



Newsletter - July 2015

Message from the Headteacher

I hope you enjoy reading some of the great things that have been happening here at Pent Valley in recent weeks.

At Pent Valley we recognise the importance of listening to our pupils and giving them the opportunity to voice their thoughts and feelings about the school. As a way of doing this we have recently asked all children to complete a survey and there has been some informative feedback from the question asking, 'What do you like most about the school?' Some quotes from Year 8 and 9 pupils include:

"I like the fact that it has changed so we as students can have more time to learn."

"There has been many changes, but the one I like the most is how we have improved our behaviour."

"Breakfast club and the new rules."

"That it has made a big difference from a few months ago."

I hope you have a safe summer and look forward to seeing everyone again in September.
Mrs Gibson

Sports Week

On week beginning 22nd June we held the Pent Valley sports week which involved all year groups taking part in a range of activities. On Monday all Year 8 students went on a trip to Blackland Farm where they took part in rock climbing and kayaking. On Tuesday Year 7 spent the day in PE taking part in some alternative sporting workshops. These included American football, trampolining and karate. We held our very first Race for Life on Thursday with over 100 students from years 7, 8 & 9 taking part. Dan Warzyc finished in first place with a time of 25:29 minutes.

On Friday the whole school sports day took place with students from all year groups taking part in athletics activities.

The winning tutor groups were:

- Year 7 - AGI
- Year 8 - KSN
- Year 9 - DPA
- Year 10 - PCU



Valley FM

This term has seen the relaunch of Valley FM back into the hearts of the students and teachers alike. We currently broadcast through the school at lunch for 20 minutes, with shows soon to be available online for the longer time of 60 minutes.

It is ran by myself, James Gill, and Laura Wootton, we are both Year 13 students who are about to conclude our first year of level 3 Radio.

For anyone who wants to get involved or even send a cheeky song suggestion please contact us at:
ValleyFM@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk.

Or find us underneath a speaker jamming out to our shows that play Monday to Friday.

Year 7 Camp

On Wednesday 8th–Friday 10th July the Year 7 students had a camping trip.

On Wednesday we had a tester swim at Dover. Then we travelled back to Rosswoods Camp Site to put up our tents. After that we went bowling which was lots of fun. At night no one could get to sleep because we were all so hyper!

Thursday was the best day! We all got up and had breakfast and then went to Howletts for the day. I was in Mrs Young's group because she is simply the best. After a lovely day at Howletts we went swimming at an indoor and outdoor swimming pool centre. With the results of our tester session we got split into two groups and halved the outdoor pool. We had a fun two hours using the two diving boards and the rapids pool as well. Once we'd had a fun time swimming we went back to camp and then it was bed.

For our last day we took down our tents and then went to Wildwood Wildlife park. Once we'd had our picnic we travelled back to camp to load all our luggage on the trailer and then headed back to school.

We all had a great time on camp and all the teachers were really kind. We loved doing all the fun activities and trying things we'd never done before.

Grace Brewer (Year 7)

'The Paper Birds' Theatre Project

Pent Valley Year 8 students have been invited to take part in a theatre project with The Quarterhouse in Folkestone and a theatre company called 'The Paper Birds'.

For the first phase all Year 8 students were introduced to 'The Paper Birds' in assembly and watched various works created and performed by them. They then took part in workshops, using games to start interaction and then devising and performing a small piece to the rest of the group which encouraged characterisation and confidence to perform. There are two more phases to the project, phase 2 will be a workshop with a more focused group of students who were successful in phase 1, and phase 3 will be a small ensemble of 15 students from the six local schools. These students will take part in twilight sessions once a month at the Quarterhouse.

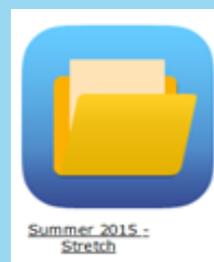
The outcome of these workshops and twilight sessions will be a performance week that will take place on **14th March 2016** in which Pent Valley students will have roles.



