



Avonbourne Academies
#AVBPROUD

Summer Term 1 – May 2021



FROM THE PRINCIPAL – Mr Ingram

The message to all the students this half term has been to continue the great start made and work as hard as possible in all lessons. The Academies continue to set the bar 'sky high' in terms of behaviour and work ethic in lessons and around the Academies site. I believe strongly that students should be able to learn and staff teach in disruption free classrooms. I know you will join me in reiterating the message to your son/daughter that any form of 'off task' or low level disruption will not be tolerated. I remain steadfast in my view that education is a 'one off life changing' opportunity and nothing should prevent anyone from learning at their best all of the time.

Please could I ask all parents / carers to abide by the road traffic measures currently in place around the Academies. They are designed to keep students safe when they arrive at and leave the Academies which is understandably of paramount importance. I am aware of the volume of traffic increasing around the Academies at peak times and am working positively with the Local Authority to improve the current situation. I have become increasingly concerned about the number of cars appearing to ignore clearly marked double yellow lines. Please could I ask for everyone's support regarding this important matter and ensuring whilst the roads around the Academies are busy, they remain safe for all users.

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 Twitter. Many thanks for everyone's continuing support and I wish everyone a relaxing half term break.

Best wishes
Stuart Ingram



Stay Safe!

Students have been provided with their next batch of home testing kits this week. Staff and students who are eligible for testing, and who wish to participate, should continue to test twice weekly over the half term and upon their return to the Academies. The link to report your test results to the academies is on our websites.

Parent Survey

Thank you to those of you who completed the recent UL parent survey. Your feedback is very important to us. Please see the recent letter home which details changes we have already made in reference to your feedback.

Teaching and Learning Update



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In the last Teaching & Learning update, we outlined our approach to Teaching and Learning at Avonbourne and the emphasis we place upon two important pieces of work: Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction and Doug Lemov's 'Teach Like a Champion' book.

But how do we use these two resources to help us to plan and deliver high-quality lessons? and what does a 'typical' Avonbourne lesson look like? Over the next few updates, we will explore different aspects of these pieces of work and how they translate into our day-to-day lessons at Avonbourne Academies.

In his 1986 article, Rosenshine lists six functions that can provide a basis for discussion and a model of effective teaching. Three of these functions: Demonstration, Guided practice and independent practice make up what Rosenshine calls 'The Instructional Core' and what teachers at Avonbourne refer to as 'I do, We do, You do'.

The 'I do' phase of the lesson is the first step and involves a demonstration by the teacher of what is to be learned. This usually involves the teacher modelling the steps involved in solving a problem, using the whiteboard or a visualiser. The second step, or 'We do', involves what we call guided practice, this is where the teacher leads the students in practice, provides prompts, checks their understanding through questioning and circulating around the classroom and provides corrections. Finally, when the teacher is confident the students are firm in their initial learning, they will move them on to independent practice or the 'You do' phase, this is where students work more independently with less guidance.

This 'Instructional Core' or I do, We do, You do with a quiz at the beginning of the lesson, a review at the end and lots of checking for understanding and feedback throughout, is a good representation of what Rosenshine looks like in a lesson and how lessons at Avonbourne Academies are structured.

Imogen Bull, Vice Principal

Careers Update

At USF we value the wide array of additional opportunities that help prepare our young people for life beyond education. Many students from the lower years have taken advantage of the virtual work experience opportunities afforded them through our superb network with business stakeholders.

Year 12 have secured a wide variety of work experience placements for the end of the summer term despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic. The companies they are working with range from interior design to recruitment and even include Bovington Tank Museum.

There is a short profile of these placements below: -

KTM Design was founded on the South Coast of England in 2015. The Design Team is led by Katie Thomas MA, renowned for her innovative thinking and 'ahead of the trend' ideas.



They bring game-changing creativity combined with forensic determination to understand the customers' brief. With a passion for telling a story or a brand through spatial design, their like-minded team design and develop future-proof interior schemes for local and global clients.

Holt Recruitment is a dynamic recruitment business that offers the benefits of up to the minute digital resources but with the old school mentality that speaking to people and personality matching is the key to successful recruiting.



