



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

## PARENT BULLETIN No. 73

16<sup>th</sup> December 2022

### Welcome...

The extremely cold temperatures have brought challenges for us all. Keeping students warm in classes, the usual increase in bugs causing more staff and students to be absent than usual, and keeping everyone going to the end when they are tired.

As with the majority of schools nationally, we have experienced high levels of staff absence in the last 3 weeks meaning we have had to cover lessons, with our own staff working during their breaks or using external cover staff. This is never ideal but unlike some schools in Bucks, who have switched to remote learning for some year groups, it has meant that AVA has stayed open. I am extremely impressed by the resilience of staff and students.

I was also impressed, maybe even blown away, by the amazing Carol Concert this week. Every seat in our Main Hall was taken and the talent, Christmas spirit, and applause were fantastic.

This will be our last Parent Bulletin on 2022. A reminder that we close at **13:25** on **Tuesday 20th December**.

Thank you for all your support for the Academy this term and we wish you a very Merry Christmas.

**Gavin Gibson**  
**Academy Principal**

### What is my child learning?

Thank you to those of you who have responded to our Parent View survey. You can still respond [here](#). A couple of you have said that you would like more information on what your child is learning.

If you click [here](#), you can find information about what your child is learning in every subject. If you would like more information than is available on these pages, please contact [enquiries@theacademy.me](mailto:enquiries@theacademy.me)



#### **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](#)



## Years 8, 9 & 10 – World Challenge Malaysia: Parent Meeting



Aylesbury Vale Academy will take a group of students in Years 8, 9 and 10 on a life-changing trip to Malaysia in **July 2024**.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students to explore Malaysia with expert guides, while developing their life skills, confidence and independence.

We're partnering with World Challenge to offer a 13-night trip, which complements school learning.

Applications are now open, so please [visit our trip webpage](#) for the sign-up link, itinerary, travel dates, Covid-secure booking terms and trip cost – examples of how past students have earned this themselves will be covered in the talk.

Jamie from World Challenge took part in a Q&A about the trip at school last month – you can watch the session back here to find out more information.

If you have questions about the trip, contact [Hhawley@theacademy.me](mailto:Hhawley@theacademy.me) or [Moloughlin@theacademy.me](mailto:Moloughlin@theacademy.me)

## Rotary Shoebox Scheme 2022

The Interact Club are once again trying to spread a little happiness by filling 150 shoeboxes for children and adults across eastern Europe who are disadvantaged.

Last year 250 boxes packed by students were a part of a shipment of over eleven thousand boxes shipped to Ukraine, Moldova and Romania.

The boxes have already been paid for by the Rotary Club of Aylesbury Hundred, and they have challenged each tutor group to fill two boxes with donations. Students will find out more about what items have been requested in the coming days.

We have a target of 150 boxes this year, and your support for this project will be greatly appreciated.



## Hot drinks

As the weather has got chillier, there has been an increase in the number of student bringing hot drinks in to school in the mornings.

Students should not be bringing these types of drinks in to school, and staff will confiscate any that they see. Hot liquid can cause serious burns, and we don't want any of our students coming to harm.

## Charity Bake Sale

On **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December** the Year 11 Prefects and the Student Parliament teams will host a Charity Bake Sale.

Cakes will be on sale in the Sports Hall at lunchtime to raise money for the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

If you would like to support the event please donate any cakes/muffins/cookies by Monday 19<sup>th</sup> of January at 11.30 am.

The Year 11 prefects team and student Parliament team would appreciate your help.



## Lost Property

We have a lot of unnamed lost property, which will be recycled or donated to charity if it remains unclaimed before the end of term.

If you know your child has an item of clothing they are unable to find, can they please check the trolley in the Sixth Form Common Room B-02-35.

## Special Educational Needs and Nurture Programmes from Buckinghamshire County Council

Buckinghamshire County Council Family Support Service are offering the following courses in the New Year:

**Nurturing Programme** is a 10-week parenting group that aims to empower parents to build positive relationships, encourage co-operative behaviour, and develop resilience, empathy and self-esteem in themselves and their children.

**Nurturing Programme (SEN)** is a 10-week parenting group for parents of children with disabilities that aims to empower parents to build positive relationships, encourage co-operative behaviour, and develop resilience, empathy and self-esteem in themselves and their children.

