

Avonbourne Academies

#AVBPROUD



## FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

Mrs Dyer

As we approach the end of the first half of this term, I would like to thank students, parents and carers for their continued support. Working together with your support, our students were able to support a range of charities and showcase their amazing talents last term - this culminated in our Christmas Jumper Day which raised a fantastic £624 for Save the Children.

Please can I also thank everyone who participated in the recent United Learning surveys. We value your feedback and the opportunity to reflect on how we can continually improve our educational offer to ensure that we bring out 'The Best in Everyone'. We were also delighted to hear that one of our parents was the lucky winner of the UL prize draw that participants were automatically entered into. In order to strengthen communication and allow you to access additional information to support your child, we have updated our 'Contact Us' section of our website to include the contact details for subject areas and the Leadership Team.

Looking ahead, we have been informed that a date for the BCP KS2-3 transition day has been confirmed for Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July. We are hopeful that this will be able to take place in person this year and look forward to welcoming our new Year 6 students to the Academies. Confirmation of this date does mean that we have had to make a change to our previously advertised INSET days. INSET will no longer take place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July and will be moved to Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July instead.

Please continue to keep an eye on the Academies' website so you are kept fully updated about the latest events and activities taking place or follow us on social media. Many thanks for everyone's continuing support and I wish everyone a relaxing half term break.

Best Wishes  
Mrs Dyer

We are #AVBproud  
of our Christmas  
Hamper Volunteers

REACH Ambassadors and Prefects from years 7-11 gave up the first day of their Christmas Holidays to assist with packing food hampers at Citygate church. We managed to pack over 50 hampers using a lot of the contributions from Avonbourne students. Some of these hampers even went out to some of our own school community. The students were an asset to the Academy, and we look forward to working towards other worthwhile projects.





Our D of E groups have now settled into their volunteering, physical and skill sections, so we have turned our attention to route planning for the expeditions. D of E students will be undertaking a 2-day, 1 night walking and camping expedition in the Purbecks where they will take in sights such as Corfe Castle and Old Harry's Rocks. All D of E groups will be planning and writing their own routes to get them from their start point to the campsite, and to their finish point the following day. Grid references, map features, using a compass, working out distances and timings – all of these are skills that the students will be accomplished in and will be assessed on as part of their D of E Bronze and Silver Awards.

Dates for your diary: Year 9 Day walk – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March, Year 10 Pre-Assessed – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May, Year 10 Assessed – Saturday/Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> July  
Miss Sherwood Taylor, D of E Lead



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## Careers Update

Year 10 students have been working as marketing executives for BCP council this month. They have been using their marketing skills to create a range of materials to help promote the Careers and Apprenticeship Show being held on 17<sup>th</sup> March at Bournemouth International Centre, Bournemouth. As part of the Marketing and Communication team for CAS 2022 they will play a key role in promoting and raising awareness of the event in the local area. Students are involved in three main tasks:

- Promotional Poster
- Social Media Posts
- Production of a radio advert

For the radio advert Hot Radio has provided some tips:

- Keep it simple
- 'Punchy'
- Less is more
- Catchy jingle
- Use royalty free music
- Use 30 words maximum

This is a great opportunity for students to get some real-world business experience beyond the classroom and create resources for a specific purpose. There are many talented students already showing great promise, so it is possible the winning entries for each category could be submitted by our marketeers at Avonbourne! This experience will assist the students as they develop skills for their OCR Cambridge National coursework which involves the creation of a business proposal.

## BCP Youth Parliament

We are very excited that several students from Avonbourne and USF are running to stand as our Youth Parliament representatives for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. Mr Noble, Miss Burgess and Miss Jupe have ensured that all students at Avonbourne get a chance to vote for the person they would like represent them in their local area. Each candidate running has created a campaign video and we are incredibly impressed with the action plans they have come up with to support young people in our area.

Please encourage your son/daughter to vote. They can do this by clicking on the email they received earlier this month, following the link, pasting in their unique code, watching the videos from the candidates and voting for the two people they feel are supporting changes that they believe in. The students running from Avonbourne are: Tireni S (Y8), Emily L (Y9), Hala M (Y9), Talia M (Y10), Toni F V (Y10) and Oliwier S (Y12). We can't wait to hear the result at the end of the month!





