



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

PARENT BULLETIN No. 79

10th February 2023

Welcome...

We have come to the end of another half term and, although this one is a short one, the students are obviously tired.

We have packed a huge amount into a very short space of time and I am often reminded about how much is on offer at AVA and how much staff go 'above and beyond' to ensure our young people get a broad and ambitious curriculum.

Last week a group returned from their History trip to Berlin, we have had external speakers, including from Amazon, talk to students about National Apprenticeship week, we hosted the Rotary Technology Tournament at AVA (where we were able to squeeze five teams into the contest!) and 20+ students are off to Austria skiing over half term.

This is just some of what is available outside of the classroom, and if you want to know what your child is learning, you can visit our [website](#) and choose from all the subjects we offer to see what they are learning about throughout the year.

I hope you have a good break with your families, and that our students come back refreshed for the next term, which starts on **Tuesday 21 February**.

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](#)





AVA'bury Festival 2023

We're excited to announce the upcoming AVA'bury Festival, which will take place on **Saturday 24 June** from 1pm to 7pm.

We invite you to 'save the date' ahead of the event, with more details due to be confirmed in the coming months. Please see the attached flyer for full details.

If you are a local band, food vendor, bouncy castle company or a small business looking to promote your company, please get in touch at avafestival@theacademy.me

Parent View

Thank you to those of you who have responded to our Parent View survey. You can still respond [here](#).

Parent View

Summer 2023 Exam Timetable

This Summer's exam timetable for students in Years 10, 11, 12 & 13 is attached.

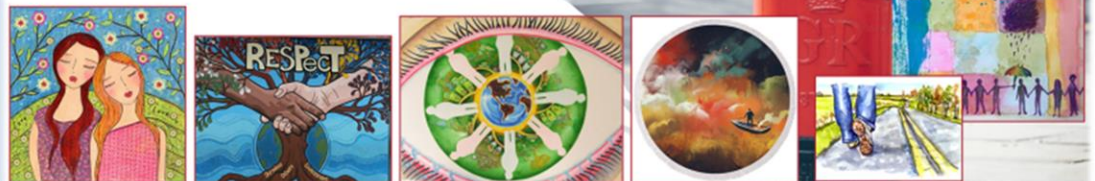
AVA Values Postcard Competition

Students are invited to create a piece of artwork inspired with the winning designs used on postcards recognising examples of those values.

Entries can be a drawing or a painting, or even a collage or sculpture.

Entries should be handed in to the Art Department by **Friday 24 February**, with your name and tutor group clearly displayed.

All entrants will receive 20 achievement points.



Subject Superstar

This week's **History Heroes** is **Madi B-B** in Year 11. **Madi** was excellent on the Berlin trip, always revises hard, and sets a wonderful example to her peers.

GCSE History Trip to Berlin

Students on this trip were a real credit to AVA. Studying a specific part of History for 72 hours with little free time is no mean feat, and students demonstrated all our core values of **Respect**, **Resilience** and **Aspiration** as they navigated through unknown territory with unfamiliar people. Thank you Class Berlin 2023. It was a real pleasure. Please take a moment to complete our feedback survey, which can be found on your History class Teams page.



PE News

Fixtures

We have had some excellent results across our wide range of fixtures this week. Our Year 9 netball team beat Mandeville 17-2 and our Year 9 Boys Football team had an excellent 3-3 draw against Royal Latin. Our Year 9 basketball team also beat Buckingham School 42-16. Our students continue to impress week in, week out and are consistently demonstrating our three school values.

Year 5/6 Netball Tournament

This week, we hosted a Year 5 and 6 Netball tournament for local primary schools. We had nine schools in total, and the quality was fantastic. Congratulations to St. Mary's who secured a win in the final.



Cross Country

We had students compete in the Bucks Cross Country Championships on Wednesday. All students who raced demonstrated excellent **Resilience** in some really tough conditions. With 940 students competing from across the County, it was excellent to get some really strong results. Special mentions to **Rufus M** and **Kian B** who placed really well in their races. Also a special shout out to **Zoe K** who was the only Year 10 girl from AVA, and despite high levels of nerves, she raced really well and pushed through.

Ski Trip

31 students leave Friday morning at 6:30am for Austria for this year's Ski Trip. The students and staff are really excited for the trip (maybe not so much the 24-hour journey) and cannot wait to get on the slopes. We wish them luck and look forward to seeing and hearing about some great memories being made.

