



# AVANTI MEADOWS PRIMARY SCHOOL



Prospectus  
2021

Information guide for families in Bishop's Stortford

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# Welcome to Avanti Meadows Primary School From our Executive Principal and Headteacher

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Welcome to our prospectus for Avanti Meadows Primary School. This school will be the latest in the development of the Avanti Schools

Trust who already have several highly successful schools in operation and I am very proud and honoured to have been appointed as the Executive Principal Designate for this new member to our family of schools.

Avanti Meadows Primary School will provide parents and pupils with the highest standards of education and pastoral care. We want our children to take pride in their new school and for every member of the school community to work hard to provide high quality education, care and support for every child and every family. We will set the highest expectations from the outset to ensure that we provide creative learning experiences, which inspire and challenge our pupils to achieve the very best in all aspects of their learning.

Our curriculum will be based upon the National Curriculum and we will adopt a personalised approach in order to provide tailor-made learning paths for all pupils.

The site for Avanti Meadows will be a brand new building and the facilities will be bespoke, contemporary and first-class, which will make for a unique learning experience. We are working in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council to ensure that careful planning and preparation is in place to make Avanti Meadows a first-choice school for the children of Bishop's Stortford North. This is a very exciting time for all of us as we see the new school develop towards the opening date of September 2021 and I know that the demand for places will be high.

I hope that you will take this opportunity to discover more about the Avanti ethos and look forward to working with you to provide the best possible education for your child.

**Deborah Walters BA Hons, PGCE, NPQH**  
**Executive Principal Designate**

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## Our Vision

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Avanti Schools support each person's life journey along three parallel paths:



### Educational Excellence

Our vision for educational excellence is one where deeply inspired teachers nurture joyful students and nourish their innate passion for learning. Learning is a quest to discover each student's unique gifts and potential and lay the foundation for their life-long journey of learning. This is inseparable from high academic standards, where a challenging holistic curriculum cultivates independently thoughtful and reflective students by working towards a sense of mastery, emphasising depth, and not just breadth.



### Character Formation

Our vision for character formation is one where virtues are taught by example and a supportive community of learners fosters a powerful sense of individual and collective purpose. Learning develops for these conscious change makers as a quest for making the world a better place, starting with oneself. The capacity to internalise and put into practice what we have learned is the true test of learning. Building this capacity demands an experiential, virtues-led curriculum that embraces collaboration, custodianship and global perspectives.



### Spiritual Insight

Our vision for spiritual insight is one where our interconnectedness with all living beings and with the universe, urges acts born out of humility and love, and the Self is perceived beyond its layers of coverings. Learning blossoms for these seekers as a quest for self-discovery and opens the door to their unlimited potential; an antidote to the emptiness of a materialistic or mechanistic worldview. The curriculum unveils the possibilities of sacredness and transcendence at every moment and so engenders a deeply positive attitude to life, enduring happiness and heartfelt relationships.

# Avanti Schools Trust

Avanti opened its first school in 2008. Our vision was for a family of schools based upon our core principles of educational excellence, character formation, and spiritual insight. We now have close to 4,000 students and 450 members of staff across our family of 10 schools (five primary, one secondary, and four all-through) with three more schools in pre-opening.

Avanti has a proven approach to school development and improvement, with excellent pupil outcomes across our schools for example our primary school outcomes are amongst the top 10% in the country at Key Stage 2.





## AVANTI MEADOWS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Avanti Meadows Primary School will be part of the larger Avanti Learning Village, a new all-through (4 to 16) provision in the north of Bishop's Stortford. The new Avanti Learning Village will offer parents the opportunity for their children to benefit from a comprehensive and coherent learning journey from nursery right through to aged 16 and GCSEs.

The number of pupils admitted into Reception at Avanti Meadows will be 90 and the number of pupils admitted at 11 years of age (Year 7) to the secondary phase of the Learning Village will be 180. **In the first year opening the school will admit up to 60 children into its Reception year group.**

Although an application must still be made, in the future Year 6 pupils at Avanti Meadows Primary School will automatically be guaranteed a place in Year 7 at the Avanti Learning Village's Secondary School although parents and carers will be free to submit applications for Year 7 places at other schools if they wish.

