



Avonbourne Boys' & Girls' Academies
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Avonbourne Academies

#AVBPROUD

Spring Term 2 – April '21



FROM THE PRINCIPAL – Mr Ingram

As we approach the Easter holidays, we would like to thank all parents, students and staff for their commitment and hard work during what has been a challenging term. It is so encouraging to have all students back at school and, it is hoped, the remainder of the academic year can now progress smoothly and without interruption from Covid-19. I have been thoroughly impressed with the hard work and endeavour shown by everyone at Avonbourne since our return 3 weeks ago. The focus remains on ensuring that we maximise every minute within all lessons. Year 11 and 13 are now entering their final 6 weeks and plans are in place to support them in the final weeks before they leave us.

We are looking forward to extra-curricular clubs returning after Easter and I am keen that all pupils attend at least one club after school. Over the next 18 months we want to continue to improve our Education with Character programme. We have appointed additional staff to ensure that the offer is as strong outside of the classroom as it is in the classroom.

Well done again to every student, member of staff, parent, carer and associated member of the community for the continuous improvement of the Academies. This is a testament to everyone's hard work and commitment, and I would like to thank everyone.

Best wishes

Stuart Ingram



STAY SAFE THIS EASTER!

Students will be passed additional home COVID tests this week.

Those eligible and willing to participate should continue to test twice weekly over Easter and before returning to school in April.

Please do continue to upload your results via our website (the link is posted in the blue banner on the front page). The form asks for the date the test was taken and not your son/daughters date of birth.



Teaching and Learning Update

At Avonbourne, our aim is to teach our students powerful knowledge and ensure that the quality and rate of students' learning in all our lessons is exceptional. Teaching at Avonbourne uses evidence-based techniques and strategies that reflect developments in cognitive science, build on our students' prior knowledge and provide plenty of opportunities to practice and revisit learning. This will help to strengthen our students' long-term memory and build more fluent recall and mastery of their work.

All of the work we do around the development of teaching at Avonbourne is underpinned by two important pieces of work: Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction, an influential article based on cognitive science and research in schools, and Doug Lemov's 'Teach Like a Champion' book. These two resources have enabled us to form a common language amongst Avonbourne staff around effective teaching and support our teachers to continue to develop high-quality and effective lessons for all our students.

Imogen Bull
Vice Principal



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National Careers Week (NCW) took place from 1st to 6th March and it was a celebration of careers guidance and free resources in education across the UK. The aim is to provide a focus for careers guidance activity at an important stage in the academic calendar to help support young people leaving education.

At Avonbourne Academies and USF we have made the whole month of March a specific focus for careers education providing amazing opportunities for our young people to connect with prospective employers. Placements for virtual work experience at Sir Robert McAlpine and Santander have been secured by eager students, keen to network in the business sector. We are committed to supplying quality free CEIAG resources and linking education with the world of employment to ensure students get an important insight to the future of work and further learning. By ensuring we have better informed students, the result is better decision making.

Key Information for the Summer Term 1:

- Monday 19th April is a **staff training day** for years 7,8,9 and 10. Year 11, 12 and 13 will be in and following their usual timetable.
- The school day will start at **8:30 am** and finish at **3:30 pm** for all students. Further details in the letter emailed out on Monday (posted on our websites under 'letters')

Welcome to the Class of 2028!

We are thrilled to have confirmed our new Year 7's this month and cannot wait to welcome them to the Class of 2028.

Do keep an eye on the 'transition' pages of our website for further information.



April is Stress Awareness Month and so we thought we would share with you 30 ways for you and your families to manage stress, stay connected and promote good physical and mental health. There is one idea for every day of the month so you can try different ideas out and see what works for you. If the text is underlined then it is a link taking you to another page, make sure you right click and open in new tab!

Stress is normal and will happen throughout our lives. Our 30 ways of ideas on what to do when you feel stressed are not just for April, they can be used whenever you need.

Online safety

Due to lockdown and high-level restrictions, children are spending more time online. While there are many benefits to children, they can be exposed to risk online, particularly through social media sites.

