



*Editor Ms G Adamou*

# AVS Newsletter April 2024



# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

Dear Parents, Students, and Staff,

This week saw the successful completion of the final stage of our school vision consultation process. Over the past few months, we have been diligently gathering insights and perspectives from various stakeholders to shape the future direction of our amazing school.

In this crucial phase, our focus shifted to our most important stakeholders: our students. I am delighted to share that students from Years 7 to 10 actively participated in a workshop designed to harness their creativity and vision for our school's future. Their enthusiasm and thoughtful contributions have been truly inspiring.

During the workshop, our students explored innovative ideas and shared invaluable feedback on how we can further enhance our school community. From suggestions on the school's potential future values to ideas for extracurricular activities, their input has provided invaluable guidance as we now look to refine our vision for the coming years.

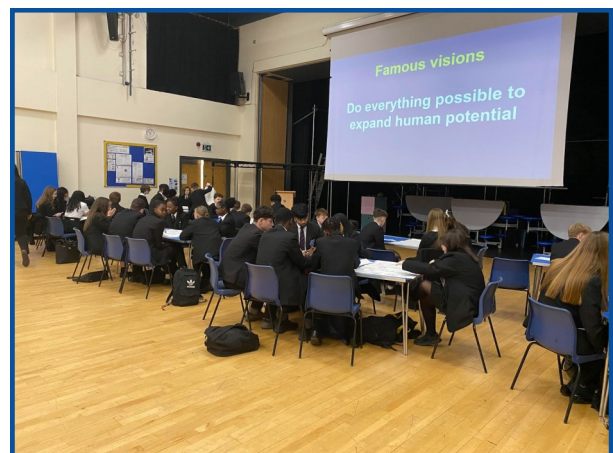
I extend my deepest gratitude to all the students, parents and staff who participated wholeheartedly in this process. Your passion for our school's improvement is commendable, and your voices will be instrumental in shaping our collective vision.

As we move forward, rest assured that every suggestion and insight gathered will be carefully considered as we draft our new school vision. Our commitment to providing an enriching and supportive learning environment remains unwavering, and your feedback will play a pivotal role in ensuring that we continue to uphold our values and meet the evolving needs of our community.

Thank you once again to everyone who contributed to this important endeavour. Together, we will help to build a brighter future for our school.

Warm regards,

Blake Francis  
Headteacher





# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

## Upcoming Events

2nd May - Year 7 Virtual Progress Evening

6th May - Bank Holiday

27th - 31st May - Half Term

7th - 10th June - Media trip to London

17th - 22nd June - School production - Mary Poppins

28th June - Year 11 Prom

1st - 5th July - Year 10 Work Experience week

1st July - Year 7 & 8 RE students trip to 'Places of Worship'

3rd July - Year 9 Geographers trip to Twycross Zoo

4th July - Awards Evening

5th July - Cadbury World Trip

10th & 11th July - Year 6 Induction Days

10th July - Dance/Drama students to see Chorus Line

12th July - Splash/Activity Day whole school

15th July - Dance/Drama students to see 'Everybody's talking about Jamie'

17th July - Sports Day

19th July - Break up for summer





# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

## Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Practice Expedition

On Tuesday 9th, 10th and 11th April students completing their Silver Duke of Edinburgh award braved the elements and set off for their practice overnight expedition.

Students came keen, kitted up and ready to embrace the three days of their expedition. We travelled to the White Peak area.

Students camped at Birchover and walked to Mandale House and completed their expedition near Bakewell.

**Miss J Mortimer**

**Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator**





# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

## Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Practice Expedition

28 Bronze Award students set off on their Practice Expedition on Saturday 27th April. Students met at school nice and early on Saturday morning, rucksacks and equipment at the ready. The coach took the students and staff to Tysoe.

Students walked from Tysoe to Horley Scout camp near Wroxton, where they set up camp and prepared dinner for the evening activities.

The following day the students walked to Burton Dassett where they followed a given route practicing their navigating and compass skills. The students did exceptionally well considering the poor weather conditions.

**Miss J Mortimer**

**Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator**





# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

## Performing Arts News

On Thursday 25th April, 18 Drama students visited The Curve Theatre in Leicester to watch Willy Russell's production of 'Blood Brothers'.

