



September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 8 Curriculum Information – Autumn 1

As your child enters their second year at Avonbourne Academies, we continue to build on the strong foundation laid in Year 7. To keep you informed and involved in their learning, we are pleased to share an overview of what your child will be studying this half-term across all subjects. This overview is designed to support productive conversations at home and help you feel connected to the learning taking place in school.

What will my Year 8 child be learning during Autumn 1?

Subject	Key Topics/Focus Areas
English	Students will explore social justice poetry through a sophisticated and engaging anthology. This selection of literature requires students to examine complex themes such as oppression, dictatorships, violence, fear, and collective responsibility, whilst rigorously developing their analytical skills.
Maths	Students will study powers, roots, and prime factorisation. They will also practise rounding and complete work on multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers.
Science	Students will be studying the particle model of matter in relation to heating and cooling. They will learn about the processes of convection, conduction and radiation and how we use these.
MFL	Students will study holidays, using past, present and future tenses to describe travel experiences abroad.
History	Students will begin the year with a study of The Tudors – an enormously significant and tumultuous period of British history that has shaped today's Britain and the wider world in many ways. Students will explore the religious changes under Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I. Students will then study Elizabethan society considering the extent to which the Elizabethan era can be considered a 'golden age'.
Geography	Students will explore the distribution of global populations, factors affecting population growth and decline, and reasons for migration.
Art	Students will develop tone and mark-making skills, applying these to portraiture.
Music	Students will learn about popular music from the 1950s to the 1970s. They will perform melodies, riffs and chords on the keyboard and ukulele.
Religious Studies	Students review key ideas from Year 7, including the origins of Judaism and Christianity, important figures and sacred texts. This prepares students for the next unit on Islam, where they'll explore how Muslims understand the Qur'an, Sunnah and

Principal: Michelle Dyer

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	Hadith, and how leadership and authority developed differently in Sunni and Shia traditions.
PE	Students will develop performance, stamina, and leadership skills through sports including handball, health-related fitness, netball, basketball and badminton.
Dance	Students will develop physical performance skills inspired by <i>The Greatest Showman</i> . They will observe, analyse and practise effective techniques, applying them to class routines.
Drama	Students will explore naturalism using extracts from <i>Eastenders</i> in the style of Stanislavski. They will focus on developing believable characters through performance.
D&T	Students will study graphics, textiles, and food. They will experience the workshops for the first time and make a mood light involving woodwork and CAD/CAM skills, explore weaving inspired by Tammy Kanat and macrame skills, and cook dishes such as bread rolls, lemon flan and stir fry.
PSHE	Students will explore personal boundaries, effective conflict management and the risks and consequences associated with sharing nude images, helping them make safe and responsible choices both online and offline.
Computer Science	Students will be learning about computational thinking, including decomposition, abstraction and pattern recognition. This will help them to approach problems logically and break complex tasks into smaller steps, and by the end they should be able to apply these strategies to solve computing problems more effectively.

You can find more about our curriculum approach and how we support all learners by visiting the link below:

[Curriculum Overview | Avonbourne Boys' and Girls' Academies](#)

If you have any questions about the Year 8 curriculum or how to support your child's progress at home, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Laura Tsabet

Assistant Principal

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Respect - Equality - Ambition - Community - Hard Work & Determination



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