



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

PARENT BULLETIN No. 23

10th September, 2021

Welcome

It is with a mixture of excitement and relief that we are at the end of the first full week back. Relief that we are able to open fully and complete all our on-site lateral flow tests successfully but excitement that we get back to doing what we love - working with children and young people.

Our Year 7s are full of energy, enthusiasm and wonder while our Year 11s have arrived with a determination to do well in their GCSEs. I can't wait for the year ahead.

This is quite a long bulletin with lots of information. Following some feedback from the parent survey, we have tried to include more information on what your child is doing each week and will shortly be sharing detailed information on what they will be studying in each lesson throughout the year.

We have a section for each year group so that you scan and read the information most relevant to you.

As always, if you have any questions about anything in this bulletin, please contact enquiries@theacademy.me

Gavin Gibson

Academy Principal

Early Closure 30th September

We will be holding our Open Evening on Thursday 30th September. In order to prepare the school for this, we will be closing at 13:25. A reminder will be sent to all parents closer to the time.

Parents' Evenings

Last Year we held virtual parents' evenings. We would welcome your views on the effectiveness of these and a whether parents favour return to face-to-face parents' evenings. Please click on the link to give us your views: [PARENTS' EVEING QUESTIONAIRE](#)

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.



Settling- in Evening

We will have a Settling in Evening on 14th October for parents of students in Years 7, 9 and 12. This is an opportunity for you to meet your child's form tutors, receive an update on how they have settled into the new academic year and discuss any issues you have.

Please make a note of this date.

We are currently deciding whether this will be an in-person opportunity to meet staff, a virtual evening with on line appointments or a combination of both. More information will follow next week from your child's Achievement Director.



Year 7

First Week

7

Our Year 7s have spent this week meeting their tutors, making new friends, and finding their way around our building. They have experienced the full range of subjects offered by the Academy and have begun their tutor programme every morning which offers them the opportunity to revisit/practice basic numeracy and literacy skills as well as confidence to debate, form opinions and work as teams to produce and deliver presentations. All the students attended our music event where they were introduced to a range of instruments, experienced recitals by older students and had the opportunity to perform "We Will Rock You" as a year group by clapping and stamping to time. If your child is interested in learning an instrument and has not given you a letter, please get in touch.

Summer School

We were very pleased to welcome 200 students to our Summer Camp. It was a busy week in which those attending experienced lessons in Maths, English, Drama and PE as well as an intergroup dodge ball competition and a trip to Gulliver's World in Milton Keynes. The week concluded with an Awards Ceremony where students received their tablets and staff awards were presented. The awards centred around our values of Respect, Aspiration and Resilience, each of our teachers at the Camp nominated the student they felt displayed one or more of these values over the course of the week. We were really pleased to be able to make so many awards; each student below received a certificate and 20 Achievement Points:

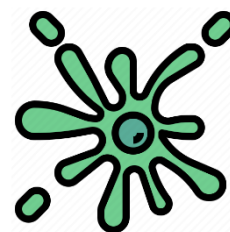
RESPECT	ASPIRATION	RESILIENCE
Misha Klepping	Shanade Wallace	Alex Willington
Alexandra Macovei	Temiloluwa Omoyele	Lily Macknight
Tristan Barlow	Dior Jimoh	Ewan Bobbin
Sabrina Angus-Sennouni	Ethan Batterby	Jennifer Bedford
Alexis Kent	Alexandra Jordaan	Riley Smith
Harry Granville	Lila Sarnowski	Joseph Coleman
Kimberley Smith	Cai Williams	Theo Harlock

It was difficult to choose a student to receive the **Achievement Director's Summer Camp Award 2021**, but after much deliberation, the award went to Kimberley Smith who demonstrated all the values. Kimberley was supportive and helpful to peers and staff members, included those without friends into her social group and was an inspiration to those around her.

Well done Kimberley!

Art Competition

We have received some amazing entries for our art competition which was advertised in our Yr 7 Information Booklet given to students before the summer break. The closing date for entries is Friday, 17th September, it's not too late to enter, your child simply needs to create a postcard of what they did over the summer. The winners will receive a certificate, Achievement Points, and an art set. All entries need to be with Ms Dutson or students Art Teachers by the deadline.



Finally

All our Year 7s should be very proud of their first week with us, they have been a pleasure to get to know and have met the challenge of transition head on.

Any enquiries, please contact year7enquiries@theacademy.me
Well done Year 7

Ms Dutson and the Year 7 Team

Year 8



Our Year 8s have had a fantastic start to the year so far! They have enjoyed mixing with other year groups, finding their way around the school again, meeting new teachers and getting used to their new timetables.

We have had excellent attendance at Extra-Curricular clubs (see timetable below for details) which started this week and enjoying being able to use the library daily at break and lunch times.

They have begun their new Tutor time programme and are getting stuck into preparing to deliver their presentations to their peers, which is a new addition to the programme this year. Dates for parents' evening etc. will be confirmed on the website shortly.

