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ISSUE 15

FEBRUARY 2018

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Back in Time for Tea

The makers of BBC2's hit series *Back in Time for Tea* are seeking West Midlands pupils and teachers for their next exciting time travelling adventure – Back in Time for School!

If you're the parent/guardian of a child in Year 9 or Year 10, or a teacher at any level of the profession, please go to walltowall.co.uk and click on Take Part to find out more.



Good luck!

Exams are fast approaching

It was a very busy half term with three overseas trips taking place. We are very fortunate that so many of our committed staff gave up half term to support the students. In particular we would like to thank Dr Cannadine, Miss Sheppard and Mrs Newlands who led the trips—feedback from students has been amazing.

We are over half way through the academic year and into the final throws of exam preparation for our Year 11 and Year 13 students. Year 11 have begun re-visiting the revision skills they have been taught with their form tutors to help them

to prepare fully for their examinations and Year 13 have been working hard on their mock examinations.

For Year 9 this is a time to think carefully about their futures as they will shortly be making their GCSE options choices and Year 10 will soon be venturing out into the world of work as they complete a week of work experience.

With so many important milestones it is a time for careful reflection and focus in order for students to make the most of their opportunities.

Martin Murphy, Arden Principal

Austria Ski Trip

In the evening of 16th February, 88 Year 10s set off on the 2018 Ski Trip to Salbaach in Austria. Elizabeth Cornforth writes:

Despite being tired from the 24-hour coach journey, day 1 on the slopes was very exciting, labelling our skis, poles and boots and arriving on the slopes—many people's first time skiing on snow. After meeting our ski instructors, we headed off. No one managed to get through the first day without falling over, skis falling off or Mr Singh chasing them down the mountain, camera in hand! After lunch (a sandwich and an enormous bowl of chips) the higher groups made it to the top of the mountain, and the lower groups used the button lifts. After this we headed back to the hotel for some dinner and a quiz in the games room.

On day 2 we all made it to the top of the mountain to try some blue runs. This was successful for most groups, a huge achievement because the slopes were much steeper. Whilst this was happening, groups 1-3 were enjoying some harder blue, red and black runs. Day 2 also involved experiencing chair lifts and gondolas.

Now that everyone could ski from the top of the mountain we changed location to more difficult runs. This meant more falling over, more pictures, and more beautiful views. It also included the teachers falling over a few times whilst trying to keep up with group 1 on the black slopes! After day 3 of skiing, we had the option to go ice-skating on a frozen tennis court with snowy mountains surrounding us.

Day 4 started on the same slopes as the previous day, but most groups went off to other runs via ski lifts. Groups also started going on snow trails

through the trees, especially as more groups could parallel ski—great fun! After ski school

we went into the local village to look around the local shops and supermarket to see the food and shops on offer.

Day 5 was slalom day. This meant racing in and out of poles to get the fastest time, competing within our individual groups. We all took turns and had more fun racing down the slopes with our instructors and teachers (Mr Singh still collecting videos and pictures.) After dinner we headed back into the village for our awards evening. Our instructors joined us for this evening and presented us with medals and certificates from the slaloms earlier in the day. We all danced and sang, before returning to the hotel to pack.

On day 6, everyone was very tired, and feeling sad because it was our last day. We made the most of it, taking hundreds of photos of views, friends and our instructors. When we returned to the hotel we ate and got ready to leave for home, starting the long journey all over again. Unlike the journey to Austria, everyone was worn out, much quieter and we made it back in a record 22 hours!

This was an amazing trip, which we would recommend to anyone! Thank you to all the teachers for taking us away and organising the trip, and thank you to all the instructors for helping us so much in ski school!



Future Chef Competition

Deeah Chohan (Year 11) represented the West Midlands in the 2018 Future Chef West Midlands regional competition Saturday 3rd February. Her task was to produce two courses in one and half hours. Her menu included sea bass on a bed of cauliflower purée, asparagus, broccoli and roasted potatoes followed by treacle tart with sea salt and orange with homemade custard.

