



Avonbourne Girls' Academy

The best in everyone™

® Part of United Learning

Class of 2033

Parent Information Booklet

Dear Parent/Carer

A warm welcome to Avonbourne Girls' Academy

I am immensely proud to serve as Executive Principal of Avonbourne Boys' and Avonbourne Girls' Academies, and of the vibrant community that your daughter will soon join for her secondary education.

Our academies are part of United Learning, a large and rapidly growing group of schools dedicated to providing a life-changing education to young people across England. As members of the United Learning Bournemouth and Poole cluster, we work closely with The Cornerstone Academy, Glenmoor & Winton Academies and Avonwood Primary School. This collaborative approach enables us to achieve more together than any school could accomplish alone.

We are a values-driven community, committed to delivering an excellent education that enables every young person to build a successful future. Our REACH values—Respect, Equality, Ambition, Community, and Hard Work & Determination—shape every aspect of academy life for both staff and students.

Our core purpose is to teach young people knowledge and skills that

empower them – things they may not encounter outside of school. Our mission is to bring out the best in everyone, and we are unapologetically ambitious for every child, regardless of background, prior attainment, or individual needs. We also strongly believe in 'Education with Character': we want students to look back on their schooling as an experience that inspired them, challenged them, offered wide opportunities, and prepared them for life's ups and downs.

We encourage students to develop their talents through enriching educational experiences that help them play an active role in shaping a future full of opportunity, aspiration, and determination. Our pastoral care is exceptional, supported by a highly trained, morally driven, and deeply effective team.

We are delighted to share the outcomes of our recent OFSTED inspections. Avonbourne Boys' Academy was graded Outstanding in all areas in its first graded inspection in November 2023. Avonbourne Girls' Academy and United Sixth Form were also graded

Outstanding across every category in November 2024.

As an academy, we greatly value strong relationships between school, home, and the wider community, and we look forward to building these with you. As both Executive Principal and a mother, I know that each child has only one chance at their education. I can assure you of my absolute commitment to ensuring that your daughter's experience at Avonbourne is a positive one.

Choosing a secondary school is an important decision for any family, and I want to thank you for considering Avonbourne. We will welcome your daughter with warmth, encouragement and high expectations, and we will support her every step of the way as she grows, learns and discovers her place in the world. It would be our privilege to play a part in her future success.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Dyer,
Executive Principal of Avonbourne Boys' and Girls' Academies

Dear Parent/Carer

A big welcome to you and your daughter to Avonbourne Girls' Academy and the Class of 2033. We cannot wait for you to join our Academy and our community.

As the Assistant Principal with responsibility for Transition, I will be supporting your daughter over the next few months alongside our Senior Leadership and Pastoral teams to ensure her transition is smooth and so that she can hit the ground running when she joins us. At Avonbourne Girls' Academy we are committed to providing an excellent education through which all students are able to progress, achieve and go

on to succeed in life. Our aim is for your daughter to leave us in 2033 with a competitive set of A Levels, fond memories and character skills developed in our extra-curricular clubs and friendships she will take into adulthood.

In Year 7 we study a broad range of subjects providing your daughter with a rich curriculum in which she is appropriately challenged. We will oversee your daughter's progress alongside supporting her personally and pastorally. In the Year 7 team we know that moving up to secondary school can be a very anxious time and we hope that by working

together with you we can support your daughter to overcome any fears and settle into her journey at Avonbourne. We look forward to working with you and your daughter.

If you do have any questions during the transition period, please do get in touch via our dedicated email which will also be your email point of contact throughout your daughter's time with us at Avonbourne: classof2033@avonbourneacademy.org.uk

Best wishes,
Nikki Dadson,
Assistant Principal



We cannot wait to meet you very soon!
If you have any questions/queries, please contact the Academy on 01202 398451 or via office@avonbourneacademy.org.uk or classof2033@avonbourneacademy.org.uk



#AVBProud

The Avonbourne Way

These seven key values underpin all we do at the Academy, and we expect all students to uphold these values throughout their time at Avonbourne.

- 1 **I always try my hardest to learn to the best of my ability.**
- 2 **I take responsibility for my own behaviour. I always do as I am asked, the first time I am asked.**
- 3 **I am in the right place at the right time, doing the right thing.**
- 4 **I take pride in the timely completion of high quality, well presented class and homework.**
- 5 **I take responsibility for my learning and the learning of others this means I work well independently and within the team.**
- 6 **I respect others, their opinions and their personal space.**
- 7 **I always have the correct equipment, look smart and am ready to learn every day of the week.**

Parent Information Evening – Tuesday 23rd June 2026

In the lead up to the Transition Day, we will have the Avonbourne Girls' Parent Information presentation evening on Tuesday 23rd June 2026 at 6pm. Informal refreshments and an optional Stevenson's uniform sizing and drop in will be available from 5-6pm. Please arrive at Student Reception.

Some parents may wish to just attend the presentation which begins promptly at 6pm. Your daughter is also welcome to attend the evening.

This presentation will introduce you to members of our Senior Leadership and the Year 7 team to ensure you and your daughter are ready to start with us in September.