We have lots of exciting rewards to look forward to this year. Already some students have received reward badges for their efforts so far and a great start to the year.

It has been fantastic to see them all on their return to school and we look forward to working with you as parents this Academic Year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do get in touch with the Year 8 team.

Any enquiries, please contact year8enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Lloyd and the Year 8 Team

Year 9



Year 9s have just started their options and have made a good start to the year. During tutor time they have been writing letters to their future self to open on GCSE Results day 2024 with how they are currently feeling, what they are looking forward to, what their worries are, the subjects they think they will do well in, their future plans and setting themselves a goal that they hope they will achieve by the end of Year 11.

Each week, tutor groups compete to be crowned Tutor Group of the Week, this is based on achievement points, behaviour points and attendance.

Star of the Week is a weekly competition, where the form tutor awards a student from their tutor group for displaying the academy values. Please look out for the successful winners next week.

Any enquiries, please contact year9enquiries@theacademy.me

Mr O'Leary and the Year 9 Team

Year 10

10

First Week of Period 6:

The Year 10s school day is now until 4pm Monday-Thursday and they have completed their first full week. The attitude, engagement and effort has been outstanding this week from all students in all activities. Students have participated in many different activities and have enjoyed themselves thoroughly. Well, done and keep it up.

Year 10 and 11 trip to Operation Encounter – Friday, 24th September 2021:

Please see Year 11 section for this information.

A special acknowledgement to the following students for their excellent attitude on their return to school. There will have been many more quietly going about their business. We hope to recognise you in future bulletin:

Tayla Dumbarton, Zorah Bibi, Blessing Agyei-Baah, Max Cotter, Reece Benn, Charlotte Jordaan, Lily Wharton, Jamela Arif, Olivia Bennett, Finley Cairnie and Jade Cook.

Any enquiries, please contact year10enquiries@theacademy.me

Ms Pinker and the Year 9 Team

Year 11

11

Year 10 & 11 trip to Operation Encounter – Friday, 24 September 2021:

At AVA we believe that when a student reaches Year 10 they should develop their Cultural Capital and experiences as well as their academic skills. This is why we have organised a day at Operation Encounter who specialise in a unique military experiences. The students will take part in activities that underpin, not only our core values but British military values, such as:

- Selfless commitment
- Courage
- Discipline
- Integrity
- Loyalty
- Respect

Along with this, the students will learn about leadership, delegation, communication, teamwork, problem solving and confidence building, all whilst having fun and creating memories in their final year at AVA. The activities we will be undertaking on the day are:

- High ropes – crate stack
- Bush craft
- Raft building
- Canoeing

The trip is Friday, 24 September 2021 at Operation Encounter, Marlow. We will be leaving school at 0800 and will arrive back at approximately 1700.

If you would like your child to attend this trip, then please contact Mrs Leach or Miss Pinker for more information rleach@theacademy.me / lpinker@theacademy.me

Year 11 Getting the Grade Evening:

We would like to invite all Year 11 parents and carers to a 'Getting the Grade Evening' at AVA on Thursday, **7th October, 2021 from 5.00pm to 7.00pm**. 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. During the evening there will also be specific sessions for English, Maths and Science.

Getting the Grade Evening has been held at AVA, for the past few years and below are some comments shared by parents:

- "I learnt some very handy revision tips"
- "Very well explained and good revision techniques"
- "It made me see exactly what my son had to revise and how"

If you would like to attend please email your confirmation to year11enquiries@theacademy.me as this will enable us to ensure we have prepared enough resources for everyone.

Year 11 Save the Date:

One of the most important things about the end of Year 11 (apart from gaining your GCSEs) is the celebrations we have at the end of the year. Students work hard throughout their school life so it is important we mark this special occasion.

We are excited to announce that the **Prom will be Friday, 24th June**. More detail will be given to the students after Christmas.

If students would like to help with the organisation of these celebrations, then they are encouraged to speak to Mrs Leach.

Any enquiries, please contact year11enquiries@theacademy.me

Geography

Every week we nominate a Geographer of the week, for outstanding work and effort in Geography. This week we have nominated Lucie McPhee - for always having a positive attitude, being respectful and resilient. Well done!

Ms Smyth and the Geography Team.

Extra-Curricular Timetable

Please see the following timetable for the range of clubs and activities offered at AVA between 3:00pm and 4:00pm.



