

Pupil Awards

This academic year, we will be celebrating three pupils each week who have been nominated by staff for demonstrating our school principles.

We are pleased to announce that this week's winners are:

Thoughtful: Rory Page has been awarded for thinking of his peers and being a supportive friend

Value – David Majkrzak has been awarded for valuing education and supporting others

Safe – Ibraheem Zaman has been awarded for working hard to develop his communication and share his needs

A huge congratulations to these 3 pupils from all the staff.

Dr Crossley Visit

This academic year, The Liberty Academy Trust CEO Dr Nic Crossley will be carrying out monthly visits to Thames Valley School to work closely with the staff team as she supports our school development.

This week, Dr Crossley participated in a learning walk with Mrs Buley, and it was so great to see the pupils engaged in a variety of lessons and activities. Dr Crossley also attended School Council and heard about some of their ideas and feedback, as well as telling them about Liberty Academy Trust's plans to launch an Executive School Council who will liaise directly with the Executive Team each term. Dr Crossley also met with a number of parents to discuss the proposed Satellite site and she will send out additional information from this in the coming days - thank you for your attendance!



Christmas Dinner Day

The TVS Christmas dinner day has been booked for Wednesday 13th December 2023.



PSHE

Within PSHE this half term, pupils will be following the topic of 'Being Me' as an introduction to exploring identity and what it means to grow up.

Pupils in **Year 7** will identify goals for themselves and consider what they would like to achieve for this coming year, along with learning about children's rights and the responsibilities that come with it.

In **Year 8**, pupils will be focusing on self-identity and the influences that can impact this as well as understanding different stereotypes.

Year 9 pupils will be considering their self-identity and the role social media can play in this.

In **Year 10**, pupils will build on their previous learning and learn about human rights, societal freedom and understanding safety in the UK and beyond.

With our **Year 11** pupils, we will be concentrating on what it means to become an adult, considering age limits within the law, expectations, and future steps.

School Census

Our school Census day is approaching whereby the data is collected by the Department for Education.

If your personal circumstances have altered and you feel you may be eligible for free school meals, do please get in touch with the school office where a quick online check can be carried out for you.

Zones of Regulation

This week, pupils have been deepening their understanding of the 'Zones of Regulation' with their keyworkers and in Personal Development sessions. The Zones of Regulation provides a framework to think and talk about how we feel on the inside, and sorts emotions into four coloured 'Zones', all of which are expected in life. Regulation is something we all continually work on, and we are supporting our pupils to recognise when we are becoming less regulated so we are able to do something about it to manage our feelings.

			
Blue Zone Sad Bored Tired Sick	Green Zone Happy Focused Calm Proud	Yellow Zone Worried Frustrated Silly Excited	Red Zone overjoyed/Elated Panicked Angry Terrified

You could support this at home by modelling use of self-regulation strategies. For example, saying "I'm feeling [insert emotion/zone], so I'm going to [insert strategy]. You could also model reflecting on how something helped you to regulate. For example, saying "Doing [insert strategy] has made me feel [insert emotion/zone]."

Some examples of strategies:

Blue Zone Jump on the trampoline Use therapy putty Do 10 star jumps Bounce on a therapy ball	Green Zone Have a drink of water Ask for help from an adult Use fiddle tools Taking a planned break	Yellow Zone Wall push ups Swing for 5 minutes Do some lazy 8 breathing Listen to some music	Red Zone Close my eyes and count to 20. Take slow deep breaths. Go somewhere safe. Write, talk, or draw about what I feel.
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Introducing School Council – Chrissie

After completing their pupil voice lesson during transition, pupils who were interested in becoming school council representatives completed application forms. They stated their reasons why they would like to be part of the council and why their peers should vote for them. Our voted in class representatives for this term are:

Class	Student	Class	Student
Scorpius	William	Draco	Marshall
Phoenix	Elliott	Taurus	Harry & Charlie
Pyxis	Chase	Lynx	David
Aquila	Callum	Lupin	Goncalo

Our fantastic group of class reps had their first meeting this week! They discussed how they would apply the TVS principles during meetings, for example, 'Listening to others and putting hands up to speak', 'Celebrating each other's ideas by marshmallow clapping' and 'Using preferred seating and taking breaks to regulate'. They also discussed some exciting ideas for how the school can celebrate World Space Week (4th – 10th October) and World Mental Health Day (10th October).

