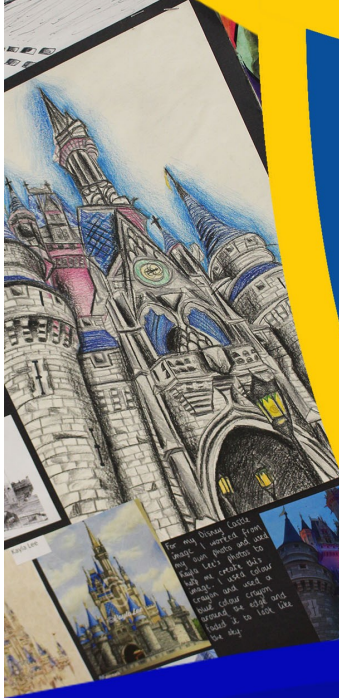


Editor Ms G Adamou



AVS Newsletter June 2023



Message from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have been enjoying the recent spell of sunny weather and have been able to spend time outside with friends and family. At school, it has been a pleasure to see students making use of the field during break and lunchtime with the fresh air being beneficial for everyone's wellbeing.

School has been very busy over the last few weeks, and the end of term seems to be accelerating towards us at pace as we look towards the last three and a half weeks of term.

Today, I welcomed Mark Pawsey, our local MP to the school. He had requested a meeting as he wished to congratulate us on our recent Ofsted report and to wish me the best for my impending retirement. We spent time discussing some of the many issues in education before taking the opportunity to watch Miss Wheatley and Miss Carpenter taking a group of students through their final rehearsal for a production, which is being prepared for the first of our Transition Days next week. We are really looking forward to welcoming the Year 6 students for their first day and I am sure they will all enjoy this production, which has been written especially for them.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have once again hosted the annual Primary Football Festival. Over the fortnight, nearly 600 primary school students spent the morning with us and around 75 of our Avon Valley Students took on the role of Junior Sports Leaders - an opportunity which goes towards the Junior Sports Leader Award qualification.

This evening we look forward to seeing our outgoing year 11 for the final time at their Prom. This is always a lovely event and as I write this article, I know that they will be busy glamming themselves up ready for this evening.

Next week, as well as welcoming our new Year 7 students for their induction days we will be out and about visiting our Year 10 students on their work experience placements. Before we reach the last day of term, we also have the annual Awards Evening to look forward to, along with Trips Day and Sports Day. It promises to be a busy and enjoyable end to my final school year and I hope to see as many students as possible engaging with all of the activities that we have on offer.



Alison Davies
Headteacher





Garrick House News



As we approach the end of a long school year, I would like to thank my colleagues in Garrick House for their incredible pastoral support, the students for their hard work and our parents and carers who have supported us throughout.

On many occasions in our House assemblies throughout the year, we have spoken about the importance of attending to the basics. These included our high expectations of behaviour, uniform, punctuality and attendance.

Our Year 7s have transitioned well throughout the year into secondary school and our Year 8 students have stepped up and have selected their Options. The Year 9 Garrick cohort have started their GCSE courses, with the Year 10s working hard to complete their English literature exam and organise work experience. Year 11 have shown great resilience during a tough and testing exam period.

As a House, we have accumulated **124,671** House points, which shows that many of our young students have demonstrated our core values on a daily basis. Being a PE teacher comes with a competitive nature and having been the Achievement Leader of Garrick House for three years, we are yet to win sports day!! I am challenging all students in Garrick to dress in green, participate and support all members of our House. Working together as a team often ends in success.

Have a restful summer, Ms Masters and I look forward to working with you again in September.

Student Leadership

This time of year always comes with reflections as well as the opportunity to look ahead. Firstly, I would like to thank all of the students who have been part of the student leadership team in 2022/23.

On Monday 19th June, the Achievement Leaders of each House together with our new Headteacher, Mr Francis, enjoyed interviewing Year 10 students for senior positions in school. Students applied to be Head boy or girl as well as Events and House Captains. We are now working towards our school election, to vote for our new student leadership team for the next academic year.

I am currently accepting applications from Year 9 students who would like to become a Year 10 Faculty Prefect. All faculties want to work with student leaders to support their faculties, from Maths through to PE. These prefects will become mentors for the new Year 7 students who are joining The Avon Valley School.

We are also due to appoint our Year 7 buddies before the transition days in July. Students have written a letter of application explaining why they would like to support the new members of The Avon Valley community from September.

If you know of any individuals or companies that would like to work with our student leaders to support them in developing their leadership skills, please contact me via email at chartfield@avonvalleyschool.uk

Mr C Hartfield

Achievement Leader - Garrick House





Alumni Football Success

Former Student Heading to the USA on Football Scholarship

Dan's footballing journey is set to continue in the States.

