

# The Avanti House Explorer



## Message from the Principal

What a difference some sun makes! Over the last few days both sites have been bathed in sunshine and reminded us that, global warming or not, spring and summer are on their way. The feasibility study on the Whitchurch site has proceeded throughout March and after Easter we shall hope for some more concrete news. Meanwhile I have been working with the Trust CEO and architects to consider where best a new building might feature, how many classrooms and specialist areas will be needed for a secondary school of 1260 and how the building might be constructed in phases to allow partial occupation for summer 2015. The contract for the two new classrooms required for September for Avanti House Primary has now gone out to tender and the scope and timing of the refurbishment work on the Stanmore site, preparing it for our Primary pupils in September 2015, has now been mapped out in more detail with Education Funding Agency and MACE construction representatives.

On March 19<sup>th</sup> the whole school assembled with invited governors to celebrate Gaura Purnima at the Stanmore site and you can see from the photographs what a special and joyous occasion this was. The following week Mrs Kahn led assemblies for both Primary and Secondary pupils on the story and meaning of the Passover and this week we celebrate Easter.

Progress check meetings with Primary parents and our Year Seven Parents evening in March have given us further positive feedback on the ways the school is developing; pupils and parents acknowledge that they can see distinct improvements in what has been a perennial concern, namely the catering arrangements. Further improvements are planned for post-Easter and by September the secondary school will boast its own kitchen, meaning more of the food can be prepared on site. We are still receiving applications to join the school, both for mid-year admissions and for next September when we anticipate being full in Reception and close to full in Year Seven, further testimony to the growing reputation and popularity of Avanti House.

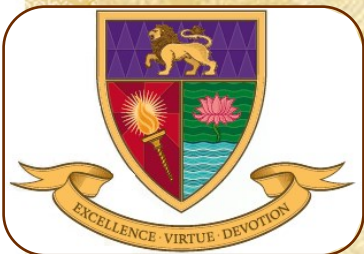
We have been delighted to welcome several special visitors this half-term; Bhaviti Mehta came to speak to two of our Year Eight History groups on the expulsion of Asian families from Uganda in the 1970s; Hannah Beharry from the Sky Sports Living team worked with 20 of our Year Seven pupils on building self-esteem; Pauline Shrimpton, local authority consultant, spoke to the secondary pupils on Autism and a team from King's College Medical School spoke with, and demonstrated some forensic work to, our secondary Gifted and Talented group who also enjoyed a lecture earlier in the term on satellite technology. Our Primary phase pupils have had great fun with their new topic "We are what we eat", firstly dressing up as their favourite fruit or vegetable and then as their favourite character during World Book week. A mufti day raised £165 for outdoor equipment at the school but the children are always mindful of others less fortunate than themselves and a further £160 was raised for the Ket Wangi Orphanage and Learning Centre in Kisumu, Kenya; the Reception children have written letters to their counterparts in Kenya and are eagerly awaiting replies. Many thanks to parents for their contributions.

On a final note, can I pay tribute to the Friends of Avanti House Committee and helpers who organised a wonderful Dinner and Dance last Saturday. Over 200 parents, children, staff and supporters of the school enjoyed a great evening of family entertainment with fashion parades and dancing by the children before some of the older movers took to the floor after a delicious meal. The event raised close to £2,500 for the school which is a magnificent achievement.

Best wishes for an enjoyable spring break.

Gareth Jones  
Principal

Pauline Edwards  
Deputy Principal



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



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.



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PRIMARY NEWS!

Mufti Day



The mufti day was a huge success. The children really enjoyed wearing their own clothes. As a school we have raised £165 as a result of your kind contributions. The money raised will be used towards outdoor equipment as per the students' wishes. Congratulations to the student council on their first project. Finally I would like to thank you all for your support which enables the school to continue to grow from strength to strength.

Miss Vaghela  
Head of Student Council

The children at Avanti House Primary celebrated Gaura Purnima (Lord Chaitanya's Birthday) not once but twice! Once at Krishna Avanti and once altogether with the Secondary phase at the Stanmore site. At the celebrations at Krishna Avanti the children thoroughly enjoyed the Abhishek ceremony.

Not only did Krishna Avanti look stunning with balloons, so did our children dressed in their colourful traditional clothes.

Lunchtime was vibrant with a delicious food feast shared by all staff and children together.



