



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

PARENT BULLETIN No. 81

3rd March 2023

Welcome...

It was so lovely to open our doors once again to a huge number to parents for our Year 8 Options Evening. The school was buzzing with excited Year 8s and parents with questions. This is the first time we have been able to do this in three years.

Several staff contribute to this bulletin and it is one of the best parts of the week when I get to see all the different opportunities that our staff offer to students. I appreciate that trips to the USA and to go skiing are expensive and not everyone can go on them, however there are also lots and lots of cheaper and free opportunities available such as fixtures against local schools, after school clubs, and day trips to things such as the Bucks Skills Show (next week).

Today, in fact, Miss Proud, our Cultural Curriculum lead informed me that over 1700 students had attended a trip so far this year. I am so pleased to see kids embracing these opportunities.

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](#)



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.



Subject Superstar

This week's **History Hero** is **Umar C** in Year 11. **Umair** demonstrates great aspiration by regularly attending Friday Period 6 History tuition sessions.

Art Department

Year 11 are currently working on the preparation for work for their final exams, working towards the following deadlines:

Tuesday 18 April and Wednesday 19 April 11A/AF1 and 11C/AT1

Thursday 20 April and Friday 21 April 11C/AF1

As always, the Art department are available every Tuesday from 4pm – 5pm and every Friday from 3pm - 4pm for students to attend catch-up sessions if needed. We also open the classrooms at lunchtimes to enable the students to use the resources in the art rooms.

Full information about what work needs to be included in the sketchbook is attached to this bulletin.

PE News

Fixtures

A huge 'well done' to our Year 9 boys Football team who came 4th in the 5-aside tournament at Sir Henry Floyd School. It was a great overall team performance, and they only lost one game!

Our year 7 boys Football team also had a successful week, securing their first win of the season with a 4-2 win against Akeley Wood. The team showed excellent determination and **resilience** to bounce back after a few losses.

Year 7 and 8 Netball teams both played Waddesdon School this week, completing a double-victory. The Year 8 game was very close, with the girls managing to secure a 7-6 win. The Year 7s played brilliantly to win 6-1 win. Fantastic work girls, well done!

Students of the Month

A huge 'congratulations' to the following students who have been recognized by their PE teachers for demonstrating **Respect**, **Resilience** and **Aspiration** within PE, and consistently putting in that extra effort.

Well done to **Eda H**, **Jake F**, **Lorenzo C**, **Charlie S**, **Quixote H**, **Chloe W**, and **James S**.



Ice Hockey Trip

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have an exciting opportunity to attend an Ice Hockey match to see the MK Lightning in Milton Keynes against the Telford Tigers. The trip will run on **Saturday 18 March**. This is a



great opportunity for students to see a non-traditional sport played live, and will hopefully provide inspiration to some future athletes.

We will travel by minibus, leaving AVA at 5.30pm and should arrive back at around 9.15pm.

Letters can be collected from the PE office, and payment of £10 must be made by **Wednesday 18 March**. Places are limited to 20 and will be reserved on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Summer Term

In a few weeks, we will be welcoming a change of our PE curriculum for the summer term (although I don't think the weather will be changing for us just yet!). This will affect lessons, as well as extra-curricular clubs. Please see below for our Extra-Curricular timetable for the summer term, which will mirror activities during lesson time.