Kit Sale

We have a large number of PE kit items (all brand new) that have been stored. We would like to offer these at a significantly reduced cost. There are a number of jackets, shorts and tracksuit bottoms. All items will be offered at £1. If you would like to purchase any items, we have sizes S-XXL but when it runs out it will be gone. Please either send your child with the money to PE, who will be able to show the items, or email Mr Wakefield (nwakefield@theacademy.me) who will be able to put kit aside for collection.

Rotary Club Technology Tournament 2023

On Monday 6 February, AVA hosted the Rotary Club of Aylesbury's 2023 Technology Tournament.

Design, Technology and Engineering students from local schools and colleges formed 24 teams across three categories - Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced.

Teams were given their design challenge and a set amount of modelling materials in the morning. They then had around 4 hours to problem solve, design and model a working bascule bridge structure that could also carry a load.

The academy had five teams representing us and they were amazing! All teams created a portfolio of design ideas and a working structure as well as developing communication and time keeping skills.

Against some tough competition one AVA team achieved 3rd place in the Intermediate category. Congratulations and well done to all students who were involved. We look forward to competing again next year.



HPV Immunisations

The Buckinghamshire Immunisations Team are visiting your school on **Monday 13 March** to deliver the second dose of the HPV Immunisation to the Year 9 pupils.

Most of the students would have already consented to this vaccination last Year, although Parents can still consent to the vaccination if their child missed the first dose whilst they were in Year 8.

If you have not previously consented for your child to receive the HPV vaccine you can do so using the link and school code in the attached letter. Please note that a further consent form is not required for your child's second HPV dose.

If you have any queries regarding online consenting, the HPV vaccine, or if you feel that your child may have missed any previously offered immunisations, please contact the Buckinghamshire Immunisation Team on 01296 567860 or by email on buc-tr.BucksChildImms@nhs.net.

Bike safety

As a school which promotes healthy exercise and encourages students to walk and cycle, we are pleased to see the number of students who travel to and from the academy in these ways.

However, there are some concerns which we would like to make parents and carers aware of.

The first concern is the number of students who do not wear a helmet, or wear one incorrectly. In addition to this, during the winter months when it was dark at school opening and closing times, it is important to ensure bikes are fitted with lights and reflectors to ensure visibility to other road users and pedestrians.

Staff who patrol the area outside school have witnessed several near misses on the roads and paths around school, and so we ask that you discuss these safety issues with you children, and support students to remain safe while cycling to and from school.

We would also like to remind parents that it is currently **illegal** in the UK to use a privately owned electric scooter on public roads, pavements or cycle lanes. Electric scooters can only be legally used on private land with the permission of the landowner, and so children should not be riding electric scooters to school.



Careers

Calling all medics

For students aged 14-18 considering careers in medicine, we've got a few work experience projects they can get involved with. Each one can help them decide if a career in medicine is the right choice and provide some stand out work experience for applications to med school.

[Medicine Work Experience Week In London](#) **February 12 - 18**. 1 week in person course including accommodation, meals and teacher supervision. Students visit different hospitals in London for work experience.

[Virtual Medicine Work Experience Week](#) **February 20 - 24**. 1 week online course where hundreds of students take part, gaining work experience through different activities each day, hosted by our team of practising UK NHS doctors.

[Online Radiology Work Experience](#) **Saturday 4 March** - Another free session we are running for all budding medics. Interactive day where students can get involved in diagnosing patients with our NHS doctors. Simply join through the link, we've 1,500 places available.



Mrs Weedon says... It's been another fantastic week for Year 7. They have all worked so hard and have been role models in the school community. There is lots for them to look forward to. If they would like to go on the PGL Liddington trip, they need to collect a letter from Ms Haynes in PE. There are 50 spaces and it is first come, first served. We hope you all have a restful break with you families.

Fifteen Year 7s competed in the cross-country tournament this week. The PE department were very impressed with

how well they did. They were a fantastic representation of the school and demonstrated the school values.

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, look at the skills they want to improve for future job prospects. This week's community assembly was virtual on the careers and Amazon apprenticeships. It looked the vast opportunities available to young people, and how they can get into these apprenticeships. For Year 7 it will be a while before they get into the world of work, but it is very important for them to think about their prospects and learn about what is available to them.

