



**Avonbourne Academies**  
**#AVBPROUD**

**Spring Term 1 - Feb 2021**



**FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

I do hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. This term has been very different for everyone involved and we are continuing to reflect on the term so far. As we head towards the half term break, I thought it important to thank all parents, carers and friends of the Academies for their continued support of everything we seek to do in creating two fantastic schools. The academies have continued to go from strength to strength due to the support of all stakeholders. Avonbourne Academies are fortunate to have such loyal and supportive parents/carers and this is playing a pivotal part in the Academies' continuing journey of improvement.

Year 7 have settled very quickly into the AVB Way. I have been lucky enough this week to observe some wonderful lessons, the pupils were engaged, hard-working and incredibly polite as they went about their remote learning. Next week sees everyone getting a well-deserved break where I do hope everyone manages to get some rest. A reminder that the Academies break for half-term on Friday 12 February and we return on Monday 22 February. Attendance remains crucial to a student's educational chances of success, so I would ask that your son / daughter attends every day possible next term in what will be a critical term.

I have been really pleased with the work ethic shown by all stakeholders at the academies. The staff have risen to the challenge of a different way of working and the pupils and parents have shown great resilience and patience this term! I have been incredibly proud how everyone has come together to make the most of what is challenging times. The priority remains on social distancing and making sure you keep safe, well and looking after your families. I do hope to see you all back at AVB very soon.

Best wishes  
Stuart Ingram

**MFL**

**COMPETITION**

Are you passionate about languages? Do you miss practicing it due to COVID-19? You have a unique opportunity to take part in an exciting event entitled 'Express Yourself in Lockdown'.

Follow this link:

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/language/express-yourself-lockdown> and we look

forward to seeing your performances

**DEADLINE: 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021**



# Remote Learning

As we reach the end of the first half term of 2021 and a short break in this latest period of remote learning we wanted to congratulate the overwhelming majority of Avonbourne students for their excellent engagement in online live lessons. They are doing so well in these most difficult circumstances and we are very proud of them.

Because lessons at Avonbourne Academy have continued to be taught 'live' via Teams, students have followed their normal timetable with their usual teachers, including the tutor period and DEAR reading programme. This has meant they have been able to continue their learning from day one of this current lockdown, learning all the same things at home that they would have done in school.

We would like to thank parents & carers for all the positive emails and messages they have sent us on our remote learning. It has been wonderful to hear about your sons'/ daughters' engagement with their learning at home and we appreciate and value all feedback. In response to feedback from parents/carers, earlier this half term, we shortened the length of lessons by 10 minutes, to allow students and staff a break from their screens in between lessons. Teachers are also building activities into their lessons which can be completed away from screens.

I would like to stress again the importance for all of our children of attending and engaging in their online live lessons and we would like to thank parents for their continued support in talking to their children about their work and studies, as best they are able to. This will mean our students are in the strongest position possible when we are able to return to school.

Thank you

Mrs Bull

Vice Principal



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## Wellbeing Support

There is a range of support networks in the local community which you are able to access. Resources are categorised into: -

- Arts, crafts and activities
- Books, audio and video
- Online learning resources
- Resources for mental health and wellbeing

All the information can be found in this link:- Stay at home advice - Resources for mental health and wellbeing (mailchi.mp)

Parental advice for supporting teenagers during lockdown

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/blog/how-help-your-teenager-staying-home-during-lockdown>

Children's mental health week resources focus on children finding ways to share feelings, thoughts or ideas through creativity. There is a toolkit of resources for children and parents to use during Children's Mental Health Week.

Express yourself: Children's Mental Health Week toolkit : Mentally Healthy Schools

## Wellbeing activities for our school community



Bake something for your family and share the recipe with us.



Send in your photos Avonbourne Boys' and Girls' Academies @AvonbourneUL



Send in a photo of something that makes you happy and say why.

Send a letter in the post to a friend or family member.

Watch a movie, read a book play a board game or start a puzzle. Share a picture.

Send in a photo of what you are doing for wellbeing today e.g., a workout, reading, walking etc.

Go on a walk or bike ride and take a photo of something beautiful.

## SAFEGUARDING AT AVONBOURNE ACADEMIES



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During this challenging time, we are acutely aware of the additional pressures that families are under and the potential risks and challenges they face. Please contact the Year Teams if your child or family need support. You can also contact the Safeguarding Team if you have any concerns on [safeguarding@avonbourneacademy.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@avonbourneacademy.org.uk).