Courses in the Aylesbury area will be at Southcourt Family Centre from

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January** from 10am – 12noon, and at Steeple Aston Family Centre starting on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January** from 10am – 12 noon.

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



## Green Cards at break and lunch

Last week, staff at AVA handed out the 500<sup>th</sup> Green Card of the term.

Green Cards are issued at break and lunch times to students who might've forgotten their packed lunch, or find they don't have sufficient funds on their account to buy their lunch. They are an emergency measure we use to ensure all children at AVA are able to eat something during the day. They aren't 'freebies', and the cost of food purchased using a Green Card is claimed back once funds have been placed on the student's account.

To help us reduce the use of Green Cards and the burden their administration places on staff, please could you:

- Check your child's Parent Pay balance every few days if they regularly use the canteen.
- Allow up to 24 hours for transfers to appear on students' accounts – if you're topping up in the morning, send them in with a packed lunch too if that's possible
- Encourage them to prepare their packed lunch the night before to avoid any rush in the morning

Thank you for your support.



## Protect yourself against flu

Flu immunisation in England

Information for those in secondary school



## Flu jabs for Years 7, 8 and 9

All parents and carers of students in Years 7, 8 and 9 should have received a letter and information leaflet about flu jabs via email.

The vaccination programme is in place to help protect your child against flu, which can be an unpleasant illness and sometimes causes serious complications.

The **free** intra-nasal flu vaccine is the most effective protection for your child against flu. However, if in the past you have refused the intra-nasal vaccine due to porcine gelatine content, we are now able to offer an alternative injectable flu vaccine which is porcine-free.

Please take the time to read the letter and leaflet, before completing the online form to give or decline consent. **Please note that the form must be completed even if you do not wish your child to be vaccinated.**

## HPV Immunisations for Year 8

The school immunisation team will be visiting school on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023** to deliver the HPV Immunisation programme to Year 8 pupils.

All parents must complete a form giving their consent **or** indicating the reason for declining as soon as possible. Details about how to complete this form have been emailed to parents and carers, so please check emails and junk mail for email sent this week with links to the online consent. The letter is also attached to this Bulletin. AVA's School Code EE135879, and the deadline for completing the form is **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023**.

## Subject Superstar

This week's **History Hero** is **Jennifer B** in Year 8 for always selflessly offering to hand out books, tidy the class, and consistently work to the best of her ability.



## PE News



### Students of the Month

This month our PE students of the month are:

- Mrs Haynes - **Penny B**
- Mr Wakefield - **Archie U-T**
- Mr Lobb - **Summer W**
- Miss Roberts - **Harley H**
- Mr Smith - **Zak K**
- Mr Morgan - **James S**

### Inter-House Basketball

This term's Inter-House competition was basketball and ran on Wednesday for year 7 and 8. This was our second Inter-House competition and was great to see so many students turning up and participating to score points for their houses.

All students score points which add to their houses total, to crown one house champions. The results for this competition were:

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Nobel

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Faraday

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Franklin



# Careers

## Pathways for Year 7 and 8

At the Aylesbury Vale Academy, we support our parents with all the difficult decisions their children need to make regarding their future pathways and careers.



**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**  
SKILLS HUB

If you feel unsure about the different options your child will have after year 11, please watch the YouTube video clip we shared with our Year 7 and 8 learners, which you can find [here](#).

The [Bucks Skills Hub](#) also has a vast amount of information available for learners and parents.

## Online Careers and Work Experience



The final instalment in range of online careers and work experience days for students aged 14-18 takes place tomorrow, helping students find out more about their possible future careers and take part in interactive sessions where they can gain experience to help in their university applications.

The schedule is as follows:

**Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup> - Arts Career Day**



**Mrs Weedon says...** A great final full week of term for year 7.

We have been very impressed with how hard they have worked and resilient they have been, even through -10 degree weather. We will be celebrating our Years 7s on Tuesday in a virtual celebration assembly and we are very proud of all of them, for all their hard work this term. We hope you have a restful break with your friends and Families. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We had a very successful Christmas trip on Friday. The students were very excited and we had very positive feedback from all the students and staff. It was fantastic to reward so many of our students for their hard work this term.

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 the numeracy programme. 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 careers booklet, look at the skills they want to improve for future job prospects. This week's virtual assembly was on Christmas around the world and the student's parliament put together a presentation on different Christmas traditions around the world. This allows us understand different cultures around the world.

