



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

PARENT BULLETIN No. 37

7TH January 2022

Welcome

A very Happy New Year to you all.

I am pleased to see all our students back at school from January 5th. It was very important to not have a prolonged staggered start to the school year and get students back to learning as quickly and as safely as possible. They have missed too much already.

This is a shorter than average bulletin because there are a few brief messages that we need to convey, especially those around Lateral Flow Testing, testing positive and face masks.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this bulletin or anything else, please contact using the following email: enquiries@theacademy.me.

Have a good weekend.

Gavin Gibson

Academy Principal

Face Masks

All students are now required to wear face masks in communal areas and classrooms. This helps to ensure our school can stay open.

Students should arrive at school with their own face mask. The school has a limited supply of face masks which we can provide in emergencies but it is essential that students have their own and, ideally, a spare.

Students who are exempt from wearing face masks will be provided with an exemption card. If you feel your child is exempt and they do not have a card, they should see their Achievement Director.

Year 11 Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening is **Thursday 20th January**, please use the School Cloud platform to book your virtual appointments <https://aylesburyvaleacademy.schoolcloud.co.uk/>. These meetings are in place to support your child in their final weeks at school.



Year 12 and 13 Parents' Evening

This will take place of **Thursday 3rd February** and we will send you the relevant link in the coming weeks for you to book your appointments.

Lateral Flow Testing

All students in Years 7-13 have now been offered a Lateral Flow Test on site before starting school. It was disappointing that some students did not show up for this on 4th January or were late for their test on 5th January. This led to delays in other students starting their lessons on 5th January. If this needs to happen again, please can you ensure your child knows exactly when they will need to attend.

Pencil Sharpeners and Scissors

I have taken the decision to stop students bringing in their own pencil sharpeners and scissors to school. This is to ensure we keep our school and students themselves as safe as possible. This is merely a precaution.

If students need these items, they will be provided by their class teacher.



Local Parking

If you are picking up or dropping off your child at school, please can I ask you to use the car park for this. Unfortunately, parking on Kentish Road, Seabright Way or in the Sainsbury's car park has led to complaints from local residents who are unable to make their way along the road or park outside their homes.

Thank you for your understanding.



Year 11 Mock Results Day

It is clear they are all eagerly awaiting their mock results. We have organised a mock results day which is on Friday 14th January to help prepare the students for their real results day. The mock results day will start with the students receiving their envelopes in the hall, we then have Study Higher in to deliver a variety of seminars to the students from various industries. We will start the session with Revolution Hire who will talk to the students about Confidence, Fear and Anxiety. Then ASK (Amazing apprenticeships) will talk to the students about apprenticeship options. Finally, we have the Army in to talk about the different careers available in the Army.



Litter

We work hard in school to address students taking responsibility for their litter inside and outside of school. Students can volunteer to be litter picking Ambassadors and receive points which build toward Amazon vouchers, staff walk around encouraging students to put litter in the bin, and we deliver assemblies on the subject. We even send litter picking teams into the local community to pick up litter.



Despite this, it was clear that the problem of litter in school and in the local area was becoming a problem before Christmas. Some students had thrown away their Lateral Flow tests given to them by the school, which is hugely disappointing considering the national shortage.

Please can I ask all parents to discuss this with their children and the importance of socially responsible behaviour as well as the responsibility to the environment.

From now on, all Lateral Flow Tests will be issued with the student's name to make them easily identifiable and we will notify parents when these have been issued. I would be grateful if you could make sure that they bring these home.

Break and Lunch Arrangements

Every day, we accommodate almost 1300 students for lunch in the Atrium or Main Hall. Years 7, 8, 9, 12 and 13 eat in the Atrium and Years 10 and 11 in the Main Hall. Lunches are staggered to ensure no one waits in the queue for more than a few minutes. This has become much quicker with the contactless card system.

This is a huge number of students. In order to manage this effectively, we ask that students:

1. Do not stand and remain seated inside.
2. Only eat food from the school inside.
3. Move outside when they have finished their lunch.

If students have finished their lunch, they may be asked to move outside to make way for students who have just got their lunch.

Alternative arrangements will be made in wet weather.



Thank you for all your support