

ad altiora

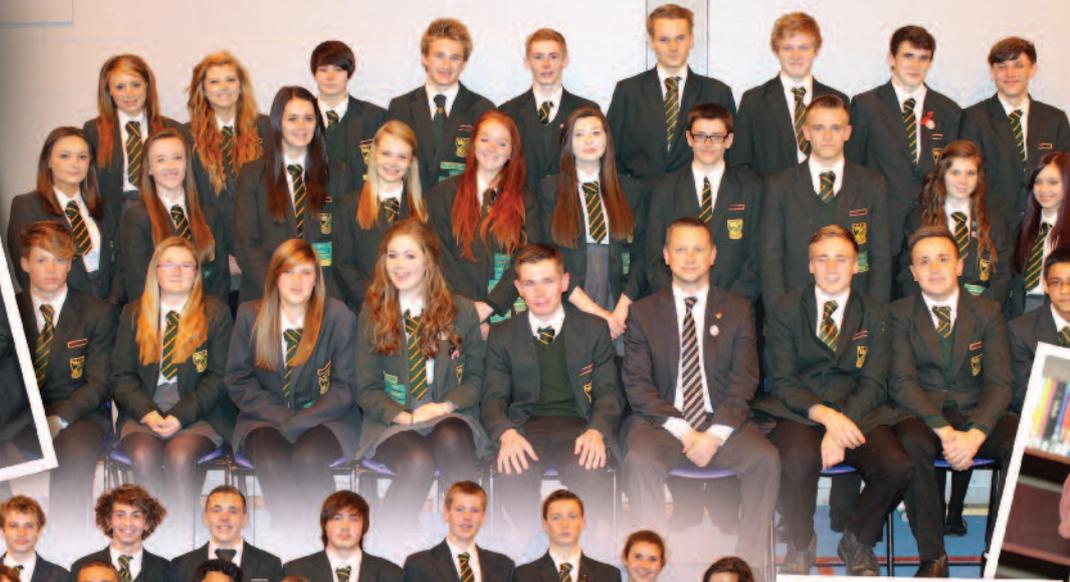
The magazine for Arden's Students, Parents, Staff and the Local Community

Issue Four Summer 2013



ARDEN

Year 11 Senior Pupils



Year 11 Form 11A



Mrs Herbert 11A



Mrs Bennett 11A



Mr Warwood,
Assistant Principal



Mr Hook 11E



Mrs McGilchrist 11E



Miss P...



AT THE START of each academic year, I warn our Year 11 students that their final year will fly by and this year was no exception! It is hard to believe that many will now have experienced their last day at Arden, although a large proportion hope to return as Sixth Formers. For many, the highlight of their final year is the Prom, which is always a tremendous occasion enjoyed by students, parents and staff alike. We were extremely fortunate this year to be blessed with a beautiful summer evening, it certainly added to the appreciation of a very special event. Our Year 13 cohort has also celebrated their final days at Arden in fancy dress - the theme was an outfit beginning with 'E' - we had Easter Bunnies, English Knights, Elvis and even Eddie the Eagle! After their exam duties had been concluded they were able to celebrate with a Summer Ball.

As these two year groups move on, I am delighted to welcome a new group of students who will represent the school as Senior Pupils, Prefects, Leadership Teams and Year Leaders. It is genuinely humbling to see how they perceive these roles as a privilege and how keen they are 'to give something back to the school'. I would like to thank two great ambassadors of the school, former Head Girl, Hannah Colbert and Head Boy, Alex Cardall. I look forward to working with their successors, Eleanor Wilkes and Billy Penny, along with the new Senior Pupil team, in what I am sure will be another very enjoyable and successful year.

It has been a busy year for every year group, with many school trips, sporting achievements and performing arts productions. 'Alice in Wonderland' was a tremendous showcase for our talented students, both on stage and behind the scenes. We witnessed the depth and breadth of musical talent at several concerts throughout the year, but nowhere more so than the Upper School Concert at Bushell Hall which was truly inspirational. There have been many sporting successes for Arden students in disciplines ranging from skiing to tennis and from football to gymnastics. Our students participate in many different levels and types of competition and I'm particularly proud of the way they represent Arden and the way in which they honour the spirit of fair play. In addition, the number of opportunities for students to travel continues to expand and this year we have seen visits to North Wales, Iceland, Austria, Italy, and Spain; most of our Year 7 students have just returned from their travels to France and Germany. We are fortunate to be able to offer these opportunities, which enhance and expand our students learning, through the support and dedication of our fantastic staff.

Those involved in the PTA are often unsung heroes, they support the school with fundraising activities, such as the fireworks extravaganza, quizzes, social functions, table top sales, whilst also providing refreshments at the numerous concerts and performances. Over £30,000 has been given in support to Science, Art and Design, Sports teams, Music and Drama. The PTA is always looking for new members with fresh ideas; please contact the PTA via the website and help make a positive difference.