In the summer, a former student will be heading to the USA after being offered a football scholarship at an American university.

Eighteen-year-old, Dan Coles, left Avon Valley in 2020 in the midst of the pandemic crisis. Whilst at school talented sportsman, Dan, not only played for the school's football team, but also played at county and district level. After leaving Avon Valley, Dan joined the local football academy and went from strength to strength under the tutelage of the academy's coaches, and became an integral part of the academy's team.



In December 2021, Dan was part of the academy team that faced Cheltenham Town FC in the FA Youth Cup third-round. Dan's team, Rugby Town Academy, who moved to Rugby Borough Academy at the beginning of this season, were one of just two teams from outside the football league to progress to that stage of the competition. Sadly, the academy team were knocked out of the competition but made history as it was the furthest the academy had progressed. In addition, Dan has regularly played semi-professionally for local side Lutterworth Athletic FC as vice-captain.



In August, Dan will pack his boots and jet across the Atlantic as he heads to Carson Newman University, Tennessee; where he will begin a four-year football scholarship that will combine playing football with academic studies.

Headteacher, Alison Davies said, "This is a fantastic opportunity for Dan who has continued to pursue his footballing dream since leaving us at AVS. As a school we've built up a fantastic link with Rugby Borough FC Academy and many of our students are progressing at the academy, just like Dan has."

Miss Davies, added, "We all wish Dan the very best of luck for when he heads to America in August."





Royal Opera House Talk



SPEAKERS
for schools

500 students learn about CEO's career pathway

On Tuesday 6th June, over 500 students heard from Alex Beard who is the CEO of the National Opera House, as part of an event organised by Speakers for Schools – a charity that links schools and industry leaders.

The Royal Opera House is a major performing arts venue in Covent Garden, London, and employs over 1,000 permanent staff. The organisation is led by Chief Executive, Alex Beard CBE and is dedicated to nurturing, creating and sharing world-class opera, ballet and theatre craft.

The opera house includes many departments including: audience and media, estates and facilities, finance, learning and participation, operations, IT and HR, and visitor experience.

During the virtual presentation Avon Valley's students learned about the wide range of jobs available including: carpenters, set designers, lighting and sound engineers as well as dancers and opera singers. The students were also told about apprenticeship opportunities, and how they can apply for over 20 apprenticeships that are currently offered by the National Opera House



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE



Avon Valley's careers lead, Lisa Owen, said "This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to hear about the career pathway that has taken Alex all the way to the top of the Royal Opera House. Our students learned that many careers happen by chance, and if Alex had not applied for a temporary position with the Arts Council, he would never have the influential job he has today".



Headteacher, Alison Davies said, "It is really important that our students hear about opportunities available to them and we are grateful to Alex for speaking to our students and also to Speakers for School for putting us in touch. I'd also like to thank Mrs Owen for arranging the event here at AVS and for making so many careers events possible for our students."





Bradby Club Refurbishment

Students Get Hands On With Decorating Project Project revamps club for young people

A group of students recently rolled up their sleeves and got stuck into a DIY-project that has helped them learn new skills, gain a qualification, and give something back to the local community.

The students, from Year 9 and Year 10, were given the chance to take part in the 'Volunteer it Yourself' project which gives young people aged 14-24 the opportunity to learn vocational trade skills, gain a qualification and improve their employability, whilst volunteering to help the local community.

The students' project took them to The Bradby Club, in Rugby, where they were responsible for painting and freshening up a number of rooms at the community facility. Using brushes, rollers and many litres of paint, the students developed both their decorating and team working skills. Upon completion of the project, and having been mentored by professional tradespeople, each student was awarded an entry level City & Guilds certificate.

Mark, a mentor with Volunteer It Yourself, sent a message to the school saying that the students were "a credit to your school".



Alison Davies, Headteacher, said, "We have been involved with a number of projects with VIY and this is something that the students have thoroughly enjoyed. It benefits them hugely as it helps them to develop their confidence and develop skills wouldn't have opportunity to in the classroom."





Bradby Club Refurbishment





KS1 Football Festival

Earlier this month, we hosted the annual KS1 Football Festival organised by the School Sports Partnership, where we saw 18 local primary schools attend one of six events.

We are very proud of our young aspiring Sports Leaders, a total of 80 of whom, from years 8-10, were tasked with delivering a variety of football related activities. The leaders certainly rose to the challenge and represented both themselves and AVS exceptionally well. A special mention goes to Naomi Mba, Freya Lee and Cameron Brown, who were identified by the organisers as being 'outstanding' young leaders.



Harris Sports Academy quoted: 'Another group of amazing sports leaders from @AvonValleySchPE Thank you all for your energy & enthusiasm this morning & thanks to @AvonValleySch for kindly hosting our 2nd KS1 Football Festival'.



