THAMES VALLEY SCHOOL

NEWSFLASH | 13TH 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

Mrs Gomez



This week, pupils enjoyed a fantastic live music performance from Berkshire Maestros. While the visit was arranged to support our Arts Award students, it also provided an opportunity for other pupils to join the audience and experience a live performance. It was wonderful to see pupils engaging with the music, and we hope it has inspired some future musicians.

Yesterday, we held a very successful Open Evening, welcoming prospective families and proudly showcasing the amazing work that takes place across Thames Valley School each day. It was particularly lovely to hear from visiting parents who told us they had heard such positive feedback about our school from members of the local community. We are incredibly proud of our pupils and staff, and occasions like this provide a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all that we achieve together.

Today, we marked Children in Need and spent time learning more about Pudsey Bear, the important work the charity does, and the many ways we can support and care for one another. It was a valuable opportunity to reflect on kindness, community and helping those who may need extra support.

Looking ahead, we are pleased to invite parents and carers to our next Coffee Afternoon: Supporting Communication, Learning and Independence. The session will take place on 24th November at Hill Brow and 25th November at Tilehurst. This will be an opportunity to meet the Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT) and Occupational Therapy (OT) teams and learn more about the support they provide in school, as well as practical strategies that families can use at home to support communication, sensory needs, independence and daily living skills. Further information will be shared soon, and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

We hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Christmas

FAYRE

DECEMBER	11TH	1.30-2.45pm

Our Christmas Fayre will be held on Friday, 11th December. There will be plenty of festive fun, games, refreshments, and hopefully a very special visitor from the North Pole!

We are asking our families for donations of the following:
Chocolate selection boxes,sweets or other chocolate products
Gifts for the gift tombola e.g. toiletries, gift sets, food gifts
Bottles e.g. juice, bubble baths, sauces (no alcohol).

Thank you for your support!



Christmas lunch - Tilehurst

We are pleased to let you know that our Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day will take place on **Thursday 10th December** for Tilehurst pupils.

If you would like your child to have a Christmas lunch, please email their menu choice to **office@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk** by Tuesday 24th November.

We look forward to celebrating the festive season with our pupils.





This Week in LIBRA

🔢 Maths – Exploring Prime Numbers

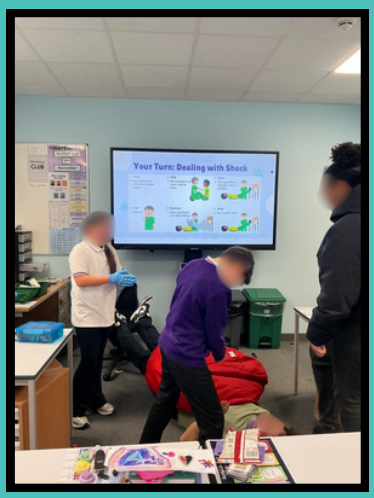
This week in Maths, we have been exploring prime numbers and learning how to identify numbers that can only be divided equally by 1 and themselves.

✏️ English – Character Descriptions

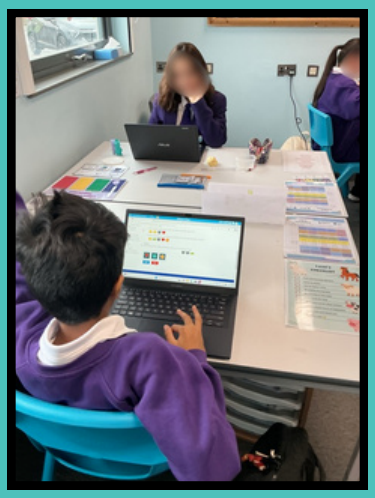
In English, we've been exploring character descriptions and thinking about creative ways to introduce characters in our writing. We've been developing our ideas to help bring characters to life and make our stories more interesting for the reader.

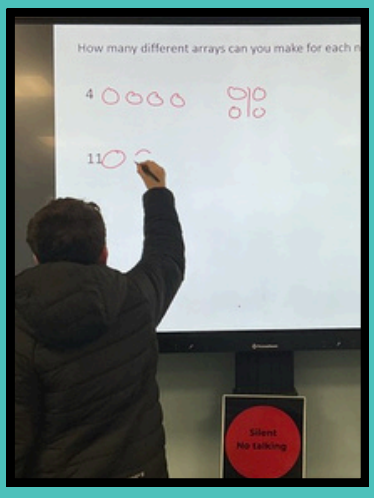
🤸 PE – Gymnastics

In PE, we've been developing our gymnastics skills using the gymnastics horse. We've been experimenting with different body shapes and practising jumping off the horse in different ways, developing our balance, coordination and confidence.













