



AVANTI SCHOOLS TRUST

# SW HUB AVANTI NEWS

February 2020

## Message from the SW Hub Director - Carolyn Dickinson



Carolyn Dickinson

Welcome to the second edition of the SW Hub newsletter. It has certainly been a busy first half of the spring term and I am pleased to have been able to meet many parents, pupils and staff. Seeing much of the good work that is taking place in the schools has been a privilege, we have included a few highlights in this newsletter.

A key feature this half term has been the curriculum review, thank you to everyone who has engaged with this progress, we have been thrilled to see the genuine enthusiasm to be part of the future shaping of our schools.

As well as strengthening leadership within each of the schools we have been looking at how best we can support pupils in their attendance and well-being and also to ensure we do everything possible to meet their needs. To this end we will be recruiting a Family Link Worker to each of the schools and an Educational Psychologist to work across the Hub.



### Contact the SW Hub Board

If you have an issue you would like to raise with the SW Hub Board you can contact the Clerk via the following email address:  
[SWHub.Clerk@avanti.org.uk](mailto:SWHub.Clerk@avanti.org.uk)

The aim of this newsletter is to provide a brief update on some of the various actions and discussions that have been taking place across the three Avanti schools in the South West Hub since the schools joined on November 1 2019.



## Dragons's Den

Dragon's Den is an English led project based learning experience at Avanti Hall School. Year 9 students developed a concept and a theme for a magazine. They considered an audience and then made a pitch to a team of dragons ready with a large pile of monopoly money. The picture shows the 2 students who produced Ink being grilled by the dragons.

This project develops writing for different audiences and develops oral skills, creative design and entrepreneurial skills that prepares young people for life and employment as well as developing English literature and language ability. I was fortunate to be invited to be one of the dragons and was delighted that all students from a wide range of

backgrounds and ability had the courage to present to an audience and be grilled by the dragons. I was very encouraged by the effort and hard work demonstrated by Year 9 students. The level of literacy of some of the winning magazines demonstrates GCSE grade 9 ability in Year 9 students. Ink featured in the picture below is on sale at Avanti Hall School, it is a thoughtful written magazine that has released the creativity of the students and includes a critique worthy of a newspaper Sunday magazine. I have taught for over 2 decades and have rarely come across such high-level English skills. I would like to thank Jane Berry and the English team and most importantly the students for rising to the challenge.

Jason Wood, Acting Principal

## Message from Chair of the SW Hub Board - Dr Molly Warrington

I am very happy to announce that subject to final checks we have appointed permanent principals at both Avanti Hall school and Avanti Park school.



**Newly appointed  
Principal at Avanti Hall**

Phil Arnold



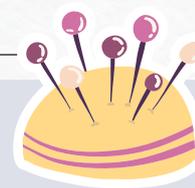
**Newly appointed  
Principal at Avanti Park**

Abby Atkins

**Phil Arnold** has been appointed as permanent principal of Avanti Hall. Phil is currently the Director of Teaching and Learning with Inspiring Schools Partnership in Plymouth. We very much look forward to Phil taking up the principal post from September 2020.

**Abby Atkins** has been appointed as permanent principal of Avanti Park. Abby is currently deputy headteacher at Tor School in Glastonbury. We very much look forward to Abby taking up the principal post from the beginning of the summer term 2020.

## Handwork



### Class 1

In Handwork, Class 1 are immersed in the skills of knitting. An activity which, because it uses both hands in a rhythmically repeated movement and demands great patience, not only promotes dexterity and skill, but also helps strengthen determination.

They make their own knitting needles, learn to cast on and off, count rows and stitches and knit using garter stitch. They also learn how to card sheep's fleece for stuffing their animals, twist and ply a simple thread and can sew up and shape their animals.



### Class 2

Class 2 have focused on extending their knitting skills. The main project is a knitted doll or bear which they accessorize with hats, scarfs and bags complete with mini bunny inside etc. Through knitting this doll or bear they can now follow a simple pattern, select their own colours and most importantly of all they have learnt to knit purl stitch!



Pupils at Avanti Park school gave up their free time to come to school and sew bat wraps, cosy pouches and crochet nests for animals in need after the horrendous bushfires in Australia.

Bat wraps stimulate baby bats when they are tucked next to the mother's body and are held by the mother's wing. The nests and pouches

are for orphaned wallabies, kangaroos and fledglings.

Using handwork skills taught in school, about 40 children and adults had a productive morning engaged with crochet hooks, needles and sewing machines and the results were great and colourful! It was a great opportunity for children to use their

skills and goodwill to help in a situation that can often make us feel helpless. The box of goodies was delivered to Garston Vets, who were very surprised at the quality, quantity and beauty of the nests and pouches made in Frome. Everything was sent off to Australia to help with the efforts to save wildlife affected by the bush fires.





## Significant changes to each of the South West Avanti Schools

The Department of Education have now communicated their decision about the significant change proposals. We will be working closely with families and respective local authorities to ensure that families are given support with the smooth transfer of pupils affected.



### AVANTI GARDENS SCHOOL

The RSC has approved our proposal to change the age range at Avanti Gardens School from 4 to 16 to 4 to 11 with effect from September 2020. The capacity of the school will change to 420 pupils (from the current 720). The Published Admission Number (PAN) will increase from 52 to 60.



### AVANTI PARK SCHOOL

The RSC has approved our proposal to change the age range at Avanti Park School from 3 to 16 to 3 to 13 with effect from September 2020. The school will be re-designated as a middle (deemed primary) school. The capacity of the academy will reduce to 540 pupils (from the current 720). The Published Admission Number (PAN) will increase from 52 to 60.

The current Year 10 (class 9) will continue to be educated at Avanti Park until they complete their GCSE courses at the end of the summer term 2021.



### AVANTI HALL SCHOOL

The RSC SW office has decided to defer a final decision on the proposed changes for Avanti Hall School. We will continue to work closely with DfE colleagues and with Devon LA in ensuring that the school makes rapid and sustainable improvement.