The Children's Commissioner for England, in association with the privacy law firm Schillings, has produced a digital safety and wellbeing kit for parents and a safety guide for children to help keep children safe and well online during the coronavirus outbreak. [Parents digital safety wellbeing kit](#) [Children's digital safety wellbeing kit](#) With more children accessing online learning and live lessons it important that your child has knowledge of the route to follow if they need to report a concern whilst online.

Some practical and age-appropriate support for children can be found on the following websites:

- a) [Childline](#) – for support
- b) [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) – to report and remove harmful online content
- c) [CEOP](#) – for advice on making a report about online abuse

This resource with 30 ideas of how to help when you feel stressed from the NHS has been uploaded into students Year Group Microsoft TEAMS (i.e. Class – Year 7).



SENECA

Learn better, faster, free.

SENECA

Avonbourne students lead the way nationally in Seneca Learning!

At the beginning of March, we relaunched Seneca Learning for all students at the Avonbourne Academies. Seneca offers high-quality free online learning courses for students to study from a computer, tablet, or phone. Seneca uses smart learning algorithms to help students remember topics better and has been proven to make students learn 2x faster. United Learning have purchased 'Seneca premium' for all students at Avonbourne.

Students across the Academies have been using Seneca during March for asynchronous lessons, homework, and for those who wish to go 'above and beyond' in their studies. Teachers are regularly setting extra assignments in Seneca for students who wish to consolidate their knowledge and strive for complete mastery of a topic they are learning in class.

45 schools within United Learning actively use Seneca. At the time of writing, Avonbourne are currently the highest performing school in United Learning nationally for the number of learning sessions, total learning time, and total learning time per active student!



Teachers at Avonbourne are busy nominating those students who are 'consistently excellent' or going 'above and beyond' for our new reward, a 'Seneca Star'. Those nominated will receive their certificate directly to their inbox at the end of March and be mentioned in their year group assembly.

Mr Kidman, Avonbourne Seneca Lead, commented, 'It is absolutely fantastic that Avonbourne is at the top of the United Learning leaderboard. We already knew that our students were extremely hard working, and now they are getting national recognition for demonstrating that 'excellence is a habit'. Keep up the hard work and I can't wait to email out Seneca Stars at the end of this month!'



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This half term began with a celebration of four students who went above and beyond in their contributions to MFL Enrichment. Prizes were awarded to Grace D, Daisy S, Megan K and Shahram R for their outstanding European-themed bakes – what a shame that we couldn't taste them ourselves!

In Year 7, students have been using their Fluency Sheets and Knowledge Organisers to discuss key questions about their lives at school: what are your teachers like? What do you do at break and lunch?

In Year 8, we have been learning how to express our opinions on the food and drink we like, the music we listen to and the clothes we wear.

In Year 9, students have been talking about their local area in preparation for comparing Bournemouth and Poole to Barcelona next half term.

In Year 10, students have continued to follow their GCSE courses with maturity and curiosity.

Our Year 11s have done us so proud with their resilience in lessons this half term. We are heading towards the finish line studying our final module on Jobs and Future Plans before preparing for in-class assessments next half term.

Finally, we are looking forward to starting our MFL Booster Club on Wednesdays after school next half term to support Year 9 students who have chosen to start GCSE French or Spanish in September.





GEOGRAPHY

The Geography department were delighted to welcome back all our students on 8th March. Over the lockdown period we were impressed with the continued efforts and progress students were making. Since returning the interest and enthusiasm that students have displayed in their geography lessons and their thirst for understanding their place in the world has grown even more. We have seen a range of highlights across all year groups and wanted to share just a few.

Key Stage 3 Geography

Year 7 returned to their lessons to start the new topic of rivers. They are exploring the processes and landforms that can be found along river landscapes across the world. Future lessons will see them analyse the impacts that river flooding has and comparing responses based on the level of development of a country. This will enable students to apply their knowledge from studying development and increase their understanding of how a country's level of development can impact their ability to respond to natural events and disasters.

