

Editor Ms G Adamou



AVS Newsletter May 2022





Dear Parents/carers,

The Avon Valley School has a strong focus on the wider development of our pupils and it has been a pleasure to see our young people getting involved in the many activities that have been arranged in school this week as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. As an eleven year old at the time of the Queen's Silver Jubilee, I can still recall the Bank Holiday activities that I attended in 1977. I hope that in the future our students will look back with fondness on the events that they have taken part in, both this week in school and over the forthcoming bank holiday weekend.

I was fortunate to spend time sometime in the theatre yesterday where Miss Wheatley, staff and students were rehearsing Matilda ready for the opening night on June 21st. It will be an absolute delight to welcome you into our theatre for the performances that week and I hope to see many familiar faces in the audience. It is such a long time since we were last able to welcome you into our school and we are really looking forward to seeing you. I hope that many of you will be joining us for what will be a truly fabulous evening – if you haven't booked your tickets yet then please do so as soon as possible as some nights have already sold out.

I am pleased to say that I have been very impressed by the maturity of our year 11 students as they have completed the first two weeks of their GCSE exams. It has been a very stressful period for them, but they have taken it all in their stride and their behaviour in the exam room has been impeccable. As year 11 prepare to complete their exams and move on from AVS over the next month, year 10 have also worked extremely hard preparing for and completing their first GCSE paper in English Literature. With work experience taking place in the next half term they are also showing increasing levels of maturity and I look forward to interviewing applicants for the senior prefect positions before the end of the school year.

At the start of the week, we sent out a link to our school survey and I would like to thank those of you who have taken the time to share your thoughts with us. Overall I am delighted with the very positive feedback that we have received and I have passed on any personal accolades to the members of staff concerned. It was a real pleasure to read so many lovely comments, but I also appreciate the suggestions for improvement that have been left and will spend time with the senior leadership team reviewing these at the start of the next half term.

I hope you all have a lovely bank holiday weekend - and that the sun shines on us all!



Alison Davies  
Headteacher

# Phoenix House News



**For the first time in two years, Ms Ranger and I were delighted to be able to welcome all of our students back to school this term with a House assembly. We celebrated the success of our students in Phoenix House and took the opportunity to remind them of our core values and basic expectations.**

Leadership is a valuable employability skill and now is the time of year when student leadership opportunities are being offered in school. Every year, after applications have been submitted, students will say 'I wish I had applied for that', so it's a good idea to start thinking about what you would like to do now.

Positions of responsibility will look great on future CV's when applying for jobs. Here are just some of the student leadership positions that will be advertised soon: Headboy/Headgirl, House Captains, Senior Prefects and Prefects, Yr 8 buddies to support with transition and PA Prefects to support Matilda. Yr 11 applications open W/C 6th June, Year 10 applications to open in July.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all year 10 and 11 students the best of luck in their exams this year. As a parent whose child is doing his GCSEs this year, I appreciate that stress levels can be high and that sometimes it can feel overwhelming, for parents and students. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you think extra support is needed during the exam period for your child.

Well done to all Phoenix students who have achieved over 85000 achievement points between them – what an amazing achievement. Congratulations to our highest scoring students in particular, Max, Lilly-Mae, Emma, Naomi, Ben, Mia, Ruo, Harvey, Nikita, Jacob, Mayid, Caitlin, Maja, Charles, Faith, Wiktoria, Jennifer, Akai, Jazmin and Faith who have achieved over 12 000 points between them. These and other achievements will be celebrated in our House assembly at the end of this term. All parents can see their child's behaviour points (positive and negative), access their child's timetable and view attendance data on the Class charts app. If you have not yet done so, I encourage you to download the app and use it regularly.

Lastly, we have handed out a large number of Phoenix 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.

If you would like any information about your child's progress or welfare at school, please don't hesitate to contact me [lowen@avonvalleyschool.uk](mailto:lowen@avonvalleyschool.uk) or Ms Ranger [jranger@avonvalleyschool.uk](mailto:jranger@avonvalleyschool.uk)

**Mrs Owen**

**Achievement Leader – Phoenix & Careers Lead**



# Maths Competition Winner

**A Year 9 student has recently been named as a winner in a national maths competition.**

In the autumn term, Eleanor Warren, entered the Desmos Maths Art Competition organised by Mathematics Education Innovation, a charity committed to improving lives through advances in maths education. As part of the competition, entrants used mathematic graphing software Desmos to create a piece of art with the theme 'The World Around Us'.

