

PARENT BULLETIN No. 26

1st October, 2021

Welcome

I wrote to all parents last week regarding the number of cases among students at AVA. One of the reasons for the rise in numbers is that we have undertaken mass testing of year groups on advice from Public Health England, which inevitably reveals higher numbers. These numbers seem to have stabilised now and hopefully we will see those students returning to school soon.

If your child is at home self-isolating, full remote learning provision is available to them every day and they can access all their lessons via MS Teams. I have attached the remote learning overview with this bulletin to help you. Pastoral staff will also be calling those students at home to check that they are able to access their on line work.

Finally, I appreciate that there has been a lot of essential information from school to parents recently regarding, transport, vaccinations, testing etc. and I am grateful to parents for their support at this time. We will do everything we can not to overload parents in the future.

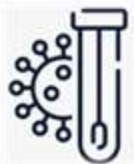
Can I encourage parents and carers to get in touch with *any* concerns using wither the following email: enquiries@theacademy.me or by emailing one of the specific year teams using their direct email below. This is always the most efficient way to get through.

Have a restful weekend

Gavin Gibson

Academy Principal

Twice Weekly Testing is Essential



Please can all parents ensure that they get their children to self-test twice a week before coming into school on Mondays and Thursdays. Reminder texts are sent out and students have been issued with kits.

This is the most effective way to minimise transmission in school.

If your child tests positive, we strongly recommend testing any siblings in the home.

World Challenge

The Nepal Fundraising Group will be hosting a cake sale on October 8th. Students will be able to buy cakes and sweet treats in the atrium during break and lunch. Students will need cash to make a purchase.



Geographer of the Week



Every week we nominate a geographer of the week for outstanding effort and hard work in geography. This week we have nominated Archie Long, for showing resilience and making a positive start to geography. Keep up the hard work well done!

Year 8 PGL Residential Trip

We had over 70 students interested in the Year 8 PGL trip taking place in December and we have now randomly selected the 28 students. They will be meeting Miss Fuller on Friday (1st October) to receive a letter regarding payments, deadlines, and items they will need for the trip. If any selected students no longer wish to go, please can parents or the student inform Miss Fuller immediately so a reserve can be given the place.



Due to the high demand, I will be organising another PGL trip towards the end of the academic year and those not drawn will be entered back in for a place.

Payments via ParentPay:

- Deadline for deposit: £40: 15th October
- Deadline for full payment: 19th November

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Miss Fuller on fuller@theacademy.me

European Day of Languages

Last Friday, AVA celebrated the European Day of Languages. Students enjoyed a special menu with typical food from Germany, Italy, France, Spain and England. As part of the celebrations, they listened to music in different languages and learnt about the importance of a multicultural world.



Year 7

This week the Year 7's have been reflecting on Values following their Assembly last Friday, they have also worked hard in their tutor time on Monday creating bunting for the Macmillan Coffee Sale. Unfortunately, we were not able to host our planned visit from author Dan Freedman due to Covid, but we do plan to reschedule this event as soon as we are able.

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Thank you

Though we have had to cancel our planned open evening for the 30th of September I would like to thank all the students who were so keen to come and support us on the evening. Their interest to help has been noted and as soon as we can organise an event of a similar nature, we will endeavour to ensure that they are offered the opportunity to help. In order that these students do not miss out they have all been awarded 50 Achievement Points.

Photos

Families should have received the proofs of their child or children's school photos. All orders should be placed directly through the company, deadline for orders is Sunday the 10th of October.

European Languages Day Door Decoration Competition.

As well as creating colourful bunting for the Macmillan Coffee Sale our students have also undertaken activities during tutor time to recognise European Language Day in the form of a quiz and competition to decorate tutor room doors. It was a pleasure to visit all the tutor groups earlier today, taking pictures of our entries and deciding on the winners. It was impossible to choose one winner as I hope you can see from the 3 top entries below. After much consideration it seems only fair to award all three forms. Each form will receive a small prize in the form of a tin of sweets. Well done to everyone, it was impressive to see the efforts made:

7 Franklin 3: Mr Williamson

7 Nobel 2: Miss Williams

7 Franklin 2: Miss Crumpton

Academy Values Awards

Students receiving awards this week have been nominated by the Year 7 Team. All the students will receive a certificate and 25 Achievement Points:

Respect: Zach, Elliot, Henley, Leonard

Aspiration: Marshella, Alex, Poppy and Alfie

Resilience: Jacob, Jennifer, Lila and Holly

Well done to you all.

