

PARENT BULLETIN No. 28

15th October, 2021

Welcome

I hope you have had a good week.

I am pleased to say that since we introduced mass testing, the number of students having to self-isolate has reduced. This is great news as we need to have students back in school.

Please get in touch with *any* concerns using the following email: enquiries@theacademy.me or by emailing one of the specific year teams using their direct email below. This is always the most efficient way to get through.

Have a restful weekend

Gavin Gibson

Academy Principal

Special Educational Needs Identification

At Aylesbury Vale Academy we are keen to identify possible underlying learning needs at the earliest possible opportunity. If you are at all concerned about your child, please complete the following form:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vujYj3JiOk-ROacP9_VtsOPQJOZF60JKt9kJGZYuN1NUMUJCnzJYWDIXMldCWTczUjA0MUZBQjQ5WS4u

We will then monitor your child and ensure that appropriate intervention takes place if needed.

Jessica and Jennifer Gadirova Inspiring Bucks and MK PE Teachers

On Thursday 14th October Jennifer and Jessica Gadirova attended the Bucks and MK PE Conference held at Stoke Mandeville Stadium. The conference started off with the twins presenting to a room full of Primary and Secondary PE teachers alongside Ali Oliver the Chief Executive of Youth Sport Trust. The girls had the opportunity to discuss their experience at the Tokyo Olympics, how they trained during the pandemic and the importance of school sport. They represented the Aylesbury Vale Academy exceptionally well with many teachers going away feeling inspired and a picture with the girls and their Olympic medal. After their success at the Olympics, they are still working extremely hard to promote the importance of physical activity and be role models to others.



Maths Superstars



Maths Club - starting next week in D-01-01 with MBI, every Tuesday lunchtime. All students are invited.

This is a great opportunity for students to ask questions related to Maths and get support with their Maths Homework!

Covid and Flu Vaccine Catch Up Clinic



The catch-up clinic for Covid and Flu Vaccines for any students who were absent or did not receive the vaccines on the 7/8th October will be on **4th November**.

You will have received an email with details, and attachments with links to consent forms if you have not completed these yet.

Squid Games Parental Guidance

Over the last few days in school, we have noticed that a number of children have been discussing a new TV show on Netflix, "Squid Games". Some children have also been playing some of the games from the programme.



After doing some research into the programme we do not deem the content to be appropriate for Secondary aged children. **The BBFC have awarded Squid Game a 15 rating in the UK for "sexual violence references, injury detail, crude humour, sex, suicide, sexual images, violence"**. Some are even saying that it is not suitable for anyone under the age of 17.

With this in mind please can we ask for your support in not allowing your children to have access to watching this programme or discussing details of the content. We take the safety and welfare of your children seriously this includes any online content and appreciate all of your support in this matter.

Reading Champions

We are working hard to promote the benefits of reading and hope that you can help by volunteering to be a **Reading Champion**.

This would involve coming into AVA once a week or once a fortnight and listening to students read aloud. You would be working with between 2-4 students in our library and given plenty of support. We tend to keep volunteers with the same students for at least a term to help build up relationships and to allow you to hear their progress.



Students really benefit from reading aloud and always appreciate any opportunity to do this. We can be flexible on times and will happily work around your other commitments. If helpful, I can put you in touch with other volunteers so you can hear from them what the role is like.

Please contact me directly at the academy: pwalker@theacademy.me
P Walker, Literacy Lead

Black History Month

Celebrations continue as we reflect on the ways Black people have contributed to society.

History students in Year 8 for example have explored the ways in which slavery was resisted and different methods adopted to abolish slavery.



While Black History Month is synonymous with prominent figures such as Martin Luther King Jr. Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks, there are countless other Black people who've made a profound impact in history - whether it be politics, culture, or the economy - around the world. Black history is world history.

Each week, this month, we will take a closer look at some of these figures to show that the story of Black people has always had global impact.

Ignatius Sancho

Ignatius Sancho was a very important individual in the anti-slavery movement. Although he died in 1780, just as the abolition campaign was gaining momentum, abolitionists hold him up as proof that Africans were intelligent and cultured. He proved that 'An untutored African may possess abilities equal to a European'.