Transition Day – Friday 26th June 2026

Following this evening, we look forward to welcoming your daughter to Avonbourne Girls' Academy for her Transition Day on Friday 26th June 2026 when she will have the opportunity to spend the day with us and meet other students who will be joining the Academy. Students joining the Girls' Academy should arrive from 9:00-9:15am at our Visitors Reception. The day will finish at 3:00pm.

The morning will be spent taking part in activities aimed at getting to know one another and becoming familiar with the Academy environment. During the day, your daughter will

also have the opportunity to sample lessons in a variety of subjects. We would be grateful if you could ensure that she has a notebook, pencil, and pen with her on the day.

Please note that parking onsite at our Academies is extremely limited. If dropping off or collecting your daughter on transition day, we strongly recommend you park offsite and walk to the Academies. Parents are not permitted to park or drive into our staff car park at any point during the day.

On transition day, all students will be expected to wear their primary/junior school uniform.

The Academy operates a biometric cashless catering system; further information is available in a later section of this booklet. However, on transition day all students will be provided with a free hot meal and a drink. There will be a meat and vegetarian hot option available. If students prefer, they can bring a packed lunch with them. All students will need to bring a snack for break time and a drink.

A further letter regarding transition day will be sent home at the beginning of June.

Curriculum

Our aim is to provide an excellent education for all our students; an education which brings out the best in all of them and prepares them for success in life.

Our curriculum is designed to provide children with the core knowledge they need for success in education and later life, to maximise their cognitive development, to develop the whole person and the talents of the individual and to allow all children to become active and economically self-sufficient citizens.

By teaching our curriculum well, we develop pupils' cultural capital:

the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.

(DfE National Curriculum, 2014)

In your child's first year at the Academy, they will study a variety of subjects from the list below:

Art	Computer Science	Design & Technology
Dance	Drama	English Language and English Literature
Geography	History	Mathematics
Modern Foreign Languages	Music	Physical Education
PSHE	Religious Studies	Science



Homework

is expected each week and when work is due. Parents and students can view this information from the start of every half term.

Support with Homework

We understand that Year 7 is a big transition, and we are here to help. We run a daily Homework Club at break and lunch, giving students access to IT and staff who can offer guidance with subject tasks or help with any technical issues.

From September to October half term, students will not receive homework detentions. This adjustment period allows them time to learn routines and become familiar with expectations.

After October half term, we introduce a phased system of after-school detentions, starting with English, Maths and Science. Similar consequences for Geography, History, RS and MFL begin after May half term. These steps are always taken with the goal of supporting students to develop healthy, sustainable study habits.

Detentions and Compulsory Homework Club

Where possible, after-school homework detentions include access to computers so students can complete any missed work. Teachers will speak to students directly, and parents will receive notification confirming the date and time.

If a student is regularly struggling to complete homework, we may place them in Compulsory Homework Club for additional support. This typically involves attending Homework Club every evening for 4–6 weeks, working closely with core subject teachers to build confidence and establish routines. Our aim is always to help students become secure and independent learners.

Communication with Parents

We value keeping families informed. Any changes to our homework policy will be communicated to parents through a letter emailed home.

Homework in Year 7 – Our Approach

At our Academy, we want students to feel confident, organised and supported as they begin their homework journey in Year 7. To help with this, we use a range of online platforms – Sparx Maths, Sparx Reader, Sparx Science, Seneca and Language Nut. These tools give students instant feedback and allow teachers to see how they are getting on with their independent learning.

In September, students take part in dedicated IT sessions to help them settle in. During these sessions, they learn how to log into school computers, access their homework platforms, and use their school email address and password. Tutors and subject teachers will guide them through each step to ensure they feel comfortable and ready.

How Homework Is Introduced in Year 7

We introduce homework gradually so that students can build good habits at a steady, manageable pace.

Autumn Term 1 (September – October half term)

Homework is set once a week for English, Maths and Science. Each task takes no more than 30 minutes. Students complete around 90 minutes of homework per week during this early settling-in phase.

After October Half Term – Easter

English, Maths and Science homework increases to 45 minutes per subject each week. Students complete around 135 minutes of homework weekly until the Easter break.

After Easter – July

Geography, History, RS and MFL homework begins on a fortnightly schedule, and each takes around 30 minutes. English, Maths and Science return to 30-minute weekly tasks. By this point, students are building towards a routine of 30 minutes of homework each evening, Monday to Friday.

Homework Organisation

To support organisation and independence, homework is pre-set each half term. Students receive a homework grid (also placed on the school website) showing exactly what

Parental Communication

Avonbourne Girls' Academy use electronic communication. This means that most of the communication you have from us will come via direct email rather than letters being posted or handed to your child. Urgent messages or reminders will also be sent to you via email and staff will make direct contact with you by phone if they need to speak to you about your child.

We also use social media to communicate with parents and would highly recommend that parents and carers follow us.

