

# Valence News

## You shall go out with Joy!

Dear Parents and Carers, Staff and Governors,

First, thank you for coming to the Summer Fair. It was a wonderful afternoon and of course very warm which encouraged people to stay. Thanks to all those who helped with the fair and those who organised it!

The winners and runners up of the End of Year Awards are printed on the reverse side of this newsletter. Congratulations to all of them and well done. It is always incredibly difficult to choose the most deserving from the many deserving which is equally difficult when we consider all our students in their various ways are deserving. We do our best to be fair and to recognise significant achievement and success over and above the norm and in particular the impact that achievement has had not only on the individual but on the lives and motivation of others. Each winning student receives a gift voucher of £25!

Farewell to leaving staff - to Viv Burgess who is retiring after over 28 years working at the School in a variety of support roles with students. Viv has always worked tirelessly to enable students to achieve and make progress. She has done some excellent work with foundation learning and developing independence. We wish Viv well in her retirement and thank her for the enormous contribution that she has made to Valence and its students. We are also saying

farewell to Emmanuel Eshun (agency English Teacher), Dotty Harris (Swimming Teacher), Andrea Cox (SSA), Rosey Sutton (OT) and Megan Watkins (Matron). In thanking all of these people for their various contributions to the School and its students we wish them well in whatever they do in the future.

I would also like to mark the occasion of the students who are leaving Valence. Several students joined Valence in 2015 for their sixth form studies: Fern Dodd, Lauren Grant, Emily Humphries, Hannah Lyons, Bea Maas and Bryony Pattison. Philip Wong joined us in 2016 for two years so all of these young people have had two or three years education and residential opportunities at the School. Each has, in their own way benefited from what has been offered and each has progressed and developed so that they are ready for the next stage of their lives and the various destinations that they are taking. Toby Richardson and Sam Lunn have been at Valence for 8 years, Emily Harvey 9 years, Jo Hillard and William Lindenbauer 13 years and Emma Price and Paul Worthington 15 years. We have seen these young people grow and develop, become more independent and more confident and flourish as individuals! We wish every one of the young men and women leaving us every success and happiness as they move on to new placements or new situations in September. We have witnessed many very positive changes in all of these students

and all of them without exception are ready to move on to new opportunities.

I wish to thank you all for the support, collaborative working and co-operation which you have shown during this school year. Working with parents and carers is a privilege and one that we should never take for granted. We work with your children, not ours and we must remind ourselves of that fact every day. When we don't get things right we will always work hard to make sure we do and we will always go the extra mile to do the right thing and provide the very best care, educational and social opportunities possible. What I do know is that we continue to strive to provide the very best education, social and health care, support and opportunities for every child and young person in the School. As I said last Summer that is only feasible if we have excellent staff in the School so I just want to thank staff for all their hard work this year, for the commitment and dedication that is enabling young people to achieve meaningful independence.

May I take this opportunity to thank my leadership colleagues especially Mark Roberts (Deputy Principal), Lisa Kavanagh (Head of Safeguarding and Social Care), Megan Watkins (Modern Matron), Marianna Cilia (HR Manager) and Pauline Headley (Business Manager) who have worked very hard to secure the best provisions and outcomes possible for every student.

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Many thanks also to Debbie, my PA and Clerk to the Governing Body for her hard work, to all Governors for their voluntary commitment and dedication to the School and to those staff in various administrative roles in the School. The work of Valence is a whole school success which relies on every aspect of its work to succeed. So whether you are a leader, manager, teach, clean, cater, greet on reception, provide maintenance, security, care, nursing, provide therapy, communication support, fundraise, provide technician support, administrative functions, work with other schools and pupils through the STLS or volunteer, you are all part of a jigsaw of success. If one piece is missing then the puzzle isn't complete so remember that as you go on your summer breaks, but also remember those staff left behind who will be at work here at Valence keeping the School running during the holidays. We never sleep!

When I say we never sleep that is because the School remains busy, in different ways throughout the Summer. We have a major project this year to improve the entrance to the main building, its security and welcome. We will also install dedicated toilets for home-

school transport staff so that they can access these without coming into the main building as well as a new ramp and reconfiguring the parking areas at the front of the main building.

Finally, to all the young people leaving and all those staff moving on as well as the students, staff, governors and families of everyone who is connected with Valence congratulations on all that you have achieved and best wishes for the future. I truly wish you all a very happy Summer and especially look forward to seeing students and staff in September. The future is bright as we embark upon our Learning Pathways developments, with new opportunities to build on the success of the past and secure the success of the future. We will have a Staffing Review in September which will build a workforce that is fully responsive to the needs of all our learners and which is better trained, better supported and supervised and better paid. We will boldly market the School to ensure that it can serve as wide an area as possible, meet the needs of children and young people who need its services and provisions within our region and be a dynamic and successful provider of outreach, specialist teaching services and other training and

development opportunities. I truly believe a new age is dawning and new opportunities are presenting themselves. Our mission, our determination must be to grasp them, to shape them and to capitalise upon them for the good of children and young people. Ours is a moral mission, and we must reach for the sky because timidity never got any results! If students are to go out with joy they have to be prepared for the world and all that it throws at them. So to go out with joy we must have given them the skills, the knowledge, the understanding but more importantly the resilience and independence to be respectful, positive and passionate citizens. We have great opportunities as a community - students, staff, parents, governors, volunteers and others to build something at Valence that will take people's breath away! Let's do it!!!

Finally, from Esther and me very best wishes and we really do hope that you can enjoy the next few weeks! Happy days!

Indeed we can go out with Joy!

*Roland Gooding*

Principal

## Outstanding Student Achievement Awards 2018

### Key Stage 1

**Outstanding student:** Faith Flowers

Runner-up : Lilly De Sousa-Costa

### Key Stage 2

**Outstanding student:** Benjamin Ballard

Runner-up: Connor Elliott

### Key Stage 3

**Outstanding student:** Xavier Kingett

Runner-up: Lenny Luchford

### Key Stage 4

**Outstanding student:** Niamh McCabe

Runner-up: Abby Staff

### Key Stage 5

**Outstanding student:** Ben Cloke

Runner-up: Levi Trower

**Sports Achiever of the Year:** Levi Trower

**Exceptional Student Award:** Toby Richardson

**Special Recognition Award:** Philip Wong

Congratulations to all these young people on such great achievements and all those who were nominated. Every student in the School has had many achievements and successes but these awards recognise those which have particularly stood out during this school year. We hope these awards inspires others to redouble their efforts next year!