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Harvest Donations

Many thanks to everyone who sent in a Harvest Festival donation. We were delighted with the amount of donations which we received.

All of the donations have now been sent to the Sparkhill foodbank project.



A bright start to the new school year

It is with great pride that I welcome you back into our new school year. With the summer holidays a distant memory the school year has begun with the usual frenetic pace. The dedication services in Knowle Church at the start of the year did, as always, provide a wonderful setting for us to spend some time together to reflect on the opportunities we had over the summer and then to spend some time with our thoughts and aims for what we want to achieve this year. The conduct of our students was impeccable, we were stopped on at least 10 occasions by members of the public who commented on how smart and well behaved the students were on their way to and from the church; this is something that we are very proud of and wanted to share with you.

Our new intake of Year 7s have settled in exceptionally well and have been really well supported by the warmth and kindness of our older students, who have been all too happy to help as our new students found their way around the site in those first few days.

By equal measure our Year 12 students have settled into the challenge of A Levels really well. We are delighted to have welcomed 165 students into Year 12, the majority of whom began the term by dashing off to an outdoor pursuits day in Leicestershire. You will be able to read more about this later in the newsletter. In my mind the opportunity for our new and returning students to take part in this day has really set them off on the right path. Their teamwork, support and care will undoubtedly be relied upon as they all move through their collective journey over the next two academic years.

It has also been a pleasure to welcome 13 new staff and 8 trainee teachers to Arden this year. Like us all they have been overwhelmed by the pace of the new school year, but each of them has settled into our team and are making very positive impressions on our students and colleagues.

Last year's Year 11 and Year 13 students gained their long awaited reward in August. We were very proud of the achievements of these cohorts of students. With many subjects facing their first examinations in these new specifications, we are certainly left in no doubt that the agenda of adding rigor and raising the level of challenge has been achieved. The hard work of our students, staff and yourselves as parents most certainly paid off in enabling our students to rise to this challenge and record some excellent results that as a school we are very proud of.

We wish our Year 11 students who are not returning to Arden all the very best for their futures and we wish our Year 13 students who have gone off to employment, apprenticeships and universities all the very best of luck in their next endeavors. We are certain that they will recall their time at Arden very fondly.

With the focus back on this school year I would just like to thank you again for your support. The incredible attendance at our Year 11 Year Ahead and Revision Evening are an example of how special the team work between school and home really is. We have had a terrific start to the new school year and we thank you in advance for your ongoing support over the coming months; partnership really is at the very heart of what we do. We are all working very hard to ensure the very best in all regards for our children.

Mr D Warwood
Associate Headteacher



Arden is part of Arden Multi Academy Trust: Chief Executive Officer, Mr M Murphy and Executive Headteacher, Mr D Burgess

Arden values: Determination : Excellence : Courage : Inspiration : Friendship : Equality : Respect

International Award

We were delighted to receive notification that we have been re-accredited with the International School Award. In order to achieve this award, we had to provide evidence of the international learning and overseas educational links that we have in place and how these are enriching our students' learning, matched against a number of stringent benchmarks.



The process has also enabled us to evaluate our current provision and put in place an action plan to further develop this. The award allows us to become part of a global network of international educators open to collaboration and shared learning opportunities.

Many thanks to Mrs Harrison who co-ordinated our bid.

Arden Values Mural

Our Arden Values mural project is finally complete after weeks of hard work. We are thrilled with the final result which is a clear reflection of our school values.

Mr Hook, Miss Battle and their team of helpers have patiently layered the design to create the special visual effect. We were able to include many of the students' ideas into the finished mural and we would like to thank all of the students who submitted inspiration work.

Many thanks to Mr Hook and Miss Battle for leading the project.



Sixth Form Away Day

Friday 7th September saw the Year 12 sixth form students attend their away day at Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre.

The main purpose of the day was to help the transition process into sixth form, especially for those students coming to Arden from other schools; this was a fantastic opportunity to get to know their peers in a fun and friendly environment whilst trying out new challenges and facing their fears.

The activities included high all-aboard ropes, rock climbing and abseiling,

high and low aerial trek, powerfan, leap of faith (trapeze), raft building, paddleboarding and mega SUP and kayaking.



