



# The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE



## Secondary Information 2023

# Welcome to the Aylesbury Vale Academy

This is a school where we aim to go beyond the expected to ensure that students' life chances are enhanced.

We are proud of our non-selective, fully inclusive status and believe that children and young people, regardless of their background, ability or circumstances can thrive and succeed here. That is why we place **respect**, **aspiration** and **resilience** at the heart of everything we do.

As a large all-through school, we can offer learners an ambitious range of opportunities in and beyond the classroom. We place significant importance on academic excellence through high expectations but value, just as highly, the wide range of experiences learners can access. It is this balance which helps to ensure that learners are fully rounded individuals who can make a positive contribution to society.

To improve the life chances of all the learners we serve at AVA we will:

- Ensure our teaching and all our work with young people is grounded in high expectations so that learners achieve exceptionally well.
- Deliver a broad, ambitious and rich curriculum, going beyond the expected.
- Close all gaps between the performance of different groups of learners.
- Empower learners by developing their character so that they are resilient, aspirational, respectful and have excellent attitudes to their learning.
- Inspire attendance to be consistently above the national average.

I look forward to working with you in supporting your child.

Mr Gavin Gibson  
Academy Principal



## Testimonials

"The school has been very helpful and supportive in helping us to catch up with work whenever we are training or competing during term time. I would highly recommend the school as it has great facilities and members of staff, making it a wonderful place to learn." Jessica and Jennifer Gadirova, Olympic and European gymnastics medallists and Year 13 AVA students.



"There is an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect across the school. Pupils' conduct is calm and orderly." (Ofsted 2019)

"Primary and secondary teachers know their classes very well." (Ofsted 2019)

"We believe that the Aylesbury Vale Academy will create an achievement climate where our daughter can be an active participant in their learning and have opportunities to flourish." (Year 7 Parent)

"I made this choice because my daughter is very good at performing arts and this school has an exceptional drama, dance and music department. The teachers are lovely and friendly and the atmosphere is very positive. My daughter felt really happy when we went to visit it."

"I like the way the lessons are planned; it helps me to learn and progress in the subject we are studying. The teachers are understanding and obviously care for our education and that is something I am truly grateful for."  
(Current student)



"My favourite thing about the lessons is that they are fun and interesting and a good learning environment for me to develop my skills." (Current student)

"The things I like about AVA is that there is always a teacher you can go to."

## Our Approach

### From Primary to Secondary School

The Academy aims to make the transfer to secondary education as smooth as possible and maintains close links with primary schools. In order to quickly and effectively integrate students into life at secondary school, we bring Year 6 students to AVA for two full transition days as well as a week long summer school for all new Year 7 students before they start in secondary. This allows our new Year 7 students to familiarise themselves with the building, our staff, their new Achievement Director, feel at ease and make the best possible start to their time at AVA.



### Tutor Groups

In order to provide a clear focus on the highest levels of achievement for your child, the Academy has a horizontal tutoring system. This enables experienced tutors to help students develop the skills relevant to their age group, allowing them to become confident and knowledgeable learners.

Our tutor programme ensures that students have the best possible start to the day. Students are involved in activities such as reflection, year group assemblies, literacy and numeracy activities, debating and discussion. We also use this time in the day to answer any questions students have resolve any issues and to check uniform and equipment.

