



*Editor Ms G Adamou*

# AVS Newsletter March 2024



# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this message finds you well as we reach the Easter break. I am delighted to share some wonderful highlights from our school community this term.

## **School Vision Consultation Event:**

A sincere thank you to all parents who attended and actively participated in our recent school vision consultation event. Your valuable insights and feedback are instrumental in shaping the future direction of our school. Together, we are committed to fostering an environment where every student can thrive and reach their full potential.

## **Celebrating Student Achievements:**

I am thrilled to recognise the exceptional achievements of our students in this week's Gold Book assemblies. From academic excellence to acts of kindness and leadership, our students continue to impress us with their dedication and positive contributions to our school community. Let's continue to celebrate their successes and encourage them to strive for greatness.

## **Football Trip to PSV Eindhoven Football Club, Holland:**

Our recent football trip to Holland was a resounding success, thanks to the enthusiasm and sportsmanship displayed by our students. They participated in training sessions and matches, representing our school with pride and professionalism. I am immensely proud of their accomplishments and the positive way they represented our school on the international stage.

## **Gratitude to Parents for your support:**

As the academic year progresses, I want to extend a special thank you to all parents/carers for supporting your children's studies. A particular shout out to our Year 11 parents/carers in supporting your children who will soon be sitting their exams. Your support and encouragement play a crucial role in helping our students navigate this important phase of their education.

## **Wishing Everyone a Happy Easter:**

As we prepare to take a well-deserved break for Easter, I want to wish everyone a joyful and restful holiday. May this time be filled with moments of relaxation, reflection, and quality time spent with loved ones. Let's recharge our batteries and return refreshed, ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and dedication to our school community. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of our students.

Warm regards,

**Mr B Francis**  
**Headteacher**





# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

## Phoenix House News

I have been impressed with how the majority of students have been behaving this term. Students have been reminded in our Phoenix House assemblies of our core values and basic expectations, which I know our students try to uphold on a daily basis.

We are pleased to announce that Mrs Partridge has joined the Phoenix House pastoral team this term. She has been a fantastic addition to the team, if you would like to contact her for any issues please email [dpartridge@avonvalleyschool.uk](mailto:dpartridge@avonvalleyschool.uk).

*Mrs L Owen*

*Achievement Leader - Phoenix House*

### Upcoming Events

#### 25th March - 5th April

Easter Break

#### 8th April

All in school

#### 2nd May

Year 7 Virtual Progress  
Evening

#### 6th May

Bank Holiday

#### 10th May

Splash Day

#### 27th - 31st May

Half Term





# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

## British Science Week @ AVS

Avon Valley School recently celebrated British Science Week with a flourish of captivating activities and engaging lectures, all centred around the theme of time. This annual event aims to inspire students' curiosity about science and its relevance in our daily lives.

The highlight of the week was undoubtedly the AVS Lectures, led by Mr. Massey and Mr. Goldthorp, which left Year 7, 8, and 9 students spellbound in the school's theatre. This year's focus was on biology, with fascinating demonstrations including a large-scale dissection of lungs and hearts, a model of the digestive system, and insightful discussions on biology careers and intriguing facts.



In addition to the lectures, students in Years 7 and 8 participated in a variety of extracurricular activities during their lessons. They explored the concept of time through hands-on projects such as creating Nocturnals, Camera Obscuras, and Rollercoasters, igniting their imaginations and fostering a deeper understanding of scientific concepts.

British Science Week at Avon Valley has always been an enriching and immersive experience for students, igniting their passion for science. We hope this week's events leave them eager to explore more in the fascinating world of science and beyond.