	After School (15:00 – 16:00)	
Monday		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 9 & 10 Tennis: MUGA: Miss Roberts Year 9 & 10 Athletics: Field: Mr Smith (Week A) and Mr Morgan (Week B) Year 9 & 10 Football: 3G: Mr Lobb
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 7 & 8 Rounders : Field: Mrs Haynes and Mr Morgan Year 7 & 8 Tennis: MUGA: Mr Smith 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 9 & 10 Cricket: Astro: Mr Wakefield Year 9 & 10 Softball: Gym: Miss Roberts Year 9 & 10 <u>FightKlub</u>: Main Hall: EXTERNAL COACH
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 7 & 8 Badminton/<i>Softball (when sports hall is lost due to exams)</i>: Sports Hall/3G: Mr Lobb Year 7 & 8 Cricket: Astro: Mr Wakefield and Mr Morgan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 9 & 10 Rounders: Field: Miss Roberts Year 9 & 10 Fitness: Gym: Mr Daley Year 9 & 10 Martial Arts: Main Hall: EXTERNAL COACH
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 7-10 Body Fitness: Dance Studio: Mrs Crumpton Year 7 & 8 Athletics: Field: Mr Smith and Miss Gibbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 9 & 10 Rugby: Field: EXTERNAL COACH Year 9 & 10 Fitness: Gym: Mrs Haynes Year 9 & 10 Body Fitness: Dance Studio: Mrs Crumpton Year 9 & 10 Academy Leaders: Classroom: Mr Lobb Year 9 & 10 Football: 3G: Mr Wakefield
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary- Year 6 Sports Club: Mr Wakefield 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports Leaders/Prefects : Primary Sports Club

Parent Partnership



We are 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 [click here](#) to complete the survey. It should only take a couple of minutes and the link is open until Monday 10 March.

All responses and suggestions will be carefully considered and used to plan a range of school improvements.

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 on 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.



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

International Women's Day 2023

Next Wednesday 8 March is International Women's Day, and AVA will be celebrating by sharing posters of inspirational women from history around the school.

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality.

This year's theme is 'Embrace Equity'. Equity isn't just a nice-to-have, it's a must-have.

The aim of the IWD 2023 Embrace Equity campaign theme is to get the world talking about why equal opportunities aren't enough. People start from different places, so true inclusion and belonging require equitable action.

If students would like to send a card to an inspirational woman in school, please ask them to collect one from Mrs Leach and Miss Proud's office.





St Patrick's Day Irish Dance Workshop

We will be running an Irish Dance Workshop this year to celebrate St Patrick's Day on 17th March. The workshop will be run by dance professionals and costs £5.50. Please pay on ParentPay and see Miss Proud if you have any questions.

Careers

Bring a Parent to School Day

We would like to thank our year 7 parents for taking the time to come in and speak to our students about your careers and the pathways you took to get there. It was inspiring for our students to hear about the journeys you took and the hard work and dedication it took to achieve your goals.

We value parent involvement in their child's education and believe it is an important factor in helping students to reach their full potential. We are grateful for your time and your willingness to share your experiences with our students.

We hope that you will consider coming back to speak with our students in the future, and that you will continue to be actively involved in their education.

National Careers Week

National Careers Week is coming up soon and it will be taking place 6-11th March 2023. This is an important week that encourages and inspires young people to think about their future career paths, and the school is taking steps to make sure our learners have the best possible guidance and support in this area.

During the week, all classes will be taking part in activities that will allow our learners to explore different career paths and understand more about the different options available to them. We will also be sending home information for parents to review and look over with their children.

For our Year 11 and 6F learners, we are offering an exciting and unique opportunity to attend the Bucks Skills Show. This fantastic event will give the learners the chance to engage with employers and explore the world of work in more detail. They will be able to visit recruitment stands, attend workshops and seminars, and gain invaluable advice and guidance.

We are confident that National Careers Week will be a huge success and that our learners will gain valuable insight into their potential career paths. With your help in looking over the information, discussing the activities and supporting our learners to attend the Bucks Skills Show, we can ensure that they have the best possible guidance and support in this.





Mrs Weedon says... It's been a great week for Year 7, who have worked really hard this week and are becoming more resilient every day.

Navigating friendship can be very difficult and they are maturing and learning how to communicate with each other effectively. Mrs Howe and I are very proud of how they have come so far.

It was wonderful to see so many parents come in, to discuss their jobs and what it took to get them there.

The students were very engaged and it was good to get some of them thinking about what they would like to do in the future. We would like to say a big thank you to all the parents that volunteered their time, it has been a fantastic experience.