Mrs L Jackson

Faculty Leader - Physical Education





Physical Education News

Half Term Six in AVS PE has been just like the previous five... busy, with wonderful effort and achievements a plenty!

This time of year is Athletics season, which brings the much-awaited District Town Athletics Championship at The Queen Diamond Jubilee Centre. For the first time, the event was split over two dates, with Years 9-11 competing at the end of May and the Year 7-8 event taking place on Wednesday 28th June.

In our PE lessons, we completed a whole curriculum block entitled Maximum Performance, which sees all students competing and giving their very best in running, jumping and throwing events. The Town Champs is always a hard fought event, seeing us compete against strong opponents in the area; Rugby School and Princethorpe always have strong squads in attendance.

To all of our AVS athletes, well done on your efforts and for representing the school so gallantly. We simply ask that everyone gives his or her all, which every single athlete most certainly did.

Everyone had a great time in the glorious weather and we enjoyed many successes both on the track and in the field.

Special mention to **Rubie Hurst-Macnell** in Year 9 who stepped up at the last minute to compete in the relay team. The girls would not have been able to compete without her team skills, care and selflessness. To see hordes of AVS students cheering her on, spoke volumes about Rubie and the school's team ethos and morale.

Notable successes also were:

Year 9: Zinedine Hussain – Winner, 100m

Year 10: Kofi Ofose – Winner, 200m

Year 9: Chelsea Adams – Runner Up, Shot Put

From this event - **Chelsea Adams and Krishaun Thompson** were selected to represent Eastern Warwickshire in The County Championships in Nuneaton.

Chelsea did really well to come fourth in the whole of Warwickshire throwing 7m 41cm.

In addition, Krishaun (Year 11), who was unable to attend the Town Champs due to GCSE exam commitments, is a bit of a star in the making, and was selected on scores entered. Krishaun was a double sprint champion in the 100m, finishing in a fabulous time of 11.4 seconds, and he won the 200m in 22.9 seconds... Look out Usain Bolt, Krishaun is hot on your heels!

Well done to all involved.

Yours in Sport.

Mr R Dignum

Teacher of Physical Education





Paris Trip

Three weeks ago, 90 students in years 7 and 8 took part in the French trip to Paris. After a “not so smooth” ferry crossing, and a stop at Vimy Ridge war memorial, we reached the PGL Château de Grande Romaine in good time and ready to settle in for the evening.

On Saturday, students walked up the steps to the famous Sacré Coeur church and then enjoyed some free time on Place du Tertre in Montmartre, where they saw artists painting tourists’ portraits and where they visited some souvenir shops. This was followed by a picnic lunch at the foot of the Eiffel tower and a boat trip down the river Seine, where students learned about famous Parisian landmarks and bridges along the way.

On Sunday morning, there was a lot of excitement as we were on our way to Disneyland! Students spent the day in the park and experienced the rides, met some Disney characters and did some shopping!

As the weather was very good on Saturday and Sunday, students got to use the swimming pool at the PGL centre to cool down after 2 busy days, and on Monday we travelled back to the UK.

Overall, students’ behaviour was excellent all weekend and we all had a great time. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Bearpark, Miss Davies, Mrs Noonan, Miss Glassborow, Mrs Hallam, Mrs Perks, Miss Partridge, Mr Pearson, Mr Whitehead, Mr Barnes and Mr Linnell for giving up their time and for contributing to the success of the weekend, by ensuring all students had a safe and enjoyable trip.



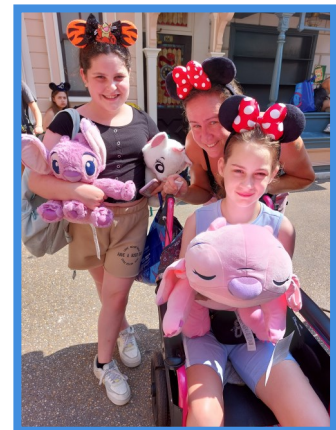
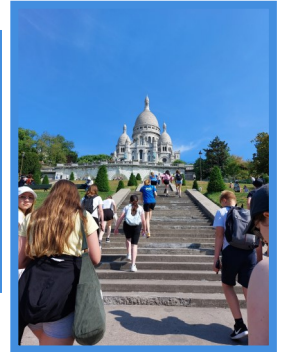
Miss Labreize

Achievement Leader - Apollo





Paris Trip





Business, Computing and Media News

For the last few weeks, our focus has been on identifying what we can add into the curriculum during the 2023-24 academic year. This has meant that students have been able to trial some fantastic new software that will be introduced to students in years 7, 8 and 9 from September.

iKitMovie is a stop motion animation software that has been trialled with groups in year 7. Students have been using basic paper shapes to create short animations focussing on great feats of engineering. This software will be introduced to all year 7 students next year during the Spring term, and will also be used during an extracurricular club in which students will animate with lego and plasticine.