Sancho's life was one of amazing determination. He was born in 1729 on a slave ship crossing the Atlantic but orphaned in the same year. His mother died shortly after his birth and his father killed himself rather than accept the shame of existing as someone else's property. Sancho's owner brought him to England where he met the Duke and Duchess of Montagu. They supported and encouraged him in his ambition to become the first African writer to be published in England. He became part of the arts scene in London, and earned a reputation as a composer, writer and businessman.



Inter-House PE Competitions

Students next week will have the opportunity to take part in their first inter-house PE competition. They will be able to compete in their houses to score points which will go towards their house total, and will also be added to sports day towards the end of the year. Last years winners were Franklin.

This first half term's competition will be Football and Netball and will run during those specific after-school clubs next week giving students in year 7-10 the chance to take part.

We look forward to seeing some healthy competition between students in their houses.

Rugby Sessions at Aylesbury Rugby Club



This week and next week, girls in years 7-9 that have been attending rugby club on a Wednesday had the opportunity to attend rugby sessions run by Next Phase Academy coaches. The sessions ran from 4pm-5pm at Aylesbury Rugby Club and the girls had a great time, playing with students from other schools in Aylesbury progressing their rugby that they have been developing both within lessons and at the Wednesday after-school club.

The sessions run in blocks, with the next half term, year 8 boys having this same opportunity.

Geographer of the Week

Every week we nominate a Geographer of the week, for outstanding work and effort in Geography. This week we have nominated **Bahiti Lenka** for always having a positive attitude



and showing **Aspiration** in every lesson by completing all classwork and homework to a high standard. Well done! - Geography Team.

Year 7

7

Update

Our assembly last Friday explored the theme of Black History month, students explored what the event represented, its importance and also learnt about some key historic figures. Students have started to work on paired presentations within form time, our specific theme is British Values. We hope that the experience of working together will build their reciprocation and communication skills, allowing them to develop ideas and opinions

This week the Year 7's have watched the Big Anti-Bullying Assembly 2021. The presentation focusses on encouraging young people being bullied to speak out and seek help. If your child is experiencing any unkindness in school, please encourage them to come forward or email the team. We will work with your child to address the incidents experienced in such a way that they feel empowered and part of the restorative process.

Reading

We value reading at AVA and Year 7 read weekly during tutor time. Straight after half term, everyone will be reading a book called Pax by Sara Pennypacker.

We will have weekly quizzes, achievement points and certificates and expect our students to continue with the same level of commitment we have enjoyed seeing since they started.

Our intention is to make sure everyone continues to read something challenging and this story offers that in different ways-we are sure Year 7 will enjoy it!

Everyone will have their own copy and we hope you will encourage your son/daughter to read some at home as well as school.

These YouTube links provide a quick introduction to Pax:

<https://youtu.be/E8ErVnRt40I> <https://youtu.be/2KnRkx2ILVc>



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.

Respect: Ollie E, Tia H, Nadia B, Alex M

Aspiration: Jacob P,

Resilience: Gethin A, Harry G, Shannon W

Well done to all those receiving recognition. You should feel extremely proud.

Any enquiries, please contact year7enquiries@theacademy.me

Ms Dutson and the Year 7 Team

Year 8

Updates

Year 8s have had a fantastic week this week. Lots of students have enjoyed various after school clubs such as Football, UV fit and Gardening Club.

Uniform

Most students have continued to keep up the high expectations regarding uniform and looking incredibly smart, however a small number are coming into school without the correct uniform. Please can you ensure your child has the correct uniform before they come into school each day.

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.

Respect: Ashwini V, JOshua H, Joshua G, Sophia RS, Zara C, Sky WS

Aspiration: Lilly L, Kyron M, Sumbal N, Lucas C, Malayeka K, Dylan B, Rehan H

Resilience: Marley G, Cristal B, Summer W, Ajitesh N, Kyron M, Tony R

Any enquiries, please contact year8enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Lloyd and the Year 8 Team

Year 9

Tutor Time

This week during tutor time has followed the pattern of numeracy and literacy with literacy activities focusing on the Read to Succeed programme. Fridays are debate days and this week's topic was 'Being a Leader'. There was some fierce debate amongst students with comparisons made with great (and not so great) current and past leaders.

Assembly

Our assembly this week was based on the rewards and celebration and what students could receive after half term. Students will receive certificates for 200+ achievement points and outstanding attendance. It is clear that many are going to meet these high standards.

