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## Thank you!

### Sainsbury's vouchers

A huge thank you to everyone who donated Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers – over 20,500 were collected!

### Hygiene packs

We would also like to thank everyone who donated to our hygiene pack appeal for Schitsdrift School in South Africa. The students travelling to South Africa were overwhelmed with the generosity of the Arden Community.



# ad altiora news

ISSUE 9

JUNE 2017

## As the academic year draws to a close...

I would like to thank everyone associated with the Arden family for making this another successful year. There have been some wonderful highlights and achievements and we hope that receiving a monthly newsletter allows you to be able to fully share in these experiences.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have completed their examinations and we wish them every success for whatever choice they make for their future. We have thoroughly enjoyed their farewells in the form of the Year 11 Prom and Year 13 ball (featured in this newsletter and on the website). The Year 7 pupils settled well this year and we look forward to meeting a whole new cohort in September. I am sure that Mr Gethins, his team of Form Tutors and all the Arden staff will make their transition as seamless as possible. We also look forward to welcoming Year 12 students both those who have already studied at Arden and those who join us from other schools—we are sure that in no time at all you will feel part of the team and ready to embrace the challenges and enjoy the privileges that life in a Sixth Form brings.

Finally, I would like to finish by wishing everyone a safe and restful summer and meeting you all in September for what I am sure will be another busy and successful year.

Mr Murphy  
Arden Principal

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award Success

### BRONZE

Of the 28 students who started on their DofE journey this year, 20 have already completed their Bronze Awards. They have been a



great group to work with and on expeditions this year demonstrated excellent organisation, mostly sound navigation skills and admirable determination; particularly on the last day when temperatures exceeded 25°C! There has been a good range of voluntary activities and skills shown; we particularly like to see students who have gone above and beyond their brief and look forward to seeing many of them go on to achieve a Silver Award next year.

### SILVER

13 students are nearing the end of their Silver Award and enjoyed Arden's third year of Silver Expeditions on the water; skilfully completing their qualifying expedition canoeing on the River Wye.



### GOLD

We are particularly proud of the students who will soon be getting an invitation to attend St James' Palace to receive their Gold Award. Rebecca Davies; Hannah Gladstone; Emma Gough; Ben Harley-Mason and Saskia Inman have completed their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards through Arden. They have shown tremendous dedication and we congratulate them on a fantastic achievement.

## Year 12 'Futures' week

After the seemingly endless exam regime finally subsided, we enjoyed a week exploring opportunities for our futures. The week began with UCAS preparation and an introduction to Unifrog (a piece of software designed to support students' developing pathways). Unifrog allowed me to study in depth the areas I'm interested in and was a really useful afternoon. On Tuesday, we spent the morning at the UCAS fair in Birmingham and this was important in helping me to decide which institutions I'd be applying to. I even considered university in Madrid, until I discovered the astronomical tuition fees, and I'd encourage anyone to go along to the UCAS fair as it really widens your horizons. Throughout the week we enjoyed many seminars from former Arden students and University workers. As well as

learning about the courses and campuses, we heard first-hand what university life is like. As someone who is fairly certain I'll go to university, I found all this very helpful but my friends and colleagues who were considering apprenticeships attended useful talks too about possible pathways and futures week has shown me that university is not the only option. Overall it was a thought provoking and interesting week.

Alex Jenner



## Year 11 Prom

This year's Prom was held on Friday 30 June and despite a quite heavy downpour during the student arrivals, a fantastic evening was enjoyed by all. The girls all looked amazing and the boys equally dapper in their suits as they graced the red carpet in front of friends, family and the local community.

Their form tutors, looking resplendent in Great Gatsby style attire, welcomed the students along with Mr Murphy and Mr Warwood. After their official photographs, the students were taken by

coach to Wroxhall Abbey, where they celebrated in style.

Mrs Crawford, their Head of Year, couldn't praise their behaviour highly enough...it was indeed a fitting end to their five years at Arden. We wish them well for results day and look forward to welcoming many in September as Year 12 students. They have been a wonderful year group and we wish them every success for their future.

