

Avonbourne Academies

#AVBPROUD

## FROM OUR PRINCIPAL Mrs Dyer

As we approach the end of the spring term, I would like to thank students, staff, parents and friends of Avonbourne for their continued support - especially the fantastic collective effort made to participate in the [#BigWalkandWheel](#).

We are #AVBProud to have placed 11th nationally in the secondary school rankings which is a great achievement.

In this final week of term, we look forward to celebrating our students' successes and talents with you in our spring concert showcase on Tuesday and hosting our Year 7 Disco on Thursday. Following the success of last term's Christmas Jumper Day fundraiser, we will finish off the week on Friday with our latest charity event - raising funds for the Disasters Emergency Committee by supporting First News' Day for Ukraine appeal with our blue and yellow themed non-uniform day.

Finally, term will end on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April at **12.15pm**. We wish everyone a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break.

Mrs Dyer



We are #AVBproud  
of all our students  
for their  
Fundraising  
Activities!

Avonbourne students have been keen to support our European neighbours in Ukraine in every way they can. On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April, Year 7 REACH ambassadors sold cakes, crafts and raffle tickets to raise money over their lunch time.

Thank you to all our students who have been involved in Fundraising events this half term. We look forward to seeing how much money we are able to raise on our non-uniform day on Friday.





**With the weather improving, the D of E groups are finally able to get out into the forest on expedition. Year 9 were the first to head out, and on March 26th, after a very early start, completed a 14km training walk in the sunshine. From our start point at Wilverly Enclosure, year 9's learned how to read a route card, relate features on the ground to what they looked like on a map, and how to use and read a compass. Training continued all morning, bringing in more skills as they walked, until a very needed lunch at Rhinefield picnic spot. With their newly learned skills, year 9 then took over the navigation leading their peers and teachers back to the start point at Wilverly. A great day was had by all and year 9 are now ready for the next step – planning their own route for the assessed expedition. A massive well done to all students involved in the training walk, and a huge thank you to Miss Burrows, Ms Poore, Miss Heaver and Mrs Thomson for supporting the trip.**

**Miss Sherwood Taylor, D of E lead**



**Avonbourne Boys' & Girls' Academies**  
The best in everyone™  
Part of United Learning



## Careers Update

This half term students have had the opportunity to connect with BU and explore various career pathways. Students and parents were able to join industry experts from across Dorset for a free evening event to help understand the pathways to a dream sustainable career. For our young people who are passionate about building a sustainable future for all and want to play a part in solving the climate crisis, have management ambitions, would like to work with animals or have a career raising public awareness of environmental issues, a panel of experts were on hand to answer their questions.

The event consisted of a series of talks from experts with different "Green careers", who presented their career journey to date and the different routes available in their sector. There were also opportunities to speak to local employers, apprentices and university students about their career journeys and educational pathways.



# Eco-Committee update

## Let's Go Zero

We've taken the Let's Go Zero pledge, declaring our aim to become zero carbon by 2030. We're joining schools across the UK to show the overwhelming support for zero carbon schools and inviting government and local councils to work with us to reach this goal. We know that schools can be the trailblazers for their community and inspire whole communities to tackle the climate crisis.

In the coming pivotal 'climate decade,' we will be part of Let's Go Zero's national network of schools and sustainability, sharing information about how to reach zero carbon, and working with local councils and government to make it happen.

We're committing to cut carbon. Here are some of the things we've already done achieved:

- Introduced recycling facilities across both sites
- Moved from plastic bottles to cans in the canteen
- Removed plastic cutlery and takeaway food boxes
- Moved to environmentally friendly cleaning products
- Planted trees and plants in green spaces across both sites

Find out more about the Let's Go Zero campaign here: <https://letsgozero.org/>

## Big Walk and Wheel

At the end of March, we took part in the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel fortnight, the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge. We wanted to raise awareness of air pollution in the local community and promote active and healthy lifestyles amongst our student population. Thank you to all students who took part in the event and to all parents and carers who supported us in making the event a success. We ended the event in 12<sup>th</sup> place, with at least 69% of our students walking or cycling into school daily. A huge success!



