

OFSTED REPORT

We were delighted with our ‘good’ from Ofsted when they visited us at the end of the last half term. Our teaching is good and some outstanding, this matches the progress that pupils are making at Avalon.



We were particularly proud of the ‘outstanding’ grade for pupils’ behaviour. The report said that pupils ‘have high levels of empathy with others and regularly praise and clap their classmates for their achievements. Students feel very safe at school’.

As always we are very proud of our pupils. A big thank you too to all of our parents and carers and staff who have worked and continue to work closely together to enable our pupils to succeed.

STAFFING

We sadly say goodbye to Emily, our Year 8/9 teacher and two teaching assistants: Charlotte and Elaine today. We thank them for all that they have contributed and we wish them all the best in their new positions. Due to increasing pupil numbers we are very pleased to be welcoming some new teachers and teaching assistants in the autumn and will introduce you to them in the autumn newsletter.

HYDROTHERAPY POOL

We were one of three charities asked to present to Sainsbury’s who would then decide which local charity they would support this year.

Although we were not successful in gaining their support this time, I would like to mention that Jasmine in Year 7 wrote and read out a beautiful letter seeking their support on behalf of her friend Alice and the other pupils who would benefit from our hydrotherapy pool. The letter was excellent. Sainsbury’s were so impressed with Jasmine’s part of the presentation that they sent her a voucher in recognition of her hard work and consideration towards her peers.

Well done Jasmine!

However, we have now raised £311,000 towards our hydrotherapy pool and have an application in to another charitable trust, so watch this space!



All of us at Avalon wish you a sunny, fun packed Summer Holiday.

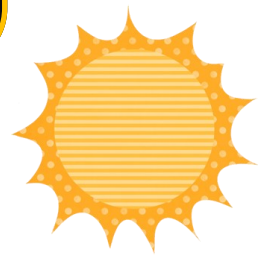
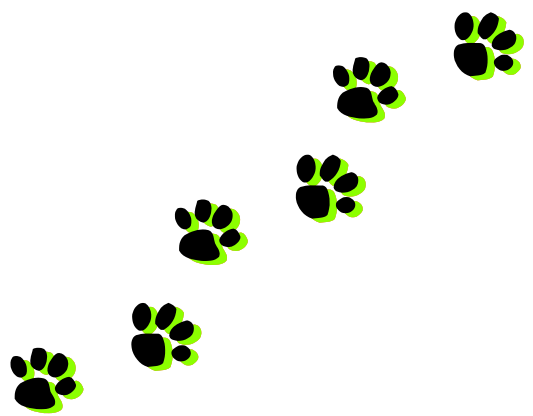




Alice and Jasmine came into the garden, just after Lulu had finished re-potting beetroot plants... the girls were enjoying catching up and looking at the garden in the lovely sunshine.



6M
Walk on the wild side!
This term 6M's topic is all about animals - the wilder the better! We have been listening to the Carnival of the Animals and using the music to inspire some very engaging, loud and expressive drama and art. You may have heard some funny sounds coming from 6M as Liam Bridge does a fantastic cockerel impression! Come up and see our art work or walk in our rainforest when you are near the sixth form centre.



6S on Camp

6S had a fantastic time on camp this year. Unfortunately some of our students missed the whole experience because they were poorly. We really missed Jordan, Rachel and Lulu on the Thursday, but shared our news and photos with them.

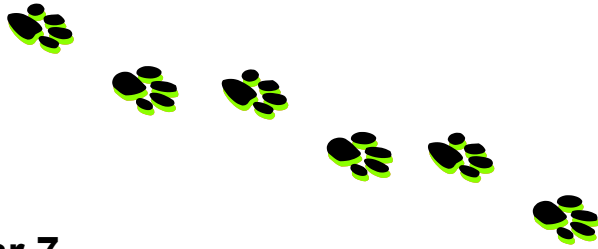
Camp began after college on Tuesday 1st of April with a supper of lasagne or pasta bake, very kindly prepared by Julie. After our feast we watched some DVDs and played some games before bed.

On Wednesday, we spent the day at @Bristol. We had a fantastic time, working on animations from Wallace and Gromit, exploring the characteristics of animals and human beings and learning how a water wheel can be powered. We also spent time in the Planetarium seeing the sky in a very different way! It was interesting to look at the patterns made by some of the many stars. The fish and chip supper in the evening was fantastic.

On Thursday we went bowling in Yeovil. Nearly every student managed to get at least one strike! Afterwards we went to Pizza Hut and had a fantastic time eating a variety of different pizzas, pastas and ice cream. I think some of our students slightly over did it!

Throughout our time on camp, all our students behaved impeccably and we were very proud of them.

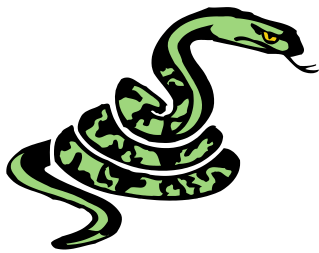




Year 7

Year 7 had an exciting time in camp week visiting Bristol Zoo. They went into an Animal Gazebo where they could see and touch some different animals!

