

Valence News



Christmas at Valence

Dear Parents and Carers

Enjoy this bumper Christmas Edition with so much going on the students have had a wonderful week and much more to follow next week.

With kind regards.

***Roland Gooding* Principal**



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Hawking Highlights

H1

In term 1, the students enjoyed spending time with S1 during Forest School lessons. They went on bug hunts, made pictures using natural resources and played group games.

In term 2, the students have been busy preparing for 'The Twinkly Nativity'. They were outstanding in their performances to the rest of the school and also the parents. A huge effort over the week from all the students and staff!



H2

A huge congratulations to all H2 students who have settled into life at Valence quickly. All these students started in September so it has been great to get to know you and we can't wait to see how you grow and develop together.



The tennis lessons and the bocchia tournament at Sevenoaks School were fantastic experiences, as well as the fake fireworks and lighting bubbles in science. Swimming and cooking have been big hits too.



H3

H3 as a class are working well and collecting many merits for their hard work and positive attitude.

Students were delighted to be the overall winners of the pumpkin carving competition at the end of Term1, the trophy they received is proudly displayed in the cooking room where they have also been practicing their cooking skills!



In addition to this, H3 had a very enjoyable morning during an English workshop where they met Bali Rai and discussed the books he has written. They were able to ask questions and find out some interesting information about being an Author. He inspired the class by sharing his opinion that geeks and nerds change the world!



H4

H4 have started their formal qualifications this year in many of their subjects. As such some outstanding work is being produced and some students have decided to learn the keyboard as a new skill! You might also remember that they attended a theatre trip in Wimbledon to support their English GCSE.



H5

H5 have had a fantastic start to the year really maturing together as a group. Some of the highlights this term, include the trip to the Tate Modern where some students got to see London from the rooftop and appreciate the magnitude of the capital, as well as the art! The group made a valiant effort to win the pumpkin carving competition creating a green “Mike Wazowski” from monsters inc but came up a bit short on that one. On an individual level the group have embraced their personal development all fully accessing their physical management opportunities and working hard to be the best versions of themselves. The final and most wholesome moment of the term was decorating the PE Department Christmas tree together whilst listening to Christmas carols.





H6

H6 have been embracing the new residential aspect of their schooling at Valence which has added lots of value to social times. On top of this they have had some fun around the school. All work and no play make H6 sad. Needless to say, they have found ways to enjoy themselves. Winners of the interhouse competition about world landmarks, heart dissections in science and A-Level trips to the Tate Modern to name a few. A particular highlight included blowing up a pumpkin after they didn't win the pumpkin carving competition.



H7

H7 had a great time attending the KCC big mental health conversation meeting at Detling showground; there were opportunities to look at different aspects of mental health, which all of the students found helpful and insightful. Students from H7 also met with Sarah Haigh from KKC (one of the event organisers) last Friday to feedback on accessibility and give suggestions on how it could be improved.



H7 have continued to volunteer around the school and at the Primary schools Boccia festival; Fred Fowler has particularly enjoyed his volunteering with H2, helping them to learn German; Calum has had fun learning the nativity songs with Comet class; Alan has been helping the site team with some maintenance work; Jamie has really enjoyed helping out and sharing his knowledge in maths.

News from Hawking 1

This term, the students in Hawking 1 have been preparing for the primary nativity, which is called 'The Twinkly Nativity.'

This version of the traditional nativity story is told by seven stars who follow Mary, Joseph and their donkey on their journey to Bethlehem.

The students in Hawking 1 play a variety of roles including Mary, Joseph, stars, Mr Boti (Better-Out-Than-Inn) and travelers.

The students have particularly enjoyed learning the songs for the play.

The Twinkly Nativity



We are excited for everyone to see what we have been working on!

Simmonds independence

This term Simmonds students have been studying finance in their independence lessons. This has linked in with their maths lessons, during which they have been subtracting and adding money.

Students from S4 & 5 have had the opportunity to put their learning into practice over the past few weeks, venturing to Bluewater shopping centre.



