

Parent Bulletin

Friday 18 February 2022

Week commencing Monday 28 February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

What a long, eventful half term that was and what a way to end it! Thank you for everyone's patience yesterday whilst we discussed and consulted on the decision to close the school. The safety of the Test Valley School community is paramount. Given the nature of our location, we knew parents and pupils would need clarity and certainty last night. We hope you are all safe out there!

If we had been in school today, we would have held a (virtual) whole school assembly to deliver some key messages to pupils. We will be holding a physical whole school assembly first thing on Tuesday morning when pupils return, but in the meantime, we would be grateful if you could share the following with your children.

THANK YOU AND WELL DONE

Thank you to pupils and staff for their hard work over this long half term. Thank you also to parents and governors for their involvement and support over this half term. In particular, well done to Year 11 who have taken practice exams so seriously and clearly put efforts into their revision. There is still much improvement work to be done in the school, which will continue, with more changes, into the second half of the Spring Term.

STAFF INSET DAY – Monday 28 February

We have moved the INSET day from 8 April to the start of next half term, to focus staff on a key school improvement priority which we are summarising as 'Establish and promote a common, positive understanding of what it means to be a member of the Test Valley School community'. In other words, staff will be focusing on how we further improve the culture and ethos of the school. Part of these efforts is a switch to using the online package ClassCharts after half term to bring the school's behaviour systems together, to keep parents and pupils more informed and to reinforce more easily the values of the school. More details of ClassCharts, including pupil and parent logins will follow after half term.

RETURN TO SCHOOL – Tuesday 1 March 2022

Pupils will return to school on Tuesday 1 March. After registering with their tutors, pupils and staff will gather for a whole school assembly. Whole school assemblies will now be held weekly each Monday morning, to deliver key messages, to reinforce a positive culture and to bring the school together as one.

CHANGES TO TIMINGS WITHIN THE SCHOOL DAY

Having reviewed how the internal timings of the school day affect behaviour and learning over this half term, we have decided to trial a change over the next half term. We have discussed many different permutations, but the model we have settled on is below. The length of lessons, tutor time and breaks all remain the same, but they have been rearranged. The main adjustment is putting all tutor time together in the morning. This is to promote a positive start to the day, to enable tutors to deliver PSHE more effectively and to allow the staging of whole school and KS3 assemblies at the start of the day. We will be reviewing the impact of this model over the half term. To be clear, due to the need to give a year's notice and the

rural location of the school, we cannot and do not wish to change the start and end times to the school day. These times will remain as 8.50am and 3.20pm respectively.

UNIFORM ADJUSTMENTS

We are also making some adjustments to the school uniform as the weather gets warmer.

To clarify:

- Year 7-10: Jumpers will no longer be compulsory, if wearing a blazer
- Year 7-10: Blazers, ties and shirts will continue to be required
- Year 11: Jumpers rather than blazers are compulsory
- All Years: Shirts should be tucked in
- All Years: Coats and other outdoor clothing should not now be worn in class
- All Years: Coats should not be worn in place of blazers/jumpers
- All Years: No jewellery except one pair of stud earrings, one in the lower lobe of each ear

Please see the school website for full details of the uniform policy

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING ASSISTANT HEAD TEACHERS

To support in the improvement actions being undertaken within the school, we have made two temporary appointments to Acting Assistant Headteacher. Congratulations to Mrs Osborne and Mrs Collins who will officially take up these posts after half term.

AU REVOIR AND AUF WIEDERSEHEN TO MRS LYNN

Mrs Lynn starts her maternity leave today, perhaps not in the way that she had anticipated. Although we want her to enjoy the time away, having been a stalwart of Test Valley for twenty years, the place will not be the same without her. I am sure parents and pupils will join us in saying, we will miss you and cannot wait to welcome you back. Good luck from all of us!

FORTHCOMING DATES

Monday 28 February – INSET Day

Tuesday 1 March – Welcome pupils back to school

Thursday 3 March – World Book Day

Thursday 3 March – Year 7 Parent Evening – see letter to parents of Year 7 pupils

Friday 4 March – Deadline for prefect applications

Tuesday 15 March – PTA AGM – see below for further details

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

Sarah Botwright
School Business Manager

botwrights@testvalley.hants.sch.uk

New Timings for School Day

From Tuesday 1 March the school day will run as follows:

0850	0925	Registration: Whole School Assembly/Assemblies/PSHE
0925	1025	Period 1
1025	1045	Break
1045	1145	Period 2
1145	1245	Period 3
1245	1320	Lunch
1320	1420	Period 4
1420	1520	Period 5

Lateral Flow Testing

We would be very grateful if parents/carers could ensure that pupils continue with regular lateral flow testing 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](https://www.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.

We would particularly urge for tests to be done on **Sunday 27 February or Monday 28 February** prior to returning to school on 1 March. Thank you for your continued support.