They do not just recruit bodies for jobs; they source candidates with the spark for companies that understand how to truly utilise them.

The Tank Museum brings the story of tanks and their crews to life, with the world's best collection of tanks in awe-inspiring, modern exhibitions.



The museum houses 300 military machines, representing the key battles of every major conflict since the First World War. The moving exhibitions tell the story of this British invention; from the mud of the Somme to the beaches of Normandy and the deserts of Iraq – featuring powerful stories from the soldiers that fought in them.

Key Information for the Summer Term 2:

- We have staff training days on Friday 2nd, Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd of July. Summer Term 2 will finish on Wednesday 21st July at 12:30 pm.
- Summer term assessments will be taking place next half term. For further details applicable for your son/daughter's year group please see the year group pages on the website.

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 is 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

Wellbeing Support

The theme of Mental Health awareness week (10th – 16th May 2021) was nature – Mental Health Foundation research has shown that spending time in nature has been the most popular coping mechanism for people during the coronavirus crisis. This year we are being invited to use the 5 ways to wellbeing to reconnect with nature. Below are a few examples....



Connect – Now that we can run extra-curricular activities – these provide opportunities to build new connections within your school community and try something new.

Be Active – Go for a walk, run, cycle or dance – this is proven to boost wellbeing.

Be Mindful – Take notice of your surroundings – listen out for birdsong, notice the clouds moving. Reflecting in this way can help you to appreciate what matters to you.

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

A reminder that all appointments should be made during holidays or after the Academy Day. In an emergency, you must give the year team notice so an exit slip can be provided. If you call/email in on the day this may not be picked up in time by the year team and students will not be permitted to leave the Academy.



Learn better, faster, free.

SENECA

Record number of Seneca Stars awarded!

Students at the Avonbourne Academies have continued to work hard using their Seneca premium accounts. Seneca offers high-quality free online learning courses for students to study from a computer, tablet, or phone, and uses smart learning algorithms to help students remember topics better.

Across the Academies, a new record has been set with 411 Seneca Stars being awarded to students across different subject areas this half-term. Seneca Stars are awarded by subject teachers for being 'consistently excellent' or for going 'above and beyond' with a certificate sent directly to the students' inbox. A particular congratulations to Brooke L, James H, and Sergio G, who each achieved Seneca Stars across four subjects. All students who achieved Seneca Stars and appeared on their year group leader boards for the half-term were celebrated in assembly this week. The overall academy leader boards can be seen below.

Leader board for total study time:

1. Olivia C (Y11)
2. Colin C (Y9)
3. Hira A (Y13)
4. Edward H (Y11)
5. Emmie S (Y10)
6. Abbie M (Y13)
7. Beshani S (Y10)
8. Mishka B (Y10)
9. Linda S (Y13)
10. Charlotte W (Y10)

Leader board for number of correct answers:

1. Emmie S (Y10)
2. Mina H (Y13)
3. Olivia C (Y11)
4. Izzy B (Y13)
5. Hira A (Y13)
6. Gabbi P (Y13)
7. Linda S (Y13)
8. Sarah M (Y10)
9. Ellanor G (Y13)
10. Filipa H (Y10)

Seneca tasks are set for years 7, 8 and 9 as an optional activity to ensure mastery of knowledge. Those students who are going 'above and beyond' are really starting to see the impact of their dedication through improved test scores and confidence in lessons. We would greatly encourage all of KS3 to work through their Seneca tasks, particularly with upcoming rank order assessments.

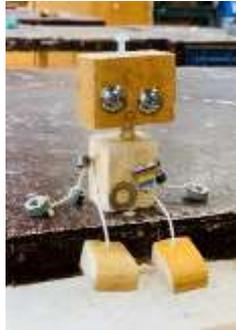
Mr Kidman

Design and Technology

With Covid restrictions lifting, our Avonbourne Technologists have been developing a huge range of practical skills to create all sorts of products and dishes....

Product Design

In Product Design, year 7 and 8 have started their woodwork training by using a range of workshop machines and hand tools and working independently on their own designs to produce a mini robot. Year 10 have been enjoying refining their workshop skills with a finger jointed box.