Dates for you Diaries:

W/C Monday February 27 Bring your Parent to Work Day

Thursday 4 May Year 7 Parents' Evening

Friday 19 May – Sunday 21 May PGL Liddington trip

Year 7 Academy Values Awards

respect

Judith A
Emilija S
Louie C
Sophie K
Ava W
Princess T
Ollie S
Chloe D
Mollie B
Yug J
Zach G
Weronika S

aspiration

Doae J
Megan P
Dylan H
Jessica M
Neve F
Mustapha S
Calleigh C
Noemi K
Emily F
Elisha M

resilience

Kelise B
Freya TB
Hammad H
Graci M
Harvey M
Keira P
Luqman Q
Sharon G
Victoria N
Matthew L

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

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

Form Attendance (%):

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

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Oliwia K and Noelani S
2. Kayden B
3. Kyle S

Honourable Mentions:

Youth Social Action – we have been very impressed with how proactive they have been in raising awareness.

Any enquiries, please contact year7enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Weedon and the Year 7 Team



Ms Dutson says... This week we have focussed on Options, both in terms of subjects to study at Key Stage 4 and further education routes post-16. Over the course of this week Year 8 have been provided with a wealth of information about the options process and key information about what is studied in specifically in subjects.

A huge well done to **Alexandra, Temi** and **Olivia** who took part in the local area winners Youth Speaks Debate Competition. Winning teams from the Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Bedfordshire areas took part.

On this occasion our team didn't win, but they have gained a wealth of debating skills to take them into next year's competition. Miss Powell and Ms Dutson would like to thank Mr Hickey and Miss Perrin for their support and for escorting our students to the even.

On Thursday during break and lunch, **Macy RR** and **Niamh H** were among a group of students who organised and ran a cake sale to raise funds for their Cheerleading Competition in Florida later this Spring. The array of goodies was mouth-watering and enjoyed by all – funds raised totalled £225.42. Thank you to Miss Proud for supporting the girls.

Our Tutor times this week have been very focussed on preparing for options this week. Our normal activities will resume once all the subject presentations have been made.

Our students have had an introduction to options talk by Mr West our Vice Principal and a virtual assembly outlining apprenticeships; what they are, who they would suit and which industries offer work based on-going learning.

This week Religious Studies, Art, Health and Social Care plus Media have all made their presentations with IT and Computer Science following on Friday. There is a lot of information being given to our students, all the information will be provided in our Options Information Booklet which we will be issuing as soon as we can following the half term break.

Please do encourage your children to ask if they have any options based questions our subject teachers are on hand and always keen to advise. Both myself and Mrs Powell are on hand to signpost to further information if needed.



GCSE Options



Ms Dutson and Mrs Powell are very pleased to welcome Mr Wakefield to the year team as Assistant Achievement Director. We are looking forward to working with him and wish him well in his new role.

As we come to the end of this half term we would ask our parents and carers to support us by ensuring students return after the holiday in correct school uniform.

We will be on a **Week B** on our return.

Dates for you Diaries:

Monday 20 February Inset Day

W/C Tuesday 21 February Options Handbook handed out; Student Options Assemblies

Thursday 2 March Options Evening; Online Options Meetings begin

Friday 10 March Deadline for options choices to be submitted online

Friday 10 March – Friday 21 April 1-2-1 Options meetings with selected students

Early May Options offers posted to students and parents

Year 8 Academy Values Awards

respect

Elizabeth B
Kayden C
Jannat H
Sam K

aspiration

Ethan B
Ethan C
Jack A
Jennifer B
Gethen A

resilience

Samara M
Safwan K
Ilias M
Lila S
George S

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

1. Franklin 1

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Olivia U
2. Alexandra M
3. Temiloluwa O

Form Attendance (%):

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

Honourable Mentions:

Macy RR and **Niamh H** who organised the cake sale on Thursday to raise money for their cheerleading competition in Florida. Finally, WELL DONE to a very special young lady who wishes to remain anonymous for her efforts raising money for the Stroke Association.

Any enquiries, please contact year8enquiries@theacademy.me

Ms Dutson and the Year 8 Team



Mr Hawley says... Well done to everyone for making it to half term! Our reward assembly will take place the first week back as Year 8 had their options assembly this week.

Thanks to all our lovely Year 9s who went on the Berlin trip you did me proud.

Good luck to **Lewis B-W** for his boxing fight on Saturday 25 February I'm sure your hard work will pay off, and we are proud of you regardless.



Good luck also to **Alan T** for his upcoming kickboxing bout fight next; he has been putting in hard work in the gym, and as golfer Gary Player used to say 'The harder I work, the luckier I get', so good luck to **Alan!**

Finally good luck to **Louis C** who is driving a tractor for the first time this weekend. A braver man than me!