### The AVA Curriculum

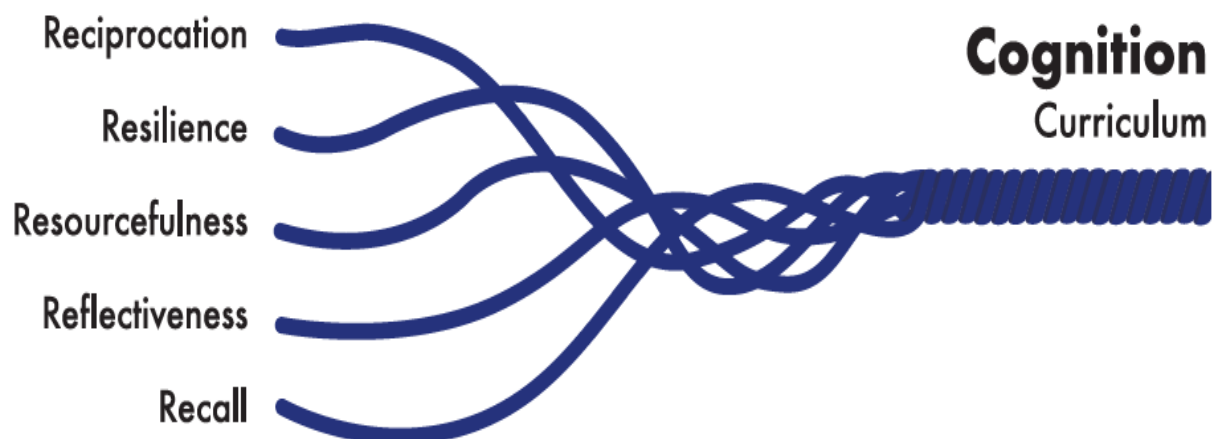
The Aylesbury Vale Academy (AVA) is an all-through academy and the curriculum we follow develops and grows with our students as they move from primary school into secondary school. The aim of this curriculum is to provide a broad, balanced and ambitious education which prepares our students by giving the best possible chances for their future life choices and helping them to discover their role in society, where they will make valued contributions. In order to meet these aims the AVA curriculum has been designed to have three threads running through it which we refer to as the 3 Cs: [Cognition](#), [Culture](#) and [Core](#).



We believe that the 3 Cs are integral to meeting the needs of our students. AVA is a large community and our students benefit from being taught how to become effective independent learners. The AVA Curriculum aims to teach students how to learn effectively and with an ever-increasing degree of independence.

## The Cognition Curriculum

The Cognition Curriculum teaches students how to become effective learners by developing the key skills of [Reciprocation](#), [Resilience](#), [Resourcefulness](#), [Reflectiveness](#) and [Recall](#). We teach these skills explicitly because they help our students become faster, better and more confident learners.





## The Culture Curriculum

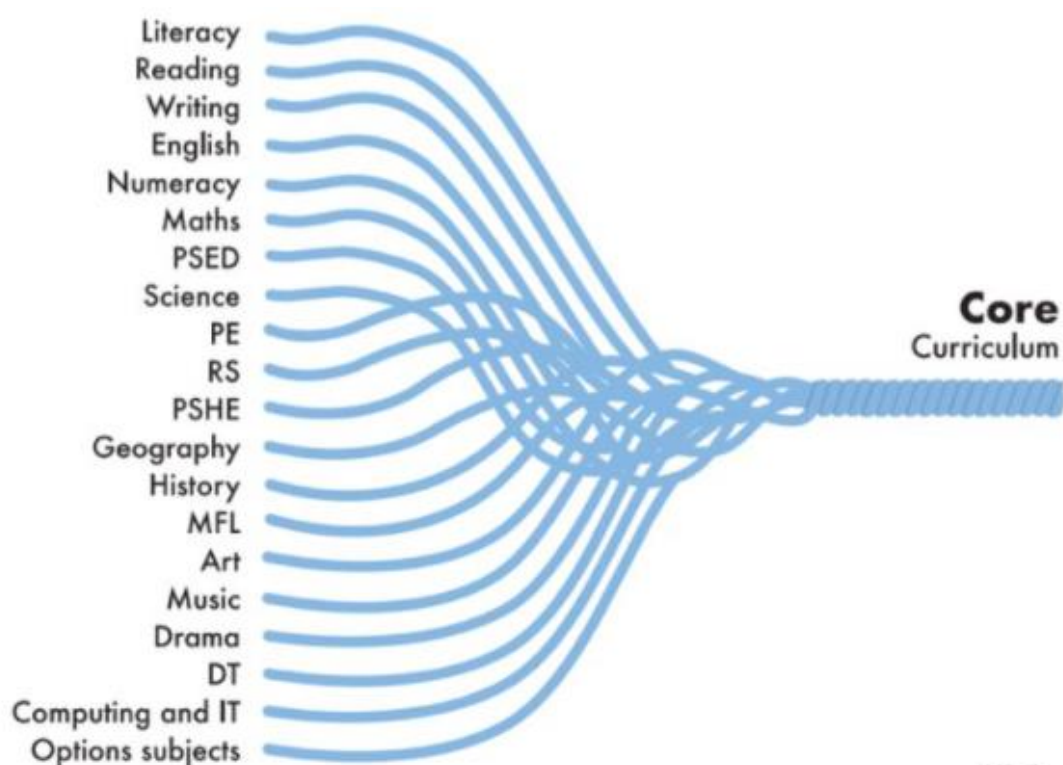
The Culture Curriculum is what we add to the National Curriculum to develop AVA students into well-balanced citizens and it is underpinned by our drive to ensure our students read widely and regularly, both for enjoyment and to learn. Students take part in local and international visits, can access a wide range of clubs, and meet regular visitors and speakers to stretch their learning.



