



2nd March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We have been notified that your child has been successfully allocated a place at Axe Valley Academy for September and I am writing to welcome them into our fantastic community.

In this letter I want to take the opportunity to introduce myself and my vision for Axe Valley Academy and introduce some other staff who will be important points of contact for you over the coming months. Before I introduce Axe Valley Academy staff I'd like to include a few words from our Uffculme Academy Trust CEO, Lorraine Heath.

It is my great pleasure to also welcome you to Axe Valley Academy and therefore into the family of schools that sit within Uffculme Academy Trust. Axe Valley is, in my opinion, a fantastic school which embodies the values which we share at UAT. It sits at the heart of the community and seeks to deliver, not just an academic education but one which nurtures and develops personal qualities such as honesty, selflessness, hard work, integrity and kindness. I have seen first-hand, at Axe Valley, high quality teaching and learning, exemplary student behaviour and a community that genuinely looks out for every member. As a smaller secondary school, staff have the opportunity to get to know students as individuals and design programmes and interventions that best meet their individual needs. I work closely with Mrs Jenkins and her senior team and I have every confidence in their vision for the school, their ambition for your child and their ability to deliver this. I have no doubt that your child will be both happy and successful in their time at Axe, but please be also reassured that myself and my colleagues will do everything we can to resolve any issues should they arise. I am always happy to be contacted by parents and like to maintain a very close involvement with all our schools. Thank you for choosing Axe Valley. It is our job to justify your faith in us and look after your child as we would our own.



Lorraine Heath
Uffculme Academy



Laura Jenkins
Headteacher

My name is Laura Jenkins and I am Headteacher at Axe Valley Academy.

Axe Valley Academy is a school that we as staff are immensely proud of because it is a real community. We aim to develop well rounded young people equipped to deliver positive change in their school and wider communities. We believe that to have a great school we need a great teacher in every classroom where teachers are here to teach and students are here to learn. Students need a broad education, one that nurtures specific positive character traits and virtues and we demand the highest standards and expect students to engage with their learning no matter what. We

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have a school which staff and students are proud to be a part of and who enjoy working together. We also pride ourselves on our pastoral care. Being a smaller school has some significant advantages and one of those is being able to know every student as an individual; to recognise and nurture their strengths; to teach kindness explicitly and to be as kind as we can.



Rupert Carr
Year Leader

Mr Rupert Carr is our Year 7 Year Leader and he will oversee the transition of your child from Primary to Axe Valley Academy. He can be contacted at rcarr@axevalley.devon.sch.uk and he will send you more information across the coming months.

Transition is a really exciting part of our school year where we (staff and current students) welcome our new students to Axe Valley.

We recognise what an important and potentially tricky time it is for young people and work hard to get it right.

There is such a lot of opportunity inside and outside the classroom at a secondary school. My job is to help students feel confident enough, supported and encouraged to embrace those opportunities and really get the most out of their time at Axe Valley Academy.

The shape of the transition program will this year again be partially dictated by what we are allowed to do within the context of Covid regulations. Whatever in person meetings we can do will be supported by online events. We ran a really good program last year of individual and group meetings online as well as launching our fantastic virtual tour. There is no substitute for getting students on site, but we will do our very best to make sure that your children are as prepared as they can be in the circumstances.

Congratulations on a great choice of secondary school. I look forward to working with you.

Mrs Sandie Tregale is our Year 7 Pastoral Support Coordinator and she will not only support the transition process but also be supporting your child across Year 7. She can be contacted at stregale@axevalley.devon.sch.uk with any pastoral concerns or questions you might have.

My main role will be to make sure that all students settle into Axe Valley Academy and have the most positive start to secondary school that they can. I'm available to talk about worries and problems and help fix anything that they need help with. The move to secondary school can be an overwhelming one and I'm here to stop them feeling anxious. Because I am a non-teaching member of staff I can be available during the school day to offer early support.



Sandie Tregale
PASCo



Gill Cooper
SENDCo

You may also have some questions or concerns about your child's Special Educational Needs and below is some information from our SENDCo, Gill Cooper, about the Learning Support Department. Mrs Cooper can be contacted at gcooper@axevalley.devon.sch.uk.

Mrs Tracy Tresserras is our Assistant SENDCo and supports year 6 into 7 transition. She can be contacted at ttresserras@axevalley.devon.sch.uk



Tracy Tresserras
Assistant SENDCo

At Axe Valley Academy we have a fantastic Learning Support Department who encourage and support all students to achieve their potential and experience a feeling of success and achievement. Mrs Tresserras works closely with Primary Schools and the Year 7 Team to plan the additional support your child will need at Axe Valley. Students are supported by teachers in class using strategies and support outlined on the student's Learning Passport and you will receive a copy of this in the Autumn Term. In addition, students may receive support from teaching assistants or through interventions in Learning Support. We work in close partnership with parents and carers through regular termly meetings, as well as making sure we regularly gather student voice and views on the additional support they receive. Please do feel free to email or telephone us with any queries you may have and we will be happy to help.

You will also find attached our most recent newsletter AIXEMINSTRAL which I hope will give you a flavour of this vibrant school even in these unprecedented times. We will of course be in contact with more information over the coming months but wanted to introduce our school and to say just how excited we are to meet you all.

Finally please don't hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns at ljenkins@axevalley.devon.sch.uk or on 0129732146 where I can discuss these with you and arrange any follow up meetings.

We can't wait to begin the transition with your child and welcome them into our wonderful community.

Kind regards

Laura Jenkins
Headteacher

Enc: AIXEMINSTRAL issue 3