I have had a few Curriculum Leaders tell me that many Year 9s are arriving in their lessons and to school without a pen, and this is disrupting lessons. Could we get some more pens please? If you need a hand getting some, please come and see me.

Year 9 received an assembly from me this week about setting one's standard and 'filling people's bins'. The idea that you don't know what kind of day someone is having or what is going in their life. So the moral of the story is to always be mindful about what you are saying.

Dates for you Diaries:

Thursday 16 March Year 9 Parents' Evening. Sign up here: <https://aylesburyvaleacademy.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Year 9 Academy Values Awards



Bilal M – Miss Doyle tells me that Bilal is kind courteous and always volunteers to read. Well done.



Malayeka K – Mr Walker reports that Her English work is sublime. Keep up the good work.



Ella H for always overcoming her struggles and using help available to her. A pleasure to work with.

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. Nobel 3
2. Nobel 1
3. Franklin 1

Any enquiries, please contact year9enquiries@theacademy.me

Mr Hawley and the Year 9 Team



Mr O'Leary says... The Year 10's have had a positive week with their lessons and period 6s. As a year group we have continued to promote work experience and help students with their CV writing.

Just a reminder the students have been given a couple of deadlines:

Monday 20 February - Secure a work experience placement

Wednesday 22 February - Complete their placement tool on Unifrog

If any students need any support, please ask them to speak to Mr O'Leary, Miss

Porter or Mrs Marina.



Assemblies

Assemblies are on Tuesday and Friday, students are back in the main hall for assemblies, they need to line up outside in the main hall in their tutor groups.

Careers

Year 10's during tutor time were looking at careers. The year group have been looking at apprenticeships and work experience.

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

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	
Monday	Numeracy
Tuesday	Community Assembly – Mrs Michhiana
Wednesday	Careers – CV writing
Thursday	Careers – CV writing
Friday	AD Assembly – Mrs Hanmer

Dates for you Diaries:

Monday 24 April – Friday 28 April Work Experience

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

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

Form Attendance (%):

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

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Joshua B & Jamie L
2. Eda H
3. Sophia D

Honourable Mentions:

Theodore H, Subhan K and Janhavi K for always demonstrating our Academy Values

Year 10 Academy Values Awards

respect

Afser-Jehan A
Joshua B
Ameen K
Aarion R
Dillon E
Harry N
Jamie L
Alfie L
Chloe T

aspiration

Tyler W
Eleanor G
Binta C
Petryk S
Eda H
Hope P
Zoe K
Lucy S
Dhwani P

resilience

Patrycja M
Hannah W
Thomas W
Sophia D
Lara B
Markus O
Annabel H
Theodore H
Subhan K

Year 10 Rewards

This weeks students were choose based on be amazing and working hard in their English and Maths lessons.

Every box contains a prize, including, achievement points, stationary, sweets, rewards cards and postcards home.

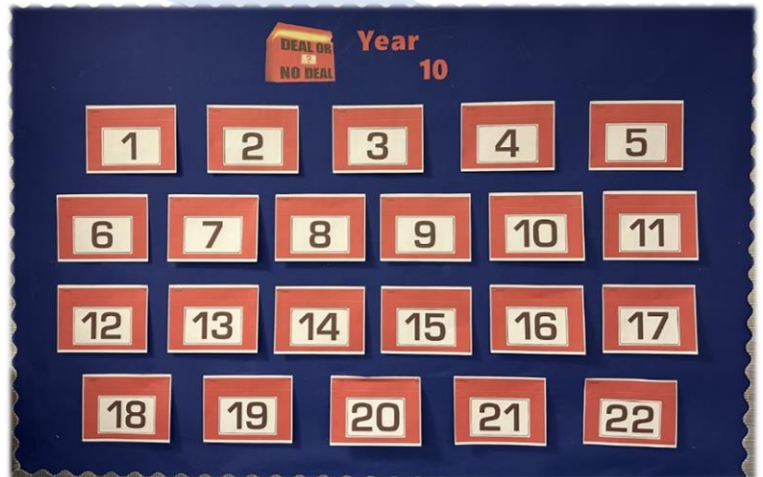
This will continue throughout the year using different selection criteria in the hope that everyone in the year group will have a turn.

This week's winners are:

English: Flynn S, Henry P, Akisharra J, Yahya K, Hannah J, Oscar B, Morgan B, and Harrison C.

