



**AVANTI GRANGE**  
SECONDARY SCHOOL



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# Avanti Grange Secondary School, Bishop's Stortford



## Welcome to Avanti Grange Secondary School, Bishop's Stortford. (AGS)

A very warm welcome to Avanti Grange Secondary School. Thank you for reading our prospectus which is intended to give you an introduction to our new school.

Avanti Grange Secondary School opened in September 2022. In September 2023 we moved to our new multi-million pound, permanent site located on Newland Avenue. We are a six form entry school with 180 students in each of our new year groups.

One of the things that make Avanti Grange Secondary School distinctive is our values based approach to education. We encourage students to value self, others and the environment and empower them to be effective learners as well as good and responsible citizens. The school offers a broad, balanced and extensive curriculum as well as a wide range of co-curricular opportunities.

We develop resilient, communicative, and organised young people, the leaders of the future with drive and initiative. We have truly exceptional staff who provide first class teaching and support to help our students make outstanding progress. We work with you as co-educators, to develop extraordinary young people, with excellent qualifications that open doors to their future.

We set the highest expectations in all areas of school life, from effort in learning and participation in co-curricular activities, to how students present themselves and take pride in their work, because anything less is not good enough. Success is available to every pupil who is prepared to work hard for it, to be resilient when things are difficult, and to embrace the support of those around them. We create an environment where we can all live and thrive together, where the conditions for growth are ideal.

Our students are:

- Courageous - with a strength to stand up for their beliefs and values
- Curious - with a love for lifelong learning
- Resilient - with no self-imposed limits

Avanti Grange Secondary School is part of Avanti Schools Trust, successful and growing multi-academy trust (MAT) with a track record of delivering strong outcomes for children. The vast majority of our schools, including Avanti Grange are significantly over-subscribed.

**Rhys Jones**  
Principal



# The Avanti Way

Our school prepares students for their respective life-journeys by promoting educational excellence, character formation and spiritual insight.



## Spiritual Insight

A healthy tree has deep and strong roots to withstand storms. The roots of our spiritual life similarly keep us grounded. Watering our roots is essential to their care, reminding us of the importance of our internal journey of self-discovery.



## Character Formation

A strong trunk stands firm to bear a vibrant crown. Our strength of character similarly enables us to engage positively with all that life has to offer. That character grows from spiritual roots and is strengthened through the quest to make the world a better place, starting with ourselves.



## Educational Excellence

A healthy tree has a flourishing crown, with fruits that enrich the lives of others. Similarly, our unique gifts are nurtured through educational excellence and enable us to contribute to the world.

# Our beliefs



## 1

### Realising potential

We believe we each have incredible potential which can be nurtured intellectually, emotionally, physically and spiritually.

## 2

### Empowering choice

We believe that while we cannot always control our circumstances in life, we have the capacity to choose our responses; to respond with goodness and to nurture goodness within.

## 3

### Strengthening interconnection

We believe all life is interconnected and therefore strive to care for and respect all life – human, animal and plant – living in a way that causes the least possible harm.

## 4

### Enriching diversities

We believe we each observe the same one reality, but from our own unique perspective; it is through open-hearted dialogue that we deeply enrich our vision.

## 5

### Expanding purpose

We believe by serving a greater purpose, we can live a meaningful and satisfying life of contribution.

## 6

### Nourishing loving relationships

We believe relationships which nourish our need to love and be loved encourage us to be the best that we can be.

# Our purpose and virtues

Our purpose is simple, yet profound:

To inspire spiritually compassionate changemakers

We realise our purpose by developing six virtues

## Self-discipline

This virtue is a foundation of our capacity to express free will by the ability to regulate our actions and emotions.

## Respect

This virtue is an essential ingredient for positive educational interactions.

## Empathy

This virtue builds our capacity to deal with complexity by broadening our perspective and not rushing to assumptions.



## Integrity

This virtue enables us to build trusting relationships and a healthy sense of self-worth.

## Courage

This virtue frees us from artificial boundaries that limit our growth.

## Gratitude

This virtue helps us develop a deeper connection with others and the world by recognising their contribution to our success.