## Core Curriculum for Key Stage 3

The Aylesbury Vale Academy offers its students a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum.

During Key Stage 3, all students access courses in English, Mathematics, Science, Art, Design Technology, Drama, Information and Communication Technology, Computer Science, Geography, History, Modern Foreign Languages (Spanish *and* French), Personal Health and Social Education, Religious Studies, Music, and Physical Education.



## Core Curriculum for Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4 students have an element of choice which allows them to personalise their Key Stage 4 curriculum.

English, Maths and Science along with core Physical Education are compulsory subjects for all students. The remainder of each timetable is composed of a variety of option subjects including Art, Information and Communication Technology, Music, Media, Business Studies, Health and Fitness, History, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages, Religious Studies, Physical Education Health and Social Care, Engineering, Design Technology, Spanish, French and Hospitality and Catering.

## Core Curriculum Post 16

Our courses in Years 12 and 13 currently offer a vocational route for further study. Students follow 'pathways' leading to further education, university or a specific career path. Within these 'pathways' students choose from a range of BTEC Level 3 courses such as Business Studies, Media Studies, Information Technology, Sport, Applied Science, Psychology, Mathematics, English Literature, and Health and Social Care. Alongside this they have the opportunity to take part in the national Young Enterprise scheme, Sports Leaders and to complete an Extended Project Qualification. Year 12 and 13 also take part in Physical Education.

100% of all our Post 16 students who applied to university in 2022 received an offer from their first choice university and had the grades to take up that place. Our students have recently received offers to study the following subjects at university:

Biomedical Science at Oxford Brookes University

Law at Hertfordshire University

Maths at Cardiff University

Sociology at Brunel University

Business Economics at Portsmouth University

Computer Games Technology at Birmingham City University

Primary Education at Middlesex University

Visual Communication at Birmingham University

We also support apprenticeships in the school when students have completed their studies.

## Homework

Students at the Aylesbury Vale Academy will be challenged at home as well as in school to ensure they reach their potential. Key stage 3 students nationally are required to complete between 45 minutes and 90 minutes of homework every night to ensure that they make the necessary progress.



The Academy uses Microsoft Teams as our online platform for setting homework to enable parents/carers to check the homework set and completed. We also run a homework club every day after school until 4pm.

## Enrichment Programme

We have a strong enrichment programme available to all students aimed to broaden student experiences outside of their timetabled subjects, develop life skills, build their cultural capital and embed a love of lifelong learning. The range of activities on offer runs not only through the different core curriculum subjects but also as after school clubs in Years 7-8 as well as our Extended Schools programme for Years 9-11.



The Extended Schools programme complements our enrichment opportunities and involves Years 9 and 10 having an extended school day that runs until 4pm two days per week.

Year 9 and 10 students will use this extended day to take part in enrichment activities that they have chosen alongside study sessions where they are encouraged to develop their independent study skills by completing homework, revision or additional work for their Key Stage 4 courses.

