



Editor Ms G Adamou

AVS Newsletter July 2024



THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

A Heartfelt Thank You and Summer Wishes from the Headteacher

Dear Students, Parents/Carers, and Staff,

As we reach the end of a very busy and successful school year, I want to take a moment to extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. Your hard work, dedication, and support have made this year a real success. I have really enjoyed my first full year at The Avon Valley School (AVS).

To our students, I want you to know that you are genuinely the best young people I've worked with in 20 years of education. You have made my year really enjoyable, and made me feel really welcome from my very first day. I have been inspired by our student's passion towards the school, their learning, and the resilience in the face of challenges that many have displayed along the way. Your achievements, both big and small, are a testament to your hard work and determination. We are so proud of all you have accomplished.

To our parents, thank you for your strong support and commitment to our school community. Your partnership with us is invaluable, and your encouragement at home plays a crucial role in your children's success. We are grateful for your trust and for being active participants in your child's education. Thank you for the feedback from those throughout the year who have taken time to get in touch with us; which has also helped us to move forward in a positive direction.

To our dedicated staff, your passion for teaching and commitment to nurturing our students' growth is the backbone of our school. Your tireless efforts, creativity, and adaptability have ensured that our students receive the best possible education. Your contributions go beyond the classroom, making a lasting impact on the lives of our students. This includes a variety of achievements and successes in extra curricular opportunities.

As we look back on the past year, we can all take pride in the strong sense of community at AVS. It is this spirit of collaboration and mutual support that makes our school a special place.

As we break for the summer, I wish you all a restful and safe holiday. Take this time to relax, recharge, and enjoy precious moments with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming you back in the new school year, ready to embark on another journey of learning and growth together.

Thank you once again for all that you do. Have a wonderful summer!

Warm regards,

Mr Blake Francis

*Headteacher
Avon Valley School*





Upcoming Events

- 2nd September - Teacher Training Day
- 3rd September - Year 7 & 11 in school only
- 3rd September - Year 7 & 11 individual photos
- 3rd September - Year 11 year group photo
- 4th September - All students in school
- 4th September - Year 8, 9 & 10 individual photos
- 10th September - Year 11 Launch
- 12th & 13th September - Bronze DofE Qualifier Expedition
- 18th September - Year 7 Splash Day
- 19th September - Open Evening
- 27th September - Geography trip to Bristol
-
- 3rd October - Year 7 Tutor Evening at AVS
- 3rd October - Year 10 Launch
- 10th October - Careers Fair
- 17th October - Year 10 Progress Evening at AVS
- 28th Oct - 1st Nov - Half Term
- 4th November - All in school

Dates for
your
diary....

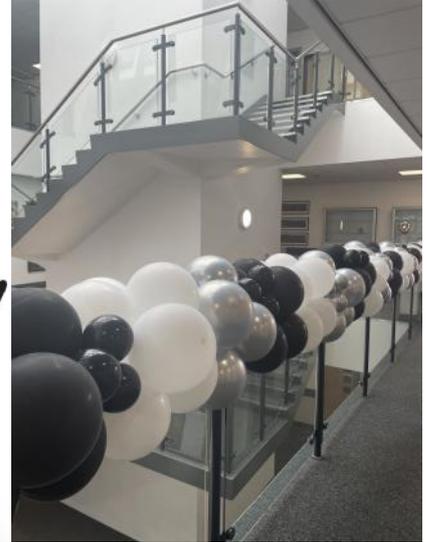




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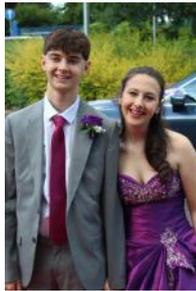


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Geography News

Twycross Zoo - Year 9

The geography department had the pleasure of taking a group of 60 year 9 GCSE geography students to Twycross Zoo at the beginning of the month.