National Literacy Trust
Change your story

BRITISH COUNCIL

Reading Our Way into the Record Books!

On Thursday 8th October, our pupils joined thousands of readers from around the world for the British Council and National Literacy Trust's online reading challenge. Together, participants attempted the Guinness World Records title for the most people reading online in 12 hours.

We are delighted to share that the record has now been officially verified. An incredible 153,862 readers from over 92 countries took part, and our school was proud to be among them. By taking time to read together, our pupils contributed to a truly global celebration of reading and literacy, demonstrating the power of books to connect people across the world.

Congratulations to everyone who contributed to this remarkable achievement and helped secure a place in the record books. We could not be prouder of our pupils for embracing this opportunity and showing such enthusiasm for reading.

"Reading is the way we take flight without wings; every page opens a new world, a new idea, and a new possibility."

Miss Eirini Akrivopoulou
Head of English

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™

Exploring History, Role Models and Society

This week, pupils across the school explored a range of fascinating topics through The Day, developing their reading, discussion and critical thinking skills.

KS2 pupils read ‘Big Birthday for Bear of Little Brain’ and learned about the enduring popularity of Winnie-the-Pooh as the much loved bear celebrates his 100th birthday. The Word of the Week was ‘Optimistic’, encouraging pupils to think about the importance of having a positive outlook. Pupils discussed Pooh’s qualities of kindness, friendship and patience, and most agreed that he is a positive role model because he treats others with respect and always tries to see the good in situations.

KS3 pupils explored ‘Oldest Shipwreck Reveals Ancient Secrets’ and investigated the Word of the Week, ‘Astronomical.’ They learned about the discovery of a shipwreck nearly 5,000 years old off the coast of Turkey and how artefacts preserved underwater can provide valuable clues about ancient trade, travel and everyday life. Pupils were particularly interested in the Antikythera Mechanism, an ancient device used to predict astronomical events. During the debate, many pupils argued that shipwrecks are among the best historical time capsules because they offer authentic evidence of how ordinary people lived.

KS4 pupils examined ‘Witch Hunts Persist in Modern Society’ and the Word of the Week, ‘Necromancy.’ They explored how accusations of witchcraft have been used throughout history and considered whether similar forms of intimidation and silencing exist today. Pupils discussed historical examples, modern day witchcraft accusations and the impact of online harassment. During the debate, opinions varied, but many concluded that while significant progress has been made towards equality, prejudice, fear and power can still be used to silence people in modern society.

Through thoughtful discussion and debate, our pupils continue to develop the confidence, curiosity and critical thinking skills needed to understand the wider world and their place within it.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Miss Eirini Akrivopoulou
Head of English

