

THE VALLEY NEWS

February, 2024

KEY DATES:

Monday 19th February:
School reopens for students

Tuesday 20th February:
Year 10 & 11
Report Cards.

Thursday 29th February:
Year 11
Parents Evening

Monday 18th March
Year 7, 8 & 9
DC2.

Thursday 21st March:
Year 9
Parents & Options Evening

Friday 22nd March:
Year 10 & 11
DC4

Thursday 28th March:
Year 10 & 11
Report Cards.

Thursday 28th March:
School closes for
Easter.

The Principal's Message

As we start a new half-term, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for the support you have offered the school in my short time here. I have always believed that the success of a school depends on the quality of relationships between the three core groups: students, families, and staff. Such cooperation will ensure that our students enjoy their school days and reach their full potential.



It is with this in mind that from this half-term The Valley Leadership Academy will be creating a Parent Council. Setting this up will take time and effort and will require an ongoing commitment from the school and parents who wish to be involved. We believe it is important to encourage the engagement of a wide group of parents and carers in the work of the Council and of the school, and we would like to include a number of parents/carers to represent each year group. More information on this will follow soon.

We believe the role and benefits of the Parent Council are as follows:

- playing an invaluable role in fostering strong links between schools, home and the local community
- can provide vital advice and support to inform the life and work of their school
- give parents/carers a voice and provide them with a platform to share their ideas and suggestions
- provide parents/carers with an opportunity to make a positive contribution to, and play an active role in the school's wider work and, where appropriate, its decision-making



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- enable school to develop an enhanced understanding of the views and needs of parents and how they might address them
- help school to demonstrate how they listen to, and act on, parents/carers views

If we are to continue to improve our school, we must work together, talking, sharing ideas and evaluating the day to day running of the school. Please look out for more information on this.

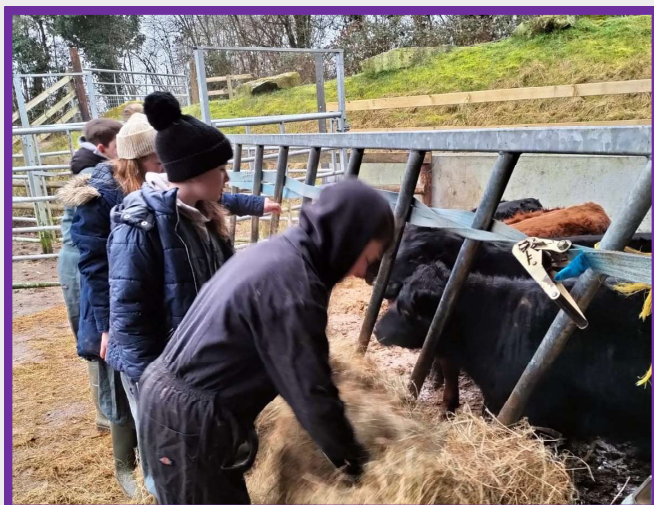
At present we continue to focus on our Year 11 students, ensuring that they are revising and making the most of the interventions that are being put in place for them. If you are a parent/carer of a Year 11 student, then please continue to support them. The exam season can become a very stressful period, so if you need support or guidance, then please do not hesitate to contact the school.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish everybody a relaxing half term.

Mr S Carey - Principal

Jamie's Farm

Jamie's Farm is one of five dotted around England in various places. We went to Monmouth, just on the border of England and Wales situated in the stunning Wye Valley. Jamie's Farm believe in the innate potential and good in every young person no matter their background or life experience. To realise this they aim to transform lives through their unique residential programme built around core elements of Farm, Family, Therapy and Legacy. What better way to spend a week in January with twelve of our KS3 pupils.



We arrived at a dry but windy Jamie's Farm on Monday and were greeted by the team with fresh fruit, chocolate chip cookies and a drink. The pupils went to meet all the farm animals, donning wellies, coats, and overalls. They met horses, cows, a pig and her piglets, chickens, and dogs. When they were back from the animals, we all went for a walk up to The Kymin, an 18th century round house where we could see Monmouth the town and the surrounding area. Back home, time for showers and tea, then games and off to bed.