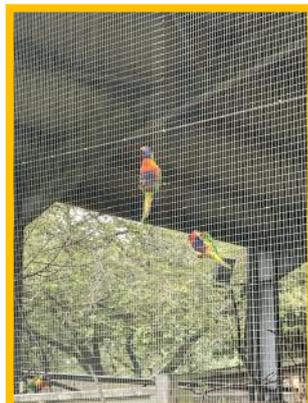
Whilst at the zoo, students took part in a GCSE 'Animals in Danger' workshop where they explored how we measure threat, what threats animals face, and what is being done at an individual, national and international level to help!



This workshop was organised and conducted by professionals from the zoo, giving students an incredible opportunity to gain current insight into the ways in which we conserve animals at different scales. Students were also able to tour the zoo site, practising their 'geographical enquiry' skills by filling in a fieldwork booklet on animal endangerment.

It was a really enjoyable day for all involved and I want to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you to the students who were an absolute pleasure to take. I was incredibly proud of the engagement, interest and enthusiasm displayed!

Well done and thank you,
Miss K McHale
Lead teacher of KS3 Geography





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On 2nd May, our U16s football team made it to the final of the 'County Cup' in Stratford.

The team played a thrilling, nail biting match with goals from Jacob Smith and Kofi Ofofu giving us the WIN!!

AVS 2-0 Stratford Town FC





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TEXTILES



Year 11 students have completed their GCSE NEA portfolios, as well as sitting their final practical exams. For the NEA project, each student chose their own theme(s) and presented an A3 portfolio of work, alongside their final pieces. These ranged from dresses and corsets to wall hangings and cushions.

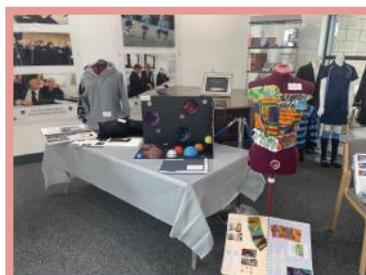
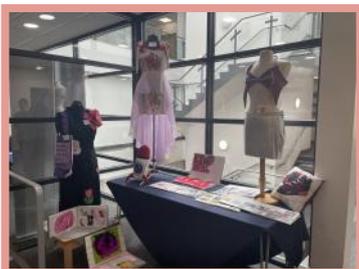


For the externally set task (10 hour exam) each student chose from a supplied list of themes, researching and developing their ideas before completing a ten hour practical examination!

There was such a wide range of different practical outcomes this year demonstrating a broad selection of textile techniques and a huge amount of creativity by our talented students. Congratulations to the class of 2024. It was fantastic to see all your hard work out on display. Well done for all of your grit and determination.

Mrs C Jesson

Subject Leader - Textiles





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On 25th June, the Art department took a group of students to the under path in Brownsover to decorate and brighten up the area. The students and staff had a lot of fun getting creative and producing a mural of colour for the local community to enjoy.

Mrs J Smart

Faculty Leader - Art





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Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Qualifying Expedition

On Monday 1st July students completing their Silver Duke of Edinburgh award braved the elements and set off for their three night qualifying overnight expedition.

Students came keen, kitted up and ready to embrace the three days of their expedition. We travelled to the Long Mynd in Shropshire.

Miss J Mortimer

Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator





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On Tuesday 7th May we were lucky to have a visitor from Warwick University.

Madeleine, who is currently in her second year at university, came to talk to a group of our Year 10 students.

She spoke about the process on how to apply for university, including writing personal statements and attending university open days. Madeleine, also emphasised the importance of participating in extracurricular activities and volunteering to help at school events. This not only develops employability skills but also, when included on a personal statement or CV will make you stand out from the rest.

Madeleine also talked about the practicalities of going to university and settling into university life. The students enjoyed her talk and were able to ask questions.



On Thursday 20th June, Martyna Sienkiewicz, who left Avon Valley School last year, came to talk to a group of Year 10 students. Martyna is currently studying for her A-Levels at Lawrence Sheriff School.



She talked to our students about the process of applying for sixth-form and how it felt settling into a new school. Martyna told them how attending clubs etc. helped to widen her circle of friends and would also look good on a personal statement and CV. The students learnt about the differences between life at AVS and sixth-form. Martyna gave them a good insight into life at LSS sixth-form and she gave them some great advice. The students asked her some great questions and are keen to go and look around sixth-form provisions next year.