**Pupils' behaviour is outstanding in class and around the school and they say they feel completely safe.**

**OFSTED 2018**



**School leaders and governors, through the Avanti Trust, are wholly committed to ambitious outcomes for all pupils.**

**OFSTED 2018**

**Thank you so much for allowing me to look around your wonderful school. I was most impressed by how engaged the pupils were in their studies. The school has a lovely atmosphere.**

*Lord Nash, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools*

**It is very important that we give children the very best opportunities to be the very best they can, so that when they leave education in many years from now, they have every possible chance of doing what they aspire to do.**

**Avanti Primary School Teacher**



2003



Idea of Avanti Formed



Avanti opens first state-funded Hindu school in UK history

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

Parliament Status

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



The Avanti Journey



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

KAPS receives its first Ofsted inspection and is graded 'good' with outstanding features.

2010

2011



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.

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

AST opens Krishna Avanti Primary School in Leicester under the new Free School policy.

2015



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.



Formation of Central Services Team

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

2012



Avanti Court opens



Avanti House opens all-through school

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

2016



KAPS Croydon

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

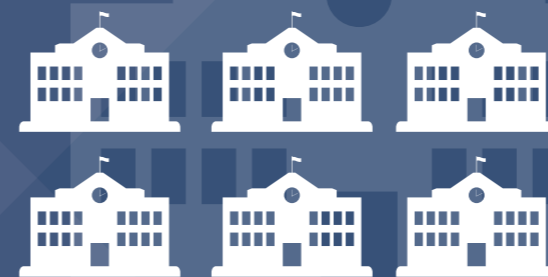
2017



First GCSE results

At Avanti House Secondary School.

2018



School Openings

Opening of 2 new purpose built school buildings (Croydon, Leicester), with a capital budget of over £30 million, the opening of Avanti Fields, Leicester and 3 schools across the South West (Bristol, Exeter and Somerset)

2020



Avanti Meadows

A new three-form entry Primary School. Part of the Avanti Learning Village in Bishops Stortford and set to open it's doors in 2021.

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# Behaviour

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At Avanti Meadows we believe that children thrive on praise and positive encouragement. Our approach will be based, therefore, on positive reinforcement and assertive behaviour. We will recognise children's achievements on a daily basis which could be publicly, formally and informally; ranging from a nod or a smile through to a certificate being presented in assembly or a phone call home. If necessary sanctions will be applied when these are appropriate to the misdemeanour and followed by a discussion about the inappropriateness of such behaviour.

The school will use the 'Stay on Green' system, which is underpinned by the school's five golden expectations. These expectations are designed to focus on positive actions rather than what children should not do.

There will be a no-shouting policy throughout the school for both adults and children. Everyone at Avanti Meadows will be responsible for the behaviour of all children and adults will reinforce the golden expectations whenever appropriate.

## Golden Expectations:

1. **Be kind:** think of others and help them
2. **Be safe:** look after yourself and others
3. **Be respectful:** listen carefully and act politely
4. **Be honest:** think before you speak and act
5. **Be courageous:** keep on trying your best
6. **Be grateful:** say 'thank you'

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding your child will be at the heart of all we do. At Avanti Meadows there will be a Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. If the school has concerns about the wellbeing of a child, procedures agreed by the Local Authority Children's Services will be followed. These include working with Social Services and you, the family.




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# How we will seek to promote educational excellence

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## Educational excellence will be achieved through:

- Happy and fulfilled learners and teachers.
- Highly-skilled and actively engaged leadership and governance, dedicated to continuous improvement and to realisation of the school's distinctive vision and ethos.
- A broad and challenging curriculum focused on core skills and subjects, delivered through a values based approach.
- Continuous development of the professional knowledge and skill of all staff, and adequate respect for their professional discretion and integrity.
- Staff with high expectations, convinced that every child is both uniquely gifted and has identifiable areas for improvement.
- Personalised targets and learning paths for all pupils, supported by thorough, learner-focussed mentorship and effective ICT systems.
- Provision of a broad, flexible and challenging curriculum that allows students to develop in the direction best suited to them, at their own pace, and which promotes realisation of their full potential.
- Progress-tracking using rigorous intra-year staff assessment, self and peer assessment, formative assessment, detailed reporting, and – as needed early intervention and support classes.
- Lessons designed to be relevant to students' lives, to develop learning and questioning skills, and to deepen motivation, understanding and personal insight.
- Partnerships with universities, links with businesses and through both local and national links.
- Sincere and committed engagement of parents (and other family members) as co-educators.