## This week's eco-tip: Reducing plastic pollution

Plastic pollution is one of the most important environmental issues that we face as a planet. It impacts the environment and human health. We have all contributed to this problem and we need to work to bring an end to plastic pollution.

Calculate your single-use plastic usage here: [Plastic Calculator - Earth Day](#)

Visit one of our local plastic-free shops, Just1Swap in Boscombe: [Homepage](#) - [Just1Swap](#) - [Zero Waste Shop](#)



# Debate Club

The debate club has been a fascinating opportunity to see our students consider topical events and apply their critical thinking skills to topics such as, 'Is Democracy the best form of government?' The students have enjoyed and pushed their debating skills by playing Devil's Advocate. By arguing from a position, they would disagree with, students have developed their verbal rhetorical skills and, instilled with them a respect to views they may at first disagree with.

The debate club entered the English-Speaking Union's debating competition. It was a fantastic opportunity to compete against private and independent schools.

Our debaters did an excellent job of representing our community, but also representing themselves, presenting their arguments, listening to their opponents, and countering them with their incisive questions and rebuttals. We will be entering many more debating competitions in the future and are eager to see the development of our student's debating skills.



This half term in PSHE, our year 7s and 8s have been taking a look at mental wellbeing and mindfulness. We have been exploring how screen time and the online world may affect our mental wellbeing and have learned practical steps to take to help recognise and improve our wellbeing. Year 8s have also been taking another look at puberty and how this may link to mental health.

Our year 9s have been looking at future aspirations and the transition to KS4. This has been very important at this time as our year 9s are currently looking at options and will be considering what they may want to do in the future. We have also been looking at managing our mental health during period of change.

In year 10, we have been focusing on health, including how to make healthy lifestyle choices and what these healthy choices look like in day to day life. We have also been looking at blood and organ donation, and the laws surrounding this.

Our key stage 3 groups have completed their termly assessments which gives teachers a great chance to provide valuable feedback to classes.

Our year 10s will have a 75 minute session this half term in the last week before the easter holidays. This will build on knowledge gained regarding health.



# SENECA

Avonbourne continues to lead the way nationally with Seneca and we are very proud of all of our students efforts. As a reminder, all students have the opportunity to access homework club every breaktime and lunchtime in T3/T4, and after school on Wednesday and Thursdays in T12/T13.

## Avonbourne Girls' Academy/USF Leaderboard

### Total study time:

1. Gouri T Y9
2. Beatrice P Y10
3. Emily R M Y8
4. Nicola B Y10
5. Cynthia E-O Y9
6. Emily M Y10
7. Rita O Y8
8. Quincy S Y8
9. Loredana M Y8
10. Leah-Marie T Y9

### Average score:

1. Courtney J Y11
2. Kirsten C Y10
3. Zahra A-C Y7
4. Hazera Q Y11
5. Mel D Y11
6. Lilly W Y9
7. Michelle K Y9
8. Sahar J Y9
9. Cynthia E-O Y9
10. Laura de A S Y8

## Avonbourne Boys' Academy Leaderboard

### Total study time:

1. Colin C Y10
2. Fin S Y10
3. Maher A Y10
4. Lucas C-B Y10
5. Josh T Y10
6. Robbie D Y10
7. David L Y8
8. Daniel N Y10
9. Semih K Y10
10. Mohammed R Y10

### Average score:

1. Sergio G G Y11
2. Shahram R Y10
3. Rajveer H Y10
4. Toni F V Y10
5. Luigi V Y9
6. Caleb M Y8
7. Jonah S Y8
8. Emmanuel B Y10
9. Fabian O Y7
10. Matthew A Y7



Follow us on Twitter [@AvonbourneUL](https://twitter.com/AvonbourneUL)

Follow us on Facebook [@ULavonbourneacademy](https://www.facebook.com/ULavonbourneacademy)

Follow us on Instagram [@avonbourneacademy](https://www.instagram.com/avonbourneacademy)





This term has seen the launch of our new reading programme Bedrock Vocabulary which replaced Seneca English homework for Y8 & Y9. Additionally, Y7 have moved to Sparx Reader. Both launches have been successful and ensure a continued focus on improving literacy and reading across KS3.

