



THE AVS WAY

Weekly Newsletter

Edition 15 - 13th March 2023

www.avonvalleyschool.uk

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS & THEME OF THE WEEK

ANTI-VIOLENCE

It is important that our school is a safe place to be. We know that since returning to school after the COVID-19 pandemic, that it has been a challenge for students to adjust back into "normal" life.

We know that part of childhood, and especially through the teenage years, young people can express differences of opinions to others, they can often "fall out" and friendships can change. The added pressures of social media can make these social interactions even more challenging, and our staff work closely with parents to resolve issues as swiftly and as fairly as possible.

There have been occasions recently where students have taken issues into their own hands and we want to work on this to ensure that no-one resorts to violence, so that our school remains a safe place to be.

For the next two weeks our focus in school will be to understand the impact of violence, explore the consequences of violence and find other ways to manage difficult emotions. Our focus will start with an inspirational assembly on Monday from guest speaker Jack Rutter - you can find more about his story [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon 6th March until Friday 17th March - Year 11 PPE's
Wed 15th & Thurs 16th March - NEU Union Strike Days
(Further details to follow)
Sun 26th March - Clocks go forward
Friday 31st March - Spring Term Ends
Monday 17th April - Summer Term Begins
Monday 15th May - GCSE Examinations Begin

MESSAGE FROM MIKE CLANCY ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

I hope that you all enjoyed the brief snow fall that led to many local schools being forced to close last week; it is events like this that can create lasting childhood memories.



After the difficulties and school closures that the COVID pandemic caused, it has taken time to re-adjust to life and to get back to the routines that we value. Post COVID, this is reflected in school attendance figures nationally and also within our school. The national secondary school attendance figure of 90.8% (for this academic year to date), is particularly concerning, given it is significantly lower than the attendance level seen pre-pandemic. Educational research continues to show that a student with 90% attendance will achieve, on average, 1 grade lower than they potentially could, if their attendance was higher.

As always, we want to work with all parents and carers to help support students to increase their attendance. Recently a number of attendance concern letters have been sent to parents highlighting their child's current attendance figure. If there is any further support that you think we could provide to you to support your child improving their attendance, then please contact us in school. Any student who's attendance falls below 90% is classed as *Persistently Absent* from school. Pre-pandemic, approximately 10% of school pupils attended school less than 90% of the time but post pandemic this figure has increased to 27%, with Avon Valley also seeing an increase in students who are classed as *persistently absent*. Can I please take this opportunity to ask all parents and carers to carefully consider whether their child needs to be kept off school. We are increasingly seeing students being kept off school for colds, sore throats, or minor ailments.

