

#AVB Proud



From our Principal, Mrs Dyer

I would like to thank each and every student, member of staff, parent, carer and friends of the Academies for their unrelenting support and commitment. I hope you have chance to read our recent OFSTED report:

[Avonbourne Boys Academy > About Us > OUTSTANDING - Ofsted 2023 Report](#)

which confirmed that following our first graded inspection, Avonbourne Boys' Academy has been judged OUTSTANDING in all areas with pupils commended for their impressive attitudes to learning, their character and conduct. #AVBProud.

Please can I thank everyone who participated in the recent United Learning surveys. We value your feedback and the opportunity to reflect on how we can continually improve our educational offer to ensure that we bring out 'The Best in Everyone'. Please continue to keep an eye on the Academies' website so you are kept fully updated about the latest news, events and activities taking place - or follow us on social media.

As we approach the end of the first half term of 2024, I wish everyone a relaxing half term break.

Mrs Dyer

TALENTED TECHNOLOGY

Year 10 have been building up their skills working with different material areas this year - wood, textiles, metals and plastics along with developing their CAD/CAM skills. As part of this, they have designed their own keyring using our CAD software, operated the laser cutter to cut it out and turned it into a mould to be cast in metal. A lot of work then followed to polish the keyrings to a high shine. The results are fantastic - excellent high-quality finishes, and all students have really enjoyed the multiple skills involved in the process.



Have you seen us in the **DAILY ECHO?!**

AVONBOURNE BOYS' ACADEMY gets
'OUTSTANDING' OFSTED rating



Click the below link to read the article and
find out why we are **INCREDIBLY #AVBproud**
of all our staff, students, parents and
community!

<https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/24072719.avonbourne-boys-academy-gets-outstanding-ofsted-rating/>



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Eco-Committee update

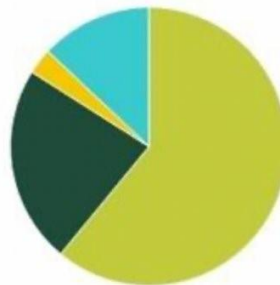
Sustainability Update

One Y9 student enthusiastically shared, *'I really enjoyed watching a film more with the lights off – I never thought about doing that before, and it felt like I was at the cinema!'*

Avonbourne Academy celebrated Energy Savings Week mid-January, where students and staff alike were challenged to limit their energy consumption at school and at home. REACH points were awarded for students sharing their recent and regular walk and wheel journeys – limiting their carbon footprint by eliminating unnecessary car journeys. A Y11 form group humbly mentioned that most of them have walked to school since Y7; bravo!

Tutor groups were invited to assign light and temperature monitors: inviting natural light to brighten classrooms as the days are getting longer and brighter, as well as ensuring classrooms were not too warm where base layers and school sweaters could be used instead. As a result of our Energy Savings Week tips and challenges, one Y7 tutor group reported a 50% increase of students now wearing base layers under their school uniform to stay warmer during the wintry weather! Did you know that over 60% of the average home energy use is spent heating the home? Have a look at the visual from the Energy Saving Trust and consider your own home energy consumption.

Amazingly, after a week of energy saving activities, our combined #AVBproud efforts led to a 278kWh decrease in energy consumption; that is the equivalent of 112 five-minute hot showers!



UK Average

Source: Centre for Alternative Technology
Data: Energy Saving Trust

Eco Tips from our Energy Savings Week for you to try at home:

- Wear extra layers to keep yourself – not the room – warm;
- Walk, scoot or cycle to the shops, and you'll stay warm too;
- Wear clothes again before using the washing machine;
- Turn off the lights whilst on your device or watching TV.

Let's make Energy Saving Week not just a moment in time, but a catalyst for lasting change that creates a ripple effect of positive change. Thank you for all that you do to charge the lightbulb of positive change!



Regalia Talk

Recently we were kindly invited to a Regalia Talk where our Student Council were able to meet the Mayoress, hear about the work our local councillors do and ask questions about her role in making decisions for our local area. The students were an asset to the Academies and came up with some fantastic questions. We look forward to seeing our student leaders apply this experience to our own Student Council over the rest of this academic year.



Congratulations!

Bronze:

It's been excellent to see all the amazing activities our bronze participants have been getting up to this half term. From volunteering in libraries and radio stations to learning new languages and doing gymnastics, students are trying new things and getting involved in the community.

Students should be continuing these sections and can come and see Miss Pittwood in BG7 for support on Monday's afterschool.

Look out for information regarding the expeditions later this half term.

Silver:

In year 10 students are getting involved with the silver DofE award. Students have selected their activities and should continue to participate in these for the next 6 months.

Look out for information regarding the expeditions later this half term.





HOMework HIGHLIGHTS

At Avonbourne Academies, we believe homework plays a vital role in providing an excellent education for all our students, bringing out the best in them and fostering independent learning. The homework programme we have developed has been carefully structured with a focus on retrieval practice that will support your son/daughter to achieve more fluent recall and mastery of their work. This academic year we are utilising a variety of online platforms, including Sparx Reader, Bedrock Vocabulary, Sparx Maths and SENECA.

Avonbourne students have worked incredibly hard over the Spring term to submit their homework on time and complete it to a high standard. We are very proud of all their efforts across all year groups and all homework platforms! Y7 especially are rising to the new challenges of organisation and independence. Homework clubs at break and lunch have been extremely well-attended every day and have supported our students to complete their homework to the best of their ability. Our after-school subject homework clubs on a Wednesday and Thursday have also been extremely popular and have provided students with the space and support to complete their homework successfully.

Sparx Reader

Happy New Year. We hope that all our Y7 students enjoyed their winter break, and that many enjoyed some extra reading time. As we approach the end of January, it is perhaps a good time to reflect on learning habits (rather than resolutions) considering how and when homework is completed so that all Y7 students are building time for Sparx into their homework routine. To date, Avonbourne Boys' Academy have completed 1031 hours across 192 books since returning to school this year; whereas the Girls' Academy have completed a whopping 1415 hours across 178 books. If we look at students on roll, that means that the girls have averaged 6.74 hours of homework, and the boys 5.76 hours.

