



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

PARENT BULLETIN No. 83

24th March 2023

Welcome...

As you read this bulletin you will see an advert for our first ever Summer Festival – The AVA'bury Festival taking place on **Saturday 24 June**. This is the first time that we have run a summer event for both Primary and Secondary parents, and it looks to be an exciting event with performances from AVA students, local bands, food stalls, and plenty of activities to keep children of all ages entertained for hours. It is part of our goal to place AVA firmly at the heart of the local community and we hope you can join us in making it a success.

As someone who always struggled with maths at school I was so impressed with how our students performed against other mathematicians in the country on World Maths Day. Out of the **112,230** students from **2,427** schools competing our 7s, 8s and 9s ranked 9th, 8th and 4th respectively. As I said, I am no mathematician but even I know that that puts us in the top 1% of schools. Americans would call them 'mathletes', and we are unbelievably proud of them.

Have a good weekend.

Gavin Gibson
Academy Principal



Contacting the School:

Year 7: year7enquiries@theacademy.me

Year 8: year8enquiries@theacademy.me

Year 9: year9enquiries@theacademy.me

Year 10: year10enquiries@theacademy.me

Year 11: year11enquiries@theacademy.me

Post 16: post16@theacademy.me

Key Links:

[Secondary website](#)

[Parents' evenings](#)

[EduLink One](#)

[Trips/Lunch money](#)





History News

Subject Superstar

This week's **History Hero** is **Talia R** in Year 9. **Talia** demonstrates **aspiration** by consistently performing at a high level, taking on board advice and feedback, and contributing to class discussions and feedback at a higher order thinking level. Well done **Talia**!

Year 10 GCSE History Trip to

Hampton Court Palace - Wednesday 21 June

Letters have been issued to all Year 10 GCSE History students. Places are limited so please do pay deposits and complete all permission letters for this trip if you would like your child to participate.



PE News

Boys District Football

After a wonderful season for our boys' football teams, it's with great pleasure we can announce that our Year 9, 10, and 11 teams all finished in 3rd place their respective leagues. They were all extremely close to 2nd place and making the district semi-finals. Next year we will build upon these excellent results and come back even stronger.



MK Lighting Trip

The Ice Hockey trip to Watch MK Lightning was a huge success! The kids loved it and the staff too...

"I'm going again next week!", said a rowdy Mr Lobb, and Mrs Haynes is looking into a season ticket for next year.

We also brought along Jeremy the pink octopus (the new trip mascot). He was a prevalent photo-bomber and even managed to meet his hero - Pucky, the MK Lightning mascot.

The match was a very close affair between the MK Lightning and the Telford Tigers. With the scores tied at 3-3 after regulation time, a

dramatic last gasp winner from Lightning sent the crowd, kids and staff into a frenzy.

Year 9 & 10 Netball Tournaments

Our Year 9 and 10 Netball teams competed in tournaments at Aylesbury Grammar School this week. Both teams represented AVA fantastically, with our Year 9 team winning 3 out of their 6 matches. Well done girls.

Year 7 & 8 Inter-House Dodgeball Tournament

Year 7 and 8 have the chance to compete in a Dodgeball Inter-House tournament next **Tuesday 28 March**. There is no need to sign up, and students compete for points that will be added to the final house scores at this year's Sports Day.

Geography news

Upcoming Residential Trips for GCSE Geographer

We are very excited to be offering two residential trips to our current Year 9 and Year 10 GCSE Geography students. Information about these trips has been shared with students in lessons and through their MS Teams, where a digital copies of the letters can be downloaded.

GCSE Geography Trip to Iceland 2024



WHO?

Current **Year 9** and **Year 10 GCSE Geography students**
35 spaces

WHEN?

29 Jan – 1 Feb 2024

HOW MUCH?

£800

rayburntours
BRITISH AIRWAYS

HOW DO I GET A PLACE ON THE TRIP?

Collect a letter from your Geography teacher. **Return the reply slip to Mrs Smyth by 24th March 2023** and pay the **deposit by 2nd April 2023**.

