

Valence News



We are fortunate at Valence to have an excellent purpose-built science laboratory. Our specialist teaching spaces and resources enable us to deliver a broad and engaging curriculum, and there are very few special schools that can boast the quality of science provision that we are able to offer our students.

This week, our science facilities were put to particularly good use as we hosted a Science Focus Day for other KSENT schools. Students from across the partnership joined us for a day of investigation and discovery, carrying out a range of experiments as they explored the properties of different fabrics used in sports clothing. It was wonderful to see students so engaged in practical science, working collaboratively and developing their investigative skills. You can read more about the event elsewhere in this newsletter, alongside details of the exciting science work our own students have been involved in this term. My thanks go to the science team for all their hard work in planning and delivering such a successful event.

Leavers' activities have continued this week, with students enjoying a variety of trips and visits that they have chosen themselves. As we move closer to the end of the school year, there is naturally a great deal of emotion as our leavers reflect on their time at Valence and look ahead to new opportunities. Last Friday, students wore their signed leavers' shirts to lunch, and this week's group will be doing the same today. These traditions provide some very special moments and lasting memories for everyone involved.

The weather is forecast to become very hot again next week and, at present, the school will remain open as normal. However, we will be keeping a close eye on Friday's forecast in particular, as we are aware that transporting students during the hottest part of the afternoon can significantly increase risks. Should any changes to the timings of the school day be required, we will write to parents and carers as soon as possible.

Finally, a reminder that the last day of term is Wednesday 22 July. On that day, we will be following Friday timings, with students leaving school at 2.00pm. This will ensure that all students and equipment are safely off-site before the school closes for the summer holiday period.

Enjoy the weekend.

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

Phone: 01959 562156 | Mob: 07894 483673

Westernham, Kent TN16 1QN | 01959 562136 | 01959 565046 | valence@valence.kent.sch.uk | www.valenceschool.com





The Reading Agency's Summer Reading Challenge is returning to Kent Libraries from Saturday 4 July to Saturday 5 September. The Challenge invites children aged 4 to 11 to take part and enjoy reading for fun. And it's completely free.

This year's theme, Read to the Beat, celebrates the joy of music and the power it has to move, inspire, and connect us – all through the magic of reading.

How to join

Joining the Summer Reading Challenge: Read to the Beat is easy and free. Children can take part in a way that works for them. They do not need to join at the start of the Challenge. Children can sign up at any time from 4 July.

Join at your local library

Head to your local library or mobile library to sign up. Children must have a library card to participate.

Speak to a member of the local library team.

Borrow a library book.

Collect a sticker booklet and get started! Plus, this year, Children will also get a free copy of the Storytime Magazine.

You can also sign up online at this website <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Science Summer Term

This term we have had external examinations with 6 students sitting GCSE's in Science or Biology, they have worked really hard both in and out of class, attending afterschool revision sessions as well as lunch time sessions. They have worked really hard and hope they achieve the grades they have worked so hard for.

Simmonds 3 completed an electrical scavenger hunt, wired plugs as well as looking at electrical safety in the home. All classes have been looking at the environment and ecosystems, they have been designing predators, looking at camouflage, measuring photosynthesis as well as looking at minibeasts. They have been using the school grounds to look at habitats as well as using the wildlife camera.



Simmonds groups made camouflaged butterflies, Hawking 1-3 looked at which colour worms birds preferred to eat by laying out coloured spaghetti.



This week Valence hosted the KsENT science day, students from Nexus, Goldwyn's and Rowhill joined two teams from Valence. We investigated which was the best material to make football t-shirt's from, by carrying out a series of 8 mini practicals that looked at everything from absorbency to staining properties.



V A L E N C E S C H O O L
ART
EXHIBITION

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

FRIENDS OF VALENCE PRESENTS

SUMMER FAIR

RAFFLE

SATURDAY 18 JULY 3.30PM



£1 PER TICKET, DRAW AT SUMMER FAIR

[HTTPS://WWW.PEOPLESFUNDRAISING.COM
/RAFFLE/VALENCE-SUMMER-FAIR-RAFFLE-
2026](https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/raffle/valence-summer-fair-raffle-2026)





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

Senior Staff On-call Rota from 3rd July 2026

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

Date	Day	Time	DSL	DSL
03/07/26	Friday	09:00 To 10.30am	Jo Chivers	Closed
		10.30am to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
06/07/26	Monday	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
07/07/26	Tuesday	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
08/07/26	Wednesday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Kate Bayman
		Midday to 4pm	Kate Bayman	
09/07/26	Thursday	09:00 To midday	Kate Bayman	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
10/07/26	Friday	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Kate Bayman	

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. f you have any question please contact your pathway lead.