



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

PARENT BULLETIN No. 80

24th February 2023

Welcome...

Welcome back to another half-term. It was great to see students come back from their overseas trips – the GCSE history trip to Berlin and the Ski Trip to Austria. These are experiences that students will remember for a very long time, and proves that learning doesn't just happen in the classroom.

One main feature of this bulletin is the focus on students making decisions about their future. The Year 8s will shortly be choosing which subjects they will be doing in year 9, and there are a range of careers events on the horizon. These include the Bucks Skills Show for Year 11, 12 and 13, visiting speakers and the Year 10 Work Experience, which is in the planning stages.

Unfortunately we had to deal with some boisterous behaviour at the local Sainsbury's due to the appearance of Prime – an energy drink that until recently was quite hard to come by. Needless to say, we confiscate any kind of energy drinks in school due to the negative effect it can have on students' concentration and behaviour. I would be grateful if you could reinforce this message at home.

However this morning we held a Lockdown Drill. I'm pleased to say that students were excellent in their conduct and followed all instructions from staff. This is a statutory requirement where we practise the actions that we would take should there be an intruder on site, a civil disturbance, or any other potential danger to students and staff. We were really proud of our student's maturity.

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](#)



Ski Trip

Thirty-one students had a fantastic Ski Trip with Mr Wakefield, Mr Lobb, Mrs Stewart and Miss O'Loughlin over half term in Austria.

The majority of students had never skied before, but by the end of the trip almost all were skiing down red runs from the top of the Grafenberg mountain.

The resilience shown during this trip was incredible, and we received compliment after compliment from a variety of people,



including hotel staff, bus drivers and our ski rep on what excellent ambassadors for AVA our students were.

Each day they continued to impress, from their fantastic manners at breakfast and dinner, to their wonderful **respect** in helping each other across year groups.

The memories made on this trip will honestly last a lifetime, and will be spoken about for years to come.

Preparations are already underway for next year's trip, so keep an eye out if you are interested.



USA Trip – Easter 2024

We are planning to organise a trip to Washington and New York during the first week of Easter 2024.

The trip will include the following:-

- Flights, transfers and coaches during our stay in Washington and New York
- Accommodation, breakfast and evening meals
- A Broadway Show
- Washington and New York City attractions plus a trip up Rockefeller Centre
- Rep/Guide

The cost of the trip is £1629 per person.

If your child would be interested in a place on this trip, please ask them to see Mrs Perrin to collect additional information on how to secure a place.



Heart Day Bake Sale for Youth for Action

On **Friday 10 February** the AVA Youth Social Action (YSA) team hosted their first bake sale fundraiser in the atrium and main hall. The 'Heart Day' bake sale was in aid of raising funds for the British Heart Foundation and Mission 44 charities. The Aylesbury Vale Academy sixth form leads (under the supervision of key staff) were instrumental in planning and executing a well-organized bake sale.

The YSA team was overwhelmed with the support from the AVA students and staff, who came out in large numbers to purchase pastries and make donations.

They acquired £400 in sales, but the invaluable skills and experiences that our students have garnered are the biggest takeaway from this activity.

Our primary goal is to develop and nurture our young leaders, preparing them for a future of endless possibilities. The Youth Social Action team continues to grow with the AVA core values as our fertilizer.

Home School Agreement

We are working hard to ensure that parents and carers are fully involved in their child's education, and that each child fully understands their own role in promoting a culture that centres around their learning, focusing on our three key values of **Respect**, **Aspiration** and **Resilience**

In order to support our commitment to your child, we are asking you to read and agree to our Home School Agreement, which can be found attached to this email or on our website, [here](#).

The Home School Agreement underlines the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of students, parents and the School.

Once you have read the Agreement, please complete [this short Microsoft Form](#) to confirm you understand and agree to uphold the expectations it outlines.



Parent Partnership

We are excited to announce that we are currently working to achieve a 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 follow the link below to complete the survey. It should only take a couple of minutes and the link is open until 10th March.

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.

<https://app.awardplace.co.uk/stakeholder-evaluations/user-survey/63f4dba6c4614>



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.

[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.

Careers Assembly

Our Year 9 and 10 learners were invited to join an assembly delivered by UCT Aylesbury. It is important for us to ensure our learners are aware of all their future pathways and what careers they can aspire to.

The UCT Aylesbury campus have lots to offer learners who are looking for a practical or technical approach to learning.





Bucks Skills Show 2023

On the Wednesday 8 March the Bucks skills hub are hosting a skills show at the Mandeville stadium between 4pm and 8pm for parents. Our year 11,12 and 13 learners will attend the skills show on the 9th of March during school hours. Please book a free timeslot to visit with your child, all year groups are encouraged to visit.

