



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

PARENT BULLETIN No. 90

26th May 2023

Welcome...

We have reached the end of another half term, and it is a half term that has had quite a bit of disruption due to Bank Holidays and industrial action. However, despite this disruption, our students have continued to make us proud.

Our Year 11s left us today in a sea of shirt-signing, laughter and tears. We wish them every success for the next stage in their journeys, and we will enjoy the memories of watching them grow up at AVA. It's moments like this that they are more likely to remember, than the individual lesson or exam that they sat. School is about much more than these things.

As the year has developed, students have formed friendships and changed friendships. This is an inevitable part of growing up. If your child has any friendship issues which they think might be bullying, please can you encourage them to contact their Achievement Director or Pastoral Team as soon as possible so we can work with your child to resolve the situation quickly. When we know about it, hear about it, or see it, we can act and most often resolve the problem. When it is not reported to us, it can make the situation more complicated.

The sunshine has finally arrived and I hope you have a lovely half term with your families.

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](#)



Parent Bulletin Feedback

We're always looking at ways to improve how we communicate to parents, and you could win a £20 Amazon voucher for completing the form [here](#) with your views on this Parent Bulletin.



Banned items

We have experienced a small minority of students bringing laser pens, torches, water pistols and water balloons into school. These items have the potential to cause significant disruption to learning and cause upset, and we have received a number of complaints from parents, staff and parents about these items.

If a child is found in possession of any of these items, we will assume that by bringing it in to school their intention is to use it, even if we have not witnessed them using it. We have suspended students and put many in detention for bringing in or using these items.

If your child is found in possession of any of these items, they will automatically receive an hour after school detention, you will be contacted, and the item will be confiscated and not returned.

Children come to AVA to learn, not to upset other people and we very much appreciate your support in helping us to deliver the positive community culture we share at AVA.



Vaping

Children are not legally allowed to vape, and doing so can have a huge impact on their health. Many vapes contain nicotine which is highly addictive, and can affect a child's mood and ability to concentrate in lessons when they have withdrawal symptoms from the nicotine.

There are now vapes disguised as pens which make it easier to bring them into school. Some parents are taking vaping seriously, carrying out vape home tests. We are an anti-smoking and anti-vaping school.

Searches are carried out where vaping is suspected and parents are contacted. If vapes are found, serious sanctions are put in place.

AVA'bury Festival 2023

Tickets for the AVA'bury Festival are selling fast with nearly 200 already purchased by staff, students, parents and the community. You can order yours [here](#) to avoid missing out.

Once you click on the link you will be prompted to register with the school account, please follow the instructions and then click on the 'What's On' tab on the top left-hand corner. Tickets will be sent electronically and will be scanned upon entry to the festival.

If you have any questions about the event, please contact us on avafestival@theacademy.me



Radio Debate: 'Is belief in God rational?'

On **Tuesday 23 May**, AVA hosted a Radio Debate for the 'Unbelievable' radio station.

It involved two speakers, Simon Edwards, a Doctoral Student at Oxford University and author of 'The Sanity of Belief', and Rationality Rules - one of the largest YouTube Atheists in the world.

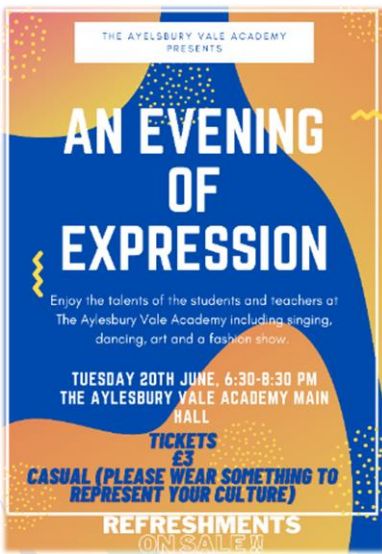
GCSE RS students attended the debate and put questions to the speakers, including 'if evolution isn't true then where would humans have come from?'

The debate covered some challenging topics and the students all represented the school excellently.