On Tuesday 25th June, a group of Year 10 students went to Rugby Free Secondary School to look at their sixth-form provision. The students were able to look around the school. They particularly liked the sixth-form common room, private study areas and the canteen!

The students had a talk with the Head of Sixth form, who showed them the courses that they could choose. They then learnt about the application process and were made aware of the criteria that RFSS looked at when they applied to study in their sixth-form.



The talk was really insightful and our students asked some very good questions. Some of the students intend to revisit Rugby Free School in September during their Open Evening.

Mrs Clare Richmond
Teacher of Mathematics
KS4 Pupil Premium Coordinator





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Business, Computing & Media Studies News

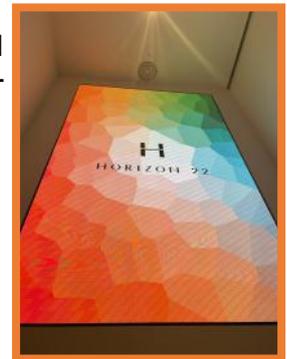
From 7th - 10th June, 50 year 10 students visited London, taking part in a number of visits associated with business, computing and media studies.

The trip was a great success, with students engaging in a number of activities at places such as Chelsea Football Club, The Design Museum, The Museum of Brands and The Science Museum.

There were also opportunities to see the sights of the capital as we visited Portobello Road Market, Covent Garden and Horizon 21, London's highest viewing platform. Despite a 1am fire alarm, students behaved impeccably and were able to develop skills and understanding in a non-classroom context.

Mr M Owen

Subject Leader - Media Studies





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Careers News

Year 10 Work Experience Week

This year 153 students went out to work with businesses in the local and surrounding areas. Placements included engineers, schools, animal care, social care, retail, logistics, sport, rail, motor restoration, health care, professional services, aerospace, game keeping, charities and construction. It has been wonderful to see our students in the workplace and developing their employability skills. I have been delighted with the feedback which includes -



'your student has been brilliant, they have listened carefully and completed the tasks to the same standard as my employees'

'X has been amazing. They have been punctual every day and asked lots of questions'

'Y has been great. They have communicated in such a lovely manner with the residents'

'He has been the apprentice's apprentice this week. Can I give him an apprenticeship when he leaves AVS? I want to employ him as he has fit in so well'

Those students who did not have placement have been able to go on workplace visits to Britvic Wincanton, May Blossom Farm and Rugby Art Gallery, as well as taking part in a Logicor logistics workshop.

During the workshop students had to design a new logistics park and take into account costs and sustainability within the design. The workshop had 8 members of staff from Logicor working with the students and judging the final presentations, which were described as some of the best they had seen. The Logicor staff commented on the well developed communication and teamwork skills of the groups.

During 2023-24 the school has met each of the 8 Career Gatsby Benchmarks to indicate we are providing good career education, information and guidance for the students at The Avon Valley School.

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. L Owen (lowen@avonvalleyschool.uk), Mrs N Demaj (ndemaj@avonvalleyschool.uk) or look at the information available on the school website: <https://avonvalleyschool.uk/>. Careers can be found in the School Life tab.

Mrs L Owen - Careers Lead

Mrs N Demaj - Careers Officer



LOGICOR





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Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

This half term students in GeogClub have been thinking of ways of reducing the amount of waste that is thrown away, whilst making their fingers a little greener!

We trialled using 'single-use' plastic packaging as a sowing tray to give it another lease of life before it ends up in land-fill. We found that after 2 weeks the sunflower seedlings which were started in the plastic tub with a lid were more hardy than those grown in a small plant pot. We spoke about the greenhouse effect and how it enables seedlings to have a better chance of survival moving forward.

