

# Valence News

## All in a Day!

Dear Parents and Carers

On page 2 there is a delightful article about Keller 2 - the curriculum and residential provision. The opportunities that staff provide for the young people is impressive by any standards. But the engagement and responses of the young people is even more impressive! Learning is of course the relentless focus of the staff but enjoyment by students is an enabling powerful dimension! When learning is fun it inevitably achieves great results and Keller 2 is no exception! Congratulations to all involved in the quality work being undertaken.

With kind regards and best wishes.

Roland Gooding  
Principal



### Photos from Keller 2



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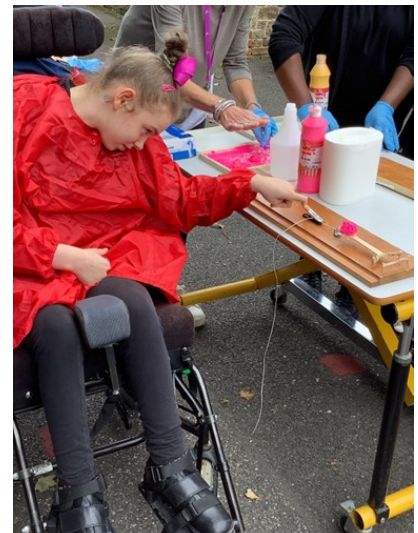
## Keller 2 Term 1 News

Keller 2 have had a great start to the year; we have increased in size and now have two of the boys (who are now 18) from last year's Keller 3 class.

Two of our students begin boarding this year – Lacey has already been spending 2 nights a week in the REP and has settled in very well; Zahra is waiting for some equipment to arrive and we are confident that she will settle into her new routine once that happens.

Meanwhile, we have started the year with the topic 'Time Flies When You're Having Fun'; which is very appropriate as the term has really flown by. Each week we have had a different focus, but have always had fun learning and making steady progress with our ImpACTS targets; we have also started to include work for the ASDAN qualification, that we do for the Key Stage 5 students, into our week.

Cooking, PE, Music, and Gardening all add extra dimensions to our learning as well as physical management, creativity and other activities that we do in and out of class.





# World Mental Health Day

To mark World Mental Health Day, students from Hawking 7 attended 'the big mental health conversation' at the Kent event centre, Detling. The event brought together students and mental health professionals from across Kent to discuss young people's mental health and take part in workshops.



The students took part in a 'Pawsitive minds' workshop, meeting some therapy dogs and enjoying a peaceful walk in the woods whilst chatting about their own mental health. Another session involved discussing how the five main senses can affect our mental health and how we can use them to improve our wellbeing.

We were lucky with the weather and enjoyed a packed lunch outside whilst admiring the alpacas. The students discussed their favourite smells and sounds, reflecting on the mornings workshop. Students also had time to browse the stalls and chat to various charities and organisations. They also enjoyed picking up the odd free gift!



When we arrived back at Valence, we had some time in the student common room to reflect back on the trip. Students agreed that the event was very accessible, despite a few bumpy paths! They commented how being in a large crowd was daunting, but they had built confidence by attending the event. Overall, it was a great day, and the students were fantastic ambassadors for the school.

## Coffee mornings

Thank you to all of you that completed the survey. We have listened to feedback from parents and have included these new training / information sessions that all parents are invited to attend.

As you can see we have included even more information coffee morning sessions and also informal coffee and chat sessions with an opportunity to chat and meet together.

As with most things in life we can never please all the people all of the time and it appears that the time and day of the meetings are often the challenge. I have continued with Fridays but any additional sessions we will look at alternative days.

Whilst you don't need to book and can just turn up we do of course need an indication of numbers for coffee and refreshments and any handouts that might need to be available.

If you could therefore let our receptionist Karen know that you are intending to attend a session

Friday session will start at 10.30 arrival for coffee, with any planned information session to start at 11.00. For the Friday mornings we will also ensure parents can stay on site if they are then collecting their children after lunch. Other days the session will start at 9.30 arrival for coffee, with any planned information session to start at 10.00.

Below is a brief outline of dates and suggested topics –

Date	ThemeActivity
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Coffee morning
Friday November 24 <sup>th</sup>	PE at Valence
Friday December 8 <sup>th</sup>	Post 19
Friday January 19 <sup>th</sup>	OT and Physio at Valence
Friday February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Communication / ACC
Friday March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Social media
Friday April 26 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee morning
Friday May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Moving and handling – parent back care tbc
Tuesday June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Music at Valence
Friday July 19 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee morning



We still have additional topics that we will look to add – so there may be additional dates and days. We look forward to welcoming you back into school and provide that valuable opportunity for parents to meet together and share ideas and experiences.

## Senior Staff On-call Rota from 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### Contact details:

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

Day	Date	Time	On-call	Overnight
Friday	13/10//23	07:30 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed Weekend
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Saturday to Sunday	14/10/23 15/10/23	Closed Weekend		
Monday	16/10/23	07.30 To midday	Matt Strange	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Tuesday	17/10/23	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Roland Gooding
		Midday to 4pm	Roland Gooding	
Wednesday	18/06/23	09:00 To midday	Roland Gooding	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
Thursday	19/10/23	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
Friday	20/10/23	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed for Half Term
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Saturday Sunday	21/10/23 22/10/23	Closed for Half Term		

