



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

PARENT BULLETIN No. 63

30th September 2022

Welcome...

This week we had the pleasure of opening our doors to new parents and carers as part of our Open Evening. More than 360 families joined us for a very, very busy evening and we had over 50 of our students conducting tours, answering questions and addressing our audience. This was quite a nerve-wracking experience for some of our students, but we are immensely proud of each and every one of them. They looked smart, talked smartly and were ambassadors for the school. A specific mention must go to **Harley H, Megan P, Elisha M, and Nica W** who answered my questions in front of 450 strangers. Such confidence and a credit to the school.

I hope you have a good weekend, and a quick reminder that we close for half-term at **3pm on Friday 21st October**.

Gavin Gibson

Academy Principal

Become a Governor at AVA

We have vacancies on our Governing Board for Parent Governors and Co-op ted Governors. It is a hugely rewarding role and we are looking for individuals with experience of business, HR, finance, law, primary and secondary education, and many others. For more information, please contact our **Chair of Governors, Robin Scott**, on CoG@theacademy.me.



Contacting the School:

Year 7: year7enquiries@theacademy.me

Year 8: year8enquiries@theacademy.me

Year 9: year9enquiries@theacademy.me

Year 10: year10enquiries@theacademy.me

Year 11: year11enquiries@theacademy.me

Post 16: post16@theacademy.me

Key Links:

[Secondary website](#)

[Parents' evenings](#)

[EduLink One](#)

[Trips/Lunch money](#)

Subject Superstars

This week's **History Hero**, as nominated by Mrs Michhiana, is **Aishwarya A** due to her excellent start in Year 11, and her aspiration to do better outside of the classroom, demonstrated by her attendance at Period 6 tutoring on Friday. **Aishwarya's** commitment to her studies has had immediate rewards in the form of her grade in her recent class mock exam.

Black History Month

AVA will celebrate Black History Month in October with a series of events aimed at celebrating the too-often unheralded accomplishments of black Britons throughout history.

There'll be posters celebrating influential figures displayed across the school, Black History Month assemblies, Caribbean food served in the Atrium on Tuesday 4th and Tuesday 18th October, and a From Quiz.



The showpiece events of the month will be two screenings of Hidden Figures in the Main Hall on **Monday 10th October** and **Monday 17th October** from 3pm – 4.30pm. If your child would like to attend, please complete the permission slip on the letter sent via Edulink.

And the **Art** department wants all pupils to get involved by creating a piece of artwork inspired by BHM. Students could design a motivational poster, create a portrait of a black icon, or pay homage to their own family background or culture – and try to win one of two Amazon vouchers in the process.

Entries should be handed in to a member of staff in the Art department by November 4th. All the work will be displayed at school, so budding artists

are encouraged to make sure their submissions are bold and bright!

GCSE History information

GCSE History Tuition

We are offering extra support with GCSE History studies every Friday after school. This is primarily for Year 11 students but if you have a GCSE History child who you feel would benefit from attending, please contact your child's History teacher.

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 by **Friday 7th October**. Letters detailing plans and forms required have been sent home via students. Please get in touch if your GCSE History child requires another letter.

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.



Create a piece of artwork inspired by Black History Month. The work should be minimum A4 and you can use a range of different materials.

Deadline: Friday 4th November
Hand in: Art Department

PRIZES:
1st prize £ 25
amazon voucher
2nd prize £ 15
amazon voucher



Year 7, 9 & 12 Settling in Evening

If your child is in Year 7, 9 or 12 then you should have received a letter inviting you to book a face-to-face meeting with your child's tutor on **Thursday 13th October**. If you have not received the letter, please contact the relevant Year Group team.

Parenting workshop

We would like to invite parents into school for a Parenting Workshop on **Thursday 20th October** from 6-7pm. The workshop will cover what support we can offer in school to support your child and the family.