Settling In Evening

Staff were really grateful to see so many parents (83% of you) on line for parents' evening last night. We don't know whether virtual parents' evenings are the way of the future but it was great to feedback on how your children are doing 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.

Respect: Sienna P, Binta, Jamie L, Riley, Harvey, Elijah, Akisharra, Summer, Callum and Angel A

Aspiration: Patrycja, Theodore H, Ines D-D, Tamara, Yvonne, Ruqayya, Eleanor G, Leonne, Isabella H and Ben

Resilience: Zayneb, Melusi, Hamza H, Rahima, Hope, Aarion, Angel, Zak, Ocean and Abigail S

A fantastic achievement. Well done all.

Any enquiries, please contact year9enquiries@theacademy.me

Mr O'Leary and the Year 9 Team



Year 10

10

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.

Respect: Miguel, Olimpia, Aliza, Dragos, Laiba K, Hermione, Jack R, Elizabeth D, Blessing and Theo S

Aspiration: Katie T, Axl, Shameer, Ted, Haider, Dragos, Jenna H, Ruby, Jasmine H and Remy

Resilience: Junaid, Kyla, Xander, Zorah, Bethany B, Isa A, Lilly B, Bethany S, Lily W and Honey F

A fantastic display of the school's core values, congratulations. Keep up the great work!

Year 10 Parents Evening

Parents evening will be virtual again this year and will be accessed through SchoolCloud. The date for Year 10 Parents Evening is **Thursday 25th November**. Booking appointments will become live at 2pm Friday 15th October.

Any enquiries, please contact year10enquiries@theacademy.me

Ms Pinker and the Year 10 Team

Year 11

11

Getting the Grade:

If you have not yet watched the Getting the Grade information video, then please so take the time to watch it. The video will give you information on the upcoming mocks your child is sitting for English, Maths and Science and will help you with supporting their revision. <https://youtu.be/NDr53kMt53s>.

Prom

We have started to organise the Year 11 prom. Students are encouraged to join the prom committee. We understand that an event like prom could become costly for parents, we will be informing parents and students of the ticket cost before Christmas and a payment plan can be arranged. We will also be opening a Prom Shop where students can buy donated dresses for the event at a small fee. If you have any ball gowns, bridesmaid dresses, suit jackets that are gathering dust in your wardrobe that you would like to donate to the Prom Shop, then you can drop these at Reception during school hours.

Pre-mocks

Pre-mocks start on Monday. Students have all received their mock timetables, if anything is unclear, please ask Mrs Leach.

Additional Exams

Any students wishing to sit an additional GCSE exam in their Home/First Language where offered and who can speak, read, listen, and write in that language to a standard equivalent to GCSE French or Spanish examinations, can be entered and sit this in May/June 2022. Usually this is a fantastic opportunity to achieve a top or high GCSE grade with very little time commitment. While we cannot offer tuition in school, students can get help finding practice papers and get advice on exam preparation, especially the speaking test.

Students should contact Mrs Leach as soon as possible to, ideally during next week, so that initial entries can be made before half-term (22/10).

Personal Development

As well as the curriculum we are also focusing on students personal development and building on their cultural capital. Did you know that since September students have all been building on these areas by:

1. Attending Positively MAD
2. Having a careers appointment
3. Taking part in the Drop Everything and Read sessions
4. Attending the Operation Encounter trip
5. Taking part in the tutor time debates.

Careers

If your child would like a careers appointment, then we can arrange this with 'Adviza' who visit the school weekly. Student are encouraged to ask Mrs Leach to book their appointment. Also, Educational establishments are now starting to promote their open evenings/days. Make sure you look at the college or school your child wishes to attend and go and take a look around to make sure it is right for your child. Don't forget we also have a variety of Sixth form courses here at AVA, please speak to Ms Sharma about these.

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.

Respect: Poppy S, Sanika S, Ella G, Hashim A, Alex O, Tegan D and Kayleigh N

Aspiration: Comfort N, Vanessa K, Leila K, Samad K, Ashton S and Danielle R

Resilience: Justin G, Kamsy A, Brandon U, Keira M and Naila K

Any enquiries, please contact year11enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Leach and the Year 11 Team

Thank you for all your support