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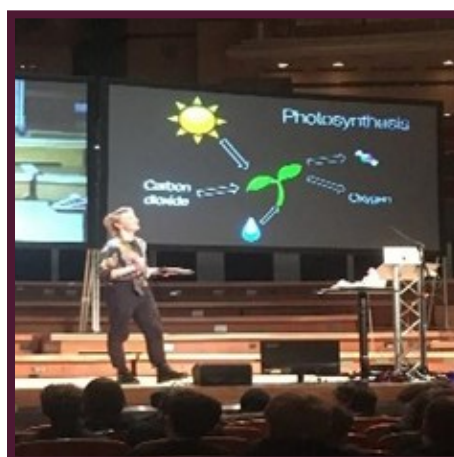
## Recommended TedTalks from the Science Department:

Professor Lord Robert Winston: How Can Anybody Get Pregnant: Robert Winston at TEDMEDLive Imperial College 2013 - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54h8wLkND\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54h8wLkND_Y)

Doctor Anna Ploszajski: Smart Materials - [https://www.ted.com/talks/anna\\_ploszajski\\_smart\\_materials](https://www.ted.com/talks/anna_ploszajski_smart_materials)

Doctor Hannah Critchlow: How our brains shape our destiny - [https://www.ted.com/talks/hannah\\_critchlow\\_how\\_our\\_brains\\_shape\\_our\\_destiny\\_jan\\_2021](https://www.ted.com/talks/hannah_critchlow_how_our_brains_shape_our_destiny_jan_2021)

Professor Jim Al-Khalili: How quantum biology might explain life's biggest questions - [https://www.ted.com/talks/jim\\_al\\_khalili\\_how\\_quantum\\_biology\\_might\\_explain\\_life\\_s\\_biggest\\_questions?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/jim_al_khalili_how_quantum_biology_might_explain_life_s_biggest_questions?language=en)





# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

## Aspire Globus GCSE Science Live Event

- ◆ Fifty of our Year 9 and 10 triple science students were given the chance to see and hear five of Britain's top scientists, all working at the cutting edge of their specialisms, in a series of lectures aimed at GCSE science students. The students were shown that science really does offer solutions for many of the world's great problems.
- ◆ We hope that more GCSE pupils will consider science subjects at AS and A2 level after seeing and hearing the scientists talk about their work.

### Written by Year 10 student Kiran Mistry

During the GCSE Science Live Show, five famous scientists were brought into the Birmingham Symphony Hall to give a show in front of many British high school, college and university classes. Each were well known for research into certain aspects of science. The 5 scientist presenting were:

**Professor Lord Robert Winston**

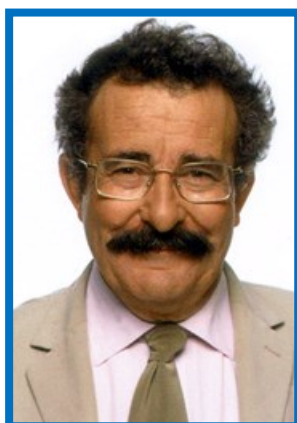
**Doctor Anna Ploszajski**

**Doctor Hannah Critchlow**

**Professor Jim Al-Khalili**

**Professor Steve Jones**

## Professor Lord Robert Winston



First on the list was Professor Lord Robert Winston. Robert Winston is a scientist who made a career in biology, specifically, he established the Institute of Reproductive and Developmental Biology. He is a pioneer of IVF treatment and a renowned communicator of science.

Linking this to engineering and design technology, Professor Winston now researches Transgenetic Technology (technology used to deliberately alter the genome of an organism by the transfer of a gene or genes from another species). Professor Winston evaluated in his hour that the discovery of micro-technology has advanced in his aid to progress further into the research of the male and female body, whilst being able to experiment in transferring different genes from a certain species to another.





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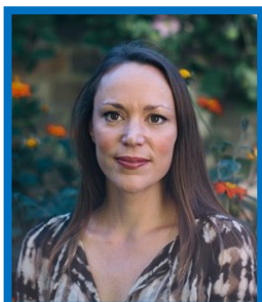
## Doctor Anna Ploszajski



Doctor Anna Ploszajski is well known in many aspects of science, However in her lecture she unveiled her journey and research behind her adventure between England and France over the English Channel from atomic structures to theories about magnetic forces, Anna is an award-winning materials scientist and writer, Fascinated by metals, plastics, ceramics, glasses and substances from the natural world.

