THAMES VALLEY SCHOOL

NEWSFLASH | 15TH 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

Miss Mallon



It's been another busy and exciting week at Thames Valley School.

It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers at Parents' Evening this week. It provided a valuable opportunity to celebrate the fantastic work our pupils complete every day and to share our Black History Month display, showcasing influential Black figures who have made a significant impact on society.

Today, pupils at Hill Brow enjoyed an exciting visit from the Fire Brigade. The opportunity to explore the fire engine and meet firefighters generated great enthusiasm and excitement!

Hercules, one of our Year 9 classes, took part in a Preparing for Adulthood trip, travelling into town on a public bus. As a reward for their excellent efforts, they enjoyed a well deserved treat from Greggs. Pegasus class will be doing the same trip next week.

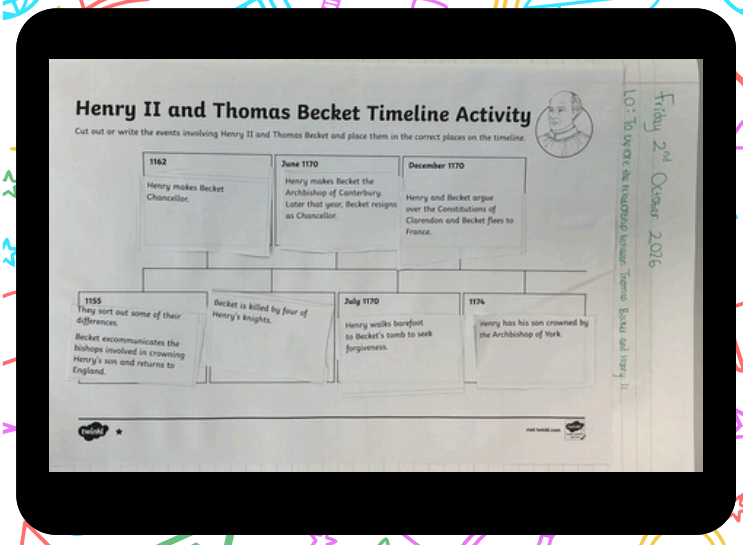
Our Year 11 pupils have also begun preparing for their mock examinations. Art students will be completing a mini mock exam next week, with mock assessments in all other subjects taking place after half term. We wish them all the very best as they continue their revision.

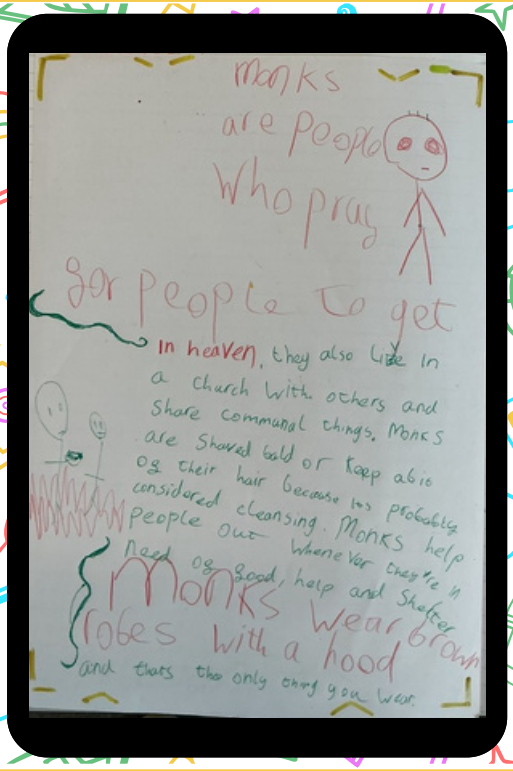
Next week we have our harvest family events at both our Tilehurst and Hill Brow campuses. The events will take place from 1:30-2:30. Please RSVP to the office if you are planning on coming so we know how many to expect.

We hope everyone has a wonderful weekend.

