

Editor Ms G Adamou



AVS Newsletter March 2023



# Message from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm writing this month's newsletter piece whilst returning from The Belgrade Theatre Coventry, where I have had the pleasure of joining the Performing Arts department on a trip to see 'Blood Brothers'. The performance was excellent, as was the behaviour of our students - both on the coach and in the theatre. The visit was a valuable reminder of the significance of the performing arts within our school and the importance of school visits in widening the cultural capital of our students. A big thankyou to Miss Wheatley for organising the trip - her 30th to Blood Brothers! - which is often part of the GCSE specification.

This week I have also spent time with the students in the termly gold book assemblies. Although some students like to act a little blasé as they accept their achievement badge and certificate, it is clear that all of them are actually delighted, and they soon have the badges attached to their lapels.

Teachers and students are always tired by the end of term, and the arrival of Ofsted last week required staff and students to dig deep to show the school at its best for our visitors. At the end of the inspection, the lead inspector asked me to thank our students for their wonderful welcome to AVS and complimented them on their good manners and their positive response to the inspection team. The outcome of the inspection remains confidential until it is published a few weeks after the Easter Holiday and I look forward to sharing the report with you as soon as we receive it.

This time of year in Year 11 is a real pressure point for students as they struggle to reach controlled assessment deadlines, complete their practical exams in Art, and take part in their practice spoken language exams. With just 6 weeks before the exams start, students really need to put the hours in and it is vital that the students retain their focus and complete sound revision work over the Easter Holiday and return in April for the final four weeks of preparation before the exams begin. It feels that we have been informing them for ages that the exams are imminent – I hope that they all believe us now and are really getting on with the hard work needed to achieve their very best!

I would also like to remind parents/carers of students in year 10 that the English Literature GCSE exams take place after Easter and it is important that, like the year 11 students, they invest time in preparing for this important exam, learning key quotes and revising the texts ready for assessment in May.



Thank-you as always for your support over the last term. I hope you have a Happy Easter and I look forward to returning for my final summer term on Monday April 17<sup>th</sup>.

***Alison Davies***  
***Headteacher***







# Apollo House News



We have now reached the end of the Spring term, and it has been great to see many Apollo students rewarded for their hard work and effort in the Gold Book assemblies this week. As a House, we are currently top for having achieved the most positives on Class Charts since September, but also for getting the least negatives, which I regularly mention to students in assembly, as they are the ones who make this happen. Many students display exemplary behaviour every day, and try hard in their lessons, which is really important to succeed and do well in school. Soon after Easter, the GCSE exams will start and I would like to wish our year 11 students good luck with these.

A reminder that if you have any queries about your child, the first point of contact for straightforward issues is their form tutor. For subject specific issues, please contact your child's individual teachers directly and for any wider issues, please either contact myself ([clabreize@avonvalleyschool.uk](mailto:clabreize@avonvalleyschool.uk)) for anything to do with your child's progress and studies in general, or Miss Hicks ([lhicks@avonvalleyschool.uk](mailto:lhicks@avonvalleyschool.uk)), our Student Welfare Leader, for anything to do with your child's welfare. **With best wishes for a happy Easter.**

**Miss Labreize**  
**Achievement Leader – Apollo House**



Apollo top positives this half term			
Mason	Prendergast	7KFO	74
Brooke	Da Silva	8AKA	73
Oliver	Kroc	7KFO	73
Fatima	Keita	7KFO	72
Zahra	Jagne	7MWH	71
Kyle	Garrett	9SGL	70
Caiden	Stevenson	8AKA	70
Zara	Francis	10JMO	69
Asharnie	Bryan	8AKA	66
Harry	Buckley	7MWH	66

Apollo top positives since September			
Brooke	Da Silva	8AKA	671
Isabel	Kryjak	7MWH	652
Mischa	Sobalska	7MWH	641
Zara	Francis	10JMO	626
Molly	Chandler	7MWH	613
Kallum	Mackley	8AMU	613
Millisa	Thomas	8AKA	609
Fatima	Keita	7KFO	599
Karl	Lipski	7MWH	588
Ben	Hall	7MWH	583

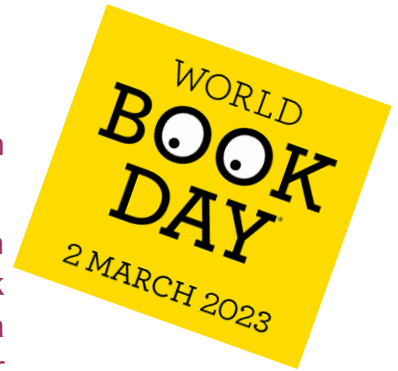




# World Book Day

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, we celebrated World Book Day with numerous activities.