This week we have also included a new podcast for you to listen to as parents. The Parent Perspective, hosted by BBC presenter Rachel

Burden, was created to help parents and carers support their children in making more informed career decisions with greater confidence, knowledge and understanding. [The Parent Perspective | Episode 7: The Minister - Robert Halfon MP and National Apprenticeship Week \(transistor.fm\)](#)

Year 10 and Year 12 Careers Visit by EKFB and The Business Side

On Tuesday 28 February EKFB and The Business Side will be coming into school to deliver a series of Business Studies talks to our Year 10 and Year 12 Business Studies students.

EKFB is a joint venture that brings together international, market-leading expertise from four leading civil engineering and construction companies: Eiffage, Kier, Ferrovial Construction and BAM Nuttall.



All four partners bring specialist expertise in the design, construction, operation, financing and maintenance of railway networks, including the construction of one of Europe's latest high-speed rail projects.



The Business Side was founded by Dan Walsh Dan Walsh, whose 20 years of experience has provided him with an acute ability to engage with people from all walks of life to affect change where change is needed.

More recently, Dan has turned my skills to tackling some of the deep-rooted issues facing businesses and society as a whole; diversity, inclusion and representation. The aim of Dan's visit is for students to see how what they are studying has a purpose and meaning, and how they can relate the topics they are studying in Business to the real world.



Mrs Weedon says... It's been a positive start to the term for Year 7, who have settled back into their routines well. It has been wonderful to see them all back, looking very smart in their uniform.

Next week we will have some parents coming in to discuss their careers, these will be a great opportunity for the students to see the vast range of jobs available in the area.

This week in tutor time, Year 7 have continued with literacy tasks 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 on vaping and how addictive it can be to young people. Mrs Pykett and Mrs Ripley delivered a hard-hitting presentation on the long term damaging effects it can have on a young person's body.

Youth Social Action members raised more than £400 with their Bake Sale before half term - well done to Mrs Blake-Huggins and 7 Franklin 3 for all their hard to raise money and aware for charity.



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 students are wear the correct uniform when they come into school. If they lose their tie or shoes, they will be asked to borrow some from the school.

Dates for you Diaries:

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

Thursday 4 May Year 7 Parents Evening

Friday 19 May – Sunday 21 May – PGL Liddington Residential

Year 7 Academy Values Awards

respect

Harvey M
Amber W
Kennoy L
Alfie J
Chloe W
Laila M
Kayden B
Elizabeth N
Emilija S
Zara J
Kelise B

aspiration

Cameron S
Jai P
Buck M
Sophie K
Aeshah M
Doae J
Muhammed N
Ruby C
Kiy M

resilience

Louie C
Megan P
Jack S
Judith A
Oliwia K
Lily G
Jaimee C
Angie S
Bethany W
Ava G
Emma B

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

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

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Liam C
2. Dylan H
3. Harrison S

Form Attendance (%):

1. Nobel 3 & Faraday 1
2. Franklin 1

Honourable Mentions:

Welcome back to all our amazing Year 7s!

Any enquiries, please contact year7enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Weedon and the Year 7 Team



Ms Dutson says... It has been great to welcome back our Year 8s from half term this week; Mrs Powell, Mr Wakefield and all our Form Tutors are looking forward to supporting both you and your children through the options process over the coming weeks.

This week we have again focussed on Options, both in terms of subjects to study at Key Stage 4 and further education routes Post-16.

Our Tutor times this week have continued with a focus on exploring subjects on offer as options. This week students have seen presentations from MFL, DT (including Engineering and Hospitality & Catering), PE, Health and Fitness, History, and Geography.

All the information from these assemblies will be provided in our Options Information Booklet, which we will be issuing as soon as we can.

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.

We encourage all our parents to attend the Options Evening on **Thursday 2 March** from **6pm**, where we will be providing 2 or 3 presentations over the evening. It is recommended to allow at least an hour for the event. Staff will be on hand to meet, greet and guide you. We will also have representatives from Advisa Careers, further education, and apprenticeships.

A number of Year 8s attended the annual ski trip over half term. The Year 8s who attended were fantastic and represented AVA, and their year group exceptionally. Mr Wakefield had the chance to see some of his new year group in a very different environment, and said that they excelled in their **resilience** and **respect** throughout the trip.

Next year's trip will be advertised soon, so please keep an eye out.

Vaping

On Wednesday our Vice Principal Mrs Pykett delivered a very informative assembly on the dangers of vaping. Shockingly some vapes contain 20 x the nicotine of one cigarette, vaping can lead to poor health, further addiction and disease. Students were made aware of what could happen if they are found to have vapes on their person in school. **If you have concerns about your child please do contact us.**

Dates for you Diaries:

Thursday 2 March Options Evening from 5pm. Options Web Portal opens.

