

Editor Ms G Adamou



# AVS Newsletter July 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of the academic year is always incredibly busy as we celebrate the achievements of our students. On so many occasions over the last few weeks I have felt quite emotional as I have watched our students achieve, perform, and contribute in so many ways to the culture and ethos of our school. As I write this today, I can hear the morning's field events taking place outside and I look forward to seeing the whole school outside later on taking part in, and observing, the track events where I am sure that we will see school records broken.

It is always sad to say goodbye to colleagues who have been part of the Avon Valley community and we are fortunate that this year we have very few members of staff moving on. However, we are saying goodbye to Mr Rees, who has been with us in the History department for the last term, and to Miss Begum and Miss Keenan who have both completed their first year in teaching with us. All three colleagues move onto new posts in the local area and we wish them all the best for the next stage in their careers. We also bid a fond farewell to Miss Hunter after 12 years of service to our school in the maths team. I know we are all really sorry to see her move on and wish her all the very best for her retirement. Also retiring this year is Mrs MacDonald who is leaving us after 13 years in post as science technician – we wish her all the very best for the future.

Looking ahead to the September term, I would like to remind you of our requirement that all students follow our uniform policy so please do refresh your memory regarding our uniform and equipment expectations before you purchase new school items for the September start. Further information on these can be found on our school website. I will also take this opportunity to remind you that the school day will start 10 minutes earlier next year so it will be important that students leave the house in plenty of time to be in school for 8.40, ready for tutor time at 8.45.



Despite the many disruptions along the way, 2021/22 has been a really positive year for the students in the school and I am proud of all that they have achieved. I would like to thank all of you for your support of our school over this academic year and wish you a happy and enjoyable summer.

Alison Davies  
Headteacher



### **Over 100 students awarded with medals and certificates for hard work**

On Thursday 14th July, we held our annual awards evening which celebrated the success, and hard work, of over 100 high achieving students.

During the well-attended event, the highest achieving students were presented with an award recognising their hard work, commitment and academic success. Each of the faculties and subject areas nominated two students from each year group to receive a subject award. The subject areas also selected one student, from any year group, to receive the overall subject award.



In addition, one high achieving student from each of the school's Houses was selected by their Achievement Leader for an award. The outstanding students of the year were Vlada Mararu – Apollo, Christina Batchelor – Fortune, Daniel Akhmed – Garrick and Asrifa Altaf– Phoenix. Year 10, Fortune House, student Maisha Akand was selected by the school's Headteacher for a special award, and Daniel Wilson was chosen to receive the Don O'Neill Award.

The students, who sat in front of proud parents, carers and family members, were presented with a medal by guest speaker Justice Williams, and received a certificate from the school's Headteacher, Alison Davies and Co-chair of Governors, Janet Gilbert.

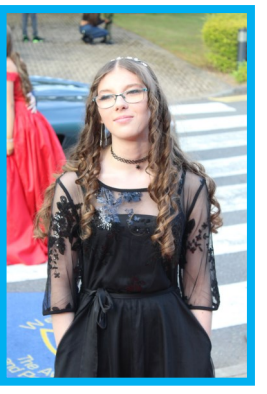
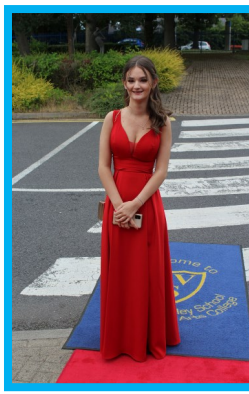
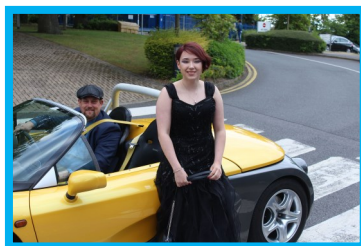


For this year's awards evening the school invited, Justice Williams MBE, a multi-award-winning personal brand strategist, business coach and online course creator, who started her business with no money and built a 6-figure business within the first 12 months. In 2009 she became the youngest woman of Afro-Caribbean heritage to be honoured with an MBE by the Queen and was awarded Cosmopolitan Magazine's Most Inspiring Woman of the Year Award.

Achievement Leader Carole Labreize, who organised the awards evening' said, "This was our first 'in person' awards evening, that parents have been invited to attend, since 2019. It was wonderful to 'get back to normal' and see the school's theatre full of students and their proud parents and carers."



