



8<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Baseline assessments, key information and 'Meet the Tutor' Evening - Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

We hope that your child has enjoyed their time so far at Avonbourne and is settling in well. The Class of 2032 have made an excellent first impression and are consistently showcasing our REACH values every day. We are incredibly proud of them all!

As you may know, Year 7 students are currently taught in mixed-ability House groups. After the October half term, they will be placed into teaching streams based on their current attainment. To determine these groupings, we use a range of data including Year 6 SATs results, the NGRT (New Group Reading Test), and the MidYIS (Middle Years Information System) assessments.

#### **Upcoming Assessments**

Over the coming weeks, students will complete the NGRT and MidYIS assessments. These help us understand each student's strengths and areas for development so we can best support their learning.

- **NGRT (New Group Reading Test):**

A 30-minute online reading assessment taken during English lessons. No preparation is required, but we encourage students to continue reading for pleasure at home and to make use of our school library.

- **MidYIS (Middle Years Information System):**

Used by over 3,000 UK secondary schools, this assessment includes several short tests:

- **Vocabulary Test** - 10 minutes
- **Maths Test** - 24 minutes
- **Skills Test**, which includes:
  - Proofreading: 4–5 one-minute exercises on spelling, punctuation, and grammar
  - Perceptual Speed & Accuracy: 30-second activities comparing typed and handwritten text
  - Non-Verbal Reasoning: A series of 5-minute exercises involving block counting, cross-sections, and visual puzzles

These assessments are designed to build on the Key Stage 2 curriculum and give us a clearer picture of students' starting points. This ensures our teaching is well-matched to students' needs and helps us design a curriculum that revisits and deepens core knowledge.

While assessments will take place in exam conditions and we will encourage students to try their best, please be assured that there is no need to revise. Our primary focus remains on ensuring a smooth and successful transition into secondary school life. Unlike the Rank Order Assessments scheduled for June 2026, these baseline tests are purely diagnostic. We firmly believe that all students are capable of exceptional progress when taught at the right level, and these assessments help us to ensure that every student is supported and challenged appropriately.

**Principal:** Michelle Dyer



**Avonbourne Boys' & Girls' Academies**

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### **Meet the Tutor & Information Evening - Wednesday 17th September**

We warmly invite you to our Year 7 'Meet the Tutor' and information evening on **Wednesday 17th September**. This event will provide a valuable opportunity to:

- Learn more about the teaching stream process
- Find out about homework expectations
- Explore key aspects of life at Avonbourne
- Meet your child's form tutor

The evening will include a presentation at **5:00pm** and again at **6:00pm** (please attend whichever time suits you best). Tutors will be available to meet with you between **5:00pm and 7:00pm**.

Please confirm your attendance by completing the Microsoft Form below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/Cfeu2zsghP>



Members of the Senior Leadership Team and Pastoral Team will also be available throughout the evening to answer any questions you may have.

We look forward to working with you and supporting you and your child over the years ahead.

Yours sincerely,

**Kira Jupe**  
**Assistant Principal**  
**Y7-8 Raising Standards**

**Principal: Michelle Dyer**

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