

Editor Ms G Adamou



AVS Newsletter December 2022





Message from the Head

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of the first term of the academic year, I would like to thank you for the support that you have shown to the school over the last four months. In particular, I thank you for your donations to our many charity events - for poppy day, the food bank and most recently Christmas jumper day. I know that in these difficult times many of you will be finding it harder than usual to help out and I really appreciate you encouraging your children to get involved; working in partnership with us to teach them that helping others in need is the right thing to do. I have been pleased to see that, post covid, much of our school life has now returned to normal.

Attendance is improving and many more trips and visits are now taking place. It has been a real pleasure to be able to host our house Christmas lunches for the first time in three years and it has been lovely to see the students enjoying themselves with their peers. Photos of some of these events can be found inside. Much has been achieved over the term, and it is wonderful to have the opportunity to celebrate the many successes with our students in the Gold Book assemblies.

Over the last week I have awarded '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 our Yr 11 students, who are looking increasingly anxious about the challenges of the GCSE exams in June 2023, all of our students can feel proud of what they have achieved over the last 4 months. The academic year has a very familiar pattern and, after 35 years in education, I am very aware that the second half of the autumn term is in many ways the most challenging.

In September, students arrive back 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. Sixteen weeks later the students and staff look exhausted, the weather is freezing and gloomy and everyone has started to feel a bit worn out. As we finally come to the end of term, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our expectations around uniform and equipment, both of which will be checked in the first week of the New Year. Though even I am not advocating new school uniform for Christmas, a new calculator, or fully equipped pencil case, may well be a present that, whilst not causing much excitement, will help your child over the rest of the academic year!

I would like to thank you once more all for your support of the school over the last year and to wish you a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous and healthy 2023.



Alison Davies
Headteacher





Phoenix House News



Many Phoenix students have made a really positive start to the year and have already received a lot of positive points from their teachers on Class Charts; Good effort is the category with the most points awarded to students out of the 11 000 points awarded so far.

Well done to the many students who have received their Bronze or Silver awards and a big congratulations to those students who have achieved no negatives so far this year.

It was fantastic to see so many students donating items to the Rugby Foodbank, a testament to the generosity of our school community. Helping others is one of the AVS 50 tasks that year 7-9 are taking part in.

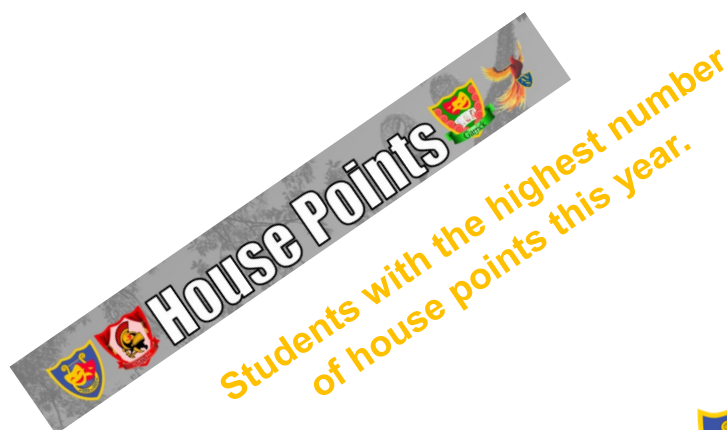
Punctuality is an important employability skill and this half term we have had a focus on punctuality to lessons. Students have improved this skill and as a result, increased the time they have in lessons to learn.

I look forward to another successful year with all of the Phoenix students, and just a reminder that if you have any queries, the first point of contact for straightforward issues is your child's form tutor. For subject specific issues, please contact your child's individual teachers directly and for any wider issues, please either contact myself (lowen@avonvalleyschool.uk) for anything to do with your child's progress and studies in general, or Ms Ranger. (jranger@avonvalleyschool.uk) our Student Welfare Leader, for anything to do with your child's welfare.

