

Valence News



Wow – what a week of heat!

This week will certainly be remembered as one of the hottest we have ever experienced, with the UK record for the hottest June day being broken on two consecutive days. The soaring temperatures created real challenges for everyone across the school community, but I am incredibly proud of how staff and students responded. Despite the conditions, everyone dug deep to ensure that school life continued as close to normal as possible.

We are particularly fortunate that, over recent years, we have invested significantly in improving our learning environments. Many areas of the school are now equipped with air conditioning, and the most recent phase of this project – completed during the Easter holidays – saw a further eight rooms benefit from newly installed units. This week, we were especially grateful for these enhancements, which made a noticeable difference in keeping learning spaces comfortable and safe.

Our long-term goal remains clear: by the end of the next academic year, we aim to have all learning areas, as well as clinical and therapy rooms, fitted with air conditioning. This will ensure that, whatever the weather, our students and staff can continue to work and learn in the best possible environment.

Importantly, the curriculum continued throughout the heatwave (with the exception of swimming). Classrooms remained focused as temperatures climbed. That said, there were also moments of well-earned fun and relief. I know many students have enjoyed the occasional water fight over the past few days—a welcome way to cool down and lift spirits.

I even had a personal encounter when on my way to a meeting, I was unexpectedly “attacked” by Deer Class armed with water—an ambush carried out with great enthusiasm and plenty of laughter. While I may not have stayed dry, it was a perfect reminder of the joy, resilience, and strong sense of community that makes our school so special.

Looking ahead, we are hoping that the extremely hot weather subsides ahead of Sunday, when we host our highly anticipated Festival of Motoring. Final preparations are nearly complete, and the front field is looking splendid—ready to welcome over 170 vintage and performance cars that are already booked in. Alongside these will be an exciting selection of competition cars, as well as a variety of food and drink outlets, all of which promise to make this a fantastic day out for everyone.

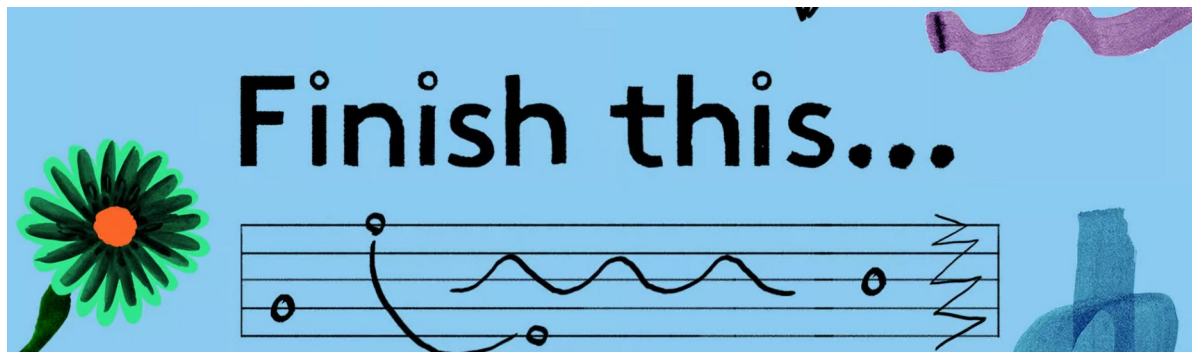
Thank you to everyone—staff and students alike—for your flexibility, positivity, and determination during this unusual week. I very much look forward to seeing many of you at the Festival on Sunday!

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**





English National Opera Project “Plant This Seed”

We are delighted to share the wonderful work the children have been completing as part of our English National Opera (ENO) Finish This... Project.

What is the ENO “Finish This...” Project?

The ENO project is a nationwide creative initiative that gives school children the exciting opportunity to become composers. Professional composers begin a piece of music, and pupils are then invited to “finish” the composition by adding their own musical ideas, lyrics, and storytelling.

This year’s piece, “Plant This Seed”, encouraged children to think about themes such as growth, hope, care, and the environment. It provided a brilliant platform for creativity across music, literacy, and performance.

What did the children do?

Over the course of the project, the children engaged in a sensory-based musical experience, allowing them to explore the composition in a way that suited their individual needs. They:

Listened to the opening section of the music and responded through movement, gesture, and expression

Explored different sounds, textures, and instruments, including percussion, to represent ideas of planting and growing

Took part in sensory activities such as feeling objects linked to nature (e.g. leaves, soil, seeds) to deepen their understanding of the theme

Contributed ideas using sounds, actions, or single words/phrases, helping to build a shared class composition

Joined in group performances through choice-based participation, whether through playing instruments, moving, or vocalising

The children showed wonderful engagement, creativity, and confidence, each contributing in their own unique way to bring the composition to life.

