

Valence News

Congratulations!

Dear parents and carers



On Tuesday this week Matt Strange (Vice-Principal Teaching and Learning) was appointed as the new Principal of the school. Matt will take up his role on the 1 September following my retirement at the end of August. I warmly congratulate Matt on his appointment and look forward to working with him over the next few months.

As the school goes through a period of challenges with budget pressures I am sure that these will be able to be met and dealt with in ways that protect the work we do with children and young people. Valence is full of very talented staff as our recent Social Care Inspection showed. Whilst we have to wait for the inspection report from OfSTED I can tell you that the inspection went very well! Many thanks to Lisa Kavanagh (Vice-Principal Safeguarding and Social Care), Jo Chivers (Residential Care Manager), the Residential Educational Provision staff team, HR staff and all those involved in making the inspection a success. Sorry, but I am not allowed to share with you the provisional grade! How frustrating!

We sent out the consultation on shortening the school day this week - a necessary change to reduce costs and to bring Valence in line with day schools. A few anxieties have been raised but I just want to reassure you that the Teaching and Learning Leadership team have curriculum and timetable plans to ensure the best possible outcomes for all of our children and young people. We live in challenging financial times but for the school to succeed and flourish it is legally required to produce a balanced budget. We will do this in ways that minimise the impact on students and maximise the opportunities that they have. After Easter we will communicate with you about this.

Easter is around the corner but before that enjoy the marvellous photos of so much fun, involvement and learning in the pages of this newsletter.

Have a good weekend.

Roland Gooding

News from Hawking 1

This term, the students have enjoyed various WOW days, including *World Book Day* and *International Wheelchair Day*. They enjoyed dressing up and decorating each other's wheelchairs.



We also visited Sevenoaks School to watch a show on liquid nitrogen. Here are some comments the students made afterwards...

"I liked it when they used the magnets to show levitation." - Freddie.

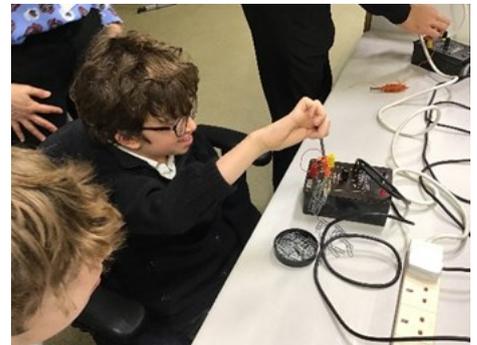
"I thought it was amazing! The levitation, the bang, the big pot of liquid nitrogen. It was fun while being educational." - Bella.



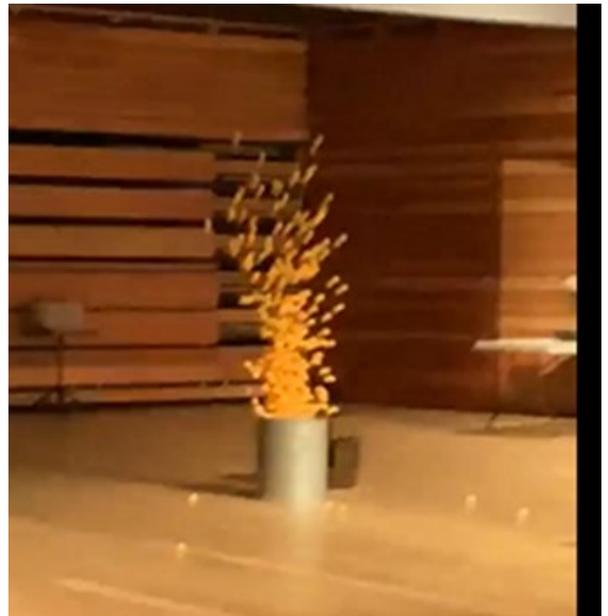
Watch out for next weeks Easter Edition

News from Science

Since Christmas, science has been a very busy place at Valence. Starting just after the holidays Hawking 3 were given a great opportunity to go and visit Sevenoaks school where they were able to do some science workshops. They students were spilt into 2 groups and visited Sevenoaks school on the week they weren't swimming. They had a go at all three sciences with a chemistry demonstration with Dr P, and a biology and a physics workshop ran by Mrs Mylod with the help of some of her students. All three workshops were brilliant but a favourite amongst the students was Dr P's screaming jelly baby!!



After the February half term, we started looking towards science week with more trips to Sevenoaks school. On Tuesday the 27th February Hawking 1 were the first class to go on a trip and enjoyed a Liquid nitrogen show with the head of the physics department.



Hawking 1 enjoyed the show which ended with a very exciting explosion of ping pong balls!!



