

Editor Ms G Adamou



AVS Newsletter January 2023





Message from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the end of January, as the days start to lengthen, I am pleased to be arriving at school in the daylight once again; this, along with the signs of spring in the garden, adds to the feeling of moving forward in the year. As I pointed out to year 11 recently, there are now just 12 weeks of classroom teaching left before they start their written GCSE papers in the week beginning 15th May – a fact that certainly sharpened their minds to the task ahead!

Almost every Year 11 student is now involved in intervention groups after school, and this, combined with Upgrade for three mornings a week, is helping to give students the best possible preparation for their exams. It is really pleasing to see how well most of the year group is responding to the opportunities that they are given by staff, and also to see how expert the staff are when it comes to coaching the students for the best approaches for the exam. I am confident that this year's results will once again see the students obtaining excellent results.

The penultimate week of this half term starts with a Splash day on February 6th and students have much to look forward to with most year groups focusing on careers through the day. I am proud that Avon Valley holds the prestigious 'Career Mark' for careers education, as it is so important that students leave school with work place skills and self-confidence - along with a great set of exam results!

As you are all aware, good literacy skills are very important and students who struggle to read fluently find it difficult to access the curriculum as they move through the school. I have been delighted by the positive response of our students to the tutor time reading initiative (DEAR time) this academic year, and it is great to see students in years 7-10 reading quietly for the first 15 minutes of each day. Please continue to support your child with this initiative, both by ensuring that they have a book in their bag and by encouraging them to read at home as well. Books do not need to be expensive and can be picked up for £1 in most charity shops – thereby supporting others at the same time as helping your child.

Finally, I am pleased to share that our new website has been launched today. Please go to avonvalleyschool.uk to watch the video intro and have a look around the site.



Thank-you as always for your ongoing support.

Alison Davies
Headteacher





Garrick House News



Ms Masters and I have been impressed with how the majority of students have arrived back to school after the festive period. Students have been reminded in our Garrick House assemblies of our core values and basic expectations, which I know our students try to uphold on a daily basis.

As a house, we have accumulated over 73,000 house points. Being competitive, we are currently in second place in the house league table. An individual mention should go to the following students who have accumulated the most house points since September.

Year 7

Alfie Turner (7GMA)
Mylo Matthews (7GMA)
Lucea Owen (7SHI)

Year 8

Minnie Saker (8GST)
Eva McConville (8ACA)
Harrison Minter (8ACA)

Year 9

Jack Arbuthnott (9ATI)
Meerab Waqar (9JDR)
Sam Betts (9JDR)

Year 10

Isabel Twyford (10EAN)
Jacob Smith (10EAN)
Molly Randle (10EAN)

Year 11

Christos Bontinis (11KMI)
Thomas Burrows (11PBA)
Martha Tovey-Keane (11PBA)



As you will be aware, social media is a massive part of young people's lives. A vast number of the issues that arise in school often start or continue on social media. Please continue to monitor and support your child with being safe online. If you haven't done so, please log into the class charts app to see your child's behaviour, attendance and important messages.

As ever, if you have any queries or concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to contact their form tutor, myself (chartfield@avonvalleyschool.uk) or Ms Masters, our Student Welfare Leader (smasters@avonvalleyschool.uk).

Mr C Hartfield

Achievement Leader - Garrick House/ Teacher of PE





Art News

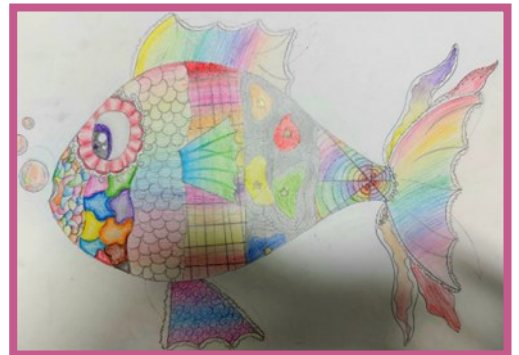
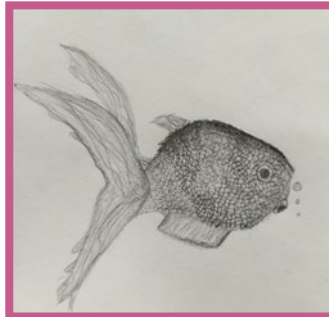
Our Year 7s have made a fantastic start to their art journey, and we have been blown away by the artwork they have produced for the 'Under the Sea' project.

