



#AVB Proud



From our Principal, Mrs Dyer

As we approach the end of the first term, I would like to thank students, staff, parents and friends of Avonbourne for their continued support. It is wonderful to have opportunities to bring the school community together and I was incredibly proud of our students this half-term as the whole school came together for a ceremony of remembrance on November 10th. Students behaved impeccably and were a credit to themselves and the Academies. There is so much to be #AVB Proud of this term from our numerous trips and visits, showcasing of students' talents and numerous charity events.

Term will end on Friday 15th December at 12.15pm. We wish everyone a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas and New Year holiday and look forward to welcoming all students back to the Academies on Thursday 4th January 2024.



Mrs Dyer

Winter Concert

A highlight of every term is the celebration of talent we are privileged to celebrate across our Performing Arts departments. This year's Winter Concert did not disappoint with performance from our Vocal Group, Advanced Ensemble, Musical Theatre Club, Drama Club, Avonbourne Dance Juniors and solos and smaller ensemble pieces from our KS4 and 5 students.

Although there were technical issues, the students' resilience and perseverance ensured the show went on. Well done to all students involved and we look forward to seeing what you create next term.





Eco-Committee update



Mock COP28 Event

Whilst global leaders are deliberating and debating our environmental future in Dubai during the COP28, four #AVBproud Sixth Formers attended the 2nd annual Mock COP event in London, hosted by the British Council and United Learning. Inequality and disparity were visually represented at the event, based on the wealth or poverty the representing nations possess. Ellie and Licia boasted their bounty, representing America, and they were provided with a tablecloth table and chairs, with a laptop, headphones, leatherbound pads of paper and pens for research, a water pitcher and glasses, and a tasty selection of treats to keep them going. Meanwhile, Maxwell and Koby represented fellow superpower China, but their table simply provided a table and chairs, with a pad of paper with pens, and a water pitcher with paper cups! Some countries, including Tuvalu in the South Pacific Ocean, merely had a chair, a piece of paper and a crayon! Students as world leaders negotiated twice, with the environmental results of their agreements shown on [C-Roads](#) digital graphs of projected human, animal and plant species' population growth and loss – based on students' [proposed changes](#) to their countries' environmental impact. It was an unforgettable experience, and we hope to have another COP event next year closer to Avonbourne with even more of our students attending!

Eco Tip

Buy one less thing this holiday season. Instead, create a gift, write a letter, or if you still feel compelled to consume, buy an experience: try a [gym pass](#), membership (try the [Cherries](#), [Russell-Cotes](#), [Oceanarium](#), [National Trust](#), [English Heritage](#), [RSPB](#) or [ARC](#)) or a [gift card](#)!

Rewilding Avonbourne

Avonbourne Academy's Eco Committee has been busy Rewilding our school grounds. Rewilding means to return a landscape or ecosystem to what it was before human intervention. Our Eco Committee is working with our local BCP Council with the support of charities [Parks Foundation](#), [Woodland Trust](#), [RSPB](#), [BHPS](#) and [ARC](#) to create a green corridor from the mouth of the River Stour through our Avonbourne Academy school grounds and to the north of Bournemouth. This is an important task, as it will allow for Dorset's faunae (native animals), including insects, snakes, birds, hedgehogs, foxes and more to access Dorset's flora (native plants) - rather than resorting to using human-made paved roads, rummaging bins and being barricaded by fences and property lines. So, to achieve this ambition, we have been facing the cold and dark afternoons to get our hands dirty planting native saplings along the academy's perimeter as well as behind the PE office! We look forward to watching our saplings flourish in the Spring and beyond!



BSMA Carol Concert

To start the Christmas season, Vocal Group represented Avonbourne at the Bournemouth Schools' Music Association massed choir performance at The Pavilion on Tuesday 21st November. This year some of our KS4 and 5 students also performed in the pit orchestra, accompanying the 300 students comprised of children from across Bournemouth Secondary Schools.

As part of the performance, secondary schools combine to perform one piece. This year, we performed Mary Did You Know alongside Leaf Studio and Bournemouth Collegiate. We also got a chance to perform our own song, Turn on the Lights, and Jack G in year 9 accompanied from the pit.

It was a lovely way to start the Christmas period and a fantastic chance for our students to combine in a collaborative performance.



Congratulations!

A big congratulations to the following students for completing their bronze awards this half-term! Excellent work! Certificates will be on their way to you soon!

Adam A, Jess M, Matilda M,
Anastasia G, Zara A, Daisy F, Josie G,
Arthur H, Khilan K, Namu R, Harry W,
Zain M, Paige D

Bronze:

We currently have 61 year 9 students signed up to complete their Bronze award!

Thank you to those that attended the Monday afterschool session to learn how to logon and select activities.

We look forward to seeing what amazing activities they choose to take part in to gain their awards.

Silver:

Thank you to all of you that signed up to take part in the silver award. Look out for a message on the daily message board about when and where to meet Miss Pittwood.





HOMework HIGHLIGHTS

At Avonbourne Academies, we believe homework plays a vital role in providing an excellent education for all our students, bringing out the best in them and fostering independent learning. The homework programme we have developed has been carefully structured with a focus on retrieval practice that will support your son/daughter to achieve more fluent recall and mastery of their work. This academic year we are utilising a variety of online platforms, including Sparx Reader, Bedrock Vocabulary, Sparx Maths and SENECA.

Avonbourne students have worked incredibly hard over the Autumn term to submit their homework on time and complete it to a high standard. We are very proud of all their efforts across all year groups and all homework platforms! Homework clubs at break and lunch have been extremely well-attended every day and have supported our students to complete their homework to the best of their ability. Our after-school homework clubs on a Wednesday and Thursday have also been extremely popular and have provided students with the space and support to complete their homework successfully.

Sparx Maths

Our students are privileged to have access to this Maths homework platform. It follows our curriculum, and each individual teacher ensures their classes are provided with the appropriate homework for the week. No one student gets the same homework; Sparx studies each student's individual capabilities and tailors the homework as a result.

In the Maths department we take special care in assigning rewards (REACH Points) for our most engaged students. Our interest is that all students practice their Maths skills as much as possible to ensure their knowledge is embedded in their long-term memory.

Our students at Avonbourne have completed a total of 10,677 hours of personalised learning on Sparx Maths so far this year.