The NSPCC Helpline is always available on 0808 800 5000, if you have concerns for your own, or another child's safety. If you feel that a child is in immediate danger, call the police on 999. You can report concerns to the police on their non-emergency number, 101. BCP Children's Service First Response Hub also provides the advice, information and support for children who are vulnerable and at risk. Please see the link below for further information.

[Are you worried about a child or young person?  
\(bournemouth.gov.uk\)](https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk)

The Department for Education has also brought together a range of guidance concerning the risks that many children may be vulnerable to, during the Coronavirus Pandemic. Many and varied sources of support and information can be found in the document if you follow the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-from-abuse-and-harm/advice-to-parents-and-carers-on-keeping-children-safe-from-abuse-and-harm>

### Online safety

Due to lockdown and high-level restrictions, children are spending more time online. While there are many benefits to children, they can be exposed to risk online, particularly through social media sites.

The Children's Commissioner for England, in association with the privacy law firm Schillings, has produced a digital safety and wellbeing kit for parents and a safety guide for children to help keep children safe and well online during the coronavirus outbreak.

[Parents digital safety wellbeing kit](#)

[Children's digital safety wellbeing kit](#)

With more children accessing online learning and live lessons it important that your child has knowledge of the route to follow if they need to report a concern whilst online.

Some practical and age appropriate support for children can be found on the following websites:

- a) [Childline](#) – for support
- b) [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) – to report and remove harmful online content
- c) [CEOP](#) – for advice on making a report about online abuse

Your children are also likely to access social media sites regularly to communicate with friends and family. It is important to reinforce the need to stay safe online and only use age-appropriate social media sites e.g. the minimum age to use WhatsApp is 16 years old. This is due to data-protection concerns.

Support for parents/carer to keep your children safe online can be found on the following websites:

- a) [Internet matters](#) – for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- b) [London Grid for Learning](#) – for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- c) [Net-aware](#) – for support for parents and carers from the NSPCC
- d) [Parent info](#) – for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- e) [Thinkuknow](#) – for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- f) [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) – advice for parents and carers

**Natasha England** – Designated Safeguarding Lead

**Lisa Culver** – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and Education Social Worker (ESW)

## Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Award Completion

During these unprecedented times it has been understandably difficult for students to complete their bronze and silver DofE awards. To aid students in completing their awards, the national DofE guidelines have been altered to make it easier for students to complete their outstanding sections. The alterations are as follows:

1. Students can volunteer within their families. This must not be helping out with their usual chores, or babysitting, but it must be an extra planned activity. Examples might be a weekly coaching session for a younger sibling, a weekly session helping an older relative (outside of any regular chores) or setting up and running art or music sessions within the family.

2. Students can change activities more than once for their volunteering, physical and skill sections, and each activity will count towards their total. However, each activity still requires an assessor report which must be uploaded to eDofE.

To find out more information about working towards the completion of your DofE award go to [www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/activities](http://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/activities) or contact Mr Goldsmith (Boys) or Miss Sherwood Taylor (Girls).



## KS3 Education with Character Aspirations Programme (East Learning)

During this time, we still feel that students should be working on their Character Education as well as their academic studies, especially as many extra-curricular activities are unable to take place due to restrictions.

To enable them to do this we have asked students to complete their own profile on the Aspire platform. This is an online site that gives students a chance to reflect upon their interests, career aspiration, skills they want to improve on and topics they want to learn more about.



During their Friday morning tutor time sessions on 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February we will be asking students to login to the platform and complete a series of questions that cover their strengths, interests, ambitions and wellbeing. From this they get their own Aspirations Plan where they will choose up to five areas they want to focus on and set themselves a goal to work to over the next term.



The information that is provided by every student is then collated to help plan a bespoke curriculum that helps our specific students in their character development.

## How can you help?

Be supportive and ask lots of questions!

Examples could be:

- What is it you think you would like to do when you leave school? Why?
- Are there any careers you are currently thinking about? Do you know what qualifications you will need?
- What skills are you keen to develop? Why did you choose that?
- Don't worry if they don't really know what they want to do yet—there is time to work that out!

If you have any questions or would like any more information about Aspirations, please get in touch.