Students can choose from an impressive list of enrichment activities and clubs we are running this year, including:

Alternative Sports	Dodgeball*	Netball*
Anti-Bullying Ambassadors	Embroidery	Painting Techniques
Art Club*	Ensemble Club	Practical Science Club
AVA Spelling Bee	Environmental Club	Printing Techniques
Badminton*	eSports	Reflective Crafts
Basketball*	FightKlub	Rubik's Cube Club
Beaded Jewellery Making	Film and History	Rugby*
Book Club (Fiction)	First News FYI News Club	Science Club*
Book Club (Non-Fiction)	Fitness (Gym)	Singing Club*
British Sign Language	Football*	Spanish Club
Chess Club	French Club	Sports Leaders
CHIPS Computing Club	Gardening Club*	Textiles Club
Clay Techniques	Girls Football*/This Girl Can	Volunteering in the Primary Phase
Computer Aided Design	Independent Research Project	War Hammer*
Cookery Club	Keyboard Club*	Winter School Production*
Creative Writing	Maths Board Games	ZKS Martial Arts
Debate Club	MFL Homework Club*	Zumba*
Discovering Maths	MyMaths Club	

\*Open to Year 7 and 8

## Religious Education and Collective Worship

Our sponsors, The Oxford Diocese and our staff are firmly committed to our Christian values. These embrace all faiths and none.

As a Church of England Academy we are committed to teaching students about the world's major religions, developing respect for the beliefs and moral values of others. Religious Studies is taught in all years and student engage in a daily act of collective worship and reflection.

## Attendance

For students to be successful, regular and punctual attendance is essential. Parents are required to telephone the Academy's Attendance Officer each day their child is absent. If your child is absent and the Academy has not been informed, parents will be contacted by telephone. Unauthorised absence may result in a fixed penalty fine being issued by the local authority.

The only acceptable reason for non-attendance is illness. If your child is too ill to attend school, you must telephone the Academy on the first day of absence. It is a parent's duty to ensure their children attend school regularly as outlined in Section 7 of the Education Act 1996.

Holidays in term time will not be authorised by the Academy.

## The Academy Day

0830-0850	TUTOR TIME
0850-0955	PERIOD 1
0955-1100	PERIOD 2
1100-1120	BREAK
1120-1225	PERIOD 3
1225-1325	PERIOD 4
1325-1400	LUNCH
1400-1500	PERIOD 5
1500-1600	PERIOD 6 (Years 9-11 only)



The school day for Year 9 and 10 ends at 4pm two days per week. The days will depend on the particular club your child chooses. The school day for Year 11 ends at 4pm from Monday to Thursday, and 3pm on Friday.

## Uniform

Our academy uniform for students in Years 7-11 and dress code for students in the sixth form help promote a good working environment. A summary of our uniform for Years 7-11 is as follows:

Navy blazer with the Academy logo

Academy logo tie

Plain white shirt or plain white cotton kameez

Black trousers or black skirt (skirts must be no more than 5cm above the knee and not be tight fitting; trousers can be tailored but cannot be tight fitting).

Black leather or leather look shoes of sensible design with low heels (black trainers, plimsolls and canvas shoes are not permitted).

Socks or black tights

Hijab – plain white, black or navy blue cotton

Optional: Grey v-neck sweater with the Academy logo

(Note: The Academy will not accept any clothing which covers the face, except face masks worn as part of control measures to minimise transmission during a pandemic).

## PE Uniform

Navy sports polo shirt with the Academy logo (name embroidery is optional but free of charge).

Navy shorts/skorts with the Academy logo (name embroidered is optional).

Light blue sports socks or suitable sports socks

Trainers/Black plimsolls as required

Football/external footwear as required

Optional: Plain Navy/Black tracksuit bottoms

Optional: Navy ¼ zip top sweatshirt with the Academy logo (name embroidered is optional).

Optional: Outdoor waterproof jacket with Academy logo.



## Jewellery

Students are permitted one small discrete stud in each ear. One small discrete nose stud is permitted. Hoops are not permitted. Students will be asked to remove extra piercings in school.