A reminder that all students should complete their Compulsory homework at 100%.

Whole school Leaderboard by XP Points Achieved:

Top Students (by XP Points Achieved)			
Zara A	15,655	Madhav S	25,696
Chidalu E	14,765	Enzo Z	18,832
Atena N	13,954	Samheil J	12,618
Sorina S	12,331	Kingdavid A	12,288
Ayesha J	12,191	Tharun S	12,250
Myesha F	11,519	Nauman D	11,996
Testimony O	11,508	Harrison B	10,867
Olivia A	10,917	Felipe R	10,394
Luisa P	10,638	Joshua T	10,267
Iris F	10,615	Eddie H	10,265

Sparx Reader (Year 7)

Sparx Reader is becoming well-embedded across Year 7 with some amazing progress being made. A huge 1455 hours of reading has taken place to date, with the Girls' Academy leading with 842 hours – well done; and for our Avonbourne Boys' Academy students? There's plenty of time to narrow the lead...

Gold Reader certificates will be awarded in January, giving our Year 7 students plenty of time to gain more Sparx Reader Points. Each recipient of a Gold Reader certificate also receives six REACH points. A reminder that the weekly target of 300 SRP is the set homework expectation, but that more points means more progress. Merry Christmas to all Year 7 students and their families – happy holiday reading to all!

Bedrock (Year 8-9)

Bedrock is also becoming well-embedded in Year 8, after their transition from Sparx; for Year 9 it's been a continuation of a familiar system for English homework.

The Academies are launching a new certificate rewards system, alongside the praise postcards systems for Bedrock completion. Whilst the postcards will still be sent out for 'Hard Work and Determination', to celebrate the hard work taking place independently on Bedrock's learning platform, English teachers will also award Bedrock achievement certificates, which, like the praise postcards, will add one REACH point. If your child comes home with one of these certificates, it means they achieved 30 points on the platform, or spent one hour or more working on their English homework on Bedrock. Well done to all achieving this! Merry Christmas to all Year 8 and 9 students – happy holiday reading to all!

SENECA

Science:

Year 7

Students in Year 7 have been working on Seneca tasks based on the topics they have studied this half term; 'Cell Biology' and 'Energy'.

Top students by study time		Top students by average score	
Lyla B	4.98	Noel J	100%
Jacque F	4.12	Abdul M	100%
Kushal S	4.00	Aaradhy M	99%
Bella W	3.96	Megan W	99%
Melissa T	3.72	Conrad B	99%
Hollie H	3.70	Poppy S	99%

Year 8

Students in Year 8 have been working on Seneca tasks based on the topics they have studied this half term; 'The Periodic table' and 'Digestion'.

Top students by study time		Top students by average score	
Arthur K	6.98	Joshua B	100%
Kelsey J	6.93	Holly H	100%
Ruby F	6.39	Jack W	100%
Anna R	5.50	Jacob A	100%
Terry G	5.46	Siana H	99%
Varsha G	5.30	Ruby J	98%

Year 9 -

Students in Year 9 have been completing Seneca tasks based on their schoolwork on 'reactivity' and 'energetics and rates' as well as being set revision tasks to support their retrieval.

Leader board:

Top students by study time		Top students by average score	
Jasmine D-N	7.56	Zahra A-C	99%
Nadia B	6.91	Sophie B	98%
Aditi S	5.23	Mason S	98%
Emilija K	4.93	Alessia T J	98%
Nauman D	4.87	Aidan D	97%
Ross C	4.70	Samuel I	97%
Toby B	4.27	Elodie L	95%
Maisy H	4.21	Nauman D	93%
Laila S	4.18	Peter T-A	93%
Tobi A	4.17 hours	Maram A	92%

Year 10 students this half-term have completed C2 structure and bonding as well as starting P2 Electricity. Students should expect H/W based on their current topic as well as some revision tasks based on GCSE topics they have already covered. Additional tasks have been completed by students as revision ready for their mid-year assessments.

Top students by study time (hours)		Top students by average score	
Otylia P	10.48	Zain M	100%
Ayesha J	9.83	Ioana A	100%
Samad O	9.30	Jack R	98%
Reuben H	8.20	Ewan B	98%
Jack R	7.61	Vicky D N	97%
Samuel A	7.31	Hollie J	97%
Khadijah G	7.15	Florence G-K	97%
Luca P	6.86	Samad O	95%
Harley S	6.30	Caleb M	95%
Rejoice C	6.11	Christianah O	95%

Year 11

Students have been carrying out homework using homework booklets. The booklets have been based on paper 1 content and focused on exam technique to sharpen their exam skills. In the coming term, Year 11 students will still have access to SENECA but homework will be set in a homework booklet that will focus on exam skills covering paper 1 and paper 2 content to prepare them for their final “race” in June 2024.

Student Leadership

This half term saw us elect our new Year Representatives. These students were voted for by their year group to achieve this role. They will join our Senior Prefects, Deputy Head Prefects and chosen representatives from other student leadership teams to form the Student Council. This senior student’s leadership team champions student voice and meet with senior leaders to discuss feedback and ideas from the student body.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 12
Abdul	Rory	Turki	Alex	Beatrice
Lula	Evie	Chidalu	Manahil	



día de los muertos

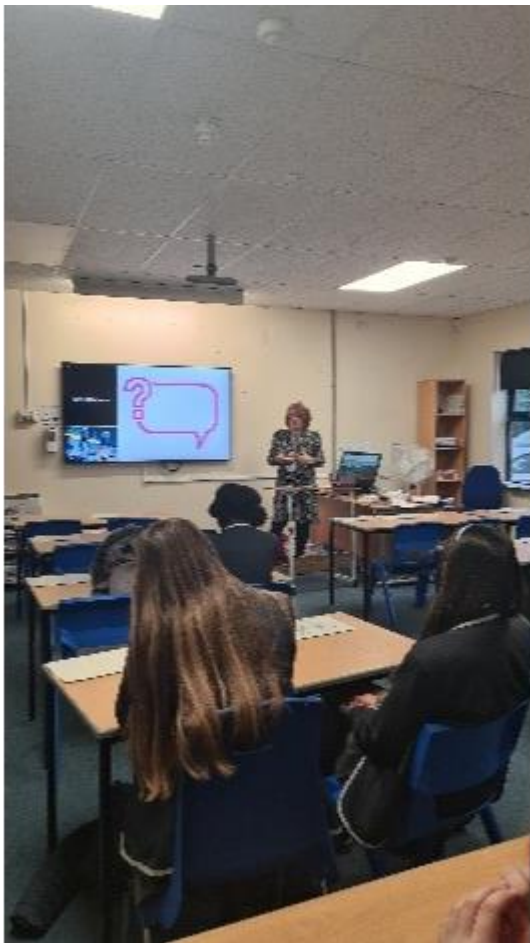
As part of our commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion, on the 1st and 2nd November we celebrated Mexican Day of the Dead festival – Día de los Muertos. It is said that on this holiday, the spirits of the dead return home for one night only to visit their loved ones and they all celebrate together. Día De Los Muertos is a happy time; instead of mourning the death of their family members, Mexicans celebrate their life.

