



STEP BACK IN TIME for Avanti Hall



Students at Avanti hall re-enact the Battle of Hastings in their History lessons.

Students re-enacted the Battle of Hastings in their History lessons as part of the Anglo-Saxon unit. They presented a walkthrough and learnt the tactics and positions of the two armies at the battle. The classes were split into Normans and Saxons and created shields to clearly identify which side of the battle they were on. A challenge was also set for the students to decorate their shields with reasons why they think their leader should be the king of Anglo-Saxon England.

The students were split into the two opposing sides and fought 'till the death... or rather 'till the end of the lesson.

Continuing the theme, Year 4 went to Escott Wildwoods to find out more about Anglo Saxons. They learnt about how Anglo Saxons lived, what they wore and what they ate. They discovered a number of new skills including wood carving, breadmaking and metal work.

Meet the Head!

Rhys Jones is the Principal of Avanti Grange Secondary School. Rhys has been teaching for over 17 years in various schools in and around London and has worked in a school in Bishop's Stortford for four years before coming to Avanti Grange. He shares his experience and hopes of opening the brand-new school.

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AVANTI
INSTITUTE

The Ethics of the Bhagavad-Gita & THE FAILURE OF MODERN MORAL DISCOURSE

Join our exciting monthly events!



How do we decide what the right thing to do is? Philosophers have argued this for millennia and modern moral discourse hasn't made much further progress.

Learn how Krishna's timeless message in the Bhagavad Gita shines light onto these perennial questions.