During Doctor Ploszajski's lecture, she talked about how materials changed the way she swam and looked at her sport, and how the properties of materials could change the way she swam. Anna researched into smart material/textiles and how it could aid in her journey across the English Channel and discovered that using a mix of lined fabric in a shark skin pattern can decrease the drag flowing around the body, increasing speed and ultimately being able to swim more efficiently. As Doctor Ploszajski mentions in her book '*Handmade*', "*Once we understand how materials are made by different flavours and behaviours of atoms, and how they make*

## Doctor Hannah Critchlow



After the break, Doctor Hannah Critchlow introduced us to neuroscience and the topic of the brain. Hannah's lecture was to talk to us about the significance of the human brain. Doctor Critchlow aimed her lecture around physiological studies. She explained the point that new-everyday-improving technology means that there is the relatively new realm of computerised neural modelling, using populations or networks of virtual neurons and seeing how these organise themselves in response to various stimuli and constraints.

The main questions, and somewhat simple questions, that have led to the research consisted of, *Why do we cry? Why do we laugh? Why do we dream? Why do we enjoy music and art?* Yet Doctor Critchlow believes these questions are still to be unanswered. In contrast to this, Doctor Critchlow then analysed the idea that future technology could be the key answer to these questions with the help of neuroscience and other key elements to "discover the undiscovered".

## Professor Jim Al-Khalili



For the fourth lecture of the day, Professor Jim Al-Khalili shared with us his prestigious knowledge of space and time, mainly focusing on time travel and the link to Einstein's relativity theory of the two dimensional cross shortcut two wormholes could create to time travel from one part of space to possibly another universe. Professor Al-Khalili unveiled that advancements in engineering and technology partnered with space exploration research means that we can now go closer to time travel than ever before. The theory Al-Khalili presented to us in his one hour lecture was time travel, aided by a great example of time dilation, and how this was the closest we could get to time travel at this moment of time. "*If we were to travel near the speed of light for 4 years, depending on the way space time bends with gravity and ultimately the consistency of your speed, by the time you returned to earth, 40 years would have passed, yet for you, you have only aged 4 years*".

The explanation of time dilation is crucially linked to the topic of time travel. On the other hand, a theory Professor Al-Khalili mentioned was that wormholes bend space and time to create a so-called shortcut between space. This was backed up by the point that gravity bends, which wormholes have proved to be possible, as like a black hole, the closer you get, the slower you look from the outside before you are spaghettified, which backs up the idea that gravity can bend space and time. Ultimately, Jim explained that new features with technology have resulted in further education about space and engineering on a day by day basis.



## Forest Schools News

The Forest Schools students have been very busy once again this month.

Students were lucky enough to visit Thor's Cave in the Peak District. On a very wet and grey day all students read about the history of the cave and explored the inside, after walking up 200 steps to get to the entrance. Well done to all for battling the elements and persevering to get to the top.

The group were fascinated with the dry stone walls and how they were made. We discussed having a go in the school garden when the weather is better. Watch this space.

**Miss J Mortimer**

**Outdoor Education Lead**







# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

## Award Scheme News

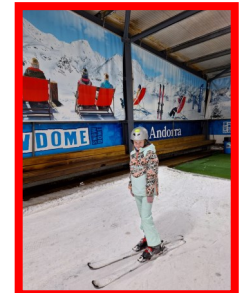
Last month 11 students took part in the National Indoor Climbing Award Scheme. Students travelled to Warwick University and took part in a 7 week course to learn how to climb. All students had a fabulous time and all passed and will receive their award.

This month 11 students have begun their 5 week 'Learn to Ski' course at the Snowdome in Tamworth. Students have made a great start not only on the dry slopes but with a great attitude.

After Easter we plan on taking students to Leamington Boat Centre to start to learn how to kayak and to Bidbury to learn how to trout fish.

**Miss J Mortimer**

**Outdoor Education Lead**

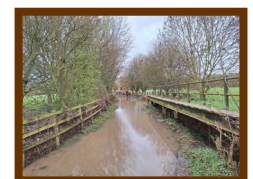


## Duke of Edinburgh - Expeditions

Students taking part in the Silver and Bronze Duke of Edinburgh have been working hard preparing for their overnight expeditions. We took the students out on a practice hike and practised setting up a camp site.

