



Arden
Station Road
Knowle
Solihull
West Midlands
B93 0PT

Telephone:
01564 773348
email:
office@arden.solihull.sch.uk

 [@ArdenAcademy](#)

Online Safety

Earlier this week we held a very successful Online Safety information evening. The evening was ably run by Mr Hughes, Head of Computing, and his team, alongside student Sachin Shaw representing the Digital Leaders team. The evening presented parents with information on: online gaming, new technology, terminology and apps and the 'Dark Web'. It was a really informative and useful evening focussing on these important issues.



ad altiora news

ISSUE 24

JANUARY 2019

A Positive Start to 2019

Arden has had a brilliant start to 2019; already there is a real sense of spring approaching and, as welcoming as that is in many ways, the upcoming exam season looms large and dominates the horizon for many of our students *and* indeed our staff. Our Year 11 Mock results day in December was very positive with students seeing the direct results of their hard work and revision and gaining a sense of what to expect in the summer. Our Year 9s have sat their exams and now begin to really focus on choosing their options at the start of March. Our Year 13s are about to enter into their mock exam season after February half term. All of this brings a very real sense to the pace at which Arden moves and how quickly the journey through school can be.

For staff, the term started with a training day. Our work on creating a Growth Mindset in school is developing and staff really valued the training received. We are hopeful that we will soon be able to offer parental workshops in Growth Mindset as we seek to embed our growth mindset attitudes into school life. Another part of the day was dedicated to our Moral Purpose and our School Values; staff were asked to identify three things that make Arden unique, the results are encapsulated in the word cloud illustrated. The sentiment of care, relationships and support that is in place to ensure opportunities and drive aspiration for our students is clear in the eyes of our staff.

Mr Warwood, Associate Headteacher.



Chief Gold Scouts Award

We were delighted to be informed that a group of Year 9 pupils from 4th Knowle Sea Scouts have worked incredibly hard to achieve their Gold Scouts Award. To win this

impressive award, the scouts completed nine challenges, such as World Challenge, Skills Challenge or Creative Challenge alongside six activity or staged activity badges of their choice. The pupils received

their Award from the Mayor of Solihull earlier this month. We would like to congratulate Andrew Hawker, Tom York, Amy Garside, Emily Griffin, Elspeth Parkin and Katie Smith for the determination and commitment they have shown in completing these challenges and achieving the Award. What a fine display of the Arden Values!



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

Politics Students Visit Parliament

In the first week back the Year 12 Politics students visited Parliament and the Supreme Court. Student Ethan Cooper-Riley had this to say about the day:

'At the beginning of the day we visited the Supreme Court and took a tour of the different courts, including the JCPC which was interesting as it showed us how the Supreme Court supports some of the Commonwealth countries in judging their cases. We were also informed about important cases that have taken place in the Supreme Court, such as the decision to allow Parliament to vote on enacting Article 50. After this, we went sight-seeing throughout London, visiting important landmarks such as Buckingham Palace and 10 Downing Street before heading for our tour of Parliament. We started in the Great Hall and discussed the history of Parliament which was fascinating. We then saw Jacob Rees-Mogg having an interview with ITV News and we can be spotted in the background which was amusing!'

After this we visited the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Both were very interesting as we got to see how legislation was discussed. We were very fortunate to visit on such a busy day and see how Brexit is being debated. During our time in Parliament we also had the opportunity to talk to our local MP, Caroline Spelman and partake in a Q&A. This was both informative and encouraging as to our constituency's future. Following our tour, as we headed home, we saw Brexiteers and Remainers loudly protesting outside Parliament which showed how passionate people are about the current situation. It was a really interesting day and has helped us to understand the reality of what we are studying.'



We even made it on to the Six O'clock news!

'Be Confident' Workshops

The first 'Be Confident' workshop has started this half term with a selection of Year 7 pupils.

Arden Academy, in conjunction with Solihull Council's Engage Team, is delivering an evidence based, thought -provoking workshop called 'Be Confident' for girls and boys, which focuses on confidence and self-esteem.

The workshop materials have been created by experienced youth workers within the Engage Team after studying PSHE statistics and data within Solihull schools.

During the sessions there are lively discussions, games, videos and different activities for the young people to participate in.

The 'Be Confident' workshops run over a 6-week period and will be delivered by Arden's Year 11 Leadership Team, who have been

specifically trained by the Engage Team. Arden Staff will also be supporting.