**Festival time!**

**It's been non-stop festivities!**



Wow! What a half term it's been! In the space of a few short weeks we have celebrated Gaura Purnima and Holi as well as Passover and Easter. We have all really enjoyed preparing for them as well as learning about them. It has been an exciting few weeks and the school has been a buzz with activity! Thanks to Mrs Andrew we now have a display board in our reception area (in Stanmore) which is regularly changed to reflect which festival is being celebrated within the school. The school was transformed for the celebrations for Gaura Purnima and Holi. There was a fantastic atmosphere with a significant amount of pupil participation. Our primary phase excelled themselves with their most beautiful singing as well as instrumentals and some readings from the secondary phase. A huge thank you must go to Mrs Gor for very kindly giving up her time to teach as well as rehearse with our pupils the various songs. All those pupils who participated received a certificate to say thank you for their great efforts! Thanks also to Miss Devalia and the talented Art club! All our pupils were delighted to receive delicious sweets provided by Srutidharma Das (thank you Mr Kalan for arranging this!).



Moving on now to Passover. 7W told the rest of secondary school the meaning of the festival as well as how and why it is celebrated. This complemented our Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE) curriculum where we have been looking at this half term's value of Integrity in conjunction with Moses. We were so proud of our year 7's, the confidence with which they presented to the rest of year 7 and whole of Year 8 was a pleasure to see. (We also make sure that in other assemblies other classes also have the chance to present!) The next day I went to our Primary school and I have to say this was one of my highlights of the year! Armed with puppets, a Seder plate and matzah crackers I led the Passover assembly. The pupils were so enthusiastic and so many asked to wear the finger puppets which represented the 10 plagues God sent to Pharaoh when he refused to set the Hebrews free. With cries of 'Let my people go!' the primary children got actively involved in the story and assisted me in narrating the events. Mrs Radia, I have to come back again next term to take another assembly!



Finally to Easter, Mr Jones led a thought-provoking assembly to discuss the meaning of the festival. It was informative and also again supported our PRE curriculum.

This half term in the hall we have been displaying just a snap shot of some of the Christmas Philosophy and Ethics Home Learning projects. It has enabled pupils and visitors to read some of the insightful pieces of work our pupils have produced.

Looking forward to our next half term value of Courage in our PRE curriculum, Year 7 will be exploring different elements of this ranging from looking at people such as Malcolm X to discussing what we can learn about courage from the Bhagavad Gita. Year 8 will be taking these ideas to a new level and exploring these concepts in more depth.

**Mrs Kahn**  
Head of Philosophy, Religion and Ethics



**Festival Display Boards in our reception area**



Have a good break!

English

**A Book-tastic Term  
Generous Donation**

All staff and students would like to express their sincere gratitude to Mrs Patel (Mother of Anushka Patel in 7E1), for her exceedingly generous donation of £150 for our school library. Mrs Patel's donation- in the form of a Waterstones voucher, allowed us to buy several books for our growing school library. If anyone would like to donate book vouchers to the school, please do so through speaking to Ms Reilly in the school office.



Ms Vasudeva - Head of English

**Book Fair**

The book buzz was in the air this term with the fabulous Scholastic Book Fair that was hosted by the English Department; we are glad to announce that students purchased books up to a total value of £777! This result gives the school library £388 worth of Scholastic rewards that can be used to purchase brand new books! Due to the success of this fair, we hope to host one later in the year for our primary students and another half price book fair for our secondary students; both will be open to parents, carers and students.



**World Book Day Celebrations**

To celebrate World Book Day (Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014), year 7 students entered a 'Design a Bookmark' competition- congratulations to the following students for their winning designs: Shivali Vaya, Jinal Bhagat, Hope Appiah-Monaghan, Ameer Rana, Tiyana Patel, Vinay Kanji, Anushka Patel and Suruthi Uthayakumar. The first prize winner- Shivali Vaya's design will be used from September onwards as the official Avanti House library bookmark and distributed to all students.



Winning Bookmark Designs



Shivali Vaya 71 1st Prize

**Important Information**

Parents, please ring before 8am if your child is unwell

In line with NHS guidance, if a child has diarrhoea or vomiting, they should be off school for 48 hours after the last episode



**Sanskrit**

In this past half term, Year 8 have been learning to talk about their family in Sanskrit. This was first introduced by using Krsna's family and Rama's family. We chose Rama's family as it ties in with the forthcoming festival Ramanavami, the appearance of Sri Rama. The pupils learnt how to use the genitive case with respect to masculine, feminine and neuter nouns.



The pupils used their prior knowledge of pronouns to describe various members of their family and also describe what their occupations are.

