



Key Information for Secondary Parents & Pupils for 2024-25

We writing to you to provide a number of updates prior to the start of next academic year. Each year, we seek student feedback on what is going well at school, and what could be improved, as well as taking note of any parent suggestions or feedback that come throughout the year. With this information, we have reviewed some of our procedures. Please do take the time to read through this letter and discuss it with your child during the summer holidays, prior to their return on: **27th August (Year 7 only) or 28th August (Year 8, 9, 10 and 11).**

Sanskrit Teaching

For the start of the 2024-25 academic year, Avanti Fields School will be unable to provide KS3 Sanskrit as part of our planned curriculum as we currently have a member of staff on long term medical absence. We are exploring a number of options with the Trust around how we can incorporate Sanskrit as part of our offer as quickly as possible and will be able to communicate with students and families in the new academic year.

Students in KS3 will be timetabled with an additional hour of Spanish a week, as this is our chosen Modern Foreign Language, that all students will continue with into GCSE.

Behaviour Policy Updates

Through consultation with our staff and students, we have made changes to our behaviour policy for next year. Feedback on providing more clarity around sanctions has been taken on board, as well as creating a single rewards system by fully utilising House Points are some of the key changes. In addition to this, we have included a section around the use of electronic devices. Can you please take the time to familiarise yourself with these new policy prior to the start of the new academic year.

We will be holding assemblies this side of the summer break to inform pupils of the changes and will begin next academic year with an assembly on behaviours and attitudes to ensure our expectations remain high.

Our updated behaviour policy can be found on our website here:

<https://avanti.org.uk/avantifields/policies/>

Mobile phones / electronic devices

As part of our updated Behaviour Policy, we have amended our expectation for the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices, including SMART watches. Mobile phones and other electronic devices will be stored in pupils' lockers, NOT in blazers or in bags. Mobile phones should be turned off upon entry to the school gates and we recommend that SMART watches are not worn to/from school.





Govinda's Break Time Snacks

To support pupils being able to eat a healthy snack and meal at school, as well as promoting positive behaviours at break time, we will be changing how we sell break time snacks. Pupils will be able to purchase a break time snack on alternating days. On days where pupils are not able to purchase a break time snack, we encourage students to bring in their own ethos friendly snack, such as fruit, cereal or muesli bars (nut free) or a small cheese sandwich.

Week A: Mon, Wed, Fri: Year 7, 9 & 11

Week B: Mon, Wed, Fri: Year 8, 10 & 11

Week A: Tue, Thu: Year 8, 10 & 11

Week B: Tue, Thu: Year 7, 9 & 11

Change in School Timings

There will be a slight amendment to our school timings for next academic year. Following feedback from both pupils and staff, we will be adjusting the internal timings of the school day to increase break time from 15 minutes to 20 minutes on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Break time will remain at 15 minutes on a Wednesday.

There will be no change to the start or end timings of the school day.

	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri		Wed	
AM reg	8:20am – 8:50am	30 min	8:20am – 8:40am	20 min
P1	8:50am – 9:45am	55 min	8:40am – 9:30am	50 min
P2	9:45am – 10:40am	55 min	9:30am – 10:20am	50 min
Break	10:40am – 11:00am	20 min	10:20am – 10:35am	15 min
P3	11:00am – 11:55am	55 min	10:35am – 11:25am	50 min
P4	11:55am – 12:50pm	55 min	11:25am – 12:15pm	50 min
P5a (lunch A)	12:50pm – 1:45pm	55 min	12:15pm – 1:05pm	50 min
P5b (lunch B)	1:45pm – 2:40pm	55min	1:05pm – 1:55pm	50 min
P6	2:40pm – 3:30pm	50 min	1:55pm – 2:45pm	50 min

Secondary Parking Permits

A reminder that there is limited secondary parking available on school site as we need to prioritise the drop off and collection of our primary pupils. We encourage all secondary parents to use a park and stride from Tesco or walk/cycle in via the Thurmaston Lane pedestrian gate. At the start of the academic year, and periodically throughout the year, the Senior Leadership Team will be checking parking permits and asking parents to leave the carpark if they do not have a right to be there.

In addition to this, we also ask that secondary parents do not park along the road leading into the school, Bhaktivedanta Marg. There is a timed parking restriction in place between 2:30pm – 4:30pm each day. If parents park along our access road, it will delay emergency vehicles access to the site should it be needed.