When selecting winners, the competition's judges considered creativity and originality, the entrant's use of the maths and their interpretation of the theme. Eleanor's art piece used mathematical equations and coordinates to plot each aspect of her work, which showed a person struggling to hold the Earth back as it headed towards industrial chimneys. Eleanor was named as one of the winners in the Year 8-9 category. As a winner Eleanor was sent a certificate and t-shirt, and best of all, her artwork is being featured in this newsletter!

Headteacher, Alison Davies said, "It is lovely to see that a number of students entered the competition, putting their maths skills to good use, and I am really pleased to see that Eleanor was named as one of the competition's winners. The piece of art created by Eleanor is very detailed and I hope she is proud of her achievement."



desmos



# Twycross Zoo Visit

In April, the Year 7 Forest Schools group had the opportunity to visit Twycross Zoo. Students were lucky enough to see and discuss all of the different species of animals kept there. Sadly, due to bird flu, we were unable to see the flamingos and lorikeets but this initiated a big discussion about the different types of birds they could see.

**Miss J Mortimer**

**Teacher of Geography, Outdoor Education and DofE Lead**





# Midland Group Training Services

Our Year 11 students are working hard preparing for their exams and many are showing some well developed employability skills of resilience, determination, organisation and planning, along with managing pressure and remaining self-motivated.

Sixth forms have now sent all conditional offers through, so please make sure that all instructions have been followed to reserve your place.

This month, several students also visited Midland Group Training for a tour of the site and to learn about the amazing engineering apprenticeships they offer.



## Year 10 work experience

All year 10 students are expected to attend a 5-day work experience placement during the week commencing Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July. Congratulations to the 75 who have confirmed their placements and have submitted all of the paperwork. 30 students are also to be congratulated for finding places, but still require the paperwork to be handed to Mrs. Jones. For those students who are yet to find placements, Mrs. Jones will be focusing on this after half term and providing encouragement for you to find a placement.

If you are an employer or employee in a workplace that would welcome a year 10 student for work experience, please let Mrs. Jones know and we can match you with a suitable student.

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**

**Careers Lead**





# Oddballs Foundation Visit

On Tuesday 17th May, Mary from the Oddballs Foundation, spoke to all year 10 students about testicular cancer; how to check yourself and the treatments available. Mary is studying medicine at Warwick University and she talked about university life and how far she has come from being in secondary school.

If you would like to find out more about the foundation please go to:

<https://theoddballsfoundation.com/>

**Mrs L Owen**

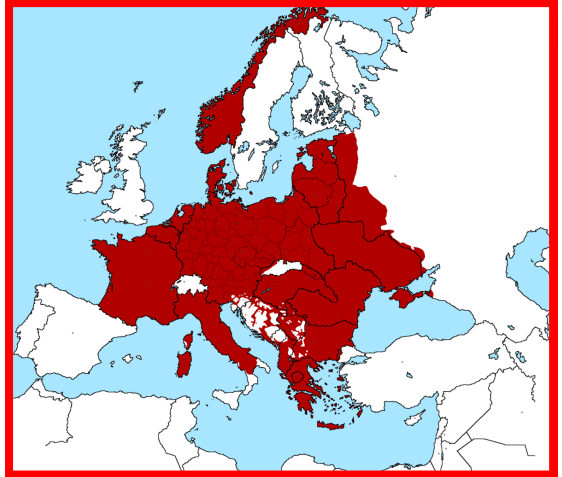
**Careers Lead**



# History News

**It has been 77 years since World War Two ended and we are fortunate still to have first-hand living witnesses to its momentous events with us today.**

It was during the war that the Nazis carried out the Holocaust, the planned systematic genocide of occupied Europe's Jews, along with political opponents and other ethnic minorities. To help the students understand this important period of History we have designed a scheme of work dedicated to teaching the Holocaust. Students learn about the victims and perpetrators of the Holocaust and the treatment of ethnic minorities in Nazi occupied Europe. The aim of the lessons is to help students understand how and why it happened.



In July, we are planning to take History and Religious Education beyond the classroom with a live talk from a Holocaust Survivor. This event will allow year 9 Historians and year 10 Religious Education students to hear a first-hand witness account of the Holocaust.

This event is a privilege for Avon Valley students, because the number of living survivors is getting smaller each year. This means that our students will be amongst the last to have such an experience and to have the opportunity to share their thoughts about it.

