



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE



Post of

Curriculum Leader, Media

Start date: January 2027 or earlier if possible

Information for Candidates



Welcome to the Aylesbury Vale Academy

Thank you for expressing your interest in the post Curriculum Leader, Media. This is a school where we aim to go beyond the expected to ensure that students' life chances are enhanced.

We are proud of our non-selective, fully inclusive status and believe that children and young people, regardless of their background, ability or circumstances can thrive and succeed here. That is why we place **respect**, **aspiration** and **resilience** at the heart of everything we do.

As a large all-through school, we can offer learners an ambitious range of opportunities in and beyond the classroom. We place significant importance on academic excellence through high expectations but value, just as highly, the wide range of experiences learners can access. It is this balance which helps to ensure that learners are fully rounded individuals who can make a positive contribution to society.

To make the lives of children better we:

- Ensure our **teaching** and **all our work** with young people is grounded in **high expectations** so that learners achieve and read exceptionally well.
- Deliver a **broad, ambitious and rich curriculum**, which places reading at its core going beyond the expected.
- **Close all gaps** between the performance of different groups of learners.
- Empower learners by developing their **character** so that they are **resilient, aspirational, respectful** and have excellent attitudes to their learning.
- Inspire **attendance** to be consistently above the national average.

We look forward to welcoming you for an informal visit prior to your application. Please do contact us if you would like to arrange one or if you have any questions about the post.

Mr Gavin Gibson
Academy Principal



Our Staff Community

The Aylesbury Vale Academy is a large, vibrant and warm community of over 200 staff. Staff wellbeing, happiness and job satisfaction is essential to ensuring the school achieves its goals. We value our staff and provide a welcoming and supportive working environment in which they can develop as professionals and progress in their careers. We are committed to our status as a workplace signed up to the DfE Wellbeing Charter and continuously review our practices to improve school culture and workload.

We look for staff who want to share in our vision for children and young people but who also want to work as part of a close-knit caring and supportive staff team. Personalised CPD is important to us and we provide all staff with free access to courses through our subscription to the National College.

How to Apply

All applicants are asked to complete the MyNewTerm application.

For further information contact Mrs E Perrin, HR Manager at vacancies@theacademy.me.

Closing date: **Noon, 19 June 2026**

Visiting the school prior to submission of an application is warmly encouraged.

Our commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children will be reflected throughout the recruitment process and the successful applicant will be subject to an enhanced DBS check and an online screening check.

Prospective candidates are encouraged to submit their applications as soon as possible as the school reserves the right to close the advert should we feel able to appoint an appropriate candidate.

The Post – Curriculum Leader, Media

Media Studies is a dynamic and contemporary subject that fosters creativity, critical thinking, research, and communication skills through the exploration of diverse media forms and perspectives. Our department delivers a broad and ambitious curriculum, beginning in Year 9 with a focus on theoretical foundations, before progressing to the application of knowledge through close study products at GCSE in Year 10. At Key Stage 5, we offer a Level 3 BTEC qualification and benefit from strong industry links, including partnerships with Pinewood Studios. Our recent GCSE outcomes reflect strong student progress.

We are a highly supportive and collaborative school committed to staff development and professional growth. The Media department consists of a full-time Curriculum Leader, one senior leader and a part-time teacher, working closely together to promote both effective practice and staff wellbeing. We are seeking an ambitious, committed, and dynamic professional to become the new Curriculum Lead, someone with a passion for Media Studies, the ability to engage and inspire young people, and a proven impact on student learning. The successful candidate will demonstrate enthusiasm for education, excellent interpersonal skills, resilience, strong classroom practice, and secure subject knowledge, including experience of delivering GCSE Media Studies.

We deliver an engaging and relevant qualification that inspires learning for all. The course is underpinned by a clear and well-structured specification, providing clarity and confidence in delivery. Recognising the subject's strong appeal, the curriculum enables students to explore contemporary issues through creative and practical engagement with a range of media forms.

