

Valence News



Dear Parents and Carers,

Simmonds 3 Are in the Doghouse!

We had some very special visitors in school today – and not just the human kind! The filmmakers behind Channel 4’s heart-warming series *In the Dog House* spent part of the morning with us, and they didn’t come alone. Joining them was none other than Poppy – a lovable rescue dog recently rehomed by one of our very own students, Lucie from Simmonds 3!

Lucie featured on an episode of the show earlier this month and gave Poppy a new forever home. Today, Lucie led a fantastic class assembly, sharing her experiences of filming, meeting the dogs, and ultimately welcoming Poppy into her family. Students had the chance to watch clips from the episode, ask questions about the process, and hear all about what it’s like having a dog at home.



The visit formed part of our All About Me Day – a whole-school event encouraging students to reflect on what matters to them, set personal goals, and think about the year ahead. There’s a full article about today’s activities in this edition, including important information about updated support plans which are being sent out to parents today. Please check for these and return your confirmation.

Also, a quick reminder that we are currently looking for a new Parent Governor to join our dedicated team of Governors. If you are interested in helping shape the life and direction of our school, please do get in touch. Further details can be found later in this newsletter, as well as the letter to all parents and carers last week.



Have a great weekend

Matthew Strange, B.Ed (Hons) NPQH | Principal

Valence School, Westerham Road, Westerham, Kent. TN16 1QN

Phone: 01959 562156 | Mob: 07894 483673

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



Leading Parent Partnership Award

Residential Provision Update – Preparing for the New Academic Year

As we begin the new academic year, we are excited to share our plans within the residential provision. Our focus remains on creating a supportive and welcoming environment where students feel safe, comfortable, and ready to thrive.

From the week commencing 22nd September, we will be welcoming our new boarders. To make the transition as smooth as possible, students will begin with tea visits, giving them the chance to get to know the team, their peers, and the routines of boarding life in a relaxed way. If students feel comfortable, they will then begin their boarding nights shortly after. This gradual approach ensures that no student feels rushed, and each has the time they need to adapt to their new environment.

Throughout the year, we will continue to build on individual student targets in line with the Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) framework, supporting the development of independence, friendships, community inclusion, health, and future pathways.

This term, our PfA focus will be on diet and nutrition, supporting students to make healthy and informed choices. Towards the end of term, we will move on PSHE themes, broadening learning and skills in this area.

Reminders for Parents and Carers

Pocket Money: We kindly remind you that all boarding students should be provided with a small amount of weekly pocket money. This ensures that they are able to fully enjoy off-site activities such as cinema trips, bowling, shopping, or meals with friends – particularly when celebrating special occasions like birthdays.

Pocket money can either be kept securely in the bungalow safes or remain with the student, depending on what is most appropriate for the individual.

Please note that while the school covers the cost of planned and organised group activities (e.g. Christmas pantomimes, ice skating, and similar events), we are not expected to cover additional personal spending during such outings, or optional activities students may wish to take part in. Having their own spending money gives students greater independence and allows them to make the most of these opportunities.

Clothing: As the weather turns for autumn, please ensure that students have appropriate seasonal clothing with them. All items must be clearly named – we cannot take responsibility for items that are lost if they are not labelled.

Communication

Keyworkers will be in touch weekly with updates. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your bungalow manager (details below), or Lisa Kavanagh, and myself directly.

Managers of Bungalows 7/8 Julian Harrison and Chris Warrren



Manager Bungalow 1/2 Stacey Holmes

Manager Bungalow 3/6 Justyna Clark



We are looking forward to another positive and fulfilling term in residential, and we thank you for your ongoing support.