Parent Governor Appointments

We are delighted to advise you that two new Parent Governors have joined the Governing Board namely, Monica Freeman and Pippa Howe-Velazquez.

Teenage Boosters/HPV Vaccine

The School Immunisation Team will be attending school to administer the Teenage Booster and HPV vaccines on the following dates:

Friday 8 April – Teenage Booster – Year 9

Tuesday 14 June – HPV – Year 8 & 9

Further information will be sent out in due course.

Social Media

It has come to our attention that there is inappropriate content on Snapchat and groups within other social media platforms. Please can you check your child's devices.

Outdoor Performance Area Competition

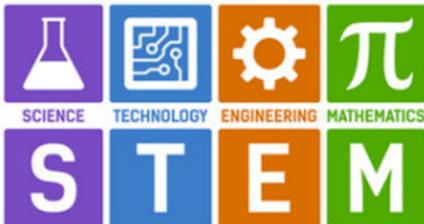
We are asking pupils to submit designs for the new outdoor space **by midday on 1st March**. This week we have run through the design brief on the attached power point presentation. We are looking forward to going through the entries and choosing the winning entry / entries at our next working party meeting on the 2nd March at 11.30am.

<https://www.testvalley.hants.sch.uk/content/uploads/2022/02/Pupil-Outdoor-Area-Design-competition.pdf>

We are still looking for parent representatives to join the working party, our next meeting will be on 2nd March at 11.30am. If you are interested, please do contact Mrs Botwright on botwrights@testvalley.hants.sch.uk

We are also looking for anyone with landscape design experience or who knows a company that we could use to help with the initial designs. After the design has come together, we will be looking for companies to help us build the vision, whether by financial, material or time donations. Thank you for your support.

STEM Club



We are relaunching STEM Club on Mondays after school. It will start after half term on Monday 7th March, and will be a mixture of science experiments, Maths Problems, maybe some computing tasks as well.

Room 15

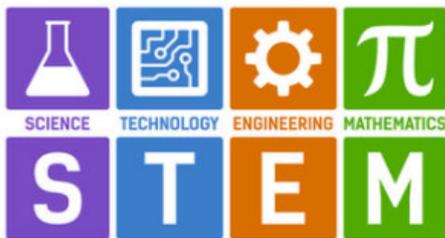
Mondays

3.20pm—4pm

Starts 7th March



STEM Pupil of the Week



STEM Pupil of the week

Tom H Year 11

STEM Subject

Computer Science

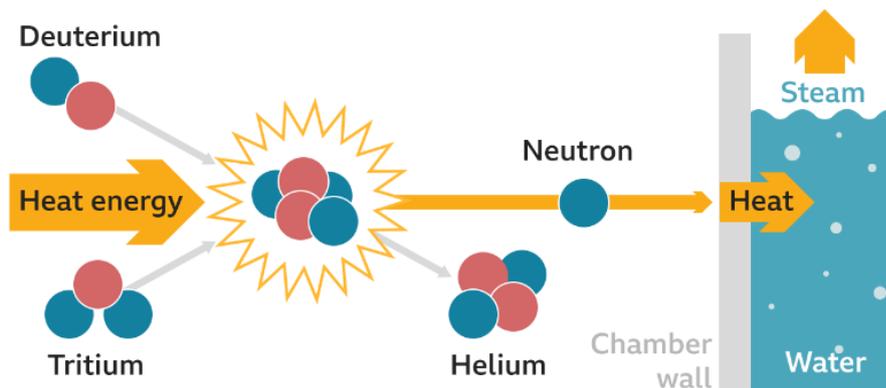
Date

14/02/22

Major breakthrough on nuclear fusion energy

How nuclear fusion works

1	2	3	4
Hydrogen atoms are heated	Fusion reaction	Helium, neutron and energy released	Neutron energy heats water



What do YOU think?

MFL

Well done to those who had a go at the Duolingo challenge set last week. We had lots of you give it a try which is great to see! Please come and see Mrs Knight after half term to get your prize for taking part.

Mrs Lynn would also like to thank everyone for their well wishes and she will keep us updated on her news!

MFL – Mock Exams

Change of dates for MFL Mock Speaking exams

The Y11 French and German Speaking Mock exams are now taking place in the second week after half term. Pupils know their timings, but they can also be found on the mocks preparation Power-point on Teams. French speaking exams are taking place on Tuesday 8th March in Room 62 and the German speaking exams will now be taking place on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th March in Room 63. Pupils have been preparing for these over the last few weeks and again, all details can be found on the mocks preparation Power-point on Teams. Please contact Mrs Knight or Mrs Dover if you have any questions.

Year 9 Futures Day

On Wednesday 16 February, Year 9 pupils started the process to choose their KS4 option subjects. They were guided through the choices they must make and the subjects that are available to them.

