

Valence News



As we move into October, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on another wonderful week at Valence School.

We have been fortunate to enjoy some beautiful autumnal weather, with sunshine and warm temperatures allowing our students to continue making the most of the outdoors. This extended spell of pleasant weather has provided many opportunities for learning, play, and exploration across our school grounds, and it has been lovely to see students embracing this final taste of summer.

Our gardens continue to flourish, and the Polytunnel has produced some amazing harvest crops, which students have enjoyed growing, caring for, and learning about throughout the season. Alongside the vegetables and produce, the dahlia flowers are looking particularly stunning, bringing a vibrant display of colour across the school grounds and providing an excellent opportunity for students to connect with nature and their environment.



This week, we were delighted to welcome a group of students from Sevenoaks School who visited classrooms across Valence. They worked alongside our students and staff, supporting a range of activities and lessons. It was wonderful to see friendships forming, confidence growing, and genuine collaboration taking place between the young people from both schools. The students from Sevenoaks School were a credit to their school, and our students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to learn and work together.

Across the school, classes have continued to settle well into the new academic year. We are pleased to see that our new students are now fully embedded within the Valence community, building positive relationships with their peers and staff and becoming increasingly confident in their daily routines.

As we look ahead, October promises to be another exciting month. We are looking forward to celebrating our Harvest Festival Assembly, where students will have the opportunity to reflect on gratitude, community, and helping others. We also have our much-anticipated Pumpkin Carving activities, which always bring plenty of creativity, fun, and seasonal excitement to the school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to sharing more of our students' achievements and experiences with you throughout the month.



Kate Bayman

Vice Principal (Education)

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News From the Residential Provision

✿ New Beginnings, New Friendships, New Adventures! ✿

The Residential Team has been delighted to welcome our existing boarders back for the start of the new academic year. The first few weeks have been focused on helping students settle back into their routines, reconnect with friends, and enjoy all that residential life has to offer.

Alongside this, we have gradually begun introducing our new boarders through a programme of tea visits. This approach allows students to become familiar with boarding in a relaxed and supportive way before starting overnight stays.

We were delighted to welcome the following students to the boarding community:

Brooke, Ayesha Agnes, Lucie, Noor, Benji, Chase Finley, Matthew

Many of these students have already begun their tea visits, tea visits have been going extremely well and provide students with an opportunity to become familiar with residential life before staying overnight. During their visits, students are encouraged to make their boarding space feel homely and personalized. They have the opportunity to decorate their rooms with photographs from home, posters, and personal items that reflect their interests. Create a personalized door poster so everyone knows whose room it is and helps students feel a sense of ownership and belonging. Meet and socialize with other students. Get to know the Residential Team and ask any questions they may have. Some students will commence boarding from 28th September.

Helping students feel safe and confident is a key part of their introduction to boarding. During their initial visits, students are introduced to: Fire safety procedures. Emergency evacuation processes. Their Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP).

Students are encouraged to discuss their plans, ask questions, and share their views to ensure they feel comfortable and understand exactly what would happen in an emergency situation.

Fun, Activities and New Experiences

Students have also been introduced to the wide range of evening activities available. Whether enjoying activities on site, planning future off-site visits, or developing new hobbies, students are encouraged to contribute ideas and become involved in shaping their own boarding experience. We are already looking forward to a term filled with fun, friendship and memorable experiences.

Having a Say in Food Choices

Food plays an important role in residential life, and our new students have been keen to get involved. Share their favorite foods. Discuss dietary requirements. Helping with menu planning. Contribute ideas for future meals. Learn how food ordering works within the residential setting. This gives students a real voice and helps ensure our menus reflect the tastes and needs of everyone in our boarding setting.

We are incredibly pleased with how positively our new students have engaged during their tea visits and are looking forward to welcoming them fully into boarding over the coming months.

The Residential Team is excited for another year filled with friendship, personal growth, new experiences, and lots of fun. We look forward to sharing more updates and celebrating student achievements throughout the year.

Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) continues to be a key focus within Residential. Our students work incredibly hard to develop the skills, confidence and independence they will need for their future lives, and we are already gathering some fantastic evidence of this in action.



What makes these achievements particularly meaningful is that we are not only capturing the skills students are developing, but also ensuring that student voice remains central to the process. Students are encouraged to reflect on their experiences, celebrate successes and identify areas where they would like to continue developing.

One excellent example comes from Mason, who recently prepared and cooked smash burgers for dinner. Mason shaped and seasoned the minced beef before independently frying the burgers. Throughout the process, he demonstrated a strong awareness of health and safety, including the safe handling of raw meat and the safe use of cooking equipment.



This activity showcased a number of important Preparation for Adulthood outcomes, including: Independent living skills, Cooking and nutrition, Health and safety awareness, Confidence and problem solving, Learning through practical experience

SAVE THE DATE

Friends of Valence Events

4th Nov	Fireworks Evening
6th Dec	Christmas Party
19th May	Golf Day
27th June	Festival of Motoring
17th July	Summer Fair



The Christmas Card Project

This term we have decided to organise an exciting design-your-own Christmas Card project with SchoolPrintWorld.co.uk to raise funds for the school while encouraging creativity and artistic flair in our children! The Christmas Card designs will be professionally printed with your child's artwork on the front and their name on the back.

Your children are busy creating fabulous artwork as we speak which can be turned into a range of professionally printed products. Looking for gifts like personalised candles, mugs, cards, gift labels and more? Then hang fire until you get your order form through, so you can order direct. We'll let you know when your order forms are being sent out so you can know to expect them.

One of our fantastic students, Connor E has helped to design this newsletter for parents. He said 'Please support us as it will help our art department, and it has been fun for the students to do!'

4.11.26



Friends of Valence Fireworks Display

For Students, Staff & Families

Valence School - Wed 4th Nov 2026

5:30pm - 7:30pm

Glow Toys

Food and Drink

Kindly Sponsored by:

Westerham Heights Garden Centre

The Shampin - Westerham

Senior Staff On-call Rota from 5th October 2026

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

Date	Day	Time	DSL	DSL
05/10/26	Monday	09:00 To midday	Kate Bayman	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
06/10/26	Tuesday	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Kate Bayman
		Midday to 4pm	Kate Bayman	
07/10/26	Wednesday	09:00 To midday	Kate Bayman	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
08/10/26	Thursday	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
09/10/26	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/carers 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.