Our Avonbourne students were very lucky to enjoy two days of traditional Mexican cuisine served by our dedicated canteen staff. They also had a unique opportunity to take part in different workshops, e.g. making sugar skulls and designing original skulls balloons, mastering Mexican papercutting tradition and creating their own alebrijes – magical spirit animals. Our special thanks to our fantastic diversity ambassadors Zhanna, Eniola and Jenny and Heads of Houses for leading the workshops! It was indeed an unforgettable enriching experience!





This term Careers at Avonbourne held its alternative providers careers fair for our year 11 students. The school welcomed local colleges, the Navy, apprenticeship providers and representatives from the hospitality and catering industry to showcase their post 16 opportunities. Every student had the opportunity to visit three presentations during the afternoon and in the evening, we welcomed parents and carers to the event.



We are excited to end the term with our year 8 Bournemouth University trip which will allow students to hear all about university life, what it is like to study at university and what courses can be accessed. We will be touring the campus and listening to a variety of student representatives and their journeys to higher education.



Geography

Every Thursday afterschool the Geography department run a club for KS3 titled 'Geography and the wider world'. The club aims to develop students understanding of world geography beyond the classroom and reflect on some of the key human and physical processes affecting planet Earth. Over the last half term, we have been watching 'Earth' where Chris Packham reveals the epic, 4.5-billion-year story of our home, from its dramatic creation to the arrival of human life... and beyond.

Students have had great discussions and debates surrounding the Earth's history including the worst mass extinction we have ever seen. Students have further developed their understanding of human actions and the effects they can have in shaping the natural world. The term has concluded with students creating posters to spread awareness of the impact's humans are having on Earth and the environment. Next term we will be investigating whether we are facing a 'climate catastrophe' in which we will assess the role of humans and the environment in shaping our climate.



An example of one of the geography club posters by a Yr 8 student

Every Wednesday after school the Geography department run a club for KS4 students which aims to support students taking GCSE Geography. If you are in Year 10 or Year 11 and need support with your Geography homework, revision techniques or case study knowledge then come along to BU7.

MATHS

The Autumn term at Avonbourne' Maths department has been busy promoting SPARX, this year our department is working alongside SPARX trialling a new feature that allows students to work on those topics that need to be revisited.

The trial was started with year 7s for Autumn term, and it will be rolled out to other year groups next term. I would like to congratulate some of the following students for taking full advantage of this option and engaging in their independent learning: Oscar from 7GSB, James from 7AB1, Enzo and Conrad from 7AB2, Emmanuel from 7AB3, Arez from 7AB5, Lyra and Anna from 7AG2, Nour from 7AG4, Ervanur from 7AG6, Bella from 7AG5, Batul from 7AG6, Isla and Mia from 7AG3.

There are many more, so well-done year 7s.

Also, earlier this term, six students from Avonbourne Maths' Chess Club had the fantastic opportunity to attend a rapid chess competition at Eton College, a more detailed article was sent during Autumn 1, but my congratulations to students and teachers for promoting such a great sport and making it a success at Avonbourne.



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Wellbeing

The Wellbeing Hub is led by Sam Barrett. Staff in the hub include Alicia Brancaleone, ELSA and Hannah Rossi, Counsellor. Year Teams refer students to the programmes and interventions the Wellbeing Hub run.

The hub uses a Cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) approach alongside talking therapy to support student wellbeing. Due to the expansion, this term we are running even more Wellbeing programmes for our students. These include -

Nurture – up to 1 term of support to help students understand and deal with their feelings and emotions.

Good to be me – 6–8-week course to help students build their confidence and self-esteem.

Overwhelming Emotions – 6–8-week CBT based course to support young people to identify and manage their worries and anxieties in a healthy way.

Choices for my future – 6–8-week course to help students identify and manage choices they are making which are causing them to struggle in school.

Mindfulness – 6-week course to help students develop a greater sense of self-awareness and emotional regulation.

Controlling my Thunder – 6–8-week course to support young people to identify and manage their anger in a healthy way.

Bereavement support – Group talking therapy for students impacted by death.

Low Mood – 6–8-week course for students struggling with low mood.

ELSA – 6 sessions 1-2-1 with a trained ELSA to support a student develop emotional literacy skills.

Mentoring - high intensity 1-2-1 support for students struggling with the school structure and rules.

Counselling – 1-2-1 talking therapy with a qualified counsellor for students.

We also have a school Mental Health support Team. **MHSTs** are working with the school's Wellbeing Team to tackle the challenges children and young people experience, by helping them to feel more resilient, arming them with techniques to look after themselves and strategies to help them cope better with life's ups and downs. This includes support for mild-moderate anxiety or worries, exam stress and friendship issues through 6-8 sessions of low intensity Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (LI-CBT), counselling sessions, themed group work or information workshops. The MHST work closely with Dorset Children's and Adolescents' Mental Health Support team (CAMHS) to ensure young people have access to the right level of support.

Outside Agency Support

If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing, there are other outside agencies that can also offer support. Please look at the following agencies websites for more information and to apply.

Family Counselling Trust: FCT Dorset delivers low-cost counselling services (from £5 a session) for children & young people aged 4-18. Parents and young people can refer on their website.