Necklaces must be inside the clothing and other jewellery such as rings and bracelets should be minimal for health and safety reasons.

A single chain, bracelet, watch and ring are permitted.

## The following are not permitted:

Acrylic or false nails. Only clear nail polish is permitted. Students will be asked to remove nail polish and false nails in school.

Bandanas, hats or headbands around the forehead. Hair ties and hair bands should be in school colours of blue or green.

Extremes of hair colour or style. Only naturally occurring hair colours are allowed.

Any form of leggings or jeans.

Sweatshirts, hoodies and coats must be removed inside the building. These will be confiscated if worn inside the building.

Our branded uniform is very competitively priced to support parents and carers and comes from a large, reputable supplier - Print Lab (website: [the-print-lab.co.uk](http://the-print-lab.co.uk), email: [info@the-print-lab.co.uk](mailto:info@the-print-lab.co.uk), telephone: 01296 488000).



All items are available to purchase directly from the uniform shop and some from the school's on-line shop. We can swap, sell or donate second hand uniform on a case by case basis, and offer this by opening our store monthly or by appointment.

Post-16 students will be required to dress in business dress.

## Special Educational Needs

Academies are fully inclusive schools, required by law to cater for children of all abilities. They must adhere to the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice and statutory guidance on inclusion.

Students with additional educational needs receive specialist help from the Academy's Student Support Team. These students may be given extra support in the classroom or given some lessons individually if appropriate. Students who have an Educational Health Care Plan are given specific support determined by the level of funding provided by the local authority. We are proud of the provision we offer for students with Special Educational Needs and ensure all students are well supported.

## Behaviour for Learning

We have very high expectations of behaviour based on our values of Respect, Aspiration and Resilience. We believe that good behaviour leads to good academic achievement, welfare, wellbeing and all aspects of learning.

We have a Home School Agreement which we ask all parents and/or carers to sign before students enrol. This can be found on our website.



## All our students and young people are entitled to:

Educational provision that meets their needs and enables them to enjoy their learning, be safe and healthy and make a positive contribution to the Academy and to the wider community;

Sustained, high quality educational provision regardless of gender, race, class, sexual orientation or disability;

A creative and flexible curriculum that stimulates learning and encourages engagement;

Be taught in environments that are conducive to learning and free from disruption;

Healthy and nutritionally balanced school meals;

Be free from circumstances in which they are bullied, ignored, ridiculed, or subjected to any forms of discrimination, and to have their voices heard, to be listened to and to know where to go to share their concerns.

## Our approach to bullying

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our Academy. If bullying does occur, all students should be able to tell someone and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and efficiently. We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our students, so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We run an active Anti-Bullying Ambassador programme which gives students a leadership role in promoting positive behaviours with regards to bullying.

## Student Voice

The student body are represented by the Student Parliament, which has representatives from each year group that are elected at the start of the Academic year.

The purpose of the Student Parliament is to provide students with a voice within the Academy where they can discuss and make decisions about the issues that affect them.

Students are also able to apply to become prefects once they are in Year 11 and they work with staff in maintaining high standards and modelling expectations around the school.

## Compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)

The Aylesbury Vale Academy is committed to fair and equal treatment of all individuals regardless of disability.

The Academy's buildings are accessible for students and others with disabilities so that they may be integrated fully into Academy life. Evacuation procedures and escape routes for students and staff with disabilities are carefully planned and published.

The Academy recognizes that special arrangements may be required to enable students with disabilities, including specific learning difficulties, to demonstrate their abilities and knowledge. Special arrangements will be made to enable such students to perform to the best of their ability by meeting their individual needs. The Academy will not treat a student with a disability less favourably than any other student and will make reasonable adjustments to ensure the full participation and integration of disabled students.



## Finally

We hope you will decide to choose the Aylesbury Vale Academy as the school for your child.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the Academy or the admissions process please do not hesitate to contact us on [enquiries@theacademy.me](mailto:enquiries@theacademy.me).

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