



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

PARENT BULLETIN No. 77

27th January 2023

Welcome...

There has been a lot of talk this week in the press about strike action in schools. This is obviously industrial action as a result of teaching unions' being in dispute with the Government. I appreciate that this can cause disruption for many parents. However, I hope to be able to inform parents of our decision by the end of the day on Monday 30 January.

Amongst all this uncertainty, we had a very moving assembly from Reverend Lane and Mrs Michhiana, our Curriculum Leader for History on the Holocaust, which brought in to sharp focus some of the tragedies of WW2 and the extreme prejudices witnessed. It makes us all realise how fortunate we are not to be living in the same era, but that tolerance, kindness and respect are equally important today. I know that students had the opportunity to reflect on how this affects their world.

Have a good weekend,



Gavin Gibson
Academy Principal

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](#)



Tik Tok Warning

We have received information from Thames Valley Police warning us about a new Tik Tok craze called 'Tap Out or Black Out'.



The craze involves holding a student in a headlock until they either submit, 'tap out' or, sadly, 'black out'.

A student at a Buckinghamshire school this week blacked out, banged his head on the ground, and is currently in a coma.

Please be aware of what your child is viewing on Tik Tok and the potentially fatal consequences of this practice.

We will prepare an announcement for Monday morning's tutor time and assemblies to inform students about the very serious dangers of this practice.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Parent View

Thank you to those of you who have responded to our Parent View survey. You can still respond [here](#).

Parent View

GCSE History Berlin Trip

Thank you for your support at our Pre - Tour Presentation evening. If you haven't already, please make sure Mrs Michhiana has your child's passport for safe keeping.



E-copies of information booklets and the presentation are on your child's class Teams page.

If your child was unable to make the evening, hard copies of the information booklet are available from Mrs Michhiana.

Students are expected to arrive on school site by **05:00am** Wednesday 1st February to depart for London Gatwick Airport. Please read the information booklet carefully and pack accordingly.

Final payment is now overdue so if you have overlooked this, please make payment ASAP.

Subject Superstar

This week's **History Heroes** are **Roni W** in Year 7, and **Usman Q** in Year 11. Roni has energy, enthusiasm and is achieving some great scores in her studies. She's also not afraid to have a go at really hard questions and her enjoyment of the subject is there for all to see. Usman has worked very hard on his GCSE studies and as a result has exceeded his target grade in the recent mock exam and should go on from here to do really well in the summer.



HPV Immunisations

The Buckinghamshire Immunisations Team are visiting your school on 13th March 2023 to deliver the second dose of the HPV Immunisation to the Year 9 pupils.

Most of the students would have already consented to this vaccination last Year, although Parents can still consent to the vaccination if their child missed the first dose whilst they were in Year 8.

PLEASE ONLY COMPLETE THE ONLINE FORM IF YOUR CHILD DID NOT RECEIVE THE VACCINATION IN YR 8.

If you have any queries regarding online consenting, the HPV vaccine, or if you feel that your child may have missed any previously offered immunisations, please contact the Buckinghamshire Immunisation Team on 01296 567860 or by email on buc-tr.BucksChildImms@nhs.net.

Year 8 & 9 Spanish Movie Night

The MFL Department organised a Spanish Movie Night after school yesterday, with Year 8 and 9 students settling down with some popcorn to watch *El Mejor Verano de mi Vida*, which tells the story of Curro, a salesman with a heart of gold who promises his son Nico a holiday that he is not able to afford.

Students enjoyed some popcorn, and practiced their listening skills while watching the movie which is in Spanish, but features English subtitles.



RS Club

Every Tuesday from 3pm to 4pm RS Club meet in D-02-12 and is open to all KS3 students and any other student who may be interested in being a part of the club once they are not engaged in P6 on Tuesdays.

Careers

Pro:Direct Academy Bucks

Here at the AVA, we have many aspirational footballers, always asking 'how do I become a professional footballer?'

The Pro:Direct Academy Bucks is a one or two year programme where footballers will train, play and study full-time.