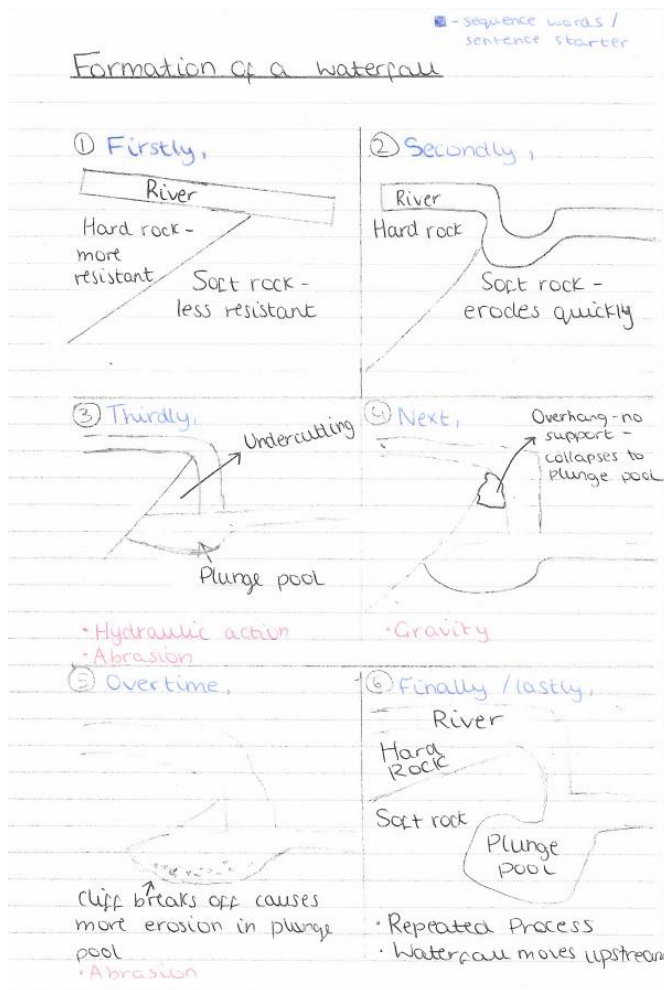
Year 8 continue to study the topic of population. Students have been finding out how the population structure of a country can affect the availability services and facilities within communities and has sparked some great conversations around this. Students' have also been analysing the impacts of both youthful and ageing populations and strategies to manage these.

Year 9 have been making great progress through their 'life in an emerging economy' topic. They continue to develop their extended answers and are honing their analytical skills. We are very proud of our student's efforts. Particular mention goes to Josh Troka, in 9B1, whose analysis of the costs and benefits of Transnational corporations was on par with a top GCSE response.

GCSE Geography

On returning back to school our GCSE students in both year 10 and 11 have showed dedication to their work. Focusing on exam practice and topic content to ensure they are best prepared for their exams.

The geography department have identified a Sophie H as a student who is working at her best. During her current topic of 'River Landscapes in the UK' she has ensured that her explanations of landform formation has included processes which are outlined and are fully sequenced. Well done.



Explain the formation of a waterfall? (6 marks)

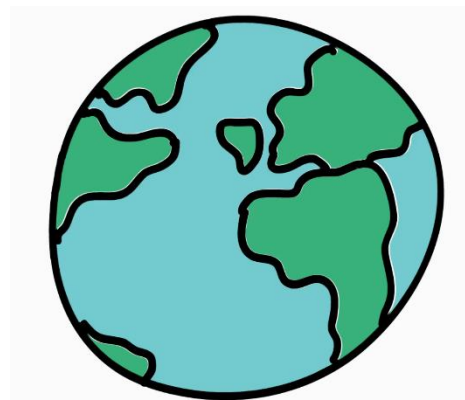
- Answer is in chronological order, step by step guide to the formation of a land form (sequence)
e.g. Firstly, Secondly, Thirdly, Over time, Finally
- Identify key processes
e.g. erosion, transportation
- Outline key processes in detail
e.g. erosion is the wearing away of material
- 6 marks = 6 minutes
- Include other geological terminology
e.g. Plunge pool, under cutting, over hang