# Our commitment to parents, carers and students

We want to involve you as parents and carers fully in your child's education. By working closely with you we can ensure that each stage of your child's journey is stimulating, positive and enriching.

We will provide:

- The very best teaching in every subject and every classroom;
- A rigorous, knowledge rich curriculum that challenges and stretches every student to be the best that they can be;
- A regular and robust assessment and reporting system that clearly informs you about your child's progress;
- An enrichment programme that includes academic, sport and music related activities;
- A wide range of local, national and international educational visits, residentials, including an annual ski trip;
- Clear and precise feedback that enables every student to master key skills and build their understanding;
- Opportunities to contribute to the life of the school and develop their leadership skills;
- A safe learning environment in which your child can flourish and be happy









## Our school

Our school is truly state of the art, with the best facilities available to support the learning and development of students. Some of the many facilities available at the school include activity studio, outdoor sports pitches, a sports hall and drama studio.



# Tour of the school



## Classrooms ▼

Spacious classrooms, with state of the art IT equipment. Each room has abundant facilities for students to access independently to aid their learning.



## Art studio ◀

An amazing space for students to become artists with plenty of room to workshop many skills.

## Community area ▼

Communal spaces provide our students with access to their own sport and leisure facilities.





## Dining hall ▲

A dedicated lunch area for students to enjoy nutritionally balanced and delicious vegetarian meals prepared and served with love.

## Sports hall ▼

Equipped with the latest brand new sports equipment and electronic scoreboard. Our sports hall has everything our young people need to reach their sporting potential.



## Yoga ◀

Our Activity Studio is an excellent facility for our students to learn Yoga, Meditation and PE.



# The Avanti approach to Learning and Teaching

Learning and teaching in all Avanti Schools is underpinned by the Avanti Teacher Toolkit. Our teachers and teaching assistants are guided by the 12 Avanti Habits, rooted in cognitive science and evidence-informed practice. All our teachers are continuously developing their practice through exceptional professional development from the Avanti Institute, ensuring that our students benefit from the highest quality teaching in every lesson.

## 12 elements of great learning and teaching in Avanti Trust Schools

Through a planned programme of training and development supported by The Avanti Institute, we ensure that all Avanti Trust Schools have a highly developed sense of what constitutes great teaching. We continuously train and coach our staff on every feature of high quality pedagogy, in order that every student gets an education that is second-to-none.



We ensure that all our teachers:

1. Build positive relationships with students and each other
2. Begin and end lessons calmly with familiar routines
3. Use intentional seating and classroom set up
4. Create a flourishing learning environment by managing behaviour effectively
5. Have clear and ambitious learning intentions for all students
6. Are always context considerate and adapt practice appropriately
7. Activate daily review of prior learning
8. Present new material in small steps
9. Provide modelling and scaffolding
10. Give opportunities for guided and independent practice
11. Ask effective questions and check for pupil understanding
12. Review learning regularly before moving on to new content



“Plan activities that will enable students to demonstrate understanding and master skills.”





# Curriculum

The Avanti Grange curriculum inspires courageous, curious and resilient learners with a lifelong love of learning and empower them to make the world a better place.

Our curriculum immerses students in the powerful knowledge and intellectual conversations of a broad range of subject disciplines, equipping them to make sense of the world around them and to excel in a range of fields. By nurturing students' sense of identity and perspective, purpose and connection, it creates capacity for informed and conscientious collaboration now and in the future.

Our core virtues, core beliefs and golden threads of connection run throughout the curriculum, ensuring that educational excellence, character formation and spiritual insight are equally developed.

For the first three years (Years 7, 8 and 9), students follow a broad and challenging academic curriculum, including the following subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Geography
- History
- Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE)
- Modern foreign languages: French
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology
- Art
- Music
- Drama
- Personal, social and health education (PSHE)
- Physical education (PE)
- Yoga and meditation

A school-wide approach to literacy, as well as a generous allocation of curriculum time to English and Maths, ensures students build firm foundations in literacy and numeracy in Key Stage 3. These enable students to thrive in school, and to succeed at a range of subjects at GCSE (Years 10 and 11) and in their adult lives.

Students will select their GCSE options in Year 9, in preparation for Key Stage 4, and will typically study for nine or ten GCSEs.

