



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

PARENT BULLETIN No. 82

10th March 2023

Welcome...

As you will be aware I have had to partially close the school on two occasions due to strike action. There has been a lot of speculation about whether national strike action is going to go ahead on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March. However, we have received no confirmation and therefore need to plan as if strikes are going ahead. We do have a number of staff taking industrial action as before, and we are in the process of finalising those plans. I hope to be able to confirm those plans with you on Monday 13 March at the latest. It is likely that our decision to partially close will be similar the previous strike days this year. I am very grateful for the level of understanding by parents who have had to make alternative arrangements. Clearly you recognise that teachers are in dispute with the Government and not the school.

Regardless of this disruption, there still remains a huge amount going on at AVA. It's great to see our Duke of Edinburgh cohort expand year on year and being able to take all of our Year 11, 12 and 13s to the Bucks Skills Show. I have never seen such a focus on careers at AVA than is taking place now, and the opportunities for students are significant. For example I am pleased to say that we have reintroduced Year 10 Work Experience after several years of pandemic-related interruptions. Many schools have decided not to offer this.

If you have any questions about this, or any other aspect of your child's education, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Have a great 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 **Jessica B** in Year 7. **Jessica** always tries her best in lesson, and is never afraid to put her hand up even if she isn't sure of her answer – great **Resilience**, well done **Jessica!**

History Ambassadors

Congratulations to Andreea Nitu and Munashe Ngoro who have been

added to our list of Year 10 subject ambassadors. Other year groups with certificates and badges to be issued to follow.

Year 10 GCSE History Trip to Hampton Court Palace - Wednesday 21 June

Letters were issued this week 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

Ibukun F won two bronze medals at the Athletics indoor regional final last weekend. Overall Bucks came 4th and it was a great team effort. Congratulations **Ibukun**, and we wish you the best of luck in your forthcoming competitions too.



Fixtures

The Year 11 boys won their third match of the season 3-2 against local rivals Waddesdon School. It was a great match, and the boys battled throughout to secure the win. It was probably the best Mr Wakefield has seen them play as a team. Excellent work rate and worked for each other fantastically. The year 11 Boys Football team also competed in a 5 aside tournament hosted by Sir Henry Floyd. They came 3rd place third out of seven teams, and one more win would've secured a first place victory.

Year 9 unfortunately lost their match against Waddesdon 6-5. They were up for the whole match, and then Waddesdon scored in the

last 20 seconds to take the lead. The girls worked really well and after a few losses, managed to keep their resilience high. Well done girls.

PGL

The final 50 students for the PGL trip in the Summer Term have now been chosen. If they have not yet already, please can you ask them to go to the PE office to receive a letter with further information regarding the trip.

GCSE Music Trip to the Stables Milton Keynes- Alina Orchestra

On Tuesday **21 February** our Year 10 and 11 GCSE Music Students visited the Stables Theatre in Milton Keynes to watch a performance of Baroque and Classical Music by the Alina Orchestra. This was to support their studies for the Concerto Through Time Topic.

Kayleigh E, Year 11, took a huge amount from the experience: "It was an incredibly engaging and informative experience that gave us the chance to see a live orchestra in action, and highlighted the important role each instrument played.



“We were able to see a harpsichord perform a fantastic cadenza passage playing a series of demisemiquavers! Being able to see each of the instruments live and in action allowed us to really understand how they linked to our course. The conductor was also extremely charismatic and eccentric which made it even more fun. We are incredibly grateful that our teachers gave us the opportunity to see an inspiring group of musicians perform.”

Year 11 British Film Institute trip

Year 11 Media students attended the annual revision day at the British Film Institute on London's Southbank on **Friday 10 March**.

Students took part in activities and received guidance on how to apply theory and media terminology for exams. Students had the opportunity to recap some of the more challenging areas of their courses and were encouraged to engage with Q&A sessions throughout the day to clarify and deepen their knowledge in preparation for the exams.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award Update

This term, Duke of Edinburgh Silver students have all had their individual progress meeting with a member of DofE staff to check in on their progress, and we are currently going through the same process with our Bronze students (which there are so many of) over the next few weeks.

