

Editor Ms G Adamou

THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL
AND PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

AVS

AVS Newsletter December 2021





Message from the Head

Dear Parent/Carer

At the end of a very busy and productive term, it is time to look back at what we have achieved over the last 4 months.

The academic year has a very familiar pattern and, after over 30 years in education, I am aware that the second half of the autumn term is in many ways the most challenging. Students arrive back in September full of enthusiasm, with new uniforms and fresh exercise books. The sun shines, the days are long and everyone is fresh and keen to learn. 16 weeks later the students look exhausted, the weather is damp and cold and everything has started to look a bit 'dog eared'. Thank goodness for the Christmas break!

Despite the challenges thrown up by the pandemic, a great deal has been achieved and, as we complete the final week of term, it is wonderful to have had the opportunity to celebrate the many successes with our students in our Gold Book assemblies. During the last few days I have had the privilege of awarding 'Achievement' badges to over 40 students from each year group who have excelled in their attitude to learning in subjects ranging from Art and Psychology, to Maths and Science. From our Yr 7 students, who have just completed their first term, to Yr 11, who post PPE are looking increasingly anxious about the challenges of the GCSE exams, all of our students have tried their very hardest.

When we return to school in January, we will be running a new reading initiative with students in years 7 and 8 and I hope that parents and carers will be able to support us with this. It is obvious that the lockdowns have had a significant impact on students who were in years 5 and 6 at the time and we look forward to engaging with you and working together to inspire a love of reading in your children. Mrs Carnell will be in contact with information about this project at the start of next term. If you haven't already done so, please do take time to choose a good book for your child as a Christmas present and encourage them to spend time reading during the holiday. It will benefit their imagination and their ability to engage with text – and give you a bit of peace and quiet during a hectic holiday too!



As we finally reach the end of term, I would like to thank you all for your support over the last year and to wish you a very 'Happy Christmas' and a prosperous and healthy 2022.

Alison Davies

Headteacher



Phoenix House

Students in Phoenix House have continued to work hard this term, with the vast majority of students demonstrating a positive attitude to learning and good behaviour, along with a smile and a sense of humour. At the time of writing Phoenix students had received over 40,457 positive behaviour points since September and I have been overwhelmed at the amount of students who have now achieved their Bronze award, issued for being awarded over 100 positive behaviour points. 50 students have now achieved over 200 positive points and huge congratulations to Max, Lilly-Mae and Emma who have already been awarded over 300 positive points. This is a fantastic achievement. A positive attitude to learning, coupled with a determination to succeed are tangible ingredients for success and it is nice to see so many students demonstrating these characteristics on a daily basis.

Students in all four Houses have been donating items for the Rugby Foodbank to help families in our community during the festive period. Students can use their donation to contribute as part of their charity raising efforts as part of their Cultural Capital Challenge. In addition, they can also use any charity donation such as to wear non uniform on Children in Need day or Miles for Mind.

Our Student Leadership team have been busy. Frankie and Shona have been handing out certificates to students and PIXL Edge Leaders have been helping students in Year 8 complete their PIXL challenge.

Although it has been a challenge, we have continued with some of our Christmas traditions; Christmas quiz, staff video, and gold book awards to name a few. Hopefully it won't be too long before we can look forward to celebrating successes all together as a House.

If you would like any information about your child's progress or welfare at school, please do not hesitate to contact me lowen@avonvalleyschool.uk or Ms Ranger jranger@avonvalleyschool.uk .

Merry Christmas and a here's to a Covid Free New Year for us all.





Dance News



Year 11 dance students have been working very hard since returning from the summer. Lots of fantastic work has been recapped and created in preparation for the performance unit practical exams.

The students were very dedicated to working collaboratively with their partner and myself to create their performance duet, which is based on saying goodbye. The dancers worked hard on generating creative movements and focused on pushing their

pieces, by really communicating the dance idea through their expressive skills. These pieces are around 3 minutes long, so require lots of strength and stamina to keep the performance at high energy throughout.

They have also completed their set phrase exam, Breathe., where they had to rehearse, refine and perform the set routine on their own. The students worked hard on improving their accuracy, timing and sense of artistry to ensure their final performance was to the highest standard possible.



I was impressed as to how professional they all looked and acted during the exams. I am very proud of what they have achieved so far!!

Students are currently working on the final practical task, which is where they have to create their own piece of choreography. They have all come up with some interesting and creative dance ideas from the stimuli list. Now is a great time to research some music ideas for their piece. I have added lots of music suggestions to help them with this on their google classroom. After school rehearsals for their choreography will start up when we are back in January.