Mrs L Owen

Achievement Leader Phoenix House

Naomi	8KMC
Jasmine	9CAN
Lexi	7MBG
Prince	7MBG
Mia	8KMC
Isabel	7JMU
Hayden	7MBG
Emma	8KMC
Max	9CJE
Damian	8RDI
Rebecca	7JMU
Marcel	7MBG
Tess	7jmu
Lilli	9CJE
Maja	9CJE
Harvey	8KMC
Nathan	7MBG
Milo	7JMU
Molly	8KMC
Varanan	7MBG





**Fantastic to see students and staff enjoying their festive lunch.
A very big thank you to all our kitchen staff for all their hard work
throughout the year.**



★
WE
WISH YOU A
Merry Christmas
& A HAPPY NEW YEAR





MFL News



Year 11 students have recently completed their Mock exams (PPE) and overall there have been some pleasing results across French, Spanish, German and the Community Languages for Year 10 & 11 - Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Urdu, Italian, Turkish and Chinese.

A large amount of revision material in the form of past papers, revision guides and workbooks, and online websites have been made available to support students outside of the classroom, Students should be revising key vocabulary regularly, in order to prepare adequately for the exams.

Revision sessions are run every day from

3.10 - 4.10pm or by invitation from individual teachers.

Miss G Chagger

Faculty Leader of MFL & Subject Leader of German





Rugby Food Bank

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated to our collection for [@RugbyFoodbank](#) we have received hundreds of items that will make a real difference to people in the local community. As always, we are really proud of our students for their tremendous generosity. [#AVSAspire](#)





Norma Wilson

Once again at Avon Valley we have been supporting Norma Wilson, a Placement Support Worker, in collecting items for Christmas hampers for care leavers in Warwickshire.

Norma has been putting together hundreds of festive hampers for over 20 years. She creates the hampers for the Warwickshire Fostering Service to go to young people and asylum seekers who have recently left foster care and now live alone without family support.

For young people without families, Christmas can be a lonely and difficult time and many do not receive any gifts at all. As well as Christmas gifts, the hampers also contain essentials such as socks, gloves, mince pies, biscuits, soups, toothbrushes, and anything else that might be of use.

Mrs D Jones - Careers Advisor





Music News

This term has seen our Year 7 students begin to learn about the theory of music and develop their piano keyboard skills. Year 8 started the year with Hindustani Indian Music and have now moved on to studying the blues with a focus on developing their performance improvisation skills.

Key stage IV students continue to work on their coursework and prepare for the mock examinations. GCSE students have started their composition to set brief with music technology students completing a multitrack recording session in the studio.

Free Vocal Taster Sessions

Are you interested in developing or discovering your singing talents?

Up to 15 free taster spaces available with Mrs Butler

Please contact Mr Collins in Music or Miss Underwood in Finance to sign up



As part of our post COVID plans we are delighted to be able to offer drumming tuition after Christmas. We also have a few spaces left for vocal lessons, so students that may be interested should see Mr Collins for further information.

Mr J Collins

Subject Leader - Music & Music Technology

jcollins@avonvalleyschool.uk



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DRUMS
AT SCHOOL!**

**CONTACT:
MR COLLINS**



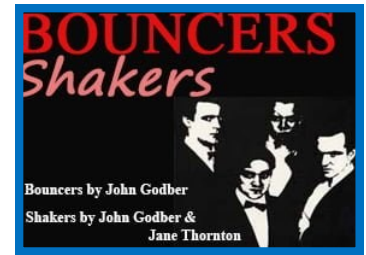
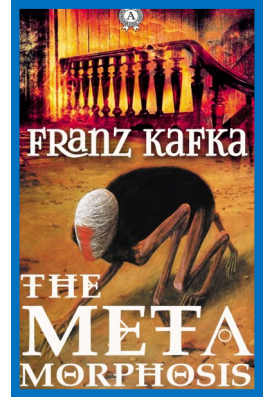


Drama News

December is always a hectic time for Drama, with Year 10 starting their devising exam and preparing for their March performance.

