

Valence News

The Little BIG Things

Dear Parents and Carers

First, a very happy new year to you and your families. I hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas break and kept clear of the many infections that seemed to be doing the rounds.

At the beginning of every new year people often want to look forward and make resolutions to improve their lives. Apparently, by mid January most resolutions have been broken or forgotten! Of course sometimes we are forced to change if something dramatic happens in our lives. During the break I went to see a new musical at *Sohoplac* Theatre which opened in 2022. The musical is based on a memoir written by Henry Fraser. This is how he described a life-changing experience:

It was July 18th 2009 when everything in my life changed. It was a glorious day. Blue sky, sunshine, friends all surrounded me on that golden beach. I ran into the sea thinking it was a good depth to dive forward—turns out the sea bed kicked up slightly in front of me. I collided head first and momentarily blacked out. I opened my eyes expecting to stand up, walk out the sea and join my friends. I opened my eyes floating in the sea completely unable to move. It's amazing to think that one little thing, one brief moment, can change everything.

The musical is titled *The Little BIG Things* and is well produced and acted with the disabled Henry Fraser being played



by a disabled actor. Henry learnt to paint using his mouth given that he was paralysed from the shoulders.

Next week I will share with you what we all might learn from the event that changed Henry Fraser's life for ever!



Henry's Magenta Ostrich

Here are the two Henry Frasers acting in the show

For now I'll leave two thoughts from Henry's Fraser's art as we start this new year:

Be
Grateful

Always
look at
what you
can do

I wish you all a pleasant weekend

Roland Gooding

Principal

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

Senior Staff On-call Rota from 5th January 2024

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	05/01/24	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed Weekend
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	

Saturday Sunday	06/01/24 07/01/24	Closed Weekend		
Monday	08/01/24	07:30 To midday	Matt Strange	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Tuesday	09/01/24	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Roland Gooding
		Midday to 4pm	Roland Gooding	
Wednesday	10/01/24	08:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
Thursday	11/01/24	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
Friday	12/01/24	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	