We are delighted to report that Deeah won the competition and will now compete for the region in the National Final to be held at Westminster College, London in March. Deeah will have the privilege of working with George Outhwaite who is Head chef at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole. He will mentor Deeah to refine

her menu. He said "Deeah was a clean, confident cook who produced amazing dishes, especially her pastry - that was incredible!" Huge congratulations to Deeah for her fantastic achievement.

This is now Arden's third Future Chef National finalist so let's hope it is third time lucky and that Deeah can win the competition.



Berlin and Krakow Trip

During half term 27 students from Years 10 and 11 visited Berlin and Krakow. It was a busy and fascinating trip. Here are some of the highlights as told by Josh Blood and Becky Jones in Year 10.

The tour of Berlin was really interesting, and the buildings were very pretty. I really liked the memorial to the Jews, because they were so symbolic and you could interpret them in so many ways. The Berlin Wall gallery was great and the challenge was really fun. My favourite part of our time in Berlin was the visit to the Brandenburg Gate as it has a really interesting history. The tour guide gave us insight into the history and construction of the monuments we visited which really helped bring the tour to life.

In Krakow we visited many important historical sites, such as the old town and Auschwitz concentration camp. On the Wednesday, we woke up early and travelled to the sites of Auschwitz and Birkenau where everything was explained to us as we walked around the



important historical sites. We met a Holocaust survivor later that day before enjoying a meal at a restaurant in Krakow, which was followed by some traditional Polish dancing where everybody got involved. It was a relaxing way to spend the evening after what had been a really thought provoking day.

Finally, on Thursday, we had a walking tour around the old town in Krakow, where the tour guide gave us insight into the history of the city. We also tried some traditional Polish street food and one of the most popular was half a baguette toasted with mushrooms and melted cheese called zapiazanka.

We all had a really good time on the trip and would like to thank all the teachers who came with us, for giving up most of their half term (Dr Cannadine, Mrs Ellender, Mr Subires and Mrs Bhurra).



Year 9 English

Year 9 is a really important year in English. Our students are reaching the end of KS3 and beginning the challenging and exciting transition to KS4. In the summer term we will introduce our classes to their Shakespeare play, Macbeth, which will be studied for GCSE (I wonder if anyone will be lucky enough to see the production at the RSC) and then study a modern novel.

Before this transition, we have been working on a two week 'Mastery' curriculum, giving teachers the opportunity to 'think outside the box' and deliver lessons specifically tailored to the needs and interests of our pupils: some classes have been using drama to imagine life in the trenches of WW1, linked to their recent study of war poetry using drama, freeze frames and thought-tracking to recreate what it might have been like to go 'over the top'; there have been courtroom simulations using the poem *A Case of Murder* as a stimulus; pupils have been recreating fairy tales using different genres and imitating the style of writers such as Ian Fleming and Peter Benchley; classes have debated, presented and written newspaper articles; pupils have read detective fiction from a variety of authors to analyse the key features and write examples of their own.

We have really enjoyed teaching these new elements and hope to extend our Mastery units across KS3.

Business Language Event

On Monday 5th February, Arden hosted the Business Language Champions event, where several other schools from the Birmingham area, including Solihull School and Rugby School, came to Arden and competed in designing and creating their own newspaper front page in the language which they are studying.

After a speech from UEFA sports journalist Simon Hart, we were briefed on our task and given the necessary equipment to start designing our title page. Not only were we required to have 3 main articles on our front page,



but we also needed to decide on a name for the newspaper and secure some advertising opportunities that were available. As there were many language teachers at the event, they were all assigned different companies to be 'representatives' from, which led to heated negotiations over advertisement prices. During the event, there was also rolling news updates of 'real' stories which were developing throughout the day. Some of these included a terror attack on a German school, a rise in NPOWER prices and updates on President Trump's foreign policy.

When everything was completed, each team had a nervous interview with the journalist and another language teacher of their studied language, in order to persuade them why their front page was the best. With judging complete, the winners were a joint Arden-Solihull School French team, and in second place were the Arden German team, named Forschnitt.



On behalf of everyone who took part in the event, I would

like to thank those who took much of their free time to organise it because it was a very enjoyable day where we learnt a lot more about how useful languages are in the workplace.