In the Library itself, the Prefects did an excellent job of aiding fun activities during the day, such as bunting, badge and bookmark making. We also saw many staff members dressing up as a favourite character or book. This was a great conversation starter and meant that reluctant readers got the opportunity to engage with new stories and characters that they may not have encountered before.



There were also two competitions running in the weeks leading up to World Book Day. Firstly, the Pet Competition, thank you to all of our wonderful entrants and to the three winning entries. You can see them on the following pages.

The second competition was the Masked Reader event, which saw members of staff reading their favourite book, but hidden by a mask and the students had to guess who each reader was. Well done to the 15 students who guessed correctly! Many thanks to the staff that took part in the process too.

I would also like to thank Hunt's Bookshop in Rugby for kindly providing the prizes for these competitions.

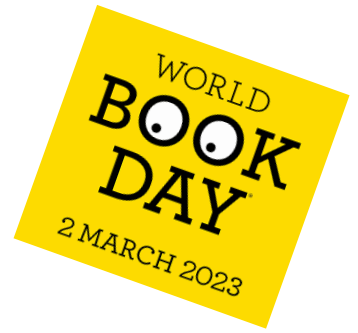
**Mrs Greatrex**  
**Library Assistant**



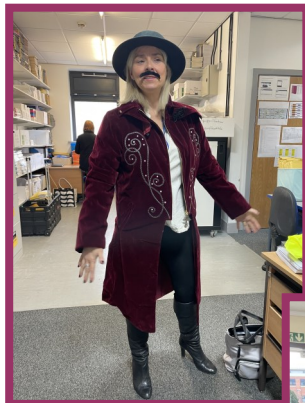
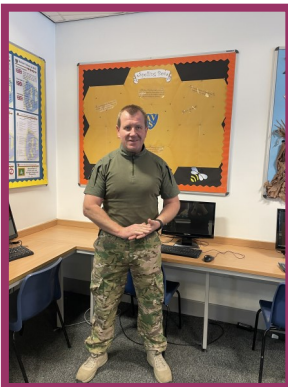
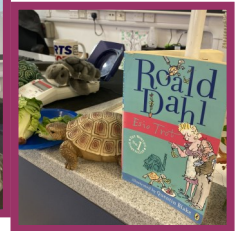
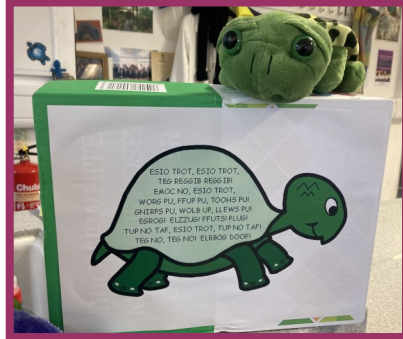




