

# The Avanti House Explorer

## Message from the Principal

Dear Parents / Carers,

This has been another exceptionally busy term and our newsletter gives a flavour of the many activities in which our children have been involved both in Reception and in Year Seven and bears witness to the fruitful links between Avanti House and Krishna Avanti Primary. As well as keeping our eye on the ball for the immediate future, we have also been working strategically for the longer term to confirm the location of the temporary and permanent sites in Barnet now that we shall be vacating our Harrow base at the Teachers' Centre in July 2013.

Two very well-attended meetings took place on March 13<sup>th</sup> for current parents and March 14<sup>th</sup> for new parents at which several challenging questions were posed. Not all of them I have to say have yet been answered but we are expecting news from Barnet and the Education Funding Agency any day now. What we do know is that over 100 parents have already placed their trust in the school for next September and we anticipate our new Year Seven numbers will grow well beyond this figure as the reputation of Avanti House spreads beyond Harrow, attracting pupils from Barnet, Brent, Ealing, Hillingdon and Hertfordshire. Our current Reception classes are full and we anticipate another 60 pupils joining us in September on the Krishna Avanti site.

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, along with Trust members, I shall be addressing a group of eager contractors who are bidding to construct our wonderful multi-million pound new school and sharing with them the vision for Avanti House which we seek to see enshrined in the building itself ready for its September 2015 grand opening.

Exciting times lie ahead and I shall do all in my powers to dispel any uncertainties as soon as I have concrete information. In the interim, as many of you have already done so, please feel free to contact me with your concerns and make your views known via our two excellent parent governors – Mrs B Chauhan and Mrs T Saujani – who have been very active on your behalf and please support the work of the Friends of Avanti House under the stewardship of Mr Nish Patel and his committee.

Mr Jones



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

### Avanti's Got Talent!

On Thursday 4th April 2013 the school held its inaugural talent contest—what a show! It is entirely fair to say that our students have **amazing** talents, some of which are hidden but all of which are just stunning. Many thanks to Ms Demetriou and Ms Fitzgerald for organizing the contest and ensuring its smooth running on the day and a huge congratulations to all the contestants.



### THIS HALF TERM'S TOKEN WINNERS

LH: Joshan, Malini, Tushi. Whole class: 55.35

KP: Janvi Halai, Rehul. Whole class: 60.22

VP: Ramy, Safiyah, Karishma. Whole class: 61.8

VB: Neisha Vivek. Whole class: 57.25

SJ: Ishani, Tejas. Whole class: 56.75

HF: Vheetal, Devika. Whole class: 51.8

**This term's Star Pupil is Ruth in 7LH— well done!**

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

**PE Department**

With the summer imminent (we hope!) we shall begin focusing on summer season activities in lessons and clubs. With this in mind please ensure that your PE kit is correct every week. This means you must have, **for every lesson**, shorts, t-shirt, trainers and socks. Tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt (without hood or zip) are optional extras and your teacher will tell you when these can be worn. Additionally, it is very important to be sun safe in the summer so please remember to bring a water bottle to PE lessons. We also recommend students use sunscreen every morning and for the summer months students may wear a **plain navy blue or black** peaked cap. If you have any questions about PE kit please do come and speak to me.

**Ms Dunckley - Head of PE**

**ICT**

This term students have begun to learn about the core processes and makeup of the computer systems that we rely on everyday. Our students have been focusing on the history of the computer system by matching various technological advances with teachers' ages and generations - a great visual opportunity to see technological evolution and development. Students have also had to consider advantages and disadvantages of the extent to which we rely on technology in our day to day living. Coupled with this they have also taken a dive into the future looking at the variety of computer systems, user- interfaces and artificial intelligence based programs that we can expect to adopt in the future. The challenge now for students will be to design and develop a range of solutions for problems using the skills they have learnt, aiding the development of cutting edge technology that can be employed across a number of industries.

**Technology Club**

This term students have ventured into various projects reflecting their interests. I have enjoyed witnessing pupils, in group and individual projects, employ and apply the skills learnt in their ICT lessons. Our pupils have ventured into the world of programming using Scratch based applications, creating games and quizzes and also using the internet to search, refine and consolidate their classroom learning across several subject areas in their projects. Great job, technologists!

**Mr Patel**

**Head of Design, Technology and ICT Faculty**



**Red Nose Day  
cake sale- yum!**

**The MFL  
fashion show!**

**MFL Department**

This half-term the focus has been on developing the use of opinions and justifications. We are currently completing our end of unit assessments where students have the opportunity of achieving up to a level 4. As part of their assessment they have been asked to memorise a two minute conversation talking about themselves and their families; I must admit it has been a real eye opener to observe them in their pre-exam mode! To support Red Nose Day and to show off our language skills students were challenged to model for a French Fashion Show where they had to perform a catwalk in front of the whole school audience.