They have focused on colour and pattern and learnt how to blend with a variety of media including chalk and watercolour paints.

Students also had lots of fun creating a clay sculpture and exploring the use of collage. They are now moving on to a 'Portraits' project linked to Picasso.



Mrs H Barnard - Teacher of Art

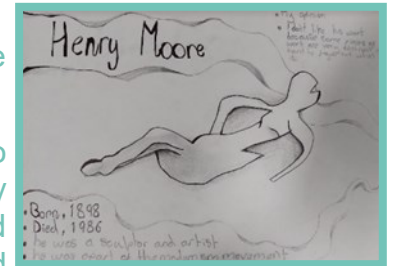




Art News

Year 8 have completed a project based on sculpture, linked to the artist Henry Moore.

The Art department have been really impressed with their ability to use contour lines and shading to make their artwork look 3D. They have had the opportunity to work with a variety of media and particularly enjoyed using clay to create their own sculpture inspired by the work of Henry Moore.



We have now moved on to a project based around 'The Scream' by Edvard Munch and we are excited to see Year 8's final outcomes.

Mrs H Barnard - Teacher of Art





Textiles News

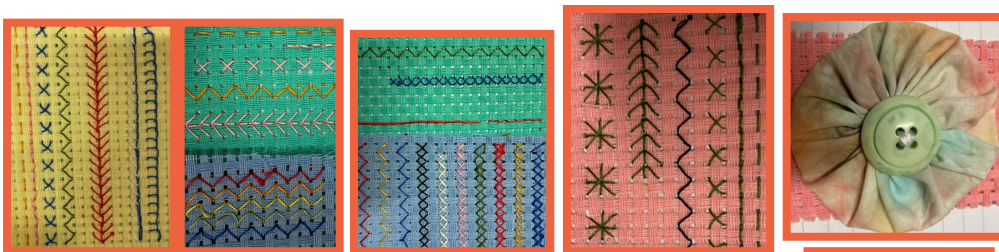
The Curriculum for Textiles not only builds pupils' intellectual development but it also develops the individual learner in terms of their social and emotional development. Sewing can build independence, resilience and enables self expression. Students can also explore, enjoy and develop their creative thinking skills. Textiles can provide visual, tactile and sensory experiences as well as teaching students useful and valuable life skills.

Last term in Textiles, our year seven students began to develop these useful life skills by learning about how different fabrics are constructed as well as experimenting with a range of hand embroidery stitches. Basic embroidery stitches can not only be used to make and decorate textile items but can also be used to make simple repairs to our clothing. Hopefully these new skills will be used for both purposes in the future. Moving up into year eight, students have been developing their creative thinking skills by learning about the pop art movement, before painting and sewing a unique cushion. Students have been mastering the sewing machines and building their confidence and resilience. Some students even demonstrated their leadership skills by teaching other students how operate the machines. Well done year eight!

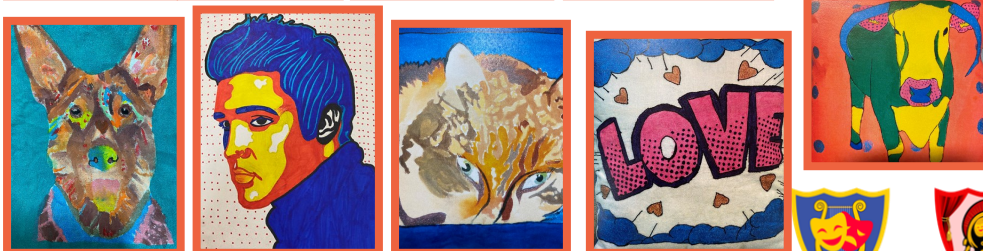
In year nine, students have been learning about basic printing techniques by creating their own prints and stencils. In the next few weeks they will be going to explore and develop skills in other techniques such as tie-dye, batik and monoprinting. Whilst in year ten, students have been experimenting with an even wider range of exciting techniques from printing and dyeing to needle felting and patchwork. Each student is exploring their own ideas from a chosen starting point or theme, which allows them to develop greater self expression. All their research and samples will form a body of work for their portfolio project, eventually leading into a final product for their coursework. Finally, our year eleven students have been busy finishing off their coursework, ready to begin their exam preparation! Portfolios have been presented with flair and creativity, and final outcomes from dresses to wall hangings have all been over-locked and pressed ready for marking. There is still a lot of hard work ahead before their final exams but hopefully all the hard work will pay off! Keep up the good work.

