



**AVANTI GRANGE**  
SECONDARY SCHOOL



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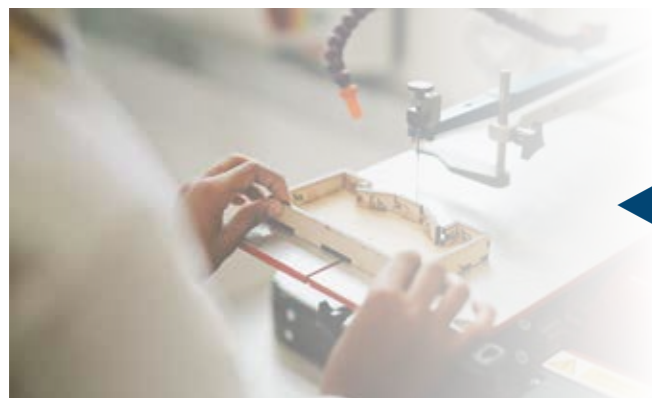


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# Avanti Grange Secondary School, Bishop's Stortford



## 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 Newlands Avenue. We are a six form entry school with 180 in each of our new year groups.

One of the things that will make Avanti Grange Secondary School distinctive will be our values based approach to education. We will 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 offer a broad, balance and extensive curriculum as well as a wide range of co-curricular opportunities.

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

We set highest expectations in all areas, from effort in learning and participation 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 will be:

- 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



## Our mission

Avanti exists to help each person become a well-rounded human being through intellectual, moral and spiritual growth, and so make the world a better place.

### To achieve this we will:

- Inspire and engender a love of learning, promote independent thought, encouraging students to take calculated risks and think creatively
- Provide students with the tools and guidance to succeed, flourish and maximise their potential
- Model behaviour and values that create an environment where students feel safe and secure, knowing that they are part of a community and where relationships are forged on understanding, dialogue and mutual respect
- Provide the climate, opportunities and support to develop a spiritual insight and to explore their understanding of self
- Support and inspire all staff to strive towards and achieve excellence.

