



Avonbourne Boys' & Girls' Academies

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

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



ACE School of
CHARACTER

17th July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well.

I hope your child thoroughly enjoyed their Transition Day with us and that they have enjoyed their final few weeks at primary school. This is such an exciting milestone, and I am sure they are now looking forward to a well-deserved summer break after all of their hard work.

It was an absolute pleasure welcoming our new Year 7 students to Avonbourne during Transition Day. We were incredibly impressed with their enthusiasm, confidence and positivity as they met their tutors, explored the academy and began making new friendships. We are so excited to welcome them officially as members of our Avonbourne community in September.

September Start

A reminder that all Year 7 students will begin at Avonbourne Boys' and Girls' Academies on **Thursday 3rd September**.

- Students should arrive no later than 8:30am.
- Academy gates will open from 8:00am.
- Students should make their way directly to the basketball courts, where staff will be available to direct them to their tutor group line-ups.
- Please note that the gates close promptly at 8:30am every day and anyone who arrives after this time will need to enter school through the late gate by Student Reception.

Students should arrive wearing full Avonbourne uniform and bring a fully equipped pencil case with all of the required equipment ready for learning.

Full details regarding our uniform expectations and equipment lists can be found in the Parent Information Booklet on our Transition webpages:

Avonbourne Boys' Academy:

<https://www.avonbourneboysacademy.org.uk/students-and-parents/transition>

Avonbourne Girls' Academy:

<https://www.avonbournegirlsacademy.org.uk/students-and-parents/transition>

Summer Holiday Challenges

We certainly don't want our new Year 7 students getting bored over the summer! Miss Mowlam from our English department has set some creative challenges students may wish to try.



Explosion Book Challenge

Head of School: Imogen Bull

Executive Principal: Michelle Dyer

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Avonbourne Boys' and Girls' Academies
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Create an "Explosion Book" based on a favourite book that has been read independently or as a class reader during primary school.

Guide:

<https://amslerartroom.com/student-work/explosion-books/>

YouTube tutorial:

[How To Make An Explosion Book](#)



Mini Book Challenge

Design and create your own miniature book inspired by the prompt:

"The Surprise"

YouTube tutorial:

[How to make Miniature Books: DIY Craft Tutorial, Book Binding, How to Bind a Mini Book](#)



Comic Strip / Zine Challenge

Create your own comic strip or one-page zine based on a sporting event or match that you found exciting.

YouTube tutorial:

[EASY ONE-PAGE COMICS | Making My FIRST Zine](#)

We would love to see any completed creations in September!

Mobile Phone Policy

Parents and Carers who attended our Year 6 Information Evenings in June will be aware of the changes to our mobile phone policy for students joining Year 7.

Please refer to the accompanying letter for full details and ensure that your child does not bring a smartphone onto the academy site from September.

Arbor Parent App

We strongly encourage all parents and carers to download the Arbor Parent App, which is our main platform for communication between home and school.

Using the app you will be able to:

- View your child's timetable.
- Receive important messages and academy updates.
- Access key information throughout the school year.

Further information about downloading and using Arbor can be found on our website.

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When viewing your child's timetable on the Arbor Parent App, you may notice classes displayed using numbered group codes rather than the tutor group names.

For example:

- 7 Purbeck Girls (7P/G) may appear as 7AG5
- 7 Brownsea Boys 1 (7B1/B) may appear as 7AB2

You may also notice groups labelled 7GSG or 7GSB.

Please be reassured that these codes do not indicate ability groups or streaming.

During the first half term, all Year 7 students are taught in mixed-ability tutor groups. Streamed grouping will not begin until after the October half term, and further information will be shared with families during the Autumn Term.

Please also note that this only affects the Year 7 display within the Arbor Parent App. Any printed timetables issued to students in school will display the correct tutor group names.

ParentPay

To purchase food in our canteens or pay for items such as equipment, trips or other academy payments, we use ParentPay.

You will receive a letter directly from ParentPay during August with instructions on how to activate your account.

Please keep an eye out for this email or letter and ensure your child's account has sufficient funds before the first day of term if they wish to purchase food from the canteen.

School Bus Changes

You may have seen our recent social media post regarding changes to school transport from September.

Dorset Council has announced changes to subsidised school bus services that will take effect from September 2026.

The main changes are:

- School bus Services 46 and 81 will merge into a single Service 746.
- The current Service 81 will no longer operate as a standalone service.

This means that:

- Some students may no longer have a direct school bus and may instead use public bus services for part or all of their journey.



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- Some journeys may require changing buses or walking further to and from bus stops.
- Journey times may be slightly longer while new travel arrangements become established.
- Students living in areas such as Muscliff and Throop are likely to experience the greatest changes.

We encourage all families currently using Services 46 or 81 to review their child's journey before September and allow extra travel time during the first few weeks of term.

Finally...

Thank you once again for your support throughout the transition process. We know that starting secondary school is a significant milestone, and we are committed to ensuring every child feels supported and ready to thrive from their very first day.

We have been excitedly planning our Year 7 residential this term for June 2027 and are looking forward to sharing more details with parents in the Autumn term.

We wish you and your family a wonderful, relaxing summer and cannot wait to welcome the Class of 2033 in September.

Should you have any questions over the summer, please feel free to contact us via classof2033@avonbourneacademy.org.uk. Please note that this mailbox will be monitored periodically throughout the summer holiday, so there may be a slight delay in responding.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Thursday 3rd September.

Yours sincerely,

Nikki Dadson
Assistant Principal

Lowri Bradley
Head of Year 7 Girls

Mike Dean
Head of Year 7 Boys

Sarah Buckley
Pastoral Lead for Year 7 Girls

Emma Spicer
Pastoral Lead for Year 7 Boys

Head of School: Imogen Bull

Executive Principal: Michelle Dyer

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