**WHEN: Saturday 11th March
17:15 – 21:00**

**WHERE: The Courtyard
Avanti House
Secondary School**



A conversation between our CEO Nitesh Gor & Rasamandala Dasa

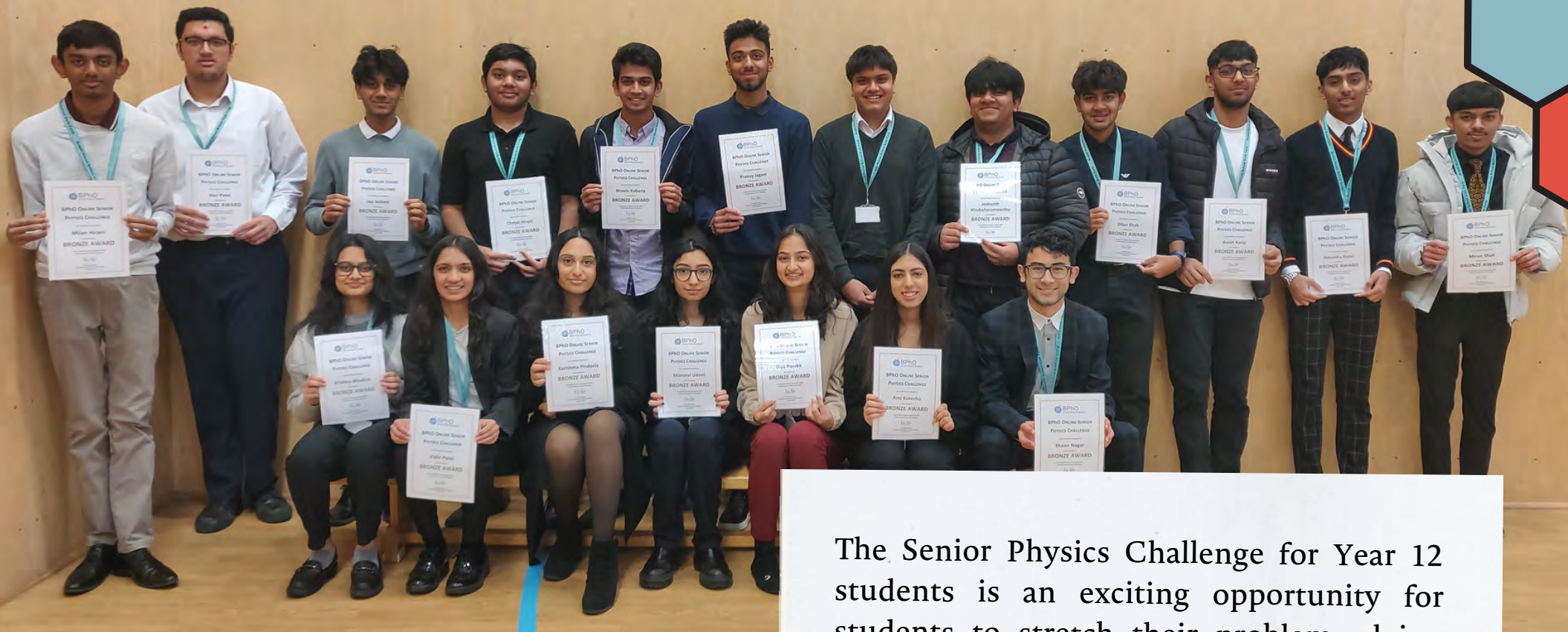
Nitesh Gor • Dr Chetna Kang

[Click here to watch
our previous events!](#)



**How Spirituality can
support mental health**

Young Scientists ace Royal Award



Avanti House students scoop awards for outstanding performances in the National Physics Olympiad

The Senior Physics Challenge for Year 12 students is an exciting opportunity for students to stretch their problem-solving skills and apply fundamental physical principles to novel situations. Year 12 Physics Students at Avanti House school competed in the Senior Physics Challenge in January 2023 and won 9 Silver and 21 Bronze Awards -- an incredible accomplishment for A-Level Physics.



Year 13 Physics student Anish Bakrania scooped the Top Gold Award in the British Physics Olympiad. The Avanti House School student is one of the country's top young physicists when it comes to problem solving. He has been invited to compete in the BAAO Competition and the BPhO Round 2 and will be invited to the parallel Oxford Training Camps. Following that, two teams of five students will be chosen to compete in the International Physics Olympiad in Japan and the IOAA in Poland in August. Furthermore, every student received an award ranging from Silver to Bronze, which is an incredible accomplishment for the Avanti House School Physics Department.

Making music at Avanti House Primary School

Talented guitar pupils represented Avanti House Primary School in the Harrow Music Guitar Festival with over 100 other young musicians for sold out audience in Harrow Arts Centre's Elliott Hall Theatre

A drumming concert was held in January for the parents and peers of Avanti House's talented drumming pupils. The performers were absolutely brilliant and their energy was palpable! The fantastic drumming teacher from Music Mission, Mr Andrea, then treated everyone to an exciting drum battle with his colleague. What a show!



7th March
2023



by Nitesh Gor
CEO Avanti Schools Trust

Gaura-Purnima is the full moon day on which Lord Chaitanya appeared on Earth. Avanti's spiritual ethos is based upon his teachings and so here is a little bit about this most incredible personality...

Lord Chaitanya was born in the year 1486 AD in Nadiya, then East India's epicentre for learning and scholarship. He was named Nimai (since he was born under a Neem tree) and was later given other names such as Visvambhara (one who maintains the universe) and finally Krishna Chaitanya. At an early age he founded what quickly became the region's foremost school, widely

renowned for its teaching in logic, grammar and rhetoric. He went on to lead an early civil disobedience movement, contesting religious sectarianism. In later life, he turned his attention to spiritual ideals that transcended social and religious boundaries and thus paved the way for a great spiritual renaissance.

He taught that the essence of education is to appreciate how everything has a special relationship with the divine. Such understanding culminates in a profound spiritual realisation of love, compassion and selflessness – the original, pure nature of every being.

During his life of 48 years, he spent approximately 24 years in the town of Jagannatha-puri, famous for its Krishna temple, which even to this day conducts the largest street procession in the world (Ratha-yatra), attracting millions of people – and which we replicate in our schools on a slightly smaller scale.

Historical records also evidence extraordinary philosophical and interfaith dialogues which in simple language explain the most profound truths.

He emphasised spiritual equality and advocated that humanity can be united through a shared love of God, expressed through the singing of God's many names.



Chaitanya's exemplary life heralded the dawn of an inclusive spiritual resurgence that continues to inspire people all around the world.

AVANTI PARK

awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag

Students and staff celebrate Eco-Schools Green Flag status

The Green Schools Team who awarded Avanti Park School its new status were clearly bowled over by their tremendous effort, the feedback provided was thorough, comprehensive, and showed that every aspect of the award was rightfully earned! Lovely memories were made amongst the children whilst approaching topics in fresh and relevant way.