These hour-long sessions will be run over lunchtime in a quiet, dedicated space in school. The sessions will aim to support young people to:

- Gain a range of tools to support confidence
- Understand what confidence is
- Understand the value of self-talk
- Understand what appearance ideals are
- Understand the impact of body language
- Gain an understanding of the 5 ways to wellbeing

Any pupils interested in taking part, or indeed parents on behalf of their child should get in touch with Mr Reed.

Be Confident
Be Confident is...
6 x 1 hour sessions for young people delivered by the Engage team.
The sessions will aim to support young people to:

- Understand what confidence is
- Understand the value of self talk
- Recognise what body image pressures are
- Gain a range of tools to support confidence

Engage  0121 709 7000 engage@solihull.gov.uk socialsolihull.org.uk/earlyhelp
Solihull 
'Early Help is everyone's business'

We intend to run more workshops next term aimed at more KS3 pupils and we would like to thank the Engage Team and our Leadership Team for their hard work so far in preparing for the sessions.

Debating Goes From Strength To Strength

Early in January, members of Arden's debating society had the opportunity to expand our debating knowledge and skills when we took part in a debating workshop led by former student Amy Fortnam, current chair of the Bath University Debating Society and qualified English Speaking Union Oracy Trainer, and David Tite, the former Director of Debating at Cambridge University and European debating finalist.

During the day we took part in classic British Parliamentary debates against each other. As a student, I think this was a fantastic and surreal experience; I gained skills from debaters who were

much more experienced than I. This meant we could gain more knowledge on each speaking position, how to structure speeches, what we want our speeches to convey and many more tips and techniques to improve our understanding of arguments and analysis. This significantly boosted my confidence when debating.

Thanks to Mrs Ellender (leader of Debate Club) – this workshop will help as we prepare for our next competition in Oxford. The competition was a great experience and Mrs Ellender was really pleased with the improvement we showed in our technique. The workshop really helped us to move forward with our debating.

Sachin Shaw (Year 10)



STEM Event

Year 8 were involved in a STEM event this month as part of the *Solutions For the Planet Big Ideas* programme which builds young people's motivation to learn about STEM subjects and environmental issues. The pupils came up with some great ideas which they will take forward and develop in the coming months as they participate in more aspects of the programme. Mr Hussey thanks the PTFA for their support.



Holocaust Memorial Day

Earlier this month, Year 8 and 9 History Ambassadors attended a screening of '*No Asylum: The Untold Chapter of Anne Frank's Story*' at

Solihull School. The screening

was held to commemorate

Holocaust Memorial day 2019.

The film tells Anne Frank's story

but places emphasis on her

father, Otto Frank's attempt to

gain asylum in America. The film

presents recently discovered

letters that had been written by

Otto Frank to his contacts

around the world in a bid to gain

asylum for him, his wife and two

daughters. The students

watched the screening and

participated in a Q&A session with three Holocaust survivors; Eva Schloss

who is Anne Frank's stepsister and survivor of Auschwitz concentration

camp, Tomi Reichental who survived Bergen Belsen and finally Mindu

Hornick who survived Auschwitz concentration camp. The students asked

the survivors questions about their experiences. It was a wonderful

opportunity for our students and they all came away having learnt a huge amount from the experience.



Year 9 Art Trip to Harry Potter World

Back in December a group of Year 9 students interested in pursuing a career in the creative arts took a trip to Harry Potter World. Here is an account from the Costume Design group:

'I remember walking up the path that led to the studio, seeing all the statues and newspapers that had been significant objects and artefacts in the Harry Potter movies themselves, even including costumes from the Fantastic Beasts franchise!'

Walking into the building and finding

ourselves surrounded with all sorts of Mesmerising pictures and paintings, sculptures and costumes was amazing.

We were taken into a room and were allowed insight into secrets that people are not usually allowed to know such as how certain materials were made to look the way we see them on screen. Being able to put ourselves into the position of some of the people who work on set was really interesting. Also being allowed to see the costumes the actors and actresses wore, as well as experimenting with the materials

their outfits were made from, was an honour. We also got to learn about how they make the costumes for certain characters; this process was very interesting - not to mention the fact that we were in the same building as Tom Holland and Zendaya who were



working on the new Spiderman movie!

Once our main costume department talk was over we were let loose to go and find out about all the

secrets Harry Potter World had in store for us and you can read more about our amazing day on the school website [here](#).'