A requirement of the GCSE course is to study 'Blood Brothers', which will account for 40% of their final exam. All students thoroughly enjoyed the performance and represented the school brilliantly.

**Miss E Carpenter**  
**Teacher of Drama**





# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

## Forest Schools/Extra Curricular Outdoor News

This month the Forest Schools students visited Bibury Trout Farm. Students were lucky enough to be shown how to fish for trout and how to gut and prepare the fish, and cook it.

All students got stuck in and found the whole process fascinating and a little squeamish! Well done to all who had a go.

The 'Learn to Ski' group visited Tamworth Snowdome for their last session and all passed to become recreational skiers.

**Miss J Mortimer**

**Outdoor Education Lead**





# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

## Ramadan, Easter and Eid Celebrations

Before we broke up for Easter, we had the 'Theme of the week' delivered to all students about Ramadan and why people fast in this blessed month.

Students then looked at this in further detail in their RE lessons. Students learnt about the pillar of fasting and the significance of the Quran during this blessed month. They also made Easter, Ramadan and Eid greeting cards for friends and family.



*Miss R Begum*

*Subject Leader of Religious Education*







## History News

We recently welcomed Alan and Samantha Blackhorse-Hull, who delivered an engaging and interesting workshop about the culture and history of Native Americans.

The aim of the workshop was to inspire students' curiosity about Native Americans and help engage year 11 students in the run up to their GCSEs.

Students were given the opportunity to ask questions about Native American culture, watch a traditional tribal dance, and examine authentic Native American artefacts.

Students' feedback was very positive, and students said, *"it was interesting to learn more about Native American culture from someone with ties to it. I think the session did help with my revision, especially learning about the conflict between Native Americans and White Americans in greater depth."*

**Miss A Moore**  
**Subject Lead History**





## Geography News

On Tuesday 20th February the Geography department took a group of 96 year 8 students to Twycross Zoo for the day. Students took part in a tour of the zoo where they practised their research skills, utilising zoo signage to create a fact file focusing upon animal endangerment and conservation globally.

All students attended a workshop run by zoo staff where they discussed causes of animal extinction and worked in small groups to create their own area of conservation. They were encouraged to consider ways in which their conservation could sustainably mitigate threats to local wildlife, considering the long-term impact of the local biodiversity.



What did some of our year 8 students have to say?

- ◆ *“The flamingos are such a nice colour and I loved seeing them”* - Emilia S
- ◆ *“I loved the conservation workshop where we got to design our own conservation area”* - Beau
- ◆ *“I had an amazing day at Twycross zoo. I went with all my friends and we made sure we visited everything to get the full experience. On the day we caught good weather we were lucky. It was a good experience. I would recommend it if you love animals!”* - Ioana
- ◆ *“I enjoyed walking around the zoo, looking at the animals during our free time”* - Mylo
- ◆ *“Getting to explore and experience all the different animals and spend time with my friends”* - Erin
- ◆ *“I enjoyed looking at all the different types of monkeys”* - Bradley G

Well done to all students who attended. We were incredibly proud of their behaviour and engagement within the activities and I am looking forward to many of them embarking on their GCSE Geography journey next year!!

**Miss K McHale**

**Geography KS3 Lead**





# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

## Geography Club (Friday Lunchtime - 1SS1)

### Polar Network Flag Competition

Well done to Beatrice S (9DPA) who created a unique flag using software she learnt to use within her IT lessons at school. The flag had moving features and the flags of all nations who have signed the Antarctic treaty, promising to protect the area from invasion and exploitation.

After sending her flag to the UK Polar Network, we received an image of her flag out on South Georgia Island, Antarctica with Carrie Gunn. Below is a little information about Carrie and her amazing work as a British Antarctic Survey Marine Biologist studying a colony of Gentoo penguins on the island.

*'The colony has around 1131 chicks this year and 50 of these get weighed when they are 98 days old. Their weights give us an idea of how well fed they have been this season. Yesterday's results showed that the average weight of a chick was 5.3kg which is higher than our long-term average of 4.9kg. So there must be some good feeding grounds available to their parents this season. The chicks will fledge in the next few weeks and the colonies will go quiet for the winter season'.*



**Well done Beatrice!**

This competition is run yearly amongst all Geography club members in September. I look forward to seeing all the entries from our current and future budding Geographers next academic year!