It is fantastic to see the journey that our students go on, from the beginning of year seven right through to their GCSE studies, and as always it's a pleasure to support them through that journey. So, as they say on the sewing bee "needles up" until the next newsletter update.

Mrs Jesson - Subject Leader - Textiles



Year 7 Embroidery



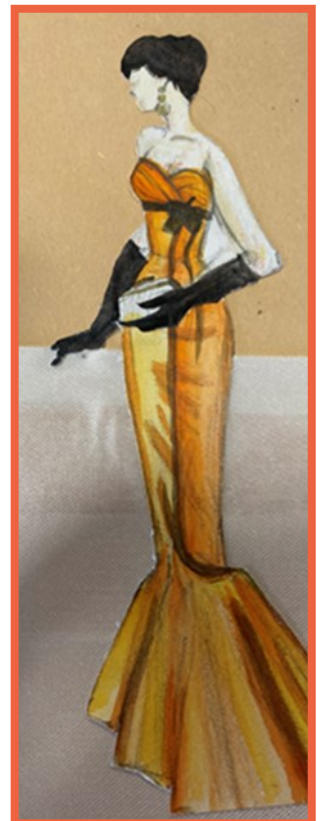
Year 8 Cushions





Textiles News

Year 10 Coursework





Textiles News



For this unique seascape I used calico as my base fabric and used multimedia such as felting and free machine embroidery. I combined techniques I have already learnt and developed my skills in using the felting machine and free machine embroidery and learnt to not use glittery fabric with the felting machine as it can break a needle.

Year 10 Coursework





Textiles News



Year 11 Coursework





Performing Arts London Trip

On Friday 20th January, 83 Drama, Dance & Music students and 8 members of staff set off on a London adventure.

After a couple of hours travelling, we arrived at The National Theatre on the Southbank for a guided tour. Students were privy to the 'behind the scenes' world of theatre. We saw the on-site carpentry workshop, props being made as well as the wardrobe dressmakers and discovered how they all come together to create world-class productions.

There was just enough time for a spot of lunch on the coach before arriving at our hotel to unpack and change, ready for our first theatre visit. However, before we did that we had dinner at the infamous Hard Rock Café on Park Lane.

Moulin Rouge at The Piccadilly Theatre was colourful, beautiful and full of character; students were amazed to see such an intricate set and discussed what they had learnt earlier in the day. On leaving the theatre, we brushed shoulders with Oti Mabuse, the famous dancer from Strictly Come Dancing, who was very interested when told our students were studying performing arts and was happy to pose for a group selfie!



Miss Carpenter
Teacher of Drama





Performing Arts London Trip

There were many tired students on Saturday as it was an early start, with just enough time to have a quick breakfast before we set off for The London Dungeons.

There was much apprehension before entering the Dungeons, but everyone had a fabulous time, even though the teachers needed earplugs to shield them from the screams...

We took a 20-minute walk along the Southbank to Lambeth Bridge to the venue for our next activity - A Stage Combat Workshop at Base Studios. Students were shown how to perform stage combat techniques and had fun having a go.

After all that exertion, everyone was ready for our dinner at Pizza Hut on The Strand. Students and staff filled up on an array of pizzas and had some downtime before we went to the Victoria Palace Theatre to watch 'Hamilton'. There was a definite buzz in the air, as all of the students and staff were excited to see Emile Ruddock, an AVS alumni, playing two roles, 'Hercules Mulligan and James Madison!

It was such a powerful production following the remarkable life of Alexander Hamilton, one of the founding fathers of the United States. The show retells the tale using rap music and lyrics that even tackle political deal making.

I would like to thank all of the students for their good behaviour and mature attitude during the whole weekend. I'd also like to offer thanks to Miss Wheatley, Mrs Collins, Miss Partridge, Mr Collins, Mr Jardine, Mr Patton and Ms Adamou for all of their support before, during and after the trip. We cannot offer our students these amazing trips without staff being willing to give up their weekends!