GCSE Geography PGL Trip to Dorset

WHO? Current Year 9 and Year 10 GCSE Geography students 30 spaces	WHEN? 10 – 12 Jul 2023	HOW DO I GET A PLACE ON THE TRIP? Collect a letter from your Geography teacher. Return the reply slip to Mrs Smyth by 31st March 2023 and pay the deposit by 2nd April 2023.
	HOW MUCH? £220	



If your child does wish for a place on the Iceland trip but has not yet handed in their reply slip, they will need to hand it to Mrs Smyth by break time on **Monday 27 March**.

Where does our waste go?

As part of our next Year 8 topic, students learn about where their waste goes including our local Energy from Waste plant, Greatmoor. Throughout the year, Greatmoor offer free tours with the next Open Day scheduled for 1st April 2023. If you are interested, more details can be found [here](#).

Year 10 Fieldwork in Oxford

During March all of our Year 10 Geography students had the opportunity to carry out fieldwork in Oxford, comparing the two residential areas of Cowley and Summertown. The students worked really hard, despite the rain and snow, and were a real credit to themselves and our school over the three days we ran the trip.

World Maths Day

World Maths Day was celebrated on Wednesday 8 March with 60 students from both the Primary and Secondary phases participating in a global maths challenge.



This was an amazing opportunity to get both phases together to learn and enjoy a bit of Maths. The students were well behaved and felt very supported by staff.

There were over **12000** schools participating globally and here are the global stats:

- Year 6: **38th**
- Year 7: **46th**
- Year 8: **54th**
- Years 9-10: **39th**

With more than **112,230** students from **2,427** schools competing across the UK alone, here are our rankings:

- Year 6: **10th**
- Year 7: **9th**
- Year 8: **8th**
- Years 9-10: **4th**

Our top students were **Abhinav D** (Year 6), **Dihein W** (Year 8), **Isabella P** (Year 9) and **Jonathan C** (KS4).

These results are a huge success for our students for putting their maths skills to the test in a Live Mathletics arena going up against hundreds of thousands of students worldwide. The wow factor should not stop here.... Teachers and form tutors please celebrate with these students whose names I will attach in a document. Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates will follow.

Green Card Prize Winners

Green card prize drawer winners this term will be able to take part in an Easter Egg hunt. Please encourage students to aim for Green cards. These are handed out by teachers to students who are working hard in lessons and demonstrating the school values.



Chess Club

Our daily Lunchtime Chess Club provides strategic complexities offering lively minds a challenge and stimulating exercise for students.

Our students get the opportunity to learn to play chess alongside practicing and improving their skills.

It provides educational benefits giving our students transferable skills such as focus, discipline, concentration and strategic thinking.

AVA'bury Festival 2023

We have been overwhelmed by the interest in our AVA'bury Community Festival on **Saturday 24 June 2023**.

After Easter, we will provide you with information on how to purchase your tickets for the event.

For now, we are looking for local bands and artists who would like a spot on the Main Stage. If you would like to be involved, get in touch on avafestival@theacademy.me



Leaders in Parent Partnership



As we have previously mentioned we are excited to be working towards our school improvement award on Parent Partnership. In order to evaluate our current provision, we need your input. Your views are important in helping us understand what we are doing well and how we can improve. Please complete the survey, [here](#). It should only take a couple of minutes and the link is open until Monday 17 April

All responses and suggestions will be carefully considered and used to plan a range of school improvements. If you have any queries about this survey, please contact us.

We are also working on a FAQ section for our website. If you have a question about the school that you feel other parents would also like to know the answer to, please submit it [here](#).

Careers

Study Higher Parents and Carers Event

Study Higher is hosting an event at Oxford Brookes University on April 2nd 2023, for parents and carers of students in Years 10 to 13.

This FREE event is aimed at parents and carers who want to learn about higher education's benefits, with sessions addressing concerns you may have about their young person going on to higher education.

More information is available in the attached poster, and parents and carers can register their interest [here](#).



Mrs Weedon says... It's been another very positive week for Year 7, with students are showing maturity as they adapt to secondary school life.

Last week was a shorter week due to national strike action, but despite this change to routine Year 7 showed great **resilience** and worked hard on their remote learning. Well done to the 64 year 7s who have reached 100 achievement points, and will be getting their bronze badges. You are all amazing!

