

Editor Ms G Adamou



AVS Newsletter November 2022





Message from the Head

Dear Parents/Carers

I am pleased to be able to share with you the first full newsletter of 2022/23 and apologise that this is later than anticipated. I hope however that you have been kept well informed through the weekly 'AVS Way' newsletter sent out by the pastoral

team. This academic year has had an incredibly positive start and, as you will see in this newsletter, a large number of events have already taken place. Last week I was both impressed and moved by the school's Remembrance Assembly. Our students have a great deal of talent and, under Miss Wheatley's expert direction, once again put on a poignant assembly that was well received by the whole school. To stand in the centre of the stage surrounded by 550 of our young people showing their respect for the fallen by maintaining complete silence for 2 minutes is a moving experience; I am always impressed by the student's self-discipline at this time. I am also grateful for the support shown by you for the charities that we support and thank-you for the donations that you have made for both the Poppy Appeal and for Children in Need. I know how hard it is for so many families across our country at the moment and really appreciate you supporting others when you may also be finding things quite difficult yourself. In the next couple of weeks, we will be asking for donations for the local food bank – a charity collection that we have run annually for several years now. If you can, please do send your child in with some tins and jars for local families who are struggling to get enough to eat.

As we come towards the end of term we are starting to look forward to our Christmas festivities. In the last week of term, we are delighted that we will once again be able to host Christmas dinners for the four school Houses. Over the last couple of years this tradition was put on hold due to covid restrictions, so I am really looking forward to all the children being able to join together for some festive cheer. Eating together and spending time talking to friends is so important and I encourage all of you to support us, and your child, with this Christmas activity.



Alison Davies
Headteacher





Apollo House News



Many Apollo students have made a very positive start to the year and have already received a lot of positive points from their teachers on Class Charts, please see list of our top scorers below.

It was great to see that 84 Apollo students did not receive a single negative point in the first half term, a credit to their impeccable work and behaviour. 7MWH and 7KFO won the MFL competition in September, and Bradley Mackley was runner up in the recent bake-off competition for Children in Need, well done to all.

The Foodbank collection is starting soon and in the past, I have always been touched by our students', and their generosity for this great cause. I look forward to seeing the blue table fill up with food items for this very worthy cause, especially in today's economic climate.

I look forward to another successful year with Apollo students and, just a reminder that if you have any queries this year, the first point of contact for straightforward issues is your child's 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) for anything to do with your child's progress and studies in general, or Miss Hicks (lhicks@avonvalleyschool.uk), our Student Welfare Leader, for anything to do with your child's welfare.

Miss C Labreize
Achievement Leader - Apollo House

Apollo top point scorers since September			
Isabel	Kryjak	7MWH	328
Molly	Chandler	7MWH	313
Mischa	Sobalska	7MWH	312
Millisa	Thomas	8AKA	303
Brooke	Da Silva	8AKA	297
Kai	Place	7MWH	296
Kallum	Mackley	8AMU	294
Karl	Lipski	7MWH	291
Chloe	Williams	7MWH	288
Jaylon	Carr	7MWH	287





Maths News

I am always so proud to work at Avon Valley School, but particularly at this time of year with amazing remembrance assemblies and charity work galore.



The students have come back this year in a really positive way and are getting down to work in lessons. At Avon Valley School we have always tried to set at least one, formal exam each term for all students. The idea of this is not just to test what students know but also to help students to develop, for themselves, some good revision and exam strategies. If students can get used to doing exams early on and perfect their techniques this will hopefully reduce the stress levels when it comes to those all-important external exams in Year 11. We have now completed the first round for this year. In years 7 to 10 all papers have been gone through in class and sent home for you to see. Year 11 papers will come home soon. We will look closely at these exams in order to make any necessary adjustments to our teaching, intervention or students' sets.

All examinations at Avon Valley School are followed up with a "Closing The Gap" paper. This is where we set the same exam paper but change the numbers to check that students understand the exam corrections the teachers have gone through.

There is then extra help available for all students afterschool:



Year 7 – Wednesday in Ma2

Year 8 – Wednesday in Ma3

Year 9 - Wednesday in Ma6

Year 10 – Thursday in Ma5

(Also on a Tuesday during registration time)

Year 11 - Thursday in Ma3 & Ma4

(Also Tuesdays in which is topic specific, but still open to all)

Thank you for all the support that you give to us on an ongoing basis. It really does make a big difference. Could I ask for your continued help to ensure that all students attend all lessons fully equipped as this really does help students to make the most of their lessons.