Elevate Foundation: Elevate are offering free counselling sessions for young people through Relate Counselling. They are also offering parent Mental Health first aid courses and Parent Attachment courses. Examples of group sessions they offer currently are Surf Therapy, Equine Therapy, Street Art, Bushcraft, Paddleboarding, Kayaking, Baking, Empowering Young Minds Course, and Stress to Calm Workshop, Butterfly Mind. They run these activities (for children and young people in the BCP area) in the evenings, at weekends and during school holidays and are heavily subsidised (Each activity will only cost between £5-£10).

Active Monitoring Young Minds: Active Monitoring gives people aged 11-18, through a programme of 1-2-1 guided self-help sessions, the opportunity to explore their feelings and emotions with a friendly trained practitioner. Referrals can be made via GPs and healthcare professionals, or you can self-refer (from ages 14+).



DANCE

A fantastic autumn term for Dance at Avonbourne! What with curriculum content exploring a vast array of themes; from music videos to musicals, street dance to Bollywood, contemporary dance to Brazilian Capoeira. We have danced our socks off and had lots of fun in the process!

A major highlight of the term was our annual dance trip to London last week. Staff members took ninety-six dance students from Years 9, 10 and 11 to London's Covent Garden where we took part in a dance workshop led by West End leading lady, Laura Emmitt at Pineapple Dance Studios. We then watched the matinee performance of the iconic musical *Wicked* at Victoria Apollo Theatre and even managed to squeeze in a spot of Christmas shopping too. It is fair to say a brilliant day was had by all.

In other news, year 7 and 8 boys have enjoyed the return of dance as part of their PE curriculum and PE teachers have delivered a series of dance lessons inspired by sport. This of course included the timely learning of the New Zealand All Black's Haka during the Rugby World Cup. Student leadership opportunities have been at the forefront of Dance this half term, Year 11 students Lilly and Emily have expertly run, with the help of Mrs Dadson, the Key Stage 3 dance club Avonbourne Juniors. In addition, A Level Dance students, Amber and Freya, have taken on the role of resident choreographers for the Avonbourne Dance Company. Lilly and Emily choreographed an outstanding piece of contemporary dance for Avonbourne Juniors, and Amber and Freya displayed their very impressive work for the company as part of the Winter Concert last week.

It has been a pleasure to watch our students progressing, developing, and most importantly enjoying their experience of dance at Avonbourne this half term and we cannot wait for what the Spring term has to offer.





If you have a sporting story for the next newsletter, please email Mr Goldsmith (ross.goldsmith@avonbourneacademy.org.uk)

OLIVIA



Olivia competed at the British Gymnastics English Jim Moss Bronze Championships in Leicester for artistic gymnastics.

Competing against 37 of her level and age range across the country, Olivia scored 11.4 on Beam coming first and taking Gold.

She had a very good competition, also coming 5th on vault and placing 4th overall.

Well-done Olivia!

In November, following an 8-week trial, Noah was asked to sign for Southampton FC and was given a 2 year contract.

We are super proud of your efforts Noah and look forward to seeing and hearing about your progress and achievements.

What a fantastic term and start to the 2023/24 academic year.

Within PE lessons students have been following the Fit to Lead, Perform and Life strands and have already learnt so much through Handball, Basketball, Health Related Fitness, Badminton and Netball. We were so excited to introduce yr7 and 8 boys to Dance, studying the themes of Unison, Actions and Dynamics, students and staff had so much fun delivering this unit.

As we move into the Spring term, students will develop their performance and knowledge through Rugby, Volleyball, Football, Gymnastics, Table Tennis and O.A.A. Please ensure students are prepared for these colder months with suitable PE uniform (guidance on the Academy website). Students have already expressed their interest in starting on these new activities.

We look forward to welcoming students back in January!



This term students have been able to showcase their excellent skills in both clubs and fixtures. A special mention to both Rugby and Football. We have had a very successful start to the year with all our teams securing some great results in these sports. A lot of credit must go to Mr Taylor and Mr Moysey for all the hard work they have put into the rugby this year and a lot of the success, as a result of their well-planned training session. Furthermore, congratulations to all the boys who have taken part in the numerous rugby matches that have taken place Year 7 – Year 11.

Some of the standout results are:

Year 7's going undefeated at the Under 12's area tournament held at Swanage and Wareham rugby club,

Year 10/11's beating St Peters in a toughly fought friendly Rugby fixture.

The boy's football has also had a very good start to the year with friendlies happening as we build up to the start of the Town Cup competition next term.

Both Mr Brown and Mr Murphy will be hoping for a very successful cup run in the next year as there has been great numbers at training each week.

Standout results for football:

Year 7 vs Glenmoor and Winton – an incredibly close game, with end-to-end football saw Avonbourne secure one of their first wins over the local school in a friendly but they look to replicate the result in the upcoming town cup.

Following the trend from the last academic year, our most popular club is Racket Club. Being open to all year groups, Racket Club has a real community feel about it with students from a wide age-range enjoying the excitement that competition can bring. Our busiest session saw 103 students attending the club, which the PE department were extremely pleased with, considering this is on a Friday afternoon after a busy week at school. The football clubs have also been extremely popular, with large numbers attending from KS3 boys and girls. We have been massively impressed in PE with the number of students regularly attending after-school clubs, with 57% of the boys in KS3 attending at least one club, and 27% of girls having attended.



After school, students are able to showcase their knowledge and skills learnt in lessons. This year, girls have taken part in the Town Football Cup competition and other friendly fixtures. Our U14s had a successful start with a win against The Grange. The U16s after playing some great football just lost to BCS. We're looking forward to next term and hoping for dryer weather to get even more fixtures played. With all years competing, it's exciting to see where the competition will lead them. Our netball teams have been working super hard all term looking forward to their fixtures in the Spring term.

Next term, in PE students will visit Volleyball, Gymnastics, Rugby and Football. Within Volleyball fit to lead strand, students will now have the opportunity to complete a leadership qualification within their lessons. We're really excited to see where the next term will take us.

Zac (yr 10)

Zac is currently training with the British Cycling Foundation Squad and mastering the BMX Supercross track in Manchester (this is the Olympic standard of track with an eight metre tall start hill where riders hit over 60kmh before sending the first jump!) ahead of a busy 2024 season including stepping up to European racing and his third time representing Team GB at the BMX World Championships, which are in North Carolina, USA in May.

Good luck Zac from everyone at Avonbourne!