Keep on Studying!

We are keen to ensure that pupils keep a light but steady focus upon their work throughout the summer holidays.

Pupils in years 10 and 11 will be given study packs to complete during the holidays with core subjects setting holiday tasks for years 7 to 9. These tasks can be viewed and downloaded from the school portal by clicking on the icon labelled 'Summer 2015 - Stretch'.



Year 11 Prom

On Friday 10th July Year 11 had their Leavers' Prom at The Channel Suite in Folkestone. All the students dressed up for the event and had a wonderful time, Liam Simmonds and Chloe Kilgariff were voted Prom King and Queen.



Head Boy and Girl

Pent Valley have introduced a new and prestigious role at the school.

As of the 4th September James Gill and Laura Wootton will be the first ever Head Boy and Head Girl. They will lead a team of prefects and start a culture where students become positive role models and take responsibility for certain aspects of the school.

We are very excited to appoint James and Laura and think they will be positive role models for the school both internally and externally.



Chemistry in the Workplace

On Thursday 2nd July a group of Year 10 students travelled by mini bus to Christ Church University in Canterbury. When we first got there we all got split into 2 groups and were immediately whisked off to our first activity which allowed us to have a hands-on experience using forensic tools as we learnt about chemistry in forensics.

We took fingerprints and studied how they were identified from crime scenes and used.



We then moved onto a strawberry sweetness testing station. We were able to complete this practical element very easily as it involved taste testing strawberries. Once we had taken a bite from each of the strawberries we used their juice to determine how sweet they were using an instrument called a refractometer, which measured how much light bent (refracted) as it went through the strawberry juice. This reading gave it a mark for sweetness.



There were many more workshops during the day where we had a hands-on approach to how chemistry is used in real life. I think my favourite workshop was where we saw

different explosives and how they would react in different situations. For example, a birthday candle was used as a starter wire for a larger explosive.

All of us who went have agreed that it was a brilliant day where we learnt many new things about chemistry in the real world in a fun and creative way.

Charlotte Redmond (Year 10)

On Monday 23rd March we held an assembly where two lucky students were selected to go to India with the Cheriton Baptist Church. The trip will provide the opportunity for the two chosen students to visit a Leper Colony and help dispel the myths of the Leprosy disease. Whilst in India students will have the opportunity to hand over the money raised to buy either goats for the village or help stock a shop, both with the idea of helping start a cycle where the people of India could become self-sufficient. They will also spend some time in a school helping to educate the locals.

After months of deliberation and meetings at the church the candidates were pulled together to be given some exciting news. The church had received donations from people that would allow two extra young people to go to India. We now had a trip for four. The difficult part was choosing just four students to go on the visit. After providing outstanding reasons why they should be going and taking part in countless team building activities the lucky four were chosen and named. Since then, the Rotary Club have also kindly agreed to help sponsor a student, therefore enabling another young person to join the trip. The five students taking part are Ella Chingono, James Gill, Sagin Rai, Alicia Tutt, and Paras Mani Gurung.

The students will be flying out to India on the 22nd January 2016 and returning on 4th February. They will be keeping a blog of their journey and communicating with school on a daily basis. If you would like to donate to their journey then please feel free to send any donations into the finance office in an envelope marked 'India'.

We hope they have an outstanding time and enjoy the life changing experience they are about to embark on.

Hamper Winners

In March this year, the Governing Body of Pent Valley sent out a Parental Survey form to all parents/carers. Three returned forms were picked out at random and the winners were presented with a beautiful £50 hamper each.

The returned survey forms showed that the majority of parents/carers agreed that their child feels safe and happy at Pent Valley and that their child makes good progress and that they are taught well.



Mrs Kesby and Amy (year 12) receiving their hamper from Governors Sharon Churchyard and Penelope James and Headteacher Mrs Gibson.

We always welcome parental feedback and will be holding forums for parents to meet with senior staff on the following dates:

Wednesday 21st October 2015

Wednesday 13th January 2016

Wednesday 18th May 2016