 @ULavonbourneacademy

 @avonbourneacademy

Keeping you informed

We know that it can be difficult to keep up with everything that is going on at a large secondary school like Avonbourne and we endeavour to make this as easy for you as possible. In addition to all the above, our website is continually updated with reminders about upcoming events and important dates, and you can also access our Academy calendar through it. Our newsletter is emailed to you each half term and is a great way of staying informed about Academy life.



Please ensure you check and complete the email addresses section in the Applicaa Data Collection Form. If any of of contact details change please email our office as soon as possible.

Uniform Requirements

Avonbourne Girls' Academy aim to give all students the foundations for a successful life by helping them to develop the skills and attitudes that will provide them with real life-chances. We believe our Academy uniform achieves four important goals:

- High expectations and immaculate first impressions.
- It encourages a sense of community identity and pride. By wearing the same badge and the same clothing, students are encouraged to think of the needs of the community as well as their own individual needs and makes all students ambassadors for the Academy in the local community.
- It encourages our students to develop habits for life. By learning to polish their shoes, fold trousers or hang up their blazers, students learn the habits of discipline and personal responsibility as a smart appearance is an increasingly important aspect of modern life.
- It prevents unkindness or bullying while keeping costs down and making it cost effective for parents in the long run.

By requiring all our students to wear the same low-cost uniform, we reduce the incentive for students to ask parents for the latest (and most expensive) items of fashion. Whilst in the Academy, this allows students to focus on their academic performance rather than on what they are wearing.

Please visit our Academy websites for a copy of our most up to date Uniform Policy.

At Avonbourne Girls' Academies, we only allow jumpers, blazers and ties that are purchased through our supplier. This way we ensure that all our students look as smart and professional as each other. Our supplier also offers shirts as well as other items, but it is not compulsory for parents to purchase these items through our supplier. Please note that some items are compulsory, whereas others are optional. Items marked with an asterisk (*) can only be bought via the following supplier:

www.avonbournegirlsacademy.org.uk/students-and-parents/uniform-and-equipment



Avonbourne Boys' and Girls' Academy Uniform

Please note that some items are compulsory, whereas others are optional. Items marked with an asterisk (*) can only be bought via the following supplier: [Stevensons, Avonbourne Girls' Academy, Bournemouth](#) Email: bournemouthbranch@stevensons.co.uk Telephone: 01202 425192

Stevensons will be attending the Avonbourne Girls' Welcome presentation on Tuesday 24th June from 5-6pm to meet with parents and discuss uniform and sizing.

	Uniform	Not Acceptable
Blazer*	Avonbourne Academies blazer purchased from Stevensons	No blazer Pushed up sleeves Any garment other than school jumper and shirt underneath
Jumper*	Avonbourne Academies Grey V Neck Jumper with navy stripe purchased from Stevensons. Please note this is compulsory to buy as we want to ensure all our students have an additional warm layer but students DO NOT have to always wear the jumper or have the jumper with them.	Sweatshirt Non regulation jumper Fleece Tracksuit Hooded top Waistcoat Cardigan
Trousers	Charcoal grey classic tailored style Any belts should be black Please note students may choose to wear either trousers or the Stevensons skirt as listed below.	Fashion trousers (corduroy/bootlegs/skinny trousers/Lycra) Studs, visible buttons or trimmings Shorts Stretchy Material Leggings
Skirt*	Avonbourne Academy grey and navy skirt purchased from Stevensons. The skirt should sit on the knee. Please note students may choose to wear either the Stevensons skirt or trousers as listed above.	Rolled/tucked up skirts Skirts that do not sit on the knee
Shirt	Plain white school shirt Tucked in and buttoned at the neck	Casual/fashion shirt Shirt worn without a tie or with tie tucked in Shirts worn outside trousers/skirts Exposed midriff
Tie*	Avonbourne Academies grey and navy striped tie purchased from Stevensons Please note if students lose their tie, ties can be purchased online via Parent Pay for £7 and collected from our Student Reception.	Ties worn incorrectly

Avonbourne Boys' and Girls' Academy Uniform

Uniform

Not Acceptable

Footwear	Traditional black leather flat or low-heeled school shoes Laces, soles and stitching must be black Black shoes should be worn on the way to and from the Academy Students will not be allowed to attend lessons if the correct shoes are not worn in the Academy. Please see images below to clarify acceptable and unacceptable shoes	Trainers (even if black) Sandals/slingbacks/backless shoes Boots Coloured/Fluorescent laces. Canvas/fabric shoes or pumps Trimmings i.e. buckles, labels, tags or decorations High-heels / stilettos / platforms / wedges <u>The Academy reserve the right to decide what represents a trainer, even when the retailer has marketed the shoe as suitable for school.</u>
Socks and tights	Plain black socks or plain black tights	Coloured, white or patterned socks or tights No trainer socks
Hair and Makeup	Conventional style and natural colour If hair is long, it is essential it is tied back for reasons of health and safety in some practical lessons. Any hair bands/clips must be subtle and grey/navy/black in colour Makeup – not to be worn in Year 7, 8 or 9 <u>The Academy will reserve the right to decide what represents natural makeup school and will expect students to remove makeup if not acceptable.</u>	Unnatural colour Decorative attachments Tram lines Hair extensions Shaved eyebrows Nail varnish Nail extensions <u>Please see further guidance on hair in the below text.</u>
Jewellery	Maximum of two small plain gold or silver stud-like earrings (we define a stud as a small ball or circle). Can be located anywhere on the ear. Smart watches are permitted as long as they are used appropriately. If not used appropriately these will be confiscated and returned to parents.	No rings No diamond/pearl/ coloured gem studs Any facial or body piercing No accessories are to be worn around the neck or attached to clothing
House Badges	On joining our Academies, all students will be provided with their House badge to wear with pride on the left lapel of their blazer. Should a badge break and this can be shown, the relevant House Head will be able to support. If students lose their house badge, another badge can be purchased via Parent Pay and collected from student reception.	Badges worn anywhere else on the blazer