Y7 were introduced to Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Students have produced a range of stunning short stories and independent analytical writing exploring the dual nature of Caliban and the impact of colonisation.

Further to their study of *Animal Farm*, Y8 have been applying and revisiting their understanding of allegory, satire, and totalitarian governments through reading and analysing dystopian short stories. They are looking forward to crafting the opening of their own dystopian tales during the last week of term.

Y9 have read a wide range of non-fiction focusing on topics such as race, gender, identity, and equal marriage. Students have enjoyed recognising different perspectives and applying the correct critical verbs to develop their own writing skills.

Turning to KS4, this term has seen some impressive contributions across the Y11 English Literature and Language Scholars' Lunch clubs and has also seen the start of the Year 10 Scholars' Lunch. We have had some fascinating discussions about why tragedy is compelling, whether *Lady Macbeth* is to blame for the death of King Duncan and have had some excellent debates regarding the use of slang, accent, and dialect. We would like to thank all pupils who attend for their insight, enthusiasm, and passion for English.

In geography the sixth form students tested their geographical skills in real life, working with Mrs Towner and Mrs Hipsey to investigate local geography in and around Bournemouth. The students in year 12 are preparing for their NEA (non-examined assessment) which will require them to '*think like a geographer*' and come up with their own fieldwork investigation.

Students investigated a range of geographies in the local area such as considering the impacts and causes of regeneration, investigating coastal management, and analysing physical processes along the local coastline. It was great to see pupils having the chance to take part in an out-of-the-classroom learning experience once again, after a break during the pandemic.

Thanks to Mrs Towner and Mrs Hipsey for the organising and implementing the field trip and thank you to all the sixth form geographers for their continued hard work.



## COMMUNITY

After being inspired by the fantastic community donation programme, we wanted to get Avonbourne students involved in donating to such a worthwhile cause. Students from year 7 to year 13 donated items to support Ukrainian refugees and some of our REACH Ambassadors took our donations to the Appeal warehouse on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Hollie J in year 8 has written about her experience and what she has learnt from being part of this community project.

*"When we arrived to drop off the donations that everyone had so generously collected, we were greeted by friendly workers who were doing their best to keep things under control so that the people of Ukraine could benefit. We were proud of how many donations our school had collected to help those in need and the staff were equally impressed and grateful too. Whilst there, we learned about how the donations were transported to Ukraine, which was both educational and interesting."*

We are already planning more community projects for summer term to ensure our Avonbourne community is supporting to make a difference.







# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This half term at Avonbourne Academy we have had a real excitement around lessons, extra-curricular clubs and fixtures.

In lessons, the boys have had the chance to try a range of sports this half term, which include basketball, volleyball and football. The boys have been putting out countless fixtures after school and have represented the academy with a high level of pride and determination.

A big shout out to all years who have represented the Academy in the Town Cup over the past term, they have come together, and we have been able to complete all fixtures. A very special congratulations to the year 8 team who have managed to get through to the semi-finals and play Twynham with the hopes of reaching the final. Not only have we had football fixtures, but we have taken boys to Futsal fixtures, Basketball and the Leadership Award.

There has been a big focus on 'fit to lead' this half term and a few year 7 and 8 students have taken 'fit to lead' to the next level and have been elected as Sports Leaders. These students will be helping at local primary school events, putting into practice their leadership skills.

We are really excited to be finishing the term with an inter school basketball tournament with a high level of interest across the school. We hope to keep the current buzz going that we have here in PE and hope to be able to keep the high level of fixtures going.