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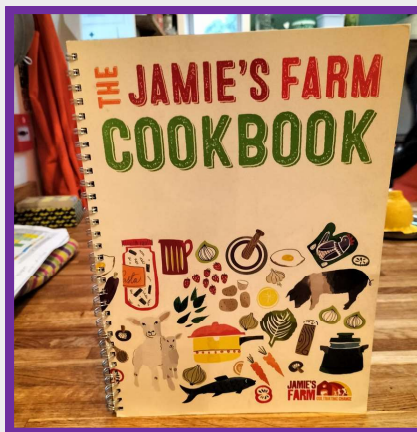
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All our pupils had the opportunity to cook for everyone and it does seem we have a few budding chefs on our hands. Wednesday afternoon was spent hiking up a local mountain called Skirrid Fawr, another remarkable achievement attained through patience, caring and teamwork. Our hard work was awarded by the amazing 360-degree views of the area when we reached the top.

For the staff, the most important and memorable part of the day was the twice daily “check-ins”, after breakfast and tea. Sitting round the table, we all spoke about where we were on a scale of 1-10 (10 being the best we could be) and what had happened to get us to that point. We then had to give a shout out to someone in our group that had done something positive, such as overcome a fear or helped another member of the team. Over the week, we heard some lovely comments from our pupils about our pupils and saw how they learnt to recognise the positives in everyone. A valuable lesson to learn.



We had a wonderful week at Jamie's Farm, full of firsts and highs (and thankfully not too many lows). Every child discovered something new about themselves, every child realised they could do so much more than they thought they could, and every child made a new friend (farmyard or otherwise). A week we will all remember and cherish, and I hope has made an impact on our pupils that will last a lifetime.



Fuel the Family!

The 'Fuel the Family' cookery course is in full swing, having already completed the breakfast and lunch sessions. Local GP Emma Gladwinfield is delivering sessions sharing healthy and affordable family meal ideas. This half term we will be looking at evening meals and snacks.



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Shining Departments...History!

Since October 2023, the history department at TVLA has been leading the changes that are taking place in terms of the way the school educates its young people on the Holocaust. These changes are informed by a flagship initiative led by the UCL Centre for Holocaust Education, known as the Beacon Schools Programme. Over the course of the programme which lasts until December 2024, TVLA's staff, students and curriculum will benefit from sustained research-informed professional development in Holocaust education, delivered by world leading Holocaust education experts. Through its journey as a Beacon School, the whole of TVLA will become a cross-departmental dynamic hub for teaching and learning about the Holocaust for many years to come.

<p>What is <u>Justin Champion</u> saying about <u>Magna Carta</u>? westernism, holocaust</p>	<p>Do you agree with this point? What evidence proves/disproves from my own knowledge proves this point? Use your books</p>
<p>1) Hitler and the nazis wanted to destroy communism from the very beginning of their rule.</p>	<p>1)</p>
<p>2) Hitler and nazis attempted to destroy german Jews from the very beginning. The nazis government was responsible for deaths of people between 1933-45. People were killed across Europe in Eastern Europe, the Balkans and the USSR.</p>	<p>2) I agree with this point because they started to stop their chances of having good lives and destroy their businesses like in 1933 when a sign was put up telling people not to buy from Jews this would stop their chances of getting even the slightest money, destroying their lives.</p>
	<p>3)</p>



Work has already begun on developing the way TVLA students learn about the Holocaust. Indeed, during this first Spring half term, year 9 students have been studying the brand-new Holocaust scheme of learning for history which has been informed by the expert insight from professionals at UCL. Over the course of this Spring half term, students have explored roots of anti-Semitism in Medieval Europe, through to the experiences of German Jews persecuted in Nazi Germany from 1933-39 and the eventual mass murder and genocide of European Jews from 1941-45. At the end of the topic, students will draw on what they have learnt to answer the question of “how and why was the Holocaust able to happen?”.

Yael Yair - A Ghetto study

Yael Pinchev was born in 1935 into a poor Jewish family in the city of Kibbutz, in modern-day Lebanon. After marrying a non-Jewish man, Yael and her husband and her two children, Yael moved with her family's Puzoski relatives to the city of Dina. When she broke out between Israel and Jordan, Yael and her family were left to join the Soviet Army. Dina stayed in Kibbutz with her young children, her parents and her sister. On 7 September 1942, the Germans arrived in the city. Nine days later, Dina saw posters ordering all Jews to report to the road. They were to bring their documents, possessions and war clothes. Anyone who failed to report would be shot. People thought they were being moved somewhere else.

On 13 September, Dina escaped her children with her mother-in-law. She hid in the forest with her parents and her sister. The next day, she went to the assembly place to be taken there off. Once there, she was caught up in the crowd of thousands of people who were waiting behind a ravine on the outskirts of the city, known as Bab Yair.

Ahead of the main group with two children, the Yair women walked along, while the first line did so alone. When the soldiers walked and

people were crying, bags, coats, on which hats and suitcases were placed up. Small children were crying.