# World Book Day



**AVS staff  
doing their bit  
for World  
Book Day  
2023**



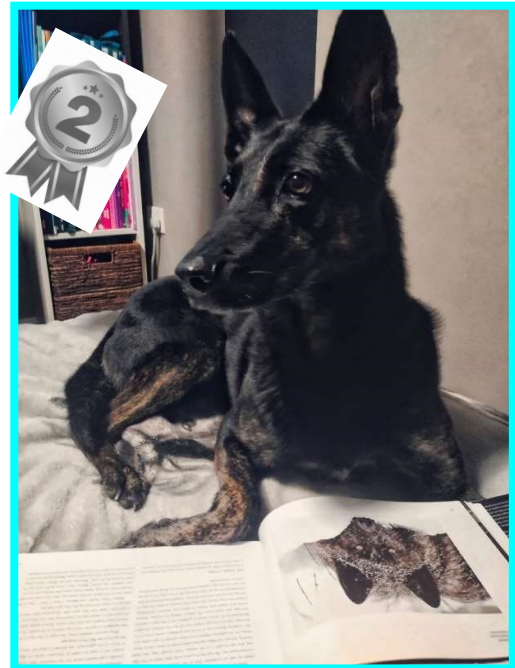




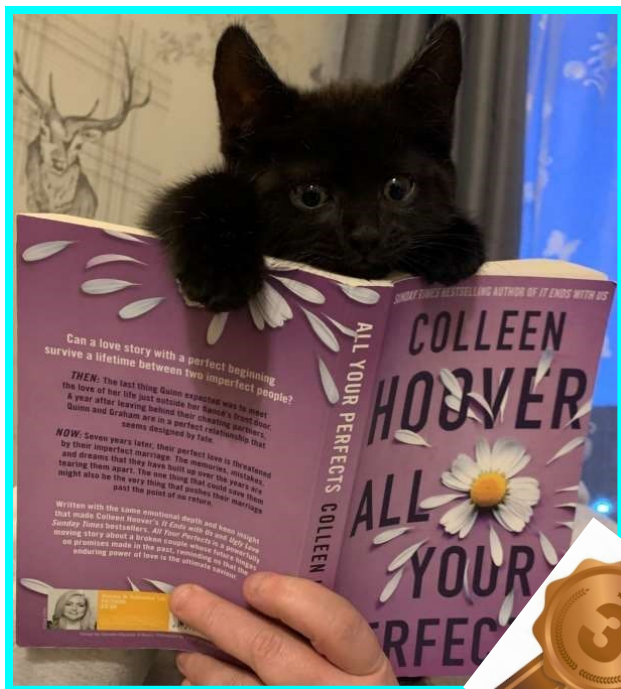
# Pets Reading Competition



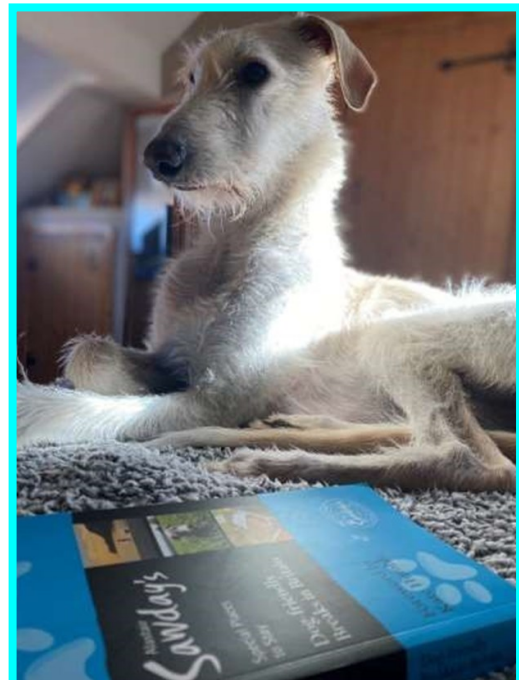
**1st Place**  
**Eloise Smith**



**2nd Place**  
**Matylda Mazurczak**



**3rd Place**  
**Molly Bower**



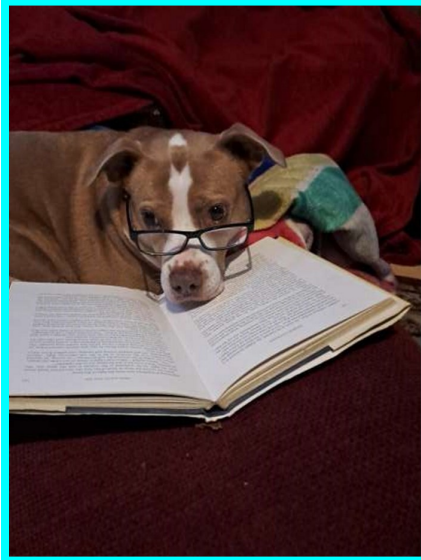
**Mrs Jesson**







# Pets Reading Competition



**Mischa Sobalska**



**Hannah Kura**



**Oliver McDonnell**



**Amelia Flocea-Jisca**



**Lily Booker**







# Changing Lives Through Horses

Changing Lives Through Horses is an alternative education programme of regular sessions, taking place in a BHS Approved Riding Centre with qualified and experienced BHS Accredited Professional Coaches.

