

Headteacher's Letter, July 2014

21st July 2014

Dear Parent

This letter has been posted home to all parents of the coming Year 8 to Year 11 to ensure you are fully informed of important information. Also enclosed are 'Key Dates For Parents 2014 – 2015' and School Uniform 2014-15.

We approach the end of another very busy and successful year. As a school we continue to challenge ourselves in our drive to keep moving the school forward and in our 'pursuit of personal excellence'. This last half term of the year has seen much going on at school as always, including another successful Activities Week. Our latest newsletter is about to be published and I do encourage you to have a look at this to read more about the wide range of learning experiences, activities and opportunities our pupils have been involved in. This can be viewed or downloaded from our website on www.testvalley.hants.sch.uk. Paper copies are also always available from Reception and Pupil Services in school.

Communication with parents

Our partnership with you remains very important to us to ensure your child is making progress. Below are three ways you can access further information or keep in regular contact with us:

- many of our parents are now directly receiving more key information by signing up to our email database rather than relying on their children to bring all letters home. This will also ensure you receive my half-termly letters and the termly newsletter notification by email next year. To do this you need to go to www.testvalley.hants.sch.uk, click onto 'Our School' and then 'Parent Contacts', complete the required fields and press 'make request'. An acknowledgment will then appear on the screen. I know that not all parents have access to a computer and some prefer a paper copy so we will continue to provide these as well
- the SIMS Learning Gateway provides a logon to access information on your child's progress. To request an account please email SLG@testvalley.hants.sch.uk stating your child's name and tutor group. There is also a link to SLG on the homepage of our website.
- parents can also logon to Moodle (via the school website) to view the home learning tasks set. There is also a link on Moodle to request a logon.

Test Valley School P.T.A.

Our P.T.A. continues to grow in numbers and are keen to keep finding ways to support the school. The 100 Club is up and running and if you would like further details of how to join please go to the PTA section of our school website or contact reception for an application form. We are also looking forward to a car boot sale on Saturday September 27th being organised by the PTA. If you would like to book a space as a seller please contact the PTA via our school website or email the chair denice.wareham@btinternet.com who would be delighted to hear from you. We also hope many parents will come along and support this event on the day. Full details are attached and included at the end of our latest newsletter. Details will also be posted on our website at the start of term.

Credit and debit card facility for parents

We offer this facility to parents making payments to school. There will be a charge of 1.5% on all transactions as this is the cost levied by the company providing the service and the school does not benefit from this in any way. Payment by cheques or cash continues to be available as an alternative.

Staff changes

We shall be saying goodbye at the end of this academic year to some staff:

- Ms Dean (RE teacher)
- Ms Fitzgerald (English teacher)
- Mrs Gibbs (SENCo/English teacher) moving to a promoted post
- Mrs Hall (Art teacher)
- Mrs Hill (Cover Supervisor) starting a teacher training course
- Mr Heaton (Cover Supervisor) starting a teacher training course
- Mrs Young (School Business Manager) leaving us after 19 years to start her long planned travels

We thank all of the above staff for the contribution they have made to Test Valley School and wish them well for the future. We congratulate those moving to promoted posts and hope their time here has prepared them well for the next step in their careers. We also thank Mr Dunn (Computing teacher) and Mrs McAllister (Mathematics teacher) for joining us on a temporary basis for this year, although Mr Dunn has been able to step in and teach a number of subjects over the last five years. Finally, we thank Ms King and wish her well as she is also starting a teacher training course.

Attendance

I would like to thank parents for your support to ensure pupils' high attendance at school. We continue to monitor attendance closely and are keen to offer support if your child's absence is causing concern. There is no doubt that pupils need to have good attendance if they are to be successful at school and it is clearly linked with effective learning and progress. Equally, pupils with poor attendance tend to fall behind with their work and can struggle to catch up.

Pupils should therefore be in school unless they are too ill to attend, are on a pre-agreed leave of absence or in rare cases where family circumstances are such that they cannot attend for a short time, for example, in the case of family bereavement.

