

Parent Bulletin

Friday 13 May 2022

Week commencing Monday 16 May 2022

Ethos, Values and Vision

Ethos – (characteristic spirit of a community):

"In Pursuit of Personal Excellence"

Values (formerly PRIDE)

- Readiness to learn
- Respect for self and others
- Individual responsibility
- Determination and Ambition
- Enjoyment through belonging

Vision – To develop Test Valley as a small, rural, high achieving school

Dear Parents/Carers

This week has, once again, been challenging due to illness causing staff absence. We are acutely aware that the best place for children to learn is in school and we never take the decision to close for a year group lightly. There really is no option left to us due to the lack of supply teachers in the local area. Governors are continuing to work with other organisations to form links that should secure the long-term future of the school. This should include the ability to share staff between schools to prevent this kind of situation arising in the future. We hope to be able to share details of these links in the near future.

I have had a lot of contact with various parents this week and have discussed a variety of topics including Class Charts totals, the support that we are providing for individual children, friendship concerns, thoughts about our online Parents' Consultation Evenings and advice about school applications for younger siblings. It is always lovely to speak to you and get to know you better. Next week, I will be speaking to a number of parents of pupils who will be joining us in September, and I am looking forward to welcoming them to the Test Valley School Community.

Year 11 pupils have undertaken speaking assessments this week. They have done a fantastic job and should be proud of their achievements – we are certainly proud of them. We wish all pupils in Year 11 the best of luck for the forthcoming exams which start next Monday. Year 11 have again led the way with positive behaviour for learning, achieving 99% positive this week. Overall positive behaviour on Class Charts was 95% and a number of pupils showed a fantastic improvement.

We have started the selection process for our Senior Prefect Team for next year, made up of current Year 10 pupils. We wish them luck in the final stages of the process and we will announce the outcome soon.

Finally, we hope you all have a restful and enjoyable weekend and you enjoy watching the FA Cup Final, Eurovision or whatever else you enjoy doing.

Andrew Page

Headteacher

Forthcoming Dates:

Monday 16 May – GCSE Exams Commence

Tuesday 17 & Thursday 19 May – Head Prefect Interviews

Monday 30 May-Friday 3 June – Half Term Break, School Closed

Monday 6 June – Welcome all pupils back to school

#WeAreTestValley

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!

Andrew Page
Headteacher

pagea@testvalley.hants.sch.uk

Sarah Botwright
School Business Manager

botwrights@testvalley.hants.sch.uk

Nicky Osborne
Assistant Headteacher

osbornen@testvalley.hants.sch.uk

Anna Collins
Assistant Headteacher

collinsa@testvalley.hants.sch.uk

Steve Langdown
Head of KS4 and Senior Leader

st_langdowns@testvalley.hants.sch.uk

Ali Wheeler
SENDCO and Senior Leader

wheelera@testvalley.hants.sch.uk

Vacancies

Would you like to join our staff team or do you know anyone that would be interested in working at Test Valley? We currently have vacancies for a SIMs and Data Manager – 37 hours term time only and also for Learning Support Assistants – 25 hours term time only. Please check out our website for further information.

[Test Valley School — Job Vacancies](#)

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.

Medical Appointments

As outlined in our Attendance and Punctuality Policy we kindly request that appointments for non-urgent medical or dental appointments are avoided during the school day.

However, we appreciate that this is not always possible and would therefore ask that if your child is due to have a medical, dental, or orthodontic appointment please notify the School in **advance** using the absence email (absence@testvalley.hants.sch.uk). It would also be helpful if a copy of the appointment letter, card or text is included. Thank you for your support.

Toilets

We are currently trialling a system of keeping the toilets locked at break and lunch time. Staff are on duty and will allow access to the toilets as required. Unfortunately, this has become necessary to avoid too many

pupils congregating in the toilets at one time, which can put younger pupils off using them when they really need to.

As we signalled before, pupils are being discouraged from visiting the toilet during lesson time as this is so disruptive to learning. Pupils with a toilet card will of course be allowed to visit the toilet. Also, at certain times we understand that pupils may need to leave a lesson to visit the toilet and will be allowed to do so.

We have asked a group of pupils to work on an alternative solution to managing this issue to ensuring that all toilet use is appropriate

Water

The throwing of water in any way is not allowed in school, on the field, or on the premises anywhere. There will be sanctions for any pupil found to be doing so.

