THAMES VALLEY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2026

Liberty Academy Trust

Thames Valley School





OUR VISION

Our vision is to create a world that works for autistic children and young people, by providing an exceptional educational offer, so that they achieve success now and are well-prepared for adulthood.

COURAGE
DETERMINATION
TEAMWORK







A MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Mrs Buley



Happy Friday!

On Wednesday, Year 7 had a fantastic trip to Reading Museum, with some pupils navigating public transport to find their way there, and others having a ride in the minibus with Miss Archer. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed their day out and it was great to hear them discussing their trip on the return to school, sharing what they had seen and learned and eaten for lunch!

Miss Archer and Mrs Gomez also hosted a coffee afternoon for Year 10 parents where they discussed work experience and the process of applying and transitioning to Post 16 provision. Thank you to the families who attended this session and for those who have already begun supporting us in our search for work experience placements; we hope you found this session useful.

With our School Development Plan finalised for this academic year, I also wanted to share with you some of the key areas that we will be working to advance or improve upon in the coming months. We recognise the importance of continued growth to ensure that we are providing the best possible education and care for your children, and we appreciate your continued support and collaboration.

Thames Valley School

TVS School Development Plan 2026-2027

Liberty Academy Trust

Leading Through Accountability & Responsibility



Pupil Annual Reviews

Pupils fully understand the annual review and EHCP process, enabling them to share their views, contribute meaningfully to discussions and play an active role in planning for their future.



EDIB Approach

Our inclusive culture is embedded across the school, with staff, pupils and families feeling valued, respected and a strong sense of belonging within our school community.

Driving Excellence



Curriculum & Assessment

Meaningful and purposeful documentation and information is shared with families to ensure they can engage and contribute to their child's learning experiences.



Continued Professional Development

Staff continue to develop and refine their approaches in line with the latest research to meet individual pupil needs, remove barriers to learning and support progress and engagement.

Resilience & Wellbeing



Enrichment Strategy

Implementation of the LAT Enrichment Passport app, ensuring all pupils have access to enrichment experiences, actively engaging in and responding to enrichment activities.



Careers

There has been great process in this area and now we wish to ensure there are embedded processes to clearly track and evidence pupil progress towards the Careers curriculum and benchmarks

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Mrs Buley

Phoenix Class



Persuasive writing

Adjectives and Adverbs

Place Value



Comparing Numbers



Debating



Addition



Hockey



Teamwork

Phoenix Class



Solar System

Planets



Sun

Earth



Orbit

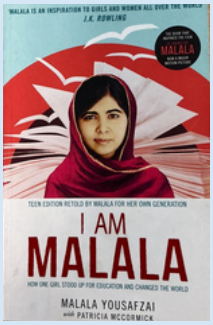
Model

Pegasus Class

What We're Learning

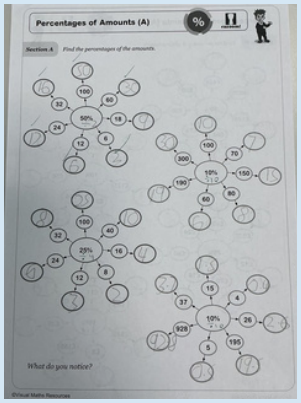
English

This term, Pegasus have been reading"I am Malala" an autobiography about Malala Yousafzai. We have been analysing different themes in the book.



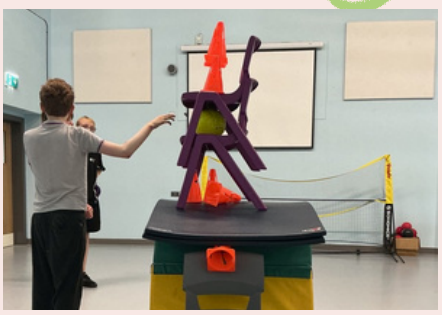
Maths

This week, Pegasus have been working on percentages. We have covered percentages of amounts and increasing/decreasing numbers by a percentage.



1 Problem Solving

in PE, Pegasus have been practicing problem solving skills. They were challenged to use equipment and work together to build a tower that would stand on its own.





2 Chocolate Piping

In Catering, some students worked on piping chocolates into different patterns and also their plate presentation skills.

Art

In art, we have been looking at lots of different ways to design portraits. This week, we have been looking at Josh Bryan.



Science

Our topic this term has been on cells. We have covered transport in cells and learnt about magnification calculations.



Upcoming

Preparing for adulthood trip

On Friday 16th, Year 9 will be taking a trip to Reading Town Centre on the bus, to practice road safety. We are very excited!