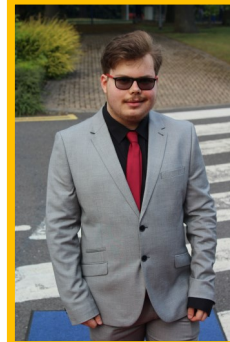
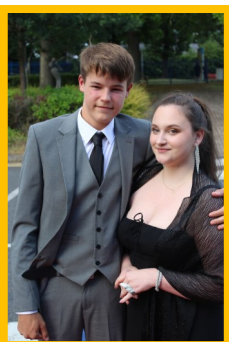
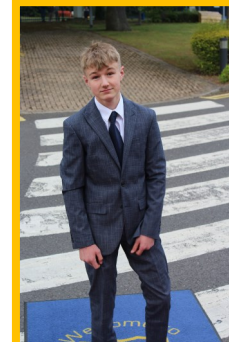
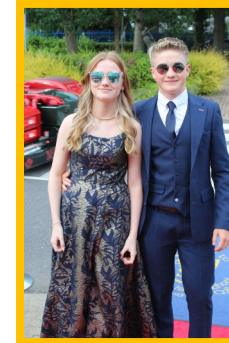
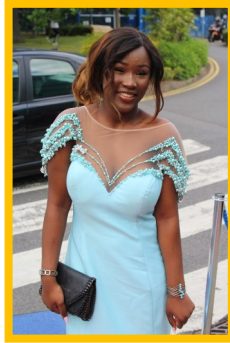
# AVS PROM 2022



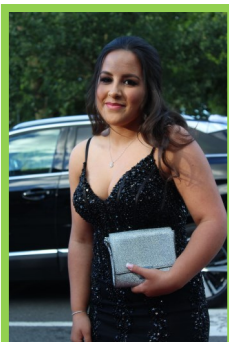
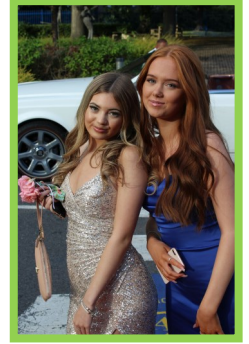
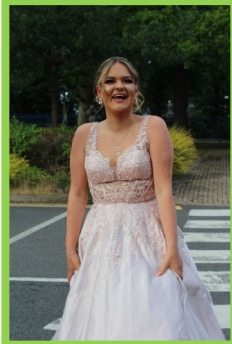
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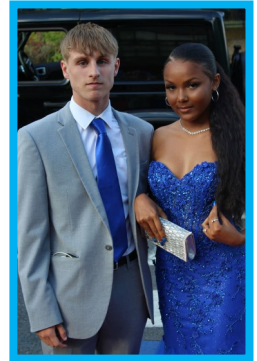
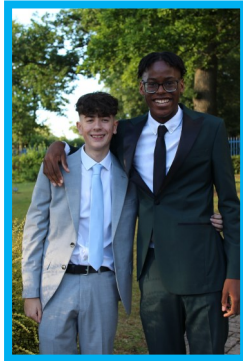
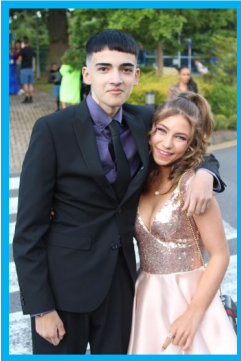
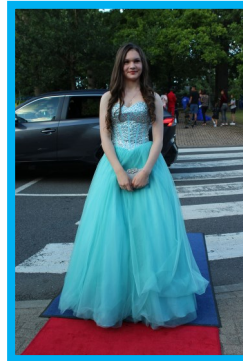
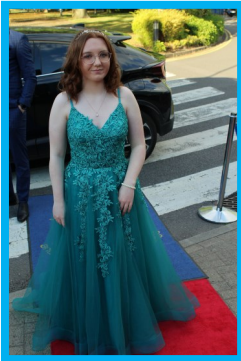
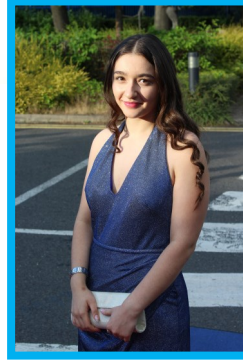
# AVS PROM 2022



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# AVS Student Performs at The Globe Theatre

## Year 9 student reaches the final of Performing Shakespeare Competition

A Year 9 student recently had the opportunity to attend a workshop and perform in a national competition at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London.

Back in May, Garrick House student, Nia Murray-Gonsalves, joined five of her Avon Valley classmates and took part in the first rounds of the English Speaking Union's Performing Shakespeare Competition, where she was up against students from a number of local schools. Following her monologue, Nia was selected to progress to the competition's final in London.