Footwear

If parents/carers are unsure as to whether a particular style will be accepted, they should check a picture of the shoe with the Academy before purchasing.

Shoes

Black formal leather/leather look shoes. Non-sports footwear cannot be branded with sports logos. Trainers may only be worn for PE and must not be worn to / from the Academy unless for cycling. Football boots must have non-metal studs.

Acceptable examples



Unacceptable examples



Hair

Students' hair must be in a conventional and understated style. In addition, there should be no severe contrast between the top of the hair and the sides. Short sides must be faded gradually into the top of the haircut so there is no noticeable 'step' or layering.

Some specific styles that are **not permitted**:

- Patterns shaved into a student's hair or eyebrows, including an artificial parting or tramlines
- High or flamboyant hair styles, such as a 'Mohican'
- Any unnatural colours
- Styles that hide the face
- Any other hairstyles that the Academy considers to be inappropriate

Some specific styles that are **not permitted**:

- Bows, flowers or other adornments in the hair
- Unnatural colours or extensions
- Styles that hide the face
- Patterns shaved into the student's hair or eyebrows
- Any other hairstyles that the Academy considers to be inappropriate

This list is not exhaustive, and the Academy will have the final decision on what is/is not acceptable.

Some students may choose to wear headscarves for religious reasons. Headscarves must be black, grey or navy blue. Pins or clips must be small, dark in colour and understated. There can be no decorations such as sequins or patterns. Material must not be too long at the front or the back so as to obscure the uniform or look untidy. At the front, headscarves material must not go below the V-neck of a jumper or equivalent.

Avonbourne Boys' and Girls' PE/Dance Kit

Please note the items with an asterisk (*) can only be bought from Stevensons, our uniform supplier.

	PE/Dance Kit	Not Acceptable
Indoor Lessons	Navy fitted sports polo shirt (this can be purchased from Stevensons or elsewhere) For the bottom layer students may choose between shorts, a skort or leggings Navy shorts or skort (these can be purchased from Stevensons or elsewhere) Navy Sports Lycra Leggings White Sports Socks for PE only Suitable sports trainers (required for PE and occasionally for Dance – students will be informed by their teacher when needed) For Dance, a majority of lessons require students to be bare foot or if they prefer, gripped yoga/trampoline socks may be worn	Non regulation polo shirt Navy Leggings purchased from anywhere other than Stevensons Gripped bed/fluffy socks for Dance
Outdoor Lessons	As above Suitable trainers and football/astro boots (please note students will be told in advance when they need to bring these in for PE lessons) Shin Pads Navy long football socks (these can be purchased from Stevensons or elsewhere)	Hoodies Coats Rain Jackets
Footwear	Trainers which are sports style, laced up trainers. Dance ONLY – bare feet or gripped trampolining/yoga socks	Fashion trainers Skate shoes Plimsolls Fluorescent laces Fluffy, gripped bed socks

Additional PE/Dance Uniform Notes

Stevensons also have other items parents may wish to purchase for students particularly in the colder months such as long sleeve sports tops, waterproof jackets or tracksuit bottoms.

Please note in cold weather for outdoor lessons students are permitted to wear plain navy tracksuit bottoms and a plain navy jumper from other suppliers but these must have no branding or detail i.e. stripes and the jumper should not have a hood. Base layers can be worn underneath the PE uniform but should be black, blue or white in colour.

Leggings/skins may be worn as base layers underneath the navy shorts or navy skort.

Plain gloves and a woollen hat may be worn for outdoors lessons during cold weather but should be without branding or logos.

Gum shields are compulsory for those students attending extracurricular rugby ONLY. They are not required for PE lessons.

Jewellery and Hair for PE and Dance Lessons

All jewellery and personal effects such as watches, necklaces and body piercings must be removed for PE and Dance related activities. Students will be reminded at each lesson to do so; it is the students' responsibility to ensure this is done. Students will NOT be able to take part in lessons until these items are removed and could have further sanctions. Please consider this when ears are pierced particularly if this is during the summer holidays.

If, under exceptional circumstances, jewellery cannot be removed (e.g. cultural practice or newly pierced ears), the risk of injury must be reduced where it is practicable to do so.

- Studs being secure by the use of micropore tape or masking tape (not Sellotape or Elastoplast's).
- Medi-alert bracelets and necklaces will be worn by some children, and it is sensible to remove these items during the period of participation. The teaching and support staff will be aware of the special circumstances relating to that child and will know how to react should difficulties arise.

