

Editor Ms G Adamou



AVS Newsletter September 2023



THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE



On Thursday 21st September Avon Valley hosted our annual Open Evening event, and what an amazing evening it was. I would like to say a massive thank you to all the students and staff for their effort and enthusiasm during the evening to show prospective students and parents just what Avon Valley has to offer.

During the evening hundreds of our students conducted tours for parents, displayed their work in different subjects, and spoke to visitors about their subjects and the school. The Head/Deputy Head Boy and Girl and a group of Year 7 students also spoke in front of over 250 people in the theatre, and talked about their positive experiences at Avon Valley with remarkable composure and confidence. All students represented AVS in such a positive manner and showed just how incredible they are as a group of young people.

During the evening staff displayed their passion and dedication towards AVS by showcasing the opportunities and subject content available at AVS. Live science displays with some extremely loud bangs, English literature live performances, rock climbing, drama performances, maths challenges, musical performance, and some stunning art project work. These were just a few examples of the many exciting things going on around the school.

Thank you again to all parents and carers for supporting the event by allowing your child to attend the open evening, they really did make us all proud.

Mr Blake Francis
Headteacher

Upcoming Events

October 5

Year 7 Tutor Evening
at AVS

October 5

Year 11 Launch at
AVS

October 6

Splash Day

October 12

Careers Fair

October 19

Year 11 Progress
Evening at AVS

October 27

Teacher Training Day

Newbold Road, Rugby, Warwickshire CV21 1EH
Headteacher: Blake Francis Bsc Hons, PGCE, NPQH

☎ 01788 542355 ✉ admin@avonvalleyschool.uk 🌐 avonvalleyschool.uk
✂ @AvonValleySch 📘 AvonValleySchool



THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

Garrick House News

Ms Masters and I were very pleased with how our students have returned since the summer holidays. Students have returned with a great attitude and look very smart in their school uniform. During our house assemblies, we have spoken about our core values and basic expectations. We have linked this back to being a 'brand' and how they can make their 'brand' the best they can be with links to punctuality, respect and organisation.

I would like to welcome our new cohort of Year 7 students, parents and carers to the Garrick House family. All students should have received their class charts logins, along with a parent code, to enable clear and concise communication going forwards. Details about upcoming 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.

A number of students across the house have accumulated a large amount of house points so far; for them individually and us a house. As reigning champions of the attendance cup for 2022/23, we have encouraged students to continue to be resilient when it comes to attending school. Being competitive, I would like to be attendance champions again which will also allow maximum learning opportunities.

Student leadership continues to grow across our school and I am delighted to see a number of Garrick students taking up leadership roles. I would like to welcome Nicole and Bryone as our Year 11 house captains, supported by our head girl from Garrick, Lavina.

We have a wide variety of events to look forward to including the preparation for the school show, splash day and career related activities.

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).

Garrick tutors 2023/24

7KMI - Mrs Miah - kmiah@avonvalleyschool.uk

7SPO-Mrs Poolley - spoolley@avonvalleyschool.uk

8GMA - Mr Massey - gmassey@avonvalleyschool.uk

8SHI - Mrs Hill - shill@avonvalleyschool.uk

9GST - Miss Stanley - gstanley@avonvalleyschool.uk

9VPE - Mrs Penrose - vpemrose@avonvalleyschool.uk

10ATI - Miss Tinham - atinham@avonvalleyschool.uk

10JDR-Ms Drzewinska jdrzewinska@avonvalleyschool.uk

11IGO - Mr Goldthorp - igoldthorp@avonvalleyschool.uk

11EAN - Miss Anderson-Howe -

eanderson-howe@avonvalleyschool.uk

Mr C Hartfield

Achievement Leader - Garrick House





THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

Careers



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://www.avonvalleyschool.uk/student-life/careers/>

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 Mr Chino Ogali (cogali@avonvalleyschool.uk).

What's been happening this month:

- ◆ Year 11 students have had an assembly about post 16 options and have been researching options in PSHE.
- ◆ Year 11 students had an assembly with Phil Warwick from the CITB about the wide variety of careers in the construction industry.
- ◆ Year 10 students have been learning about workplaces, health and safety and universities.
- ◆ Year 10 students have had their work experience (WEX) launch assembly. This year, WEX will be for 5 days commencing Monday 1st July.
- ◆ Year 9 students have been looking at their employability skills, and finance.

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 do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Owen (lowen@avonvalleyschool.uk) or Mr Chino Ogali (cogali@avonvalleyschool.uk), or look at the information available on the school website: <https://avonvalleyschool.uk/>. Careers can be found in the School Life tab.