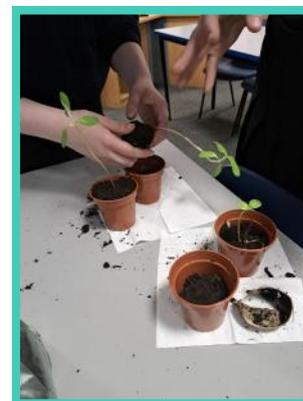


Students then replanted their seedlings and have taken them home with them - hopefully they'll continue to thrive!

Well done Geographers!

Miss K McHale

Subject Leader - KS3 Geography





THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE



What a year the Performing Arts team have had...

From auditions, cast selection, staging, costumes, props, rehearsals and so much more. To put on a show as fantastic as this takes hard work and grit to pull it all off.

Staff and 90 students stayed late every single night and even gave up their half terms to perfect their parts. It is safe to say AVS do it best!

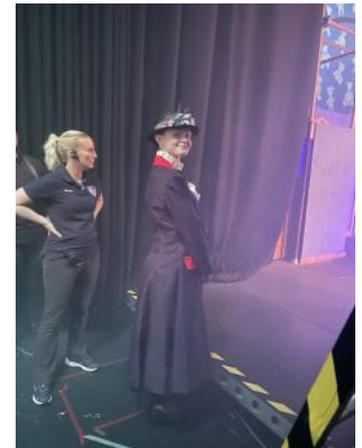
To top it all off some of the main cast were invited to the National Theatre Awards in London where they WON the best Musical out of the whole of the secondary schools in the UK.

'I am so proud of all the students and my team, they have out done themselves and should be very proud of themselves, well done guys'

Miss Wheatley

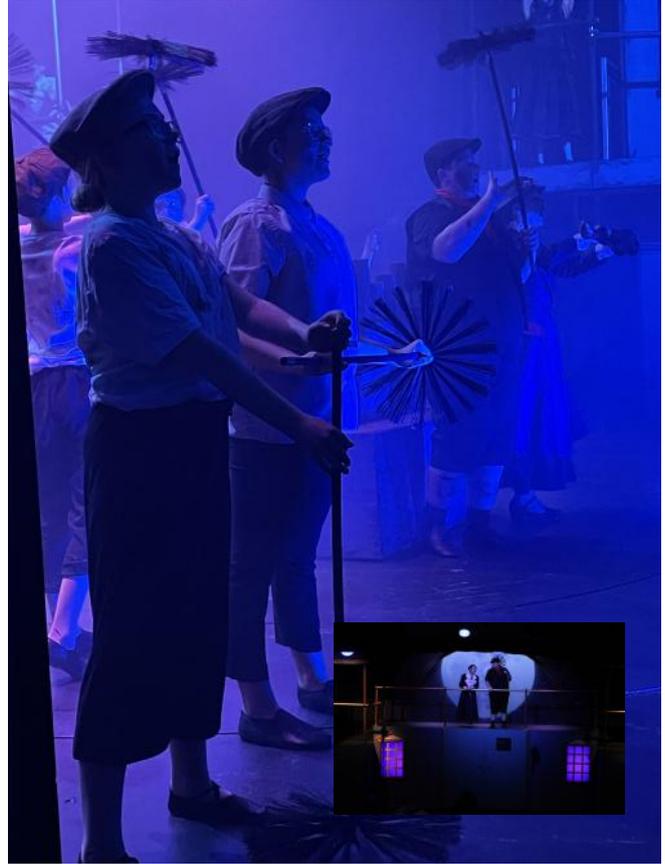
The Performing Arts Team

Elisa Wheatley, Emma Forest, Jake Collins, Sara Spraggett, Ellyn Carpenter, Matthew Good & Ross Jardine





THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE





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Bibury Arlington Row in Gloucestershire, The Old Prison Northleach, Clumber Park National Trust, Rollright Stones, Rutland Kayaking and Shustoke Reservoir are just a few of the places the Forest Schools group have visited and experienced this term.



We also celebrated the Eden Project with a picnic lunch. All the students represented the school brilliantly. Well done to all.