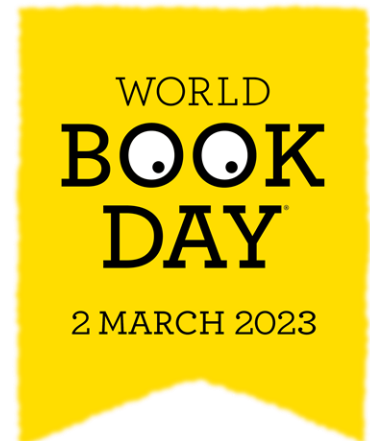
Students must make sure to write their timetables in their planners, so they have a spare copy if they lose it or have left it at home. It is very important that all students arrive to lessons on time to make a prompt start to their learning. PE kit must be brought in when they have PE lessons.

This week in tutor time Year 7 continued with literacy 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 careers booklet, looking at the skills they want to improve for future job prospects. It was World Book Day on Thursday, and all students were given a digital voucher to purchase a book. Reading helps with expanding vocabulary, spelling and writing, all students should make use of their voucher. There are six books they can choose from, and they can use the vouchers at supermarkets and books shops.

Dates for you Diaries:

Friday 19 May – Sunday 21 May PGL Liddington trip

Thursday 4 May Year 7 Parents' Evening



Year 7 Academy Values Awards

respect

Freya C
Tony L
Aleen A
Samina B
Charlie S
Eloise C
Alfie J
Amber W
Miley P
Aleesha K
Izzy B
Mustapha S

aspiration

Noor B, Abigale G
Eesa AS
Lucas B
Tyler B
Humna Q
Michael B
Imogen T
Leyah B
Mia O
Zara W
Nico K

resilience

Dario S
Melanie N
Maddie M
Sara H
Christian A
Izabella I
Samira K
Laila M
Jake D
Callum W
Charlie P
Sophie K

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

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

Individual Achievement Points:

1. George D
2. Bethany W
3. Ava G

Form Attendance (%):

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

Any enquiries, please contact year7enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Weedon and the Year 7 Team



Ms Dutson says... This week's assembly was led by Miss Blake-Huggins who spoke to the year group about Youth Social Action, which promotes activities that young people can undertake to make a positive difference to others. Students learned about having the opportunity for their voice to be heard in the school community.

Our students looked at three initiatives already underway which are supporting the British Heart Foundation, Encephalitis, and the Mission 44 Diversity Project. The Youth Social Action group meets every

Wednesday, and Miss Blake Huggins is keen to welcome new members. Please do encourage your child to get involved if they are interested.

Proudly supporting
youth social action



Thank you to all parents and carers who attended yesterday's Options Evening – we have received some very positive feedback already. The online options portal is now open until **Monday 10 March**. Please contact the Year 8 team if you have any further questions.

Now that all the subject presentations have taken place, we are mindful that our Year 8s have had a huge amount of information to take on board and digest. We have had a gentle return to our normal tutor programme, but have built in opportunities for our students to ask questions and refer to their Options Booklets. Next week the Year 8 Team will be on hand to answer any questions and support with IT issues.

Dates for you Diaries:

Monday 10 March Deadline for logging option choices – web portal closes

Monday 10 March – Friday 21 April One-to-one options meetings with some students

Early May Options offers posted to students and parents

Year 8 Academy Values Awards



Florence S
Oliver S
Daniel T
Rupert W



Dillon W
Poppy P
Krishna N
Eman K



Ibrahim A
Fabio A
Jamilu B
Paige D

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

1. Nobel 2

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Jasmine J, Lucia F, Ethan B
2. Zach P, Oliver S, Mia N, Lexi K, Ethan C, Aimee H
3. Kayden C, Armanda B, Jennifer B, Harry T, Finley C

Form Attendance (%):

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

Honourable Mentions:

All of Year 8 for respectfully listening to all of the Curriculum presentations in our Assemblies over the past week

Any enquiries, please contact year8enquiries@theacademy.me

Ms Dutson and the Year 8 Team



Mr Hawley says Another busy week for year 9. With the MFL trip being a success and strike action this week, usual routines have been tested for many but Year 9 have kept to their high standards.

The Year 9 students I took with me on Monday to the MFL trip to Oxford University did the school proud. The Oxford Dons were impressed by the manor and bravery of

our students speaking Spanish with their post-graduate students. Muey Bien.

Every student in year 9 has been given a pen now.

