THAMES VALLEY SCHOOL

NEWSFLASH | 06TH NOVEMBER 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 Archer



Welcome back to Autumn Term 2.

We have a fun packed and exciting term ahead, with lots of opportunities for our pupils to learn, grow and experience new things.

This week began with our Year 11 pupils starting their mock examinations. We have been incredibly impressed by their dedication, maturity and resilience as they approach this important milestone. They have demonstrated a positive attitude, excellent preparation and determination to do their very best. We wish them every success over the coming weeks and look forward to celebrating their achievements.

On Tuesday, staff came together for training focused on creating sensory friendly learning environments. The session developed staff understanding of sensory regulation, sensory ladders, and the difference between regulation breaks and movement breaks. It prompted valuable discussions about how we can continue to adapt our practice to meet pupils' individual needs, ensuring the best possible educational experiences and outcomes for all.

On Wednesday, Gemini Class began their off site enrichment programme at Dinton Pastures Activity Centre. Over the next seven weeks, pupils will take part in a range of outdoor and team building activities linked to the natural environment. These sessions provide opportunities to develop confidence, communication, and teamwork skills, while also offering new and memorable experiences. We are committed to ensuring that all pupils have access to enrichment opportunities during their time at Thames Valley School, and these experiences will contribute towards our developing TVS Enrichment Passports.

We also celebrated British Sausage Week on Wednesday with a visit from two sausage making professionals from a local agricultural society who delivered engaging and interactive workshops for our pupils. After taking part in blind taste tests of both vegetarian and pork sausages, pupils had the opportunity to create their own sausages from scratch. They explored different flavour combinations, including pork and apple, lamb and mint, and beef and chilli. The workshop provided a fantastic hands on learning experience, helping pupils develop their understanding of food preparation, flavour combinations and food production, while having great fun along the way.

On Thursday and Friday, pupils attended assemblies focused on Diwali, the Festival of Lights. Pupils learned about the significance of the celebration, its traditions and cultural importance to millions of people around the world. By exploring different faiths and cultures throughout the year, we continue to promote understanding, respect and inclusivity within our school community. We chose to celebrate Diwali this week as the festival recently took place during the half term break, ensuring all pupils had the opportunity to learn about its meaning and traditions.

Finally, preparations are already underway for our annual Christmas Fayre, which is always a highlight of the school calendar. We would be incredibly grateful for any donations or support from families and friends of the school. Contributions will help us raise valuable funds to enhance opportunities, resources and experiences for our pupils. If you would like to support the Christmas Fayre and donate please do get in contact with the office team via office@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk

We look forward to another fantastic term together.

Key Stage Lead Welcome

KEY STAGE 3 UPDATES



Welcome back everyone! I hope you all have a lovely half term break!

We had some fantastic highlights from last half term of what our Key Stage 3 pupils got up to. They had a fantastic first off site trip to Reading Museum and Town Hall as part of their History and Enrichment curriculums. Pupils in Libra and Taurus classes got to explore an important part of Reading's local history with hands on experiences and getting involved in re-enactments. So exciting!

It was fantastic to see some of you attend our first family event at the Harvest Celebration last half term. This half term, there are many exciting opportunities for our Key Stage 3 pupils to continue to enhance their learning, both in and out of the classroom. Pupils in Gemini are taking part in exciting outdoor adventure activities at Dinton Pastures and Taurus won't have long to wait for their activities next half term!

We're all looking forward to seeing you all at the Christmas Fayre on Friday 11th December. There will be lots of raffles and activities for you and your child to take part in so please bring spare change if you are able.

If you have any questions or queries about your child or the curriculum they will work through in KS3, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me using my email below!

michael.villar@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk

Looking forward to meeting even more of you soon!

Key Stage 4 Lead Update

Although we have only been back for one week, students have already immersed themselves in revision, extracurricular activities, learning opportunities, and reconnecting with friends. Our Year 11 students have been particularly busy as they began their November mock examinations.