I would remind you that any leave of absences are only approved in exceptional circumstances across all year groups. Our full policy and procedures can be found on the school website. From September 1st 2013 new government amendments came into force which make it clear that all schools should only grant leave of absence in exceptional circumstances and these should not exceed **five days** in a school year.

School Uniform

As you are aware we moved to a standard skirt and trousers style for girls and boys from September 2013. A full list of our uniform, including the revised requirements, are attached again to this letter and are available on our school website at www.testvalley.hants.sch.uk. If you type 'school uniform' into the main search bar on our home page you will find details and further down you can download our uniform guide.

School uniform is important as pupils who are smartly presented will not only represent themselves and the school positively but also set the right tone for high quality learning. We have always endeavoured to make our uniform simple and practical. The changes provide absolute clarity and ensure no confusion regarding what styles of skirts and trousers can be worn.

We thank you for your ongoing your support in maintaining a high standard of uniform. We will, as always, be checking pupils are in the correct uniform at the start of the Autumn Term.

Charity Fundraising

Pupils and staff have again raised with your support a tremendous amount of money for charity this year. The figure currently stands at £6503 with the charities supported including BBC Children in Need, Hope and Homes, Breast Cancer Care, Prostate Cancer Research, NSPCC, Project Rose Cancer Research, Comic Relief, Diabetes UK, AEGIS Trust and British Heart Foundation. We also continue to sponsor a pupil to attend Kibanzanga High School, our twinned school in Uganda, and still hope to sponsor a second pupil due to the amounts being raised by our pupils.

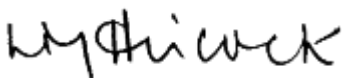
Year 11 GCSE results

We look forward to welcoming our Year 11 pupils back to school on Thursday August 21st from 10am to receive their examination results. Year 10 can collect any GCSE results they are expecting between 11am and 12pm. It should be noted that no exam results will be given over the telephone or via email. Uncollected Year 10 results will be issued at the start of the Autumn term. (please see our GCSE Results notice on our website for further information).

Final Remarks

Finally, I would like to thank parents for your continued support over the course of this year. I wish you all a safe and happy holiday and look forward to welcoming pupils back in September: **Wednesday 3rd September at 8.50am for our new Year 7 pupils and Thursday 4th September at 8.50am for all other pupils.**

Yours sincerely



L Hiscock (Miss)
Headteacher

Attachments:
Key Dates for Parents 2014-15, School Uniform 2014-15



KEY DATES FOR PARENTS

AUTUMN TERM 2014

Tuesday 2 September 2014	STAFF INSET: School closed to pupils
Wednesday 3 September 2014	Autumn Term commences for Year 7 only
Thursday 4 September 2014	Autumn Term commences for Years 8-11
Thursday 18 September 2014	Year 7 Parents' Information Evening 6.00-8.00pm
Monday 22 September 2014	Open Evening 6-8pm
Thursday 25 September 2014	Open Morning 9.15-10.30am
Friday 26 September 2014	Open Morning 9.15-10.30am
Friday 3 October 2014	STAFF INSET: School closed to pupils
Monday 6 October 2014	Year 11 Parents' Information Evening: 6.00-8:00pm
Thursday 16 October 2014	Year 10 Parents' Information Evening: Introduction to KS4 6.00-8.00pm
Tuesday 14 October 2014	Year 8 Parents' consultation workshop
Monday 20 October 2014	Year 7 Tutors Evening Main Hall 4.30-6.30pm
Friday 24 October 2014	School closes to pupils for half-term
Monday 3 November 2014	School re-opens to pupils
Monday 10 November 2014	Year 11 Practice Examinations commence
Wednesday 19 November 2014	Year 11 Practice Examinations end
Thursday 27 November 2014	GCSE 2014 Presentation Evening Year 8 Pupil Monitoring Data published to parents
Friday 28 November 2014	STAFF INSET: School closed to pupils
Monday 1 December 2014	Year 8 Parents' Evening Main Hall 4.30-7.30pm
Friday 12 December 2014	Year 11 Pupil Monitoring Data and Reports published to parents
Monday 15 December 2014	Year 11 Parents' Evening Main Hall 4.30-7.30pm
Thursday 18 December 2014	Whole School PSHE Day Years 7, 9 and 10 Pupil Monitoring Data published to parents
Friday 19 December 2014	End of Autumn Term

