



AVANTI HOUSE

Spring Term Bulletin

Principal's Welcome

I would like to thank the parents, carers, students and staff for welcoming me and supporting me in my first term at Avanti House Secondary. The spring term bulletin gives me the opportunity to outline the outstanding developments that the school has made academically and pastorally during this term.



I have had the pleasure of meeting the majority of parents/carers through a variety of formal and informal events. I have been able to outline my passion to develop the school, its ethos and values. As parents and staff of Avanti House Secondary, we all share the common goal of excellence for the students, in particular the drive for outstanding teaching and learning as the core and main focus of the school.

A huge element of this term has been the preparation of the year 11 students in gaining outstanding results in our first GCSE cohort. They have received an array of support from the teaching and support staff, with intervention classes and excellent teaching and a very well attended Easter school for a range of subjects. The dedication of the staff and pupils bodes well for the exams in the summer term.

The students across the whole school continue to have amazing enrichment opportunities across Europe in both a hugely successful ski trip and classic civilisation trip to Rome. The exciting developments regarding the participation of the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme demonstrates our student's commitments and developing themselves. Over 200 students, making us one of the largest DoE schools in London, are about to commence their bronze award and will be able to contribute a great deal to the school and local community.

I have been amazed by the huge amount of participants in school sports by our students this term, with a great deal of success for a variety of teams. The students experience a great deal more than simply participating as they build their confidence and develop team building skills.

The new build at Whitchurch continues on schedule and many of you have accessed the link that I have sent to you. This is hugely exciting for all and I will keep you fully informed at all stages.

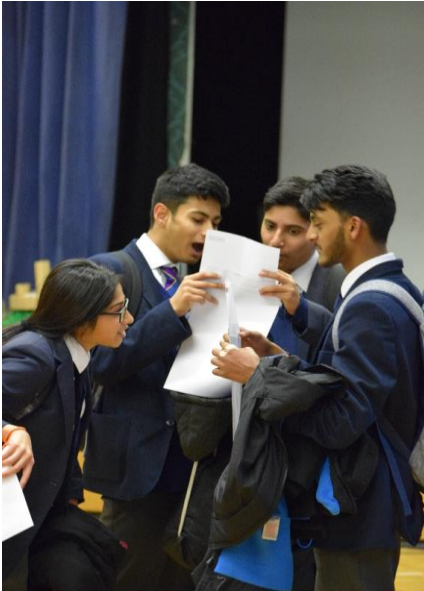
S. Arnell



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Exams Information

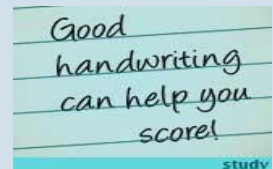
Avanti House held its first set of mock exams in December. I am pleased to state that it went very well. The students all behaved impeccably and respected the examination conditions. It was a pleasure to see them all in the examination hall feeling as relaxed as possible given the setting. I believe that this is as a result of all previous internal exam practice and their hard work. Their faces during the trial results day were fascinating to observe and I have included a few photos of students opening their results envelopes. I look forward to celebrating their success in August and I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of them the best of luck. A Gupta, Examination Officer



Any queries regarding GCSE examination, please contact Mrs Gupta (Examinations Officer) via email anuja.gupta@avanti.org.uk or call 020 8249 6830.

Exams – Smash It 😊

1. Set Study Goals
2. Make a Study Plan
3. Take Regular Study Breaks
4. Embrace New Technologies
5. Test Yourself
6. Find a Healthy Balance
7. Be Positive
8. Collaborate with Study Partner
9. Turn lessons into stories
10. Establish a Study Routine



Important DATE!

Summer 2017 GCSE

written examinations will begin on Monday 11th May and continue up to and including Monday 26th June 2017.

Study leave and its arrangement will be finalised and communicated in the week beginning 24th April 2017.

A comment from one of the year 11 students, regarding mock exam 2016-17:

“From November to December, our Mock Exams took place, organised by Ms Gupta. The atmosphere in the exam hall was very similar to that of a real exam from individual desk set apart to the hour of complete silence. The invigilators worked very hard to make it feel as real as possible in my opinion. They were kind yet stern which is ideal to keep all student under control. Every different exam was structured the same so towards the end of the week, it became clockwork to us. I feel it really prepared us for what is yet to come in May and will probably calm some of our nerves as we know how it will go. The experience was scary but helpful and makes me feel a whole lot better about the summer exams”. Karishma Banga 11W



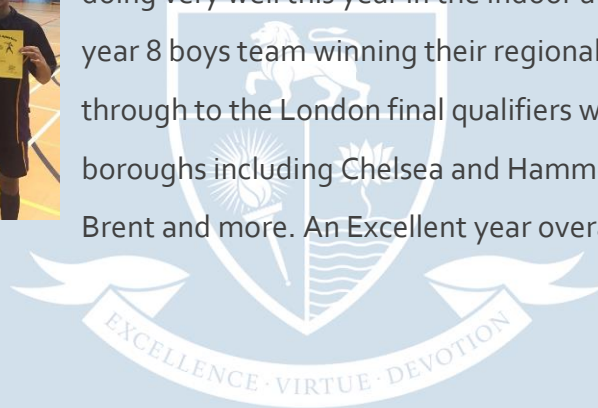
Avanti Sports

Year 7 Football team -The year 7 football team have attended a number of tournaments across the year, with strong performances being shown throughout. Due to the popularity and attendance at football club, the P.E department have managed to secure positions for an A and B side in all competitions. The promising start to the school has seen a number of good wins with Mr Hannon being impressed with the level of some students including Rishi Ruda and Kaylen Mistry Looking to the future with a talented group of students 11 a side fixture next year look promising. Next year there will be opportunity to develop skills further and create a team that can compete highly against local competition.



