



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

PARENT BULLETIN No. 72

9th December 2022

Welcome...

Things never slow down towards the end of term – they always seem to speed up! This week is no exception as we are in the middle of Year 11 mocks, Year 7s went off to watch Aladdin at the Waterside Theatre, and we were treated to three performances of our drama production 'Static'. This production was a demonstration of real talent where our performers showed maturity, skill and an understanding of stagecraft. I was so proud of their ability to deal with some challenging themes.

We look forward to further productions from our talented students including next week's Christmas Carol Concert, which takes place in the Main Hall at 6.30pm on Wednesday 14th December. However, if there is a significant semi-final on that day, we will adjust the time accordingly.

Have a good weekend,

Gavin Gibson
Academy Principal



What is my child learning?

Thank you to those of you who have responded to our parent survey. A couple of you have said that you would like more information on what your child is learning.

If you click [here](#), you can find information about what your child is learning in every subject. If you would like more information than is available on these pages, please contact enquiries@theacademy.me

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](#)



Christmas Concert

The Aylesbury Vale Academy all through Christmas Carol Concert will be taking place on **Wednesday 14th December** in the Main Hall from 6.30pm - 7.30pm.

This will be the first time we have had a live Christmas Concert since December 2019, and we are looking forward to being able to celebrate Christmas with you all again.

This is a free event and will involve students from both Primary and Secondary phases performing Christmas Songs and Carols. We look forward to seeing you there for this festive event!



Rotary Shoebox Scheme 2022

The Interact Club are once again trying to spread a little happiness by filling 150 shoeboxes for children and adults across eastern Europe who are disadvantaged.

Last year 250 boxes packed by students were a part of a shipment of over eleven thousand boxes shipped to Ukraine, Moldova and Romania.

The boxes have already been paid for by the Rotary Club of Aylesbury Hundred, and they have challenged each tutor group to fill two boxes with donations. Students will find out more about what items have been requested in the coming days.

We have a target of 150 boxes this year, and your support for this project will be greatly appreciated.

Vaping

Vaping is becoming increasingly common, but it doesn't come without its dangers and e-cigarettes are not recommended for use by young people. Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine, which is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development.

Nicotine products are limited to a maximum of 2% or 20mg/ml. While that may not sound like a lot, nicotine is very potent, and in fact an elf bar (small colourful vape, which is popular with young people) contains 2% nicotine, and using a whole elf bar is **the equivalent of smoking 50 cigarettes.**



E-cigarettes also contain other harmful substances besides nicotine, and study in to the long-term health effects of vaping found that people who used e-cigarettes had a higher risk of respiratory disease than people who have never smoked. Studies also show that young people who use e-cigarettes may be more likely to smoke cigarettes in the future.

The bottom line is that e-cigarettes are harmful to young people, and they should not be using them.

GCSE History trip to Berlin – NEW DATES

Please be advised we have had to change the dates of this trip due to flights being cancelled by the airline. Our new dates are **Wednesday 1st - Friday 3rd February 2023**. The change in date does not affect costs or itinerary, and students should come to school as normal on January 15th, 17th and 18th.

If you have yet to give your passport details, please do here. **This is a matter of urgency so your child can be included on our trip to the Reichstag**. Details can be submitted [here](#), and passports should be handed in to Mrs Michhiana by **Wednesday 18th January** for safe-keeping.

Hoodies can be ordered via the same Microsoft form and paid for on ParentPay. If these are required, payment should be made by **Friday 2nd December** to guarantee order.

PE News

A huge well done to our Table Tennis teams who entered the District Table Tennis Tournament at John Collet School. All our students who attended played brilliantly against some strong opponents.



Penny B, Isabella P and **Lily P** finished 2nd in the U13 girls, **Max P, Freddie K** and **Jack Chanock** finished 3rd in the U13 boys, **Megan H, Melissa J** and **Viktoria Rozga** finished 2nd in the U16 girls, and **Mare P, Jake F, Harry N** and **Ajitesh N** finished 4th in the boys competition.

It's excellent to see AVA entering a wider variety of sports year on year and competing with all other schools within our district.



Protect yourself against flu

Flu immunisation in England
Information for those in secondary school



Flu jabs for Years 7, 8 and 9

All parents and carers of students in Years 7, 8 and 9 should have received a letter and information leaflet about flu jabs via email.

The vaccination programme is in place to help protect your child against flu, which can be an unpleasant illness and sometimes causes serious complications.

This year, with COVID-19 in circulation, it's more important than ever that eligible groups are vaccinated to protect them from flu.

The **free** intra-nasal flu vaccine is the most effective protection for your child against flu. However, if in the past you have refused the intra-nasal vaccine due to porcine gelatine content, we are now able to offer an alternative injectable flu vaccine which is porcine-free.

