

Parent Bulletin

Friday 7 January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

As promised earlier in the week, here is the inaugural Parent Bulletin. As stated, we aim to publish one each Friday to make it easier for parents to receive messages from the school and for us to celebrate what is going on at Test Valley School

Year groups returned in stages for testing and lessons throughout the week and by Thursday all pupils were in school. Everyone seemed glad to be back! Pupils were working hard in class, especially Year 11, who appear to be taking preparation for their forthcoming mocks very seriously. Mr Gibbs' assemblies were well received and he was also glad to be back at Test Valley, having been away for over eight years.

Important message about mobile phones

During assemblies this week, the rules around **mobile phones** were mentioned. We can confirm there will be a change to enforcement of the current mobile phone rule from **Monday 10 January**. The rule stands that pupils should not have phones or headphones visible without teacher permission from when they enter the school gates until the end of the school day at 3.20pm. If a phone or headphones are seen, they will be confiscated immediately and passed to school reception for collection by pupils at the end of the school day. Parents need not come in to collect phones.

This enforcement change is designed to make the overall rule simpler, clearer and above all fairer. We anticipate the vast majority of pupils will have no issues with this change as they keep their phones away as expected for the whole of the school day. To be clear if pupils refuse to hand their phones over then they will be isolated. Please note, mobile phones are not banned from school. They offer safety and security to pupils travelling to and from school, especially those who have long journeys and are therefore travelling mostly in the dark at this time of year.

Merging Classes

As you may have seen in the news, the Government have advised that, in an effort to keep schools open during this current Covid surge, schools must merge classes when teaching staff are absent. Whilst we appreciate this is not an ideal situation, we will have and have had to merge classes at short notice. We are making every effort to limit any disruption to pupils' learning and to ensure the learning environment is appropriate. We apologise if this has not been the case consistently this week.

Forthcoming key dates for parents

- Thursday 27 January 2022 - Year 11 Parents' Evening
- Monday 7 February 2022 – Year 11 Practice Exams start
- Friday 18 February 2022 – Year 11 Practice Exams end
- Friday 18 February 2022 – end of half term

More about all the activities occurring in and out of lessons at Test Valley School can be found on our [Facebook page](#), [Twitter Feed](#) and [Instagram Account](#). Reshares and likes are always appreciated!

Steve Gibbs
Headteacher
gibbss@testvalley.hants.sch.uk

Andrew Page
Deputy Headteacher
pagea@testvalley.hants.sch.uk

MFL



The poster features a central title 'Fête des Rois Competition' in purple, with 'Monday 10th January' and 'Breaktime' below it. The main text is in green: 'Have a go at making a traditional 'Galette des Rois'. Bring your Galette to room 63 for judging!'. There are four illustrations: a king on a plate, a Galette des Rois cake, a king on a Galette, and a crown-wearing emoji. A small 'Galette des Rois' logo is on the left. Text on the left says 'Come and celebrate Epiphany with the MFL department' and on the right 'Will you win the prize?'. At the bottom right, it says 'See your MFL teacher for more details'.

Fête des Rois Competition
Monday 10th January
Breaktime

Have a go at making a traditional 'Galette des Rois'. Bring your Galette to room 63 for judging!

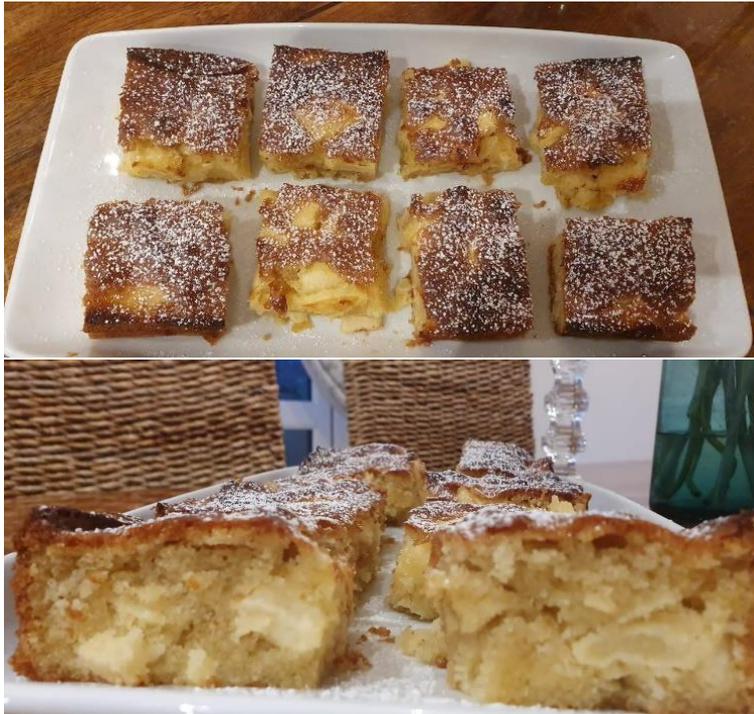
Come and celebrate Epiphany with the MFL department