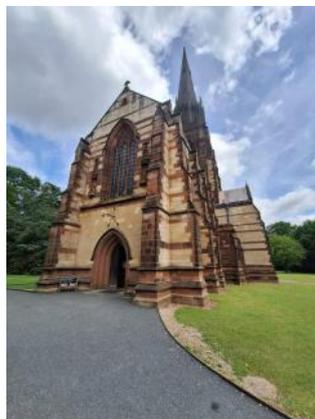
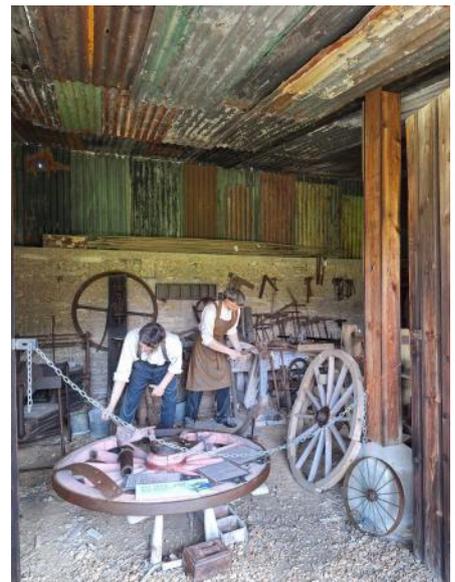
Miss J Mortimer

Subject Leader - Outdoor Education





THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE



KEY ATTENDANCE UPDATES FOR 2024-25



Penalty Notices Fines for school unauthorised absence and lateness is changing. All money received is collected by the local authority and used to fund the service. **School receives none of this money.** The school attendance data is automatically shared with the local authority and the Department for Education.

Effective from 19th August 2024

ONE

01

FIRST OCCURENCE

The **first time** a Penalty Notice is issued for the **term time leave or irregular attendance or lateness** (after registers close) the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

TWO

02

SECOND OCCURENCE (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The **second time** a Penalty Notice is issued for **term time leave or irregular attendance or lateness** (after the registers close) the amount will be:

£160 per parent per child if paid within 28 days

No reduction rate will be offered.

THREE

03

THIRD OCCURENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCE

The **third time** an offence is committed for **term time leave or irregular attendance or lateness** (after registers close) **a Penalty Notice will not be issued** and the case will be presented straight to the **Magistrates' court** which can be up to:

£2,500 per parent, per child.

Case found guilty in Magistrates' court can show on a **DBS certificate for a parent**, due to the failure in **safeguarding a child's education.**

10 SESSIONS (5 DAYS) OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IN A 10-WEEK PERIOD

A Penalty Notice Fine will be considered when there has been **10 sessions of unauthorised absence (including lateness** after registers are closed) in a **rolling 10 week period.** This can span different terms and academic years.



THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

Places of Worship Trip

On 1st July, 50 year 7 and 8's went on a pleasant trip to see examples of three different religious buildings. Firstly, we went to a Mosque, and were greeted by Mr Patel who gave a fantastic insight into the Muslim religion and why mosques are an important part of the community. He ended the talk by advising students on the importance of always being kind. Mr Patel showed his generosity by providing snacks for both students and staff.



Secondly, we visited the Shree Krishna Temple - the place of worship for Hindus - where we were entranced by the beauty of the main temple. We also had a talk from the priest of the temple explaining to us how Hindu's worship and the importance of worship to the students. Afterwards we toured round the shrines, each dedicated to a different deity.



Our last visit was to the Guru Nanak, Gurdwara - the place of worship for Sikhs - Before we entered the Gurdwara we took off our shoes, wore headscarves in order to respect their traditions. We then had a talk by some amazing volunteers about Langaar and the importance of Seva in the Sikh faith. Students then washed their hands and went into the hall for a very enjoyable and generous meal (roti's and dhal along with apples for dessert). We listened to a talk about Sikh life, the history and importance of the Khalsa within the community and went to the main prayer hall to see how Sikhs pray. Lastly, all students had a go at playing a musical instrument, which is played in prayers.



