

Valence News

Safer Internet Day and a Special Thank You

This week in tutor time, all classes took part in activities linked to Safer Internet Day, focusing on the key themes of keeping ourselves safe, smart use of technology, and making safe choices online. Resources were carefully adapted for each pathway and phase, ensuring that every student could access the learning in a way that suited them best. Students were supported to complete a range of quizzes and activities designed to build understanding and confidence when navigating the online world.

Safer Internet Day officially takes place on 10th February, and this is just the beginning. Next week, there will be further activities across the school, with a particular focus on online safety and Artificial Intelligence, helping students understand both the opportunities and the risks that new technologies can bring.

We were delighted to welcome students from Sevenoaks School to Valence this week, where they performed some of the acts from a sing-off competition that had been held at their school before Christmas. As part of Sevenoaks School's service programme, students have volunteered at Valence for a number of years, and two long-standing volunteers took the initiative to organise the event, with all ticket sales generously donated to Valence. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the performances, singing along and engaging with enthusiasm throughout. We are extremely grateful for the donation of £2,160, which will make a meaningful difference to our school community.



Finally, a reminder that Hawking Student Progress Meetings will take place next week on 10th February. If you have not yet booked your virtual meeting, please do so as soon as possible.

I Have a good weekend.

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

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Leading Parent Partnership Award

2024-2027

Preparing for Adulthood – The Keyworker View

From a keyworker point of view, supporting our students as they prepare for adulthood is one of the most rewarding parts of our role – and we've been very busy!



A big focus recently has been getting out and about in the community. Shopping trips have been a real hit, with students choosing items to personalise their bungalows. These trips aren't just about buying things (although that's the fun bit!), they're also about building independence, practising decision-making, handling money and feeling proud of their own space.

The festive season brought some truly magical experiences. Watching students light up on The Polar Express, enjoying Christmas light shows and laughing along at pantomimes reminded us just how important these shared experiences are. These trips help students build confidence in new environments while creating memories they'll talk about long after the tinsel comes down.





Back at the bungalows, the learning doesn't stop. Students are regularly involved in everyday activities such as cooking meals, sorting laundry and keeping their living spaces tidy. From planning meals and following recipes, to using the washing machine and learning how to care for clothes, these practical skills are key building blocks for independent adult life. There's always a real sense of achievement when a student enjoys a meal that they've cooked themselves or proudly folds their own laundry!

With discussion around being clean and tidy in the home, we've looked at the importance of being SAFE in the home too! From electrical malfunctions, to how to chop your vegetables safely, our young people are ready for it all!



After school, there's always something happening too. Games Club is full of friendly competition and teamwork, Cinema Club offers a relaxed space to unwind with friends, our newest addition of Cooking Club adds some spice into the week. Our Drama and Karaoke clubs are where confidence really shines – whether that's performing on stage or belting out a favourite song!

As keyworkers, it's a privilege to support students through these experiences and watch them grow in confidence, independence and self-belief. Every trip, club and activity is another step on their journey towards adulthood and we are so very proud of all their achievements.

SING OFF

IN AID OF VALENCE SCHOOL



£2160.02 raised!

Friday 7 November

Pamoja Hall 7.00pm Tickets £7



THE SPACE
PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

PERFORMANCES AT THE SPACE
ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE

Box office 01732 467765
thespacesevenoaks.co.uk/whats-on

The Space Box Office
Sevenoaks School
Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HU



Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of our Health Awareness programme, we are planning to support **National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day 2026**.

On this day, we will be holding a range of activities to help raise awareness and promote understanding among our students:

- **A morning assembly** with age-appropriate discussion and education for all students
- **A lunchtime information stand**, where leaflets will be available and questions can be answered by our Valence Nursing Team

Wear Green” Day on 25th March 2026

Students and staff are invited to wear green in exchange for a voluntary donation to **The Cerebral Palsy Trust**, with all funds raised going directly to the charity

As always, we carefully consider the impact of awareness days on our students and families. If you have any questions or concerns, feel your child may need additional support, or would rather this event didn't take place, please contact **Sophie Haigh, Nurse Manager**, at shaigh@valence.kent.sch.uk.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Valence School Nursing Team



*Friends of
Valence presents
Musical
Bingo!*

Join Friends of Valence for an afternoon of musical bingo, fun for all ages! Fully inclusive fun for all the family, prizes to be won, refreshments available. Get ready to sing along if the mood takes you!

SUNDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2026

1PM-4PM

Location: Valence School Hall

Adult entry £8, child entry £2, bingo cards £1 each on the day. To purchase entry tickets and arrange payment please email friends@valence.kent.sch.uk.

Limited spaces so book early to avoid disappointment! (Advance booking only)

Senior Staff On-call Rota from 6th February 2026

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

Date	Day	Time	DSL	DSL
06/02/2026	Friday	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
09/02/2026	Monday	07:30 To midday	Matt Strange	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
10/02/2026	Tuesday	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
11/02/2026	Wednesday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
12/02/2026	Thursday	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
13/02/2026	Friday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	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 kgibson@valence.kent.sch.uk, who will share this information with the Multi-Disciplinary Team.