Classes Taking Part

We are especially pleased to share that the following classes successfully submitted their finished compositions and here is the feedback they received from staff at the ENO:

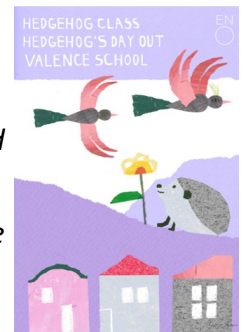
Fox Class - Fox's Fun Sensory World, wow, what an amazing place! That squeaky sound made me smile so much, and was that splashing water?! How cool! Your voices are brilliant and the rain shaker sounds so lovely. Those sirens with the echo are so fun and surprising at the end - I really liked that you added them there! Your world builds and builds and gets more and more exciting. Fox class, you made something truly amazing, well done!

Owl Class - Owl class, what an awesome outing, I want to come too! That choo choo had me excited from the very start, and the percussion, shaker, crunching and water sounds all layer together to create the most incredible texture. Do you know what's really special about your composition? Every single time I listened I picked up a brand new sound, it kept surprising me and made me want to listen again and again! That is such a brilliant thing to achieve. You should all be so incredibly proud.

Keller & Rabbit - That crackling sound right at the start hooked me immediately, like popping candy for the ears! The strumming, beautiful layers of percussion and those wonderful voices and laughter all come together to create something truly special. And that string instrument at the end, the suspense was everything, it left me wanting so much more! Every single sound feels chosen with such care and

Simmonds 1 - Wow, what a composition! Your ideal world sounds like such an amazing place, I loved immersing myself in it through your composition. The layers of percussion, voices and laughter all build together brilliantly, and the choo choo sound, and it being a repeated motif, is just perfect. But my absolute favourite moment? The wooooo at the end, what a finish! You should be so proud of what you've created together!

Hedgehog Class - Hedgehog class, what a dream of a composition! Opening with your voices was such a brilliant choice. And sampling Twinkle Twinkle Little Star? So fun! The toy bird sounds are such a playful and imaginative touch, and that echo wooooo created a wonderfully mysterious atmosphere, at times is also made me feel like I was blasting through space! The whole composition took me on an adventure and I loved every single moment. Well done!



Exciting News! We are also especially excited to let you know that Hedgehog composition was one of 10 to be selected from all of the entries to be awarded an illustration that responds to the composition - made by the illustrator of Plant This Seed, Lena Yokoyama! Huge congratulations! We received a poster of this illustration to display on the wall. Here is a smaller version of it.

A huge well done to all pupils involved for their creativity and dedication.

How can you listen at home?

Parents and carers can now enjoy the children's work by accessing their recordings online.

To listen:

- Visit the ENO [Celebration Page](#) and explore the interactive map to find your school and other schools that have taken part. Hover over your school and click on the links to hear your tracks and view your animations (where applicable).
- Find the class recordings on our [SoundCloud page](#), arranged by regional playlists

Celebrating Creativity

This project has been a fantastic opportunity for the children to experience the arts in a meaningful and inspiring way. It has helped to build their confidence, creativity, and appreciation for music.

We hope you enjoy listening to their performances as much as we enjoyed creating them!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards, Claire Gjaci – Music & Expressive Arts Teacher

Transition Day Information

July 7th is Valence school transition day where we help to prepare the students for September.

For primary and Keller students this day is an opportunity for the students to visit their new classes and meet their new teacher and see the other students in their class. We know that this can help to reduce anxiety and familiarize children with new environments, routines, and staff, easing the move to a new key stage or school.

During the day the students will have time with their tutor and take part in activities to help them get to know the students in their class. Students will be told which classes they will be in on Transition day on 3rd July. We use transition day to try out new class groups, we may change these classes following transition day and this information along with information about pathway lead and class teacher or form teacher will be sent out in August. If you have any question please contact your pathway lead.

News from PSHE

The students have been working hard and engaging with great enthusiasm in their learning. This term, students have been learning more around the theme of Living in the Wider World.

They have really impressed me with their knowledge about finances. Take a look at some of their ideas:

S3 Finance ideas

18.06.2026

- Bank cards
- Apple Pay; mobile payment
- Cash- coins and bank notes
- Cash or card?
- Spend £ on games; clothes; teddies; toys; food; bottle of water; a computer; The Body Shop; Lush bath bombs; dresses; dates; days out; holidays and city breaks; bracelets; petrol; groceries; make up
- Keep it safe- put it in a bank; keep it at home; wallet
- Savings in the bank

Finance-related vocab

H3 10.06.2026

money	buying: new; refurbished; charity shops	
pounds; pence	making choices... long-term; short term	
dollars	credit cards	
euros	debit cards	
tax	earn money: jobs; chores	
savings	bank account	
spending	loans	
bills	stocks	Apple Pay
budget	inheritance	debt
scams		crypto
shopping: food; clothes...		transferring debt
pocket money		disability allowance

The students have gone on to learn about credit and debt, and what happens when you borrow money. The students have considered how much the rate of interest adds to the actual amount of money you borrow, and for some loans it can even be as much as 1000%! (These are sometimes called payday lenders.) So, you might start out borrowing a £100 and end up paying £1000 back. All the students agreed that this was definitely not a good deal.

