



#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 this past academic year. I hope you have chance to read our recent OFSTED report which confirmed that following our recent ungraded inspection, Avonbourne Girls' Academy 'continues to be a good school' and found 'evidence of improved performance to suggest that it could be judged outstanding' at the next inspection. I am proud and privileged to lead Avonbourne Academies and could not do it without everyone's support. The past academic year has been a hugely successful one.

The Academies finish for the academic year on Wednesday 19th July at 12.15. Year 7, 11, 12 and 13 return to school on Tuesday 5th September with Years 8, 9 and 10 on Wednesday 6th September.

Wishing everyone a happy, relaxing, and well-earned summer break.

Very best wishes from us all at Avonbourne.

Mrs Dyer



CLASS OF 2030!

We welcomed our newest students to Avonbourne on Friday 30th June for the Class of 2030's transition day. The students had a fantastic day of activities including treasure hunt tours, taster lessons and of course a pizza lunch in the canteen!

The year group is full with 210 girls and 180 boys joining us and from 38 different primary schools across BCP and students joining us from overseas. Miss Barr, Mrs Thomson and Mr Payne look forward to welcoming the Class of 2030 on Tuesday 5th September on the first day of their Avonbourne journey.



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DofE Update

The DofE participants had an amazing time out in the Purbecks for their assessed expedition! We were so impressed with their teamwork and perseverance through the hikes! We were so lucky with sunny weather as well.



It's great to see so many of the year 9 bronze participants completing their physical, skill and volunteering sections of the award as well! Remember to get those assessors reports submitted if you haven't already.

DofE for 2023/2024 has now been launched and we have had a record number of students sign up for both bronze and silver! If you have signed up, please look out for an initial letter explaining DofE and the costings that will be emailed home. Official sign ups and payments will be made in September when we return.





Eco-Committee Update

ECO SCHOOLS accreditation

Pupils at Avonbourne Academies have been awarded the coveted Eco-Schools Green Flag for a second year in a row – with distinction!

The Eco-Schools Green Flag is an international accreditation that recognises efforts to raise environmental awareness amongst young people, whilst taking action to make their school more sustainable. Avonbourne has now retained its status as an accredited Eco-School, following our achievement last year.

Since Avonbourne began working towards an Eco-Schools Green Flag during 2021, achievements have included planting 60 hedges, 15 saplings and introducing a recycling scheme across the site.

And this year, pupils at Avonbourne Academies have built on these strong foundations, collaborating with Mrs Donnelly to work on three Eco-Schools topics: school grounds, waste and biodiversity. They planned a variety of projects including litter picks throughout the year on school grounds and in our surrounding community areas; the implementation of a recycled car tyre garden that was recently completed; the continued upkeep of school-wide classroom recycling with a community feeling during student-led Wednesday morning recycling bin emptying; pen recycling in nearly every classroom – that's almost 90; charity partnership to track our school's avian biodiversity; and planting copious local flora seeds throughout the Spring and Summer.

Assistant Principal, Mrs Tsabet, said, 'We are incredibly proud to be awarded Distinction two years in a row. The school's Eco Committee is made up of a wonderfully committed group of students, and their efforts this year to make the school more sustainable exemplify many of our school's REACH values'.

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](#)



Summer Arts Showcase

On Friday 14th July we hosted our final creative arts event of the academic year. Students, staff and parents came together to watch our dance, drama and music performers showcasing their talents, alongside enjoying our annual art exhibition. Although the weather wasn't on our side, the students got a chance to inspire each other across the creative arts throughout the afternoon. Thank you to the art, dance, drama and music departments for their work this year to bring these events together. We look forward to our next showcase at the end of the Autumn term.



Religious Education



This term, the RE department took students from Year 7 and United Sixth Form on a school trip to Winchester Cathedral. The students loved walking through the bustling market before taking part in a series of activities, such as making clay gargoyles, with some students getting experimental and modelling them on Mr Kidman! During a tour of the cathedral, the students followed the stories revealed by the stained-glass windows before visiting the crypt, tombs, and the grave of Jane Austen. After lunch, and a trip to the gift shop, our students completed a Question-and-Answer session with Canon Roly, a Christian with Jewish ancestry. We learnt how he tried to accept both faiths in his life and the crisis of faith and discrimination he faced as a result of doing so.