Students in Aquila have demonstrated exceptional resilience, determination, and commitment throughout this week's assessments. We are incredibly proud of the progress each student has made and the effort they continue to invest in their studies. Their achievements are a testament to their hard work, and we hope they recognise just how much they have accomplished.

Well done, Aquila Class, on making such a positive start. With one-third of your mock examinations now completed, you should be extremely proud of your efforts so far. Keep up the excellent work, and remember to prioritise your wellbeing and look after yourselves during this demanding period.



Miss Pirkl

We are also delighted to be launching an exciting fundraising initiative as part of our journey towards achieving the Rights Respecting School Award. This project will provide Thames Valley students with an opportunity to engage with and support the local community.

During our Christmas Fayre, we will be collecting donations for the Cowshed charity, helping to support local families during the festive season. Members of the Student Council and our Rights Respecting School Ambassadors will play an active role in promoting the initiative through the creation of flyers, newsletter updates, and the organisation of our Christmas Fayre stall. They will also help to encourage wider student participation in this worthwhile cause.

We look forward to sharing further details in future newsletters and hope that our school community will join us in supporting this important initiative.

UNITED KINGDOM unicef Rights Respecting Schools

THE COWSHED

Y11 Mock Timetable November 2026

02/11	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
AM	✓		✓	✓	✓
PM		✓	✓		
09/11	**Mon**	**Tue**	**Wed**	**Thu**	**Fri**
AM	Physics Paper 2	History Paper 2	Biology Paper 1	Chemistry Paper 1	Mathematics Paper 2 (Calculator)
PM		Computer Science Paper 2 Catering		R.E. Paper 1 & 2	
16/11	**Mon**	**Tue**	**Wed**	**Thu**	**Fri**
AM	Functional Skills Maths L2 (GCSE Pupils)	Chemistry Paper 2	Functional Skills English Writing L2 (GCSE Pupils)	Mathematics Paper 3 (Calculator)	Biology Paper 2
PM	R.E. Paper 3 & 4				Functional Skills English Reading L2 (GCSE Pupils)

SAUSAGE

MAKING WORKSHOP







THIS WEEK, SOME OF OUR KEY STAGE 3 PUPILS WERE LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE VISITED BY THE NEWBURY & DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR A WORKSHOP ON SAUSAGE MAKING!

WE LEARNED LOTS ABOUT HOW SAUSAGES ARE MADE, WHERE OUR FOOD COMES FROM AND ALL OF THE DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF SAUSAGE, INCLUDING MEAT-FREE ONES.

A BIG THANK YOU TO JAN AND PAM FOR VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME TO COME AND SEE US!

Homework at TVS

Homework is designed to support learning without compromising wellbeing. Homework remains optional but is encouraged to support consolidation of learning.

How will my child receive homework?

Core subject homework will be set weekly for English, maths and science. Other subject homework will be set on a fortnightly rotation, with different subjects setting homework each week.

Homework is set earlier in the week and pupils are given around one week to complete it. The timetable for this half term can be seen below:

Week Beginning	02.11.26	09.11.26	16.11.26	23.11.26	30.11.26	7.12.26	14.12.26
Year 7 & 8	English Maths Science History Art	English Maths Science Computing Catering	English Maths Science History Art	English Maths Science Computing Catering	English Maths Science History Art	English Maths Science Computing Catering	English Maths Science History Art
Year 9 & Above	English Maths Science Option 1 RE	English Maths Science Option 2 Key Vocabulary	English Maths Science Option 1 RE	English Maths Science Option 2 Key Vocabulary	English Maths Science Option 1 RE	English Maths Science Option 2 Key Vocabulary	English Maths Science Option 1 RE

How should homework be completed?

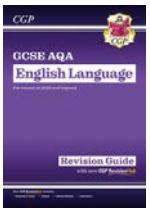
We encourage pupils to complete homework independently where possible but to ask for help if they become stuck.

Parents are encouraged to support and encourage rather than complete the work for their child.