Curriculum Leader, Job Description

JOB PURPOSE

- To lead by example in all areas of professional practice, in the relentless pursuit of high standards.
- The leadership, management and development of the Curriculum Team.
- To be responsible for the provision of an appropriately broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum for students studying in the curriculum area.
- To inspire staff and students to participate in a comprehensive enrichment programme with a rich and varied provision which enhances student relationships with staff and each other and helps develop students' lifelong learning skills.
- To follow the Academy's Safeguarding policy and procedures and ensure the wellbeing of all students in their care is their highest priority.
- To undertake any reasonable task as directed by the Principal.

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

- Have the ability to enable others to achieve success.
- Have a genuine commitment to consultation, effective decision making and the importance of teamwork.
- Have the ability to draw data from a variety of sources, analyse, synthesise and present solutions.

ORGANISATION

- Demonstrate an attention to detail and an awareness of the impact of decisions on others.
- Have a predisposition to instigate appropriate action in order to achieve success.
- Have the ability to delegate in such a way that tasks are achieved and targets met.
- Have the ability to self-manage and delegate in such a way that tasks are achieved and targets met.

COMMUNICATION

- Have excellent written and oral skills.
- Display a clear sense of vision.
- Be able to build professional relationships and work sensitively with a wide variety of people.

PROFESSIONAL

- Be a graduate with a teaching qualification.
- Be an excellent classroom practitioner.
- Have a wide interest and knowledge of the use of ICT both as a classroom and management tool.

PERSONAL

- Have a passion for teaching and learning and ongoing commitment to CPD.
- Have integrity, optimism, flexibility and resilience.
- Have the stamina to cope with the demands of the post.
- Possess personal impact and presence.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- To take responsibility for evaluating the performance of the Media department to identify the priorities for continuous improvement and raising standards, and to ensure equality of opportunity for all.
- To design an engaging and challenging curriculum that enables all students to enjoy the subject and achieve at the highest level, support by detailed schemes of work which ensure consistency and coherence across the curriculum area.
- To ensure that all student performance and behaviour data is understood, interpreted and acted upon effectively by all subject staff to modify planning and personalise support.
- To develop policies and practices and ensuring that resources are efficiently and effectively used to achieve the Academy's values, aims and objectives.
- To ensure that improvements in Literacy, Numeracy and ICT are priority targets for all students.
- To ensure students acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning.
- To support the ethos and policies of the Academy and promote high levels of achievement and attainment in the curriculum area.
- To support the valuation of the impact and effectiveness of the Academy's interventions, policies and developments and analyse their impact on the curriculum area.
- To ensure the rigorous quality assurance processes are carried out within the curriculum area to monitor standards and accuracy of assessment.
- To support the performance management process as a reviewer where required and use the process to progress the personal and professional effectiveness of staff.
- To provide evidence across each phase that students make appropriate progress in relation to prior progress and national comparisons.
- To play a leading role in enhancing the quality of teaching and learning in Media and use your own classes as consistent examples of high quality teaching and learning in your subject.

- To develop and enhance the practice of members of the Media department and hold them to account for the quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment and in following Academy expectations.
- To establish a dynamic and engaging learning environment that helps students develop study skills in order to achieve excellent learning and with increasing independence.
- To ensure that all Academy policies are implemented rigorously and consistently by subject staff.
- To ensure that parents/carers are well informed about the curriculum, targets, students' progress and attainment in the curriculum are through reporting and meetings.
- To support the development of links with parents/carers of students in the Academy.
- To maintain a presence around the school to ensure that the highest standards of behaviour and site usage are upheld.
- To manage a departmental budget and resources effectively and efficiently.

How We Look After Staff Wellbeing

At Aylesbury Vale Academy we see the importance in Wellbeing. To us Wellbeing means having a sense of community, being listened to and heard, and having a sense of purpose. When we prioritise wellbeing we feel positive, respected, happy and appreciated. This allows us to achieve our tasks and work together to achieve a common goal.)