***Mr P Bowen-Hunt***

***Teacher of History and Religious Education***





# PiXL Edge News

**Year 8 students have been busy working towards their Pixl Edge Apprentice award. The scheme is intended, over time, to develop and accredit the life skills and attributes that employers are telling us they need – leadership, organisation, initiative, resilience and communication.**



During our February splash day, students took part in a carousel of activities.



The morning consisted of careers based activities, including a careers talk and using an online tool designed to select job roles based on an individual's interests.

The afternoon was dedicated to Modern Foreign Languages, identifying Spanish speaking countries, sampling their food, ordering food in Spanish and salsa dancing.

These activities developed students' resilience and initiative, helping them on their way to completion of the Apprentice award.

Students have also been leading warm ups in their PE lessons to develop their Leadership skills and improve their organisational skills by supporting the Avon Valley receptionist with her daily tasks.

Many of our students are close to completion and 33 have already completed the award, having received their certificate, 15 house points and a Pixl Edge achievement badge.

During the coming weeks we hope to see many more certificates being handed out.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me or your child's tutor.

[l.hallam@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:l.hallam@hotmail.co.uk)

**Mrs L Hallam**

**Teacher of PE & PixL Edge Lead**



The **PiXL** Edge

Kristof Karolyi	Charlotte Barnes
Emily Jones	Molly Towers
Becca Gilbey	Evelyn Tan
Kyle Garrett	Jusinta Ali
Ellie Flemming	James Bishop
Cameron Brown	Jack Arbuthnott
Daniel Casey	Tiffany Murdock
Zachary Mbofana	Fahad Saeed
Emelia Awang	Jacob Smith
Sophie Needham	Rohan Hoque
David Gaiduks	Lilli Llewellyn
Ben Beasley	Shannon Plumb
Abdul Hadi Baig	Deira Povilaiyte
Grace Buxton	Rakkshana Rajinkanth
Mary Anne Marimba	Max Smith
Freya Lee	Daniel Zogu

# Textiles News

KS4

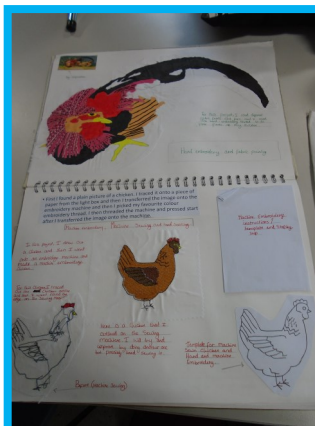
**Congratulations to our Year 11 Textiles students upon the completion of their GCSE NEA portfolio projects.**

There was such a wide range of different practical outcomes this year, demonstrating a broad selection of techniques and a huge amount of creativity by our talented students!

Each student chose their own theme(s) and presented an A3 portfolio of work, alongside their final pieces. Well done for all of your hard work and determination.

**Mrs C Jesson**

**Subject Leader of Textiles**





# Textiles News

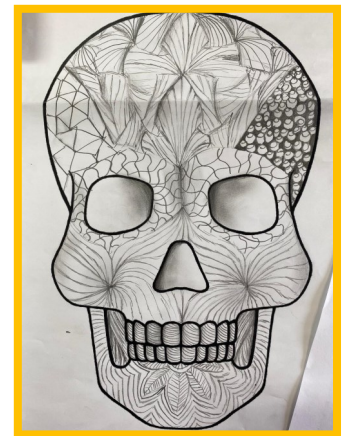
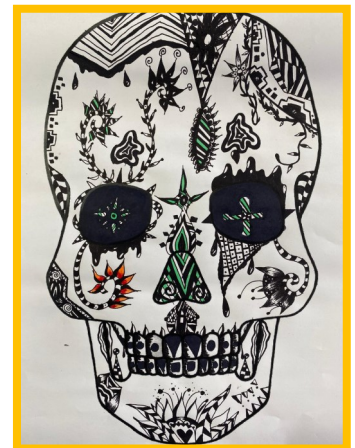
## KS3

Meanwhile in KS3 our younger students have been working on smaller design and make activities, including decorating Tote bags inspired by the Day of the Dead festival and creating cushions inspired by the Pop art movement from the 1950's. It has been lovely to see the creative and colourful responses to both projects.