Our Sixth Form curriculum will focus primarily on the most academic A levels. This will allow our students to gain places at the very best Russell Group universities. Our Oxbridge programme will support students with applications and interviews at both Oxford and Cambridge.

# Personal development

## Enrichment

Enrichment is a key part of students' learning and personal development at Avanti Grange Secondary School. We host a range of opportunities for students to engage further with their academic learning and to develop key character formation qualities through a range of events, visits, extended learning days, co-curricular clubs and super curricular activities.

## Student leadership

There are many opportunities for our students to develop their leadership skills at Avanti Grange Secondary School, both within curriculum areas and our co-curricular provision. We aim to provide opportunities for our students to develop leadership skills by succeeding together as a community through a shared vision and our ethos, using student voice to make our school the best it can be. Student leadership is continually evolving as students take on more leadership roles and is ever expanding. Examples of student leadership roles include:

- Junior Projects
- House Projects
- School Ambassadors
- Peer Mentors

## The Avanti Grange Secondary School's careers programme

The Avanti Grange Secondary School's careers curriculum follows the statutory guidance set out by the DFE and aligns with the Avanti vision to help each person become a well-rounded human being through intellectual, moral and spiritual growth, and so make the world a better place.

Our careers programme is aspirational in both its design and its holistic approach, which ensures all students are supported to develop, embody and put into practice the essential workplace qualities and skills. It is through this strategic academic, experience and holistic approach that we aim to support all our students in their quest to embrace and fulfil all opportunities open to them in the world of work.







# Uniform

Uniform and achievement have always been a high priority for Avanti Schools Trust. We believe the way in which students wear their school uniform reflects the importance which is placed on attention to detail and pride in the school. The smart appearance of our students is regularly commented on by parents of prospective students and visitors to our schools.

The Avanti crest logo has been designed to convey the concept and values behind all schools within the Avanti Schools Trust: The torch representing academic excellence; the lion embodies character formation; the lotus a symbol of spiritual insight.

For more information about the school's uniform requirements please see our website.



# School lunches

An important part of our ethos is around the provision of hot, fresh, nutritious meals. Sharing tasty, healthy school lunches is an integral part of the educational experience at an Avanti school. It's also an opportunity to enhance social skills and table etiquette, ensuring lunchtimes are a positive experience for all. School staff often enjoy taking lunch with students, creating a family atmosphere.

The lunch meals cooked on-site are vegetarian and half-termly menus are also available on the School's website.

The lunch meals cooked on-site are vegetarian and menus are available on the school's website. Meals can also be prepared to meet the needs of children with specific allergies.

We strongly encourage parents who have financial constraints to apply for Free School Meals. Applications for free school meals should be made via the Hertfordshire County Council website: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx)

All children at Avanti Grange School must have a school lunch - packed lunches are not an option. Meals can be designed to meet the needs of children with specific allergies.







# Life at Avanti



## Wellbeing wisdom

Avanti staff have access to regular wellbeing sessions. Our previous sessions have been led by medical professionals, corporate coaches and even monks! We discuss everything from how to overcome stress to learning about meditation.



## Retreats

Staff and students will get have an opportunity to go to regular Avanti Quest Retreats. These are fantastic retreats with a focus on character development and spiritual insight. They also allow; individuals to nurture and develop more friendships, engage in fulfilling activities whilst going out of their comfort zone, improve overall wellbeing and reconnect with nature.



## Wide, rigorous and unique curriculum offer

Our schools offer a dynamic classroom approach in which students actively explore real-world problems and challenges and acquire a deeper knowledge. Students at all ages engage in projects, from studying the environment to social experiments to working on scientific innovations.





## Yoga

Every student has access to Yoga and Mindfulness lessons which are timetabled.. Yoga and Mindfulness help ground students, relieve stress and improve their overall health and wellbeing.



## Fresh vegetarian meals

We believe a healthy gut is the basis of a healthy life, and that's why it's so important to us that we only use the freshest ingredients when preparing our tasty, nutritious vegetarian meals available for all children.