We also have Buckinghamshire County Council in for the evening, who will talk about the free services they can offer our families. The event is open to all parents and carers but we have a limited number of seats. If you are interested in attending, please register here:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vujYj3JiOk-ROacP9_VtsMHVXdW4cfxLnYJIMy8buU1UM0FNNE1LQko5R0xYSEg1QkgxNVBQVDA0Ui4u

Diwali Indian Dance workshop

As part of this year's Diwali celebrations we will be running an Indian Dance Workshop with years 7, 8 and 9 on the morning of **Tuesday 1st November**. Full details will be shared via EduLink next week.

Diwali is the five-day Festival of Lights, celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world.

Diwali, which for some also coincides with harvest and new year celebrations, is a festival of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness.

This year Diwali takes place over five days from Saturday October 23rd to Wednesday October 26th.



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 any branded items or any uniform items to the school**, we would be very grateful. Just come in to the main reception and talk to our staff. This can really help families in need.

The Cost of Living Crisis and Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed you may be eligible for the Pupil Premium Grant. This entitles your child to Free School Meals and further support in school with items such as school resources and uniform.

Children are entitled to Free School Meals if their parents/carers are in receipt of any of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit except if you meet ANY of the following criteria:
 - entitled to working tax credit (regardless of income)
 - have an annual income in excess of £16,190 (Please note that this figure is for April 2018 and that it changes in April each year).



- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

To find out if you might be eligible for free school meals and the Pupil Premium, contact admissions@theacademy.me.

Careers

This past week our careers provision has included a trip to the UCAS fair at the University of Northampton, where our Year 12 and 13 learners were given the opportunity to discuss options with a variety of universities and apprenticeship programmes.

All learners from Years 7-13 have received login details to Unifrog, the platform we use for careers support, and please feel free to browse their website, <https://www.unifrog.org/> if you have any questions, please contact your child's form tutor.



Our individual careers meetings with Adviza, has started for Year 9, 11 and 13 learners. Please follow the link below for a variety updated careers advice for parents and learners.

Year 11 Prefects

Congratulations to the Y11 students who were successful in becoming Year 11 Prefects.

They will be our Year 11 AVA Ambassadors working with Ms Lutchi, undertaking duties, mentoring, being subject ambassadors, being part of the Interact Club, delivering Assemblies, and many other responsibilities.

We have a team of 50 year 11 Prefects, Leaders of the Academy and I am sure they will bring a positive impact towards AVA.



Harvest Foodbank Donations

In assemblies next week, students will be learning about how they can make a difference to get the best out of their lives. One part of this is through looking at how through supporting other people, it gives them a sense of worth. We will be collecting donations for the Aylesbury Food Bank as part of our Harvest celebration.

We ask for your child to bring in items that could be donated to this worthwhile cause. The following items would be gratefully received, but please don't include any fresh items: Tinned/canned food goods, UHT milk/juice, chocolate, dried rice/pasta, packet mixes, pasta sauces in jars/cartons, toiletries.

There is a box in the Atrium outside of the Library where students can deposit their items. We will be combining the items with Primary on Tues 11 Oct, which will be the cut off point.

Thanks you in advance for your support.



Mrs Weedon says... Another fantastic week for year 7, Mrs Howe and I are very proud of how the year 7s are settling in. The students are looking very smart and grown up and they have maintained a very high standard with uniform.

Ms Lutchi has been very impressed with all the Litter Picking Ambassadors from year 7, and how proactive they have been to make the school environment a nicer place for everyone. We also had some very brave year 7s who helped out at Open Evening, some giving tours and a few answering questions in front of the parents.

This week in tutor time year 7 have continued doing numeracy, putting into practice some of the skills they learn in math to everyday problems. They also took part in European day of languages, where they completed a quiz, activities and practiced how to say hello in different languages. The students then continued with their careers booklets and in assembly Mr West discussed the cognition curriculum.

