



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

PARENT BULLETIN No. 60

9th September 2022

Welcome...

... to the first Parent Bulletin of the new academic year.

It has been an extremely eventful week. Our Year 7s started secondary school for the first time on Tuesday, all our students came back on Wednesday and, of course, we experienced the passing of Queen Elizabeth.

In school today we took a moment to reflect on the life of the United Kingdom's longest reigning monarch and marked her time with a minute's silence. Our students have witnessed a significant moment in British history and it is clear that she demonstrated stamina, dedication and devotion to her country.



We also started the year by ensuring all students were in the correct uniform. We feel strongly that high standards of uniform lead to good attitudes to learning and behaviour. We have had overwhelming support from parents regarding these higher expectations, so thank you.

If you have any difficulty getting uniform, please use one of the contact email addresses below for your child and we will work together to resolve the issue. We know that many families are experiencing increases in the cost of living and it may be possible for us to help resolve uniform issues. We also have a large stock of second hand uniform in school for parents to swap. Please see below for details.

Thank you for all your support and I hope you have a good weekend.

Gavin Gibson
Academy Principal

Contacting the School

If you need to contact the school regarding your child, please use the following contact details:

Year 7: year7enquiries@theacademy.me

Year 10: year10enquiries@theacademy.me

Year 8: year8enquiries@theacademy.me

Year 11: year11enquiries@theacademy.me

Year 9: year9enquiries@theacademy.me

Post 16: post16@theacademy.me

Key Links:

Secondary website: <https://www.theacademy.me/page/?title=SECONDARY&pid=13>

Parents evenings: <https://aylesburyvaleacademy.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Communication/Attendance/Behaviour: <https://www2.edulinkone.com/#!/login>

Trips/Lunch money: <https://www.parentpay.com/>

Helping your child get in to good habits

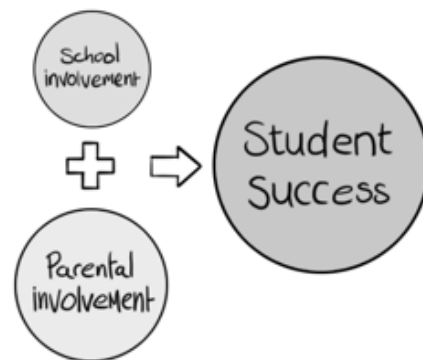
Did you know?



Research reveals that there is a strong link between healthy habits and pupil achievement. Poor health habits add up to poor grades, and research suggests that healthy habits and good health-related decisions can lead to improved academic performance. For instance, research has shown that students who eat breakfast exhibit improved concentration when compared to their peers who skip it.

Healthy habits are essential to living a long and happy life, and they are important to instil in children from a young age. If you help them form these habits now, you will be giving them the tools to navigate any obstacles they may face as they grow into adulthood.

Research highlights that the late teenage years have been identified as the peak age for exposure to health risks with lifelong implications. The report, by the Association for Young People's Health (AYPH), revealed teenagers eat eight times the recommended sugar allowance and almost half have tooth decay. This worrying research also found out that most smokers start by the age of 25.



What can you do?

Cultivate healthy habits by being a role model to your child. Try to exhibit good habits, offer health advice and build fun healthy activities into your family life. Examples include being active as a family, having evening and sleep routines, providing a water bottle to encourage hydration, or making family meals together.

Good nutrition can help improve concentration, so pay attention to the food you buy for your family. Provide a healthy balanced diet of meals which include fresh vegetables, fruit, proteins, good fats and whole grains.

Encourage your child to snack on low sugar foods and drinks, which you could make together.

Help and encourage your child to get enough sleep, live a physically active life and feel good about themselves. Work with them to map out their week to include healthy habits such as exercise, relaxation and seeing friends. Set some healthy lifestyle goals together, and keep each other motivated to stay on track.



EduLink One – Online Parent Portal

EduLink One gives parents and carers quick and easy access to information such as your child's timetable, achievement points, behaviour incidents and attendance information. As the year progresses we will also be able to share information such as attitude to learning grades, assessment data and student report profiles.



If your child is new to AVA, you will soon receive an email from avacoms@theacademy.me inviting you to log in. To do this you will first need the School's ID Code: AVA.

Parents and carers of existing AVA children have already been sent joining instructions. If you are experiencing any issues accessing your account, you may need to use the School's ID code AVA, or to reset your account password/username via the 'reset login' option on the login page once you have entered the ID code.