Lily in Year 11 competed in the English gymnastics' championships against the best gymnasts in the country. At the championships she placed 3rd on bars, 4th on floor and 7th overall. This is a fantastic result against so many competitors. Lily participates in high level competitions on a regular basis but is very modest about her achievements. We would like to congratulate Lily and wish her the best of luck in her future competitions.



Year 11 Trip to Berlin

The History department took 73 year 11 students to Berlin during October half term. The students had a great week and represented themselves and Avonbourne superbly. Historic sites of study linked directly to two of the GCSE topics: Weimar and Nazi Germany and The Cold War. Students greatly appreciated seeing the sites of places they had learnt about in the classroom, including the Reichstag, the Olympic Stadium and remains of the Berlin Wall. The visit to the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp and the House of Wannsee are always moving moments of the trip as students come to terms with the scale of the Holocaust and horrors of the Nazi regime. The varied trip allowed for moments of relaxation, including a visit to the Berlin Zoo and the Mall of Berlin. All the students had a great time and the Class of 2027 should look out for letters about the Berlin Trip 2024 coming soon in January.



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Safeguarding & Online Safety

Advice for parents and carers

Meet the team

Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Natasha England
Oliver Maund

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Jacob McKay – Education Social Worker
Coralie Crisell

Main email address for the safeguarding team:

safeguarding@avonbourneacademy.org.uk

Designated Teacher for Looked After Children:

Natasha England
natasha.England@avonbourneacademy.org.uk

Online Safety

SSCT have produced two videos for parents about online safety. These may be used by schools to engage with parents free of charge.

The first video looks at the risks of **Livestreaming** and how parents and carers can protect their children.

<https://youtu.be/wMT77yvO8Lo?si=EJU2Snq24fXSYwYR>

The second video looks at issues with **Online Video Viewing and Sharing** and gives tips on how to keep children safer.

<https://youtu.be/txy95Js25WI?si=svNwPlvSSFmjh54R>

Get to know Age Ratings

Age ratings are in place to help protect your child, so we thought we'd provide you with a little reminder of how important it is to check the age ratings of what your child is accessing online. Here are the age ratings of some of the more popular apps that young people are accessing. **Did you know that WhatsApp has an age rating of 16?**



Whether your child is viewing films, accessing apps, playing games online, using social media or downloading other apps – check the age rating first to see if your child is old enough. In addition, the likes of PEGI include further content descriptors, which will give you an indication of the type of content that your child might view e.g. violence if accessing the app/game etc.

It is important to note that whilst age ratings do allow you to see if something may be appropriate for your child, it is also important to review the content yourself. This will allow you to make an informed decision as to whether it is suitable for your child to access and if it would be beneficial to apply further parental controls.

Further information

Parent Zone have published this article about why age ratings matter:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/age-ratings>



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Artificial Intelligence (AI)

It can be difficult to keep up to date with new technologies and to know if there are any related risks that we need to be aware of when using new technologies. AI is being talked about a lot, so it is worthwhile learning more about it now to help support/answer questions if our children show an interest.

Twinkl provide a brilliant overview of AI here:

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/blog/parents-guide-top-tips-for-navigating-generative-ai-safely-with-kids>

Toxicity in game play

Safe In Our World and Ubisoft (creators of games such as Assassins Creed) have co-developed the 'Good Game Playbook'. The playbook will be sent to players reporting disruptive behaviour as well as the individual reported. This is to support the person affected as well as to try and educate the person reported about the harm their behaviour might have on others. You can read the handbook here:

<https://safeinourworld.org/news/ubisoft-safe-in-our-world-partner-to-combat-in-game-toxicity/>

Fake Profiles and Cyberbullying

Setting up a profile impersonating somebody else with the intention of being unkind to others/to cause embarrassment to the individual is a form of cyberbullying.

You can read more about cyberbullying here:

- <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/types-bullying/bullying-cyberbullying/>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/>

Additionally, Report Harmful Content have listed how you can report impersonation accounts on the different social media networks here:

<https://reportharmfulcontent.com/advice/impersonation>

What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. You must be 13+ to sign up. Users can send messages (snaps) to others that can only be seen for a set time e.g. 10 seconds and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.

New safeguarding features

Snapchat have recently announced their newest features to help protect 13-17-year-olds. The first feature is in-app warnings so a pop-up warning will now be displayed if someone tries to add them as a friend that they don't have mutual contacts with, or the person isn't in their contacts.

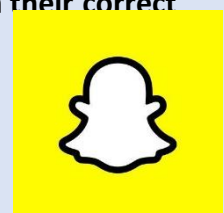
The second feature is 'stronger friending protections.' Currently 13-17-year-olds must have several mutual friends in common for that user to show up in search results or as a friend suggestion, but this number has been increased. **These two features are available to users aged 13-17-year-olds; this is one of the reasons why it is always important for your child to sign up with their correct date of birth, so they can benefit from any such features.**

<https://values.snap.com/en-GB/news/new-safeguards-for-snapchatters-2023>

Safety tips

Please make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up on Snapchat and your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary:

<https://support.snapchat.com/en-GB/article/privacy-settings2>



What Schools Need to Know about THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

The Online Safety Act was passed into UK law in October 2023, with the aim of establishing major new layers of protection for children when they're online. The government has pledged "a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm" – and the act certainly includes more powerful legislation which should help to safeguard young people in the digital world. Our guide summarises the key points for schools –

WHAT THE ACT WILL DO

HARMFUL CONTENT

Social media sites must rapidly remove illegal and/or harmful content such as bullying or harassing comments; pornography; and content that supports extremist activity or encourages or depicts violence, suicide, self-harm or eating disorders. If they fail to do so, they can be fined up to 10% of their global revenue while their executives may even face jail time.

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Content featuring cruelty to animals is now prohibited, even if it originates from abroad (where the law may be different). Again, it is the platform's responsibility to remove this.

MORE TRANSPARENCY

Sites must be transparent about the hazards that any children using them could encounter – by publishing risk assessments for their platforms, for instance.

HOSTING MISLEADING ADVERTS

Scams and fraudulent adverts must be blocked or removed, or the hosting companies are liable to be fined.

NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING

It's now easier to convict online abusers or people who share intimate images without consent, while legislation on the criminality of deepfakes has been clarified. The new laws also relate to any individuals who even threaten to share such images. This should help to protect women and girls in particular online.