South Africa Visit

As many of you will be aware, our team of Year 12 students spent the last nine months working hard to raise over £26,000 to fund our teaching project in rural South Africa. Perhaps you purchased some of our home made cakes from one of our (countless) bake sales, or maybe you attended the quiz night that took place in Arden school hall. The chances are, if you're involved in our local community in and around Solihull, whether you realise it or not, you did something to give towards what has been an incredibly successful initiative.

It was on July 17th that our vision became reality: after months of hard work, we were boarding the plane that would, in around 10 hours and 37 minutes, touch down in Johannesburg. We jumped into our shuttle bus, the pure excitement of finally being "here" washing away any tiredness after the long flight. A couple of dirt roads and many games of eye spy later, the moment when we met Lynette and Raymond arrived, our hosts and parents for the next month. From the first words we exchanged, the entire team loved every moment we spent together with them.

It wasn't long before we were "on the ground" – nerves high, we made our way into the school, a collection of two or three basic single storey buildings, surrounded by lots of ... nothi... well, not much. The school we were based at caters for the children living in villages in the area, some of whom walk miles to and from school every day. We were able to settle into our new job as teachers quickly as we realised what an amazing month we were in for: although exhausting, seeing the progress of the children, and getting to know all of the lovable personalities that made up each class was an experience we'll be reflecting on for a long time.

Although the tireless positivity of the kids didn't give it away, the dire need for support became apparent quickly: as we saw evidence of the poverty that these amazing children are surrounded by, we were both humbled and motivated to make every moment count. Staffing issues, insufficient resources, and, perhaps most difficult, a lack of educational direction, all made us realise how important schemes like this really are. Importantly, with the funds we placed aside for our "legacy", we intend to

contribute towards a new teacher at the school – allowing some of the severely overcrowded classes to be taught and looked after with more care, and with greater regard for each and every pupil.

We would have never been able to make any difference if it wasn't for the overwhelming support throughout our journey: it's for this reason we'd like to thank each and every one of you parents, pupils, teachers, friends, and family who made a positive impact on so many lives.

We would also like to wish next year's team, who will be hard at work very soon, the best of luck in every fundraising effort they make.

On the behalf of the children at the school, and the team,
THANKYOU!



Macmillan Coffee Morning

A total of over £200 was raised for Macmillan during our annual coffee morning. Staff were treated to a feast on Wednesday morning and then Year 7 pupils put on a great display of treats at Open Evening. Thank you to everyone for their donations.



Interested in becoming a teacher?



OPEN DOOR COFFEE MORNINGS

Tuesday 23rd October 2018; Tuesday 11th December 2018 & Tuesday 12th March 2019

9.00-10.30am at Arden Academy, Knowle, B93 0PT

We are recruiting primary and secondary trainees, starting September 2019 and beyond. To find out more about our highly successful School Direct train to teach programme, pop along to one of our Coffee Mornings and speak with a member of staff.

For more information email traintoteach@arden.solihull.sch.uk or contact Sharon on 01564-732610

To register for a Coffee Morning visit our website – www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/train-to-teach/



Sports News

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



Netball

Congratulations to the Year 7 Netball team who won their first game of the season. They beat Light Hall 8-2 in a great game. It was a fantastic performance especially when you consider how little time the girls have had to train together as a team. Well done to all of the girls.



Football

The Year 9 team got the season off to a winning start. They beat Handsworth Grammar School 6-3 in the first round of the Birmingham Cup.

The Sixth Form team also started with a win beating Alcester Grammar 9-1 in the national cup.

With two superb wins under our belts it looks set to be a fantastic season.

Rugby Season Starts Well

It has been a fantastic start to the rugby season for our teams. The Year 10 team ran in as 92-0 winners in a superb performance against King Edward VI Aston. The Year 8 team also beat Aston 35-30 in a closely fought match and the Year 9 team made it 3/3 by defeating Aston 33-27. Superb results all round.

The Year 7 team took part in a tournament at Finham Park school and came away with one win and two draws. They scored five tries overall and only conceded one. A very promising start from the new boys.