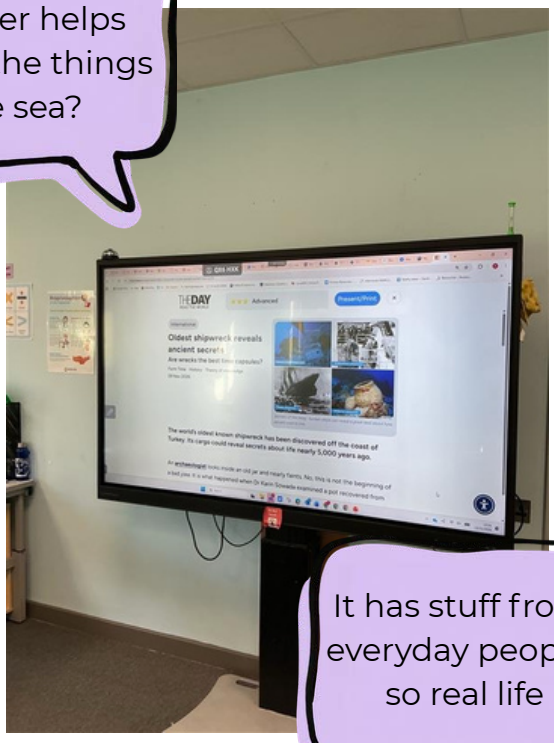
THE DAY



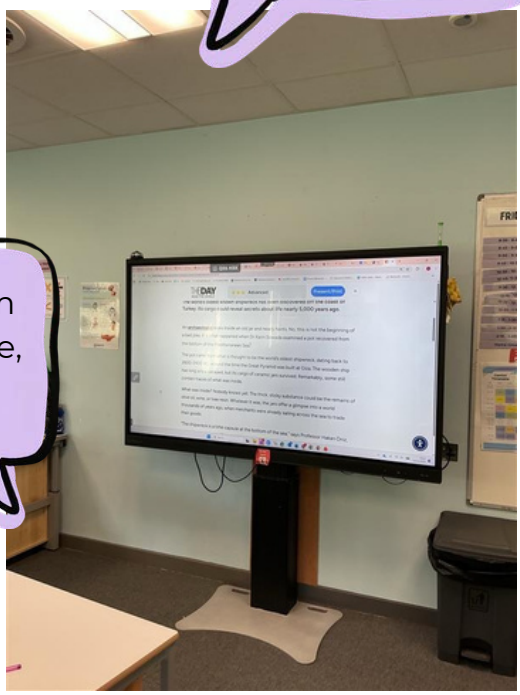




Could it be that the water helps preserve the things in the sea?



Shipwrecks would be good time capsulesif the items are sealed

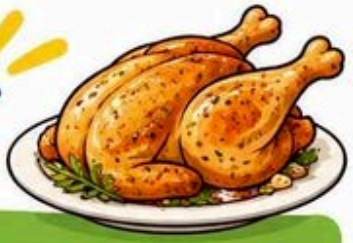


It has stuff from everyday people, so real life

Gemini

Year 7 & 8 Food Technology Homework: Cooking at home!

KS3 Food Technology Homework
Simple Roast Chicken



Ingredients

- 4 garlic cloves, grated
- 3 tbsp vegetable oil
- Pinch dried mixed herbs
- 2–3 large sweet potatoes, cut into chips
- 2 red onions, cut into wedges
- 4 chicken legs

To serve

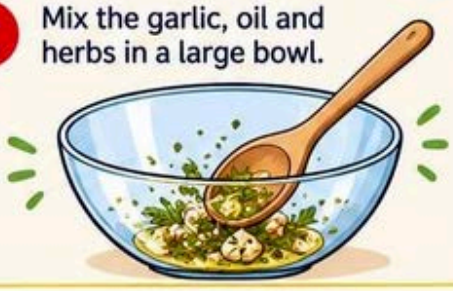
- 150g/5½oz natural yoghurt
- 1 tsp hot sauce (optional)

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C/180°C Fan/Gas 6.



2. Mix the garlic, oil and herbs in a large bowl.



3. Set aside a little of the herby oil for the chicken. Combine the sweet potatoes and onions in the large bowl with the rest of the herby oil.



4. Toss to coat, then tip into a large roasting tray.



5. Slather the chicken in the remaining herby oil and place on top of the sweet potatoes and onions.



6. Roast in the oven for 40 minutes, or until cooked through.



7. Give the tray a shake half way through cooking to make sure the sweet potatoes don't stick.



8. Remove the tray from the oven. Leave to rest for 10 minutes, then serve.



Top Tips!

- ☑ Make sure the chicken is cooked all the way through.
- ☑ Check the sweet potatoes are soft.
- ☑ Let the chicken rest before serving.

Enjoy your meal!

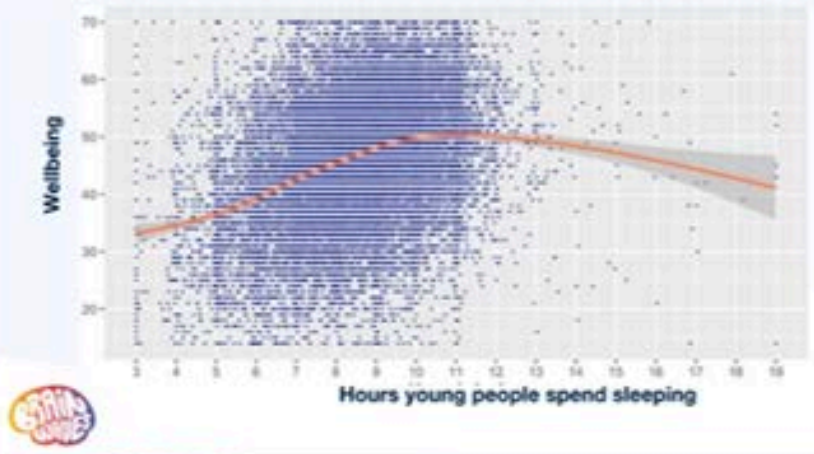
Traditional homework has been set on Seneca, our new homework platform. However if you would like to help your child practice their cooking at home, then give our one tray chicken and veg roast a go!

