October 2025

edition 2

Heads Up!

Avalon School
Learning for Life

Dear Parent Carers,

As the first half of the Autumn term comes to a close I want to thank you all for your support of Avalon School and our staff team. For many of you, you are learning the systems of a new school and it has been wonderful to get to know many of you and to learn all about all of the new starters to our school for this academic year.

The first half term is always a busy one with lots of assessment to ascertain where students are in their learning and what needs to happen to fill in any gaps. Our teachers are skilled in designing learning bespoke to individuals and to small groups of the same pathway of learner. They also spend time setting targets for the year ahead. We use a strengths and needs analysis document to really focus in on our students and to design the learning so that targets are meaningful for them and progress is recorded daily—we hope that the cohort of parent carers who are trying the Evidence for Learning app enjoy seeing their children progress.

Another one of our really important systems is our ways of monitoring attendance for our students. Our attendance strategy is really important to us and we aim to encourage each student to have 93% attendance or more if it is possible for their own unique circumstances. I want our school to be a place where children feel a sense of belonging which encourages good attendance and we need your support and commitment to do all you can to get them in. I have detailed on the next pages our system for authorising term-time leave which should guide you when you are making plans for your family during term time.

Petrifying pizzas and Halloween cookies will be on sale on Thursday 23rd so please do pay in advance on Arbor if you wish your child to take part. There are more details in the coming pages from the 6th Form students who have used this as a focus for their ASDAN accreditation curriculum. Hopefully we'll all get to sink our fangs into something delicious!
Regarding payments, generally we are a cashless school and so will put a payment link on Arbor for you to access. There are certain exceptions to this rule which include Tuck Shop which gives students the opportunity to handle money, make a transaction and identify coins and 'real' money. Students do have opportunities across the curriculum to prepare and eat food together as part of Skills and Experiences for Life and ASDAN and I will be sending out letters this week inviting parents to contribute to this valuable part of the children's learning.

School photographs will be during the first week back after half term.

We can correspond with you in any way you need! This newsletter comes out regularly and we are happy to send electronic or hard copies of this and other communications —please let us know your preference.

Amy Norris, Head of School

October 2025

edition 2

Student Absence

Please find here some reference notes on student absence:

An absence is considered authorised when it meets one of the following conditions and is approved by the Head of School:

1. Illness

- Genuine illness that prevents the child from attending school. The school may request medical evidence if absences are frequent.

2. Medical or Dental Appointments

- Sometimes these have to be scheduled during school hours but parents are encouraged to book appointments outside school hours where possible.

3. Emergency or Unavoidable Cause

- Includes family emergencies or other significant events beyond parental control.

4. Exceptional Circumstances

Term-time leave may be authorised only if the reason is:

- Of significant emotional, educational, or spiritual value
- Unavoidable and could not be scheduled during school holidays
- A rare or one-off event

Requests must be made in writing using the Exceptional Circumstances Term-Time Leave Form which you can request from the office or find on our website

https://avalon.greenhousecms.co.uk/docs/policies/Attendance_Policy_2025.pdf

- Other Specific events which may be authorised are attendance at:
- Religious observance
- Regulated performances or employment abroad
- Interviews for employment or education
- Sporting activities
- Educational visits or work experience

Important Notes

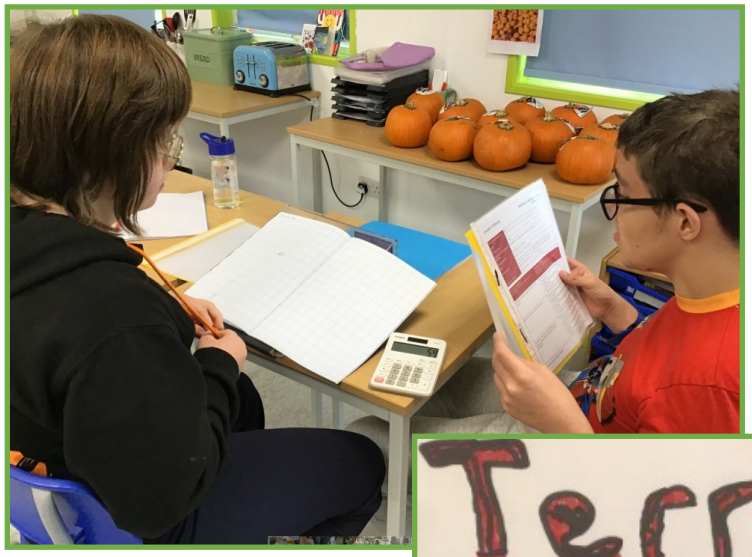
- Only the Head of School can authorise absences—not the parent.
- Absences without a valid reason or supporting evidence will be marked as unauthorised.
- Late arrivals after registration closes are counted as unauthorised absences.
- Holidays during term time are not authorised .