We have a Staff Wellbeing Party that meets regularly to discuss staff wellbeing as well as a regular staff voice throughout the year. Staff also have access to a 24/7 helpline if required – Employee Assistance Programme.

What Staff Benefits Are Available?

There are a wide range of staff benefits that are available to all members of staff employed directly by The Aylesbury Vale Academy. Some of the benefits include:

A few of the things we can offer you:

- A workplace fully committed to the principles of the DfE Wellbeing Charter
- Opportunity to take one paid day off per academic year as a Wellbeing Day (subject to prior approval).
- Priority admissions for school staff
- Bespoke CPD that is often self-directed
- Free employee assistance programme – 24/7 phone line for free emotional, bereavement and financial concerns
- Well-embedded systems that provide clear structures at the same time as allowing individuals to work with autonomy
- 10% discount on pre-school places
- 10% discount on Primary wraparound care
- 25% discount on the use of the Lettings facilities (sport pitches, sports hall, drama studios, Community suite, party rooms)

Quotations from the last Ofsted visit May 2024:

- “Staff feel positive about the school’s approach to workload.”
- “Leaders and governors prioritise making the school’s improvement sustainable. As a result, everyone within the school is committed to achieving success for pupils.”
- “Pupils of all ages enjoy their time at school here. They are polite and courteous.”
- “The school is ambitious for every pupil to learn and achieve.”
- “Pupils achieve well and perform well in national tests and examinations.”
- “Pupils’ conduct supports the learning ethos of the school”.
- “Staff set clear boundaries for how pupils are expected to behave.”

Testimonials

“The school has been very helpful and supportive in helping us to catch up with work whenever we are training or competing during term time. I would highly recommend the school as it has great facilities and members of staff, making it a wonderful place to learn.” Jessica and Jennifer Gadirova, Olympic and European gymnastics medallists and Year 13 AVA students.



“There is an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect across the school. Pupils’ conduct is calm and orderly.” (Ofsted 2019)

“Primary and secondary teachers know their classes very well.” (Ofsted 2019)

“We believe that the Aylesbury Vale Academy will create an achievement climate where our daughter can be an active participant in their learning and have opportunities to flourish.” (Year 7 Parent)

“I made this choice because my daughter is very good at performing arts and this school has an exceptional drama, dance and music department. The teachers are lovely and friendly and the atmosphere is very positive. My daughter felt really happy when we went to visit it.” (Year 7 Parent)

“The Academy takes Staff Wellbeing seriously – it isn’t an add on or after-thought” (Current Staff Member)



“I like the way the lessons are planned; it helps me to learn and progress in the subject we are studying. The teachers are understanding and obviously care for our education and that is something I am truly grateful for.” (Current student)

“My favourite thing about the lessons is that they are fun and interesting and a good learning environment for me to develop my skills.” (Current student)

“The things I like about AVA is that there is always a teacher you can go to.” (Current Student)

Tutor Groups

In order to provide a clear focus on the highest levels of achievement for your child, the Academy has a horizontal tutoring system. This enables experienced tutors to help students develop the skills relevant to their age group, allowing them to become confident and knowledgeable learners.

Our tutor programme ensures that students have the best possible start to the day. Students are involved in activities such as reflection, year group assemblies, literacy and numeracy activities, debating and discussion. We also use this time in the day to answer any questions students have resolve any issues and to check uniform and equipment.

Students follow the Princes Trust programme to develop key skills needed in their personal and academic development.