Tom Parkin, Year 12



Year 9 STEM Event

On Thursday 8th February, 90 Year 9 pupils were chosen to participate in an iRAIL event where there were three different activities for pupils to rotate around. It was a busy, fascinating morning where the Science block was filled with a great buzz of excitement as pupils competed to race robots, participated in interactive quizzes and designed apps. We asked some of our pupils for their thoughts on the day.

'We found the stem event interesting in lots of ways. One of which being that there are many roles within engineering and the rail

industry. The way they were presented was very good. We didn't expect the main focus to be trains however when getting involved with the activities we really enjoyed them. It has changed our views on engineering for women and has made us look into different options and career paths. It has really made us think about our GCSE options.'

Ellie Evans-Evers, Liberty Burrows, Scarlett Cawthorne.

'I enjoyed the event because it showed me that there are so many jobs and roles to do with engineering. My favourite section of the event was app designing because I

enjoy creative tasks. We had to make apps that were innovative and unique which was challenging. I also enjoyed controlling the robot because we had to work in teams and communicate with each other.'

Amelia Boam.



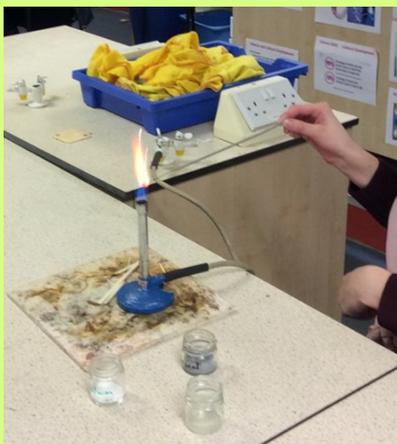
Knowle Primary Visit

Arden makes a number of links with the local primary schools and this month we welcomed pupils from Knowle Primary to work with our Science department. These links are so important for helping our local primary pupils prepare for their secondary transition. Here is an extract from Knowle's newsletter which summarises what the pupils thought of their visit.

'The year 5 and 6 Science club were extremely excited to visit Arden on Wednesday 7th February 2018. We were very fortunate to be invited by Mrs Dean to visit their science labs and get to use equipment that we don't have access to at primary school.

During the afternoon, we learnt about static electricity and then held races using drinks cans and dusters. It got very competitive! We saw a Vandergraph machine in action and loved seeing the effect of static electricity on our hair. After that, we had the opportunity to investigate chemicals using the Bunsen burners and we were amazed when we saw the flame change colour.'

We are so pleased that the pupils enjoyed their visit to Arden and we hope that we can arrange for them to come back again soon.



Iceland

During half term, 42 Year 11 students were privileged to be able to visit Iceland. Here is an account of their visit.

The trip began with a long morning of travelling, but once we were through Keflavik airport we jumped on the coach and headed for fish and chips to boost our energy levels. Our first afternoon involved having a group snowball fight whilst stood between the Eurasian and North American tectonic plate, exploring some hot springs and watching the Icelandic drive and deal with snow covered roads, which even the snow plough had a bit of trouble with.

After a well-needed sleep at Hotel Gullfoss we headed to Gullfoss to watch the sun rise over the waterfalls which were beautiful but rather chilly. Our adventures continued and we headed on to a nearby geyser and hot springs. The geyser erupted naturally every 10-15 minutes. A few of us stood in the wrong place whilst getting some pictures and got soaked by the water. Luckily it was hot water warmed by the Earth. The afternoon consisted of caving, which began by walking through a tunnel of snow into the caves which were previous lava tunnels of a volcano, but which are now covered in stalactites and stalagmites. When we reached the bottom of the lava tunnel all our head torches were turned off alongside all the lights and we endured a moment or two of the pitch black. According to our guide if we stayed there long enough in the dark we would lose our eye sight! After caving, it was time for a quick stop for snacks and the chance to experience a 6.6 magnitude earthquake in a simulator before heading to Hotel Ork for the night. In the evening, we had the chance to relax in the Jacuzzis or chill out in the games room where Miss West beat Mr Anwar in a game of pool.