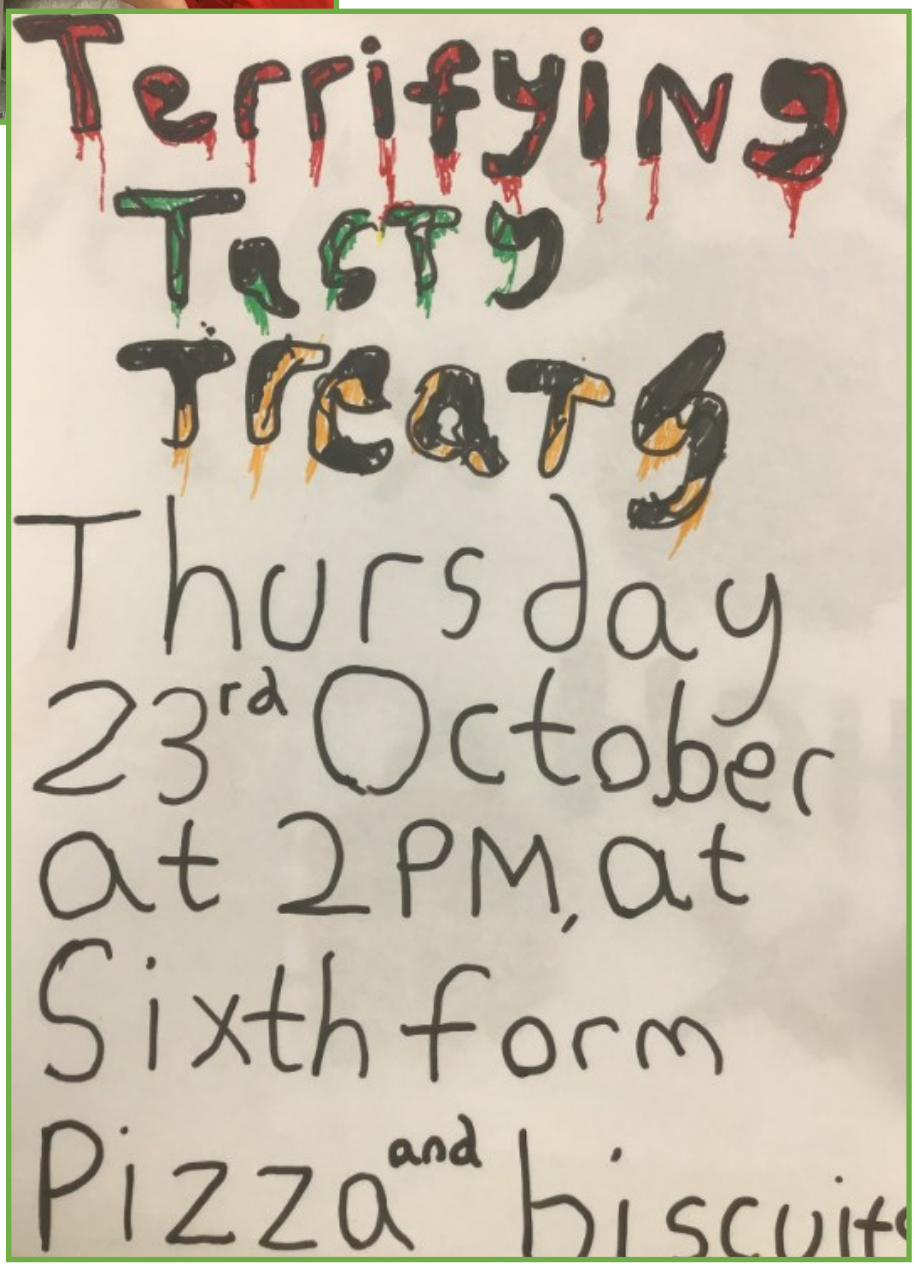
October 2025

edition 2

Heads Up!

