

The Avanti House Explorer

Message from the Principal



*We motivate students
to become reflective,
articulate and
independent thinkers*

It seems barely credible that we have reached half-term and that Avanti House is already six and a half weeks old. So much has been set in place so quickly and I would wish to pay tribute to the fantastic work of all staff in working at such a pace, with such flexibility and good humour to get the school up and running. The children are a constant treasure and their enthusiasm and optimism, their smiling faces and courteous demeanour, their curiosity and confidence are a daily delight and a great reminder of why I came into teaching nearly four decades ago! Thanks are also due to you, our parents and carers, who have given great support, and your goodwill and congratulatory messages have kept us going when occasionally the way ahead seemed tough.

Many of you were able to support us at the recent New Year Seven Open Evening which was attended by over 500 potential parents and children and since then we have, by public demand, held seven Open Morning sessions where over 150 visitors have been able to witness the school in session; they speak as one of a positive and welcoming environment, friendly and professional staff and engaging pupils who are obviously enjoying their learning. All of this bodes well for the long-term future of Avanti House.

This morning I was invited to speak on a radio phone-in on LBC Radio about the benefits of free schools. I had plenty to say – all of it positive and all of it down to the sterling efforts of yourselves – pupils, staff and parents. Thank you for your on-going support.

Mr Jones

Message from the Deputy Principal

This week I have been touring the classes talking to the children and asking them whether they can see the bigger picture amidst all the change and 'mixing of paints' going on in the school. One girl replied: 'I can see the picture, Mrs Edwards, for our school and it is the best place in the world'. My instant response was 'Gosh, that's a very tall order!' and wondered what she would say next! She looked me straight in the eye and said, 'Don't worry, Mrs Edwards, we will help you' and this is exactly what the pupils have done, although one Reception pupil did offer to paint my nails instead! There has been much to do across our two Reception classes, but the pupils and staff have settled in well and after a few tears (pupils not staff!), they are beginning to engage and bond with their peers and establish their daily routines and classroom procedures. You should all have received a copy of the Welcome Pack and various communications from both the class teachers and myself in different forms and had the opportunity to attend a 'Meet the Teacher' session, which I trust gave you all an opportunity to discuss the curriculum further and raise any concerns that you may have had. Our pupils have been engaging in lots of indoor and outdoor activities, learning to make the right choices and following the 'Golden Standards' at school, enjoying hot meals, learning about 'Ourselves', practising letter sounds to help towards independent reading, number recognition and ordering. We are all looking forward to the exciting next half term for celebrations like Guy Fawkes Night, Diwali, Eid, Hanukkah and Christmas. Mr Jones and myself will be holding a drop-in event from 6 to 7 pm on Wednesday, November 21st and look forward to meeting many of you there. Finally, the Friends of Krishna Avanti Primary (FOKAS) have asked me to extend a warm welcome to you to their Diwali celebrations from 3 to 8pm on Saturday, November 10th. Tickets are available at the KAPS school Reception.

Mrs Edwards



**7KP - the
latest
winners
of the
Token
Trophy!**

At Avanti House, we want pupils' experiences of education to be enjoyable and engaging. We expect all members of the school community, parents, families and staff, to work collaboratively with high aspirations and expectations of everyone, consistent with our values and ethos.

Avanti House School

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DEPARTMENT NEWS

Performing Arts: Dance and Drama

All Year 7 students have completed the Introduction to Dance unit this half term including a two minute dance which they choreographed as part of their dance assessment. All worked exceptionally hard and have made an excellent start to their studies in dance. Well done!

Dance & Ballet Clubs

Dance club takes place on Tuesdays after school and we have been accepted on to a project called Rock Challenge, which is a National Performing Arts competition for secondary schools. We are preparing a dance piece to perform at the regional competition in February 2013. The students are incredibly excited about this but we need six more dancers; if you are interested then please do contact Ms Fitzgerald for more details. This is a fantastic opportunity so it would be a shame to miss out!

Ballet club takes place on a Wednesday after school; we are very lucky to have a Ballet teacher assisting us from the Royal Academy of Dance. The students are thoroughly enjoying this, and we plan to be performing very soon!

All year 7 students have been working hard in Drama and have demonstrated a positive approach to their work in class, completing a unit of work focusing on Mime. They have shown the ability to work with different people in the class and adapted well to the structure of the Drama lesson in secondary school. After half term students will be studying Roald Dahl's 'Matilda', and it is hoped we will have the opportunity to see the musical version currently being performed at the Cambridge Theatre by the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. The Christmas concert will take place on Thursday 13th December at 6.00pm and there will be more details to follow after half term.

Ms Fitzgerald

Head of Performing Arts

Humanities focus on Avanti House Value Empathy

King for the day!