Congratulations - Gold reader status for January has been gained by:

Harrison	B
Abdul	S
Igor	M
Kingdavid	A

Kushal C
 Erich S
 Louis G
 Dexter W

Myesha F
 Suad A
 Ava L
 Umrah S
 Zara S
 Taiye A
 Grace G

REMINDER: If your son or daughter ever gets into difficulty with homework they need to attend homework club which is available every day at break or lunch in AG8.

Sparks Club is also available every day in AG7 or AG8.

Homework after school club is every Wednesday and Thursday in in AG11 from 3:25-4:25pm

Sparx Maths

‘There is evidence that 1 hour of Sparx Maths a week significantly improves grades’. ‘Students using Sparx Maths Homework made 83% more progress with just 15 minutes of practice (in comparison to those who did no homework). For each further 15 minutes of practice, they made 67% more progress’ (sparxmaths.com/impact).

We encourage our students to complete their homework because we, their teachers, care about our students and know the difference this can make to their progress. This is the reason why we believe that REACH points are very well deserved.

To date, students at Avonbourne Boys’ Academy have completed a total of 5,969 hours of personalised learning on Sparx so far this year, with 151 students seeing an improvement at their times tables. Students at Avonbourne Girls’ Academy have completed a total of 8,546 hours of personalised learning, 232 of them seeing an improvement at their times tables this year. What a great improvement!

A reminder that all students should complete their Compulsory homework at 100%.

Whole school Leaderboard by XP Points Achieved:

Top Students Year to Date (by XP Points Achieved)							
Sorina	S	Year 7	23,464	Madhav	S	Year 8	36,576
Zara	A	Year 10	23,309	Enzo	Z	Year 7	27,193
Ayesha	J	Year 10	20,304	Kushal Sujay	C	Year 7	19,591
Atena	N	Year 7	17,396	Samheil	J	Year 7	19,283
Georgie	N	Year 8	17,295	Eddie	D	Year 7	19,064

Maxine	K	Year 7	17,209	Nauman	D	Year 9	18,992
Chidalu	E	Year 9	17,045	Tharun	S	Year 10	18,906
Solomiia	K	Year 7	16,995	William	C	Year 8	18,253
Iris	F	Year 10	16,909	Fabian	O	Year 9	17,876
Testimony	O	Year 7	16,900	Kingdavid	A	Year 7	17,768

SENECA

Science:

Year 7

Students in Year 7 have been working on Seneca tasks based on the topics they have studied this half term; 'Energy'.

Top student; by study time		Top student; by average score	
Raifah R	6.44	Taiye A	100%
Maja K	5.26	Tamara H	100%
Atena N	2.43	Aaradhy M	100%
Zara S	2.30	Jed S	100%
George K	2.17	Brody G	100%

Year 8

Students in Year 8 have been working on Seneca tasks based on the topics they have studied this half term; 'Electricity and magnetism'.

Top student; by study time		Top student; by average score	
Indra K	4.96	Sonny G	100%
Siana H	3.75	Jack W	100%
Bella D	3.57	Lily- Evelyn Y	100%
Hibbah A	2.79	Martin A	98%
Jonathan B	2.47	Bella D	97%

Year 9

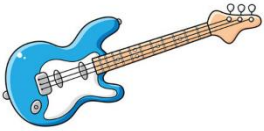
Students in Year 9 have been completing Seneca tasks based on their schoolwork on 'Sound waves' as well as being set revision tasks to support their retrieval.

Top student; by study time		Top student; by average score	
Samuel I	4.35	Elijah E	100%
Ruby J	3.89	Daisy D	100%
Jemeima H	2.75	Sophie B	100%
Freya H	2.38	Zahra A	100%
Shya B	2.32	Vincent R	100%

Year 10 -

Year 10 students this half-term have completed B3 Infection and disease. Students should expect H/W based on their current topic as well as some revision tasks based on GCSE topics they have already covered.

Top students by study time (hours)		Top students by average score	
Lotte S	6.93	Ioana A	100%
Khadijah G	5.98	Zain M	100%
Anna A	5.00	Nicole F	100%
Rejoice C	4.93	Ewan B	98%
Daisy F	4.86	Hollie J	97%



Jazz Workshop



In January we welcomed jazz sextet Thokozile Collective to the Academies. Instrumentalists were treated to a short performance followed by a workshop focusing on improvisation and ensemble performance during the morning ahead of a performance to our Y9s and KS4 Music students in the afternoon. Thank you @Soundstorm for providing such an inspiring opportunity.



L'épiphanie - Galette des Rois 2024

Every January at Avonbourne is a special time as we get together to celebrate French epiphany in order to raise the profile of French and to promote the French culture and traditions at Avonbourne. This year again, staff at Avonbourne took part in the celebration and enjoyed this beautiful French tradition of sharing the pastry and choosing the King or the Queen!

The students' baking session will follow shortly!