Dina was born in Ukraine.

She worked in Kiev's puppet theatre for children.

They were ordered to report with all their documents, possessions and warm clothes.

Jews were taken to Bab Yair.

Once they arrived, they were marched to the edge of a mass grave and shot.

Dina pretended to be shot and threw herself in the pit, crawled out and escaped.

She was one of the very few out of a huge wave to survive.

When she arrived at the city, Dina tried to use the Russian surname from her passport to claim that she was not Jewish. Although she was believed it first, Dina was later marched to the edge of the mass grave.

As the shooting began, Dina threw herself into the pit and pretended to be dead. Then, while the Germans charged for survivors, she crawled out of the grave and escaped. Dina was one of the very few who managed to survive.

I saw a young woman, completely naked, running her naked baby when a policeman came running up to her, took the baby from her breast, and threw it into the pit. The policeman then turned after her baby. The policeman shot her and she then threw her baby into the pit.

Dina Pinchev

Across two days, members of Einsatzgruppe C murdered 33,771 Jewish men, women and children at Bab Yair. It was one of the largest single acts of murder during the Holocaust.

- 1) What was Dina from?
- 2) What did she do for work?
- 3) What were Jews in Kiev first asked to do when the Germans arrived?
- 4) Where were Jews being taken?
- 5) What happened when the Jews arrived at the destination?
- 6) What parts of Dina's story and the massacre at Bab Yair case study stand out to you the most?

Pink ticket

People were lined up against a pit for their graves and shot at.

The Einsatzgruppen have committed the murders.

[illegible]

Friday 19th
January 2021

Kristin Kriecher
Persecution Jewish experience in Nazi Germany

Do Now Activity

- 1 False, the holocaust started in 1941 ✓
- 2 Nazis made German laws difficult by giving them rules on how to live ✓ Laws
- 3 6 million Jews were killed during the Holocaust ✓
- 4 Hitler was the leader of the Nazis ✓

Source A

was used to
was written
was seen

- ① The source tells us that the Nazis wanted to make Jews feel unwelcome.
- ② Jews would feel upset and unwelcome

Source B

was used to
was written
was seen

- ① The source tells us that the Nazis wanted to threaten and harass Jews. Also make them feel they don't have a say, make them humiliated, ~~be~~ belittled.

Source C

was used to
was written
was seen

- ① The source tells us that the Nazis wanted to the Jews lose jobs or business and exclude them from the German daily life.
- ② Jews could feel targeted and upset that they are being excluded from their work.

Source D

was used to
was written
was seen

- ① The source tells us that a boy's going about getting Jews out of the city would mean he is punished if children
- ② Young Jews and Parents might feel confused or disappointed.

Source E

was used to
was written
was seen

- ① The source tells us that the Nazis wanted to embarrass Jews and Spanish. So encourage about them as those German people would look down

The impact of this expert-informed scheme of learning has already had a profound impact on year 9 students who have been engaged, interested, and humbled by what they have learned about so far. Additionally, students have risen well to the challenge of critically engaging with academic history and evaluating the opinions of Holocaust historians. This is demonstrated in just some of the pieces of work shown above.



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Sports Stars!

In PE last half term, there has once again been a number of opportunities for our students to develop their love of sport and physical activity.

We have hosted and competed in the Rossendale 7 aside football competitions for Years 7-11. These have been aimed at 'B' teams to support our drive in giving more students greater opportunities to engage with inter-school competitions. Each year group has represented the school exceptionally well with a notable performance by the Year 9 team who finished in second place overall.

We have also competed in the Rossendale Dodgeball tournaments for Year 7, 8 and 9; hosted by Whitworth Community High School. These competitions have also been targeted at students who may not have had many opportunities to represent the school before and they all thoroughly enjoyed their experiences.



Another activity we have started to deliver is Judo. This has been targeted at Year 7 boys, with 20 students taking part in the first few sessions. Our students have really benefitted from the specialist coaching of Tony Devine and Abdurabi Alawi Abdulla, the latter of which has competed in the Commonwealth Games!

In addition to the above, we have also started to deliver Yoga sessions. Cheryl Chapman from FUNtastic Yoga has been delivering these sessions to a number of our students and the feedback so far has been extremely positive.

Following the Christmas holidays, we launched a range of new and exciting extra-curricular activities within the PE department. These are being delivered by specialist external coaches on a weekly basis; some are open to all students and others are targeted to provide greater opportunities for more of our students to thrive in a non-competitive environment. We have been running kickboxing classes specifically for girls with some now taking a keen interest and looking to get involved outside of school. These have been delivered by Chris West and Alexis Kyme from West Freestyle Martial Arts.