Oasis Space

Oasis will be closed for the duration of the year 11 exams (Monday 16th May – Thursday 23rd June) as the area and staff are used to support pupils sitting their GCSEs. Pupils that frequently use this space have been asked to nominate two alternative safe spaces. If your child is a user of Oasis, please do check with them that they know where they will go, if they need to, during this extended period. Many thanks.

Mr Page's Assembly

This week Mr Page based his assembly on the poem "If-" by Rudyard Kipling:

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

KS4

Shoutouts to our top 5  points last week

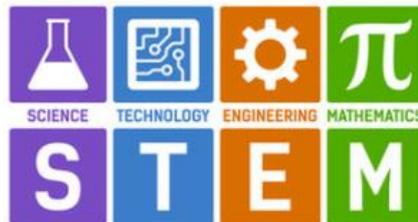
Year 10

Abigail V D
Toby H
Charlotte F
Alice S
Kyan F

Year 11

Thomas H
Toby L
Madeleine J
Tom M
Freddie P

STEM



Stem in the News



Climate Change: “Fifty-fifty chance” of breaching 1.5C warming limit

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-61383391>

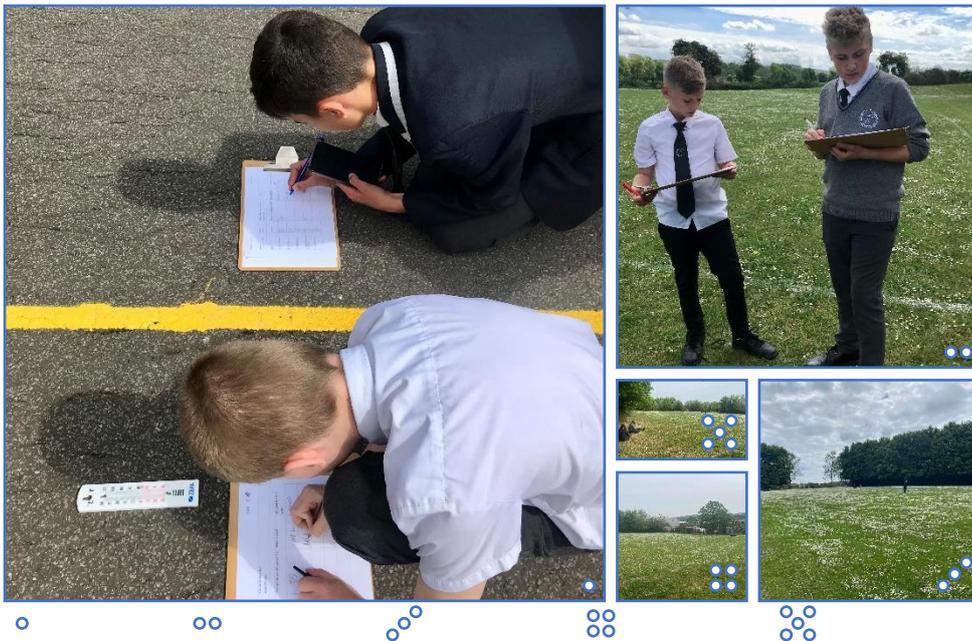
What do YOU think?

STEM pupil of the week: Oliver L-C, Year 8

STEM Subject: Maths

Date: 10 May 2022

Land Based Studies



Pupils doing their quadrant assessment for part of their land based course.

MFL

Well done to the year 11 French and German pupils who did their GCSE speaking exams this week. We were very impressed with how well you dealt with them - well done!

Library

Over the next weeks, the Library is being used for GCSE exams, so will not be open in the usual way. We are hoping that there will be opportunities for pupils to exchange their library books, and these times will be posted on a weekly basis.

Mental Health Awareness Week

It is Mental Health Awareness Week, and the theme this year is loneliness. In the Library we have created a well-being book area, and lots more advice can be found here:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week>

Moana



Last week, the island of Motunui came to Test Valley School, when our brilliant cast performed Disney's Moana Jr. The story sees Moana, the daughter of the village chief, set sail on a mission to discover her heritage and to save her island from the wrath of Te Ka, an angry demon of earth and fire. In order to succeed, she needs the help of Maui and his powerful hook, to restore the heart of Te Fiti.