**Mr Laxman**



**Spanish Catch Up Club**

During this term the Spanish Catch Up Club was focused on key points of Spanish grammar: opinions and verb conjugation. The group has worked really hard during the sessions and the results can already be seen in their "Myself and my World" project. We are very pleased with the results as some pupils attending the club have progressed as far as 4 sublevels in a half-term! The club will be running after Easter and welcomes anyone who wishes extra help in the subject.

**Ms Martini**

**'Which languages do you speak?'**

How interesting that we tend to say "Which languages do you speak?" as opposed to read or write. In language teaching, speaking is the most difficult skill for teachers and exam boards to assess and the most challenging skill for many learners.

This term at Avanti House, we have been focusing on developing our students' speaking skills. We recognised that speaking is closely related to motivation and it is often a skill under - developed with language learners. Students have worked hard at preparing for their assessment and came up with excellent results.

Our aim is to continue promoting unplanned and spontaneous talk in the classroom. On a daily basis, we encourage our students to make active contributions in class; we regularly encourage class presentations in groups or pairs which will help our learners to develop their communication skills and become more confident in exam situations.

In year 8 students have been introduced to the future tense in order to access level 5. In French they have been talking about their activities and future aspirations, in Spanish we learned to talk about our town and make future plans depending on the weather. In Sanskrit, our year 8 students are still developing their vocabulary and have looked at family members.

As to our lovely year 7, we are now accessing level 4 and have been busy developing sentences with opinions and justification using the present tense on the topic of Family in French and House in Spanish.

As Head of Languages at Avanti House School, I am delighted with the enthusiasm our students show towards their language learning and the progress they are making. I am very proud of my team for encouraging our youngsters with their efforts in their recent writing and speaking assessment and the outstanding displays they have recently produced. Well done all.

**Ms Justine**



**Welcome to Mr Kumar**

We are delighted to announce that Mr Kumar has joined us as our IT Technician! He is a very welcome addition to the team!



## Expressive Arts Rewards Scheme

The Expressive Arts Department has introduced a new initiative to celebrate the successes of outstanding progress and effort of students within the Arts subjects. Students are nominated by the subject teacher and receive a logo pin badge to wear on their blazer/cardigan with pride. Currently we have artist of the month, dancer of the month, musician of the month and actor/actress of the month. Let us give recognition to the following students and rejoice in their achievements.

### **Artist of the month...**

7 Fire – Taruna Gupta and Nirav Shah  
7 Earth – Meeta Halai and Ishwari Vishram  
7 Water – Janvi Kotecha and Tanay Gorsia  
7 Air – Mishal Patel and Kim Bailey  
8A1 – Neisha Chauhan and Rhinali Patel  
8A2 – Riya Patel and Malini Patel  
8B1 – Rehul Gorsia and Maya Soni  
8B2 – Mikesh Patel and Rhea Patel

### **Actor/Actress of the month...**

7 Fire – Misha Hindocha and Shyam Raichura  
7 Earth – Tiyana Patel and Rahul Pattni  
7 Water – Dhruvika Dholakia and Jasmithan Subeesharan  
7 Air – Saranka Selvalingam and Hamza Yusuf  
8A1 – Yogietha Kirushnamoorthy and Isadev Sivyer  
8A2 – Simran Patel and Devika Varsani  
8B1 – Kush Shah and Aditi Kumar  
8B2 – Dhylan Patel and Shyam Perkins

### **Musician of the month...**

7 Fire – Kushal Khetani and Taruna Gupta  
7 Earth – Mienaatchi Ravichanthiran, Anushka Patel and Shivali Vaya  
7 Water – Tanishi Jain and Diven Khetani  
7 Air – Neha Shah and Kayur Patel  
8A1 – Kanneya Saujani and Hinal Solanki  
8A2 – Joshan Parmar, Kushal Pithia and Jakub Skrzypulec  
8B1 – Celina Halai and Dylan Patel  
8B2 – Ethan Chauhan and Puja Sharma

### **Dancer of the month...**

7 Fire – Manav Umrethwala and Urmisha Pandya  
7 Air – Disha Pattani and Jigar Patel  
7 Water – Jinal Bhagat and Rohan Hassasing  
7 Earth – Meeta Halai and Nitai Lane  
8B1 – Saffiyah Khannam and Siv Loganathan  
8A2 – Riya Patel and Kushal Pithia  
8A1 – Jayna Chauhan and Dhruvin Khetani  
8B2 – Uma Parmar and Ramy Patel

The Avanti House BBC School Reporters armed themselves with pens and cameras to take part in News Day on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March. The 12 reporters gathered in the boardroom to come together and create a news report which was to be published and linked to the official BBC News page, by 2pm. The journalists and camera crews worked together to produce a thought-provoking piece on popular TV talent shows and the impact that the selection of judges can have on increasing the numbers of viewers, as well as the negative impact judges can have through their position as role models. Well done to the reporters who not only met their deadlines, but also demonstrated a great amount of determination and enthusiasm to meet their challenging deadline.