**Year 7 – Day of the dead bags**

**Year 8 – Pop art cushions**

***Mrs C Jesson Subject Leader of Textiles***



# Design Technology News

**Having now been a teacher of Design & Technology for the past 18 years, I still have people ask “is it about learning how to put pieces of wood together with some nails?”, “do you still teach woodwork and metal work?” I think the majority of my Year 11 students would laugh if you asked them either of these questions!**

The GCSE in Design & Technology teaches students to solve problems and produce functional solutions that can be used by a target audience. Year 11 are now given what we call ‘contextual challenges’ and students can interpret them in whatever way they wish. They produce an A3 portfolio which looks at research, designing, making, testing and evaluating, everything that a company does in the larger world we live in. This year the exam board were happy for students to produce functional models made from cardboard due to the year group’s learning still being affected by covid. I wanted my students to gain more out of their GCSE than a cardboard model and for them to have something that they could be proud of, take home and use. Since Christmas, students spent lesson time, before school, lunchtimes and after school working on their outcomes, to go from an idea on paper, to prototyping, to producing the end result. I am extremely proud of my Year 11’s achievements and the products they have produced to solve challenges such as designing around Biomimicry, Designers and Finding and fixing problems. Please find a selection of products on the next page of pieces produced by our Design & Technology students.

The Design & Technology Year 8 club still thrives, meeting every week to learn different aspects about the subject. These students have gained more experience in running a company, learning to use Computer Aided Design software and now are working on their entry portfolios for Samsung’s competition, Solve for tomorrow. Four teams are now working to design a piece of technology that will benefit the world we live in and make it a more sustainable place. Before Christmas they put their design and manufacturing skills to good use and made nearly £170 towards our chosen club charity, Macmillan. We will hopefully present this money to them at the end of this academic year.

Do remember if you require any further information about Design & Technology, then please contact myself at [jmurphy@avonvalleyschool.uk](mailto:jmurphy@avonvalleyschool.uk)

**Mr J Murphy**

**Subject Leader of Design & Technology**

**#AVSAchieve**



# Design Technology News





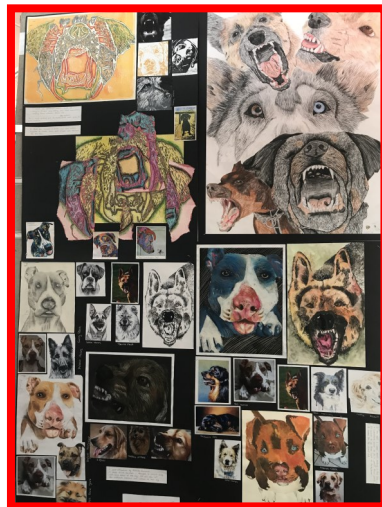
# Art News

Three groups of GCSE Art students have worked so hard this year to complete their coursework. They have picked their own personal theme for their project, experimented, tried out a range of different skills and media, before creating their own personal response. Students have looked at a whole host of different artists to inspire and motivate their work, generating new ideas and techniques to try.

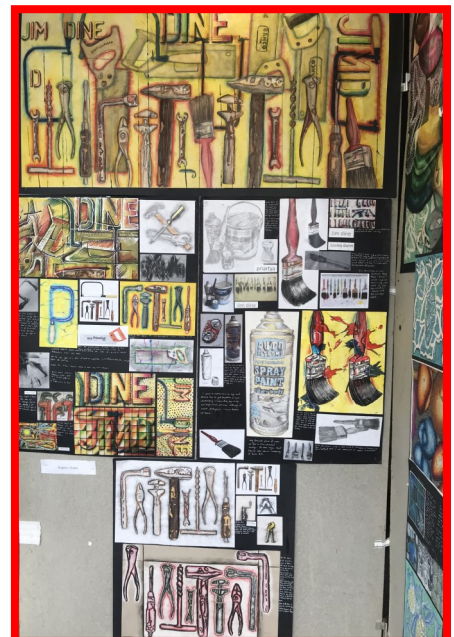
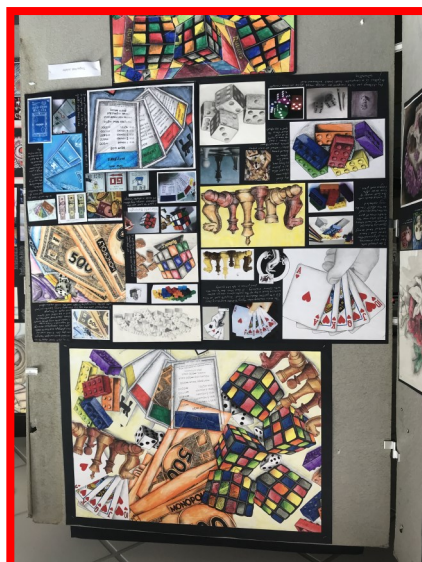
They have all worked incredibly hard and we are all so proud of what they have been able to achieve during a tough 3 years.