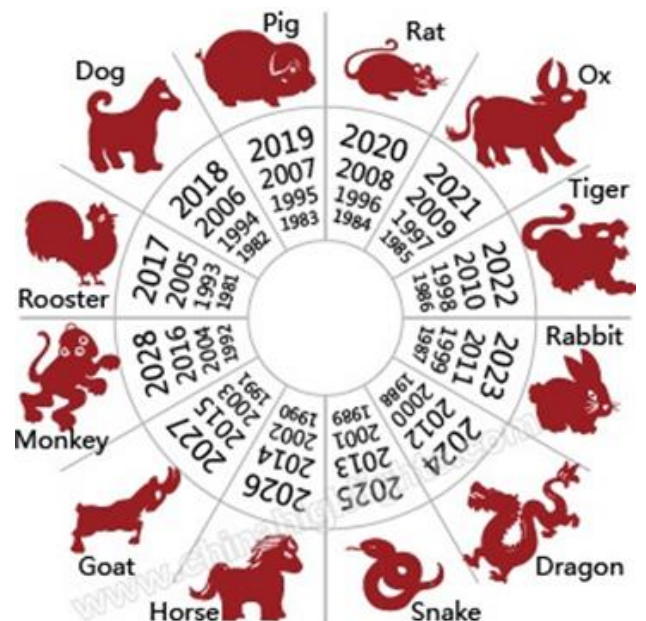
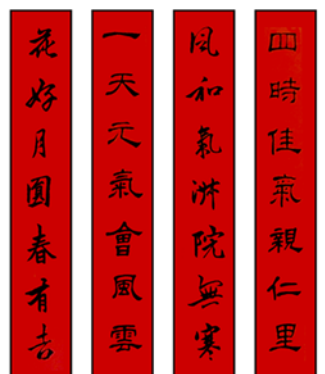
Chinese New Year 新年

As per annual tradition, at Avonbourne we are joining our Chinese community in their celebration of the Chinese New Year – the Year of the Dragon!

The students will have an opportunity to take part in a design technology project, where they will laser cut patterns to represent Chinese New Year. They will find out facts about the Chinese horoscope and learn how to write Chinese characters. The students will also learn how to make Chinese lanterns, which form an important part in the New Year celebration.

As always, our amazing catering team will prepare a nice range of delicious Chinese food – egg fried rice, sweet and sour chicken, vegetable chow mein, chicken chow mein and vegetable spring rolls.

We would like to wish our Chinese community a very Happy New Year!





This half term Careers at Avonbourne have been excited to welcome two-degree level apprenticeship students from Ageas. Our visitors gave a fantastic presentation to year 9 students about the opportunities available for degree level apprenticeships, the pros and cons to apprenticeships versus full time university life.

The school are also celebrating National Apprenticeship week, 5th-9th February and our subject career leads will be busy promoting apprenticeships on offer within their subject area to students, some of the variety of apprenticeships include business administrator, broadcast technician, youth worker and marine engineer. The opportunities are endless.

Year 9 students also had the opportunity to watch a performance about options and choices, delivered in partnership with Bournemouth University. The show introduced the options process and enabled students to begin to think about future decisions for their GCSE's and potential career paths.



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Drama

Currently in Drama we have got our students in lessons creating their own performances, giving them the opportunity to show off their recent obtained knowledge. Year 7's have been using techniques inspired by ancient Greek theatre to work as large Choruses combining both Vocal and Physical skills. Whereas Year 8's are using Brechtian techniques to create performances used to inspire change but tackling issues such as Peer Pressure and Bullying.

After school in our Drama and Musical Theatre clubs, we are currently creating and rehearsing performances ready for our spring concert. In Drama we have got a combination of group and duo performances and in Musical Theatre club we are in the process of rehearsing two amazing West End numbers



Computer Science

This half term has been an exciting one for the Computer Science department. Our students in Year 7 and Year 8 have been looking at the following topics:

Year 8 - Building Websites Using HTML

In Year 8, students have been building their own websites using HTML (Hypertext Markup Language). HTML is the programming language used to create websites, and our students have embraced the task with enthusiasm and creativity. They have learned how to structure web pages, add headings, paragraphs, images, and hyperlinks.

Year 7 - Learning Programming Constructs in Scratch

Year 7 have focused on learning key programming constructs using Scratch, a visual programming language. Scratch allows young learners to grasp the fundamentals of programming through 'block-based coding'. Our students have thoroughly enjoyed creating interactive quizzes, animations, and times table generators by combining blocks of code.

Robotics - From Game Board to Building Robots

In our robotics after school club, students have almost completed building their Lego First League challenge board. The challenge board consists of various obstacles and tasks that their robots must navigate and complete. Our students have now moved on to building and coding their Lego robots and it has been inspiring to see their perseverance and teamwork in action.



BUSINESS STUDIES

Business Students in Year 11 started the year looking into the world of Growing Business. Once a business is successful, it needs to find its ways to grow. Students have been introduced to what are the different ways a business can grow and how they can find the finance that would allow them to become a bigger and more powerful organisation.

During the Autumn Term in Business, we have been busy learning about the exciting side of the Business world of Marketing. How Businesses use the four P's of the Marketing Mix, Product, Price, Place and Promotion, to make their products known to the public and to entice them to buy. They have learned the importance of integrating the four different areas of the Marketing Mix to give their current and potential customers the right message. We have learned about the Product Life Cycle and the need to adapt the rest of the Mix to ensure that products are sold at the right price, with the help of the right promotion strategies, all through the life of the product, since it is launched, till its decline and death.

We have now started looking into the Operations side of the business, and when a business should apply job, batch or flow production in their production processes. We have also looked into two different ways of managing stock; bar stock gate and JIT inventory system.

Two more topics to go in depth before our last round of mock exams, the Financial and Human Resources side of the business.

All the best for our Business Students!



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Wellbeing



Mindful Moments: Nurturing Student Well-being

We're excited to share the wonderful initiatives taking place in our school Wellbeing Hub every break and lunchtime. As we navigate the hustle and bustle of academic life, it's crucial to carve out moments for mindfulness and self-care. We are delighted to share the vibrant tapestry of activities our dedicated Well-being team has woven for our students, fostering tranquillity and creative expression.

Crafting Calm with Crochet and Knitting:

Embrace the meditative rhythm of crochet and knitting. These sessions offer students a hands-on way to unwind, create, and find peace in the gentle repetition of stitches. The result? Beautiful, handmade treasures and a sense of accomplishment.

"Sit and Talk" Corner: A Sanctuary for Support:

Introducing our "Sit and Talk" Corner, staffed by our experienced Counsellor, ELSA, and Mental Health Lead. This dedicated space ensures that every student has access to a supportive and empathetic ear. Whether it's academic stress, personal challenges, or the need for guidance, our team is here to listen, support, and empower.