We motivate students to become reflective, articulate and independent thinkers

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## How we will seek to develop pupils' character

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### Character development will be achieved through:

- A curriculum that challenges students to reflect, think for themselves, explore the links between character and conduct, develop moral literacy and make their own well-informed lifestyle choices.
- Empowerment of students to empathise with others and to deeply reflect on their own choices and their social and personal impact.
- Dedication to community cohesion, especially through service to the community and active partnerships with other charities and community-based groups.
- Encouraging students to adopt conscientious and balanced lifestyles, underpinned by a sense of stewardship and an innate reverence for life, nature and the earth's resources.
- Clean, uncluttered and sustainable learning environments that support the school's emphasis on mindfulness.
- Working collaboratively with the wider community, especially partner public agencies.
- Visits to diverse sacred places and educational venues.
- A broad offering of competitive and non-competitive sports, both within the curriculum and as extra-curricular opportunities.
- Opportunities for developing leadership, team building and personal integrity through partnerships with other organisations.
- Dedication to leadership at every level and nurture of students' voice and involvement, up to Governance level.



Our students develop personal virtue and leadership, side by side



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## How we will seek to inspire pupils' spiritual insight

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### Spiritual insight will be achieved through:

- Students have profound and stirring experiences of religious education, festivals and other activities for spiritual cultivation.
- Effective pastoral care supports each student's personal, emotional and spiritual journey.
- Students develop authentic and broad-minded insight into the complexities, essences and core principles underlying the varied manifestations of religion and spirituality.
- The curriculum and school life make spirituality relevant and accessible to all, irrespective of faith or belief.
- Students evidence spiritual insight in terms of their own identity, their relationship with others, with the wider world and for some, their relationship with God.
- There are opportunities and structures to support the development of heartfelt relationships between members of the school community, from which each person feels supported and nurtured.
- All members of the school community are committed to introspection and their own personal journey of self-discovery.



Students experience  
an uplifting and inclusive  
sense of spirituality

# Curriculum – Early Years

At Avanti Meadows Primary School, we want our pupils' first experiences of education to be enjoyable and engaging. We expect all members of the school community to work collaboratively, with high aspirations and expectations of everyone, consistent with our ethos.

By the end of the Foundation Stage (Reception Class), we aim for all our children to have developed positive attitudes to school supported by positive relationships with adults, strong friendships, meaningful learning activities set in an engaging, calm environment and strong links between school and parents/carers. We also expect them to have

a firm understanding of phonics, and will offer additional directed support to those with need.

Children will be offered a broad, balanced Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. This allows plenty of opportunities to learn through play in a wide variety of contexts and focuses on: personal, social and emotional development; communication, language and literacy; problem-solving, reasoning and numeracy; knowledge and understanding of the world; and physical and creative development. Teaching will encourage all children to ask questions and talk about their play and learning.

# Curriculum – Key Stages 1 and 2

Throughout Key Stages 1 and 2, pupils will continue to develop a love of reading, through an effective balance of synthetic phonics, drama, speaking and listening tasks, guided reading and storytelling. We know that pupils who can communicate orally and in writing, and who understand the value and pleasure of reading, are more likely to have happy, fulfilling academic and personal lives.

With these skills, pupils will access a broad and balanced curriculum that includes:

- English, Mathematics and Science
- Arts (Music, Art, Dance and Drama)
- Computing
- Physical Education (PE)
- Humanities and Religious Education (RE)
- Yoga and Meditation
- Spanish (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)
- PSHE (Personal Social Health and Economic education, including philosophy and ethics)

We aim to enrich the curriculum with memorable learning experiences, including educational visits and outdoor learning opportunities.

Pupils will be largely taught together in their class but will be supported by focused interventions, where needed, so that no child is left behind.

The topic-themed approach to planning will be enriched further by discrete special events including termly Maths Challenge Days and an annual Creativity Week. As a school we will specialise in the Performing Arts aiming to provide extra opportunities for pupils to expand their knowledge and understanding in this area.

By the end of Key Stage 2, we aim for all our pupils to have the confidence, resilience and increasing maturity to deal with changes in school and at home, whatever they may be. We expect them to have developed: a love of reading; a thirst to enquire, ask questions and find out; positive relationships; good behaviour; and key maths, musical and artistic skills to prepare them for their next phase of education.