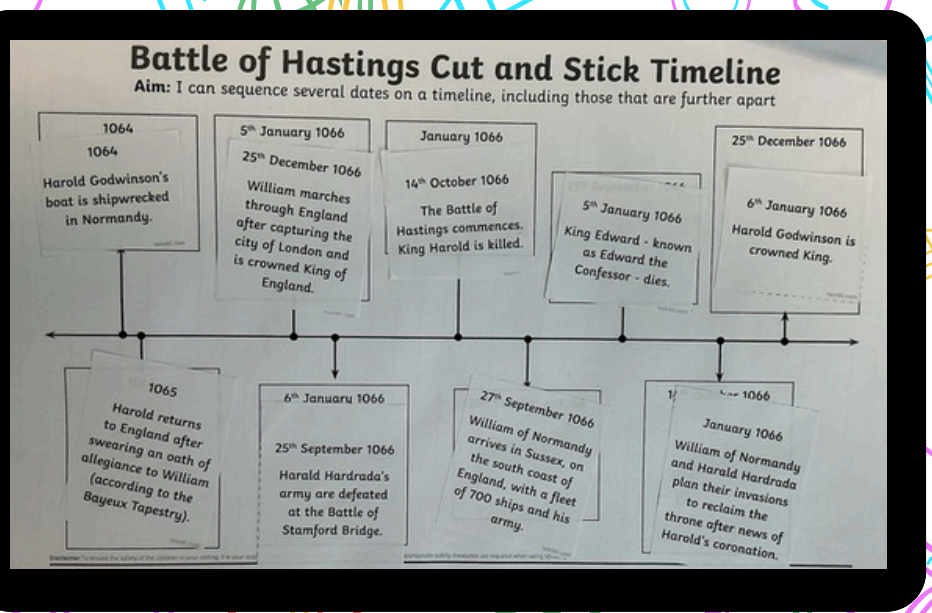
What's been happening this week at TVS

LIBRA





In Humanities over this term we have been learning about monasteries in Medieval England.



Trip to Reading Abbey Ruins and Reading Museum





YEAR 7





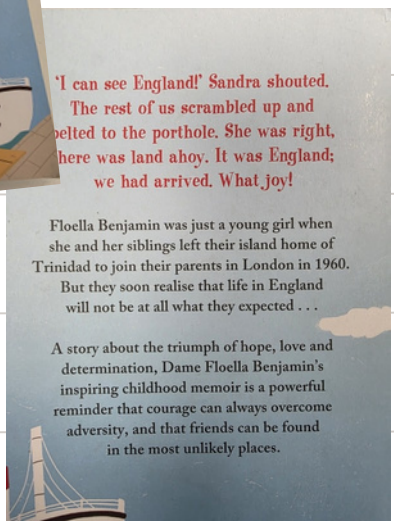


Gemini

English

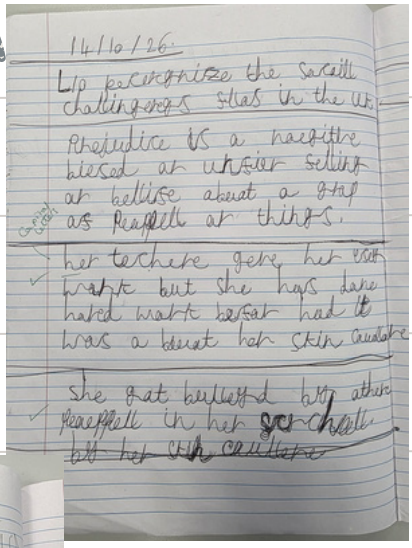
Gemini has been studying a book called Coming to England, which tells the true story of Floella, a young girl who leaves the country where she was born in search of a better life in England. Throughout the story, Floella faces many challenges, including experiencing racism and discrimination, but she shows courage, resilience, and determination as she adapts to her new life and overcomes the obstacles placed in her path. The book helps pupils develop their understanding of fairness, equality, and the experiences of people who move to a new country.




'I can see England!' Sandra shouted. The rest of us scrambled up and belted to the porthole. She was right, there was land ahoy. It was England; we had arrived. What joy!

Floella Benjamin was just a young girl when she and her siblings left their island home of Trinidad to join their parents in London in 1960. But they soon realise that life in England will not be at all what they expected . . .

A story about the triumph of hope, love and determination, Dame Floella Benjamin's inspiring childhood memoir is a powerful reminder that courage can always overcome adversity, and that friends can be found in the most unlikely places.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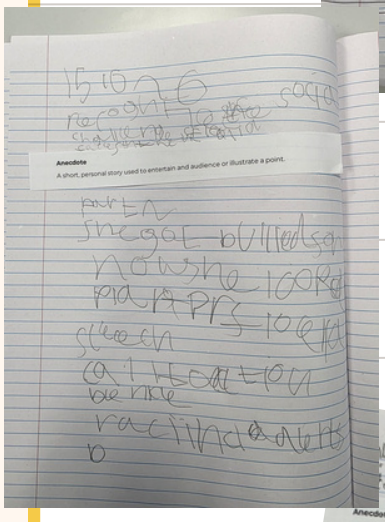
Anecdote

A short, personal story used to entertain and audience or illustrate a point.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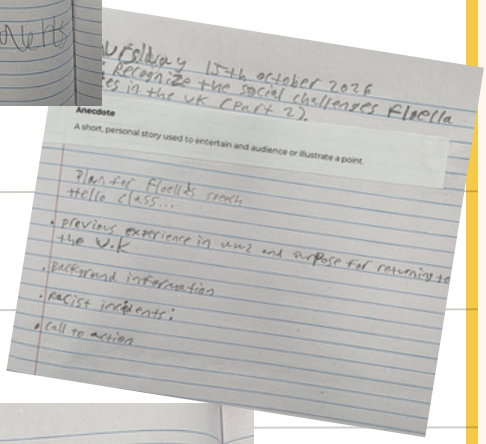
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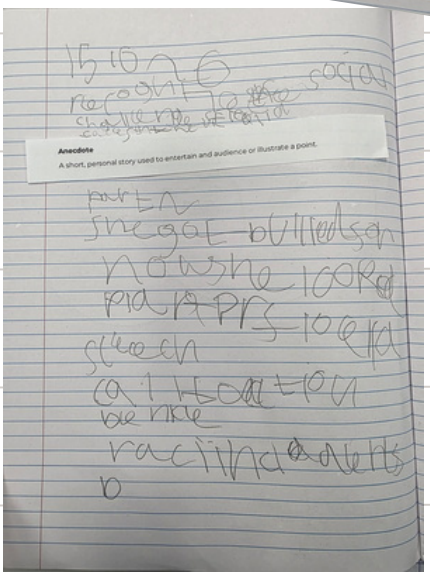
Plan for Floella's speech
Hello class...