Players will train to compete in the Tactic League & Cup & ESFA Superleague Cup with exceptional players will receiving opportunities to highlight their ability through our partners Pro:Direct Academy – PDA Eleven and PDA Regional squads all of whom receive the chance to play against professional academy teams, and showcase games with scouts in attendance. Exceptional players will also be signposted to to semi-professional club at Step 2 – 5.

Players will study with a Level 2 or 3 BTEC qualification alongside their football.

You can find out more [here](#).

We had a very busy week in careers with EKFB hosting an assembly, posing a maths challenge to our year 10 maths learners. The challenge is to design a viaduct for the HS2 rail just outside of Aylesbury, using maths these learners have the opportunity to see how their maths will support them in the world of work.



National Apprenticeship Week

On Monday 6 February we start to look at Apprenticeships in more details as we celebrate National Apprenticeship Week. A lot of activities will be sent home for you to go over with your child. Please look out for further details in next week's parent bulletin.





Mrs Weedon says...

It's been a very busy week for year 7. Students have demonstrated the academy values on many occasions and have been very **resilient** in this cold weather.

I have had lots of emails from staff about how hard the Year 7s are working and how impressed their teachers have been. More than 60 Year 7 students turned up for football training and many have signed up for cross-country. It is amazing to see so many of them making the most of the opportunities available to them. The boys football team played very well against Waddesdon, special mention to **Austin** for a great free kick.

This week in tutor time, Year 7 continued with numeracy and their personal development booklets. 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 Career's Booklet, look at the skills they want to improve for future job prospects. This week's community assembly was about Holocaust Memorial Day. Mrs Michhiana and Reverend Lane delivered a very moving presentation on the continuing impact of the Holocaust.

Bring your Parent to School Day

Thank you to all those that volunteered, we now have enough. If you are still interested, please let us know and we will keep you in mind for future events.

Dates for you Diaries:

Thursday 4 May Parents' Evening

W/C Monday 27 February Bring your Parent to School Day



Year 7 Academy Values Awards

respect

Peyton S
Kyle S
Matei R
Neve F
Mustapha S
Emily B
Roxanne B
Iris M
Izzy B
Zara J

aspiration

Rehan S
Zach G
Bethany W
Ingrid CS
Princess T
Alfie J
Ava W
Anya V
Madi B
Alice M

resilience

Lily-Mae C
Nihal M
Sofija B
Mollie B
Laila M
Elissa I
Jessica M
Chloe W
Harvey M
Maise W
Michael B

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

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

Individual Achievement Points:

1. **Matthew L**
2. **Toby P**
3. **Bella H**

Form Attendance (%):

1. **Nobel 3**
2. **Nobel 1**
3. **Faraday 3**

Honourable Mentions:

Ava-Mai G for her successful week

Any enquiries, please contact year7enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Weedon and the Year 7 Team



Ms Dutson says... This week Year 8 have demonstrated all our Academy Values, firstly by showing the **respect** to the Bucks Immunisation Team who told us how impressed they were with the outstanding behaviour on Monday. Mrs Powell thinks it was the custard creams that did the trick!

Year 8 students have begun to ask questions about options subjects, and many staff have commented on the mature conversations they have had about our students' potential career routes. It's great to hear of our students **aspirations**, and we are honoured to be part of their journey.

Finally, what an icy day on Wednesday! Everyone demonstrated **resilience** in getting into school, especially those who walked or tried to ride bikes in - it was treacherous out there.

The Reverend Lane and Mrs Michhiana, our Head of History, led Wednesday's Assembly with a focus on the Holocaust ahead of today's International Holocaust Memorial Day.



A very moving and thought-provoking presentation outlined to our students what took place in WW2, and investigated the similarities with more recent events, including in Rwanda.

The assembly examined how the persecution of 'others' – groups of minorities who were targeted because of apparent 'differences' - was normalised by the Nazis, and then used to implement progressively worse segregation, violence, cruelty and eventually murder against these innocent minority groups.

We continue to visit maths concepts on a weekly basis offering Year 8 the opportunity to revisit and practice their numeracy skills. The week was rounded off with a visit to the careers folders where students continue to explore their strengths and interests with a view to their option choices. This includes who they can go to for additional advice and how to independently research careers that are perhaps not so well known.