SPRING TERM 2015

Monday 5 January 2015	Spring Term commences for pupils
Thursday 29 January 2015	Year 10 GCSE Science – Parents Workshop 6.00-8.00pm
Friday 30 January 2015	Whole School PSHE Day
Monday 9 February 2015	Year 7 Parents' Evening Main Hall 4.30-7.30pm
Wednesday 11 February 2015	School Production
Thursday 12 February 2015	School Production
Friday 13 February 2015	School Production School closes to pupils for half-term



Monday 23 February 2015	STAFF INSET: School closed to pupils
Tuesday 24 February 2015	School re-opens to pupils Year 11 Second Practice Examinations (Core) commence
Thursday 26 February 2015	Year 9 Examinations commence
Monday 2 March 2015	Year 9 Parents' Information Evening - Pathways Main Hall 6.30-8.00pm Year 11 Second Practice Examinations (Core) end
Friday 20 March 2015	Year 10 Pupil Monitoring data and Reports published to parents
Monday 23 March 2015	Year 9 Option Review Week Year 9 Parents' Evening Main Hall 4.30-7.30pm
Friday 27 March 2015	Years 9 and 11 Pupil Monitoring Data published to parents Year 9 Reports published to parents
Monday 30 March 2015	Year 10 Parents' Evening Main Hall 4.30-7.30pm
Thursday 2 April 2015	Years 7 and 8 Pupil Monitoring Data published to parents Year 9 Pathways Form deadline End of Spring Term

SUMMER TERM 2015

Monday 20 April 2015	Summer Term commences for pupils
Tuesday 21 April 2015	Year 8 Parents' Information Evening 6.00-8.00pm
Friday 1 May 2015	StockFest 7
Monday 4 May 2015	School closed Bank Holiday
Monday 11 May 2015	GCSE Examinations commence Year 8 Examinations commence
Friday 22 May 2015	Year 8 Examinations end School closes to pupils for half-term
Monday 1 June 2015	School re-opens to pupils Year 7 Examinations commence
Monday 8 June 2015	Year 10 Examinations commence
Friday 12 June 2015	Year 7 Examinations end
Wednesday 17 June 2015	Year 10 Examinations end
Friday 19 June 2015	Year 8 Pupil Monitoring Data and Reports published to parents
Tuesday 23 June 2015	GCSE Examinations end
Friday 26 June 2015	STAFF INSET: School closed to pupils
Monday 29 June 2015	New Intake Parents' Evening
Tuesday 30 June 2015	New Year 7 Induction Day
Friday 3 July 2015	Year 7 Pupil Monitoring data and Reports published to parents Year 10 Pupil Monitoring data published to parents
Monday 6 July 2015	Activities Week commences
Tuesday 14 July 2015	KS3 Sports Day
Friday 17 July 2015	Years 9 Pupil Monitoring data published to parents
Tuesday 21 July 2015	Year 10 Sports Day
Wednesday 22 July 2015	Celebration Assemblies End of Summer Term



School Dress — Test Valley School

The school uniform policy sets out to encourage a sense of identification with and belonging to the school. We ask for the co-operation of parents to ensure that pupils are suitably dressed and thus represent the school and themselves appropriately. The uniform guidance is clear and the uniform itself is intended to be both practical and smart. The basic school colour is bottle green and bottle green school sweatshirts will be worn in Years 7, 8 and 9. Pupils in Year 10 and 11 move into grey as senior pupils. Please note that some items of school uniform are only available from certain stockists: Skoolkit www.skoolkit.co.uk, Marks and Spencer www.marksandspencer.com.

Please put your child's name on all uniform and kit.

