

Valence News

Community

Dear Parents and Carers

Community is a very commonly used word which reflects a very wide of definitions. Clearly a school is a community made up primarily of students and staff but it also includes others who have interests in it such as parents and carers and other professionals. People also often talk about local communities — the people who live in a particular village or town but there are also other types of communities. People often gather together or meet each other because of common needs and interests. For example, people who are deaf will often be part of what they describe as the deaf community. Many people create on-line communities of like-minded people who ‘meet’ to socialise, share ideas or engage in activities. Communities are also created from the activities people participate in, whether they be religious, sporting, social or based on other interests.

Valence, being situated in beautiful parkland and a community in itself has always struggled to be part of the wider local community of Westerham. That is the reason we are going to open the Friends Community Shop — *Valence on the Green*. It really will be Valence in the community. In time this will provide our students with many opportunities to be part of the Westerham community, to engage in social and work experience activities and to contribute to the life of Westerham.

At a time when there are so many challenges in the world and in education in particular, working with others to promote the common good must be a priority.

On January 20, 1961, a clerk of the US Supreme Court held the large Fitzgerald family Bible as John F. Kennedy took the oath of office to become the nation’s 35th president. Against a backdrop of deep snow and sunshine, more than twenty thousand people huddled in 20-degree temperatures on the east front of the Capitol to witness the event. In the most memorable part of his inaugural address he said: *“And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.”*

As we embark upon this new school year let us all be outward-looking and work together to build our school community for the benefit of everyone who is part of it but also to go beyond ourselves and contribute to other communities in our localities and across the interest groups we are part of. Let each of us do what we can for the common good, not seeking just to receive but to give, to be part of, to contribute and to share.

There are always new opportunities at the start of the school year and our children and young people will be encouraged to seize those and to create successes for themselves but for other too.

With kind regards and best wishes.

Roland Gooding

Principal

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VALENCE SCHOOL TERM DATES

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023 - 2024

Autumn Term

Staff Training 1 & 2 : Monday 4 September – Tuesday 5 September

Term 1: Wednesday 6 September – Friday 20 October

Half Term: Monday 23 October – Friday 27 October

Term 2: Monday 30 October – Friday 15 December

Spring Term

Staff Training 3 : Tuesday 2 January

Term 3: Wednesday 3 January – Friday 9 February

Half Term: Monday 12 February – Friday 16 February

Term 4: Monday 19 February – Thursday 28 March

Summer Term

Staff Training 4 : Monday 15 April

Term 5: Tuesday 16 April – Friday 24 May

Staff Training 5 : Friday 3 May

Bank Holiday: Monday 6 May

Half Term: Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May

Term 6: Monday 3 June – Wednesday 24 July

Senior Staff On-call Rota from 15th September 2023

Contact details:

Roland Gooding	07896 905605
Lisa Kavanagh	07912 124724
Matt Strange	07894 483673
Jo Chivers	07896 905095

Day	Date	Time	On-call	Overnight
Friday	15/09/23	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed Weekend
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Saturday Sunday	16/09/23 17/09/23	Closed		
Monday	18/09/23	07.30 To midday	Matt Strange	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Tuesday	19/09/23	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Roland Gooding
		Midday to 4pm	Roland Gooding	
Wednesday	13/09/23	09:00 To midday	Roland Gooding	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
Thursday	14/09/23	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
Friday	15/09/23	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed Weekend
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Saturday Sunday	16/07/23 17/07/23	Closed Weekend		

