



Avanti Insight

Official Newsletter for Avanti Grange Secondary School

November 2022 vol8

A Message from the Principal

Having completed our first week back, it is the perfect time to reflect on the first half term in the history of Avanti Grange, and what an incredible six weeks it was. We are so proud of our students and the way in which they have adapted to life in secondary school. They have overcome the multitude of challenges that transition to secondary school brings whilst taking advantage of the numerous opportunities here at Avanti Grange.

Our first half term brought so many highlights it would be impossible to mention everything. However, many of my personal highlights such as The Great Avanti Bake Off, House Cross Country and the co-curricular programme are discussed in more detail later in this edition.

The half term culminated with an Awards Assembly where students were awarded Principal Commendations and Avanti Stars Awards for the outstanding contributions they have made to the school community. We could not be prouder of each and every one of you. Below are some photos documenting a small selection of what our students have achieved.



Co-Curricular Clubs Programme - Mrs. Carr & Mr. Nichols History Hunters

History Hunters have been meeting fortnightly on a Wednesday. In our most recent meeting, we explored the surviving evidence for the very earliest black Britons, and the evidence for people of African origin in Britain during the Roman period. We learned about radiocarbon dating techniques and a DNA extraction and sequencing. We used our evidential skills to make inferences from the material remains of Ivory Bangle Lady, who lived in York during the Roman period, and the goods buried with her.

Ivory Bangle Lady

What questions would you ask? How would an archaeologist find out the answers?

Where could you look to find out what the archaeologists think?



Tales From the Dungeon (D&D club update)

The adventurers have slain and beheaded the evil goblin boss, Klarg the Bugbear. They recovered some stolen goods with labels indicating the items belonged to the Phandalin Miners Exchange— apparently a small mining cooperative business in the town of Phandalin. On attempting to escape the cave, the party came across three goblins who were shocked and alarmed that the heroes had exited Klarg’s personal chambers... instead of diplomacy and reasoning with the poor defenceless goblins, the group attacked them. During the fight, the ranger misfired an arrow, almost hitting the dwarf, who then dropped one of the miners crates into the underground lake. In retaliation the dwarf became so angry, he slammed his battle-axe upon the closest goblins foot, cleaving it in two parts. The goblin attempted to hobble away, but was shot down in cold blood by one of the rouges in the party. When leaving the caverns, the group came across a tightly bound and gagged man. They released him and to their surprise learnt that his name was Sildar Holdwinter, Gundrem Rockseekers bodyguard and business partner



Gundrem being the name of the dwarf the group were supposed to meet in Phandalin before they were distracted by the goblin ambush that led them to Klarg’s cave!

BookZone members have been discussing their wish list for the new library at Avanti Grange and how they would like to use it. They are preparing book recommendations to encourage other students to dip into the books we have in the library, and making plans for some creative writing, including film scripts and an Avanti Grange student-led magazine.

Avanti Grange Equestrian Team

Congratulations to Grace Clarke who competed in The Horse of the Year Show held at the NEC in Birmingham with her horse Kingshaugh Hailstorm – what a huge achievement to be competing nationally! We love the branded Avanti Grange saddle pad that Kingshaugh Hailstorm is wearing!

If you have any out of school achievements we’d love to hear about them, so please do send them in! avanti@avantigrange.org.uk Miss Roy



Courageous – Curious – Resilient



Avanti Insight

Staff Insight

At Avanti Grange we are extremely fortunate to have highly experienced teachers who are at the forefront of educational research and practice. This ensures our students are always being taught using the very latest techniques and strategies which allow our students to achieve rapid and sustained progress.

The level of expertise and the high regard our colleagues are held in within education on a national level are exemplified below...

Leading Education in the 21st century – Mark Nichols

I had recently planned and delivered a lecture at University College London, detailing both the advantages and barriers that face educational leaders in the 21st century. The focus of my talk was Artificial Intelligence and you can read up on my reflections of the presentation here:

[Leading Education in the 21st century – Mr. Nichols Reflections](#)



The future of History teaching in England and Wales – Elizabeth Carr

During half-term I spoke to an online seminar on 'The future of history teaching in England and Wales', organised by the Westminster Policy Forum on Education. I spoke to historians, examination boards, representatives from the heritage sector and MPs about GCSE and A-level History reform and future plans for these qualifications.



Department for Education



The Sutton House Cup

It has been wonderful to see the student's passion and engagement with the Avanti Grange House system, and the excitement and pride when house points are achieved. House points are awarded for various aspects of school life.

So far, we have had two House competitions – Cross Country and The Great Avanti Bake Off, and the efforts from our students were outstanding! A huge well done to all the students who took part, and special congratulations to the following students who obtained the top places:

Year 7 Boys Cross Country

- 1st – George Davison
- 2nd – Rocco Bellinger
- 3rd – Freddie Munson
- 4th – Oliver Cornwell
- 5th – Max Knight

Year 7 Girls Cross Country

- 1st – Miley Perryman
- 2nd – Annie Ramage
- 3rd – Lainey Woodward
- 4th – Lola-Rai Chandler
- 5th – Eva Hart

The Great Avanti Bake Off

- 1st – Thandie Musundire
- 2nd – Chloe Cranny
- 3rd – Lainey Woodward / Miley Harle
- 4th – Vinnie Salvolini

Below shows the latest House positions, and as you can see it's very close! It is still very early in the school year and there are plenty of opportunities and time for each House to collect more points and stake a claim for the Sutton House Cup. The House Photography competition is already underway and with numerous other events being promoted soon. Remember, everything at Avanti Grange translates into the House points so make sure you are still punctual, always attend school and keep collecting those reward points, they will make a massive difference to your House points total! **Mr. Martin**

AVANTI GRANGE SECONDARY SCHOOL		Sutton House Cup 2022-22			
		Courage	Empathy	Gratitude	Integrity
		14	11	12	13
Autumn Term		Courage	Empathy	Gratitude	Integrity
Year 7 Boys Cross Country		1	2	4	3
Year 7 Girls Cross Country		1	2	3	4
Year 7 - The Great Avanti Grange Bake Off		4	1	3	2
Autumn Term 1 House Points		8	6	2	4

The Great Avanti Bake Off

We held our first annual bake off on 30th September in support of Macmillan Cancer Support. Eight students from each house baked delicious goods that had a theme linked to European Day of Languages. Not only were the bakes delicious and creative for students and staff to enjoy, but we also raised a massive £250 for Macmillan. This would not have been possible without the support from parents/carers, so on behalf of Avanti Grange, and I am sure Macmillan too, we want to say a huge thank you! Despite all students bakes being outstanding and very tasty, there had to be a winning house and that was Courage. Congratulations to Courage and to all students who entered the competition. **Miss Goldman**

