



## News Round-Up

### Somerset Unsung Heroes Awards



I am delighted to say that not only were we nominated for two awards at this new, prestigious event, but we also won the categories in which we were entered!

Two Avalon students: Travis and Eve were excellent ambassadors for our school, not only attending this grand evening awards ceremony but also going forward to receive the awards and to say a few words to a hall full of people. They truly did us proud, thank you Eve and Travis.

Travis says of the event, "It was nice to see all the people getting recognised for good things and getting something back for all the hard work. I feel grateful that someone had nominated us. I am pleased and overwhelmed to receive the awards on behalf of the school."

Our award for "Innovative Working – Thinking Outside the Box", went to Laura McCathie, key stage 4 leader, and the lunchtime arts enterprise club artists whose paintings are being sold widely in our area. Hatchers department store will also soon be selling them; their manager was "flabbergasted" by the quality and is keen for them to be available in his store.

Our second award resulted from wonderful partnership work by Gill Burratta of Job Centre Plus in supporting lessons, providing a range of information, advice and guidance to our students over many weeks; she established strong relationships with pupils such that many were keen to attend individual careers and advice appointments, one to one, with her during After School Club, thank you Gill and congratulations!

Alison Murkin – Head Teacher



## Wells Cathedral

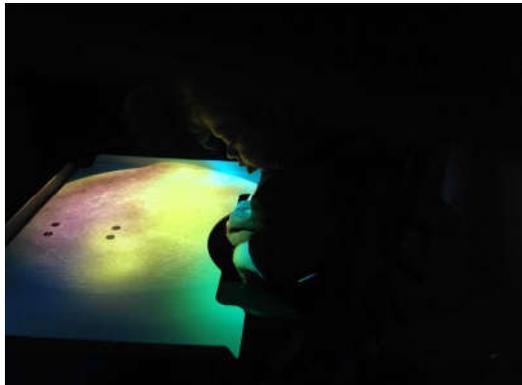
Do come along and support our pupils who are taking part in the Special Schools Christmas Concert in the Cathedral. It is always a moving and heartwarming event.

Date: **Tomorrow Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

Concert times: **1:30-2:30pm**

### 3Y Children's World Drama Session

The pupils in 3Y were transported into space for a wonderful interactive drama session with the Children's World Charity. The session focused on promoting social and communication skills through fun activities using sensory and interactive objects, scents and music.



3Y pupils had fun engaging in a range of activities including an interactive floor and table all specifically tailored to meet their individual needs during their journey through space in a rocket.



The session ended with an astronaut playing his guitar to the delight of the pupils.

### 4G Independence in the Community

On Fridays 4G have been participating in shopping and cooking lessons. The main focus of these lessons has been to promote independence in the community and skills for life.



All pupils have made progress, for example, by being able to find specific items in a familiar supermarket with a visual prompt. Some have been able to collect specific quantities of items detailed in a visual shopping list. In the afternoon pupils have been following a visual recipe to create a meal from the items they purchased earlier. Two pupils have demonstrated remarkable progress in completing this task with only minimal verbal prompts.



### Pop up Shop

If you have chance, do pop down to our pop up shop 'Sen.seational': on the High Street in Taunton, next to Tesco Express. It is staffed by students from several special schools in Somerset, including Avalon and is stocked with a wonderful array of goods made by students. A good chance to do a bit of quality Christmas shopping!

### Hydrotherapy Appeal

'Friends of Avalon' have now raised an amazing £980,954 (90.42%) of the £1.1 million required to build the pool. The campaign continues its final push so that we can start the build. Details of **how you can help** can be found on the appeal page on our website: [www.avalonschool.net](http://www.avalonschool.net)

### 4B Enterprise Project

4B have been busy trialling their enterprise product this half-term. Pupils have made a range of different flavour dog treats and sent out samples with a survey for pet owners to complete. Our doggy samplers' two most popular flavours were cheese & apple and pumpkin & peanut butter. Pupils have applied the skills they have been learning in maths and English this term by weighing and measuring the ingredients and following equipment lists and instructions. Pupils looked at different examples of dog treat packaging and designed their own labels to use on the finished product. These dog biscuits are really selling well in the pop up shop!