**Ms Justine - Head of MFL**

**The MFL Fashion Show**

Students rehearsed and wrote their own French paragraphs learning them for Red Nose Day on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2013. Rehearsing every Thursday made it more special but also nerve wracking! All the boys and girls got ready to do the catwalk wearing their own outfits while other students watched; it was so cool! We were nervous and excited at the same time but it was amazing. The purpose was to have fun, improve our French skills and gain confidence; we feel that we have gained lots of confidence and are very happy that we joined in.

**By Pallavi & Tamara-Leigh**

**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](mailto:cecilia.georgiou@avanti.org.uk)**

**Stop Press!**

Easter holiday Geography HW is to produce a (poster) guide to the holiest places along the river Ganges. Due date: w/b 22/04/13 (i.e. your first lesson back). There are tokens available for the best ones!

**Mrs Quelch - Head of Humanities**

## Music

It's been a very busy half term in Music lessons. Students have been learning about the Blues and have developed their keyboard skills to perform a 12 bar blues. Students listened to a number of blues pieces and have analysed them using the keywords and have also written their own Blues lyrics and performed them. Some students have formed bands and are delving into the world of Rock n Roll during lunchtimes! In each band we have a guitarist, a singer, a drummer, a pianist and a bassist. They are very passionate about performing together and are producing some excellent sounds! Instrumental lessons are going particularly well with 30 students signed up to drums, piano, guitar, violin and cello. Some have progressed so well that they are due to take exams on their instruments next term. Good luck to them and don't forget to practice over the Easter break! If you are interested in signing your child up for instrumental lessons in September please contact me to arrange this: [anastasia.demetriou@avanti.org.uk](mailto:anastasia.demetriou@avanti.org.uk). If your child is currently taking instrumental lessons please let me know if you *do not* want this to continue next academic year from September 2013. I would like to congratulate our students for their hard work during the last term. It's been a fun yet challenging time and they deserve a well-earned rest!

**Miss Demetriou**  
**Music Teacher**



## Reception

It is astounding that we have come to the end of yet another exciting term in Reception. Numerous activities and celebrations have seen all children learning through fun and play and during this term both our Reception classes have hosted their own class assemblies. We celebrated Red Nose Day, Puzzle Day and learned to celebrate our differences and our Reception classes were privileged to participate in the celebrations of Gaura Purnima, learning more about the life of Lord Chaitanya. Additionally there were celebrations for Holi, Passover and Easter. Our Easter parade was very exciting with singing and AMAZING Easter bonnets made by the students. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and carers for their continued support particularly with the students' home learning and motivating them to participate enthusiastically in their day to day learning. Next term, our philosophy and ethics focus will be 'Courage' and our topic is 'Toys'. We will be learning about how toys we play with now are different from toys in the past and will be exploring the materials the toys are made from. Hopefully the summer weather will arrive and we will be exploring the outdoor area to learn about our sub-topic, 'Animals and their babies' as well as 'Weather'. As always, our work across the areas of learning will be linked to our topics. We are looking forward to a fun and productive summer term.

**Mrs Shingala &**  
**Mrs Robson**



## Dance and Drama

Students have been working hard studying West Side Story in Dance and the Black Death in

Drama. The children will be performing some of their work from the dance lesson in a celebration assembly at the end of term. Last half term 7KP performed a dance piece focusing on Stomp, this was absolutely fantastic and the students performed very well, well done 7KP!!

Recently the Performing Arts department took 27 year 7 children to the Ambassador's Theatre to see Stomp: the children thoroughly enjoyed this.

This term we have been running a Yoga club after school on a Tuesday; we have had a few committed students and they have made a lot of progress with this. It is an excellent way to focus and relax the body, particularly after a hard day at school! If you are interested in participating in this club, then please see Miss Fitzgerald.

Next term Ms Demetriou and I will be running an Expressive Arts club on a Thursday after school. We are going to work towards a Summer concert together, if you would like to be a part of this we will be auditioning people next term. I hope you all have a very restful Easter holiday.

**Miss Fitzgerald – Head of Performing Arts**

## 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.

## Geography

In Geography this half term we have been studying rivers.

At this end of this unit our case study will be 'The River Ganges'. Students have been watching the BBC series 'Ganges', which explores the natural history and the religious significance of this holy river. I highly recommend the series!

**Mrs Quelch**



**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

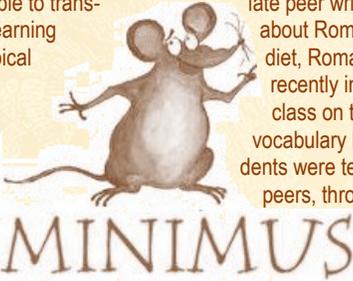
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Spring has sprung!