Sporting excellence of a different kind was acknowledged and honoured recently when the newly refurbished History, Dance & Drama block was renamed in honour of the late Mr Tommy Godwin. You may remember Tommy won two bronze medals in the cycling team pursuit in the London Olympic Games in 1948. He also played a major role in our Olympic celebrations last year. In addition to maintaining close links with Arden and our local community, Tommy's grandson was an Arden pupil some years ago. The renaming ceremony for 'The Tommy Godwin Building' was attended by members of his family and representatives of the local community.

The end of a school year provides an important opportunity for reflection. As I look back over my two years as Principal, I am proud that Arden exemplifies dynamic and traditional qualities; it encourages, accepts and implements change and as a result it provides greater opportunity for our students to thrive - both academically and personally. Yet Arden also champions the traditional values of respect, tolerance, responsibility and community; helping nurture happy, healthy, successful young adults.

I would like to wish all our students success in their exams, I hope they achieve their objectives and wish them well in their chosen future paths. I would also like to thank my committed and supportive staff who have nurtured and encouraged the students throughout their time at Arden. We look forward to seeing every student returning in September ready and eager to learn after their summer break; we know that they will welcome our new Year 7 students into the Arden community. In the mean time I hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing summer!

Martin P. Murphy *Arden Principal*



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Opposite: *Half of Arden's 2013 Year 11, check out pages 10-12 for the full story.*

Cover Picture: *Arden a pair of real Cards! Arden pupils delivered the school's performance of *Alive* in *Wonderland* with panache and professionalism.*

Ad Altiora

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Arden 2013 senior team



Head Boy, Billy Penny:

I was thrilled when I was chosen to become a Senior Pupil, and being asked to be Head Boy was a great honour for me. I am looking forward not only to spending a year representing the school but also to working with the fantastic team that has been chosen alongside me. I feel very privileged and grateful to Arden for giving me this opportunity.



Head Girl, Eleanor Wilkes:

I am really looking forward to the year ahead on the Senior team as it is a fantastic opportunity. Arden has provided me with many opportunities so I am happy that I have the chance to give something back. I am also really excited for the many future events and what the coming year will have to offer.



Senior Pupil, Will Cutbill:

I am delighted to become a Senior Pupil and look forward to making a difference. Thank you for everyone's support – I won't let you down.



Senior Pupil, Sarah Parker:

I was delighted to have been shortlisted by my teachers and peers. The interviews were demanding and the competition tough, but I was fortunate enough to be chosen for a role that I am honoured to be undertaking. I will endeavour to fulfil this senior position representing the Arden family to the best of my ability. I will work hard as a member of the team and together we are determined to make a difference to help move the school forward. I can't wait for the year ahead!



Senior Pupil, Katie Saunders:

I am honoured and privileged to have been selected for Senior Pupil. I intend to be a good role model and an ambassador for the school. We are a great team and I am really looking forward to the forthcoming events and challenges.

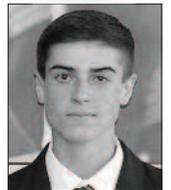


Arden's new cohort of Senior Pupils has been selected and are eager to start work. They would like to thank the previous year's team and know they have a tough act to follow but are determined to serve Arden to the best of their ability throughout the coming year. Here are their thoughts about the year ahead.



**Senior Pupil,
Jacob Delaney:**

Being a Senior Pupil is a once in a lifetime opportunity and my greatest achievement at Arden. I take great pride in being given the opportunity to take on the responsibilities that being a Senior Pupil entails. Even before the interview and selection process, I was so humbled to be placed on the short list. Throughout the year, our team will be taking on a number of different roles within the Arden community. I look forward to the team bonding and growing stronger throughout the year, helping to make Arden the best it can be. Finally I would like to give special congratulations to Billy Penny and Ellie Wilkes for being selected to represent the school as Head Boy and Head Girl.



Senior Pupil, Ben Northam:

I was thrilled to find out that I had been nominated as a Senior Pupil by my peers and teachers and delighted to be given the opportunity. I am really looking forward to the forthcoming year and all of the events that it entails. I believe we will make a great team and will help to make positive changes in the school.



Senior Pupil, Katie Smith:

I was thrilled to find out that I had been nominated as a Senior Pupil by my peers and teachers and delighted to be given the opportunity. I am really looking forward to the forthcoming year and all of the events that it entails. I believe we will make a great team and will help to make positive changes in the school.







Arden Prom

Wednesday 19 June

marked the official end of the GCSE exam season and the date of Arden's Year 11 Prom. We were lucky with the weather, with a warm, sunny evening welcoming the gathering crowds for this red carpet event. Keeping with tradition the students arrived using various strange means of transport, including vintage cars, a fire engine, the A team van, a pink VW camper van and even army trucks!