Dates for you Diaries:

Thursday 13th October: Settling in Evening

Friday 9th December: Christmas Panto trip to see Aladdin

Year 7 Academy Values Awards

respect

Liam C
Jessica C
Jayden C
Doae J
Humna Q
Freya TB
Miley p

aspiration

Gabriela A
Emily B
Louie C
Callum W
Skye W
Maddie M
Diyana J

resilience

Dylan H
Imogen C
Ruby C
Chloe D
Effie D
Elisha M
Zainab P

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

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

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Amir C
2. Noelani S
3. Jake C

Form Attendance (%):

1. Faraday 3 – 100%
2. Nobel 1 – 97.6%

Honourable Mentions:

1. Zach MG & Tommy S – Caring for another student
2. All students who helped out at Open Evening
3. Litter Picking Ambassadors

Any enquiries, please contact year7enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Weedon and the Year 7 Team



Ms Dutson says... Year 8's have had a positive week, with some students going above and beyond expectation both in the classroom and the community.

Thank you to all the students from our year who volunteered for our Open Evening on **Thursday 29th September**. They all looked very smart on the evening, and I've received lots of positive comments from our prospective parents.

Top Tip: It can be useful for a student to have two pencil cases, one that remains in the school bag and one that remains at home. If you have any concerns or queries please do contact us. **Please ensure your child brings a reading book into school daily.**

Due to Year 8 missing their AD Assembly last Monday for the late Queen's funeral, the focus this week was on her legacy in relation to our Academy Values. Clips were shown demonstrating how the late Queen conducted herself both with her family and at formal occasions. Students were asked to consider how she presented herself, what we can learn from her and how we can improve our own attitude to those around us.

Reading is now a regular Tuesday fixture in our Tutor sessions through the Read to Succeed Program. This week reading took place on Thursday so that our students could recognise European Day of Language. This was recognised through quizzes and greeting each other using a language not familiar to us.

Wednesday's Community Assembly with Year 7 was led by Mr West, our Vice Principal, who delivered a presentation encouraging our students to get as much as they can from their education. Mr West highlighted the importance of education and its impact on future opportunities, and outlined that when our Year 7 and 8s enter the work place, there will be roles and career opportunities that as yet don't even exist...!

Today, tutors either delivered our numeracy task or, recognised World Heart Day (which took place yesterday) through the delivery of an informative heart presentation. This focussed on the role of the heart in our bodies and how we can keep it healthy through diet and exercise.

Year 8 Academy Values Awards

respect

Alex M
Zeeshan A
Shannon W
Shalom M
Sam K

aspiration

Poppy P
Noor-Jehan A
Mia N
Leigha G
Krishna N

resilience

Travis S
Jenson R
Alfie M
Henley C
Gabrielle O

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

1. Faraday 3

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Kairon C
2. Rupert W
3. Olivia U

Form Attendance (%):

1. Nobel 3 – 100%

Honourable Mentions:

1. Alfie M
2. Rufus M
3. Ethan C

Any enquiries, please contact year8enquiries@theacademy.me

Ms Dutson and the Year 8 Team



Mr Hawley says... Year 9 have been continuing to adapt to life with GCSE's and I personally am really enjoying teaching my Year 9 history class! Mr Walker is particular impressed with his English group!

There has been some movement on the attendance and achievement league tables this week, and the top three are now:

FRANKLIN 2 (Morgan's miracles)

FRANKLIN 1 (Franklin's Furies)

NOBEL 1 (As of yet to think of name)

Meanwhile **Binn's Barnacles** (Nobel 3) have supplanted Nobel 1 as the 'healthiest form', or the form with the best attendance.

Parents can keep an eye on achievement, behaviour points and timetable via Edulink. Contact the Year Hroup team by email if you are unsure on how to access it.

The forms are in the process of nominating representatives for the Year 9 council. The Year 9 Council will feed back into the wider school council so that Year 9 voices are heard. A big thank you to Mr. Binns for organising that.

Details for the World Challenge trip in 2024 will be released shortly.

Black History Month will be celebrated next week in assembly and form time.

