

# Valence News



## Welcome to Term Five

Welcome back to Term Five. Although it is a short term, it promises to be a busy and exciting one as we approach the culmination of much of the work that has been taking place both in school and within the REP.

We are delighted to be expanding Team Valence and are excited to welcome a number of new staff who will be joining us shortly. They will begin their induction next week and we look forward to the positive impact they will bring to our school community.

New staff joining Team Valence:

- Elisangela Griggs - Receptionist
- Betsy Iranloye - Care Support Assistant
- Emma Wilson - Student Support Assistant
- Lydia Young - Class Coordinator
- Fiona MacKenzie - Catering Assistant

In addition, we are very pleased to welcome a new member of our Senior Leadership Team, Ms Kate Bayman, who joins us as Vice Principal (Education). This is a key role within the school, and Kate will be instrumental in shaping our educational provision as she takes up this post.

Kate is an experienced leader who has worked across a range of mainstream provisions, and most recently at Valley Park School in Maidstone, where she held responsibility for SEND provision. She is a qualified SENCO with significant experience supporting students with Education, Health and Care Plans, and she is extremely excited about joining Team Valence.

This week, some of our Hawking students have been sitting their Art GCSE and A<sup>2</sup> Level examinations. They have been working incredibly hard, spending many hours completing their final pieces, and we are very proud of their commitment and resilience. We look forward to seeing their completed work later in the year.

As a reminder, Friday 1st May is a staff INSET day, and the school will be closed to students. The school will therefore be closed from Thursday 30th April until Tuesday 5th May for the Bank Holiday weekend, with a normal finish time on Thursday 30th April.

Finally, we hope you enjoy the sunny weather forecast for this weekend, and we wish everyone a positive and productive start to the term.

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

Phone: 01959 562156 | Mob: 07894 483673

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



## Keller Update

As the weather becomes warmer and the days grow lighter, Keller class will have more opportunities to spend time outdoors, making the most of the woodland walk and forest school facilities. Our topic this term is **Amazing Animals**, where pupils will explore a wide range of creatures, from minibeasts to magnificent ocean whales and we will be focusing on a new book 'Mad about minibeasts' by Giles Andrea.

Although this is a shorter term, it promises to be a busy and exciting one. Students will continue to enjoy cooking, PE, gardening, and music lessons, many of which will take place outside the classroom. Learning activities will focus on **ImPACT targets**, with **ASDAN** work continuing for our older students.

## News from the REP Team

As we move into a busy and exciting term, the REP Team is looking forward to continuing our work supporting students' wellbeing, learning and personal development.

### Supporting Students Through Exam Season



With exams approaching, our focus will be on supporting students to feel prepared, confident and balanced. We will:

Run and support **revision and study groups**, ensuring students have structured time and guidance.

Work closely with staff to monitor students' wellbeing throughout the exam period.

Encourage healthy routines so students can manage pressure while maintaining good sleep and self-care.

## **Trips, Activities and Student Wellbeing**

We know how valuable off-site trips and experiences are, but we are also mindful of student wellbeing and learning time. This term we will:

- Carefully monitor trips and activities to ensure they do not negatively impact students' learning or exam preparation.
- Manage schedules to make sure students are not exhausted by late nights, maintaining a healthy balance between enrichment and rest.

## **Preparing for Adulthood (PfA)**

Our commitment to the **Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) framework** continues. We will keep supporting students to build independence, resilience and life skills that prepare them for their next steps beyond school.

☑ this terms focus will be on : Legal and Criminal Awareness

This term, students will take part in sessions focused on legal and criminal awareness, covering areas such as:

- Understanding rules in school.
- Knowing the difference between right and wrong
- Recognising that actions have consequences
- Learning about laws and the impact of crime on victims
- Understanding democracy and the voting system
- Knowing where and how to get help if they are a victim of crime

These sessions are designed to help students make informed, safe choices and understand their rights and responsibilities.

## **Celebrating Success!**

We ended last term on a real high by celebrating our fourth Outstanding Ofsted award



**Valence Residential Provision**

**Rated as 'OUTSTANDING' for a FOURTH year in a row!**

Thank you to all Students, Parents & Staff



[www.valenceschool.com](http://www.valenceschool.com)

All boarding students joined us on the Top Lawn for a **BBQ celebration afternoon**, enjoying food, sunshine and time together.

We also had a Easter Quiz, which was enjoyed by everyone who attended and provided a lovely sense of community to round off the term.



We are excited about the term ahead and remain committed to supporting every student to thrive — academically, emotionally and socially.

### **Reminder for Parents/Carers: Free School Meals – please apply!**

Just a quick reminder to apply for **Free School Meals**, if you think you might be eligible. Even if your child already gets a meal at school, registering really helps. It means:

- your child can get **free, nutritious meals**
- the school receives **additional funding**, which helps pay for resources, staff, and enrichment activities that benefit all pupils

Applying is **quick and confidential**. If you're unsure whether you qualify, it's still worth checking – many families are eligible and don't know it. Thank you for your support – it really does make a difference to our school community . If you need help applying, please speak to Reception.

Limited places so  
book early!



**bbl**



**BENNING BROTHERS**

VALENCE SCHOOL GOLF DAY

**20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026**

A fun filled day of golf to raise  
funds for Valence School

WESTERHAM GC

**£95** PER PLAYER

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:  
[friends@valence.kent.sch.uk](mailto:friends@valence.kent.sch.uk)

## Senior Staff On-call Rota from 24th April 2026

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

Date	Day	Time	DSL	DSL
24/04/26	Friday	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	<b>Closed</b>
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
27/04/26	Monday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
28/04/26	Tuesday	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
29/04/26	Wednesday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
30/04/26	Thursday	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	<b>Closed</b>
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
01/05/26	Friday	09:00 To midday	Closed	<b>Inset Day Closed</b>
		Midday to 4pm	Closed	

### Reminder

**Students finish normal time  
on Thursday 30th April**



**Friday 1st May—Inset Day**

**Monday 4th May Bank Holiday**