

Valence News

The Little BIG Things 2

Dear Parents and Carers

Following on from last week I think that the positivity that came out of Henry Fraser's tragic accident is a timely reminder for us all of the school's learning ethos. Positivity is sometimes hard to feel when you are faced with enormous barriers to learning and living but it is an essential component of health and wellbeing. It, together with Respectfulness, Resilience and Independence is underpinned by a need for all of us to be passionate about the things that matter to us and the interests that we have. Henry Fraser became passionate about painting using his mouth following his accident - it would have been easy for him to have given up but he didn't. All of us need to encourage and support our children and young people in having a positive view of life even though that at times will need a great deal of support in order to secure positivity. Fortunately, we see positivity all around us every day at school and we should celebrate and value this and share in the successes and achievements that it brings!

We saw our first real tasted of winter this week and it is timely to remind you all that if it is necessary to close the school as a result of severe weather our main means of communication with you will be via text messages. There is a possibility that there will be more snow next week so we need to be aware that it is sometimes necessary to close the school early to ensure safe transport home for day students and also to close for some students if insufficient staffing becomes an issue. As many of our students travel quite long distances please keep up-to-date with weather forecast and take your own decisions about whether you consider it safe for your son or daughter to travel to school.

I hope that you all have a pleasant weekend!

Roland Gooding

Principal



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Coffee mornings

Dates for
the Diary:

Happy New Year – I am sure you have a new calendar for Christmas so here are some dates that you may want to fill in!

Friday January 19 th	OT and Physio at Valence , a general discussion about the services that we provide to our students
Friday February 23 rd	Communication / AAC a chance to find out how we work with young people with additional communication needs looking at Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) a range of strategies and tools to help people who struggle with speech or communication
Friday February 2 nd	Meet the pathway leads , a chance to meet any of the pathway leads – not necessarily the path your child is in.
Friday February 9 th	Communication / AAC a chance to find out how we work with young people with additional communication needs looking at Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) a range of strategies and tools to help people who struggle with speech or communication
Friday January 26 th	Meet the pathway leads , a chance to meet any of the pathway leads – not necessarily the path your child is in.
Friday March 15 th	Social media – as we all know keeping up with new trends and how to support our students navigate social media is very important, come along and learn some new skills and take away
Friday April 26 th	Residential - a chance to find out more about the residential provision and meet some of the residential team
Friday May 10 th	Moving and handling – it is so important that you look after yourself and we will be offering advice about your back care and safe moving and handling techniques
Tuesday June 4 th	Music at Valence , come along to the music room and see all the equipment and software that our students access through music at Valence
Friday July 19 th	Coffee morning a chance to end the year with a catch up with other parents,

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 9.30 arrival for coffee, with any planned information session to start at 10.30. 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

We look forward to welcoming you back into school and provide that valuable opportunity for parents to meet together and share ideas and experiences.

Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 6 February 2024

On **Tuesday 6th February** we will be joining schools and youth organisations across the UK in celebrating **Safer Internet Day 2024**.

Safer Internet Day is a global campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology, which calls on young people, parents, carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, companies, policymakers and more, to help to create a better internet.

This year the campaign will be focusing on change online, this includes covering:

- Young people's perspective on new and emerging technology
- Using the internet to make change for the better
- The changes young people want to see online
- The things that can influence and change the way young people think, feel and act online and offline

Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote at Valence School, and celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year.

We would be delighted if you could join us in celebrating the day by continuing the conversation at home. Whether you have 5 minutes to start a conversation or an hour to spare.

To help you with this, the UK Safer Internet Centre have created some free activities and information for parents and carers, including top tips, quizzes and films which you can use at home with your children and young people.

Please visit the link below for more information:

saferinternet.org.uk/SID-parents



Senior Staff On-call Rota from 12th 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	12/01/24	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed Weekend
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	

Saturday Sunday	13/01/24 14/01/24	Closed Weekend		
Monday	15/01/24	07:30 To midday	7.30 –9.00 Matt Strange 9.00 to 12 Jo Chivers	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Tuesday	16/01/24	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
Wednesday	17/01/24	08:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Roland Gooding
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Thursday	18/01/24	09:00 To midday	Roland Gooding	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
Friday	19/01/24	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	

