

## Parent Newsletter

**Friday 6 October 2023**

Dear Parent and Carers

I hope all is well. Once again the week has flown by and we've lots of positives to celebrate.

On Wednesday Year 11 attended a careers fair at Andover College, they were certainly inspired when they returned to school and were laden down with their goodie bags! It was great to hear them talk about their futures with such excitement.

Our line ups in the morning continue to set the tone for the day, on the whole pupils are focused and ready to learn. The start of lessons are settled and every lesson begins with retrieval practice to check prior learning. These good learning habits are now embedded, which is something we are proud of.

This morning we held a fire practice as Mrs McKeown and I felt improvements needed to be made from the last evacuation procedure. I spoke to the whole school during our morning lineups and shared our expectations. I have to say Test Valley rose to the challenge, we completed the procedure in under 5 minutes and I could've heard a pin drop throughout. Again, we're incredibly proud of this achievement, I've never witnessed such excellence in any of the schools I've worked in previously.

Next week we will be practicing a lockdown procedure, this is common practice in schools. I'm mindful that this may cause some anxiety for a number of pupils, we will communicate the procedure with everyone a number of times before we do it and I will tell the pupils when it will happen. The pastoral team will do an amazing job supporting pupils in preparation and during the practice.

I've been contacted by one of the bus companies today, behaviour on the Andover blue and red buses has been problematic this week. This is unacceptable, I will be talking to specific pupils on those routes. I'm working with the bus company to solve the problem but if your child travels on these buses please can you remind them to be respectful of the driver and other passengers, food and drink will be banned if litter is dropped, seat belts must be worn. The bus company has the right to refuse pupils if their behaviour is unacceptable, parents will be responsible for transporting their child to and from school.

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October we will be holding another Open Morning for prospective pupils and parents, please spread the word. It's always a good idea to see a school in action to get a feel for the culture.

Next week we will be holding a number of events for Young Minds mental health week, the theme is 'Hello Yellow', Pupils will be told about activities on offer on Monday. The following Friday is the last day of the half term, we will be holding a dress down day in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness, pupils may come to school in non-uniform for £1 donation to the charity. If they have an items which is pink it would be great if they could wear it but we will have pink face paint if they would prefer to put that on. Let's hope together we can raise money for these very special charities.

Enjoy the lovely weather promised this weekend.

Warm Wishes

Nicky Goodridge

Head of School

More about all the activities occurring in and out of lessons at Test Valley School can be found on our Facebook page: Test Valley School, Twitter Feed: @testvalleysch and Instagram Account: testvalleyofficial. Reshares and likes are always appreciated!

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## Vacancies

Please see our website for current vacancies: [Test Valley School - Vacancies](#)

## Venue Hire

Do you require a room for a meeting or sports event? School facilities are available to hire outside of the school day. Please email [leisure@testvalley.hants.sch.uk](mailto:leisure@testvalley.hants.sch.uk) for all enquiries.

## Medical Appointments

Please can you notify the school office if your child will be in school late due to a medical apt, or if you need to collect them during the school day. Evidence of the medical apt will need to be seen for authorisation purposes, this can be in the form of a text message, appointment card, letter or email. Thank you.

## Forthcoming Dates

### w/c 9 October is Week 2 Timetable

Thursday 12 October – Open Morning (9.30am-11am)

Thursday 12 October – KS4 Information Evening/Lorraine Lee Training

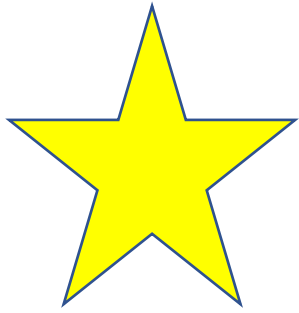
Thursday 19 October – Year 7 Celebration Service, Stockbridge

Friday 20 October – Open Morning (9.30am-11am)

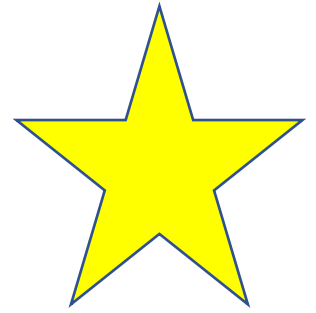
Friday 20 October – Spooky Disco (yrs 7 & 8)

Monday 23–Friday 27 October – Half Term Break

Monday 30 October – Pupils return to school



# English Superstars



These students have been identified by their English teachers for their conscientious and impressive start to their English studies this term. Come and see Mrs Dunn in Rm37 on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October for a prize. Each student nominated for an award will have the opportunity to be invited on an English reward trip during the Summer Term.

## KS3

- ❖ **Riley S:** Riley really pushes himself in class. He is always focused and makes fantastic contributions. Keep it up Riley.
- ❖ **George S:** George is putting lots of effort into his writing and as a result his writing is really improving. Well done, George, keep it up.
- ❖ **Teddy L:** Teddy is fantastic in the classroom. He asks insightful questions and is naturally inquisitive. Keep it up Teddy.
- ❖ **Kyra W:** Kyra is focused and wonderfully creative in English. Kyra makes fantastic contributions and works hard.