Black History Month at Hill Brow

Learning about Lewis Hamilton and Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock



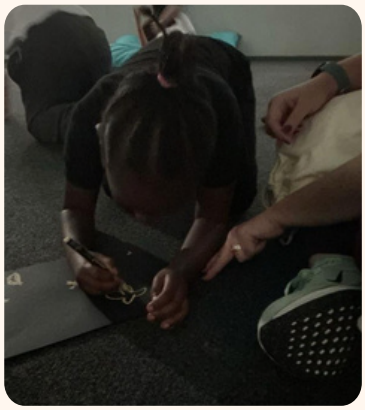




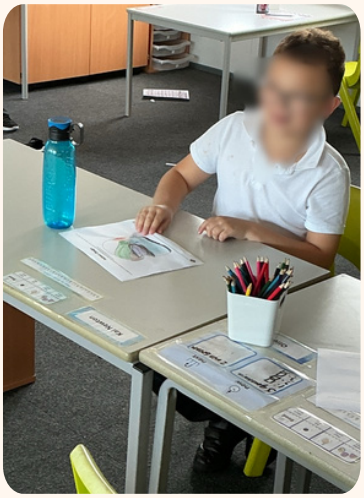




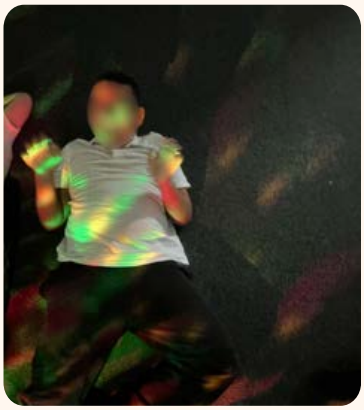












YEAR 7
READING MUSEUM TRIP

Learning about Reading Abbey Ruins and the Norman Conquest



TOUR OF READING ABBEY RUINS

Year 7 pupils got a braved the weather and went on a walking tour of the Reading Abbey Ruins where they found out more about King Henry I and the oldest recorded non-religious round: "Summer is Coming Now"

TUDOR READING

Next, the Year 7s found out all about King Henry VIII's impact on Reading Abbey during the Dissolution of the Monastaries and the English Reformation. They found out the Hugh Farringdon's martydom and got to try on example Tudor Noble clothing!





THE NORMAN CONQUEST

Last but not least, Year 7 pupils got to dress up and reenact those all important events of 1066, examine the replica of the Bayeux Tapestry and handle real artefacts from across Reading's history!

A World Record Reading Attempt: Our Pupils Join a National Literacy Celebration!

This week, pupils across our school proudly took part in the National Literacy Trust's Take 10 Record Attempt, a nationwide event aiming to set a new GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS title for the largest shared reading experience. It was an exciting opportunity for our pupils to become part of reading history while celebrating the joy and power of books.

Our primary pupils enjoyed a captivating reading of Super Uma by Rashmi Sirdeshpande, followed by a fun and creative draw-along session with illustrator Nakul P. Pupils were inspired by Uma's bravery and determination and loved bringing the story to life through their own illustrations.

Years 7 and 8 were treated to a lively session with Frank Cottrell-Boyce, who read from The Blockbusters! and explored themes of cinema, culture and storytelling. Pupils were fully engaged and enjoyed discovering how stories can entertain, inspire and connect people from different backgrounds.

Meanwhile, Years 9, 10 and 11 took part in an insightful and highly relatable session led by Nathanael Lessore, based on What Happens Online. Pupils reflected on important issues such as digital identity, confidence, family life and navigating the online world, sparking thoughtful discussion and debate.

The atmosphere across the school was fantastic, with pupils enthusiastically embracing the challenge of helping to break a world record through reading. We are incredibly proud of everyone who participated and look forward to hearing whether this inspiring national effort has secured a place in the Guinness World Records books! What a memorable way to celebrate the power of reading!

Have a wonderful weekend!