The cast transported the audience to Moana's home of Motunui, across the sea, and even into the depths of the ocean to meet a rather 'Shiny' crab.

Our talented performers showed the determination to succeed after the difficulties that schools have faced this year, and managed to communicate power, grief, humour and love with equal dexterity.

Our thanks go out to the incredibly talented cast, all the staff that have helped to make the show possible, the PTA and to the year 11 pupils who gave up their time to assist with front of house duties.

Health & Wellbeing

This week is Mental Health Awareness Week, and the Topic this Year is Loneliness.

Below are some links to a podcast and website that has great information about loneliness, social media, perfectionism and other issues.

If any pupil relates to this, then please come and have a chat with Mrs Whitehead in drop-in

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/unlock-loneliness/whats-up-with-merge>

<https://www.whatsupwitheveryone.com>

[What's Up With Everyone? - Loneliness](#)

It is common to experience loneliness and isolation in our lives. It is certainly not just something that happens in a pandemic. Sometimes the feeling of being on our own and isolated from others can be intense; we all want to belong, and feel cherished and appreciated after all.

www.whatsupwitheveryone.com

<https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-wellbeing-tips/youth-mental-health/>



[Self-care tips videos for young people - Every Mind Matters - NHS](#)

If you're after more info or ideas about any of the issues dealt with in the videos above, there's plenty of great help out there. Young Minds has tips and real stories from other young people, as well as advice on coronavirus and mental health. The Mix has more advice about looking after yourself online when it comes to stress or worries from social media, as well as a whole section to help

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www.nhs.uk

Extra Curricular Activities

Please see below the updated extra curricular activities schedule for this term.

| Time | Venue | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 8.30 – 8.50 | Oasis | | Drop-In Session with Mrs Whitehead (All) | | Drop-In Session with Mrs Whitehead (All) | Drop-In Session with Mrs Whitehead (All) |
| Lunchtime | Rm 40 | | Keyboard Club (All) | Choir (All) - after half term | | |
| | Rm 21 | | | | | Geography Club (All) |
| | Library | Quiet Reading and Research (All) | Quiet Reading and Research (All) | Quiet Reading and Research (All) | Quiet Reading and Research (All) | Quiet Reading and Research (All) |
| | Oasis | Chill Out Club (By Invitation) | Chill Out Club (By Invitation) Drop-In Session with Mrs Whitehead (All) | Chill Out Club (By Invitation) | Chill Out Club (By Invitation) Drop-In Session with Mrs Whitehead (All) | Chill Out Club (By Invitation) Drop-In Session with Mrs Whitehead (All) |
| | Sports Hall | Girls Basketball (All) | Boys Basketball (All) | | Indoor Football (All) | Badminton |
| | Mr Page's Office | Take Hope for a walk | Take Hope for a walk | Take Hope for a walk | Take Hope for a walk | |
| | Various special activities taking place at lunchtime in the Modern Foreign Languages Block during the term | | | | | |
| After School | Rm 15 | Robot Olympiad Yrs 7-10 | Staff Meetings | | | |
| | Rm 41 | | | | Art Club (All) | |
| | Sports Hall | Table Tennis (All) | | Netball (All) | Badminton | |
| | Oasis | Homework and Revision Support (All) | | Homework and Revision Support (All) | Homework and Revision Support (All) | Homework and Revision Support (All) |
| | Rm 5 | Maths Club (All) | | | | |
| | 22/23 | | | Yr11 DT Workshop (3.30-5pm) | | |

Free On Line Courses for Parents – Hampshire County Council

Free Online Courses for Parents!

To book type in the link:

<https://shop.hants.gov.uk/collections/library-courses>

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|---|----------------------------|-------------|
| Positive Parenting | Mondays 13 June–11July | 18:30-20:00 |
| Building Resilient Teenagers | Tuesdays 14 June–12July | 18:00-19:30 |
| Let's Get Ready for School | Wednesdays 15 June–13July | 10:00-11:30 |
| Raising Resilient Children | Wednesdays 15 June–13 July | 18:30-20:00 |
| Starting Secondary School | Thursdays 16 June –14July | 18:00-19:30 |
| How Children Learn to Read and Write | Thursdays 16 June-21 July | 10.00-11.30 |