Ms K Sharma





## STEM Club News

### Our Solar System and Beyond

In early March, an Electronics Engineer from Surrey Satellite Technology visited our school. We all had a great time. Devam dressed up in a lab coat to show us what satellite engineers have to wear as they need to keep satellites sterile to prevent debris in space damaging it. We also made a scale model of the Solar System! The Electronic Engineer (Charles Cox) had worked on many rockets and satellites. He had even written some of the code for the Hubble Space Telescope. By the end of the workshop, we had learnt many things about satellites and rockets and we all had an amazing time.

Written by Mikesh Patel in 8 Fire 2



Miss S Patel would also like to thank Charles Cox and Manish Savjani for volunteering their time and effort, without which the talk could not have taken place.

This March, a group of year 7 and 8 students in STEM Club got the opportunity to take part in an Interactive activity called 'I'm a Scientist Get Me Out of Here'. This is a national competition where we got the chance to ask a panel of five scientists any science questions we could think of. It could be absolutely anything from 'Why do we dream?' to 'How can you perform animal transplants?! We then had to vote for which scientist deserved to win a £500 cash prize, which they would use to communicate their work to the public based on their responses to our questions. This was an amazing opportunity to interact with scientists including a live chat with them. STEM Club students came up with some fantastic questions (as can be seen in the Images) and we learnt a lot from the scientists and their specific explanations.

I thoroughly enjoyed this experience as it made me think outside of the box and made me realise that there are so many things in our day to day life which relate to science.

I would like to thank Miss S Patel for organising this opportunity for us and hope we will have many more opportunities like this in the future. **Written by Neha Shah in 7 Air 1**

**underscorezero** : would time slow down or speed up if you went the speed of light?

**nehashah2001** : what makes popcorn pop?

**suruthi9** : What planets could have life?

### King's College London Medicine Workshop

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> of March, a group of year 7 and 8 students had the opportunity to be part of a workshop that was run by Kings College London. The workshop consisted of four experiments which all were specifically targeted at medicine.

We were split into small groups of 5-6 and were involved in different activities led by undergraduate medicine students, which were each 15 minutes long.

The first activity was suturing; this is a way of stitching up a wound for which we used scooped needles, as they did not dig into the model flesh too much.

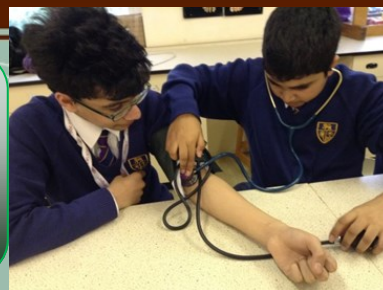
The second activity was about saving a choking person's life. The instructor used a dummy to demonstrate this with. First we had to go and ask the dummy if it was choking and if there was not any reply the next step was to give it 5 back slaps. If that didn't work, we had to give the dummy 5 abdominal thrusts. If that didn't work, then the next stage was to call an ambulance for help.

After this came my favourite activity – drawing blood! In this activity we had fake skin which had tubes to represent the veins that supplied fake blood through the skin. Our task was to use real injections and take blood out of the fake skin!

Lastly, we measured our blood pressure. We learnt the best parts of our body to measure our pulse and used a stethoscope to magnify the sound. We also paired up and measured each other's blood pressure.

By the end of all of the activities, we had learnt a lot about medicine and had great fun doing so. It broadened my experience; I really feel great to be a part of this event organised by Avanti House School. Thank you to Miss S Patel for arranging this for us.

Written by Jinal Bhagat in Water 2



**Stop Press!**  
Don't forget we start back to school after the Spring holiday on Tuesday 22nd April 2014 at the usual time of 08:00





Science And Maths

What's been happening in

Science?.....

Year 7 students this half term have been studying Energy. They have thought about all the different types of energy and investigated energy transfers. Students have discussed the advantages and disadvantages of renewable and non-renewable energy resources and have spent some time building their own models of renewable energy resources.

