



*Editor Ms G Adamou*

# AVS Newsletter January 2024



# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE



*What does greatness look like in the future for The Avon Valley School and Performing Arts College (AVS)?*

*How could AVS provide an even better offer for our students and the wider community?*

Avon Valley School is already a good school with many strengths and these are recognised by our community. We are proud of our achievements, but never complacent. We understand that holding ourselves back will limit what we might achieve by being brave and aspirational for the future of our school. Fully committed and excited by the prospect of continued improvement, we are now asking ourselves the important question; how might we become even better?

Every improvement journey requires a community effort to make our goals and aspirations achievable. This will be guided by our collective understanding and agreement of what is important to AVS to best serve our community.

Creating a strong vision and mission for AVS over the next stage of our development will be key to help communicate our purpose and aspirations and guide decisions that we make. It is important therefore for us to consider your views within the process of updating the future vision and direction of our school.

We would like to invite parents/carers to a 1 hour face to face workshop. At this event, parents/carers will have the opportunity to speak with senior staff and other parents, and share views and opinions of how we might improve our offer. This feedback will then be considered within the process of reviewing and refreshing our school's vision, mission and values.

The date for the workshop will be confirmed in the next few days, with details of how to get involved.

In the meantime, I would like to wish all our students, parents/carers and staff a very restful half term break.

**Mr Blake Francis**  
**Headteacher**

## Upcoming Events

### 5th - 9th Feb

National Apprenticeship week

### 12th - 16th Feb

Half Term

### 19th Feb

All students back to school

### 20th Feb

Year 8 Geography trip to Twycross Zoo

### 21st Feb

PSV trip parents meeting

### 22nd Feb

Year 8 Virtual Parents 'Evening

### 26th Feb - 8th Mar

Year 11 PPE's

### 28th Feb

Splash Day

### 29th Feb

Year 8 Options Evening

### 1st Mar - 4th Mar

PSV trip to Holland





# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

At the start of January, some of our Year 8 students visited the University of Warwick to take part in an outreach and widening participation event delivered by the School of Modern Languages and Cultures to schools from the Coventry and Birmingham areas. The event was based on the 2024 Olympic Games and encourages students to:

- \* Explore the values associated with the Olympic Games.
- \* Decode the cultural symbols associated with the 2024 Olympic mascot.
- \* Investigate debates around the Olympics and inclusivity.

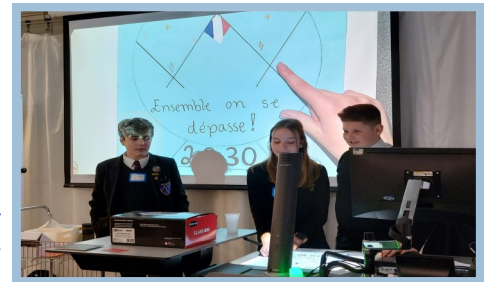
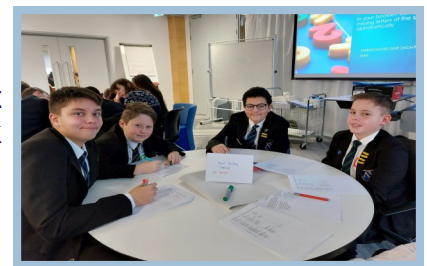
The day kicked off with a warm welcome and a tour of the main campus. From the Warwick Arts Centre to state-of-the-art facilities, our students had the opportunity to get a first-hand look at the vibrant academic environment that fosters innovation and learning.

The students were immersed in a series of sessions and workshops. From discussing the history of the Olympics to exploring the significance of the Olympic values, the students were able to broaden their understanding of both the French language and the global sporting stage.

A highlight of the day was a collaborative project where students worked in small groups to create and present their own slogan and logo for the forthcoming 2030 Winter Olympics in the French Alps. This has not only challenged their language abilities but also encouraged teamwork, creativity, and public speaking. The diversity of ideas and the enthusiasm displayed by each group truly showcased the spirit of the Olympics in action. The event not only reinforced the importance of language education but also highlighted the power of cultural exploration in shaping well-rounded individuals.

We look forward to more opportunities for our students to engage in such enriching experiences that go beyond the classroom and open doors to a world of knowledge and cultural understanding.

**Miss C Labreize**  
**Achievement Leader Apollo House/Teacher of French**





## Forest Schools News

Forest Schools students have been very busy this month.

Students had the opportunity to build dens at Sherwood Pines and learnt all about surviving in the outdoors. They were all very creative and worked as a team to ensure everyone was safe and had a secure den. We learnt all about the veteranisation process and identified which trees this naturally occurred to and how this process helped wildlife thrive.



We also took an 8 mile walk around Draycote Water and did a spot of birdwatching. Students saw blue tits, bullfinch, divers (rare to the inland) and a woodpecker. We stopped off at Toft Farm in Dunchurch to see the Alpacas on our way back. The students found the alpacas to be friendly, inquisitive and very fluffy.

A small group of students have been visiting the stables in Grandborough and learning how to look after and care for the horses and also how to ride.

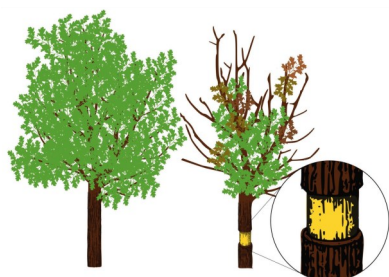
24 students began their 7 week National Climbing Award at Warwick University this month. All students have learnt how to be safe when climbing, caring for your equipment, and how to support their fellow climbers. Students will receive a credited climbing award on completion of the sessions.



