



# The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

## PARENT BULLETIN No. 64

### 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022

### Welcome...

It has been five weeks since the start of term and we are nearly at half term. Time flies. We opened our doors for Open Evening last Thursday and Open Morning yesterday. At the forefront of these events were our students who gave tours to prospective parents. The praise for our students was overwhelming and it was great to see our students recognised for their leadership skills and for being fantastic ambassadors. It is participation like this and the desire to contribute to the school community, which deserves real praise.

There are a lot of events coming up for parents such as the Settling in Evening on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October**, the **SEND Coffee Morning** on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October** and a **Parenting Workshop** run by staff in school and Bucks Council on **20<sup>th</sup> October**.

A school should be at the heart of the community, so please come and use the resources we have.

Have a good weekend.

**Gavin Gibson**  
**Academy Principal**

#### Contacting the School

Year 7: [year7enquiries@theacademy.me](mailto:year7enquiries@theacademy.me)

Year 8: [year8enquiries@theacademy.me](mailto:year8enquiries@theacademy.me)

Year 9: [year9enquiries@theacademy.me](mailto:year9enquiries@theacademy.me)

Year 10: [year10enquiries@theacademy.me](mailto:year10enquiries@theacademy.me)

Year 11: [year11enquiries@theacademy.me](mailto:year11enquiries@theacademy.me)

Post 16: [post16@theacademy.me](mailto:post16@theacademy.me)

#### Key Links

[Secondary website](#)

[Parents' evenings](#)

[EduLink One](#)

[Trips/Lunch money](#)

### Subject Superstars

This week's History Hero, as nominated by Mr Hawley, is **Finley Benjamin** for throwing himself into all tasks despite barriers Well done Finley!



## Year 7, 9 & 12 Settling in Evening

A reminder that, if your child is in Year 7, 9 or 12 then you should have received a letter inviting you to book a face-to-face meeting with your child's tutor on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October**. If you have not received the letter, please contact the relevant Year Group team.



## Austria Ski Trip 2023



There are currently 2 places on the upcoming ski trip to Austria in February 2023. If you would like any more information on this trip for your child to attend, then please email Mr Wakefield, [nwakefield@theacademy.me](mailto:nwakefield@theacademy.me)  
The trip includes 5 days skiing at the Wagrain resort in Austria, as well as other activities while on the trip when not skiing. The resort will provide ski instructors for the full range of ability of our students, so if your child has skied for years, or has never been on a ski slope before, they are very welcome.

## Special Educational Needs (SEND) Coffee Morning

Please join us **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October** in the Primary Community Suite for our half termly Coffee morning!

Our focus this half term will be Disability Living Allowance criteria and application. The session will be led by Charlotte James from Sunshine Support.

This session is open to parents across both phases of the Academy. Arrival from 8.30am with refreshments for a 9am start time



## Black History Month

AVA will celebrate Black History Month in October with a series of events aimed at celebrating the too-often unheralded accomplishments of black Britons throughout history.

There'll be posters celebrating influential figures displayed across the school, Black History Month assemblies, Caribbean food served in the Atrium on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October**, and a From Quiz.

## GCSE History information

### GCSE History Trip to Berlin, January 2023

All participants of this trip will shortly be receiving an email confirming their place on the trip and a link to a form to complete. Please can you inform the school if we do not have your email address on record, or if this has changed.

### GCSE History Tuition

We are offering extra support with GCSE History studies every Friday after school. This is primarily for Year 11 students but if you have a GCSE History child who you feel would benefit from attending, please contact your child's History teacher.



- Painting
- Drawing
- Embroidery
- Collage
- Photography...

Create a piece of artwork inspired by Black History Month. The work should be **minimum A4** and you can use a range of different materials.

**PRIZES:**  
1<sup>st</sup> prize £ 25  
amazon voucher  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize £ 15  
amazon voucher

Deadline: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November  
Hand in: Art Department

## GCSE History CPG Revision Guides

GCSE History revision guides are available to purchase at a significantly discounted price compared to retailers via the academy website. Follow links to Parents - Parent Pay - Parent Pay shop.



## Parenting Workshop

We would like to invite parents into school for a Parenting Workshop **on Thursday 20th October** from 6-7pm. The workshop will cover what support we can offer in school to support your child and the family.