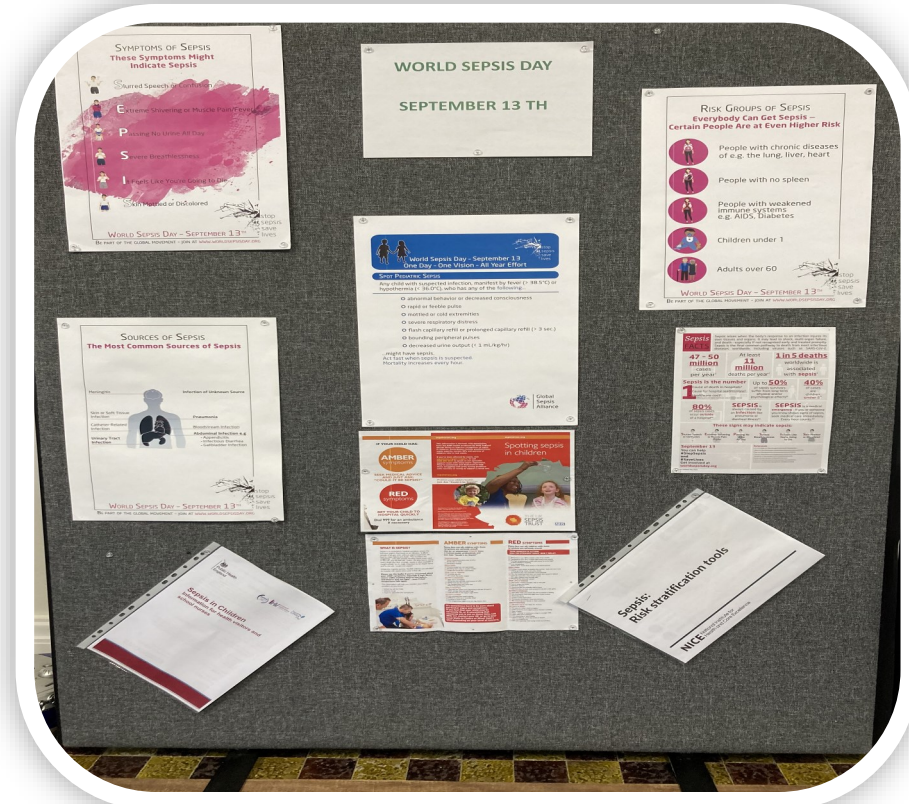
Students had various independence skills to work on, their main focus was budgeting. Each group had a budget and a shopping list. Their challenge was to buy all the items on their shopping lists, sticking within their given budget.

All of the students bought at least one item each. The items they bought will be used in their classrooms or REP area. The students were also set challenges by their keyworkers. Most groups stuck within their budgets, despite a few shopping mishaps! Staff gave minimal support to enable students to build one of our core values, resilience.



HEALTH NEWS

Welcome from our Health Team, Nursing, Therapy, SALT and ACT Team. It's been an extremely busy Term 1 and 2 and we commenced in September with our Nursing Team delivering to our whole school a session on Sepsis which coincided with Sepsis Awareness Month. Sepsis affects 245,000 people every year in the UK alone. This was very well received by school and created some interesting discussions.



Our health team have continued to be busy supporting our students and ensuring they are safe. In one week during Term 1 there were 915 medications were administered which is an incredible amount!

Therapy In school we have a number of petracycles, adapted trikes and a quad bike with varying levels of support to meet a range of needs. The school therapy team have been working in collaboration with the PE department to integrate use of adapted bikes in PE lessons as well as throughout the school day. The aim of using the bikes is to create a fun way to support student's cardiovascular health, joint mobility, muscle



As you can see students are thoroughly enjoying using the trikes. Some of our Hawking 3 students have had a great time in PE recently playing imaginative group games on the adapted bikes.

Speech and Language Therapy Groups

Bubbly Bears

Our primary students have enjoyed the Bubbly Bears group on Tuesdays, singing songs, playing games and crafting, all while talking to their peers, sharing their ideas, and joining in with the activities using their VOCAs. Take a look at what our students have made during the group this term. There's lots of room on the display board for more craft activities to be made after Christmas!



