
Welcome to Avanti

Welcome from Nitesh Gor OBE, CEO

The purpose of Avanti is to contribute to society through the systematic pursuit of human values and spiritual development.

The idea for Avanti began in 2003 and our first school was opened in 2008. Our vision was for a family of schools based upon our core principles of educational excellence, character formation, and spiritual insight. We now have close to 4,500 students and 600 members of staff across our family of 10 schools (five primary, one secondary, and four all-through) with three more schools in pre-opening.

Avanti now has a proven approach to school development and improvement, with excellent pupil outcomes across our schools and the capacity to support more schools. We have built first-rate centralised functions for finance, HR, project management, marketing, and premises. Our wholly-owned trading subsidiary provides catering to our schools and to others.



Welcome from Professor Mike Younger, Chair of Trustees

We have all been pupils, at one stage or another, and lifelong learning is inbuilt into our culture and our expectations. But the quality of this education can vary enormously, and children get only one opportunity to have an enriching and inspiring education. Avanti is committed to providing an education which opens doors and lets the future in, which establishes the foundations for future achievements and opportunities in our multicultural society for all children.

But we are ambitious and aim to do more: to inculcate an enthusiasm for learning and the fostering of a sense of curiosity about the world; to develop in our students a capacity to initiate and respond to change; to promote in them a sense of caring, compassion, and responsibility for self and others; to encourage independence of mind and the capacity to think for oneself.

When we achieve these aims, we understand and fulfil each child's capacity and potential, so that they are equipped to explore different options and to take risks. Above all, we seek to offer an education which is liberating and fun, to enable our students to take control of their own lives and help make the world a better and more humane place.

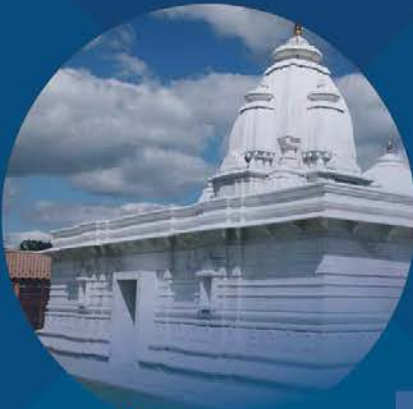
Ever since Avanti was conceived, our aspiration has been to develop both faith and non-denominational schools. Our early schools all had Hindu faith-designations, but more recently we have entered the next exciting phase for Avanti, with the establishment of three non-denominational schools in the south-west of the country and with permission to open three schools (two primary and one secondary) in Hertfordshire..



2003



Idea of Avanti Formed



Avanti opens first state-funded Hindu school in UK history

Parliament Status

Parliament grants status of 'religious authority' for Hindu faith schools.



2005



Funding Granted

The UK Government grants £11.6m for the Krishna Avanti Primary School (KAPS) in Harrow, leaving just £1.9m to raise from donors.

2009

Ofsted Report

KAPS receives its first Ofsted inspection and is graded 'good' with outstanding features.

2011



Queen Visit

The queen visits Krishna Avanti Primary School Harrow for the first day of her Diamond Jubilee tour. The school welcomes Her Majesty and Prince Philip by hosting a spectacular community event.

Royal Festival Hall Performance

Avanti have the first of two performances at the Southbank Centre and Royal Festival Hall. The Royal Festival Hall opened in 1951 and is one of the world's leading performance venues.

2015



Downing Street

Students from KAPS and Avanti House Harrow perform traditional songs during Diwali event at Downing Street hosted by the Prime Minister.

Performance at Wembley Stadium

Children's performance for PM Narendra Modi & PM David Cameron at Wembley Stadium.

First KS2 SATS results

At Krishna Avanti Primary School

Formation of Central Services Team

Avanti Schools' Trust, now employing over 80 people, hosts the first of its annual conferences.

Avanti House School opens

Avanti House opens Year 7 located term Reception occupied

Hertfordshire County Council select Avanti to open a Learning Village

HCC choose the Trust to open three schools in 3 years in Bishops Stortford.

2016

2017



KAPS Croydon

Opening of the first Hindu state school south of the Thames.



First GCSE Results

At Avanti House Secondary School.



School Openings

2019



Avanti South-West Hub

3 schools in the South-West (Bristol, Frome and Exeter) join the Trust.

