



# The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

## PARENT BULLETIN No. 61

### 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022

#### Welcome...

... Yet another extremely busy week at AVA as the lengthy bulletin shows.

I want to thank all our parents for the support you have shown in making sure that our students wear the correct uniform. Uniform can often be a hot topic among students but I feel strongly that it sets the tone for students' attitudes to learning. As I say to staff, 'It starts with the uniform...' If students meet this expectation when they enter the building, they are far more likely to meet our academic expectations and expectations of conduct.

We have now been through our two-week timetable fully and students will have met almost all of their teachers. Once we have this done, settling in to learning becomes a lot easier.

I look forward to sharing some great examples of the academic and extra-curricular successes and opportunities at AVA as we go through the year.

Thank you again for all your support and I hope you 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](#)

[Communication/Attendance/Behaviour](#)

[Trips/Lunch money](#)

#### School Closure

Because of the Bank Holiday for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's funeral, the school will be **closed to all staff and students on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September**. School will reopen at the usual time on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September**.

#### Early Closure: Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September

We will be holding our Open Evening on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September**. In order to prepare the school for this, we will be closing at 1.25pm that day. Children entitled to free school meals will be able to collect these up until 1.45pm. A reminder will be sent to parents closer to the time.

## Overdue Library Books Reminder



Please can all parents and carers of students with overdue library books to remind them to return them as soon as possible. Students can return them directly to me in the Library, or via one of our Library Book Return drop boxes located in the school's Atrium and outside the Main Hall entrance. Please can books be returned by **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**. After this date further reminders will be sent home, and if the books are still not returned then we may regrettably have to charge for their replacement.

## The Vineyard – food parcels

The Aylesbury-based charity The Vineyard, who are based in Gatehouse Close, HP19 8DN, have food parcels available.

These are adapted for each individual family. Opening hours are: Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 10am to 12noon. If you wish to call prior to visiting, their contact number is 01296 424400.

## Black History Month Art Competition

Black History Month was first launched in London on the 1980s where the aim was for the local community to challenge racism and educate themselves and others about the British history that was not taught in schools. Throughout history, black people have always been part of the fabric of the UK, but there has been a lack of representation in the history books.

AVA is running an art competition to help celebrate Black History Month's 2022 theme: 'Time for Change: Action not Words'.

The challenge is to make a piece of artwork, minimum A4, inspired by Black History Month. You could design a motivational poster, paint a portrait of a famous black icon, or create a homage to your own family background or culture.

Entries need to be handed in to Ms Dadson, Ms Green, Mr Scarlett or Ms Walsh by **Friday November 4<sup>th</sup>**, with 50 achievement points for each student who enters, and Amazon vouchers for the best two pieces.



## 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.

## Careers



At the Aylesbury Vale Academy, we provide a planned programme informing learners about Careers. We provide Advice and Guidance along with employability skills. The school seeks to help all students take their place as suitably qualified and responsible adults within society.

Providing our learners with a careers program will raise the aspirations and achievement of individual students and equip them with skills, attitudes, knowledge and understanding as a foundation for managing their lifelong career and learning.

We would also like to provide all parents with careers information so you can better support your children, and will therefore be sending you regular updates about careers and labour market information.

For example, you can read Kelsey's first-hand account of working as an Analyst at the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy, here: <https://bucksskillshub.org/career-seeker/case-studies/a-day-in-the-life-of-a-beis-analyst>, and find out about Destiny's insight and experiences as an apprentice, here: <https://bucksskillshub.org/career-seeker/resources/my-career-path-to-a-technology-degree->

If you have any questions regarding careers please contact Mrs Marina, the schools' Careers Lead: [pmarina@theacademy.me](mailto:pmarina@theacademy.me)

### Summer Career Experiences:



We are delighted to share with you a series of opportunities from careers specialists Investin.

Investin's autumn term career opportunities are available in 19 cutting-edge industries and give student aged 12 – 18 the opportunity to learn directly from some of the world's best professionals - doctors, lawyers, engineers, investment bankers and more - through a series of live, interactive simulations which provide tailor-made professional experience.