The Year 11 Drama students have been dedicating time after school to prepare for their final practical exam, which will take place on Wednesday, 15th December. They are performing two contrasting extracts from Franz Kafka's novel 'Metamorphosis', and Shakers and Bouncers by Jon Godber. Students have had to learn 30 minutes of scripted work; they are required to prepare their set, costume, lights and music ready for the examiner **on 15th December**. All students are very nervous, but I am confident they will do their best on the day.

Miss E Wheatley
Faculty Leader of Performing Arts and
Subject Leader Drama



On Friday 2nd December Myton Hospice in Rugby held their annual 'Light up a Life' service.

Two AVS students, Freya Lee and Daisy Adamson, sang two beautiful songs, 'In the arms of an Angel and 'Breath of Heaven (Mary's song) to remember loved ones lost. The girls sang beautifully, and brought joy and peace at this challenging time of year.

Feedback from Victoria Standing (Legacy & In-memory Fundraiser) - "I just wanted to say a huge thank you for supporting our Rugby Light Up A Life this year, both Freya and Daisy's performances were absolutely amazing and we have had some wonderful feedback from our supporters and also staff and volunteers on how well the girls performed – They are an absolute credit to the school and it would be great to work with you again for next years' service."



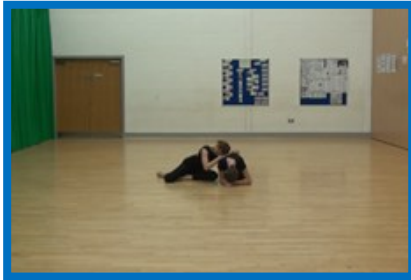
Miss E Carpenter
Teacher of Drama & PSHE





Dance News

It has been a very busy term in the Dance department. The year 11 students have been working well in Dance since returning from the summer. Lots of great work has been recapped and created in preparation for the performance unit practical exams.



They were very dedicated, working collaboratively with their partner, and ourselves, to create their performance duets, which are 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 first 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 of the highest standard possible.



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

They are currently working on the second set phrase, 'Shift' and need to make sure that they are confident with this piece. After Christmas, we will be starting the final practical task, which is where they have to create their own piece of choreography. They have started to formulate some interesting and creative dance ideas from the stimuli list. Now is a great time to continue researching their ideas in more depth. Afterschool rehearsals for their choreography task will start when we return to school in January.

Miss S Spraggett - Subject Leader of Dance





Dance News

This half term, our year 9 and 10 dancers have had the opportunity to work with the National Youth Dance Company, taking part in a 3-hour workshop. The artists from the company led the dancers through a fun and creative warm up and taught them some professional repertoire from Alesandra Seutin's piece 'Speak Volumes', which is an exhilarating piece. Finally, they delivered a creative task to allow the students to develop and create more material based on this piece. I was really impressed with how hard the dancers worked during the workshop, and how open they were to learning and exploring new ways of moving.



Here are some quotes from the dancers about the workshop:

"The workshop was great, really interactive and I enjoyed learning all the different new movements" – Maddie

"It was amazing, I enjoyed every second working with the NYDC dancers" – Evie

"I found the workshop very interesting and I liked trying new movements and exploring a new way of

moving. It was really enjoyable" - Nicoleta

On Tuesday 22nd November 'Studio 79' performed for our year 9 and 10 GCSE Dance, Drama and Music students and our year 9 Dance and Drama Arts Award classes. They gave a preview of their upcoming tour, which showcased a fantastic range of dance pieces including street, ballet, contemporary and commercial styles, as well as two vocal numbers. After the performance, the students had the opportunity to take part in a brilliant dance workshop.



Miss S Spraggett - Subject Leader of Dance





The Crafty Crew

Girls in Design & Technology



We are 'The Crafty Crew', a group of 8, Year 8 girls that love Design & Technology.