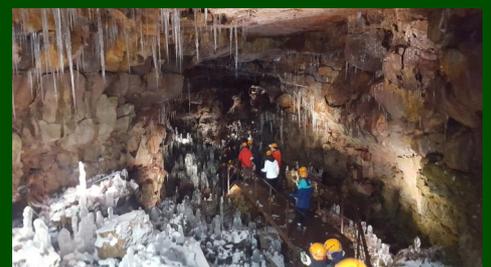
The next morning we visited a series of waterfalls which were stunning! The first waterfall involved walking through an ice cold river and cave to get to it; we were all soaked



from the force of the waterfall splashing off large boulders in the plunge pool. We continued exploring and photographing waterfalls and had a couple of group photos for the Twitter feed too. We also visited the Eyjafjallajokul eruption centre and learnt about the impacts from the 2010 volcanic eruption on nearby agricultural areas, and met one of the farmers who were affected by the eruption and she shared her story with us. We then continued with our journey across the south of the island and visited an ice lagoon, where we saw lots of icebergs that had detached from a nearby glacier and were floating down to the coastline. Some of us tried fresh glacial ice cubes and we all tried to grab a photo of the seals swimming and hiding behind icebergs in the lagoon.

Our penultimate day started with a few change of plans; 90mph winds were hurtling across the roads we needed to travel on so we had to remain at the hotel until things calmed down. The teachers had put together a quiz, so we began the morning with this and relaxed until the weather was good enough for us to travel again. We had a rather long journey ahead of us back to Reykjavik, with another waterfall (the one in the Skyr yogurt advert) along the way. We spent our final evening in Iceland enjoying some delicious burgers at a restaurant in Reykjavik.

Our final day was spent exploring the capital city in the morning, eating lunch in an ice cold park and warming up in the Blue Lagoon in the afternoon. The teachers even treated us all to a drink of 'Krap' (Icelandic word for slushie) in the Blue Lagoon to top off this amazing trip.



One of the strands of ArdenAIM is 'Excellence Students'. Tying in with the Arden Values, this aims to highlight and celebrate some of the astounding achievements made by Arden students, in a range of different activities, outside of school.

We are very proud that a number of our students have received recognition for their outstanding talents in the arts and in sport at local, national and international levels. They are truly inspirational role models.

Every month, we shall be shining the spotlight on one of our Excellence Students to find out exactly just what it takes to excel in their field and to achieve such success.

Kiera Henry (Year 11)

Kiara is an extremely talented Badminton player. She has been excelling in the sport for many years and her dedication has meant that she is now starting to get the recognition she deserves. Kiara has recently has been selected for the U17 England Badminton Squad to take part in the forthcoming Six Nations event. She has been selected based on her superb form this season; medalling at both U17 and U19 tournaments. In the weekend before half-term, she won gold in both individual and mixed doubles competitions.

When did you first realise that you were such a talented Badminton player?

I have always been sporty and, for as long as I can remember, have really enjoyed all kinds of sports, including tennis, gymnastics and skiing. When I was in Year 5 at Greswold Primary School, we were visited by a Badminton coach, who gave us the opportunity to give the sport a try. I did and have been hooked ever since.

How much time do you commit to Badminton?

I train from between 2 and 4 hours every weekday and have matches and tournaments every weekend. This works out at about 13 hours of training every week, with travel time on top. My weekday training takes place at Birmingham University, although on Thursdays I have to travel to Milton Keynes to train. The tournaments can take place anywhere in the country and often take up at least one whole day at the weekend.

Is Badminton an expensive sport to be involved in?

At the moment, the main expense is probably the travelling. My parents are great and drive me to my training and tournaments; I owe them a lot, as they give up so much time for me. The specialist kit can also be expensive, although I am now fortunate enough to be sponsored by Babolat, which really helps.

You are in Year 11. How do you fit all of your school work and revision in?

It's a busy life. I have to do what I can when I can. This often means working in the car on the way to training

or to tournaments, or sitting on Sports Hall floors working. Revision for GCSEs is going to be tricky, especially as the Six Nations tournament falls at Easter time, which is such important revision time; I will just have to find a way to fit it all in.

Who inspires you?

Carsten Mogenson and Mathias Boe are Danish Badminton players and the current World Champions. Their commitment to the sport is amazing and they are always looking for ways to improve. Even though they are really successful, they never take it for granted and work so hard to make sure that they stay at the top of their game. Mathias Boe has even had to overcome having a brain haemorrhage, but has never given up. I met them when I was working as a court mopper at the Senior World Tournament in Birmingham; they are a brilliant example of the success that hard work, commitment and self-belief can bring.