Our compassionate and caring pastoral approach will encourage all pupils to reflect on their own faith or belief system, to explore their spirituality and enter the secondary phase of education with a reflective, critical thinking and compassionate mind. We want them to understand the impact of their choices on themselves, on others and on their environment, both locally and globally. We expect them to be positive contributors as British and World citizens.



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## Performing Arts Specialism

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At Avanti Meadows Primary School, we see Performing Arts as a powerful means for helping young people develop self-confidence and communication skills in a wide range of settings. It is also a key element in living out the aesthetic ethos of the school. Among other real benefits for your child, Performing Arts can help develop:

- their understanding by bringing together the spiritual, physical, aesthetic and intellectual
- new ways of thinking and behaving
- an awareness of the relationship between excellence, skill and practice
- growing confidence in working with and for others in a variety of roles, including leadership
- a growing ability to deal with new situations, to problem-solve

# School Uniform

Our uniform unites our school community by giving a sense of belonging and identity. School uniform is compulsory.

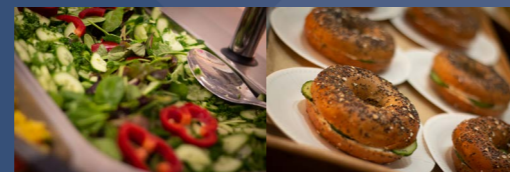
Our school uniform requirements are set out below. Our uniform is available online from: [www.brigadeuniformdirect.uk.com](http://www.brigadeuniformdirect.uk.com)

BOYS		GIRLS	
Avanti polo shirt	Year R – 3	Avanti polo shirt	Year R – 3
White shirt	Year 4 – 5	White blouse	Year 4 – 5
White shirt with school tie	Year 6	White shirt with school tie	Year 6
Avanti V neck jumper		Avanti cardigan	
Grey trousers		Grey trousers or grey below-knee skirt	
Grey shorts (summer option)		Navy gingham pinafore dress (summer option)	
Black/grey socks		Black/grey socks/tights	
Black school shoes		Black school shoes	



# School Lunches

An important part of our ethos is the provision of hot, fresh, nutritious vegetarian meals. The Trust has a dedicated team focused on menu development and analysing the nutritional content of each dish, ensuring students receive high-quality, nourishing meals.