As part of the final, Nia took part in a Shakespeare workshop and had a tour of The Globe Theatre before competing against 15 students from schools around the UK. Nia skillfully delivered an act as Phoebe from the Bard's 'As You Like It'. Although Nia did not win the competition, she was presented with a certificate and medal.

Alison Davies, Headteacher, said: "This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to take part in, and I was very pleased that Nia reached the competition's final and had the opportunity to visit The Globe Theatre. This was a wonderful experience for her".

English teacher, Ali Tingham, commented: "The six students who entered the competition worked really hard and learnt the monologues thoroughly. They all did themselves, and the school, proud when they performed in the first round hosted at AVS. It was brilliant to be able to take Nia to London for the competition's final; hopefully this will inspire other students to enter the competition next year."

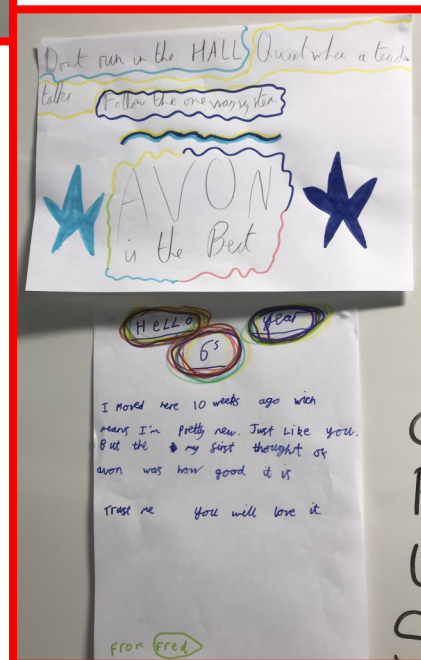
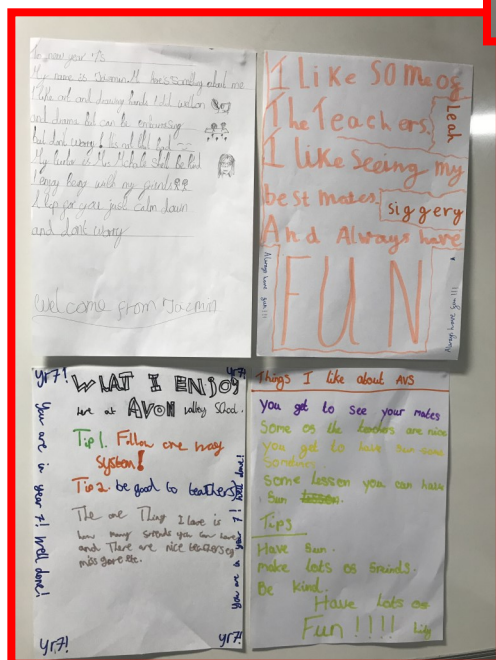
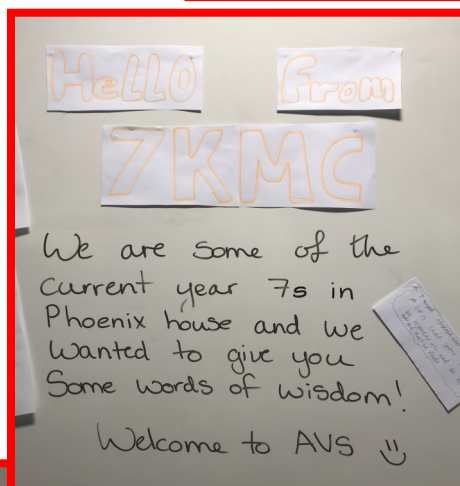
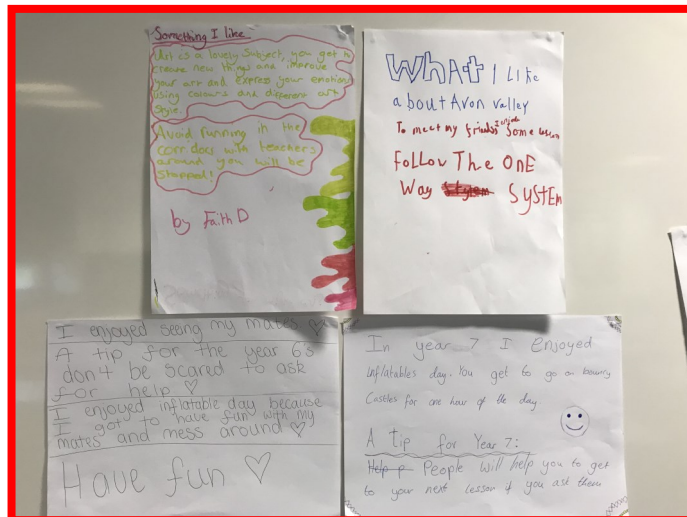


# 7KMC Kindness

On the Year 6 transition days 7KMC and Miss McHale decided to write some comforting tips and advice for the nervous Year 6 students coming in for their transition days.

