



THE AVS WAY

Weekly Newsletter

Edition 7 - 7th November 2022

www.avonvalleyschool.uk

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

The *Avon Valley Way* is what defines us as a school. It is how we do things, and it epitomises the high expectations and high standards that we have throughout the school.

It is important that students meet our classroom expectations which include arriving to lesson on time and being ready to learn, and having the right equipment. Our staff will focus on these expectations at school this week.

TUTOR THEME OF THE WEEK

ENTERPRISE

At times we can showcase our ENTERPRISE by taking risks and trying something new. Showing initiative and displaying a passion for innovation is a key skill for life that we should all strive to accomplish.

Our year 11 students will be taking part in mock interviews this week in readiness for applying to their post-16 destinations.

UPCOMING SPORTING FIXTURES

Mon 7th November	Year 10 & 11 Mixed Basketball Practice (3.15-4.15) Year 7 Dodgeball Fixture (A) at Harris
Tue 8th November	Year 8 & 9 Mixed Basketball Practice (3.15-4.15) Badminton Fixture at Bilton
Wed 9th November	Year 7 mixed Basketball Practice (3.15-4.15) Year 8&9 Girls Basketball vs RFS (A)
Thur 10th November	Year 7 & 8 Mixed Trampoline Practice (3.15-4.15)
Fri 11th November	All Years Mixed Badminton Practice (3.15-4.15)

MESSAGE FROM LAURA BINDLEY - ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER



It has been wonderful to welcome our students back to school this week after the half-term break.

As always, at the start of a new half-term, we have a renewed emphasis on our high expectations and I have been sharing these with students across the House assemblies this week.

My focus has been to talk to students about the behaviours we wish to see in the corridors and during social time. Feeling safe in school is hugely important and I have reminded students that everyone in our school community has a responsibility to contribute towards this. We have continued to adopt a one way system at AVS to ensure smooth transitions between lessons.

I would also like to encourage our students to get the BASICS right in regards to school uniform and take pride in wearing The Avon Valley School badge.

WELLBEING

This week is International Stress Awareness Week. This is a major annual event focusing on stress management and campaigning against the stigma associated with stress and mental health issues. This year's theme is Working Together to Build Resilience and Reduce Stress and you can find more information on the ISMA website [here](#).

Our monthly wellbeing theme for November is Anti-Bullying. Later in the month our Anti-Bullying ambassadors will be leading an assembly and sharing information with tutors.



ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Nationally, post the Covid-19 lock downs, schools now face the challenge of re-engaging and establishing strong attendance and punctuality for all students.

The impact of poor attendance (90% or below) on GCSE outcomes has been researched in depth by the Department for Education. As little as 17 days off school per year (approximately 91% attendance) leads to a drop in GCSE grades by 1 grade.

Sometimes absence can't be helped, but we are asking parents/carers and students to consider whether students need to be off school, or with support could they still attend, giving themselves the best chance to achieve long term.

The launch of the *Attendance House Leagues*, is part of the recognition and rewards scheme for pupils who have excellent, or improving, attendance. If you have any concerns with your child's ability to attend, please contact your child's Welfare Leader and we will be happy to support.

Reporting absence - please can we remind parents/carers to report student absence daily; this can be done via Class Charts, email or telephone call.



THE AVS Way Attendance Ladder

100%

100% Attendance

Excellent attendance. 0 days missed. Students with 100% attendance are 2.2 times more likely to achieve 5 GCSE's at grade 4-9 than those with attendance of 90% or less.

95%

95% Attendance

Good attendance. 9.5 days missed from school. 70% of students with 95% attendance achieve 5 GCSE's grade 4-9

90%

90% Attendance

Attendance is a cause for concern. 19.5 school days have been missed. This is equal to nearly 4 weeks off. The chances of getting 5 GCSE's grade 4-9 are dropping to 34%.

85%

85% Attendance

Attendance is a serious cause for concern. 29 school days have been missed, equal to almost 5 weeks off. The chances of achieving 5 GCSE's at grade 4-9 have dropped below 25%.

Less than 80%

Less than 80% attendance

Attendance is now a critical concern. This is equal to one day off per week.



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FAMILY SUPPORT

We understand that a lot of families are worried about the impact of the increasing cost of living, and we know that many might struggle to make their incomes stretch to cover the basics. The Warwickshire Family Information Service special edition newsletter (link [here](#)) will be published at the start of every month to support and provide advice to you and your family throughout the cost of living crisis.



REMEMBRANCE WEEK

Remembrance Day 2022 is on Friday 11th November and Remembrance Sunday falls on 13th November and is an opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those who have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. We remember the Armed Forces, and their families, from Britain and the Commonwealth, the vital role played by the emergency services and those who have lost their lives as a result of conflict or terrorism.

We will have a special assembly on Friday 11th November for all students, where Avon Valley School will pay their respects. We strongly encourage all students, and staff, to show their respect by wearing a poppy as a sign of remembrance in the days leading up to next Friday.