Homework at TVS

Homework is provided through:

- Seneca - an interactive online revision and homework platform which uses neuroscience backed algorithms, spaced repetition, and active recall to help students learn
- Microsoft Teams
- Reading books
- For KS4 pupils, some paper based homework and revision materials may also be sent home depending on the subject.



Homework should support learning without becoming overwhelming. There is no set amount every pupil must complete and no punishment for those who are unable to complete homework. If it is taking significantly longer than expected, please let us know.

How can families help?

- provide a quiet space where possible
- encourage your child
- praise effort
- read together
- talk about what they have been learning
- let us know if homework is causing stress.

What if my child finds homework difficult?

Contact your child's class teacher to discuss:

- visual supports
- breaking tasks down
- extra time
- supporting completion in school where appropriate

Those who complete their homework will receive additional shields as part of our TVS reward system.

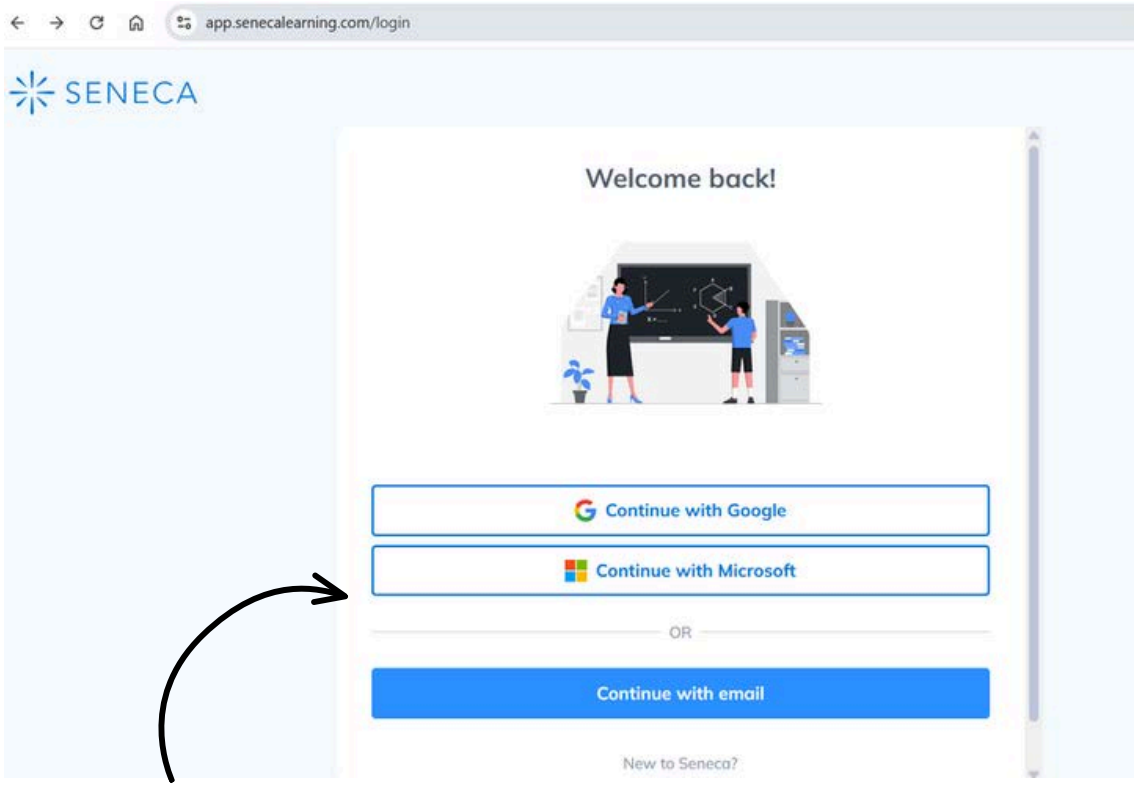


Homework Club

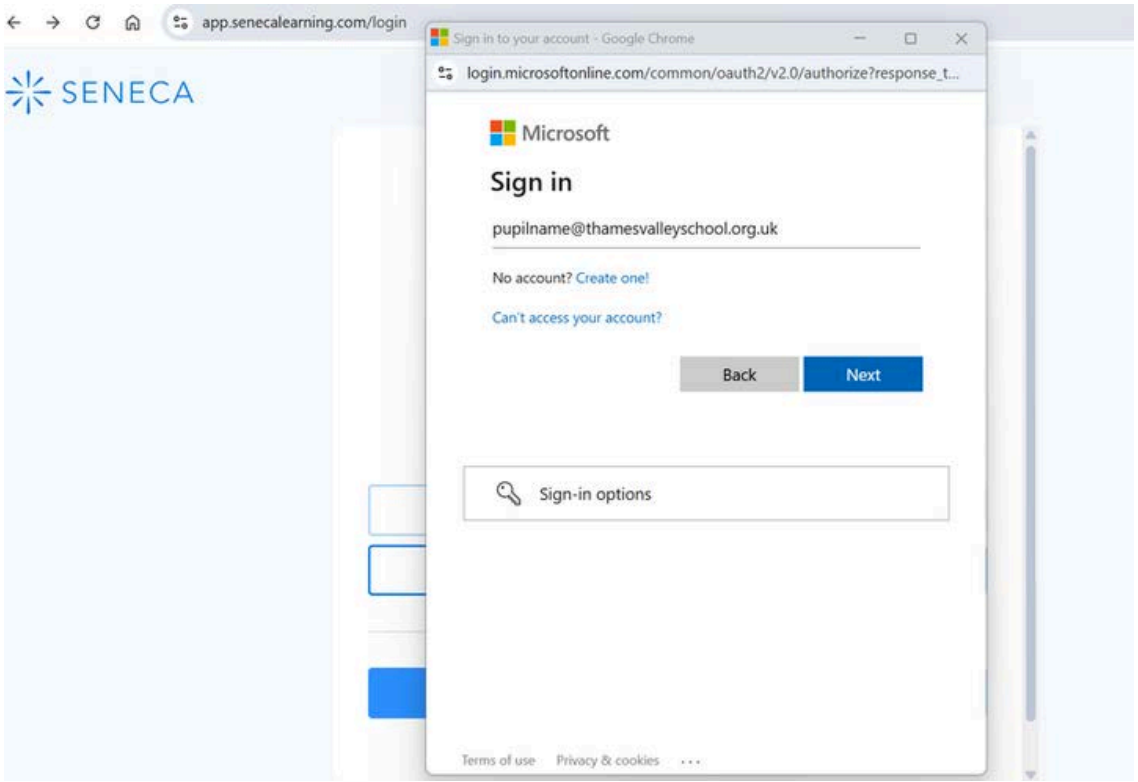
Homework Club is available during lunch time to provide additional support for pupils who would benefit from help when completing homework, accessing online platforms or developing independent study skills. Homework Club is not a consequence for missing homework.

Logging in to Seneca

1. Go to the Website: Open your browser and go to Seneca Learning.
2. Click Log In: Select the Log In button in the top right corner.



3. Click Continue with Microsoft and type in your school email address and password (Note: If this is your very first time logging in via SSO, it may prompt you for a password once but should not be needed again).



• Email and Password: Type in your school email address and your password.

If your child's login is not working, please contact the school office at office@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk

This Half Term's Topics in Preparation for Adulthood and Personal Development

Preparation for Adulthood



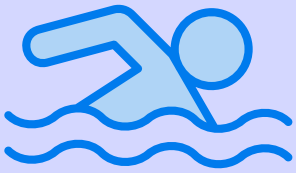
This half term, we are focusing on First Aid. Pupils will be learning about the role of a First Aider, how to respond in an emergency, and ways they can help keep themselves and others safe. We have already introduced some of the key concepts, and pupils are particularly excited about learning and practising CPR as part of their First Aid training.