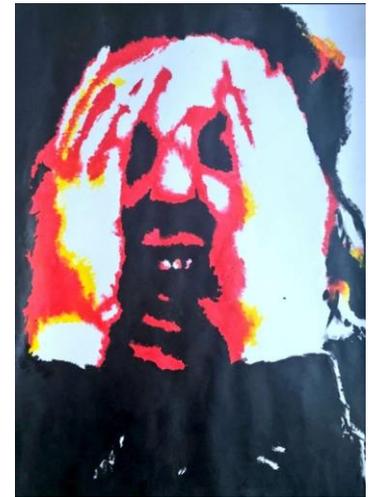
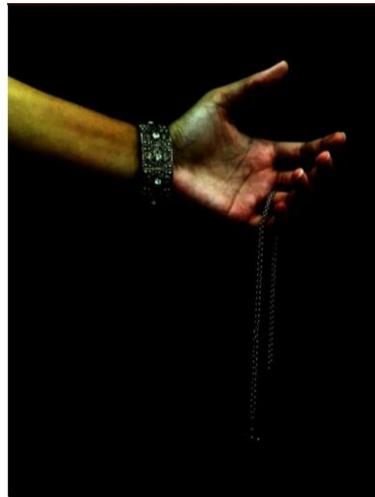
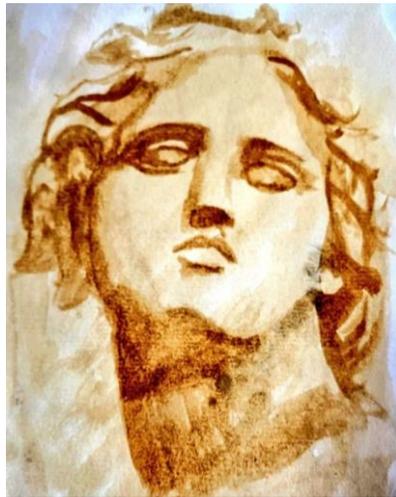
Miss Amy Burrows  
Head of Character Education

# ART



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This half term in Art we have used our live lessons to teach our KS3 students about a range of artists. From Vincent Van Gogh to Franz Marc in Year 7, Lisa Milroy & CJ Hendry in Year 8 and a Pop Art focus in Year 9 with Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol. We have been blown away with the standard of drawing from the artist copies set, two examples of the fantastic work are from Ella in year 8's section CJ Hendry's shoe and Alysha in year 7's Van Gogh sunflowers.



Our GCSE classes have continued to work hard on their coursework. Year 10 have been inspired by nature and continue to focus on refining their skills. See above the pencil work by Charlotte and the painting by Asheynur, who used instant coffee to create her piece. Year 11 have been planning for their final pieces and it has been wonderful to the results of thorough planning. Students have planned compositions, created effective digital manipulations and explored a range of different materials. See above Liana's Photography and Ellie's painting.



Sixth Form students have created some inspirational artwork whilst working from home. Year 12 Jagoda's portrait shows exceptional use of pencil and biro.

Anna also in Year 12 has created a beautiful shadow box diorama inspired by her Christmas visit to Corfe Castle. Anna in Year 13 use of biro is outstanding, the detail and tone are striking.



Congratulations to the students whose work above has been selected to be displayed in classrooms of the new Amazon Prime drama, The Power. Well Done!

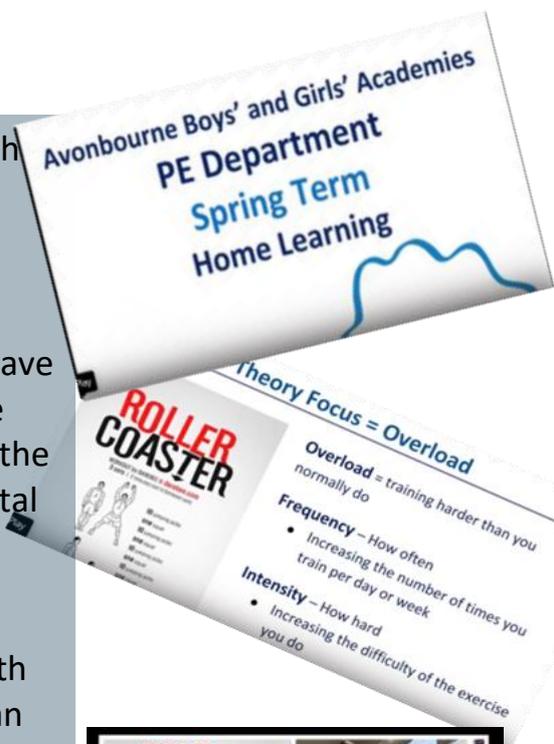


# Physical Education

Being active is a crucial part of everyday life and we understand the physical benefits of physical activity, very well.