Arden Prom As ever the Arden girls looked simply stunning in their dresses, with the accompanying boys resplendent in their suits (no doubt wary of a last minute detention, ALL ties were neatly knotted and shirts tucked in, though perhaps the top hat was overkill!). The students were greeted at the top of the red carpet by Mr Murphy, Mrs Hull and the Year 11 tutors who formed a guard of honour along with the new Senior Pupil team.

Through the entrance, the school hall was transformed for the event; decked out in purple, black and silver the highlight of which was a fantastic balloon arch. There was even a confectionery stand with every possible type of sweet you could imagine! After everyone posed for a formal photograph, which will be a marvellous memento of the night, the students mingled with staff and friends before the dancing began.

Celebrations were broken off for the solemn business of prize giving as the Prom Committee presented such weighty and hard-won awards as 'Drama Queen of the Year', 'Brain Box of the Year' and 'Gossip of the Year'... All of which went down very well!

It was an uplifting atmosphere and a fitting celebration of five years together at Arden. It was lovely to see so many staff at the event, including Vicky Waite and Chris Cove, who the pupils were delighted to see again. As their time at Arden came to a close, it was time for the revellers to move on to Hogarth's for the After Party. Celebrations rolled on well in to the night and wonderful evening was had by all!

Year 11 Head, Mrs Hull would like to say a big thank you to everyone involved in making this such a special evening and so very memorable!

Pictured: Year 11 students cut a dash as they arrived for the Arden Prom.

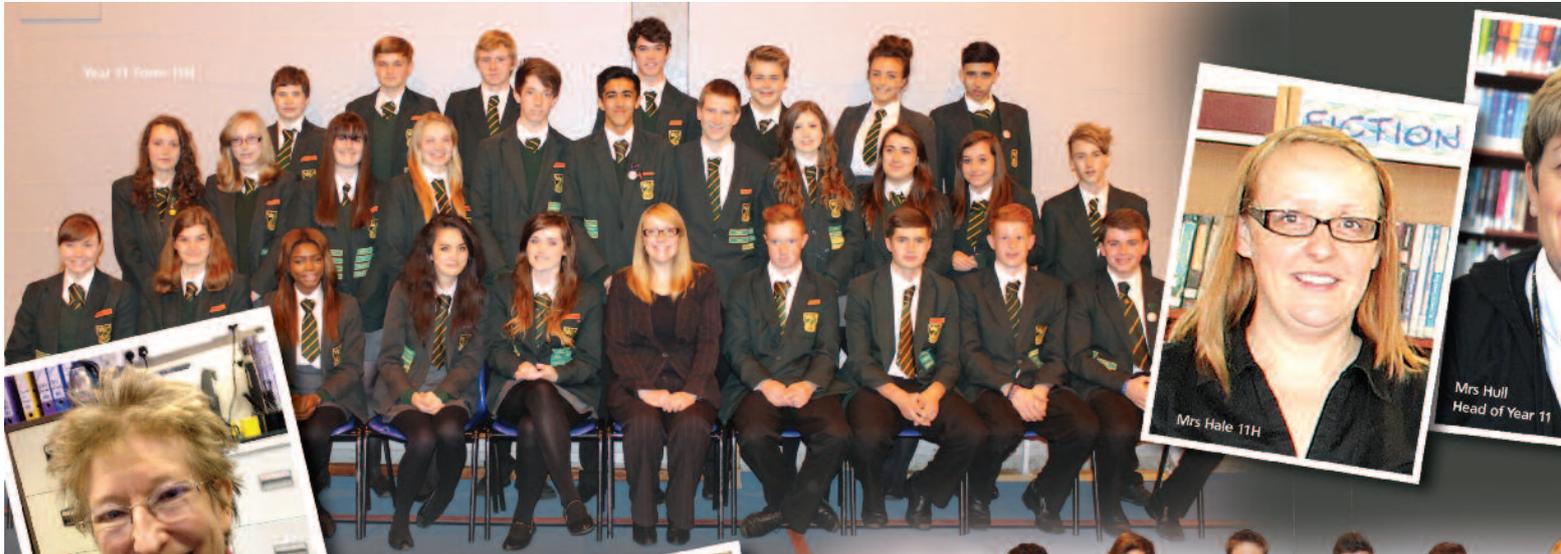


Sixth Form Leavers' Ball Just a few days after the Arden Prom, on Friday 21 June the Sixth Form Leavers' Ball took place in a specially erected marquee at the luxurious Forest of Arden Hotel. Parents, girlfriends, past students and teachers all came along to join the Sixth Form team and the students for pre-dinner drinks. It was lovely to see everyone mingling and chatting together. For some parents it was quite an emotional event as it was the last one they would attend after seven years - or more in some cases - of their children being part of the Arden family.

