

Editor Ms G Adamou



# AVS Newsletter January 2022





Dear Parents and Carers,

A rather belated Happy New Year to you all; I do hope that the year has got off to a positive start for you.

Returning to school this January, we have continued our focus on punctuality to school and I am pleased to inform you that we have seen a huge improvement since September. As you know, students who are late to school are expected to attend a 15-minute break detention and the majority do this assiduously. A small number of students either forget or make the choice not to attend, and, as of next week, we are changing our system slightly to encourage these young people to make the correct decision. From January 31<sup>st</sup>, the small number of students who fail to attend the 'late detention' at break will go into a same day after school detention for 30 minutes.

Enabling our students to have wider opportunities is a key objective for our school and we are fortunate to have been visited by the Navy today. They led a fantastic session in the catering area, running a 'Ready, Steady, Cook' competition. I know all the students involved had a great time and they certainly produced some fantastic food. We were also visited by Quantum Theatre Company this week who joined us to perform 'A Christmas Carol' for year 10. The students really enjoyed the performance and were impeccably behaved – in short, they were everything you would want an audience to be. This was a really important opportunity for the students as it supports their learning for the English Literature GCSE that they take later in the year.

I wrote to you recently regarding the very high level of Covid absences that we are seeing within the school at the moment, and I cannot let this opportunity pass without once again encouraging you to test your children weekly, on Sunday and Thursday, to try to ensure that they are not in school whilst they have the virus. Despite the high number of student cases (over 200 since we returned three weeks ago), we have been fortunate that staff absence levels have remained manageable so far and I hope that, with regular testing in our school community, we can maintain a healthy workforce so that your children have their own teachers in front of them in the classroom.



Alison Davies  
Headteacher

# Apollo House News

I was very pleased to look at the latest figures from staff regarding Apollo students' attitude to learning just before Christmas, and many of you have received a positive email regarding your child's work and progress. Below are the names of students with the highest "attitude to learning" average in Apollo in December, along with the 3 students in each year group who currently have the highest number of positive points, well done to all!

If you have not done it already, I strongly recommend that you download the (free) Sims Parent app on your phone as you will then be able to see your child's progress checks across the year, and Class Charts, to monitor the daily positive and negative points issued by their teachers.

As ever, if you have any queries or concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to contact their form tutor, myself ([clabreize@avonvalleyschool.uk](mailto:clabreize@avonvalleyschool.uk)) or Miss Hicks, our Student Welfare Leader ([lhicks@avonvalleyschool.uk](mailto:lhicks@avonvalleyschool.uk)).

**Carole Labreize**

**Achievement Leader – Apollo House**



Top ATL average – December 2021		
AWANG Emelia	8SGL	5.57
BARTHA Henrietta	11MWH	5.57
ISSITT Niamh	11RDI	5.57
HUSSAIN Zaylie	11RDI	5.56
PAGET-KENT Connie	10GCH	5.5
RANA Nikisha	11MWH	5.5
CHEN Laura	11MWH	5.43
WHITINGTON Keira	10GCH	5.38
FRANCIS Zara	9JMO	5.33
MORARU Vlada	10IGO	5.33
BOSWELL Ellie	11RDI	5.33
ROWE Bailey	11RDI	5.33
SAUNDERS Esme	11MWH	5.33
AWANG Evie	11RDI	5.29
CUARESMA Ciarra	11RDI	5.29

Apollo top House point scorers so far this year					
Year 7		Year 8		Year 9	
Cristal Asare 7AKA	415	Emelia Awang 8SGL	415	Erin Braithwaite 9ECA	325
Zoha Saeed 7AKA	412	Anu Johnson 8SGL	375	George Docker 9ECA	314
Kallum Mackley 7AMU	394	Lily McNally 8SGL	375	Jamie Barnard 9JMO	309
Year 10		Year 11			
Grace Austin 10IGO	287	Ciarra Cuaresma 11RDI	298		
Paige Harden 10IGO	282	Niamh Issitt 11RDI	284		
Sam Mohammed 10IGO	276	Zaylie Hussain 11RDI	283		

# NCS Programme

Last week the National Citizen Service Team (NCS) held a virtual assembly with all Year 11 students to inform them about a fantastic opportunity available to them over the summer holidays. Today students are taking home a letter about the NCS summer opportunities.