Bronze students have received training this week on how to do this and Silver students will be well practised in this from last year. It is these assessor reports which will gain 'DofE'ers' their awards so please help us in reminding your child to upload these.



Key DofE Staff Contacts

As our DofE offer continues to expand year on year, we are now pleased to have a team of staff who each volunteer in different aspects of the DofE Delivery.

For support or questions on DofE delivery, eDofE or volunteering, physical and skills opportunities please contact:

Miss Lambourne - DofE Manager - glambourne@theacademy.me or;

Mr Lobb - Assistant DofE Manager - mlobb@theacademy.me

For support or questions on DofE expeditions, please contact the relevant Expedition Supervisor for Bronze (Year 9) or Silver (Years 10 and 11):

Mrs Crumpton - Silver Expedition Supervisor – vcrumpton@theacademy.me

Mr Braybrook - Bronze Expedition Supervisor – mbraybrook@theacademy.me

Key DofE Dates

We are looking forward to a busy summer of expeditions. Letters will be coming out over the next week with further information, but in the meantime please calendar in the following dates: **Silver:** Friday 21 April PM 1.30pm – 5.30pm - Practice Navigation Walk in the local area; and Thursday 22 June to Saturday 24 June - Silver Qualifying Expedition (Cotswolds).

Bronze: Friday 12 May (after school) to Saturday 13 May - Bronze Practice Expedition (Ivinghoe); and Friday 16 June to Saturday 17 June - Bronze Qualifying Expedition (Chilterns).

Young Enterprise Easter Sweet Sale

The Year 12 Young Enterprise Team BnB will be running an Easter Sweet Sale and Raffle on **Tuesday 21 March**, at lunch time in the Main Hall for Year 10 and 11, and in the trium for Years 7 - 9.

All proceeds will go towards their product development ahead of the 'Showcase Finals Competition on **Tuesday 9 May 2023**. Raffle tickets are 30p each or a strip of 5 for £1.00. There are 3 Raffle Prizes of a small, medium and large luxury Easter Egg, so don't forget to bring in some spare change!



Maths Lunch Club

If you are a parent who has always wanted to build the confidence of your child in Mathematics then, Math Club is the solution!

Mathematics club will give your child a chance to have fun in Mathematics in an entirely non-judgemental, free flowing environment.

St Patrick's Day Irish Dance Workshop

We will be running an Irish Dance Workshop this year to celebrate St Patricks Day nest **Friday 17 March**. The workshop will be run by dance professionals and costs £5.50. Please may payment on ParentPay and see Miss Proud if you have any questions.

HPV Immunisations for Year 9

The school immunisation team will be visiting school on **Monday 13 March** to deliver the HPV Immunisation programme to Year 9 pupils. Please try and ensure your child has breakfast that morning.

Careers

Year 10 Work Experience

Our Year 10 learners will be participating in work experience between **Monday 24 April** and **Friday 28 April**. Well done to all the learners who have secured their placements, if your child is yet to secure a placement, please support them.



There are many benefits to work experience, including increased employability skills, an insight into the workplace, improving an individual's knowledge about their chosen industry, and maximising their chances of finding employment. Your child will have improved communication skills and it will optimise their CVs.

National careers week

This week we celebrated National Careers week at school and our year 11 and 6F learners attended the Bucks Skills Show; helping young people explore careers and work out how to get there at Buckinghamshire's largest skills and careers inspiration event.





Mrs Weedon says... Well done to all our fantastic Year 7s who have worked very hard this week. We have been very impressed with how resilient they have been, coming in everyday and trying their best. They have all grown so much. We look forward to watching them succeed as the year goes on.

This week in tutor time Year 7 continued with literacy and their personal development booklets. This is in addition to looking at the word of the week. They also completed part of their Career's Booklet, looking at the skills they want to improve for future job prospects.

For National Careers Week, they looked at what they like at school and what their aspirations are. It was lovely to read some of their views and look at the range of **aspirations**. It was also World Book Week, so tutor time have been very busy. The forms took part in a quiz and guess the 'Shelfie'. Thank you to Mr Cluett for organising such well thought out activities throughout the week.

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.