**Words by Mr Brown**

Through many fixtures, after school clubs and extra training sessions, the students of Avonbourne Girls' Academy have been busy working hard and having fun through team sports such as Netball, Basketball, Football and rugby.

During lessons, students have been focusing on Gymnastics, Basketball and football where students have been able to showcase some amazing talents and skills they have learnt in previous years or out of school clubs.

Years 7 and 8 have had a fantastic turnout to many of our afterschool clubs and have been able to create strong teams for netball and football. All KS3 netball teams have had many victories this term as they start applying the 'fit to perform' strand from lessons, into their games. Similarly, Girl's rugby are currently undefeated and look to hold this title as they go into their last tournament of the term in a weeks' time.

Within our 'fit to lead' strand, some KS4 students have volunteered to help within our afterschool clubs as warm-up leaders or referees, sharing their own knowledge of the game or of physical activity. A few years 7 and 8 students have taken 'fit to lead' to the next level and have been elected as Sports Leaders. These students will be helping at local primary school events, putting into practice their leadership skills.

Finishing off the Spring term with a bang, a fantastic turnout of over 60 students attended the inter school basketball tournament. As we approach the summer term, the PE department are super excited to begin summer sports, new afterschool clubs and plenty more fixtures.

**Word by Miss Slaughter**



**Avonbourne Boys' & Girls' Academies**  
The best in everyone™  
Part of United Learning





## Spanish Cuisine Event

By Charlie H 9AB1

**Hola!** On the 30th of **marzo** I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to practise cooking and to try the **comida tradicional española** we are learning about in class. We all brought in a small amount **de ingredientes**, which was shared between everyone who participated. This included **tortillas**, **churros**, **nachos**, and **paella** (the meal my friends and I were able to cook). What a **fantástico** way to learn Spanish cuisine and culture! We were also fortunate to try this at the end of the session and it was **delicioso!** We even got to take some samples of what we had produced home. ¡**Ñam Ñam!**



Follow us on Twitter @AvonbourneUL  
Follow us on Facebook @ULavonbourneacademy  
Follow us on Instagram @avonbourneacademy



Avonbourne Boys' & Girls' Academies  
The best in everyone™  
Part of United Learning



## Friends of Avonbourne Academies

Friends of Avonbourne Academies is a collective group of three schools in Bournemouth including the two secondary schools (Avonbourne Boys' and Girls Academies and the United Sixth Form (USF). The Friends of Avonbourne Academies (FOAA), aim to raise money to provide the students at the Academies and Sixth Form with additional resources. All funds raise go directly to support students in their school lives.

We'd love to have more parents involved! If you are interested, please email [pta@avonbourneacademy.org.uk](mailto:pta@avonbourneacademy.org.uk) to find out the dates of next meetings.



## Come and see us in action!

Do you know a Year 4 or 5 parent who is thinking about secondary schools? We have Open Mornings every Wednesday and Thursday. Parents can book onto these via our websites:

[www.avonbourneboysacademy.org.uk](http://www.avonbourneboysacademy.org.uk)  
[www.avonbournegirlsacademy.org.uk](http://www.avonbournegirlsacademy.org.uk)

We want to show our local community why we are so #AVBproud!



### Key Dates for Summer Term 1:

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April –

Y11 Boys Virtual Parents' Evening

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April –

Y11 Girls Virtual Parents' Evening

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – School Closed**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May – PTA Meeting

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May –

Y7 Boys Virtual Parents' Evening

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May –

Y7 Girls Virtual Parents' Evening

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March –

USF Virtual Parents' Evening

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Last day of term



**Avonbourne Boys' & Girls' Academies**

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning





# Youth Parliament

## MAKING OUR MARK

Earlier in Spring Term, students were offered the chance to run for the BCP Youth Parliament elections. Several students completed a manifesto video presentation to run to be an elected member. All students at Avonbourne were able to vote in the elections which was an excellent opportunity for them to have a real-life voting experience.

When all votes were counted, our very own Hala in year 9 was announced one of the Deputy Youth Members of Parliament. She has outlined her experience of this fantastic opportunity so far.