Throughout the year, the RE department have continued to welcome the local Christian charity, 'The Pace Trust', into our Wednesday Lunchtime club, 'Big Questions.' This term, students have been discussing topical issues such as 'How can I deal with stress and anxiety?', 'What is time', 'Why do some people lose their faith?', and 'How do I know that God is real?' We have also begun the Youth Alpha Project, where we have discussed topics such as 'Who is Jesus', 'Why did Jesus die' and 'Is there more to life than this?'

The RE department have also continued the extremely popular Tea Club during Tuesday lunchtimes where students get to sample and learn about a variety of unusual tea flavours from around the world. Finally, this past term has seen the successful launching of the new United Learning Religious Education curriculum into Year 9, with the introduction of the 'Life and death', 'Equality' and 'Buddhism' modules.



Careers at Avonbourne has been extremely busy in this last part of the summer term. We had an exciting trip to the Arts University in Bournemouth with some of our year 8 students. They experienced a tour of the campus and got to look at some of their facilities and exhibitions. This was followed by a Q and A session with student ambassadors from all three of our local universities; Arts University Bournemouth, Bournemouth University and AECC. Students found out what university life was like and how they made the decision on what they wanted to study.



We also had our year 9 mock interview week. We welcomed individuals from local businesses to host this for us and students were interviewed in groups for a job, covering sections that included skills for the job and research about the organisation. Well done to all the students involved who worked extremely hard to prepare themselves for the interview and presented themselves in an excellent manner. The employers were blown away by the year 9's level of professionalism and maturity. These skills should help to prepare themselves for their post 16 interviews. If you would like to be involved in careers or can offer support, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at careers@avonbourneacademy.org.uk



MusicFEST



United Learning Presents MusicFEST – Bournemouth and Poole Cluster Performance. Throughout this term, the vocal group and soul band musicians have been rehearsing for our first ever Cluster performance. This was a fantastic opportunity for students from Avonbourne to sing with others from Avonwood, Glenmoor, Winton and Cornerstone to create a massed choir and Cluster instrumental ensemble. Students spent Wednesdays after school learning our arrangement of Brave by Sara Barellis alongside two other songs written for the last United Learning Trust performance that sadly didn't happen due to the pandemic. On Monday 3rd July, we all travelled up to Fairfields Hall in Croydon and spent the day with all the performers from other United Learning schools. This really gave the students an insight into how many schools are part of the United Learning Trust and enjoy celebrating the talent of the Trust when watching the musical performances that had been created for the event.

Our students really enjoyed the chance to work with other young people from our partner schools. There was also an opportunity to talk to professionals in the music industry as part of a careers fayre held during the day, as well as embrace the experience of performing from the choir stalls of the concert hall.



#PLEDGETOPLAY

A huge number of students took up the challenge of #PledgetoPlay during the recent national school sports week.

The aim of the week was to encourage participants to pledge to 60 minutes of physical activity per day - thus supporting students' physical health, mental health, social wellbeing, and brain function.

In addition to the extra-curricular clubs both inside and outside of the academy, as well as active ways to get to school, the Physical Education department challenged students to take part in daily activity during lunchtime to support their daily 60 minutes. Activities included yoga, basketball, speed agility quickness drills, skipping, badminton and fitness tests.

Each student who recorded their weekly diary received house points, with Lulworth House being the winners with most completed pledges! Well done to all who took part!

Wishing you an active summer,
Mr Plunkett



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Arts and Wellbeing workshops – in partnership with MBN Arts

This term we received funding to support our Y9 students with a creative intervention to support their transition into KS4. 30 students were chosen to take part in 3 half-day workshops in graffiti art and music production at MBN Arts based in Townsend.