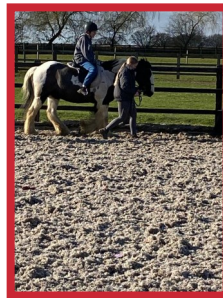
We are lucky to be able to take some of our students to the stables every week to experience this life changing programme. Students get a chance to muck out the stables, groom the horses and learn different riding skills.

**Miss J Mortimer**

**Outdoor Education Lead**

The  
British  
Horse  
Society

Changing  
Lives  
through horses







# Splash Day

On 6th February we had a Splash Day, which consisted of many different activities around school.

Students in Year 7 got creative by making soap, designing the packaging and presenting their creations to their year group.



Year 8 had a Spanish food tasting session in Modern Foreign Languages, as well as a Salsa dance lesson. They also had a virtual careers talk.

In Year 9, students listened to some Careers visitors speak about their career journeys and had the opportunity to ask questions and find out about career paths that they may wish to pursue post 16.

A drug talk and workshop was Year 10's experience of the day as well as a first aid course.

Year 11's sat their English exam.

**Mr L Hawkins**

**Assistant Head**





# Energy Stem Day

## Students Learn About Alternative Energy

### Year 9 students take part in engaging STEM workshop

Year 9 students recently took part in an engaging STEM day, which challenged them to work in teams to think about alternative energy.

The immersive 2 hour workshop, which was delivered by Energy Quest, was designed to unlock the students' inner engineer as they explored alternative energy sources. During the session the students got hands-on, as they learnt about practical engineering. In one of the activities the students used energy from an orange to power a lightbulb.

The Energy Quest workshop challenged the students to use engineering skills in order to solve a problem. The workshop took the students on a journey during which they engaged with the engineering design process, and had to think and act like engineers. In addition, the students had the opportunity to speak to an engineer and learn about the pathways into engineering, feeding into the school's careers programme.

Year 9 student, Lily, said: "It was extremely interesting and great fun! It inspired me and some of my friends to think about becoming an engineer".

Alison Davies, Headteacher, commented, "We always enjoy welcoming external organisations to AVS as it is a brilliant way for our students to learn about the world, and opportunities, outside of school. Our students had a great time working with Energy Quest and, as a qualified engineer myself, I hope the opportunity has encouraged them to pursue further opportunities in science and engineering."

### **Mr D Phelan**

### **Achievement Leader - Fortune House**







# Outdoor Education

Students from the Forest Schools programme visited Adam Henson's Farm in the Cotswolds. Where we had the privilege of having a talk on lambing.

The weather did not dampen our spirits and the students were able to meet the animals and play in the snow.

Our Year 7 & 9 Outdoor Education groups recently spent the day at Twycross Zoo. We also visited Rufford Abbey in Olerton, where students learned about the oil drilling in the second World War.

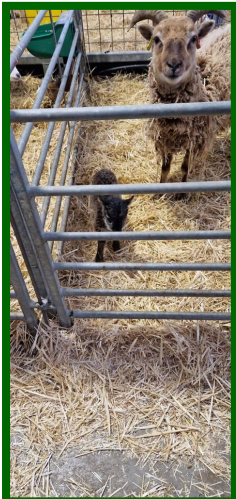
Following on from the Abbey, we visited Duke's Wood in Wellesley Woodlands to see the nodding Donkeys, the machinery used to drill the oil.

The following week students undertook a visit to Tamworth Castle and Tamworth Snowdome.

Well done to all who attended, they were a credit to the school.

**Miss Mortimer**

**Outdoor Education Lead**





# Careers News

## Careers events so far this term:

### National Apprenticeship week

- \* Selected year 11 students visited the WCG Big Bus tour to find out about the benefits of apprenticeships.
- \* All students have had access to activities about apprenticeships in their Career Google classroom.
- \* Year 10 students heard from WINVIC about the variety of jobs available in the construction industry.
- \* All students had a presentation from Balfour Beatty Vinci about apprenticeship opportunities working on HS2.
- \* Students have watched videos about apprenticeships in curriculum subjects.