The NCS programme offers young people, aged 16-17 (or age 15 and in Year 11), a once in a lifetime opportunity to do something meaningful during their summer break, as well as a chance to develop key skills for employment whilst taking on new challenges that will set them up for adult life. They'll also do something good for their local community, carrying out a project to support a cause they care about. We've seen first-hand what an amazing feeling of accomplishment and increased confidence this brings. Throughout 2021, teenagers on NCS donated 500,000 hours of their time to help rebuild their communities following the pandemic, showing what a difference young people can make when they work together towards a goal.

## What is involved in the NCS programme?

- Week 1 (Mon-Fri): BE EPIC & LIVE LIFE - 4 night Residential (Location TBC).
- This week combines 2 phases of the programme. The BE EPIC phase involves team building activities and outdoor pursuits all aimed to get the young people out of their comfort zone and mixing socially with new friends. The LIVE LIFE phase is all about developing independence and key skills for the future. Your teen will be able to network with local employers, engage with charities and organisations from across the West Midlands.
- Week 2 (Mon-Fri): DO GOOD - Non-residential - 9am-5pm (local venue to you).
- During the DO GOOD phase, the young people will team up with a local charity/organisation of their choice and undertake a rewarding project in their community. They will complete volunteering hours and utilise all the new skills they've acquired.

A place on NCS is worth up to £1200. The programme is government funded meaning the cost to take part in NCS is only **£50**.

**If you receive additional financial benefits or your teenager receives pupil premium funding the cost of the programme can be reduced to £10!**

## **NCS programme dates in the Summer:**

Wave 1	Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> June to Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	2 Weeks	£50*
Wave 2	Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> July to Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	2 Weeks	£50*
Wave 3	Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> July to Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022	2 Weeks	£50*
Wave 4	Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> July to Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> August 2022	2 Weeks	£50*
Wave 5	Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> August to Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> August 2022	2 Weeks	£50*

\*Bursaries are available for eligible students

Students have been handed information packs with further details about the programme and information on how to register. **To book your teenager's place go to [wearencs.com](http://wearencs.com)** and click the 'register now' button in the top right hand corner. Registration takes around 5 minutes. If you have any questions or don't think the above dates will work with your summer plans, give the local NCS team a call on **0116 240 7007** or

**Email [NCS@leics-ebc.org.uk](mailto:NCS@leics-ebc.org.uk)**

**The Avon Valley School endorses the NCS programme and encourages all students to take part.** NCS is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop some of the key skills sought by employers. It is without doubt an amazing opportunity. Previous AVS students have had a wonderful time and I am delighted that NCS are offering this experience to the class of 2022.

**Mrs Owen – Achievement Leader & Careers Lead – Avon Valley School**



# Careers News

This month all students have had the opportunity to think about their employability skills by watching the video clips in the Google Classroom. Year 7 have begun the careers topic: Growing throughout life; a topic about our careers journey and the world of work. Year 11 students have heard from the NCS about their amazing summer offer – along with learning about references, continuing with their 1:1 interviews and receiving a presentation on T- Levels, which are offered by Warwickshire College.

## T Levels

T Levels are new courses which follow GCSEs and are equivalent to 3 A levels. These 2-year courses, which launched in September 2020, have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry, and prepares students for work, further training or study. At Warwickshire College the following T Levels are available for study beginning in September 2022:

**T-LEVELS**  
**THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION**

- Building Services for Construction - Royal Leamington Spa College and Rugby College
- Digital Support Services - Royal Leamington Spa College
- Engineering (Manufacturing, Design & Development) - Warwick Trident College and Rugby College
- Health - Royal Leamington Spa College and

**Mrs Owen – Achievement Leader & Careers Lead – Avon Valley School**



The Avon Valley School and Performing Arts College

## Uniform Donations



We are always very grateful to receive items of uniform that students have outgrown or no longer need.

