



Part of Star

# THE VALLEY NEWS

December, 2023

## KEY DATES:

Monday 8 January:  
School closed for students  
(Staff Training Day).

W.C. 29 January & W.C. 5  
February:  
Year 11 DC3

Thursday 25 January:  
Year 10 Parents Evening

Thursday 29th February:  
Year 11 Parents Evening

Friday 9th February:  
School closes for  
Half Term

## The Principal's Message

I hope that you and your family are well. As I take a moment to reflect on this term and plan the next two terms ahead, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for all your support throughout my first term here at The Valley. Thanks to all the support of parents, staff, and students we have achieved so much:

- An OFSTED report that clearly recognises we are moving in the right direction.
- Our winter Gift programme.
- External assemblies delivered by universities across the country.
- Sporting achievements.
- Mental Health Awareness work.
- The creation of five "mini schools"
- The creation of two extra dining facilities
- Rewards Trips.
- Our Christmas concert.
- Careers day, which saw a record number of external visitors.
- Super Saturday revision school for our year 11 students.



We are grateful for everything you do for us and with us. We are also proud of each of our students who continue to strive to learn from each mistake, be the very best version of themselves and achieve the amazing potential that each of them has.

If your child wishes to reinforce their learning- and prepare for studies next year all year groups can access Sparx Maths for 20 mins each day, and Reading Wise for 10 mins each day. Pupils already have the logins for these. If they have forgotten or misplaced them please get in touch and we will be able to reshare. None of the above is compulsory, however, your child will be much better placed for the new year if they engage with these.

Following the winter holiday, school will re-open on Tuesday 9th January 2024. All pupils will have an extended form period on the first day back. This will allow them to reset after the holiday and receive important information for the term ahead. This includes a new timetable to optimise learning time.

I apologise if we as a school have not always got things right or have caused you any confusion or frustration, but we will continue to strive to provide the best education and care and support for your child. Whatever our students have achieved so far it would never have been possible without your constant endeavour.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Mr S. Carey - Principal*



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# Rising Stars!

We have been very busy with Careers this half term at the Valley Leadership Academy. Our Careers ambassadors have had a busy term helping Mrs. Rooney our Careers Lead to organize all the events. A huge thank you to Becca Noon, Tyler Fletcher, Miley Rose Kay, Lacey Garrard and Chloe Hanson for their support.

Pupils in Key stage 4 have had assemblies from several local colleges, sixth forms and training providers to assist with their future choices post 16. Some pupils at both Key stage 3 and 4 have attended a presentation from Oxford University to encourage them to aim high and increase awareness of higher education. We are looking forward to visiting Oxford University next term.



Year 11 have had individual careers interviews, support with college applications and a preparation session for mock interviews.

Year 10 have had their final Barclays lifeskills session and have taken part in Rise with the Talent foundry supported by some of the UK's largest accountancy firms such as KPMG. This workshop helped them to identify and practice key employability skills ready for their work experience and future careers.

Year 9 have had their first session of Barclays lifeskills preparing them for the future and have also taken part in small group interviews with our Careers Advisor, beginning the support process for option choices later in Year 9.

Year 7 and Year 8 pupils have had an introduction to careers by both Mrs. Rooney and Charlotte our Careers Advisor, sharing a job awareness game provided by the careers and enterprise company.



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# The Valley Futures IV

The biggest event of the term was our full day careers event The Valley Futures IV. This is the fourth event at the academy and was supported this year by over 35 local and national employers, colleges, training providers, sixth forms and universities. A huge thank you to all those who supported this event in particular the large number of parents who attended to represent their business or employer.



Pupils also attended workshops linked to careers on topics such as employability skills, apprenticeships, coding, dragons' den, Cambridge University and many more. The highlight of the event was a presentation by the Film producer David Milnes of 2createfilm. David wowed pupils with his clips from films such as Star Wars and Mamma Mia and has launched a film challenge to encourage pupils to think about a career in media as one of the UK's fastest growing industries. We will be launching this competition in the New Year.

There are even more careers events planned for next term and we are looking forward to visits to Oxford University, UCLAN and Edge Hill as well as more careers assemblies and events such as Mock Interviews, Cyberfirst, Lifeskills, Teen Tech and 3D Printing with BAE systems.