PE have opened up a trip to watch hockey in Milton Keynes. Please instruct your child to get information from the PE department they have letter available there.

The **Thursday 16 March** date for parents evening has been disrupted due to industrial action. Keep an eye on your emails to see when the new dates are out.

Big thank you to Mr Cooper for giving his assembly on World Book Day. He challenged all students to question him on the deeper meaning of the Hungry Caterpillar.

Thank you to Mrs Pykett and Mrs Ripley for giving an informative talk about the health repercussion of vaping.



Year 9 Academy Values Awards



Natalie S for helping me navigate during our MfL trip to Oxford. I wish my driving were as good as her navigation!



Ayyb A for taking it upon himself to organise a card machine ready for the sale of goods at the Year 8 Options Evening



Lucy M for overcoming serious obstacles in her way and always giving everything her best shot.

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

As a year group we have continued to promote work experience and help students with their CV writing and the 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 additional support, please ask them to speak to Mr O'Leary, Miss Porter, Mrs O'Callaghan or 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 1/3 – these tutor groups have been in a computer room and looking at their work experience placements on Unifrog. Nobel 2 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.

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 Year 10 Work Experience. Letters have been sent via EduLink and students have received paper copy of these letters.

Friday 21 April & Wednesday 24 May Career Passport days at Oxford Brookes University, Headington Campus. More information will follow shortly.

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	Careers/Work Experience
Tuesday	Community Assembly – Mr Cooper – World Book Day
Wednesday	Year 10 Remote Learning
Thursday	Careers/Literacy/Work Experience
Friday	AD Assembly – Mrs Pykett - Vaping

Year 10 Academy Values Awards

respect

Khadija A
Hannah J
Gerrad Y
Halima E-H
Keert S
Araish A
Lauren B
Kayla J
Max C

aspiration

Sana B
Musa K
Yahya K
Krystain N
Janhavi K
Sheza R
Alex M
Kashaf A
Subhan K

resilience

Afser-Jehan A
Flynn S
Haris W
Ines D-D
Jamini V
Shayden A
Amel H
Ruby Mc
Summer U

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

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

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Ben B
2. Sabah K
3. Malaika Q

Form Attendance (%):

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

Honourable Mentions:

1. Summer U
2. Grace A
3. Isabella B

Any enquiries, please contact year10enquiries@theacademy.me

Mr O'Leary and the Year 10 Team



Mrs Leach 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 (Paper 2)
7 March: Maths (Paper 2)	10 March: Maths (Paper 3)
21 March: Science – Phys. (Paper 1)	23 March: Science – Chem. (Paper 1)

The Revision Skills morning was a chance for our Year 11 students to be taught the skills to revise and then given time with their peers to put the skills into practise. A few comments from the event:

“I felt it was very informative to me and the resources I was provided have set me up for my independent revision.”

“It was very beneficial as it gave us a few chances to revise. It was nice to have done this with my friends and it was an interesting way to spend the morning.”

“It was very informative for me, and I am now more motivated to revise.”

YEAR 11
REVISION EVENING
Thursday 9th March
6-7.30PM
The Aylesbury Vale Academy
RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

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](#).

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:

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

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

Year 11 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.

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- ✓ BTEC National Level 3 Extended Diploma in Creative Digital Media
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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 2
2. Faraday 1
3. Franklin 3

Individual Achievement Points:

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

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 Year 12 students visited Greatmoor Energy from Waste site as part of the Inspiration Programme.

They learnt about how our household waste generates 25 megawatts of energy, which is enough to power 40,000 homes.

We followed the process around the plant, seeing the grab crane, grate burn and turbines. While there, we gained a more detailed understanding of the importance of recycling.

Mrs Pykett and Mrs Ripley conducted a special assembly that educated our 6F students about the health issues linked to vaping. The assembly was thought provoking and insightful and led to a debate and discussion in class, which was interesting to hear different points of view.

A special shout out to **Ryan C** for taking interest in helping Mrs O' Callaghan with the redistribution of lost property across the secondary phase.

Any enquiries, please contact post16enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Sharma and the 6th Form Team



Thank you for all your support