# Eco-Committee update

## Bring on the bins!

The Eco-Committee have been busy these last few weeks rolling out their exciting new recycling scheme across the Academies.

With the support of the school's Business Manager, we have been able to purchase eighty blue flexi tubs and twenty swing bins to place in classrooms and strategically around the school site. Every classroom now has a tub for recycling common items such as paper, cardboard, cans and some types of plastic packaging.

Well done to Kadajah from 8ag3 who designed the winning logo!

This recycling initiative is run entirely by students, with two tutor representatives emptying their form group bin every Thursday morning. Our fantastic Eco-Committee members, Adem, Ida, Anna, Alicia and Andre, have been on hand to help make this run as smoothly as possible. Thank you to all five for their work on this.



Last week also saw the introduction of our trial bins for three TerraCycle recycling streams. Outside A Block canteen, students can now recycle clean and empty crisp packets and confectionery wrappers. There is also a third bin for any form of writing instrument (pens, highlighters, whiteboard markers etc.) in the staff room so students can pass on these items to members of staff or the Eco-Committee to recycle appropriately. We ask that students do not pollute these bins with other litter

or we cannot send the waste off to TerraCycle.

## This week's eco-tip: TerraCycle waste streams

TerraCycle is an innovative recycling company that has become a global leader in recycling hard-to-recycle materials. Just like our students, you can access TerraCycle schemes in the local community and help to reduce single-use plastic being sent to landfill unnecessarily.



Just some of the items recycled by this company include dental waste, cheese packaging, soap and laundry plastics, make-up packaging, Pringles tubes, medicine packaging and baby food pouches. Use this link to see a full list of waste streams and a map of drop off locations in our local area: <https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/brigades>

# NEW SENSORY ROOM

Last term saw the launch of our brand new, specialised **Sensory Room!**

Sensory rooms are specifically designed to provide an enjoyable or calming multisensory experience for children. They're often used for children with autism or sensory processing disorders but they are beneficial to many children.

Having a designated sensory room means we can promote the inclusion of students with a variety of needs within our school. It also provides us with a safe and functional space in which these students can:

- Calm down when they are experiencing anxiety, distress or panic attacks, relating to a Special Educational Need
- Experience sensory stimulation that helps to appease their sensory needs
- Try activities that are designed to help them to cope with their different needs
- Have the privacy to calm down and practise functional skills without disrupting others or feeling singled out
- Learn how to cope with their emotions in a controlled environment so that they are better able to handle experiences that they have at any time in the real world.

We were very grateful to receive support from Quorsus; a small business who chose Avonbourne to be a recipient of their new programme that aims to promote inclusion and diversity within the community.

*'Quorsus is a financial markets' consulting organisation that has just this year launched a Corporate and Social Responsibility (CSR) programme with an emphasis on Diversity and Inclusion in the local community. As a relatively small, growing organisation we wanted to prioritise causes that are connected to our staff to provide an opportunity to contribute meaningfully on a local scale. We chose to focus on Diversity and Inclusion based on our commitment to create an environment that encourages cognitive and behavioural diversity in our own organisation, recognising the great things that can be achieved when you combine different perspectives and experiences. The opportunity to partner with the Learning Support team at Avonbourne fit our criteria perfectly and we are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to such a fantastic initiative'.*

- Ryan Baccus, CEO of Quorsus



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This half term in PSHE, our year 7s have been learning about online safety. Students have focused on how to communicate online and have also learned about cyber bullying. Students now know how to support and report if these issues ever occur.

Meanwhile, our year 8s have focused on mental health and wellbeing, as well as puberty and how changes may impact mental health and wellbeing. This half term is a stepping stone to the topic of puberty, which we will be looking at in more detail next term.

Our Year 9s have been learning about health and wellbeing, including sexual health. Although all of our year groups work exceptionally hard, our year 9s have received glowing feedback from our PSHE teachers about their fantastic effort in the subject this half term, so well-done year 9!

Our year 10s have been studying topics focusing on the wider world this half term – these include taxes, money management and online safety with a focus on gambling.

Our year 11s will soon be studying citizenship, focusing on parliament, politics and British Values.