Avalon School
Learning for Life





6th Forms Annual Halloween Spooky Snacks sale

Thursday 23rd October

2pm

The 6th form Base

Haunted Halloween Cookies (2 in a special Halloween themed bag) £1 a slice

Petrifying Pizza Slices (with Spooky Wrappings) £1 a slice

Are you brave enough to come.... look out for the cobwebs!

October
2025

edition 2

6th Form

Avalon School
Learning for Life

October
2025

edition 2

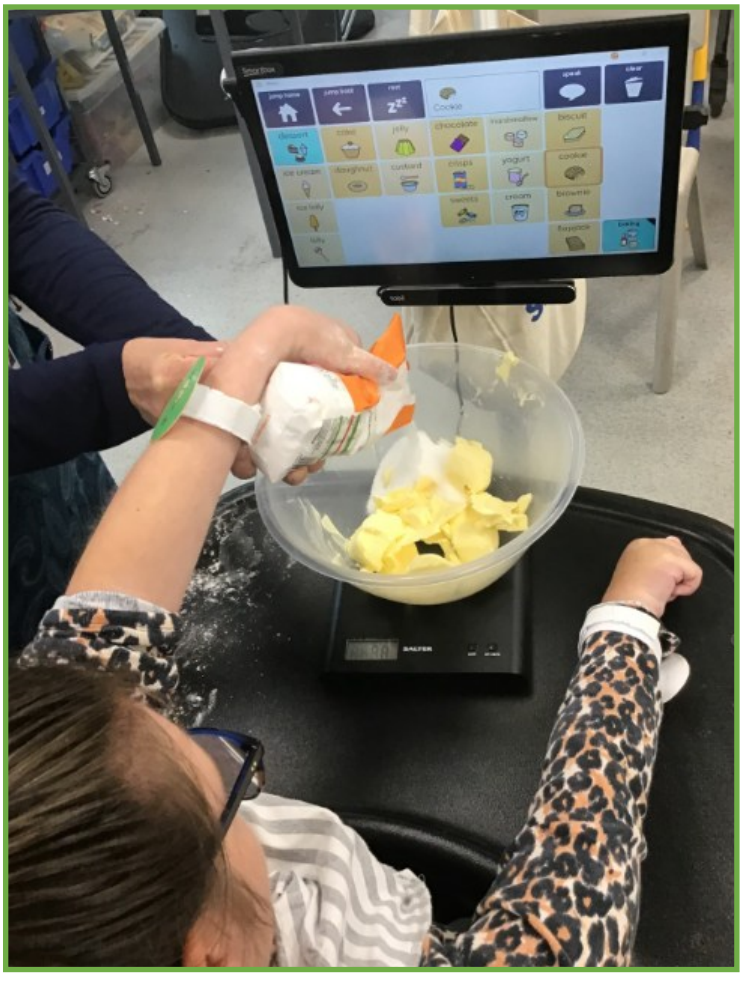
6th Form

Avalon School
Learning for Life

October 2025

edition 2

6th Form



Next THURSDAY 6th form has their pizza and cookie sale (Halloween theme)

Please pay by Arbor

Petrifying pizza slice £1

Haunted Halloween Cookies in a Halloween themed bag £1

The sale is Thursday October 23rd

1 of EACH item per customer max.

October 2025

edition 2

Dates for your Diary

Avalon School
Learning for Life

Half term	We break up on 24th October and return to school on 3rd November
School photography	4th November
Inset Day	17th November
Various exciting Christmas events	TBC
Christmas Holiday	19th December
Spring Term	6th January

October
2025
edition 2

What's On

Funds for Finley's new SEN football team. It would be lovel if any of your staff would like to attend the event, there are 3 Avalon students in the team who are doing amazing.

It would be lovely for them to see their teachers or TA's support on the night.

