

Editor Ms G Adamou



AVS Newsletter March 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our summative newsletter for the Spring term.

In comparison to the highly disrupted spring terms of the last two years, we have had a very positive start to the year and student attendance has been good since we returned in January. However, despite the best efforts of our staff to stay covid free, a significant number of teaching and non-teaching staff have been off school this week which caused me to make the difficult decision of closing certain year groups for a few days. As you can imagine, this is the last thing I want to do, but with high levels of staff absence, and the supply agencies unable to source supply teachers as they too are sick, it was a necessary decision to ensure that the students in school can be educated effectively.

As restrictions have eased, it has been great to see so many activities on offer again across the school. In particular, this week year 10 geography students have been out and about in Rugby completing the data collection stage of their GCSE fieldwork project whilst a large group of performing arts students from years 9-11 had the opportunity to go and watch 'The Commuter' at Coventry Performing Arts College.

Continuing with the performing arts theme, the cast of 'Matilda', led by the indefatigable Miss Wheatley, have been rehearsing regularly in preparation for the summer production and I am pleased to say that tickets for the performance have gone on sale today. Please visit the school website to see more details and to purchase your tickets. <https://www.avonvalleyschool.uk/>

I'd like to congratulate year 11 on the completion of their second set of pre public exams last Friday. Their behaviour was impeccable throughout and I know that they will be waiting with nervous anticipation to see their results at the end of next week.



With one more week of the spring term ahead of us, I hope that we can look forward to a lovely Easter holiday – hopefully without the snow flurries that we saw throughout the day yesterday. I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that when students return after the Easter holiday they should be in full school uniform, with the two week break providing plenty of time to replace any outgrown items of uniform and any missing equipment.

Alison Davies
Headteacher

Garrick House News

Ms Masters and I were very pleased to be able to meet our students, as a house in an assembly for the first time in two years recently. We were able to celebrate the success of our young students in Garrick House but also to remind them of our core values and basic expectations.

Well done to the following students who have accumulated the most house points, since September.

Year 7

Minnie Saker (7JJ0)
Orlaith McConville (7JJ0)
Maisie Finney-Sprague (7JJ0)

Year 8

Jack Arbuthnott (8ATI)
Fahad Saeed (8ATI)
Molly Towers (8JDR)

Year 9

Daniel Akhmed (9JRE)
Poppy Storey (9JRE)
Emilia Juchniewicz (9JRE)

Year 10

Thomas Burrows (10PBA)
Aleesha Cook (10PBA)
Albie Middleton (10KMI)

Year 11

Olivia Marshall (11SHI)
Leah Sheridan (11GMA)
Lucy Bell (11SHI)



We have handed out a large amount of Garrick ties to students who have forgotten theirs when arriving at school. If you have any spare ties at home, please can we ask that they are returned.

We have a wide variety of events to look forward to including the school show and celebrating the Queen's Jubilee. Details about these events will be sent via class charts. If you haven't done so, please log into the class charts app to see your child's behaviour, attendance and important messages.

As ever, if you have any queries or concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to contact their form tutor, myself (chartfield@avonvalleyschool.uk) or Ms Masters, our Student Welfare Leader (smasters@avonvalleyschool.uk).

Craig Hartfield

Achievement Leader - Garrick House/ Teacher of PE

Careers News



This month all students had the opportunity to find out more about apprenticeships. During National Apprenticeship Week students had the opportunity to take quizzes to find out how much they knew. They heard from an ex AVS student who is currently doing a degree apprenticeship with Jaguar Landrover and they found out what apprenticeships are available in the local area. I am adding current apprenticeships to the year 11 Google careers classroom as they go live.

February 7th was a Careers Splash day for year 7. Students worked on a task set by Fisher German; a company who specialise in property. Students demonstrated great teamwork, initiative, organization and problem solving while building a tower using only marshmallows and spaghetti. Later in the day Helena and Rosie talked to students about their career pathway with the company. 95% of the students who took part agreed that the task helped them develop their employability skills and many students enjoyed the talk and asked questions; (mostly) about salaries! In addition, students researched jobs using an online careers website called Career Pilot and watched some videos about companies local to Warwickshire.



