff. All students are encouraging to keep the home living area clean and tidy.

We encourage all students to participate in daily activities to develop social skills and friendship circles.

If you have any question, please don't hesitate in contacting Lisa Kavanagh or me:

Jo Chivers 07896905095 or Lisa Kavanagh 07912124724



Monopoly Fundraising Challenge For Valence

At the end of the summer term my oldest friend and I decided it would be fun to get out the old monopoly board – this got us talking about the different places on the board and if you could visit them all. (Inspired by my recent Morph trail that I was doing in the holidays)

Wouldn't it be fun to walk to all these places! So, we hatched a fundraising plan .

Reality has now hit me – we are doing this walk on Saturday 23rd September that's 18 miles all around London.

Of course, all my sponsorship is for Valence School, to raise money for additional equipment for lunchtime clubs and as this had a travel feel I thought in particular car club.

If you would like to sponsor me, please follow the link. Please feel free to share with friends and family.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/zena-belton-monopoly-walk?utm_term=m64br4Rmz

Of course, I need at least £200 to pass go and I hope to stay out of Jail!



And if anyone has any idea how we will manage to find Free parking do let me know!

Thank you Zena Belton



FRIENDS OF VALENCE AGM

Dates for
the Diary:

Come along to find out how you can
become involved in supporting our charity

Wednesday 11th October

PLC, Valence school, Westerham

7pm start

Please RSVP to Jessica Carroll
or friends@valence.kent.sch.uk

You might win something if you're [shopping](#) at [Tesco](#) this weekend.

Shoppers have the chance to win half a million pounds collectively for local schools and community groups.



On Saturday (September 23) between 12pm and 1pm, you can visit one of 100 Tesco stores and take a lucky dip – and you'd be looking to find a gold version of the Tesco's blue voting token.

Anyone that finds one will get to choose a local school or community project to receive a £5,000 'Golden Grant', which can then be spend on equipment or healthy food.

Please remember the
weather is very changeable
and children will need a coat
in school.

Thankyou



Senior Staff On-call Rota from 22nd September 2023

Contact details:

Roland Gooding	07896 905605
Lisa Kavanagh	07912 124724
Matt Strange	07894 483673
Jo Chivers	07896 905095

Day	Date	Time	On-call	Overnight
Friday	22/09/23	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed Weekend
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
Saturday Sunday	23/09/23 24/09/23	Closed		
Monday	25/09/23	07.30 To midday	Matt Strange	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Tuesday	26/09/23	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
Wednesday	27/09/23	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Roland Gooding
		Midday to 4pm	Roland Gooding	
Thursday	28/09/23	09:00 To midday	Roland Gooding	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
Friday	29/09/23	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed Weekend
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Saturday Sunday	30/09/23 01/10/23	Closed Weekend		