**Miss K McHale**

**Geography KS3 Lead**

### Year 9 GCSE Geography Twycross trip

**We are running an additional trip for all GCSE Geography students in year 9. All students who attend will get to tour the zoo and take part in a GCSE workshop based on the theme 'Animals in Danger'.**

**Letters have been sent out to those students who filled in the interest google form, however, if any additional students would like to join us, then please drop me an email and I will look at adding you to the system.**

**kmchale@avonvalleyschool.uk**

**Date: Wednesday 3rd July**

**Time: usual school times (leave at 9am and return for 3pm)**

**Price: £18**

**Thank you,  
Miss K McHale  
Geography KS3 Lead**



## Literacy NEWSLETTER



### RECOMMENDED READ

#### **The Hunger Games Trilogy.**

Students in Year 8 read *The Hunger Games* before the February half-term, so pupils can now enjoy the rest. It's a fascinating dystopian action trilogy that makes us consider the nature and realities of freedom and survival.

### FLUENCY

Fluency is the bridge between recognising individual words and comprehension. If your child has difficulties in any of the areas listed below, try listening to them read at least once a week to help them improve.

Fluency booklets can be obtained from Mrs. Noonan at the English office.

### RESEARCH

The National Literacy Trust found in a recent report that literacy levels may have an affect on a person's overall life expectancy.

[https://literacytrust.org.uk/research\\_services/research\\_reports/](https://literacytrust.org.uk/research_services/research_reports/)

### FLUENCY CHECKLIST

- Pace and expression are natural and conversational, like talking to a friend, and you can hear every word.
- Words are grouped into phrases that show an understanding of the meaning.
- They pay attention to punctuation.
- Reading is smooth and accurate. They correct mistakes and continue reading.

### BOOK DONATION

We are always in need of books for our library or for preloved book sales. Please drop off any used or unwanted books at reception or the English Office.

### LITERACY COFFEE MORNING

We are holding a literacy coffee morning on 26th April for parents and carers in Years 7 and 8 whose children are receiving additional reading intervention lessons.

Please check ClassCharts for more information and to RSVP.





# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

## Literacy Coffee Morning

On Friday 26th April the English faculty held a Literacy coffee morning to parents and carers of students in year 7 and 8 who are receiving additional reading sessions.

The meeting was held in the library where parents/carers were given a talk, had the opportunity to ask questions about the sessions and see the books we are reading.

We look forward to seeing more parents at the next meeting in the autumn term.

***Mrs S Noonan***

***Teacher of English***

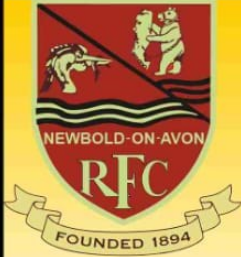
***Literacy Coordinator***

***[snoonan@avonvalleyschool.uk](mailto:snoonan@avonvalleyschool.uk)***





# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE



# Family Fun Day!

Sunday 2nd June 12pm  
@ Newbold RFC

Help Newbold RFC celebrate 130 years of rugby in the community

TOMBOLA!  
INSTANT WIN!

FREE ENTRY!

NEW TARGET  
RUGBY!  
*where skill meets nerve*

VINTAGE CARS!

BOUNCY CASTLES! CRAFT STALLS!

FACE PAINTING!

LICENSED BAR  
CRAFT GIN, CIDER  
& REAL ALE!

FOOD STALLS!  
Cake, hotdogs, ice cream

SOAK A COACH!

Something for all ages - Plus much more !

Please come down to support the community  
and join in the fun!



Derbyshire · Leicestershire · Rutland  
Warwickshire · Northamptonshire

NRFC SUPPORTING WARWICKSHIRE  
AIR AMBULANCE

# NEWBOLD RUGBY CLUB





# 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

If you haven't booked your tickets for our amazing show 'Mary Poppins' please click the link to purchase your tickets:

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/  
theavonvalleyschooltheatre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/theavonvalleyschooltheatre)



**SELLING FAST**