Later that same day Hawking 2 were able to go and experience a powerless flight workshop where again, the physics department, excelled themselves. Valence students were all able to make their own gliders with the help of some of the Sevenoaks students and staff. The gliders all flew to some degree although some seemed to prefer going backwards instead of forwards. Mr Lloyd insisted that when we got them back to school that we should give them another try and through them out of the staff room window in stable block. It's okay though he only managed to hit one member of staff....oops

Thursday of the same week was our last trip to Sevenoaks school where we took Simmonds 3 to see a space show. Simmonds 3 enjoyed the interactive part of the show and both Talleulah and Sasha were able to be volunteer and help Astronaut Matt show off the planets. At the end of the show the group were all able to get a close up look at the planets and get a fabulous group picture.



Science Week at Valence was celebrated from 11th to the 15th of March. In the lab that week we were able to invite both Simmonds and Hawking 1 as well as both Keller classes. These classes were able to enjoy a tour of their digestive systems which included using their hands as teeth, and an old pair of Mr Lloyd's tights as their intestines. We mushed up digestive biscuits and mixed them with water and orange juice to make a lovely mess and followed them through our digestive system from our mouths and finishing off in our homemade toilet.



Science week ended with some Red Nose Day Racing. The science department gave each tutor group their own race day pack which the students needed to build their cars. The competition was very competitive as is always the way at Valence and Hawking 1 were victorious with their car design beating out all other tutor groups for the race part of the competition. Keller 2's design came a very close second.



Keller 2



Hawking 5



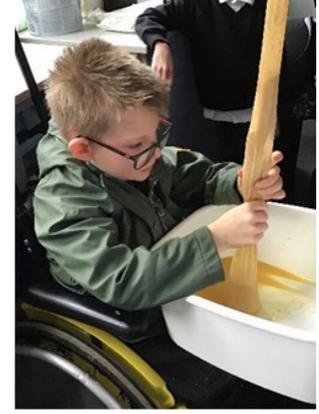
Hawking 1

There were also awards for best design and longest distance (again Hawking 1 and Keller 2 taking the distance prizes) and the best design was given to Hawking 5. We also had to add one extra category to our prizes and the whole science team was very impressed with the ingenuity of Simmonds 1 "car" design in which they had strapped their wooden base onto a car tyre (hopefully Ms Warren got that back in time to go home on Friday!!)

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the science trips and science week successful and a massive well done to the students who helped make science week exciting and fun!!







Science

FRIENDS OF VALENCE

GOLF DAY 2024
WESTERHAM GOLF CLUB

22 MAY 2024

£95 Per Player to include:

Coffee & Bacon Roll on Arrival

Putting Competition

18 Holes Stableford Competition

Live 'on Course' Scoring

Quality Prizes (Team & Individual)

Nearest the Pin - Longest Drive

Two Course Presentation Meal - Games

To register email:

friends@valence.kent.sch.uk



Friends of Valence and
Sevenoaks & District Motor Club



Valence

Festival of Motoring

A celebration of all things automotive, including an auto solo competition, a display paddock and the chance to parade up the traditional hill climb course.

9am to 5pm
Sunday 12th May
Valence School
Westerham
TN16 1QN

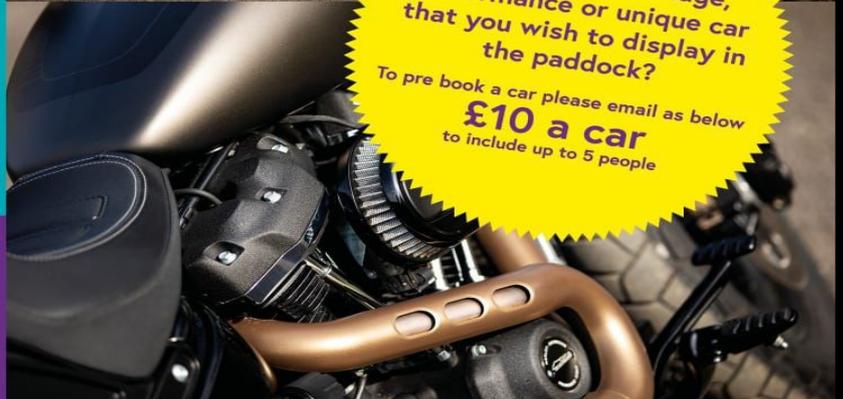
Adult spectator - £7.50
Child spectator - £5
(aged 4 - 16 years)
Family £20
(2 adults and up to 4 kids)

Bring a picnic or enjoy one of the many food vans or bar!



Do you have a vintage, performance or unique car that you wish to display in the paddock?

To pre book a car please email as below
£10 a car
to include up to 5 people



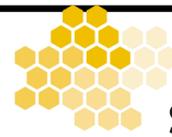
scan to book

Email to book:
friends@valence.kent.sch.uk

Valence School's Festival of Motoring 2024.