What is your ambition?

I would love to represent Team GB in the Olympics. Most competitors at that level are in their mid-late 20s, so I've got a long way to go, but I would love to do it.

What is your motto?

Live life to the full.



Sports News

For all the latest news about all things sports related don't forget to follow the Arden PE Department on Twitter

 @ArdenPE

Trampolining

A team of pupils represented Arden this month at the South Solihull Trampolining competition.

Our teams did really well with our Year 9 team coming in first place in their competition.

Well done to the winning team and all of the pupils who took part.

The winning Year 9 team consisted of: Abigail Kelly, Lottie Mason, Paris Hibbert, Georgia Cutter and Matt Bambrook.

Sports Team

Photographs

We will be having some official sports team photographs taken on **Thursday 26th April, 2:30 - 4:00pm**. This is a Parents Consultation day and so students involved in the photographs will be required to remain behind after the 2:15 dismissal time. If your child is involved in a sports team, please make a note of this date in your diary. Your child will need to be in full Arden sports kit for these photographs. The photographs will be available to purchase at £10 each. Further details to follow.

More Boxing Success for Elise

Elise Glynn took part in the England Boxing Youth Championships in Doncaster this month.

Elise was the only youth female in England required to box three times over the course of the Championships due to the number of entrants in her weight category and she won all three bouts with unanimous point decisions.

She defeated the Polish national champion on the Friday and then beat two England females in the semi-final and then final to become the England Boxing National Youth Champion at 57kg. At just 16 years of age she defeated experienced opponents who are already 17 and 18 years of age.

This is yet another fantastic achievement for Elise and we would all like to congratulate her on her continued success.



Year 9 Basketball

The Year 9 Basketball team took part in the Under 14 finals at Smithswood recently. The boys played incredible basketball throughout their league of five matches, winning every single game with a very comfortable victory. They even won against Tudor Grange who defeated us last year in the finals.

However, we were to play Tudor Grange again in the final match of the league. The whole team played great basketball, but unfortunately Tudor Grange were able to sink one too many baskets for our liking and won 34-22.

Despite the final outcome, all of the boys

played incredibly well and Mr Fletcher (Coach Fletch) is very proud of all of their achievements throughout this season.

The squad are: Rudi Newman, Christian Harrison, Ewan Edwards, Matt Moore, Matty Boles, Ruben Waters, Henry Belcher, Nathaniel Gardiner, James Coldwell, Finley Kneller, Josh Atwal, Josh Hooper, Cameron Hughes, Sam Hocombe, Ruben May, Charlie Billinge, Will Sands, Mikhail Rozhin, Archie Spittle-McGuire, Ben Taylor, Ollie Bailey and Joe Luise.

Double Gold Medalist

A massive congratulations go to Kiara Henry in Year 11 who recently won two gold medals in Badminton. She won gold in both the levels and mixed events.

This means that Kiara has now taken medals at every Under-17 competition held since September and has also medalled at Under-19.

As a result, Kiara has now been selected to represent England in the

forthcoming Six Nations tournament.

You can read more about Kiara and her Badminton in our AIM section of the newsletter.



Swimming

A Key Stage Three team of girls recently took part in a Swimming Gala between Heart of England, two Saint Martins teams and Arden.

It was a very closely run competition but we are delighted to report that we won the entire gala by 2 points.

Congratulations to all of the pupils involved in this achievement: Abigail Kelly, Lottie Stiles, Mia Evans, Charlotte Turpin, Amie Garside, Lorna Brooks Scott, Hannah Turpin and Gemma Jenkins.

Indoor Athletics

Congratulations to our indoor athletics teams who came away from their recent competition with four medals. They achieved one bronze medal, two silver and one gold between them.

Congratulations to all of the participating pupils.



Another Football Star of the Future

Huge congratulations to Isaac Moore in Year 7 who has just been signed for Coventry City FC. This is a tremendous achievement for Isaac.

We look forward to hearing about his successes in the future.



Table Tennis

The Under 13 Table Tennis team took part in the South Solihull Level 2



Championships this month which were held at Lode Heath School.