Should **your child** have any additional needs, who are not able to walk from Tesco, please complete this form to request a parking pass for the 2024-25 academic year. Parking passes will be issued to secondary parents in the last week of this year, between Monday 15th – Wednesday 17th July.

<https://avanti.wufoo.com/forms/afs-onsite-parking-request/>



School Equipment

The school will provide appropriate exercise books and learning resources to support pupil learning throughout the day.

Students will be provided with a school planner at the start of the academic year. A school lanyard, ID card and House Badge is part of the required equipment and uniform, issued by the school.

Students are required to have the following equipment available for their learning:

- Black pen(s)
- HB or B pencil or mechanical pencil
- Rubber
- Glue stick
- Sharpener
- Purple pen
- Green pen
- Set of highlighters
- 15cm or 30cm ruler
- Scientific calculator
- Set of colouring pencils
- Set of HB drawing pencils
- Water bottle
- PE kit on days when PE or Yoga is timetabled
- Padlock (for locker)

Student contributions towards additional learning resources are communicated with parents each year via Heads of Department. Additional learning resources may include:

- Study or revision guides
- Contributions towards Design & Technology project materials
- Contributions towards Food & Nutrition cooking materials

School Uniform

Please be reminded of our uniform expectations; students without correct uniform will be issued sanctions in line with our behaviour policy.

Ties

All students will be expected to wear a tie. These should be worn with a traditional knot. Large knots or short ties are not acceptable.

Shirts

A white school shirt must be worn with a top button which fastens at the neck. The shirt should be long enough to be tucked in and the top button must be fastened at all times. Blouse style shirts with rounded collars are not allowed.

Skirts

Girls may wear a **grey** skirt (not black or charcoal), which has two inverted kick pleats and no splits. It is important to ensure that the skirt is **knee-length** and not made of stretchy material. Students will be asked to replace skirts which no longer comply with the length requirements.

Trousers

Trousers must be **grey** (not black or charcoal) and of a classic wider style: straight, with no visible zips, studs or buckles and which do not fit closely on any part of the leg.

Blazers

Blazers and jumpers must have the school's logo and can only be bought from the approved school outfitters. Logos are not sold separately. Blazers are a **compulsory** part of the school uniform.



Jumpers

Only V neck jumpers with the Avanti logo are allowed. As an alternative, a white long-sleeve top may be worn under the shirt, no visibly coloured clothing should show through. Jumpers will not be permitted to be worn without a blazer.

Shoes

Shoes should be of plain black leather or leather-type, with plain black soles and black laces. Black suede, fabric or canvas type shoes, boots or trainer type shoes are not permitted. Shoes need to be comfortable enough to walk to school in and suitable to wear in wet weather. In winter, students may walk to school in boots, but these should be changed upon arrival at school.

Please see separate page with shoe guidance.

Socks and Tights

Socks should be plain black or grey. Tights should be plain black.

PE Kit (Boys)

Avanti PE shorts
 Avanti PE polo shirt
 White ankle length socks
 Avanti tracksuit bottoms (optional) or navy tracksuit bottoms
 Avanti football socks
 Avanti sweatshirt
 Sports trainers (not plimsoles)
 Football boots
 Shinpads (optional)
 Plain thermal base layer (for winter, optional)
 Appropriate blue or black waterproof
 Sweatbands (to cover any religious bracelets, bands that cannot be removed)

PE Kit (Girls)

Avanti PE skirt or Avanti PE shorts
 Avanti PE polo shirt
 White ankle length socks
 Avanti tracksuit bottoms (optional) or navy tracksuit bottoms
 Avanti football socks
 Avanti sweatshirt
 Sports trainers (not plimsoles)
 Hair ties where required
 Football Boots
 Shinpads (optional)
 Plain thermal base layer (for winter, optional)
 Appropriate blue or black waterproof
 Sweatbands (to cover any religious bracelets, bands that cannot be removed)

Piercings

Only one small, plain silver or gold-coloured stud in the bottom of each ear lobe is permitted. Nose piercings are not permitted at school.

Jewellery

Only religious bracelets and/or necklaces will be allowed and with the exception of a pair of earrings no other jewellery will be permitted. Religious necklaces should be worn inside the shirt for safety reasons.