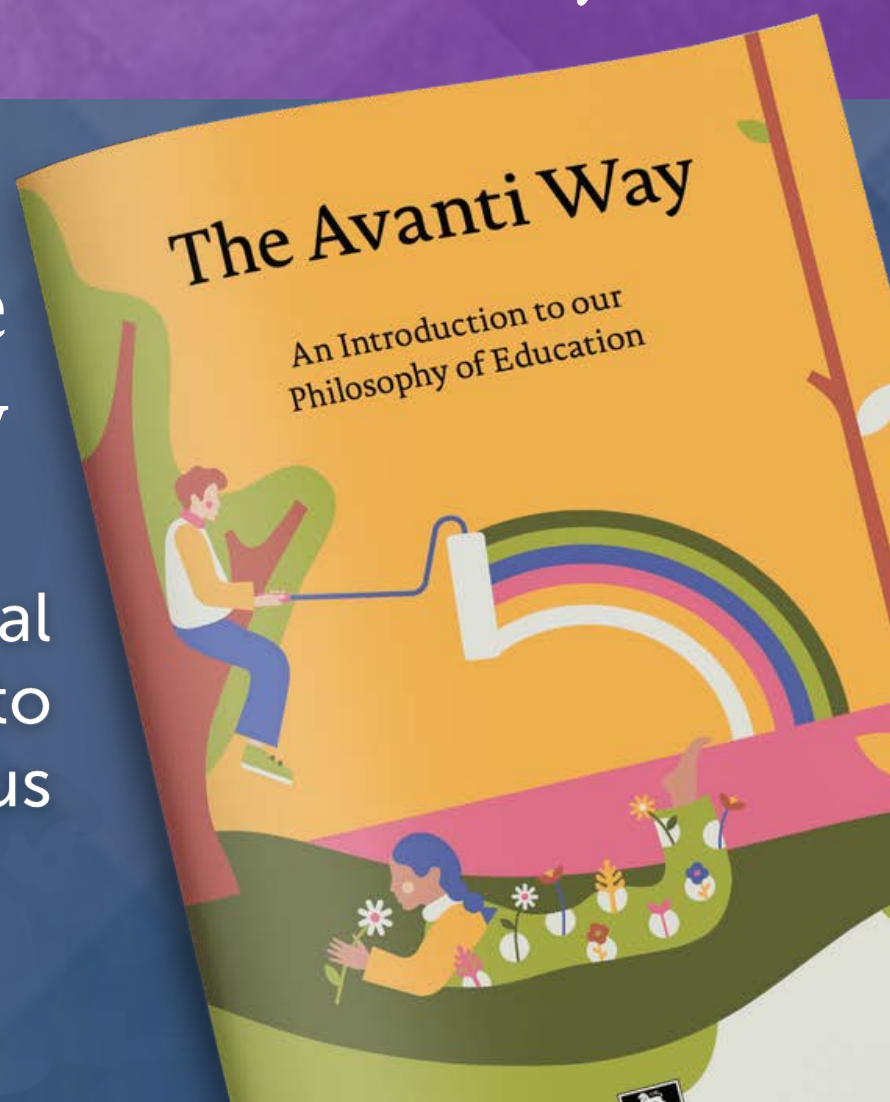
Clearly Avanti Park School deserve this new status; to quote the Green Schools Team, "all these efforts show how embedded the values of the Eco-Schools project are within your school, well done everyone!"

A great effort was made to connect Biodiversity, School Grounds and Waste Projects in a thought provoking and inspiring way. Initiatives such as Forest School sessions for all children to get involved in, different eco projects and space in the curriculum for the children to run the projects as a larger group.

Some of the children made simple bird feeders using cereal, string and pipe cleaners were hung from the trees in the Early Years area. Bird watching activities at playtimes and lunchtimes, and bug hotels have been popping up on the school grounds making great habitats for little minibeasts! Bake sales have also taken place to raise funds for plants in and outside the school.