2020

The Avanti Journey



KAPS Leicester

Parliament grants status of 'religious authority' for Hindu faith schools.

Avanti Court Opens



2012

use ens

ns; an all-through school for pupils aged 4-18. temporarily at a teacher's centre in Harrow and es classrooms in KAPS Harrow.



AST Office

Opening of the brand new central team office for the Avanti Schools' Trust.



The Avanti Way

Avanti exists to help each person become a well-rounded human being through intellectual, moral and spiritual growth, and so make the world a better place.

Our Core Principles

- We are unique spiritual beings with incredible potential, and we achieve our full potential by discovering and nurturing all parts of ourselves – intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual.
- We choose how we wish to respond to life and what we nurture within us.
- We care for and respect all life – human, animal and plant – and live in a way that causes the least possible harm.
- We each observe the one same reality from our own unique perspective and engage in open-minded dialogue to deeply enrich our vision.
- We serve a higher purpose by living a meaningful and satisfying life of contribution.
- We are nourished by personal relationships that fulfil our need to love and be loved, encouraging us to be the best we can be.



Building on three pillars

Avanti schools prepare us for our life-journeys with educational excellence, character formation and spiritual insight.



Quest to Discover

Our vision for educational excellence is one where deeply inspired teachers nurture joyful students and nourish their innate passion for learning. Learning is a quest to discover each student's unique gifts and potential and lay the foundation for their lifelong journey of learning.

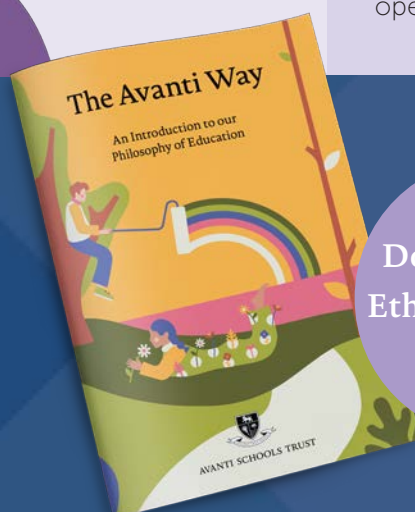
Conscious Changers

Our vision for character formation is one where virtues are taught by example and a supportive community of learners fosters a powerful sense of individual and collective purpose. Learning develops for these conscious changemakers as a quest for making the world a better place, starting with oneself.



Personal Journey

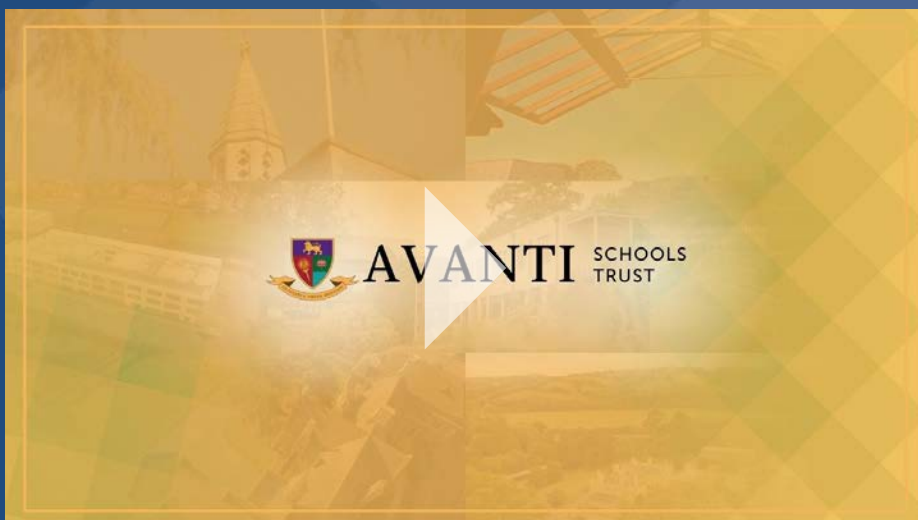
Our vision for spiritual insight is one where our interconnectedness with all living beings and with the universe, urges acts born out of humility and love, and the Self is perceived beyond its layers of coverings. Learning blossoms for these seekers as a quest for self-discovery and opens the door to their unlimited potential.




Download our
Ethos document
here



See our latest videos



A photograph of several children in school uniforms climbing a large tree. One child is high up on the trunk, another is climbing, and a third is at the base. In the foreground, a girl with blonde hair in a ponytail is climbing. To the right, a girl with glasses is crouching on the ground, looking towards the camera. The background shows a grassy area and a fence.