We can use items uniform in school or make them available to other families, via the School Gateway.

Any items that are still in usable condition can be dropped off in our reception area.

# Ready Steady Cook



Year 10 students have recently had the Royal Navy join them in their Food Technology lessons. Great fun was had by all students who took part in a Ready Steady Cook activity; An interactive Master Chef style lesson in which the class was presented with a box of ingredients. Students had to create a main and desert within one hour. The Royal Navy team supported the students to successfully complete the challenge as well as providing an excellent opportunity to practice the employability skills - initiative, teamwork, communication and time keeping. Students also watched a presentation explaining the roles of the Catering Service Branch, career opportunities, service life, educational gains, sporting and social opportunities and a general oversight into the career of Royal Navy personnel.



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 Owen – Achievement Leader & Careers Lead – Avon Valley School**





# Medal Success

## AVS stalwart scoops an impressive number of medals at dance festival

A Year 11 student has recently scooped an impressive haul of 18 medals at a qualifier for a regional dance competition

Megan Gyles, who is the school's head girl, competed at the Four Counties Dance Festival, in Tamworth, which took place over four consecutive Sundays in November. At the dance event Megan achieved a medal place in every dance she competed in, this included solos in ballet, modern dance and musical theatre.

By the end of the competition Megan had been presented with six gold medals, six silver medals, six bronze medals, and had qualified for the All England Dance Regional Finals which will be held next May.

Alison Davies, Headteacher, said, "Megan is a fantastic ambassador for The Avon Valley School, since joining us she has always worked hard, tried her best and got involved – especially with our performing arts department. It is brilliant to hear that Megan achieved so many medals at the dance festival and that she has now qualified for the next stage of the competition. I wish her all the best and look forward to hearing how she does."



# Science News

## Lego Club

Each week a group of 6 Year 7s and a couple of Year 8 students have been working on constructing their own Spike Lego models, following building instructions from the [Spike Lego Prime Kits](#). Now complete, the students have begun using scratch programming to write commands that will make their models move and engage with obstacles.



It is Mr Mushing and the students' hope to attend the [National Lego League contest](#) and eventually compete in the Lego and Scratch Programming challenges.

## Year 7 Science Club with Prefects

Over the last term, the Year 10 science prefects have been running, with the supervision of Mr Whitehead, a science club for Year 7 students. It has been a delight to see the joy and enthusiasm these students have for science and in particular the activities the Year 10 prefects have planned for them.

Students have so far taken part in;

- ⇒ Building [Scribble Robots](#) - little robots with pens attached to them that created doodle images when the motors are turned on.
- ⇒ [Oobleck](#) - a non-newtonian fluid made from corn-starch and water. This fun substance acts like a liquid until force is applied to it, at this point it takes on the properties of a solid.
- ⇒ Tried out several different chemical reactions which created a very memorable experience for those in attendance, when the fire alarm was accidentally set off.
- ⇒ Finally over a period of two weeks the students also designed and created Rockets.



Over the next term, the Year 10 prefects will continue working with Year 7s to explore a variety of chemical reactions to see what happens and to continue inspiring a future generation of scientists.



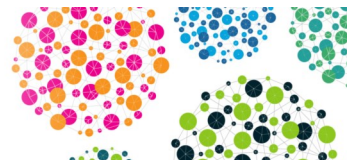
**Mrs R Spencer-Woodcock**

**Acting Assistant Faculty Leader/Teacher of Science and Chemistry**



# Science News

11-20 March  
British  
Science  
Week  
2022



March sees the return of “British Science Week” here at Avon Valley. Each year we celebrate science, engineering, technology and maths during this 10 day period by providing opportunities for our Year 7 and Year 8 classes to engage in a variety of activities linked to the theme of the year.

## This year’s theme is..... Growth!

A fitting theme for what has been a turbulent period for us all. Examples of growth can be found within all subjects and all around making it an excellent starting point for celebrating the sciences. Between the 11th and 20th March students will participate in several “Growth” related activities during their science lessons; from exploring careers to expanding their experimental skills.