Our year 9 GCSE dancers have also been working on developing their technique and performance skills in lesson. They had the opportunity to demonstrate these new skills during the Remembrance assembly. For some of them this was the first time they had performed to an audience! They are a hardworking and resilient group, and did a great job of coming up with some of the choreography. They were dedicated to rehearse and improve this piece and created an excellent final performance. Well done year 9 GCSE dancers!

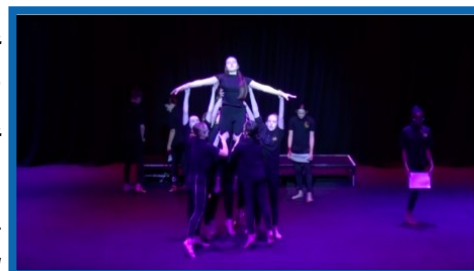
Here are some quotes from the year 9 GCSE dancers:

"I really enjoyed doing the Remembrance assembly because I got to work with different people that I don't normally work with" – Alisha

"I was nervous about dancing in the Remembrance assembly but when I was on stage it felt amazing and I felt free" – Leona

"I enjoyed learning and creating the remembrance piece, but I was scared when I did the final performance. When I watched it back I was proud of my performance" – Carla

"It was a great experience to get involved in the Remembrances assembly, it helped build my confidence" – Cara



Miss S Spraggett - Subject Leader of Dance



Thankfully, this term has been a slightly less challenging one for all students in music, compared to last year and it is nice to see music slowly returning to school.

In addition to the beginning of rehearsals for this year's show 'Matilda' the peripatetic lessons have returned to normal and students are making great progress.

Students in year 7 have been tackling a unit of work focused on the rudiments of music in an effort to bridge the gap in their musical education caused by COVID 19. They will soon move onto a unit focussed on all the different types and families of musical instruments.

Year 8 students have completed a unit focusing on classical Indian music and have now moved onto the world of Blues and Jazz.

In year 11 Music Technology students have completed the first stage of their multi track recording for their coursework. This involved learning about all of the various types of microphones, what they are used for and how they work. They then have set up and recorded the track ready for the mixing phase after Christmas. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Jardine and Mr Good for their contribution, commitment and patience over the 2 full days that it took to complete.

I also would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our peripatetic instrumental teachers for their effort, flexibility, innovation and hard work during this time and a special mention has to go to Gillian Cartwright in Finance who has somehow managed to facilitate this.

ELECTRIC & BASS GUITAR VACANCIES

We currently have several vacancies for budding electric and bass guitarists. Our outstanding teacher Andy Walker would be delighted to see new students take advantage of this opportunity so if you are interested please see Mr Collins for more details. AVS does have a number of instruments for students to use and so the cost will be minimal.

I hope when we return we will once again be able to offer many more performance opportunities to our students but in the mean-time "A Merry Christmas to us all; God bless us, every one!"

Mr Jake Collins

Subject Leader of Music





Studio79 ‘Stand out from the crowd’ at Avon Valley School

Studio79 is a post-16 dance college based in the heart of Leicester City Centre, which specialises in all dance styles and Musical Theatre.

On the 24th November, Year 9 Arts Award students were fortunate enough to watch a selection of Dance and Musical Theatre presentations by 2nd Year Btec Level 3 students from Studio79.

The main performance that caught everyone’s attention was a solo Musical Theatre piece, ‘So Big, So Small’ from the musical ‘Dear Evan Hansen’. The singer’s connection and dedication to the character and performance created an atmosphere of desperation and sadness.

Zoe Chambers choreographed a group contemporary dance to the song ‘Waves’ by Dean Lewis. The piece presented to the audience a dilemma of youth: over-reliance on mobile phones and a lack of connection to the world around them. The main dancer took us on a relatable journey – she needed real contact with her friends who were all too absorbed in their virtual realities. By the end of the piece, she was left alone and vulnerable on the stage with her phone pinging.

The presentation of work by Studio79 has led me to the conclusion that anyone who wishes to pursue Musical Theatre or Dance training as a post-16 option should consider this course.

Nia Murray-Gonsalves 9RHA



Year 10 prefect profiles

Hello, my name is Martha Tovey-Keane and I am an English prefect and I am in the Wellbeing school council. My hobbies include dance, art and Sea Cadets, I love animals and biology and hope to become a vet for my future career.

I wanted to be a prefect to learn about responsibility and support the school.

Martha Tovey-Keane
English Prefect





Drama News

GCSE DRAMA: Year 11 spending late nights in the studio

It has been a very tough year for all students taking Performing Arts; however, I am immensely proud that the students at Avon Valley have been fully committed and driven to ensure they completed this exam to the maximum time length.