Attendance at Period 6: Please could parent and carers stress the importance of Period 6 to students. Period 6 is in place to help build the cultural capital of our students.

We have many students who have achieved success in their hobbies and activities outside of school, and we want to boost this for all students. We have many clubs from Sign Language to Martial Arts for the students to take part in. However, a minority of students are choosing to truant P6. If students truant period 6 then it will be treated as standard truancy. The P6 dates on the timetable on Edulink.

Dates for your diaries:

Thursday 13th October: Settling in Evening

Year 9 Academy Values Awards

respect

Emily M for showing leadership trying to co-ordinate the raft on operation encounter

aspiration

Amelia D for aspiring to reach the top of the Jacob's Ladder, which she did with great speed!

resilience

Connor L for facing down fear on the Jacob's Ladder at Operation Encounter.

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



Mr O'Leary says... It's been another busy week for Year 10, the year group having been working hard during lessons and Period 6, the year group have maintained a high standard with their uniform and are all looking incredibly smart.

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

Assemblies are on Tuesday and Friday and students need to go to the amphitheatre on both days.

Year 10 will be looking at careers during tutor time and lessons. The first careers event of the year took place on **Tuesday 27th September** for 30 students they were looking at careers development.

Tutor time, week commencing **Monday 26th September**, Faraday spent tutor time looking at Unifrog, which will then follow onto Franklin for the week commencing 3rd October and finishing with Nobel on the week commencing **Monday 10th October**.

Across the year there will be Study Higher meetings for the students to attend, and there will be plenty of opportunities this year for the whole year group.

We still have a few spaces left on the Year 10 trip to Go Ape on **Wednesday 12th October**. Information letters were sent via Edulink to the parents of students to whom the trip is on offer to. Places are first-come-first served with your payment through ParentPay securing the place.

Weekly Form Competition

Form Achievement Points:

1. Franklin 3 – 49
- =2. Faraday 2 – 47
- =2. Nobel 3 - 47

Form Attendance (%):

1. Faraday 2 – 96.3
2. Faraday 3 – 96.2
3. Franklin 1 – 94.9

Individual Achievement Points:

1. Callum W – 10
2. Flynn S – 9
3. Francesca A - 9

Honourable Mentions:

1. Alice K
2. Ben G
3. Samuel M

Year 10 Academy Values Awards

respect

Eleanor C
Isabella H
Francesca A
Angel A
Kashaf A
Zayneb B
Morgan B
Taniesha C
Binta C
Theo D
Robert E
Sanna F
Taylor F

aspiration

Marley G
Cody H
Hamza H
Ibbi I
Kayla J
David K
Subhan K
Alice K
Maya M
Sienna P
Arjan S
Haris W
Callum W

resilience

Oscar B
Dillon E
Jake F
Flynn S
Macie G
Ayshah H
Anisa K
Alice K
Lemuel M
Lavinia N
Abigail S
Maya P
Ben G
Lloyd L
Halima E

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



Mrs Leach says... On Monday the Year 11 students will be two weeks away from their pre-mocks. Students are settling down and working very hard for these upcoming mocks, which start on **Monday 17th October** and are in English, Maths and Science only. We will be using tutor times to help them strengthen their revision in these subjects.

As always, we appreciate the pressure that comes with exams and we encourage you to talk to your child, making sure they're prepared for the exam period. If you feel your child is struggling, please do make us aware by emailing Year11enquiries@theacademy.me so we can help.

Careers: Being in Year 11 and the prospect of post-16 education can be daunting for students and parents alike, sometimes causing stress and anxiety as you try to come to terms with the options open to your child next year. But don't worry – help is at hand. For clarification on the current post 16 options that are available, attend the FREE Adviza webinar on **Wednesday 5th October 6pm-7pm**.