Make-up

Make-up, including tinted moisturiser or concealer, is not allowed.

False Nails

Excessively long nails are not suitable for school as they have been known to cause injuries to the student if they become caught or bent backwards during sporting activities. Only natural looking non-coloured nails are permitted.

Hair

Extreme hairstyles are not allowed. Unnatural hair colours are not permitted. Borders and patterns, including a shaved parting, must not be shaved into the hair or eyebrows.

Hoodies

Hoodies are not allowed to be worn in, or on the way to school and will be confiscated.



AVANTI FIELDS

Boys Approved shoes



Leather shoe with laces



Leather shoe with laces

Boys Non-approved shoes



Leather shoe with velcro



Leather (sports-type) shoe with laces



Leather (sports-type) shoe with laces and hightop

Girls Approved shoes



Leather shoe with laces



Leather loafer-style shoe



Leather shoe with central support strap

Girls Non-approved shoes



Ballet flat style shoes



Leather (sports-type) shoe with laces



Leather (sports-type) shoe with laces and hightop



Academic and Term Dates for Year 8

We are writing to provide you with the key academic and term dates for Year 8 for 2024-25. As the year progresses, there will be a variety of enrichment and super-curricular events that will be communicated to parents via our parent bulletin and Arbor emails.

We would like to remind parents to check the term dates **before** booking holidays. Family holidays booked during term time will be marked as unauthorised.

Autumn Term

- **Monday 26th August 2024: August Bank Holiday & Janmashtami (school closed)**
- **Wednesday 28th August 2024: Start of academic year**
- Monday 2nd September 2024: School photographs (individual)
- Tuesday 3rd September 2024: Year 8 Parent Information Evening (6:30pm – 7:30pm, in person)
- **Monday 23rd September – Friday 27th September 2024: GL assessments NGRT**
- Tuesday 24th September 2024: Behaviour and E-safety Evening (5:00pm – 6:30pm, online)
- Friday 18th October 2024: Diwali Festival Day celebration

Monday 21st October – Friday 1st November 2024: Half-Term Holidays

- **Monday 4th November 2024: AST INSET Day (school closed)**
- **Tuesday 5th November – Friday 15th November 2024: Year 8 PIP 1 assessments**
- Thursday 5th December 2024: Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening (early finish at 12:50pm)
- Friday 13th December 2024: End of Autumn Term

Monday 16th December 2024 – Friday 3rd January 2025: Christmas Holidays

Spring Term

- Monday 6th January 2025: Start of Spring Term
- **Monday 3rd February 2025 – Friday 7th February 2025: GL assessments NGRT (below reading age)**
- **Tuesday 4th February 2025: Year 8 Parent Consultation Evening (early finish at 12:50pm, appointments between 2:00pm – 7:00pm, online)**
- **Friday 14th February 2025: AST INSET DAY (School Closed)**

Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February 2025: Half-Term Holidays

- Tuesday 25th February 2025: Year 9 Parent Consultation Evening (early finish at 12:50pm)
- Monday 17th March 2025: School Photos (form/class)
- Monday 31st March – Friday 4th April 2025: Avanti Quest: Belgium
- Wednesday 26th March 2025: Gaura Purnima Festival Day celebration
- Thursday 3rd April 2025: Year 7 Parent Consultation Evening (early finish at 12:50pm)
- **Monday 7th April – Friday 11th April 2025: GL assessments PTE**
- Tuesday 8th April 2025: Year 10 Parent Consultation Evening (early finish at 12:50pm)

Monday 14th April – Friday 25th April 2025: Easter Holidays



Summer Term

- Monday 28th April 2025: Start of Summer Term
- Monday 28th April – Friday 2nd May 2025: GL assessments PTM
- Monday 5th May 2025: May Bank Holiday (school closed)
- Tuesday 6th May – Friday 16th May: Year 8 PIP 2 assessments

Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May 2025: Half-Term Holidays

- Monday 2nd June 2025: School INSET Day (school closed)
- Thursday 26th June 2025: Ratha Yatra Festival Day celebration
- Friday 11th July 2025: Last day of summer term

Monday 14th July 2025: Start of Summer Holidays

Yours sincerely,

Vanessa Bardsley
Principal