Gratitude

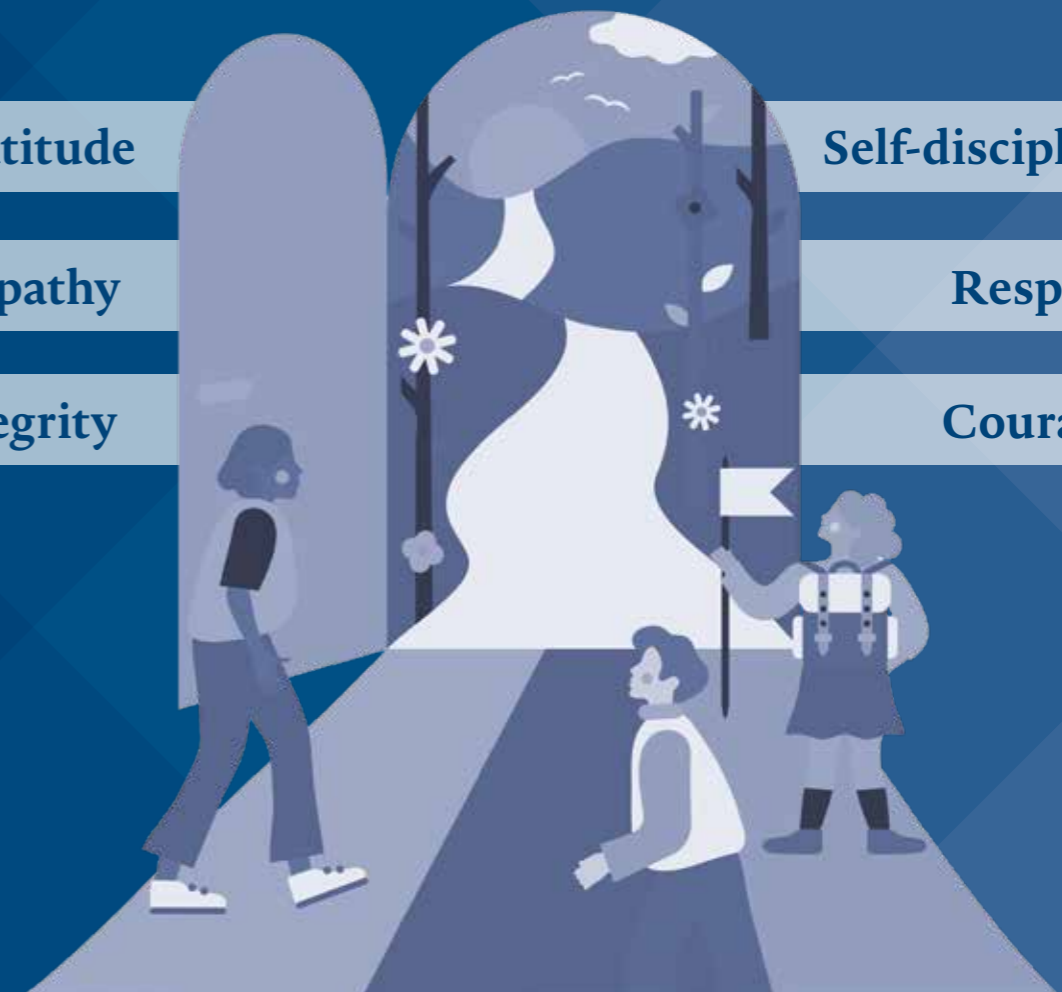
Empathy

Integrity

Self-discipline

Respect

Courage



# Core principles

 <p>We have incredible potential and can achieve this when nurturing all parts of ourselves – intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual.</p> <p>1</p>	 <p>We choose how we wish to respond to life and what we nurture within.</p> <p>2</p>	 <p>We care for and respect all life – human, animal and plant – and live in a way that causes the least possible harm.</p> <p>3</p>
 <p>We each observe the one same reality from our own unique perspective and engage in open-minded dialogue to deeply enrich our vision.</p> <p>4</p>	 <p>We serve a higher purpose by living a meaningful and satisfying life of contribution.</p> <p>5</p>	 <p>We are nourished by personal relationships that fulfil our need to love and be loved, encouraging us to be the best we can be.</p> <p>6</p>

# The three pillars

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



## 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 lifelong 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 world view. 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.

# 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 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 including residential;
- 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 new site

Our new home 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 dance studio.



# Tour of the school



## Classrooms ▼

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



## Play area ▼

Playgrounds provide our pupils with access to their own sport and leisure facilities.