After half term our MFL Department will be organising opportunities for students to use their Spanish in an authentic context through the organisation of Pen Pals. We hope to bring you updates of this project when it gets underway.

Dates for you Diaries:

Thursday 2 March Year 8 Options Evening. Details will be sent to parents shortly.

Year 8 Academy Values Awards

respect

Ellina S
Lila S
Jasmine R
Edward N
Evie S

aspiration

Cassie W
Leonard V
Morgan S
Chloe S
Eleanor S

resilience

Kartik V
Cassie W
Travis S
Oliver S
Connie W

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

Nobel 3

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Jennifer B
2. Ivan K
3. Harry M

Form Attendance (%):

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

Honourable Mentions:

1. All our students who behaved so well during this week's HPV vaccinations.
2. Mrs Powell for supporting our students through the vaccinations with a hand to hold, moral support, and a biscuit or two...!

Any enquiries, please contact year8enquiries@theacademy.me

Ms Dutson and the Year 8 Team



Mr Hawley says... It's been another great week as we hurtle toward the half term break. I hope those who are going on the Berlin trip next week are excited as I am, and haven't left it all to parents to do all their packing!

Well done to the students on their day out for Action4Youth. I hope you had a good time.

Well done also to the year 9 basketball team, and an additional

well done to the lads in the gym always giving it their best. If any girls want to join, please let me know.

Period 6 changes have come about and a lot of people are asking to change. I am doing my best to accommodate everyone as quickly as I can, so please bear with me.

Parents will be free next week to book appointments for our forthcoming Parents Evening. I'm hoping Year 9 will break Year 11's record for the best attendance...



Year 9 Academy Values Awards

respect

Courtney S-H for always being polite and respectful, and going out of her way to ensure students and staff are OK.

aspiration

Alan T has not missed a boxing session at lunch time this week.

resilience

Abi S for taking the lead in the resilience reward scheme, although **Rehan N** is hot on her heels.

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

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

Individual Achievement Points:

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

Form Attendance (%):

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

Honourable Mentions:

1. Lucy M
2. Lily L
3. Emmie M

Any enquiries, please contact year9enquiries@theacademy.me

Mr Hawley and the Year 9 Team



Mr O'Leary says... The Year 10's have had a positive week with their lessons and period 6's. As a year group with have continued to promote work experience and help the students with their CV writing during tutor time this week.

Just a reminder the students have been given a couple of deadlines. They need to secure a work experience placement by **Monday 20 February** and to complete their placement tool on Unifrog by **Wednesday 22 February**. If any students need any support, please ask them to speak to Mr O'Leary, Miss Porter and Mrs Marina.

Geography Field Trips

As part of the GCSE course, our Year 10 Geography students take part in 2 fieldtrips: Oxford and the River Chess. Students will be bringing home a letter with the details of these trips. Please can the reply slip and parental consent form be returned to their Geography teacher, and the Parent Pay contribution made, by **Friday 3 February 2023**. Please contact Mrs Smyth (asmith@theacademy.me) with any questions.

MFL trip to Oxford Brookes

Students will enjoy the experience of spending a day at university to attend an MFL (French or Spanish) workshop lead by a university professor, and having a tour around the Headington Campus of Oxford Brookes University. After the workshops, students will do a presentation in the target language. Students will end the day with a talk from Dr Davis-Amaya about career options linked to foreign languages.



Assemblies:

Assemblies are on Tuesday and Friday, students are back in the main hall for assemblies, they need to line up outside in the main hall in their tutor groups.

Careers

Year 10's during tutor time were looking at careers. The year group have been looking at CV writing by using a template from the Unifrog website. We have also managed to secure further study higher mentoring sessions for the year group, which will run until April.