One new feature for 2022 is the Homework area, where you will be able to access details of assignments and home learning set by class teachers on Microsoft Teams, including both deadlines set and whether the work has been submitted on time. We will be asking students to manage this aspect of their home learning record as the year progresses.

The best way to ensure you all have up-to-date knowledge of what is available is to download the EduLink One App to your mobile or tablet and set up push notifications within it. This facility will give you 24-hour access to all updates to your child's/children's records.

History Trips

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.



OPEN EVENTS 2022



www.theacademy.me

Early Closure Thursday 29th September

We will be holding our Open Evening on **Thursday 29th September**. In order to prepare the school for this, we will be closing at 1.25pm that day. A reminder will be sent to parents closer to the time.

Pakistan Flood crisis – donate if you can

As you will be aware from the horrific images in the news, hundreds of thousands of people in Pakistan are suffering following the recent severe flooding in the country, which has seen up to a third of Pakistan's land mass submerged.

We are working with our local community to try and offer some support. We will be collecting items here at the school which have been identified as needed in Pakistan. We have organised for all donations to be taken to a central collection point and then to be shipped abroad to the areas in need.

If you can help, please drop any of the following items to either the Primary or Secondary reception before **Friday 16th September**.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Items of need:

Tinned/Packets of food (Halal/Vegetarian)	Cereals	Energy Bars
Bottled water	Coats	Hats
Scarves	Shawls	Gloves
Blankets	Sleeping bags	Calpol
Nappies	Feminine hygiene	Soap

Lesson 6 Year 9 and Year 10 (1500-1600)

We are very excited that both Year 9 and Year 10 students will have an even broader and richer curriculum this year as their school days are extended twice a week to include lesson 6.

These lessons commence on **Monday 12th September**. Parent/Carers and Students were posted a letter during the summer holidays confirming the two Lesson 6 allocations and students have had an opportunity to discuss any changes this week.

To check the latest timetable for your child, including what days their Lesson 6 are on, please select the 'Timetable' option on your child's Edulink account.

On Monday morning during tutor time, students in Year 9 and Year 10 will be given an exit card which they will need to show at student entrance/exit before leaving, on the days that they do not have Lesson 6.

We look forward to sharing some of the fantastic experiences students are taking part in with you throughout the term.

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 to the school because you have a new one, we would be very grateful. Just come in to the main reception and talk to our staff.





Mrs Weedon says... We have had a fantastic week welcoming our new year 7s to the Academy. They have all made a very positive start to the year and have been very resilient in overcoming some of their fears of secondary school. It can be a very daunting time and they have all be incredible, I have received excellent feedback from other staff around the school.

All students received new timetables and planners this week, if there are any issues or concerns about timetables please ask your child to inform tutors so it can be resolved. Reminder to bring kit on PE days and correct uniform. Blazers should be worn every day, a reminder of the uniform policy has been sent to students and parents/careers.

This week we have had an extended tutor programme, with students spending 2 hours a day with their tutor group to give them an opportunity to get to know the other students in their form and their form tutor.

Mr Gibson delivered an assembly on the core values of the school and how we can demonstrate these every day. The students have done a range of activities, including a tour of the school and the main areas they will spend time in, writing a letter to their future selves, and a form door decorating competition.

Dates for your diaries:

Thursday 13th October: Settling in Evening

Friday 9th December: Christmas Panto Trip to see Aladdin

Year 7 Academy Values Awards



Jayden C
Liam C
Oliver C
Bradley C
Abigale G
Ethan H
Dharm B



Daniyal R
Aeshah M
Ava G
Dihein W
Graci M
Mia O
Austin S



Kian B
Bella H
Kaif K
William B
Amelia D
Leyah B
Elissa I

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

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

Form Attendance (%):

=1st

Faraday 1, Faraday 2, Franklin 1 and Nobel al
with 100% - very well done!

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Megan P
2. Daniyal R
3. Madina K

Honourable Mentions:

1. Kian B
2. Grace H
3. Myrtle W

Any enquiries, please contact year7enquiries@theacademy.me
Mrs Weedon and the Year 7 Team



Ms Dutson says... The Year 8 Team and school community welcomed back our Year 8s this week, and both myself and Mrs Powell are both pleased and honoured to be working with you and your children again this Academic Year.

This year a new initiative in the form of an Attitudes Camp has taken place involving our students spending additional lessons across the week with their respective tutors.