**Mrs J Smart**

**Head of Art and Design Technology**

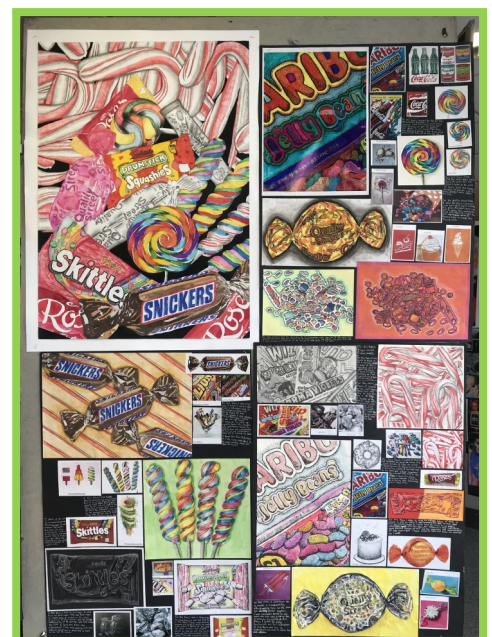
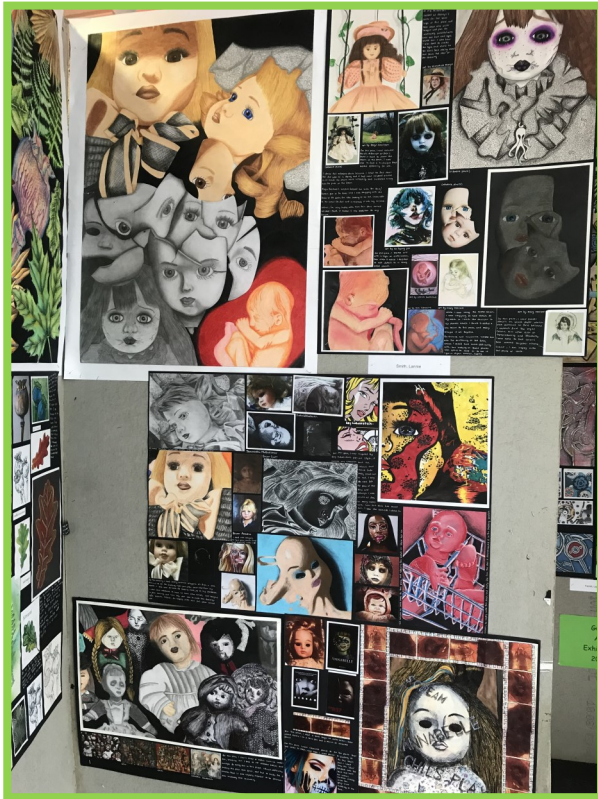


**#AVSAchieve**





# Art News





# Food & Nutrition/Hospitality & Catering News

**Year 11 have been showing off their cooking skills this term by producing some culinary delights. They had a brief to fulfil and needed to produce 1 or 2 dishes under timed conditions.**

As you can see from the pictures, the students were able to produce some mouth watering dishes. They created their own time plans to follow and researched the effects that different foods and nutrients have on the body. They all ensured that their dishes met consumer needs by analysing the different elements. Students spent time looking into the effect that different cooking methods have on the food to enable the dishes they made to be healthy and nutritious. Well done

year 11 - you have worked really hard on your NEA and should be so pleased with your fantastic achievements. A huge thank you to Mrs Elson (Subject Leader for Food & Nutrition/Hospitality & Catering) who has supported and nurtured the students on their journey to success.