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# Star Sports!

It's been another busy half term in the PE department in terms of events and competitions. Alongside our ongoing extra-curricular clubs which include football, dance, netball, trampolining, badminton and rugby; we have entered a wide range of competitions.



We have hosted Whitworth and BRGS in football fixtures across year groups, with a range of results achieved. Both our first and 'B' teams have competed in the Rossendale football league competitions; supporting our ethos of providing more opportunities for all our students. We have also competed in the Rossendale netball competition in Years 7, 8 and 9 against all Rossendale schools.

We competed in the Rossendale schools' sports hall athletics competitions for Years 7 and 8. Our students gave their all in these events and showed amazing determination. Once again to support our ethos of providing opportunities for all we have entered into some Year 6/7 transition events. These include a football festival and Sports Hall Athletics event. All of our students taking part in these events enjoyed them tremendously, developed their confidence and were really grateful for the opportunity to represent school.



In order to promote participation for all our students and develop their love of sport and physical activity, we competed in a PAN sports hall athletics competition and the inaugural 10 pin bowling competition. Our students were delighted with their experiences in these events and are keen to get involved in more as we progress through the year.



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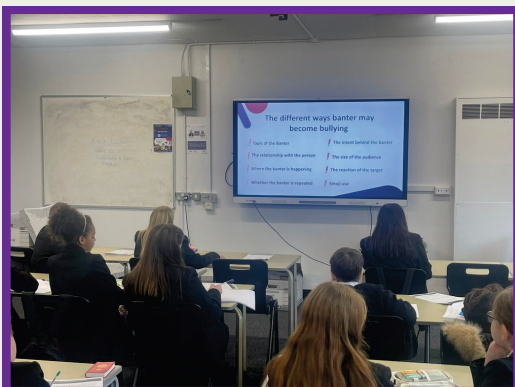
As well as competing in a range of events, we have had lots of students supporting Mr Bibby and the Rossendale Schools Sports Partnership in the delivery of his primary and secondary school events. They have acted as timekeepers and score keepers in sports hall athletics competitions and refereed in football competitions. They have been fantastic role models to the rest of our students and great representatives of our school.

As the year progresses, we look forward to more events across a wide range of activities. We hope to involve as many students as possible and provide opportunities for all to get involved and develop their love of sport and physical activity. We continue to run our extra-curricular activities and would like to increase the number of students involved in both rugby and girls football. For both of these activities we have specialist coaches coming in to help students develop so if you're interested in either of them please get involved, they are open to all! Finally, our preparations for the Rossendale dance festival continue with our specialist dance teacher. This huge event will be taking place at St George's Hall in February. We look forward to seeing what the dancers have created!

## Anti Bullying Week

Odd Socks Day marked the start of Anti-Bullying Week. Odd Socks Day 2023 took place on Monday 13th November. It is supported by cBeebies presenter & ABA patron Andy Day and his band 'Andy and the Odd Socks'.

All our students and staff took the opportunity to wear odd socks and raise money for the Anti Bullying Alliance. During the week students took part in assemblies where the 'Ant' appeared to raise awareness of anti bullying along with follow up PHSE lessons.



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# Sports Leaders

We are excited to share the incredible achievements of our dedicated sports leaders who have played a pivotal role in shaping the school sporting landscape of Rossendale this term. Working closely with Mr. Bibby, our School Games Organiser, these students have gone above and beyond to plan, lead, and officiate various primary, secondary, and special school events.

This term, over 80 of our pupils embraced the opportunity to lead an event, with 20 of them generously volunteering over 30 hours of their own time. Their commitment has been nothing short of inspiring, contributing to the success of more than 40 events that have focused on football, Sportshall athletics, ten-pin bowling, and cross country.



The impact of our sports leaders extends beyond numbers; they are an integral part of the events, ensuring the smooth running and success of each occasion. Without their dedicated assistance, hosting such events for over 3,000, young people this term, from Rossendale Schools would not be possible.