We are very lucky to have Dorset Sexual Health visiting us on Wednesday 16th February to deliver an assembly to our year 10s. The assembly links back to our first topic but also build on future topics that our students will be studying in PSHE.



## Young Ambassadors

This half term the Year 9 Young Ambassadors have been leading at the Primary Indoor Athletics events hosted by Avonbourne Academies. The group worked hard to learn how to officiate all the track and field events in sessions before Christmas and have been putting their skills into practice during 6 events.

So far, they have worked with 10 primary schools with 10 more due to visit. The Young Ambassadors have been great role models and have given up their time to help the community.



### Avonbourne Boys' Academy Leaderboard

Total study time:

1. Colin C Y10
2. Sseco T Y8
3. Harley S Y8
4. Ginaluca G N Y8
5. Adam A-G Y8
6. Kyle C Y8
7. Kai D Y11
8. Dylan A Y8
9. Archie B Y8
10. Reuben H Y8

Average score:

1. Toni F V Y10
2. Zain M Y8
3. Shahram R Y10
4. Oliver R Y9
5. Jonah S Y8
6. Ross C Y7
7. Jason M Y8
8. Fletcher B Y7
9. Finley C Y9
10. Mervin G Y9

## SENECA

Avonbourne continues to lead the way nationally with Seneca and we are very proud of all of our students efforts. As a reminder, all students have the opportunity to access homework club every breaktime and lunchtime in T3/T4, and after school on Wednesday and Thursdays in T12/T13.

### Avonbourne Girls' Academy/USF Leaderboard

Total study time:

1. Ayesha J Y8
2. Nadia S Y8
3. Jemima A Y8
4. Iris F Y8
5. Hannah N Y8
6. Charley K Y8
7. Susan K Y8
8. Mia H Y8
9. Sarah S R Y10
10. Katerina A Y9

Average score:

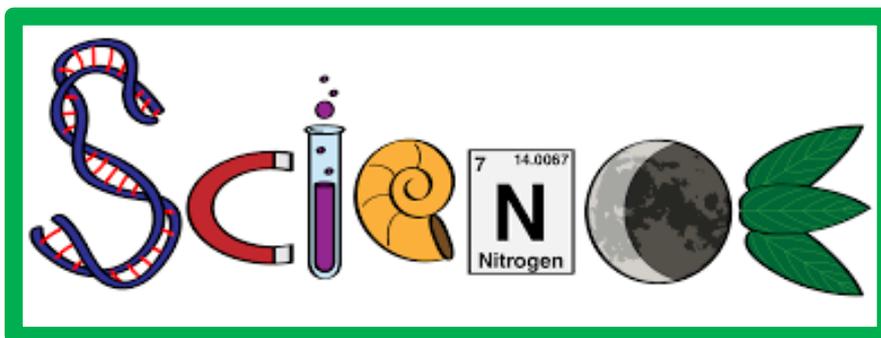
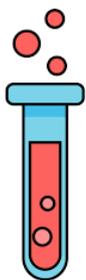
1. Zahra A-C Y7
2. Kristen C Y10
3. Lilly W Y9
4. Courtney J Y11
5. Zofia D USF
6. Laura de A S Y8
7. Elizabeth O-A Y8
8. Elena G Y8
9. Sahar J Y9
10. Hollie J Y8

## SENECA.

A particular well done to all students who made the leader boards below.



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The CREST club run by Miss Keylock and Miss Pittwood were challenged to create all the colours in a pH rainbow from just 3 chemicals, an acid, an alkali, and universal indicator solution. The pH scale measures how acidic or alkaline a substance is, and the value can be approximated using chemicals known as indicators that change to specific colours. They worked in teams of three to design their own methods to achieve this. Some of the students simply started mixing solutions together in a trial-and-error way, and some realised they would have to follow a more scientific approach of carefully measuring their quantities and then making observations about the pH achieved. The results were beautiful pH rainbows showing red for acids, green for neutral solutions, and purple for alkalis. All of this was achieved by varying the amount of each chemical used to cause various stages of neutralisation reactions. The best team received some chocolates, which they were not allowed to eat in the lab!