The following students have all received nominations from staff this term for their display of AVA values:



# Year 7 Academy Values Awards

respect

Aeshah M; Lucas B; Ingrid CS; Izzy B; Tamzin W; Megan P; Noemi K; Callum W; Rhylee H; Jessica C; Sumayyah N; Melanie N; Jia P; Roni W; Liam C; Freya C; Isla Y; Nica W; Chloe N; Elise B; Laila M; Sophie K; Rebecca I; Laila M; Alex R; Jia P; Dihein W; Ava G; Matthew L; Harley H; Judith A; Christian A; Effie D; Noelani S; Florence H; Kenroy L; Shyla S; Kian B; Joseph C; Harry S; Eoin C; Imogen C; Jake C; Grace H; Toby P; Alexis W; Cameron S

aspiration

Humna Q; Amir C; Harmony-Grace F; Tony L; Anwen R; Rehan S; Kian B; Zara J; Dylan H; Amy B; Elisha M; Elise B; Amber W; Izzy B; Izabella I; Callum W; Tony G; Zach G; Danyial R; Sara H; Ingrid C-S; Rebecca I; Madi B; Bethany W; Buck M; Will B; Ashlee B; Freya B; Toby P; Austin S; Tommy S; Elisha M; Dihein W; Harrison S; Shyla S; Jessica B; Elise B; Effie D; Victoria N; Harry S; Zach G; Ceris G; Imaan J; Imogen T; Doae J

resilience

Liam C; Penelope B; Lucas B; Elise B; Zara W; Ashlee B; Emma B; Peyton S; Harley H; Michael B; Kelsey-May G; Imogen T; Zahra-Hayaat A; Conor M; Lauren Van R; Zach G; Harry S; Kian B; Lily-Mae C; Matthew L; Ella R; Tommy S; Austin S; Rehan S; Alexis W; Ingrid CS; Sakeena B; Buck M; Zara W; Noelani S; Zach G; Amir C; Adeyenka A; Maddie M; Daniyal R; Jake C; Ava-Mai G; Elizabeth N; Megan P; Madi E; Miley P; Jayden C; Bradley C

**Dates for you Diaries:**

Year 7 Parents evening – 4th May

## Weekly Form Competition

### Form Achievement Points:

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

### Individual Achievement Points:

1. Elissa I
2. Imogen S
3. Imaan J

### Form Attendance (%):

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

### Honourable Mentions:

1. Everyone – what a term it's been!

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

Mrs Weedon and the Year 7 Team





**Ms Dutson says...** Some of our Year 8s enjoyed a trip to the Panto with the Year 7's at Waterside Theatre. A good time was had by all with Wishy Washing and Aladdin the main characters! Behaviour on the trip was exemplary and positively commented on by staff attending, Mrs Powell and I were really pleased to hear this as on this occasion we did not attend ourselves. The Panto coincided with our Christmas Jumper Day. It was lovely to see so many of our year 8's wear their jumpers in support of the event. We were treated to a vast array of colour, and seasonal characters along with some interesting headbands and jewellery.

Year 8s who participated in the Christmas Concert gave us some outstanding renditions and spread Christmas cheer to all who attended! We are proud of each and every one of them.



This week Year 8 have followed their normal Tutor Programme, undertaking Read to Succeed, Numeracy and completing our introduction to careers booklet. Where we have completed projects students have been looking at current affairs/news and discussing current hot topics.

At the end of the week we will be collecting in the Read to Succeed Booklets so that we can award the Read to Succeed Bronze Award to those students who have completed all elements. We will post the names of those gaining the Award in the New Year.

Our Virtual Assembly for this week was created by our 6<sup>th</sup> Form and focussed on Christmas's around the world. We hope our students found it interesting to look at the traditions of Christmas across the globe.

We plan to hold our Autumn Term 2 Celebration Assembly on Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> of January so that our awards can be made in person rather than virtually. All nominees and award winners will be posted in the following bulletin.

Parents please remind students to empty their lockers before the end of term!

We will be closing 1.25pm on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

Miss Powell and I wish all our students, their families and extended families a restful and enjoyable holiday season. We very much look forward to welcoming your children back in January.