ComicLife has been installed across the school and will be used within a year 8 unit next year. Students will initially use Photoshop to manipulate images that can then be uploaded into ComicLife and edited further to create realistic comic book stories. This software will also be used with year 10 students as they complete their Creative iMedia coursework.



Students in year 9 have been introduced to 'The Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award', known as iDEA, and have really taken to it. They have accessed the award through the online portal and have already started to complete the necessary tasks in each of the 4 categories; citizen, worker, maker and entrepreneur. When a student achieves 50 points in each area, plus an extra 50 points from any category, they will complete the bronze award and receive a certificate that can go into their record of achievement. If students then wish to continue onto the silver and gold awards, they will be able to do so by attending after school sessions in the next academic year.



Mr M Owen
Subject Leader - Media Studies





Geography News

On Friday 16th June, eighty-four GCSE Geography students visited Bristol.

There is no longer a formal piece of coursework to complete in GCSE Geography, but the specification does require us to offer our Geography students more opportunities to engage with a variety of physical and urban environments through fieldwork.

Bristol is an important case study in the 'Changing Urban Environments' topic, as it has experienced significant regeneration in recent years, and is a great example of a successful and sustainable city.

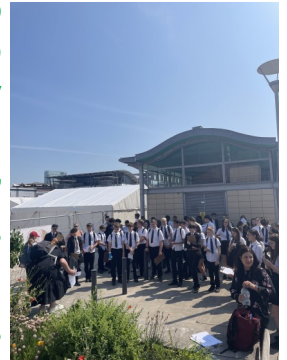
The first part of our Bristol tour took us to Millennium Square and Queens Square, which are fantastic examples of sustainable urban spaces.

Following this, we went to Bristol's Floating Harbour, which gave us a real sense of how life might have been during the height of the harbour's trading past.

The final part of our visit took us through the old town of Bristol and then into the modern Broadmead shopping district, which is home to the Cabot Circus. Here, we spent some time assessing the social and economic opportunities that the area has created.

Overall, we had a fantastic day; the roads were clear, the weather was great and the students were well behaved and a real credit to the school.

Year 10 Geographers have also been on a Geography Field Trip to the local river to investigate how the characteristics change downstream and gather data, which will aid them when sitting their exam in year 11.



Mrs K Collins

Assistant Head & KS4 Subject Leader - Geography





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

July/Sept

3rd - 7th July	Year 10 Work Experience week
5th & 10th July	Year 6 Induction Days
5th July	Strike Day - No students in school only Year 6
7th July	Strike Day - No students in school
13th July	Awards Evening
14th - 16th July	PGL Residential Trip to Caythorpe Court
20th July	Sports Day
21st July	Whole school activity day
25th July	Last day of term - 12.35pm finish
4th Sept	Teacher training day
5th Sept	Years 7 & 11 in school only
5th Sept	Years 7 Photographer in school
6th Sept	All students in school
18th & 19th Sept	Year 7 Splash days
20th Sept	Dance/Drama students to see Metamorphosis
21st Sept	Year 5 Open Evening





HPV Schedule Changes from September 2023

From 1st September 2023, the HPV vaccine programme changing

What does this mean for your child?

- ◆ **CURRENT YEAR 8 PUPILS** - If your child has received one dose of HPV vaccine, they are fully vaccinated and **will not require a 2nd dose.**
- ◆ **ALL OTHER YEARS** – If your child has already received at least one dose of the vaccine prior to Sept 2023, **they will not require a 2nd dose.**
- ◆ **MISSED HPV VACCINATION** – If your child has missed the HPV vaccine at school, please contact the Immunisation Team on the contact details at the bottom of this letter.

What are the schedule changes to HPV vaccines?

- ◆ The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme is changing from 1st September 2023.
- ◆ The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) have advised that one dose is shown to be just as effective as two doses at providing protection from HPV infection.
- ◆ From Sept 2023, all children that receive their vaccine in school will require only one dose of the HPV vaccine. Those who have already received one dose of the vaccine prior to Sept 2023 will be considered fully vaccinated.
- ◆ Adolescents and gay and bisexual men and men who have sex with men (GBMSM) aged under 25 years, will only need one dose of the HPV vaccine from 1 September 2023, instead of two.
- ◆ A two dose schedule will still be in place for gay and bisexual men and men who have sex with men that are aged 25 up to the age of 45.
- ◆ A three dose schedule will still be in place for those that are living with HIV or known to be immunocompromised at the time of vaccination.

SAIS Contact Information:

**North Warwickshire School Aged Immunisation Service
Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership Trust**

Tel: 02476 321550