Whilst universal indicator makes this distinctive rainbow, you can make your own indicators at home from many common fruit and vegetables. Red cabbage is the most commonly used, however anything containing anthocyanins can be used to make indicators to test household acids such as lemon juice. Why not try this yourself with blueberries, blackberries, purple grape juice or elderflowers!



Science Club is on  
a Thursday in S1.



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# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



This year has seen the highly successful introduction of the United Learning Religious Education curriculum into Years 7 and 8 at Avonbourne Academies. Students have been learning how to view religious belief through an historical lens in order to examine and evaluate the development of the three Abrahamic religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. As they progress through the curriculum, students have been encouraged to adopt a variety of theological, sociological and philosophical lenses, enabling them to appraise and evaluate the contrasting cultures, worldviews and practices of these similar, yet diverging faiths. Year 7 students will presently be receiving their Gideons Bibles which contain the New Testament, Proverbs and Psalms.

In Year 9 students are involved in sensitive and mature explorations of topical and highly significant social and ethical issues such as pollution, abortion and animal rights. Year 9 students have also begun to utilise a range of sophisticated “Ways of Knowing”, where they examine the accuracy and reliability of the truth claims of the worldviews that they are studying.

The RE department has continued to welcome the local Christian charity, ‘The Pace Trust’, into Year 7 lessons where they have been introduced to concepts connected to what it means to have faith and of the impact of Jesus on their moral codes and their roles in society.

Working closely with Mr Sykes and Dr Barco, “The Pace Trust” has successfully grown the increasingly popular Friday Lunchtime club “Big Questions” to its highest ever levels of regular attendance. Welcoming Christians and non-Christians alike, “Big Questions” offers students the opportunity to approach moral and ethical issues and perspectives of their own choosing which may be different to those that they encounter within the Religious Education curriculum.

Miss Jupe, Mr Noble and Miss Burgess have continued to run the highly successful Debate Club. Students have the opportunity to engage in lively and incisive debates where they acquire the skills of utilising an impressive range of rhetorical devices allowing them to confidently express their own personal viewpoints as well as engaging with the opinions of others.

A pleasing initiative this year is the establishment of a Prayer Room which will be open to all. Students will have access to a quiet and private space where they will be able to reflect and engage with their own faith and worldview in an appropriate time and manner of their choosing.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

It has been a great start to the spring term, with so many students participating in clubs and fixtures.

Students from year 7,8 and 9 took part in the Dorset Schools Cross Country Championships at Kings Park. All students worked exceptionally hard showing resilience in a large and competitive field.

Competitive matches and fixtures have returned and are in full swing. Avonbourne Girls have taken part in Football tournaments winning several matches and are growing in confidence and numbers. In netball, girls have taken part in the Bournemouth and Christchurch area tournament. The girls are training hard and hoping to find more winning form in their upcoming games.

The Spring term has seen the return of the Football Town Cup, after an absence of two years. There has been an expansion in teams this year with 7 schools entering this of the Bournemouth league, all competing for the top 2 spaces and a chance to be named Town Cup Champions.

The current league positions for Year 7,8 and 9 are as follows:

Table	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
4 BSB	3	2	1	0	17	4	13	7
1 Avonbourne	3	2	1	0	16	3	13	7
5 G & W Ac	2	2	0	0	8	2	6	6
3 The Bourne Ac	3	1	0	2	8	9	-1	3
2 TBOWA	3	0	0	3	2	17	-15	0
7 Oak Ac	2	0	0	2	0	16	-16	0

Table	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1 Avonbourne	4	4	0	0	23	2	21	12
5 G & W Ac	2	2	0	0	9	1	8	6
4 BSB	3	2	0	1	11	7	4	6
2 TBOWA	3	1	0	2	6	5	1	3
8 Parkfield	1	0	0	1	0	5	-5	0
3 The Bourne Ac	3	0	0	3	1	12	-11	0
7 Oak Ac	2	0	0	2	1	19	-18	0

Table	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
5 G & W Ac	4	3	0	1	29	7	22	0
6 Leaf	2	2	0	0	9	3	6	0
4 BSB	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
2 TBOWA	2	1	0	1	6	8	-2	0
1 Avonbourne	3	1	0	2	6	10	-4	0
3 The Bourne Ac	1	0	0	1	1	8	-7	0
7 Oak Ac	1	0	0	1	0	14	-14	0



Students have also been taking part in leadership opportunities. Boys and Girls from year 9 have been trained to lead and officiate at the Primary Indoor Athletics League. With 100's of students competing, and the noise volume from cheering fans almost lifting the sport hall roof, the Leaders conducted themselves superbly and were a credit to the Academies.