As the last of the revellers arrived everyone took their place for the formal three course meal. The dinner was followed by a prize giving ceremony and speeches, before dancing the evening away (if your full tum would allow) to the latest (well mostly!) tunes.

It was a simply fabulous event with our Year 13 students looking simply stunning. It has been an absolute joy to work alongside this wonderful cohort of young people and on the night they conducted themselves as we've come to expect - with poise, elegance and a wonderful sense of fun. Sadly though, all good things come to an end and on the stroke of midnight the carriages (taxis) arrived to whisk our students away. I wonder if anyone found their Prince Charming?...





Year 11 Form 11H



Mrs Hale 11H

Mrs Hull
Head of Year 11



Mrs Waite 11H

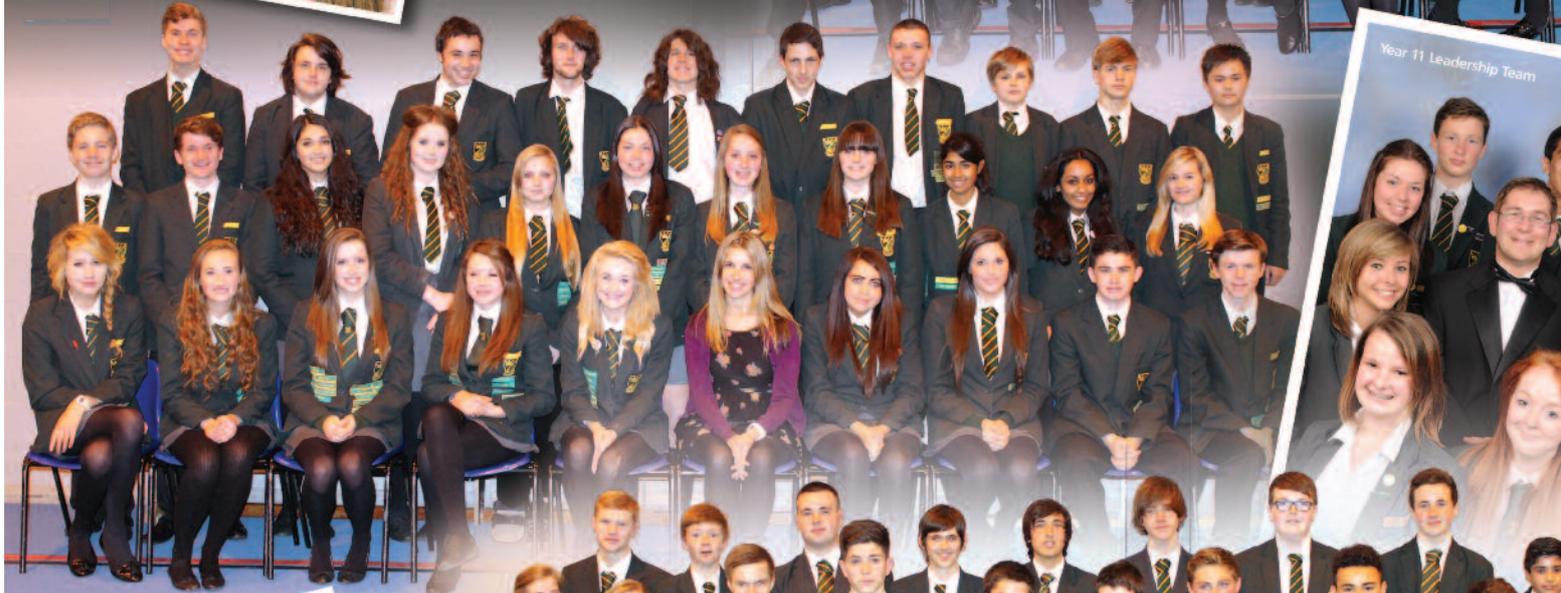
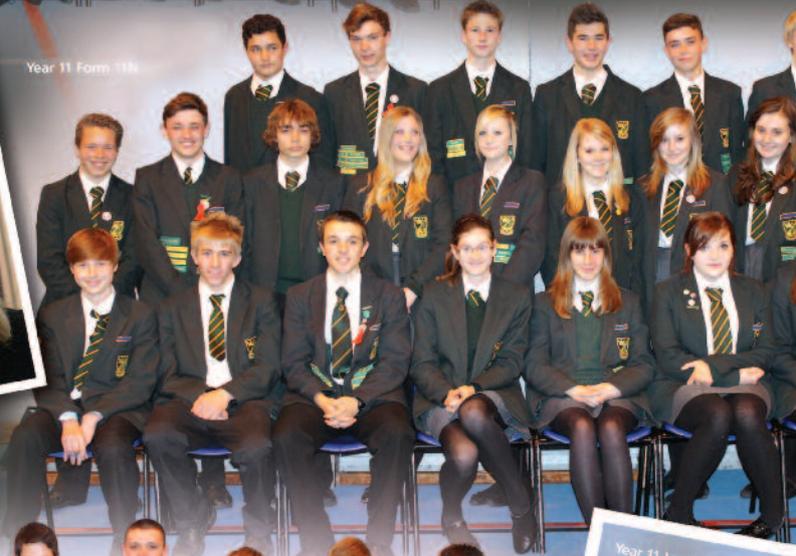