“I was thrilled to have been elected as a Deputy Youth Member of Parliament based on my campaign that focused on equality for minorities in terms of observing religious holidays. I was amazed to have received the largest vote from other schools which showed the importance of my priorities.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the process which at first, I thought would be overwhelming, working with adults, formulating policy and representing my community. However, everyone has been so supportive, and I have learnt a huge amount about the political process.”

We wish Hala every success in her new leadership role and look forward to seeing the changes she can make happen.

Avonbourne are more aware than ever about the importance of good mental health and continue to empower young people to be safe, active, healthy, and resilient individuals.

This term, the Wellbeing Hub has been decorated to create a warm and nurturing environment for our students. We have created a calm corner; a designated space safe for our students (and sometimes staff) to go to when they feel overwhelmed and need to self-regulate.

We have also invested in self-help books to help our young people during our mental health drop-in sessions. Books are a wonderful way to help students learn a little more about themselves and about the world.

## Wellbeing Hub



Last week a group of 60 students from year 9 and 10 went by coach to the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton to see the showstopping Les Misérables. It was super to go into a theatre again to experience the power of live performance - the atmosphere was electric. Watching the musical helped to extend and enrich our understanding of musical devices that we had learnt about in lessons. Thank you to Miss Burrows, Mrs McKinley, Mr Westgate and Mrs Shelley for taking us. We look forward to more trips like in the future.

Lilly C, Year 9

# Recent Trips



## Safeguarding Updates

**We would like to introduce Stuart Keen from Early Help.**

**As a navigator I support children and parents/carers within school and home.**

**I work for BCP council and work in partnership with Avonbourne, to ensure you have tailored support to meet the needs of your family, to achieve the best outcomes for your child.**

**I offer a range of support including:**

- **Direct work with children at school.**
- **Delivering parenting programs.**
- **1-1 parenting support**
- **Targeted group sessions for families.**
- **Support to identify and access services.**
- **Support with your child accessing school.**
- **Supporting the relationship between school and families.**
- **Drop-in sessions.**



**Avonbourne Boys' & Girls' Academies**  
The best in everyone™  
Part of United Learning



**Years 12 and 13 have both sat mock exams during the Spring 2 half term in order to prepare students for their summer exams. As both cohorts have not had the chance to take GCSEs in the usual formal manner, providing plenty of exam practice sessions is key to ensuring that they are exam ready for their A Level and Year 12 UCAS exams later this year.**

**It has been truly wonderful to see how all of Year 12 have got involved in the nationwide Tenner Challenge organised by Ms Loughnan, Lead for Careers and Enterprise. The Sixth Formers came up with creative ideas such as:**

- **beautiful bespoke gift boxes (including hand-made crochet face scrubbies)**
- **a staff car wash team who worked in all the various weathers that March threw at them**
- **a sponsored walk team who gave up their Saturday to complete a 12km trail**
- **Mind.org wristbands sales on Friday lunchtimes**

**The month-long event has enabled the students to raise considerable funds for their chosen charities including Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, WWF, Cancer Research and Mind.org.**



**After impressing us in their USF consultation meetings, we were delighted to send out USF offers to our applicants this half term for entry into Year 12 in September. This week saw the start of the first taster lessons for internal offer holders during period 5, giving students a closer glimpse at A Level study in their chosen subjects and offering them the chance to ask any questions to subject specialist staff. The feedback has been fantastic so far and we very much look forward to welcoming our new cohort to USF in September**



## MFL AND FOOD TECHNOLOGY CROSS CURRICULAR PROJECT By Lilly C and Precious A



Hola! Girls from across year nine were lucky enough to stay afterschool to make some comida española. This included tortilla, churros, nachos and paella ¡Nam, ñam! This was a great way to end our food topic in the lessons so we could get a better taste of Spanish culture. Each dish was made in groups who planned the recipe and split the cost. ¡Era muy delicioso! Muchas gracias go to la profesora Mrs Moore for helping las chicas at the cooking estaciones.