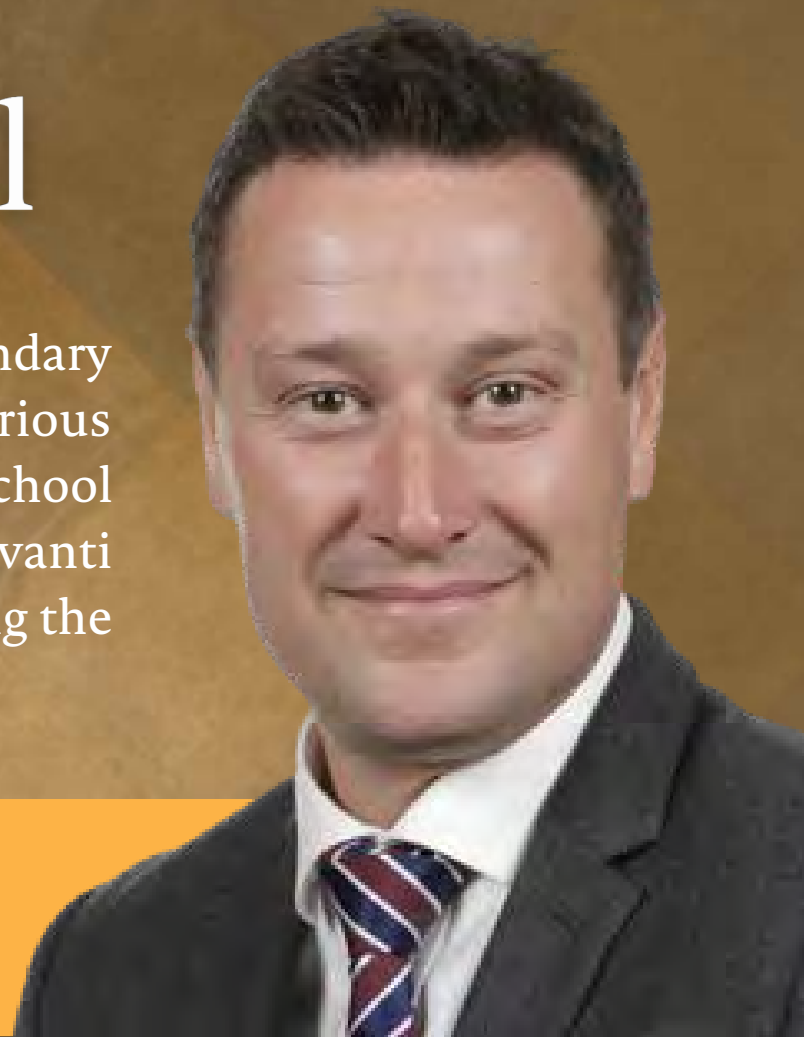
Wisdom from The Avanti Way

We are nourished by personal relationships that fulfil our need to love and be loved, encouraging us to be the best we can be.



Meet the Principal

Rhys Jones is the Principal of Avanti Grange Secondary School. Rhys has been teaching for over 17 years in various schools in and around London and has worked in a school in Bishop's Stortford for four years before coming to Avanti Grange. He shares his experience and hopes of opening the brand-new school.



Rhys Jones | Avanti Grange School

How do you feel taking the reins of a brand-new school in Bishop's Stortford?

The school already feels very much part of the Bishops Stortford community. Having a relationship with the town has been very beneficial. I knew a number of the other headteachers in Bishop's Stortford before taking the role and they have been very helpful and supportive. Also, knowing the community like I do—I feel like I know what the parents and students of the area want and expect. And as a result, we have been able to create a school that meets those needs and is proving to be attractive to parents.

What made you want to lead a brand-new Avanti school?

I pinch myself every day, this really is a once in my lifetime opportunity. To have had the opportunity to mould our new school in my vision, to create the culture and shape its direction is an honour and great privilege. Before applying for the role, I carried out a lot of reading about what the Avanti Schools Trust stands for, I felt that my own philosophy on education and the development of young people aligned perfectly with what the Trust aims to achieve—educational excellence, character formation and spiritual insight. I'm a great believer in developing the whole child and that's what we are doing here at Avanti Grange.

What drives you?

Social mobility. With the support from my parents, I was the first person in my family to go to university. I want to give our students the same opportunities, the culture capital,

the academic results to open doors so they can progress and be the best versions of themselves, enabling them to go and ultimately make the world a better place. I'm also a strong believer that schools are not just places where you learn subjects like Maths, English and Geography, but where we teach morals, standards, how to be a good person and be a positive influence on society. That's what motivates me, I want to help our young people by facilitating their academic, moral and spiritual growth.

What does being a Principal mean to you?

As I have mentioned, it is a Principal's job to set the culture of the school. We are very keen to have a positive culture, a culture where everybody is valued and where everyone feels they can contribute to the direction of the school. My job is to bring that together and keep our community moving forward. I'm a big believer in enabling and facilitating, creating the environment for all member of our community to be the very best version of themselves.