Friday 10 March Options Deadline. Choices must be submitted via the portal.

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

Early May Options offers posted to students and parents



Year 8 Academy Values Awards

respect

Rupert W
Olivia U
Oliver S
Louis R

aspiration

Evie S
Eleanor S
Riley S
Shannon W

resilience

Cai W
Lila S
Kaya N
Oliver M

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

1. Faraday 1

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Liam S
2. Teshnavi A, Summer E, Noor A, Millie M, Lily P, Jannat H, Isabella P, Elliot P, Breanna J
3. Ethan B

Honourable Mentions:

All our Year 8s who attended either the Ski Trip or the trip to Berlin. Staff and external organisers have passed on what a pleasure it was to accommodate our students.

Our Year 8 Litter Pickers who continue to do such a sterling job keeping our environment and surroundings neat and tidy, despite all the weather can throw at us!

Any enquiries, please contact year8enquiries@theacademy.me

Ms Dutson and the Year 8 Team



Mr Hawley says Welcome back everyone! It was really nice to see everyone back and have an assembly from the UTC. The college focusses on vocational skills which students can start in year 10. If you would like any more information, please just let me know.

Before the break **Louis C** drove a tractor and the fact he's returned to school indicates it went well - well done Louis!



Summer E made a hesitant switch from Geography to History. Summer is doing fantastically in history, and I feel Geography may regret letting her drop the subject.

Well done to **Amelia C** who gave in an inspirational quote that was so good that Miss Mckenzie-Thornley used it as his PowerPoint slide.

The Easter Bunny has come early this week and given everyone in year 9 a free pen. Hopefully this will help students be better equipped.

Dates for you Diaries:

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

Year 9 Academy Values Awards

respect

James C for showing another student how to work the gym machines. This made that student feel very welcome on their first experience in the gym

aspiration

Lily D, Bilal M and Erin G for taking the initiative to organise a charity event for those effected so badly by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. We will do everything we can to support you.

resilience

Joleen C for being brave, resilient and inspirational. She is a role model for everyone, adults and students alike.

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

I hope everyone had a restful break during half term. The Year 10s 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 and the [Unifrog](#) placement tool.

We will be working with the year group to further support any work experience questions and placements. If any students need any support, please ask them to speak to Mr O'Leary, Miss Porter, Mrs O'Callaghan or Mrs Marina.

Faraday 1, 2 and 3 and Franklin 1 have been in a computer room and looking at their work experience placements on Unifrog.

Franklin 2 and 3 and Nobel 1, 2 and 3 will be supported during tutor time next week.

Study Higher Mentoring

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

Assemblies:

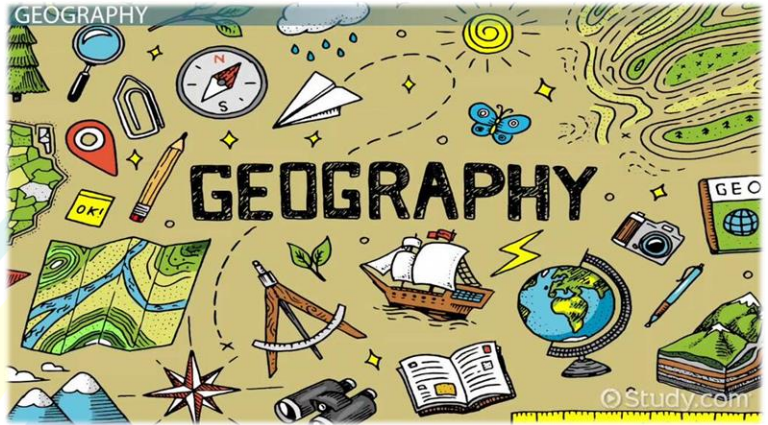
Assemblies are on Tuesday and Friday, students are back in the main hall for assemblies, they need to line up outside in the main hall in their tutor groups.

PE Kit

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

GCSE Geography Field Trip

Our Year 10 GCSE Geography students are taking part in their field trip to Oxford on either **Tuesday 28 February** (10CGe1 and 10DGe1), **Tuesday 7 March** (10AGe1) or **Thursday 9 March** (10BGe1 and 10CGe2). Below are some reminders about the arrangements and expectations for these trips:



- Students should **wear full school uniform** but are allowed to wear black trainers as we will be doing a lot of walking. It is advised they bring a coat.
- Students should bring a **packed lunch** (those who usually have lunch provided by the school will be given a packed lunch). They will also need a pen and pencil.
- Students should meet in the **Atrium at 8.25am** on the day of their trip.
- We expect to **return to school around 1.25pm**. **Students will attend periods 5 and 6** on that day, as per their timetable.
- If any student requires **personal medication** such as an asthma inhaler, they should ensure they bring it to school on that day.