Year 8 Splash day focused on opportunities for students to complete tasks that would help them to achieve their PIXL Edge award. Students used Careers Pilot to recognise their values and views that could lead to them choosing certain jobs, identified influences on their career choices, heard from AVS alumni about option choices

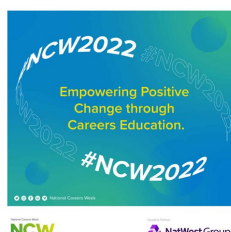
and played career Top Trumps. 97% of students felt they benefited from hearing from AVS Alumni.

Year 9 worked with The Problem Solving company to develop their employability skills of communication, teamwork, using their initiative and year 11 took part in activities run by the Uni Connect from Warwick University.



Mrs Owen

Careers Lead



AVS Enterprising Success

Year 11 students Josh and Johnie have recently set up their own sports fashion business called Limitless selling gym t-shirts, tracksuits and vests. They are both passionate about sport and the gym, and looked to create a new brand for the gym wear market. Using birthday and Christmas money the students bought all the equipment they needed and began producing t-shirts. They have been surprised at the success of their business and did not expect a Tiktok video to blow up with over 100k views. The students plan to reinvest all the profits back into the business and have big plans for the future of the company. Johnie, who created the brand would like to do a digital marketing apprenticeship next year, while Josh is looking to complete a business course post 16.

I first heard of the company when I saw students in school with boxed t shirts. I thought that the packaging of the products was very impressive. Johnie and Josh wanted to do something unique to make the product stand out. You can find Limitless products at www.limitlessgym.co.uk or search for limitless.gym_ on Instagram or Tiktok.



During year 7 PSHE one class heard from Mr Hall, a car engineer. Students were really engaged while they learnt about his job and career path. 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) or Mrs. Jones (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

Careers Lead

Hard-Hitting Crime Awareness Day

AVS welcomes award winning speaker and Warwickshire Police

Students took part in a crime awareness day which focused on the consequences and impact of drugs, county lines, gangs and knife crime.

Once again, we welcomed Paul Hannaford, an award-winning drugs awareness speaker, whose life experiences bring an insight to the real consequences of drug addiction, knife crime, gangs and county lines. Paul delivered his talk to all students in year 9, year 10 and year 11 and spent time working with students in small group sessions.

Alongside Paul Hannaford the school also welcomed police officers and PCSOs from Rugby Police Station. The team, who form part of the local safer neighbourhood team, arrived early to set up a knife arch which is used as part of Operation Sceptre, a nationwide campaign aimed at tackling knife crime. As the students arrived at school they had the opportunity to see the arch in operation as they passed through the arch. The police staff remained on site all day running group talks during which students had opportunity to ask questions about crime, the law, and the role of the police.

The school's headteacher, Alison Davies said, "Our aim for the day was to raise awareness about the dangers and consequences of drug and substance abuse, as well as knife crime. Paul Hannaford, who has worked with us for a number of years, is an excellent speaker. The students always listen to what he has to say and are shocked by his life story; this goes a long way towards reinforcing the work already completed by the students in this area. We are also very grateful to the staff from Rugby Police Station for spending the day with us and for interacting positively with our students."



FA Coaching Award

Year 10 student coaches youngsters at local football team

A Year 10 student has recently been awarded several certificates including a preliminary coaching award from The Football Association.

Football mad Ellie Angus who plays for Rugby Town Girls and Womens FC, and is participating in her clubs Young Leader programme, also regularly coaches younger age groups at the club and has achieved several FA certificates.

One of the certificates awarded to Ellie is The FA Playmaker Award which is a new entry-level football course for volunteers, aged 14+, in the grassroots game. Ellie successfully completed the course's five modules, which focus on the basics of football providing a toolkit and skills needed to get involved and help create a fun, safe and inclusive experience for those being coached.

In addition, Ellie has completed courses which have taught her how to deal with concussion and sudden cardiac arrest. In the future Ellie has her sights on a refereeing course and aims to complete her first coaching badge once she turns sixteen.

Alison Davies, Headteacher, said, "It is great to see that Ellie is getting involved in coaching at her football club. At school she's also involved in the Young Leaders programme and I know the skills she'll develop will help her in PE and sport studies lessons. I wish her all the best for the rest of the football season."



