

The Avanti House Explorer

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents / Carers,

Some of our plans this half-term have been disrupted by the snow and staff illness but it has certainly not wiped the smile off our children's faces; they continue to be an inspiration. Our theme in Ethics lessons and our Collective Worship sessions in January and February has been respect and the children have enjoyed assemblies led by pupils, staff and visitors, illustrating the theme with stories from various faith traditions and looking at role models from history.

Our four parents' evenings – two for Reception and two for Year Seven – were very well-attended indeed and it was good to meet many of you to hear at first-hand how you feel your youngsters are doing and how we are doing as a school. Rest assured that once we are appraised of an issue we do our best to resolve it as speedily as possible. Towards the end of this term we shall be sending out an official questionnaire to gauge your views on the progress of the school over its first two terms. Another excellent meeting with parents was the social event at the Red Turban last Thursday evening organised by Nish Patel and the Friends of Avanti House committee. It was a stunning turn-out and my colleagues and I were overwhelmed by the messages of support for what we are trying to achieve at Avanti House. Sincere thanks to those who organised the event and those attending.

The key question on everyone's mind is obviously about the long-term site; I am assured by colleagues in the Education Funding Agency (EFA) that they are doing all in their power to broker a solution and we believe this should be forthcoming by mid-March. Can I thank everyone for their patience; we will spread the word immediately once we have a concrete decision.

Mr Jones



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

Friends of Avanti House (FOAH)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who attended the social evening on 7th Feb 2013 at The Red Turban. My special thanks also go to Mr Jones and the teachers who took time out of their valuable working pattern to join us. I am sure you all had a good time getting to know one another and made new friends. The turn out was overwhelming and it was a joyous evening with good food and good company. Please could parents who would like to join the FOAH group, email their names to friendsofnavanti-house@googlegroups.com or contact any committee member so we can include you in the next meeting to discuss the future events of the school. Parents are also reminded that those of you who have taken the petition papers to collect the signatures must hand them in to the school reception or to Ms Daxa Joshi as soon as they are complete. Lastly my thanks to Ms Joshi for leading the petition, the Committee members (Mr Ajay Chauhan, Ms Mina Vekria Raghavani and Ms Attia Shah Ladha) for their hard work and efforts in making the function a success and Mr Sandip Kataria for taking photographs on the evening.

Nish Patel - Chair, FOAH



Token winners

Our very first 'Star Pupil' winners Joshan Parmar (7LH), Karishma Banga (7VP), and Devika Varsani (7HF) have received certificates for their effort and academic excellence in various lessons. Our latest form class token winners,

7SJ, have won a trip of snow-boarding lessons at 'Snow Zone' with their form tutor Ms Justine.

Don't forget to always collect your tokens from staff so you can add to your Form group total!

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



*This half term's
token winners*

Spring is coming!

Parents of Reception students - would you like support with the following?

- Supporting your child's learning at home
- Communicating positively with your child
- Encouraging independence
- Boosting confidence/self-esteem
- Establishing positive behaviour strategies
- Or perhaps you have other issues that concern you or your child

Our Head of Inclusion, Dr Susi Pinkus, will be offering 1:1 Parent Sessions on the last Wednesday of every month after morning drop off (8.00 – 9.30am). If you would like to book an appointment, please email: cecilia.georgiou@avanti.org.uk

Science club

In Science club, we made a shelter using newspaper sticks. We had to design our shelter to be as small as possible and we had to construct it in the shortest amount of time. The sticks were surprisingly strong considering that they were only made of glue and newspaper.

The sticks took a relatively long time to make and we only had 45 minutes to construct our shelter so we had to use as few sticks as possible. In order to make the stick we had to use a tool called a paper roller. We used cable ties to attach the sticks. The sticks were quite long and the structure could fit 6 people (Shiren, Dylan, Shay, Harikrishna, Mikes and Tejas).

Just seeing the paper turned into a stick was amazing. Jeremy King helped us with the structure as he worked for many years as an Engineer on a number of famous roads and bridges. He made the sticks in less than 10 seconds, and it took everyone else much longer and they were definitely not as skilful. It was quite exciting building the shelter. It was fun making and joining the sticks together. Making the shelter was easier when you had a team working together. Our chosen shape was a trapezium prism. This was a good shape as it was easy to make and sustain. We had a fantastic session!