**Miss J Mortimer**

**DofE Coordinator for AVS**





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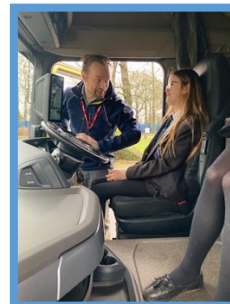
## National Apprenticeship Week 2024

The 5th February was the start of National Apprenticeship Week 2024. Students had a range of opportunities to find out about this post 16 pathway.

- ◆ Year 10 students attended an assembly about the range of pathways into the Army, including apprenticeships. Cpl Matt Gandy surprised students at the variety of opportunities on offer.
- ◆ Selected year 9-11 students attended the Warwickshire College apprenticeship roadshow, and began to appreciate that apprenticeships in agricultural machinery, horticulture and construction were possible. The 3D headsets were a hit as students had to use them to fix a car engine, part of an exercise in apprenticeships in motor vehicles.
- ◆ Year 9 students had a presentation from Sgt Andrew Chambers about apprenticeships in the RAF. Many were surprised at how many sit ups and push ups were required to pass the fitness test!
- ◆ Year 7 students learnt about Wincanton and the range of opportunities on offer at this local logistics company from Tomas, Megan and Anna.
- ◆ Year 8 heard from Ford and Slater, the UK's largest independent HGV Dealer group about the apprenticeships on offer from HGV technician to commercial skills apprenticeships. Selected students then had an opportunity to take part in a competition to build a HGV truck chassis and sit in a brand new HGV lorry. This was a highlight for the students and Mr Walden!
- ◆ During lessons, all students have found out about the range of apprenticeships that are linked to their curriculum subjects.



It's fair to say it was a busy week, but with 95% of students reporting that they are aware of an apprenticeship pathway as an option, the week has been a very successful one.



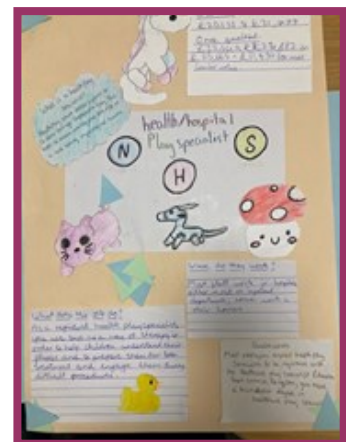
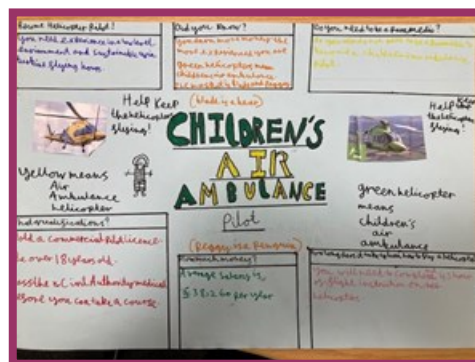
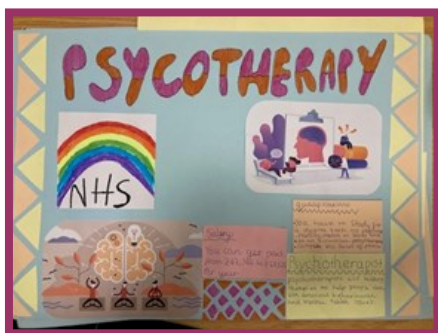
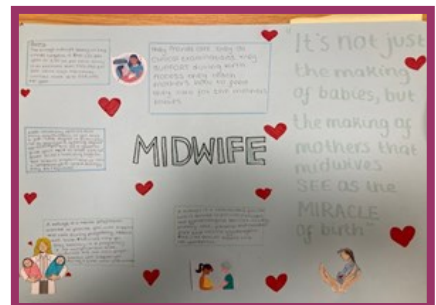


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## Splash Day Careers News

Students had a very successful splash day with year 7-9 taking part in careers activities.