Avanti QUICK FIRE

Hobbies: Cricket, running and long walks with my young family and Daisy the Beagle.

Favourite treat: Going to watch a rugby match!

What makes you laugh: My children make me laugh every day!

Your favourite subject at school, growing up: Geography and PE. I had a very inspirational geography teacher, and he is the reason I still teach geography today.

Chocolate of choice: Kit Kat Chunky



Pupils join Plogging Star's mission

at Avanti Fields School Leicester

Since he took up Plogging in the UK in March last year, the Indian student has collected 5,000kg worth of litter thrown onto our streets, including 3,000kg of plastic waste.

The school is hugely supportive of Vivek's initiative and has been actively encouraging pupils and the school community to be more environmentally conscious in everyday tasks and activities.

Headteacher Vanessa Bardsley said: "I am so excited that students at Avanti Fields are able to be involved in such an initiative. The work that Mr Gurav is doing links closely with our Avanti Way values, 'Students make moral choices, displaying stewardship and service towards all life and the earth's resources.'"

Hear the interview on BBC Radio Leicester, here: <https://youtu.be/QwETWXPwXW0>



As part of his 30 day tour, Vivek inspired secondary school pupils at Avanti Fields during his plogging mission to Leicester.



Nitesh Gor and Mike Ion write and share their thoughts in Schools Week, making the case for a holistic approach to student and staff development.

“The purpose of school is a big question that our trust thinks is important to discuss.”

[Click here to read the article!](#)

Avanti and Teach First – an exciting new collaboration!

Avanti Schools Trust is proud to announce a partnership with Teach First, one of the leading providers of outstanding teacher training in the country. This allows us to offer the School-Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) route into teaching from September 2023.

This is our first collaboration with Teach First hence the excitement! Salina Ventress, our School Improvement Lead stated, “This programme allows graduates, or those wishing to switch careers, to learn in a ‘hands-on’ capacity from the best mentors in inspiring environments within our flourishing schools.”



With SCITT, individuals will learn the theory of teaching through online and in-person training. Over the course of 12 months, learning is put into practice by teaching in our Harrow and Leicester based schools – all of which have been rated as ‘good’ by Ofsted. In essence, this could be the best route into teaching for some individuals, as it offers an opportunity to gain Qualified Teacher Status and a PGCE over the course of one year.

We will be offering this unique programme for Primary and Secondary trainee teaching posts; there is some financial support available depending on the phase and subject area. Applicants must have a degree in a relevant subject area, and GCSE or equivalent qualifications in English and maths.



Friends of Avanti – please do let your friends, colleagues and family know of this new collaboration.

For information on this scheme and to book onto one of VIRTUAL EVENTS please refer to our website – <https://avanti.org.uk/institute/train-to-teach/>

School Shorts

Earth Focus on Art Week at Krishna Avanti, Harrow

The theme for Art Week at Krishna Avanti, Harrow was Recycled Art. Students at Krishna Avanti, Harrow learnt about contemporary artists who used their creativity to help the environment and raise awareness about issues such as plastic pollution.



Alongside learning in class, children from Years 1-6 participated in art workshops led by professional artists and learnt about the painting style of renowned Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. At the end of their learning sessions, the children produced individual artworks and a large collaborative painting

Minibeasts meet friends at Avanti Fields Nursery

The children in Avanti Fields Nursery had the opportunity to meet Jungle Jo and her friendly creatures. The children learnt about their features, habitats and how to care for them. Some children were so brave and even held them!



Strike a Pose at Avanti Park!

Students at Avanti Park Handstand Club have been working on partner poses this term. The club runs at lunchtime for Y5&6. Here, the Year 5 students demonstrate a pose that takes a lot of strength, control and trust to achieve - great teamwork!



Avanti Journey

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

Krishna Avanti Primary School building construction completed on time. The school Officially opens for students.

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.

KAPS Leicester

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



Avanti Court Opens



2015



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.



Formation of Central Services Team

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

AVANTI HOUSE



2012

Avanti House School opens

Avanti House opens, an all-through school for pupils aged 4-18. Year 7 located temporarily at a teacher's centre in Harrow and Reception occupies classrooms in KAPS Harrow.



First KS2 SATS results

At Krishna Avanti Primary School

Performance at Wembley Stadium

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

Downing Street

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



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



KAPS Croydon

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

2017



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



AST Office

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



Visit our website www.avanti.org.uk for more information