We also have Buckinghamshire County Council in for the evening, who will talk about the free services they can offer our families. The event is open to all parents and carers but we have a limited number of seats. If you are interested in attending, please register here:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vujYj3JiOk-ROacP9\\_VtsMHVXdW4cfxLnYJIMy8buU1UM0FNNE1LQko5R0xYSEg1QkgxNVBQVDA0Ui4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vujYj3JiOk-ROacP9_VtsMHVXdW4cfxLnYJIMy8buU1UM0FNNE1LQko5R0xYSEg1QkgxNVBQVDA0Ui4u)

## Diwali Indian Dance workshop

As part of this year's Diwali celebrations we will be running an Indian Dance Workshop with years 7, 8 and 9 on the morning of **Tuesday 1st November**. Full details will be shared via EduLink next week.

Diwali is the five-day Festival of Lights, celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world.

Diwali, which for some also coincides with harvest and new year celebrations, is a festival of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness.

This year Diwali takes place over five days from Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup> to Wednesday October 26<sup>th</sup>.



## Regular Bulletin Items

### Meeting with Staff



At AVA – as at all schools - staff work to their own timetables, which means they are often in the classroom or on a duty when you may want to meet with them.

The best way to organise a meeting with any member of staff is via Reception, either by calling 01296 482551 or by emailing [enquiries@theacademy.me](mailto:enquiries@theacademy.me). Requests are always passed on to the relevant person, and they will be in touch with you to arrange a convenient meeting time.

Organising a meeting in this way gives staff the chance to prepare in advance, which usually leads to a quicker resolution than when parents come in to reception without an appointment.



## Donate or Swap Your Uniform!

If you have a blazer that does not fit your child, bring it in to school and we may be able to swap it for a second hand one in good condition.

Alternatively, if you would like to **donate your old blazer any branded items or any uniform items to the school**, we would be very grateful. Just come in to the main reception and talk to our staff. This can really help families in need.



## The Cost of Living Crisis and Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed you may be eligible for the Pupil Premium Grant. This entitles your child to Free School Meals and further support in school with items such as school resources and uniform.

Children are entitled to Free School Meals if their parents/carers are in receipt of any of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit except if you meet ANY of the following criteria:
  - entitled to working tax credit (regardless of income)
  - have an annual income in excess of £16,190 (Please note that this figure is for April 2018 and that it changes in April each year).
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit



To find out if you might be eligible for free school meals and the Pupil Premium, contact [admissions@theacademy.me](mailto:admissions@theacademy.me).

## Special Educational Needs

If you have concerns regarding your child's learning and would like to discuss them with the Special Educational Needs team, please complete the online form, [here](#).

## Become a Governor at AVA

We have vacancies on our Governing Board for Parent Governors and Co-opted Governors. It is a hugely rewarding role and we are looking for individuals with experience of business, HR, finance, law, primary and secondary education, and many others.



## Careers Update

At the AVA we strive to provide our learners and parents with as much information as possible about careers and the different options young people have when they leave secondary school. As part of that provision please find herewith three interesting articles that can support you, as a parent, with the important decisions your child faces regarding their future career. If you have any questions or if you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss future options, please feel free to contact Mrs Marina: [pmarina@theacademy.me](mailto:pmarina@theacademy.me)

If you are interested in upcoming events, for example IBM Apprenticeship opportunities webinar, for KS4 and 5 students and parents on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October, follow the link below:

<https://buckskillshub.org/events>

Explore your education and training choices – article - <https://buckskillshub.org/career-seeker/resources/explore-your-education-and-training-choice>

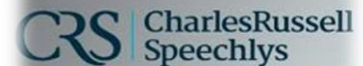
My career path to a technology degree apprenticeship – article - <https://buckskillshub.org/career-seeker/resources/my-career-path-to-a-technology-degree-apprenticeship>

Careers for Creatives – article - <https://buckskillshub.org/career-seeker/resources/careers-for-creatives>

## Young Professionals

Are you interested in law? Would you like to learn more about the various pathways into the industry?

On Tuesday 11th October from 5:00pm - 6:00pm we're hosting an online event with international law firm Charles Russell Speechlys. Charles Russell Speechlys are a top 30 law firm headquartered in London with offices across the UK, Europe, Asia and the Middle East with revenues of £120 million.