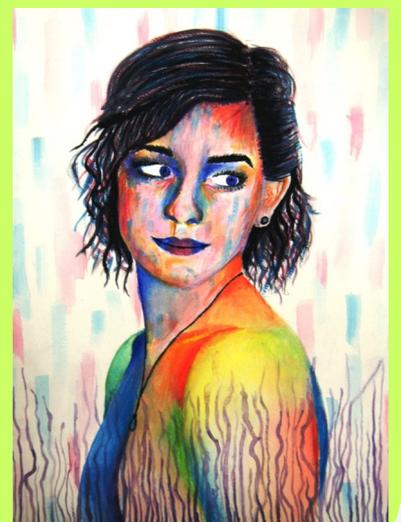
Please follow the [link](#) to view more photographs.



## Art Competition

### Winner

The Art Department had some fantastic entries to this year's Year 8 competition which were displayed in our Summer Exhibition. Artists were asked to visit a gallery and create a piece inspired by a piece of artwork that they found interesting. First Prize went to Melissa Shirley (below) and three prizes were awarded to runners up: Beth Isham, Haneen Alamgir and Heather Olsen. Well done to all of those who entered the competition.



## Year 13 Ball

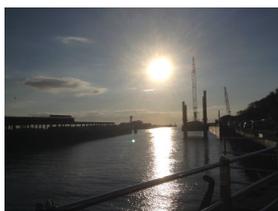
For many of our Year 13 students this was a final farewell after seven years at Arden, for some it was two years but nonetheless this was a poignant night for students, parents and staff. The students arrived at the Manor Hotel, Meriden dressed in a variety of ravishing dresses and a rather fetching series of suits and smoking jackets. Along with parents, they paused for photographs in the mizzle before an initial drink and a couple of speeches of congratulation prior to their meal. Once the formalities were out of the way, the dance floor was full as they danced the night away. We wish them a happy and safe summer and look forward to meeting them again on 17 August.

More photographs can be found by following the link to the [website](#).



## Photography award

A number of our students recently entered the Rotary 'Young Photographer of the Year' competition once again and we are delighted to announce that William Topham-Steele won the Heart of England District Prize for the intermediate age group. William won a £50 voucher for his set of Photographs on the theme of 'Our World is Beautiful'.



Two examples of William's winning pictures.



## Year 7 Probability Fair

Year 7 pupils were recently involved in a Probability Fair as part of their maths curriculum. The event made over £130 for Birmingham Children's Hospital and the winning team were Ryan McCourt, Imogen Penny and Owais Walizada. Baird won the house points.

The Year 7 probability fair was AMAZING!!! There were so many games in every single classroom, and anywhere you went you could see people having fun playing games (including teachers) that all the Year 7s had created.

My favourite game was the cup game. You had to guess which cup had the ball in it. I like this because it was very easy, seeing as there was only a one in three chance you would get it right!

The hardest game in my opinion was the straw challenge. You had to guess which straw had the red piece of string on it. This was hard as there was a 1 in 12 chance you would guess the correct one!

I really enjoyed the fair; out of 10, I would give it a 9.5.

Jamie Hopkins, 7N



## Charity performance of 'Annie'

After three months of hard work and commitment from everyone in the cast, we put on the first student run performance of 'Annie'. The purpose of the show was to raise money for Teenage Cancer Trust as a family friend has received care from the charity. Every night was sold out thanks to the amazing support from the Arden family. We are delighted to announce that a total of £444 was raised. We are so proud of our Year 7, 8 and 9 students who took part in the three shows. We really enjoyed 'Annie' and it inspired us for the future.

Eleanor Simmons and Amelia Ingram (Year 9)



Melissa Shirley and Joe Harrison

## Year 12 Biology trip to Margam Discovery Centre

Year 12 biology students recently attended a three day residential Biology field trip at Margam Discovery Centre near Port Talbot, Wales. During this time they underwent three separate investigations into different ecosystems. Firstly, students conducted a stratified sample of a rocky shore to compare the biodiversity going up the shoreline. They were then able to complete a succession study and discuss changes across a developing sand dune. Finally students applied the array of skills that they had acquired to plan and carry out their own investigation in a freshwater setting.

We were very proud of the group over the weekend, despite what was terrible weather;



they were positive, enthused and gave every task their all. They were highly commended by the course leader and acted as excellent ambassadors of the school. We hope that the skills they have gained will allow them to go and complete a course project that will draw on everything they have learnt this year.