***Next adventure: Learn how to ski! Watch this space...***

***Miss J Mortimer***

***Head of Outdoor Education/Teacher of Geography***







# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE







# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

## Student Musical Success

Kyla O'Brien, a year 7 student, has landed a part in 'We Will Rock You'. She will be playing Jagger the Bohemian for the Stratford Musical Theatre Company in May.

Rehearsals began last weekend and Kyla is getting to know the cast and the songs. The Stratford Musical Theatre Company was formed in 1922 and have performed musicals and concerts every year since then.

'We Will Rock You' is a performance for young performers from year 6 to year 13. Performance dates are 1st May to 5th May 2024. Tickets can be purchased on their website.

We wish Kyla all the best and 'Break a leg'!

**Miss Carpenter**

**Teacher of Drama**





# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

## AVS Production of Mary Poppins

Mary Poppins is an enchanting mixture of irresistible story, unforgettable songs, breath-taking dance numbers, and astonishing stagecraft.

The jack-of-all trades, Bert, introduces us to England in 1910 and the troubled Banks family. Young Jane and Michael have sent many a nanny packing before Mary Poppins arrives on their doorstep. Using a combination of magic and common sense, she must teach the family how to value each other again. Mary Poppins takes the children on many magical and memorable adventures, but Jane and Michael aren't the only ones she has a profound effect upon. Even grown-ups can learn a lesson or two from the nanny who advises that "Anything can happen if you let it."

The AVS cast has been selected and rehearsals have begun. Please look out for the announcement for ticket sales very soon...

*Miss E Wheatley*





# 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

Massive well done to the U16s who beat Bilton School 3-0 in the County cup quarter final. Goals from Henry, Jacob and Zee.



Our U14s exit the County cup after a 4-0 defeat to Ashlawn School, good luck to all in the next round.

**We'd like to thank Rugby Borough FC for allowing us to use their facilities.**







# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

## Careers News

What's been happening this month:

Over 60 Year 11 students have visited Rugby Free School for interviews as part of the application process for the Sixth form. They represented the school well. Many will receive conditional offers to study at RFSS in the near future.

Twenty year 10 students visited SUEZ Waste recovery plant, Malpass Farm, Rugby. They heard from Scott Bradshaw, Production Operations Manager, about the waste recovery process. We had a tour of the site and a talk about the potential career opportunities within SUEZ and the many sustainable features of the site. This will form part of a case study for their GCSE Geography exam.



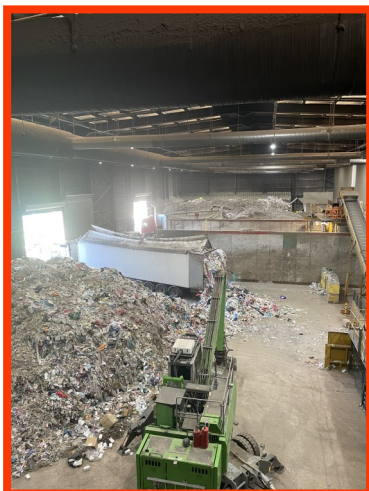
A class of Year 7 students had a visitor in their technology lessons. Jodie was a former AVS student who went to Rugby College to study engineering. Her studies were interrupted by Covid, but she has now become the first Rugby College student to complete her degree in engineering at the college. She spoke to students about her pathway into engineering and the challenges she faced in a male dominated industry.

### AVS Work experience (WEX)

This year WEX is from Monday 1st to Friday 5th July. It is the responsibility of students to find a placement. To assist them with this challenge, they have now written a letter to send to local employers. Once a placement has been agreed in principle, the name of the company and contact details are to be passed to Mrs Demaj who will then carry out the Safeguarding and Health & Safety checks before confirming the placement. All WEX enquiries should be directed to Mrs Demaj, [ndemaj@avonvalleyschool.uk](mailto:ndemaj@avonvalleyschool.uk).



If you would like to take part in the AVS careers programme by giving a virtual talk, offering a work experience placement or would like to get further information about post 16 destinations / applications, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Owen ([lowen@avonvalleyschool.uk](mailto:lowen@avonvalleyschool.uk)), or look at the information available on the school website: <https://avonvalleyschool.uk/>. Careers can be found in the School Life tab.



*Mrs Owen, Careers Lead*







# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE



## THE HATCH EST 2024

Ran by your student leaders. We listen, we act.

Item	Price
Radnor Splash: Lemon & Lime	85p
Radnor Splash: Apple & Raspberry	85p
Radnor Splash: Watermelon	85p
Radnor Splash: Strawberry	85p
Radnor Fizz: Tropical	70p
Radnor Fizz: Apple	70p
Radnor Fizz: Sour Cherry	70p
Radnor Fizz: Orange & Mango	70p
Radnor Fizz: Forest Fruits	70p
Small Water	25p
Large Water	50p
Viva Milkshake: Chocolate	55p
Viva Milkshake: Vanilla Ice cream	55p

Large Cookie	80p
AVS Muffin	55p
AVS Cookie	55p





# THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

## The National Apprenticeships Show

Ten year 10 students had the opportunity to visit The National Apprenticeship Show at The Coventry Building Society Arena.

Students were able to sample some of the activities on show and receive vital information about apprenticeships. A variety of companies were there such as NHS, The Armed Forces and The Police Force to name a few.

All the students represented themselves and our school really well and have come away with lots to think about the path they may take in the future.

*Mrs C Richmond*

*Teacher of Maths/KS4 PP Coordinator*