## Art studio ◀

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



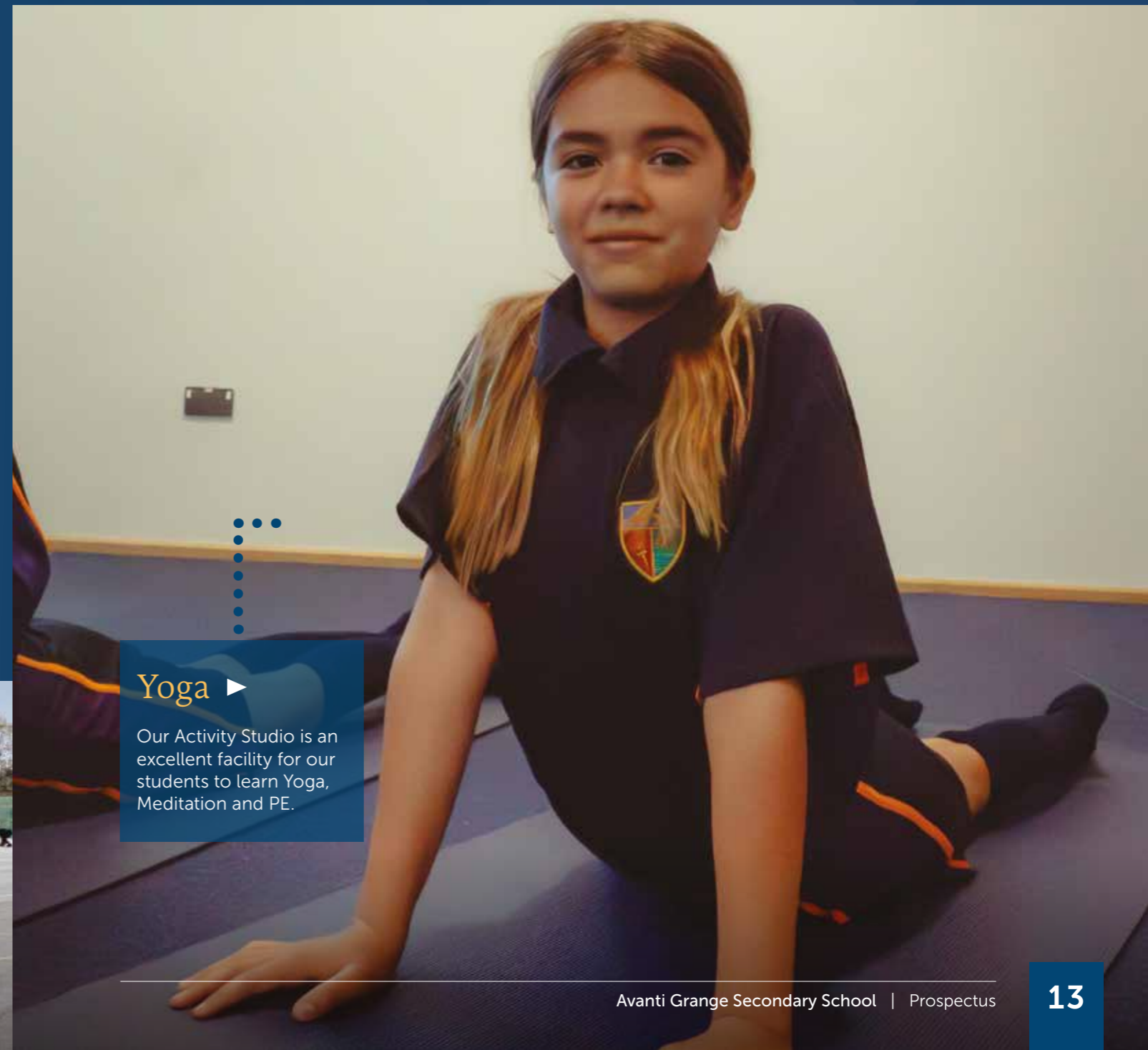
## Dining hall ▼

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



## Sports hall ▲

Equipped with the latest brand new sports equipment, this is an action packed space with room to jump and spin until your hear it content; to develop strength, team work and sporting skills.



## 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 pupils 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 pupils 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 pupils
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 will inspire 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 values, core principles 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, Spanish
- Computer Science · Design and Technology
- Art
- Music
- Drama
- Personal, social and health education (PSHE)
- Physical education
- 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:

- Student Leadership Committee
- Co curricular ambassadors
- Prefects and House prefects
- Peer Mentors

## The Avanti Grange Secondary School's careers

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 pupils, creating a family atmosphere.

The lunch meals cooked on-site are vegetarian (in line with the faith ethos of the school) and half-termly menus are also available on the School's website.

If the lunch provision on offer does not meet your child's needs, or if your child has specific diet requirements/preferences, please do speak to Govinda's (our catering provider) so that they can provide for your child accordingly. We encourage parents to visit the school to sample the school lunches in order to satisfy themselves with the quality of provision.

We strongly encourage parents who have financial constraints to apply for Free School Meals. An application form can be obtained from the school office. Any forms received by the school will be kept confidential.

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 sessions ranging from 20 minutes to 1 hour a week. 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