REPORTING AND FILTERING

Sites should have easy reporting mechanisms for children (or their parents and carers) to flag up problems quickly. They must also provide options to filter out unwanted content.

AGE-RESTRICTED MATERIAL

Sites must prevent children from accessing age-inappropriate material. This includes enforcing age limits and implementing robust age verification.

What this means for you

The act has some specific implications for schools: it's essential that leaders understand the new legislation's scope and limitations. The act is certainly a positive step, but as artificial intelligence and other advances in tech continue to produce new challenges, schools will still need to remain extremely vigilant.

KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Look out for the Code of Conduct that Ofcom is creating in response to the Online Safety Act. Note that the new legislation doesn't mean an instant change: many of its elements will only come into force at the end of 2023. An Ofcom consultation on 'protecting people from illegal harms online' will be running until February 2024.

REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS

Remain mindful of your organisation's own online activities: the legal duty for schools to maintain appropriate software monitoring and filtering, for example, will not change.

WATCH FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There are some issues on which the legislation remains less clear for now: whether it's possible for Ofcom to scan encrypted private messages (such as on WhatsApp) has yet to be resolved, for instance – making this an area where, for the moment, young people have less legal protection.

UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN

Staff should learn how to raise concerns with tech companies whose platforms contain anything upsetting or unpleasant. Students also need to be made aware of the newly strengthened laws relating to cyber-bullying, sexting or posting inappropriate content. Young people do make mistakes online – so the clearer their understanding of the possible consequences, the better.

ENGAGE WITH PARENTS

Schools should also explain to parents and carers the new possibilities that the Online Safety Act affords them in terms of protecting their children. Many parents may have previously felt that there was little they could do about changing online platforms' content; they now have a far greater level of support when complaining about a company or the behaviour of an individual.

Meet Our Expert

Luke Harrison is Senior Deputy Headteacher and Director of Safeguarding for the St Benedict's family of schools. He is a regular speaker at conferences and writes in the TES (among other journals) on school leadership, pastoral care and safeguarding. In 2022, he was named Pastoral Leader of the Year at the National Awards for Pastoral Care in Education.



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HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE

Access to Food Map - community fridges, food banks, pantries, social supermarkets.

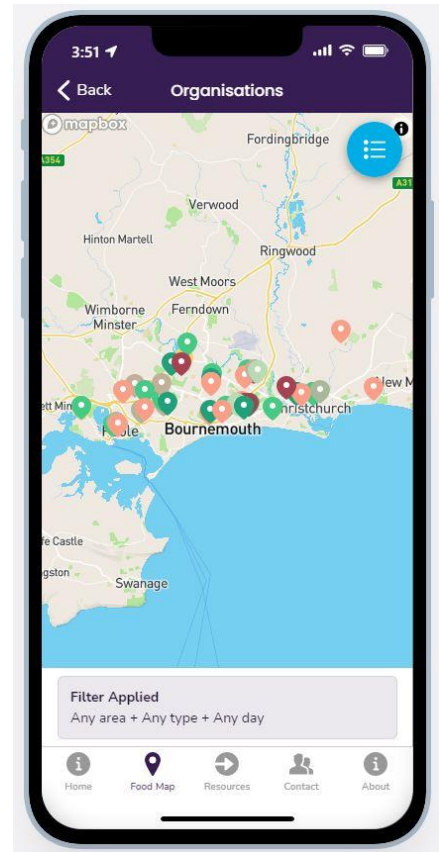
The Access to Food map (<https://bcpacestofoodmap.v88.co.uk/dl/da19fa>) is made with information gathered and shared through the partnership.

You need to have a voucher to receive a food parcel. Please do not go directly to a food bank without one. If you have used a food bank before, use your normal route to get the voucher if it is still available.

You can also request food bank vouchers from one of the following:

- Citizens Advice: select Food Voucher as the subject of your enquiry on their online form or call 03444 111 444
- children's centres in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole
- your child's school, who can also support with top-up foodbank vouchers during school holidays (phone reception for more information)
- BCP Council Crisis Team: call 01202 096 622 or email the Adult Social Care triage team with your name, address, contact number and date of birth.

<https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/Communities/Cost-of-living-help/Access-to-food-partnership/Access-to-Food-Map-community-fridges-food-banks-pantries-social-supermarkets.aspx>



Domestic Abuse

BCHA provide a number of services throughout Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset, helping people to find the courage they need to leave an abusive situation.

If you're living in a violent or abusive relationship and you need to access advice, information, support or accommodation, call one of their 24-hour helplines:

Bournemouth and Dorset: 01202 547755
Poole: 01202 710777

Alternatively, you can ring the National Domestic Violence Helpline run by Women's Aid - 0808 2000 247.
<https://www.bcha.org.uk/our-services/supported-housing/domestic-abuse/finding-support/>

<https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/News/News-Features/COVID-19/Help-advice-and-support/Domestic-abuse-support-help-is-available.aspx>

Refuge's National Domestic Abuse Helpline:
0808 2000 247
<https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/>

Self-harm

Self-harm is behaviour that is done deliberately to harm oneself. Self-harm is often used as a way of managing difficult emotions. Varying from one young person to another, it can include: self-cutting, taking an overdose, hitting or bruising, intentionally taking too little or too much medication or burning.

At least 10% of adolescents report having self-harmed in some way.

Charlie Waller has a guide for parents developed from conversations with parents and carers of young people.

<https://www.charliewaller.org/mental-health-resources/managing-difficult-feelings/coping-with-self-harm>



Drugs and alcohol

Helpful advice for parents and carers.

<https://www.talktofrank.com/get-help/concerned-about-a-child>

How to talk to your child about alcohol

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/talking-drugs-alcohol/underage-drinking/>

FRANK

0800 77 66 00 talktofrank.com
Friendly, confidential drugs advice

CEOP Child Exploitation

Are you worried about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating with a young person online?

Make a report to one of CEOP's Child Protection Advisors: <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Fearless

Fearless is the dedicated youth service of the independent charity Crimestoppers. They provide parents/carers with the opportunity to give information about crime 100% anonymously.