Year 7 Settling In Evening

We are really pleased that so many of our parents have made appointments to meet with Form Tutor's on our Settling In evening planned for the 14th of October. At the time of writing over 70% of our parents/carers had registered and booked time slots. I would urge that appointments are made in the very near future to ensure you are able to book a suitable slot. Subject teachers will be feeding back to your child's/children's tutors so they are able to give an overview of how they have settled with us. Five minutes isn't long so I would advise that parents/carers make note of any questions they wish to ask in readiness.

World Poetry Day

World Poetry Day takes place on Thursday the 7th of October, Year 7 will be recognising the event by looking at a poem centred around "Change" with their Form Tutors. If your child enjoys poetry and would like to share their favourite with their form or on an individual basis with an adult in school, they are very welcome to bring them in to share.

Any enquiries, please contact year7enquiries@theacademy.me

Ms Dutson and the Year 7 Team

Year 8

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Update

Year 8s have had a great week this week.

All students have been really enjoying the new debate Tutor time activity this week and have been very respectful of each other's opinions and views.

Even though we haven't been able to run our usual Open evening on Thursday, all students who offered to support on the evening have been awarded 50 Achievement points. Thank you for being so supportive and offering to showcase your school.

MFL Trip to Spain

The deadline for reply slips to be returned regarding the MFL Trip to Spain has been extended. Please return them as soon as possible or email Ms Molina with permission if your child is interested in attending.

Stars of the Week

Congratulations to the following students for receiving 'Star of the week' this week. Well done and keep up the great work: Shird B, Ruby W, Cassie R, Grace B, Macy C, Zarin Z, Paolo P, Jenny T, Cristal B, Bailey S and Lily S

Year 9

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Tutor Time and Assemblies

This week during tutor time, the Year 9s have had two tutor sessions. One on Numeracy and one on Literacy. During the numeracy sessions, the students have the choice of three sets of questions, the students pick between Bronze, Silver and Gold. Students have also started silent reading which is part of the read to succeed programme.

Friday's are debate days and this week's topic was "What is the End Child Food Poverty #WriteNow campaign?"

Stars of the Week

These students have gone above and beyond in demonstrating our Academy values. They will receive a certificate and achievement points: Summer Connolly, Daisy S, Phoebe P, Halima E, Rahima E, Araish A, Jessica Bras, Abigail Heal, Taylor Flynn

Settling in Evening

A reminder that Settling In Evening for Year 9 will be on school cloud and will take place on Thursday 14th October between 4:30 and 7:30. Please contact the Year 9 team if you are having trouble making appointments

Any enquiries, please contact year9enquiries@theacademy.me

Mr O'Leary and the Year 9 Team

Year 10

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Attendance and Achievement

Well done to the students below who have the highest achievement points and 100% attendance: Eduard Fieraru, Blessing Agyei-Baah, Max Cotter, Emily Ndawambi, KK Bonsu, Damon Dowe, Dillon Martin, Akmal Khan, Robbie Leach and Mohammed Mustafa

School Photos

Students were given a proof of their school photo during school. If you would like to make an order, please do this by going onto the website. **The deadline is 10th October.**

Year 10 Reflective club

This club has been established to help any Year 10 student who needs a calm purposeful way to end the day. Students who attend have said, it really helps. Anyone can join. If students from younger years want to join, please let Ms Wright know.

We always start our club with a 3-minute mindfulness session to calm the students down from their busy day in school. The students had to decide on an animal they felt they could associate themselves with and to draw it. They could choose to paint with paintbrushes or their fingers.



Any enquiries, please contact year10enquiries@theacademy.me

Ms Pinker and the Year 10 Team

Year 11

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Update

On Friday we ended the week with a Year 11 trip to Operation Encounter in Marlow. The students who attended the trip were a credit to the rest of the year 11 community, you can find out more about the trip in the Operation Encounter section.

It is with regret that we have had to move the Getting the Grade evening to a virtual event. On Thursday we will send out a link to the video which will guide parents through the core subjects and how you can support your child with their upcoming exams.