Long hair must be tied back to prevent entanglement in apparatus and to prevent it obscuring vision. It is the student's responsibility to ensure this is done. Please note this is also the case in Science and Technology lessons. Students with long hair should bring a suitable hair band to school each day.

Items of clothing worn for religious and spiritual reasons, such as a head scarf or turban should allow unrestricted movement without being loose and should not hinder personal safety and protection for the activity concerned.

School Bags

It is essential students can carry all their necessary equipment with them. A good sized plain coloured backpack is found to be very convenient by most students for carrying A4 sized books and folders, equipment and outside coats.

Fashion bags are not suitable for carrying textbooks and school equipment. Bags should be dark coloured with minimal / discrete logos and colour trim.

Acceptable - dark coloured, suitable sized backpack



Not Acceptable - Handbags and Tote bags, bright colours, small fashion/sports bags, pins and badges



Coats and Outdoors Wear

Plain outdoor coats are acceptable (with no large logos or designer labels) to be worn to and from the Academies and during colder months in the school buildings when moving between lessons (students will be advised when this is appropriate). Coats are never to be worn in lessons. Please note that due to the size of our Academy campus and the amount of student movement between buildings and classrooms during the day, students will carry their coats with them. You may therefore wish to think about this when choosing a coat and school bag.

Plain hats, and gloves can be worn outside in the winter months. Baseball caps are not acceptable.

Parent notes/medical notes for uniform:

If a student has a medical reason for the need to wear modified footwear, a medical note supplied by a doctor or medical practitioner must be provided specifying the exact type and brand of footwear (all such notes will be confirmed with the medical professional).

It is important that all parents/carers should realise the necessity of marking all garments and possessions clearly with their daughter's name.

Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices

Mobile phones and electronic devices are banned from use during the academy day. Students are permitted to keep them in their possession but must be switched off and in their bags during the academy day.

Any phone seen at any time on the Academies site will be confiscated and parents/carers informed.

- Mobile phone and electronic device use including the use of iPod/music players and headphones is prohibited throughout the Academies.
- Responsibility for the safekeeping of the phone belongs to the student.
- At all times, student mobile phones must be switched off during the Academy Day (8am – 3:25pm)
- Failure to submit a phone when asked will result in the student being excluded for a fixed period until parents/carers are met with by the relevant member of staff.
- Smart watches are permitted as long as they are used appropriately. If not used appropriately these will be confiscated and returned to parents.

Equipment

In order to maintain high standards and to maximise learning, it is essential we have high expectations about the equipment that every student is required to have in their possession each day. Form tutors will check that students have the right equipment every single day.

Clear plastic 30cm pencil cases are also very important, as these are a requirement for all public examinations. We do not want parents to have the added expense of purchasing another pencil case specifically for these examinations, as students now sit formal exams in every year.

Pencil cases/equipment items will be available for sale to parents and students via our online payment system for pick up in student reception before/after school and at break time during the day.

Please note, students experiencing hardship and those who are Pupil Premium will receive support. Please contact the Head of Year for help if this is the case.

Compulsory Items:

Available to purchase via our Parent Payment Portal and collected at the Academy:



- 30cm long, clear plastic pencil case
- Helix Maths Set (or Compass and Protractor)
- 30cm ruler
- Translucent reading ruler
Can be purchased as a bundle 'Stationary Set' of 4 items for £4.70
- A4 Plastic Wallet provided by the Academies on Year 7's first day
- Translucent reading ruler (students will be given a reading ruler when they first start at the Academies)
Can be purchased individually for £1.00
- Casio FX83GTCW Scientific Calculator (at time of printing I have found the below link on Amazon: [Casio FX-83GTCW Black Scientific Calculator : Amazon.co.uk: Stationery & Office Supplies](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Stationery-Office-Supplies))
Can be purchased individually for £9.40

Not available to purchase from the Academy but compulsory:

- 3 x blue or black pens
- 1 x HB pencils
- 4 x coloured highlighters
- 1 x white board pen
- 1 x green pen

Highly Recommended Items:

- Coloured pencils
- Rubber
- Pencil sharpener

Academy Travel

We encourage all students to either walk or cycle to the Academy.

If cycling to the Academy, students are required to wear a suitable helmet and bring with them a suitable bike lock to secure their bike during the day in our designated bike shed at the end of College drive. Please note this is locked by our Site team during the Academy day. Students who do not wear a helmet when riding their bike to the Academies will find themselves no longer permitted to cycle.

If travel by car is unavoidable, please be aware that College Drive, the road into the Academy can become very congested at the start and end of the day.

For the safety of all our students, please always observe parking and entrance restrictions and be aware of students and staff cycling and walking on site.

If your daughter would need to get a bus to the Academy, please visit the appropriate bus travel website. As this information comes through to us, we will post on our websites.

At time of printing, bus numbers 46 and 81 collect and drop off on College Drive at the front of our receptions. Public bus number 33 collects and drops off on Harewood Avenue. We have been told that bus numbers and routes may be changing before September. Please continue to check the MoreBus website for further updates.