Out of 12000 schools globally **Year 7 ranked 46th**, and out of 2,427 school in the UK, **Year 7 ranked 9th** in World Maths Day 2023. Well done to all the students who participated and were great representatives of AVA, and a special mention to **Dihein W** for being the top student in year 7!

Students must make sure to write their timetables in their planners so they have a spare copy if they lose it or have left it at home. It is very important that all students arrive to lessons on time to make a prompt start to their learning. PE kit must be brought in when they have PE lessons.

This week in tutor time, Year 7 continued with numeracy and their personal development booklets. This is in addition to looking at the Word of the Week, where they get achievement points if they can use the word in a sentence throughout the day.

They also completed part of their career's booklet, looking at the skills they want to improve for future job prospects. Wednesday 15 March was Young Carers Day, and the students looked at what a Young Carer is, and how their school life can be impacted. We hope that students are more understanding of what other people might be dealing with at home. Reverend Lane delivered an exciting assembly on Easter and the story of how Jesus sacrificed himself for others.



Dates for you Diaries:

Thursday 4 May Year 7 Parents' Evening

Friday 19 May – Sunday 21 May PGL trip

Year 7 Academy Values Awards

respect

Nico K
Imaan J
Harvey M
Rylee P
Lucas B
Maddie M
Alina S
Tamzin W
Kallie C
Chloe D
Lily-Mae C

aspiration

Cherice G
Aleen A
Zain H
Melanie N
Asher A
Alex R
Willow K
Noelani S
Adeyinka A
Amir C
Kelsey-Mae G

resilience

Jayden C
Madina K
Fawzy M
Louie C
Elissa I
Jaimee C
Anwen R
Tyler B
Amy B
Zach G
Matthew L

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

1. Franklin 1
2. Faraday 1
3. Franklin 2

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Humna Q
2. Harrison S
3. Jake C

Form Attendance (%):

1. Franklin 2

Honourable Mentions:

All the Year 7s who took part in World Maths Day

Any enquiries, please contact year7enquiries@theacademy.me
Mrs Weedon and the Year 7 Team



Ms Dutson says... Last Monday's assembly focused on National Sleep Awareness Week. Students looked how sleep can help in many areas of their lives which, in turn, can impact on alertness, memory and relationships – all of which we need to have a successful learning environment.

Did you know, for example, that between the ages of 6 and 13, children need 9 to 11 hours sleep **every** night?

We also discovered that Team GB invested £250,000 in their sleep research, which demonstrated a clear route into better performance. We ended by sharing 10 top tips for healthy sleep.

This week Mrs Ripley shared information on a new Health for Teens process where students can receive information or support on a variety of health-related aspects of their every-changing lives.

Year 8 will have an opportunity to compete in an Inter-House Dodgeball tournament next week. This is a great chance for our students to compete against each other in a fun and highly active sport. All points will be added to our Sports Day at the end of the year to crown one of Nobel, Faraday, or Franklin house champion 2022/23.

We will be celebrating Culture Week from **Monday 19 June** and would like as many students as possible to get involved. Students can complete a short form on Teams to indicate their wish to join the culture week



Year 8 Academy Values Awards

respect

Noor A
Gethen A
Teshnavi A
Logan B
Batool

aspiration

Mimi
Emily C
Ami G
Isabella H
Ravneet

resilience

Finley C
Abbie D
Elysia G
Jasmine J
Lexi

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

Nobel 1

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Ollie E-H & Victor C
2. Kartik V & Henley C
3. Freddie K

Form Attendance (%):

1. Franklin 3
2. Faraday 1
3. Nobel 1

Honourable Mentions:

1. **James A** and **Lila S**, for litter-picking outside school on Wednesday, taking a break from their online learning to improvement not only the school environment, but the community environment too.
2. **The Year 8s** who took part in World Maths Day.

Any enquiries, please contact year8enquiries@theacademy.me

Ms Dutson and the Year 8 Team



Mr Hawley says After a quiet this a fortnight ago with the strike action – which was hopefully very productive for everyone’s homework – it’s important we don’t take our foot of the gas as we look towards the Easter break.