Some of the students have also been learning about taking care of the environment, where we've been learning about the shared responsibilities we all have for taking care of other people, living things and the environment we live in.

S2:

11.06.2026

How can we take care of the environment ?

- Recycling: paper; plastics; tins; glass
- Reuse: the class reused Alex's birthday balloons for Stewart's birthday the next day! Reusing bottles, jars and shopping bags
- Reduce: having a refillable water bottle, to reduce single-use plastic bottles; reducing food waste by using up leftovers
- Turning off lights to save energy
- Pollution- car fumes; electric cars; not littering; solar panels
- Climate change; global warming
- Demonstration: people meeting to tell others how to look after our planet
- Sir David Attenborough teaching us to look after our world
- Looking after and protecting wildlife; endangered species; extinction
- Growing fruit and vegetables; food miles
- Plant trees for oxygen; deforestation

RSHE:

In July 2025 the Department for Education released the long-awaited updates to the [statutory guidance for Relationships, Sex and Health Education](#).

Our PSHE curriculum will also continue to cover economic wellbeing and careers education too, and all lessons are delivered to be relevant, and are planned according to the needs of our students and their cohort/pathway.

You can find the Curriculum Overviews on the school website, giving more details of what your child covers in PSHE each half term.

For more PSHE information, please contact Mary Green at mgreen@valence.kent.sch.uk

V A L E N C E S C H O O L
A R T
E X H I B I T I O N

CALL TO FAMILIES



PRIVATE VIEWING
FOR FAMILIES/ FRIENDS

15
JULY

VALENCE SCHOOL
LARGE PLC

CONTACT THE SCHOOL FOR A
PLACE ON THE GUESTLIST

& TO FIND OUT MORE
INFO

EMAIL:

SDARR@VALENCE.KENT.SCH.UK

FREE ENTRY

SUNDAY 28 JUNE 2026

10:00 - 16:00

VALENCE SCHOOL
WESTERHAM
TN16 1QN



FESTIVAL OF MOTORING

AUTOSOLO - DISPLAY
PADDOCK - BAR
FOOD - ENTERTAINMENT
KIDS ACTIVITIES

ADULT SPECTATOR **£7.50**

CHILD SPECTATOR (4-16) **£5.00**

FAMILY (2 ADULTS AND UP
TO 4 CHILDREN) **£20.00**

THIS SUNDAY



 **MORE INFO**

SCAN ME! 



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

book now via email below

£15 PER CAR

To include up to 5 people

Book early via email as places limited:
friends@valence.kent.sch.uk





Valence School

Summer Fair

Saturday 18th July 2026
12pm - 4pm

free entry

Events include:
Dog show, entertainment, face painting, BBQ and refreshments, stalls, games and more!

For more information email:
friends@valence.kent.sch.uk



Bring in a donation below and wear non school uniform on Mondays

Soft Drink Bottles, alcohol, packaged sweets, kids tombola items, little toys, good condition Teddys

Thank you

Valence Buoys Channel Swim Success



We are delighted to share some exciting news from the Valence Buoys team, who successfully completed their Channel swim on Saturday in an time of 17 hours and 31 minutes.

The team set off from Shakespeare Beach near Dover at 11:46pm on Friday evening, swimming through the night in challenging conditions. The water was at times choppy, making for a tough and demanding crossing, but their determination never wavered. Thanks to the incredible encouragement and sponsorship they received, the team kept going and were thrilled to arrive together on the beach in Sangatte on a sunny Saturday afternoon. The wonderful support behind this effort was truly crucial. When times became difficult, the team drew strength from knowing what they were swimming for and the many people backing them—this made all the difference and helped carry them through to the finish.

Today at school, we are celebrating this fantastic achievement with our Blue/Sea Day, and we are looking forward to raising even more funds for our swimming pool project.

You can still donate by scanning this QR code:



Senior Staff On-call Rota from 26th June 2026

Matt Strange **07894 483673**
Lisa Kavanagh **07912 124724**
Jo Chivers **07896 905095**
Kate Bayman **07827 961903**

Date	Day	Time	DSL	DSL
26/06/26	Friday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
29/06/26	Monday	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
30/06/26	Tuesday	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
01/07/26	Wednesday	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Kate Bayman
		Midday to 4pm	Kate Bayman	
02/07/26	Thursday	09:00 To midday	Kate Bayman	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
03/07/26	Friday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	