We know how rare Solicitor Apprenticeships are as well as Mentoring and Work Experience placements within the legal profession. This is your chance to hear from global law firm Charles Russell Speechlys and discover how you can join their exciting school leaver programs open to Y12 & Y13 students across the U.K.

You will get some incredible insights from top lawyers at the firm, take part in some fantastic workshops and get a really great understanding of the alternative routes into the legal profession.

This gives students just like you such a leg up into the industry straight from school with no university debt, a salary from day one and you become a fully qualified solicitor!

To sign up to this online event click here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/73Z9QJN>

## YEAR 7

# 7

### Mrs Weedon says...

Another fantastic week for Year 7, we are getting in to some great routine and lots of achievement points. The weekly tutor completion has been close each week. The students are looking very smart and grown up in their uniform and they have maintained a very high standard with uniform. It is very important we maintain this throughout the year, if they lose ties or shoes please ask them to look in lost property or to come and see myself or Mrs Howe.

Ms Lutchi has been very impressed with all the litter picking ambassadors from Year 7 and how proactive they have been to make the school environment a nicer place for everyone.

If you have any question please contact the Year 7 team.

### Key Dates

- **Settling in Evening, 13<sup>th</sup> October** – Please make an appointment with your child's form tutor, this will give you an opportunity to meet them and discuss any important matters.
- **Christmas Panto (Aladdin) Trip, 9<sup>th</sup> December** – Payments to be made on parent pay, this is a great opportunity, we would love to take as many Year 7s as possible.



## Tutor time

This week in tutor time Year 7 continued read to succeed in literacy, many of them have now visited the library and have had an opportunity to pick out a read book. They also completed part of their careers booklets. Please look at the skills they want to improve for future job prospects.

Assembly this week was delivered by Mrs Proud and Reverend Lane discussing harvest and giving to others. This included ways that we could give back to the community and all the clubs and activities available for our students at AVA.

## Academy Values Awards

Well done to the students below who have been awarded the Resilience, Aspiration, and Respect award. These students have been nominated by their classroom teachers. The following students were commended for their efforts:



**Respect:** Harvey P, Dharm B, Humna Q, Tommy L, Zainab P, Kallie C, Grace H.

**Aspiration:**

Roxanne B, Maisie W, Conor M, Megan E, Kiy M, Emily B, Ingrid C-S.

**Resilience:** Imogen C, Penelope B, Bradley C, Zain H, Ethan B, Jack S, Ava-Mai G.

## Weekly Form Competition

### Form Achievement Point Winners

- Faraday 3
- Faraday 2
- Nobel 3

### Individual Achievement Point Winners

- Ava G
- Sakeen B
- Madi B

### Honourable Mentions

- Liam C – being respectful to staff and students.
- All students who have join the school council to represent their forms.
- Amir C – winning a writing completion well done!

## YEAR 8

### Ms Dutson says...

It has been a pleasure this week to see so many of our Year 8's helping others across the Academy where it be helping staff to create displays, peers who are struggling with friendships or working to keep our environment safe and litter free. We have also been amazed by the **resilience** of some of our young people who have dug deep and overcome some quite challenging situations.

Students this week gaining the most achievement points were:



## Zach P, Jennifer B, Julia B, Alyssa T



The form gaining the most collective achievement points this week was Nobel 1 with a collective total of 1218. In recognition of their efforts, they will hold the Top Form of the Week Cup and each student will be given a Lunch Queue pass so that they need not queue for the day.

Special Mentions this week go to:

**Ryley S** – For being the first Year 8 to successfully remember and make use of the Word of the Week

**Open Evening Helpers** – On behalf of the Academy thank you. All those helping on the evening have been awarded 50 Achievement Points

**Travis S** – For making an amazing start to his time at AVA, Welcome

Well done to you all!

### Important reminders

We urge our parents/carers to encourage their children to take part and get involved with Black History Month, there is something for everyone whether it is trying new food or entering one of our competitions. If your child requires more information in relation to what's on offer (see outlined below) please encourage them to come and ask Ms Dutson or Mrs Powell.