We do sell the equipment that they need in the maths office every day:

Filled pencil case £2
Calculator £8



Keep in touch

Remember I am always happy to hear from any student or parent and can be reached easily on:

dtyas@avonvalleyschool.uk.

Mrs D Tyas

Faculty Leader - Maths





Cheerleading Coach Success

A Year 7 student has recently completed her cheerleading level 1 junior coaching qualification.

Apollo House student, Mischa Sobalska, has been involved with Roar Cheer and Dance since she was three years old and has now stepped up to become one of the club's coaches. Mischa regularly trains and enters competitions with the Mill Road based club.

Mischa completed her level 1 qualification with Building from the Ground Up and now coaches children, aged 3-8 years, in the Kitten class. On her course Mischa learnt exercises and activities that she can use when coaching younger children. After completing the award Mischa received a t-shirt and certificate.

Mischa said: The course has given me lots of confidence to work with the younger members of the club. I really enjoy my cheerleading sessions and I want to continue coaching others and competing myself."

Alison Davies, Headteacher, said: "This is wonderful experience of Mischa to be gaining at such a young age. It is always positive to see that students are involved in clubs and activities outside of school and have opportunity to learn and develop new skills. I wish Mischa all the best with her cheerleading and coaching."

Mr D Phelan
Achievement Leader - Fortune House





Design & Technology News

Design & Technology continues to be a busy subject throughout the day. If you think we sit down to have a drink and eat at lunchtime, then think again. It may only be thirty minutes, but I will never stop students eagerness to want to do more. We call them working lunches. Students may want to come and finish work off or simply make progress. Year 10 have been busy making their mood lights since September and have spent many a lunch break applying their finishes to their products. Year 11 are now half way through their final non-examined assessment and again the rooms are open to them everyday to come and do that little bit more.



Numbers at GCSE level continue to rise each year with now 139 taking the subject. It is great to see so many wanting to become engineers, architects or take up a trade. What I have started to notice though over the last three years is a decline in female engagement at Key Stage 4. So every Tuesday lunchtime we now have a girls into engineering club. They already have two projects on the go, making an eco bin for Mr Hartfield and working on designing products to sell at Christmas to raise money for charity. There will also be a jewellery project planned for later in the academic year. As many skills as possible will be learnt by our Year 8 girls taking part to ensure that the year is a success.

Do remember if you require any further information about Design & Technology, then please contact myself at jmurphy@avonvalleyschool.uk

Mr J Murphy

Subject Leader - Design & Technology





Design & Technology News

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





Year 7

Halloween Disco

Halloween is the perfect night to gather by the light of a lone candle, or to sit by the flickering flame of a log fire and conjure up creepy images of ghosts and ghoulies, long-legged beasts, and things that go bump in the night. Not by the Year 7s at AVS...



On 19th November Year 7 had the opportunity to dress up and frighten their friends at the Performing Arts Halloween Disco. Lots of dancing and fun was had by all and many a sweet eaten!

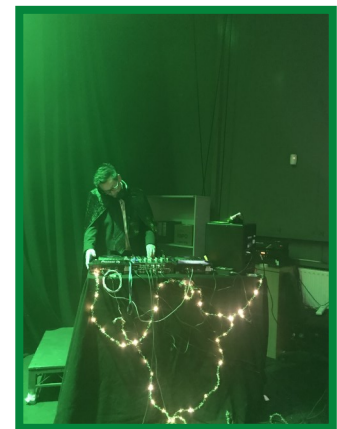
Well done to Nicole Peabody and Karl Lipsk for the best dressed on the night.

Thank you to all of the Performing Arts Faculty for all their hard work and commitment.

Ms E Wheatley

Faculty Leader - Performing Arts &

Subject Leader - Drama





Annual Awards Evening

Over 100 students awarded with medals and certificates for hard work

On Thursday 14th July, we held our annual awards evening which celebrated the success, and hard work, of over 100 high achieving students.