Please take the time to read the letter and leaflet, before completing the online form to give or decline consent. **Please note that the form must be completed even if you do not wish your child to be vaccinated.**

HPV Immunisations for Year 8

The school immunisation team will be visiting school on **Monday 23rd January 2023** to deliver the HPV Immunisation programme to Year 8 pupils.

YAll parents are requested to complete a form giving consent or indicating the reason for declining as soon as possible. Details about how to complete this form were emailed to parents and carers earlier this week, so please check emails and junk mail for email sent this week with links to the online consent. The letter is also attached to this Bulletin. AVA's School Code EE135879, and the deadline for completing the form is **Friday 20th January 2023**.

Subject Superstars

This week's **History Hero** is **Aimee H** in Year 8 for the **aspiration** she demonstrates through her high quality work and willingness to contribute to class discussions and feedback, demonstrating excellent oracy skills. Well done **Aimee!**



Youth Social Action - Year 7 Charity Events

The Youth Social Action Group are hosting three charity events for Year 7 students on **Friday 16th December** from 2pm- 3pm.

We will be running a Christmas Around The World Party and a Fun Run. Entry is £2 with all proceeds going to The British Heart Foundation, Mission 44 and Encephalitis Society.

There will be 100 spaces available on a first come, first served basis. If your child would like to take part in either event please ask them to bring in £2 and sign up.

There will be a sweet sale at the end of the events so please bring some small change to buy sweets



Careers

A visitor from 'The White Mars'

This week our Year 10 triple science learners had a careers presentation from Dr Beth Healey.

Dr Healey is a British medical doctor who spent a year in Antarctica at Concordia Station, a French-Italian base known as 'The White Mars', as a Research MD.

Concordia represents the kind of isolation long-distance space travellers might experience.

Dr Healey, pictured below with colleague at Concordia, has also worked for the European Space Agency, researching the effects of physical and psychological isolation on a group of people, and shared how she has had to show **resilience** and keep trying even when she faced difficulties in her career.



The Versatility – What can an apprenticeship, a traineeship or a degree lead to?

In episode six of The Parent Perspective, presenter Rachel Burden explores the versatility of apprenticeships, traineeships and degrees with Jennifer Sullivan from Qube Learning, trainee Nazish Akhtar and professional rugby players Sam Dugdale and Luke James from Sale Sharks.

Rachel and guests also cover how an apprenticeship, a traineeship or a degree can support your child to achieve their dreams - or maybe give them a fall-back if things don't go to plan, while Sam and Luke reveal how training and education, supported by the club, is helping them build a career after rugby.



Online Careers and Work Experience



Over the coming weeks we have a range of online careers and work experience days for students aged 14-18 to take part in, helping students find out more about their possible future careers and take part in interactive sessions where they can gain experience to help in their university applications.

The schedule is as follows:

Saturday December 10th - Science Career Day

Saturday December 17th - Arts Career Day

Students can visit www.careerdays.co.uk to choose their sessions.



Mrs Weedon says... It's been a fantastic week for our Year 7s this week, with a buzz of excitement about the panto trip on Friday, that more than 200 Year 7s attended. I have enjoyed visiting a few lessons and seeing how engaged our students are and the range of topics they are learning.

Well done to the Year 7 basketball team who played very well and beat the Buckingham school 16-13. For their first game,

they did an amazing job and worked very well as a team. Mr Lobb was very impressed with how well they did.

This week in tutor time Year 7 continued with the Read to Succeed programme. 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, look at the skills they want to improve for future job prospects. In this week's virtual assembly, Reverend Lane discussed the new John Lewis advert and how this is link to the story of Christmas and family.



Dates for you Diaries:

Thursday 4th May 2023 Parents' Evening

Year 7 Academy Values Awards

respect

Ruby C
Shyla S
Rhylee H
Farhan I
Lily G
Kaif K
Lucy U
Dhein W
Imogen C

aspiration

Isal-Rose B
Zainab P
Caleb B
Skye W
Sophia B
Fawzy M
Madi E
Mahima MK
Nihal M

resilience

Dario S
Callum W
Elizabeth N
Emilja S
Buck M
Abigail D
Megan E
Toby P

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

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

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Jai P
2. Izzy B
3. Alistair G

Form Attendance (%):

1. Franklin 2 – 95%
2. Franklin 1 – 94%
3. Faraday 1 – 92.5%

Honourable Mentions:

1. Student Parliament for all their hard work!

Any enquiries, please contact year7enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Weedon and the Year 7 Team



Ms Dutson says... On Monday it was lovely to see our year group take advantage of the free school meal for all, though Mrs Powell and I were kept very busy with the queue!

As the holiday season approaches our students have a variety of events to get involved with and we encourage each and every one of our students to get involved.

