

Headteacher's Letter

February 2015

Dear Parent

We have reached the half way point of the school year with our Spring half term holiday coming up next week. For our Year 11 pupils this means the start date for their GCSEs can now be counted in weeks and the need to keep focused and working hard is never more important. After half term Year 11 will be undertaking further practice examinations in their core subjects. They will not, however, be alone as Year 9 pupils will also be sitting their annual examinations and a number of year 10 pupils are now preparing for their GCSE Science a year early. Full details about all of these can be found on Moodle within 'Exams Information' and we thank you for all the encouragement and support you will give your child through what can be a stressful time.

Years 7, 8 and 10 pupils need not feel left out as they will be sitting their annual examinations later in the school year and the dates for these can be found on our website under 'Our School, Key Dates for Parents'.

As I write our annual school production has performed the first of its two performances of 'Oliver'. The pupils and staff have been rehearsing and working exceptionally hard to ensure this goes well. There are many memorable performances but I congratulate all taking part both on stage and behind the scenes. We hope you have had the opportunity to come and join us in the audience and my thanks go out to all involved, in particular Mrs Stubbs (Head of Drama) who had worked tirelessly to ensure everything came together with the support of a number of staff.

I am delighted to also invite parents to another event being held at the school on Saturday March 28th. The Romsey Male Voice Choir is hosting a charity evening with us to raise funds for The Alex Lewis Trust. Mrs Leyman (Head of Music) and pupils from our school will be taking part and it promises to be a wonderful evening. Further detail, including where to purchase tickets, are attached.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

We strongly believe in encouraging our pupils to join in extra-curricular activities as part of their school experience. At our school there are many opportunities for pupils to take part in a range of activities during the school day as well as visits out of school. I am always grateful to our staff for their willingness to organise and lead such a large number of activities, often out of school hours, for our pupils throughout the year. Our lunchtime/after school activities and clubs for the Spring Term can be found on Moodle for your information.

Access to Computers:

We live in a world where it is often now assumed that we all have access to computers and the internet at home. At school all pupils are taught Computing and in common with many organisations we are increasingly moving towards using the internet as our main means of communication with pupils and parents. The references in my letter to information on our website above underlines this. We are, however, aware that not all pupils have access to a computer and/or the internet at home which may cause difficulties, for example accessing their home learning tasks on Moodle. This may also mean parents cannot easily access information such as their child's termly reports from the school.

We would encourage parents to contact us, via your child's tutor or Year Co-ordinator, if the above is causing you concern. We can take steps to ensure you receive information and your child is given copies of home learning tasks to bring home if unable to use the school computers to access Moodle.

Red Nose Day: Friday 13th March

The Year 11 Charity Committee have asked for this to be non-uniform day to raise money for Comic Relief and I am happy to support this. They will also be organising other activities during the week, including a lunchtime concert for pupils. Pupils wishing to participate by wearing non-uniform on the above date should bring in a contribution of at least £1.00 on the day. They are reminded that what they wear should be appropriate for a normal school day and should not bring in colour hairsprays, cans of glitter or similar products on this day.

Parents' Coffee Morning: Wednesday 11th March 9.15 – 10.00am

I warmly invite all parents to my next coffee morning on the above date. This is an informal opportunity to meet with me over a cup of coffee to hear about what is happening in school and to share your views.

At our last coffee morning our discussion included lunch provision, the revised end of term reports introduced this year and school bus services, in particular parents' concerns about the cancellation at short notice of two Stagecoach services from the Andover area. This also gives me the opportunity to thank Clegg and Brooking for stepping in at short notice to organise and provide an additional daily bus service to cover these routes from January.

We are currently investigating an online system for parents to book appointments directly with teachers for calendared Parents' Evenings. It would be interesting to hear parents' views on this when we meet.

Pupils eligible for Free School Meals:

If your child is eligible for free school meals at lunchtime please note that they are now entitled to a free small carton of fresh milk to drink each day. This can be collected from the canteen when they choose their lunch.

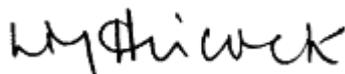
If you think your child may be eligible for free school meals and you have not previously applied please do contact Mrs Clarke at school or check our website at www.testvalley.hants.sch.uk and search 'free school meals' for further information. If your application is successful this not only entitles your child to a free school meal each day but also means the school will receive a pupil premium allowance for your child that we can put towards supporting his/her progress in school. Details of how we use pupil premium funding is given on our website and I would encourage you to consider applying for free school meals provision if eligible, even if your child does not wish to have a free school meal it will enable us to give them additional support to succeed in school.

Diary dates for next half term:

Please see below the key dates for next half term. I would ask you to note that pupils return after half term at **8.50am on Tuesday February 24th** as Monday February 23rd is a staff training day.

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| 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 |

Yours sincerely



L Hiscock (Miss)
Headteacher

Dear Parents and Friends of Test Valley School,

Please take a few moments to read this. You may be aware through local media of the situation of Alex Lewis, who with his partner Lucy, hosts the Greyhound Inn located in Stockbridge High Street. Some fifteen months ago Alex, then aged thirty three, suffered an appalling illness which has resulted in the loss of his legs, arms, and part of his face. Throughout his continuing ordeal he remains incredibly positive and in his own words 'considers himself lucky'.

You may also be aware of the Alex Lewis Trust, the purpose of which is to help fund Alex's rehabilitation costs including wheelchair, home adjustments, and prosthetics, all of which are crucial in helping Alex to resume as near as possible a normal life.

In aid of the Trust the Romsey Male Voice Choir supported by pupils from the Music Section of Test Valley School are producing a Concert of music and song in the School Hall on the evening of **Saturday 28th March**.

If you enjoy good music and good choral singing please come along and support a very worthwhile cause. The concert duration will be around two hours, including an interval for refreshments and a raffle with great prizes.

You may already have seen posters advertising the event at various locations in Stockbridge. **The Co-Op, Robinson's the Butchers, The Garden Inn and Wine Utopia**, all located in Stockbridge High Street, have kindly agreed to sell tickets. Tickets are priced at **£10.00. for Adults and £7.00. for under 18s.**

Thank you.

David Witt, Concert Secretary. RMVC.



Romsey Male Voice Choir

in concert with singers and musicians of

Test Valley School

invite you to an evening of music and song
in aid of **The Alex Lewis Trust**

At Test Valley School – Stockbridge
Hosted by **Dickie Davis** formerly of ITVs World of Sport
On Saturday 28th March at 7.30pm.
Tickets: Adult £10.00. Under 18s £7.00.

For Ticket Information visit: RMVC Website www.romseymvc.co.uk
Tickets on Sale from:
The Co-op, Robinson's Butchers, The Garden Inn & Utopia Wine
All located in Stockbridge High Street.

RMVC Patron: David Gower OBE
RMVC Registered Charity No 1134368



Test Valley SCHOOL