Activities undertaken have included:

- Extensive work understanding and re-visiting our core values of Respect, Aspiration and Resilience including an Assembly led by Mr Gibson
- Modelled expectations in regard to moving around our site safely and knowing where to line up for Assemblies/Fire Drills
- Current Affairs Debate – What's in the News
- Designing and creating a Form Motto
- Writing a letter to themselves to open on their last day of Year 11

We plan to round off the week with a Form Challenge. Winners will be posted in next week's bulletin.

It has been great to hear from so many students about their Summer success stories, including three of our cheerleaders who will take part in an international competition in Florida next year, a group who have entered a national writing competition, another developing his competitive carting skills, and yet another who has been competing in cross country racing. We wish these students every success, and will keep you updated as to how they get on.

If your child is taking part in any external activity or competition, please do let us know.

Our Year 8s are looking very smart and we thank our parents for their support in ensuring their children attend in correct uniform and with their equipment. We ask that you are vigilant along with us in continuing to meet Academy expectations in these areas.

From next week our Year 8s will be embarking on the Read to Succeed Programme as part of their Tutor Programme. Please could I ask that your child brings in a suitable book to read each day.



Dates for your diaries:

Thursday 20th October: Year 8 Parenting Workshop (Face to Face)

Thursday 8th December: Autumn Awards Evening

Thursday 15th December: Year 8 Parents Evening (Virtual),

Thursday 2nd March 2023: Year 8 Options Evening (Face to Face)

Thursday 30th March 2023: Spring Awards Evening

Thursday 13th July 2023: Summer Awards Evening

Details of all these events will be conveyed near the time.

Tutor Programme:

We have made some changes to our Tutor Programme this term, most of note is that we will now have two assemblies every week. On a Monday the Assembly will be led by Ms Dutson and contain key messages for the year group, recognition of successes and later in the year Form involvement. Our other

assembly will be community focussed, this will be shared with our Yr 7 cohort and will have a topic based focus shared within the Academy.

We will continue to promote, encourage and challenge students to progress in their reading and numeracy and also work with them on developing personal skills.

Another addition to the programme will be the introduction of a careers section, this is particularly important as we head into the options process. We want the students to be as fully prepared for this as possible so that they are able to select subjects that suit their interests and future aspirations.

On a final note I would like to thank the following students for all the hard work they undertook supporting the Academy Summer School 2022:

Shanade W
Shannon W
Jamie M
Amelia C
Kimberley S

Well done, your efforts were very much appreciated by staff.

Year 8 Academy Values Awards



Lewis G
Sabreen A
Kyran S
Alfie B
Feya R



Macy R-R
Niamh H
Rufus M
Tia H
Ethan C



Damian B
Harry M
Alex M
Connie W
Mischa K
Theo H

Any enquiries, please contact year8enquiries@theacademy.me
Mrs Dutson and the Year 8 Team



Mr Hawley says... This week has been great!

Students have, or are in the process of, choosing their form names and their form logo. The students did this to demonstrate their values as a form and have done so with intent. With forms laying down some fierce names to intimidate their opponents in the achievement points competition. Who could withstand the might of Miss Nair's Nightmares, whose form logo is show here...?!

Charlotte W convinced her form that her groups form logo was the best. Her eloquence and convincing depiction of the

world represented the multi-national make up of the form and the colour yellow for her house Franklin. This was really in the spirit of the first week, that everyone is welcome and cared for at AVA.

Big shout outs to **Lily L**, **Lewis B-W** and **Millie H** for helping our new students to settle in at AVA. Achievement points for all of these students for showing respect to the new students.

Big thanks to Nair's Nightmares and **Summer W** for keeping me updated on the form decorations.

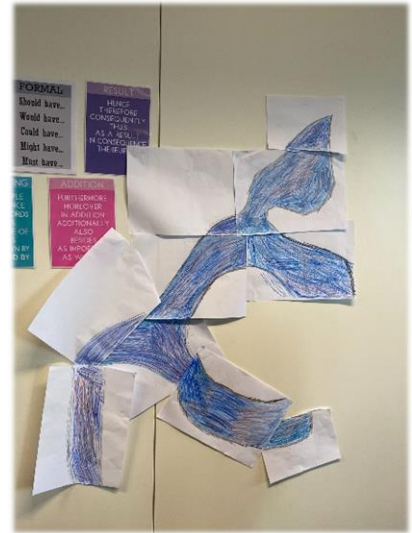
Students need to keep an eye on their emails in the coming weeks. I want student input for a potential reward trip.