Girls — Test Valley School Uniform 2014-15

Required items	Available from	Unacceptable items/notes
Bottle green polo shirt with school logo – Years 7-9 Grey polo shirt with school logo – Years 10-11	Skoolkit	
Plain black tailored trousers	Skoolkit recommended as supplier of this item. Code GPR (from £17.50) Alternative shop version of trouser style available: M&S — 2 pack Girl's Crease Resistant Bootleg Trousers with Stormwear Code T761281 (£16.00-£22.00)	No other trousers or styles are permitted
Bottle green V-neck sweatshirt with school logo – Years 7-9 Grey V-neck sweatshirt with school logo – Years 10-11	Skoolkit	No other cardigans, pullovers, sweatshirts (hooded or otherwise) or tracksuit top should be worn or brought into school
Plain black drop waist knife pleat skirt	Skoolkit recommended as supplier of this item. Code SSK303 (from £15.99) Alternative shop version of skirt style available:- M&S — 2 pack permanent pleat skirts Code T760154 (£14.00-£20.00)	No other styles are permitted. The skirt length should be no more than 6cm from the top of the knee.



<i>Girls continued</i>		
Required items	Available from	Unacceptable items/notes
Plain black low heeled sensible shoes (that can be polished)		No trainers, boots , backless/stiletto shoes, plimsolls, sandals, canvas shoes or shoes that have any other colours, branding or marking on
Winter – black/flesh coloured tights, knee length black socks Summer – white/black ankle socks		No other colours or patterned socks are permitted
Coat – plain only (optional)		No marking or branding. Hoodies, denim jackets are not permitted.
Sports Kit Navy school rugby shirt Navy short sleeved polo shirt with collar and school logo Navy blue shorts Navy blue football/hockey socks Also needed Shin pads Trainers, non-marking soles Football boots either moulded or with safety studs (not astro trainers) Gum shield One piece swimsuit Towel Headband for long fringes Hair ties for long hair	Skoolkit	



Boys — Test Valley School Uniform 2014-15

Required items	Available from	Unacceptable items/notes
Bottle green polo shirt with school logo – Years 7-9 Grey polo shirt with school logo – Years 10-11	Skoolkit	
Plain black tailored trousers (straight leg) If a belt is needed, it must be plain black and discreet	Skoolkit recommended as supplier of this item. Code ST1 (from £14.99) Trousers from other stockists similar to Skoolkit code ST1 style are acceptable.	No jean style material, no tight/slim fitting trousers. Trousers must be worn so undergarments are <u>not</u> showing.
Bottle green V-neck sweatshirt with school logo – Years 7-9 Grey V-neck sweatshirt with school logo – Years 10-11	Skoolkit	No other cardigans, pullovers, sweatshirts (hooded or otherwise) or tracksuit top should be worn or brought into school
Plain black shoes (that can be polished)		No trainers, boots, canvas shoes or shoes that have any other colours, branding or marking on
Grey or black socks		No other colours or patterned socks are permitted
Coat – plain only (optional)		No marking or branding. Hoodies, denim jackets are not permitted.
Sports Kit Navy school rugby shirt Navy short sleeved polo shirt with collar and school logo Navy blue shorts Navy blue football/hockey socks	Skoolkit	
Also needed Shin pads Trainers, non-marking soles Football boots either moulded or with safety studs (not astro trainers) Gum shield Swimming trunks or shorts Towel Headband for long fringes Hair ties for long hair		



All pupils 2014-15

A single earring in the lobe of each ear, i.e. a single pair of small studs or sleepers may be worn. **No other piercings are acceptable.** One neck chain with a religious symbol may be worn if out of sight (on receipt of a note from parents).

Watches may be worn but parents are reminded that pupils must be responsible for their own property. Make up and fashion jewellery are not considered acceptable or appropriate for school. Pupils' hair colour and styles should not be extremes of fashion, i.e. if coloured it should be natural colour and uniform in nature — no extreme haircuts, tramlines or markings are allowed (if in doubt please consult the school before your child has a specific hair cut style). Protective clothing will be necessary in practical lessons.

Uniform & Kit Supplier Details

SKOOLKIT**15 Church Street****Basingstoke****RG21 7QG****Tel 01256 817284 Fax 01256 812417**Online ordering www.skoolkit.co.ukEmail Basingstoke@skoolkit.co.ukwww.marksandspencer.com