Were you aware that mental health problems can affect anyone, and it can take many forms? COVID and the national lockdown have changed our daily and weekly routines, reduced our ability to see friends and family, restricted travel, increased our worries, sadly the list goes on. With these constraints it is understandable that mental health problems could be affecting more of us.

It is important to remember that **you are not alone!** Mental health problems are not always permanent, as with physical illness, it can pass with time and self-care. Making sure you sleep well, remain hydrated, and take regular exercise can help.



Spending time exercising has an impact on the chemicals in the brain, which affect your mood and thinking in a positive way.

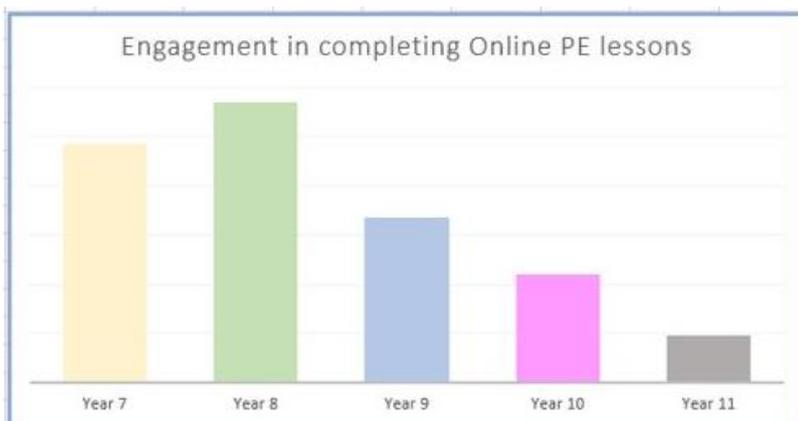
The PE department are supporting you to stay active, to promote positive physical and mental health. Many of you are posting and responding to both weekly PE lessons and some of you have been brilliant with the weekly challenges. It is wonderful to see families and of all ages getting involved, giving it a go and enjoying themselves.



Additional Activities can be found at:  
Virtual PE curriculum  
[Secondary PE Activities | Youth Sport Trust](#)

## Engagement by Year Group

Well Done Year 8!



## Newsletter challenge:

Can you walk, jog, cycle or swim, in any combination, 20K in the month of February?

Tweet and let us know how you are getting on @Avonbourned



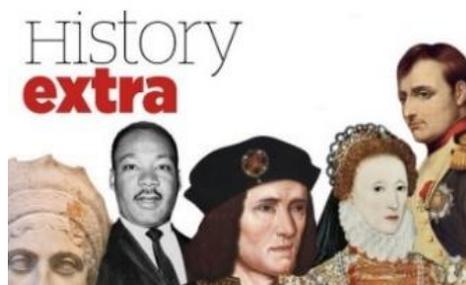
# HISTORY



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@AvonbourneHist



Well done to all those students going above and beyond in their home learning for History.



## The Big Picture

### Year 7

Students have been learning about medieval monarchs from England and Europe. What powers did they have? Could they be challenged? Where else did power lie? They will then learn about a medieval monarch from Africa.

### Year 8

Students have been learning about the English Civil War 1642-49, which led to the deaths of up to 200,000 people. What was the relationship like between Parliament and Charles I? How did England descend into civil war? What were the key battles? How was Corfe Castle involved? Who won and why?

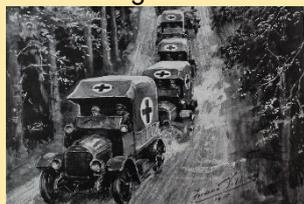


### Year 9

Students have been learning about the Holocaust, an event which occurred in the Second World War, when Britain, France, America and their allies went to war against Germany. The Holocaust involved the murder of 6 million Jewish people. What was the Holocaust? How did it happen?

### Year 10

Students have been learning about the history of medicine from medieval England to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This includes ideas about the causes of disease, treatments given and preventative measures. Students have also been learning about the injuries and treatments on the 'western front' during the First World War 1914-18.



### Year 11

Students have been learning about life in Nazi Germany between 1933-39. This includes propaganda, the role of women, the Hitler Youth, opposition and the persecution of minority groups.