### Key dates

This month our Year 8s will have the opportunity to get involved with the Academy's recognition of Black History Month. A range of activities will be taking place including:

- Quizzes with prizes
- Celebrating Influential figures
- Focussed Assemblies
- The showing of the film "Hidden Figures" after school on the **10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of October** in two halves – this will allow students to catch buses
- Art competition
- Serving of Caribbean food with Music of Black origin at lunch time on the **4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of October**

A letter has been sent to parents outlining a Geography Trip to Kew Gardens. There is limited availability and spaces will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

### Tutor time

Our AD Assembly this week focussed on celebrating the successes included in last week's bulletin and recognising those students for their efforts. During the Assembly Word of the Week was introduced to the students, each week a new word will be outlined and students, if they use the word within a sentence in class or form, will receive an Achievement Point. This week's work is "Dyna" meaning power as in:

- **Dynamite** – a powerful explosive that contains nitroglycerin OR something exciting or likely to cause a strong reaction
  - Video on how dynamite works: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYil5jiwSH4>
- **Dynamic** – full of energy and exciting ideas OR something that constantly changes or progresses
- **Dynasty** – a series of powerful rulers in a country (or business) that all belong to the same family





Our tutor programme this week will include continued reading practice and numeracy. We will also be adding in a new careers focus on Fridays in order to promote and encourage our Year 8s to start thinking about their aspirations and interests so that they can explore potential career routes. The programme will be delivered over the next 6 weeks as students create their individual Careers Journal. This week they will work on a Career Mind Map thinking about what a career means to them, what they are like, what they are good at and where they see themselves now so they are best able to choose steps in planning for their future.

Our Community Assembly welcomed guest speaker, the Reverent Gareth Lane who delivered a talk on local foodbanks. This included where they are in the local area, their purpose, how they can be supported.

Mrs Proud conveyed to all students present the importance of taking every opportunity offered at the Academy

### Academy Values Awards



Well done to the students below who have been awarded the Resilience, Aspiration, and Respect award. These students have been nominated by their classroom teachers. The following students were commended for their efforts:

**Respect: Aqdas B, Breanna J, Callum R, Carrick E**

**Aspiration: Ryley S, Dillon W, Dior J, Eman K, Gethen A**

**Resilience: Cassie W, Chloe E, Chloe M, Crow H**

### And finally...

Parenting workshop is due to take place on the **20<sup>th</sup> October**

A reminder that your child's timetable is available to view on Edulink. If they are prone to losing or forgetting their timetable this can be checked at home before leaving for school.

Letters were sent out last week in relation to our Indian Dance Workshop due to take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> November. If you child is interested please do make payment via ParentPay and send back the consent slip.

## YEAR 9

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### Mr Hawley says...

Over half way through the term!

### Success stories

The year 9 council has met and have discussed issues that year 9 face and have begun their hard work. Big thanks to **Chelsea B** for being the secretary for the Year 9 Council.

Year 9 council have been invited to help out at the Settling in evening. They will be serving refreshments for our parents so that everyone's success can be enjoyed with a biscuit and a nice cup of tea.

### Reminders

Settling in evening in on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> of October.

Please make appointments online via school cloud. I have sent a reminder via email. If you are unsure about this process.



## Key dates

- **Settling in evening in on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> of October.**

## Tutor time

This month is Black history month and we will be doing an assembly about that next week. Tutors will be giving out tickets for the school photos on Friday 06/10/22.

## Academy Values Awards

Well done to the students below who have been awarded the Resilience, Aspiration, and Respect award. These students have been nominated by their classroom teachers. The following students were commended for their efforts:

**Respect: Megan W – for her amazing open evening contribution. What a talent!**

**Aspiration: Gethin H – for amazing design technology work in his own time (see his homemade pen!)**

**Resilience: Raphael Prince – for a massive contribution in Maths!**

## YEAR 10

### Mr O' Leary says...

A positive week for year 10 has seen a number of students receive achievement points, mainly for excellent classwork and demonstrating the academy values.

Following on from open evening last week, Year 10 students were on hand to support the academy and represented the academy impeccably.

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

## Key Dates

- **Parents Evening – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

## Important info

### Tutor Time

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

During tutor time, students will spend spent tutor time looking at Unifrog, a resource designed to help students identify possible careers.

Across the year there will be Study Higher meetings for the students to attend. These will help students to start thinking about the pathways they need to follow when they leave school.