Mr Butler

## French ambassadors

On Friday 7th and Friday 11th July, Arden's Year 7 French Ambassadors visited Dorridge Junior School and Knowle Junior School. They thoroughly prepared resources every Thursday lunchtime for a month before delivering French lessons on various topics such as colours, food and drinks, numbers or the alphabet to the Year 5 and Year 6 pupils. They were incredibly enthusiastic and were met with equal enthusiasm by the primary school pupils. Watch out for some burgeoning teaching careers!

Mme Walsh

## Partnerships

We are delighted to have recently met Paul Holden the newly appointed Youth Minister at Knowle Parish Church. Paul has a long history working in Education and particularly supporting young people in managing the emotional and social aspects of school life. We are excited to be working with Paul and the TLG Early Intervention Programme to be able to extend our support and mentoring opportunities to our students next year.



## Year 10 culinary stars...

Year 10 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition students completed their trial three hour practical exam this month. They had to select three high skill dishes to make in the time including all the washing up! Students made a wide variety of dishes including zabaglione, calzone, home-made ravioli and tiramisu. The exam was exhausting but every student did themselves proud and they have a real advantage now that they have been able to practise before the real exam next year.

The Year 10 Catering students have also been hard at work on their trial exam. They completed a two hour exam during which time they were able to demonstrate a range of skills.

Below: Jemima Cray's delicious dishes



Above: A selection of the Catering students' work

## Year 8 Think Tank Trip

On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017, 45 students from Year 8 went on a trip to the Think Tank in Birmingham. These students had been selected by their Science teachers for outstanding progress, effort and attitude in lesson throughout the past year. During the visit they were able to explore the various galleries, including how the body works, past inventions, what the future holds and outside science play.

They demonstrated excellent effort and a curiosity that allowed them to thrive within the museum. We were also treated to a planetarium show in which students were able to enjoy learning about the sky above Birmingham and the constellations that are visible to us. They also experienced a vivid demonstration of the scale of the universe. It was a highly successful visit and one that was well earned by the students who attended.

Mr Butler

# Sports News

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

 @ArdenPE

## Sports Day 2017

Arden's annual Sports Day took place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July this year's and it was a glorious day of both competition and sunshine. As in previous year our alternative events, such as egg and spoon, space hopper, sack and fancy dress races took place in the morning. The more traditional races taking place in a whole school event in the afternoon. It was great to see the whole school enjoying the event and supporting all of the athletes, as well as competing for their house to win. The overall results for all year groups was:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Baird
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Eliot
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Fleming



Above: Lisa Hobbs, Tanith Cox and Priya Sihota

Below: Oliver Swann, Jamie Eden and Eoghan Dunion



## Hockey master class

On Tuesday 4th July a group of Arden students participated in a summer hockey festival at Olton and West Warkwicksire Club run by Olympian and international hockey player, Sally Walton. The students were put through their paces and given expert coaching. They also played a mini tournament and had a chance to have a question and answer session with Sally as well as an opportunity to have a photo with her and her bronze medal



Sally Walton with Tom Sankar

Photographed on the right are: Connie Smith, Amy Garside, Imogen Penny, Carys Rowland, Izzy Mitchell, Leah Davies and Lorna Brooks Scott with Sally Walton



## More tennis success!

Both the U13 and U15 boys' teams have qualified for the regional finals after topping their groups against Solihull School, Tudor Grange and Heart of England. The Under 15 team won 5-1 and the Under 13 team, 6-0.

### U13 Singles

Max Mladjenovic won 6-1  
Tom Basterfield won 6-0  
Jamie Hyde won 6-1  
Armaan Hafeez won 6-0

### U13 Doubles

Max Mladjenovic/  
Armaan Hafeez won 6-3  
Tom Basterfield/  
Jamie Hyde won 6-2

### U15 Singles

Luke McSkimming won 6-1  
Will Naisbitt won 6-1  
Josh Taylor won 6-2  
Conor Leake lost 6-1

### U15 Doubles

Luke McSkimming/  
Josh Taylor won 6-0  
Will Naisbitt/  
Conor Leake won 6-0

Congratulations to the Arden students (pictured right) who took part in the level 3 Regional Games Finals. The girls won the competition and the boys came runners up to St Benedicts (Alcester). Congratulations to all the students on their performance.

Rohan Jogi, Louis Ball, Tom Basterfield, Jamie Hyde, Armaan Hafeez and James Stanley.  
Amy Garside, Poppy Koumbliis, Lottie Stiles, Mia Kirk, Clara Stride and Poppy Pryor.