If you have a head for heights and a passion for extreme sports, you will have welcomed the return of Climbing Club. This club has always been a popular activity and is always full of boys and girls from across the year groups attempting to overcome the challenges faced on the wall. Senior students have also been tested and proved invaluable to the club, acting as young leaders to help belay students on the wall.

## Friends of Avonbourne Academies

Friends of Avonbourne Academies is a collective group of three schools in Bournemouth including the two secondary schools (Avonbourne Boys' and Girls Academies and the United Sixth Form (USF). The Friends of Avonbourne Academies (FOAA), aim to raise money to provide the students at the Academies and Sixth Form with additional resources. All funds raise go directly to support students in their school lives.

We'd love to have more parents involved! If you are interested, please email [pta@avonbourneacademy.org.uk](mailto:pta@avonbourneacademy.org.uk) to find out the dates of next meetings.



## Key Dates for Spring Term 2:

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Y9 move into new streams  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Y8 Boys Parents' Evening

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Y8 Girls Parents' Evening

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March – Y11 Mock Exams

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March – Y8 move into new streams

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March – Y9 Options Evening

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March – USF Parents' Evening

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April – Spring Concert

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Y11 Parents' Evening boys

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April – Y11 Parents' Evening girls

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April – Year 7 Spring Disco

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April – Last Day of Term



# Come and see us in action!

Do you know a Year 4 or 5 parent who is thinking about secondary schools? We have Open Mornings every Wednesday. Parents can book onto these via our websites: [www.avonbourneboysacademy.org.uk](http://www.avonbourneboysacademy.org.uk) [www.avonbournegirlsacademy.org.uk](http://www.avonbournegirlsacademy.org.uk)

We want to show our local community why we are so #AVBproud!



# Dance



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In Dance this term Year 7 girls have been exploring Street Dance styles including Hip Hop and Tutting. Students have needed to perform with strong and heavy dynamics as well as master the fluid and fast footwork. Year 8 and Year 9 students this half term completed their written and practical ROA assessments and Miss Barr and Mrs Adams couldn't be prouder of how the students conducted and prepared for these assessments. Year 8 girls performed the original repertoire from The Greatest Showman hit 'This is Me' whilst the Year 9 girls performed a piece performed in the BBC The Greatest Dancer TV show. Well done to all students and we look forward to teaching you in your new streams next half term!



This half term, our Year 11 GCSE dancers performed the first of their practical examinations. Students performed a solo dance where they will be assessed on their technique and performance skills and a trio performance which was based on the horrors of the holocaust. Students were required to perform with appropriate expressive skills to show the fear and panic. The students performed exceptionally well and demonstrated their talent and dedication. We look forward to seeing their choreography in their second practical examination next half term.

Anastasia in Year 13 has been working towards her two solo examination performances. One, in the style of prolific choreographer Bob Fosse and the other in the style of British Choreographer Matthew Bourne. Anastasia performed in the Winter Concert, and we were blown away by her use of expressive skills. We can't wait to see how she will perform in her exams!





**United Sixth Form**  
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**By Mr Walter – Director of Sixth Form**



We are extremely proud that USF Year 12 student Oliwier has put himself forward for election to the Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Youth Council. He is enthusiastic, engaged and would be a real asset to the BCP Youth parliament if elected.

**Voting is open until Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February at midday** and links to take part have been emailed to all students via their school email account. To find out more about Oliwier and his aims, his 90 second video can be viewed via the emailed link. Good luck to Oliwier and all participating students!

## **Avonbourne Ethos Award**

Year 12 are fully immersed in their voluntary endeavours to earn their Bronze, Silver or Gold Avonbourne Ethos Award. Students have selected a wide range of activities to assist staff with and contribute to the student experience of their younger peers.