During the well-attended event, the school's highest achieving students were presented with an award recognising their hard work, commitment and academic success. Each of the school's faculties and subject areas nominated two students from each year group to receive a subject award. The subject areas also selected one student, from any year group, to receive the overall subject award.

In addition, one high achieving student from each of the school's Houses was selected by their Achievement Leader for an award. The outstanding students of the year were Vlada Mararu – Apollo, Christina Batchelor – Fortune, Daniel Akhmed – Garrick and Asrifa Altaf– Phoenix. Year 10, Fortune House, student Maisha Akand was selected by the school's Headteacher for a special award, and Daniel Wilson was chosen to receive the Don O'Neill Award.

The students, who sat in front of proud parents, carers and family members, were presented with a medal by guest speaker Justice Williams, and received a certificate from the school's Headteacher, Alison Davies and Co-chair of Governors, Janet Gilbert.

For this year's awards evening the school invited, Justice Williams MBE, a multi-award-winning personal brand strategist, business coach and online course creator, who started her business with no money and built a 6-figure business within the first 12 months. In 2009 she became the youngest woman of Afro-Caribbean heritage to be honoured with an MBE by the Queen and was awarded Cosmopolitan Magazine's Most Inspiring Woman of the Year Award.



Achievement Leader Carole Labreize, who organised the awards evening' said, "This was our first 'in person' awards evening, at which parents have been invited to attend, since 2019. It was wonderful to 'get back to normal' and see the school's theatre full of students and their proud parents and carers."

Alison Davies, Headteacher commented "Our annual awards evening is an event I am always proud of. We have so many students who work hard every day of the year and it's lovely to see their effort and commitment to learning recognised. Thank you to everyone who attended the event, and to our guest speaker, Justice Williams, for her inspiring talk. "

Mr D Phelan
Achievement Leader - Fortune House





Careers News

In the ever changing world of work, it is essential that students at The Avon Valley School are given high quality careers education and guidance to plan and manage their own careers. At AVS, we have a stable careers programme with access to support for developing career management skills, employability skills and independent learning skills. In July 2021 we were pleased to be awarded the 'Gold Quality in Careers' certificate after a rigorous assessment of our careers provision.

I would like to inform you that the careers policy, career journey and careers overview is published on the school website (<https://avonvalleyschool.uk/>) in the Curriculum tab at the top of the page.

During this academic year your child will be part of a Careers Google classroom that will update them with relevant careers information and advice throughout the year.

The AVS Careers Lead is Mrs Lisa Owen (lowen@avonvalleyschool.uk) and the Careers Coordinator/Advisor is Mrs Diane Jones (djones@avonvalleyschool.uk).

Careers fair

On October 11th saw all of year 9 and 11 attend the annual AVS careers fair. We were very lucky to have so many employers and post 16 destinations support our students.

Mrs L Owen

Achievement Leader - Phoenix House & Careers Leader

Careers fair		
Further education providers:	Higher Education providers:	Employers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rugby Free School Ashlawn Bilton Rugby High School HOET WCG - Rugby Stratford College Midland Group Training City College Coventry MTC JBC Skills Future Pro Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warwick University 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police Nursing RAF Finance Rugby Borough council Construction LISI aerospace CIA Insurance Barclays Bank Warwickshire library - volunteer scheme British Army RAF Engineering Stepnells Wilmot Brown Network Rail Apprenticeships Childcare charity sector





Year 11 Mock Interviews

On November 7th and 8th local employers volunteered to assist students prepare for careers interviews. I would like to say a big thank you in particular to Barclays Bank who provided a large number of staff over the two days for this event.

After the interviews one student said, "I found the mock interviews really useful because I tend to stress a lot about the unknowns of a situation but, because of the mock interview, now I know what to expect and am a lot less worried for when I do the real thing."

One of the volunteers said, "It was nice to speak to the students - some were more confident / nervous than others but all were polite and I wish them all the best in their next steps".



All students have been finding out about Green careers. A green career can be any job, role or occupation that contributes to preserving or restoring the environment and our planet. It can be any industry, not just those seen as 'green.' Green careers are a fast-growing global employment sector that touches every company, employer, employee, and education establishment.



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.