This week we have been given the spare tickets from the Year 7 Aladdin Pantomime Trip taking place on **Friday 9th December**. All students were asked to register their interest and names were drawn from the hat. We are looking forward to hearing all about the show from the lucky students drawn.

We also had our Drama Department production take place over the evenings of Wednesday and Thursday the 7th and 8th respectively. It didn't disappoint – it was fabulous, and thank you to all the Year 8's involved and those who came to support their peers.

Every morning our Year 8's enter their form to find a quote on the board for them to consider as the class enters and settles. The quote is then explored before moving onto the main task. Over the course of this week our Thoughts of the Week have centred on the season of giving and how we as individuals can give kindness and help to those around us. Each day a suggestion has been made for our students to take away and act upon such as paying a, leaving a note for someone has been kind to you or helping someone who is struggling with a class task.

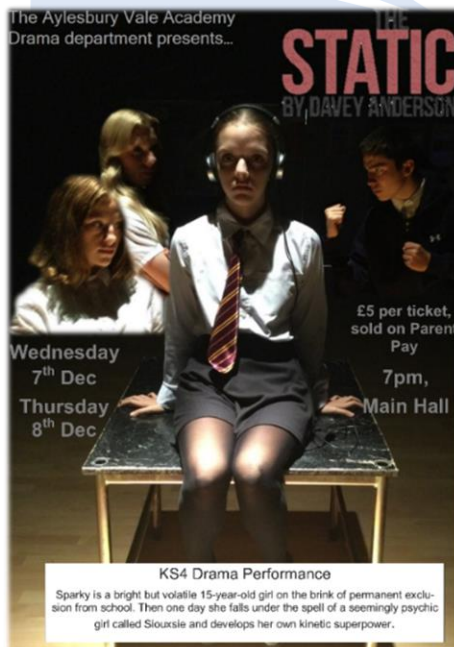
Our Virtual Assembly this week was delivered by the Reverend Lane from Berryfields Church. His presentation also focussed on giving but not in the monetary sense. Our pupils were encouraged to analyse the new John Lewis advert and consider how the gentleman portrayed is giving to the young girl his family are welcoming into their home.

Dates for you Diaries:

Thursday 15th December Parents' Evening

Wednesday 14th December Christmas Carol Concert

Monday 23rd January 2023 HPV Immunisations



Year 8 Academy Values Awards

respect

Rupert W
Cai W
Joseph C
Elliot P
Samir K

aspiration

Unai G
Jack B
Shannon W
Olivia O
Jamil A

resilience

Christopher N
Cameron C
Kairon C
Humaira Y
Jumana A

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

1. Franklin 1

Form Attendance (%):

1. Franklin 1 - 94.5%
2. Faraday 2 & Nobel 1 - 92.9%
3. Faraday 1 - 91.7%

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Humayan H & Alexandra M
2. Batool B & Jasmine R
3. Zach P, Paige D, Ivan K, Dior J & Dillon W

Honourable Mentions:

1. Nathan H – for helping Ms Dutson undertake a tour with a visitor
2. All our Year 8s preparing for the Christmas Carol Concert
3. All our Year 8s supporting Christmas Jumper Day

Any enquiries, please contact year8enquiries@theacademy.me

Ms Dutson and the Year 8 Team



Mr Hawley says... I was really disappointed to have to cancel tonight's Cinema Night, but we're hoping to re-schedule this for some time in January – as soon as I have a date, I will let you all know.

As we near the end of the Winter term, the focus of the Year 9 Pastoral Team is on ensuring we have a good final few days and continue to uphold the Academy's values of **Respect**, **Aspiration** and **Resilience**.

Everyone looked wonderful in their Christmas jumpers today, and the festive spirit is well and truly spreading throughout AVA.

Between now and **Tuesday 20th December** we're looking forward to celebrating the successes of this term, and looking forward to what we can all achieve in 2023.

The World Challenge Malaysia deadline has now passed, but if anyone feels they have missed out I may still be able to get them a place, but I will need to know ASAP.



On **Wednesday 14th December** we are hosting a Christmas Carol Concert from 6.30-7.30pm This will include songs and music from both Primary and Secondary phase students. This a free event, no tickets are required, and we look forward to you joining us.

We also had our Drama Department production take place over the evenings of **Wednesday 7th** and **Thursday 8th** respectively. It didn't disappoint – fabulous and thank you to all the Year 9's involved and who came along and supported their peers.

Year 9 Academy Values Awards



Lily L – for always doing the right thing



Reggie B – for his outstanding participation in class



Euan B – for consistently demonstrating the Academy values

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

1. Faraday 1

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Haider A
2. Ella H
3. Megan W

Form Attendance (%):

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

Any enquiries, please contact year9enquiries@theacademy.me

Mr Hawley and the Year 9 Team



Mr O'Leary says...