Answer:

Firstly, water crosses over a band of less resistant rock after flowing over a band of more resistant rock. Secondly, as the river passes over the less resistant rock (e.g. shale or chalk) erosion begins to take place, this is the wearing away of material. Over time, the hard rock becomes undercut and is elevated above the stream below. The river then creates a plunge pool, through the processes of hydraulic action (the force of the water eroding material of the river bed) and abrasion (the scraping of material along the river bed). Further undercutting of the overhang leaves it to become unsupported, this then collapses and gravity pulls it into the plunge pool. Overtime, the plunge pool enlarges as a result of the abrasion, from the fallen cliff. Finally, over many years a steep sided gorge is left behind as the waterfall retreats upstream. This process is then repeated continually.

A-level Geography

Students in year 12 and 13 have been working diligently. Year 13 have completed their health and human rights topic, carbon topic and their NEA. Year 12 are currently completing the topics of tectonics and globalisations. All students are working exceptionally hard, and the geography team are very proud of your efforts.





The return to teaching in classrooms has been welcome for the music department. This half term we have transitioned from online virtual instruments to resume learning real ones. Students staying in their rooms means we have brought the instruments to them this year and the progress and enthusiasm has been outstanding.



This half term, year 7 have been learning about Hooks and Riffs and playing these on the brand-new glockenspiels. Year 8 have been deepening their understanding of harmony and structure through the history of pop, and are currently learning about the development of Rock music and how to play some of the famous riffs and chord progressions from Led Zeppelin and Bon Jovi on the Ukulele. Year 9 have developed their understanding of Musical theatre through performing songs from different musicals on the acoustic guitar as well as improving their diction and public speaking skills through the rap and hip hop styled musical, Hamilton.

The department have been working hard to support the return of extra-curricular music activities, choir will return as well as a new initiative to encourage music composition and performance through technology. Music Tech club will offer students the opportunity to learn to use Sound trap, a cloud-based sequencing software. They can use it from home and practice some of the techniques taught in the seminar sessions. Peripatetic lessons have begun, and student interest is increasing, keeping our new drum teacher as well as our guitar, piano, vocal, string and woodwind teachers very busy.



To encourage the uptake of traditional orchestral instrumental tuition, we are working with Sound storm, our local music hub to provide free tuition on Violin, Cello, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Flute and Clarinet. Every student in year 7 have been offered this opportunity and the response has been fantastic, we look forward to welcoming our teachers from The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra to come and meet their new students after Easter. This will be a welcome boost to player numbers in our through-school orchestra, which will return when it is safe to begin rehearsals again.



United Sixth Form
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We could not be USFprouder of our Sixth Form!

After stoically rising to the challenge of home learning for the Spring 1 term- with an incredible 40% of Sixth Formers being rewarded with Amazon vouchers for 100% live lesson attendance- it has been a real pleasure to have USF students back on campus focusing enthusiastically on their studies.

Our Year 13 submitted early UCAS entries for university courses starting in September and have successfully secured offers from an amazing 55 institutions across the UK, ranging from Aberdeen to Plymouth, from Cardiff to Kent! Many students received offers for all 5 of their choices including Russell Group universities such as Bristol, Exeter, Southampton and King's College London. The Class of 2021 continue to impress with their resilience and work ethic as they prepare for formal assessments in May as part of the grading process for A Levels.

Our Year 12 are busy preparing for their Mock UCAS exams after Easter and looking forward to the chance to demonstrate their knowledge by sitting formal exams - something this year group missed out on last summer! Looking ahead to this summer, Year 12 have secured work experience placements for July in line with their future career aspirations and we hope circumstances will permit them to explore their chosen work environment at the end of the academic year.

We wish all United Sixth Formers the best of luck for their upcoming exams and assessments. With all your hard work and determination, we are sure you will do yourselves #USFproud!

