



# The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

## PARENT BULLETIN No. 86

28<sup>th</sup> April 2023

### Welcome...

This morning Ms Lutchi, our Curriculum Leader for maths, brought to my office three extremely large photographs that she wanted to put the walls of the corridors at AVA. Each one shows our students winning at the very highest level.

They are **Joshua AB**, Year 11, winning the European Kickboxing Championship for the second time, **Jake W**, also Year 11, our resident Motocross Champion, our trio of Year 9s – **Megan H**, **Amelia C** and **Summer Wh** who are football County Cup winners, and of course the global superstars that are the **Gadirova** twins – reigning Olympic gymnastics medallists.

These students are models of **aspiration** and we are proud to call them our own. Ms Lutchi is now in the process of putting these photographs around our school (with the students' permission) so that they can act as aspirational role models for others.

There has obviously been some disruption this term due to the national strike days, and I continue to thank all parents and carers for their ongoing support.

Just to remind you that there is further industrial action taking place on **Tuesday 2 May** and so the secondary phase will only be open to students in Years 11, 12 and 13 on that day. Students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will move to remote learning. This, of course, follows Monday's Bank Holiday and so we will see all students at school again on **Wednesday 4 May**.

**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](#)



## Parent Bulletin feedback

We're looking at how we can improve how we communicate to our parents and carers, and we know the Parent Bulletin is a useful tool for our community and would like your views on how we can improve it.

Please complete this [short form](#) to give your opinion. Once completed you will be entered in to a draw to win a £20 Amazon voucher.

## Sporting Successes

Congratulations to **Joshua AB** in Year 11 who achieved 1st place in two different categories in the World Kickboxing Organisation European Championships at the weekend.

This is the second time Joshua has won the competition, meaning he's now a two-time European Champion – and all whilst studying for his GCSEs. Well done **Joshua!**

Well done too to **Megan H**, **Summer Wh** and **Amelia C** who helped Aylesbury United Girls U14s to the FA County Championship on Sunday. All three girls have been instrumental in their side's cup run, which culminated in a 2-0 victory over Tilehurst Panthers.



## Geography News

### Donate your Welly Boots!

Our Year 10 Geographers will be visiting the River Chess in June. If you have any spare welly boots (teenager size!) that you no longer need, we would gratefully receive them. Please bring any donations to the secondary reception or to Mrs Smyth.



### GCSE Revision Guides - Year 9 and Year 10 Geography students

If your child is taking GCSE Geography, please consider investing in a revision guide for them. Our department is able to buy them at a reduced price and we pass this saving straight on to you meaning the cost is only £3.25. These revision guides and books of practice questions can be purchased through the AVA [ParentPay shop](#).

### Geography Residential Fieldtrips

Our upcoming Geography PGL trip in July 2023 and Iceland trip in 2024 are now full. In the next couple of weeks, Mrs Smyth will send an email to the parents of all students participating in these trips to confirm their place, and give some additional information about the trips.

## History News

### Subject Superstar

This week's **History Hero** is **Miley P** in Year 7. **Miley** shows excellent **resilience**, **aspiration** and ability in all her work, whether that's inside or outside the school.



## PE News

Following an extremely successful Ski Trip to Austria in February, we are now in the process of organising our return for 2024, which will take place from **Friday 9 February 2024** to **Saturday 17 February 2024**.

The cost of this trip is £1249 per person, which includes:



- Coach to and from Wagrain, Austria including ferry crossing
- 6 nights full board accommodation in the Hauswirt Hotel, including an evening meal on return day
- 6 days lift pass
- 6 x 5 hours ski lessons
- Equipment hire (including skis, helmet, ski boots)
- Winter Sports Insurance
- A company representative in the resort
- Covid Guarantee

Should you wish to apply for a place on this trip, please ask your child to get a letter from the PE office and return the reply slip attached to it to Mr Wakefield. A non-refundable deposit of £250 to secure your child's place must also be made through Parent Pay to secure your child's place.

### Year 9 and 10 Girls Football Tournament

A huge 'well done' to our Year 9 Girls football team, who played in the annual John Colet Tournament on **Monday 24 April**.

They played incredibly well and made the play-offs for 4<sup>th</sup> place after finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in their group. They unfortunately lost 1-0 to Royal Latin's Year 10 team to finish 5<sup>th</sup> overall out of 12 teams. **Amelia C** was our Player of the Tournament as she top scored for the team, including scoring two hat-tricks!

A huge well done to all the girls who took part: **Summer W** (GK), **Abigail S** (DEF), **Courtney S** (DEF), **Megan H** (CDM), **Ana Q** (LM), **Skye W-S** (RM), and **Amelia C** (ST).