**The NHS: a brief history.** Susan Cohen discusses the highs and lows of the NHS, from its creation in 1948 to the challenges it faces today

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/20th-century/nhs-brief-history-podcast/>

**The Civil War: everything you wanted to know.** Mark Stoye responds to listener queries and popular search enquiries about the conflict between Royalists and Parliamentarians that wracked the British Isles in the middle of the 17th century.

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/stuart/everything-you-wanted-to-know-about-civil-war-england-britain-charles-i-cromwell-battles-podcast/>



### **This week in history: 8-14 February**

The week when Nelson Mandela was released after 27 years in prison, Iran passed a death sentence on Salman Rushdie, Haitian president Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier was overthrown, thieves kidnapped racehorse Shergar and demanded a £2m ransom, and Queen Elizabeth II took the Royal Oath following the death of her father King George VI.

## Competition Time

### **Postcards from History**

Have you always wanted to time traveller, like Ian Mortimer? The Avonbourne History department would love you to write a postcard, pretending that you are a historical character living in a historical lockdown.

You might decide to be a bored Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, Charles I, Queen Victoria, Winston Churchill, Anne Boleyn, William Shakespeare, Mary, Queen of Scots or Martin Luther King.

You can create it on your computer or do it by hand.

Email your history teacher

**Closing date: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021**



# HOME LEARNING HEROES

## Half Term Prize Draws from Mr Goldsmith



### Year 7 – Class of 2027

2184 Home Learning Heroes certificates were awarded this half-term to students in Year 7. I would like to congratulate every student who received a certificate and give a special mention to **Anastasia G** who achieved the highest overall total. Each certificate counts as an entry into our half-termly prize draw and the following students were selected by our random name selector.

**Jessica M, Jude C, Gabriel C and Chinmayi D**

These students and **Anastasia** will all receive an Amazon prize voucher. Congratulations!

### Year 8 – Class of 2026

1883 Home Learning Heroes certificates were awarded this half-term to students in Year 8. I would like to congratulate every student who received a certificate and give a special mention to **CJ G** and **Peggy B** who achieved the highest overall totals. Each certificate counts as an entry into our half-termly prize draw and the following students were selected by our random name selector.

**Rose T, Oliver D and Shirin L**

These students, as well as **CJ** and **Peggy** will all receive an Amazon prize voucher. Congratulations!

### Year 9 – Class of 2025

1606 Home Learning Heroes certificates were awarded this half-term to students in Year 9. I would like to congratulate every student who received a certificate and give a special mention to **Meshva P** who achieved the highest overall total. Each certificate counts as an entry into our half-termly prize draw and the following students were selected by our random name selector.

**Benjamin B, Honey L-Y, Chinmay R and Hana I**

These students and **Meshva** will all receive an Amazon prize voucher. Congratulations!



**Congratulations!**



### Year 10 – Class of 2024

998 Home Learning Heroes certificates were awarded this half-term to students in Year 10. I would like to congratulate every student who received a certificate and give a special mention to **Chloe G** who achieved the highest overall total. Each certificate counts as an entry into our half-termly prize draw and the following students were selected by our random name selector.

**Ellie H, Vanda V, Grace B and Harley B**

These students and **Chloe** will all receive an Amazon prize voucher. Congratulations!

### Year 11 – Class of 2023

972 Home Learning Heroes certificates were awarded this half-term to students in Year 11. I would like to congratulate every student who received a certificate and give a special mention to **Cheng C** who achieved the highest overall total. Each certificate counts as an entry into our half-termly prize draw and the following students were selected by our random name selector.

**Evie C, Michelle A, Amelie S and Mako B**

These students and **Cheng** will all receive an Amazon prize voucher. Congratulations!



## Miss Barr – Head of Year 7

Class of 2027, what a way to start your second term at Avonbourne Academy!

We are so proud of how you have adapted to remote learning and continue to be impressed with the amount of home learning hero awards sent home to you each week (2184!) You have continued to demonstrate our REACH values and the feedback from your teachers has been excellent. We need to keep this up for Spring Term 2 and I have no doubt we will soon be overtaking Year 9 in the engagement leader board!

I hope all students and their families have a well-deserved rest over the half term break. It is important we continue to look after our physical and mental wellbeing during these challenging times. Please make sure you put the screens away this half term and get out and enjoy our beautiful local area and spending time with family. I have posted some activities you may want to try in our Year 7 team whether it is reading, listening, adventure or self-care.

I am thrilled to welcome Mr Taylor to the Year 7 team who joins us as our new Pastoral Lead. Lots of you have already spoken to Mr Taylor on the phone and through key worker provision and I know he is looking forward to meeting you all properly very soon.