Mrs L Owen

Achievement Leader - Phoenix House & Careers Leader





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





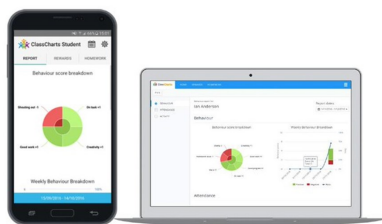
Dates for your diary

November/December

25th Nov - 12th Dec	Year 11 PPEs - Mock Exams
2nd Dec	Teacher Training Day
5th Dec	Teacher Training Day
9th Dec	Year 11 Xmas Dinner 12.35
9th Dec	Year 11 finish at 1.35
12th Dec	Xmas Jumper Day
12th Dec	Apollo Xmas Dinner 12.35
13th Dec	Phoenix Xmas Dinner 12.35
14th Dec	Fortune Xmas Dinner 12.35
14th Dec	Year 11 Photos 1.15
15th Dec	Garrick Xmas Dinner 12..35
16th Dec	Break up for Xmas at 12.35



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.





Students visit Bletchley Park

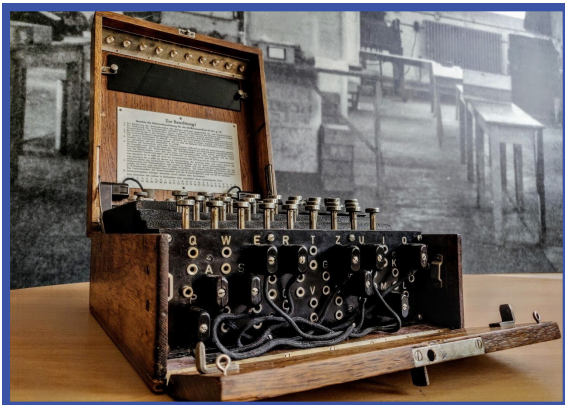
Computing students visit secret World War Two codebreaking site

A group of computing students recently visited Bletchley Park, the top secret home of the second world war codebreakers which is now a museum and heritage site, to learn about ciphers, computer coding and the history of computers.

In total forty students, from Year 9 to Year 11, visited the historic site where the complex German enigma code was cracked during the Second World War. As part of their visit the students learnt about the secretive history of the site, and explored Bletchley Park's grounds on a guided tour. The group also visited the buildings and huts where the mathematicians and codebreakers, including the world famous Alan Turing, worked throughout the war.

As part of their day the students followed in the codebreakers' footsteps and attempted to crack the Lorenz cipher using their computing knowledge. To do this the students were given instructions about encoding and decoding a message using a cipher code. The students also had chance to get up close to a replica enigma machine.

Alison Davies, Headteacher, said: "This was a wonderful chance for students to visit an important site from the nation's history and learn about how the first computers were developed. It's really important that students have the opportunity to visit museums and heritage sites to help underpin what they learn with us at school."



Mr D Phelan
Achievement Leader - Fortune House





The BBC visits AVS

BBC reporter and weather presenter share their stories with students

Students were recently visited by the BBC as part of a centenary project which aims to inspire young people to achieve their career goals and help realise their ambitions.

As part of the visit over 900 students who attend Avon Valley from Years 7 to Year 10, heard how Nicola Haseler, a BBC reporter and journalist, and weather presenter Abbie Dewhurst, started their careers in the media industry.

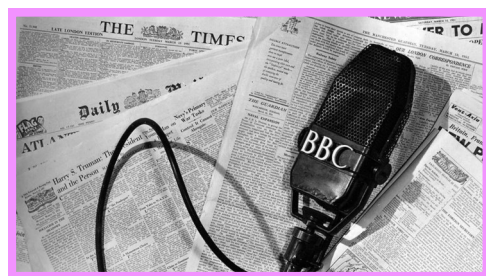
The visit forms part of the BBC's landmark centenary education project, BBC 100 Share Your Story, which will deliver more than 2000 face-to-face storytelling and careers sessions in over 700 school. The tour aims to reach up to 10,000 students each day and over 400,000 teenagers by the end of the BBC's centenary year.

In their presentations both Nicola Haseler and Abbie Dewhurst shared information about their journey into media and working with the BBC. Their stories started with their childhood interests, and included their education pathways, the opportunities and setbacks they experienced and how they got their present jobs.