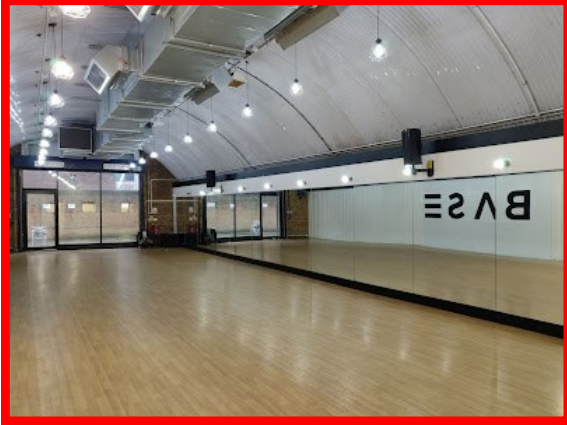
Miss Carpenter

Teacher of Drama



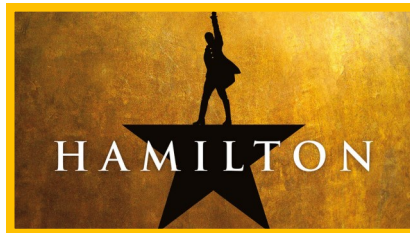


Performing Arts London Trip





Performing Arts London Trip



Emile Ruddock





Drama News

On 26th January, year 11 GCSE Drama students visited The Belgrade Theatre in Coventry to watch 'Noughts & Crosses'. The gripping Romeo and Juliet story by writer Malorie Blackman is a captivating drama of love, revolution and what it means to grow up in a divided world.

A compulsory element to the course, requires students to write a review of a live show that they have seen. This review will be written in their final examination in May 2023 and will account for 20% of their final exam result.

All students were gripped and in awe of the actors delivering such a diverse subject.

Mrs E Wheatley

Head of Performing Arts and Subject Lead of Drama





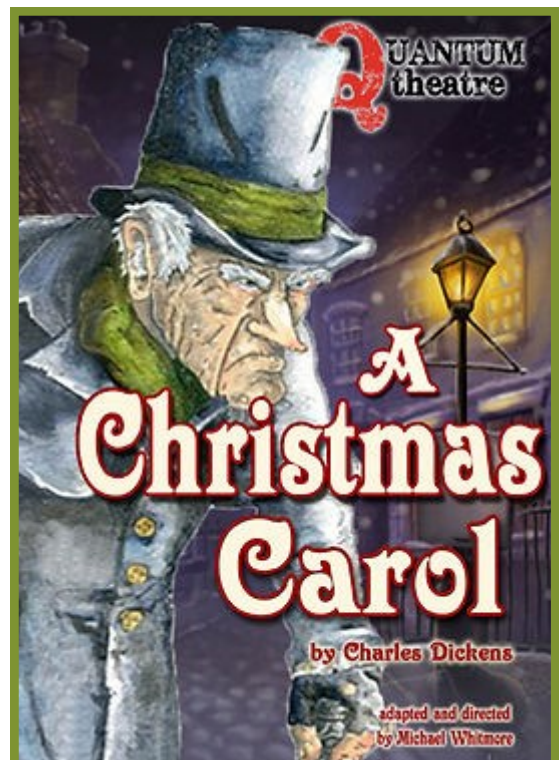
Q UANTUM theatre

On Thursday 26th January, 'Quantum Theatre' from London visited Avon Valley to perform 'A Christmas Carol' to all year 10 students. It was an engaging and enlightening performance that was watched enthusiastically by the students.

Having studied this for their GCSE English Literature exam (earlier in the year) the pupils said it was a great way to consolidate their existing knowledge and refresh their memory of key ideas - whilst being entertained at the same time!