Jo Chivers and Lisa Kavanagh

Please see below a reminder of the process for reporting absences:

Unplanned Absence: *If your child cannot attend school, please notify the school of the reason for the absence on the first day of an unplanned absence by 8:45am or as soon as practically possible by calling the school administrative staff on [01959 562156](tel:01959562156) or by emailing valence@valence.kent.sch.uk. This information will be shared with the student's Multi-Disciplinary Team. Absences due to ill health will be authorised however the school may seek additional information from parents, if the pattern or frequency of absences raises a concern.*

Planned Absence: *Attending a medical or dental appointment will be counted as authorised, as long as the pupil's parent/carer notifies the school in advance of the appointment and can provide evidence of the appointment.*

*If your child is a **day student**, please email reception and copy in the **class coordinator and form tutor** as soon as possible with details of the appointment.*

*If your child is a **boarder**, please email reception and copy in the **key worker and form tutor** as soon as possible with details of the appointment.*

If you are planning a return to school and your child presents a change in health needs or a change in their physical presentation, please contact the Assistant Principal for attendance, Katie Gibson at klord@valence.kent.sch.uk, who will share this information with the Multi-Disciplinary Team.



As McFly said in their song It's all about you!

Today the students have spent their lessons in Tutor time – and it has been all about them!

During the day the students have had an opportunity to complete activities and take part in discussions to explore their skills and strengths, their likes and dislikes and to really think about what is important to them and how they would like to be supported at Valence school.

This has led to them all completing their Appendix 1- Voice of the Child/Young Person form A, in preparation for their EHCP meeting. Appendix 1A captures the views, wishes and aspirations of the child and young person

This is a change to the previous document, and you will be sent the parent appendix form Appendix 1- Voice of the Parent and Carer's in preparation for your child's EHCP

Appendix 1B captures the views, wishes feelings and aspirations parents/carers have for their children and young people

Both Appendix 1A and 1B are linked to KCC's Outcomes Framework. This framework is based on what is important for children, young people, their families, and the services that support them.

If you would like to know more please follow the link below

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/special-educational-needs/education,-health-and-care/revised-appendix-1-for-the-education,-health-and-care-needs-assessment-process>

Support plans –

Continuing on the theme its all about you – students and staff have been updating their support plans.

Please check in your child's bag as there is a support plan in an envelope with an accompanying letter for you to check, amend, fill in the additional boxes, sign and return.

So the day really has been “All about you” - for the students.



Join us for the

Valence
CHRISTMAS

FAYRE

DECEMBER | **7th** | 12PM-4PM

£30 PER STALL
ONE TRESTLE TABLE PER STALL
NO POWER POINTS AVAILABLE

PLEASE EMAIL
FRIENDS@VALENCE.KENT.SCH.UK

VALENCE SCHOOL, WESTERHAM, TN16 1QN

*Friends of
Valence presents*
Bingo & Quiz
afternoon

Join Friends of Valence for an afternoon of bingo and quizzing, fun for all ages! Fully inclusive fun for all the family, prizes to be won, refreshments available.

SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2025

2PM-5PM | Location: Valence School Hall

*Adult entry £8, child entry £2. To purchase tickets and arrange payment please email friends@valence.kent.sch.uk. Limited spaces so book early to avoid disappointment!
(Advance booking only)*

**Friends of Valence School's first event of the year!
It's a great way for new families to get to know the
school and for existing families to catch up.**

Come and Join Us

Senior Staff On-call Rota from 19th September 2025

Matt Strange **07894 483673**
Lisa Kavanagh **07912 124724**
Jo Chivers **07896 905095**

Date	Day	Time	DSL	DSL
19/09/25	Friday	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
22/09/25	Monday	07:30 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
23/09/25	Tuesday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
24/09/25	Wednesday	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
25/09/25	Thursday	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
26/09/25	Friday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	

Sat 20th September **Bingo and Quiz** 2-5pm

Wed 5th November **Fireworks display & bonfire**

5.30-7.20pm (date to be finalised) – closed event for students /staff and their families

Wed 12th November – **Friends of Valence AGM** 7pm

Sun 7th December - **Christmas Fair** 12-4pm

Sun 8th February – **Musical Bingo** afternoon (time tbc)

Sat 25th April – **Kids disco** (time tbc)

Wed 20th May – **Golf Day**

Sun 14th June – **Valence Festival of Motoring** 10am-5pm

Sat 18th July – **Summer Fair** 12-4pm

SAVE
THE
DATES