## Avanti Community

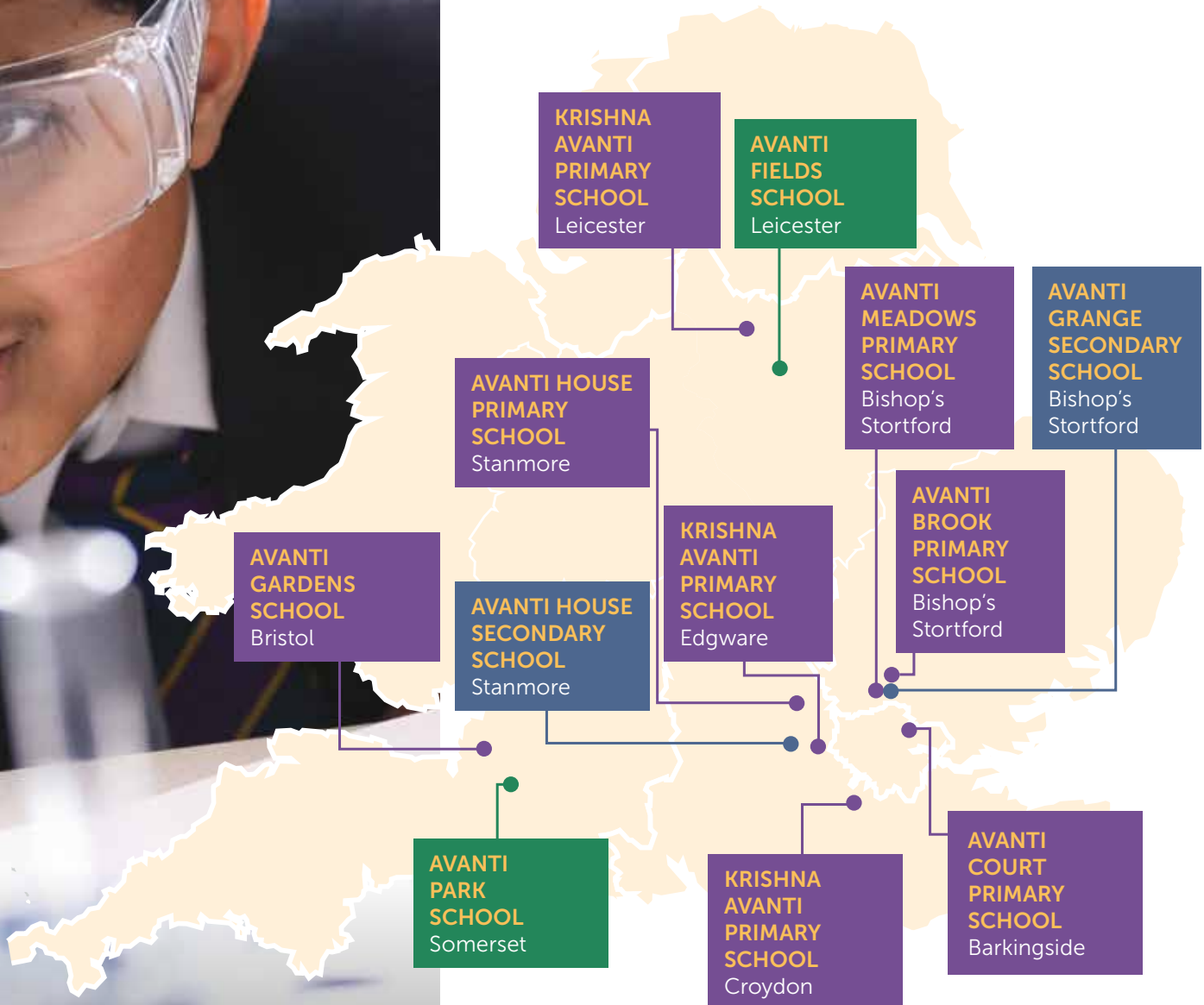
Avanti hosts regular events for parents and the wider community. This is a series of events focused around wellbeing and development for parents in their personal and family lives.




# Avanti Schools Trust

Avanti Schools are based across the country. The idea for Avanti began in 2003 and our first school was opened 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 over 5500 students and 700+ members of staff across our family of 12 schools.

Avanti has a proven approach to school development and improvement, with excellent pupil outcomes across our schools for example our school outcomes are amongst the top 10% in the country at Key Stage 2 and 4.