By Dylan, Shiren & Shay



The Avanti House Breakfast Club



With many thanks to M&S in Pinner we have recently launched a new and exciting initiative, 'The Birthday Breakfast Club'. This means that any member of the Avanti house family – be they a member of staff or a student – who is celebrating their birthday, will receive an invite to join together for a free yummy breakfast during their birthday week. This is a lovely way for us all to celebrate together. At the breakfast sessions, each student or staff member also receives a place mat personalised by their peers with positive comments and messages. Roshan Patel (7VP) one of our first birthday guests said he really enjoyed coming. "We had a range of breakfasts to choose from and it was even free. I ate 'weetos' and toast and there was a whole lot of different spreads. I got to make it myself too and that was really fun!" Many thanks too to the excellent monitors – Joshan Parmar, Rishika Goyal, Ruth Appiah, Brandon-Lee Higgs and Abhay Buddhdev who help to run the Club for the birthday boys and girls! If any parent/carer or grandparent would like to make any contributions towards supporting our 'Birthday Breakfast Club' please let Dr Susi Pinkus know on susanna.pinkus@avanti.org.uk All donations gratefully received.

Parents of year 7 students - would you like support with the following?

- Establishing homework routines
 - Communicating positively with your teenager
 - Supporting your child's learning at home
 - Reducing anxiety
 - Helping boost self-esteem
 - Or perhaps you have other issues that concern you or your child
- Our Head of Inclusion, Dr Susi Pinkus, will be offering 1:1 Parent Sessions on the last Wednesday of every month from 2.00 – 3.30pm. If you would like to book a slot, please email: cecilia.georgiou@avanti.org.uk



Stop Press!

Don't forget the draft 2013-14 calendar is being placed on our website as part of a formal consultation; please could you send your comments to Mr Jones by Friday, March 1st 2013.

Maths Department

Another excellent half term has come to an end. Firstly our students covered statistics and interviewed one another to determine what likes and interests the "average" Avanti House student had. From the student generated questionnaires a number of visually stunning and informative posters were made. A special well done to Devika and Simran 7HF, Karishma and Safiyah 7VP, Rhea and Dalina 7SJ, Kashish 7VB and Hinal 7LH who now have their posters on display outside the maths classroom.

Towards the end of the half term students have begun to cover a second algebra unit. Our talented year 7 students are learning how to solve algebraic equations, and some of our top performers are already working on level 7 and GCSE style questions for this topic. To conclude this unit, students will have been able to move from worded questions to an algebraic solution. I would like to congratulate all of the year 7's on their effort in working on this difficult task – you have all worked amazingly hard!

Ms Bardsley - Mathematics Department

Year 7

I am sure you will agree that the Year 7 Christmas concert held in December was a tremendous success. It was so pleasing to see our pupils participating in a creative activity with many of them attempting something new, performing to a captivated and enthusiastic audience. Well done to all those who took part! In January, we held our very first parents' consultation evening here at Avanti house and every student should feel confident in the fact that they have made an excellent start at Avanti House. This half term our ethics focus has been 'respect', and the pupils have excelled at this task, creating raps and posters to embed this into the day to day life here at Avanti House. Next Half Term, we will be supporting Red Nose day on 15th March and pupils will be able to come to school wearing something red in order to raise money for charity (special prizes for the best fancy dress, so best start planning ahead!!). This will also link into next half term's focus, 'Integrity', looking specifically at Human Rights and charity and how we can take action to help others. I wish you a relaxing and peaceful half term with your family.

Ms Howick—Head of Year 7

PE Department

This half term we have been studying Gymnastics and Health Related Fitness and our students have demonstrated some outstanding creativity in the development of their sequencing work in Gymnastics. Knowing how the body works and responds to exercise is a key aspect of the PE national curriculum and year 7 have been learning much in this regard, including the components of fitness and how we can improve these over time. I would like to take this opportunity to remind all our families that there are various sporting opportunities on offer in Harrow and the surrounding communities so please do visit your local leisure centre and see what you can be a part of!

Ms Dunckley - Head of PE



News from our Reception classes

This half term the Avanti House Reception children have had an exciting time! The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring and playing in the snow, they have made snow men and have been writing sounds in the snow. The children have enjoyed learning about different fairy tales such as Little Red Riding Hood and Cinderella and have worked very hard on their home learning projects using lots of different materials to make some amazing and interesting models of homes. Thank you to the parents for getting involved in this.