Timings of the School day

Warning Bell	8:25
Start of the day	8:30
Period 1	9:00
Period 2	10:15
Break	11:30
Period 3	11:50
Lunch	13:05
Period 4	13:35
DEAR	14:50
End of Day (Year 7-10)	15:25
End of Day (Year 11)	15:45

Students should be in their line ups at 8.30am when the first whistle is blown. Please note at the time of printing, the above timings of the day were correct however any future changes will be communicated with students and parents.



Parental Online Portal

We encourage parent access to a Parental Online portal, which will provide information on your child's reach points, timetable, attendance, and emergency contact information. This is also the area where you will find consents for various activities and data usage and may be used for parents' evening booking and other activities.

Access can only be granted if we have received an appropriate email address from the primary parent/carer. Once an email address has been received, an email will be sent to you detailing a password and log in instructions. This service is also available via the "Arbor App" available on iOS and Android, for your smart phones.

Applicaa Data Collection Form

The Applicaa Data Collection Form needs to be fully completed electronically and returned to the Academy by Friday 27th March at the latest. If you need any assistance with this, please contact Avonbourne reception.

Please ensure the Applicaa Data Collection Form is completed electronically and sent back to us by Friday 27th March 2025.

Friends of Avonbourne Academies (FOAA)

Friends of Avonbourne Academies (FOAA) 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 FOAA aim to raise money to provide the students at the Academies and Sixth Form with additional resources. All funds raised go directly to support students in their school lives.

The FOAA meet termly to discuss events that will be launched to fundraise and support projects across the academies. For example, the FOAA supports the running of our disco events, Wonka bar competitions, Quizzes and many more. If you are interested, please email pta@avonbourneacademy.org.uk to find out more, or follow them on Facebook @friendsofavnbourneacademies.



Canteen and Cashless Catering

In common with many schools and academies, we use online payments as our method of collecting any funds from students/parents for the following reasons:

- You can pay funds to the school whenever it suits using a debit or credit card – the online payment portal is available '24/7'.
- Each online payment can cover multiple items and multiple family members studying at Avonbourne Boys' and Girls' Academies.
- You will have peace of mind that the transactions are secure (we use one of the biggest banks and the largest credit card processing service in the UK) and there will never be any risk of payments going astray.
- You can pay for trips and events online as soon as letters come home. 'First come, first served' trips will require parents to complete a Microsoft Form before payment is asked for.
- Through the online portal, as well as putting money onto your child's cashless catering account, you will be able to view what they have purchased in the school cafeterias each day.

- Funds normally become available to spend within 30 minutes of payments being made (other than during the lunch period when online payments are unavoidably suspended due to the way the link works with the cashless catering system)
- Refunds can be processed back onto your card.

By using online payments, it is our aim that the need for students to bring cash into school will largely be eliminated, other than for occasional low value items such as cake sales for local charities.

You will receive a separate letter containing a unique access code to enable you to register for online payments, along with all the information you will need to get started.

Letters with individual codes to sign up to our Parent Pay system will be sent home during the summer holidays (usually in August). You can request additional letters/access codes if more than one parent would like to register for each student. You can contact: bmthpoolefinance@unitedlearning.org.uk with any queries or assistance with online payments.

Taylor Shaw – Society St Kitchen

Welcome from your school's catering provider. Taylor Shaw is the caterer of choice for thousands of secondary school students across the UK. We believe lunch is an integral part of the school day. When students sit down with friends, they cement relationships, enhance social skills, and replenish both their body and mind.

Our freshly prepared menus meet the Government's School Food Standards and meet the bronze Food for Life standards. For further details and our weekly menus please visit the Academies website and click on Cashless Catering and Free School Meals.

You are asked to confirm on the relevant section of [Applicaa Data Collection form to verify that you have read and give consent for your daughter's fingerprint to be taken.](#)

Free School Meals

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals. Your child is eligible for free school meals if you are in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Universal credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7400.
- Income support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, a daily amount of £2.50 is credited to their account. They can use 50p of this at break time and then whatever they don't use, rolls onto the £2 that is credited at lunch.

Registering for free meals could also raise an extra £900 for the Academies to fund valuable support such as extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities. This additional money is available from central government for every child whose parent is receiving one of the benefits listed above. For further information please visit our website:

[Avonbourne Girls Academy > Students and Parents > Cashless Catering and Free School Meals](#)



Safeguarding

The Academy takes the safety, security and happiness of all students very seriously and believe that every child has a right to a happy, successful and enjoyable education.

The safeguarding policy at Avonbourne Academy can be found on the website (safeguarding) and has been developed in order to ensure ongoing compliance with Government Acts and Safeguarding legislation, the most recent of which being the Keeping Children Safe in Education document (updated, 2024). The Academy also follows BCP Partnership procedures and ensures that ongoing training is provided to staff, students and other stakeholders in line with recommendations and the needs of the Academy.