A select number of students will be receiving reward trips to Operation Encounter, and please do keep an eye out for the incoming letters.

Our assemblies next week will look at high standards and what values we aspire to display

Dates for your diaries:

Thursday 13th October: Settling in Evening



Year 9 Academy Values Awards



Lewis W



Kira M



Zarra C

Any enquiries, please contact year9enquiries@theacademy.me
Mr Hawley and the Year 9 Team



Mr O'Leary says... Year 10 have settled back into academy life and have made a good start to their lessons. All students have received their timetables and Period 6 options. If there are any issues or concerns, please ask your child to come and see me or Miss Porter.

It has been a positive start with regards to uniform. Blazers should be worn every day, a reminder of the uniform policy has been sent to students and parent/carers .

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

This week we have had an extended tutor programme, where students have spent extra time in their tutor group with their form tutors. The students have participated in a variety of team bonding exercises during this week. These have included, Dragon's Den, Form Emblem creation, escape room and a 'Future Self' worksheet.

Mr Gibson delivered an assembly on Aspiration and Expectations for the year.

Well done to the students below who have been awarded the Resilience, Aspiration, and Respect awards. These students have been nominated by their classroom teachers. The following students were commended for their efforts:

Year 10 Academy Values Awards



Maisie F
Summer U
Mya-Ruby L-L
Max C
Alex B
Liam W
Archie U-T
Nicholas T



Patryk S
Zayneb B
Francesca A
Chloe T
Ameen K
Araish A
Samuel M
George W



Callum W
Ivo M
Hannah S
Niran R
Maddoch O'D
Sami-Ullah K
Ibbi I
Logan F

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

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

Form Attendance (%):

1. Nobel 3 – 100%

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Mia A
2. Furqaan K
3. Tanatswa D

Honourable Mentions:

1. Dillon E
2. Mya-Ruby L-L
3. Niran r

Any enquiries, please contact year10enquiries@theacademy.me
Mr O'Leary and the Year 10 Team



Mrs Leach says... It has been lovely to welcome the Year 11 students back this week and to see they the majority have their positive mindsets for the year ahead. We always have a lot to get through in Year 11 and only two and a half terms to get it all done in. Students will start their exams in May but preparation and guidance for this starts now. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Year 11 team.

Operation Encounter –

Friday 23rd September

At AVA we believe that when a student reaches Year 11, they should develop their Cultural Capital skills and experiences as well as their academic skills. Therefore, we have organised a day at Operation Encounter who specialise in a unique military experience. 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 on **Friday, 23 September 2022** at Operation Encounter, Marlow. We will be leaving school at 0800 and will arrive back at approximately 1700.

The cost for this trip is £40.00 and payment can be via ParentPay by Friday, 10 September to secure a place on the trip.

Please contact us on year11enquiries@theacademy.me if your child would like to attend but you may need some financial support with the cost, as we might be able to provide a contribution.

‘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 2022 from 5.00pm to 7.00pm.

If you would like to attend, please email your confirmation to year11enquiries@theacademy.me.

Work experience opportunity:

This month we have work experience for medicine & nursing running online every Monday evening in September.

This is a **free course** for all students aged 14-19 interested in healthcare, and is perfect for students interested in Biology, Science, healthcare and of course those considering careers in medicine.

Students can join our doctors live and online every Monday at 7.30pm in September as they go through real life patient cases, from symptoms, diagnosis and through to treatment. Students who cannot attend live will have access to the recordings to watch whenever they have time.

All of our doctors work in busy NHS hospitals in England so this is a unique opportunity to learn more about healthcare, gain some fantastic material to use in med school applications, and to talk about at interview as verified work experience.

Students need to visit www.premedprojects.co.uk/free-wp where they will be able to sign up for the course.

Year 11 Academy Values Awards



Olivia B
Lily B
Mark S



Toby L
Emils S
Ruby I
Riley NW



Yehor K
Harry J
Dylan B

Any enquiries, please contact year11enquiries@theacademy.me
Mrs Leach and the Year 11 Team



Mrs Sharma says... We have welcomed our new cohort of year 12s this week. It is wonderful to see them looking very smart in their business attire. They are getting familiarised with the sixth form routines, responsibilities and privileges. They are embracing their

courses of study with quiet anticipation and determination to do well. We wish them all the best.



Any enquiries, please contact year10enquiries@theacademy.me
Mr O'Leary and the Year 10 Team

Thank you for all your support