The year 10 team are so proud of the students in the year group who always work hard and consistently demonstrate the school's values. The Year 10's have been busy in lessons and tutor time was filled full of activities based on careers, numeracy and literacy.

Assemblies are on Tuesday and Friday, students need to go to their tutor rooms on both days until the Christmas break as the assemblies are virtual due to the Year 11 mock exams.

Year 10 will be looking at careers during tutor time and lessons.

Tutor time, week commencing 5th December, students were completing their action plan for their careers activity.

Across the year there will be study higher meetings for the students to attend.

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



Extra-Curricular PE & Sport Timetable		Lunch Clubs
Monday	Netball, Basketball, Football	Gym
Tuesday	Alternative Sports, Fitness, FightKlub	Futsal
Wednesday	Girls Football, Fitness, Martial Arts	
Thursday	Rugby, Fitness, Zumba, Academy Leaders, Football	Basketball

Tutor time	
Monday	Careers – Week 8
Tuesday	Tutor updates
Wednesday	Numeracy – Week 12 – Bronze/Silver/Gold activity
Thursday	Literacy – Week 12 – Word of the Week
Friday	AD assembly – Mr O’Leary– Work Experience

Year 10 Academy Values Awards

respect

Abdelali R
 Abigail S
 Afser-Jehan A
 Alfie C
 Dillon E
 Flynn S
 Lavinia N
 Macie G
 Oscar B
 Sienna P

aspiration

Alice K
 Ben B
 Ben G
 Diya K
 Hana R
 Jake F
 Jessica W
 Lemuel M
 Max C
 Mya-Ruby L-L
 Taylor F

resilience

Binta C
 Callum W
 Cody H
 Elijah P
 Isabella B
 Jamie O
 Lucy S
 Maya P
 Melissza J
 Sana J

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

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

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Theo H
2. Sophia D
3. Diya K

Form Attendance (%):

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

Honourable Mentions:

1. **Theo H** for performing at a local primary school for their Christmas Light switch-on
2. **Diya K** for always demonstrating academy values

Any enquiries, please contact year10enquiries@theacademy.me

Mr O'Leary and the Year 10 Team



Mrs Leach says... Year 11 completed their second week of mock exams. Their first week has been a great success with them turning up at 8am to revise before going into their exams. This soft start means they have been quick to get their heads into the right frame of mind.

The Main Hall will be open from 8am for Year 11 students to revise in a calm environment. At 8:25am Curriculum Leaders for the exams will be in the Hall to conduct an Exam Booster before the students make their way into the Hall for their exam.

If an exam finishes **after 10:30am or 12:55pm**, students will be allowed to go straight to the Main Hall for an extended break or lunch.

Mocks next week

Date	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4
Monday 12 th December	English Literature Paper 2 2hr 15mins		CATCH – UP SESSIONS	
Tuesday 13 th December	Mathematics Paper 3 1hr 30mins		Hospitality & Catering 1hr 30mins	
Wednesday 14 th December	Design Technology NEA B-01-08 – 2hrs Religious Studies - 1hr 45mins		CATCH – UP SESSIONS	
Thursday 15 th December	CATCH – UP SESSIONS		CATCH – UP SESSIONS	

Absence during the exam period

- Your child 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 their absence.
- If they miss an exam due to illness, you must telephone the school.

Mobile Phones, Smart Watches

- Mobile phones, headphones, watches must be handed in when your child enters the exam hall.
- Remember all devices must be turned off before handing them over.
- At the end of the exam session (Period 4) the invigilators will let them collect their phones on their way out.

Drinks

We have provided all students with a clear water bottle for the exam season. Please remind your child it is their responsibility to have the water bottle filled with water before the exam.

We would like to wish all Year 11 students the best of luck with their mock exams.

Year 11 Prom

Letter for the Prom was sent earlier this week to all parents. You can pay the £10 deposit via Parent Pay. 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 £24.50 and will be available for students at the Leavers Assembly in May.



Any enquiries, please contact year11enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Leach and the Year 11 Team



Mrs Sharma says... The 6th Form Open Evening took place on **Thursday 8th December**. The evening was well attended by parents and students in Year 11. The Prefects were a real credit to our academy as they took lead in talking about their life and experiences in the AVA 6th form.

Our Young Enterprise team is working relentlessly to raise money for their company. They are planning, organising and running events like the Football tournament and snack and sweet sales honing their entrepreneurial skills.

Our Year 13 students are having 1:1 meetings with our 6th Form team to complete and submit their UCAS applications well before the deadline.

Any enquiries, please contact post16enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Sharma and the 6th Form Team

Thank you for all your support