Students worked in groups producing a campaign to get elected as the next King of England after the death of Edward the Confessor in January 1066.

The photographs show students got into role rather convincingly! There are some future politicians in the year group.

Mrs Quelch



Stop Press! Upcoming Events:

Theatre trip to 'Phantom of the Opera' on 8th November 2012. Please see Ms Vee for more information.

ICT

The technological geniuses at Avanti House have got off to a flying start with their very first projects in ICT. They have explored a number of soft skills based applications to aid them in the development of their projects focusing on their individual past successes and achievements. Students will be presenting their projects to their respective tutor groups in the weeks to come, which will I am sure put their public speaking skills to the test and get their adrenaline pumping. Good Luck!

Computer Club

The launch of computer club was a clear sign of the role technology plays in our day to day lives. It was impressive to see how quickly the club became over-subscribed and demonstrated the amazing talents of Avanti House's very own technologists. Over the last few weeks, students have been exposed to the skills required for video editing, and, from what I have seen, Steven Spielberg may have some healthy competition in the years to come.

Mr Patel

Head of Design, Technology and ICT



Stop Press! Upcoming Events:

Cross-curricular trip to Paris, France from 3rd—7th December 2012. The parents meeting for this trip is on Monday 12th November; time TBC

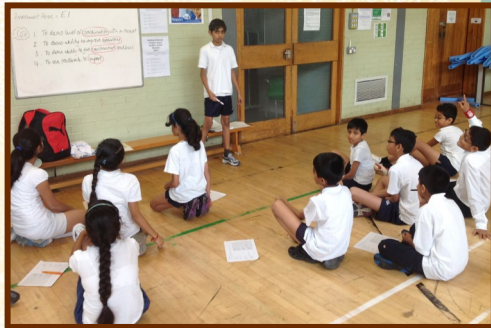
DEPARTMENT

Physical Education

This first half term has gone so quickly! We started the year with some teambuilding and problem solving work and have baseline assessed every student, which involves completing six lessons centred on the different activity areas we learn about over the course of the year with each one focusing on different processes within the national curriculum for PE. All of our students pushed themselves to demonstrate their knowledge and abilities and this information will help us to tailor future learning to the needs and abilities of all of our students. We have finished this half term with a unit of Ultimate Frisbee. This is a fantastic sport which harnesses many key qualities such as teamwork and leadership and encourages students to develop skills whilst applying tough decision making skills. I have never been so impressed with the application and determination demonstrated by year 7 students—a most sincere congratulations to everyone! After the half term break we will begin new units and I urge all our year 7 students to continue to challenge themselves to achieve great things!

Well done year 7; you have made a great start to your PE careers!

Ms Dunckley
Head of PE



PE Extra Curricular Clubs

We currently have basketball, football and badminton on offer. Mr Hindes will be running an inter-form ultimate Frisbee tournament after half term so students can showcase their fantastic skills and tactics; keep an eye out for the entry forms.

We are also hoping to offer a Health & Fitness Club after half term (to get rid of the holiday excesses!) and are always on the lookout for qualified coaches who can offer us a free club—if you know anyone available please get in touch with me!

Ms Dunckley
Head of PE

With Diwali & Guy Fawkes Night coming up soon please remember the London Fire Brigade firework safety code:

1. Only buy fireworks marked with the British Standard Kitemark BS7114
2. Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks
3. Keep fireworks in a closed box, and always follow the instructions carefully when using them
4. Light them at arms' length using a taper and stand well back
5. Never go back to them once they are lit. Even if a firework hasn't gone off, it could still explode
6. Never throw fireworks and never put them in your pocket
7. Respect your neighbours – don't let off fireworks late at night and remember there are laws to follow
8. Take care with sparklers – never give them to children under five. Even when they have gone out they are still hot so put sparklers in a bucket of water after use
9. Keep your pets indoors throughout the evening

7SJ - the latest runners up of the Token Trophy!



Stop Press! Upcoming Events:

- Don't forget we have an INSET day on Tuesday 13th November 2012
- Trips to the Royal Courts of Justice are on:
 - ⇒ Thursday 15th November: 7LH & 7VB
 - ⇒ Wednesday 21st November: 7SJ & 7HF
 - ⇒ Thursday 22nd November: 7KP & 7VP
- More information will follow but if you have any queries please speak to Ms Howick or Mr Jones
- Our first Christmas Show is on Thursday 13th December—this will be a cross-curricular event and will be hosted at Krishna Avanti Primary School on Camrose Avenue. Please speak to Ms Fitzgerald or Ms Demetriou for more information.

