

The Avanti House Explorer

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

Not much stands still at Avanti House and this has been an exceptionally busy start to the academic year. We have doubled our numbers in the Primary phase with over 50 new Reception youngsters joining our two Year One classes. Owing to a delay in the building works, our four classes have not yet been able to settle fully into the accommodation but I am delighted to report that, following our half-term break, the pupils will be able to access their new classrooms which are now almost finished. Can I thank Mrs Sahni, the new Headteacher at Krishna Avanti, for her help in resolving some of the logistical issues which have arisen. Our secondary pupils are now enjoying a building all to themselves at the former Peterborough and St. Margaret's site in Stanmore and will have access to a brand new ICT suite once they return in November. One abiding memory for me this term would have to be an open air assembly with our Year Eight pupils with the sun shining through the trees and rabbits and squirrels as attentive observers! Our new teaching and support staff have settled in very well and have helped us to expand the range of after-school activities on offer.

A major event for us was the Open Evening for September 2014 secondary admissions on September 24th which was attended by over 750 parents and pupils. There was a really positive atmosphere and all those attending were bowled over by the spirit, courtesy and enthusiasm of our students and staff who are great ambassadors for Avanti House. With a further one hundred plus attending the Open mornings, I think we can safely say that Avanti House is well and truly on the map.

Each Thursday as I preview the calendar for the week following, I am struck by just how much goes on beyond the formal curriculum. This week we are hosting the Rt. Hon. Justine Greening MP, Secretary of State for International Development, elections for the student council will be concluded and on Friday our Primary and secondary phases – now almost three hundred pupils- will join in a special celebration assembly at the Stanmore site.

As I say, not much stands still at Avanti House as we go from strength to strength, grateful as ever for the vibrant pupil body, the dedicated staff and governors and for the support we receive from yourselves as parents and carers. Long may it continue.

Gareth Jones



We motivate students to become reflective, articulate and independent thinkers



The photos here show some of our new Reception pupils and what they have been doing. This includes collective prayers, Music lessons, using their imagination to make big and small buildings, both reception classes having their first sanskrit lesson, first attempts to act out the Snail and the Whale (retelling a story), and phonics, learning the sound d.

Miss Parmar—Reception Teacher

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.

Please remember that if your child is absent from school the office MUST be notified by 08:30 by calling 020 8249 6830 with the reason

Avanti House School
Telephone 020 8249 6830
Common Road, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 3JB
www.avanti.org.uk/avantihouse/

Welcome back!

Inclusion

This half term we are delighted to welcome three new members of staff, Mrs Rickayzen, Mrs Hughes and Ms Onuphre who bring with them a myriad of skills. We also have beautiful learning space including the newly named, 'Serenity Room' and 'The Inspiration Room' which have been decorated to enhance the learning which will take place there. We have already had the pleasure of meeting many parents and carers in addition to all the new pupils and

Dr Pinkus will be starting the Parent Clinic again on the first Wednesday morning of each month - there will be more information to follow soon. Should you have any concerns about your child and would like to make

an appointment, please email cecilia.georgiou@avanti.org.uk

Dr Pinkus - Head of Inclusion



Year 1

In year 1, children have absolutely loved their mobile classrooms and got into the swing of their learning very quickly. Both classes made a short presentation in front of their friends about 'Empathy' and this helped them to truly understand the meaning of the word. As a treat for their good learning they went on a short trip to our local park.

Mrs Shingala - Year 1 Teacher



English

Avanti House staff and students have been busy preparing for and celebrating National Poetry Day which fell on Thursday 3rd October 2013. We celebrated with some informative poet studies; teachers reading their favourite poems; a great reading of 'The Lady of Shalott' by some year 8 students; lots of milkshake and our annual Avanti House Poetry Competition. Congratulations to all who took part and especially to our winners this year. Year 7 winners: 1st Prize- Janvi Kotecha, 2nd Prize- Mishal Patel and 3rd Prize- Nitai Lane. Year 8 winners 1st Prize- Jakub Skrzypulec, 2nd Prize- Esha Zala and 3rd prize- Yogietha Krishnamoorthy. Last but not least, congratulations to Ms Sharma who won the staff poetry competition. Winning poems will be displayed around the school for all to read.

Ms Vasudeva - Head of English



Jakub & Janvi
Year 8 & year 7
Poetry competition
1st Prize winners!

Drama

Drama has been exciting this term; we are extremely lucky to have Fresh Arts Theatre Company work with us after school every Tuesday to support the running of the Drama club. This has got off to a positive start and we are currently working towards a performance that will be shown at the end of the term.

Within the curriculum, Year 7 have been working on an introductory unit focusing on Mime. The children have been working very hard, and have shown enjoyment in and commitment to their work. Year 8 have been looking at Rosa Parks, and the theme of discrimination which is also going very well. Well done to all students for their excellent work this half term!