Examples include nominating a period of the week to work with teachers assisting in their lower school lessons as well as coaching and leadership roles in after school sports clubs and Duke of Edinburgh training sessions. Well done to all our leaders setting a fine example.



## Class of 2022 UCAS Offers

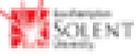
	<p>Name: Molly Course: Mental Health Nursing</p> <p>Offers: </p>
	<p>Name: Hui Yi Course: Mathematics with Statistics</p> <p>Offers:    </p>
	<p>Name: Charlotte Course: Media &amp; Communication</p> <p>Offers:    </p>
	<p>Name: Joshua Course: History</p> <p>Offers:     </p>
	<p>Name: Sebastian Course: Sport Marketing</p> <p>Offers:  </p>
	<p>Name: Tommi Course: Fashion Marketing</p> <p>Offers:  </p>
	<p>Name: Anastasia Course: Primary Education</p> <p>Offers:     </p>

Congratulations to all Year13s who have successfully achieved university offers for September. The whole cohort is now working hard to achieve the required grades. With the support of teachers and tutors providing extra lesson contact time, DEAR time revision and fortnightly exam practice we look forward to seeing the efforts rewarded with future successes.

The next round of mock examinations starts after half term from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February, this will be the final formal exam experience, good luck to all students.



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	<p>Name: Anna Course: Interior &amp; Spatial Design</p> <p>Offers:   </p>
	<p>Name: Sami Course: Psychology</p> <p>Offers:     </p>
	<p>Name: Jack Course: History</p> <p>Offers:     </p>
	<p>Name: Kate Course: Business Management</p> <p>Offers:    </p>



## Miss Barr – Head of Year 7 (Class of 2028)

Another busy term for the Class of 2028 which has included several sporting fixtures against local schools. We are so #AVBproud to have so many fantastic sportsmen and sportswomen in the year group! We regularly encourage all our students to attend at least one extra-curricular club during the week and a full list of these can be found on our websites. Year 7 students continue to rule the REACH leader boards at Avonbourne with several students pushing 240 REACH points in total. Kyrell has recently been overtaken (having remained at the top with a strong lead for months) by Kennedy and is closely followed by Louis, Fabian, and Mohammed. Mr Goldsmith will be presenting rewards to students after the half term break.

Year 7 have adapted to the new English homework 'Sparx Reader' incredibly well and seem to enjoy collecting SRP (Sparx Reader Points). Alongside Sparx Maths, we share the leader boards each week with students in assembly and anyone on any leader board receives a sweet treat the following Monday.

As Miss Barr begins transition work with the Class of 2029, please do use the Class of 2028 email address if you have any queries or questions. Mr Lavy (Deputy Head of Year 7) and Miss Fisher (Pastoral Lead) are always happy to help and support. We very much look forward to the first Year 7 disco after the half term break which will be run by our PTA. Letters about tickets will be given out after half term. A quick reminder that all students need to make sure they bring their pencil cases each day with all required equipment, so they are ready to learn as soon as they arrive in lessons.

Wishing you all a wonderful half term break when it arrives – stay safe and we look forward to seeing Year 7 on Monday 28<sup>th</sup>!

## Mr Plunkett – Head of Year 8 (Class of 2027)

For the class of 2027 Spring term began with an assembly delivering key information for the rank order assessments. I was struck with how attentive the year group were as students listened to what would be expected of them. The year team are super proud of not only how students prepared and revised for an intense examination period, but also for their excellent attitude during the assessments. Indeed, the invigilators and exam officer were extremely complementary of the conduct and professionalism shown by students, particularly for first examinations sat in the sports hall. Well done year 8! I'm sure we all look forward to seeing the results of your hard work.

On that note a reminder that virtual parent evenings, held via SchoolCloud, are scheduled for 02.03.2022 for the boys' academy and 03.03.2022 for the girls' academy. Please check letter and website for details of these events.

Pleasingly, attendance at clubs and fixtures has continued to grow! A highlight of my week is climbing club and it is great to spend time with students in the extra-curricular environment. A special mention to the year 8 Football team who are currently unbeaten and are playing brilliantly!

It has also been lovely to continue to see so many names change frequently within the top 25 REACH points weekly leader board. Namo, Ceylin and Sseco currently lead the standings as the top three students for overall totals with Harley just behind!