REP 'Voice' Group

Our VOCA users in the REP have been taking part in a social group after school on Wednesdays and Thursdays, which one of the group members has aptly named the 'Voice Group'. Students have enjoyed playing 'Who am I?' and 'would you rather', and we look forward to continuing the group after Christmas!



Social Skills

Students in Simmonds 3 have been taking part in a social skills group with Communication Assistants Karen and Carolyn, thinking about good and bad conversations, why we have conversations, and reflecting on their own communication skills. We look forward to carrying on in the New Year!

Tub2Pub scheme

Valence Green Ambassadors are supporting the Tub2Pub scheme to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support and encourage more people to recycle plastics

We're all guilty of indulging in chocolate, sweets and crackers over the festive period, and in the UK we are buying tens of millions of these plastic tubs every year!

The Green Ambassadors want to make sure your tubs don't go to waste.

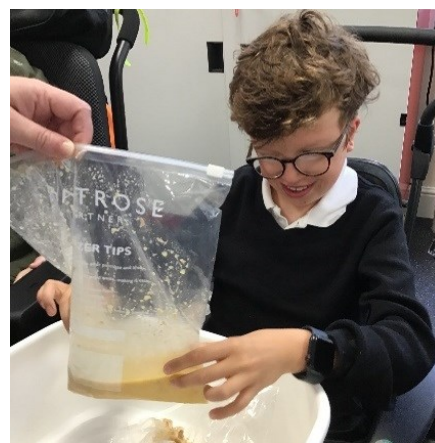
They want to encourage you to take your clean, empty plastic confectionery and cracker tubs to any Greene King managed site from 1 January - 11 February 2024 to be recycled.

We have a Green King hotel in Westerham so the students will be collecting these tubs at school to help the students and staff recycle, if you don't have a Green King near you the students will be collecting the tubs in school throughout January.



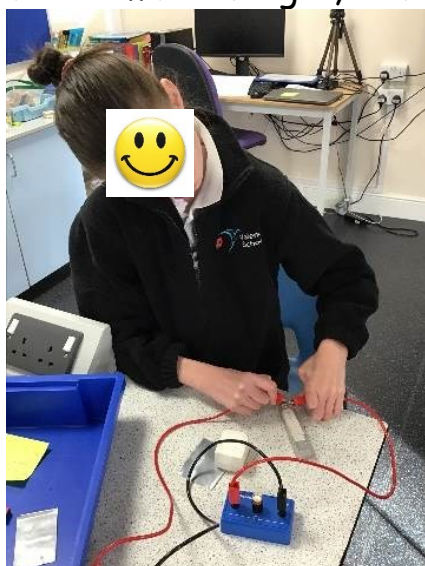
News from Science

In term 1 Hawking 2 and 3 looked at their healthy lifestyles topic which included looking at the digestive system. Students had fun recreating their digestive system in science lessons with the help of sandwich bags and an old pair of tights. Some of them will never think about digestive biscuits and orange juice the same way again.



They also had the chance to practice their driving skills with special goggles that gave them the impression of what it might be like to drive drunk. There were some very interesting driving styles some of which included just go and hope for the best.

This term Hawking 2, 3 have been looking at the periodic table. They have



looked at metals and non-metals and their properties as well as the elements in groups 1, 7 and 0. There have been many spirited games of periodic table bingo in which staff have been just as competitive as the students.

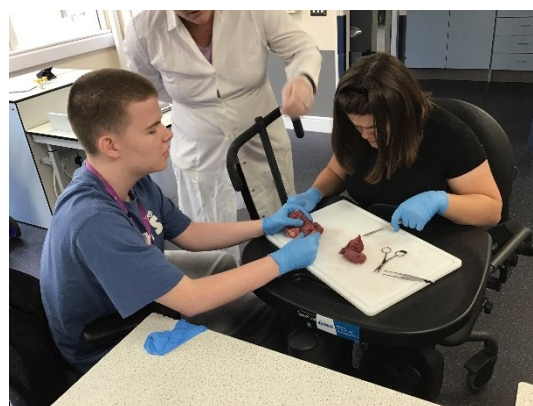


Hawking 4,5 and 6 were also taking part in a biology topic looking at body systems. They also looked at the digestive system and Hawking 5 and 6 were lucky enough to take part in a dissection workshop with Mrs Mylod from Sevenoaks school. Students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are asking what other things they can dissect in the future.