Mrs L Owen

Achievement Leader - Phoenix House &

Careers Lead





THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

AVS Head Boy & Head Girl 2023/24



My name is Lavinia and I am the Head Girl for this academic year. My favourite subjects are Drama and Design and Technology as I really enjoy practical work. One of my hobbies is running and keeping fit.

I am very passionate about the student voice and it is what I want to work on at AVS. In the future, I would like to work in public speaking and leadership. I am very grateful to be assigned the position of Head Girl and I am really looking forward to working with the students and staff to improve our good school to

make it great.

Lavinia Poita

AVS Head Girls—2023/24



My name is Drew Wallis the recently appointed Head Boy. My interests are field hockey, where I play for Rugby and East Warwickshire as a goalkeeper, and I also compete in kickboxing. I've recently completed my 6th belt out of 11 to get to a black belt.

I would like to improve my leadership and confidence with this role and am hoping to go into a career of Mechanical Engineering or sport.

Drew Wallis

AVS Head Boy - 2023/24





Dance & Drama Students visit The Curve

On the 20th of January, we took the year 11 GCSE Dance and Drama groups to the Curve Theatre in Leicester to see Franz Kafka's production of 'Metamorphosis', adapted by Frantic Assembly.

As part of the GCSE course, all pupils must see a live piece of theatre, equating to 32 marks within their written paper in May 2024. Miss Carpenter, Miss Spraggett and I were so impressed with the impeccable behaviour to and from the theatre and enjoyed hearing the students discussing the various theatrical techniques during the performance.

"As Gregor Samosa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams, he found himself transformed in his bed into a gigantic insect"

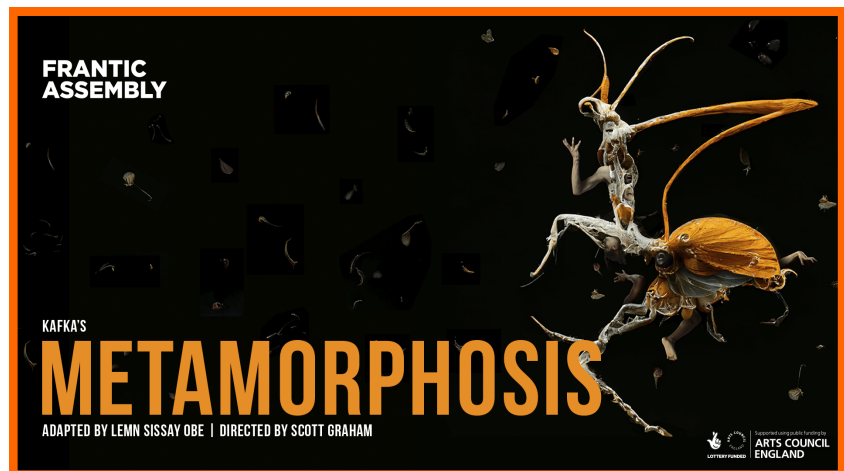
Frantic Assembly's director Scott Graham takes on a new and visual twist on the Berkoff's version showing a physical interpretation, with Gregor Samsa hanging from a light bulb and climbing the walls.



Miss E Wheatley

Faculty Leader - Performing Arts

Subject Leader - Drama





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Maths News



With a new Headteacher starting we decided to use this as an excuse to have a really good tidy up and face lift in the Maths Faculty.

It can be really therapeutic to have a good clear out and tidy up. We are now even more organised and know where everything is. We found several things in this process that we had forgotten were even there!



This is just like education for most students every September. They come back to school having had a great summer but forgetting lots of their Maths. When we start our lessons they really believe there are things that they have never seen before. After a bit of gentle revision to “tidy up the brain” they do find the facts they had forgotten all about. Now that we are finding those skills again we really want them to stay there. This will require lots of practice and hard work on everyone’s part, staff and students alike.

As Rishi Sunak keeps on pointing out that Maths is becoming more essential in the world. Those without Mathematical skills are being left behind. Avon Valley School is really successful at helping students to reach their potential. Last year’s Year 11 achieved above their National expectations in GCSE Maths and Statistics. Well done Class of 2023!! Now we move on to ensure the same or better for all 1103 students currently at the school.



In order to have the very best futures students need to get the very best out of school. At Avon Valley School we have excellent, dedicated staff and quality resources. They should appreciate these everyday by being in all of their lessons, on time, properly equipped, paying attention to what staff are saying and trying their best all the time including with homework.