Year 7 Mini Robots

Year 10 Finger Jointed Box

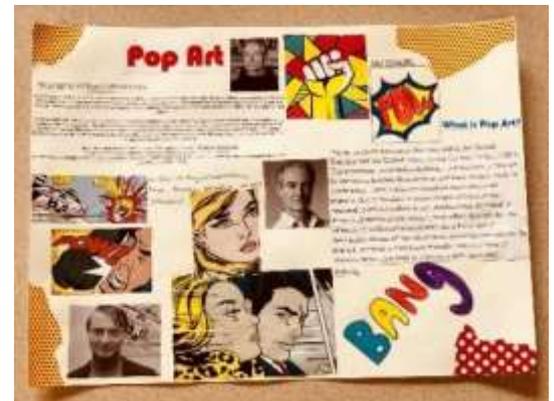
Graphics

In graphics, year 7 have been learning about types of motion, and have been making mechanisms to use in their own design for a mechanical card. Year 9 have studied typography, and also researched and completed a Design Movement Study on an era of their choice.

Year 7 Mechanical Cards



Year 9 Design Movement Studies



Food Technology

Food technology has seen students in year 7 learning safety in the kitchen while making pizza toast, scones and cookies. Year 8 have been looking at raising agents to make pizza dough and American muffins. In year 9, it's been all about creativity in their cooking to make Jambalaya, and putting their own spin on Victoria Sandwich cakes. Year 10 have been developing their practical skills in a range of starters, mains and desserts.



Year 7 cookies



Year 9 Jambalaya



Year 10 cinnamon Buns

Textiles

And finally in Textiles, year 7 and 8 have been learning hand embroidery skills to embellish their chosen pictures, year 9 are creating poly prints inspired by the textile artist Angie Lewin, and in year 10 they have been developing work around their mock NEA theme of Fossil Coast, exploring decorative techniques and methods such as stitch & slash, and painted bondaweb.



Year 7 embellished seascape



Year 9 poly-printing



Year 10 exploration of "Fossil Coast"



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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



This term, everyone in Year 7 received a Gideons Bible from the Christian charity Good News for Everyone (formerly Gideons UK) containing the New Testament, Proverbs and Psalms. Students have used the Bibles in lessons, as they have completed their module on Christianity. The Bibles give advice and help, comfort and hope and provide a unique insight into the life of a Christian. Year 8 have been studying a brand-new module on Humanism, with lesson resources developed in conjunction with the British Humanist Association. Year 9 have been studying matters of life (euthanasia, abortion and animal rights) and peace and conflict. Miss Jupe and Mr Noble have also begun Debate Club for Year 9 where students have learnt how to hold inclusive, respectful, yet incisive debates and how to implement rhetorical devices, such as emotion, rhetorical questions and personal witness in their speeches. Topics that have been discussed so far include “The monarchy is out of date and should be abolished”, “Climate Change is the biggest threat facing humanity today” and “Face masks should be compulsory.” As lockdown ends, the RE department looks forward to working with local Christian charity “The Pace Trust” once again, who have delivered lessons, lunch clubs and interactive workshops (such as the GSUS bus) over the past few years.

Avonbourne Boy's and Girl's academies is proud to announce to re-launch of the Duke of Edinburgh award

Over the coming weeks, students in year's 8 and 9 will be invited to apply for a place to complete their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. This internationally recognised award is a fantastic addition to any CV or University application, and offers the opportunity to complete physical, skill, volunteering and expedition challenges throughout the next academic year.

Look out for the DofE assembly next half term which will have all the information about the award and how to apply.