Following the visit Nicola Haseler sent a message to the school, via Twitter, saying: "What engaged, inquisitive students you have - thank you for having us and letting us share our stories". Weather presenter, Abbie Dewhurst, also sent a tweet thanking the school and students for their "warm welcome".

Alison Davies, Headteacher, said: "The students really enjoyed hear the stories Nicola and Abbie had to share about their experiences and careers. We are really grateful to them and the whole BBC Story Your Story team for visiting us and giving our students this experience. As a performing arts school, the art and media play a big part in inspiring our students and this was a great opportunity for us."

Mr D Phelan Achievement Leader - Fortune House





History News

As part of the year 11 GCSE History scheme of work and to commemorate *Kristallnacht* students attended an event organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust which offered schools the opportunity to hear the testimony of two Holocaust survivors who witnessed these atrocities. Kristallnacht was also known as the Night of Broken Glass. The Night of Broken Glass was a watershed event in Jewish persecution in Germany and Austria before the outbreak of the Second World War. It involved anti-Semitic riots which destroyed Jewish property and places of worship. Many Jewish individuals were also physically attacked.



Peter and Marianne Summerfield BEM shared their testimony on 9th November 2022 which was exactly 84 years after they were both witnesses to Kristallnacht. Students listened to their story and reflected upon its significance and relevance today. Remembering, discussing and learning about the Holocaust is important not only because it helps us gain a better understanding of the past, but because it also raises awareness about contemporary forms of antisemitism, xenophobia and hatred. The personal stories of this period are one of the most important sources of information for students studying the Holocaust.

The event also links with the year 11 GCSE History scheme of work in which students learn about life in Nazi Germany and the treatment of different ethnic groups.

Miss A Moore
Subject Leader - History





Remembrance at AVS

Students hold two-minute silence on Remembrance Day

Students and staff came together on Friday 11th November to continue the school's annual remembrance tradition.

On the eleventh of November the students gathered in the school's theatre and watched their peers perform poignant dance and drama pieces which reflect remembrance. These were followed by the last post, exhortation, and a two minute's silence which was observed by the school's 1100 students, and staff.

As part of the wider remembrance activities, students used resources from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to reflect about what remembrance means to each of them, as individuals. Some of the students chose a name of a First or Second World War servicemen, who is buried locally in Rugby, to commemorate and remember whilst other students opted to remember a family member who's served.



One of those remembered by Avon Valley's students was Second Lieutenant Douglas Little, a 19 year old pilot, who was killed in June 1918 when the aircraft he was flying crashed. He is buried in Rugby's Clifton Road Cemetery. Another, of the many servicemen, remembered by the students was Pilot Officer Leslie Mollet a WW2 Canadian aviator from Toronto, who is buried a long way from home, but just a few miles away from the school, at Whinfield Cemetery.



In the week leading up to Remembrance Day members of the school's student leadership team volunteered their time to sell poppies to their classmates to raise funds for the Royal British Legion. The money raised will be used by the country's largest armed forces charity who support serving member of the armed forces, veterans and their families.



Mr D Phelan
Achievement Leader -

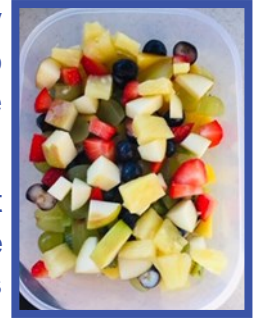




Catering & Hospitality

The new term is well under way in food and nutrition/ hospitality and catering.

Year 7 have started their food and nutrition journey with learning about safety and hygiene and how to use equipment correctly. They demonstrated how to use vegetable knives safely when making a fruit salad and been able to use the grills and ovens safely when making pizza toast and rock cakes.



These dishes have involved being able to read a recipe and knowing what various techniques are such as 'rubbing in'. Students have enjoyed taste testing their food and being able to describe its taste and texture which was overwhelmingly delicious!

After recapping on health and safety, year 8 students will be making fresh dough pizzas and developing their knowledge of the scientific reaction of ingredients such as yeast and strong white bread flour.



During Black History Month Year 9 students taste tested tropical fruits and continued the theme by making pineapple upside down cake.

