

Headteacher's Letter

May 2016

Dear Parent

As I write at the start of the Summer Term the weeks ahead promise to be as busy as always. Year 11 (and some Year 10) will shortly be starting their GCSE examinations and we wish all our pupils success as they sit these over the coming weeks. Year 9 have already completed their annual examinations, whilst Years 7, 8 and 10 are due to start soon. Further details on these can be found on Moodle for parents and pupils as they approach or by contacting your child's Year Co-ordinator if you have any specific concerns or queries.

Easyfundraising.org.uk:

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online, from your weekly shop to your annual holiday, you could be raising a free donation to our school? There are nearly 3000 retailers (including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, Trainline and Sainsbury's) who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to our school to say thank you for shopping with them. It's really simple, does not cost you anything and there are no hidden charges to you. It does, however, provide a fantastic opportunity for the school to raise additional funds we can use to buy vital resources and equipment to support your child's learning in school.

In order to sign up all you have to do is:

- go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>
- click on "Support a good cause"
- enter "Test Valley School"
- click "Get Started – I want to help this PTA"
- enter your details in order to sign up for free
- start shopping – your donations will be collected by easyfundraising and automatically sent to our school

StockFest from 3.30 – 5.30pm on Friday May 6th:

On Friday we look forward to our annual celebration of talent across our school community with the return of StockFest, now marking its eighth year. There will be a fantastic variety of performances on the main stage, refreshments, a barbeque and a number of stalls run by pupils, staff and parents. All funds raised are divided between chosen charities and a school project yet to be decided. Last year funds contributed to the replacement of a much needed microphone system in the Main Hall for school performances and to support our ongoing commitment to fund the education of a pupil in the Ugandan school through the charity 'Education Uganda' - indeed last year we were able to support two pupils as a result of our fundraising, giving them life changing opportunities. We hope many pupils will join us and to encourage them we have made this a non-uniform day (at no cost!) so they can come ready to go on to StockFest at 3.30pm. We would also be delighted if you and your family are able to join us as well. Entry cost is £3.00 (free for primary aged pupils). Please also note the earlier finish time if collecting your child.

HEADTEACHER • MISS L HISCOCK B.Ed (HONS)

Roman Road, Stockbridge, Hampshire SO20 6HA — Tel 01264 810555 — Fax 01264 810173

Email: office@testvalley.hants.sch.uk — Website: www.testvalley.hants.sch.uk

Headteacher's Coffee Morning: 9.15 – 10.00am on Tuesday May 24th:

My next coffee morning for parents will be on the above date. I extend a warm welcome as always to all parents to join me for a cup of coffee. This is an informal opportunity to hear what is happening in the school and to share your views. We were not able to meet in March as it was such a short half term but the numbers of parents attending the earlier coffee mornings this year has been wonderful.

Diary dates for the Summer Term:

Friday 6 May 2016	StockFest 8
Monday 16 May 2016	GCSE Examinations commence Year 8 Examinations commence
Friday 27 May 2016	Year 8 Examinations end School closes to pupils for half-term
Monday 6 June 2016	School re-opens to pupils Year 7 Examinations commence
Monday 13 June 2016	Year 10 Examinations commence
Friday 17 June 2016	Year 7 Examinations end
Wednesday 22 June 2016	Year 10 Examinations end
Friday 24 June 2016	Year 8 Pupil Monitoring Data and Reports published to parents
Monday 27 June 2016	New Intake Parents' Evening
Tuesday 28 June	New Year 7 Induction Day
Wednesday 29 June 2016	GCSE Examinations end
Thursday 30 June 2016	Year 9 Pupil Monitoring data published to parents
Friday 1 July 2016	STAFF INSET: School closed to pupils
Monday 4 July 2016	Activities Week commences
Tuesday 12 July 2016	KS3 Sports Day
Thursday 14 July 2016	Year 7 Pupil Monitoring data and Reports published to parents
Friday 15 July 2016	Years 10 Pupil Monitoring data and Reports published to parents
Tuesday 19 July 2016	Year 10 Sports Day
Wednesday 20 July 2016	Celebration Assemblies End of Summer Term

Looking ahead to 2016-2017:

I am able to confirm the dates for the start of the Autumn Term as follows:

Monday September 5th: Staff Training Day

Tuesday September 6th: Year 7 start school

Wednesday September 7th: Years 8 – 11 return to school

I would ask that if planning to purchase any new items of uniform for your child between now and September that you check the items meet our uniform code as detailed on the school website. In particular, with regard to the style of school trousers and skirts accepted, including length of skirts. If you have any queries, please do contact us before purchasing new items.

Staff News:

At the end of last term we were sad to lose Ms. Davies. Many parents will have had contact with Ms Davies as my P.A., Examinations Officer and an active PTA member - amongst the many roles she undertook. We wish her the very best for the future. My new P.A. is Mrs Boswell and we welcome her to our school.

Drinking water:

Pupils are allowed to drink water during lessons unless specifically requested not to do so because of the equipment in use. Pupils are able to refill their own water bottles during break and lunch times using the facilities provided. We do not consider high energy drinks appropriate for school, not least because of the high sugar and caffeine content in many which can have a negative effect on a pupil's sustained concentration. We would be grateful for your support to ensure pupils do not bring these into school.

Pupil access to social media during school day:

We take our safeguarding duties very seriously and have always closely monitored and restricted the access our pupils can have to social media during the school day. This includes ensuring any inappropriate sites cannot be accessed on school equipment. We are, however, aware that pupils are increasingly bringing to school devices, such as smartphones, which can access social media independently. We would therefore want parents to be aware that whilst we have clear rules regarding the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices in school, we cannot guarantee they will not access inappropriate sites on their own devices if brought into school.

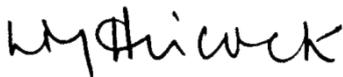
GCSEPod: online revision resource:

If you have a child in Years 10 or 11 you may well be already aware of this excellent online GCSE revision resource our pupils can now use to support their preparation for their GCSE examinations. This provides an exciting and interactive examination preparation resource many of our pupils are already using to structure and support their revision. It can be accessed and downloaded from home and be used on a range of devices including mobile phones and ipods.

Achievement Points in the Summer Term:

Finally, I can confirm that pupils in Years 7 – 10 have been set the target of 500 points to be able to participate in the end of term activities.

Yours sincerely



L Hiscock (Miss)
Headteacher