In addition to the activities taking place in school. The British Science Week Organisation will also be running their annual [Poster competition](#):

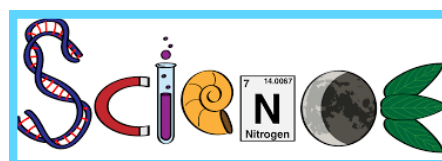
*The theme for British Science Week 2022 poster competition is ‘Growth’.*

*The deadline for entering the competition is 5pm on the 15 April 2022. The link to submit your entry and details on the prizes on offer will be available soon. Your poster could explore a tadpole’s journey into a fully grown adult frog, or look at the ways population growth is affecting the planet. For inspiration on poster ideas, check out the [2021 winners here!](#)*

For more information on how the posters will be judged, prizes, key rules and how to enter, check out their website: <https://www.britishscienceweek.org/plan-your-activities/poster-competition/>

## Science after school support

With the summer examinations fast approaching, we wanted to make you aware of the multiple science after school support sessions that will be running this term.



### Tuesday

Mrs Davis will be running a Year 9 and Year 10 GCSE Combined science support session until 4pm in Sc5. These sessions cover content taught during Year 9, in particular GCSE content that is covered, and encourages students to begin their science revision early on.

Mr Mushing will be running a Triple Science Chemistry revision support session until 4pm in SC1. These sessions tackle content taught throughout the entire Triple Science Chemistry course and therefore in particular targets supporting Year 11 students.

Mrs Spencer-Woodcock will be running a GCSE Combined science support session until 3:40 in SC2. These sessions will be particularly focused on Combined science basics for those completing the AQA Entry Level course.

### Thursday

Mr Massey will be running a GCSE Combined science support session until 4pm in Sc4. These sessions tackle content taught throughout the entire GCSE Combined Science course and therefore in particular targets supporting Year 11 students.

Mrs Spencer-Woodcock will be running a Triple Science Chemistry revision support session until 4pm in Sc7. These sessions tackle content taught throughout the entire Triple Science Chemistry course and therefore in particular targets supporting Year 11 students.

### Friday

Mr Goldthorp will be running a Triple Science Biology revision support session until 4pm in SC3. These sessions tackle content taught throughout the entire Triple Science Biology course and therefore in particular targets supporting Year 11 students.

# Geography News



There has never been a more important time to study geography. With the growing importance of issues such as; climate change, migration, environmental damage and inequalities, geography enables our students to explore and understand the ever changing world around them. We geographers pride ourselves in being able to critique and solve issues happening in the world around us, we do this in our geography lessons by 'thinking', 'speaking' and 'writing' like a geographer

Thinking like a geographer means breaking issues or concepts down into their necessary components. Speaking like a geographer means using subject specific terminology and vocabulary and Writing like a geographer encourages students to justify and explain opinions in a clear, balanced way. By following these three steps we are enabling students to achieve better and boost their confidence as global geographers!

This term year 7 students are studying the topic of settlement, this builds on the map skills learned last term and begins to develop their decision making skills, when they take on the role of Town Planner, having to decide where a new housing estate should be built. Year 7 students are also being encouraged to utilise their geographical mapping skills by partaking in our creative house competition 'Treasure Island'. Students can collect a sheet from their geography teacher, or the social studies office, for the chance of winning a prize and some house points! Deadline is the 16th February, 2022.



Year 8 students have been trying their hand at making decisions regarding important current issues, such as deforestation of the rainforests and climate change! They have learnt about the background, causes, and impacts of these contemporary issues, before making critical decisions regarding the future of our planet.

Last term, students learnt about the power of our planet through the Natural Hazards unit, focusing upon volcanoes and earthquakes. They then practised their danger management skills taking on the role of a Disaster Manager, this saw them making decisions about how to reduce risk to the people during a mock volcanic eruption. Well done to those who kept a level head and saved lives!



