

21<sup>st</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **First the good news!**

### Duke of Edinburgh Award

This week, 35 Year 10 students spent three days navigating and walking more than 36 miles across the Purbecks in challenging weather conditions to complete their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition. Well done to them all and the staff team led by Mr Salmon who made it all possible, a superb achievement. As an Academy we are looking to build on this success and provide this amazing opportunity to many more students in the coming years – building character and resilience into our students as they move forwards.

### Windsurfing Weekends

We have now held two windsurfing weekends this month with over 30 students taking part. OTC at the Sailing Academy on Portland hosted the events which were supported by the Will Mackaness Trust and everyone had an amazing time! Thanks to all the teachers who gave up their weekend to enable this to happen.

### Reading at Wey Valley

Last week every child received a digital library card entitling them to access thousands of books and magazines. ALL the details are on our website. It's a wonderful opportunity for students to read over the summer. Our library is also back up and running for students to visit at lunchtime, making it possible for students to borrow a book. Encourage your child to pop in and see all the brand-new titles that Mrs Harding has purchased.

### Drug Detection Dog Visit

The visit of Beans the drug detection dog and his handler last week was a great success. All the students watched an assembly on the dangers of drugs and County Lines and Beans demonstrated his amazing powers of detection. He was then taken around the school so all the children had the opportunity to see him in action. In order to safeguard our students, we will be welcoming Beans back over the coming terms.

### Building and Site Improvements

The Trust is investing heavily in replacing our old flat roof over design and technology and the Library. This work will start in July 2021 and be finished by September 2021. New gates are being fitted at the rear of the school and the CCTV system upgraded to ensure the site remains secure.

The climbing wall in the Sports Hall is being renovated ready for use from September. The long jump pit and triple jump pit are being repaired and all the sand replaced.

#### Wey Valley Academy

Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT

Jon Webb, BA (Hons), Director of Secondary Education

Rob Russell, BEd (Hons), Principal

[www.veyvalley-academy.co.uk](http://www.veyvalley-academy.co.uk)

E [office@veyvalley-academy.co.uk](mailto:office@veyvalley-academy.co.uk)

T 01305 817000

Dorchester Road, Weymouth, Dorset. DT3 5AN

### Classrooms and Teaching and Learning

A further 10 of the latest giant touch screen display panels are being installed into classrooms, replacing the old projectors and white boards. This is part of a rolling programme designed to provide the best possible learning environment for the students. The IT equipment in all five IT rooms is also being replaced or upgraded. Large display boards for each subject area being fitted this summer. We have recently renewed the tables and chairs in most classrooms to provide a better, more comfortable learning environment for the students.

Design and Technology will get a new industry level milling machine and a laser cutter to support the new GCSE and BTEC Engineering courses we are starting in September.

All departments have had substantial investment in new textbooks and online learning resources ready for September 2021.

### Staffing

Some exceptional new teachers have been recruited to strengthen our team at Wey Valley and they will join us from September. I will write to introduce them all to you in July, once they have completed their induction day.

### Student Numbers

Next year the school is oversubscribed in year 7 for the first time in the school's history. We are one of only a few schools across Dorset in this enviable position. I would encourage you, if you have younger children wanting to join us next year or friends with children in year 6, to ensure that applications for a place at Wey Valley are submitted before the autumn deadline in October so as to avoid disappointment.

### **Now the not so good news.**

#### Covid19: new variant causing concern

Following the government announcement that restrictions would not be eased on June 21<sup>st</sup> the difficult decision has been taken to postpone the Year 11 Prom. An alternative for later in July is being investigated but this is not guaranteed. The planned transition day for our new Year 7 students has also had to be cancelled. However, they will have a 5-day Summer School in August and we are investigating how we can get year 6 to at least see the school once before the end of this term.

This week it has been reported that several schools, from Bournemouth to Bridport, have had to send students and staff home to isolate because of Covid-19. The cases are once again rising locally, and the new Delta variant does appear to be affecting young people more than previous strains.

#### Wey Valley Academy

Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT

Jon Webb, BA (Hons), Director of Secondary Education

Rob Russell, BEd (Hons), Principal

[www.veyvalley-academy.co.uk](http://www.veyvalley-academy.co.uk)

E [office@veyvalley-academy.co.uk](mailto:office@veyvalley-academy.co.uk)

T 01305 817000

Dorchester Road, Weymouth, Dorset. DT3 5AN

We are asking that ALL students continue to wear masks in communal spaces as this will reduce any possible transmission between Year groups.

If we are in a situation where on-line lessons are required, students and parents will be given notice and support where necessary so that there is as little impact as possible on student learning.

### Lateral Flow Tests

It is more important than ever that all students complete a Lateral Flow test every Sunday and Wednesday evening and report the results. If they have a positive test this will need to be followed up by a PCR test at an official test centre and you must isolate for 10 days until the result of that is known.

### Key Dates – Reminders

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June End of Year Assessments begin for Year 7, 8 and 9  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June End of Year Assessments begin for Year 10  
Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July INSET day  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July End of Summer term  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Sept Start of Autumn term

Yours faithfully



Rob Russell  
Principal

#### Wey Valley Academy

Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT  
Jon Webb, BA (Hons), Director of Secondary Education  
Rob Russell, BEd (Hons), Principal

[www.veyvalley-academy.co.uk](http://www.veyvalley-academy.co.uk)

E [office@veyvalley-academy.co.uk](mailto:office@veyvalley-academy.co.uk)  
T 01305 817000  
Dorchester Road, Weymouth, Dorset. DT3 5AN