Indoor Athletics Both the girls and boy's teams in year 7 and 8 have doing very well this year in the indoor athletics tournaments. With the year 8 boys team winning their regional tournaments and going through to the London final qualifiers where they came 5th out of 8 with boroughs including Chelsea and Hammersmith, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Brent and more. An Excellent year overall with great prospect for next

indoor season.



Year 8 Boys Football Team - The year 8 football team have played 5 games, and have developed over the course of the season. Through effect training and match opportunity the team has progressed into a tactical side who understand their positions and effective teamwork to win. The top scorer and star player of the season goes to Emick Sharma for his outstanding solo efforts



to score 5 goals in 5 games as well as his distribution of the ball to set up and control matches when the opposition is attacking. Stand out performances also come from Gaurang Sircar and Yasser Idriss who have been essential players for the development of the squad; leading on and off the pitch to establish a strong team cohesion as well as motivating outstanding effort in all of the games.

Year 10 Football Team - 28th February - As a P.E department we secured our first home fixture against a very



strong Whitmore side who had a 100% record prior to our match. The pitch had been cut, lines drawn down, nets put up and we even had a GCSE student referee bringing their own linesman and a professional approach to our first fixture. The game started quite tight with both teams enjoying spells with the ball, attacking effectively but both teams missing the final touch to take the lead. Late on in the first half Whitmore opened the scoring from a lacklustre defensive error. Soon after a second came but Avanti stuck in and managed to create a number of chances which should have seen the sides level. However, the strong Whitmore side went on to win the game. Nevertheless, a great experience and opportunity for the boys to build on for the next coming season.



Year 10 & 11 Badminton Team - Participating in the Harrow Borough school's badminton fixture was an excellent inaugural competition we were participating for the school. In three rounds of fixtures using 6 different players in the team we had reached the final of the championship beating Nower Hill, Whitmore High, Rooks Heath and Park High on the way to the final. The

Badminton event was a doubles event so we worked together in teams which was a great experience. Mr Hannon, Ms Rimbu and Mr Button all came along to the fixtures for the different weeks and were also a great support, In the final, we knew we had a chance of victory considering we had already beaten two teams in the final. We beat Nower Hill and also Park High as a team but eventually lost the final to John Lyon School. We finished 2nd in the borough which was a great achievement. It was a very fun and competitive event where we successfully beat pairs from a strong John Lyon and Park High School.

Year 8 Girls Football – written by Arya Kumar Year

Participating in the Harrow football tournament was genuinely a memorable experience. It gave me an opportunity to compete against a new team, something I hadn't done before. The football tournament was an event where us, as a school, united and to be honest I made many new friends and talked to many people that I had not talked to before. Although it was a competitive situation, it was really fun to use skills that we had learn from Ms Rimbu in PE and apply them in a game situation.





Girls badminton – written by Neha Shah year

In January some Year 11's organised a Badminton Tournament for all the girls. As being a Sports Leader and Badminton being my favourite sport, I thought this was a fantastic opportunity. The matches were intense knock-out games and everyone played really well. We even had girls who I'd never seen play the sport take part which was really encouraging and clearly displaying a lot of courage. Well done to everyone who took part and I hope that we will continue have more tournaments in the future, with more children taking part!

Additionally, 4 Girls representing Avanti House took part in the London Youth School Games for Badminton – Payal, Chandni (Year 11); Dhruti and myself (Year 10) at Whitmore High School. After some fantastic performances, we managed to come Second Place overall – Just missing out on the finals by 2 points!

This year we have had many more fixtures and opportunities than before to take part in different sporting events and has really boosted our confidence and improved our wellbeing.

Yr 9 - Netball Overview – written Vanessa Patel

I have been in the netball team for 2 years where I can see the progress that our school has made both in the PE department and in all sports teams. I feel like the role of captaincy is a very rewarding role as it is both a learning experience and a confidence booster. Joining the school midyear was very nerve-wracking however the netball team has been very supportive and has helped us build relationships within other years. At training, we have learnt that being part of a team is not only about hard-work and dedication but it's about finding confidence and supporting each other outside of school too. It's the perfect environment for bettering ourselves as people and teaching us to work together. The whole experience has been delightful and I can see myself growing as a student and developing into a better person as I am able to work together with many other people.