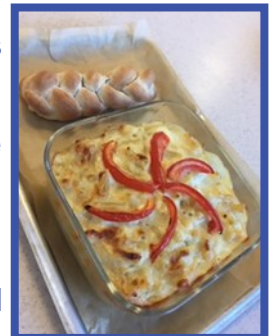
Year 11 Students made corn bread, a traditional southern American dish which can be served as an accompaniment to chilli con carni or jambalaya.

They have also developed their technical skills by making a roux sauce with a warm and comforting macaroni cheese with shaped dinner rolls to add to the dish.



Year 10 students have started to develop their higher level practical skills by creating dishes using different cuts of chicken such as, deboning chicken thighs to make a curry and chicken breasts to make a kiev.

We have also considered meat free alternatives which can be more cost effective and environmentally friendly.



I am looking forward to this half term and watching student's skills and enthusiasm develop further with seasonal tasty treats and the year 11 mock exam showcase during November and December.

Keep calm and keep cooking!

Mrs S Elson

Subject Leader - Food and Nutrition and Hospitality and Catering





Inspector Calls

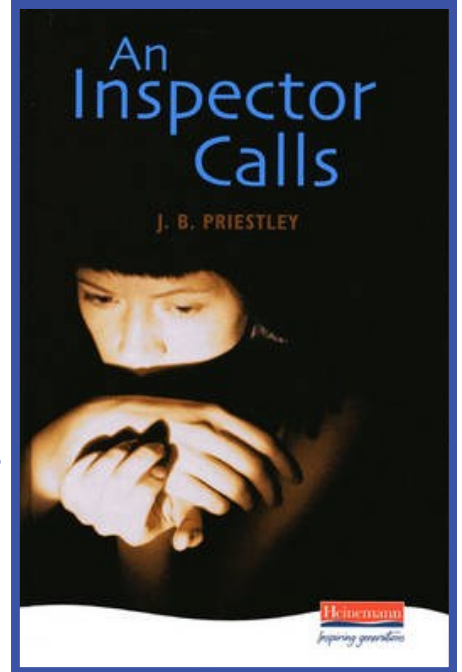
In September, some year 10 students had the opportunity to watch a performance of an Inspector Calls at The Milton Keynes Theatre. This was a fantastic chance to see the piece of theatre that is currently a studied GCSE text. Those who went on the trip enjoyed it immensely, and really saw the value of watching one of their texts unfold in front of them. The actors and director, Stephen Daldry, have re-imagined the set of this tale to really highlight the themes of class divide, age, gender and inequalities. This allows a new life to be breathed into the text and have it be brought into the modern era.

It's an exciting story based on death and deceit. A family is settling down after a celebratory dinner when an Inspector arrives to discuss the suicide of a girl. As the play unfolds, it is revealed that all of the wealthy, middle class Birling family are linked in some way.

JB Priestley wrote this morality play in 1945, just after the second world war to show audiences that mankind needs to change; needs to look after each other; needs to adopt some socialist ways of living. He condemned capitalism through the characters of Mr and Mrs Birling. In a rousing speech made by the Inspector, Priestley amplifies his own voice: "We are all members of one body. We are responsible for each other."

Many parents and carers of our students may remember studying this text when they were at all school, thus showing the tremendous impact this text still has even today. All our students have worked well with this text, and are now in the process of revising this topic in preparation of their exam set to take place in May 2023. We wish all of our students good luck with their exams.

If you wish to go and see the play, the tour is still running. You can find tickets here: <https://aninspectorcalls.com/tour-dates>



Miss A Tinham
Teacher of English





Children In Need





Bake Sale for Children In Need



Thank you to all the students and staff who donated their home baked delicious cakes to raise money for Children In Need.

You raised - **£84.67** thank you.

Mr K Barnes

*Leader of Competitions &
Physical Education Technician*





Technical Theatre Club

This autumn term has seen the beginnings of the AVS Technical Theatre Club.

Meeting each Tuesday lunchtime, the school's Performing Arts Technician Mr Good has introduced students to a range of skills needed to be on the tech team in a theatre. This led to the club's first performance supporting the Remembrance assemblies held on the 11th November.

The students worked throughout the week to prepare, ending with two great performances with the students working together to provide sound, projection and lighting. Pictured are Charlotte, Martyna, Caitlin, Beau and Chloe, whom Mr Good would like to thank for their hard work.

Mr M Owen

Subject Leader of Media Studies