“Students show increasing ability to work well independently, developing important skills for life.”

Ofsted

Aiming for excellence

Avanti Schools Trust is driven by five strategic aims which allow us to measure our progress and effectiveness.

I All of our schools are excellent in every category

- 1.1 Leadership in all our schools is highly effective.
- 1.2 Quality of teaching and learning in all our schools is outstanding.
- 1.3 From their starting points, standards and achievement will be well above national average for all pupils.
- 1.4 Health, safety and well-being of students and staff in all our schools is outstanding.
- 1.5 We are an employer of choice.

II Avanti's unique ethos and vision are embodied throughout the organisation

- 2.1 All staff consistently demonstrate behaviour which supports and promotes the Trust's ethos.
- 2.2 Character formation contributes to pupils' happiness and self-fulfilment.
- 2.3 In our faith-designated schools, spiritual development is evident in pupils' engagement with faith practice and worship.

III Avanti makes a contribution to the wider education system beyond our own schools

- 3.1 Contribution to increased and improved teacher and leadership capacity.
- 3.3 Contribution to improved standards in the local areas of our schools.

IV The Trust provides highly effective strategic leadership

- 4.1 Governance at all levels is best-in-class.
- 4.2 Schools are well supported and challenged.
- 4.3 Positive and professional relationships across all stakeholders help our schools thrive.

V The Trust's rate of growth is optimal for achieving the above aims

- 5.1 Avanti schools are seen as the provider of choice for local parents, local authorities and the Department for Education.

Our Schools

Avanti Schools are based across the UK in London, Leicester, Bristol, Somerset and Exeter.



Innovation to the Wider System

Our MAT was established to help facilitate a coherent learning journey for young people that will allow, through close geographic proximity, school-to-school support, collaboration and innovation within and across the MAT resulting in a self-improving, self-sustaining system of education.

Avanti schools bring innovation to the wider school system in several ways, including our approach to mindfulness, student happiness and well-being and values education. For example, our new mindfulness and yoga curriculum will be completed by the end of this academic year and made available to other schools.

Local and national partnership arrangements are an important feature to support the increasing geographical spread of Avanti schools and the recruitment challenges we will face. Strong partnerships are developed with local authorities, local teaching schools, knowledge centres and school federations, amongst others. This network structure enhances the Trust's current capacity.

The Avanti Team

Avanti Schools Trust has a first-rate group of Trustees with diverse backgrounds and skills, full profiles of all trustees can be found on our website.



Professor Mike Younger

Chairman

Mike Younger is the Trust's Chairman. He was Dean of Education and Head of the University of Cambridge Faculty of Education 2006-2011, having previously been Director of Teaching and of Teacher Education. Whilst Director of the Teacher Education programme, 1992-2001, he led the Faculty through three very successful Ofsted inspections which resulted in the programmes being awarded 'outstanding' status. His main research and teaching interests are located in teacher education and in teacher professional development, in gender studies and in school leadership and curriculum development. More recently, Mike was Director of the University's Centre of Commonwealth Education, which involved him in co-directing international projects.



Nitesh Gor, OBE

CEO

Nitesh Gor (OBE) is Chief Executive of the Trust. His experience encompasses CEO and director roles across the exploration, management consultancy and investment banking industries. He is a published author and has a broad business strategy background gained as a result of working for two leading corporate strategy consultancies and as an independent advisor to corporate boards. His primary corporate focus is on leadership, strategy and entrepreneurship. Nitesh has an MBA from London Business School and an undergraduate degree from the University of London. He is a Deputy Lieutenant with the Greater London Lieutenancy and was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List of 2018 for Services to Education.



Chris Dore

Chief Operating Officer

Chris Dore is Chief Operating Officer of Avanti Schools Trust. His most recent 20 years of career experience includes COO, Commercial Director and Finance Director roles for two leading logistics and publishing companies. Chris started his career as an Accountant, and has a broad and extensive background in business strategy, operations, transformational change, and management consultancy. His experience was gained across a variety of service sectors and industries, working in large multi-national organisations.



