



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

Including Berryfields Primary

COLLABORATING *for* EXCELLENCE

28 May 2020

Dear Year 11

It is with a certain amount of disappointment and even sadness that I am writing to you. Your final months at The Aylesbury Vale Academy have been interrupted by the coronavirus and this has denied you a proper end to your time at AVA. While many of you will be glad to not have to go through the trials and anxieties of examinations, these exams represented everything that you had been working so hard towards and would have brought some closure to your five years at AVA. We were very optimistic for your year group and were confident that your performance in these summer exams would have been the best in the history of the Academy. I remember teaching several of you in Year 8 and even then, I knew that you would surpass the performance of the year groups that had gone before you. We feel you should be very proud of your achievements.

Around this time, I would have been writing to you to explain that exam leave was about to start and what our expectations would have been of you. Usually, your exam leave would begin, we would see you when you came in for exams and then we would wait nervously for the third Thursday in August when your results were published.

Unfortunately, we cannot offer you 'exam leave' and all we can do is attempt to offer you some closure to your time at AVA as well as some advice and support going forward. Therefore, the following things are available:

- **On Line Learning:** From 01 June, teachers will not set work on Show My Homework in line with your timetable. There will, however, be some activities available to you to ensure that you maintain skills in English and Maths, at the very least. These activities will be optional and we will be happy to feedback to you on them if you submit them via Show My Homework. You will be able to access your school email and Show My Homework account until 31 August.
- **CV Writing Support:** We will offer you advice and guidance on how to write a Curriculum Vitae (CV) and personal statement that you can use to help you apply for college places and jobs. It is always useful to have one of these up to date and can often make the difference when securing a new position. We will also offer to proof read these for you and provide feedback on how to improve these.
- **College Applications:** We will continue to provide advice and guidance for those who are still applying to college and Sixth Forms. Please let Mrs Leach know of your plans if you haven't already done so. rleach@theacademy.me
- **Interview Practice:** If you are preparing for a college or workplace in interview and would like some practice beforehand, please contact Mrs Leach and we can arrange for these to happen through Microsoft teams.
- **Other advice and guidance:** If you would like to discuss anything at all and would like to speak to a member of staff about your plans, please contact Mrs Leach who will set up a phone call.

A Church of England Academy

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- **AVA Sixth Form:** If you have applied to AVA Sixth Form, Mr Cort will be preparing some transition activities for those coming to 6th Form. He will send these to the students to complete during Term 6.
- **Developing Life and Employability Skills:**
 - 'Barclays Life Skills' has a 'youth hub' section of the website where you can register yourself to help develop skills in interviewing, CV writing and preparing for the next stage in education, employment or training: <https://barclayslifeskills.com/young-people/>
 - Eton College in Windsor are offering several online self-study courses from the EtonX Future Skills Programme available **free of charge** to state school pupils in the UK. These courses are particularly appropriate for **Year 11** and offer training in skills important to life and to the workplace. We have registered for this on your behalf so that you can access the courses. <https://etonx.com/uk-schools/>
- **Exam Results Day:** This will take place on Thursday, 20 August from 10am-12pm. Even though you have not taken exams, you will still receive your results in an envelope. **You will also be able to collect your hoodies on this day.** We would love to see you all and hope we can make this memorable for you.
- **The Prom:** We still plan for this to go ahead on Friday, 16 October between 1830 to 2300 in the AVA School Hall. You can still pay for your place via Parent Pay. We have previously said that the Prom will be refunded via Parent Pay, but now that we have a confirmed date we will retain payments unless otherwise instructed to do so.

If you would like any other support which is not listed on here and want to talk to someone not necessarily about plans, contact us and we will arrange a phone call.

I know that what we are able to offer you is no substitute for finishing the school year and saying goodbye to the school and your friends but we hope that you will find the above useful in guiding you through the next few months.

Yours sincerely

MR G GIBSON
Secondary Headteacher

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