Mrs Thompson 11H

Year 11 Form 11H



Mrs Whaley 11H



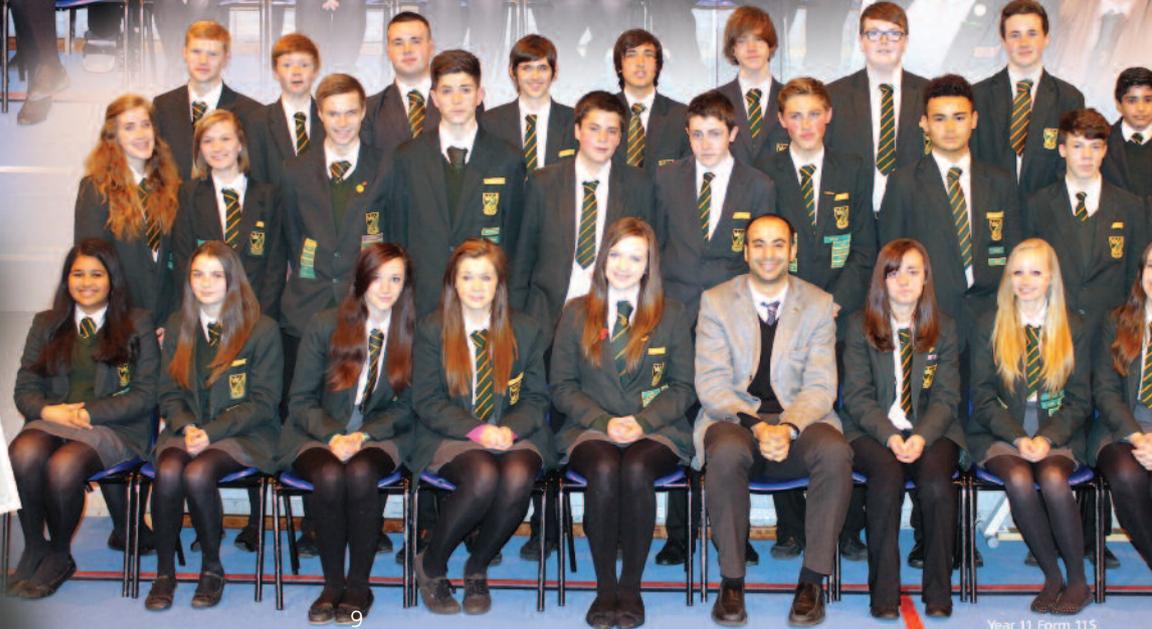
Year 11 Form 11R



Year 11 Leadership Team



Mr White 11S



Year 11 Form 11S



Farewell Y11

Every September Year 11 students are warned just HOW quickly their last year will disappear with months simply flying by until their very last day arrives. This year's cohort did Arden proud, their behaviour on this day of mixed emotions was exemplary and staff and students alike enjoyed big day. In a reversal of roles, Year 11 tutors wore school uniform (some risking detentions with sloppy ties and short skirts!), whilst students really excelled themselves with something fantastic fancy dress costumes. Revellers arrived as Lego bricks, Salt and Pepper Pots, Dalmatians, Teletubbies, Cheerleaders, Princess Fiona and Robin Hood to name just a few. After the traditional morning concert, there were games out on the field after lunch. The day rounded-off with a very special assembly; prizes were given and films were shown chronicling the five previous years at Arden with (much hilarity at Year 7 photographs – some students had changed a lot... some not at all!). The day drew to a close with some heart felt words from Mrs Hull. Tears were shed and farewell hugs shared as five years at Arden ended and a new chapter began.