Maths: Sophia D, Haleena P, Maya P, Sabah K, Khundana P, Jessica B, Subhan K, Hana R, Bryan J, Ruby M, Grace A, Ocean J, Maddy S, and Kayla J.

Any enquiries, please contact year10enquiries@theacademy.me
Mr O'Leary and the Year 10 Team



Mrs Leach says... We wish all the Year 11 students a safe and restful half term.

After half term students will be able to use Core PE and RS as extra revision time. This has been communicated with students.

Spacing and Timing of Revision

'Spacing' is a revision technique which is all about spacing revision so students don't get swamped and overwhelmed. It means introducing time intervals into their revision sessions as well as spacing out the days on which they revise for topics.

Research suggests there is an 'optimal gap' between revision sessions for students to retain information. In some studies, using spacing instead of cramming has resulted in a 10% to 30% difference in final test results.

What can you do?

Help your child create a revision plan which maps out what they are going to revise and when. Help them to choose a mixture of subject topics to focus on each day to make sure they are spacing them out. Encourage them to review information using different revision techniques to help them carry out some 5-10-minute reviews of topics, such as reading through notes, highlighting information or making post-it notes.



Year 11 Revision Evening

We would like to invite you and your child to our Year 11 Revision Evening at AVA on **Thursday 9 March**, from **6pm to 7.30pm**. The aim of the session is to give guidance to you and your child in planning their revision and using revision strategies in preparation for the summer exam period.

Research has proven that supportive parents can make a difference at this crucial time. During the evening there will also be subject specialist on hand to support with revision. If you would like to attend, please complete this short form: <https://forms.office.com/e/4MEbMGbsR>. The Year 11 team are happy to meet with you to discuss your child's future. Please get in touch.



Supporting your child through exams:

Managing exam stress: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/exam-stress/>

Here is a list of websites and a book which are useful resources in supporting children and young people with anxiety: www.youngminds.org.uk; www.mind.org.uk; www.barnados.org.uk; www.andyresearchclinic.com; www.minded.org.uk; www.anxietyuk.org.uk

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.

Year 11 Leavers Hoodies

We are excited to announce that Leavers Hoodies are 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. Colours to choose from are: Navy, black, green, purple, grey, pink. Hoodies cost £24.50 and will be available for students at the Leavers Assembly in May.

Year 11 Academy Values Awards



Hajra A
Dan J
Khadijah K



Ted A
James W
Esther S



Robbie L
Olimpia S
Mark S

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

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

Form Attendance (%):

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

Individual Achievement Points:

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

Honourable Mentions:

Zoha O, Tamara OS, Tobias T,
Numair K, Riley NW, David S,
Connie M, Poppy S, Tayla D, Ini M

Any enquiries, please contact year11enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Leach and the Year 11 Team



Mrs Sharma says... Year 12 have been very involved in environmental issues as part of the Inspiration Programme this term. The students spent a chilly morning at Lindengate, a leading nature-based Health and Wellbeing Charity in Wendover. They had a tour of the Nature Reserve and gardens and propagated black poplar trees. They also cooked dough twists over an open fire.

The War on Plastics sessions generated some excellent ideas regarding how to recycle better, with Year 12 keen to have a discussion with Mr Gibson about how the habits of our own community can have a positive impact.

Developing Employability Skills

To help develop their employability skills our Year 12 students are supporting in PSHE lessons in the lower school.



The following were rewarded this term: **Alishba K** for being supportive to vulnerable students; **Alex M** for using his initiative whilst supporting the classroom; **Hasnain Q** for delivering inputs into the lesson.

Year 13 have been busy with their UCAS updates, mostly conditional and unconditional offers from different universities. Where students are being called for assessments and interviews the subject specialists are preparing and supporting them with their next steps.

Finally, this week the 6th form has had several external visitors, one from Amazon to speak to them about apprenticeships that are available there. She gave them invaluable information about advantages and disadvantages of pursuing apprenticeships. In addition, we have the counsellor from Adviza running

an information session on local apprenticeship opportunities.

Looking ahead at September 2023, our new prospectus is available on our website, please do contact us if you require any clarification. Our applications will be open from the 30th of January.

Any enquiries, please contact post16enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Sharma and the 6th Form Team

Thank you for all your support

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
RESPECT | AMBITION | RESILIENCE

2023 Prospectus and Careers Pathways now available online

Applications open 30th January 2023



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