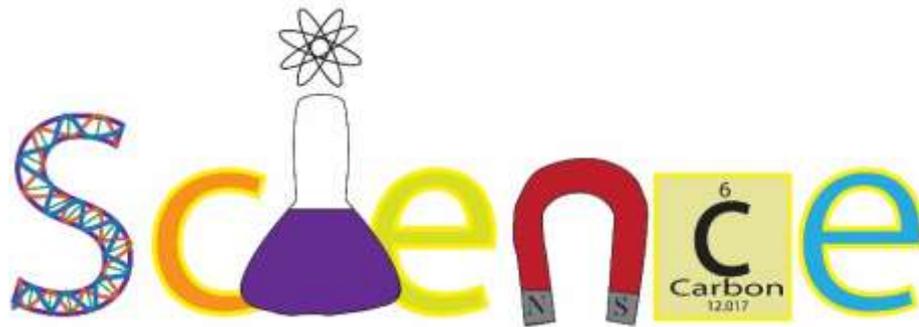




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Year 11 were treated to an A-Level Biology taster session by Mr Powell during their morning tutor session. The aim was to show them the kinds of dissections that students carry out in years 12 and 13. It was not one for the squeamish as they watched the deconstruction of a "pluck" which included the windpipe, lungs, heart, liver, and diaphragm of a sheep. Students were able to see the lungs be inflated, the various tissues found in each organ, the interconnectivity of the systems, and were even given a chance to handle them (while safely gloved up of course). Whilst gory and gruesome to some, this can be one of the best dissections to get students understanding the delicate structures in our own lungs and how they work in tandem with the heart to supply all the oxygen our cells need for survival.



Connect with us!



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Dance



Dance at the Avonbourne Academies continues to thrive. This half term has seen our Year 11 BTEC students prepare for their Component 3 performances which involved the creation of group choreography based on the stimulus 'Vantage Point'. Using skills developed through their course, the students performed their final performances which as per their brief, looked at various issues in our community and how everyone has a role to play to support.



Our A Level Dance students' have continued to make us proud and performed their beautiful quartet 'This Bitter Earth' to an audience of staff and students. We are thrilled to share that all students are continuing with their Dance studies next year with Katie successfully auditioning for Trinity Laban London (one of the most prestigious contemporary dance school in the UK), Hannah successfully auditioning for several vocational schools and deciding on Performers College in Birmingham, Morgan off to study for a BA (Hons) in Dance at the University of Falmouth and Daria continuing to study Dance in Romania.

A huge well-done girls!

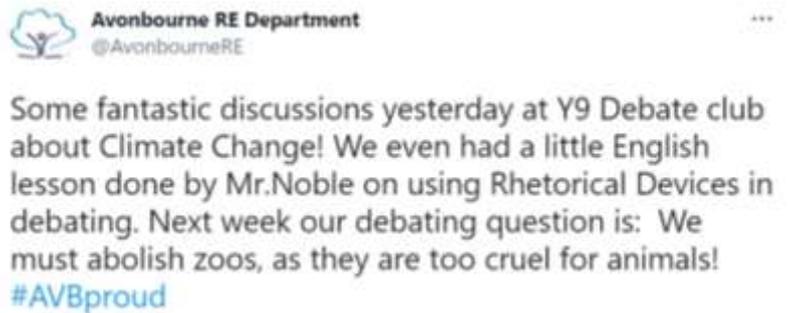


CHARACTER EDUCATION

This term we were able to begin clubs and activities as part of the school day again, and engagement in these has been superb from all years. We believe that enrichment is a fundamental part of what we offer here at Avonbourne. They enable students to develop their academic and character skills by applying them to fun activities in a subject or interest that they are passionate about.



If your son/daughter has yet sign up to an activity, please do encourage them to try one out. We look forward to showcases the achievements and opportunities these clubs enable our students to engage in over the coming months.





YEAR 7 EXTRA- CURRICULAR CLUBS

SIGN UP!

Speak to your
class teachers
and form
tutors

*Academic
success +
character
values =
reaching your
potential*

Activity	Day	Teacher	Room/Area
Spark Maths	Monday	Maths Staff	Maths department
Technology Club (Textiles)	Monday	Mrs McKinley	T9
Painting	Monday	Mrs Woodward	A4
Creative Writing	Monday	Mr Redman	E1
Creative Maths	Monday	Mrs Taylor	Maths department
History Club	Monday	Miss Graham, Mr Levy, Miss Sherlock	H5
Learning French through Culture	Monday	Mrs Karapetyan	L8
Enterprise	Tuesday	Ms Loughran	T3
Dance Club	Wednesday	Miss Barr	Dance Studio
Vocal Group	Thursday	Miss Burrows	Music 1
Reading	Thursday	Miss Helle	E8
PE Club	Friday	Mrs Kennedy and Mr Goldsmith	PE Department



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YEAR 8 EXTRA- CURRICULAR CLUBS

SIGN UP!