Attitude to Learning (ATL)

The way we report and communicate students' attitude to learning will be changing. All students have been sent a self-assessment form to complete via their email, the form is in place for students to be reflective on their attitude towards school and their learning. Please encourage your child to log onto their emails to complete the short questionnaire.

Prom 2022

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 that start on Monday 18th October. Students will receive their mock timetables in the next week.

Careers

If your son or daughter would like a careers appointment, then we can arrange this with Aviza 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 you wish to attend and go and take a look around to make sure it is right for you.

Don't forget we also have a variety of Sixth form courses here at AVA, please speak to Mr Cort about these.

Core Values

Every week we will be celebrating Year 11 students who have shown the core values around school. Teachers have been nominating and this week the following students have been recognised. All students will receive achievement points and will be entered into a draw to win 3 x £20 Amazon Voucher in October.

Respect: Jake B, Megan T, Megan L, Keeley C, Oliver H, Maya P, Charlie H

Aspiration: Danielle R, Molly C, Isabella S, Yuan C, Jacob A

Resilience: Abigail M, Alex M, Ameer A, James R

Any enquiries, please contact year11enquiries@theacademy.me

Please find below mine and Lindsay's piece for the parent bulletin about the trip. I have some Year 11 photos for you to add as well but I need to share them via the one drive.

Operation Encounter Year 10 and 11

On Friday we took 76 Year 10 and Year 11 students to Operation Encounter for them to experience a military style activity day whilst incorporating the school vales of **respect, aspiration, and resilience**. The students had four activities to complete during the day.

Crate stacking, students had to work together as a team to get two of their team mates up a crate tower. During this session everybody needed to communicate and show respect to one another, making sure they all knew how important their role was in order to help their team mates reach the top. Well done to Gracie and Paige in year 11 who managed to stack 18 crates. Well done to Emils, Declan, Daniella and Kendra in year 10 who both stacked 12 crates in their team. During this activity students showed respect and aspiration.



Bushcraft, our leader Andy showed us all how to make a campfire and which wood was needed to create an effective fire. Students were asked to go on the search for Kinderling and then Tinder. Once collected students needed to position the kinderling in a hashtag format and then place a piece of cotton wool on top. Using a steel and flint students then went to work on creating their fire. Once lit, they started to add the tinder. We all quickly realised why Bear Grylls is so obsessed with making sure the fire doesn't go out. During this activity, students showed resilience and respect.

Canoeing, I would say this was one of our favourite activities of the day and probably because the sun was shining. Students had to work in teams of 6 to row the canoes around the lake. They needed to listen to the leader, Callum and make sure that when he instructed them to do something, they did it. Once in the centre of the lake students had to work with their team mates to switch sides in the double canoe. Again, using respect and resilience making sure no one fell in the water.



Raft building, once students had experienced the water, they were then set the task with their team mates to make a raft that they would later put in the water. Students realised very quickly they needed to work as a team, no one could be doing their own thing. It was really good to see the students' ideas about how their rafts would look. Once built they got them out of the water with the students on them. All floated but not many stood to the test of time. Luckily, it was a sunny day and students seemed to enjoy the dip in the water. This activity demonstrated the school values of respect, resilience and aspiration.



Operation Encounter were extremely impressed with the students and have welcomed us back. We were very proud of the Year 10 and 11 students during the trip, they were a credit to our school, and we look forward to taking them on other trips in the near future.

Mrs Leach and Miss Pinker

Mental Health and COVID-19

If you're worried about the impact of coronavirus on your child's mental health, you are not alone. The COVID-19 pandemic is an uncertain time for all of us and will affect our mental health in different ways. A few things you could encourage your child to be doing



- Read a book - Ditch the phone and pick up a good book to read.
- Learn something new
- Try some indoor exercise
- Go for a walk

If you need to talk to anyone then there are a lot of charities that can help you:

<https://www.themix.org.uk>

<https://www.childline.org.uk>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/get-urgent-help/youngminds-crisis-messenger/>

Uniform

Please ensure your child arrives to school in the correct school uniform. This includes formal black shoes, a knee length skirt or black trousers, a white shirt, an AVA tie and AVA blazer. A reminder hooped earrings, acrylic nails, and trainers are not permitted.



Thank you for all your support