Lego Landscapes of Mindfulness:

Let creativity take shape with Lego sessions! Our Well-being team encourages students to build not just structures but also a sense of focus and calm. Lego building becomes a mindful exercise in spatial awareness and imaginative expression.

Watercolour Wonders:

Explore the fluidity of watercolours. Students can let their creativity flow, creating stunning watercolour paintings that capture the essence of the present moment. It's a soothing blend of art and mindfulness.

Diamond Painting Delight:

Unlock your artistic potential with diamond painting sessions! Students can immerse themselves in this calming activity, creating beautiful, intricate designs one glittering gem at a time. It's not just a craft; it's a mindful journey.

Expressive Oil Painting:

Unleash creativity on canvas! Our oil painting sessions provide a space for students to express themselves through vibrant strokes and imaginative compositions. It's not about perfection; it's about the joy of creation and self-expression.

Colourful Moments with Colour by Number:

For those who find solace in structured creativity, our colour by number sessions offer a perfect blend of mindfulness and art. Follow the numbers, blend the hues, and witness a masterpiece emerge – a mindful escape into the world of colours.

Puzzles and Brain Teasers Galore:

Challenge the mind and relax the soul with an array of puzzles and brain teasers. From crosswords to Sudoku, these activities not only entertain but also stimulate cognitive functions, promoting mental agility and focus.

Games for Mindful Play:

Board games and strategic card games take centre stage in our well-being program. Students can engage in friendly competition and strategic thinking fostering a sense of community while having fun.

Our Well-being team believes that these activities contribute significantly to the holistic development of our students. By incorporating mindfulness into their routine, we aim to equip them with valuable tools for managing stress, improving focus, and embracing a positive mindset.

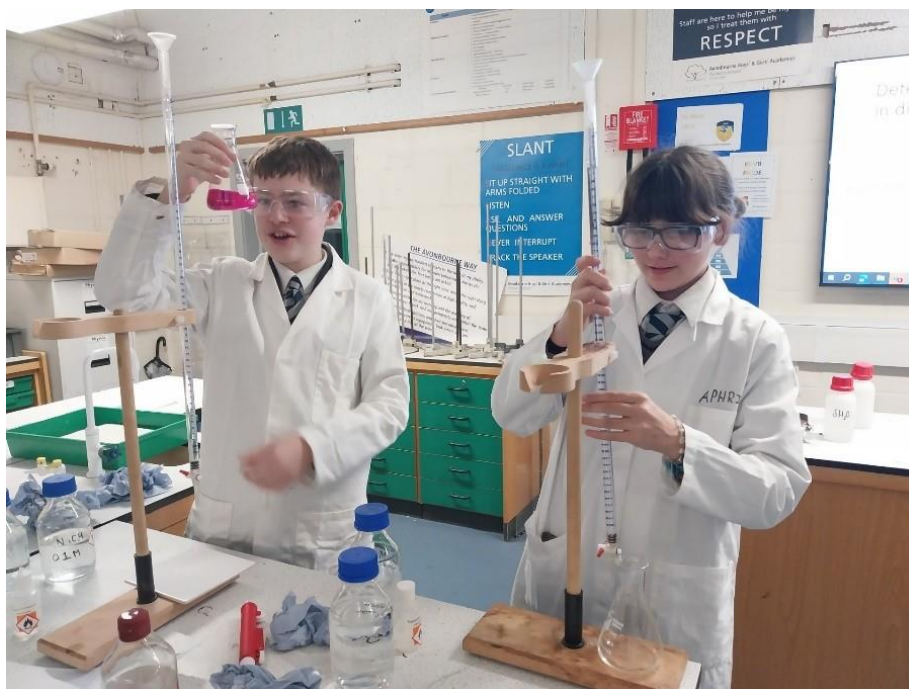
SCIENCE

This term the KS3 scientists have been very busy indeed! They have carried out a lot of activities in Science club with Dr Okoh.

The activities have included making sustainable casein plastic using milk as the main ingredient, using magnets and coils of wire to generate an electrical current to power LED lights and investigating static charge build up in different materials.

The scientists also delved into the food industry, investigating the salt content of different brands of crisps to infer health implications of eating a lot of crisps on blood pressure and heart health.

By far the most popular investigation was analysing the ethanoic acid content of different brands of vinegar to determine which brands gave the most value for money.



Determining the ethanoic acid content of vinegar by titration

The scientists are also excited to be doing a science outreach with the primary school in the near future to showcase their skills and energise future scientists.



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CLASS of 2029 and 2028 ROA SUCCESS

Years 8 and 9 have impressed everyone at the Academies this term with their attitudes towards the Rank Order Assessments. They 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". New this year are the ROA celebration and results assemblies. Students came together at DEAR and period 4 for a talk on how to interpret/reflect on their results, an awards ceremony and then an 'envelope moment'. In the awards ceremony, over 90 students in each year group were recognised. There were 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. Streams and ranks are always temporary, and we greatly look forward to the end of year exams where the students have another chance to impress.



Safeguarding & Online Safety

Advice for parents and carers

Meet the team

Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Natasha England
Oliver Maund

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Jacob McKay – Education Social Worker
Coralie Crisell

Main email address for the safeguarding team:

safeguarding@avonbourneacademy.org.uk

Designated Teacher for Looked After Children:

Natasha England
natasha.england@avonbourneacademy.org.uk

Setting up parental controls on your child's mobile phone

If you do not have the same mobile phone as your child, and therefore are unable to use Google Family link or Apple Family Sharing, then you can set restrictions on your child's device instead.

Apple devices: To set up restrictions on your child's device directly (rather than using an app) then follow the instructions on the link below:

<https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201304>

Android devices: As with the above link, this link shows you how to set up parental controls on the device itself by creating a PIN:

<https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738?hl=en-GB#zippy=%2Cfor-family-members-who-manage-their-own-accounts>

Snapchat: new controls

What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. You must be 13+ to sign up. Users can send messages (snaps) to others that are only seen for a set time e.g., 10 seconds and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.