Engaging in sports leadership provides a unique platform for our students to develop a wide array of valuable skills, including:

1. Leadership: Taking charge and guiding their peers and younger pupils in various activities.
2. Communication: Effectively conveying instructions and coordinating with fellow leaders and participants.
3. Teamwork: Collaborating seamlessly with Mr. Bibby and other sports leaders to achieve common goals.
4. Time Management: Juggling responsibilities and dedicating significant hours to ensure the success of each event.
5. Problem-Solving: Addressing challenges on the spot and finding solutions to keep events running smoothly.



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# Freemen's School Dazzled By Devina



Devina Neill, Year 11, a dedicated and talented student here at The Valley Leadership Academy, has recently achieved a remarkable feat by receiving a fully funded scholarship offer to the prestigious Freemen's School in London. This opportunity will undoubtedly open doors for her future academic and professional endeavours, providing her with a world-class education and a platform to further excel in her chosen field.

Freemen's School, renowned for its high standards of education and commitment to excellence, offers a wide range of opportunities for students to flourish academically, socially, and personally. Devina's selection to attend on a fully funded scholarship is a testament to her outstanding potential and the recognition of her accomplishments. Something we hope to grow for other pupils at The Valley Leadership Academy in the future.

Devina's journey towards this remarkable achievement has been marked by her unwavering dedication and commitment to her studies. Throughout her time in Year 11, she has consistently demonstrated a strong work ethic and a thirst for knowledge. Her teachers have often commended her for her inquisitive nature, her ability to think critically, and her willingness to go the extra mile to excel in her studies. Her passion for learning, her drive for success, and her ability to adapt to new challenges will undoubtedly help her thrive in the challenging and stimulating environment that Freemen's School offers.

In addition to her academic prowess, Devina has also been actively involved in extracurricular activities that have further enriched her educational experience. She has been an integral part of the pupil leadership team as Head Girl, where her involvement in the wider school life has showcased her leadership skills and her ability to work collaboratively with her peers and senior staff. Her involvement in these activities has not only allowed her to develop a well-rounded personality but also to showcase her passion and dedication beyond the classroom.



The Headmaster at Freemen's School remarked on the 'incredible maturity' and 'drive' Devina has shown throughout the application process, and how her 'determination' to overcome barriers will serve well at Freemen's School. He has kindly shared some books with Devina to further spark her interest in her chosen subjects at A Level which include English Literature and History.



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Devina remarked: "My feet are firmly planted. I must achieve well this summer for this dream to be a reality. I am totally determined and focused on this. I will celebrate once my results are in. The people who have supported me won't let me mention them by name, but they know who they are. Me, and my family, are incredibly grateful to them."

The Principal, Mr Carey, emphasized: "Devina Neill's success story serves as an inspiration to her peers and younger students, highlighting the importance of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. Her achievements remind us that with determination and a strong work ethic, anything is possible."

## Shining Stars

At the end of term we celebrated all the hard work by our students in meeting our STAR expectations. During our Shining Stars Assemblies with all year groups we celebrated students in our four STAR Values as well as attendance and punctuality.

All our Shining Star Students were invited to our rewards trip at Ski Rossendale. Students across all year groups had great fun tubing on the ski slope.

Congratulations to all our students who achieved awards this term!



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# Remembrance Day



It was honour for our students to represent The Valley at the Bacup remembrance service in November. Students laid a wreath in memory of the soldiers who had died from the local area.

Many of our students are part of the local cadets and it was impressive to see the respect and dedication in both selling and buying poppies for armistice day.

Year 7 also received a special assembly from The Gideon's to celebrate remembrance day. As part of the assembly students received copies of the New Testament.



## Children in Need Valley Heroes

To celebrate Children in Need this Year students were set the task to earn the most reward points possible in a day.

Students were rewarded with a range of different Children in Need Merchandise including Onesies, T-Shirts and Teddy bears.



Congratulations to all the students and staff of the Year 7 team who received zero negative behaviour points on 8 November. All forms were rewarded with Valley Heroes!



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# Winter Gift Programme



As the winter nights draw in and the temperatures drop, pupils from The Valley Leadership Academy are spreading seasonal cheer throughout their community by supporting local people through its Winter Gift Programme.

At The Valley Leadership Academy, we pride ourselves on making a positive difference to society. We are committed to playing an active role in our community and helping others. This winter, we are stepping up our efforts to support the most vulnerable people in our community.