Miss Eirini Akrivopoulou
Head of English

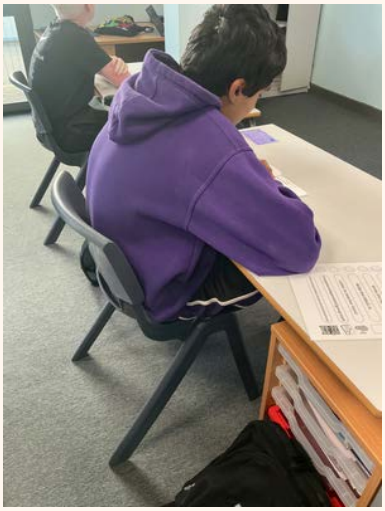



PYXIS

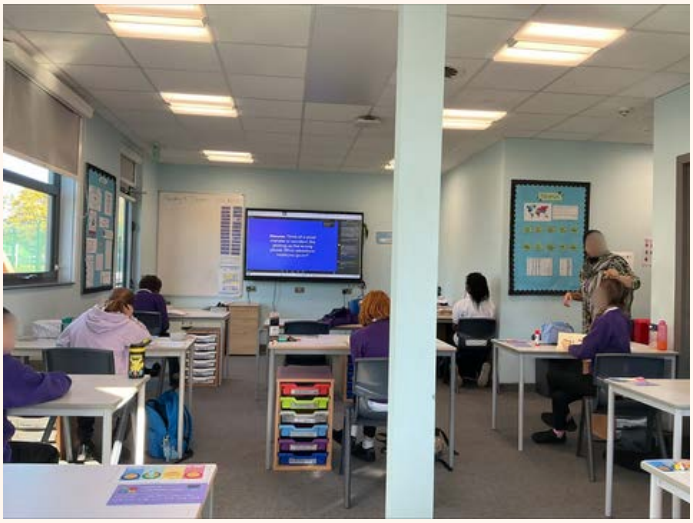












FirstNews
NEWS TO GET YOUNG PEOPLE TALKING

First News Round-Up: Nature, Wildlife and Artificial Intelligence

This week's First News sessions gave pupils across the school the opportunity to explore a variety of thought-provoking topics, from extraordinary animal behaviour to environmental conservation and the future of artificial intelligence.

KS2 pupils explored the article Fearless Females of the Animal World and learnt the Word of the Week, Queendom. They discovered fascinating examples of female animals that play leading roles in nature, including lionesses that do most of the hunting and female blue whales, the largest animals on Earth. Pupils discussed how female animals help their groups and ecosystems thrive and considered whether they receive enough recognition for their remarkable contributions. During the debate, many pupils agreed that female animals deserve greater appreciation for the roles they play in the natural world.

KS3 pupils read Let Us Save Nature and explored the Word of the Week, Indigenous. They learnt about indigenous leaders from 16 countries who met in Kenya to discuss protecting the environment and preserving traditional knowledge. Pupils explored how indigenous communities have cared for land and wildlife for generations and discussed the importance of balancing conservation with the rights of local people. Many felt that indigenous communities should play a leading role in environmental decision-making.

KS4 pupils examined AI-AI-OH! and learnt the Word of the Week, Commissioner. They discussed how world leaders from 193 countries met at the United Nations to debate the opportunities and risks of artificial intelligence. Pupils were particularly interested in how AI is already influencing everyday life and considered whether young people's views should play a greater role in decisions about emerging technology. During the debate, opinions were mixed on whether robots should compete alongside humans in talent competitions, with pupils weighing the excitement of innovation against the importance of human creativity.

Overall, pupils demonstrated excellent curiosity, critical thinking and respect for different viewpoints while exploring important issues that will shape the future of our world.

What a fantastic week of learning! From celebrating the remarkable achievements of female animals and exploring how indigenous knowledge can help protect our planet, to debating the future of artificial intelligence, our pupils demonstrated curiosity, confidence and a genuine passion for understanding the world around them.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Miss Eirini Akrivopoulou

Head of English

KS2





FirstNews

NEWS TO GET YOUNG PEOPLE TALKING

FirstNews

Phoenix 05/10/2026



"Female lions catch food for their babies"

Over to you:

Do female animals deserve more recognition for the jobs they do in nature?





"What colours do they change in to?"

"Wow! colourful octopus"



"clever bats"

Phoenix Class were happy that female animals are getting a spotlight in First News and celebrated for the amazing things they do!

FirstNews

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Word Of The Week:

Commissioner (noun):

A commissioner is an important official who has responsibility for a particular area of work.

Example: The commissioner spoke about how AI could affect young people in the future.



FirstNews

Liberty Academy Trust | Thames Valley School

Word Of The Week:

Indigenous (adjective):

Belonging to the first people who lived in a place.

Example: Indigenous communities have cared for their land for many generations.



Aquila

Over to you:

Should governments create strict rules for artificial intelligence?

Things To Consider:
- Safety
- Innovation
- Jobs and the future
- Privacy
- Education
- Young people's views

Be ready to justify your views!

Some students agreed that safety measures are important, in order to limit any use of AI that could impede on human rights and to prevent crime.

Other students wanted to ensure there was still enough room for innovation, and wanted to ensure censorship wouldn't stifle any new opportunities. They also commented on the potential for new career sectors.