Comments from students

Savannah Parker - *"The trip was amazing, I loved how each place had really nice stories. I loved the temple and seeing all the deities and what they represented. Overall, the trip was not only interesting but very inspirational!"*

Kent Tibugare - *"The trip was amazing we went to three difference places of worship, listened to people talk about their faith and culture, got to eat food that I have never had before with my friends. The trip was wonderful".*

Bailey Long - *"I loved the food, the knowledge which I gained from all the places of worship and how nice they were to all of us".*

Kiyan Khalil - *"I enjoyed it because it was interesting to find out more about different cultures".*

Riley Townsend - *"I found learning about the drums and harmonium really interesting, the best part was, that we got to play the instruments too. We were also given chocolate and crisps to have as snacks which I loved".*

Eden Agbonlahor - *"I liked the Sikh temple because they showed us different types of swords and the significance of it in Sikhism, it was really cool".*



Miss R Begum

Subject Leader - Religious Education





Ex AVS student saves the day

On 8th November 2021, Jake Walker (ex AVS student, Apollo House) and colleague, Stacey Farrington were driving their ambulance up the M6 motorway to a job.

They heard a warning on the radio that someone was driving their car the wrong way up the fast lane towards them. When they saw the car in the distance, they pulled out in front of the car and turned on their lights and sirens to try to get the driver's attention.

When this failed to get the driver's attention, they decided to use their ambulance to stop the car to protect members of the public. The car ploughed into their ambulance head-on at motorway speeds. Clearly, this could have led to both of them losing their lives. Thankfully, both of them suffered only minor injuries. Despite having just been in a severe crash, they climbed out of the ambulance to treat the driver of the incoming car, who was heavily intoxicated. He also incurred only minor injuries.

In May 2024 both heroes were named in the Civil Gallantry List, having been awarded the King's Gallantry Medal.



Literacy NEWSLETTER



READING LEVELS

We are introducing reading levels for our recommended reads to support students and parents as they continue - or even begin- their reading journey.

The levels take readers from primary reading age through to 17+.

BOOK TALK

Talking is a great way to support learning. Book talk improves comprehension, critical thinking, vocabulary, and articulation skills.

By engaging in thoughtful conversations about books, children will not only progress in reading but also become well-rounded learners.

RESEARCH

As highlighted in the seminal 'Bringing Words to Life', oral language is the most effective vehicle for learning new words (Beck, I. et al. 2002).

<https://voice21.org/oracy-across-the-curriculum-the-evidence/>

BOOK DONATION

We are always in need of books for our library or for preloved book sales. Please drop off any used or unwanted books at reception or the English Office.

BOOK TALK TIPS

- **The nuts and bolts:** Discuss the story, characters, and themes with your child to secure understanding.
- **Think deeply:** Ask questions that need more than a yes or no answer. "What do you think about...", "Why do you think...".
- **Keep it real:** Relate the story to your experiences, or other books, films or shows they know.
- **Anything can happen if you let it:** Encourage discussions about what they would like to happen. If they had written it, what would they have done - and why? Where might their imagination lead their reading journey next?





THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

Every year, staff and students in Apollo House really look forward to sports day!



Having won it several times in the last few years, and with strong competition from Garrick, Phoenix and Fortune Houses, our students always strive to do their best to win. Yesterday was no exception! After 4 hours of year group races, throws and jumps, we all gathered together as a House on the field after lunch to support the final races and relays. Once it came to the results, it was fantastic to hear that our year 7 students from 7PGI and 7SBI won the overall trophy for their year group, as well as our year 10 students, from 10SGL and 10JCO. And it was even better to hear that as a House, Apollo won it again, champions 2024!! Another massive achievement!

This would never have happened without the help of our tutors, who have been sorting out the teams in the last 2 weeks, and without students taking part in the various events throughout the day. No matter what their results were, it was a real team effort and every single one of them played a key part in leading Apollo to victory again! I would like to thank all the athletes, as well as the Apollo staff who came down to support and cheer on the and to those who took part in the staff relay. All in all, it was another great day!!

Lastly, a big thank you to the PE team who, once again, ran a very well organised and fun day for all involved!

With best wishes for an enjoyable summer,

Carole Labreize

Achievement Leader - Apollo House