You can find out more about Snapchat here: <https://parents.snapchat.com/en-GB>

Family Center: new features

Snapchat are expanding the features available to you in their Family Center, allowing parents to view:

- story settings: you will be able to see who your child is sharing their story with e.g. all their friends or a smaller group.
- contact settings: see who your child can be contacted by (by people they have added as a friend or their phone contacts).
- if your child is sharing their location with friends on the Snap Map.
-

In addition, you will be able to restrict the use of Snapchat's 'My AI.' You can find out more here: <https://values.snap.com/en-GB/news/expanding-our-in-app-parental-tools-2024>

More information

The NSPCC provide further information about Snapchat, the risks involved with using Snapchat and tips to help keep your child safe if they are using Snapchat.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/is-snapchat-safe-for-my-child/>



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At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONKEY

Also known as Monkey Cool, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omegle (which has now shut down) by placing users in random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to the service, where they can make matches, message other people and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the App Store due to safety concerns, but iPhone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app remains available on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.



(Although the lack of age verification means that someone younger could easily log in with a false date of birth.)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity that violates its policies, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports in the media continue to indicate that explicit content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually graphic or violent material) and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app – including those aged under 18.



IN-APP SPENDING

While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users who wish to make use of 'Knock Knock chat' (Monkey's text-based messaging option), rather than the app's Chatroulette-style random video calling feature, will need to pay to be able to do so.



CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know what or who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers is, of course, potentially dangerous – especially for children who might be persuaded to meet up with these people offline. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chances of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.



INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY

According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-contributed content (any photos, texts, videos and screenshots shared) and each user's browser and IP address are collected. That is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users – and all of this information is shared with third parties.



Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers; that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name); and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.



RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING

If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you do allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you enable this feature: young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.



REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Monkey states in the safety section of its site that "people are given the power" and that, to a large extent, Monkey is "self-governing." If a user is exposed to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the 'police' emoji in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.



SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey – or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content – it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.



Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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#WakeUpWednesday

YouTube Shorts

You should be over 13 to post videos on YouTube. YouTube Shorts are short videos which are similar in format to videos you find on TikTok or Instagram Reels. 'Shorts' are available to watch on the YouTube homepage or on the Shorts tab in the app. As they are quick to watch, they can be addictive and lead to excessive screen time. If your child is watching these videos, ensure they know that there is a report button. The INEQUE Safeguarding Group discuss this feature in more detail here:

<https://ineqe.com/2021/07/01/youtube-shorts-need-to-know/>

Steam

Steam is an online platform where users can play, discuss and create games. Steam state in their terms and conditions that **“you may not become a Subscriber if you are under the age of 13”**. Steam do include 'Family View' so you can apply appropriate settings for your child. Find out more here:

<https://help.steampowered.com/en/faqs/view/6B1A-66BE-E911-3D98>

PlayStation

Does your child have a PlayStation? If so, have you set up appropriate parental controls? Some examples of the parental controls available are:

- Set age restrictions,
- Set daily limits,
- Control chat and messaging,
- Set spend limits.

How can I block/report other players?

If your child is playing with other players, then please ensure they know how to report/block other players and to tell a trusted adult if they do come across anything upsetting or that they are unsure of. This link details how to do this based on the device they have:

<https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/block-players-psn/>

What games are suitable for my child?

PlayStation have included a list of games along with their age rating to help you find a game that may be appropriate for your child to play.

<https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/editorial/great-ps4-games-for-kids-and-families/>

Whilst age ratings do allow you to see if a game may be appropriate, it is also important to review the game yourself and see if it includes additional features such as chat. This will allow you to make an informed decision as to whether it is suitable and if you need to apply further parental controls.

Further information

You can find out more about the controls available here:

<https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/parental-controls/>

EE Learn

EE Learn includes an array of information and guidance on how to keep your child safe online, for example tips on how to help your child when they are online. Find out more here: <https://ee.co.uk/do-more-with-ee/lea>

Drugs and alcohol

Helpful advice for parents and carers.

<https://www.talktofrank.com/get-help/concerned-about-a-child>

Therapeutic support for young people affected by any addiction and/or mental distress.

<https://www.edasuk.org/support/>

How to talk to your child about alcohol

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/talking-drugs-alcohol/underage-drinking/>

CEOP Child Exploitation

Are you worried about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating with a young person online?

Make a report to one of CEOP's Child Protection Advisors:

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

County Lines

County lines is the name given to drug dealing where organised criminal groups (OCGs) use phone lines to move and supply drugs, usually from cities into smaller towns and rural areas.

They exploit vulnerable people, including children and those with mental health or addiction issues, by recruiting them to distribute the drugs. This is often referred to as 'drug running'. Criminals may also use a vulnerable person's home as their base of operations. This is known as 'cuckooing'.

Signs to look out for:

- repeatedly going missing from school or home and being found in other areas
- having money, new clothes or electronic devices and they can't explain how they paid for them
- getting high numbers of texts or phone calls, being secretive about who they're speaking to
- decline in school or work performance
- significant changes in emotional or physical well-being

Silent 999 calls:

If you're in danger but you can't talk on the phone, you should still call 999 depending on whether you're calling from a mobile or a landline. Follow these instructions:

<https://www.dorset.police.uk/contact/how-to-make-a-silent-999-call/>

Further information and support

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/drug-trafficking/county-lines>