'People Who Help Us' has been the topic for the last 2/3 weeks. Children have thought about how people help us and who they may want to be when they grow up. We have had a visit from a parent who works for the Police as well as a talk from a Doctor. We have also celebrated Chinese New Year, making dragons, fans and cards and a brilliant dragon came to life in RMR last week! We hope you have a great half term and look forward to seeing you when we return to school.

Mrs Robson & Mrs Shingala

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.

Half Term Holiday Playscheme

Harrow Leisure centre are holding a holiday playscheme during half term - 18th – 22nd February 2013 from 8.30am. The playscheme is for 5-12 year olds and activities include: trampolining, football, arts & crafts, climbing walls and more for only £74.25 for 5 days.

Also on offer:

Football Course

Harrow Leisure Centre is running a football course for 5-12 year olds during the February half term. The daily course will cost £5 and operates from 9.00am.

Basketball Course

Harrow Blackhawks will be running a basketball camp during the February half term. The basketball sessions will be running at Harrow Leisure Centre from 12noon at £1.50 per session and will be hosting its prominent 3on3 tournament on the last day

Harrow Swim4Free

FREE Swimming and inflatable sessions for under 16's. Also on offer is the 'crash course' swimming lessons Monday to Thursday from 9.00am £5 per course. At Harrow leisure centre, Hatch End Pool and Aspire Pool

For more information & bookings please contact Harrow Leisure Centre, Christchurch Avenue, Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 5BD
T: 020 8901 5980
Hatch End Pool Uxbridge Road HA5 4EA
020842808041
E: harrowlc@gll.org

HARROW BLACKHAWKS HALF TERM BASKETBALL CAMP

BASKETBALL CAMP
MONDAY 18TH FEB
UNTIL
THURSDAY 21ST FEB
12PM - 1PM 5-7 YEAR OLDS
1PM - 3PM 8-18 YEAR OLDS

ENTRY IS £1.50 PER PERSON

VENUE: HARROW LEISURE CENTRE CHRISTCHURCH AVENUE HARROW HA3 5BD

LSB BETTER HARMON COUNCIL

3-ON-3
FRIDAY 22TH FEB 12 PM-3PM
MUSIC, PRIZES ON THE DAY
5 PLAYERS IN A TEAM.

CONTACT JULIUS JOSEPH HARROWBLACKHAWKS@GMAIL.COM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Spring is

MFL Department

Year 7 have now been learning Latin for half a term and have begun to realise the similarities with the English language and the impact this new skill has on their language development. Students are becoming more confident with their sentence building and are making excellent progress.

Ms Justine—Head of MFL

"In our first lesson of Latin, we learnt how to introduce ourselves and others as well as greetings and we have learned to recognise and use grammatical structures in the singular, plural, feminine and masculine form. Currently we are studying the subjects and objects of a sentence, for example, 'Hortus maximus est'. As a result we are becoming more confident and making good progress.

By Dhylan, Shilan, Devam & Shyam

In Spanish we have been covering the topic of School. It has been really fun as we have played games which help us to learn and to remember our words. We have learnt about 'time' and how to describe our school day. We are making good progress with our linguistic skills and have enjoyed our Spanish lessons this term.

By Tuls, Hinal, Eesha & Malini

Our French lessons have been really interesting and we have learnt how to describe ourselves and others by learning the adjectival agreements (where the adjective agrees with the noun it describes). We have learnt to describe people's personality and physical appearance (size, hair, eyes) and are preparing for our end of unit Speaking and Writing examination which will take place after half term.

By Mikesh & Joshan

Humanities Department

On 23rd January 2013 year 7 went en masse to visit the Museum of London. The museum enhanced student learning about the Black Death and medieval life. They were able to see a reconstruction of a Saxon house, handle medieval objects and were entertained by an actor bringing medieval London to life. Students had an enjoyable day despite a somewhat delayed journey home!

Mrs Quelch
Head of Humanities



Avanti House at rest and play!



Stop Press!

Don't forget we start back to school after half term Monday 25th February 2013 at the usual time of 08:00

Stop Press!

Free child cycle training is being offered during half term by Harrow & Cycle Experience at Longfield School, Grimsdyke School & Harrow Leisure Centre. For more info and to book places please look at www.cycleexperience.com/holidaycourses