Speak to your class teachers and form tutors,

Academic success + character values = reaching your potential

Activity	Day	Teacher	Room/Area
Technology Club	Monday	Ms Sherwood-Taylor and Mrs Blackmore	T10
Painting	Monday	Mrs Davies	A1
Dance Club	Monday	Ms McGill	Dance Studio
Newspaper Club	Monday	Miss Halle and Miss Aebischer	E8
Music	Monday	Miss Burrows	Music 1
Technology and Production			
PE Club	Wednesday	Mrs Burley and Mr Goldsmith	PE Department
Creative Writing	Wednesday	Mr Kandle	E1
Enterprise	Thursday	Ms Loughnan	T3
Learning Spanish through Culture	Thursday	Mrs Karapetyan	L8
Food and Catering	Thursday	Mrs Moore	T16



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YEAR 9 EXTRA- CURRICULAR CLUBS

SIGN UP!

Speak to your class teachers and form-tutors

Academic success + character values = reaching your potential

Activity	Day	Teacher	Room/Area
Dance Club	Monday	Miss Barr	Dance Studio
Debate Club	Monday	Miss Jupe and Mr Noble	H10
Music	Wednesday	Mrs Shelley	Music 1
Technology and Production	Wednesday	Mrs McKinley	A2
MFL Booster	Wednesday	Miss Newnham and Mr Bever	L1 and L2
PE Club	Thursday	Mrs Burley and Mr Plunkett	PE Department
3D Sculptures and Painting	Friday	Mrs Davies	A1



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United Sixth Form
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Miss Little – Head of United Sixth Form

Straight out of the starting blocks after Easter, we are #USFproud of **Year 12** for sitting their Y12 UCAS Mock exams and maturely setting SMART targets to improve on their grades in their next exams. Following the UCAS Launch Open Evening earlier this term, Year 12 took the opportunity to explore UCAS Discovery Day in preparation for their UCAS application which they will carry on completing over the remainder of the academic year.

Year 13 continue to impress with their resilience, determination and mutual support for each other. They have remained focused throughout the A Level assessment period both in classroom and formal assessments and we trust that all their hard work will be rewarded with the grades that enable them to take up their university places in September 2021. We wish them all the best for the future!

The Student Leadership Programme was launched this term and Year 12 were invited to apply for **Senior Prefect** roles. We were very impressed with how well our applicants conducted themselves during their interviews and look forward to seeing the successful candidates thrive in their new roles. We are #USFproud to introduce the new USF Senior Prefect team comprising of Head Girl Anastasia, Head Boy Joshua and senior prefects Anna, Jack and Kate. We congratulate them all on their nominations and are convinced they will represent USF and Avonbourne Academies brilliantly!



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Heads of Year



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Miss Barr – Head of Year 7

Another fantastic half term for the Class of 2027 who have responded incredibly well to the new positive first impressions cards. A big shout out to Baron and Zain who are close to 30 cards now! Year 7 have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in extracurricular clubs and have attended with the highest numbers in Key Stage 3. Next term will be important for Year 7 due to the Rank Order assessments. Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the launch TEAMS event. If you did miss this, a recording of the presentation has been added to the Class of 2027 pages of the websites which details the assessment process, how to prepare and key dates. The assessment period for Year 7, will take place from Monday 14th June for two weeks. With new challenges of traveling around the Academy, please do make sure all items of student's uniform, equipment and PE kit are named. We have lost count of the number of students who have 'mislaid' items recently! A final reminder to use the Year 7 Team email if you need to get in touch, as I begin to work with the Class of 2028 and visiting primaries. Wishing you all a very happy half term break.