All the class had great fun finding out about the different animals in the zoo and walking through the gorilla walkway. Here is Alice meeting a snake. Can you see something familiar about this lion?



Year 8 / 9

This term Year 8/9 have been taking part in a healthy lifestyle project working with Emily from Somerset Health. They have been thinking about what things keep them healthy and have also taken part in a beep test. They had to run in between two cones before the sound of the beep. They were brilliant and didn't give up.



KS4



KS4 have been busy at college this term making bird tables and bird houses. Pupils worked in groups on their bird tables and showed great teamwork, taking responsibility for different 'jobs' and helping each other. They also learned to use some new tools including a jigsaw and thought very carefully about how to keep themselves safe in the workshop.

We think our bird tables are fantastic and they helped us to raise lots of money for our Hydrotherapy Pool when they were sold at the auction on Fun Friday. We were so proud of the bird tables that we decided to keep one for school. It sits nicely outside KS4 classroom and we are looking forward to having some visiting birds!

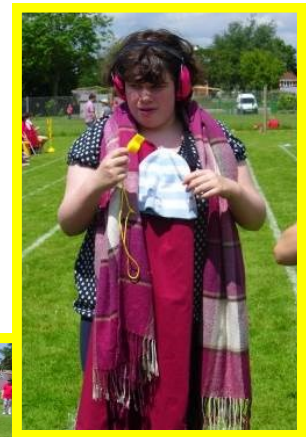
Last week the 6th Form had their final **6th Form collaboration event** of the year- a disco at a club called 'Neo' in Yeovil. Everyone had a fantastic time - it was wonderful to see our students greeting, chatting and dancing with other students from other Somerset 6th Forms and it was a really good way to reward the students for all of their hard work this year!



FUN FRIDAY

2014's Fun Friday was held a little earlier than usual and despite unpredictable weather the evening was a great success. It was lovely to see so many of you enjoying all the fun that was on offer. Between the success of the BBQ, the thrill of the penalty shoot-out, the anticipation of the raffle and the many other stalls on offer an impressive £395.34 was raised for Avalon's Hydrotherapy Pool Fund. We would like to say a big thank you for all the hard work our young people put in to produce all of the wonderful items that were on sale.





A great afternoon was had earlier this term for **Avalon Sports Day**. Everyone had fun and took part in many races including fancy dress and egg and spoon. Well done to all our pupils for participation on a very hot afternoon. Kingfisher's team were the overall winners and were presented with a cup from Tracey.



6S Volunteering at Glastonbury Abbey



Members of 6S have spent three Wednesdays in July volunteering at Glastonbury Abbey. This was organised by the Volunteering Network. Our days were spent doing activities with the Volunteering Network at their headquarters before walking to the Abbey to do our work. Our Manager was Nick and he led us through a variety of jobs, such as filling in badger holes, taking down tents, moving soil and rolling up carpet. We are proud that we were involved in preparations for the visit of HRH Prince Charles.

Our students worked so hard and effectively. They were praised by both the Volunteering Network and also members of staff at the Abbey and given free tickets to visit in their free time along with a parent carer. The Abbey also donated three extra tickets for members of the school community who were not able to take part in the volunteering. It was a fantastic experience for everyone and all students who attended really enjoyed the experience and felt proud.



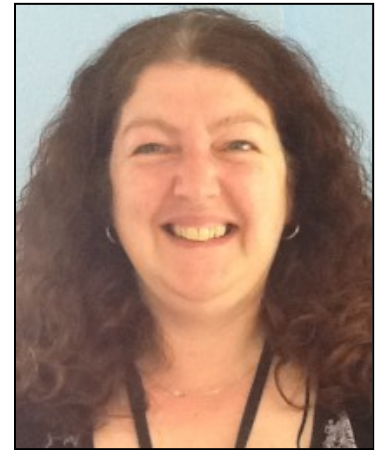
6th Form and KS4 students attended Prom on Thursday 17th July. The theme this year was Brazil and everyone worked really hard making amazing decorations and food with a South American theme. This year was the first year where students prepared their own food for Prom and everyone especially enjoyed the vegetable empanadas and Brazilian banana cake made by Key Stage 4, the tropical fruit salad made by Key Stage 3 and the spicy Brazilian potato wedges and spicy chilli and chorizo stew made by 6th Form. Everyone looked very festive and dancing continued until the very last student went home.



SCHOOL PROM



I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself in this newsletter. My name is Tracey Temple and I am the new Deputy Head Teacher at Avalon School. I started after the Easter Holidays and have very much enjoyed my first term. I have a background in special education spanning 22 years. I have worked with young people with a range of learning difficulties throughout my career in two very different London special schools.



I worked at Swiss Cottage School in Camden for 14 years as Head of Upper School. Swiss Cottage School is an outstanding school for young people with a range of very complex and medical needs. In my time at Swiss Cottage I won a teaching award for teaching science in a special school.



I then worked at Carew Academy in Sutton for 7 years as Assistant Head Teacher. Carew Academy is a school for young people with moderate and severe learning difficulties and Autism.

I am very proud to be a part of Avalon School and look forward to meeting and working with you all in the future.