I am looking at dates for a reward trip in September for lucky winner of prizes at the end of the year.

A big shout out to **Harrison T** who had a trial at Brentford this week – rest assured, **Harrison**, we will be proud of your efforts regardless of the outcome.

Year 9 students were among those who took part in World Maths Day earlier this month and huge congratulations go to **Jonathan C** – the best mathematician in KS4.

Period 6 emails have gone out to students, and they need to make sure they get their choices in early to ensure they get their first pick. Any issues can be cleared up. If students have any issues please email me, as we don’t want students coming out of class to clear it up.

With Parents’ Evening not far away we now have more than 75% of parents signed up, but 100% would be even better. You can sign up [here](#).

A big ‘thank you’ to Miss Blake-Huggins for giving an excellent assembly about Science Week on the theme of ‘Connections’. Students always love her energetic interactive assemblies.



Parents Evening



Year 9 Academy Values Awards

respect

Chloe J – for always being kind, polite, helpful and always bringing a smile to every door.

aspiration

Jonathan C - for being the best mathematician in year 9 **and** 10 on World Maths Day.

resilience

Elisha W who overcome a fear of needles during her vaccinations. Well done.

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

1. **Nobel 1**
2. **Franklin 2**
3. **Faraday 3**

Individual Achievement Points:

1. **Haider A**
2. **Ella H**
3. **Megan W**

Form Attendance (%):

1. **Binns Barnacles**
2. **Scarlett’s Super Soldiers**
3. **Bernard’s Bastions**

Any enquiries, please contact year9enquiries@theacademy.me

Mr Hawley and the Year 9 Team



Mr O’Leary says As a year group with have continued to promote work experience and help students with their CV writing and placement tool. We will be working with the year group to further support any work experience questions and placements.

As we are getting closer to the work experience week. If any student needs any more support, please ask them to speak to Mr O’Leary, Miss

Porter, Mrs O’Callaghan or Mrs Marina as soon as possible.

Study Higher Mentoring:

We have managed to secure further study higher mentoring sessions for the year group which will run until April.

Adviza Careers mentoring:

Individual students have been selected to receive Adviza careers mentoring during the week, students involved will be informed.

PE Kit:

Please can we ensure students have their PE kits for the correct days.



PE Lunch Club Timetable	
Monday	Gym (ORO/MLO)
Tuesday	Futsal (NWK/ORO)
Wednesday	Gym (KMO)
Thursday	Basketball (JSM)
Friday	Gym (KMO)

Tutor time this week	
Monday	AD Assembly – World Down Syndrome Day
Tuesday	Community Assembly – Mrs Lane - Easter
Wednesday	Literacy
Thursday	Careers
Friday	Numeracy

Year 10 Academy Values Awards



- Afser-Jehan A
- Musa K
- Diya K
- Sheza R
- Connor E
- Dhwani P
- Isabella B
- Araish A
- Riley B
- Henry P



- Morgan H
- Zak B
- Myra Z
- Muhammad S
- Subhan K
- Lucy S
- Annabel H
- Hope P
- Cherry R
- Hannah W



- Callum W
- Max C
- Dillon E
- Alex M
- Amel H
- Munashe N
- Lauren B
- Niran R
- Logan F
- Harrison Co

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

1. Faraday 2
2. Nobel 1
3. Faraday 1

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Callum W
2. Zak B
3. Khadija A

Form Attendance (%):

1. Franklin 2
2. Faraday 3
3. Franklin 3

Honourable Mentions:

1. Gerrard Y
2. Janhavi K
3. Theodore H

Any enquiries, please contact year10enquiries@theacademy.me

Mr O'Leary and the Year 10 Team



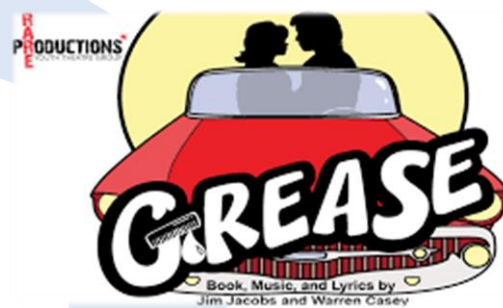
Mrs Leach Congratulations to **Ted A** who performed at the Waterside Theatre last weekend in the RARE Production of Grease.