All programmes take place on Sundays at University College London, but students can also attend live online if they prefer. We expect to be fully-booked for our most popular programmes by 30th September so students should register as soon as possible.

Investin also offer a range of Summer career opportunities. To learn more about both Autumn and Summer opportunities, go to [www.investin.org](http://www.investin.org).

## 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.





## Online Safety Advice



Buckinghamshire County Council offer free Online Safety advice. If you're worried about your child's internet usage, please have a look at their website for advice:

<https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/advice-and-support/family-safety/keeping-your-child-safe/online-safety/>

They also offer free Youth courses for young people, covering a range of topics such as:

- how to have good relationships
- how to cope with stress, anxiety, and feeling low

Parent/Carers and young people are also welcome to drop in to [Southcourt Family Centre Plus](#) anytime Mon – Fri 9-5 to speak to a Family worker.

## Special Educational Needs, Free School Meals and the Pupil Premium

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](#).

### Free School Meals and the Pupil Premium:

Some children are entitled to Free School Meals, which in turn allows them to access the 'Pupil Premium'. 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).

## AVA Community Book Swap

Do you have a pile of books you've been meaning to clear out? Are you desperate for a new book to get lost in? We are excited to announce that in the next few weeks we will be opening the AVA Community Book Swap. Keep your eyes peeled for more information.



## Year 7/9/12 Settling in Evening

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.

## Year 7, 9 and 12 School Photographs

On **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September**, students in **Years 7, 9 and 12** will have their school photographs taken.

## Microsoft Teams and EduLink

All students have now been provided with login details for Microsoft 365, which is what they need to use to access for various tasks and lessons throughout the school day. It is also the method by which they will access their home learning, through the MS Teams Assignments application.

To ensure students can access Microsoft 365 at home, they must first login on a computer in school and reset their password to something they can remember. This will then allow them to login on devices outside of school. All Year 7 students especially, need to make sure they have logged on to a PC in school first and changed their password accordingly: there is time to do this within the school day.

Parents and carers do not have direct access to Teams, but they can use EduLink to view home learning information for their child. Login details for EduLink have recently been emailed out to any parents/carers who have not previously used EduLink.



## Extra-Curricular Clubs Timetable

### Extra-Curricular Clubs Timetable

#### Autumn 2022

	Year Groups	Time	Activity	Room	Staff Lead
Monday	7-8	3.00-4.00	Science Club	D0002, D0010	Miss Wise, Miss Mckenzie-Thorne
	7-11	3.00-4.00	Gardening Club	E0207	Mr Williamson
Tuesday	7-9	3.00-4.00	MFL Homework Club	C0112	Mrs Stephenson
	7-8	3.00-4.00	Netball	Muga	Mrs Haynes
	7-8	3.00-4.00	Football	3G	Mr Smith
Wednesday	7-8	3.00-4.00	Basketball	Sports Hall	Mr Lobb
	7-8	3.00-4.00	Rugby	Field	Mr Wakefield
	7-10	3.00-4.00	Girls Football	3G	Miss Roberts
	7-8	3.00-4.00	Art Club	B0124	Miss Green
Thursday	7-8	3.00-4.00	Dodgeball	Main Hall	Miss Gibbs
	7-8	3.00-4.00	Zumba	Dance Studio	Mrs Crumpton
	7-8	3.00-4.00	Badminton	Sports Hall	Mr Smith
	7-9	3.00-4.00	War Hammer	E02 07	Mr Williamson
	7-11	3.00-4.00	Keyboard Club	B0230	Mr Hallam
Friday	7-11	3.00-4.00	Singing Club	B0206	Mr Hallam
	7-11	3.00-4.00	Winter School Production	Main Hall	Mrs Finnie



**Mrs Weedon says...** Year 7 have had their first full week of lesson in secondary school. Many of them have faced their challenges head on and have tried lots of new things. This will be the beginning of many firsts and a wide range of new opportunities for our students. Many extracurricular clubs, after school and at lunch, have already started and our Year 7s have shown admirable interest in these. A list of activities will go out next week.