### 3G Enterprise Project

3G have been hard at work this term making bath bombs as an enterprise project. After testing a variety of bath bombs initially, they've really enjoyed making their own; exploring different colour combinations and being creative with lots of different scents, such as lemongrass, sweet orange and lavender. The pupils conducted some market research with staff and pupils from other classes, and discovered that multi-coloured bath bombs with a fruity scent were the most popular. The pupils have worked together brilliantly and used their maths skills to measure the ingredients, as well as science skills to observe the reactions of the chemicals. They have perfected the recipe and the bath bombs are now on sale in our pop up shop in Taunton!



### News from Friends of Avalon PTA

Friends of Avalon PTA have reached over 1500 people since setting up their Facebook page. Give them a like and share, if you haven't done so already 😊  
Twitter and Instagram accounts will be added shortly, so keep your eyes peeled for those.  
Angela, Sabrina, Nikki, Alana and Dylan ran a toy stall at Glastonbury Carnival to help raise funds for the hydrotherapy pool. Don't forget our Christmas Fair and celebration event on 17<sup>th</sup> December. All donations and support welcome and tables available for hire!

Sabrina – Vice Chair of Governors

## Sixth Form

The Lunch Bunch held a successful first café at Moorlinch Village Hall on Thursday 8th November. The students spent the morning preparing food and packing up equipment ready to hit the road at 11.30 sharp. As soon as we arrived at Moorlinch, everyone got busy carrying crockery and cutlery, setting up tables and chairs, heating soup and laying out ingredients for ploughman's lunches. With a lot of hard work from everyone, we were ready to open the café doors at 12.30. Our first customers arrived promptly and were greeted with a smile at the door.

There were some familiar faces, but also a good number of local people who had seen our publicity and were keen to try our lunches.



Our two waiters admitted that they were a little anxious about meeting new people, but they put their nerves behind them and took orders confidently and efficiently.



Meanwhile the kitchen was a hub of activity, with students in charge of plating up ploughman's lunches, ladling soup and making drinks. Orders were delivered smoothly and there were only a few occasions when the waiters had to return to check their orders. As the students become more familiar with the routines in the café, staff will gradually reduce their support so that they become as independent in their roles as possible. All the customers were very positive about their lunches, with the cauliflower cheese soup being a particular favourite. Many said that they would be returning and would tell their friends about the café. We even got a review on Facebook!

We have since held two more successful café's in Bawdrip and Stawell with 60 customers at the last event. We have had great feedback from all. Well done Lunch Bunch!



## Christmas Fair & Celebration

Free Entry At Avalon School



December 17th 2- 4pm

Join us to celebrate Christmas, with Christmas carols and piano recital as you buy from our range of gifts and cards, have a go on the raffle, and enjoy a lovely drink and cake!



If you have Christmas arts and crafts or produce to sell, tables at the Christmas Fair event are available to hire for £10 and can be booked through the school office 01458 443081. All proceeds will go towards the hydrotherapy pool appeal.

### Live Music Project

Several classes took part in live music workshops with musicians playing the marimba, oboe and violin. Sessions were adapted to meet the needs of all those involved. Pupils joined in with enthusiasm, playing percussion and dancing, as well as learning the names of musical notes and repeating rhythms. Not only did pupils develop their musical skills, but also their social and communication skills, whilst also having a lot of fun.



As part of Macmillan's annual fundraising event, the school held a coffee morning, lunch bunch lunch and wear what you want day. This raised a total of £222.17

### Key Dates this term

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| Parents' Evening                            | Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2018                                 |
| Christmas Fayre and celebration             | Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2018 2 – 4:00pm                         |
| Christmas Buffet Lunch for pupils and staff | Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2018                                  |
| Christmas party for KS3, KS4 and sixth form | Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2018 (afternoon)                      |
| Last day at school for pupils               |  |
| INSET Day – School closed to pupils         | Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2018                                    |
| Christmas Holidays                          | Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> December 2018 – Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 |
| Return to school for pupils                 | Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2019                                      |