15:00 - 16:00

Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 9 & 10 Netball: MUGA: Miss Walker Year 9 Fitness: Gym: Miss Fuller (A) & Mr Verity (B) Year 9 & 10 Football: 3G: Mr Wakefield 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 10 Netball: MUGA: Miss Walker Year 10 Football: 3G: Mr Wakefield Year 10 Basketball: Sports Hall: Miss Pinker
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 7-10 Girls Fitness: Main Hall: Mrs Finnie, Mrs Michhiana, Miss Mehmeti Year 7 & 8 Netball: MUGA: Mrs Haynes (A) & Miss Walker (B) Year 7 & 8 Football: 3G: Mr Verity Year 7-10 Dance: Dance Studio: Miss Hayes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 10 Girls Fitness: Main Hall: Mrs Finnie, Mrs Michhiana, Miss Mehmeti Year 10 Fitness: Gym: Miss Fuller (A) & Mr Wakefield (B) Year 10 Dance: Dance Studio: Miss Hayes Year 10 Badminton: Sports Hall: Miss Pinker
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 7-9 Basketball: Sports Hall: Miss Gibbs Year 7-10 Glow Fit: Main Hall: Mrs Haynes Year 7-9 Boys & Girls Rugby: Field: Mr Wakefield Year 7-10 Girls Football: 3G: Miss Pinker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 10 Glow Fit: Main Hall: Mrs Haynes Year 10 Girls Football: 3G: Miss Pinker Year 10 Fitness: Gym: Miss Wise Year 10 Sport Leaders: Classroom: Mr Verity
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 9 & 10: Boxercise: Main Hall: Mr Carr Year 7-10: Running fitness: Field: Mrs Briggs Year 7-9 Dodgeball: Main Hall: Miss Walker Year 7-10 Zumba: Dance Studio: Mrs Crumpton Year 7-9 Badminton: Sports Hall: Miss Gibbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 10: Boxercise: Main Hall: Mr Carr Year 10: Running fitness: Field: Mrs Briggs Year 10 Rugby: Field: Mr Verity Year 10 Fitness: Gym: Mrs Haynes Year 10 Football: 3G: Mr Wakefield Year 10 Zumba: Dance Studio: Mrs Crumpton
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary- Year 6 Sports Club: Mr Wakefield 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 11 Prefects (Year 6 Sports Club)

Home Learning

Home learning or 'Homework' is a crucial part in students adding to their knowledge and understanding by consolidating what they have been taught in lessons.



Please see below the home learning timetables for this academic year, which will begin from Monday 13th September (Week A). To identify what home learning your child should be set each day, you will need to refer to the class codes printed on the timetable issued to students at the start of term. However, please be assured that individual teachers will communicate with their classes which days they will be setting homework using these timetables as well.

Year 11	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEKS A AND B	OPTION A	OPTION B	SCIENCE	MATHS	OPTION C
	OPTION D		ENGLISH		

Year 10	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEKS A AND B	SCIENCE (y band and x1 and x2)	ENGLISH	OPTION B	MATHS	OPTION A
		SCIENCE (band x, groups 3-5)	OPTION D		OPTION C

Year 9	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEKS A AND B	SCIENCE (band y 3-5 and band x 3-5)	SCIENCE (band x 1-2 and band y 1-2)	ENGLISH	MATHS	OPTION A
		OPTION C		OPTION B	OPTION D

KS3: The timetable operates for core subjects only. All other subjects to set home learning one day per week of their choosing for both Week A and Week B. Reading home learning monitored by Literacy teacher.

Year 8	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEK A	8c English 8a Maths 8b Reading	8b English 8a Science	8a English 8c Science	8c Maths 8b Science 8c Reading	8b Maths 8a Reading
WEEK B	8c English 8a Maths 8b Reading	8b English 8a Science (sets 1 and 2)	8a English 8a Science (set 3) 8c Science	8c Maths 8b Science (sets 1 and 3) 8c Reading	8b Maths 8b Science (set 1) 8a Reading

Year 7	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEK A	7a Science 7b English 7c Reading	7a Reading 7b Science 7c English 7a Maths	7a English 7b Maths 7c Maths	7b Reading	7c Science
WEEK B	7a Science 7b English 7c Reading	7a Reading 7b Science 7c English 7a Maths	7a English 7b Maths 7c Maths	7b Reading	7c Science

Home Learning at AVA is set via Microsoft Teams and all students in Year 8 upwards will be familiar with how this works. Early next week, students in Year 7 will receive some guidance on how to access MS Teams and each class teacher will show their students how to access the materials and resource for their group. By the end of next week, the following principles should apply for all students.

Students should:

- use MS Teams to check the home learning which has been set each day and to ensure they understand what they are required to do
- allow adequate time to complete their home learning to a standard that reflects their understanding and best efforts
- stick to the timing guidance from their teacher and if they exceed this, to write down the amount of time it took
- where possible, find a quiet environment to complete their home learning
- take initiative for their own learning exploring and developing their understanding beyond the tasks set

To support your child with their home learning, parents are encouraged to:

- Assist their child with planning and organising their home learning
- Provide their child, where possible, with a suitable learning environment in which to complete their home learning, without distractions
- Discuss home learning tasks and teacher feedback with their child to encourage conversations about learning
- Contact the class teacher or Curriculum Leader if they wish to discuss any concerns or issues
- Contact the Achievement Director if they have concerns about access to MS Teams at home

Thank you for all your support