Mrs Thomson – Head of Year 8

Congratulation's year 8 students on another fantastic half term. With Covid restrictions easing, we have seen year 8 jump back into the full swing of school life and it has been great to see all students raise their game and continue to meet the high standards we love to see on a day-to-day basis. It is so lovely to hear from staff across the Academy how impressive year 8 are. This term has been a busy one as we have seen the introduction of REACH cards and the vast number of students working hard outside the classroom to achieve these awards has been remarkable. I cannot remember the last time I had to open a door! We have also seen the return of extra-curricular clubs and oh how we have missed them! With a vast range of activities such as cooking, creative writing and PE on offer, it is fantastic to see so many students attending these clubs and developing their personal wellbeing. With the half term break just around the corner, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of year 8 for their hard work. The next set of Rank Order Assessments are planned for early June, so although I highly recommend a relaxing half term, do take the opportunity to start getting prepared for these. Happy half term. Stay safe.

Mrs Burley – Head of Year 9

As this half term comes to a close, I continue to be impressed by Year nine's resilience. With so many changes moving from lockdown to bubbles and now moving around the school they continue to conduct themselves and represent the school brilliantly. This has never been more evident than over the last two weeks when several students have acted as tour guides for the parents and children of Year 6 as they embark on their future journey to Avonbourne. The feedback from parents has been overwhelmingly positive. A number of Year nines will be representing the Academy next term as sports leaders for Kings Park Academy and St James's sports days as well as Avonwood, this is a fantastic opportunity for the students to get some leadership experience.

Alongside the extra-curricular activities Year 9 students will be completing assessments in maths, English, and science on their return to school, so please ensure that as well as relaxing, learning is also taking place so they can be confident of receiving the best grades possible and start their options year full of confidence. With options chosen and decisions made I am sure year 9 students will look forward to the end of this school year and studying some new subjects that will challenge and engage them. I continue to enjoy working with this year group and enjoy seeing them grow each day into mature and confident young people.

Heads of Year



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Miss Ball – Head of Year 10

This half term has been one of the most exciting with the application process of Deputy Head Boy/Girl and our team of senior prefects. There was a true buzz in the air throughout and has further developed positive relationships with staff amongst the cohort. Our field was extremely strong with a total of 59 applications – more than we have spaces for. The interviews took place and the Deputy Head boy and the Deputy Head girl are yet to be chosen as the interviewees were so impressive! There will also be 20 prefects being awarded roles across the Academy. Huge well done to all involved and congratulations to those selected. Teachers across the academy have once again been singing the praises of the cohort as they have got stuck into the continuing GCSE journey that they are on, and they have been attending our after-school revision sessions with great enthusiasm with percentages above 60% every single day! This high percentage attendance is a true reflection of the fantastic attitude of the cohort.

Achievement continues to be a high area of focus. REACH awards are being issued in every lesson throughout the day and rewards for the highest achievers this half term goes to the following students: Emily Rose Peckham, Nada Maftah and OJ Gordon.

Have a wonderful half term. Stay Safe!

Mr Plunkett – Head of Year 11

The class of 2023 have continued to show how brilliant they are through the determination and effort demonstrated consistently this half term. 'A' level taster session has been superb and well attended. Congratulations to our weekly prize draw assembly winners for 100% attendance and REACH reward leader board, namely, Maryrose O, Ruby M, Zofia D, Lily H, Veska V, Austėja S, Leon H and Megan H.

As you know Summer 1's focus has been on completing assessments for Teacher Assessed Grades. The year 11 team are very proud of how students have handled this unique situation. I would also like to acknowledge the year 11 teachers upon the dedication and encouragement they have shown their classes and tireless work throughout this process.

Thanks also to you, the parents, and carers, for supporting the academies and your child over a different key stage 4, particularly during the periods of home schooling when students needed help to maintain their studies remotely. I am sure we all look forward to sharing in the successes of your child on results day.

Prior to results day I know the prom will be a great occasion! A reminder that tickets for the prom, leavers hoodies and yearbook can be purchased through Scopay. Many thanks to all staff and students who have helped organise these.

I realise year 11 are looking forward to a deserved rest but do not forget there are several opportunities, including virtual work experience on the year 11 TEAM platform.

I wish all the class of 2023 every success and I will be pleased to see many of them at United Sixth Form.

Thank you again for all your support.

We would like to wish all our Avonbourne community a fantastic HALF TERM full of sunshine and look forward to seeing you back on Monday 7th June!

www.avonbourneacademy.org.uk

Call 01202 398 451 or email office@avonbourneacademy.org.uk

Harewood Avenue, Bournemouth, BH7 6NY