Children and adults are welcome.

October 2025 edition 2

College Open Days

Avalon School
Learning for Life

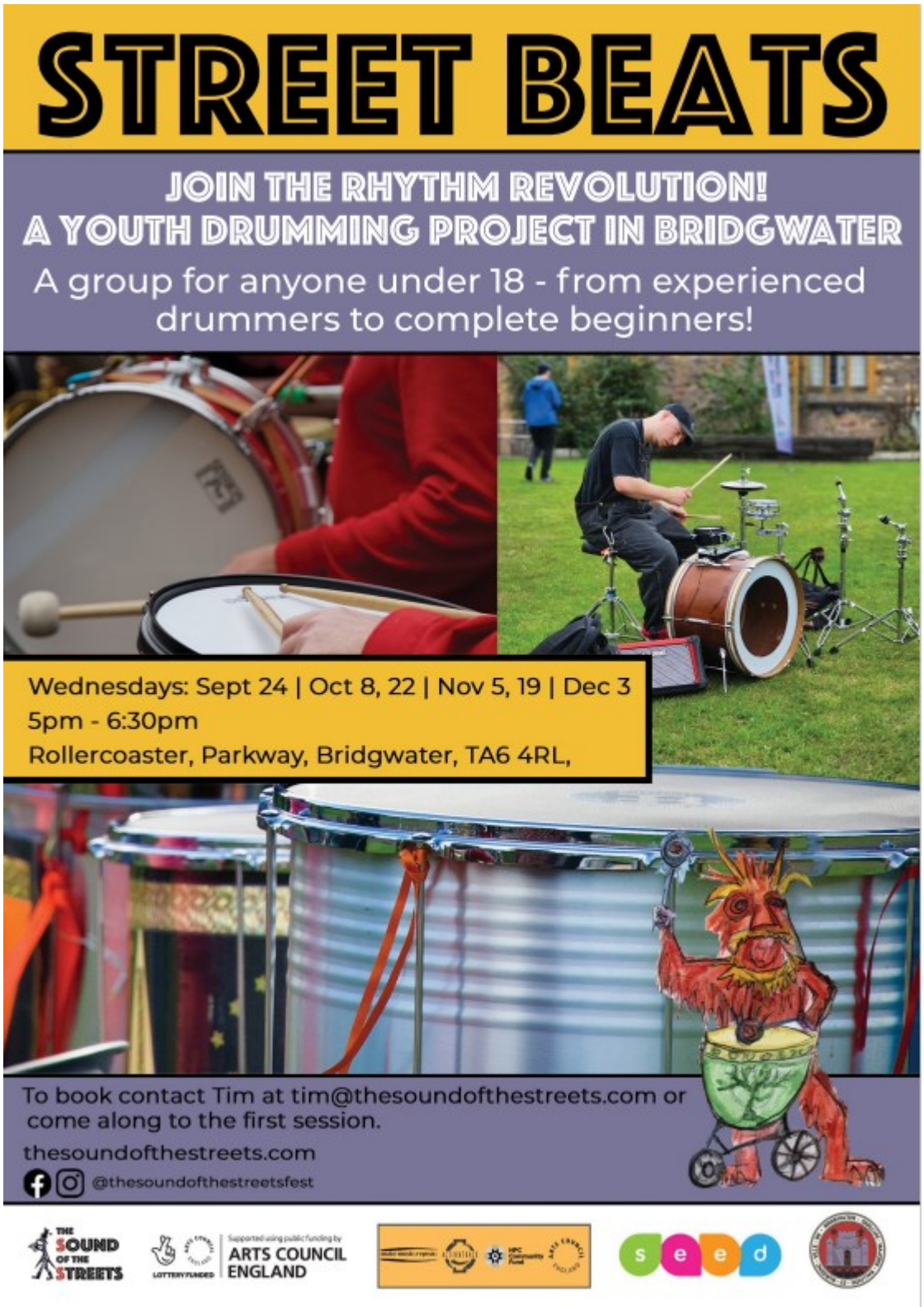
Setting	Autumn Term	Time	Spring Term	Time	Summer Term	Time	More Information
Yeovil College	16th October	5-7:30	14th January	5-7:30	21st May	5-7 PM	https://www.yeovil.ac.uk/events/
	20th November	5-7:30					
	4th December (SEND)	5-6:30					
Strode College	16th October	6-8 PM	20th January	6-8 PM	10th June	6-8 PM	https://www.strode-college.ac.uk/college-info/calendar-and-term-dates/
Bridgwater & Taunton	7th October (BW	6-8 PM	TBC		TBC		https://www.btc.ac.uk/events/
	8th October (Taunton)	6-8 PM					
	8th November	10-1 PM					
Richard Huish	11th October	9.30-1 PM	TBC		29th April	5-8 PM	https://www.huish.ac.uk/events/
	13th October	5-8 PM					
Exeter College	7th October	4-8 PM	TBC		22nd April	4-7 PM	https://exe-coll.ac.uk/open-events/
	20th November	4-8 PM					
Kingston Maurward	23rd September	5-7 PM	7th March	Morning	9th May	Morning	https://www.kmc.ac.uk/college/open-events/
	18th October	Morning					
	22nd November	Morning					
Bath College City Campus			SEND)				https://www.bathcollege.ac.uk/news-and-events/upcoming-events
	22nd November (City	10-1 PM	25th March (City Centre)	4-7 PM			
Bath College Somer Valley Campus	5th November (Somer Valley)	4-7 PM	14th January (Somer Valley SEND)	4-7 PM	29th April (Somer Valley)	4-7 PM	https://www.bathcollege.ac.uk/news-and-events/upcoming-events
			24th January (Somer	10-1 PM			
Wiltshire College	1st October (Trowbridge)	5-7 PM	TBC		TBC		https://www.wiltshire.ac.uk/events/
	4th October (Lackham)	10-12 PM					
	7th October	5-7 PM					
	9th October (Salisbury)	5-7 PM					
	8th November (Trowbridge)	10-12 PM					
	15th November (Castle Combe)	9-12 PM					
	15th November (Chippenham)	10-12 PM					
	15th November (Lackham)	10-12 PM					
	22nd November (Salisbury)	10-12 PM					
Bristol College	4th October	10-1 PM	17th January	10-1 PM	13th June	10-1 PM	https://www.cityofbristol.ac.uk/events/
	20th November	5:30-7:30PM	11th March	5:30-7:30 PM			
Weston College	11th October (UCW)	10-2 PM	7th March (UCW)	10-2 PM	6th June (UCW)	10-2 PM	https://www.weston.ac.uk/news-and-events/events
	14th October (All	6-8 PM	25th March (All	6-8 PM			
	12th November (All Campuses)	6-8 PM					