Over the past few months, year 11 have been studying Berkoff's work and are now preparing for their final practical exam **on Thursday 16th December**. The students have been pushed to their limits, exploring physical theatre and learning various acrobatic moves.

Within this exam, students explore the given text showing strong knowledge and understanding of the playwright's intentions and then learn 20 minutes of a text and perform this on stage.

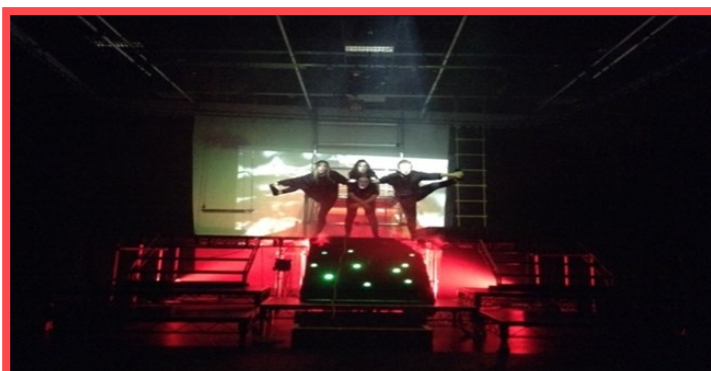


Miss E Wheatley
Head of Performing Arts



As Gregor Samsa awakes one morning from uneasy dreams, he found himself transformed in his bed into a GIGANTIC insect.

At what has been such a difficult time for these students, I could not have been prouder of their commitment and dedication.





An important part of careers education, information and guidance (CEIAG) at AVS is about helping students to be aware of local LMI.

What is LMI? - Labour Market Information (LMI) is a useful tool to help research future jobs in the local area, understand the skills needed for certain roles and the demand for future employment. LMI helps to break down the complex 'world of work', ranging from descriptions of different careers, their entry routes, promotional prospects, salaries paid, skills and qualifications needed, etc. Crucially for young people, LMI also covers future demand – what kinds of jobs will be in demand after leaving school and what kinds of skills will be needed.

Why is LMI so important to young people? - The world of working is changing rapidly. New technology and industry changes create some new jobs and also make others obsolete. Alongside the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic changing the way jobs are carried out and having a huge impact on the job market, it can be hard to keep up. It's important that young people are given the tools and information to aid their decisions about future careers and LMI is a key part of this.

How can LMI help young people decide what to do next? - Having up to date, high quality information can help students decide things about their future such as:

- ◇ Are there opportunities close to where I live in the sector I am interested in or will I need to relocate?
- ◇ How competitive is the industry I am interested in? Are there enough jobs and do I need to have a back up plan?
- ◇ Does the pay for the job I want align to what I would like to earn?
- ◇ What is the best route for me to take to get to the job I would like?
- ◇ Is the industry I would like to work in growing or shrinking?

Year 11 - Year 11 have been very busy this month, visiting post 16 destinations and making applications. I will continue to post updates for open evenings and key deadlines in the Google Classroom

Year 10 - I cannot yet say with certainty that work experience 2022 will take place for all students as local employers continue to deal with the demands COVID places on them. However, we are still preparing students for this event planned for July. All students should now have handed in their parental permission forms and letters to employers to Mrs Jones.

Mrs Jones will begin approaching employers in the New Year.

Year 7 and 8 – will begin their careers lesson in PSHE in January. They have already had a careers insight talk from Damian McAuley, an agronomist with Indigro. He spoke virtually to students from the fields in Leicestershire that he was studying. Students had many questions from him ranging from what is his salary, does his work involve foreign travel and had he watched 'Clarkson's Farm'! An Agronomist was not a job anyone had heard of before. We all learnt that an agronomist is someone who is an expert in the science of soil management and crop production.



Careers News



Data: Business Register and Employment Survey 2019 (BRES) (the official source of employee and employment estimates by detailed geography and industry)

If you would like to take part in the AVS Careers programme by giving a virtual talk, offering a work experience placement or would like to get further information about post 16 destinations / applications, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Owen (lowen@avonvalleyschool.uk) or Mrs. Jones (djones@avonvalleyschool.uk), or look at the information available on the school website: <https://avonvalleyschool.uk/>. Careers can be found in the curriculum tab.



Success for AVS Gymnast

Two students have recently won medals at a gymnastics event held in Newcastle.

Year 9 students, Lina Tounsi and Daniella Hurwood, who both train and compete for Rugby Gymnastics Club, travelled north to Newcastle upon Tyne for their first competitive gymnastics competition since before the first lockdown.

Lina, who has been involved in gymnastics since she was 4 years old, won a gold medal after coming first on the vault, third on floor and being placed first overall. Her classmate Daniella, who's taken gym classes since she was 2 years old, came third on the bars and vault and was placed third overall.