**Latin**

Although Latin is not spoken today as a modern foreign language, students have been reading this in school this half term. They have developed their skills and can write Latin dialogues, performing these for the rest of the class. Students have learnt how to translate simple Latin sentences into English and have often recognised where English, French or Spanish words come from, as Latin is the root language of all modern Romance languages, and English and Romanian. Sentence structure has become longer and more complicated and this is exactly the type of skill needed for GCSE and 'A' level Latin so some real congratulations are in order! Students can recognise and understand nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs and prepositions and are even able to translate peer written sentences. We have been learning about Roman culture including meals and typical diet, Roman armour, death and burial and to the recently individuals gave presentations class on the Roman baths using new Latin vocabulary learnt in the lessons. Students were tested on their knowledge, by peers, through short question and answer sessions at the end of each presentation! I am very pleased with the hard work and effort of the students in year 7 and hope they continue this into the future.

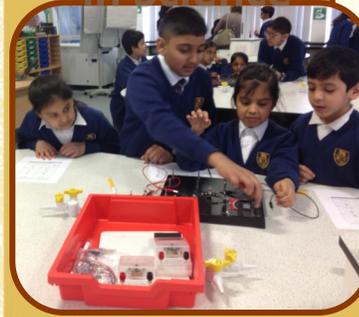
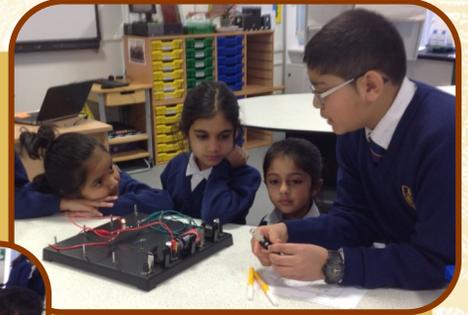


Mrs Berens - Latin Teacher

**Student attendance and punctuality are two aspects of school life Avanti House takes very seriously. We monitor all attendance on a daily basis and provide support if parents/carers and students need it. 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 have enjoyed and encourage them to get involved in extra-curricular activities
  - Discuss any problems they may have & let us know about 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 home-school planner (p.28) for some self-help techniques
  - Remember to arrange appointments and outings beyond school hours.
- This will help prevent disruption to your child's education & please remember you should not expect the school to agree to your child going on holiday during term time.**

Working with year 2 in Science



New teachers in the making?!

**Science**

Students this half term have done some fantastic work with electrical circuits. The topic they have studied has been Energy and Electricity. They have had the opportunity to investigate and discover the world of currents and voltage! Additionally, we had a very successful visit from the year 2 students at Krishna Avanti Primary School. 7KP were fantastic role models for the year 2 students and worked brilliantly with them.

Miss Patel - Head of Science

This term in Science we were studying Energy and Electricity. First we started with energy its different types. With that we had to look at different objects and what the input /output energy was and draw energy transfer diagrams. We also drew Sankey Diagrams to see how they work and looked at efficiency and how to calculate it. The following week we started electricity. We studied different symbols of a circuit diagram and what each component does as well as series and parallel circuits and how a voltmeter and an ammeter work. I have really enjoyed learning about this. **Shay 7KP**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of March the year 2 children from Krishna Avanti Primary School came to learn with us about circuits and energy. This experience was fun and gave us more time to interact with the year 2's. They were all enthusiastic and were really smart. Most of them knew what the components were, and knew how the circuits work. They even knew about the copper wiring inside the wires. They knew scientific words like insulator and conductor. But we caught them out with some components they did not know like an ammeter and voltmeter. They enjoyed working with us as we taught them new facts that they could use. Overall this gave us an insight into how the teachers would work. I hope we can do this again. **Dylan and Neal 7KP**

On 28<sup>th</sup> of March the year 2 from KAPS came to Avanti House to see how science works in our school. They learnt about friction and electricity. They really enjoyed it and we enjoyed teaching them because it was fresh in our minds. Some students knew loads of things already and so it was easy to teach them more about friction and electricity. I really enjoyed teaching them more about friction. At the end of their sessions some students told me that they learnt that positive and positive won't work and negative and negative won't work. **Janvi 7KP**

Birthday Book Club



**Stop Press!** Don't forget we start back to school after the Easter holidays on Monday 22nd April 2013 at the usual time of 08:00

**Stop Press!** We are delighted to announce our new 'Birthday Book' scheme for next term. If it is your child's birthday, you will be invited to donate a £5 contribution towards a book for our school library- we will buy the book, and insert a little sticker on the front page to honour your child's birthday and to let everyone know who donated the book. This scheme is a wonderful way to help grow our school library and excite students further about reading. **Dr Pinkus and Ms Vasudeva**