## KS4

- ❖ **Lily W:** Lily always works hard in English and recently produced a fantastic piece of homework answering part of an exam paper. It was seriously impressive.
- ❖ **Riley M:** Riley has been awesome in English. He is focused and his contributions are excellent. He has started to demonstrate just what is possible when he concentrates. Keep it up Riley.

## PE Stars for September

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Leo H	Kian B	Ian O	Max T	Riley M
Ruby O'C	Raya B	Lucy F	Evie K	Ella-Mai K

## MFL Stars for September



### FRENCH

Yr 11 Daisy C  
Yr 10 Evie K  
Yr 9 Henry R  
Yr 8 Henry B  
Yr 7 Barnaby D



### GERMAN

Yr 11 Lily W  
Yr 10 Taylor C  
Yr 9 Hattie F  
Yr 8 Alfie W  
Yr 7 Ethan B

## Science

The science team has had a great few weeks welcoming our students new and old back into the labs. It has been especially exciting to get to know the new year 7 students and hear about the fantastic science learning they did at primary school. We have been really impressed by how enthusiastic they have been.

**Year 7** began the year by learning about how science and scientists work. They learned about the scientific process and about how scientists collaborate and communicate their ideas. Some of them even wrote brilliant letters to our local MP about scientific issues they feel passionate about!

**Year 8** have begun learning about chemical reactions and are preparing for some exciting practical work.

**Year 9** have been studying genetic inheritance and the process of evolution and will be moving onto learning about electrical circuits in the next few weeks.

**Years 10 and 11** have continued with their GCSE topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics with year 10 covering infectious diseases and year 11 progressing onto forces.

We launched our homework programme with all students over the last fortnight. We use a website called educake to set their homework tasks. They have quizzes set each week on a Monday that need to be completed by the following Monday. All classes have had an introduction to or recap of how to use educake in their lessons but should speak to their class teacher if they are having any problems accessing the tasks.

In order to be ready for science lessons we ask that all students have their own calculators that they bring into school every day (they need these for maths lessons too). It is really important that they learn how to use these effectively.

We also ask that students remember to bring a hair tie to school if they have long hair so that they can tie their hair back when doing practical work.

If you have any questions about science lessons or homework, please get in touch via email with either myself or your child's science teacher.

Sally White

Director of STEM Faculty

## KS3 and KS4

Shoutouts to our top  points earners w/c 25 September

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Finnian S	Kathryn V	Livvy S	Oliver LC	Mollie S
Maya B	Alfie W	Matilda L	Zack SJ	Keysha M
Isabel-Jacinda J	Violet HS	Brooke T	Megan R	Eleanor V
Olivia A	George G	Mia S	Rosie W	Sam J
Leo H	Mia F	Alexis B	Ailsa S	Milly PB

## Open Mornings



**Test Valley SCHOOL**  
*"In Pursuit of Personal Excellence"*

# OPEN MORNINGS

We have the following dates available:  
Tuesday 26th September  
Thursday 12th October  
Friday 20th October

Scan me to go to website

**OUR SCHOOL**

- ✓ Small and more personal environment for your child
- ✓ Rural setting with large outdoor spaces
- ✓ A versatile team dedicated to supporting your child

Test Valley School | @testvalleysch | testvalleyofficial

Please be advised that these are only available by booking only  
Email the team to book: office@testvalley.hants.sch.uk

Our next open events are being held as follows:

**Open Mornings – Thursday 12 October and Friday 20 October 9.30-11am**

Further details on how to book a place for the open mornings can be found on our website.

**Extra Curricular PE Activities**

The following activities are available for pupils to take part in, just turn up and have a go.

Day	2 <sup>nd</sup> Break 13.50 – 14.15	After School 15.20 – 16.30
Monday	Girls Basketball All years Sports hall - MT	Netball All years Sports hall – SD & KE
Tuesday		Indoor football Year 7 & 8 Sports hall – CF
Wednesday	Badminton Club All years Sports Hall - RB	Indoor football Year 9, 10 & 11 Sports hall - MT
Thursday	Boys Basketball All years Sports hall CF	(*Boxing Club All Years Gym) (TBC)
Friday	Dodgeball Club Years 7 & 8 Sports Hall - CF	Badminton All staff & pupils Sports Hall

\* Payment for this activity will be required in advance.

Activities at 2<sup>nd</sup> break will require pupils to change into their PE shirt & trainers but they do not have to wear shorts, this is to reduce changing time.