Many of our Year 7s are still finding their way round and some are getting lost, but it is lovely to see how supportive they have been of each other, helping another out. Many of the older students have also been directing any stray Year 7s to the right place!



On **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September** we had a performance from the **XYZ Truck Tour** to promote musical instrument lessons. Two members of the band are teaching vocal and drum lessons at AVA, and one was a former student. The Year 7s had a fantastic time and we saw some great air guitar and air drum impressions!

This week we started out tutor programme, the students looked the history of the queen, to commemorate her life. They did numeracy activities, to help them practice some of the stuff they do in lessons. We had community assembly with year 8, where Ms Lutchi introduced the litter picking ambassadors and told them how they sign up. Then Mrs Ripley discussed the importance of understand how Asthmas works and how to respond when someone is having an asthmas attack. The students have also had some time to get to know their tutors and ask any questions they might have.

#### **Dates for you Diaries:**

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October:** Settling in Evening

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas Panto Trip to see Aladdin

## **Year 7 Academy Values Awards**



Alice M  
Miley P  
Charlie P  
Harley H  
Tom E  
Alistair G  
Harrison S



Amir C  
Lucy U  
Elisha M  
Madi B  
Harvey P  
Elizabeth N  
Amelia D  
George P



Amy B  
Victoria N  
Natasha C  
Izzy B  
Doae J  
Noelani S  
Tommy S

## Weekly Form Competition

### **Form Achievement Points:**

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

### **Form Attendance (%):**

1. Nobel 3 – 99.1  
= 2 Faraday 1 & Franklin 1 – 99%

### **Individual Achievement Points:**

1. Kennoy L
2. Liam C
3. Alyssa H-W

### **Honourable Mentions:**

1. Imogen C
2. Eoin C
3. Austin S

Any enquiries, please contact [year7enquiries@theacademy.me](mailto:year7enquiries@theacademy.me)

Mrs Weedon and the Year 7 Team



**Ms Dutson says...** After a very busy start to the school term last week Year 8 have begun to settle into the routine of their new Form activities and assemblies.

On Monday, we had our first Achievement Director Assembly, the focus this week centred on the importance of attending school. Students were able to consider the impact of low attendance and how it can effect later life choices and income. During the Assembly, we celebrated the **Respect, Aspiration, Resilience** Awards in last week's Parent Bulletin, and going forward will be celebrating both student and form successes each week.

Our Community Assembly on Wednesday was delivered by Mrs Ripley our School Nurse. Students learnt about Asthma, how it presents, medication and the importance of being aware of our friends and peers who may be affected.

Following the practice and modelling of movement and lining up last week there has been a vast improvement in the way Year 8 have lined up for Assembly and how they have entered the Hall, we are very proud of them. Again the Year 8 Team would like to thank you for your vigilance in supporting us with our expectations both in terms of uniform and behaviour it is very much appreciated.

Lost Property is already starting to build up. We will be on hand to support them in finding their items but would ask that parents/carers ensure uniform/bag etc. are all named.

The extra-curricular PE and Sport timetable is available on the Academy website – if you would like a copy at home, please ask your child to ask their tutor for a copy.

The Academy's Open Evening for our new parents is set to take place on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September** between 5.30pm and 8pm. Year 8's were invited to help out on the evening, and anyone who is interested will bring home a letter so that you are able to give consent.

During our Attitudes Camp last week each of our forms chose a motto to best express themselves as a group.

Our Form mottos are:

**Faraday 1:** *"Treat others how you wish to be treated."*

**Faraday 2:** *"Where there is a Faraday 2, there is a friend."*

**Faraday 3:** *"Don't stand out; be outstanding."*

**Nobel 1:** *"Fitting in allows you to blend in with everyone else...being different allows you to be yourself, to be unique, to be more creative."*

**Nobel 2:** *"We might get it wrong, but we stay as a form."*

**Nobel 3:** *"Shrek respects Donkey and cares for him like we care and respect each other in this form."*

**Franklin 1:** *"Try your best."*

**Franklin 2:** *"Let yourself blossom, peace and kindness, don't let yourself down, never give up and reach for the stars."*

As part of the motto activity students also made displays for their form doors. Winners of the door competition are Franklin 2 - Miss Crumpton (left), and Franklin 3 - Mr Williamson (right).