Our Year 10 pupils are starting an exciting new opportunity by completing the Young Health Champions Level 2 Award. This award formally recognises and develops the skills of young people to act as health champions, making it valuable for both personal development and potential future careers.

Personal Development

This half term, pupils will be taking part in BrainWaves Wellbeing lessons. Through a range of activities and discussions, they will learn practical strategies to support their wellbeing, build resilience, develop self-awareness, and strengthen their confidence in managing their mental health. The programme is based on the principles of positive psychology and is informed by the latest research into adolescent mental health. The lessons have also been reviewed by educational and psychiatric experts at the University of Oxford.



Meanwhile, primary pupils in Phoenix Class are attending swimming lessons. These sessions provide valuable opportunities to develop water confidence, improve swimming technique, and build important water safety skills.

Transdisciplinary Team

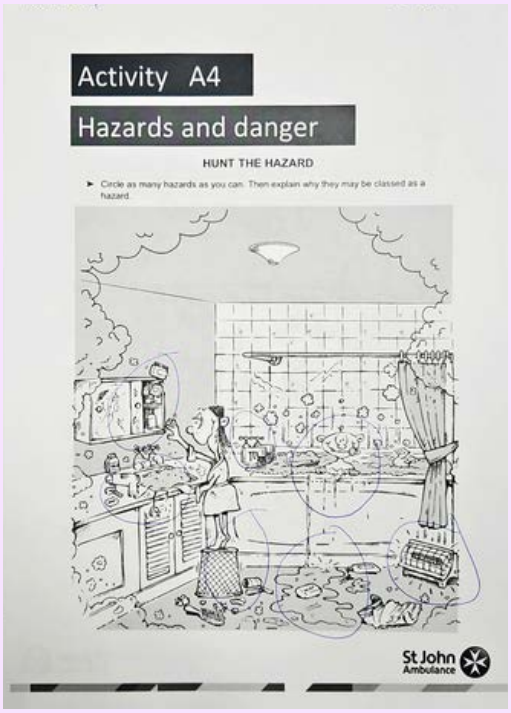
The new half term brings the beginning of a new topic in 'preparation for adulthood', first-aid. This week saw pupils developing their understanding of first aid, when first aid is required, main reasons for needing first aid and what basic equipment will be included in a first aid box. Pupils also practiced how to identify hazards during a first aid incident and how to call for help.





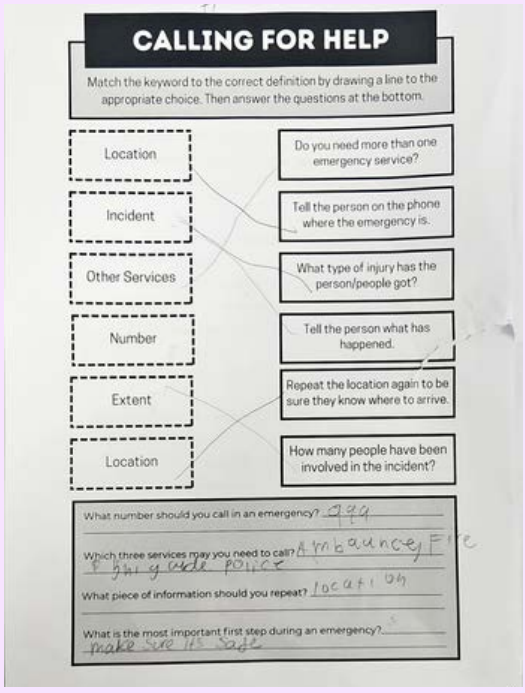












Pupils Of The Week - Tilehurst

Thoughtful

Aaron Br has been awarded for showing kindness, consideration, and support towards his peers during their mock examinations.

Value

Ediz E has been awarded for demonstrating a positive attitude towards his learning and showing increased independence in his work.

Safe

Logan A has been awarded for staying focused in class and increased safe behaviour and positive self-regulation to keep himself and his environment safe.