Politics Conference

Just before Christmas, the Year 13 Politics class attended a prestigious Politics Conference in London. We heard from several interesting speakers on the front-line of politics, who detailed their views on topics currently compelling the British public. These speakers included: Nigel Farage MEP, who spoke of his strong views as to why we should leave the EU and the recent rise in hate crime within the UK; Jacob Rees-Mogg MP, who spoke about the positive effects leaving the EU will have on the economy; and Jess Phillips MP who spoke about gender equality and the struggles of being a woman in politics as well as the challenges of poverty in her Birmingham constituency.

Being in the action and hearing from such big names was really valuable to us for studying the politics course as it allowed us to get a real feel as to the extent of the current tension in politics and allowed us to see whose views we truly aligned with.

We learnt a lot about differing political views and saw just how passionate these politicians are about what they believe in and the lengths they are willing to go to in order to achieve their aims.

Lucy Robinson, Year 13.



Year 12 Physics Trip to CERN

This month the Year 12 Physics students visited CERN. Students Jonathan Swales and Lucy Ford share their experience below:

'After a late night arrival we had an early start the following day and, a short tram ride from our hostel, we were greeted with spectacular views of the snow-capped Mont Blanc. After being issued with our passes for the day, we watched an informative video and had a question and answer session with a CERN physicist with whom we spent most of the remainder of our visit.

On the tour, we were shown one of CERN's first particle accelerators which marked the beginning of CERN's pre-eminence as a research facility. Following a quick audio/visual demonstration, we took a coach over the French border to the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) detector site, which is one of the four detector experiments situated at points around the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). Here we

saw life-size representations of the 14,000 tonne detector, and were given some fetching hair-nets and hard-hats and ventured 100m underground to see the entrance to the tunnels. We also saw the data centre and the original control room contrasted with the new. Lunch was in the confusing and rather expensive CERN café and was followed by the Microcosm and Universe of Particles exhibitions, where we saw the first web server dating from the World Wide Web's creation and the first particle accelerator which cost \$25! It was a great experience all round and you can read more about our weekend on the school website [here](#).'



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.

Andrew McWilliam (Year 10)

Andrew is extremely talented at karting. He holds lap records at both the Tamworth and Milton Keynes tracks and, amongst numerous podium places, he came 2nd at the National Championships in the 11-15 age group last year.

When did you first realise that you had a talent for karting?

I have always been a motorsport fan and had been karting just for fun a few times at the indoor track in Oldbury. I realised that I was naturally fast and really enjoyed it, so about two years ago, I decided to try to go more regularly to see how good I could be. I seemed to be able to develop my technique quite quickly and kept getting further and further up the lap times, managing to get the lap record after about two months. It actually still stands, two years on.

How have you progressed in the sport?

In 2017, I made the move from indoor karting to the outdoor track. I went to a test day at the Tamworth track, which involved a written test and a series of races. I got full marks in the written test and won my heat by 20 seconds, which enabled me to get into the A final and to race against some of the professional drivers. After a few months, I was getting podiums at Tamworth and also managed to get my first win at the Milton Keynes track.

Where do you go from here?

I currently race in the 11-15 age category, but when I turn 16 in December, I will qualify of the Senior category. I am hoping to be able to progress through the Seniors and, hopefully, with some sponsorship, to continue being successful racing at the next level.

Do you have your own kart?

Yes – after the test day, I decided that I wanted to take karting seriously and to do that, you really need to have your own kart. I got mine in October 2017. It is a 100cc 2 stroke Junior, with a top speed of 80mph.

How much time do you have to commit to the sport?

I used to race pretty much every weekend, although now I only have to compete on the first and second weekend of every month. The races and competitions are run by Daytona, and can take a variety of formats. They can often have lots of different rounds, so it can be quite time consuming. When I am not racing, I have to make sure that the kart is fully serviced and

carry out any maintenance work that is required.

Is there anything else that you need to do to stay at the top of the sport?

Professional racers have to be really fit, so that their bodies can cope with the demands of a full race. I'm not quite at that level, so I don't have to do worry too much. The main thing is to make sure that you strengthen your core and neck, as you can get 3Gs as you go round corners, which can cause damage to your neck, chest and ribs. I have to do sit ups for my core and use a resistance band to do exercises to strengthen my neck. I will have to step up my fitness regime when I progress into Seniors.

Who is your inspiration?

My Dad was my initial inspiration. He got into karting when he was younger, but left it too late to be able to get into it properly and progress to his full potential. He really supports me with my racing and I wouldn't be able to do it if it weren't for him. Lewis Hamilton is a bit of a hero for me and I always root for him. I really admire his passion for what he does and his resilience in keeping going, even when things don't always go well for him.

What is your ambition?