Avonbourne Boys' & Girls' Academies

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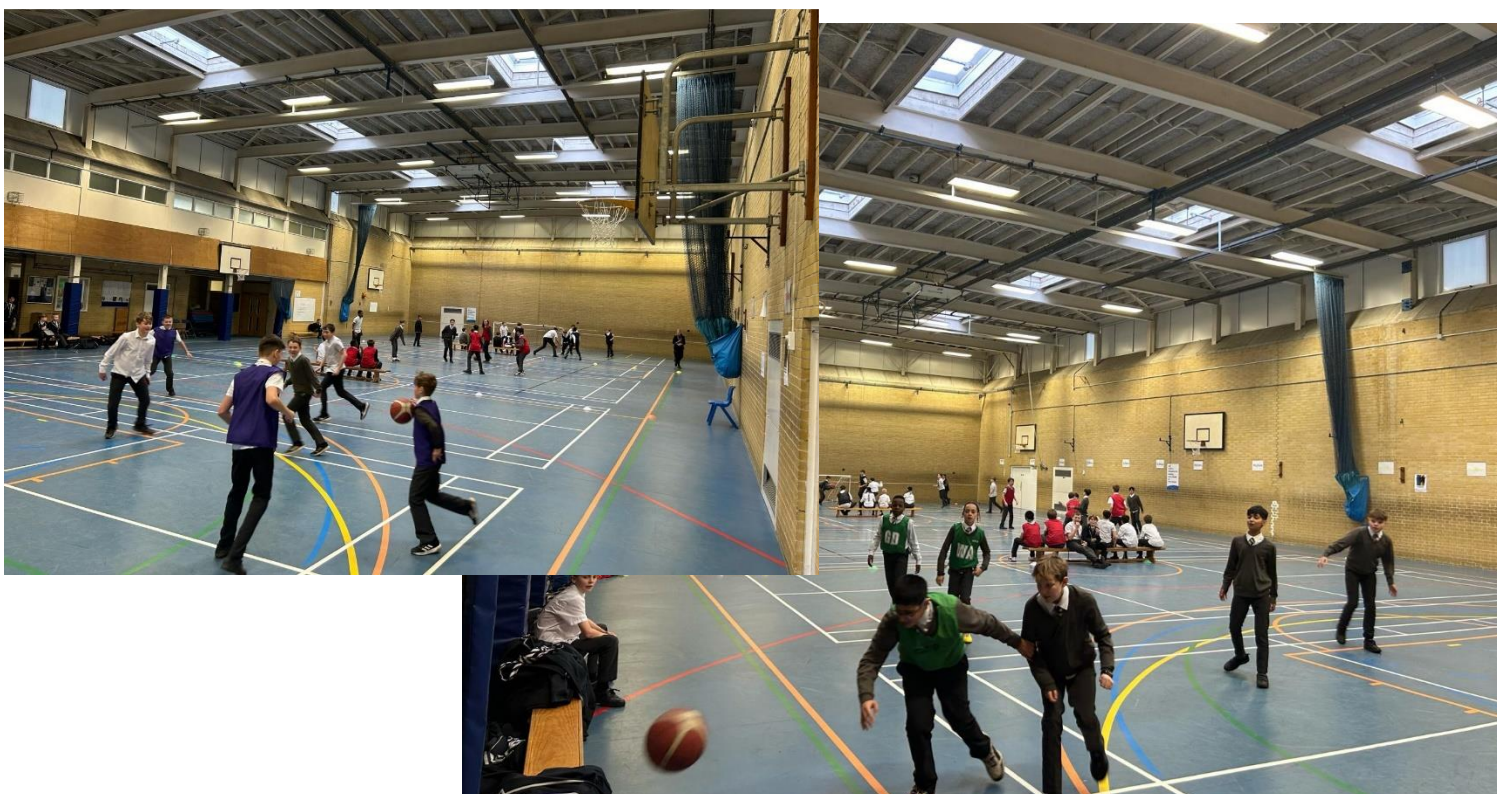
HOUSE UPDATES



This term has seen a few changes to our House Head team. We extend a very warm welcome to Mr Newham (Teacher of Drama) who will be looking after the wonderful Chesil House and a slight shift for Mr Murphy who is now the Head of Purbeck House! This term the House Heads have led a lunch time basketball league which involved several teams eagerly competing against each other resulting in winners.

Our very own quiz master, Mr Stokes-Carter (Head of Durdle House) teamed up with our wonderful FOAA (Friends of Avonbourne Academies - PTA) to lead a hugely successful quiz night on Wednesday 31st January. There were some fantastic rounds all based on the five houses of Avonbourne and it was brilliant to see so many students, parents and staff getting involved! The FOAA raised over £500 which will be donated back to our Academies through various events and activities for our students.

Students and staff cannot wait for next half term which includes recycling challenges, bake sales, paper aeroplane competitions, human chess and AVB's got talent! The House Head team also look forward to celebrating with the top REACH score students from each house who will be invited to their own very special lunchtime reward... watch this space!





This week at Avonbourne, we have been raising awareness of CHILDRENS MENTAL HEALTH WEEK. Each day our Daily Message Board has included strategies and ideas to support students with their mental health and raised awareness of who and where they can go for further support.

We were thrilled to announce our new Mental Health Wellbeing Ambassadors from Year 10 and Year 12 who have recently completed their Youth Mental Health First Aid qualification and will be working as mentors for our Key Stage 3 students. They can be contacted via Mrs Burley or directly and look forward to supporting our students further.

A huge thank you also to the Dorset Mental Health Support Team in Schools who visited us over lunch time this week to meet with and support our students with any concerns they had relating to Mental Health.



STUDENT SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS



Finn from Year 11 has been selected to be a national flag banner handler at the U20's six nations England v Wales match on Friday 9th Feb. Best of luck Finn!

After a successful house cross-country competition, students were invited to represent the Academy at the Dorset Cross Country Championships. With over 800 students competing, it was a very competitive field. A huge well-done to all students who represented the Academy!

In the minor girls race:

Ava finished 6th

Imogen finished 8th

Bella finished 15th

Avonbourne Ranked 2nd in the team event

In the minor boys race:

Archie was the leading Avonbourne student, losing followed by Harrison and Rudy.

In the Junior boys race (year 8 students racing with year 9):

Liam finished 32nd

Solly finished 39th.