If you have any questions, you can contact Mrs Smyth on asmyth@theacademy.me.

Dates for you Diaries:

Monday 24 – Friday 28 April Work Experience, Letters have been sent via EduLink and students have received paper copy of these letters.

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

Tutor time	
Monday	Inset
Tuesday	Community Assembly – Mrs Marina
Wednesday	Careers/Numeracy
Thursday	Careers/Literacy
Friday	AD Assembly – Mr O’Leary

Year 10 Academy Values Awards

respect

aspiration

resilience

Grace A
Hannah J
Binta
Angel A
Jamini
Zayneb B
Lauren B
David K
Taylor F

Robert E
Flynn S
Gerrad Y
Krystain N
Ines D-D
Araish A
Shayden A
Ruby Mc
Kayla J

Tyler W
Alex B
Musa K
Lloyd L
Alice K
Kaden S
Alex M
Amel H
Maya M

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

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

Form Attendance (%):

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

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Ocean J
2. Bryan J
3. Fatima A

Honourable Mentions:

Zayneb B, Angel A and Sophia D for always demonstrating all Academy values.

Any enquiries, please contact year10enquiries@theacademy.me

Mr O'Leary and the Year 10 Team

Mrs Leach says... This week Year 11 students have been given their pre-mock exam timetable. These exams start on **Friday 3 March:**

3 March: Maths (Paper 1)	6 March: English Language
7 March: Maths (Paper 2)	10 March: Maths (Paper 3)
21 March: Science – Phys. (Paper 1)	23 March: Science – Chem. (Paper 1)

On **Wednesday 1 March** we will be hosting a Year 11 Revision Morning for the students, during this session students will be given a revision pack, advised on revision strategies and have time to create their revision.

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.



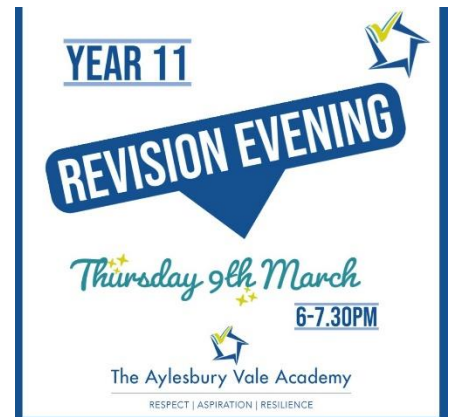
During the evening there will also be subject specialist on hand to support with revision.

If you would like to attend, please complete [this short form](#).

Revision Hints & Tips

Research shows that physically active students have more active brains. Even walking for just 20 minutes can significantly increase activity in the brain. This means that it is really important for students to take regular breaks in their learning.

Studies have shown that exercise helps to oxygenate the brain and release tension, helping students to keep calm, mentally relax and study more efficiently.



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- ✓ BTEC National Level 3 Extended Diploma in Creative Digital Media
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#AVASIXTHFORM

The Aylesbury Vale Academy
RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

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Applications open 30th January 2023

www.theacademy.me/sixthformcourses

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What Can You Do?

Suggest to your child that they take breaks every 60-90 minutes when revising. Encourage your child to do something active with their break, such as getting some fresh air, playing sport, going for a walk or a run, or doing housework. Remind them that exercise doesn't have to last for hours to count.

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:

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



Huge congratulations to Josh AB who celebrated his recent selection for the WAKO (World Association Kickboxing Organisation) Team GB by winning the WAKO British Title at the weekend. Well done **Josh!**

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.

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' and select your preferred size, colour and the name you would like printed on the back. Hoodies cost £24.50 and will be available for students at the Leavers Assembly in May.

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

Form Attendance (%):

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

Individual Achievement Points:

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

Honourable Mentions:

1. Zoha O
2. Tamara OS
3. Tobias T

Any enquiries, please contact year11enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Leach and the Year 11 Team



Mrs Sharma says... The AVA Sixth Form Youth Social Action leads were instrumental in helping the group raise more than £400 for the British Heart Foundation through bake sales on Friday 10 February.

We were also invited to the Sixth Form Buckingham New University Taster Day, with the experience leaving a lasting impression on many of our students.

Mohammad B said: "I enjoyed the activities that we did as all of us in the business lecture had to create and present our own idea of a soft drink. I found it really useful as we worked on teamwork and team building skills, whilst learning more about the courses on offer from a lecturer's viewpoint."

Naila K added: "It was helpful to have an insight of the campus and all the different experiences we will have. This was a good experience for us because it helped us make a decision as to whether university is the right choice for us and what subjects intrigue us the most. The students and teachers were so welcoming and helpful to answering any questions we had."

Any enquiries, please contact post16enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Sharma and the 6th Form Team

Thank you for all your support