Well done to all our home learning heroes this half term and bring on Spring Term 2 when I hope we will be back together in school very soon.

## Mrs Thomson – Head of Year 8

Congratulations on a fantastic half term of home learning. Year 8 students have adapted to the new way of learning amazingly and have overcome many challenges. Juggling home life and plenty of IT issues can take its toll but the resilience our year 8s have shown has been impressive. I am a very proud head of year.

This past half term has seen a significant increase in the amount of screen time and now the half term break is approaching I would like you to get away from those screens as much as possible. I would like to challenge year 8 to three things:

1. Getting outside everyday
2. Doing exercise everyday
3. Trying something new

These are all things that we should have been doing anyway, but whilst we have the break from our 7 lessons a day, I would like you to really get these 3 things embedded into our lifestyle.

It has been a pleasure seeing what year 8 have been up to this term. My favourite part of the week is receiving achievement data and seeing just how hard students have been working. Well done to everyone involved.

I wish you a wonderful, relaxing and fun half term holiday. I am looking forward to seeing you when we return. I hope you are ready to climb the attendance ladder, our goal is third place or above!

## Mrs Burley – Head of Year 9

As we approach half term and embark on our sixth week of lock down, we are all feeling a little screen fatigued, missing our friends and a little fed up with the same routine. With half term comes the opportunity to refresh ourselves by getting out and exercising, trying new activities at home, and making sure we pack our screens away and talk to our family face to face. Why not go back to basics, write a friend a letter, climb a tree (safely, of course), play cards and board games if you have them, simple fun activities that require no phone or computer.

Although I am sure you are fatigued this has not been shown in your attendance and engagement, as a year group you have been top of the attendance board every week with incredibly high percentages. There have been many home learning heroes' certificates sent home, well done to everyone involved.

With commitment, hard work and engagement will come success and Year 9 I cannot wait to continue celebrating your successes with you. Keep up your high standards and keep making your parents, tutors, and the school community proud. Have a wonderful half term.

## Miss Ball – Head of Year 10

I state regularly how proud I am of my year group and it goes without saying now that each time I say it, I feel I could not be prouder and yet – I am!

The way the students have, once again, adapted and overcome to the current learning experiences is incredible. Their engagement is not only in the highest percentile, but they are enthusiastic, motivated and eager.

The number of achievement certificates being sent home is only a small recognition of the hard work being put in, but they should be recognised for this effort. The top achievers so far are: Chloe G, Eleanor W, Hope N, Ellie H, Millie S, and Nicola R. Huge well done to you all!

As the reality of GCSEs continue to be recognised, Mrs Loughnan has been sharing valuable resources for careers and there are posts in the Class of 2024 TEAM regarding further education choices, Unifrog, apprenticeships and open evenings – the next free webinar being held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 3-5pm for the beginning of National Apprenticeship week. The registration link can also be found [here](#).

Wishing you all a very well-earned rest for the half term.

## Mr Plunkett – Head of Year 11

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff, parents and students for their support in making the Spring 1 half term successful for the class of 2023 despite its obvious challenge.

The year 11 team and I were so impressed with the maturity and work ethic demonstrated by students who sat vocational exams at the beginning of January.

I have been equally delighted to see how year 11 have flipped to remote learning and continued to build on the momentum from the Autumn term. This has been heartening to see and will place your child in a stronger position for summer assessments. We will communicate to you how grades will be awarded once the government has confirmed their plan.

Although I am missing year 11 in school it has been lovely to be able to continue to recognise students' achievements through rewards in pre-recorded assemblies. Congratulations to students who have consistently been on the Hegarty leader board, and well done to all students recognised as a Home learning hero. These students along with teacher recommendations have been entered into the weekly wheel of names prize draws. Well done to the following winners, Keira B, Tia W, Ella B, Zofia D, Jacob J and Natalia M who have all received a £5 Amazon voucher.

As the year group continues to climb the mountain to University it is great news that so many students have applied to USF. Well done to all students who have taken part in remote consultation/interviews across different providers.

To support everyone's next step a Post-16 options booklet has been sent to parents and students. Please take time to look at this in preparation for Spring 2.

Thank you again for all your support.

We would like to wish all our Avonbourne community a fantastic half term and look forward to seeing you back online on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February for Spring Term 2.

[www.avonbourneacademy.org.uk](http://www.avonbourneacademy.org.uk)

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