Dates for you Diaries:

Thursday 4 May Parents' Evening

Friday 19 May – Sunday 21 May PGL residential



Year 7 Academy Values Awards

respect

Asher A
Maisie W
Sophie C
Emily B
Ava W
Ingrid CS
Jake D
Mustapha S
Cameron S
Dario S
Elodie W
Nica W
Toby P

aspiration

Oliwia K
Humna Q
Kiy M
Madi E
Haider S
Megan P
Graci M
Callum W
Neve F
Bethany W
Mollie B
Albie B
Mia O
Elisha M

resilience

Steven B
Imaan J
Ameile D
Eden C
Elisa M
Kian B
Emma B
Matthew L
Zihan Q
Frey B
Zach G
Manha I
Zihan Q
Dihein W

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

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

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Amir C
2. Madina K
3. Rylee P & Lucas B

Form Attendance (%):

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

Honourable Mentions:

Student Parliament – thank you for all your hard work round the school

Any enquiries, please contact year7enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Weedon and the Year 7 Team



Ms Dutson says...

Now that all of our Options Assemblies are over, we were finally able to hold our Celebration Assembly from the end of the Spring term. We were pleased to be able to celebrate the Year 8's successes which felt long overdue!

We are hoping that all students have managed to complete their options on the Online Portal. With the deadline falling **today**, it is imperative that this process has happened. The last few remaining issues will be all sorted as soon as possible.



Students reaching their Bronze Awards were:

Noor Jehan A, Ayman A, Teshnavi A, Summer E, Jannat H, Millie M, Isabella P, Lily P, Evie S, Ravneet K, Unai G, Rupert W, Wasif I, Safwan K, Ivan K, Jasmine R, Ibrahim A, Ethan B, Demian B, Irum M, Henley C, Nathan Haw, Isabella M, Aimee H, Lexi K, Komal I, and Edward N.

Students reaching their Silver Awards were: Sofia B, Lily M, Morgan S, Olivia U, Jennifer B, Rufus M, Elizabeth B, Julia B, Isabella H, Freddie K, and Crow H.

Our Tutors were pleased to nominate the following students for Values awards:

<u>Nobel 1</u> Respect – Alyssa Aspiration - Elizabeth B Resilience – Gabriel M Honourable Mention – Ollie E-H	<u>Nobel 2</u> Respect - Oliver S Aspiration – Harry T Resilience - Kayden C Honourable Mention - Carrick E	<u>Nobel 3</u> Respect – Jack A Aspiration - Crow Resilience – Billie RB Honourable Mention – Komal
<u>Faraday 1</u> Respect – Jannat Aspiration – Elliott Resilience – Alex W Honourable Mention – Chantelle	<u>Faraday 2</u> Respect – Ethan Aspiration – Phoebe Resilience – Jenson Honourable Mention – Anya-Louise	<u>Faraday 3</u> Respect – James K Aspiration – Samara Resilience – Humayn Honourable mention – Unai
<u>Franklin 1</u> Respect - Ewan Aspiration - Maryam Resilience – Callum S Honourable Mention – Dior	<u>Franklin 2</u> Respect – Cassie Aspiration – Ethan By Resilience – Ethan C Honourable mention – Zach P	<u>Franklin 3</u> Respect – Olivia O Aspiration – Chloe E Resilience – Riley S Honourable mention – Daniel

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

1. Nobel 1

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Elina S
2. Freddie K
3. Poppy K

Form Attendance (%):

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

Honourable Mentions:

All Year 8s who took part in World Maths Challenge

Any enquiries, please contact year8enquiries@theacademy.me

Ms Dutson and the Year 8 Team



Mr Hawley says... This week has been good. The place was quieter without the Year 11s on Thursday at the Bucks Skills Show. Sometimes a change in weather can lead to adverse behaviour as students get excited by the snow. Year 9 coped with this very well and I did not have to confiscate any snowballs this week, so I think we can classify that as a success all round.

Mr Bernard has given a big well done to **Kira M** and for being **aspirational** in form and always looking to do the right thing.

There has been an increase in acrylic nails and false eye lashes in recent weeks. As lovely as they look, they aren't allowed in our school Uniform Policy and so need to be removed. If they aren't, students could find themselves in isolation.