21

Vs



42

### Year 8 Junior NBA Play-Offs

The Year 8 Basketball team, the Sacramento Kings, managed to make it through to the Junior NBA play-offs.

They played a tough game against Mandeville school, Golden State Warriors, with the final score at 21 - 42 to Mandeville.

The MVP of the match was **James S** who scored 12 points in total. Well done to the two Year 7 players who also played up a year.



## King Charles III Coronation Challenges

To celebrate the King's Coronation on **Saturday 6 May**, we are running a whole school competition, made up of a number of challenges.

Please see the attachment for full details.

### Challenge 1

Make a special coronation dish for your friends/family or even street party.

It's up to you what you make  
[but here are some ideas.](#)

Please take a photo for evidence.



### Challenge 2

Design a new stamp for the  
Kings Coronation  
You can look for inspiration [here](#)

Design a stamp - King Charles III

Can you design a stamp to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III?



### Challenge 3

Find someone to interview who remembers the Queen's Coronation OR  
find clips to watch of her coronation speech and write your own speech as if you were being crowned.

Think about what you would promise the nation.  
Either write up your speech/interview or even do both!



### Challenge 4

Submit a digital poster designs which reflect one or more of these key themes:

**Community, Diversity,  
Sustainability and Youth.**

You can find ideas and how to enter  
[here](#)



**RESPECT**

### Challenge 5

The King loves nature and the environment - you can choose from these challenges below:

- Plant a tree or plant bulbs in pots and give them to people.
- Go on a litter pick to help the environment in your local area
- Go on a scavenger hunt and find something for each letter of "King Charles" to put in your window



**RESILIENCE**

### Challenge 6

If you were in charge of the Coronation concert, what songs would you choose?

Make a playlist of them.



Bonus challenge:

Make up a dance move / routine to celebrate the King

**ASPIRATION**

## AVA'bury Festival 2023

AVA are excited to announce that tickets to the upcoming AVA'Bury Festival are now available via the PTA-Events website, [here](#).

Once you click on the link you will be prompted to register with the school account, please follow the instructions and then click on the 'What's On' tab on the top left-hand corner. Tickets will be sent electronically and will be scanned upon entry to the festival.

If you have any questions about the event, please contact us on [avafestival@theacademy.me](mailto:avafestival@theacademy.me)

## Sponsoring AVA events

We are looking for local businesses to sponsor our upcoming events, such as the AVA'Bury Festival. If you would like free publicity for your event, please let us know.



## Leading Parent Partnership Award

Thank you to everyone who has completed the LPPA evaluation form, we are now looking at the results and will be using these to strengthen the schools parent partnership.

We are using the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA) to help strengthen our school's partnership with parents. LPPA is a national award that will provide us with a valuable school improvement tool and also give us recognition for our commitment to working with parents.

The LPPA will help us achieve these long-term benefits:

- contribute to improved pupil attendance, punctuality, behaviour and progress
- increase parent participation and involvement
- enhance parents' support in their children's learning
- improve communication between home and school

We are also working on a 'FAQ' section on our website. If you have a question for the school, which you feel other parents would also like to know, please submit it [here](#).

If you have any queries about this survey, please contact us.

## Evening of Expression

Join us for an unforgettable evening of creativity and cultural celebration at the AVA Youth Social Action group's **Evening of Expression** on Tuesday 20 June from 6.30pm to 8:30pm in the Main Hall.

Our talented staff and students will showcase a variety of talents such as singing, dancing, art, and fashion. Wear something to represent your culture and join us in appreciating the beauty in our differences.

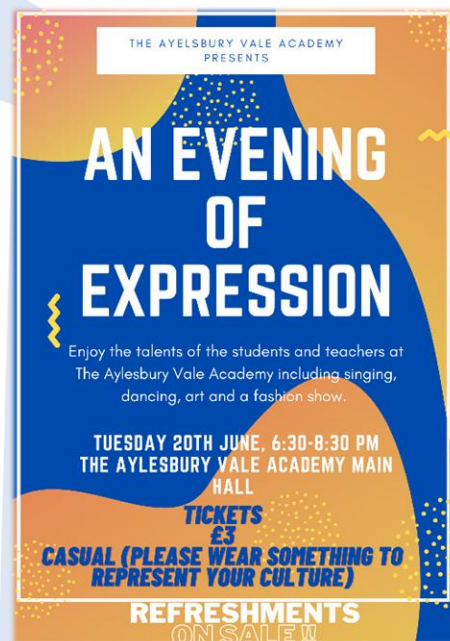
Your contribution will make a significant difference in the lives of those who need it the most. All proceeds will go towards the various charities we support and aid in the future funding of our Youth Social Action programme. Get your tickets for only £3 and be a part of something truly special.