#AVSAchieve

Forest Schools News

In February our outdoor education programme 'Forest Schools' had a fantastic opportunity to support a local infant school and learn a new skill.

Bawnmore Community Infant School were in great need of a hedge, near to their metal fence at the front of the school to shield the school from the very busy road outside. Students went armed with garden tools, gloves, wellies and good will to succeed.

All the students worked really hard and have created a lovely hedge for the school and their pupils to enjoy for many years to come. We are very proud of their achievements well done.

More projects like this to come!

Miss Mortimer

Outdoor Education and Vocational Studies Lead





United
Kingdom
Mathematics
Trust



Congratulations to all the students that took part in the recent Intermediate Maths Challenge.

I would like to say a particular well done to the following students that achieved awards when compared to students from all across the world.

WELL DONE EVERYONE

Daniel	Akhmed	Bronze
Mayid	Altaf	Bronze
Isaac	Cottingham	Bronze
Milosz	Hejnowicz	Bronze
Ruo	Lin	Silver and best in Year Group
Amelia	Mahoney	Bronze
Scarlett	Mcconville	Bronze
Alekss	Nazarovs	Bronze
Corey	Beckett	Bronze
Balraj	Khella	Bronze
Sarah	M	Gold and best in school
Albie	Middleton	Silver
Vlada	Moraru	Bronze
Cameron	Oakes	Bronze
Kaden	Shaw	Silver
Martyna	Sienkiewicz	Silver
Jack	Taft	Bronze
Mihaela	Tineva	Bronze
Keira	Whittington	Bronze
Kausar	Blackwell	Silver
Paige	Gibson	Bronze
Megan	Giles	Bronze
Liliya	Herring	Silver
Esme	Saunders	Silver and best in Year Group
Lucas	Sousa	Silver
Mihai	Stroe	Bronze
Sophie	Tomlinson	Bronze
McKinley	McIntosh	Best In Year Group

WELL DONE EVERYONE

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.

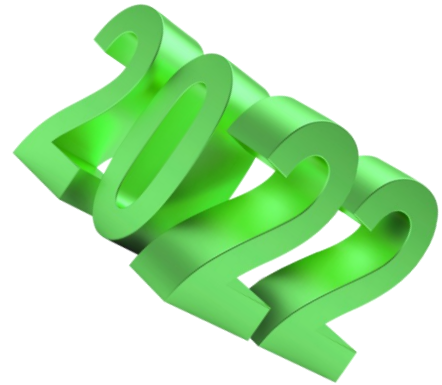
Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

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

Dates for your diary

April

11th - 22nd April Easter Holidays
25th All students in school



**DISASTERS
EMERGENCY
COMMITTEE**

**Money raised for
Ukraine refugees**

£536.00

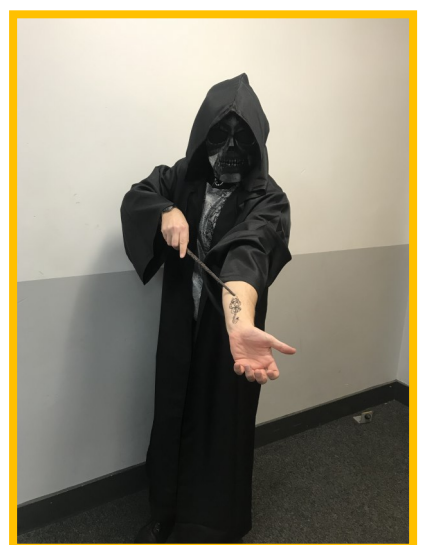
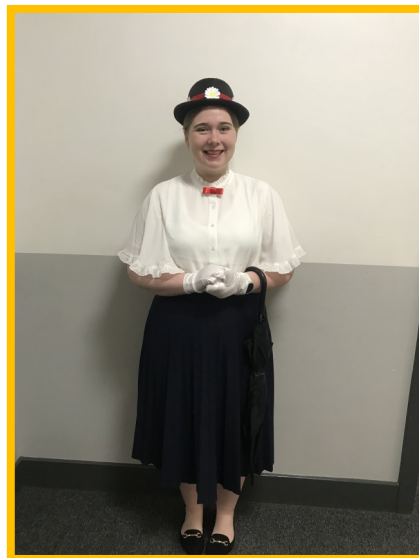
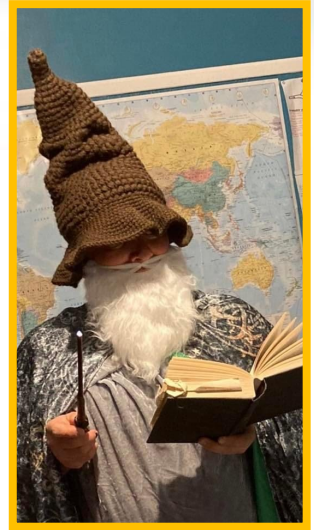