At the beginning of July Warwickshire boys 12&U County Tennis Team took part in the Aegon County Cup Qualifiers in Malvern. Year 7 pupil Max Mladjenovic was one of five players to be selected for the team. Warwickshire won the event and qualified to take part in the Aegon Counties National Finals held on 14-16 July. We are delighted to reveal that the boys won, beating Avon in the final so are now national champions. Max can be seen proudly displaying the medals he won.



## 'Squad in Touch' app

The 'Squad in Touch' app improves links between the school and parents with regards to sporting fixtures.

The primary benefit will be to enable the school to improve communications with parents/guardians regarding all sporting fixtures at both an individual child/children and school level.

For parents/guardians to maximise the benefits they will need to subscribe to Squad in Touch which is **completely free** and only takes a few minutes. This will be the school's principal method of communication regarding sporting fixtures.

This will ensure you are sent specific notifications regarding your child/children's sporting selections. It will provide details of dates, time, venues, and opponents  
Further information can be found by following the [link](#).

## European Boxing Champion

Arden were thrilled to welcome reporters from BBC Midlands Today to record a piece about Year 10 student Elise Glynn. Elise recently travelled to Bulgaria to represent England at the EUBC European Women's Youth and Junior Championships.

Elise competed in three tough bouts on her way to the final, beating both the Russian and the Ukrainian. She faced a very game Hungarian boxer in the final. She entered the ring determined to put together three high quality rounds to finish the tournament on a high. Elise used her superior reach, quality lead hand left hooks and arrow like back hands to boss this contest and take the gold by a judges score of 5-0. It was a hard but very productive week for this talented young boxer who was crowned the 2017 European 54Kg Junior Champion.



This is a fantastic achievement for Elise and we would like to extend our congratulations to her and the team on such a successful tournament.



## Year 8 cricket champions

Congratulations to the Year 8 team who won the Solihull league after beating Alderbrook School by 6 wickets in their match on Wednesday 12th July. The squad were:

Mikhail Rozhin  
Abdullah Saeed  
Jamie Hyde  
Henry Belcher  
Charlie Billinge  
Matty Boles  
Matt Moore

Will Sands  
Callum Bennett  
Rahim Nader  
Max Lewis  
George Mitchell  
Eddie Grantham  
Nykhil Sandhu

Sam Hurley  
Rhys Tippings



The Year 8 team

## Year 7 cricket champions

The Year 7 cricket team are also borough champions after they beat Langley in the Solihull Borough Final by 9 wickets.

Having won the toss Arden elected to field first. We fielded excellently with 2 good catches and 2 run outs. Some accurate bowling meant Langley finished on 48/8 off their 16 overs. The pick of the bowling being Joe Rastrick 3-0-7-2, Jamie Vizer 3-0-6-1 and Jacob Rock 3-0-6-1. The batsmen made light work of the Langley total reaching it in 5 overs losing 1 wicket. Ben Chapman scored 13 runs off just 7 deliveries. It has been an excellent season. They have played 7 matches in all competitions, Won 6 Lost 1 (only by virtue of losing more wickets).



The Year 7 team

## Podium finish for steeplechaser

Abigail Nolan (Year 13) came third and achieved a Bronze medal in the Senior Girls English Schools Championships – 1500m Steeplechase – at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

It was a very strong field of nationally represented girls. Abbie thoroughly enjoyed the event and, of course, the finishing position. Abbie will be going on to study Sports Management BA (Hons) at St Mary's University, Twickenham, the same University that Mo Farah attended!



## Recognition for athletes

Congratulations to Ashleigh Bailey and Mary Takwoingi on becoming members of the Young Athlete Development Scheme.



## Sport Solihull 2017 Awards

We had a very successful night at the Sport Solihull Awards 2017 held on Wednesday 19th July at The Core Theatre, Solihull. Our Key Stage 3 girls Badminton team won 'Team of the Year' and Arden won the South Solihull Secondary School Games Sports School of the Year award for the third year running. A well-deserved achievement and congratulations to everyone involved in making Arden such a sporting success.