Farewell Y11





Y11 Class of 2013

Max Ainsley ■ Mojolaoluwa Akinosi ■ Thomas Ash ■ Thomas Ashfield ■ Connie Ashton ■ Lucy Bailey ■ Gavan Bains ■ Hansraj Bains ■ Emma Baker ■ Sophie Barnes ■ Esther Barton-Mather ■ Sophie Beale-Burchell ■ Jonathan Bell ■ Joseph Berry ■ Edward Berwick ■ Robert Billingham ■ Edward Billington ■ Abbaas Binamin ■ Harry Bird ■ Daniel Boddington ■ Nicole Boulton ■ Amy Bowen ■ Joshua Bray ■ Anna Brice ■ Daniel Brookson ■ Eloise Brown ■ Lewis Browne ■ Hannah Bull ■ Oliver Bullock ■ James Butterworth ■ Alexander Cardall ■ Reece Carlington ■ Catriona Carswell ■ Benjamin Carter ■ Lydia Carvill ■ Emma Catton ■ Jonathan Chadwick ■ Richard Chapple ■ Krishan Chauhan ■ Ryan Clarke ■ Hannah Colbert ■ Alanah Coley ■ Abigail Corfield ■ Nathan Cotterell ■ Meredith Cox ■ Katie Craddock ■ Joshua Creed ■ Rose Crees ■ Laurie Cromwell ■ Philip D'Ambrosio ■ Bethany Dale ■ Abigail Davies ■ William Davies ■ Ben Davis ■ Morgan Dawes ■ Shimmara Dhugga Freya Driver ■ Charles Duddy ■ Edward Eccles ■ Karl Eden ■ Emily Edwards ■ Brittany Endley ■ Emily Fisher ■ Joseph Fisher ■ Faith Gana ■ Matthew Gardner ■ William Garfield ■ James Gavigan ■ Philip Geobey ■ Anne-Sophie Gilson ■ Benjamin Gladstone ■ Emily Godsall ■ George Gray ■ Callum Gregory ■ Gerard Groves ■ Jack Guest ■ Zoe Hackwell ■ Amber Hafeez ■ Hannah Hafeez ■ Sophia Haines ■ Jade Hall ■ Cara Halton ■ Charlie Hancox ■ Lucy Harley-Mason ■ Jordan Harper ■ Cian Harries ■ Antony Harrison ■ James Hawksbee ■ John Hawthorn ■ Millie Herbertson ■ Jessica Hewitt-Wooldridge ■ Emma Hicken ■ Jack Holloway ■ Daisy Hood ■ Suzanne Hounsell ■ Imogen Hudson ■ Daniel Hughes ■ Jack Hughes ■ Kelly Hurdman ■ Samantha Hurrell ■ Haleema Hussain ■ Abigail Jackson ■ Chloe Jacobs ■ Sophie Johnston ■ George Jones ■ Jessica Jones ■ Lauren Jones ■ Matthew Jones ■ Annabelle Kay ■ Emma Kelly ■ Laura Kelly ■ Zakir Khan ■ Caelan Kilduff ■ Beatrice Kinahan ■ Eve Kindon ■ Alex Kirby ■ Oliver Knight ■ Robert Lack ■ Grace Leach ■ William Lewis ■ Joseph Lowe ■ Jonathon Lucas ■ Daniel Lyons ■ Christian Machado Lopes ■ Ben Manners ■ McCauley Manning ■ Oliver Mason ■ Molly Maurice-Smith ■ Harriet May ■ Hannah McAuley ■ Lucas McEvoy ■ Louis McIntyre ■ Victoria McKean ■ Lily McMeekin ■ Katie McWilliam ■ Robert Millard ■ Jack Milnthorpe ■ Alexander Mitchell ■ Alix Mitchell ■ Emily Mitic ■ Rebecca Mladenovic ■ Abigail Moise ■ William Moore ■ Georgina Morar ■ Akshay Najran ■ Timothy Naylor ■ Emily Nelder ■ Samantha Nelder ■ Emilie Neville ■ Joseph Neville ■ Ophelia Neville ■ Casey Noakes ■ Ellie Nugent-Spick ■ Jonathan Nuttall ■ Keiran O'Hare ■ Christopher O'Neill ■ George Oakes ■ Elizabeth Owen ■ Isabel Owen ■ Cavan Painter ■ Max Palgrave ■ Dominic Parkin ■ Jack Partridge ■ Remie Pascua ■ Indira Patel ■ Robert Payne ■ Poppy Pellegrini ■ Katherine Perkins ■ Charlotte Perry ■ Joshua Perry ■ Emma Phipps ■ Joseph Pittaway ■ Ryan Price ■ Harry Quinney ■ Christopher Randall ■ Alistair Reed ■ Christopher Reynolds ■ Alexandre Richard ■ Amy Ridler ■ George Robinson ■ James Roots ■ Martha Rowe ■ Shelley Ruffles ■ Andrew Russell ■ Benjamin Russell ■ Rhianon Rymer-Baugh ■ Holly Sandford ■ Edward Saunders ■ Madeline Saunders ■ Olivia Scott ■ Syed Ahmed Shah ■ Matthew Shaw ■ Thomas Shirley ■ Anna Shute ■ Alexandra Simpkins ■ Daniel Simpson ■ Justin Singh ■ Lydia Skinner ■ Ryan Sleaford ■ Celina Smallwood ■ Adam Smith ■ Elise Smith ■ Emma Smith ■ Amy Stainton ■ George Stainton ■ Victoria Steele ■ Chloe Stephens ■ Hannah Stephens ■ Sophie Stowe ■ Michael Sullivan ■ Rohina Takhar ■ Lucy Tanner ■ Amrita Thind ■ Michael Thomas ■ Luke Thompson ■ Maria Thompson ■ Ellie Tinkler ■ Lucy Tinley ■ Loren Tolley ■ Harris Tooke ■ Sophie Tracey ■ Oliver Trotman ■ Louis Turner ■ Molly Venables ■ William Venner ■ Laura Ventrella ■ Bethanie Wallace ■ Oliver Watts ■ Lydia Weeks ■ Sophia Wells ■ Laura Wheatley ■ Georgina Wheeler ■ Dominic Wicketts ■ Jacob Wilson ■ Victoria Wilson ■ Beth Wingrove ■ Alice Winstone ■ Katie Witts ■ Thomas Wood ■ George Woodbridge ■ Joseph Woodbridge ■ Sasha Woods ■ Emmett Yates