### National careers week

- \* Channel 4 delivered a virtual assembly about careers in the creative industry. We now know what a “grip” is.
- \* Year 8 students had an assembly about university and year 9 students heard from WCG about the variety of courses available at college.
- \* Year 11 students interested in sport heard from Nuneaton Performance Academy about their new sports offer.
- \* The Royal Geographical Society and Oxford University outreach spoke to geography students about the possibilities to study the subject further.
- \* STEM ambassador Kelvin spoke to students about Civil engineering as a career and Dr Tan delivered a talk about the importance of Maths in engineering.

### Other

- \* Year 8 have begun the process of selecting their options.
- \* Year 7 had an entrepreneurial splash day where they made, packaged and then pitched their soap products. Speakers from DHL then spoke to them about the jobs in DHL, including how they would distribute their products. 96% of students enjoyed the day and said that it made them start to think about their future.
- \* Year 8 have been using online websites that suggest careers based on your likes and dislikes and hearing from older students about the options they took and what their future pathways will be.
- \* Year 9 students have spent the day with Careers Seekers Direct; they found out about the employability skills involved in taking a product to market and heard from a variety of local speakers in the Gaming and Technology sector.

**Mrs L Owen**

**Careers Lead**

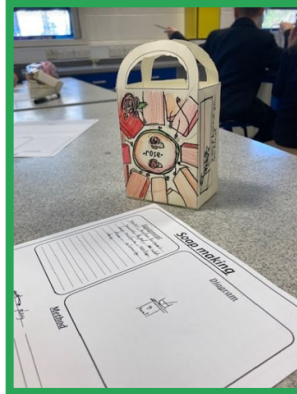






National Careers Week

# NCW



### Work experience Y10 updates

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

If you would like to take part in the AVS careers programme by giving a virtual talk, offering a work experience placement or would like to get further information about post 16 destinations/applications, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Owen ([lowen@avonvalleyschool.uk](mailto:lowen@avonvalleyschool.uk)) or Mr Ogali ([cogali@avonvalleyschool.uk](mailto:cogali@avonvalleyschool.uk)), or look at the information available on the school website: <https://avonvalleyschool.uk/>. The careers section of the school website is located at <https://www.avonvalleyschool.uk/> under the tab Student Life.



**Mrs L Owen**  
**Careers Lead**



**Balfour Beatty**





# Maths Challenge

**Congratulations to all 120 students who took part in this years intermediate Maths Challenge.**

All of the top set students for Maths in Years 9 and 10 had a chance to take part in this very prestigious international Maths Challenge. As a school, we received 19 Bronze awards, 9 Silver awards and 1 Gold award.

These will all look very impressive in your CVs, so keep them safe.

## Gold

Ola Krajewska

## Silver

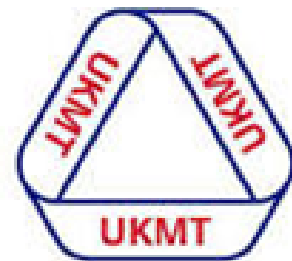
Emelia Awang  
Abdul- Hadi Baig  
Nataniel Ulanicki  
Connie Wallis  
Charlotte Amer  
Ruo Lin  
Lily Melia  
Eleanor Warren  
Macciej Wisniewski



**Huge congratulations, well done to all involved.**

**Mrs Tyas**

**Faculty Leader - Mathematics**



**United Kingdom  
Mathematics Trust**







# Year 10 Geography Fieldtrip

As part of their GCSE Geography course, Year 10 students have to complete two pieces of fieldwork.

During March, students have been to Technology Drive to evaluate the success of the regeneration of the Alstom site. Students carried out a traffic count and a landuse survey. Later in the year, Year 10 students will carry out a second piece of fieldwork and investigate the characteristics of a river.