We have set up our own business and plan to design, create and sell our products to staff, to raise money for charity with the support of Mr Murphy - Subject Leader of Design & Technology.

Leading up to Christmas, we have produced a number of different gifts and decorations. We were inundated with orders from staff and have raised **£156.00** for **UNICEF UK**.

The Crafty Crew - Shiloh Akeroro, Cristal Asare, Joy Colledge, Abigail Dimberline, Maja Jurkiewicz, Amelia Pyka, Minnie Saker and Beatrice Swaffield



Christmas Tea Light
- Made from
Russian Birch



Merry Christmas Sign -
Made from Russian
Birch Plywood with a
choice of ribbon



Christmas Decoration
- Made from Russian
Birch Plywood with a
choice of ribbon



**3D Christmas
Tree** - Made
from Acrylic
in a variety of
colours

**£156 Raised for
UNICEF UK**





Forest Schools News

On Wednesday 30th November, the Forest Schools students visited Welford Christmas tree farm where they explored the many different kinds of Christmas trees and chose one to display in our school. They followed a trail, finding the elves along the way and undertook a fun Christmas tree quiz.



Next, we headed to Market Harborough for a lesson on Settlements and completed a Tally chart for Maths. We also enjoyed a visit to Waterstones book shop, where students chose a book and then explained their reasons for choosing it. At the end of the day, students collected natural materials for Christmas tree decoration making in support of the Footprints charity.

Miss J Mortimer

Subject Leader of Forest Schools, DofE and Teacher of Geography and PSHE





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 your diary

December/January



16th Dec	Break up for Christmas at 12.00
3rd Jan	Teacher Training Day
4th Jan	All students return to school
19th Jan	Year 11 Virtual Progress Evening
20th - 22nd Jan	Performing Arts Residential trip to London
26th Jan	Drama students' trip to see 'Noughts and Crosses' at the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry

Summer Exams

Monday 15th May - Wednesday 28th June

More information TBC in the New Year





Operation Christmas Child



Christmas gifts in shoeboxes to be sent from The Avon Valley School

Once again, kind hearted Year 7 students have shown their generous nature by creating gift boxes which will be sent to disadvantaged youngsters many miles away.

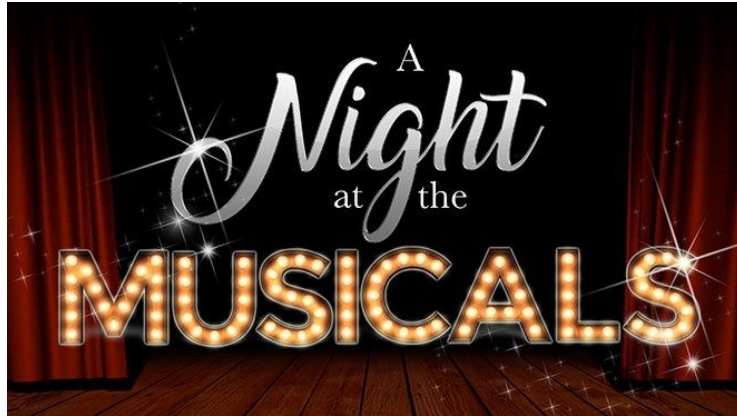
Students from the school's four Houses - Apollo, Fortune, Garrick and Phoenix, brought in items such as toys, toiletries, school equipment and other goodies for the boxes which will be sent to disadvantaged children across the globe.

The filled Christmas boxes were picked up by a representative from Samaritan's Purse the organisation behind 'Operation Christmas Child', an initiative which has sent millions of boxes to children in 130 countries since beginning back in 1990.

Alison Davies, Headteacher, said "Again this year our Year 7 students have done a fantastic job filling and wrapping their boxes to support Operation Christmas Child. This is a project we've supported for many years and it's lovely to know that the boxes created at AVS will bring some festive cheer to disadvantaged children."

Mr D Phelan
Achievement Leader - Fortune House





On Saturday 26th November the Rugby Music Centre held a concert to showcase their students hard work and commitment at The Avon Valley School.