World Book Day

On 4th March, staff celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as their favourite literary character. All the students had fun guessing who they were!

Mr A Duke

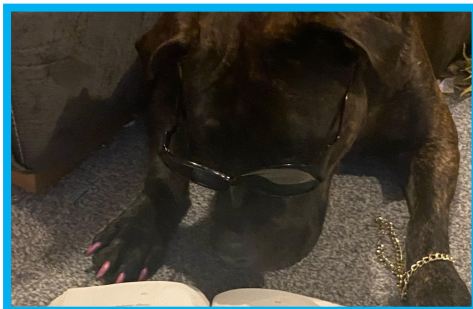
Teacher of English



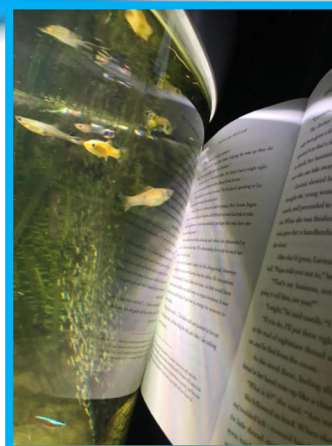
Pets with Books

Around 40 students sent in photos of their pet, reading their favourite book!

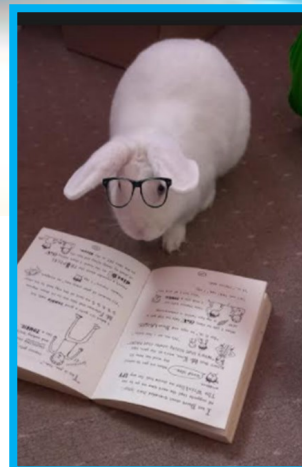
Here are a handful of very clever pets!



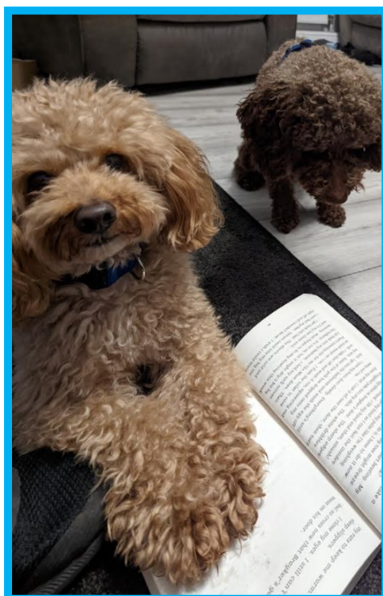
Layla Ali



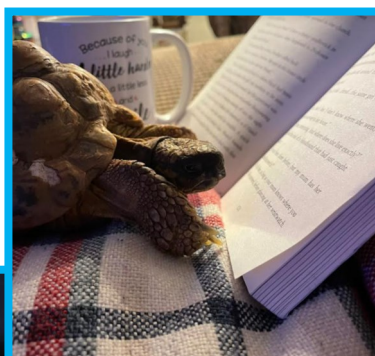
Chess Minter



Callum Middleton



Harrison Minter



Brooke Da Silva



Joshua Middleton

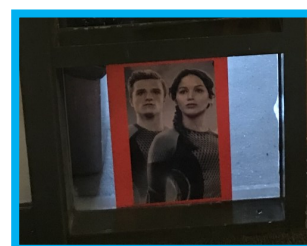
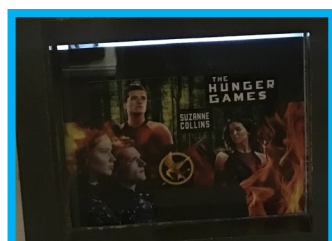
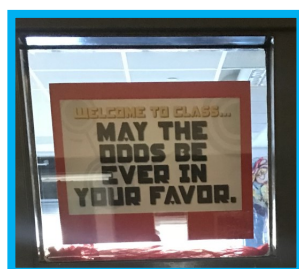


Charlie Sobalski

Tutor Door Design Competition

The English Department held a tutor competition for tutor groups to decorate their classroom door. After seeing some very creative designs choosing a winner was a challenge!