This term Hawking 4,5 and 6 have been covering a

chemistry topic which has involved a lot of practical investigating. They have been looking at rates of reaction and what can help to speed them up or slow them down.

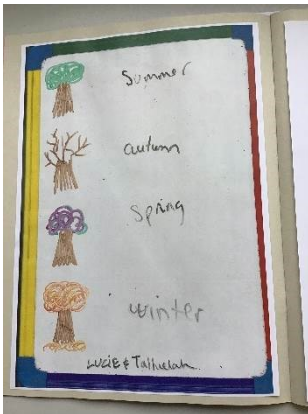


Good Luck to students in Hawking 5 and 6 who will be sitting their Mock science exams in January.









Last term Simmonds 4,5 and 6 were looking at different types of fuels. This included looking at fractional distillation and what the different fuels are used for. Students also got the opportunity to make some models of some of the fuels using moly-mods.

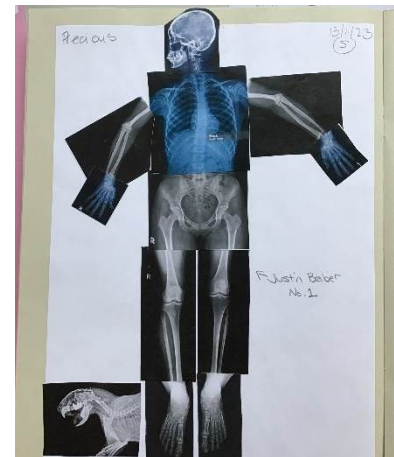
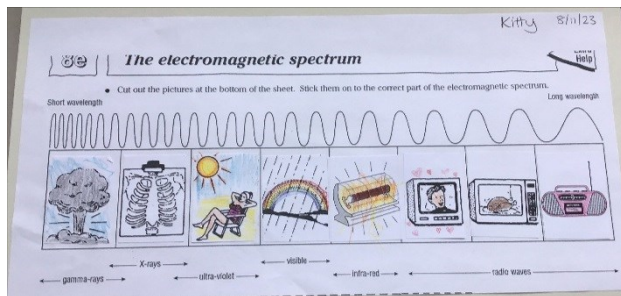


Last term Simmonds 3 looked at the weather and the seasons. They were able to keep track of the changing weather and how Autumn was much warmer than we are all used to.

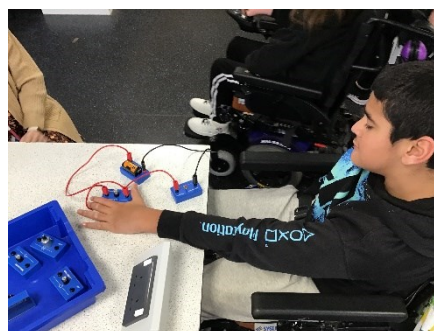
Date	Weather	Temperature
25 th September	Sunny, Warm, 	16°C
2 nd October	Cloudy 	16.5 °C
9 th October	Cloudy 	18.0 °C
10 th October	Cloudy 	5 °C

This term students in Simmonds 4 and 5 have been looking at the Electromagnetic spectrum. This includes what each of the different wavelengths within the spectrum are used for. They particularly enjoyed looking at X

-rays and getting to name their own skeletons.



This term students in Simmonds 3 and 6 have been looking at electricity. They have looked at where the electricity comes from and how to build a working circuit using batteries, bulbs, wires, switches, and buzzers.



Senior Staff On-call Rota from 8th December 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	08/12/23	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed Weekend
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Saturday Sunday	09/12/23 10/12/23	Closed Weekend		

Monday	11/12/23	07.30 To midday	Matt Strange	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Tuesday	12/12/23	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Roland Gooding
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
Wednesday	13/12/23	08:00 To midday	Roland Gooding	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
Thursday	14/12/23	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
Friday	15/12/23	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	