You can give information to them using the online form or by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

<https://www.instagram.com/fearlessuk/>
<https://www.tiktok.com/@fearless.org?lang=en>

The website also gives information on knife crime and County Lines.

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless/more-info/crime-types-explained/knife-crime>
<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless/more-info/crime-types-explained/county-lines>



Firearms and Knife Education



Officers from Dorset police attended Avonbourne Academy this term and delivered a presentation to year 10 students to raise awareness around weapons. The presentation covered many aspects including parts of the law, the consequences of carrying or using such weapons and the police response to these incidents. An important part of this presentation was to highlight changes in legislation, which now makes possession of certain weapons, some of which shown below, **illegal to have in private**.

Further information and a full list of the items can be found here; Offensive Weapons Act (nbcc.police.uk).

Please visit the link and look at the items so you know what can no longer be owned. It might have been something that was simply bought as a holiday souvenir or kept as a decorative item. Previously people have thought they could have most weapons within their own homes, only committing offences when taken outside, this is no longer the case.

Gangs & County Lines

Would you like to find out more about gangs and county lines and how children can be exploited? LGfL have put together a number of short videos and a leaflet including more information for you/ You can find the information here:

<https://parentsafe.lgfl.net/gangs-county-lines>

The National Crime Agency also provide information including defining what a county line is and what to do if you have concerns:

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/drug-trafficking/county-lines>

HOUSE UPDATES



This term has been a busy one for the house system, with plenty of house events for our students to participate in.

We started off with a Children in Need Bakesale, where the hall was buzzing with excitement. While we were lacking a Tiramisu this time, the students really pulled through as a team to bring in lots of cakes and raising plenty of money for a fantastic cause! Such was the excitement of everyone involved, we managed to sell every single cake, which was an amazing effort by all!

Later that same day, we had a handball tournament, which had a great turnout! While the Lulworth boys wearing purple denied it, I know they were secretly happy playing in Durdle colours. The atmosphere in the hall was electric, with students cheering each other on, with some fantastic handball on display as well. It was great to see so many students across all of the houses participating and having a great time.

November saw the fundraising for Movember begin, as the houses all joined together to raise money and awareness to men's mental health. Mr Brown had organised three activities that the students could get involved with; Pin the Mo, Rowing challenge and a Penalty shootout! A massive thank you has to be given to Mr Brown for organising these great events, which saw the fantastic Avonbourne community spirit on full display.

All of these events could not have been possible without the great work of our new House Ambassadors, who had their first meeting with their heads of houses this term, and will be aiding us in running future events.

All Houses are now above 50000 Reach points each for the year, with Chesil leading by only 100 Reach points over Brownsea! It really could not be closer going into the new year!

Mr Stokes-Carter on behalf of the House Heads



FRIENDS OF AVONBOURNE ACADEMIES (FOAA)

PARENTS/CARERS WE NEED YOU!!

Projects we have funded **22/23**

Gardening Equipment

Equipment & plants to support the Mindful garden project

PROMS

A donation was given to support the Year 11 & Year 13 proms

UNO cards

Packs of UNO cards to enable House competitions

PE equipment

Spare PE kits and a selection of rackets provided to enable full participation in clubs and lessons

Art Course

Specialist art course to encourage school engagement and attendance

Benches

Outdoor seating provided for the playground.

All pupils are invited to submit a logo design for the FOAA. The chosen design will win a £25 Amazon voucher.



DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10TH January 2024

6:30PM SCHOOL LIBRARY

ALL WELCOME

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT US?

We are always on the lookout for helpers at events or for more parents to join our committee. If you don't have the time to help you can still support us in other ways:

1. Make a donation – regular or one-off donations can be made via this link www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20477530
2. Buy lottery tickets via this link [Support Friends of Avonbourne Academies when you play Your School Lottery - Your School Lottery](#)
3. Use easyfundraising for all your online shopping. Sign up via <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/avonbourneacademies>
4. Donate a raffle prize

FRIENDS OF AVONBOURNE ACADEMIES (FOAA)

PARENTS/CARERS WE NEED YOU!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

2023/2024

14th Dec

Year 8 & 9 Disco

🕒 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Tickets will be on sale in school in Dec £3

10th Jan

FOAA Meeting

🕒 6:30 PM - 7:30PM

Meeting in school library - all are welcome

17th Jan

Family Quiz & Raffle

🕒 7:00 PM - 9:00 pm

House competition, family teams welcome. Raffle tickets and snacks available at the event

MARCH TBC

Year 7 Disco

🕒 7:00 PM - 8:45 PM

Tickets will be on sale in school in March

Made with PosterMyWall.com



Dates TBC

- Thorpe Park discounted tickets

(Summer term trip for parents to take children to Thorpe Park at a discounted rate)
- Clothes donations

(Unwanted clothes donations for jumble sale/clothes recycling event)

**If you have any fundraising ideas,
would like to attend a meeting or
volunteer at an event, please
contact**

pta@avonbourneacademies.org.uk

Reach Rewards Update

As we approach the end of the longest term of the academic year, we have much to look back on and celebrate. Congratulations to the tutor groups below, which achieved the highest total of REACH points in November within their respective year groups. These students were rewarded with a celebratory pizza lunch last week.

Class of 2030 Winners = 7GSG

Class of 2029 Winners = 8GSG

Class of 2028 Winners = 9PB

Class of 2027 Winners = 10D1

Class of 2026 Winners = 11T3



Our House Competition could not be closer as we approach Christmas, and students will have lots more opportunities in the new year to contribute to their House's REACH point totals by modelling our Academies' Values both in and out of lessons. Last year's winners, Chesil, have a narrow lead heading into the Christmas Holidays.

House	Total Points
Chesil	60283
Brownsea	60118
Purbeck	58961
Lulworth	57535
Durdle	52889



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AVB ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to local hero and former student Chris Billam-Smith on successfully defending his WBO World Cruiserweight Title against former European Champion Mateusz Masternak on Sunday 10th December at the BIC. Chris has always kept in touch with the Academies and his former teachers, and we look forward to welcoming him back in the New Year, when I am sure he will share his experiences within the world of elite sport to inspire and encourage our students to be the best possible version of themselves. For now, we all wish him and his family a Merry Christmas and hope that he enjoys a well-deserved break over the festive period.



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 bar code below to get booked on in the Spring Term.