I would really love to make a career out of racing, ultimately in Formula 1. If I don't make it as a driver, I still want to be in the sport, as a designer or engineer. I want to go to university to study motorsport engineering.

What is your motto?

The best defence is a good offence.



Sports News

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

 @ArdenPE

Table Tennis

On the 17th January the u13 South Solihull championships took place at Lode Heath.

We are thrilled to report that the Arden A team (made up of Year 8 pupils) won the championship and the younger Year 7 Arden B team also did fantastically in coming runners up.

The winning team now qualify for the level 3 school games in April. This result means that both our u13 and u16 teams have qualified this year which is great news.

Well done to all of the pupils who participated in the event.

Y8 - Isaac Moore, Nathan Davie, Alex Johnson, Zach Johnson

Y7 - James Campbell, Joe Riley, Jake Morgan, Luke McCourt and Zak Arfan



The Winning Year 8 team



The complete squad

Incredible Rugby Success

The Year 10 Rugby team are having the most amazing season. They are competing in the NatWest National Vase competition and earlier this month they played their 5th round match. Here is Mr Hunt's match report:

'After a swift warm-up the Arden boys started the game in a nervous manner. The first-half was plagued with handling errors but our characteristic tough, in your face defence ensured that our opponents couldn't create any scoring opportunities themselves.'

At half time the boys took a few moments to reflect and agreed that we hadn't done ourselves justice yet, a few words were said to refocus and some energy gels consumed to get the boys going. It seemed to do the trick; for the next 15 minutes we dominated the game. After a sustained period of pressure Harry Jones took a short pass from Jacob Bate 15 metres out, he powered through the first line of defence and strode over for the opening score. To their credit the boys refocused quickly and all ran back to the half-way to re-start the game. Will Sands converted to make it 7-0. From the kick off Matty Boles took the ball on the charge and made good metres up to half way. The ball was recycled to Rudi Newman who powered forward and then found an offload which caused major problems. The backline drew defenders well and set Will Sands away down the touch line, he outpaced the BHBS plays to score a 50m try. He converted his own score to make it 14-0.

Arden now had their tails up and had found a game plan that BHBS struggled to deal with. They went through numerous phases to get themselves into the opposition's 22m and patience on the ball allowed Harry Jones to dive over the line for his second score, the conversion was missed but we had a commanding 19-0 lead. Unfortunately in the scoring phases Jacob Bate injured his ankle which meant a major reorganisation and this did impact on our momentum. Three quick tries had an impact on both teams with the game being played mostly in midfield until the final 10 minutes. BHBS took control of

the ball for the final part of the game laying siege to the Arden try line. Some desperate defence mixed with some not so subtle dark arts resulted in BHBS being held out but Arden gaining two yellow cards. With 13 men the inevitable happened and BHBS scored a well worked converted try. With just two minutes remaining and back up to 14 men Arden kicked off, turned the ball over and then ensured the rest of the game was played in their opponents' half. Final score 19-7.

The boys were superb and are over the moon with the result.'

Following the game the Quarter Final draw was streamed live on Twitter, FA Cup style, and a large crowd gathered in the Gym to find out who our next opponents would be. We were drawn in an away fixture against Ullswater Community College in Penrith, meaning the team was facing a huge journey to get to their next match.

We are absolutely thrilled to announce (as you may have seen on Twitter), that just this Wednesday the boys played their Quarter Final against a tough team and came away 22-13 winners! What fantastic news. Mr Hunt promises that, once he has recovered, he will provide a full match report for the February edition of the newsletter. The Semi Final will be played at Allianz Park, home of current Premiership champions, Saracens. Whatever the outcome this is an amazing opportunity for our boys and we are so very proud of them.



A sneak peak of the beautiful ground where the team played their Quarter Final match

Netball

It has been a busy month of Netball fixtures for our teams.

The Year 9 team played Tudor Grange. We won 20-17 after a very close game during which the girls didn't stop trying, despite being down by 4 at one point. The Players' player chosen after the match was Freyja Browne.

The Year 10 team have had mixed success this month. In their first game they beat Tudor Grange 10-7 with Lottie Stiles being

selected as the Players' player. Unfortunately the team lost their next game 18-7 to St. Martins. However, the girls put on a great performance and tried their best. Players' player for that match was Emily Annandale.

The Year 8 team had better success against St. Martins, coming away with a fabulous 19-1 win. The Players' player was Eva Robinson.

Very well done to all of the teams.

Football

The Year 9 Football team got 2019 off to a flying start with a 5-1 victory over Alderbrook. Unfortunately they lost their second match to Thomas Telford School but the team showed great resilience during this match.