Behaviour for Learning

We have very high expectations of behaviour based on our values of Respect, Aspiration and Resilience. We believe that good behaviour leads to good academic achievement, welfare, wellbeing and all aspects of learning

The AVA Curriculum

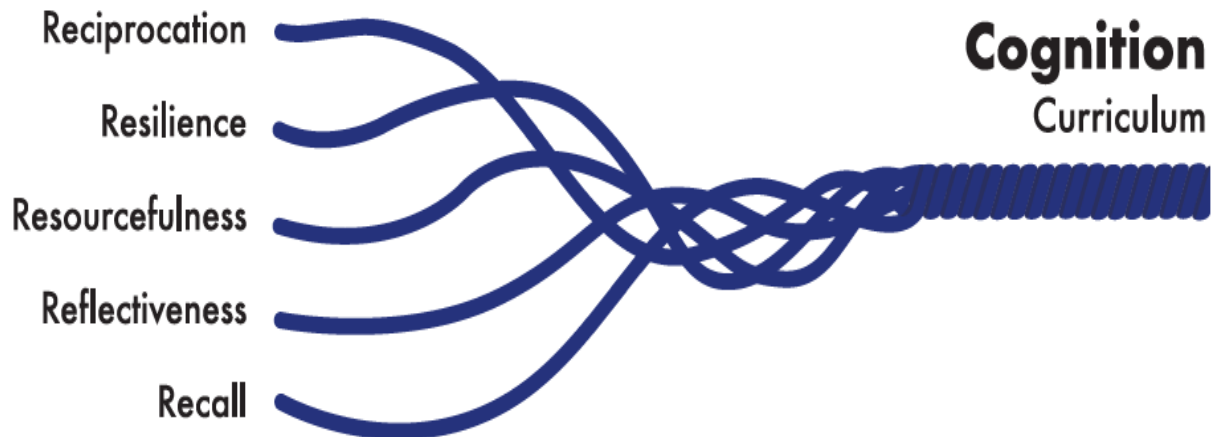
The Aylesbury Vale Academy (AVA) is an all-through academy and the curriculum we follow develops and grows with our students as they move from primary school into secondary school. The aim of this curriculum is to provide a broad, balanced and ambitious education which prepares our students by giving the best possible chances for their future life choices and helping them to discover their role in society, where they will make valued contributions. In order to meet these aims the AVA curriculum has been designed to have three threads running through it which we refer to as the 4 Cs: **Cognition, Culture, Core and Careers**.



We believe that the 4 Cs are integral to meeting the needs of our students. AVA is a large community and our students benefit from being taught how to become effective independent learners. The AVA Curriculum aims to teach students how to learn effectively and with an ever-increasing degree of independence.

The Cognition Curriculum

The Cognition Curriculum teaches students how to become effective learners by developing the key skills of **Reciprocation**, **Resilience**, **Resourcefulness**, **Reflectiveness** and **Recall**. We teach these skills explicitly because they help our students become faster, better and more confident learners.