- previous experience in uwz and purpose for returning to the U.K
- Background information
- Racist incidents:
- Call to action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FirstNews
NEWS TO GET YOUNG PEOPLE TALKING

Exploring the World Around Us

This week, pupils across the school took part in another engaging First News session, exploring current affairs and developing their reading, discussion and critical thinking skills.

KS2 pupils read the article 'Fruit and Veg Powers Pupils!' and explored the Word of the Week, Report. They learned about the benefits of healthy eating and discussed how fruit and vegetables can improve energy levels, concentration and overall wellbeing. Pupils considered how making healthy choices can positively impact learning and reflected on ways to improve their own diets.

KS3 pupils explored 'PM Plans Pension Changes' and investigated the meaning of the Word of the Week, Pension. They learned about the Government's proposed changes to pensions and social care funding, discussing the challenges of supporting an ageing population. During the debate, pupils shared thoughtful views, with some arguing that improving social care should be prioritised, while others felt pensioners' incomes should be protected.

KS4 pupils read 'Wildlife Needs Our Help!' and examined the Word of the Week, Deforestation. They learned that monitored wildlife populations have declined by an average of 73% since 1970 and explored causes such as habitat loss, pollution and climate change. Pupils were encouraged by conservation success stories, including increases in tiger populations and the recovery of Atlantic bluefin tuna. During the debate, most pupils agreed that governments should introduce stronger laws to protect wildlife and natural habitats, highlighting the importance of safeguarding the planet for future generations.

Through reading, discussion and debate, our pupils continue to develop the knowledge, confidence and curiosity needed to become informed, thoughtful citizens who can make a positive difference in the world around them.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Miss Eirini Akrivopoulou
Head of English

FN


FirstNews
Liberty
Thames Valley School
Word Of The Week:
Report (noun):
Meaning: A report is a piece of writing that gives information about something.
Example: Amir wrote a report about healthy eating after reading the newspaper article.
REPORT
A report is a presentation of facts and findings, usually as a basis for recommendations; written for a specific readership (audience), and probably intended to be kept as a record.


FirstNews
Liberty
Valley School
Word Of The Week:
Pension (noun):
A pension is a regular payment of money that people receive after they retire from work.
Example: My grandparents use their pension to help pay for everyday living costs.
PENSION


FirstNews
Liberty
Thames Valley School
Word Of The Week:
Deforestation (noun):
Deforestation is the large-scale removal of forests and trees, often to make space for farming or development.
Example: Deforestation can destroy animal habitats and reduce biodiversity.


FirstNews

Aries

Pupils Of The Week - Tilehurst

Thoughtful

Jaion G has been awarded for being kind, helpful, and supporting the School Council with a positive attitude.

Value

Aaron Br has been awarded for valuing his learning through his hard work, dedication, and positive effort towards achieving his Arts Award.

Safe

Freya M has been awarded for positively following instructions, improving her self-awareness, and travelling safely to and from school independently

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

Pupils Of The Week - Hill Brow

Thoughtful

Stavros L has been awarded for taking part in Bucket Time and Singing Hands, helping to create a positive and engaging learning environment for everyone.

Value

Aiden B has been awarded for valuing his learning by engaging well in activities and helping to tidy up afterwards.

Safe

Romele W has been awarded for making safer choices and recognising when he needs space, communicating this appropriately to support his wellbeing and learning.

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

Upcoming events

Thursday 22nd October - Family Event Harvest Festival

Wednesday 21st October - Year 11 Art Mock Exam

Friday 23rd October - Pupils last day of term 3pm finish

26th - 30th October - *Half Term*

Monday 2nd November - Pupils return to school

2nd - 20th November - Year 11 Mocks Exams



TVS HARVEST *Event*



THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER

1.30-2.30PM

Join us for our annual harvest event for harvest and Halloween themed activities!

Please attend the event at your child's usual school site:

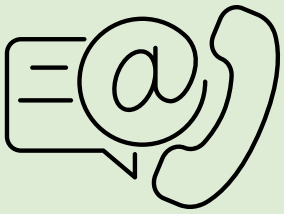
🌾 **Tilehurst Site families - please join us at Tilehurst Site**

🌾 **Hill Brow Site families - please join us at Hill Brow Site**

Please bring a donation of dry or canned food, if you are able, to help support local charities and community food banks.

Email the office to confirm your attendance by Monday 19th October.

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