Mike Ion

Education Director

Mike Ion is a former secondary headteacher and was Deputy National Director for School Improvement with the Department for Education/National Strategies between 2008 and 2011 when he had responsibility for the National Challenge programme. In April 2011, Mike went to work full time for the Tony Blair Faith Foundation where he helped to establish the Face to Faith schools programme for 12-17-year-olds, which is now active in 19 countries and growing. In May 2014 Mike returned to work for the Department for Education as an Education Adviser where he supported the formation of new academy trusts, assessed free school applications and visited open academies that were underperforming.



Amie Jenkins

Head of HR

Amie studied Early Childhood Studies at Birmingham University and is a qualified Early Years practitioner with First-class honours. Amie has 10 years of combined event and HR experience supporting large, diverse workforces in multiple locations. In the last few years, Amie has returned to working with early years settings and schools combining her love of HR, People and Education. Amie is passionate about creating empowering, productive and exciting environments for all children and staff.



Kirit Patel

Finance Director

Kirit Patel is the Finance Director of the Trust. Kirit is a chartered accountant and also a qualified teacher. He started his teaching career at Waltham Forest College where he spent four years teaching IT and Law. Thereafter, a career move took him into accounting and finance. He joined PwC where he gained extensive financial consulting and audit experience across various sectors and industries. His experience includes establishing corporate finance functions and serving as Head of Finance.

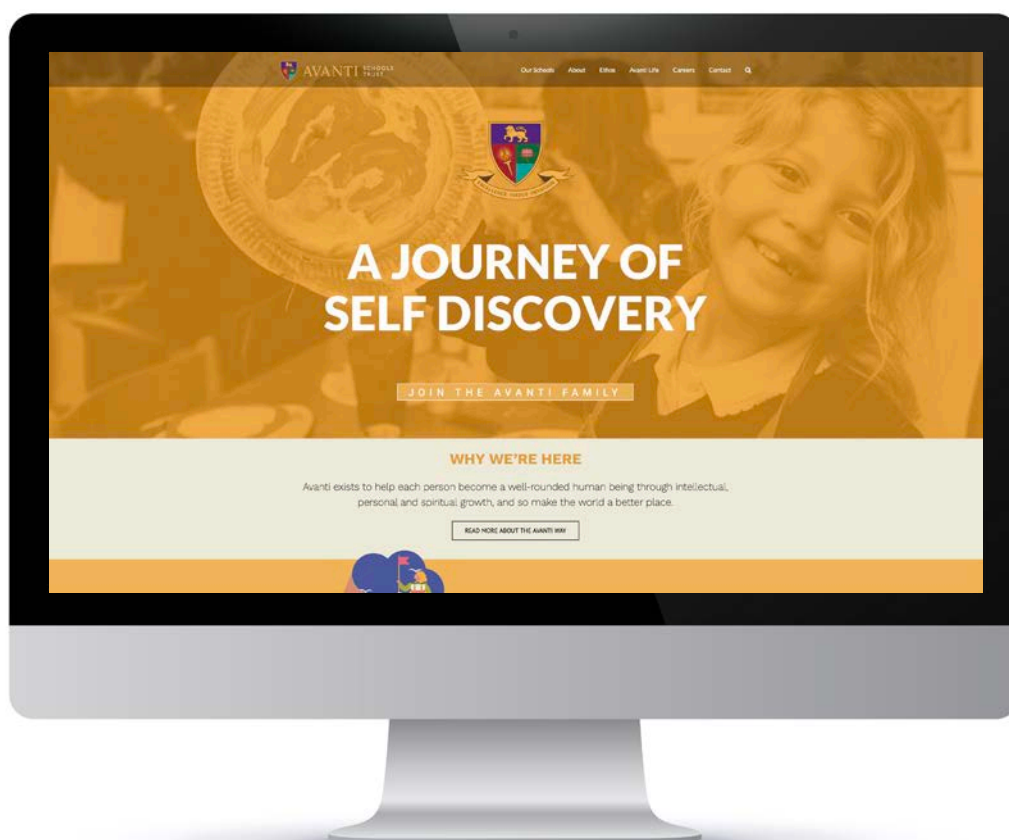
Central Services

Avanti Schools Trust is a successful and growing multi-academy trust (MAT) with a track record of delivering strong outcomes for children in both the primary and secondary phases of education. To date all of our open academies are rated 'good' by Ofsted, the majority are heavily over-subscribed and we have a proud history of delivering projects on-time and within budget. The Trust has successfully identified viable sites, managed building programmes and leveraged excellent local authority relationships to facilitate EFA negotiations.