The Maths staff also give freely of their time outside of the lessons. We are there to help after school:

Year 7 – Wednesdays

Year 8 – Wednesdays

Year 9 – Wednesdays

Year 10 – Thursdays

Year 11 – Tuesdays and Thursdays



Parents and students can also contact us by email whenever they need. My email is: dt yas@avonvalleyschool.uk

We also sell all of the equipment that students need in the maths office:

Pencil cases with pens, pencils, compass, eraser, pencil sharpener and protractor are £2

Scientific Calculators with great functions to really help students to achieve are £8.

So remember, now that the cobwebs are out of those brains, keep them pristine clean so you can find all that great information you need. To do that practice is the key...Practice, Practice, Practice!

Mrs D Tyas

Faculty Leader - Mathematics





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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





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AVS Open Evening 2023

On Thursday 21st September we opened our doors to all prospective parents. All departments showcased their subjects with student helpers and parents and future students had the opportunity to have a guided tour of our fabulous building.

We had some amazing feedback:

'Myself and my son visited Avon Valley last night for your open evening.

We had a lovely tour guide named Bailey from year 9 and I just wanted to say what an amazing job he did.

He was a real credit to your school and spoke highly about your staff members who he obviously had a good relationship with.

My son has autism and he was so thoughtful to his needs throughout the whole tour.

We have been round a lot of schools in the past couple of weeks and he has been the best guide we've had by far. Thank you for a lovely evening'

'We attended the open evening today and I would like to say a big thank you to Emilia and Bella who showed us round. They were very engaging and full of useful insight of what to expect in year 7. We thoroughly enjoyed the evening.'





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New to Avon Valley School



My name is Victoria Penrose and I am a 'blend 57' of many heritages; including British, American, and Australian. I have chosen the UK as my preferred home - largely because there are fewer things crawling around causing havoc. I also prefer the cooler climate.

My husband is also Australian and we have a 12 year old son. We have lived in Rugby for over 8 years after leaving London for the wilds of Warwickshire in 2015.

When I first moved to the UK, I worked as a nanny before completing my university degree, a BA Hons at the University of Surrey.

I am a passionate career educator and aim to provide strong pastoral support to each student in my lessons. I believe that I am strict, but fair.

Prior to starting at Avon Valley, I was a volunteer for the Rugby branch of Cats Protection alongside my teaching career and as such have ended up with 4 cats!

I'm an avid cinema buff, and think I'd have been an excellent film critic. Perhaps in my next life?

Mrs V Penrose

Teacher of History



My name is Sarah Poolley and I have been teaching for 20 years. I qualified as a science teacher and taught science for the first 10 years of my career. I then became a food technology teacher and have taught food and nutrition ever since.

In my spare time I play the guitar and the piano. I am currently learning to speak Spanish which I have been doing for the last 2 years. I am pleased to be working at Avon Valley School.

Mrs S Poolley

Subject Lead -Food and Nutrition





THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE



Having previously worked at Avon Valley School as the PA to the Deputy Headteachers, I am delighted to be back working here as the Headteacher's PA.

For the last 5 years, I have been the Sixth Form Centre Manager at Lawrence Sheriff School. I hope that sharing my knowledge and experience of the sixth form may help to inspire students who are considering A levels and University in the future.

I am a mum to 2 boys who are now in their twenties, which makes me feel very old! In my spare time, I am a keen gardener and enjoy going to the theatre and concerts and just spending time with friends.

Mrs K Watts

Headteachers PA & HR Manager

It is indeed a great pleasure to have joined the staff at Avon Valley School in September, this year after having taught at various secondary schools across West Midlands and abroad. I have always admired the school since coming to the school on a supply basis.

I admire the dedication of the students to their learning and leadership development. These were my motivation, and I am poised to continue to lend support towards shaping the lives of young people and motivating them to achieve their highest potential as I have done for the past twenty years of teaching.

Mrs O Olutobi

Teacher of Science





THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

Teamwork at AVS



A thrilling end to a nail biting game saw our Year 9 Netball team come on top narrowly beating RFSS 9-8. Fab game team, keep up the amazing attitude!



A fantastic win, away at Princethorpe for our U14s, after trailing 1-0 at half time.

Goals from Jordan, Harry, Alfie and a hat trick from Captain Kallum. You should all be very proud, well done!



This week our Year 8 Netball team suffered their first ever defeat against RFSS. The attitude of the team was amazing and supported each other. Keep up the good work girls!