Will you win the prize?

See your MFL teacher for more details

The MFL department are running a 'Galette des Rois' competition. Pupils in all year groups can take part and they will need to find a recipe and make a traditional French Epiphany cake. Bring it along to room 63 at break time on Monday 10th January for judging.

Our MFL department set a KS4 German recipe challenge before the holidays...it's not too late to submit a photo of your finished product - either email your teacher or submit on Teams! Some very delicious looking Apple cakes so far!



DT

DT workshop: Wednesdays 3.30 to 5pm

English

This half term pupils will be studying the following:

Year 11 - An Inspector Calls (their last GCSE literature text)

Year 10 - Macbeth

Year 9 - short stories exploring diversity

Year 8 - The language of Rhetoric

Year 7 - The Odyssey

Test Valley Reading Re-newed

At the start of a new year, the English department would like to take the opportunity to ask parents and carers to support our renewed emphasis on reading within the school. Our KS3 pupils should have a reading book on them every day. Pupils read in tutor once a week, and during their library lesson once a fortnight, where they also get the chance to take out and exchange books. We are launching a new reading programme with KS3 in the coming weeks. An information letter about the programme will be sent to you next week with all the details.

Maths

Year 11 "Maths Clinic" continues to run every Monday (3.20pm-4.20pm) in room 3 for Higher pupils and Room 4 for Foundation Pupils.

The Topics have been shared with parents already in an earlier communication. These topics have been identified as priority areas for improvement from the November practice exams.

Each week, I will be contacting the parents/carers of every pupil that did not do so well at the specific topic, inviting them to attend as this will be of specific benefit to them. You are receiving this email as your child is one of those pupils in this instance.

The topic we will be revising this Monday is: Averages

Even though we are inviting specific pupils, all year 11 pupils may attend. I hope it will be possible for your child to attend.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

The Well-being Committee will be posting information and Tips including an Exam Anxiety Leaflet in a Folder in Teams /Pupils/Well-being - please look out for this and start using.

Drop-ins with Mrs Whitehead for anyone that needs to talk to someone.

Tuesday/Thursday/Friday

8:30-8:50 & 1:20-1:50

CAHMS Events:

<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events/>

Year 9

Year 9 Futures Day is on Wednesday 16 February. Mr Langdown is pulling the plans together and more information will follow in due course.

Year 11

This coming week and beyond, Year 11 should be spending approximately 2 hours per evening, preparing for their up-and-coming practice exams in February. The guidance material to support this preparation should be on Teams.

School Uniform and General Equipment

As we start the new term, please can we remind you of our uniform expectations. Please can we particularly draw your attention to the wearing of jewellery. Pupils are allowed one lower lobe piercing with a small stud only.

<https://www.testvalley.hants.sch.uk/school-uniform/>

Important School Information

It is more important than ever that your child regularly takes a lateral flow test twice a week, once on a Sunday or Monday morning and once midweek. Any positive tests need to be reported to school preferably via TestRegister.co.uk - you should receive a reminder email twice per week.

Alternatively, please use the absence email: absence@testvalley.hants.sch.uk or phone the switchboard and select Option 1 for the absence line.

Any pupils self-isolating and if they feel well enough, will be able to access their work on Teams

We are requesting that all pupils wear a mask in school, including the classroom and on school transport. Please ensure that your child has a washable mask on them at all times. If a child is medically exempt from wearing a mask, they must display their exemption pass.

Please see the [DfE guidance for parents](#) for further details.

A gentle reminder about medical, dental and optician appointments: wherever possible please make all these appointments outside of school hours. If an appointment is made during the school day, your child should come to school first and return after their appointment. Please ensure we have any evidence of any appointments i.e. an appointment card, letter or a signed note from a parent.