The students' kindness was very well received and year 6 appreciated the kind words of wisdom.

Well done 7KMC keep up the good work.



# Year 10 Geography Fieldtrip

This term year 10 GCSE Geography students completed one of their compulsory fieldwork sessions, looking at the ways in which people influence local river systems.

Students worked in small groups to conduct independent studies, focusing upon river depth, speed and sediment size using specialist and rudimentary equipment. Regardless of the weather, come rain or shine, all students engaged incredibly well and should be proud of themselves! Within the following few lessons, students spent some time reflecting upon their data collection methods, ready to be used within their paper 3 exams next year!



**Miss K McHale**  
**Teacher of Geography**



# Year 7 & 8 Geography News

## Year 7 - River Water Quality

Some year 7 students combined knowledge learnt within their science and geography lessons this year in order to help solve an environmental problem.

Students were given 3 mystery samples of water and a map of 3 possible sample sites. Using pH theory and some contextual knowledge that was provided, students had to consider where each water sample was collected from along the rivers course. This encouraged students to think about how physical (natural) and human uses of the land can influence the local environment before deciding which course of action would be the most suitable for areas of poor environmental quality.



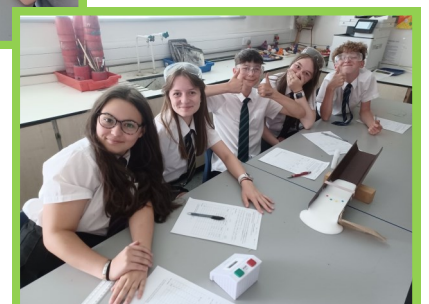
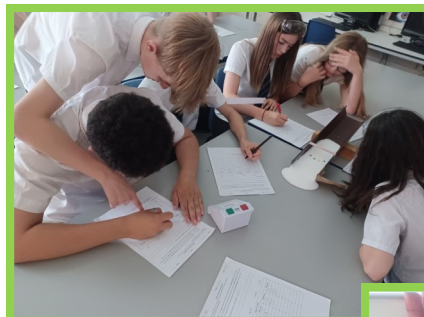
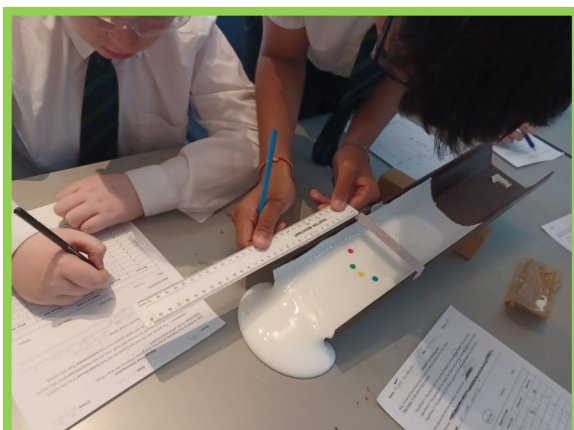
## Year 8 - Glacial Modelling

Some of our year 8 students had the opportunity to conduct a scientific investigation, looking at how we can predict what impacts our warming climate may have upon our glacial environments.

Students worked in 4 groups to monitor how glaciers flowed under regular conditions, and compared that to; where there is lots of melt-water, when the slope is steeper and when the bedrock is harder. The groups then compared their results and began to consider how their experimental modelling could give us insight into our future.



**Miss K McHale**  
**Teacher of Geography**



# Students Deliver Business Pitches

## Students share business ideas in Dragons' Den style pitches

Year 10 business studies students have recently been in 'The Den', as they deliver their business ideas to an external panel.

Over the last year the students, who study the OCR Cambridge National in Marketing and Enterprise, have been developing their own business ideas whilst following a scenario set out by their exam board. As part of their controlled assessment the students must develop a new product for a fictitious pizza business before delivering their ideas in a Dragons' Den style pitch to an external panel who formally witness each student's presentation.



The role of the 'Dragons' was filled by members of the Rugby Rokeby Lions who kindly gave up their time to listen to the students' pitches and support their studies.

Charlotte Gore, Faculty Leader for Computing and Business, said: "To develop their product the students have chosen a segment of the market, identified potential customers, completed market research, used creative skills to design their product, and assessed the product's financial viability"

Mrs Gore added: "The students have also designed a brand image including logo, strapline and celebrity endorsement, and have created a promotional campaign. All of this information is then shared in a business presentation to a panel of people they've not met before. This helps to build confidence and gives them a unique opportunity to showcase their talents."