***Mrs L Owen***

***Achievement Leader - Phoenix House***

***Teacher of Geography***





# Physical Education News

The AVS the PE Faculty have been as busy as ever! I recall thinking post COVID we might struggle for numbers at sports clubs, even creating assemblies to try and entice students to participate in after school sports. Happily, we as a department could not have been more wrong and, numbers at practices and fixtures have been terrific. Long may this continue!

Academic year 2021-22 saw a slight change in how Rugby & District Schools extra-curricular operated. Now, each half term focuses on different sports, to offer a range of opportunities to pupils in the town with the following fixture programme:

- Half Term 1: Football and Netball
- Half Term 2: Basketball and Badminton
- Half Term 3: Handball and Trampoline Gymnastics
- Half Term 4: Rugby and Girls Football
- Half Term 5: Softball and Rounders
- Half Term 6: Athletics and Cricket

I know this divides opinion; however, we in PE are overjoyed with this schedule, as numbers attending have been fantastic.

## Rugby

Half Term 4, although only a short half term, saw the arrival of rugby union. Given that we reside in the town of the game's birthplace, we have seen a real mix in success in previous years. Nonetheless, we are fortunate to have forged an excellent relationship with neighbours Newbold RFC.

They have benefitted from many an AVS ex-student in their Mini/Junior and Senior sections, and likewise they are fantastic in supporting the school's practices and fixtures. Huge thanks to Mini & Junior Chairman Rob Bowyer and First XV Hooker, Stu Houghton for their support this season. Likewise, thanks to Mrs Hallam who has been ever-present in running practices for both girls and boys whilst so many fixtures have been taking place.



## **Mrs L Jackson**

### **Faculty Leader - Physical Education**







# Physical Education

## News

### Girls Football

Half term 4 also saw the arrival of girls football. The girls have played in the Rugby Schools district league, and have really progressed as both individuals and as a team. Their most recent fixture saw them draw in a 2-2 thriller against Rugby High School.



### Trampolining Success

Squads from year 7-10 recently competed in the Rugby Schools Trampolining competition. The girls have worked tirelessly with Mrs Jackson since January, practicing their routines in preparation for the event.

### Results

**U13 A squad: 1st place**

**U13 B Squad: 5th place**

**U15 Squad: 3rd place**



*Mrs L Jackson*

*Faculty Leader - Physical Education*





# 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

## April/May/June

3rd Apr - 14th Apr

Easter Holidays

17th April

All students back to school

26th April

Junior Maths Challenge

1st May

May Bank Holiday

8th May

Coronation Bank Holiday

4th May

Year 7 Virtual Progress Evening

15th May

Year 11 Exams begin

29th May - 2nd June

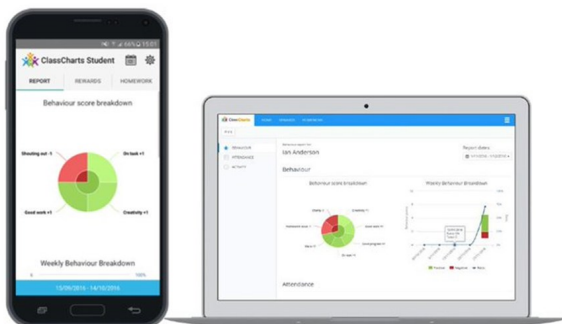
Half term

5th June

All students back to school



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





# Geography Club

## UK Polar Network Flag Competition

Last term, 4 students in the KS3 Geography lunch club partook in the UK Polar Network's Flag Competition. They worked together to design a flag, which was sent off to Antarctica with a research crew who will send us a photo of it 'in the wild', with a certificate too!

Below is a report written by two of our geographers; Emma and Naomi.