**Dates for you Diaries:**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023** Year 8 Options Evening

## Year 8 Academy Values Awards

respect

Aimee H  
Alex J  
Jasmine J  
Millie M  
Chloe M

aspiration

Cameron T  
Oliver S  
Eleanor S  
Evie S  
Lila S

resilience

Liam S  
James S  
Kimberley S  
Kartik V  
Salem Y

## Weekly Form Competition

### Form Achievement Points:

1. Nobel 1

### Form Attendance (%):

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

### Individual Achievement Points:

1. Harry G
2. Ollie E-H
3. Kartik V

### Honourable Mentions:

1. **James A** - for his help within the community, gritting in the local area to help keep others safe.
2. Those Year 8s who have been unwell, but have continued studying despite their illness
3. All the Year 8s who took part in the Christmas Carol Concert
4. The Year 8s who went on the Pantomime trip for setting a good example with their behaviour

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

Ms Dutson and the Year 8 Team



**Mr Hawley says...** It is finally nearing the end of term and students are still working their hardest. I am so honoured and privileged to be the Achievement director for such a kind hearted and respectful year group. I am terribly sorry I had to go home ill last Friday so people couldn't go to their Christmas movie night. Students have been sent an email; I want them to tell me their favourite 12A film and we can show that. But when I returned I was touched by the amount of students asking me if I was alright and hoped I had a good day. This year group is the best.

A big 'well done' to **Ella H**, who consistently gets the best behaviour points. She has really worked on her communication skills – I hope you enjoyed your hot chocolate with the principal on Friday!

**Ajitesh N** - for consistently being one of our top achievers, always being really respectful and helpful to all members of staff and students. I hope you enjoyed your hot chocolate with the principal on Friday.

And congratulations to **Emmie M** & **Bilal M** - your green reward cards were pulled out from the box and you have won well-earned £15 Amazon vouchers.

A massive congratulations to Miss McKenzie-Thornley's form for having the most achievement points this year, and congratulations to Mr Binn's form for having fantastic attendance. I don't know what Sir is doing to make those students so healthy, but it sounds like I need it!

### World Challenge – Malaysia

World Challenge is still open! This is a life-changing opportunity for students to explore Malaysia with expert guides, while developing their life skills, confidence and independence. It takes place in July 2024.





We're partnering with World Challenge to offer a 13-night trip, which complements school learning.

You can join at any point, the trip is going ahead but we still have spaces for more people. You can sign up with this link [here](#). To find out more, why not [watch back the Q&A](#) we did with Jamie from world challenge?

## Year 9 Academy Values Awards



respect

**Harley H** – for always being kind, polite and involving himself in school activities wherever he can. He is a credit to the school and to his family.



aspiration

**Lucas C** – for continuing to push himself hard with his training as he seeks to join the Royal Marines.



resilience

**Yustyana K** – for settling so quickly in to a new school and a new country.

### Weekly Form Competition

#### Form Achievement Points:

1. Thornley's Traps
2. Nair's Nightmares
3. McCalla's 6 Figures

#### Form Attendance (%):

1. Binn's Barnacles
2. Nobel 1
3. Nair's Nightmares

#### Individual Achievement Points:

1. Ella H
2. Megan W
3. Lily D

#### Honourable Mentions:

1. **Mark T** – for helping a lost soul find their way!
2. **Summer W** – for getting 11 Green Cards
3. **Connor L** – for making such a great impression on staff across the academy

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

Mr Hawley and the Year 9 Team



**Mr O'Leary says...** As we enter into the final stages of the term, the Year 10 have worked very hard in all subjects and I am hoping they are looking forward to their break over the Christmas period.

**Assemblies:** Assemblies are on Tuesday and Friday, students need to go to their tutor rooms on both days until the Christmas break as the assemblies are virtual due to the Year 11 mock exams.

**Careers:** Year 10 will be looking at careers during tutor time and lessons.

Tutor time, week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> December, students were looking at the advantages of apprenticeships.

Across the year there will be study higher meetings for the students to attend.

#### World Challenge – Malaysia

World Challenge is still open! This is a life-changing opportunity for students to explore Malaysia with expert guides, while developing their life skills, confidence and independence. It takes place in July 2024.

We're partnering with World Challenge to offer a 13-night trip, which complements school learning.

You can join at any point, the trip is going ahead but we still have spaces for more people. You can sign up with this link [here](#). To find out more, why not [watch back the Q&A](#) we did with Jamie from World Challenge.