**Miss K McHale**

**Teacher of Geography**



# Geography News

Year 9 Learning for Life lessons in geography have enabled students to understand how globalisation affects trade and evaluate the impacts of the global fashion industry. Students are currently considering the importance of the Middle East and its global influence. Year 9 GCSE students have begun to look at development; how it is defined, measured and critiqued at both global and regional scales. Students have also been encouraged to explore and evaluate the strategies that help to reduce the global development gap.



Students in year 10 have just started their new topic about Bristol. This in-depth study builds on the knowledge gained last term which looked at the UK economy. This is a very interesting topic that looks at the post-industrial economy of the UK and encourages students to evaluate the strategies that are in place to address regional differences. The first set of end of topic assessments have shown that year

10 has hit the ground running and we want to congratulate those who are working incredibly hard, both within and outside of lessons.

As our year 11 geographers embark on their final topic, I would like to wish them the very best of luck as they move towards the final few challenges. We urge them to stay focussed and commit to a regular revision plan and complete all homework tasks. Homework tasks are carefully planned to cover all previous learning so completing them is an integral part of their revision and exam preparation. If you need any support, advice or resources please do hesitate to contact their geography teacher who will be happy to help.

**Miss K McHale**

**Teacher of 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.

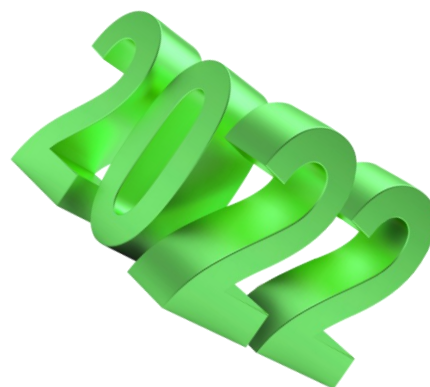
**Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority**



# Dates for your diary

## February

7th Feb	Splash Day
17th Feb	Year 8 Parents' Evening
21st - 25th Feb	Half Term
28th Feb	Teacher Training Day
1st March	All students in 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.



**ClassCharts**

Students, parents and carers, can use the Class Charts app/website to...



View timetables  
Keep up to date with attendance data  
See positive, and negative, behaviour points  
Receive detention notifications  
Access information sent from the school



To begin visit: <https://www.classcharts.com/parent/login>

# Register your bike

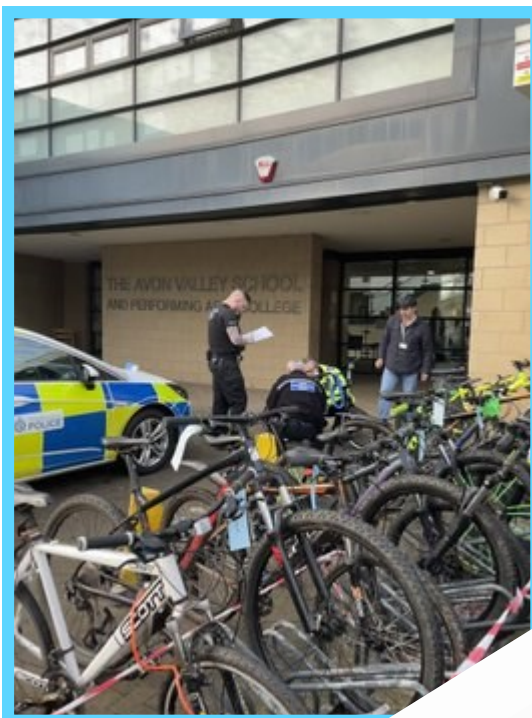
## Local neighbourhood police team visit school to protect bikes

A team from Rugby Police Station recently visited the school to add security markings to bikes belonging to the school's students.

The school was initially approached by Cllr Wayne Rabin, councillor for Newbold and Brownsover ward, who helped to organise the event in collaboration with the local police team and school. On the morning of the bike marking event around 30 students opted to protect their bike by having it security marked and added to the BikeRegister.

Registering on BikeRegister means an owner can be reunited with their bike in the event of it being stolen. The details of bikes registered are held on a secure online database which all UK police forces have access to.