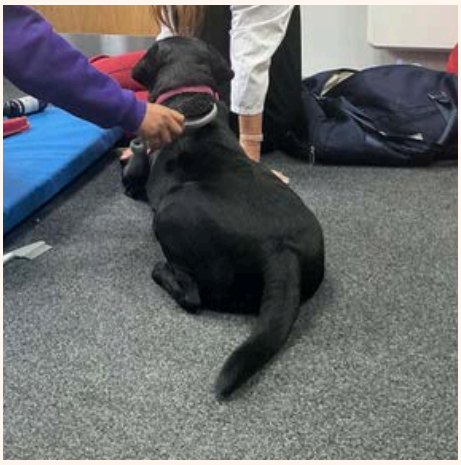
Students also reflected on the fact that if used properly, AI can enhance learning and support with revision. Some students suggested that further 'best practice' guidelines around this may be appropriate.

Transdisciplinary Team

Pupils at Hill Brow have been delighted to continue their weekly sessions with Indie, our much-loved therapy dog.

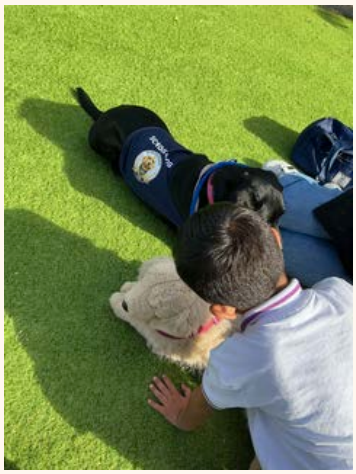




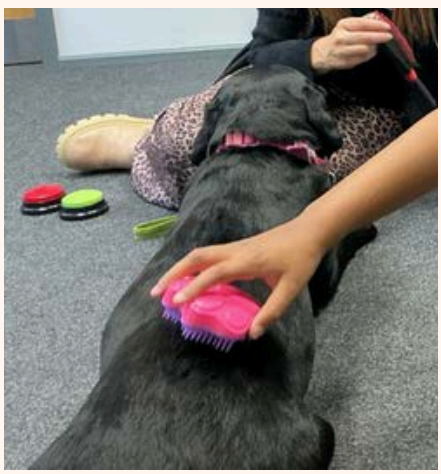












Pupils Of The Week - Tilehurst

Thoughtful

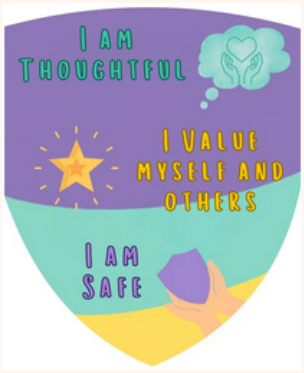
Daisie has been awarded for being considerate and showing kindness towards her peers.

Value

Amil has been awarded for valuing his Science lesson and showing positive engagement..

Safe

Year 7 has been awarded for their safe behaviour and following instructions during their trip to the Reading Museum.



A huge congratulations to these pupils from all the TVS staff.

Pupils Of The Week - Hill Brow

Thoughtful

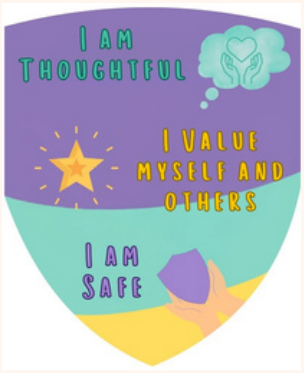
Oliver has been awarded for putting thoughtful effort into following his classroom routine, responding well to staff instructions, and completing his work activities with increasing independence and focus.

Value

Kai Na has been awarded for the support and guidance provided by staff during transitions, helping him move between activities successfully. He engages positively in work activities and is building resilience.

Safe

Diar has been awarded for their safe behaviour and following instructions. He is also learning to use classroom resources effectively, showing increasing independence and responsibility.



A huge congratulations to these pupils from all the TVS staff.

Upcoming events

Tuesday 13th & Thursday 15th October - Parents' Evening

Thursday 22nd October - Family Event Harvest Festival

Musical Theatre Assembly

Ages 11 to adult

Sing. Dance. Shine.

A joyful musical theatre experience where singing and dance come together.

Led by skilled dance and music practitioners, each session is inspired by the world of musical theatre- from well-loved favourites to exciting new shows.

Sing together through the joy and energy of choral singing.

Move together through fun, accessible ensemble dance.

Explore performance through music, movement and musical theatre.

Discover your strengths and explore an interest or talent in singing, dance or movement.

Whether you love to sing, love to dance, are curious to try something new, or simply want to be part of something joyful, there is a place for you.