Ms Fitzgerald - Head of Performing Arts

Mathematics

I would like to welcome the new Year 7 students to Avanti House and say welcome back to our Year 8 students and Miss K Patel who is joining the Maths department for some lessons this year.

This half-term has already proved to be busy, challenging and exciting for the Year 7 students. They have settled well into maths by completing a short History of Mathematics unit, exploring the vast contributions to Mathematics made by a variety of cultures around the world. They were asked to produce a short project on a culture that interested them, and some of their projects were on display during Open Evening. Well done! The Year 7's are now in the middle of the Number Skills unit, and are currently working their way through a challenging problem-solving week.

Year 8 students have been working on a Data Handling and Probability unit since the beginning of the year. They have been learning how to write questionnaires, perform surveys and then display the data collected. Students were asked to use an online survey tool, which is the beginning of more integrated use of ICT in Mathematics this year. With such a busy start to the year, I can only look forward to all the amazing things our students will achieve this year, both in Mathematics and in the wider school. Have a great year!

Ms Bardsley—Head of Mathematics

Open Evening

Over 750 people came to visit us on our first open evening at our new site. We were delighted with the turnout and the fact that our whole school community came together and hosted such an amazing event. We had only been in the school for a few short days and those who attended the event would have to agree that it really displayed the Avanti House ethos at its best. Collaboration between staff, pupils, parents, governors and the Friends of Avanti House ensured that the school looked fantastic and the atmosphere was electric.





Science

Year 7

This term we have been learning about cells in science. We enjoyed this topic a lot as Miss S Patel taught us bril-



liantly. We have learnt about many different types of cells and what their functions are. We learnt about how cells reproduce from the nucleus. We also made three-dimensional cells.

By Ashir, Shivali, Rahul and Kishan



Year 8

In our first science experiment of the year, we investigated how three different sizes of jars (small, medium and large) affect the

time it takes for the candle to extinguish within them. The reason we did this is because we were learning about scientific investigations e.g. planning experiments, drawing graphs and writing conclusions and evaluations. I discovered and was shocked by how much oxy-



gen a lit candle needs to remain alight.

By Roshan and Celina



Miss S Patel - Teacher of Science

Music Department

Music has now moved to the Performing Arts Studio and we are in full flow with practical lessons.

Pupils are taking advantage of their own practice rooms and it's fantastic to see so much interest in a huge variety of music. We have been offering lessons for guitar, piano, drums and rock school and hope that with more demand from pupils we can get other instruments started at the school too. If you would like to make a suggestion for an instrument you would like to learn, please email Miss Demetriou on Anastasia.demetriou@avanti.org.uk.

In addition to this I am running a Choir at Avanti House. This has proved a big hit this term with over 25 pupils taking part in the club, which takes place on a Monday lunchtime. I hope to hold a concert within the next half term...watch this space!

Miss Demetriou - Head of Music

Stop Press!

Avanti House is collecting vouchers given out as part of the Sainsbury's Active Kids and Tesco for Schools and Clubs programme. Please hand them in to Reception.

Philosophy and Ethics

The launch of Philosophy and Ethics as separate lessons on the curriculum has gone well! The theme of this half term's work has been 'Beginnings'. We have looked at stories from various religions and have reviewed them as well as selecting similarities and differences between them and will continue this after half term. We have also explored what it means to be a 'steward' in the world and how it links to our school core values. After asking the pupils what their feelings are about the topic we have been studying, the majority expressed the view that they had enjoyed the topic and found it interesting and would like to investigate the content further! They have also suggested some other topics they would be interested in celebrating across the curriculum ranging from Christmas to Buddhism from Sikhism to more in depth knowledge of Hinduism, war and peace and poverty! So this subject promises to be action-packed in the coming months at Avanti House!

What can you offer? As you know in our 'family' we are keen to involve our parents as much as possible in the life of our school. If you have a particular skill or area of expertise which would benefit our pupils please let me know! For example, could you speak at an assembly or to a group of pupils about a specific area, interest or profession, a moral issue? Or are you involved in a drama group or other musical groups which could come and perform to the pupils perhaps to celebrate a festival or during collective worship? Please contact Mrs Kahn if you can help!

Mrs Kahn—Head of Philosophy and Ethics

Maths – Extra Curricular

The Mathematics department has begun a Maths Masters club, which will run until Christmas this year. The club is aimed to boost students' confidence and ability in Mathematics. Only a select group of students in both Year 7 and Year 8 have been invited to attend. Students have so far played a variety of games and worked in groups to continue to develop their basic numeracy skills. So far we have covered multiplication facts and investigated an interesting method of multiplication developed by the Russians - I am excited about the energy displayed by the students in this club!