The links below will take you to the guidance being issued to the pupils today, together with the final options form. Further guidance on the content of the subjects that make up our curriculum is available on our website at [Test Valley School — Curriculum](#)

<https://www.testvalley.hants.sch.uk/content/uploads/2022/02/KS4-CURRICULUM-INFORMATION-2022.pdf>

<https://www.testvalley.hants.sch.uk/content/uploads/2022/02/KS4-Options-Form-2022.pdf>

In addition to this week's Futures Day event, you and your child are also invited to attend the Parents' Information Evening on 10 March together with the Parents' Consultation Evening on 24 March. This should provide plenty of opportunity to discuss possible choices with teachers. Further details about these events will be issued in due course.

Completed options forms should be emailed to options@testvalley.hants.sch.uk by 31 March 2022.

Please do not submit these forms until after the Parents' Consultation Evening on 24 March. There is no advantage to be gained from an early submission, it is better to encourage your child to take their time and consider their options carefully.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions about the process. May we take this opportunity to thank you in advance for supporting your child to make the most appropriate choices.

Science Update – Yrs 9 & 10

Following the Year 9 Futures day, and as our Year 10s progress further towards their GCSEs, we will be adapting our Science timetable to best support all of our pupils. In particular, we will be changing the way we deliver Science in Key Stage 4.

From Tuesday 1st March classes in Years 9 and 10 will have specialist teachers in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This will mean that all pupils can be challenged and supported to achieve as highly as possible.

If you have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact Mr Scott scotts@testvalley.hants.sch.uk.

Key Stage 3

Congratulations to the pupils below who have earned the most stamps in their tutor groups this half term:

<u>7CE</u>	<u>7GR</u>	<u>7PH</u>	<u>8GR</u>	<u>8CE</u>
Julita	Amelie T	Flora	Cain	Megan
Evie	Laicee	Leon	Lisia	Sofia
Lucy	Henry	Sienna	Harvey	Eleanor
Ted	Nicole	Mia	Bethany	Ailsa
Bethany	Amelie H	Olivia	Ethan	Tom
Finley	Jaime	Harry	Sohni	William
Teddy	Isabella	Violet		

<u>8PH</u>	<u>9CE</u>	<u>9GR</u>	<u>9PH</u>	<u>9PX</u>
Elliot	Riley	Liam	Sarah	Asher
Alfie	Holly	Iona	Klarissa	Ivalina
Dylan	George	Josephine	Jack	Daisy
Evie	Mollie	Mason	Courtney	Lola
Barnaby	Gabriella	Asha	Hayden	Ruby
Luca	Tyler	Kimberley	Tristan	Harry
			Jessica	

Key Stage 4

Year 10

A big thank you to all those Year 10 pupils who have helped with the Year 9 Futures Day in school. It was fantastic to see the level of engagement and I am sure Year 9s will be very grateful for your advice and input.

Also thank you to those Year 10 prefects who have helped with school tours. You do the school proud.

Prefect application forms have been sent to all Year 10s via email. Please ensure the completed form is handed in by **Friday 4th March**.

Year 11

Congratulations to Year 11 pupils on completion of their second set of mocks. Just over two months until the GCSEs commence means no time to let the grass grow under our feet. Mr Langdown recommends two hours per night preparation and practice.

Library

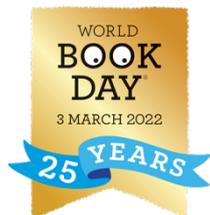
Global Young Journalist Awards

The Day have launched the Global Young Journalist Awards, which will give pupils the opportunity to have their stories published on their website.

If your child is interested in entering, please ask them to contact Mrs Lowin.

The Day is an online news service, which you can access through Teams / All Pupils / Links / School Resources.

It is a great way for pupils to keep up to date with what is happening in the world around them, with articles across all curriculum subjects and lots of interactive features!



World Book Day 2022

Thursday 3rd March 2022 is World Book Day, a day all about a love of books and reading! There will be activities in the library, including a quiz with the opportunity to earn stamps, and a book swap. Your child will have received a £1 book token, which they can use to get one of the World Book Day books for free or use towards the purchase of a book of their choice.

You can use this website to search for your closet bookshop and see their closest bookshop, to exchange their £1 book token: [Booksellers Association - WBD](#)

Test Valley Community Safety Week

We have received some information on the Drugs Bus offering workshops and activities about a range of issues and the support available in our area. Please click the link for more information.

<https://www.testvalley.hants.sch.uk/content/uploads/2022/02/Choose-Your-Own-Path-Flyer-A5P-v2.pdf>

Supporting your child with Autism Workshop

Below is a link to some information we have been sent regarding a virtual parent workshop: Supporting your child with Autism at home.

<https://www.testvalley.hants.sch.uk/content/uploads/2022/02/8th-March-ASD-introductory-virtual-training-training-flyer-parents-1.pdf>



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 for all enquiries.