Evening of Expression

Join us for an unforgettable evening of creativity and cultural celebration at the AVA Youth Social Action group's **Evening of Expression** on **Tuesday 20 June** from **6.30pm to 8:30pm** in the Main Hall.



Our talented staff and students will show case a variety of talents such as singing, dancing, art, and fashion. Wear something to represent your culture and join us in appreciating the beauty in our differences.

Your contribution will make a significant difference in the lives of those who need it the most. All proceeds will go towards the various charities we support and aid in the future funding of our Youth Social Action programme. Get your tickets [here](#) for only £3 and be a part of something truly special.



French Club preparation

On Tuesday, the French Club and students from the Cultural Committee practised their baking skills ready for the evening of expression on **Tuesday 20 June**.

We all had a lot of fun making madeleines and planning some other recipes!



Active Little Things football camp

Set up by qualified FA Level coaches, Active Little Things is the newest football programme to hit Aylesbury this May half-term, hosted by Aylesbury Vale Academy.

Perfect for players aged 5 – 18 years old, this camp is designed for all abilities and offers football lovers the chance to put their hot footwork skills to the test, have fun and develop their skills. You can find more information [here](#).

MAY 30 - JUNE 02

AT AYLESBURY VALE ACADEMY
Paradise Orchard, Aylesbury,
HP18 0WS



Mrs Weedon says...

It's been a very positive final week of term for Year 7. Our students have come such a long way and they have grown so much. It feels like it was only yesterday that they started Year 7.

We hope you all have a very restful half term break and we cannot wait to welcome our students back refreshed and ready for the summer term. Let's hope the sun stays out!

Well done to all the fantastic students that attended the PGL trip. They were very well behaved, **respectful** and amazing representatives of the academy. Even on some of the more daunting activities, they were **resilient** and tried everything.

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. Please make sure Ties are replaced if they have been lost, they are a compulsory part of the school uniform.

This week in tutor time Year 7 continued with the numeracy programme 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. Our community assembly this week was on celebration and praising all our amazing students, who are consistently working hard and doing the right thing.

Year 7 History Trip to The Black Country Living Museum

For those that were affected by **Thursday 18 May's** cancellation of the above trip, we have rescheduled for **Wednesday 28 June**. All those involved will receive letters after half term with new permission slips due to the change of date and timings. If medical circumstances have changed, please state these on the permission slip. There will be no extra cost for this trip.

Year 7 Academy Values Awards

respect

Elisha M
Brad C
Amelie D
Conor M
Muhammad N
Callum W
Weronika S
Emma B
Emily B
Mustapha S
Izabella I
Sara H

aspiration

Lucas B
Ingrid CS
Mia O
Sharon G
Alice M
Madi B
Lucy U
Effie D
Elise B
Jake C
Chloe W
Tommy L
Bethany W

resilience

Will B
Aeshah M
Princess T
Chloe D
Alyssa HW
Yug J
Dihein W
Nico K
Izzy B
Roxanne B
Humna Q
Vidushi T
Neve F

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

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

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Laila M
2. Amir C
3. Elisha M

Form Attendance (%):

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

Any enquiries, please contact year7enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Weedon and the Year 7 Team



Ms Dutson says... This is my final Parent Bulletin as Year 8 Achievement Director, although I will of course continue to support students across the year group in my capacity as Assistant SENCO.

Mr Wakefield will be Achievement Director for the year group from **Monday 5 June** onwards, bringing with him fresh ideas and energy, and Mrs Powell will continue to provide pastoral support.

It has been an absolute pleasure working with our Year 8 Parents, Carers and students over the past two years, and I have enjoyed sharing in all their successes and achievements and getting to know them, all the way from Summer School 2021 through to selecting options.



So I would like to say **thank you Year 8 Students, Parent and Carers - for your support and loyalty, for the laughs and even the tears. I have been truly honoured to work with each and every one of you. I wish you all the very best on your continued educational journey, and if I can help with a step or two along the way just give me a shout!**

Connor has had an awesome trip and his Oxford JPL team won the U13's Mieve Cup in Belgium. They competed against teams from all over Europe. Fantastic to see more of our year group competing all around the world.

The year 8 team wish all students and families a restful break and we look forward to seeing you for your final term in year 8!