## Year 8 Academy Values Awards

**respect**

**Freddie K**

**Emily O**

**Lila S**

**George M**

**Kimberly S**

**aspiration**

**Alyssa T**

**Ava S**

**Amanda M**

**Bahiti L**

**Salem Y**

**resilience**

**Elizabeth B**

**Harry L**

**Nadia B**

**Oliver S**

**Wasif I**

Please let us know of any achievements outside of school we can share with the year group  
Please see the school website for the extra-curricular PE and Sport timetable

Any enquiries, please contact [year8enquiries@theacademy.me](mailto:year8enquiries@theacademy.me)

Ms Dutson and the Year 8 Team



**Mr Hawley says...** This week we have started our GCSEs 'proper' with a return to normal classes. The year group has matured over the summer and clearly wants to do well. This week Tutor Groups were asked to create door designs to represent their form groups – the results are below. Those students who had cover for their forms will have many opportunities in future Form competitions.

**Assemblies:** Assemblies are on Tuesday and Thursday. Students need to go to the left MUGA on Tuesday and right MUGA on Thursday. Assembly this week will focus on the winner of the best door competition, which is 9 Faraday 3! Their themed door was clearly well thought out and something that I know the whole form group contributed to.

The trip to Operation Encounter is on the **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September** for a select students who finished last year with the most achievement points. We ask for a voluntary contribution of £40 and payment can be via Parent Pay by **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September**.

If money is an issue please contact [year9enquiries@theacademy.me](mailto:year9enquiries@theacademy.me). Please also complete the medical form via the link provided: <https://forms.office.com/r/3E8h5uSst5> to secure a place on the trip. Places will be issued on a first come, first served basis.

School trips are a privilege and the success of these trips is very much dependent upon the continuing excellent behaviour of our students. As a result, we reserve the right to refuse a student a place on a trip, or to withdraw a student at any time from a trip because of poor behaviour. This will result in forfeiting any payments made towards the trip.



**Dates for your diaries:**

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October:** Settling in Evening

## Year 9 Academy Values Awards



Emily J – for  
offering to help staff  
in her own time



Kira M – for having the  
most Achievement  
Points in the year



Dexter C – for trying  
his best to improve  
on last year

Any enquiries, please contact [year9enquiries@theacademy.me](mailto:year9enquiries@theacademy.me)  
Mr Hawley and the Year 9 Team





**Mr O'Leary says...** It has been another positive week for Year 10. The year group have all started their period 6 lessons, which has been successful. After a big push on uniform, the year group have maintained a high standard and are all looking incredibly smart. Please can we ensure students have their PE kits for the correct days.  
In Tutor Time this week Year 10 have watched a PowerPoint presentation in memory of Queen Elizabeth II, had a Community Assembly on asthmas and First Aid from Mrs Ripley, and have had numeracy and literacy sessions, and had a Celebration Assembly.

#### **GCSE History Trip to Berlin:**

All GCSE History students will now be able to see payment details for the above trip on their ParentPay account. Please pay deposit of £185.00 to secure your child's place. Letters detailing plans and forms required have been sent home via students.

#### **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.

#### **Extra-Curricular PE & Sport Timetable and lunch clubs:**

##### **Extra-Curricular PE and Sport are:**

**Monday** – Netball, Basketball, Football

**Tuesday** – Alternative Sports, Fitness, FightKlub

**Wednesday** – Girls Football, Fitness, Martial Arts

**Thursday** – Rugby, Fitness, Zumba, Academy Leaders, Football

##### **Lunch Clubs:**

**Monday** – Gym

**Tuesday** – Futsal

**Thursday** – Basketball

#### **Dates for your diaries:**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December:** Year 10 Parents' Evening

