

Editor Ms G Adamou



AVS OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Designed by: Jamie Barnard 11JMO



THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE



We have reached the end of a really busy and successful half term for Avon Valley School. Many of our students have recently received awards for their hard work, leadership and dedication towards their studies in our end of term awards assemblies. The number of students working hard and engaging in their lessons continues to impress me and we are incredibly proud that we have such amazing students at our school.

You may have also noticed that we have had a run of very positive stories published in the local paper recently, where students have been engaging in a range of extra-curricular opportunities to broaden their skills and understanding. The recent careers fair was just one example of the way in which the school helps to provide our students with opportunities to think about their development as a person so they can become independent in the future.

On Thursday this week we invited some visitors from other local schools (Headteachers and Deputy Head Teachers) to come in and work with the leadership team on some quality assurance activities. During the visit we completed joint lesson visits, student voice activities and discussions with teaching staff about curriculum. The feedback from students was very positive and any areas they identified where they had concerns we will now look to address in the new term. Lesson visit feedback was also very positive, with excellent behaviour and student engagement being noticed by all visitors. Our visitors commented on how polite and welcoming our students are. One of the visitors who has lived in the local area for a long time said to me: "I would send my children here", which was some very lovely feedback.

I would like to wish all our students a very restful half term break and hope that they enjoy any halloween and bonfire celebrations safely.

Mr Blake Francis
Headteacher

Upcoming Events

27th Oct - 3rd Nov

Half Term

7th & 8th Nov

Year 11 Mock
Interviews

9th Nov

Year 10 Launch

10th Nov

Remembrance
Assembly

16th Nov

Year 10 Progress
Evening at AVS



THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

Fortune House News

As the first half-term draws to an end, it is a good point to reflect upon what has been achieved so far and to think about what is to come.

Across the school, over 123,000 House Points have been awarded to AVS's students. Of these, over 27,000 have been awarded to the students of Fortune House. This underlines the good work and positive behaviours that happen every single day.

Since the beginning of term, we have welcomed Year 7 parents and carers to our tutor evening, and we have welcomed Year 11 parents and carers to our progress evening. It has been great to meet parents and carers to discuss how our youngest students have settled in and to discuss the progress being made by our oldest students. Next up is our Year 10 launch evening, which is scheduled for Thursday 9th November and our Year 10 progress evening, which is set to take place on 16th November in person. We look forward to seeing Year 10 parents and carers at these events.

It has also been great to see our students getting involved with a number of events, including Splash Day, coaching with Rugby Borough FC Academy, science lectures, the careers fairs, assemblies, our open evening, plus more. After the half-term break our Year 11 students will have mock careers interviews. We will also host our Remembrance assemblies, and then we will be working towards the Christmas festivities.

As always, there is a lot going on, which means there are lots of opportunities for our students. As always, I would fully encourage students to get involved and to make the most of the opportunities they have available to them.

Mr D Phelan

Achievement Leader – Fortune House





THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

2023 Academic Conference

At the end of September, six students from Year 11 joined others from Rugby School for their annual Academic Conference.

Over the summer, our representatives researched and prepared their own paper addressing the theme of 'Turning Points' and then presented these to their peers, taking questions from students and staff alike. The presentations were punctuated by keynote speakers from outside of Rugby who analysed topics as diverse as the 'Turning Points in evolution' to 'What would happen if China ruled the world'.



It was a superb day and we were delighted at how well our pupils represented AVS and showcased their own academic acumen.

AVS 2023 Academic Papers:

- To what extent does childhood abuse act as a psychological turning point in the development of a serial killer? (Bryony Wheeler).
- How is the Trolley Problem a Turning Point Between the Two Conflicting Moral Principles of Utilitarianism and Deontology? (Luiza Chang).
- To what extent were the 2010s a turning point for diversity in fashion? (Lavinia Poita).
- Could the evolution of Artificial Intelligence pose a threat and be the turning point in humanity's future? (Ruo Lin).
- Is 25 really the turning point in human maturity? (Taylor Henery).
- How were the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II a turning point in the international perception of a nuclear threat? (Ola Krajewska).

Thank you to all those that took part and supported in preparing for the event.