***Mrs J Smart***

***Head of Art and Design Technology***





# Food & Nutrition/Hospitality & Catering News



# 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**



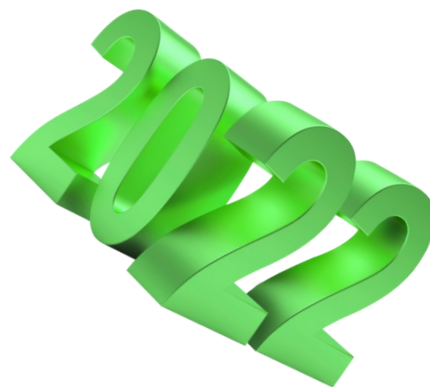
# Dates for your diary

## June

30th May - 3rd June	Half Term
6th June	All students in school
6th - 10th June	Army Residential Trip in Stafford
10th - 13th June	Business/Computer Science/Media Trip to London
21st - 25th June	School Production 'MATILDA' show dates

## July

1st July	School Prom
6th - 7th July	Year 6 Induction days
14th July	Awards Evening
15th July	Trips/Activity Day
20th July	Sports Day
21st July	Break up for the summer 12.35pm



# PE News

**Over the past four years, we have built a fantastic relationship with Rugby Borough Academy and their coaches Liam and Wil.**

On 12th May they delivered a presentation and coached 40 year 10 students. Their enthusiasm and commitment to working with our students is second to none. Thank you.

Mr D Payne

Faculty Leader of Physical Education





# PE News



**Year 9  
Rounders team**



**Year 10 Rounders team**



**Year 9 Rugby team**

# Performing Arts News

## Students preparing for first school show since pandemic

Talented actors, singers, and dancers have been hard at work in rehearsals as they prepare for their upcoming show **'Matilda'**.

The cast which features almost 100 students, from Year 7 to Year 11, have been rehearsing several times a week after school, as well as on Saturday mornings, to ensure the show is a huge success when it hits the stage in June.

The musical, based on Roald Dahl's book, follows the story of an extraordinary girl who, armed with a vivid imagination and a sharp mind, dares to take a stand and change her own destiny. The show will run in the school's state-of-the-art theatre for five nights, from Tuesday 21st June to Saturday 25th June, 2022.

Four talented students will each take a turn at performing in the show's principle role, Matilda. The students selected for the lead role are Year 7 students Isla Iles, Year 8 students Freya Lee and Daisy Adamson, and Year 10 Emily Adamson. They will be joined on stage with the rest of the cast, the ensemble and dancers who come from all year groups.

Elisa Wheatley, performing arts faculty leader, said, "This has been our first opportunity to run a large-scale school show since before the 2020 lockdown. The uptake from our students has been fantastic and I am delighted to say that rehearsals are going really well and we can't wait to be back on stage. Our students are fully committed to the production and are keen to perform in front of sell out audiences".

Headteacher, Alison Davies said, "The performing arts are central to our values as a school and we are proud of the opportunities that we are able to provide our students in these subjects. We are delighted to be able, once again, to open our doors to students, parents, and members of the community to showcase our students' talents when they take to the stage in Matilda."





# Geography News

In April, all students were encouraged to partake in the whole school House competition, which encouraged students to send in photos of landscapes they came across during their 2 week break.

We are always keen for our geographers to learn how to identify physical (natural) features and human (man-made) features within the environment, as this better enables them to identify possible issues and problem solve solutions within their local area.

Well done to all who sent in an entry - you have all received a positive point! Extra well done to those who were selected as our winners, the winning entries are below.

**Miss K McHale**

**Teacher of Geography**



**Year 7 winner Raisa Konieczna**



**Year 9 winner Leonard Ingram**



**Year 11 winner Vlad Isac**



**Year 8 winner Freya Lee**



**Year 7 runner up Brooke Da Silva**



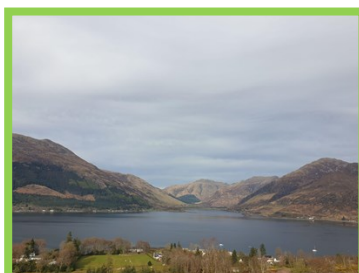
**Year 10 winner Xavier Kreczmer**



**Year 8 runner up Vlad Marcules**



**Year 9 runner up Alfie Lee**



**Year 10 runner up Isabel Hanley**



**WANTED**

**Do you work in an industry relating to Design & Technology?**

**If so and you or your company would be willing to donate offcuts of wood, plastic or metal then please get in touch.**

**If you work in the card industry and in particular deal in corrugated card and have offcuts of material then please also get involved. We would like to set up links with outside companies to see how you may be able to support our department.**

**Please contact Mr J Murphy – Subject Leader for Design & Technology at [jmurphy@avonvalleyschool.uk](mailto:jmurphy@avonvalleyschool.uk)**