Below is an account from Josh B who took part in the workshops:

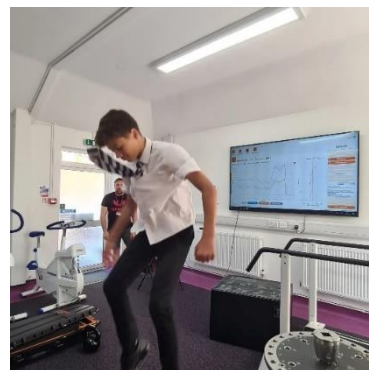
I really enjoyed the creative arts trips as they showed me various variations of arts that I would not of probably of enjoyed if I did not try them. The workshops have helped me appreciate arts more. I am now glad that I have chosen an art subject as GCSE. If this were offered again, I would take part. I now feel more able to be creative when it comes to arts that I would not have tried unless offered. I enjoyed the spray painting lessons the most as they taught me that graffiti is not always used as a terrible thing and can be used to spread messages and art. Even though these workshops were in the last term of the school year, they were definitely a major highlight of the year.



SCIENCE



This final term of the academic year 2022-2023 has seen the final STEM trip for the year 9 boys going to the AECC Chiropractor's College for the day. During the day, the boys were able to take part in several different activities which show career paths they could go down in many different directions and allow them to see how the science they learn in the classroom is applicable to everyday life. Some of the workshops on offer included maths problem solving, biomechanics of sport and even an opportunity to discover how x-ray machines worked; some of the students were even able to use the machines themselves!



Turning back towards the classroom, year 7 have been excitedly learning about ecology, including how feeding relationships work and how different organisms depend on each other for lots of different things such as resources, pollination and shelter! We then focussed in on how we can find out the populations of organisms in an area, and the year 7 students thoroughly enjoyed using quadrats to count the numbers of different plants which grow on our school field. It was a great opportunity to get out into the sunshine and do some science in the field! For students who are interested in this area, there are several events in the local community where this can be explored further. For example, 29th July marks the Youth Volunteering event at Upton Country Park where young people can get involved with conservation work and get to know likeminded people at the same time!

Finally, our students have been working hard on their homework this term! The leader boards show that we need to give a huge recognition to the following students for smashing their homework this term and giving themselves a boost in school and completing the most sessions in their science homework: Maria S (year 7), Emili K (year 8), Ruby F (year 9) and Seema A (year 10).

Well done!



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

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

This term saw the election of our new Y11 and Y13 Senior Leaders. They have already begun their leadership roles by supporting at our Y6 transition day and evenings, our Y5 taster events and taking an active role in the area/department they are representing.

We are very excited for them to carry on their roles and continuing to be fantastic role models in our student community.

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 Friends of Avonbourne Academies 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.

We'd love to have more parents involved! If you are interested, please email pta@avoabourneacademy.org.uk to find out more, or follow us on Facebook.

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 below bar code to get booked on in the Autumn Term!

**Avonbourne Boys' and Girls'
Academy Open Mornings -
Autumn Term 1 2023**



Young Ambassadors Leadership programme

This academic year, 22 students from Year 9 have been part of Avonbourne Young Ambassadors programme. They have received training in communication skills, team building and delivery of multiskills. Students have used these skills to deliver numerous festivals for local primary schools as well as officiating the popular indoor athletics league.

Mrs Dunsford (School Games Organiser) who leads the programme said 'I couldn't be prouder of the leaders these students have become. They are a confident and personable group who have given opportunities to hundreds of primary children and represented the Academies to a high standard within the community'.

Events students have led at:

Indoor Athletics events x 7

Primary festivals x 10

Primary Sports Days x 4

Primary Town Sports



Comments from primary staff and members of the public:

'The pupils from Avonbourne were fantastic throughout, so enthusiastic and kind to the children especially in the longer running distances.' Pokesdown parent

Thank you for loaning out your fabulous sports leaders yesterday. The extra help was invaluable - I have received many positive comments from staff about how professional they were. Primary teacher

My mum watched my daughter at the St Katharine's sports day yesterday and I just wanted to share with you that she said the students from Avonbourne were a credit to the school.