Mrs S Noonan

Teacher of English and Literacy Coodrinator





THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

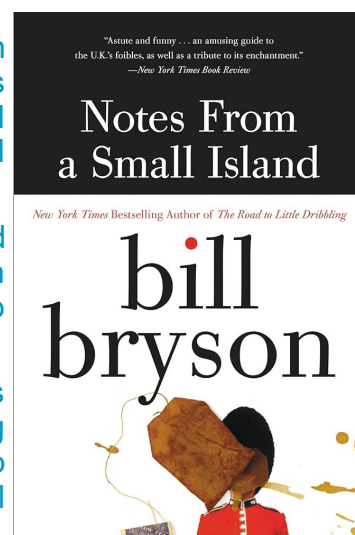
English Curriculum News

In KS3, Year 7 are currently exploring a range of non-fiction texts in their 'Travel Writing' unit where they are reading a range of extracts ranging from Bill Bryson *Notes from a Small Island* to travel brochures on Thailand before completing their own extended pieces.

Year 8 are studying the modern play 'Noughts and Crosses' based on Malorie Blackman's novel. They will read and study the play in English before having the exciting opportunity, later in the year, to work on the text in their Drama lessons.

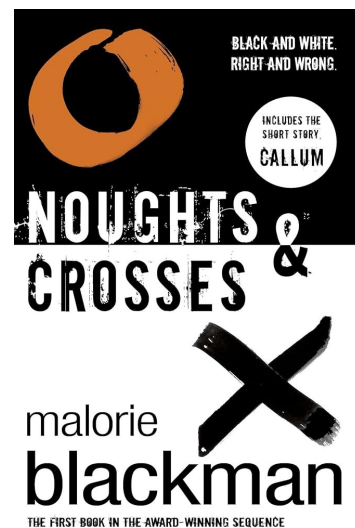
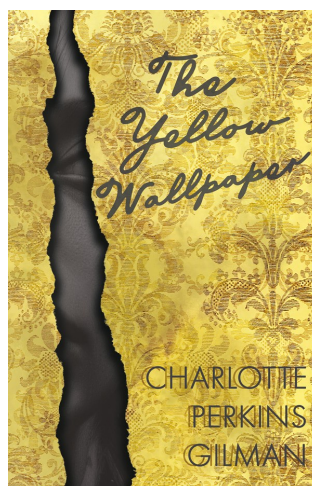
Meanwhile, Year 9 have been busy settling into their short stories unit where they are exploring a challenging range of texts ranging from the dramatic monologue 'Your Shoes' by Michelle Roberts to 'The Yellow Wallpaper' by Charlotte Perkins Gilman and *The Tell Tale Heart* by Edgar Allan Poe.

In KS4, Year 10 have left summer well and truly behind them and have launched headfirst into the festive favourite 'A Christmas Carol' which is one of their AQA GCSE English Literature texts. Recent lessons have seen students completing a character analysis of Scrooge. Meanwhile, Year 11 have started their English Language GCSE course with gusto and have just completed their first assessment for English Language Paper 2 Section A, where they read and analysed two non-fiction extracts in timed conditions.



Mrs L Harris

Faculty Leader - English





THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

Extra Curricular Opportunity

To be or not to be – that is the question...



*Fancy yourself as a thespian?
Want to prove that you can tread the
boards with the best?*

*Take part in our
Performing Shakespeare Competition! Spanning across 4 rounds,
you will have the chance to compete against other Shakespeare
fans, and even have a chance at performing at
The Globe Theatre, London!*

*Choose a monologue (or team up with a friend for a duologue),
and take part.*

Rehearsals will take place in EN1 every Wednesday 3:10 – 4pm

Beginning Wednesday 4th October

Speak to Miss Tingham for more information.



*Miss A Tingham
Teacher of English*





THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

SENCo Clinics

In the first week of December, we will be holding virtual drop-in clinics with our SENCo, Mrs Bearpark. To arrange an appointment to discuss any SEN matters or concerns, please email the SEN administrator, Mrs Saunders on ssaunders@avonvalleyschool.uk.

The October issue of the Warwickshire SEND newsletter is now out and can be viewed [here](#).

Pupils on the SEN register in year 7 will have met with their Teaching Assistant mentor and produced their learning plan and passport in collaboration with them. These will be shared with parents in due course and mentors will also contact parents to introduce themselves.

Other support services for pupils and parents:-

<https://www.warwickshiresendiass.co.uk/>

<https://casspartnership.org.uk/>

<https://www.family-action.org.uk/what-we-do/children-families/send/warwickshire-parent-partnership-service/>

Mrs S Saunders

Administrator for SEN and Transition





THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

Remembrance Display

As part of our Remembrance activities, we would like to create a display that features photographs of individuals related to our students and staff, who have served or are still serving in the armed forces.