Mrs C Davies

Teacher of English & Assistant Faculty Leader





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





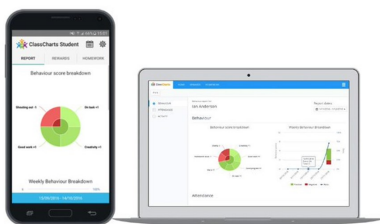
Dates for your Diary

February/March

1st Feb	School Closed due to NEU Strike
2nd Feb	Year 10 Virtual Progress Evening
6th Feb	Splash Day
16th Feb	Year 8 Virtual Progress Evening
20th - 24th Feb	Half Term
2nd March	Year 8 Options Evening in school
2nd March	World Book Day
17th March	Comic Relief - Non-Uniform Day
30th March	Drama students to see Blood Brothers - Belgrade Theatre
31st March	Break up for Easter
17th April	All students back to school



Parents, carers, and students, can use @ClassCharts to see House Points awarded, the student's timetable, and letters/messages that we've sent home. We encourage all parents/carers to download the app and switch notifications on.





Crackerteria Cafe



Rugby Christmas Cracker are a group of volunteers who have brought together young people in Rugby each Christmas, since 1991, to help others in the developing world.

Every Christmas, they set up the Rugby Christmas Cracker project to expose local young people to various experiences they wouldn't normally get at school or college. This includes learning about radio broadcasting, with Cracker Radio, as well as opportunities to work in catering, customer service, and retail with Crackerteria and A la Carte services, all while experiencing the wider world of work in general. Everyone who works on the project volunteers their time to help out and raise funds for the worthy causes that are chosen by the young people every year. It's through these initiatives that they not only hope to teach young people new skills, but highlight the harsh living conditions and poor quality of life experienced by some of the most deprived people across the world.

In December, our Forest Schools class volunteered their time for a day at the Crackerteria Café in the town centre. They prepped, cooked and served food to the local community. As you can see from the photos there was lots of fun and learning going on. Students learnt new skills that we hope they will carry with them into adulthood.

A big thank you goes to Mrs Hirons for giving up her time and supporting the group.

Miss J Mortimer - Outdoor Education Lead





Motocross Experience



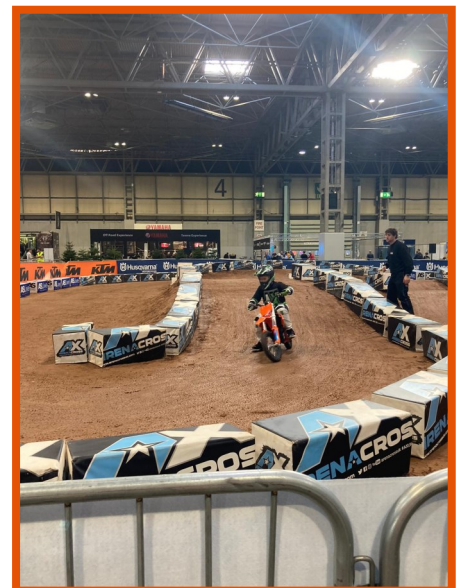
In November, a group of year 8 and 9 Forest Schools students had the opportunity to go to The NEC in Birmingham to see the Mortorcyle Live Show.

Students were lucky enough not only to watch the show , but to ride the motorcycles around the track. We were able to speak with many exhibitors who explained the different characteristics, prices and engines of many motorcycles.

All of the students had a fabulous time and left with the knowledge of what it takes to be a mechanic, as well as ride and perform in a show for a living.

A big thank you goes to Mr Challenger for all of his knowledge and support as always.

Miss Mortimer - Outdoor Education Lead





Careers News

Mr Chino Ogali has joined The Avon Valley School as our new Careers Coordinator; primarily responsible for careers interviews and the work experience programme. His contact details are cogali@avonvalleyschool.uk should you wish to contact him directly.

Careers events so far this term:

- ◆ Virtual assembly to all students by Tafadzwa Machededze, an AVS Alumni, about his career journey to becoming a Biomedical scientist
- ◆ Virtual assembly to all students from Moulton College about the range of vocational courses they have on offer
- ◆ Virtual careers in sport assembly to year 10 students
- ◆ In person assembly by WCG: Rugby, about Further Education courses; in particular T levels on offer at the college
- ◆ Year 7 and 8 are completing their PSHE units on careers; 'Growing throughout life' and 'Exploring possibilities', respectively

Work experience Y10 updates

We are currently finding it challenging to find the necessary number of placements to guarantee that your Year 10 child can take part in the work experience week. Therefore, I am asking if you could begin to help your child to find a placement. Furthermore, if you are able to offer work experience at your workplace, I would be interested to hear from you.