Thank you for your patience in awaiting GCSE Options, we aim to get these out to you as soon as possible.

Dates for your Diaries:

W/C Monday 12 June National School Sports Week (including Sports Day)

Friday 30 June District Athletics at Stoke Mandeville Stadium

Year 8 Academy Values Awards

respect

Ethan By
Teshnavi A
Nadia B
Summer E

aspiration

Olivia S
Salem Y
Mariia K
Carrick E

resilience

Hollie H
James A
Gethen A
Jack B

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

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

Form Attendance (%):

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

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Poppy P
2. Ellina S
3. Ethan C

Honourable Mentions:

All the **Year 8s** who went on the PGL trip

Any enquiries, please contact year8enquiries@theacademy.me

Ms Dutson and the Year 8 Team



Mr Hawley says... Last week before the week off. Then, onto the home stretch! Transition to Year 10 has begun in earnest. Dates for Summer mocks have been announced, please see below.

A big well done to **Skye W-S, Emmanuel A, Anjhanaa C, Connor L** and **Haider A** who have won the **Aspiration** award. This was an optional assignment that any student



could participate in to encourage **aspiration**. To achieve the bronze they had to get 100% attendance for the week, ask a teacher to give them a challenge to complete in class, and then complete it. They also had to do so well that the teacher felt compelled to send me an email. Super proud of all of you for doing this off your own backs. If you would like your child to complete the award, send me an email or ask your child to talk to their form tutor.

Mock Exams

As part of the transition to Year 10, Year 9 are going to have mock exams for core subjects on the following **provisional** dates:

- **Maths - Monday 3rd July, P1 &2**
- **Science - Tuesday 4th July, P1 &2**
- **English - Wednesday 5th July P1 &2**

Dates for other subjects will follow in due course.

Among our current Year 11's Top Tips for revision are [Flash cards](#) and [mind maps](#).

The Tutor Programme has changed slightly in the last term to assist with year 9 into year 10 transition. The careers module has come to an end and instead they will be going through some tips on 'How to Revise', which will look at what makes effective revision and how to cope with stress.

Year 9 Academy Values Awards



Jacob S and **Ali Hussain** have been very respectful over the past term.
Nominated by Mr. Binns



Skye W-S, Emmanuel A, Anjhanaa C, Connor L and **Haider A** for winning their Aspiration awards. I look forward to awarding them their silver awards in the future.



Isla F for working hard to overcome one or two problems, and seeing her achievement points rocket as a result.

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

1. **Bernard's Bastions**
2. **Nair's Nightmares**
3. **Kissick's Komets**

Form Attendance (%):

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

Individual Achievement Points:

1. **Megan W**
2. **Ali H**
3. **Charlie S**

Honourable Mentions:

1. **Max F**
2. **Vitor Viera**

Any enquiries, please contact year9enquiries@theacademy.me
Mr Hawley and the Year 9 Team



Mr O'Leary says... Firstly, I would like to wish yourselves and our Year 10 students a restful half term and a well-deserved rest.

Secondly, shortly after the half term break the year group will be starting their mock exams. As we enter a vital part of the year as the Year 10s' transition into Year 11, we will continue to support them with career aspirations and their exam revision.

Prefects:

All Year 10 students have been sent the Prefect application form. If they would like to become a prefect, they need to complete the application form by **Friday 16 June**.



Year 10 mocks:

The Mock Exam timetable has been shared with Year 10. Please speak to your child about their mocks and support them with building a revision timetable.

GCSEPod:

A reminder we offer all students and parents the revision platform [GCSEPod](#). The app has a wealth of revision resources for your child to use with their revision.

GCSE Geography Fieldtrips to the River Chess

All Year 10 GCSE Geography students are due to participate in their fieldtrip to the River Chess in June. A letter detailing the trip arrangements has been emailed to parents through Edulink.

Students can look on their MS Team to see a copy of this letter and check which day their class is participating in the trip.

Please ensure your child brings a packed lunch and enough drink for the day (no fizzy or energy drinks). They need to be dressed appropriately; the letter details what to wear.