Cross Country

There have been two Cross Country competitions so far this term. The first was held at Smith's Wood school and was a fantastic turnout for Arden with twenty-seven students participating, most of whom will now be able to progress to trials to represent Solihull.

Special mention to Dan Scott in Year 7 and Nathan Carter in Year 8 who came first in their age groups. Rachel Batchelor

in Year 9 and Abi Wheelhouse in Year 10 came second in their groups.

This was followed by another fantastic performance the following week when every single competitor finished in the top 20.

Superb results all round. Running club is every Wednesday morning if any other students are interested in joining in.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The new extra-curricular timetable is in full swing. There are thirty clubs and activities currently on offer with more being added as the term progresses. We have been impressed with the turnout so far and hope that even more students come along to try out a new activity in the coming weeks.

Extra-Curricular Timetable 2018-19

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM (7:45 - 8:30)	V7 Badminton (R2H – Sports Hall)	Y8 Basketball (BKC – Sports Hall) KS4 Hockey (F5S – Astro)	Arden Running Club (R2H – Field)	Y10&11 Basketball (B1W – Sports Hall)	Y8&9 Squad Netball (F5S – Sports Hall)
Lunch (12:30 – 1:15)	Gymnastics (CRH – Gym)	Indoor Athletics Y7&8 (R2H – Sports Hall)	Gymnastics (CRH – Gym) Y9 Basketball (R2H – Sports Hall)	Y10&11 Netball (CRH & SR8 – Sports Hall)	Open Badminton Y8-11 (R2H – Sports Hall)
PM (3:30 – 4:30)	Gymnastics (CRH – Gym) Y9 Rugby (B1W – Field) Y8 Football (JH & JG – Astro)	Y10 Rugby (R2H – Field) Y8&9 Netball Recreational (F5S – MUGA)	Arden Dance Company (invite only) (MB – Gym) Y7&8 Handball (KG – Sports Hall/Astro)	Y7 Rugby (R2H & BM – Field) Y10 Football (APP – Field) Y7 Netball (E/B – MUGA) Girls Football (NJS – Astro)	Y7 Rugby (BRC – Field)

Summer Swimming Success

Well done to Year 10 student Deen Ahmed who competed in a national swimming competition over the summer holidays.

The competition was a mixture of British and English national events. Out of the five British National events Deen was in four finals and achieved fifth, eighth, seventh and tenth place overall in his races.

For the English Nationals Deen

competed in two events, finishing seventh and eighth.

This was the first time that Deen has entered the nationals and to achieve the finals with the best swimmers in the country is an exceptional achievement, especially when you consider that he achieved personal best times in the events he took part in.

Congratulations to Deen!

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.

Dylan Murphy (Year 10)

Dylan is an extremely talented boxer. He is currently the British Champion in his age and weight category and is part of the prestigious England Boxing Talent Programme.

How did you get into boxing?

It sort of happened by accident when I was about 8. My Dad and I wanted to use the car park of the boxing gym, but they said that we couldn't unless we were members, so we joined there and then. I started with kick boxing at that gym and became a black belt in it. The coaches' feedback was really positive and they suggested that I had a natural talent for boxing.

What happened next?

I moved to a boxing gym in Hall Green (Hall Green Boxing ABC). They seemed really impressed with my ability and commitment. The coaches really encouraged me to develop in the sport and to start boxing competitively. I had my first competitive fight when I was 11 and recently became English and then British Champion. This led to me being selected for the England Boxing Talent Programme, which means I get to go on their training camps and to train with some of the best coaches in the country.

How often do you have to train?

I train every weekday evening at the boxing gym in Hall Green from 5pm until 7pm. Three mornings per week from 6.30am, I go to Tudor Grange Leisure Centre for cardio-training, including rowing and running. On a Friday evening and a Sunday, I also do a 100 length swim. I also practise my technique at home; we have a room in the house that has boxing equipment in.

Is there anything else that you have to do to be at the top of your sport?

I have to be totally committed to my training and to work hard at it. I also have to watch what I eat, making sure that I have a 'clean' diet. This means that I have to eat plenty fresh food with a good balance of meat/fish and vegetables. I have to monitor my weight carefully as, in boxing, the category in which I compete depends on my weight, as well as my age. It can be difficult as I really love my food! I do allow myself the occasional treat like chocolate, though.