Successful community engagement has brought significant donations (over £2.5 million) for the Trust

to support the growth of its schools and corporate centre. This has meant that over the past three years, we have been able to develop corporate centre capacity in order to pre-empt growth. We have already developed much of the central infrastructure, policies, systems and processes required to support the proposed growth in schools whilst ensuring that standards in our current schools continue on their journey from Good to Outstanding.

The Trust has established central services across HR, finance and operations currently servicing all our schools and a wholly-owned trading subsidiary providing catering.



Finance & HR

The Trust's Finance & HR Directors lead centralised teams. Using a central teams allows established and proven expertise to be shared across the group utilising efficiencies from common processes and procedures. The teams has the experience in delivering strong educational outcomes.

Operations

Our wider operations team includes teams responsible for marketing, ICT and premises (including health and safety). These teams report to our Operations Directorate and are experienced in successfully delivering pre-opening requirements.

Catering

The Trust's wholly owned subsidiary catering team manage the catering across all the schools. An important part of our ethos is the provision of hot, fresh, nutritious meals. Sharing tasty, healthy school lunches is an integral part of the educational experience at an Avanti school. In line with this, there is a dedicated team focused on menu development and analysing nutritional content of each meal, ensuring students receive high-quality, nourishing meals.



Staff Training & Wellbeing

Induction

To welcome staff into Avanti we offer an outstanding local and Trust Induction to allow staff to quickly become part of the family. Our inductions consist learning about the Trust, our schools and our mission and values, along with the necessary knowledge to enable you to become an integral part of the team.

Development

Avanti schools have an in-depth CPD programme that allows all staff to develop skills. We are committed to improving expertise through CPD with a focus on excellent pedagogy for teaching staff, offering teaching and learning opportunities at local and national levels. We aim to create leadership and development opportunities that develop the potential of all our staff.





Staff Retreats & Conferences

Avanti organises regular staff conferences and wellbeing retreats. These events are an opportunity for staff to come together from across the Avanti family to share experiences, best practise and reflections. Our wellbeing retreats are off-site residentials that give opportunities for staff to learn yoga, mindfulness and spend time in nature. Workshops and seminars in our conferences range from subjects on teaching and learning to 'how to deal with stress'.

"Teaching is good because strong and supportive relationships are established between all adults and pupils in the classroom so pupils are, consequently, keen to learn.."

Ofsted
Avanti Court Primary School





VIPs



HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Avanti schools have hosted Her Majesty The Queen, Justine Greening (Secretary of State), Nick Gibb (Minister for Schools), Lord Nash and Michael Gove (Secretary of State) and even Swami Ramdev who came to teach the students yoga!

Students from Avanti have performed at venues as diverse as 10 Downing Street to Wembley Stadium for PM Narendra Modi and PM David Cameron, and the Royal Festival Hall.

There are now eight Avanti schools across London and the Midlands (2 in pre-opening).



LORD NASH, MINISTER FOR SCHOOLS



PM NARENDRA MODI AND PM DAVID CAMERON



PM THERESA MAY AT DOWNING STREET



DAMIAN HINDS, SECRETARY OF STATE



SWAMI RAMADEVA



MICHAEL GOVE, FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE



PM NARENDRA MODI

Community Engagement

Avanti is committed to meaningful, thorough and on-going community engagement and consultation with the local stakeholders it serves.

Avanti Schools become a hub of activity for the local community. The key is often being able to draw the community into the school (through various events and projects) but also to be seen working in the community. Our secondary students are often seen volunteering at community based activities or putting on activities for the wider community. Our track record for community engagement includes:

- Raising millions of pounds for new facilities such as a Performing Arts and Community Centre.
- Developing flourishing PTAs across the schools.
- Engaging volunteers from students, parents and locals in school and community projects.
- Providing courses for the community in Dance, Drama, Mindfulness and Yoga.
- Hosting self-development, sports and children's weekend and holiday activities.
- Arranging regular parental and community evening events.



"As a parent an important aspect of education is the level of teaching. I knew as a new school, they had the opportunity to source and select the best teachers to deliver the curriculum. The teachers we have in the school at present are brilliant. They come with vast experience in their respective areas and they also have the same goal – for the school to succeed and children to excel."