**After School Clubs – Autumn Term**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
School Production Rehearsals Room 42 (3.20pm-5pm) Commences w/c 16 Oct Mrs Brush	MFL Club (Room 62) Mr Wareham	STEM Club Mrs White	Creative Art Club (3.20-4.15pm) Mr Johnson	Badminton All staff & Pupils (Sports Hall)
Netball all year groups (3.30- 4.20pm) Sports Hall Mrs Dunn and Mrs Wray	Humanities Film/documentary Club (3.20-4.20pm) Ms Martin	Indoor football Yrs 9, 10 & 11 (Sports Hall) Mr Thomas	*Boxing Club All Years (Gym)	
Homework Club (3.20-4.20pm) Room 1 Mrs Ling	Indoor football Yrs 7 & 8 (Sports Hall) Mr Falkingham		Homework Club (3.20-4.20pm) Room 1 Mrs Ling	
	Homework Club (3.20-4.20pm) Room 1 Mrs Ling			
*Payment for this activity will be required in advance				

## College Open Events

There is lots of information on our website regarding forthcoming College open events, including dates and how to book a place.

[Test Valley School - College Open Events](#)

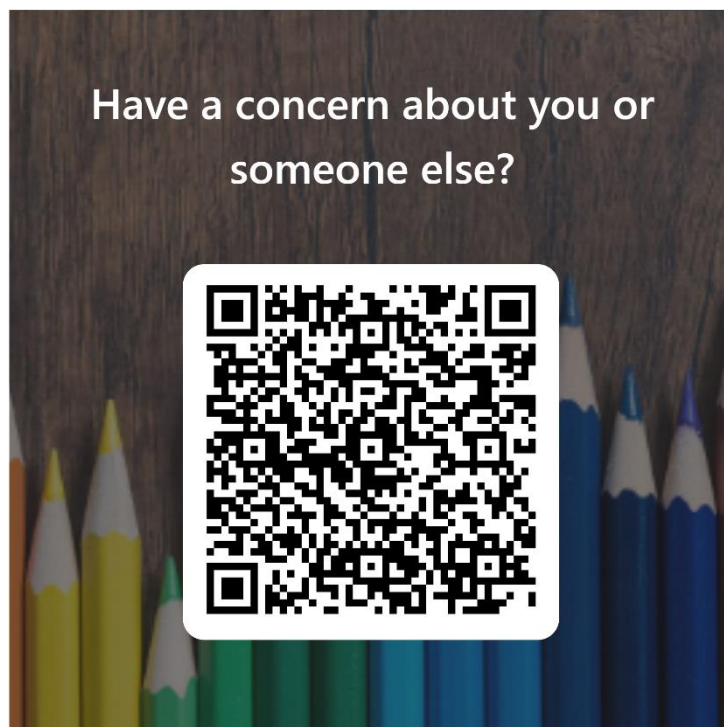
**Salisbury 6<sup>th</sup> Form College:** [Test Valley School - Salisbury 6th Form College](#)

**Sparsholt College Open event:** [Test Valley School - Sparsholt College](#)

**Peter Symonds Open Event:** [Test Valley School - Peter Symonds College](#)

**Andover College Open Event:** [Test Valley School - Andover College](#)

## Pupil Anonymous Reporting Function



## Health and Wellbeing

Please see our website for more useful information: [Test Valley School - Wellbeing](#)

[New Maudsley Training Course Dates \(charliewaller.org\)](#)

[Back to Basics | Children and Families | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

**LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO THIS WEEKEND - HOW ABOUT A WEEKEND CHALLENGE  
- FOR ANY WALKING LOVERS**



SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER - WALK FOR WELLBEING LONDON ROYAL PARKS CHALLENGE

45km trek through all 10 Royal Parks in London, starting in Bushy Park and finishing in Greenwich Park. A tough but rewarding challenge! details on the Charlie Waller website.

SATURDAY 7TH & SUNDAY 8th VIRTUAL WALK FOR WELLBEING

Across the UK Challenge yourself to complete a 10km walk over the weekend with friends, family, colleagues or your four-legged friends.

**Community News**

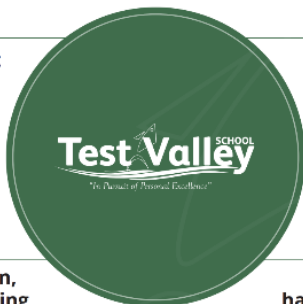
*At Test Valley we are committed to building an engaging inclusive environment where success and excellence is experienced by all. We will achieve this by ensuring:*

**KINDNESS**

We always show care, respect and consideration for each other. Test Valley is a warm, welcoming and safe place for all.

**RESILIENCE**

We show courage by not giving in, challenging ourselves, stepping out of our comfort zones and not fearing failure.



**EXCELLENCE**

We are relentlessly determined to strive for the best in all we do; developing excellent learning habits which help us to grow.

**EMPOWERMENT**

We help pupils to evolve into happy, independent, knowledge rich citizens who have the skills to make a real difference in our ever changing world.

*In pursuit of personal excellence you must dream big work hard and make it happen.*