We'd love to see how you got on, send any photos of your cooking to:
tom.newman@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk

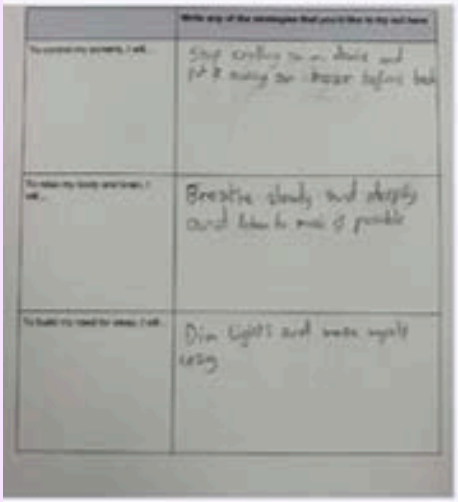
Transdisciplinary Team

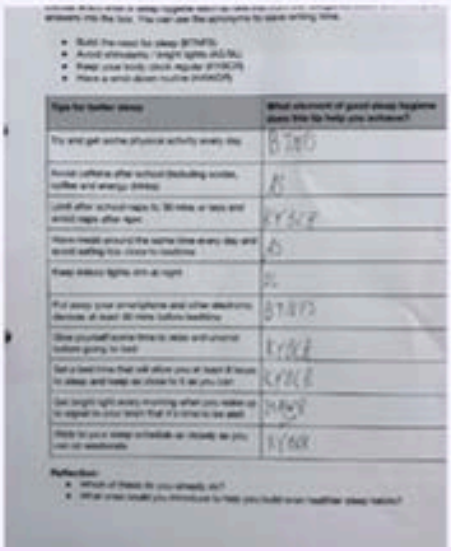
This half term students have started the topic "Brain Waves and Wellbeing" in their Personal Development lessons. This week, the children have been learning about sleep and the significant impact it has on our memory, emotional regulation, mood and health. Students covered what things impact our sleep such as, our screen time, daily activity, stimulants and our routine.

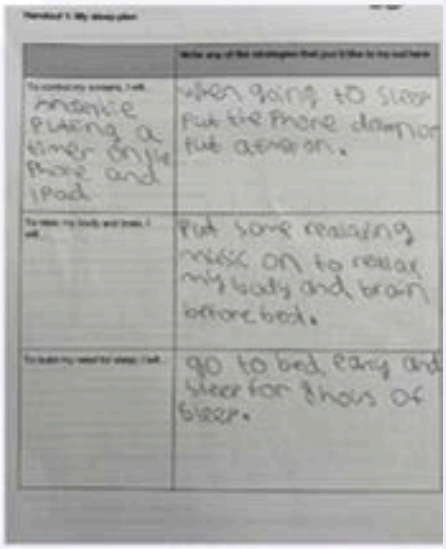












Pupils Of The Week - Tilehurst

Thoughtful

Jenson M has been awarded for for showing positive self-regulation and communicating well with staff. He is developing confidence in expressing his needs and making positive choices throughout the school day.

Value

Archie H has been awarded for valuing his learning and always working hard in his lessons. He approaches tasks positively and consistently tries his best.

Safe

Kitty R has been awarded for following instructions and helping to maintain a safe environment for herself and others. Her positive attitude and responsible choices set a great example to those around her.

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

Pupils Of The Week - Hill Brow

Thoughtful

Amalayah M has been awarded for her thoughtful engagement with peers during group activities. She demonstrates kindness, respect, and positive teamwork when working with others.

Value

Mylo C has been awarded for valuing his work and engaging positively in his lessons. He approaches learning with a positive attitude and consistently works hard to achieve his best.

Safe

Emily J has been awarded for maintaining safe behaviours and positively accepting support from staff.

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

Upcoming events

2nd - 20th November - Year 11 Mock Exams

Friday 20th November - Own Clothes Day in exchange for a donation for the Christmas Fayre

Thursday 10th December - Tilehurst Christmas lunch and Jumper Day

Friday 11th December - Christmas Fayre 1.30-2.45pm

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

Friday 18th December - Last Day of School (Pupils finish at 1pm).

19th December - 2nd January - Christmas Holiday



Information

Thames Valley School

Liberty Academy Trust

Staff Vacancy

Job Title:
Cleaner
(Maternity Cover)

Start Date:
January 2027 or Sooner

Location:
Thames Valley School
Tilehurst RG30 4BZ



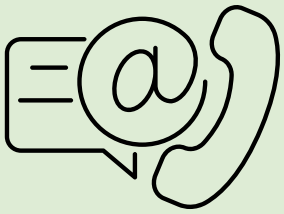
Job Details:
Fixed Term contract
2 hours per day (flexible between 3-6pm)
Monday - Friday
Term Time Only, plus Deep Cleans

How to Apply: Click here to submit an application form

#COURAGE **#DETERMINATION** **#TEAMWORK**

Liberty Academy Trust

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