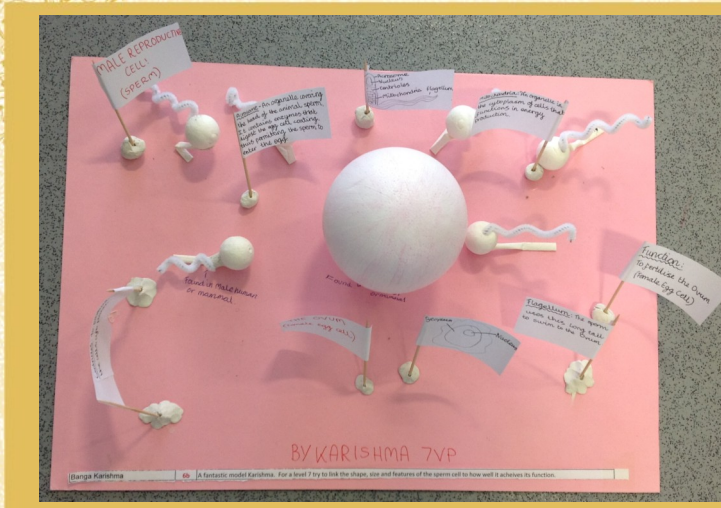
DEPARTMENT NEWS

Science

Students have witnessed the wonderful transition of the Science room to Science laboratory this first half term. This lent itself fantastically to them being able to analyse the safety hazards of working in a laboratory. Students have then gone on to start their first unit – Life. They have made some great models describing the features of specific cells and explaining how they work. They have then progressed to looking at how cells work together to eventually form fully-functioning organisms. They thoroughly enjoyed the second part where they looked at Reproduction and the coming about of new life. Discussion around the transition from childhood to adulthood linked in well with the *character formation* strand of the school's ethos, as students were not just looking at the physical changes but also those that come with a growing awareness of what is right and wrong. It has been an exciting first half term for Science!

Ms Patel

Head of Science



English

Students at Avanti House have been exceedingly busy this term with many exciting events happening in the English department: Gothic Tales, National Poetry Day celebrations, Book Buzz and the opening of our brand new School Library! We were fortunate to be entertained by a theatre company which came into school to perform some creepy Gothic short stories; this was thoroughly enjoyed by all. National Poetry Day was celebrated by staff and students together with milkshakes, cookies and great poetry! Congratulations to all who took part in our poetry competition and a special congratulations to our winners: Aditi Kumar 7SJ, Ishani Desai also 7SJ and in first place Bivun Bid of 7VP; we definitely have some budding poets amongst all our year 7s and can't wait until next year's poetry celebration now. Book Buzz is a reading scheme the school has joined in order to develop a love of books- each student has had a pretty difficult decision trying to choose one FREE book for them to take away from a mini catalogue of books. This brings us on to our fabulous new school Library which is open to all students, we have a wide selection of books, and all students are encouraged to let me know if there are any particular books they would like to add to the selection.

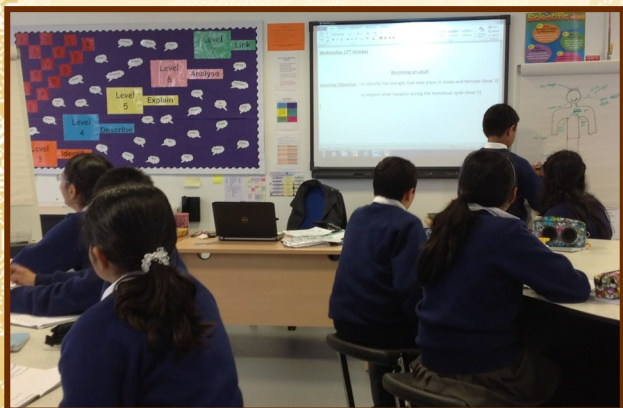
Next term will be even busier perfecting our story writing skills, reading 'The Hobbit' and going to the Theatre to watch 'Phantom of the Opera'!

Ms Vee

Head of English

Maths

Students at Avanti House have been very busy in Maths this term. Students were introduced to MyMaths.co.uk, one of the online resources we will be using more in the upcoming term. Students were welcomed into the Maths Department with an exciting topic covering the development of mathematics around the world and in



M&M Club (Maths Masters Club)

The Maths Club has had an impressive start, with a number of our students now already experiencing university level maths topics. Over the last few weeks, students have been learning about formal logic and how a simple statement or argument can be proven true or false through mathematics. A major use for formal logic is in computer programming and students will be given the opportunity in the future to extend these skills in a programming club in year 8.

Ms Bardsley

Mathematics



Stop Press!
Don't forget we start back to school after half term on Monday 5th November 2012 at the usual time of 08:00

different cultures. They enjoyed producing some very colourful and informative posters about famous mathematicians. In class all students have had a quick review of some basic number topics, where they have developed problem-solving skills and team work. Students will continue to work on these skills throughout the year to become self-motivated and resourceful learners.

Ms Bardsley

Mathematics