The duo spend a lot of time training and attend the gymnastics club five times per week, with sessions lasting four hours. After their success in Newcastle the pair, who one day hope to compete at the Olympic Games, have qualified for British Gymnastics' National One Competition which will be held in Cannock in the New Year.

Alison Davies, Headteacher, said, "It's always great to hear about our students' successes, whether they are in or out of school. I am very impressed to hear about Lina and Daniella's success, both are wonderful students, who always work hard at school and obviously apply the same level of focus when training and competing in gymnastics. I wish them both all the best for the next competition and look forward to hearing about how they do."





MFL Postcard Competition

KS3 students were given the opportunity to enter a national competition which aimed at showing what Christmas is like in other countries.

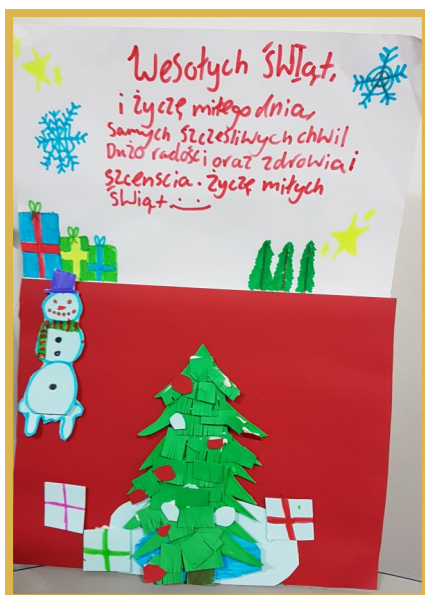
They had to make up their own postcard by hand, using whatever materials they wanted and it had to be written in any language other than English.

It was difficult to choose the best ones, but in the end we decided that the ones that complied with the requirements and would win our school competition were the following (in alphabetical order):

- Corey Walton (Y7 Fortune) - Christmas in South Korea**
- Wiktoria Dettlaff (Y7 Phoenix) - Christmas in Poland**
- Karolina Kruglova (Y7 Apollo) - Christmas in Latvia (Riga)**

All of the competitors have received House Points for entering the competition and the three winners will get a prize.

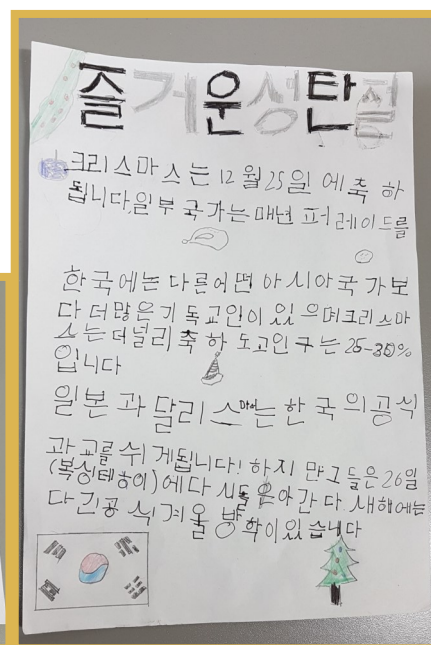
Miss C Andrade de Azevedo
Teacher of Spanish/French



Wiktoria Dettlaff (Y7 Phoenix) - Christmas in Poland



Karolina Kruglova (Y7 Apollo) - Christmas in Latvia (Riga)



Corey Walton (Y7 Fortune) - Christmas in South Korea





Leave of Absence

The Supreme Court recently reached a decision in the case of *Platt v Isle of Wight Council* which has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time. The parents of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that they attend school on a regular basis. The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

Head Teachers retain the ability to authorise leave in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law. Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. If the leave is granted, head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the Head Teacher to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent (s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council

It is important to note, Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority



Dates for the diary

January

2022

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 4th Jan | Teacher Training Day |
| 5th Jan | Covid testing day for all year groups (times will be sent out) |
| 6th Jan | All students back to school |
| 10th Jan | Flu jabs for all students (who have signed up) |
| 13th Jan | Year 11 Virtual Parents' Evening |
| 27th Jan | Year 10 Virtual Parents' Evening |

PE News

Well done to the Year 8s who came 1st at the @YourSchoolGames indoor athletics with Year 7s being named runners up! Well done to all.

2021
SCHOOL
GAMES



#AVSAchieve

Brilliant to see our sports leaders supporting a Yr5 @YourSchoolGames Dodgeball completion, well done to all involved.



Chocolate Hamper Raffle



**Total raised
£258 for Mind**



**Total raised
£322.10
Miles travelled
3020.7**



**Total
raised
£355**