School Trips



The first ever Avanti House School trip for Skiing took place in the February Half term 2017 in the French Alps, Alpe de Huez. Students had six days of skiing and many of them changing instructors has their abilities got better. The students as always were ambassadors of Avanti and show the family vibe when out and about in the resort and whilst skiing. It was a trip where new friendships were built and old

ones reaffirmed and everyone learnt new trust and team building skills with the encouragement of each other in their skiing groups. Can't wait till next year!!!! Ms E. Grant, Head of Year 7/ Drama Teacher

Rome Trip

Pupils from Year 9 had the opportunity to visit Rome, Italy after a Classical Civilisation Week earlier in the year. Pupils marvelled at Michelangelo's breath-taking paintings in the Sistine Chapel and at the Pieta, venture through the ancient town of Ostia, relive the gladiatorial fights in the Colosseum and much more. Pupils were able to interact with the Italian locals and enjoy local cuisine including the much-loved gelato. It was evident that the pupils went from the trip learning something of the Roman Civilisation and they had a fabulous time. Mr. J Laxhman, Sanskrit Teacher



Career Talks

Career Talks

- Students have been attending talks, on a Wednesday afterschool, from a variety of different careers and found these very informative.
- Career talks on Dentistry, Law, Accounting, Visual Effects and Animation, Management Consulting, Medicine – to name a few.

Students comments

- It was good to find out about what expectations were needed for the job and what you will be expecting from it e.g. what you will do, the pay and hours for the job so I personally knew whether it would be the right job for me. (Ritika, Year 11)
- The speaker had personal experience in the field and therefore was able to properly explain what happens in the field. They listed the requirements to join the field and the different careers available. (Nikhil, Year 9)
- There was good information about the career, different roles and pay. The talk was quite engaging and interesting. (Jaison, Year 11)
- The talk was very engaging and we were talked through the process of becoming an accountant. There were two accountants making it easier to understand different aspects within the job. We were made aware of the qualifications and courses available. (Nandini, Year 9)
- I enjoyed the discussion about the various aspects of law. I now understand the role of solicitors and barristers. (Janvi, Year 10)
- I found the process of application was well outlined and we were told the grades needed to be able to attend a Russel Group university. (Anushka, Year 10)

Sixth Form Updates

Application process

- 80+ students applied to Avanti House Sixth Form.
- Subject offer amended based on choices with additional subjects added – all subjects will run subject to sufficient numbers on roll in September.
- Following consultations by members of the Senior Leadership Team with students (and some parents) offer letters have been sent out (if students do not receive this by 31st March please contact Mr Nash). All offers are conditional subject to students fulfilling the entry requirements. The entry requirements for each subject can be found in the subject booklet circulated earlier in the school year.

Revised subject offer

- Applied Science, Art and Design, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Computer Science, Design and Technology: Product Design, Economics, English Literature, Further Mathematics, Geography, History, Mathematics, Psychology, Physics, Sociology and BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport.

Group meetings

- Mr Arnell met all year 11 students in groups to discuss buildings, Sixth Form and answer any questions about this.

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Duke of Edinburgh Award Update

There are over 200 students from Years 9-11 enrolled and actively participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award at Avanti House School.

The students are currently taking part in a range of activities that demonstrate skill development, physical activity and volunteering. The school is really proud of the wide range of activities that the students are undertaking and in particular, the variety of ways that students are using the volunteering aspect of the award to give back to both the school and local community. Examples of ways that students are helping in school include volunteering to read with younger pupils, helping in the school library and even assisting staff in leading sports clubs. Outside of school, students are helping in charity shops, animal shelters and helping to care for members of the community both young and old.

In the Summer term, the students will be given the opportunity to take part in 2 weekend expeditions where they will develop their orienteering skills, develop first aid skills, learn to set up a tent and cook outdoors. This will be the final part of the Bronze Award and we will be having an evening in September to celebrate those students who successfully complete the award.

We are delighted to advise you that Mr Weyers and Mr Button have recently been appointed to the positions of Duke of Edinburgh Coordinators at Avanti House School and will be responsible for overseeing the Year 9s and Year 10s respectively. They are both very excited by the opportunity and will provide invaluable support to the students as they undertake the award.

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Singing Project



Avanti House School has been chosen to be part of a musical performance with the Southbank, BBC Singers and the Royal Opera House Chorus. This performance will be opening the 'Alchemy' South Asian Art festival at the London Southbank Centre on the 19th

May and all parents, students and staff are welcome to attend.

On Sunday 19th March, 30 students from Year 7-10 spent the day at the BBC Maida Vale Rehearsal Studios working with the composer, and the professional singers, on the piece which has been inspired by the Ravi Shankar opera 'Sukanya'. The piece is based on Classical Indian Music but arranged for a traditional western

choir. The students were amazing and by the end of the rehearsal some were note perfect from memory – something none of the professionals managed. We received many compliments from the other singers, and the project leaders who were hugely impressed and unanimously said that the students were a huge credit to the school.

A highlight of the day was the start of the afternoon session when Hriday from 7.1 led the whole ensemble in the Hare Krishna mantra. It was wonderful for our students to experience a professional musical rehearsal and in turn for the professional singers to experience the culture from which our students originate.

I hope many of you will be able to come and watch their public performance at 6:45pm on Friday 19th May at the Southbank. It is a free event and I will be letting you know further details nearer the time.



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