## Careers

### RAF World

The Royal Air Force Engagement Team are hosting an RAF World online event which takes place on Wednesday 10 May from 6pm to 8.30pm. This is a completely free event that offers students and young people the opportunity to chat to members of the RAF about the different careers on offer, and what life is like as part of the RAF. Information on how to access this event is contained within the attached poster, and

tickets can be booked by clicking on the link



## Bucks Skills Hub

For more careers guidance and information, visit the [Bucks Skills Hub](#) where you will find many opportunities advertised and a wealth of careers information and guidance available. Among those currently on offer

are a [Virtual Nursing Taster Day](#), work experience in the [NHS](#), [a nursing insight event](#), and [careers in nursing](#).



**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**  
SKILLS HUB

## The Apprenticeship Academy

If you are interested in an apprenticeship, this is the course for you.

[This 6-week programme](#) is designed for Year 11, 12 and 13 students and provides them with vital information about how to find, apply for and interview for apprenticeship opportunities in the UK.

The next course begins on May 14, and you can hear about the benefits of the course from previous participants [here](#).



**Mrs Weedon says...** It's been a very positive week for Year 7 with lots of achievement points, green slips and praise. It has been a pleasure to walk around the building and see so many amazing lessons take place. Many members of staff have stopped me in the corridor or emailed me to tell me how impressed they have been with the enthusiasm the students have shown in lessons.

Year 7 Parents' Evening is next week Thursday and will be hosted at the school. Please make sure you book your appointments on school cloud. If you are having any difficulties, don't hesitate to contact us. This will be a fantastic opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher and get feedback on how they are progressing in

each subject.

Students must make sure to write their timetables in their planners, so they have a spare copy if they lose it or have left it at home. It is very important that all students arrive to lessons on time to make a prompt start to their learning. PE kit must be brought in when they have PE lessons.

This week in tutor time year 7 continued with literacy programme 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 our community assembly this week was hosted by Mrs Jefford and Mr Cooper. They delivered a very powerful assembly of aspiration and resilience, two of our school values. We work on helping our student become more resilient and so they keep trying even when things don't always go the way they expect. Failure is not fatal!



*Parents Evening*



Mrs Pykett also spoke to the year 7s about respect and how they have been treating each other. Understanding that our words have a massive impact on how we make someone else feels, so if what we say is not going to make someone feel good, don't say anything at all. Treat others how you want to be treated.

### Weekly Form Competition

#### Form Achievement Points:

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

#### Individual Achievement Points:

1. Liam F
2. Steven B
3. Emma B

#### Form Attendance (%):

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



## Year 7 Academy Values Awards

respect

aspiration

resilience

Humna Q  
Miley O  
Imaan J  
Tom E  
Charlie S  
Noor B  
Mariam C  
Melvina K  
Elisha M  
Anwen R  
Michael B  
Ella B

Michael B  
Maise-Rae  
Buck M  
Melanie N  
Charlie P  
Sharon G  
Kayla S  
Iris M  
Elissa I  
Eloise C  
Tony G  
Sara H

Jess C  
Cherice G  
Harvey M  
Graci M  
Emily J  
Yug J  
Mia O  
Emily F  
Chloe D  
Laila M  
Samira K  
Grace H  
Conor M

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

Mrs Weedon and the Year 7 Team



**Ms Dutson says...** Year 8 have had a brilliant week and are really starting to develop and mature into excellent students. This is timely with Year 9 fast approaching because their first year of GCSE curriculum will require exactly such a development in their collective mindset.

We had a fantastic community assembly on Wednesday from two of our Assistant Principals - Mrs Jefford and Mr Cooper - on two of our core values: **aspiration** and **resilience**, and the importance of showing these day to day. It was an eye-opening assembly, which gave our Year 7s and 8s a chance to reflect on how well they meet these values daily.

Next year's Ski Trip has now been officially advertised for February 2024. Students have been given information on this, but if you are interested please ask your child to show you their year group Team, where more info can be found. Mr Wakefield can also be contacted if you require any further information.

Any Year 8s who have been successful in gaining a place on the PGL trip need to collect a second letter from the PE office that includes important information for parents, including about payments for the trip.

A reminder to parents that water pistols are **banned** on school site. We have seen a rise this week in students bringing these to school. Sanctions will be given to any student who brings a water pistol into school, so can we please ask that this is reinforced to students at home.