**TBC:** Year 10 Reward Trip to Thorpe Park

## **Year 10 Academy Values Awards**



**Francesca A**

**Zak B**

**Imogen J**

**Sophia D**

**Eda H**

**Alice K**



**Franchesca M**

**Joshua B**

**Eleanor G**

**Anisa K**

**Ruby M**



**Zain Y**

**Maisie F**

**Haleena P**

**Max C**

**Jake F**



## Weekly Form Competition

### **Form Achievement Points:**

1. Faraday 2 – 237
2. Franklin 1 – 144
3. Franklin 3 - 90

### **Form Attendance (%):**

1. Faraday 3 – 98.6
2. Franklin 2 – 98.1
3. Franklin 1 – 96.8

### **Individual Achievement Points:**

1. Max C – 14
2. Dillon E – 13
3. Ruby M - 13

### **Honourable Mentions:**

1. Sophia D
2. Eda H
3. Alice K

Any enquiries, please contact [year10enquiries@theacademy.me](mailto:year10enquiries@theacademy.me)  
Mr O'Leary and the Year 10 Team



**Mrs Leach says...** This week year 11 have had their first full week of lessons. Year 11 have settled well into the year and seem focused for the upcoming preparation for their pre-mocks. The Year 11 team have been very impressed with how the year group have conducted themselves around school.

**Operation Encounter,  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September:**

If your child is attending  
the Year 11 trip to  
Operation Encounter on  
**Friday, 23 September**

they need to make sure they have the following  
items with them:

- Casual/sports clothes
- A towel
- Swim wear (optional)
- Change of clothes.



During the day they will be partaking in raft building,  
canoeing, Jacob's ladder and archery

Students will be leaving school at 8am and will arrive back at approximately 5pm.

**Assemblies**

This week the Year 11 students received two assemblies. On Monday the assembly focused on CPR and on Thursday the assembly was centred around Careers and the different options students have.

**Careers guidance and Work Experience opportunities**

Is your child interested in pursuing a career in  
the legal world?

On Thursday 22nd of September from 5pm -  
6pm we're hosting our first law-focused careers  
event of this new academic year. We're kicking  
off strong as we're being joined by Magic Circle  
constituents Clifford Chance as they take us  
through the ins and outs of one of the world's  
most prominent legal firms.

We'll also be running an in-person work  
experience event at their London headquarters  
in Canary Wharf during the October half term for  
a number of students. Details will be shared  
about this during the virtual event next week, so



make sure to  
join us to be in with a chance of securing yourself a spot at that.

If you'd like to join us for this online event and hear from some one of the  
world's top legal professionals sign up using the following link:

<https://www.clifford-chance-insight.com>

**C L I F F O R D  
C H A N C E**

**Getting the Grade Evening**

We would like to invite you and your child to a 'Getting the Grade Evening' at AVA on **Thursday, 6th October**  
from 5pm to 7pm.

If you would like to attend, please email your confirmation to [year11enquiries@theacademy.me](mailto:year11enquiries@theacademy.me)

## Year 11 Academy Values Awards



Hajra K  
Ted A  
Rukiah K



Josh B  
Lily S  
Emils S



Millie W  
Bethany S  
Laura W-S

Any enquiries, please contact [year11enquiries@theacademy.me](mailto:year11enquiries@theacademy.me)

Mrs Leach and the Year 11 Team



**Mrs Sharma says...** The Sixth Form are settling in into new routines, it is good to see their positive and mature behaviour. The 6<sup>th</sup> formers have been looking very smart and business like, ready for a day of work. They are required to bring in their PE kit on the day that they have PE on their timetable.

We have organised a trip to the UCAS Careers Fair for all 6<sup>th</sup> formers, on the **16<sup>th</sup> of September**. We look forward to the students gaining valuable insights and information regarding their next steps at the Northampton University.

Dates for your diaries:

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September:** UCAS Careers Fair trip, Northampton University

Any enquiries, please contact [post16enquiries@theacademy.me](mailto:post16enquiries@theacademy.me)

Mrs Sharma and the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Team

**Thank you for all your support**