PE Kit

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

PE Lunch Club Timetable	
Monday	Gym (ORO/MLO)
Tuesday	Futsal (NWK/ORO)
Wednesday	Gym (KMO)
Thursday	Basketball (JSM)
Friday	Gym (KMO)

Tutor time	
Monday	Careers – Numeracy
Tuesday	Community Assembly – Mrs Michhiana
Wednesday	Careers – CV writing
Thursday	Careers – CV writing
Friday	AD Assembly – Mrs Hanmer

Dates for you Diaries:

Monday 24 – Friday 28 April Work Experience Week. Letters have been sent home with students and emailed via EduLink

Year 10 Academy Values Awards

respect

Aaditya A
Abdelali R
Alex G
Annabel H
Araish A
Gerrad Y
Harry D
Kamil A
Myra Z
Zak B

aspiration

Alex M
Alexander D
Alfie C
Archie L
Arjan S
Henry P
Jamie O
Lucy S
Tyler W
Ruby M

resilience

Alfie L
Amel H
Angel A
Dillon E
Elijah P
Hana R
Ines D-D
Lara B
Max C
Sana B

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

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

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Max C
2. Isabella B
3. Robert E

Form Attendance (%):

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

Honourable Mentions:

1. Chantai C
2. Binta C
3. Joshua B

Any enquiries, please contact year10enquiries@theacademy.me

Mr O'Leary and the Year 10 Team



Mrs Leach says... Thank you to all the parents that attended the Year 11 Parents Evening. It was fantastic to see 80% of parents present during the evening. If you have any questions regarding your child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact us.

This week Year 11 have completed their English Language and also watched a performance of A Christmas Carol. Students continue to showcase our school values, focusing on their revision and looking to the future with applying for their Post 16 options.

Year 11 Shout Outs:

Riley NW - We can see you're working hard and doing your best. Keep up the effort, you've got this!

David S - Refreshing to see you're confident about what your future holds. Keep the end in sight.

Numair K - Well done on your new hobby.

Year 11 Revision Evening

We would like to invite you and your child to our Year 11 Revision Evening at AVA on **Thursday 9 March 2023**, from 6pm to 7.30pm. The aim of the session is to give guidance to you and your child in planning their revision and using revision strategies in preparation for the summer exam period.

We appreciate that as the exam session approaches you may feel like you want to know how to support your child, providing them with effective revision strategies.

The session will comprise of:

- Revision strategies
- Supporting them with different techniques and approaches to revision time
- Advice on how to support your child organise their revision time
- Ensure they have the right equipment

If you would like to attend, please complete this short form: <https://forms.office.com/e/4MEbMGbsR>

One such strategy is **Cognitive Load Theory**, which examines how to learn information that isn't too hard, or too easy, but just right. (Sweller 1998). Cognitive load is the amount of information our working memory can hold at any one time. The capacity of our working load is limited and therefore students can maximise their working memory by practising a range of strategies such as breaking down problems into smaller parts, understanding worked examples, and simplifying information before building on it.



Research has proven that supportive parents can make a difference at this crucial time. During the evening there will also be subject specialist on hand to support with revision.

Year 11 Prom

Prom payment is now open on Parent Pay. You can pay for the Prom ticket in instalments or in full. A £10 deposit is required to secure your child's place. We appreciate that Prom can be a costly event for parents/carers, so we have offered you all a payment plan for the ticket.

Year 11 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. Hoodies cost £24.50 and will be available for students at the Leavers Assembly in May.

Dates for you Diaries

Monday 30 January, 12:30pm – 4pm - Year 11 BTEC Health & Social Care

Tuesday 31 January, 12:30pm - 4pm - Year 11 BTEC Enterprise

Wednesday 1 February, 8:30am - 10:15am - Year 11 BTEC ICT

Friday 3 February, 8:30am - 10:45am - Year 11 Engineering exam

Thursday 9 March, 6pm – 7.30pm – Year 11 Revision Evening

Year 11 Academy Values Awards

respect

Ini M
James W
Lilly B

aspiration

Emily M
Zora B
Zaynab B

resilience

Connie M
James L
Katie T

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

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

Form Attendance (%):

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

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Ipsha S
2. Tayla D
3. Blessing A-B

Honourable Mentions:

1. Jessica T
2. Zoha O
3. Toby L

Any enquiries, please contact year11enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Leach and the Year 11 Team

Thank you for all your support