# Year 8 Academy Values Awards

respect

Billie B  
Ethan B  
Jannat H  
Unai G

aspiration

Emily C  
Isabella H  
Eman K  
Harry L

resilience

Jamilu B  
Mia N  
Louis R  
Henley C

## Weekly Form Competition

### Form Achievement Points:

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

### Individual Achievement Points:

1. Elina S & Poppy P
2. Elizabeth B
3. Freddie K, Julia B, Liam S, Lily P, Noor J, Ollie E, Teshhavi A & Zahra P

### Form Attendance (%):

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

### Honourable Mentions:

Rufus M for assisting in the interviews for Vice Principal

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

Ms Dutson and the Year 8 Team



**Mr Hawley says...** Year 9 students have knuckled down after seeing their careers fair and I have received emails from students expressing thanks and asking more questions. This was fantastic to see. This is what year 9 should be building towards year 10. GCSEs are becoming the primary concern as we move towards year 10.

Big well done to **Euan B** for coaching a year 7 student who wanted to come to the gym. **Euan** was extremely patient and was focused on the student's safety at all times. It's nice to watch students helping

each other, and creates a great atmosphere. Good luck to **Alan T** in his upcoming boxing match in two weeks! We are proud of you either way.

Congratulations to **Summer W**, **Megan H** and **Amelia C** who helped Aylesbury United Girls U14s to win the FA County Cup on Sunday, beating Tilehurst Panthers 2-0. Well done girls!





Water pistols are becoming a serious issue in the year group. Year 9 were given a special assembly delivered by me and the Assistant Principal Mrs Leach about what would happen if students are caught with one. Anyone found with one will be given an afterschool detention, and those found using a water pistol will be put in isolation. We have even had students suspended for issues with water guns. Please help us to reinforce this message at home.

Next year's Ski Trip has now been officially advertised for February 2024. Students have been given information on this, but if you are interested please ask your child to show you their year group Team, where more info can be found. Mr Wakefield can also be contacted if you require any further information.

In tutor time, Year 9 have been looking at their Careers Booklets, practicing literacy and numeracy and on Tuesday Mrs Pykett led a community assembly show-casing all the support on offer to AVA students.

## Year 9 Academy Values Awards

**respect**

**Summer M** Mr Binns says: "If Summer sees me 1 million times a day, she always says 'hi'!. Such a pleasant and respectful student – keep it up Summer!"

**aspiration**

**Mrs Leach's Year 9 Media class** Mrs Leach says: "the respect, aspiration and resilience you show in class makes me proud to teach you."

**resilience**

**Taia D** for always seeking the right help to overcome any problems she might have.

### Weekly Form Competition

#### Form Achievement Points:

1. **Bernard's Bastions**
2. **Kissick's Komets**
3. **Nair's Nightmares**

#### Individual Achievement Points:

1. **Haider A**
2. **Megan W**
3. **Zak M**

#### Form Attendance (%):

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

#### Honourable Mentions:

1. **Max F** Miss Roberts says **Max** is funny, punctual and always has his kit.
2. **Vitor V** for always giving it his best and having a reputation amongst staff for her politeness

Any enquiries, please contact [year9enquiries@theacademy.me](mailto:year9enquiries@theacademy.me)

Mr Hawley and the Year 9 Team



**Mr O'Leary says...** This week has been a very different one for the year group with the majority undertaking their work experience placements.

The Year 10 team have been visiting different workplaces to see the students in their work environments, and it was great to see so many students getting involved in their work and enjoying what they were doing.

### **Year 10 to 11 Transition evening**

All Year 10 parents have received a letter inviting them in for the **Year 10 to Year 11 Transition Evening** on **Wednesday 24 May** from **6pm to 7pm**. 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 upcoming summer mock exams, as well as what to expect in Year 11.

If you would like to attend, please complete the form [here](#).

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

**Monday 24 April – Friday 28 April** Work Experience

**Wednesday 24 May** Careers Passport Day, Oxford Brookes Headington Campus

**Any enquiries, please contact** [year10enquiries@theacademy.me](mailto:year10enquiries@theacademy.me)

**Mr O'Leary and the Year 10 Team**



**Mrs Leach says...** We appreciate that our Year 11s are nearing the end of their time at AVA, however school uniform is still very important and always at the forefront of our daily routines. School shoes are still expected to be worn by Year 11. If their school shoes have broken or they've grown out of them, new ones do need to be purchased. Students will need to be in uniform for their exams this summer, and will need black shoes for job interviews, A levels, and special events in the near future.

A reminder the Summer exams start on **Monday 15 May**, and our Leavers Assembly is on **Friday 26 May**. Students will leave at 12:25pm. From **Monday 5 June** students will be expected in school for exams only.