We entered 2 teams - both of which contained a mixture of Year 7 and Year 8 pupils. The B team came 3rd whilst the A team beat Tudor Grange in the final to become the overall winners of the Championship.

Both teams have now qualified for the Level 3

Championships which will take place in March. A huge congratulations to all of the pupils involved.

The winning team consisted of: Rohan Jogi, Greg Gahan, Ryan McCourt (Year 8), and Isaac Moore (Year 7).

Table tennis club takes place every week on a Thursday in the drama studio with Dr. Cannadine. All are welcome.

Netball

Congratulations to the Year 10 netball team who beat Coleshill school 12-2 in their recent match.

The team, which consisted of Kathryn Bullock, Francesca Barbieri, Elizabeth Cornforth, Tanith Cox, Lauren Greenwood, Olivia Boam, and Sophia Davilla outplayed the opposition throughout the match.

Elizabeth dominated the centre of the court from early on and

Francesca was shooting consistently and accurately. At the other end, a solid defence from Olivia and Sophia ensured that Coleshill were kept out of the circle which meant that they were denied many shooting opportunities.

Congratulations to all of the team on a very well deserved win.

Gymnastics update

The gymnastics teams have been focusing on their training in preparation for their forthcoming competition.

We have three teams in the Milano team gymnastics National finals on the 16th March. On the back of their recent successes they are confident and excited about the finals. They have been training hard on their synchronised routines to ensure that they are all fully ready.

We hope to bring back some silverware and medals.

Staff News

Congratulations to Mrs Anton and her husband who welcomed their baby girl, Grace Olivia, during half term. This was a little earlier than expected but all is well and Mrs Anton will now be on Maternity Leave.

Lost Property

We would like to request that all parents take some time to check through their child's school kit in case they have unexpectedly collected something which does not belong to them. A number of items have been reported missing by

pupils and parents.

We are also trialling a new location for lost property. There will be an allocated space outside of the reprographics room, next to the English stairs, where pupils can go to look for lost items. We hope that this new central location will make it easier for pupils to be reunited with their lost items.

Important dates for March

Thursday 1st March	World Book Day
Friday 2nd March	Year 9 DTP and Men ACWY Vaccinations (School Immunisation)
Monday 5th March	Royal Naval Outreach presentations to year groups
Tuesday 6th March	Year 9 Options assembly for students Year 9 Parents Meeting – 'Information on GCSE Options' (7.00pm)
Wednesday 7th March	Year 10 Progress coaching (8:45-9:05); other Years start at 9:05am
Thursday 8th March	Year 8 Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire Year 9 Parent Consultations (2.45pm-6.30pm) <i>* School closes to all students at 2.15pm No parking on school site</i>
Friday 9th March	Year 10 Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire Year 9 DTP and Men ACWY Vaccinations (School Immunisation) Year 10 Parents Ski Trip Presentation (6:30pm), School Hall
Monday 12th March	Year 7 Literacy Parents Meeting (6:30pm)
Wednesday 14th March	Year 7 BAE STEM Roadshow (2:30pm)
Thursday 15th March	Year 7 ARDEN Trip to Black Country Museum
Friday 16th March	Charity Day (non-uniform)
Mon 19th - Fri 23rd March	Year 10 Work Experience week
Monday 19th March	Year 7 Race for the Line STEM Challenge Year 12 Chemistry Trip to Warwick University
Tuesday 20th March	(6:30pm) Parent/pupil meeting - MFL Visit to Poitiers/Futuroscope
Wednesday 21st March	Year 11 Progress coaching (8:45-9:05); other Years start at 9:05am Year 7 'SCHOL' Trip to Black Country Museum Year 9 MFL Ambassadors Trip to Aston University Event
Thursday 22nd March	Year 13 Parent Consultations (2.45pm-6.30pm) <i>* School closes to all students at 2.15pm No parking on school site</i>
Monday 26th March	Year 10 Business Studies Trip to Cadbury World
Tuesday 27th March	All welcome - Lower School Music Concert (7.00pm)
Thursday 29th March	Term ends
Fri 30th March – Fri 13th April	Easter Break
Monday 16th April	Students return to school