Ms Little – Head of United Sixth Form

Year 10 Booster Sessions

A massive well done to all the students who took up the opportunity to catch up on missed lockdown learning in English, maths, and science over the past three weeks in our year 10 after school booster sessions. It has been great to see you working hard to catch up and making the most of having your teachers in the room to lend a hand. A big thank you to all the staff who have made these sessions possible. I look forward to seeing our class of 2024 make the most of further revision opportunities in the summer term.

Keep up the good work!



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Extra-Curricular Clubs

We look forward to being able to start our enrichment programme in Summer Term One. Further details will be given to students and posted on our websites following the Easter break.

Clubs will include vocal groups, photography, debate, dance, painting, music production and technology. Clubs will take place at either lunch time or after school and due to space may need students to sign up.



Connect with us!



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@ULavonbourneacademy



@avonbourneacademy



REWARDS

The Rotary Award for Resilience and Achievement During Lockdown

Thanks to the generosity of the Rotary Club of Bournemouth East Cliff, twelve students are receiving a framed certificate and an Amazon voucher in recognition of their ability to display our REACH values even during the difficult period of National Lockdown this year.

These students have shown tremendous resilience when having to pursue their studies remotely.

Year 13: Katie G

Year 12: Josh J

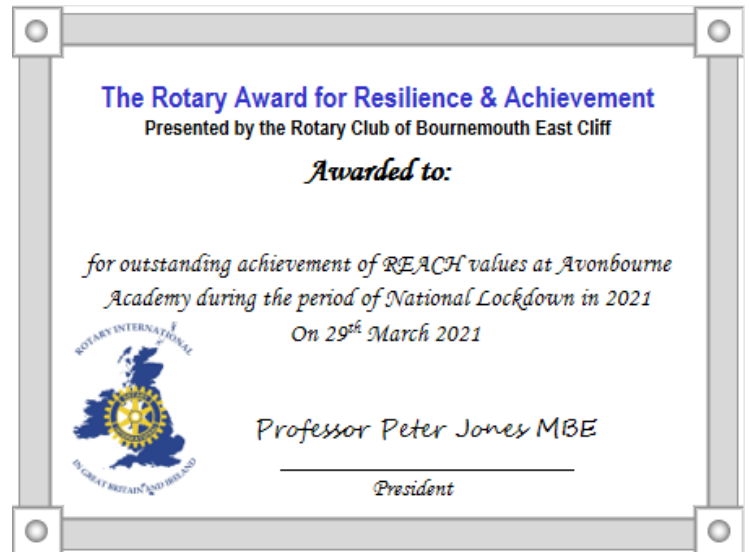
Year 11: Daniella M and Riley W

Year 10: Ellen I and Thomas M

Year 9: Billy D and Cordelia W

Year 8: Annalise M and Scott D

Year 7: Anastasia G and Tom C



Heads of Year



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Miss Barr – Head of Year 7

We were so excited to welcome the Class of 2027 back to Avonbourne on March 10th and it very quickly felt like they had never been away! Year 7 continue to amaze us with their resilience and commitment to their learning. We changed to a new part of the Academy this term giving Year 7's more space to eat in the canteen and a much larger playground to run around in and let off some steam! This has also given them an opportunity to explore a new area of the site in preparation for moving around the site after the Easter break.

The Class of 2027 have worked hard together to obtain high REACH class scores – shout outs to 7AG1 (average of 5!), 7AG4, 7AG7, 7AG6, 7AG2, 7AG3 and 7AB1 who have had consistent scores over the last few weeks. I know the students will be looking forward to their REACH reward after the Easter holidays.

Next term will bring new challenges and adventures including exploring the Academy further and being able to take part in more practical subjects fully. This will include moving to specialist classrooms and extracurricular clubs!! We hope all of our Avonbourne community have a well-deserved Easter break and hope the sun continues to shine. See you in the Summer Term (at the slightly earlier time of 8:30AM).