The Year 10 team played against Lode Heath and despite eventually losing 6-4, Mr Pillinger was really pleased with the team performance. He had this to say about the game:

'The boys played really well and we were actually 2-0 up at one point. The conditions were probably the worst I have ever witnessed for a school game as they fought against strong winds, snow, sleet and hail. Our goal scorers were Harvey Lyne (1), Jake Collins (1), Ed Cyrus (1) and James Bean (1). Special mention to James Taylor who was incredible in his first (and definitely not his last) appearance as Goal Keeper.'

A huge well done to all of the Year 9 and Year 10 players for their efforts.

Cross-Country

We were very pleased to be informed of the personal and team success being experienced by some of our Cross-Country runners outside of school.

Tomas Maidment in Year 8 recently competed in the Warwickshire Cross-Country Championship which took place at Abington Park, Northampton.

Tomas did brilliantly and came third in the u13 boys race. His

efforts helped to secure an overall victory for his team (Solihull and Small Heath AC). This victory means that the team are now second in the West Midlands league going into the final race which takes place on 10th February at Aldersley Stadium in Wolverhampton. We wish them all the very best for this.

Another Arden student, Jay Fletcher, also competed in the event, this time in the u15 race. Jay's contribution also helped to secure top spot for the Solihull and Small Heath AC in this age category. Fantastic results all round.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Cross-Country, or would like to get involved, the following link will take you to the West Midland Young Athletes Cross Country League website.

Click [here](#).

Basketball

All of our Basketball teams have had a really successful month this January.

The Year 10 boys team have played twice. They defeated Tudor Grange 28-15 and then followed this up with a 22-19 win over Smith's Wood. Unfortunately they lost their final match 39-40 after an incredibly tight game against John Henry Newman Catholic College.

The Year 8 boys team were also winners at Alderbrook. They beat the local team 26-19. Their next match was against John Henry Newman Catholic College and they came away superb 40-6 winners.

The Year 8 girls took part in a Solihull tournament. They did absolutely brilliantly. They won every single game to come home overall champions. What a fantastic result.

Well done to all of the students who have contributed to the Basketball teams this month.



The winning Year 8 team

Staff News

We are delighted to welcome two new teachers to Arden this term. Mr Ord has joined the English department and Miss Ali has joined us in the Science department.

Pastoral Updates

Each week, during Form time and in assemblies, the students address key themes as part of the Tutorial Worship programme. This is part of our broader Pastoral Care programme and sits alongside our Arden Values, Learning For Life sessions. All of these sessions are designed to get the young people thinking and discussing important issues which affect them now, or may affect them in the future.

You can find the Tutorial Worship programme on the school website [here](#).

On this part of the website you can also find further information about the themes, including some of the resources and assemblies from the Autumn Term.

Mr Hooper, Deputy Headteacher

PTFA News

The PTFA Arden Christmas Ball was held on Saturday 8th December and was our best Ball ever!

On the night we had nearly 70 raffle and auction prizes ranging from a 4-Ball round of Golf at Copt Heath Golf Club to Wasps tickets to Hatton Country world family tickets to hair and beauty vouchers galore and so much more!

The Main Hall was lavishly decorated and filled with party revellers who enjoyed a 3-course meal courtesy of Gourmet Foods, Knowle.

With turn out being at its highest, profits raised have already been accounted for – so look out for the student study booths in Sixth Form, new equipment in DT and lots more.

Details will soon be posted on our website - <https://sites.google.com/arden.solihull.sch.uk/ardenptfa> or you catch us on Facebook and Twitter - @ArdenPTFA



Important dates for February 2019

Friday 1st February	Year 9 Vaccinations
Tuesday 5th February	Years 9-11 Careers Event
Wednesday 6th February	Year 11 Progress Coaching (other year groups arrive at 9:05am)
Thursday 7th February	Years 9 & 10 Intermediate Maths Challenge (am)
Friday 8th February	Year 9 Vaccinations
Thursday 14th February	Year 7 Parent Consultations (2.45pm-6.30pm) * School closes to all students at 2.15pm No parking on school site Charity Day – non-uniform Day
Friday 15th February	Inset Day
Friday 15th February – 23rd February	Year 10 Ski Trip to Italy
Monday 18th February to Friday 22nd February	Half Term
Wednesday 27th February	Year 10 Progress Coaching (other year groups arrive at 9:05am)
Monday 25th February to Friday 8th March	Year 13 Examination Weeks