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 do not hesitate to contact Mrs Owen (lowen@avonvalleyschool.uk) or Mr Ogali (cogali@avonvalleyschool.uk), or look at the information available on the school website: <https://avonvalleyschool.uk/>. Careers can be found in the curriculum tab.

Mrs L Owen

Careers Lead

Moulton
COLLEGE

RUGBY
COLLEGE





Careers News

Sports Performance Academy launching September 2023

Introduction to the King Edward VI College Sports Performance Academy Event.

Join them as they introduce their exciting new programme from September 2023

Thursday 9 February 6:00–7:30pm

Venue: King Edward VI College, King Edward Road, Nuneaton, CV11 4BE

- ◆ Presentation by the Principal
- ◆ Talk by Jason Farndon (SPA Leader)
- ◆ Representation from Sports Performance Academy Coaches & Partners

Booking is not required for this event.

Applications are still being taken for September 2023. Secure a place by submitting an application by 30 April 2023. Apply online: www.ke6n.ac.uk



- Men's Football
- Women's Football
- Rugby
- Esports
- Netball
- Golf
- Boxing
- Individual Sport (not listed above)

A bespoke education programme with the choice of 40+ courses combined with an elite sports programme.

Benefits of joining the Sports Performance Academy:

- ◆ Unlock your potential by studying a dual career pathway, combining 3 subjects alongside your sporting aspirations.
- ◆ Choose from a wide variety of subjects to create your pathway
- ◆ We have onsite facilities plus we have partnered with elite partner venues to provide the best available sporting environment. As well as providing well-equipped classrooms with industry-standard equipment.
- ◆ Benefit from inspiring talks, workshops, and masterclasses from guest speakers.
- ◆ Train 3 times-a-week using our academy partner facilities, while also playing in county, regional and national competitions throughout the season.
- ◆ Training schedules and fixtures will be timetabled to fit around your lessons.





SEND & Inclusion Services

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Warwickshire's SEND and Inclusion Service Offer

Take part in our consultation and help to shape the future SEND and Inclusion Service.

How to respond:

- Attend one of our drop-in or online events
- Respond online at ask.warwickshire.gov.uk
- Call Freephone 0800 408 1558 (Mon-Fri, 9am - 5pm)
- Email sendchange@warwickshire.gov.uk

Consultation closes **26 February 2023.**

Scan for more information including online survey, consultation events and Easy Read versions

[/WarksLocalOffer](https://www.facebook.com/WarksLocalOffer)

HAVE YOUR SAY!

SEND Home to School Transport in Warwickshire

Take part in our consultation and help improve the service for families.

How to respond:

- Attend one of our drop-in or online events
- Respond online at ask.warwickshire.gov.uk
- Call Freephone 0800 408 1558 (Mon-Fri, 9am - 5pm)
- Email sendchange@warwickshire.gov.uk

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[/WarksLocalOffer](https://www.facebook.com/WarksLocalOffer)

E-Scooter Warning

It's currently **illegal** to ride a **privately owned e-scooter** in any **public place**

We understand that buying an e-scooter can be tempting, especially as you can get them from many popular retailers.

However the current law is clear

You can buy one but it is illegal to use a **PRIVATELY OWNED** e-scooter in **ANY** public space including roads, pavements, parks, town centres or canal towpaths for example. The only place an e-scooter can be used is on private land.

WARWICKSHIRE ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

What will happen if I'm stopped by Warwickshire Police?

If you ride an e-scooter on public land and roads you need to comply with a number of conditions including having appropriate insurance. Warwickshire Police has the power to seize e-scooters if you do not have insurance and to prosecute riders – please make sure you keep your privately owned e-scooter on private land so this doesn't happen to you.

Why is this?

E-scooters are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs) so they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements such as:

- MOT
- Tax
- Licensing
- Insurance

As e-scooters do not have number plates, signalling ability and don't always have visible rear lights, they can't be used legally on the roads.

Warwickshire is currently not part of the trials so e-scooters cannot be hired at this time.

The UK Government is currently taking part in 'Future Transport Zone' trials for e-scooter hire, with a view to making them legal to use on the roads.

Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership understand the public's support for environmentally friendly modes of transport. We want to work with the public to make sure the roads are safe for everyone.

WARWICKSHIRE ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

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