



Year 7



Year 7 have enjoyed learning about Brazil in geography. They had fun making Brazilian banana cake and enjoyed tasting it afterwards !

They also made Brazilian butterfly mobiles to hang in the class.



Year 8/9

"STOMP has no words – everyone can understand it. Everyone knows rhythm, if only from the beating of their own heart – it is the basis of all music".

This term in Year 8/9 pupils have been working on a "Stomp" project during their music sessions. They have been experimenting with the sounds and rhythms that they can create individually and as a group with everyday objects, such as brooms and pots and pans. They were so proud of their achievements that they decided to perform for 6M and everyone enjoyed it.



KS4

KS4 have been busy at college working on their most recent projects, large planters. They have been learning and using skills such as measuring, sawing and drilling and some pupils even measured the angles needed for the border on their planters! Pupils have started planting flowers and we are looking forward to watching them bloom!



6M

6M took part in World Book Day this term with a wonderful multi coloured theme! We chose the traditional tale of the Leprechaun's Gold and explored the story through our senses. Each student and adult dressing up as a different colour of the rainbow and Ollie was our Leprechaun!



6S

On Wednesday 12th of March, 6S were invited, by one of our governors, Sarah, to go to Strode College to listen to the poet Adam Kammerling. Students arrived at the theatre not really knowing what to expect. Some students thought it would be a lot to listen to and one student felt a bit scared as it was dark in the theatre. However, when Adam started speaking, he made us sit up quickly and concentrate on what he was saying. He was so funny! He told a story behind each poem and put a beat to some of his poetry to rap the words. This was amazing! Steven and Joe in particular really enjoyed this part of the performance.

As we came out of the theatre 6S were thrilled with what they had seen and heard. Here are some of the things they said: Student quotes:

"I liked the rap bit".



Steven

"He was so funny".



Lulu

**"He was
funny".**



Jordan

**"He was the
best comedian".**



Jack

**"He was funny. He
made me laugh".**



Rachael

Steven and Joe wanted to look him up on You Tube when we got back to school. Indeed everyone wanted to find out more about Adam and his work, exploring his poetry and rapping.

Dear Parents and Friends

Pupil discussions

This term subject leaders talked with pupils and looked at their work with them about their learning across the curriculum.

These were the questions:

What is best about this subject?

What are you getting better at?

What would help you learn more?

Can you tell me one thing you have learned this year?

Is there anything else you would like to tell me?

Main themes:-

Across subjects pupils shared high levels of enjoyment and interest and reliably identified what they had learned. They said they particularly enjoy role play, use of ICT and a range of practical, cross curricular learning experiences, for example art, cooking, music and would like this to continue. Some pupils would like to visit a museum and others an art gallery. Other requests included: a science day and a French day and more work with a theatre group which has been working with older pupils on the topic of relationships; including learning how to break up with someone. Two pupils would like some ICT homework.



Residential

Key Stage 4 and Sixth Form students have just completed their residential and by the smiles on their faces they have clearly had a good time. We look forward to hearing about what they got up to in the next newsletter. A big thank you to the staff who have done a marvellous job as ever in planning and leading these and who forgave sleep in the process. I hear staff are extremely proud of how well pupils have behaved throughout and also how much they have contributed to the daily chores and helping one another.

Hope you enjoy your Easter break and some sunshine to go with it!

Alison - Head Teacher



I took over from Sue as Chair of Governors in January as she started doing part time supply teaching at Avalon. I would like to thank her on behalf of my fellow governors for all of the hard work and commitment she put in over the last three years; she's proving a hard act to follow, although she remains a parent governor.

The role of the governing body is to be a critical friend to the school. Governors often come in to school during the day to see the school at work and to gain a greater understanding of how the school works. We are all linked to individual classes and this term we have spent time looking at how the marking policy and assessment is carried out by staff. It is a really interesting exercise, seeing the progress that the pupils are making throughout the year. We also take responsibility for overseeing part of the school's raising attainment plan (RAP) and meet with specific members of staff to monitor the school's progress against targets. This allows us to ask challenging questions and to gain a greater understanding of the issues they face.

This year we have our own section of the RAP on improving the governance of the school. We are all involved in looking at the ways we work as governors and to ensure we are as effective as we can be.

The governors would like to note the tremendous service Janine Dutton has given to Avalon School over the past ten years. She is a highly experienced member of staff, whose love of working with young people was always evident. We wish her all the best in whatever she goes on to do next.

We are still short of a couple of governors, so if you would like to get involved, just let Helen in the school office know and she will make sure one of us will get in touch.

On behalf of the governors may we also take this opportunity of thanking the staff at school for their hard work over the spring term. On our visits we are privileged to see the skills and expertise they possess in ensuring the very best outcomes for all of the pupils and young adults.

Enjoy your Easter holiday!

Justin Philcox

Chair of Governors



Avalon School raised £49.50 for Sports Relief, which will go towards helping people living tough lives in the UK and around the world. Our pupils and staff joined in by making their way twice around the school field at their own pace. A great time was had by all for this very worthwhile cause.

AVALON SCHOOL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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| INSET Day – School closed to pupils | Friday 4 April |
| Easter holidays | Monday 7 April – Monday 21 April |
| Pupils return to school after Easter holidays | Tuesday 22 April |
| May Day Holiday | Monday 5 May |
| Fun Friday: 6-8pm | Friday 23 May |
| Half term holidays | Monday 26 May – Friday 30 May |
| Return to school after half term holidays | Monday 2 June |
| Sports Day | Tuesday 10 June |
| Parents Evening – Reports & IEPs | Tuesday 8 July |
| Leavers' Event | Friday 11 July pm |
| Induction Day | Tuesday 15 July |
| Leavers' Prom | Thursday 17 July 6.30 – 8.30pm |
| Last day of term for pupils | Monday 21 July |
| INSET Day – School closed to pupils | Tuesday 22 July |

Residential experience/sleepovers to be arranged on a class basis by class teachers