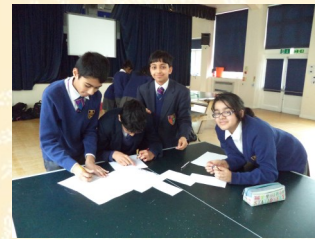
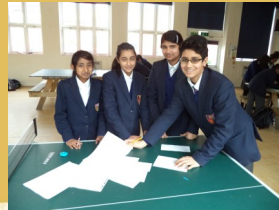
Year 8 students have analysed their diets as part of the Bodyfuels unit in Science this half term. They have looked at healthy balanced diets and discussed why it is essential to have a balanced intake of all food groups and the diseases associated with specific deficiencies. Additionally they have been exploring the complex nature of the Digestive System. Having seen a demonstration of 'Gums to Bums', students have a vivid picture now of the processes that occur in the body as part of digestion.



Miss K Patel  
Head of Science

Maths Department News

It has been competitions galore this half-term in the Mathematics Department. In the second week of the half-term all students were invited to participate in the Maths Inter-form Competition. Students competed in teams of four within their Tutor Groups over 5 lunchtime events. The events included competition in Logical Reasoning, a Mini Relay, a Group Round, a Relay Race and a Cross Number. The buzz and excitement each lunchtime was amazing, with all students giving it their best while competing. A particular favourite was the Relay Race, which involved a lot of running and encouragement from each team. By the end of the week, the scores were very close; however the winning Tutor Group was Air 1. Congratulations!



The Maths Inter-form Competition served as a practice for four of our Year 8 students as they competed in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Team Maths Challenge, held at Preston Manor High School. I would like to congratulate Joshan Parmar, Devika Varsani, Yogietha Kirushnamoorthy and Nikhil Manikala for representing Avanti House at the event, and Mikesh Patel in his role as reserve for the team. The students exemplified the standards of the school, by conducting themselves as a wonderful, supportive and polite team at the event. The competition is open to any school in the UK, with teams of Year 8 and Year 9 students able to compete. With minimal practice and a team of only Year 8's, I was very proud to watch these four amazing students participate on the day. We have gained a valuable experience, which I'm sure will form the building blocks for next year's team.



Miss Vanessa Bardsley  
Head of Mathematics



Home Learning update: This week we have had focus times and been presenting this half term's home learning projects within tutor groups and also to year groups. The pupils have also been discussing next half term's question based around the value of courage!..... More details to follow .....



## Sky Sports Living comes to Avanti House!

Avanti House was pleased to welcome Hannah Beharry who is an athlete mentor for the Sky Sports Living for Sport programme.

*"Boxing for England and Great Britain, with a string of gold medals under her belt aged just 23, Hannah is an inspirational role model and ambassador for the positive influence of sport. Once faced with an uncertain future, Hannah chose to walk away from a life of crime at the age of 17 when she discovered a positive channel for her energies at All Stars, one of London's most prominent boxing clubs"* Extract taken from the Sky Sports Living for Sport website, <https://livingforsport.skysports.com/mentors/hannah-beharry>

The day started with Hannah giving an inspirational assembly for the year 7 students on her life story. The story really brought to life the school and life values of integrity and courage: being a female boxer in a male dominated environment, also making positive life choices when faced with lots of options. For the rest of the day Hannah ran a workshop with a group of students selected for the programme. The students worked on skills around team building and short term and long term goals. They will be able to put these skills into practice in an event they organise later on in the year.



Mr Hindes  
Head of P.E.



This year's Avanti's Got Talent has got everyone talking. There is so much talent here at Avanti House so the queue for signing up was extremely long. Once the auditions started the atmosphere in the Drama Block was tense, the amazing talent was shocking. Deciding who should go through was challenging for the five judges ADE, KPA, ADV, BJH and PSO. There were even groupies cheering on their favourite act from the playground! On Friday afternoon the names of the finalists got put up in the canteen and you could hear the screams and cheers from Harrow!! It's now a time of intense practice and nervous waiting until the show begins on Friday.

Miss P Soiza



### SUMMER IS COMING—KEEP HYDRATED!

*Please ensure that your child has a water bottle with them at all times to ensure they can get access to water during the day. It is important that pupils keep hydrated during the warmer weather otherwise this can lead to them feeling unwell.*

### HAYFEVER

*If you know that your child is likely to suffer from hayfever, please ensure that medication is taken prior to leaving home in the morning, this should relieve symptoms throughout the day. Please also provide pupils with tissues for use during this sneezing season.*