The winners are 8CJE in TX2, well done Mrs Jesson's class.



Sport Relief

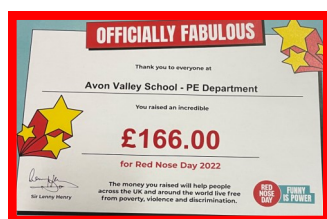


During timetabled PE lessons all students in Year 7-10 took part in a Sport Relief fundraising session where they were set the challenge to wear something Red and to complete at least 2 miles in any way including cycling, running, rowing, walking, hula hooping, forward rolling to name but a few whilst having fun and contributing towards this worthwhile charity.

In total the pupils contributed **£166** in donations and even more impressively managed to cover a total distance of **1,242 miles** - an amazing figure! Well done to all and also to the PE staff who will have each covered 16 miles across the lessons!

Mr D Payne

Faculty Leader of PE



PE Clubs & Sports

You may have noticed that PE clubs and sports have operated differently this year as schools in the district are trialling a half-termly approach to encourage more sports to be played and more opportunities for pupils to represent Avon Valley School.

During the year we have had clubs and matches in a variety of sports including:

Football - Boys and Girls

Netball

Trampolining

Badminton

Indoor Athletics

Basketball

Handball

Rugby



After Easter it will be the turn of Athletics, Rounders, Cricket and Tennis so please encourage your child to get involved and see if they enjoy a sport for competitions or recreation.

This approach relies on pupils and parents being informed of when activities are on and we use google classroom for this purpose so please encourage your child to join and check the extra curricular classroom as well as their own teaching room for details. Also keep an eye on the PE twitter page @AvonValleySchPE

We look forward to working with as many of you as possible in extra curricular clubs to make the most of your time in school.

Mr D Payne

Faculty Leader of PE



PE Kit 4 All policy

Can I take this opportunity to politely remind you that the Avon Valley School PE Faculty, in line with most other local schools, operate a Kit 4 All policy whereby all pupils must bring a **full AVS kit** for all lessons at all times **even if ill or injured**.

Having a kit means that pupils, even if ill or injured, can play some active role in the lesson whether as a coach, referee or taking part in adapted activities. They are never left on the side-lines to do nothing. It also means that they will always have a clean, dry and untarnished school uniform to change back into even on wet, cold and muddy days.

Thanks for your support in this matter.



A reminder of the AVS PE kit expected. Thank you for helping us to reach very high standards.

PE Kit Item	Boys	Girls
Polo shirt	Navy/sky blue with AVS logo	
Rugby shirt	Navy/Sky blue reversible with AVS logo	
Zippered top (optional)	Navy/Sky blue with AVS logo	
Shorts or skorts	Navy blue with AVS logo	Shorts Navy with AVS logo Skort Navy/Sky blue with AVS logo
Socks	Navy Blue with sky blue top	
Tracksuit bottoms (optional)	Navy Blue with AVS logo	
Leggings/skins (optional)	Navy Blue to only to be worn under shorts/skort	
Trainers (not pumps)	Suitable for indoor and outdoor lessons with sufficient grip and support	
Football boots	Suitable boots with sufficient support and studs/blades for soft ground (your child will be told at what point in the year these are needed as feet grow so quickly!)	
Kit bag	A suitable named kit bag to keep all PE kit in	
Gum shield	Compulsory for Rugby lessons (also available in school for £2)	
Shin pads	Compulsory for football lessons/matches (also available in school for £3)	
Dance polo shirt	Black with AVS Logo	
Dance Leg Wear	Black Jogging Bottoms	Black Jogging Bottoms or Leggings

Sports Leaders



A huge thank you to our fabulous AVS Sports Leaders who have worked really hard leading our Year 3 & 4 Sports hall Athletics competition. I would also like to thank Mr Barnes for his super help managing this event, well done to all.