GCSE Art exam dates

Our GCSE artists will sit their exams on **Tuesday 18, Wednesday 19, Thursday 20, and Friday 21 April.**

Year 11 Study Leave

Year 11 students will start their study leave on **Friday 26 May**. As there are no exams on this day students will spend Period 1 and 2 in normal lessons then go into their Leavers Assembly Period 3. During this time students will have the opportunity to sign shirts, take pictures and say their goodbyes before leaving the school site at **12.20pm**.



After this date students are expected to be in school for exams only. If they wish to attend for revision purposes this will need to be arranged in advance with the Year 11 team.

Year 11 Prom

Prom payment is now open on Parent Pay. You can pay for the Prom ticket in instalments or in full. A £10 deposit is required to secure your child's place. We appreciate that Prom can be a costly event for parents/carers, so we have offered you all a payment plan for the ticket.

Leavers Hoodies

Leavers Hoodies are now available to order now via the PL Schoolwear website: www.plschoolwear.co.uk. Once on the website, click Aylesbury Vale Academy School Uniform. You will then see the leavers hoodies, please select the size, colour and add the name you would like printed on the back. Hoodies cost £27.50 and will be available for students in May.

Reports & Behaviour on EduLink

Did you know that you can now access your child's reports via Edulink. Their most recent report was published in February, this report contains your child's most recent grades along with their predicted grades. Our recent data shows us that only 44% of parents have viewed their child's report. If you are having issues logging on to your Edulink, please contact us.



Supporting your child through exams

Here is a list of websites and a book which are useful resources in supporting children and young people with anxiety, including [managing exam stress](#):

www.youngminds.org.uk	www.mind.org.uk	www.barnados.org.uk
www.andyresearchclinic.com	www.minded.org.uk	www.anxietyuk.org.uk

Year 11 Academy Values Awards

respect

Sumayah B
Daisy W
Dylan b
Aimee M

aspiration

Elanas B
Jenna H
Vedika S
Rukiah K

resilience

Jenna T
Bethany W
Livvy B
Toby L

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

1. Nobel 1
2. Franklin 1
3. Franklin 3

Form Attendance (%):

1. Franklin 3
2. Faraday 1
3. Franklin 2

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Dillon M
2. Aimee M
3. Tayla D

Honourable Mentions:

1. Remy B
2. Ted A
3. Zander M

Any enquiries, please contact year11enquiries@theacademy.me
Mrs Leach and the Year 11 Team



Mrs Sharma says... Our 6th form team is busy with the selection process of internal candidates for September 2023 cohort. The Year 11s are finding the interviews a productive learning process and we, as a team, are committed to ensuring that the courses are the best fit for the student. Our deadline for applications is the 30th of April, and we have had a strong outcome so far.

The 6th formers, especially Year 13 Head Prefects, have been keen on expanding the Youth Social Action Team, and it is good to see that each

week more and more KS4 students are attending the Wednesday morning meetings. Under the leadership of Mrs Blake –Huggins, the students remain highly inspired and motivated. Here is some feedback::

Hannah H: Being a part of YSA has been truly enriching. It has provided me with many transferrable skills such as communication and patience. I have loved every moment of it, and I cannot wait to see what the younger YSA leaders will accomplish in the coming years.

Maddie W: YSA has given me the confidence to speak about matters that are not only important to me but also the school community. I have loved being a leader and organising many fundraisers and I can see that the YSA team will continue to grow and have a positive impact on our community.

Any enquiries, please contact post16enquiries@theacademy.me
Mrs Sharma and the 6th Form Team

JOIN OUR SIXTH FORM 2023-2025

- ✓ BTEC National Level 3 Extended Diploma in Business
- ✓ BTEC National Level 3 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care
- ✓ BTEC National Level 3 Extended Diploma in Creative Digital Media
- ✓ Or opt to do a range of subjects combining BTECs and A levels

#AVASIXTHFORM

The Aylesbury Vale Academy

2023 Prospectus and Careers Pathways now available online
Applications open 30th January 2023



www.theacademy.me/sixthformcourses

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