Pictured above: Arden PE Staff Miss Shepherd, Miss Bain, Mr Pillinger and Mr Hunt along with Mary Takwoingi, Tessa Franks and Frankie Barbieri

## Sponsorship deal

Huge congratulations to Kiara Henry in Year 10, an England badminton player, who has been awarded full athlete sponsorship from Babolat (manufacturer of sporting equipment for racquet sports). This is a massive honour and well deserved.



## Gold medal winner

Amber Hughes in Year 7 competed in the Dance World Cup representing England in Offenburg, Germany from 23rd June to 1st July 2017. There were 47 countries competing and 14,000 competitors.

Amber won an amazing gold medal for the performance of the Festival of the Lion King which gave her a world title in Acro. She then also won a gold medal in Circus which meant she had a world title in Song and Dance. Amber also won a silver medal for Les Miserables which is also song and dance.

The Chairman of the DWC then invited the Festival of the Lion King dance to perform at the winners gala where it was then announced as most outstanding overall performance. The marks were then counted and England were announced as the winners of the Dance World Cup 2017. Congratulations Amber on a fantastic achievement!



# Alumni News

## Cian Harries

Former pupil Cian Harries (left 2013) has just been signed by Swansea City AFC from Coventry City on a three-year deal. Congratulations to Cian on this fabulous opportunity.



## Lucy Dengate

Lucy Dengate, a former Arden student who left seven years ago to complete a chefs' course at UCB recently cooked up a treat for Year 7 pupils. The dishes she presented were pan fried sea bass with spinach, crushed new potatoes and a bearnaise sauce followed by chocolate mousse with raspberries.



Lucy has already worked in Purcell's restaurant and also Michel Roux's. This summer she has finished her degree course. It was a fantastic experience for our pupils to see her chef skills in action and we'd like to thank Lucy for taking time out from her busy schedule to visit us.

Pictured enjoying the food are: Jessica Sewell, Greg Gahan, Josh Daniels and Zachary Owen

## Vacancies

We are unexpectedly recruiting for a **Part-time Administration Assistant** (Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm) to start September 2017.

Please see website for more information:

<http://www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/vacancies/>

## Staff News

We will see a few changes to staff over the summer holidays: Mrs Barrett (MFL), Mrs Smitheman (Law) and Mrs Newlands (Geography) are all retiring; Mrs Goodridge (Maths) and Mrs Duerdin (History) will soon be on maternity leave and some teaching staff are moving on for promotion: Miss Walsh (Geography), Ms Peapell (Maths), Miss Wellings (Drama), and Mr Sanders (Geography). Mr Lavery (English) has a great adventure ahead of him and he is taking a year out to travel the world with his family.

I am sure you will join me in sending the staff off with all our good wishes. There will be several new staff joining us in September and we are looking forward to welcoming them to the Arden team.

Congratulations to Miss Tite, Miss Wellings, Miss Duffy-Turner and Mr Ball who are all getting married during the summer holidays.

## Important dates for September

Wednesday	06.09.17	08:40	Students return to school
		10:15	Year 7 and Year 12 arrive
		13.30	Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 arrive
		19.00	Sixth Form students to Knowle Parish Church
Thursday	07.09.17	09.00-11.00	Year 12 Year Ahead Meeting—School hall
		09.05-10.05	Year 10 & 11 students to Knowle Parish Church
		10.05-15.30	Year 12 photographs
		13.30-15.30	Year 7 photographs
Friday	08.09.17	09.00-14.30	Year 8 to Knowle Parish Church
		09.00-11.00	Year 10 photographs
		13.30-15.30	Year 9 to Knowle Parish Church
Monday	11.09.17	18.30-19.30	Year 7 to Knowle Parish Church
Wednesday	13.09.17	18.30-19.30	Year 6 Dorridge Parents Meeting (Dorridge School)
Monday	18.09.17	18.30-19.30	Year 6 Knowle Parents Meeting (Knowle School)
Tuesday	19.09.17	18.30-19.30	Year 6 Bentley Heath Parents Meeting (Arden)
		19.30-20.30	Year 7 France visit meeting for 7ARDEN parents
Wednesday	20.09.17	18.30-19.30	Year 7 France visit meeting for 7SCHOL parents
Thursday	28.09.17	18.30-19.30	E-Safety meeting for Parents/Guardians
	28.09.17	18.00-20.30	School closes to students at 2.15pm
Friday	29.09.17	10.45-12.00	2017/19 Open Evening (No parking available)
			Open Day (Parents/Guardians only) (No parking available)