The Rugby Music Centre was launched in September 2021 with a handful of students, and they are growing every week!

All of the music tutors are very passionate and want to ensure this music provision is accessible to any child who wants to learn. With this in mind, they work tirelessly all year round fundraising to keep the fees subsidised, and are as little as £20 per half term for a Saturday morning class. They also have an excellent link to the Rugby Rotary Club who have been incredibly helpful in providing funding for further fee subsidies for those who are in need.

Please help us spread the word about the great work they are doing in creating musical opportunities for the youth of Rugby.



Check out the website: <https://www.rugbymusiccentre.co.uk/> or drop an email to enquiries@rugbymusiccentre.co.uk if you would like to know more about what they do or even better...get involved!

Current and past students who took part in the concert are;

Lily White - 'Little Miss Perfect' (from 'Tapes'-A song Cycle)

Daisy Adamson - 'You are My Lucky Star' (from 'Singing in the Rain')

Rosanna Nealon - 'A Change in Me' (from 'Beauty and the Beast')

Isabella Awang - 'When I Look at You' (from 'The Scarlet Pimpernel')

Keira Goodwin - 'My House' (from 'Matilda')

Emily Adamson - 'Always Remember Us This Way' (from 'A Star is Born')

Alana Barnes - 'All That Jazz' (from 'Chicago')

Megan Gyles - 'Requiem' (from 'Dear Evan Hansen')

Joel Tytler - 'Electricity' (from 'Billy Elliot')

Georgie Awang - 'Get Out and Stay Out' (from '9 to 5')

Mrs Emma Butler - Singing Tutor





MFL Christmas Postcard Competition

This competition was targeted at all linguists in Avon Valley. All year groups were able to participate, as long as they were studying a foreign language.

The postcard had to be written in a language other than English and depict the Christmas traditions of that country or culture. There were various entries and they showed traditions from several origins, namely Iceland, South Korea, Romania, which showed commitment from the participants in either sharing their home culture or getting to know another tradition.

The winner of the competition was Rebecca Mazere 7JMU who created a lovely postcard showing Christmas in Romania.

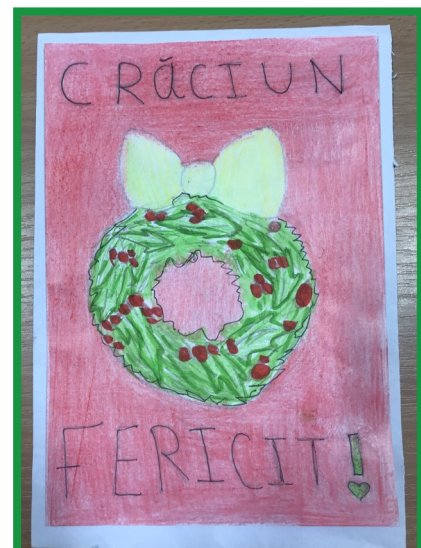
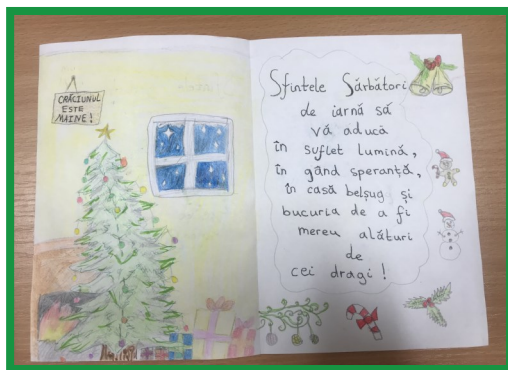
I would like to say a massive thank you to all participants, who will be given a certificate and a treat, as well as congratulating the winner, who will also receive a certificate, a treat, and a £20 Amazon voucher prize.