John Nelson, President of Rugby Rokeby Lions said afterwards, 'We are always inspired by the enthusiasm and the creativity of these young people. We wish them every success for the future.'



Alison Davies, Headteacher, said: "This is an excellent opportunity for our students to gain experience that supports their learning, and to develop employability skills that will be useful to them in the future. We are very grateful to the Lions for coming into school to work with, and support, our students. I am delighted to hear that our students gave a good account of themselves during their pitches."

# Careers News

## **Work experience**

150 students went on placements for work experience with a variety of employers. When I visited them throughout the week, it was lovely to see them in the workplace, demonstrating many employability skills such as team work, problem solving and communication.

We have had fantastic feedback about our students, including;

*“The student is having a particularly good placement at Dewar Care Home. They said she was the best work experience person that they had had in a very, very long time. They have also told her that as soon as she turns 16, she can contact them and they would give her a Saturday job. She is welcome to do more work experience if she wants to at any time.”*

## **Marketing Me**

For those students who did not go on a placement, they were given the opportunity to think about Avon Valley as a work place. Students completed tasks set by Mr Phelan; they created a social media campaign for year 6 students and a press release about a recent PE event.

## **National Manufacturing Day 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022**



18 students visited Lisi Aerospace who opened their doors for National Manufacturing Day. The company on Butlers Leap Industrial Estate is a worldwide manufacturing specialist for assembly solutions as well as engine and structural components used for aircrafts. Students sat in the boardroom and discovered



the history of the company, before putting on the necessary Health and Safety PPE and having a tour of the factory. Students were interested in what the company was doing to attract women into engineering, apprenticeship opportunities and what the highest paid jobs in the company were!

## **Coventry University**

43 students visited Coventry University for a campus tour and a workshop. Workshops included themes of the law, horror lighting, fashion and nursing. Several students commented that they had not realised that they could go to university and it was something they would look into.

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](mailto:lowen@avonvalleyschool.uk)) or Mrs. Jones ([djones@avonvalleyschool.uk](mailto:djones@avonvalleyschool.uk)), or look at the information available on the school website: <https://avonvalleyschool.uk/>. Careers can be found in the curriculum tab at the top of the webpage.



**Mrs L Owen**

**Careers Lead**

# AVS Trips Day



On Friday 15th July all of our students had the opportunity to go on a trip or undertake an activity in school for the day.

Aqua Park

Leamington Boat Park

Retro computing museum

Clue HQ Coventry

Mountain Biking in Sherwood Forest

Jump

Warwick Castle

Twycross

Twinlakes

Rugby Ramble

Cinema

Go Karting

Board Games



# 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.

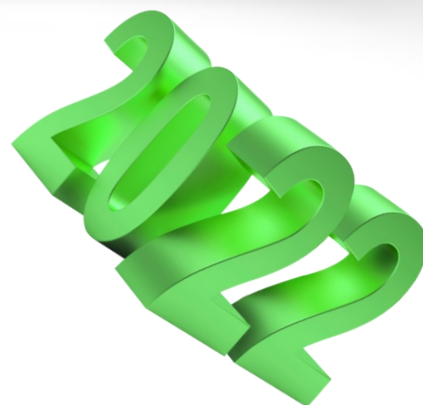
Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

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



# Dates for your diary

## September



5th Sept	Teacher Training Day
6th Sept	Years 7 & 11 in ONLY
6th Sept	Year 7 Photos
7th Sept	All students in school
15th Sept	Year 11 Geography Trip to Bristol
19th - 20th Sept	Year 7 Splash Days
22nd Sept	Open Evening
28th Sept	Year 10 trip to see Inspector Calls



Please see the code needed to enter the Fantasy Football league 2022/23 #AVSPE #House Competition

Fantasy Premier League

House Competition

**League Code**

Avon Valley School 22/23  
Code: h2zw5j

Sign up: [www.fantasypremierleague.com](http://www.fantasypremierleague.com)

Fantasy Premier League

BROUGHT TO YOU BY EA SPORTS

- On going house competition
- Free to sign up
- Open to all staff and students
- Must be current AVS student/ joining in Sep.
- Unlimited changes until season starts.
- £100m to spend on 15 players
- Appropriate team names only (will be suspended from competition)
- Track and make substitutions weekly
- Prizes for overall winners.



## Sports Day 2022



Wednesday 20th July



**AVS PE Superteam**



**Winners 2022**

**Apollo**