Avonbourne Boys' and Girls'
Academy Open Mornings - Spring
Term 2024



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

Mrs Thomson – Head of Year 7 (Class of 2030)

With a lot of nervous faces at the start of the term, we end the term with lots of smiley ones and plenty to celebrate as year 7 complete their first half term in their new streams. The year group has settled brilliantly and embraced new friendship groups and new teachers with open arms. It has been wonderful to hear such positive feedback from teachers about how lovely and hard working their year 7 classes are. It is also wonderful to see how many REACH points students are getting outside of the classroom, with some students needing their card to be replaced multiple times in the two-week cycle.

As always, interhouse events continue to run with this term holding a basketball shoot out, cake sale and park run, to name a few. Well done and thank you to all students who attended these events and put themselves forward to raise money and REACH points for their house. Another huge well done to all students who have represented the Academies at football or rugby, the PE staff have been incredibly proud of how our year 7s conduct themselves against other schools. I would also like to mention that year 7 attendance at clubs has been impressive. I hope to see this continue into the new year. Perhaps as a new year resolution, I could challenge year 7 students to attend a new extra-curricular club!

I hope you all have a lovely restful Christmas holiday and I look forward to the next term of even more successes and hard work. Thank you to all those students who donated food items for our Christmas Hamper appeal, your kindness is very much appreciated and will make a difference this Christmas. Can't wait to see you all in 2024 with all your new year's resolutions.....

Mrs Thomson and the Year 7 team

Mr Taylor – Head of Year 8 (Class of 2029)

With the countdown to Christmas well and truly begun, it is important to reflect on the term that seemed to go on forever with the bad weather and early nights. There have been so many amazing accomplishments from the students in year 8 this term and lots to look forward to after Christmas.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate all the students that have taken part in the number of sporting fixtures for the rugby, netball and football teams over this term. With challenging conditions your commitment to games and training has been fantastic with new faces coming a long all the time and trying something new. It is amazing to see so many students in year 8 take full advantage of the vast array of extra-curricular clubs.

Last week saw the winter concert take place with a large number of performers coming from year 8, from acting, musical performances and dancing. The talent and bravery to perform in front of all those people really is amazing to see and something to be admired. Notable mentions go to Solly for his fantastic piano solo and Enzo for his amazing theatrical performance.

It is fantastic for see that year 8 are buying into the community feel here at Avonbourne with their involvement in house events. This term saw the year group smash a rowing target of 100,000m rowed, over £100 raised for charity through our Movember events, penalty shootout and bake sale. The generosity from families at home to give to those that are less fortunate with our food bank donations is amazing to see too.

We are ending the term with a whole year trip to Bournemouth University and a Christmas Disco which will be a wonderful way to end the week.

With a well-deserved break just around the corner it is important to remember that year 8 Rank Order Assessments will take place when they return. So, it is important that pupils are using their time off to refresh their memory of the topics covered this term, all the content they will need are within their knowledge organisers which can be found on the school website. It is also important to remember that ROAs are a chance for students to show off all the hard work that they have been putting in day in day out since September.

Have a fantastic Christmas, from the year 8 team

Miss Jupe – Head of Year 9 (Class of 2028)

The year 9 team continues to be extremely proud and honoured to have such a wonderful year group who takes pride in their attendance, behaviour, and attitude to learning. Well done to Arna and Vynce for achieving the most REACH points since September. A further congratulations to 9AG1 for their continual effort in receiving the most REACH points as a class.

Furthermore, it has been lovely to see, that our students have had the opportunity to participate in sporting fixtures, in addition to the extra-curricular provision in all subject areas they have continued to attend frequently. Well done to everyone who has joined clubs and/or represented the academies.

Finally, a reminder that next half term begins with the rank order assessment from January for 2 weeks. As mentioned in the ROA information launch, revision resources can be found in the year 9 TEAM. Wishing everyone a wonderful and restful Christmas and, a great New Year!

Mr Ryan – Head of Year 10 (Class of 2027)

This half term has been incredibly busy for the Year 10 cohort. We started the half term with a presentation from Dorset Police about knife crime as part of Operation Sceptre, a national scheme to tackle knife crime. It came unfortunately after the death of a teen in Leeds. The year group were reminded of the parameters of the law regarding weapons in the community. Unfortunately, these topics are covered as part of our mission to ensure students develop as upstanding citizens of the wider community.

Over the course of the half term, as we moved through cold, dark and wet weather, students were busy preparing for their mid-year assessments. I have once again, been thoroughly impressed and proud of the efforts of the Year Group in their maturity and collective 'smoothness' when it came to the procedures of the exams. These processes will hopefully be second nature when it comes to the real public exams at the end of their GCSE journey.



Finally, I was fortunately enough to attend the Winter Concert that was held last Thursday evening. Amongst the trips, sporting fixtures, homework, clubs and outside commitments, it was impressive to see the talent on show in the evening.

Congratulations to Mia, Vicky, Grace, Natanya, Elizabeht, Nicole, Ella, Vanessa, Hazel, Bella, Hettie, Yvonne, Mai, Saffi, Paige, Daniella, Leona, Skye and Caleb for their efforts and commitment to lead up and their performances on the night. It was fantastic to see the students and the parents enjoy the talents of the night.



As the calendar year comes to an end, we can reflect on what has occurred over the past 12 months and what we have learned. As a year group we have said goodbye to Key Stage 3 and moved into the beginning of the GCSE journey. We have seen the introduction of mixed classes and option subjects. It is also a time to look forward to our goals and what lies ahead. I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable term break and look forward to seeing you back in January.

Mr Nash – Head of Year 11 (Class of 2026)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support over the first term of year 11. Your children have been amazing to work with, they have shown great determination and resilience across the term, especially during the mock exam period. We have never seen a canteen so busy at 07:30am!

Please note that if you used our taxi service for the mock period, we would assume you would like to use it again unless we hear otherwise. I hope you all have an amazing Christmas and New Year; the students certainly deserve it. Take care everyone and I shall see you in 2024! Mr Nash, Mr Parker and Miss Underdown.



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Wishing all our Avonbourne community a wonderful winter break.

We look forward to seeing all year groups on Thursday 4th January 2024!



www.avonbourneacademy.org.uk

Call 01202 398 451 or email office@avonbourneacademy.org.uk

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