The Winter Gift Programme is an annual campaign which sees pupils and staff from every Star Academies school unite to participate in a broad range of charitable giving, acts of kindness and volunteering; all with one simple aim – to make sure no one faces the challenges of winter alone.

Throughout the campaign, we will be supporting those in our local community – young and old – who are unwell, elderly or living in care, and those experiencing homelessness, loneliness or food poverty. As well as benefiting vulnerable people, our pupils will also gain from their involvement by expanding their leadership qualities – by devising, organising and taking part in charitable endeavours – and experiencing first-hand the positive impact of helping those less fortunate.



Our pupils have been taking part in a wide range of activities to support numerous local charities and support organisations this winter season. To spread kindness and joy through the local community the school ran a Christmas Card Competition. The contest was won by Eleanor Hammond in Year 7 whose creative design featured a beautiful winter scene. The winning design features on the school's official Christmas card. Pupils have written messages of hope on hundreds of cards which have been sent to members of the local community. Local residents have also been given hot chocolate gift packs, which pupils have delivered to their homes.



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To support people in the local community experiencing food poverty, pupils from the school have participated in a 'Big Cook Off', providing 100s of prepared meals to The Raft Project. Pupils and their families have also generously donated food items to the school's reverse advent calendar. Donations have been taken to the Haslingden Community Link Centre. 50 Christmas dinners have been donated to the Shine On project in Rawtenstall.



Meanwhile, pupils pulled on their winter woollies on Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Rossendale Hospice..

Shane Carey, Principal at The Valley Leadership Academy, said: "Our Winter Gift Programmenot only supports the most vulnerable members of our community, but affords our pupils the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and to experience the personal satisfaction that comes from demonstrating kindness and helping those less fortunate. It gives me an enormous sense of pride to see our pupils, parents and colleagues embrace this invaluable campaign with such incredible compassion and generosity."



## Christmas Concert

In the last week of term we hosted our annual Christmas Concert. A number of students across all year groups participated in the event.

Our students showed their amazing talents as part of the school choir, solo pieces, playing guitar as well as the school rock band.

The evening was enjoyed by students , parents and staff.



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# Uniform

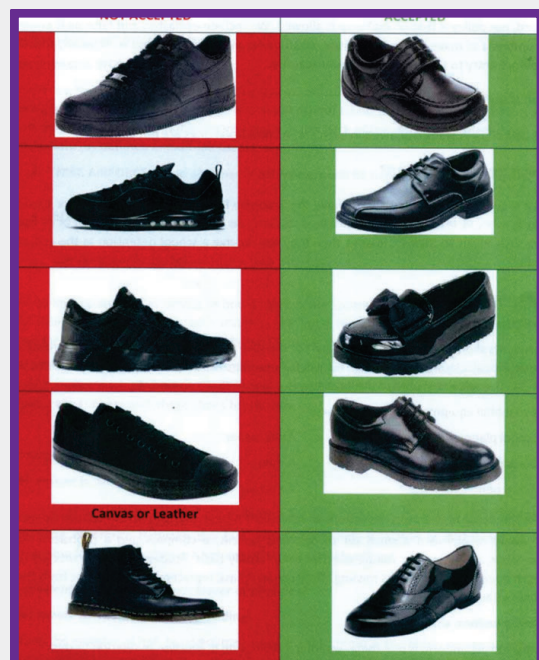
Thank you to all our parents and carers for continuing to support our students to make positive choices with their uniform. It is important that we wear our Valley uniform with pride. As a school we have very high expectations in everything we do, and our uniform is no exception.

A polite reminder of uniform expectations:

- Blazers must be worn, jumpers are optional
- Shirts and ties must be fastened to the top
- No trainer socks to be worn. Ankle socks, knee length socks or tights are appropriate
- Skirt lengths must be appropriate for school or pupils may wear school trousers
- No false eyelashes or false nails
- One pair of earring studs only, no facial piercings
- Black shoes and not trainers or trainer style shoes
- Leggings are not accepted in school
- Hair colour must be a natural tone



The guide below may be helpful when choosing appropriate footwear for your child to wear in school.



Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you are finding it difficult to source or fund any of the uniform items. School has a large bank of new uniform supplies and we will be more than happy to help.



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