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

Pupils Of The Week - Hill Brow

Thoughtful

Kai Ne has been awarded for consistently showing kindness and consideration when supporting his peers and for following staff instructions and routines well.

Value

Skyla T has been awarded for engaging positively in learning activities and showing increasing confidence in completing tasks independently. Skyla has demonstrated a positive attitude towards her learning and is making excellent progress.

Safe

Jameel A has been awarded for developing confidence in following safe classroom routines and expectations. Jameel is making positive progress each day and is becoming more independent within the classroom environment.

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



Upcoming events

2nd - 20th November - Year 11 Mocks Exams

Monday 9th November - Bebrus Challenge

Wednesday 11th November - Minute Silence Rememberance Day

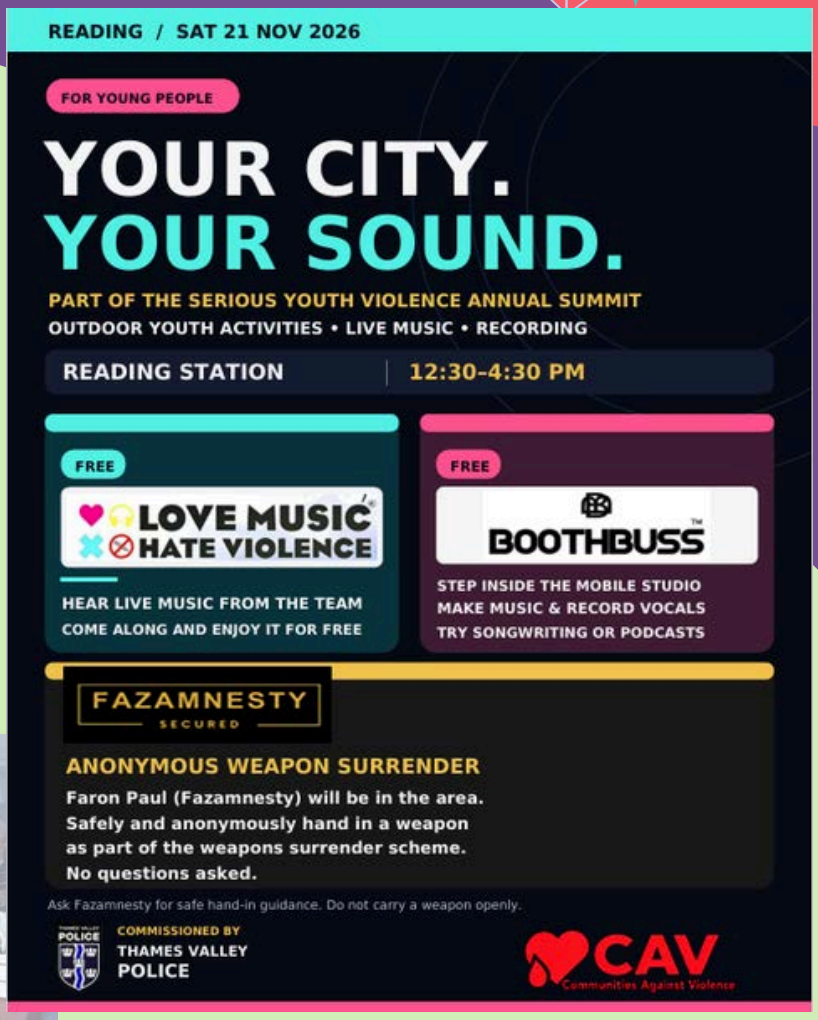
Friday 13th November - Children in Need

Thursday 10th December - Tilehurst Christmas lunch and Jumper Day

Tuesday 15th November - Hill Brow Christmas lunch/Jumper Day



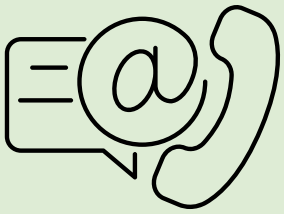
Information







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