RSE

Our RSE curriculum will be focusing on different aspects of relationships and growing up, providing pupils with the foundations of understanding the wider world as they grow up.

Year 7 pupils have begun with thinking about the term 'friendship' and how these can change over time and also establish new friends, if we wish to.

Pupils in **Year 8** will build on the values of friendship and discuss how we can maintain positive relationships as well as what it means to be assertive.

In **Year 9**, we will start to explore how relationships can change over time, may become intimate, and the perceptions of this. Consent is a strong theme running throughout, considering what this means in different types of relationship.

Year 10 pupils are building on their understanding of consent and what the difference is between attraction, lust, and love. They will discuss how to keep themselves safe within these types of relationships.

The **Year 11 pupils** will be revisiting their previous learning and building on their knowledge of sexual health within intimate relationships, including forms of contraception, fertility and family planning.

There may be times your child comes home and wishes to discuss their learning or ask more questions. If you would like to discuss any of this in more detail, please do contact me:

becca.archer@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk

TVS Staff Profiles



Mark Holder

**Facilities
Manager**

Bio: I have worked at Thames Valley School for 9 years now!

Fun Fact: I enjoy building 1/6th scale models.



**Justyna
Ociepka**

**Office
Administrator
(Finance)**

Bio: I have come to TVS to make an impactful, positive difference, and to learn a lot.
Fun Fact: At 9 years old, I competed in a 5-18 years, regional spelling competition and came third.



Nichola Oliver

Facilities

Bio: I've been with TVS for 8 years now!

Fun Fact: My husband says I have more books than Waterstones at home!



Lauren Oliver

Facilities

Bio: I have worked at TVS for a year now!

Fun Fact: I am also a trained hairdresser!



Karen Holder

Facilities

Bio: I have worked at Thames Valley School for 8 and a half years!

Fun Fact: I love going to the coast with my family.

Updates from the Senior Leadership Team

As well as working with Dr Crossley and Miss Galloway (Director of Education) this week, SLT have also had their individual priorities to keep on top of.

Mrs Saunders has been busy going live with 'My Child at School' and supporting the start of online ordering and payments for dinners. A kind reminder that we do need weekly orders by Wednesday morning to enable this process to run smoothly!

She also joined Mrs Buley in a budget meeting with Mr Haydock (The Chief Financial Officer from the Executive Team) and they agreed the capital expenditure for this academic year to improve the school facilities and building for staff and pupils – updates to come! There have also been many admission consultations for Mrs Buley to work through this week and, although we are currently at our planned admission number of 54, placements are already being sought for September 2024.

Miss Archer has been back in the classroom delivering PSHE and RSE lessons and has been thoroughly enjoying teaching again after a year away. She's come back to the office keen to share all of the great discussions she has had with the pupils.

Mrs Dudgeon has been supporting pupils to complete their baseline assessments and is beginning to work with teachers to set our academic targets and predictions for this academic year. We are working on ways to best share these with parents so that you are kept informed of your child's progress.

With many new primary pupils to support in their transition, Miss Mallon has been enjoying getting to know them all and has been working closely with the Trans-Disciplinary Team to ensure all provision and support is in place to give them the best possible start to their time at TVS.

TVS Parent Feedback Form

Thank you to those of you who have kindly answered our feedback questions on the survey shared last week.

We'd love to hear from more of you so we're sharing the link again for the very short survey and would ask that you complete at a convenient time.

The form can be accessed by clicking the link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/A8egGRgcwR>



Genes for Jeans Day

We have today collected £41 which is to be donated to the Jeans for Genes day charity.

Thank you for your kind donations



Wishing all our families a lovely weekend