This could be a photograph of a students' brother, sister, parent, grandparent, or distant family member who has served, or is even still serving, in any of the armed forces.

If you have a photograph that you would be happy to share, you can help contribute to our display by emailing a copy of the photograph to us via: dphelan@avonvalleyschool.uk. Please do not send the original photograph into school.




Digital photographs received will be displayed in our reception area and will be used to help our students reflect upon the meaning of Remembrance. We will also aim to share a selection of the photos with the wider school community in our newsletter and via the school website and social media.

Many thanks to the families who have already submitted a photograph. A selection of photographs received can be seen below.

Mr D Phelan

Achievement Leader - Fortune House

The Avon Valley School and Performing Arts College



Can you help us to create a Remembrance display?

As part of our remembrance activities we would like to create a display that features photographs of individuals related to our students and staff, who have served in the armed forces. This could be a photograph of a student's brother, sister, parent, grandparent, or distant family member who has served, or is even still serving in any of the armed forces.

If you have a photograph that you would be happy to share, you can help contribute to our display by emailing a copy of the photograph to us via: dphelan@avonvalleyschool.uk.

These are all examples of photographs already received.

Please do not send original photographs into school.





THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

Black History Month

As part of Black History Month, the students took part in the 'Great Big Live Assembly' which was streamed live on October 10th 2023. The theme of the special assembly for Black History Month was 'celebrating sisters' and was dedicated to showcasing some of the stories of amazing Black women who have made our world a better place.



The UK-wide 20-minute virtual assembly connected more than 500 schools simultaneously and involved around 300,000 young people. The live event was organised by the charity Sanctuary Foundation and was hosted by Dr Krish Kandiah OBE, who leads the charity. The assembly was co-hosted by, Jeriah Kibusi, a 12-year-old BAFTA-award winning journalist, and BBC presenter Gemma Hunt, best known for presenting Swashbuckle and Songs of Praise.





THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

Careers News

October 2023

What's been happening this month:

- ◆ Year 11 students have been completing their PSHE careers course - Aspire: Further education. They have received more post 16 guidance in assemblies and attended a successful careers fair.
- ◆ Year 10 students have been completing their PSHE careers module - Engage: WEX and attended a splash day where they have now written WEX letters for employers and are ready to begin their search for a placement. They have also heard from Jason Cleaver, a Microsoft employee.
- ◆ Year 9 students have been participating in their PSHE careers course - Achieve: Employability. They also attended the careers fair.

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 Mr Ogali who will then carry out the Safeguarding and Health & Safety checks before confirming the placement. All WEX enquiries should be directed to Mr Ogali at cogali@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) or Mr Chino Ogali (cogali@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 L Owen
Careers Lead





THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

Careers Fair

On Thursday 12th October, over 25 local further education & higher education providers and local employers attended the AVS Careers Fair.

Students from Years 9 & 11 had a really positive experience; they were amazed at the skill of local furniture makers, giddy at the wages local companies offer, excited by the opportunities that apprenticeships offer and aspirational to reach the grades required to attend the range of courses on offer.

Feedback from a local company included 'Your pupils are definitely a credit to the school'. Thank you to all who took part.



AVS careers fair 2023		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		2023





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

Dropping off and picking up students

We would like to remind parents and carers about the arrangements for dropping off and collecting students from school.

Where possible we recommend that students walk, use a bike or school bus to get to/from school. Car sharing is useful as it helps to reduce the volume of traffic.

In the morning, our gates are open from 8.20am until 8.50am allowing parents to drive onto the school site to drop students off in our turning circle. Students should arrive between 8.20am and 8.40am, and must be in their tutor room no later than 8.45am.

In the afternoon, the school day ends at 3.10pm. Unfortunately, it is not possible to allow cars onto the school site as this causes a traffic build up on Newbold Road, prevents buses from accessing the site, and poses a danger to our students as they leave school. Therefore, parents and carers should not enter the school site to collect their child; we suggest families pre-arrange a safe and convenient place to meet their child at the end of the day.

If using a car is essential, we ask that you park safely and are mindful of the people who live nearby. To help ease congestion, you may consider dropping your child off slightly further away, allowing them to walk a short stretch of their journey. A suggested drop-off point can be found below.

If your child walks to/from school, we encourage you to please take a few minutes to remind them about their safety, such as sticking to paths and using designated crossing points. If your child uses a bike, we recommend that a safety helmet is worn, lights are used as needed, and that the bike is secured with a strong lock throughout the day. Electronic scooters should not be used to travel to school and are banned from the school site.