With these fantastic results, Ava and Imogen were chosen to represent Dorset at the South-West Schools Cross Country Championships, in Somerset. Again, the students showed amazing determination with Imogen finishing in 12th place (10:22) and Ava in 24th (10:44), with the winner, finishing in a time of 9:38.

This 'team effort' saw Dorset Schools win the event with 78 points, Avon Schools in 2nd place with 95 points and Devon Schools in 3rd place with 115 points (out of a field of 7 counties).

Well-done to all involved, the PE department and Academy are so #AVBproud!

As always if you have any sporting achievements from outside of school to share, please email our Head of PE Mr Goldsmith at ross.goldsmith@avonbourneacademy.org.uk We would love to share your talents with our AVB community!



FRIENDS OF AVONBOURNE ACADEMIES (FOAA)

PARENTS/CARERS WE NEED YOU!!

Projects we have funded 22/23

Gardening Equipment

Equipment & plants to support the Mindful garden project

PROMS

A donation was given to support the Year 11 & Year 13 proms

UNO cards

Packs of UNO cards to enable House competitions

PE equipment

Spare PE kits and a selection of rackets provided to enable full participation in clubs and lessons

Art Course

Specialist art course to encourage school engagement and attendance

Benches

Outdoor seating provided for the playground.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2023/2024

21st Mar

Year 7 Disco

🕒 7:00 PM - 8:45 PM

Tickets will be on sale in school in March



HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT US?

We are always on the lookout for helpers at events or for more parents to join our committee. If you don't have the time to help, you can still support us in other ways:

1. Make a donation – regular or one-off donations can be made via this link www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20477530
2. Buy lottery tickets via this link [Support Friends of Avonbourne Academies when you play Your School Lottery - Your School Lottery](#)
3. Use easyfundraising for all your online shopping. Sign up via <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/avonbourneacademies>
4. **Donate a raffle prize**

If you have any fundraising ideas, would like to attend a meeting or volunteer at an event, please contact pta@avonbourneacademies.org.uk

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

5TH MARCH 2024

6:30PM SCHOOL LIBRARY

ALL WELCOME

Reach Rewards Update

House	Total
Brownsea	87876
Chesil	84219
Purbeck	80183
Lulworth	78254
Durdle	73579



WINNERS!

Top Students from all year groups – year to date

Name of Student	House	REACH
Amber L	Chesil	1050
Lamar H	Lulworth	962
Samheil J	Lulworth	896
Georgie N	Purbeck	880
Greta C	Chesil	870
Siana H	Chesil	863
Aarna S	Brownsea	793
Myesha F	Chesil	791
Louise P	Chesil	765
Charlotte E	Chesil	758
Vynce F	Purbeck	757
Salam K	Lulworth	749
Alana E	Brownsea	734
Imogen P	Lulworth	710
Lilly C	Chesil	704
Atena N	Lulworth	704
Tola A	Lulworth	694
Abigail D	Brownsea	690
Younggene J	Lulworth	689
Varsha G	Lulworth	686
Harrison B	Brownsea	681
Hollie H	Chesil	678



WINNERS

AVB ALUMNI NEWS

It was wonderful to see our Class of 2025 on Tuesday 6th February for their Presentation of Awards evening. Last year's year 11 students were invited back in to receive their GCSE certificates. Guest speaker, local legend, ex-student and WBO World Cruiserweight Champion Chris Billam-Smith handed out the certificates and treated the students to a motivational speech about his school days, success and journey to the top.

Thank you to all the students for attending and to Chris for giving up his time to meet with our students. We are always #AVBproud of all your success!



OPEN MORNINGS

Avonbourne is one of the only local Academies to offer weekly Open Mornings. Prospective parents and students are invited to look around our Academies with a student tour followed by Q&A with members of our leadership team. Please scan the bar code below to get booked on in the Spring Term.

Avonbourne Boys' and Girls'
Academy Open Mornings - Spring
Term 2024





Mrs Thomson – Head of Year 7 (Class of 2030)

As we find ourselves at the halfway point of the spring term, and halfway through the academic year, there is lots to reflect on and celebrate.

As always, the year group are continuing to work incredibly hard both inside and outside the classroom. Their academic studies have been the focus of this term as we have seen the introduction of compulsory homework. Homework is such an important aspect of school as it develops and strengthens the knowledge learnt in lesson or it can prepare them for the next steps of learning. These extra hours will ensure that our students become the very best version of themselves.

Keeping in line with spending extra hours trying to improve, so many year 7s have embraced to house system and have been attending house events during break and lunches and afterschool. The basketball league has been a huge success, with teams turning up each week to earn points for their house. It was also fantastic to see so many year 7 students and parents at the PTA quiz. I hope your team did better than mine!

Finally, a huge well done to all students who attend extra-curricular clubs, with shout outs to the Boys football team who currently remain unbeaten in the town cup and the Girls netball teams who consistently turn up to training and have had several successes against local schools. This term also saw the Dorset Schools Cross Country event. Lots of year 7 students represented and two students in particular, Imogen P and Ava R made it through to the Southwest Championships, this weekend just gone. A fantastic achievement.

I hope you all enjoy a relaxing well deserved half term break. Have fun and stay safe.

Mrs Thomson and the year 7 team

Mr Taylor – Head of Year 8 (Class of 2029)

With another busy half term coming to a close, it is fantastic to see the year 8 cohort engage with the opportunities that are offered here at Avonbourne. Firstly, I would like to say a massive well done to the boy's side of the year group who contributed fantastically in being able to achieve outstanding with Ofsted, they are a real credit to the school and fully deserve it.

We have had a lot of sporting fixtures this side of Christmas, with our netball team remain unbeaten with a 36-3 win over TBOWA. The boys football team beat and then lost to TBOWA in the town cup. The girls football team drew again Glenmoor Academy. Year 8 rugby with over 100-year 8s taking part in extracurricular clubs each week, it is fantastic to see so many students take part in the opportunity's week in week out that Avonbourne has to offer. This term saw year 8 students take part in county cross county event over at King's Park, the hard work and determination showed by those pupils taking part was fantastic and there were some really impressive results, most notably we had 2 girls finish in the top 20 which is a fantastic achievement as there were over 130 pupils running.