*'The Polar Network Flag Competition is a competition giving school kids the opportunity to design a flag for Antarctica. The theme of the flag is to demonstrate the importance of the Antarctic Treaty whereby 54 countries agreed that it will remain free from threat and invasion to preserve its ecological importance.'*

*'We chose the shape of Antarctica as the main focal point and inside chose to include some animals that live there. We included 54 stars to represent the 54 countries that signed the Antarctic treaty and agreed to protect it from invasion.'*

*'We really enjoyed this activity as it was very fun to complete and a very exciting thought that our flag will get sent to Antarctica! We would love to do something like it again!'*

**Miss K McHale**  
Teacher and KS3 Lead for Geography



Well done to those 5 involved;  
(Emma, Harvey, Beatrice, Naomi)



**KS3 Geog club runs every Friday lunch time in SS1 and is open to both year 7 & 8 students.**







# Geography Club

## COP27: Lego Competition

Just before Christmas, students partook in a Lego competition where they had to select 1 of 4 briefs to complete. Each brief was linked to a geographical issue and students had the opportunity to enter the UK competition to win £2,000 of funding for the school, and some Lego goodies!

Two of the students who entered the competition have reported below ...

**Winner: Brooke Year 8** - I created an island paradise for vulnerable animals using Lego including; a beach, house and research building. I really enjoyed this task as I love to create things, and I learnt that creating something eco-friendly that we humans can live in is hard!



**Runner-up: Beatrice Year 8** - I created an island paradise for vulnerable animals using Lego. I included a swimming pool for the ocean animals and a forested area for animals such as birds, frogs and rabbits. I already created two houses for the explorers taking care of the animals, which I filled with beds, drawers, entertainment and art on the walls. I enjoyed taking part as I was able to use my creativity! One thing I learnt was that we need to build places like this in real life, as otherwise the next generation may never get to see or know about the animals we do now.



Miss K McHale  
Teacher and KS3 Lead for Geography





# Design Technology News

GCSE Design Technology Year 11 students have been working hard to finish their coursework. Some amazing creations in the making, we wish them all the best.

**Mr J Murphy**

**Subject Leader - Design Technology**







# Geography Club Success

The key stage 3 geography club entered the UK Polar Network's Antarctica flag competition before Christmas. They learnt a little about Antarctica and why it is incredibly important that we protect it before designing their own flag. Once the flag was sent off, it was paired with a team of researchers who took it out to Antarctica and sent us a photo and a certificate back!



In the photos are Emily Rowlands, Angelika Slomska and Ryan Saunders the marine ecologists investigating the impact of plastic pollution upon the wildlife within the Southern Ocean, surrounding Antarctica. They were focusing on Krill, which is a main food source for whales, seals and penguins and aimed to collect data to help us understand the influences of climate change, fishing pressure and predation on this important Antarctic animal.

I want to say a huge thank you to the UK Polar Network for facilitating this amazing opportunity. Over 300 schools applied to partake in this programme, and so it was a honour to be chosen!

Well done to the four year 8 students who worked toward this; Naomi, Beatrice, Emma and Harvey. I look forward to welcoming some more year 7 and 8 students to get involved again next year!

If you'd like to know more about the Singy Research Station where our flag was taken to, more information can be found here: <https://www.bas.ac.uk/polar-operations/sites-and-facilities/facility/signy/>

Miss K McHale  
Teacher and KS3 Lead for Geography



## ANTARCTICA DAY 2022

This certificate is awarded to Avon Valley School for designing inspirational flags "in the interests of all mankind."

**YOUR FLAG WAS CELEBRATED IN ANTARCTICA!**

Location Name: Signy Research Station

Latitude: 60°43'0"S

Longitude: 45°36'0"W

Flag Bearer: Emily Rowlands

Date: 27/02/2023

Signed: UKPN Antarctic Flags Team



Open  
27th March  
- 27th April

# The Warwickshire Waterways Photography Competition

Calling All Young Photographers!

Capture the Wonders of Warwickshire's Waterways

Introducing the Warwickshire Waterways Photography Competition, an exciting opportunity to showcase the magic of our county's canals and rivers while enjoying the many benefits of spending time outdoors near water.

The competition is open to all ages with a special group for those aged 15 and under. So grab your camera or smartphone, head to the canals and rivers of Warwickshire, and take some amazing photos of the stunning scenery you'll find along the way.

**Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to display your talent, inspire others, and maybe even win a prize!** We wish all participants good luck and can't wait to see your captivating images.

For full details, including rules, prizes and Ts and Cs, please visit:  
<https://bit.ly/wcc-waterways>  
or scan here



Theme:  
nature and  
wildlife