COME AND FIND YOUR VOICE. FIND YOUR RHYTHM. FIND YOUR PEOPLE.



Holiday Programmes

MLD/SLD Sessions

Creative drama and dance sessions for children and young people with moderate learning disabilities.

Sensory Sessions

Sensory-led creative sessions for children, young people and adults with higher support needs, including 1:1 support.

Want to know which session is right for you? **Get in touch to discuss individual support needs and book your place.**

Come and join us!

Whether you're looking for a first creative experience, a regular weekly activity, a place to make friends or somewhere to develop your performance skills, there's a place for you at Make/Sense.

> "A SUPER INCLUSIVE THEATRE GROUP THAT PROVIDES A SAFE PLACE FOR OUR SPECIAL CHILDREN TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES WITHOUT JUDGEMENT. THE TEAM ARE AMAZING, ENERGETIC, PASSIONATE AND TRULY COMMITTED IN SUPPORTING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE IN REALISING THEIR DREAMS."
>
> — Parent of a Creative Assembly attendee

Try us out!

Scan the QR code to find out more about our Community Programmes

Book your trial place

communityteam@makesensetheatre.com

07512 564604

WE'D LOVE TO MEET YOU!

make/sense THEATRE

Theatre Made Differently.

Create. Connect. Belong.

Inclusive theatre and creative programmes for neurodivergent, disabled and sensory-attuned children, young people and adults.



Building creativity, connection and community together.



Creative Assembly

Ages 8 to adult

Be creative. Be confident. Be you.

Our flagship weekly theatre programme is a place to create, perform, make friends and be yourself.

We welcome SEND and SEMH young people - and adults too - and shape sessions around people's interests, strengths and support needs.

You can choose to take part in:

Acting & drama games

Dance & movement

Devising & directing scenes

Singing & music

There is no pressure to perform in a particular way. Our experienced practitioners create a safe, supportive environment where everyone can participate in their own way.

And every year, we work towards a professionally produced community show, giving our performers the chance to share their creativity with family and friends.

COME AND FIND YOUR PEOPLE, YOUR CREATIVITY AND YOUR STAGE!

Adult Assembly

16+

Full-day Sessions! 9am - 3pm

Friends. Purpose. Fun.

Adult Assembly is our full-day creative programme for adults aged 16+.

From acting and devising to dance, design, writing and theatre-making, sessions are shaped around participants' interests, ideas and ambitions. It's about more than theatre.

It's a chance to:

- **Create** - explore new skills and discover what you're capable of.
- **Connect** - build friendships and spend time with people who understand.
- **Grow** - develop confidence, independence and creative and life skills.
- **Achieve** - work towards qualifications if you choose.

Our aim is to create a place where adults can develop a genuine sense of purpose, achievement and belonging.

COME FOR THE THEATRE, STAY FOR THE COMMUNITY!





Junior & Sensory Assembly

Junior Assembly: Ages 4 to 10

Sensory Assembly: Ages 11 to adult

Play. Create. Regulate.

Creative, sensory-rich sessions where everyone can explore, express themselves and have fun in their own way.

Our sessions combine:

- Music & singing
- Art & creative making
- Theatre & storytelling
- Imaginative & creative play
- Movement & dance
- Sensory play & exploration

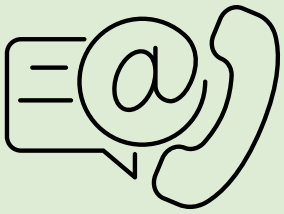
Activities are adapted to individual interests, communication styles and sensory needs, so everyone can find a way to take part that feels right for them.

Our experienced team can support a wide range of communication, personal care, medical and behavioural needs, including 1:1 support where required.

There is no right way to participate:

1. You can WATCH!
2. You can LISTEN!
3. You can MOVE!
4. You can MAKE!
5. You can JOIN IN!

Contact Details



Thames Valley School - Tilehurst
A: Conwy Close | Tilehurst | Reading | Berkshire | RG30 4BZ
T: 0118 9424750
E: office@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk
W: www.thamesvalleyschool.org.uk

Thames Valley School - Hill Brow
A: Hill Brow | Hartland Road | Reading | Berkshire | RG2 8JD

for any Hill Brow queries, please email office@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk and our receptionist will pass onto the appropriate person to make contact with you.
Thank You

Reporting Absences - Pupils

To report a pupil's absence, please contact school office on 0118 9424750 (option 1) or email attendance@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk

For Medical appointments, please provide evidence of the appointment this can be sent via email or a screenshot attachment.

Liberty Academy Trust