October
2025

edition 2

What's on

Avalon School
Learning for Life



October
2025

edition 2

What's on

Avalon School
Learning for Life

Drop-in Activites

Wed 29, Thu 30 & Fri 31 October

10am - 3.30pm | The Engine Room | Free

Moonwalk Filmmaking Activity (for all ages)

First unleash your imagination to create your space structure. Then suit up for the next phase, a 360° filmmaking experience where you'll star in your own "moonwalk" video!

Earth Remix Activity (for ages 12+)

A unique interactive experience where music and visuals collide, using our MIDI sound setup featuring electronic drums and a theremin.

somersetfilm.com/whats-on

October
2025

edition 2

What's on

Avalon School
Learning for Life

October
2025

edition 2

What's on

Avalon School
Learning for Life

IMAGINE
the possibilities

Pathways to Employment Event.

Scan to book

Join us to learn more about the support for young people with SEND into employment through our supported internships and more..

Thursday, 27th November 2025
9:30AM - 2:00pm

Taunton Rugby and Football Club

Visit Eventbright to book
For more information, email:
supportedemployment@somerset.gov.uk

About this event:

- **Exploring Pathways** – discover the different post-16 routes available, including supported internships and pathway plans.
- **Real Success Stories** – hear inspiring journeys from young people with SEND who have transitioned into employment.
- **Practical Guidance for Parents & Carers** - Workshops with DWP & PLAN IT Future
- **Keynote Talks** - from Discovery & Employers
- **Information Stands & Resources** – access helpful information, leaflets, and contacts to take away.