# Applying for a Place

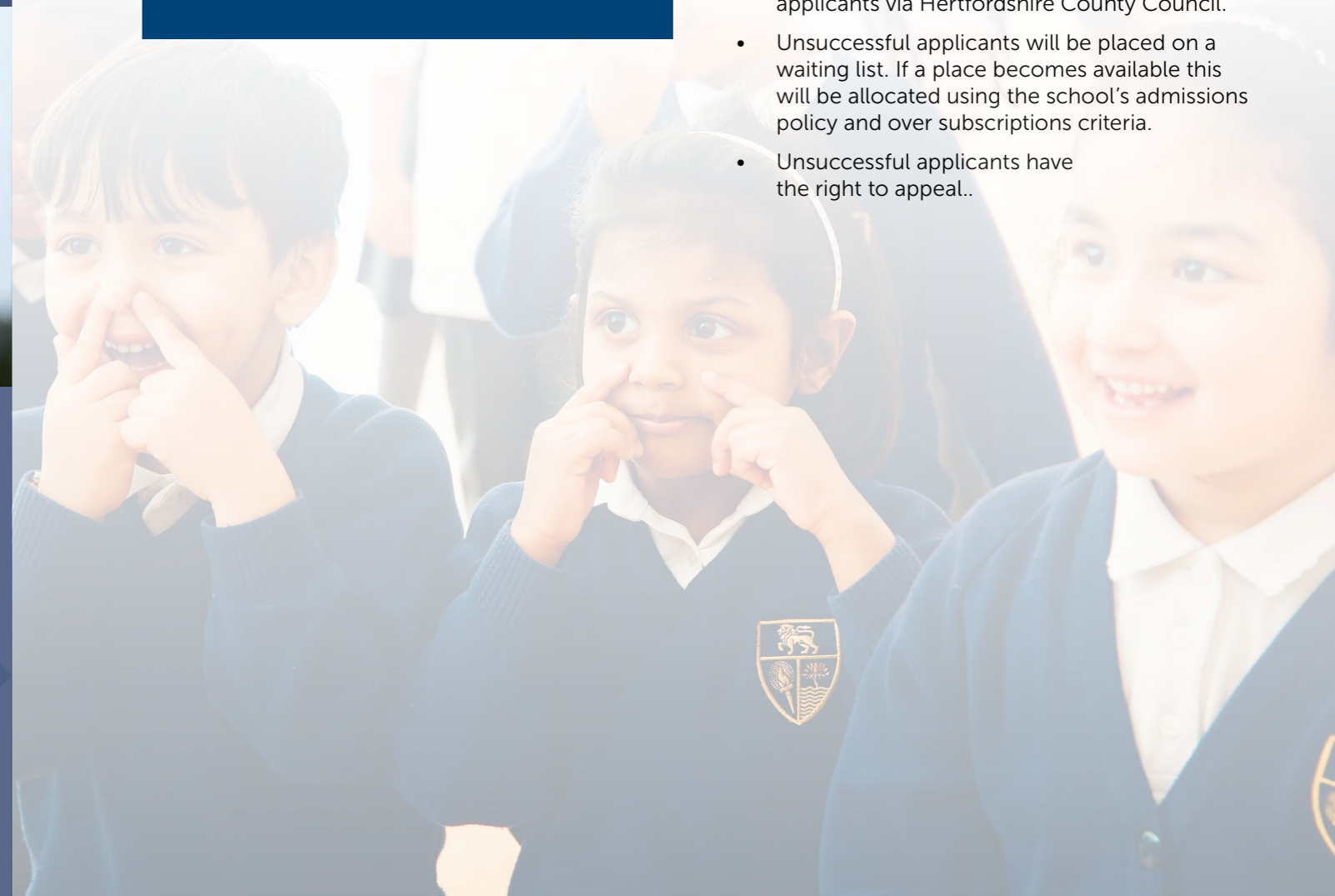
## Admission Arrangements for entry into Avanti Meadows Primary School in September 2021

Avanti Meadows Primary School will, in the future, participate in the Local Authority Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme. However, for the first year of opening, a parallel application process will be required. Parents will be able to apply to Avanti Meadows Primary School in addition to ranking four schools on Hertfordshire County Council's (HCC) Application Form. Applications should be made online at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions) or parents can request an application form from the Customer Service Centre on **0300 123 4043**.

Avanti Meadows Primary School will operate admissions in collaboration with Hertfordshire County Council.

If your child's date of birth is between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 you can apply for a place to start Avanti Meadows in September 2021. You should apply via Hertfordshire County Council from September 2020.

- The deadline for submitting this form is 15th January 2021. The form can be accessed by clicking here: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions)
- Applications received after the closing date will be considered after those received on time.
- Offers of Reception places will be sent to applicants via Hertfordshire County Council.
- Unsuccessful applicants will be placed on a waiting list. If a place becomes available this will be allocated using the school's admissions policy and over subscriptions criteria.
- Unsuccessful applicants have the right to appeal.



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# Staying connected

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## AVANTI SCHOOLS TRUST

The Trust website is a good starting point to learn about the Avanti vision at play in our schools. Short videos are also online.



[www.avanti.org.uk](http://www.avanti.org.uk)

## HIGHLIGHTS AND UPDATES

The Avanti Life magazine brings you the very best of what is happening within our family of schools. Also available in print.



[www.avanti.life](http://www.avanti.life)

## SCHOOL LIFE IN DETAIL

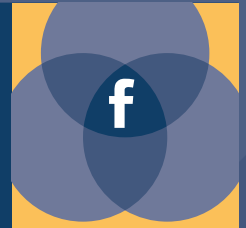
The school website offers up-to-date information on key aspects of school life, from ethos to admissions; school lunches to job opportunities.



[www.avanti.org.uk/avantimeadows](http://www.avanti.org.uk/avantimeadows)

## SOCIALISING

We use Facebook as a shared community page where many school and Trust highlights are broadcast – a great way to stay informed and in touch.



[www.facebook.com/avantischoolstrust](http://www.facebook.com/avantischoolstrust)

## Central Trust Office:

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**AVANTI** SCHOOLS TRUST

A Journey of  
Self-Discovery