The webinar will cover:

An explanation of education levels, including A levels, T levels, BTECs, College, 6th form and Apprenticeships
What comes after GCSEs – a look at all of the possible options
Time line and next steps
How to research options

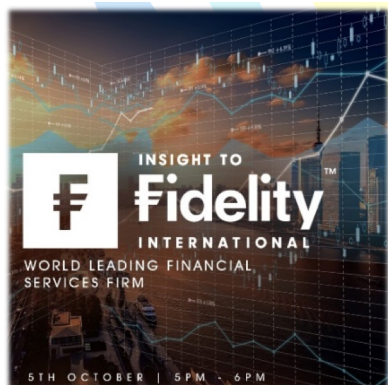
The webinar can be accessed via Zoom from the comfort of your home. You will not be seen or heard, you can just listen but you will have the opportunity to ask questions via the chat box.

The webinar can be booked online [via the Adviza Portal](#). You only need to book one place per family.

The Year 11 team wanted to take this opportunity to wish Joshua in Year 11 a massive GOOD LUCK with his upcoming ICO World Championship tournament in Hungary. Joshua (pictured, centre) first started kickboxing when he was 5 years old.

Now at 15 he's representing England. During the tournament he will be competing in four different categories, two are within his age range and two are based on weight.

Previously, Joshua has competed against 18-21 year olds. Joshua is an example of our core values; respect, aspiration and resilience. Good Luck Joshua!



Young Professionals

Is your child interested in finance? How would you invest £500+ billion?

On **Wednesday 5th October** from **5pm - 6pm** we're hosting an online webinar with global financial services and investment firm Fidelity International to which you're invited.

Fidelity International are an investment management company, responsible for total client assets of £516.9* billion from over 2.52 million clients across Asia Pacific, Europe, the Middle East, South America and Canada.

Fidelity have a number of offices in the UK and Ireland and have some fantastic school-leaver opportunities. They offer a wide range of financial services to clients all over the world and with that comes a wide variety of roles on offer.

All these opportunities will be discussed throughout the course of the evening.

If your child is interested in finding out more about life and careers at one of the biggest financial services / investment companies in the world then this event is for you!

Sign up using this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Fidelity-International-Event>

Dates for your diaries:

Thursday 6th October, 5pm – 7pm: Getting the Grade Evening. If you would like to attend, please email your confirmation to year11enquiries@theacademy.me

Tuesday 18th October, 4pm – 6pm: 'Fright Night' Reward Evening. As a treat for Year 11 we are inviting them to a cinema night to watch The Blair Witch Project. The film is a Certificate 15 which is suitable for all Year 11 students. The evening is a free event and students will receive a drink and some sweets. Please complete the [permission form](#) if you're happy for your child to attend.

Year 11 Prom

Letter for the Prom was sent earlier this week to all parents. You can pay the £10 deposit via Parent Pay. 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 Academy Values Awards

A banner with a blue and yellow geometric pattern. The word "respect" is written in white lowercase letters.

respect

Lucy C
Kaleigh E
Teddy A

A banner with a blue and yellow geometric pattern. The word "aspiration" is written in white lowercase letters.

aspiration

Riley NW
Tai W
Josh AB

A banner with a blue and yellow geometric pattern. The word "resilience" is written in white lowercase letters.

resilience

Megan P
Bethany S
Bethany V

Any enquiries, please contact year11enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Leach and the Year 11 Team



Mrs Sharma says...

Our Personal Development Curriculum has taken off on a strong note; The Inspiration Programme is underway, their first session included a webinar with an outside speaker on law and order, and they had a debate on how laws are made.

Big Congratulations to Mohammad Bilal of Year 13, who has made us proud by representing AVA at the Big Night Out in Buckinghamshire. His talk about the student perspective on Action4 Youth programme was extremely insightful.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend our 6th formers for all the exemplary work they did in supporting the Open Evening last night especially Keira, Emma, Jake, Keiran, Matt and Nakiso. Thank you for being so reliable and mature!

Any enquiries, please contact post16enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Sharma and the 6th Form Team

Thank you for all your support