Furthermore, just before half term we had Laura Elson from The Valley Hoopers coming into school to deliver some fun and exciting Hula Hooping sessions for our Year 7 nurture group. They were extremely engaged in the session and are looking forward to attending more after half term.



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Finally, our dance team continue to finalise their routine with Emma Matthews from Theatre Works, Bury in preparation for the Rossendale Dance Festival. This will be taking place at King George's Hall in Blackburn and our girls are looking forward to performing in front of a huge audience, hoping to build on last year's success when we finished runners up.

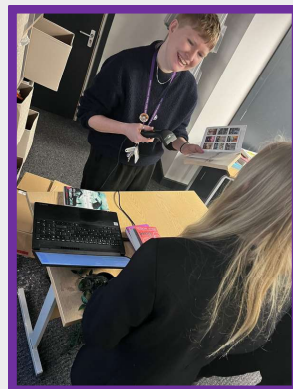
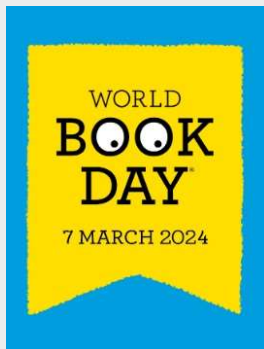
All of the above activities have been delivered in addition to our regular extra-curricular clubs; football, rugby, girls football, table tennis, badminton and trampolining. There are lots of activities for our students to get involved in so please encourage your child to come along!



Read Like a Star!

Developing a love for reading remains a key priority within the Academy. Our students have undertaken a number of exciting opportunities to develop their reading skills. Our library is open, and students enjoy accessing the library at break and lunchtimes. We have also introduced a quiet library morning for students that want to avoid the hustle and bustle of the library at lunch time. We have a variety of new books and magazines in the library that cover a wide range of interests for all students. We have been inundated with applications to become librarians and peer readers, it is great to see so many students volunteering to help run the library and help younger students with their reading. Some students have started the paired reading program. Our year 9 students have started to mentor our year 7 students and take them through guided reading sessions. It is proving to be a great success and we are looking forward to expanding the sessions further.

This half term we would love to encourage students to bring a book with them to school to read during lesson transitions. All students will also be set homework tasks on Reading Wise to complete a task each week, it will take 30 minutes and will help students develop their comprehension and vocabulary. We are also excited for World Book Day on Thursday 7th March 2024. Watch this space for some exciting events to celebrate our favourite books and authors!



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The Valley Sports Leaders!

We are delighted to share the incredible accomplishments of our dedicated sports leaders at The Valley Leadership Academy during an action-packed half term. Our pupils have not only showcased their athletic talents but have also excelled as leaders in hosting a variety of exciting events.

Dodgeball Extravaganza:

Our pupils took charge of a thrilling Year 5/6 dodgeball competition, starting with a qualifier and culminating in a spectacular final. From setting up the event to officiating and managing the scoring, our sports leaders demonstrated outstanding organisational and leadership skills.

Glow in the Dark Dodgeball Spectacle:

Adding a unique twist to the sporting experience, our pupils hosted both Year 6/7 transition and Year 3/4 glow in the dark dodgeball tournaments. Dressed in glow face paints and fluorescent bibs, our sports leaders not only ran the events seamlessly but also created an exciting and memorable atmosphere.

Basketball Qualifier Success:

The Year 5/6 basketball qualifier saw our sports leaders taking charge of the scoring, ensuring a fair and competitive environment for all participants.



Inclusive Multi-skills Event with Panathlon:

Collaborating with the charity Panathlon, our pupils organised a SEND KS1 multi-skills event, promoting inclusivity and fostering a supportive environment for all participants. This event showcased the compassionate and inclusive nature of our sports leaders.

Change4Life Health Initiative:

Our commitment to holistic well-being was evident in the Change4Life event, where pupils engaged in activities focused on health. From healthy cooking with local company 'Cook Stars' to fun active games and smoothie-making on a smoothie bike, our sports leaders inspired a positive approach to well-being.

Last half term, our sports leaders have left an indelible mark, impacting the lives of almost 1000 pupils through their passion and dedication. If your child is interested in joining the sports leaders program, please reach out to Mr. Bibby for more information.

Thank you to all the sports leaders for making the last half term a resounding success. We look forward to more exciting events and leadership opportunities in the future.



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ATTEND LIKE A STAR!



**Make sure your child
attends every day!**



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