### PE Kit

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

Extra-Curricular PE & Sport Timetable		Lunch Clubs
<b>Monday</b>	Netball, Basketball, Football	Gym
<b>Tuesday</b>	Alternative Sports, Fitness, FightKlub	Futsal
<b>Wednesday</b>	Girls Football, Fitness, Martial Arts	
<b>Thursday</b>	Rugby, Fitness, Zumba, Academy Leaders, Football	Basketball

Tutor time	
<b>Monday</b>	Careers – Week 9
<b>Tuesday</b>	Christmas Assembly - Miss Proud
<b>Wednesday</b>	Numeracy – Week 13 – Bronze/Silver/Gold activity
<b>Thursday</b>	Literacy – Week 13 – Word of the Week
<b>Friday</b>	AD assembly – Mr O'Leary– Careers

## Year 10 Academy Values Awards

**respect**

Lacey M  
Alex B  
Binta C  
Angel A  
Dillon E  
Archie U-T  
Jessica B  
Eleanor C  
Ben G

**aspiration**

Alexander D  
Callum W  
Daniel F  
Hannah S  
Diya K  
Imogen J  
Kaydee M  
Jamie O  
Carrick W

**resilience**

Ben B  
Hannah W  
Katie S  
Cherry R  
Elliott S  
Lavinia N  
Jamie L  
George N  
Dhwani P

## Weekly Form Competition

### Form Achievement Points:

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

### Individual Achievement Points:

1. Sienna T
2. Cody H
3. Hamza H

### Form Attendance (%):

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

### Honourable Mentions:

1. Hannah S
2. Isabella B
3. Binta C

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

Mr O'Leary and the Year 10 Team



**Mrs Leach says...** Year 11 have completed all their mock exams and did this consistently displaying our core values or **respect, aspiration** and **resilience**. We are so proud of every single Year 11 student for the way they have conducted themselves during the mock period. We appreciate it has been a stressful and tiring time for the

students and we wish them a well-rested and safe holiday.

*Let's* **Celebrate!**

Our assembly on Monday is to celebrate the students' successes this term. As we've not had the assembly yet I do not want to share the names of the students who have achieved an award, but I can tell you that the following rewards will be given out: Hot Chocolate with the Principal, Letters from the Principal, History Ambassador Award, Green Card Reward, Bronze and Silver Rewards.

We also have some lovely messages for the Year 11 students from their teachers.

**"Year 11, YOU GOT THIS! Work hard now you will see the results later! I am very proud of you!" Mrs Lutchi**

**"Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year One in which you work hard and achieve great success at school and in your exams!" Mr Ramsbottom**

**"Well done to the students who have come to the lunchtime revision sessions leading up to the mocks. Your answers to the exam questions show this extra revision has paid off. I'm proud of you." Mrs Smyth**

**"A huge well done to the Year 11 Media classes. You worked so hard in the run up to your mocks! It will pay off!" Miss Proud & Mrs Leach**

**"I am so proud of each and every one of you. We started together at AVA and it has been a pleasure to see you grow and become such talented and amazing human beings. You are doing an incredible job and all the hard work will pay off. Thank you for letting me be part of your learning journey and call you my year 7 babies-even though you are not those babies anymore! GOOD LUCK! You are going to smash it! :)" Miss Felipe**



After half term we will be focusing on the run up to the summer exams. More details to follow but we will be hosting another evening for parents, carers, and students to help prepare for the exams.

### 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 PLC Schoolwear.

Tutor time for Year 11 focuses on their core subjects, we utilise the time to help strengthen their revision in Maths, English and Science.



## Year 11 Academy Values Awards

respect

Charlotte J  
Ini M  
Toby L

aspiration

Ted A  
Charlie S  
Dan J

resilience

Holly C-G  
Khadijah K  
Courtney B

### Weekly Form Competition

#### Form Achievement Points:

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

#### Individual Achievement Points:

1. Charlie S
2. Tayla D
3. Ini M
4. Alexia C
5. Holly G-C
6. Sahara K
7. Chantelle B
8. Dillon M

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

Mrs Leach and the Year 11 Team



**Mrs Sharma says...** After a busy start to the 2022/23 Academic Year, myself and Mrs O'Callaghan would like to wish all our 6<sup>th</sup> formers and their families a restful and fun-filled Christmas.

We look forward to seeing everyone return in 2023 having taken the chance to recharge their batteries, and ready to seize the opportunities of the New Year.

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**