Mrs Thomson – Head of Year 8

With the return to school after lockdown, Year 8 have continued to prove how fantastic and resilient they are. We have been incredibly impressed with the way students have returned to the 'real' classroom in terms of their behaviour and attitude to learning in their new streams. It has been great to see classes collectively working hard to achieve high REACH awards in every lesson, particularly 8AG1, 8AG2, 8AG3 and 8AB1. Inevitably, some students have found the return challenging. After staying at home for so long, with little social interaction, some students are still finding their feet with getting used to routines, rules and interactions with their peers. With an increase of anxiety within our young people, it is now more important than ever to remember to look after our mental health and understand that it is acceptable and essential to take time for ourselves.

The year 8 team are really looking forward to the next term and seeing more of what year 8 can achieve. With extra-curricular clubs back up and running, we are hoping school will be more like what we are used to.

Have a lovely, relaxing and chocolate filled Easter break. See you in the Summer term.

Mrs Burley – Head of Year 9

With the Easter holidays fast approaching it is time to reflect on what has been a strange term of both online and in person learning for Year 9. The online learning proved difficult for a number of students but the return to school seems to have thrown up many hurdles and for a lot of our students has proved even more difficult. A number of students have found the reintegration into school life stressful and anxiety inducing which has made us all reflect on how important it is to keep track of our mental health and make it a priority. We must remember that the loss of control over our lives has been difficult to process for us but for our youngsters it has been even harder and reassuring them that life will return to normal, and everything will be okay is something perhaps we need to do more of.

That being said I am incredibly proud of Year 9, they have continued to be a hard-working Year group who are committed to their learning. As they make their option choices, they are at the start of what we hope will be an incredibly exciting school journey where they can focus on their chosen subjects and really excel at them when they start in Year 10.

Assessments will take place after Easter so in amongst all the chocolate eating and well-earned relaxing, spare a little time for revision and ensure yourselves of success and a super positive end to the Year. Have a fantastic break!

Heads of Year



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Miss Ball – Head of Year 10

What a fantastic half term this has been! It has been so rewarding to have the students in a face-to-face setting once again. Teachers across the academy have been singing the praises of the cohort as they have got stuck into the continuing GCSE journey that they are on. The students once again outdid themselves with the testing process and their conduct and patience was impeccable.

Achievement continues to be a high area of focus. REACH awards are being issued in every lesson throughout the day and the highest attainers so far are Eleanor W, Emily-Rose P, Leyre S G, Jenacee S, Aisha T and Bella K. Each student with the highest points earned and those on the Hegarty leader board are put forward for the prize draw for an Amazon gift voucher.

Work experience options are flooding in for our Year 10 cohort and demand is high. The careers include options such as NHS roles and the Armed Forces to name just two. All information is on the Year 10 TEAMS class and includes instructions on how to apply.

Have a wonderful Easter break and stay safe.

Mr Plunkett – Head of Year 11

Absolutely brilliant to see year 11 in school for much of the Spring 2 term. The class of 2023 have returned with renewed enthusiasm and their usual high work ethic. It has been lovely to visit classes and experience the purposeful working atmosphere whilst seeing the positive interactions between teachers and students. The year 11 team are very proud of how our young people have embraced the Covid testing procedures and how respectful they have been in ensuring a safe environment.

I am pleased to report that students have used the post-16 option booklet published in Spring 1 to complete application for post-16 providers. Congratulations to all that have already taken part in interviews.

Further praise must go to Edward H who took advantage of one of the virtual work experience placements at Microsoft. Edward's 'writing for purpose' article was selected as the top entry for this age category! Well done Edward!

Appreciation also to our weekly prize draw assembly winners for 100% attendance and REACH reward leader board, namely Elle B, Jake C, Edward H, Michelle A, Layza C, Caitlin K, Pinar O, Kaha W, Sudenaz S and Sarina S. The half term began with exams for vocational subjects and results have been given to students. Well done to candidates on achieving these grades.

I look forward to sharing further success with you next half term as the year group continue to work hard to secure their GCSE grades as outlined in March's letter.

Thank you again for all your support.

We would like to wish all our Avonbourne community a fantastic EASTER BREAK and look forward to seeing you back on Monday 19th April (Year 11,12 & 13) or Tuesday 20th April (Year 7,8,9 & 10) for Summer Term 1!

www.avonbourneacademy.org.uk

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