¡Estaba todo buenísimo! Las paellas estaban deliciosas, these carefully crafted into flavour filled Mediterranean Valencian paellas. Coated with melted cheese, were the mouth-watering nachos whose aroma took you to another dimension. The best of all were the luscious churros which took you into reverie. Rellenos de chocolate y bañados en canela y azúcar ¡Exquisito! The sweet and creamy chocolate dip complimented beautifully with the warm-heartedness that all the excellent year 9 cooks showed.





# Heads of Year



Avonbourne Boys' & Girls' Academies  
The best in everyone™  
Part of United Learning

## Miss Barr – Head of Year 7 (Class of 2028)

As Head of Year 7, weeks don't come more exciting than having several sporting fixtures, a spring concert showcasing Dance, Drama and Music, a REACH ambassadors lunch sale including cakes, homemade crafts and jewellery, celebration assemblies with lots of Easter Egg prizes, our first Class of 2028 Disco and a charity non school uniform day all in one final week! I am already excited to share with you, photos from our first Year 7 Disco for several years (sadly due to Covid) in the Summer Term edition of #AVBProud.

Mr Goldsmith and I led the celebration assemblies for Year 7 on Tuesday, and it was fantastic to celebrate student success this term with certificates and chocolate treats. Top prizes went to Aarna and Shad for their positive first impressions cards, to Aarna and KC for an amazing amount of REACH points, Florence and Fabian for Sparx Maths, Elizabeth for attendance, Kennedy and Marwa for Sparx Reader and Connor, Fabian, Jasmine and Zahra for Seneca. Our students of the term were Isla and Finlay for their fantastic demonstration of REACH values and commitment to extracurricular.

The summer term is set to be another busy term for Year 7 as they prepare to sit their first ROA (Rank Order Assessments) in June/July. There will be lots more information will be coming out in the Summer Term for parents and students.

As always thank you for your support this term and wishing you a wonderful two weeks off. Miss Barr and the Year 7 team.

## Mr Plunkett – Head of Year 8 (Class of 2027)

The beginning of Spring 2 half term brought some changes to class streams following the Rank Order Assessments. The year 8 team would like to thank parents and students for their support during this process. Well done to Leon H and Enzo W from the boys' academy and Quincy S and Kiara K from the girls' academy whose results showed they made the most progress. A reminder that ROA's will be completed again at the end of the summer term.

Further congratulations to Tharun S and Ceylin A who have topped the end of term REACH leader board for number of points awarded and will receive a gift card in the end of term celebration assembly. Ceylin A was also the winner of the first impression card prize draw alongside Gibson E. Thank you to students who have completed cards positively. You are all fantastic!

On that note the class of 2027 have shown their quality throughout the term, particularly as guides for the huge number of tours we have had from prospective students and parents. The feedback we have received has been great with this quote being just one example, "Massive thanks must go to our tour guides Dylan and Nico. They are such wonderful ambassadors for your school. They were so polite; very knowledgeable and passionate about the school". Thank you tour guides!

At the time of writing the year 8 football team have reached the semi-final of the town-cup. Well done gents!

Finally, I would like to express gratitude to parents for supporting attendance and ensuring students are equipped for the school day. Additionally, your help with initiatives this half term, especially Help for Ukraine and the Big Wheel and Walk is appreciated.

Wishing everyone a fantastic Easter break. Mr. Plunkett on behalf of the year 8 team

## Mrs Thomson – Head of Year 9 (Class of 2026)

Before year 9 embark on their final term of year 9, we need to celebrate the previous half term. It kicked off with all students having to adapt to their new streams, and everyone had the challenge of getting to know new students, tutors and teachers as well as continuing to work hard on their studies. I have been proud of how students have embraced these changes and am excited to see even more progress be made.

