



Avanti Insight

Official Newsletter for Avanti Grange Secondary School

APRIL 2022 vol3

A Message from the Principal

It has been an incredibly busy few weeks with over 650 students and parents visiting Avanti Grange. We now know who the vast majority of our students will be in September 2022, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming them into the Avanti Family. Next half term, Mr Martin and I will be visiting every primary school to meet our new Avantians. We will speak to our new students and their teachers, so we know exactly how to support them in September.

The transformation of upstairs at Meadows continues, with Interactive Whiteboards being fitted into all our classrooms and all the furniture arriving in the next few weeks. Outside the playing fields are now officially ready for use, and we are very much looking forward to hosting our first rugby, football and hockey fixtures in September.

Recruitment continues with exceptionally talented Subject Leads of Maths, English and Science being appointed. These colleagues will be formally introduced in future editions.



Uniform

Uniform will be given high priority at Avanti Grange; we believe the way in which students wear their school uniform reflects the importance which is placed on attention to detail and pride in the school. We want the smart appearance of our students to be regularly commented on by visitors to the school and within Bishop's Stortford as a whole.

Our uniform supplier Brigade have kindly set up an online shop specifically for Avanti Grange, see link [School - Brigade Clothing, LTD](#)

We strongly advise that you **do not purchase** uniform until June/July as children do tend to grow! There will still be plenty of time for delivery. Brigade will have a stall, showing samples, at our Parent Information Evening on the 7th July, so we recommend you wait until then to place orders.

Year 6 Transition

At Avanti Grange we understand the importance of a smooth transition between primary and secondary school. Outlined below is an extensive transition programme designed to support students and parents through this potentially stressful time. Firstly, we guarantee to visit all our feeder primary schools to speak with students and Year 6 teachers. This will allow us to gain a far better understanding of our incoming students and put plans in place for their arrival.

Date	Event	Attended by
April – June	Primary School visit	Mr Jones / Mr Martin
30th April	Welcome to the Avanti Family Event	Parents and Students
June	Targeted Transition Afternoon	Students (selected only)
7th July	Parent Information Evening	Parents
14th July	Secondary Transition Day	Students
September	Baseline Assessment (inc. CATs)	Students
End of September	Meet the Tutor – Buffet and Drinks	Parents

In June we will hold a 'Targeted Transition Afternoon' aimed at students that are a single student or one of two joining Avanti Grange from their primary. During the afternoon, there will be team building activities and the opportunity to start developing friendships with students in a similar position.

If you have any questions regarding Transition please email Mr. Martin at ben.martin@avanti.org.uk

On the 30th April will be hosting our second 'Coffee Morning'. At this event there will be the opportunity to meet our newly appointed Subject Leads of English, Maths and Science <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/308559348317>

Formal Opening Site Opening

On the 6th of May we will be visiting our permanent site for a formal 'Ground-breaking' ceremony. It would be lovely to have students and parents in attendance. We are waiting for confirmation of the timing of this event but if you would like to attend, please complete this Microsoft Form <https://forms.office.com/r/wXWw0ysiLb> We will then organise a ballot and draw the lucky students and parents.



Courageous – Curious – Resilient



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Staff Insight – Business Support Manager: Nicola McManus

Why did you get choose to work at a school?

I gave up working in the city when I had my first son. A few years later as a parent governor I heard about the role of School Business Manager. I realised it fitted well with my skill set from my previous career and researched the job description and the qualifications needed. Ten years later I still love the role.

What is your worst bad habit?

I don't have any 😊

Do you have any pets?

A retired Greyhound called Dave



What are favourite hobbies?

My latest favourite hobby is tap dancing which I have returned to after a gap of 40 years...

What would you be doing if you had not become a BSM?

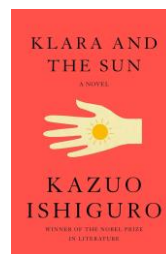
Travelling the world.

Tell us something about you that will surprise us...

I married my husband Hugh in Las Vegas 23 years ago. Elvis gave me away!!

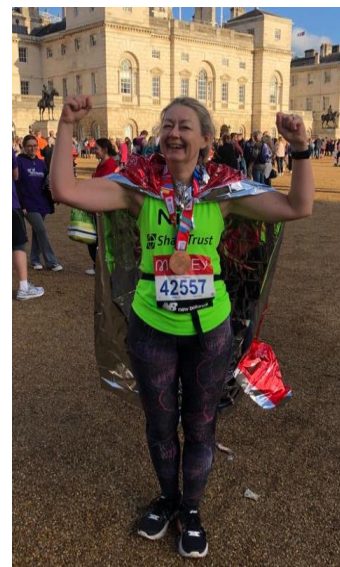
What was the last book you read?

Klara and The Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro



My proudest moment...

Eventually running and finishing the London Marathon in October 2021 after April 2020 was cancelled due to Covid and October 2020 became virtual (people may have spotted me running laps around Bat Willow Country Park and Grange Paddocks for this one). I can honestly say I loved every minute of it, but I haven't run since!



BYOD – Bring Your Own Device

Avanti Grange will be a 'Bring Your Own Device' school. The use of personal devices at school deepens learning. It allows learning which is personalised and student-centred, helps to develop modern teaching and learning practices, and fosters digital literacy, fluency and social responsibility in a safe environment.

Students will be expected to bring a laptop-style device with a physical keyboard. Tablet devices and smartphones have limited practical use and will not be allowed in lessons.

We are planning for about 30% of lessons to have some element of device use, this may be for part or all of the lesson. Further advice about the type of device in which to invest in will be provided at our Parents Transition Evening on the 7th July.

Microsoft 365

We will also be an Office 365 school, students will be taught and then expected to use Office 365 programmes when asked. Students will also have the opportunity to use a range of subject specific software in lessons. Microsoft Teams will be used for sharing resources and assignments as well as remote learning, if it should be required in the future.



Ukraine

At Avanti Grange, as in all Avanti Trust Schools, we expect our students to use their education to make the world a better place.

We are all deeply saddened to see the suffering faced by people who are affected by the Russia-Ukraine crisis. We are partnering with The Lotus Trust to deliver humanitarian aid to as many displaced individuals and families

We request your support to raise £10,000 to make this a reality! Our immediate focus is to scale the food distribution to 10,000 meals a day and support this activity for the next 3 months. We will also send a team from the UK to support the relief effort on the ground.

We understand that times are difficult with the increasing cost of living but anything you can donate will be greatly appreciated.

Link below:

[United for Ukraine - Avanti Schools Trust - JustGiving](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/Avanti-Schools-Trust-United-for-Ukraine)



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