

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

At the Aylesbury Vale Academy we provide a wide variety of enrichment opportunities 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 include the chance for students to be involved in sports clubs, creative activities such as performing and producing art work or pursuing an academic interest such as Creative Writing or learning another language. We have a wide range of activities on offer to suit the varied interests of our students.



CULTURE

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 and meet regular visitors to stretch their learning and share experiences beyond what is possible in the traditional classroom environment. We offer an extensive extra-curricular provision throughout, which grows to become the Extended School Day in Key Stage 4.

Reading

Reading allows our pupils to dive into experiences which they would otherwise not access. Reading is a skill which underpins every other aspect of our curriculum and we are keen to use reading to allow students to explore their own passions and interests as well as providing a broader experience in their taught lessons.

Enrichment

Our aim is for every student to participate in at least one excursion per academic year to ensure that they are able to link the learning which takes place inside the classroom to the real world.

In the past few years we have taken students on trips to theatres, Thorpe Park, Paris, Barcelona, PGL Adventure courses, Duke of Edinburgh Award trips, World Challenge Expedition to Nepal and even trips to Washington and New York.



We run annual ski trips and have visited the following places in recent years:

February 2017 - Folgarida, Italy
March 2018 - Wagrain, Austria
February 2019 - Santa Caterina, Italy
February 2020 - Radstadt, Austria
February 2022 – Wagrain, Austria



We are looking forward to the following trips in 2023:

February 2023 – Radstadt, Austria

Visitors

We regularly invite experts into AVA to inform students about their field of expertise. We aim for every student to receive at least one visitor per academic year to share the experiences which build on and reach beyond what is learnt in the classroom.

Extra-Curricular

Students have a huge variety of extra-curricular opportunities which are offered for them on a voluntary basis from Year 7-8. This builds up to the extended schools programme in Years 9-11 (see following pages for details).

Assemblies and Collective Worship

The AVA community is underpinned by daily acts of collective worship. Students and staff gather at least once a week in year groups or Key Stages. This can be a presentation or virtual assembly during tutor time but also in the Main Hall. A wide range of staff deliver these assemblies but we also invite external speakers including religious leaders. These opportunities are used to share our core values and beliefs. We also offer opportunities for silent reflection, within the classroom, assemblies and quiet times.

Character Education

AVA offers a diverse community, working with students from a broad range of faiths, and some with none. Our core values of Respect, Aspiration and Resilience have been developed to support our status as a Church of England Academy and they transcend the Christian faith. These core values apply to every member of our community.

Tutor Time and Self-Reflection

Tutor time occurs daily from 8:30am until 8:50am. This time is used to offer students a number of activities including literacy and numeracy tasks and quizzes, including silent reading, as well as opportunities to debate current affairs. Tutor time is also an opportunity for students to talk through any issues with their form tutor and for the Academy to reinforce expectations of being prepared and in uniform. Tutors are usually the first point of contact for parents.

CAREERS PROVISION

AVA offers a comprehensive careers programme starting in the primary phase and progressing through to the end of sixth form in Year 13.

Year 7s begin with transition activities getting them used to moving up to secondary before looking at Inspirational role models, target setting and looking to the future as well as employability skills.

By the time students have proceeded through the options process to select the qualifications they take at Key Stage 4, they are offered one to one careers interviews with an external independent advisor.



EXTENDED SCHOOLS

Between 3:00pm and 4:00pm, there is a diverse offer available for students at AVA. Please see below for an overview of the current Extended School offer for each year group:

Years 7 and 8

Students in the lower secondary phase have the option to attend a variety of sporting and creative enrichment activities as per the Extended Schools timetable. These are during lunchtime sessions or after school. Unless advised otherwise the after school enrichment will finish at 16:00.

Year 9 and 10

During the week from Monday – Thursday, all Year 9 and 10 students will take part in two enrichment activities that they have chosen from our extensive range of activities.

Year 9 students will also have the opportunity to enroll onto the **Bronze** Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.

Year 10 students will also have the opportunity to enroll onto the **Silver** Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.

Year 11

During the week from Monday – Thursday, the school day for all Year 11 students will run until 16:00, Monday to Thursday and 15:00 on a Friday. Students will complete a Period 6 lesson for their Core and Option subjects.

On Friday Year 11 Prefects and Sports Leaders have the opportunity to assist in running the Year 6 Sports Club.

ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

Here is a list of the enrichment clubs we are running this year for all year groups:

Years 7-10 Enrichment Activities

Sports Activities

Netball
Football
Basketball
Rugby
Girls Football
Dodgeball
Zumba
Badminton

The Arts

Art Club
School Production

Music

Keyboard Club
Band/Ensemble Club
Singing Club

Subject Specific Clubs

MFL Homework Club
Science Club

Community

Warhammer
Interact Club
Equality and Diversity Club

Year 9 and 10 Enrichment Activities*

Sports Activities	The Arts	Games	Subject Specific Clubs
Netball Football Basketball Girls Football/This Girl Can Fitness Sports Leaders Zumba Boxercise Rugby Coaching Martial Arts Alternative Sports	Beaded Jewellery Making School Production Art - Clay Techniques Art - Painting Techniques Art -Printing Techniques Textiles Embroidery Reflective Crafts	Maths Board Gaming Club Rubix Cube Club Chess Club	Creative Writing Discovering Maths MyMaths Club Science Club AVA Spelling Bee Book Club French Club Independent Research Project eSports Film and History CHIPs Computing Club Computer Aided Design Spanish Club
Music	Life Skills	Community	
Band/Ensemble Club Keyboard Club Singing Club	Duke of Edinburgh Volunteering Cookery British Sign Language	Anti-Bullying Ambassadors Debate Society Equality and Diversity Club Environmental Club First News FYI News Club	

*Years 7-8 students may be able to join these activities where appropriate.

BRITISH VALUES

We are proud of our diverse and inclusive culture at The Aylesbury Vale Academy and consider British values and personal development at the core of our curriculum. We are dedicated in shaping our students to become successful citizens of a modern British society and beyond. We promote the British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs within our own values, our extra-curricular enrichment activities and daily life.