Parents evening has been moved to Thursday March 30 due next week's planned strike action. The Spanish department are in Spain on a trip, so they will get in touch separately.

So far 63% of Parents have booked, which is excellent, but we have a way to go to beat Year 11.

Dates for you Diaries:

Thursday 30 March Parents' Evening



Year 9 Academy Values Awards



Paolo P - Me and Paolo had a tricky conversation this week, but I was really proud with how maturely he handled it, and how much respect he showed me.



Haider Ali - Haider has recently taken an interest in boxing and despite never doing it before, he gives it best and is learning quickly.



Kyrah F - she has started in a new subject and Mr Ramsbottom is extremely impressed with her work so far.

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... A really positive week for Year 10 with many students receiving achievement points for demonstrating our academy values. Please see below in the academy values awards section.

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 and Mrs Marina as soon as possible.

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

Faraday, Franklin, and Nobel – all tutor groups have now been in a computer room and looking at their work experience placements on Unifrog.

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.

Dates for you Diaries:

Monday 24 April – Friday 28 April Work Experience

Friday 21 April and Wednesday 28 May Career Passport Days at Oxford Brookes. More details to follow



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	Numeracy
Tuesday	Community Assembly – Mrs Pykett – National Careers Week
Wednesday	Literacy
Thursday	Careers
Friday	AD Assembly – Mrs Pykett – National Careers Week

Year 10 Academy Values Awards

respect

Grace A
 Nicholas B
 Ivo M
 Chantai C
 Katie S
 Sophia D
 Angel A
 Finley C
 Theo D
 Riley B
 Francesca A
 Sheza R
 Reanne M
 Jamie L
 Eleanor C
 Theodore H
 Ruby Mc
 Taylor F
 Humza I

aspiration

Summer C
 Jake
 Flynn S
 Daniel F
 Haris W
 Malaika Q
 Lloyd L
 Haaris A
 Lewis C
 Lara B
 Imogen J
 Arjaan S
 Sonny S
 Shannon H
 George N
 Melissza J
 Kashaf A
 Alfie C
 Subhan K

resilience

Khadija A
 Harrison Ca
 Summer U
 Chloe M
 Hannah S
 Krystain N
 Elliott S
 Alice K
 Khadeeja B
 Lavinia N
 Liam W
 Cody H
 Harry D
 George S
 Samuel M
 Isabella B
 Charlie S
 Akisharra J
 Munashe N



Mrs Leach says... Students continue to work hard towards their mock exams, with two still remaining: 21 March – Science (Physics – Paper 2), and 23 March – Science (Chemistry – Paper 2).

Year 11 Revision Evening

Last night we hosted our Year 11 Parent Revision Evening. The aim of the session was to give guidance to parents about ways you can support your child with planning their revision and using revision strategies

in preparation for the summer exam period.



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

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 £27.50 and will be available for students at the Leavers Assembly in 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

Dates for you Diaries:

Year 11 Academy Values Awards

respect

Zaynab B

Caris M

James W

aspiration

Emily N

Blessing AN

Maddi BB

resilience

Kallum V

Anthony W

Adam Y

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

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

Individual Achievement Points:

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

Form Attendance (%):

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

Honourable Mentions:

1. Emily B
2. Lilly B
3. Xander M

Any enquiries, please contact year11enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Leach and the Year 11 Team



Mrs Sharma says... The Inspiration Programme Trip this week was to Windmill Hill, a purpose-built archive and office complex near Waddesdon Manor. Students are looking at the relevance of arts and culture to society and the archive houses some of the Rothschild's family contemporary art collection. Along with a discussion about the art work on display they walked to Flint

House in the grounds of the Manor, a building clad in flint designed to give the illusion of it erupting from the surrounding earth.

The Sixth form students enjoyed going to the Bucks Skills Show 2023 on 9th March, the immense range of stalls enable them to collect information about careers, apprenticeships and volunteering opportunities in Buckinghamshire. They came back having enjoyed their conversations and freebies that different companies had kindly given out.



Any enquiries, please contact post16enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Sharma and the 6th Form Team

Thank you for all your support