Finally, please can I thank parents for ensuring students are prepared and equipped for the school day. It is much appreciated.

Wishing everyone a wonderful half term break. Mr Plunkett on behalf of the year 8 team

## Mrs Thompson – Head of Year 9 (Class of 2026)

The class of 2026 have had an incredibly busy term. Students have been immersed in their studies, preparing for their Rank Order Assessments, which they sat two weeks ago. It was the first time they experienced the whole year examination process and they coped with it brilliantly. As I am sure you are aware, students recently received their results, which were fantastic. It was lovely to see so many happy faces when students opened their results envelopes in the ROA results assembly. Whether students were pleased, or not so pleased with their results, it is important to remember that adjustments in streams is to ensure students are fully prepared and understand key knowledge and concepts, ready for their GCSE years. It is an opportunity for new teaching and new challenges.

Throughout this term, we have seen an increase in student participation in extra-curricular activities. The Class of 2026 boy's football team have been involved in the Town Cup and been very successful, particularly against Oak Academy and BSB. The girl's netball and football teams have also been busy in tournaments and fixtures. Well done to all students who have represented Avonbourne Academy.

Next term is an exciting term as the Class of 2026 chose the subjects they want to take for GCSE. Students will have plenty of opportunities to discuss this with their teachers and will also be provided with lots of resources. If you have any questions or worries about this process, please keep an eye out for our open evening on 10<sup>th</sup> March.

Have a lovely, well deserved half term break.

The year 9 team

## Mrs Adams – Head of Year 10 (Class of 2025)

The year team are very proud of Year 10 this half term, they are 'stepping up their game' and are transforming into exceptional role models to younger students around the academy.

Year 10 students have been exemplary in the way that they have conducted themselves through the mid-year exam period. As you will be aware, core and humanities subject exams were sat in formal conditions to prepare students for what is expected for the actual GCSE exams in Year 11. Students rose to this challenge without a problem at all, they were well organised and composed, and the exams ran very smoothly indeed.

Following the mid-year exams, there may be some changes to student sets based on exam results. This may result in your child having a change of subject teacher or change of tutor group. Any changes made are to ensure that every student is receiving the academic support that they need and is in a group that will best equip them with this support. Any further queries in relation to this can be directed to the year team via email on: [classof2025@avonbourneacademy.org.uk](mailto:classof2025@avonbourneacademy.org.uk)

We have had a real focus on celebrating attendance this half term in Year 10 with the top weekly tutor group receiving donuts and REACH points each Friday afternoon. Well done to the following tutor groups for being this half term's winners; 10RG4, 10RG5, 10RG6, 10RG9 (twice!). A special mention also to 10RG8 who have made significant progress with their attendance since the start of term.

Keep up the great work Year 10 and I hope that you have a wonderful half term break when it arrives.

## Miss Ball – Head of Year 11 (Class of 2024)

What another great half term! The cohort are really finding their stride in the drive towards their next set of exams in March and are so well practised, I grow prouder every day. After last half term's first mock examination period and the huge excitement around results day, January has been anything but dull. Students are driven and focused on continual achievement that they are exceeding all expectations and have refocused on our 'second race' towards Spring mocks.

Revision schedules and timetables for this will be shared next half term. We are offering several opportunities for support which include - break, lunch and after school homework club, morning revision sessions, after school intervention sessions for English and maths alongside the continuing pastoral support team. We have a range of literature to share if exam stress is creeping in, but the first thing we reiterate is that stress is good – it shows that they want it! Additionally, we have now established a Prom committee, dedicated to organising the most memorable night at the end of the year and have some extremely exciting ideas for fundraising underway. Thank you to all who put their names forward and well done to the candidates selected: Abigail C, Mishka, Reyhan, Ekin, Isabella L, Joshua F, Sam Mc, Jamie, Robin and Argi. Finally, attendance has continued to be a huge focus throughout the half term and those with 100% attendance, are still being entered into a reward draw for a free prom ticket! Tickets are also available to purchase through the school website for **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022**. Have a relaxing half term.

**We would like to wish all our Avonbourne community a wonderful and well-deserved half term break!**

**We look forward to seeing all students at line ups on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 8:30 am.**