Please do contact [Mrs Smyth](#) if you have any questions.

Adviza Careers mentoring

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

Health for Teens

Please visit this [website](#) for more information about the Health for Teens service, which was announced to Year 10 during their assembly last week.

Dates for you Diaries:

Monday 22 June Mock exams start

Tutor time this week	
Monday	Literacy
Tuesday	Numeracy
Wednesday	Careers
Thursday	Careers
Friday	AD Assembly

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

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

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Max C
2. Archie L
3. Niran R

Form Attendance (%):

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

Honourable Mentions:

1. Karol K
2. Hannah S
3. Nicholas T

Year 10 Academy Values Awards

respect

Alfie C
Archie U-T
Grace A
Harrison C
Jamie O
Lauren B
Maisie F
Nicolas T
Samuel M,

aspiration

Chloe T
Elijah P
Haleena P
Hope P
Jaylen B
Macie G
Max C
Niran R
Subhan K
Summer U

resilience

Flynn S
Francesca A
Haris W
Isabella H
Lacey M
Maddoch O'D
Nicholas B
Ocean J
Zak B

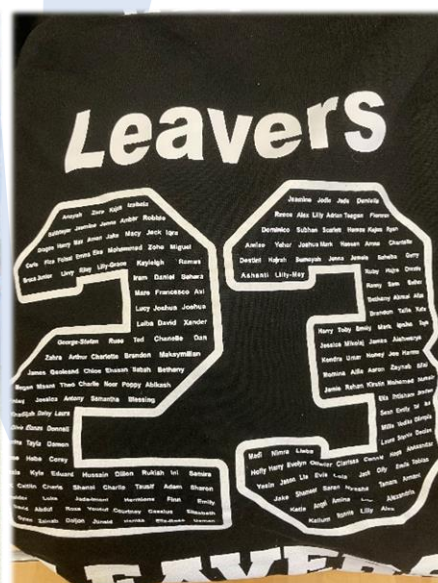
Any enquiries, please contact year10enquiries@theacademy.me
Mr O'Leary and the Year 10 Team



Mrs Leach says... First week of the exam season has been a success. It has been lovely seeing the Year 11s in the hall at 8am revising for their exams. I've even bumped into some students revising at the coffee shop.

Year 11 Prefects enjoyed their Prefect picnic on Wednesday, the sun was shining, and students were rewarded for their hard work throughout this year.

We appreciate that our Year 11s are nearing the end of their time at AVA, however school uniform is still very important and always at the forefront of our daily routines. School shoes are still expected to be worn by Year 11. If their school shoes have broken or they've grown out of them, new ones do need to be purchased. Students will need to be in uniform for their exams this summer, and will need black shoes for job interviews, A levels, and special events in the near future.



Just a reminder about our expectations:

- Students must attend all exams that are allocated to them on their individual candidate timetable.
- Misreading the timetable will not be accepted as a satisfactory explanation for your absence.

- If a student misses an exam due to illness, you must telephone the school.
- Mobile phones, headphones, watches, bags will be left in the main hall before students enter the exam hall. The main hall will be locked for the duration of the exam. Students can then collect their belongings from the main hall once they've finished the exam.
- If a device is found on a student in the exam hall and it is turned on, this will result in disqualification from entire subject award.
- If a device is found on a student in the hall exam and turned off, this will result in disqualification from that component of the subject award.

Geography Revision during Half Term

Mrs Smyth will be running a revision session on **Friday 2 June** to help our Year 11 GCSE Geography students prepare for their Paper 2 examination on **Friday 9 June**. Students need to arrive at the front entrance of school at 10am. The session will finish at 12 noon. Please encourage your child to attend, we find these sessions can help motivate students and reduce anxiety about the upcoming exam.

Year 11 Prom

Prom payment has now closed and I'm excited to say that we have 145 students signed up to attend the evening. Invites will be posted to students at the beginning of June.

Year 11 Leavers Hoodies

Leavers' Hoodies will be handed out at the Leavers' Assembly on **Friday 26 May**.

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

Any enquiries, please contact year11enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Leach and the Year 11 Team

Thank you for all your support