- ◆ Year 7 investigated the range of job opportunities in the NHS, the UK's largest employer. Students have all entered into the Step into the NHS competition. Fingers crossed we have some winning entries.
- ◆ Year 8 heard from Michael Considine, an ex AVS student currently working for Volkswagen Group UK. Michael came in and gave a careers talk to students who then participated in an activity to design a car of the future.
- ◆ Year 9 took part in the Albie's Boutique challenge. Albie's Boutique, an online luxury pet accessories store, asked year 9 to design and pitch a new collection. Congratulations to Chaniel, Shiloh, Maya, Eva, Lily and Heidi for their creative, thoughtful and sustainable designs.





# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

## National Careers Week

National Careers Week is always a highlight in the careers calendar. All faculties have put time and effort into explicitly helping students to see how their subjects link to jobs and careers in the future, as well as highlighting post 16 routes into their subjects.

- ◆ Hannah Shrimpton from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors spoke to year 10 about the routes into surveying as a career.
- ◆ Fran Nicol from The University of Leicester spoke to year 7 about the benefits of higher education. This was followed by a Lego engineering day at the University for 60 students.
- ◆ Imogen Staveley, an NHS Medical Director & GP, talked about her career journey and the challenges she faces in her role.
- ◆ Amy from HOET shared different study pathways offered by HOET, a local post 16 provider with year 9.
- ◆ The Medicine Calling spoke to all the students in Year 7-10 about careers in psychiatry (medicine), mental health nursing and psychology.
- ◆ Selected year 10 students visited Chipping Warden HS2 site and heard about the role of civil engineers and the process of building a viaduct in the area.

Thank you to all the volunteers, staff and students who have taken part in NCW 2024.





# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

## Leave of Absence

The Supreme Court recently reached a decision in the case of Platt v Isle of Wight Council which has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time. The parents of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that they attend school on a regular basis. The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

Head Teachers retain the ability to authorise leave in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law. Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. If the leave is granted, head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the head teacher to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

*Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.*

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent (s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council

**It is important to note**, Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

**Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority**



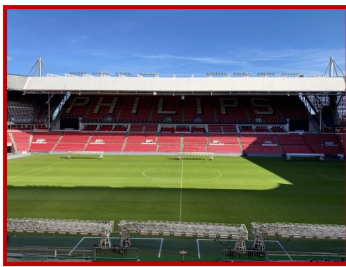


# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

## PSV Football Trip

Fifty seven football mad students have recently returned from a football development tour in Holland.

During the visit the students were based at top flight Dutch football club PSV Eindhoven, and were trained at the club's facilities by professional coaches before playing two fixtures against D.O.S.L and A.S.V 33'. The U14 football team played really well scoring lots of goals, managed by Mr Clancy and the newly named 'Mr Jardinho'. The U15s put in two solid performances against teams as old as U17s, managed by Mr Hartfield and Mr Whitehead. Mr Bonser and Mrs Hallam were our biggest supporters on the sideline.



Students also had a stadium tour of the Phillips Stadium, the home of PSV before treating themselves in the club shop. After three high intensity training sessions, students enjoyed a relaxed game of bowling at the hotel. The students were treated to bacon and maple pancakes each morning which went down a treat!



As part of the trip, the students also had an opportunity to travel to Vitesse vs FC Twente. This was a real highlight of the trip and students fully emerged themselves in the culture of Vitesse FC and Dutch football.. some even thought they were 'Ultra's.

Following the tour, PE teacher and Lead teacher for the trip Craig Hartfield, said: "We had a brilliant time with PSV whose coaches were amazing and their facilities were world-class. The students learnt a lot in the tailored coaching sessions and had a great time throughout the visit. I am really grateful to our hosts, PSV, and the tour's organiser InspireSports."

I would like to thank all the staff who gave up their weekend to support this trip, without volunteers we cannot support such trips.

Thank you to: Mr Clancy, Mr Jardine, Mr Bonser, Mrs Hallam and Mr Whitehead.

***Mr C Hartfield***

***Achievment Leader - Garrick House***

***Teacher of PE***





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# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

## Football News

The U16 football squad beat Alcester Grammer 3-1 in the semi final of the County cup. Goals from Kofi (1) and Jake (2). Well done to the squad.