Parent

Avanti Fields Secondary School

Recent Initiatives



Help India Breathe Campaign

Due to the COVID 19 crisis, India is now undergoing a severe shortage in the delivery of Oxygen to patients.

We have joined together with The Lotus Trust during this crucial time of need to provide beds and oxygen to the most vulnerable, raising over £13'000 so far.



Covid-19 Vaccination Centre

Avanti Meadows Primary School, our newly constructed school in Bishops Stortford, has been utilising its unused space as a Covid-19 mass vaccination centre, representing a big step forward in helping to beat the Covid-19 pandemic.



5000 Free School Meals at Christmas

In December 2020, Govindas (the catering subsidiary of Avanti Schools Trust), partnered with local charities to provide children with Free School Meals, free meals this Christmas! 5,000 meals were produced for children in Harrow, spanning across 20+ schools.



Reviews of Avanti

"The provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is exceptional.

School leaders and governors, through the Avanti Trust, are wholly committed to ambitious outcomes for all pupils."

Ofsted

Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills

"Thank you so much for allowing me to look around your wonderful school.

I was most impressed by how engaged the pupils were in their studies. The school has a lovely atmosphere."

Lord Nash

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools

"The children were tremendously impressive and enthusiastic.

I congratulate you on your school."

Jonathan Hellewell

Special adviser on Communities to Prime Minister, Theresa May

"Being at Avanti makes work so enjoyable and a place that I look forward to going to everyday, the environment is perfect not only for academics but for spiritual insight."

Teacher

Primary School Teacher at Avanti

"There are always teachers around to help you, everyone has friends and it is just a really nice community."

Avanti House Secondary School, Student Review

Student

Avanti House Secondary School

Award Winning Buildings

Avanti Schools Trust has designed and managed award winning school buildings.

Telegraph Top 10 Buildings in Europe - awarded to one of our school buildings for outstanding design

The Telegraph

Eco Award - Recognised as the most eco-friendly school in UK when opened in 2012

BREEAM[®]

BREEAM Award - awarded for design and construction of the highest scoring buildings for sustainable building design

Food Hygiene Award - awarded for exemplary food safety management and high standards of compliance with food legislation

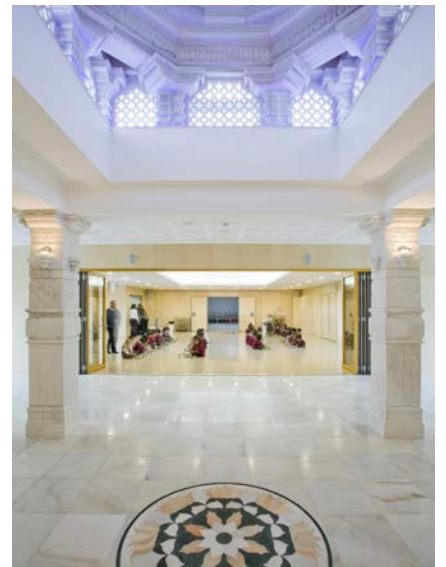


Cooperative Green Energy Award - awarded to the school for helping combat climate change

Heritage Trust Award - awarded for outstanding architectural and environmental design



RICS Award London - awarded for the school's commitment to the efficient use of resources and celebrates the schemes that provide sustainable environments



Staying connected



Highlights and updates

Our 'Avanti Life' e-newsletter brings you the very best of what's happening within our family of schools – the events, the achievements, the vision – and the pupils, educators and friends behind it all.

WWW.AVANTI.ORG.UK/LIFE



School life in detail

The websites for our schools offer detailed and up-to-date information on many key aspects of school life, from ethos to admissions; school lunches to job opportunities.

WWW.AVANTI.ORG.UK



Facebook

We use Facebook as a shared community page where many school and Trust highlights are broadcast. It's a great way to stay informed and in touch.

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AVANTISCHOOLS



Videos

See our ethos and vision come to life through Avanti videos. From school productions to our new video series 'Avanti Stories' where staff and students share touching moments at Avanti.

[YOUTUBE: AVANTI SCHOOLS TRUST](https://www.youtube.com/AvantiSchoolsTrust)



Talk to us

Our aim is to communicate with our audiences as much as possible, sharing the successes of our schools in as much detail as possible. If you have any questions, we would love to hear from you.

WWW.AVANTI.ORG.UK/CONTACT

