



# Avanti Insight

Official Newsletter for Avanti Grange Secondary School

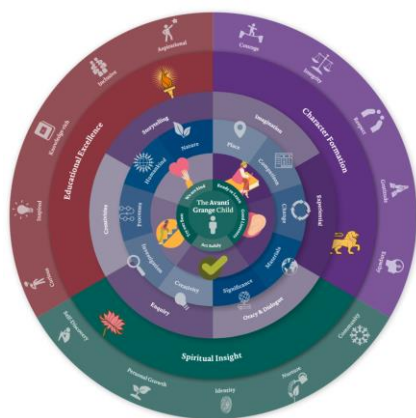
MAY 2022 vol4

## A Message from the Principal

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April you will have received a copy of our Welcome Pack. Please read through this carefully as it has a lot of important information for the start of term. For our first year at Avanti Meadows, we are in the unique position to be able to offer wrap-around care similar to many primary schools. Please email [info@risingstars-wraparound.co.uk](mailto:info@risingstars-wraparound.co.uk) for further details.

Thank you to all those who entered the ballot to attend the Groundbreaking event, it was an incredible response. Congratulations to Sara and Lois Sexton as well as Darren and Grace Clark who represented our parents and students at the event. There will be a full article on the ceremony in the next edition of Avanti Insight.

A quick update on progress of the Meadows conversion, the interactive screens are now set-up, the Art Room is complete, and the lockers have been installed. All ahead of schedule! The library and reception area will be fitted next week, exciting times.



## The Avanti Grange Student

The diagram to the left represents everything we want our students to strive to be. These symbols will be used in every lesson to allow students and teachers to not only focus on academic excellence but also character formation and spiritual insight.

The Avanti Grange classroom will be a place where students are challenged and supported in equal measure. Our rigorous curriculum will stretch every student to be the best that they can be.

We will create a learning environment in which your child can flourish and be happy.

A regular and robust assessment and reporting system will clearly inform you about your child's progress each term.

## Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who attended our Coffee Morning over the Bank Holiday weekend. Over 250 students and parents made the event. It was a pleasure to see everyone getting to know each other and becoming part of the Avanti Family. The atmosphere and positivity in the room was everything we want Avanti Grange to become. A special thank you to our new and existing staff that made the event possible. Here are a few photos from the day.



## Year 7 Curriculum

The Avanti Grange curriculum has been designed to meet students' individual learning needs, so every student has the maximum opportunity to succeed and realise their ambitions.

Our curriculum is planned in order to prepare students for success at GCSE, over the five years, starting from Year 7. Students will learn the key skills and concepts for success during key stage three and will begin their GCSEs in Year 10.

Subject	Number of lessons per fortnight	Subject	Number of lessons per fortnight
English & Drama	9	Physical Education	4
Maths	8	PRE	2
Science	6	D&T	3
Geography	3	Art	3
History	3	PSHE	1
MFL (French or Spanish)	4	Yoga / Meditation	1
Computer Science	3		

Above is our Year 7 Curriculum Plan including subjects and the number of lessons per fortnight

**Courageous – Curious – Resilient**



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## Staff Insight – Subject Lead English: Mark Nichols

### Why did you choose to become a teacher?

I got into teaching by chance really. As a child, I always wanted to be an explorer, archaeologist or writer. I never thought I would become a teacher, despite remembering sitting in school classrooms, seminar groups and lecture halls, having an odd feeling that I wanted to be at the front doing what my teachers and lecturers did. I guess I just wanted to be the centre of attention and when the chance came up to train as a teacher, I took it!



### What would you be doing if you had not become a teacher?

Well... I would love to be a landscape gardener - taking care of plants, designing large-scale projects, being outside... This to me is bliss! However, before I started teaching, I was an intern for my hometown's local newspaper, where I had written a few articles, so if I weren't a teacher I would probably be working in journalism by now.

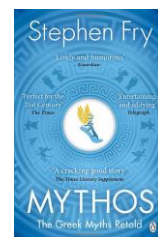


### Do you have any pets?

We have many pets... We have a Yorkshire Terrier named Satsuki, two kittens Itchy and Scratchy, two rats, named Totoro and Calcifer, my snake Venom, a marine reef fish tank, a hamster called Archie, two rabbits Poppy and Blue and my favourite pet, Zelda a spur thighed tortoise. All our pets are rescued either from shelters or from owners that no longer have the space, time, or passion for keeping them. As a family of pet keepers, we find that having animal companions just brings more opportunity to share love and joy in our lives – we love our animals!

### What was the last book you read?

The last book I read was Mythos, a wonderful collection of Greek myths retold by the national treasure that is Stephen Fry.



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

When swimming in the Caribbean Sea I was once attacked by a man-eating barracuda...

## Learning & Teaching – Our Core Business

At Avanti Grange we will create a learning culture which recognises that we are all lifelong learners. Students will be challenged in every lesson to adopt a positive, 'can do' mindset and to demonstrate progress and improvement. We will develop students' capacity to learn so they become more and more independent as they progress through the school. We believe that students who understand the psychology of thinking and learning, and are engaged by inspirational teaching, achieve the highest levels of success

### 10 Elements of Great Learning and Teaching at Avanti Grange

1. Provide explanations and instructions that are clear and concise
2. Check every student's understanding before moving on to new topics
3. Model excellence through effective scaffolding of ideas and concepts
4. Ensure that the needs of every student are understood, planned for and met
5. Continuously engage and intellectually challenge students in their class
6. Plan activities that will enable students to demonstrate understanding and master skills
7. Manage students' behaviour in a measured and proportionate manner
8. Help students recall and apply prior learning to new contexts
9. Make clear to students how their learning will be assessed
10. Provide precise feedback that helps students re-draft and improve their work



“Continuously engage and intellectually challenge students in their class”

Through a planned programme of training and development supported by The Avanti Institute we will ensure that all teachers have a highly developed sense of what constitutes great teaching. We will continuously train and coach our staff, in order that every student gets an education that is second to none.

**Courageous – Curious – Resilient**