Y9 French Trip to Saint Omer

On 4th July, 45 Y9 French students headed to France for 4 days of enriching experiences near the town of St Omer. They took part in crêpe making and cheese tasting, as well as visiting a snail farm, bakery, chocolate shop and La Coupole – A WWII bunker. Everyone had the chance to practice their French and fully immerse themselves into the French culture. All were able to have a go at kneading a loaf of bread to cook in a traditional oven, and almost everyone tasted a snail, with some students being surprised at the taste and enjoying two! The chocolate factory was also incredibly exciting, and all enjoyed watching the chocolate-making process as well as eating them. We also had the opportunity to visit Boulogne-Sur-Mer and learn about the local history and culture through a town trail activity which led us to the Cathedral. We ended the week with a spot of shopping in Saint Omer, where most students bought some delicious pastries, cakes and macarons to enjoy on their journey back home!

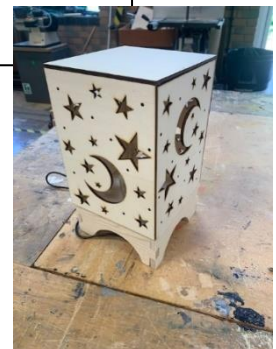


DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

It's been a busy term in Design and Technology. We had the absolute pleasure of welcoming Bethany Junior School's year 6 up to the food rooms and workshops at Avonbourne to support with their fairtrade project. Year 6 had chosen a range of fairtrade ingredients to add to their cupcakes, and once baked, we had the difficult task of choosing the best ones! It was a fantastic effort from all involved – special thanks to Mrs Moore and Miss Harkison!



We were also fortunate enough to be able to host some of our year 5 prospective students on open evening where both parents and students had the opportunity to make an “Avonbourne Boys’ Phone Holder” using some of our technology specialist equipment. I was so impressed by these students and the products they made – well done to all that came along!



In year 10, students have been busy designing and making their own product using a range of different workshop skills including CAD/CAM. The outcomes are absolutely fantastic and showcase our student's fantastic range of abilities.

What a successful year we have had in Physical Education at the Academies! Over the last academic year, the boys have studied twelve different sports, four per term. During the summer rotation the four sports the boys have taken part in were; Tennis and Softball, following our Fit to Perform curriculum, Cricket, Fit to Lead and Athletics, Fit for Life. The students completed six lessons on each.

Additionally, students had the opportunity to try a variety of clubs, compete in the local area for a range of sports against other schools and take part in sporting workshops at other venues.

A special mention must go to our year 7 cricket team who competed in the County cup. Coached by Mr Moysey, the team did incredibly well by making it all the way to the semi-finals but just missing out on a spot in the final by 3 runs. They all worked incredibly hard, and we hope next year to go one step further and reach the final! Another notable performance was by our indoor rowing team. Mr Brown took eight boys from the Academies to this year's school games, hosted at Bryanston school to compete in the indoor rowing finals. The boys did amazingly, with the year 8 boys winning the tournament by completing the mile row in under 6 minutes, with the closest team to them 55 seconds behind. A fantastic performance! Huge plaudits to Finley who placed second individually and Szymon for third.

At the end of the summer term, we hosted two very successful sports days. The incredible atmosphere created by both staff and students at King's Park athletics stadium ensured athletes performed to their maximum to gain points for their house. It was lovely to witness such effort and talent. We look forward to sharing the sports days result in assemblies...!

WISHING YOU A SPORTING SUMMER!

Another fantastic term for sport at Avonbourne has flown by. Within lessons, extra-curricular activities and fixtures, the Students of Avonbourne Girls' Academy have been hard at work practicing their 'fit to' strands which have been learnt in lessons and have been applying them in sports they love after school.

This term, students have been focusing on Rounders, Tennis, Badminton and Athletics. Across the department, staff have spotted many talented sportswomen within their performance, leadership or knowledge of how to demonstrate a healthy active lifestyle.

The year 7 girls rowing team came second in the school games indoor rowing competition by rowing a mile as a team and just lost out to Bournemouth School for Girls. The Academy cricket team got to the semi-finals this year with Mr Moysey. A special shoutout to Georgie N and Vivi A for representing the school amongst students from the Boys' Academy.