Alison Davies, Headteacher, said, "It is always wonderful to see that many of our students use a bike to travel to and from school. This is good because it's sustainable, eco-friendly, and has health and wellbeing benefits. We're, therefore, very grateful that the local policing team took time to visit our school, engage with our students and help them to protect their property from theft. We hope the team will visit us again to mark even more bikes."



 **Bike Register**<sup>®</sup>  
The National Cycle Database





# Drop Everything and Read

On Monday 10th January we began our 'Drop Everything and Read' (DEAR) initiative from the Book Trust organisation. This is part of the BookBuzz scheme that we will be following to encourage students to pick up a book and read it.

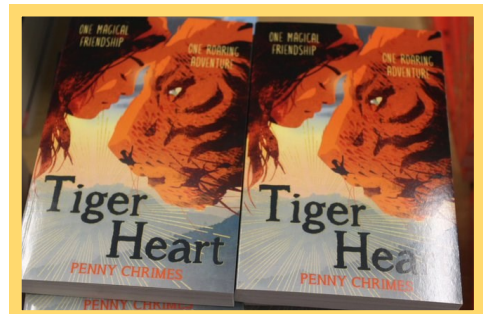
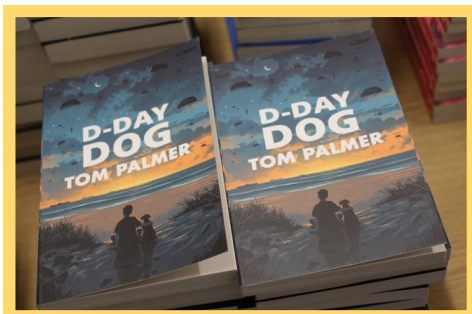
Two of the books chosen by students were Tiger Heart by Penny Chrimes and D-Day Dog by Tom Palmer and these were read in one of the DEAR sessions.



Booktrust are the UK's largest reading charity and reach millions of children every year with books, resources and support to get every child reading, regularly and by choice.

They work on a national scale and operate in every region in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. They work through every local authority, via children's centres, schools, libraries and health professionals, to reach the families who need them most.

From running the Children's Laureate to giving out books to families and schools, running exciting reading campaigns or celebrating the very best children's books with their prizes, everything they do aims to inspire children – from babies to teenagers – to get started on their reading journeys.



# Local Interests

**RUGBY BOROUGH FC**

## PLAYERS WANTED

### RUGBY BOROUGH WOMEN 16+

COME AND TRAIN WITH US AT OUR WORLD CLASS FACILITIES



Rugby Borough Women are looking to build on the success of 2021 and require additional players from 16+.



**FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT**  
**INFO@RUGBYBOROUGHFC.CO.UK**



E: [info@aspireinarts.org](mailto:info@aspireinarts.org)  
T: 07885276691 / 07809627934  
F: [Facebook.com/aspireinarts](https://www.facebook.com/aspireinarts)  
W: [www.aspireinarts.org](http://www.aspireinarts.org)

Presents  
**BEATS, BARS AND BANTER**

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SINGING, MC'ING, SONG WRITING, MUSIC PRODUCTION, PLAYING AN INSTRUMENT, STREET DANCE, AND PERFORMING LIVE AGED 11-25?

Then get in touch with us and join our EXCITING YOUTH MUSIC PROJECT,  
Every Thursday 4.00 - 6.30pm at Hill Street Youth Centre, Rugby



CONTACT US: [FACEBOOK@ASPIREINARTS](https://www.facebook.com/aspireinarts)  
[INFO@ASPIREINARTS.ORG](mailto:INFO@ASPIREINARTS.ORG)  
07885276691 OR 07809627934

**COST: 50p PER SESSION**

PLACES ARE LIMITED SO PLEASE CONTACT US ASAP TO SECURE YOUR PLACE



**RECRUITMENT IS OPEN NOW!**

## INTERESTED IN POLICING?

Keen to make a difference in your community?  
Looking for a new opportunity?