### **Year 11 Leavers Hoodies – PAYMENT DUE BY SUNDAY 30 APRIL**

Leavers Hoodies are still available to order until the end of April. Please note we will not be able to take orders after **Sunday 30 April**.

1. Go to [www.plschoolwear.co.uk](http://www.plschoolwear.co.uk)
2. Click 'Aylesbury Vale Academy School Uniform'.
3. Click on the Leavers Hoody and select your size, colour, and the name you would like printed on the back.

Hoodies cost £27.50 and will be available for students at the Leavers Assembly in May.

### **Exam stress**

You can watch out for signs of stress and encourage your child to talk to a member of school staff or someone who they feel is supportive. If you feel your child isn't coping, it may also be helpful for you to talk to their teachers at school.

Encourage and support your child to build and maintain healthy habits before and during the exam period, such as eating a healthy balanced diet, staying hydrated, getting enough sleep, doing exercise, having time to relax and socialise with friends.

Remind your child that feeling nervous and anxious is normal. Support them to be organised, have a routine and build a revision timetable. Try not to add to their pressure by being flexible with them. Talk to them about how they feel, remind them of their goals in life and motivate them to stay focused. Staying calm will help them remain calm – and exams don't last forever.

### **Year 11 Geography Revision Sessions**

We continue to run Thursday lunchtime revision sessions for our Year 11 students. They are welcome to bring their lunch, but we also provide some snacks. Please encourage your child to attend.

### **Work experience opportunities**

We have 2 very unique work experience courses coming up soon, an online course that can be enjoyed at home and an in person course in London.

An online course takes place on **Saturday 13 May** providing an interactive Surgery work experience day. The day will be delivered by practising surgeons & current medical students and is designed to give students a meaningful insight into careers in medicine and surgery. Students can find out more and register [here](#). The in person course takes place at Kings in London on **Sunday 21 May** where students aged 14 to 18 are allowed to enter the dissection room. It is real dissection room with NHS doctors. When we ran this one in December, students from all over the UK and Europe travelled to attend. Students can find out more and register [here](#).

### **Year 11 Prom**

Final Prom payment is due by **Saturday 29 April**. Please make sure you have paid the full amount.

### **Supporting your child through exams**

Here is a list of websites and a book which are useful resources in supporting children and young people with anxiety, including [managing exam stress](#):

<a href="http://www.youngminds.org.uk">www.youngminds.org.uk</a>	<a href="http://www.mind.org.uk">www.mind.org.uk</a>	<a href="http://www.barnados.org.uk">www.barnados.org.uk</a>
<a href="http://www.andyresearchclinic.com">www.andyresearchclinic.com</a>	<a href="http://www.minded.org.uk">www.minded.org.uk</a>	<a href="http://www.anxietyuk.org.uk">www.anxietyuk.org.uk</a>

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

**Monday 15 May** Summer exams begin

**Friday 26 May** Leavers' Assembly

## **Year 11 Academy Values Awards**



**James W**  
**Tayla DB**  
**Toby L**



**Manni S**  
**Sumayah B**  
**Dominico R**



**Charlie S**  
**Lilly B**  
**Aimee M**

### **Weekly Form Competition**

#### **Form Achievement Points:**

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

#### **Individual Achievement Points:**

1. Dillon M
2. Aimee D
3. Tayla D

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

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

#### **Honourable Mentions:**

1. Kendra AM
2. Miguel A
3. Aishwarya A

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

**Mrs Leach and the Year 11 Team**





**Mrs Sharma says...** The Inspiration Programme was joined by the British Army on Wednesday. Students were shown a presentation about the many aspects of Army life, including learning about some of the more than 100 trades available and the two visitors shared their career journeys.

This was followed by a series of team building exercises that tested the students' ability to work together and effective communication. They constructed working catapults and a self-propelling car by following a template. They also

had the opportunity to build a tank from wooden cut-out pieces.

"We learnt how there is almost no job in the civilian world that the army does not have, meaning there is a place for everyone. We met a dental nurse and a grenadier guard, and they both shared the journeys, stories and experiences they have had in the British Army. It was great fun and would definitely do something like this again when given the opportunity."

**Amana A**, Year 12.



"Andy also taught us that practice makes perfect. He also illustrated how we should try as many times as possible to get the outcome we wish to have. He provided us with pieces to make a catapult, which was difficult to do. On the first try, we built it up only to realise certain pieces were missing, so we had to dismantle it and start again which showed us how to be resilient. We had a really good experience and hope an opportunity like this comes again."

**Nakiso S**, Year 12.

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**