## Extra-Curricular PE & Sport Timetable

- **Monday** – Netball, Basketball, Football
- **Tuesday** – Alternative Sports, Fitness, FightKlub
- **Wednesday** – Girls Football, Fitness, Martial Arts
- **Thursday** – Rugby, Fitness, Zumba, Academy Leaders, Football



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## Lunch Clubs

- **Monday** – Gym
- **Tuesday** – Futsal
- **Thursday** – Basketball

## Academy Values Awards

Well done to the students below who have been awarded the Resilience, Aspiration, and Respect award. These students have been nominated by their classroom teachers. The following students were commended for their efforts:



**Respect: Tyler B, Ben G, Alice K, Sarah A, Myra Z, Riley B, Archie L, Patrycja M,**

**Aspiration: Samuel M, Oscar B, Ocean J, Isabella B, Munashe N, Viktoria R, Harrison Co, Eda H**

**Resilience: Yahya K, Alice K, Zak B, Harvey W, Shayden A, Cody H, Niran R, Zoe K**

## Weekly Form Competition

### Form Achievement Point Winners

- **Franklin 2 – 188 points**
- **Franklin 1 – 87 points**
- **Nobel 3 – 76 points**

### Individual Achievement Point Winners

- **Alice K – 60 points**
- **Dillon E, Eda H, Sophia D – 51 points**
- **Aaditya A – 31 points**

### Honourable Mentions

- **Maya M, Samuel M, Elijah P for being 'buddies' to new students and helping them to settle into academy life.**

## YEAR 11

### Mrs Leach says...

We had a successful **Getting the Grade evening** last night. The evening focused on the year ahead for Year 11 and how parents and carers can support their child in this important year. If your child has not signed up to **GCSEPod** already, please encourage them to do download this app. The app is designed to boost their revision skills. <https://www.gcsepod.com/>



# 11

### Pre-mocks

Year 11 have their first set of mocks starting Monday 17th October. These mocks are called Pre-mocks and will be for English, Maths and Science only.

Remember if you need to get in touch with the Year 11 team, please do not hesitate to contact us:

[year11enquiries@theacademy.me](mailto:year11enquiries@theacademy.me)

## Success stories

The Year 11 team wanted to take this opportunity to wish **Joshua A** in Year 11 a massive amount of GOOD LUCK with his upcoming ICO World Championship tournament in Hungary. Joshua (pictured in middle) first started kickboxing when he was 5 years old. Now at 15 he's representing England. During the tournament he will be competing in four different categories, two are within his age range and two are based on weight. Previously, Joshua has competed against 18-21 year olds. Joshua is an example of our core values; **Respect**, **Aspiration** and **Resilience**. Good Luck Joshua!



## Key dates

- **Year 11 'Fright Night' Reward Evening**

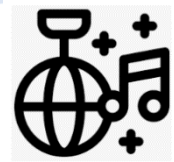
As a treat for Year 11 we are inviting them to a cinema night in school on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 4-6pm in the school hall. Year 11 have voted on the film that will be screened and as it is close to Halloween they have picked The Blair Witch Project. The film is a Certificate 15, which is suitable for all Year 11 students. The evening is a free event and students will receive a drink and some sweets. Please complete the permission form, if you are happy for your child to stay and watch the film:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vujYj3JiOk-ROacP9\\_VtsMHVXdW4cfxLnYJIMy8buU1URjM3MEpLTFpENTVaMVA5RUJOWDhHQ1hQSy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vujYj3JiOk-ROacP9_VtsMHVXdW4cfxLnYJIMy8buU1URjM3MEpLTFpENTVaMVA5RUJOWDhHQ1hQSy4u)

If you have any questions about this showing, please contact the Year 11 team on [year11enquiries@theacademy.me](mailto:year11enquiries@theacademy.me)

## 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.



## Tutor Time

Tutor time for Year 11 focuses on their core subjects, we utilise this time to help strengthen their revision in Maths, English and Science.

## Academy Values Awards

Well done to the students below who have been awarded the Resilience, Aspiration, and Respect award. These students have been nominated by their classroom teachers. The following students were commended for their efforts:



**Respect: Xander M, Zoha O, Fiza N**

**Aspiration: Emils S, Jack R, Declan C**

**Resilience: Emma MW, Adam Y, Millie W**

**Thank you for all your support**