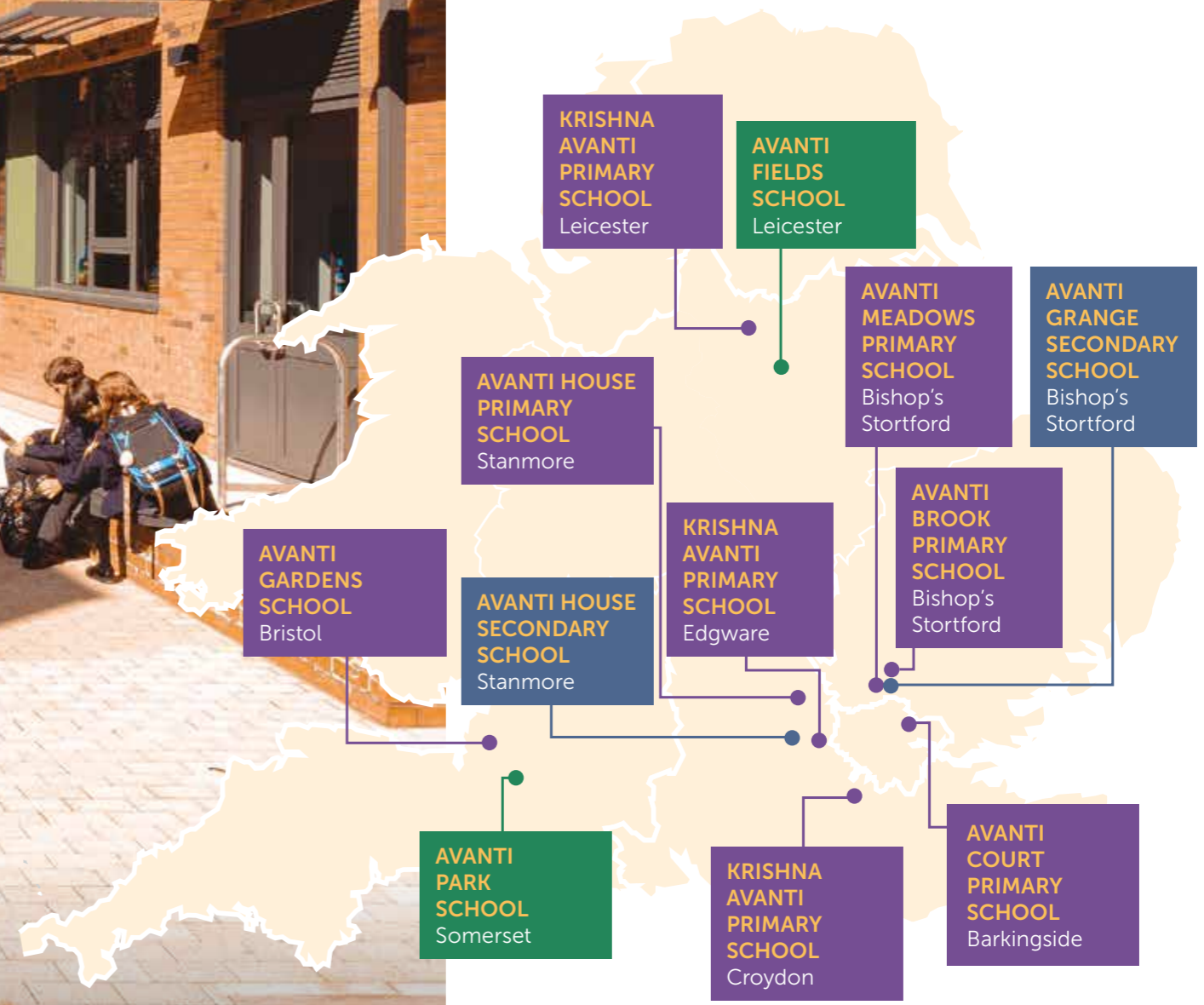
Avanti hosts regular events for parents and the wider community. This is a series of events focused around wellbeing and development for parents in their personal and family lives.



# 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 5000 students and 600 members of staff across our family of 12 schools.

Avanti has a proven approach to school development and improvement, with excellent student 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

"Avanti Fields is a school like no other; it is a unique school with so many amazing qualities. The teachers are ever so supportive and it is great to know that they are always here for us no matter what. I am also a Friendly Faces Ambassador, which is an exciting opportunity to support and welcome our new Y7s to the school. I am so happy that Avanti Fields provides students with incredible opportunities like these".

**Student**

Avanti 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

"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

"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 or child's Form Tutor."

**Parent**

Avanti Grange Secondary School

"We are very happy with the way our eldest daughter has settled into the school in a very safe and friendly environment that is focused on learning. The transfer from primary to secondary was very smooth and has allowed her to flourish in her education and in her confidence as a young person. The school offers a great variety of opportunities and extracurricular activities for the pupils to take part in and our daughter has thoroughly enjoyed taking part in these. We have had no hesitation in sending our younger daughter to the school and would wholeheartedly recommend Avanti to any other parents."

**Parent**

Avanti School



## 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.

“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

### SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY

<https://avanti.org.uk/avantigrange/admissions/>

### APPLY VIA THE HERTFORDSHIRE COUNCIL ADMISSIONS WEBSITE

<https://www.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)

## 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/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)

## TWITTER

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



[@avantigrange](https://twitter.com/avantigrange)

## 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)

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**AVANTI GRANGE**  
Excellence · Virtue · Devotion

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