Miss C Andrade De Azevedo - Assistant Faculty Leader of Modern Foreign Languages

WINNER

Rebecca Mazere 7JMU

Christmas in Romania





Goodbye Mrs Jones

I have shared in previous newsletters the careers journey that the majority of our students will experience while at AVS and I think most of our students would agree, that the journey does not end when they leave us, in fact many would say, it has only just begun. However, what we don't do as part of the AVS careers experience is talk about retirement in a lot of detail, but that is what our Careers Advisor, Mrs Jones will be embarking upon in January.



Mrs Jones began working at AVS as a Teaching Assistant in September 2001. During her 21 years at the school she has had many different roles, but the one I know her for best, is her role as our Careers Advisor. In this role she has worked hard to gain the necessary qualifications, and keep her knowledge and understating of careers up-to-date. Each year she has helped the year 11 students to plan and successfully navigate the transition to their post 16 pathway, as well as organising work experience for year 10 students. Mrs Jones will return to help with our annual year 11 mock interviews next year.

From every one of the students you have helped guide along their career path, Mrs Jones, we thank you and you will be sorely missed.

Mr Chino Ogali will be replacing Mrs Jones as the AVS Careers Advisor in January 2023.

Mrs L Owen
Careers Lead





Keep Safe This Christmas



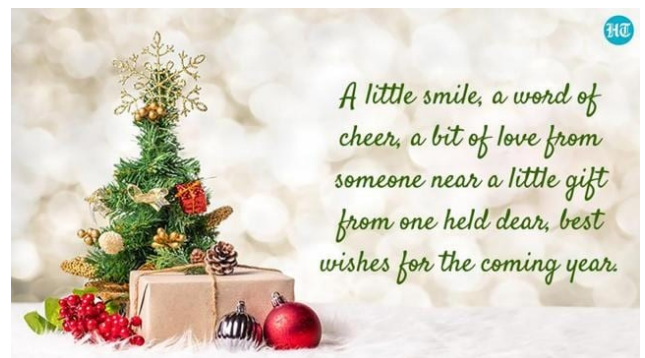
With snow and ice affecting the UK, The Royal Life Saving Society UK are urging the public to be aware of the dangers these freezing conditions can pose.

Many aren't aware of the dangers of frozen water; it may look solid from the surface but will not hold your weight and could crack when stood on. The Royal Life Saving Society UK has devised these safety tips about the dangers of frozen waters.

When water is frozen and the cold weather sets in these are a few safety tips to take note of:

- ◆ Teach children not to go on to frozen lakes, ponds, canals and reservoirs under any circumstances. Children and pets are particularly at risk when tempted to play on the ice formed on open water during cold weather.
- ◆ Pets should be kept on leads when near frozen water and owners should refrain from throwing objects onto ice for them to retrieve.
- ◆ Bystanders should shout reassurance to casualties without endangering themselves. Make sure help is on the way by phoning the emergency services (call 999 or 112).
- ◆ Do not walk or climb onto the ice to attempt a rescue and certainly don't get into the water, you may become the next casualty.
- ◆ If someone can't climb out of the water, it is not advisable, as many people think, to move about in the water to keep warm while waiting for help. Instead they should conserve their energy by keeping as still as possible.

The 12 Days of Christmas Safety			Keep lit candles away from real trees, wreaths, boughs and garlands 1	Keep poisonous sweets and chocolates away from your pets 2
Keep your tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources 3	Make sure your tree has a stable platform so it doesn't tip over 4	Choose an artificial tree that is labelled flame resistant 5	If you have a real tree, make sure you water it regularly 6	
Check your lights for fraying, bare spots and kinks in the wire 7	Turn off all tree lights and decorations when not in use 8	Use an appropriate ladder or stepladder when putting up decorations 9	No matter how tempting it may be NEVER drink and drive! 10	
When preparing the food, make sure you avoid cross contamination and clean your surfaces and utensils 11	Make sure you reheat your leftovers to at least 74 degrees to avoid food poisoning 12	Merry Christmas 		



Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year
from all the staff at
AVS

