



12th February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 9 Mid-Year Rank Order Assessments celebrations and results

Today your child will be bringing home their report which contains the results from the Rank Order Assessments (ROAs) they sat in January and the stream they will be taught in after half term. This letter contains some of the key messages we have given the students today and the next steps for your child's education.

Every student should be very proud of how they conducted themselves during the exams. The students developed their understanding of what being 'exam ready' means and the expectations in the exam hall, standing them in great stead for their future academic journeys. Our invigilator team were extremely impressed by the cohort and described them as "professional". A positive experience for students is only possible when school and home work in partnership- thank you for ensuring your child was set up ready for each day.

Subject ranking

In addition to each child's current rank in each subject, the reports contain each child's previous rank in each subject. We are actively encouraging students this year to think about the trajectory they are currently on. We hope students will be able to reflect on their progress in each subject, including where there are successes and where there needs to be an area of focus. Where a student has moved down in a rank, our message to students is not that they are not making progress, but that some students are currently making more progress than them. We urge students to focus on simple learning habits named in the Avonbourne Way, such as 'I always try my hardest to learn to the best of my ability' and 'I am in the right place at the right time doing the right thing'.

ROA celebration and results assembly

Students are coming together today for an assembly on how to interpret/reflect on their results, an awards ceremony and then an 'envelope moment'. In the awards ceremony, over 90 students in the year group are being recognised. There are awards in each subject for Number 1 rank, highest climb in rank, and an effort award, as well as some overall awards. We are immensely proud of our students and want to celebrate as many as possible. The 'envelope moment' mirrors the process of public examinations and starts to normalise the process for students of opening results. There is no pressure for students to open their results in front of their peers, however, if they choose to do so, there will be lots of staff around to support them.

Next assessment point

Rank Order Assessments and streaming have both been used for a number of years at Avonbourne and other high performing schools, both locally and nationally, and are a key driver behind the improved academic outcomes. We passionately believe that all students can achieve exceptionally no matter their starting point but need to be taught at the correct level to make maximum progress. Streams never indicate ability but do indicate current attainment. Our streams at Avonbourne are fluid, and the year group's next set of exams will be in the weeks commencing 12th and 19th May for the end of year exams which will inform the sets for Year 10. For a child unhappy with their stream, we always explain how a stream is temporary, and they have the opportunity to work hard and move up at their next assessment point.

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Parents' evening

As previously communicated, parents' evening for Avonbourne Boys' Academy is on 26th February and Avonbourne Girls' Academy on 27th February. Bookings are now live for this. These will give you an opportunity to discuss your child's results with their class teacher. Due to stream changes, the parents' evening will take place with the teacher that has taught your child this term. They are best placed to inform of your child's current progress and areas to develop.

Every adult at the Academies will work with your child to be successful and help bring out the best in them. They have a dedicated tutor, Head of Year, Pastoral Lead, a vast array of subject teachers, Head of Departments, and me as KS3 Raising Standards Lead. To support students who are moving down a stream, phone calls have been made over the past few days to discuss with parents/carers and help answer any questions. If you have any questions or your child requires further support, please contact us at classof2029@avonbourneacademy.org.uk

I am immensely proud of your child and their year group.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Kidman
Assistant Principal

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