The Culture Curriculum

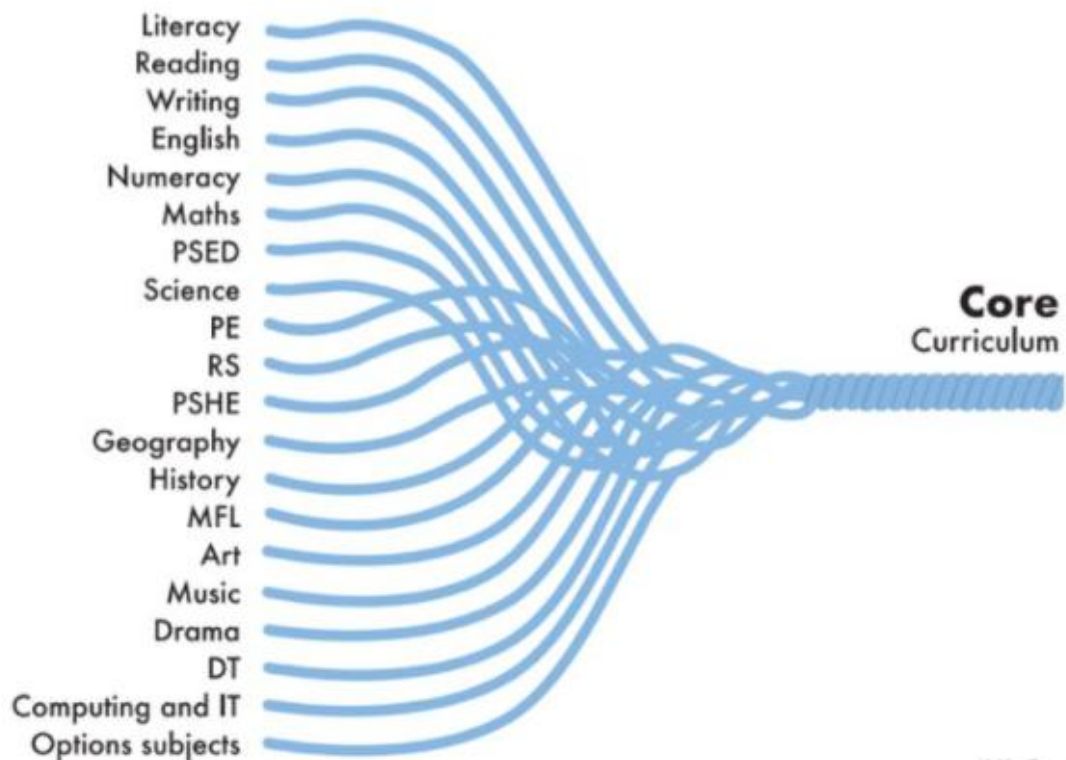
The Culture Curriculum is what we add to the National Curriculum to develop AVA students into well-balanced citizens and it is underpinned by our drive to ensure our students read widely and regularly, both for enjoyment and to learn. Students take part in local and international visits, can access a wide range of clubs, and meet regular visitors and speakers to stretch their learning.



Core Curriculum for Key Stage 3

The Aylesbury Vale Academy offers its students a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum.

During Key Stage 3, all students access courses in English, Mathematics, Science, Art, Design Technology, Drama, Information and Communication Technology, Computer Science, Geography, History, Modern Foreign Languages (Spanish *and* French), Personal Health and Social Education, Religious Studies, Music, and Physical Education.



Core Curriculum for Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4 students have an element of choice which allows them to personalise their Key Stage 4 curriculum.

English, Maths and Science along with core Physical Education are compulsory subjects for all students. The remainder of each timetable is composed of a variety of option subjects including Art, Information and Communication Technology, Music, Media, Business Studies, Health and Fitness, History, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages, Religious Studies, Physical Education Health and Social Care, Engineering, Design Technology, Spanish, French and Hospitality and Catering.

Core Curriculum Post 16

Our courses in Years 12 and 13 currently offer a vocational route for further study. Students follow 'pathways' leading to further education, university or a specific career path. Within these 'pathways' students choose from a range of BTEC Level 3 courses such as Business Studies, Media Studies, Information Technology, Sport, Applied Science, Psychology, Mathematics, English Literature, and Health and Social Care. Alongside this they have the opportunity to take part in the national Young Enterprise scheme, Sports Leaders and to complete an Extended Project Qualification. Year 12 and 13 also take part in Physical Education.

100% of all our Post 16 students who applied to university in 2023 received an offer from their first choice university and had the grades to take up that place.



It is an exciting time to join AVA as the school expands its Sixth Form offering.

Enrichment Programme

We have a strong enrichment programme available to all students aimed to broaden student experiences outside of their timetabled subjects, develop life skills, build their cultural capital and embed a love of lifelong learning. The range of activities on offer runs not only through the different core curriculum subjects but also as after school clubs in Years 7-8 as well as our Extended Schools programme for Years 9-11.

Since the pandemic, there are now more trips, visits and careers interactions than before.

The careers programme is broad and ambitious for all learners. Ensuring students leave with the personal skills and qualifications to have ample choice and take up opportunities in whatever career pathway they decide to pursue.