You have just started your GCSEs. How do you fit your school work in?



It is hard, but I just have to do as much as I can. I want to make sure I get good grades in school, as well as being a successful boxer. Sometimes I don't do as good a job on my homework as I know I could, which is frustrating, but I just don't have the time.

Who inspires you?

It has to be my Dad. He got me interested in the first place and he has helped me to be disciplined about what I do to be successful. He has supported me completely all the way through. I owe him a lot, as he has to take me to all of my training and drives me all over the place. Boxing has become a bit of a family thing. My younger brother is also a boxer (Jake Murphy – Year 7) and my youngest brother is also showing great potential, even though he's only 7.

What is your ambition?

I would love to represent England in the 2022 Commonwealth Games and Team GB in the Olympics in 2024. 2022 will be my first chance to compete, as I shall be eighteen. Up until then I want to be as successful as I can be in my weight and age category. In January 2019, I will be moving up from the 'Schoolboy' category and into the 'Junior' category. This will be a new challenge, but I want to be the best at my weight (41kg). I would ultimately like to become a World Champion as a professional boxer.

What is your motto?

Nothing comes without hard work.



Dylan in action (pictured in red)

Alumni News

Edinburgh Fringe

Two former Arden students performed in shows at the Edinburgh Fringe this summer. Cameron Scriven co-wrote and performed in MAD, a black comedy about two men who find themselves stuck in a room together whilst Tom Briggs performed in Beowulf, a traditional story with a modern twist which received a 4* review from The Scotsman!

Alex Cardall



Congratulations to ex-student Alex, who was crowned the winner of the first Rising Star Award at ArtsEd performing arts school in London for outstanding talent and effort demonstrated throughout all three years of his training on his Musical Theatre degree. Earlier this year Alex also won the Stephen Sondheim Society Student Performer of the Year competition.

This summer, Alex made his professional debut in Sweet Charity at the Watermill Theatre in Newbury. What a fantastic year so far!

Staff News

The new term has brought with it a number of new members of staff to the Arden family. Miss Brotherton and Miss Venables have joined our team in English. PE have welcomed Miss Blenkinsopp, Miss Durrant, Mr Carter and Mr Weaver. Science have new additions in Mr Lomax and Miss Pilat, whilst Mr Hartshorn has joined the DT department. In Art we have welcomed Miss Harvey and MFL have said bonjour to Mrs Johnson. Finally, Mr McGovern and Miss Power have joined our cover team.

We would like to extend our warmest welcome to them all and wish them all the very best for the coming year.

As is usual, this summer was a busy one for weddings. Congratulations are extended to Miss Tillsley (Teacher of Science), Miss Sheppard (Teacher of PE), Mr Butler (Teacher of Science) and Mr O'Connell (Teacher of Maths) who all got married over the holidays.



Important dates for October 2018

Wednesday 3rd October	Year 7 & Year 12 Tutors Consultations (4.30pm-7.30pm)
Monday 8th October	Year 7 Numeracy Meeting (7.00pm)
Thursday 11th October	Year 11 Drama Trip - Nottingham Play House 'Kindertransport (5.45pm – 11.30pm)
Monday 15th October	Year 9 History Day (Forms 9R/9S/9N/9O) Sexual exploitation and Online Safety Meeting for parents/guardians (6pm)
Tuesday 16th October	Year 9 History Day (Forms 9A/9H/9D/9C)
Wednesday 16th October	Year 9 History Day (Forms 9L/9E)
Thursday 17th October	Year 7 (ARDEN) visit to Walsall Art Gallery
Friday 19th October	Year 12/13 Debating Competition
Monday 22nd October	Year 10 Engineering visit to Jaguar Land Rover
Wednesday 25th October	Year 11 Parents Consultations (2.45pm–6.30pm) (1 of 2) * School closes to all students at 2.15pm
Friday 26th October	Charity Day - non-uniform Year 7 (SCHOL) visit to Walsall Art Gallery
Monday 29th October to Friday 2nd November	Half Term