Annabel Ackroyd Emma Akhtar Lucy Allen Thomas Bailey Daniel Barnes Maisie Barton-M
 Pervez Batki Chloe Beddoes Emily Beech Ian Benton Matthew Berry Pavan B
 Rachael Biggs Miles Billington Aadam Binamin Bethany Bishop Ellie Blenk
 Douglas Bray Olivia Brown Sophia Brown Cameron Campbell Todd Carp
 Sophie Carter Isaac Chapple Thalisha Chauhan Thomas Clements Louise Clements Oliv
 Alex Cook James Corden Samuel Coulson Rosie Couzens Charlie Craddock Rachel C

Amar Dev Ketan Dhaliwal
 Amy Docker Kirsty Dunbar
 Shefali Dunga Jack Dunne
Hannah Elliott
 Joseph Evans Matthew Fearon
 Lucy Fenn Emily Fielding
 Georgie Flaherty Amy Fogarty
Tristan Franks
 Rachel Fraser Jessica Frost
 Manjot Gahir Harriet Gardiner
 Jack Gardner Charles Garfield



Jonathan Gough Oliver Grant Stuart Grant Harry Gray **Samantha Gray**
Emma Griffiths Edward Halliwell-Ewen Richard Hancock **Christopher Hann**
Daniel Hannon Laura Harcourt **Rebecca Harley-Mason** Adam Hawtin Alex Heaps
Katie Higson Jessica Homer **Thomas Hornigold** Rebecca Hughes Lucy Isaacs
 Emma James Max Johnston Karlissa Khan Ellie King Thomas King Sebastiaan Lamberts
 Jack Lawless **Nicholas Lawrence** Charley Lines Jessica Lockwood Rosemary Lucas
 Caitlin Mallin Cara McEvoy Joseph McKeogh Charlotte McKowen Cerys Middleton
 Umar Moghal Thomas Moore

Holly Morris Natalie Morris
 Jessica Nelson Lucy Newman
 Marianna Nicholson
 Charlotte Osbourn Rebecca Owen
 Thomas Owen John Oxnard
Culum Painter
 Evelyn Paterson Joshua Peasley
 Elinor Penny **Jack Penter**
 Luke Perrins Samantha Prattey
 Amar Puaar Grace Randall
Helena Reilly



Alex Rennison Anthony Richards Luke Roberts **Esther Routledge** Aidan R
Eloise Saunders **Katie Savage** Ella Scott Ruth Sharma **Gurveena Sidhu** Raajun
 Tanvier Sidhu **Rebecca Sisman** **Aaron Smallwood** Adam Smith Ben Smith Jam
Madelaine Smith Jodi Stanistreet Bradley Stonehewer **Emily Street** Oliver Su
William Sutherland Lucy Teare Stephanie Thompson **Kevin Tse** Georgia Vinall Daniella
 Abi Watts **Stef Wenlock** Andrew Wilson Kate Winfield **Caragh Wood** Fenella Wood **Katherin**
Katy Wright Sarah Wright **Joe Wykes** Christina Xydias **Stephanie Young** Kaaz



ARDEN SIXTH FORM

Mather
hogal
nsop
center
er Cliff
unliffe



Rowell
Sidhu
es Smith
umnall
a Warner
ne Wood
im Zia

2013



Farewell Y13

For many Year 13 students, Summer Term marks the end of seven full years at Arden. Our fancy dress party was a wonderful way for Year 13 to celebrate some great times with the friends and staff who have shared in this dynamic time as they step up from school into adult life...

Many of you will have seen the rapidly growing 'A-R-D-E-N' in the Technology Centre. This year we're on the letter 'E', so the aim was to wear fancy dress that started with that letter. As a result there was a wonderful, creative selection including Eddie the Eagle, Elvis, Easter Bunnies, Explorers, Einstein, Evacuees, a gang of Elves... You get the picture!