The Academy recognises that children have a fundamental right to be protected from harm or exploitation and that students cannot learn effectively unless they feel safe and secure. The Academy will, therefore, provide an environment which promotes self-confidence, a feeling of worth and the knowledge that students' concerns will be listened to and acted upon.

Governors, staff and volunteers in this Academy understand the importance of working in partnership with children, their parents/carers and other agencies in order to promote children's welfare.

Further details about our Safeguarding policies and procedures can be found on the Avonbourne Academy website in the Safeguarding section, including how to report a concern and further information about keeping children safe.

Should you have any concerns of a safeguarding nature you can contact Miss Natasha England as Designated Safeguarding Lead or someone from the safeguarding team on 01202 398451 or by emailing safeguarding@avonbourneacademy.org.uk

Absence/ Attendance

A student's attendance is expected to be above 97%. Research indicates attendance and attainment are closely linked during a child's secondary school education. If your daughter is ill and unable to attend, please phone the Academy before 8:30am on the first day of absence leaving your daughter's name, tutor group and reason for absence.

Alternatively contact the attendance team via email – attendance@avonbourneacademy.org.uk and copy in your daughter's year team classof____@avonbourneacademy.org.uk

Every day of absence the Academy should be notified. Please note that no holiday will be authorised during term time. Please refer to our Attendance policy on our school website under policies for further information.

We hold attendance raffles which include prizes such as Amazon vouchers and also recognise students with improved attendance through assemblies and tutor time. We also hold end of term rewards events for excellent attendance and punctuality.



Provision for Students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Avonbourne Academy's mission is to help our students to believe in their own individual talents in order to empower them to reach their full potential. We achieve this through offering a safe and inclusive environment where everyone is valued and respected, and by providing a personalised programme of support. Avonbourne Academy aims to encourage the development of each individual student, to motivate their self-belief and sociability, to remove barriers to learning and to ensure that every student has the opportunity to fulfil their maximum potential.

The Learning Support department is led by Mrs. A. Brittain (SENDCo) and supported by:

Miss S. Truesdale (Deputy SENDCo and Girls SEND lead)
Dr. K. Sholem (Deputy SENDCo and Boys SEND lead)
Miss K. Hermon (Assistant to the SENDCo)

It comprises of a team of specialist staff who support students across the two Academies. We are located in A Block, close to Visitor's Reception, and our facilities include 2 teaching areas, an ELSA / Nurture room and a sensory room.



Some of the interventions we provide are:

- Nurture - helping students to learn socially, nurture groups help to develop confidence, become responsive to others, learn self-respect, raise self-esteem and take pride in behaving well and achieving
- SALT (Speech and Language Therapy)
- Social language and communication support
- ELSA - Emotional Literacy Support Assistants are specialist teaching assistants who have been trained to support children with emotional difficulties
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Homework clubs
- Bespoke small group support
- Dyslexia Support
- Individual support for students with ASD or ADHD

We work closely with a range of external agencies who provide specialist support and advice for individual students depending on their needs. These agencies include:

- SALT (Speech and Language Therapy)
- Educational Psychologist
- Community Paediatrician
- Occupational Therapist
- CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)
- Physiotherapist
- Hearing and Vision Support Services
- Local Authority SEN / Inclusion Team

Assessment and Monitoring:

All students who enter the Academies complete baseline testing. This information is used alongside other data to identify students who may require additional support. Intervention sessions are provided to target specific development needs and the progress of each student is monitored closely. Students who do not make the expected progress are placed on the SEND register and may access further interventions. The SEND register is reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure that students are at the appropriate stage of the SEND Code of Practice.

Support from Learning Coaches:

Classroom teachers and Learning Coaches ensure that support is effective and builds upon learning in lessons. Learning Coaches often work with small groups of students to develop particular skills and regularly make use of multi-sensory teaching to pre and post teach basic skills and concepts, that will lead the student to make progress in lessons.

Inclusive education:

We pride ourselves on being fully inclusive and all students attend mainstream lessons with their peers, to ensure they gain the highest specialist subject knowledge from their teachers. Staff at the Academy are regularly receiving CPD on how to support a variety of additional needs, therefore in line with the DfE Code of Practice, Quality First Teaching is at the heart of support for SEND students. For further information, please visit the SEND pages on our Academy websites.



Peripatetic Music Lessons

These lessons take place during the school day and are timetabled every term with specialist visiting teachers. We currently offer lessons on the following instruments: voice, piano, keyboard, drum kit, violin, cello, double bass, flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, guitar (electric/acoustic), bass guitar and ukulele.

The fees for tuition are as follows:

- 10 x individual 20-minute lessons will range from £120-£130.
 - £60-£65 for 10 x shared 20-minute lessons.
- Shared lessons take place in groups of 2 or 3 students.

If it is not possible to provide a group lesson, then an individual lesson will occur once a fortnight.

All lessons take place in the practice rooms in Block A. Please note that priority for lessons during break and lunch time will be given to year 10 and 11 students. In addition to this, if you are in receipt of pupil premium or state benefits you will be able to apply for a grant to help cover the cost of lessons. This information can be found on the Soundstorm website: <https://soundstorm-music.org.uk/grants/access-fund/>

Please be aware that Soundstorm receives a high number of applications per year and so you may not be successful in your application. If you are not successful in your application and are in receipt of pupil premium funding, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Payments will be accepted for the
Class of 2033 from July 2026.