Maths Mentoring, run by the Mathematics department, has begun. Students in Year 8 were invited to apply for the program last year, and were excited to hear that it was beginning in October. This program is aimed at stretching our most gifted students at Avanti House by providing them with a series of questions to research and solve during a month. The questions are provided by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT), and cover a wide range of topics not generally covered in the regular curriculum. Students can complete as many of the questions as they like – the goal being that they experience the joy of all that Mathematics has to offer. Best of luck to the students participating in this program – I've had a look at this month's questions, and there are a few very challenging ones on there!



Welcome back!

Modern Foreign Languages

In French we decided to focus on food. We decided to create a board where the students could get creative through designing their own menu. We called it "au restaurant". We talked about our different tastes, our favourite dishes, whether we were vegetarian or not. One big topic was "ratatouille" not the movie but the dish! To their great surprise they realised it was a real typical speciality from the South of France! Incroyable mais vrai! (Incredible but true)

Ms Onuphre - Teacher of French



Our new Performing Arts Studio!

Dance

The children have been working hard in Dance this half term. Year 7 are studying African Dance, and have shown excellent focus and commitment to the class especially since quite a few have not studied the subject before, so well done for this! The children have focused on why Dance is important across Africa; they have learned a range of basic movements from different countries in Africa. They have also explored the different accompaniment, having a lot of fun with the Djembe drums! A great start Year 7, well done!!

Year 8 have been exploring Capoeira this term, which is a martial art dance form from Brazil. Some of the children have found this a challenge, however they have remained focused and produced some excellent work. So, well done to all of you!

Next half term Ms Onuphre and I will be starting a Year 7 and 8 Dance club. Year 7 will run after school on a Thursday and Year 8 will run during the lunch hour on a Wednesday. It will be a lot of fun! The class will be a fusion of contemporary dance and hip hop; we will be working towards performances which will be showcased at the end of each term. If you are interested please come and see Ms Fitzgerald for details.

Ms Fitzgerald - Head of Performing Arts

A very promising start for the Language department of Avanti House! I would like to start by welcoming our new languages teachers this year - Mr Laxhman (Sanskrit), Miss Martini (Spanish & French) and Ms Onuphre (French); our expertise and passion for languages has brought us together to make a dedicated team. I would like to express my thanks to the following students who helped make MFL so successful on Open Evening this year: Rohna, Dylan, Karishma in Year 8 and to Devam, Nidhi & Disha in Year 7. These students have put on an amazing display of colours in their traditional costumes and showed a lot of courage in front of our prospective parents when they performed their role plays in French and Spanish. It was a very busy evening but our students coped extremely well under pressure, behaved diligently and worked very hard throughout. Bravo!

'Celebration of El día de los muertos — the Day of the Dead'

El día de los muertos is one of the biggest holidays in Mexico and has a great importance throughout Latin America. It began almost 4 thousand years ago during the time of the Aztec empire and in el día de los muertos, death — or at least the memories of those who have died — is something to be celebrated. The most common custom for this day is the making of elaborate altars filled with yellow marigolds and candles, to welcome departed spirits home. Festivities also include traditional food and lots of people go to the streets to take part in great parades, very similar to a carnival. They dress up in bright coloured dresses and they also paint their faces like skulls. In Avanti House the MFL department wants to celebrate the date with a big competition. Pupils will receive skeletons or masks to be decorated. Prizes will be given to the best ones in Assembly in the first week after half-term.

Ms Justine - Head of MFL

Student attendance and punctuality are two aspects of school life Avanti House takes very seriously. We monitor all attendance daily and provide support if it is needed. What can you do to prevent your child missing school?

- Make sure they understand the importance of good attendance and punctuality
- Take an active interest in their school day, asking about what they've enjoyed and encourage them to get involved in
- Discuss problems they may have & let us know anything relevant or that we can help with
- Do not let them take time off school for minor ailments, particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work. Please see your child's planner for some self-help techniques
- Arrange appointments and outings outside school hours.

This will help prevent disruption to your child's education & please remember you should not expect the

Physical Education

Well done to all pupils for their hard work during this half term on our new site; it has been fun having all the facilities to ourselves! We have really enjoyed seeing everyone in their new PE kit which looks so smart and is as practical as we had hoped. The school tracksuit bottoms are available for order now and pupils will be able to wear these when the weather is particularly cold and we are outside. **Please remember that the basic PE kit all pupils must have in school for every PE lesson includes: polo shirt, shorts, long blue socks and trainers.**

Many pupils are participating in clubs and I hope this continues throughout the year so please do let us know if you have a skill or qualification that you could use to help us provide even more variety.

Ms Dunckley - Head of PE

Stop Press!

Don't forget we start back to school after the half term holiday on Tuesday 5th November 2013 at the usual time of 08:00

Can you help? We would love to build up a selection of artefacts and objects from a variety of faiths and cultures. If you have anything you would be prepared to donate we would be extremely grateful. Please contact Mrs Kahn, Head of Philosophy and Ethics.

