

28 March 2025

Dear Parents and Students

Academic Tracking Thursday 3 April and Friday 4 April

Thursday 3 April is the last day of onsite teaching, and this is followed by academic tracking on Thursday evening and Friday morning. Thursday is a normal school day with a 3.30pm finish and normal bus services. Students are not expected in school on Friday. The appointments are available for academic tracking and thank you to the majority of parents who have booked slots; the event will be via SchoolCloud. Shortly, we shall be sending out supporting information and reports.

Free School Meal Vouchers for Easter

Kent has agreed to pay an allowance to those in receipt of free school meals for the Easter holidays and we shall be sending these out on Wednesday 2 April. They have set the amount at £10 per week so all eligible students will be receiving a £20 voucher.

School Closure

During the first week of the Easter holiday, the school is installing a new Wi-Fi network. This will necessitate the reconfiguration of all the network switches which means that the school site will be without both a computer network and phone lines. Students and staff will still be able to use Office 365 and will be able to access all their files remotely. The school site will remain open for lettings but there will be no administrative presence during this week.

Governors required

We are looking for a parent governor for Knole Academy and I attach a letter regarding this process. In addition, Valance School in Westerham, who we have close links to, are also looking for governors. Valance is an amazing establishment, and any visit leaves me humbled at what they achieve. If anyone is interested in becoming a governor at Valance School, please see their application pack which I also attach to this communication.

Outcomes and attendance

Exams are just around the corner for Year 11 and 13 and effective revision will make a significant difference to the outcomes of students. While Easter is a holiday, students need to be spending time revising if they are to reach their potential. The outcome of the mocks was encouraging for many Year 11 students, but there is a clear link between achievement and attendance. While education has been

disrupted for everyone in the last few years, those whose attendance is good have achieved above expectation.

Recently the government released research on the impact of attainment on attendance: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67c96d7dd0fba2f1334cf2ed/The link between attendance and attainment in an assessment year - March 2025.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67c96d7dd0fba2f1334cf2ed/The_link_between_attendance_and_attainment_in_an_assessment_year_-_March_2025.pdf)


The link is clear that those students with high attendance attain better results. What is most significant is that the greatest improvement in attainment occurs between students at 95% attendance and students at 90% attendance. The chance of reaching 5+ in English and maths at GCSE is double for those at 95% attendance compared to those at 90%.

I ask parents to continue to support good attendance at Knole Academy as this does make a significant difference. We need to get back to the mindset that 90% attendance is not acceptable, it is one day off every two weeks, and this dramatically reduces the chance of student success.

First day back Tuesday 22 April

Students return on Tuesday 22 April after the Easter break. Period 1 will be spent with form tutors to reissue revised timetables as resetting will have occurred following the end of term assessments. Tutors will also be inspecting uniform, and I ask for parental support in ensuring that students are properly attired.

Yours faithfully



David Collins
Headteacher



**Learning
Pathways**

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Valence School

Co-opted Governor Recruitment



The
value
of
Valence



Valence School
enabling independence

February 2025

Are you passionate about supporting young people with Complex Needs? Do you have professional expertise to contribute to a unique and dynamic educational setting? Valence School is seeking enthusiastic individuals to join our Governing Body as Co-opted Governors.

Valence School provides a supportive and inclusive environment for children and young people aged 4 to 19 with Physical Disabilities and/or Complex Medical Needs. Nestled in beautiful grounds in Westerham, Kent, we offer residential and day placements tailored to meet the educational, health, and social care needs of our students.

We are particularly keen to hear from individuals with experience in one or more of the following areas:

- Buildings/Facilities Management
- Finance
- School Leadership
- Health, Therapy, and Social Care
- Marketing and Communications

While relevant professional expertise is important, we value a commitment to our vision and a willingness to contribute to the strategic leadership of the school. No prior governance experience is necessary as a comprehensive induction and ongoing training will be provided.

Becoming a Governor at Valence School offers a rewarding opportunity to:

- Make a tangible difference to the lives of children and young people with complex needs.
- Share and develop your professional skills in a unique educational context.
- Work alongside a dedicated team of professionals and fellow governors.
- Gain insight into school leadership and governance.
- Enhance your personal and professional development.

Commitment

The role of a Co-opted Governor involves attending regular governing body meetings (typically six per year) and contributing to committee work, school visits, and strategic discussions. Meetings can often be arranged to suit your availability, and much of the work can be completed remotely.

How to Apply

If you are interested in joining us on this exciting journey, please send a brief expression of interest outlining your skills and experience or if you would like to visit the school to find out more, contact: **Matthew Strange, Principal: mstrange@valence.kent.sch.uk 07894 483673** or **Brian Davies, Chair of Governors: bdavies@valence.kent.sch.uk**

There are limited vacancies and the Governing Body will carry out a process of due diligence on any expressions of interest to ensure that appointments are in line with the school's vision, ethos and values - Valence School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every student and we expect all our staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We value diversity and promote equality for all. Co-opted Governors will require an enhanced DBS check (this is subject to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act) and online checks will be undertaken.