The big event this term has been sports day. It was fantastic to see so many girls signing themselves up for various events throughout the day. Long jump, triple jump, shot put and javelin were available for students to represent their house in. Alternatively, 100m, 200m, 800m and 4x100m relay were also offered for students to showcase their talent. With so much talent on the track and in the stands, students showed spirit by cheering their house on or creating banners for them. A specific shout out goes to the fastest girls 100m time across the two days. Saffi B of Durdle house ran a brilliant time of 12.93s. Results of the two days will be revealed in celebration assemblies this week.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

ART



Year 5 Taster Session

With the aim of giving a very warm welcome to our prospective 2024 student cohort, we hosted sessions where we explored the way that art styles can be recreated in original and exciting ways. We were so impressed by the work of our young visitors (and their parents), they embraced the activity and produced some wonderful results.



Artwork inspired by Keith Haring. Students looked at characteristics of his work and the influence of comics and the Pop Art movement.





We were very proud of our students, they were so enthusiastic, and our tour guides remarked that they were the politest and most engaged group they had taken around. As you can see, they fitted right in!



AUB Summer Shows 2023

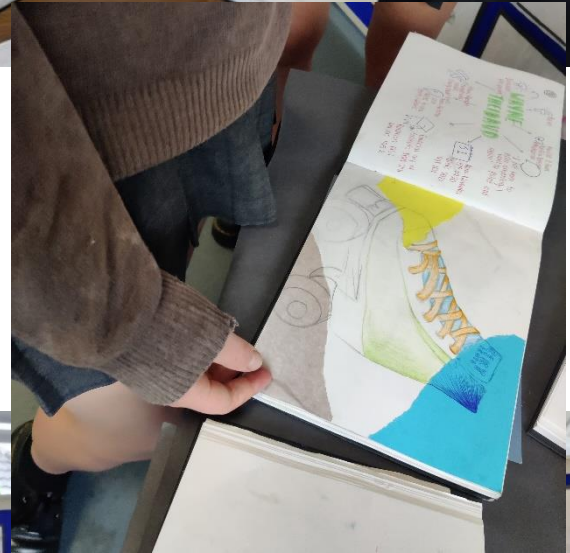
We really appreciated an invitation and free coach to the AUB Summer Shows 2023. Students in year 9 had the opportunity to see the amazing and varied work produced by students studying the huge range of arts-based courses available, from Animation, Photography to Fine Art and Model Making, we were blown away by the creativity and talent!



**ARTS
UNIVERSITY
BOURNEMOUTH**

Annual Exhibition

What a lovely end to a great year. Students enjoyed seeing their own work and appreciating the work of other students in all year groups. The weather did not dampen their spirits and the fantastic show highlighted the incredible talent of art students at the Academies, we are so proud of them all. Congratulations to year 11 who came back to see the results of a great deal of hard work and commitment. The results speak for themselves. Well done all!



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Mr Taylor – Head of Year 7 (Class of 2029)

Wow, where has the time gone? We are now fast approaching the class of 2029 completing their first year at Avonbourne Academies. I am proud to have had the opportunity to be their Head of Year, having the opportunity to experience and be a part of their amazing achievement throughout the year. The hard work and determination throughout the year group is evident with the fantastic results received from the Rank Order Assessments.

The summer term has been a busy time for year 7 students with lots of opportunities to get involved and embed themselves in the Avonbourne community. First up was the opportunity for students to attend a Religious Studies trip to Winchester Cathedral where feedback from staff was nothing but positive regarding the way year 7 pupils conducted themselves on the trip. Next up was the Year 7 & 8 disco where again, the pupils seemed to have a fantastic time, with some fantastic dance moves on show.

Year 7 pupils are a true credit to Avonbourne with the way they conduct themselves in and out of the Academy; receiving emails from parents and members of the public about how polite and mature they are, this is a testament to the values they are learning around the Academy and it is amazing to see them take it into the community. Year 7s have started doing tours for prospective parents and the feedback from those parents has been nothing but positive, with a true taste of what we do here from a pupil's perspective and the charisma that goes with it is a fantastic way to showcase the trust we have in our pupils.