# Reviews from parents, guests and students



"Just a quick note to say what a fantastic moving up day Henry has had. He was so nervous this morning, but at pick up he was full of smiles with his friends - all three of them declared it "completely brilliant". A complete turnaround from feeling not quite ready to leave primary and now counting down the weeks to starting at Avanti."

## Parent

Avanti Grange Secondary School

"Being at Avanti makes work so enjoyable and a place that I look forward to going to work everyday. The environment is perfect not only for academics but for spiritual insight."

## Teacher

at Avanti

"I wanted to touch base before the end of term to acknowledge a fantastic first year at Avanti Grange. My daughter has settled so well and has been so well supported by her Form Tutor. I have been extremely proud of her academic achievements, as well as the interesting and thought provoking conversations she initiates across the dinner table regarding what she has studied at school".

## Parent

Avanti Grange Secondary School

"Thank you for welcoming me to the school today. It has been inspiring to meet staff and students so engaged in learning. My congratulations to everyone involved in the conception and opening of this splendid premises."

## Damian Hinds

Former Secretary of State for Education

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"Avanti is a place I can happily call my second home. The environment captures all aspects of a quality education where everyone aspires to be the best versions of themselves and exceed their expectations. I couldn't image a friendlier, more pleasant and safer place to be inspired to learn in."

## Student

Avanti School

"The teachers at Avanti are always there to support you. The whole school is like a family. The teachers always encourage you and set you high targets. Even during the hard times we get a lot of help and the school wouldn't be the school it is without the teachers we have."

## Student

Avanti School

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"A short message of gratitude and appreciation to you for the open day yesterday (after a full day of work already). You spoke with eloquence and passion, with kindness and clarity. I was moved deeply by your speech and it connected to me personally. I now want to attend to the school as well as my son!"

## Parent

Avanti Grange  
Secondary School

"Thank you to the Avanti Team for all their hard work in making this day a most positive experience for those who were a bit nervous about moving up - totally paid off!"

It was lovely to meet other parents in the class and have that Q&A session with our child's Form Tutor."

## Parent

Avanti Grange Secondary School

"We just wanted to say a huge thank you for making our son's first week at secondary school so successful. He has come home from school every day buzzing about what he has been learning and how much he is enjoying secondary school. We couldn't have hoped for a better transition for him and that is down to your hard work."

## Parent

Avanti Grange Secondary School



“The provision for pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is exceptional.

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

Ofsted



# Admissions

Applying for a place at Avanti Grange Secondary School.

To apply for a place at Avanti Grange Secondary School you will need to apply via the common application form (CAF) This should be completed and returned to the Hertfordshire County Council website for admissions.

In the event of receiving more applications than there are places, please refer to the school's Admissions Policy for oversubscription criteria on the school.

## SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY

[avanti.org.uk/avantigrange/admissions/](https://avanti.org.uk/avantigrange/admissions/)

## APPLY VIA THE HERTFORDSHIRE COUNCIL ADMISSIONS WEBSITE

[hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/schools-directory/school.aspx?school=Avanti+Grange+Secondary+School&schoolcode=191](https://hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/schools-directory/school.aspx?school=Avanti+Grange+Secondary+School&schoolcode=191)

# A Journey of Self-Discovery



## 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)

## SCHOOL LIFE IN DETAIL

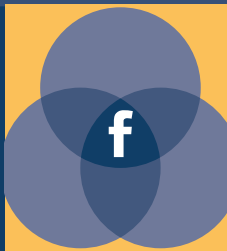
The school website offers up-to-date information on key aspects of school life, from ethos to admissions; school lunches to job opportunities.



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

## 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/avantigrangeschool](http://www.facebook.com/avantigrangeschool)

## INSTAGRAM

Beyond the classroom walls, Instagram is a window into the incredible community of Avanti Grange; where education, discovery and growth thrive.



[@avantigrange](https://www.instagram.com/avantigrange)

## X

At Avanti Grange Secondary School we use X to keep everyone updated about the amazing work our teachers and students are doing.



[@AvantiGrange](https://www.x.com/AvantiGrange)

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**AVANTI GRANGE**  
Excellence · Virtue · Devotion

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