Ultimately, keeping our students safe is our first priority. Bearing in mind the dangers vehicles present, we ask that if you do use a car to transport your child to, or from, school, that you do so safely, responsibly, and considerately.





THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

Arts Awards

At the beginning of term, Year 10 students have received notification of their success on the Bronze Arts Award programme.

During Year 9, the students, who are now in Year 10, had performing arts lessons dedicated to the Bronze Arts Award. Following the submission of their portfolios, 167 students will receive the award certificate.



The Bronze Arts Award, is designed for students aged 11-14 years, and aims to develop young people's artistic abilities alongside their research and communication skills. The award involves students in the arts as creators and audience members, and encourages them to take their first steps towards leadership by sharing their learning with others.

As part of the arts awards, students specialise and learn about dance, drama, and art, completing both practical work and research task which helps them develop a range of skills and builds confidence.

Blake Francis, headteacher, said, "It is brilliant to see such a large number of students achieving the arts award. Offering the arts award in Year 9 helps ensure our students can enjoy, and can benefit from being offered, a broad curriculum. It also underlines and supports The Avon Valley School's commitment to the performing arts, which is a longstanding part of the school's ethos and history. For many of the students this is the first formal qualification they've ever received, and will no doubt be the first of many."





THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

Road Safety

Unfortunately a student in our school community was sadly involved in a collision with a car this week. Luckily they haven't suffered any major injuries and are now home safe and well.

Incidents like this do remind us all about how important it is to stay safe on the journey to and from school.

Please can I ask you to talk to your child about how to be safe when travelling to and from school and remind them about cycling safety, if they travel by bicycle.

If any parent or carer would like further support on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Bindley

Assistant Headteacher and

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Every hour, a teen pedestrian is injured or killed after being hit by a car in the United States.



In 2012, 284 teen pedestrians died and another 10,000 were injured.



In our survey of 1,000 teens, 40% say they have been hit or almost hit by a car, bike or motorcycle while walking.



When asked what happened when they were hit or almost hit, teens say:



Teens who have been hit or nearly hit report crossing the street while:



Overall, half of teens say they walk in the dark at least sometimes; we know that three-quarters of teen pedestrian fatalities happen between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m.



Talk to your teens about walking safely.
Visit safekids.org to find out how.

**SAFE
KIDS**
WORLDWIDE™





THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

Team News

Great game for Year 7 to end their football season - an exciting 4-4 draw with Harris School. End to end game saw us ahead then behind but we had the desire and motivation to get a last minute equaliser.

Man of the match - Mylo Cruz

Mr D Payne

Teacher of Physical Education



Our Year 8 netball team played Houlton School and after a nail biting match we had a 10-3 win.

Player of the match Molly Chandler

Mrs J Jackson

Faculty Leader - Physical Education



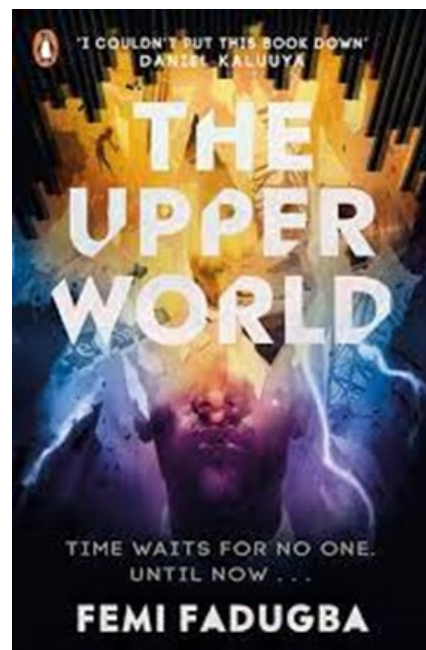


THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

BOOK RECOMMENDATION THE UPPER WORLD BY FEMI FADUGBA

What is the book about?

'This gripping thriller with a high octane plot and full-on characters takes its readers on an amazing journey across two time frames and in and out of real science and maths while also vividly capturing contemporary teenage life. Esso and Rhia, from different times and, in reality, from different generations, are brought together by chance and, from then on, must work out how best to understand the Upper World and all its secrets.'



If you loved this, you may like....

- Killer T by Robert Muchamore
- The Battle of Cable Street by Tanya Landman
- The Wall by William Sutcliffe
- Orangeboy by Patrice Lawrence