It is fantastic to see how many pupils are getting involved with house events, whether that be sporting events such as the basketball league or taking time out of their own time to join in with the park run or PTA quiz night. The buy in from year 8 students is fantastic to see and further reinforces how much of a credit to the school community they are.

Lastly, I want to congratulate pupils on all the hard work that has gone into their recent ROA's, their conduct in the exam hall was by far the best the invigilators have seen which is a credit to the maturity levels within the year group. The hard work gone into the revision over the Christmas period is testament to achieving pupils' goals, improving on the summer's results or moving to a desired stream, it is evident that hard work does pay off. I look forward to you getting the opportunity to discuss those results with their teachers on the upcoming parents' evening which will take place after half term.

Have a well-deserved break over half term ready to come back with a fresh mind set and that same desire to be the best person that you can be.

Miss Jupe – Head of Year 9 (Class of 2028)

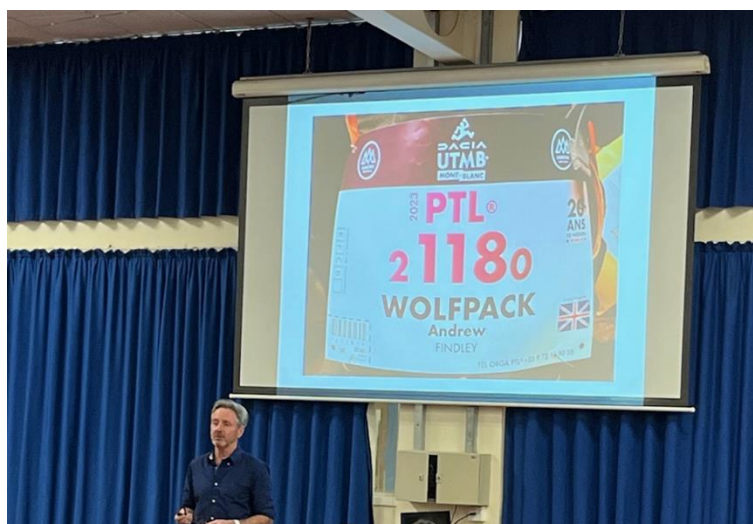
The year 9 team are extremely proud of the progress, resilience, and determination of the year 9 students during the rank order assessments. The year team are super proud of not only how students prepared and revised for an intense examination period, but also for their excellent attitude during the assessments. Indeed, the invigilators and exam officer were extremely complementary of the conduct and professionalism shown by students. All year 9 students were able to celebrate their hard work and determination in a celebration assembly which awarded over 90 awards to students in the year group. Well done year 9! All your hard work has paid off. I would like further to congratulate the following 10 students on winning the REACH awards regarding their attitude, determination, and respect during the ROAs: Turki R, James G, Samuel I, Max B, Connor B, Francis H, Phae C, Bo F, Liv G, and Imogen K. I would like to congratulate the following 6 students from AGA and ABA for achieving the most REACH points this term: Vynce F, Leon H, Younggene, Olivia Opoka, Theo F and Emanuela R.

Finally, please can I thank parents for ensuring students are prepared and equipped for the school day. It is much appreciated. Wishing everyone a wonderful half term break from Miss Jupe and Miss Fisher.

Mr Ryan – Head of Year 10 (Class of 2027)

The Spring 1 Half term is always a tricky one. Returning after a joyful break into a cold, dark and potentially wet time of year. The cohort's results from the December assessments were collated and several weeks in we saw changing of core subject sets. This allowed students who have started their GCSE journeys with a strong foundation to move up in their maths and science sets. It also allows for those students who have potentially struggled with the GCSE content, to move down a set where the pace and support may be more suited to build the confidence and understanding of the topics. Congratulations to those who have moved up sets and to the cohort for their continued hard work.

On Monday 29th January we had a guest speaker come and talk to the cohort about resilience. Andrew Findley has completed multiple ultramarathons across the world in some of the most extreme conditions. He spoke to the cohort about several of his races, one of which, Marathon Des Sables, which involved navigating 156 miles across the Sahara Desert in 50°C heat over several days. Andrew was able to link his message and strategies of resilience that he has learned and developed through some of the most extreme circumstances, to applying yourself at school, working through challenges and barriers to strive for your best.



Finally, the countdown for Work experience deadline is still ticking away. Students have been reminded to sign up to their workplace on Unifrog so it can be approved by the careers team. If there are any issues with log in, please ensure the school is notified so it can be rectified as soon as possible.

I hope all families of Year 10 have an enjoyable half term break. I do ask that if there are any uniform or equipment issues that these are please rectified over the break so pupils can hit the ground running on their return.

Mr Nash – Head of Year 11 (Class of 2026)

As you are aware, the next round of mock exams begins on the 26th February and revision should now be well under way. We have offered all of the students' use of rooms AU12 and AU13 after school for homework and revision. We are very impressed with the attitudes displayed by the year group. They have been very impressive. The summer exam timetable is still being compiled by the exam boards; however, it is approximately 55 school days until the first summer exam. Hopefully you have all now seen the letters regarding the Prom and Leavers hoodies. Please remember to complete the attached form which was included in the Prom letter as we will need the allergen information for the hotel who will be preparing the food. The Prom is an amazing opportunity to witness the "Mr Nash and Mr Ryan dance off!" Please have a restful half term and I look forward to making the final push towards your child's final term and a half. Best wishes, Mr Nash.



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Avonbourne Boys' & Girls' Academies
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Wishing all our Avonbourne community a wonderful half term break.

We look forward to seeing all year groups on Monday 19th February 2024.



www.avonbourneacademy.org.uk

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