Our year 7 Cricket team did us immensely proud when they made it all the way to the final of the Dorset wide tournament with all the boys and girls who took part showing fantastic heart and commitment to be successful in a sport that was extremely new to a lot of them. Two other notable mentions must go to Joseph and Evie who were nominated for a Best in Everyone award for their excellent work in creative writing and drama, both students came away winning in these categories beating all the other students not only in the year group but the school too. With Sports Day back at King's Park, it was a fantastic opportunity to see all the students and lots of parents get behind their friends and houses throughout the day. The conduct of year 7 pupils was faultless and the hard work, determination and passion shown to do their best in whatever event they were running was fantastic to see.

I think you will agree that this year has flown by and I am excited to see how the class of 2029 mature and develop through year 8, but for now I just want to wish you and your son/daughter an amazing summer holiday and a well-deserved break.

Miss Jupe – Head of Year 8 (Class of 2028)

The year 8 team continues to be overjoyed and proud of the progress, hard work, determination, and maturity shown by all year 8 students this term and the academic year. The year 8 team continue to be proud of the students volunteering to represent their houses during the tea club, musical and art showcases and being a part of extra-curricular activities. All students in year 8 should be proud of themselves for their hard work to succeed in their ROA. The year team was impressed with their behaviour, maturity, and determination when sitting their exams in the hall.

I would like to congratulate year 8s on their contribution, behaviour and talent highlighted throughout sports day! All year 8 students represented not only their houses but the Academy superably. Well done to all students who participated in the field sports and racing!

I would like to extend my congratulations to 8B/G who yet again received the most REACH points and were rewarded with Pizza: will this winning streak continue into the new academic year? A massive well done to Ethan and Aarna who achieved the most REACH points in the year for this half term.

I would like to congratulate the following students for having 100% attendance for this academic year: Emma B, Emilija K, Elisa C, Melina P, Aditi S, Adanna A, Ashton S, Joshua A, Fawwaz A, Felipe A, David C, Kenedy B, Finlay F, Jack H, Liam H, Alvin K, Lewis M, Peter T, James W and Thomas W. Well done to all these students who have not missed a single day of school!

The year team would like to wish everyone a wonderful 6-weeks holiday and we look forward to welcoming all students back into year 9. We would also like to welcome Mr Rossall to the year 9 team for the start of the new academic year.

Mr Ryan – Head of Year 9 (Class of 2027)

When we think of the Summer Term, we often think it is a wind down to Summer, this has not been the case for the Y9 cohort. It has been a busy half term as the cohort finishes up Key Stage 3 to start of their GCSE Journey in Key stage 4. At the beginning of the final stretch, students were notified of their Option Choices for Year 10. It is an exciting change to their educational journey and the first time they have been able to choose the pathway in which they want to pursue. Halfway through the half term, there were careers interview sessions. Ms Pether had organised external companies within the local community to come in and practice interview techniques with our pupils. In a circus style rotation, the pupils were in groups and spent time with different people from different organisations. The feedback from pupils and the professionals was very positive, with compliments on eye contact, body language and communication. This is an important skill which our pupils will require later in their lives, post-16.



In the final full week of the year, we had our Sports Day on Thursday 13th. The atmosphere and the spirit at King's Park was fantastic and most students behaved impeccably. Congratulations to those who competed and placed in their event.



I wish all the pupils and families a restful, safe and enjoyable summer break. It is an opportunity for reflection, setting goals and family time. I look forward to returning in September, when the cohort begin their GCSE stage of their journey.

Mr Nash – Head of Year 10 (Class of 2026)

Hi to all of Year 10.

It has been a pleasure working with you over the last 3 weeks and I am really looking forward to working with you and your parents/carers when we return at the beginning of September. Your teachers have been telling me how great you are, and I certainly agree with them.

When we return, we will only have 150 school days until our first GCSE exam, so please ensure you rest over the summer and have an amazing break.

Finally, try not to get too excited but the prom has already been booked! Save the date. 5th July.



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