This promises to be a fantastic occasion and we hope to see many of you there! Admission tickets will be available to buy on the day at the entrance. Volunteers are also needed, if anyone is interested in volunteering on the day please contact friends@valence.kent.sch.uk

News from the Simmonds Pathway



Semi-Formal
Simmonds Classes

Well done Simmonds on a great start to 2024!!

A lot have happened in Terms 3 and 4 such as Interhouse Boccia and Interhouse Table Cricket. Simmonds 4-6 have been taking part in an Independent Cooking Challenge in Independence. Finally, we have had a number of WOW days; International Wheelchair Day, Red Nose, World Book Day and next week is Purple Day.

News from Computing

Simmonds 1 have been working hard on developing their Computer Science/ switch skills. They have been all been focusing on following instructions and putting things in the right order.



News from English

Simmonds 6 have been watching, listening and creating the Shakespeare play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, here are some of the characters that have been created by the students:



Puck, Bottom the Donkey, Narrators, Helena and Titania. These are just a few of our characters.



News from Simmonds 1

Simmonds 1 have been detectives looking for signs of spring at Valence.



World Book Day potion making. Students added white vinegar to bicarbonate of soda and food colouring to make different potions. Some chose to add feathers and bugs to make flying potions.

News from DT

Simmonds 4 and Simmonds 6 have spent Terms 3 and 4 working on their Escher-inspired tessellating lizards. Each student is decorating their own lizards for taking home, for the school shop and one from each student for the DT workshop wall.



We have studied shapes that fit together, the artwork of Escher and also looked at many types of real-life lizard. Students have particularly enjoyed the practical elements of the project

Tim Longthorne
Simmonds Pathway Lead



REP SCIENCE WEEK CHALLENGE

VOLCANOES

Bungalow 1

Jamie and Luke were prepared for the eruption with safety specs on!

Great decorations
Impressive eruption



Bungalow 2

Fabulous decorations and an eruption that kept on going.....



Bungalow 3

A steady stream of bright blue lava....

Creative decorations in green

....it's a thumbs up!



Bungalow 5

Rainbow decorations with a wonderful yellow eruption that almost took over the bungalow





Bungalow 7

A slight design fault meant that the eruption didn't reach its true potential!

Brilliant tall volcano with impressive painting.



Bungalow 8

Unique design and very effective eruption.
Good use of table space in design



Bungalow 1

Best design and eruption and very safety conscious students!

Congratulations!



Valence Green Ambassadors



The student Green Ambassadors have had a few meetings this term to decide on some projects to get involved in. One thing we all need to do more of is recycle, but batteries are often forgotten about in this.

The Green Ambassadors have discovered that we throw away around 600 million batteries a year, that's as heavy as 4,000 elephants! It can take a battery over 100 years to decompose. The chemicals in the battery can pollute the soil and water, which animals and plants need to survive.

All the parts of a battery can be separated and used again to make new things.



The Green Ambassadors have decided to do their bit and join Duracell's big battery hunt. They have set up two collection points: one in reception and one in Cedars room 4. Please bring in any used batteries and we will recycle them for you. We have lots of stickers to hand out to those who take part!



Last Day of Term

Just to confirm that on Thursday 28th March, we will be **finishing school for students at 2:00pm and using Friday end of day routines/ departure.**





Join Friends of Valence for a singalong afternoon of bingo... hear the tune, mark your card! Cash prizes to be won, raffle and refreshments available.

23RD MARCH 2024

2PM-5PM

Location: Valence School Hall

*Adult entry £5, child entry free. £1 per bingo card. To purchase tickets and arrange payment please email friends@valence.kent.sch.uk. Limited spaces so book early to avoid disappointment!
(Advance booking only)*



'Should you need to know what your child is studying each term please look at the curriculum overviews which are on the school website/students' black organiser.'

Will you push the purple button?



Purple Day – 26 March 2024

Simmonds 5 would like to ask “who will push the purple button?!!” on Tuesday 26th March and come to school wearing purple.



Simmonds 5 are coming to school wearing purple and leading an assembly on Tuesday 26th March in aid of **Epilepsy Awareness Day**.

All Valence students are invited to join S5 and wear purple, if possible, please bring in a small donation for Epilepsy Action.

Senior Staff On-call Rota from 15th March 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	22/03/23	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Open Weekend Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Monday	25/03/24	07:30 To midday	Matt Strange	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Tuesday	26/03/24	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Roland Gooding
		Midday to 4pm	Roland Gooding	
Wednesday	27/03/24	09:00 To midday	Roland Gooding	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
Thursday	28/03/24	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Easter Holidays
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	



Thank you Daisy D or your lovely photo of the squirrel in the woods.