As you are aware, this was a term where year 9 students had big decisions to make. Which subjects to sit for their GCSEs. Students had a range of talks, assemblies, tutor sessions and an options evening to help make this important decision a little bit easier. It is evident that students were excited to have a say in what they can focus on in years 10 and 11.

In addition to the options process, the year group have been fully immersed in extra-curricular activities and trips. Students were lucky enough to be able to travel to the Mayflower, Southampton to watch the incredible production, Les Miserable. It was a fantastic opportunity I know there were many sleepy eyes the following day. With the rugby, football, netball, and basketball fixtures continuing, students also started their Duke of Edinburgh award. Students eased in gently on a 9-mile practice walk around the new forest in glorious sunshine (we can only hope their real expedition is as lovely!). They learnt to read maps, use a compass and work together as a team. It was a pleasure to be out and about with them.

As always, the year 5 and 6 indoor athletics events have been held at Avonbourne Academies and year 9 students were responsible for leading and running the events. Many students have shown amazing leadership skills and commitment to ensuring each event is successful, week in, week out. Furthermore, a selection of these students have gone on to participate in the Dorset Leadership Academy at Bryanston school this last week. Well done to everyone involved and thank you for all your help and hard work. You really have inspired the younger students in our local schools.

After a very busy half term, I would like to wish you all a well-deserved break and a very happy Easter. The year 9 team

## Mrs Adams – Head of Year 10 (Class of 2025)

Another term down for Year 10, how this academic year is flying by!

Last week, we were very excited to launch the Prefect programme for Year 10 students and we look forward to receiving lots of applications for these very prestigious student leadership roles. Miss Burrows and our current Year 11 Head Prefects, Tilly and James, led an assembly to Year 10 which provided real insight into the benefits of being a prefect at Avonbourne Academy. They talked about how the role of the prefect is about holding a position of responsibility in school which will in turn help with college and university application but the year 11s also discussed how much they have enjoyed helping our school community and having the opportunity to have a voice to make changes for the better at our school.

The prefect interview will take place next term with our principal Mrs Dyer following application shortlisting and I certainly do not envy her having to make what I know will be a tough decision trying to narrow down applicants. So many of the year group will thrive in the prefect role and I honestly cannot wait to read all the applications.

This term has involved our first round of GCSE mocks, increased intervention work and attendance doughnuts aplenty. Students have adapted well to their new tutor groups and taken in their stride the need to prioritise their studies as they approach Year 11. The summer term beckons and with this comes round two of GCSE mocks for Year 10 which will take place in the weeks following the May half term holiday.

I hope you all have a fantastic Easter break and I'll see you all next term.

## Miss Ball – Head of Year 11 (Class of 2024)

I can never say it enough – this cohort make me proud to the point of elation! They keep striving for excellence and raising their own bar of achievement time and again and their final mock series was another perfect example of this. Their determination for success makes them outshine any cohort ever seen before. Results will be shared with them prior to our Easter break – an event I am very much looking forward to. Parents' evening will follow at the amended dates for the boys on the 27th April and the girls on the 28th giving you an opportunity to discuss these and receive any final advice from your child's teachers.

Prom fund raising begins this week with our first bake sale on Thursday 31st March. For the ladies, we are having a raffle for prom dresses after Easter – some of which were never worn due to COVID disruption. The girls can choose a specific dress to be in the draw for. Dresses will be available to be viewed as much as possible prior to the sale of tickets. Prom tickets are still available to purchase through the school website for Thursday 14th July 2022.

Attendance continues to be a huge focus throughout the half term and those with 100% attendance, are being entered into a reward draw for a free prom ticket. The attendance around the mock exams really did demonstrate the hunger for success and the high numbers of post 16 offers across the cohort give another reason for celebration, including 50 internal accepted offers for our own United Sixth Form and a huge 96.6% of them having a confirmed offer next year!

Have a fantastic Easter, fingers crossed the sunshine continues! Stay safe.

We would like to wish all our Avonbourne community a wonderful and well-deserved Easter break!

We look forward to seeing all students at line ups on Monday 25th April at 8:30 am.