The contract and payment of the instrumental lessons is between the peripatetic music teacher and yourselves as parents. The teacher will provide you with a letter/email outlining terms and conditions along with their contact details and chosen method of payment.

Cut off dates are provided to ensure the teacher receives prompt payment for the service they are offering. This method of payment helps to alleviate any miscommunication that third party involvement provides and makes the process more straightforward.

Lessons will be payable in advance, and a half term's notice must still be given directly to the instrumental teacher in writing if you no longer wish to continue lesson.

To enquire about peripatetic lessons, please contact the relevant teacher on the below:

James Longcake jameslongcake@gmail.com	Guitar
Emily Monaghan emilymonaghan062@gmail.com	Piano/Violin
Debra Ozanne debra.ozanne@hotmail.co.uk	Piano/Voice
Pascal Consoli intuitiondrums@gmail.com	Drums
Tim Cooper newforestwoodwind@outlook.com	Woodwind
John Bilby johnbilby@outlook.com	Brass
Hannah Grimley hannah.grimley.hg@googlemail.com	Bass

Education with Character and Rewards

At Avonbourne Girls' Academy we value and understand the importance of supporting students to develop their character. We want our students to be characterful, to be interested and curious, to know what matters to them, what they stand for and to be able to express those things and themselves. We want them to have opportunities to discover their passions and interests, which is why we have developed a comprehensive and engaging Education with Character programme.

Our programme is underpinned by our REACH Values, ensuring that all students can engage with these principles through various initiatives during their time with us, helping them to be the best they can be.

Our REACH Values are:

- Respect
- Equality
- Ambition
- Community
- Hard work & determination

We offer a programme that encompasses the following aspects for all our students:

- Opportunities to go on trips abroad
- Involvement in performances celebrating the Performing Arts
- Access to a wide range of extra-curricular clubs, from coding to joining our orchestra
- Opportunities for Student Leadership, including our Prefect roles, House Ambassador roles, and membership in various Student Committees, all of which regularly come together a part of our Student Council
- Fundraising initiatives and opportunities for volunteering and service. Our students actively engage in fundraising initiatives and volunteer work. Each House supports a charity chosen by the students, fostering a sense of

community and responsibility. We have raised funds for various causes, including Disaster Relief and Children in Need, and have participated in Christmas Hamper campaigns. Our Eco Committee has been instrumental in supporting local initiatives such as beach litter picks and Terracycle crisp packet recycling. Their efforts have earned us the prestigious Eco Schools Award with Distinction.

- Opportunities to try something new during enrichment sessions where students are off timetable for an afternoon each fortnight, participating in sessions they have chosen, from completing the Rugby Young Leaders Award to exploring Chinese Ink and Watercolour illustrations, there is something for everyone.

REACH Rewards

We are proud to run a thriving REACH Rewards Programme that celebrates students who consistently demonstrate our core values of Respect, Equality, Ambition, Community, and Hard Work & Determination. Students earn REACH points for positive character and contributions around the Academy.

For every 50 points, students receive a token which they can place into one of our Prize Boxes. Prize draws take place fortnightly, half-termly, termly, and annually, giving students regular opportunities to be recognised.

Our Student Voice team helps select prizes, and students choose which draw they would like to enter, giving them ownership and keeping the rewards meaningful and motivating.

Our values are at the heart of all we do at Avonbourne Girls' Academy. We actively encourage our students to demonstrate these values in all their actions and teach them how to do this through every interaction.

Extra-Curricular Activities and House System

At Avonbourne, we offer a vast and diverse range of extra-curricular activities throughout the year. The majority of these are free and provide students with opportunities to develop character, learn new skills, socialise, and compete both socially and regionally. Our clubs span Academic, Performance, and Creative fields, including Jazz Bands, Big Questions, Homework, Young Ambassadors, Pride Club, Rugby, and Badminton, among others.

These clubs are fantastic opportunities for students to develop their skills and build meaningful relationships.

Our House System

We are also proud of our thriving House system, which runs alongside our year groups. The system fosters a strong sense of community, encourages collaboration across year groups, and helps students feel more connected to the wider Avonbourne family.

Our Houses – **Brownsea, Chesil, Durdle, Lulworth, and Purbeck** – are named after iconic landmarks in our local area. Students can earn house points by participating in events and demonstrating our REACH values. These points contribute to a league, with the coveted house trophy awarded at the end of the year.

Throughout the year, Heads of House and House Ambassadors coordinate a variety of service, sporting, charity, and arts events. This year, we are particularly focused on strengthening our links with the local community.

Further details will be provided to your son in September along with a timetable of all the enrichment opportunities available to them in our enrichment fair in October.

Please visit our website to view our current [extra-curricular club offer](#)



#AVBProud



Avonbourne Girls' Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Executive Principal: Mrs M Dyer

Harewood Avenue, Bournemouth, BH7 6NY

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