This now cherished tradition first began four years ago with leavers who dressed to the letter 'A'. The second year were got 'R', the third 'D'; eventually all five letters will be covered. The then question is; do we then go back to 'A' or plunge headlong into 'Sixth Form'? That'll certainly be interesting for the leavers in four years' time - they're going to be 'X' rated!

Despite the unseasonably cold, wet weather - everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day before it was time for final farewell hugs and tearful goodbyes....







The Rt Hon Caroline Spelman (MP) and the Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Tildesley were just two of the guests who celebrated the renaming of the newly refurbished History, Dance and Drama block on Friday 28 June. From now-on the facility will be known as 'The Tommy Godwin Building' in honour of the late Olympian and local sporting hero. □ His daughter and son-in-law, Mrs Kay Jones and Mr Richard Jones, joined Mr Murphy, and a number of local dignitaries to celebrate the occasion. Mrs Jones and Mr Murphy unveiled a plaque and display panel. □ Tommy was a medallist at the 1948 London Olympics, entering team management he became key player in British Cycling post-war, finishing his days as an Ambassador for the 2012 London Olympic Games. □ Tommy was also involved in Arden's own Olympic season of events and helped plant the prestigious Coubertin Oak Tree that now grows on our front lawn. □ Guests were entertained by some of Arden's very talented dancers and musicians in a specially erected marquee, with Hospitality students serving food and drinks. □ Tommy's son-in-law later addressed the guests and expressed the gratitude his family felt, adding "Tommy would no doubt have enjoyed the party and the honour immensely". Mr Murphy explained that it was a privilege to be able to honour Tommy in this way commenting that he "epitomised all the positive Olympic values that Arden believes in", going-on to say that it was "a fitting opportunity to commemorate a true friend to many and a great member of our local community who had achieved so much with a lasting legacy that would inspire students for years to come". □ It was a lovely afternoon and much appreciated by our guests from the local community and those who had known Tommy during his inspirational life.

Honouring a true British Olympic Hero

Tommy Godwin

1920-2012

Mr Murphy and Mrs Jones during the unveiling.



Solihull MP the Rt Hon Caroline Spelman joins Mrs Kay Jones and Mr Murphy in the marquee.



Tommy Godwin 1920-2012

Born in Connecticut, USA on 5 November 1920, Tommy Godwin is one of Britain's true Olympic heroes, holding numerous national records and winning two Olympic Medals in 1948 London Olympics. Moving to the UK with his British parents in 1932, he first developed an interest in competitive cycling following the 1936 Olympic Games, swapping his Wrenson's delivery bike to become the fastest British 1,000m cyclist by 1938, going on to win the prestigious 1,000m event at Coventry's The Butts in 1939.

Hopes of a place on the 1940 Olympic team fell by the wayside during the early years of the war, and he concentrated on his work as an electrician at the famous Birmingham motorcycle and bicycle makers, BSA. As the tides of the war moved in our favour, sport started to return to a buoyant Britain. Godwin was unbeaten in five-mile events and won the Cattlow Trophy at Fallowfield, Manchester, in both 1943 and 1944, also winning the five mile at the 1944 national championships.

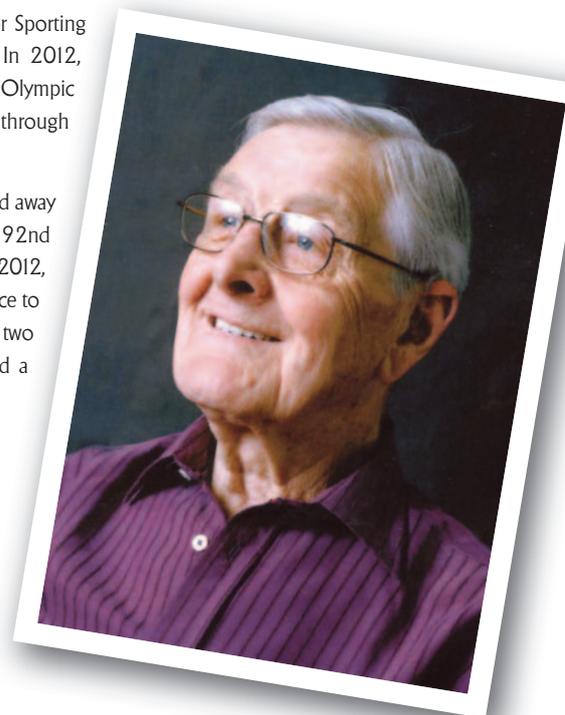
He repeated this success in 1945; also collecting the prestigious Gold Column sponsored by his employers, BSA. He went on to win two further Gold Trophies outright – the Muratti Gold Cup in 1948 and the BSA Gold Vase in 1951. The end of the war saw Britain hosting the 1948 Summer Olympics. Mr Godwin won two Bronze Medals; in the team pursuit with Robert Geldard, Dave Ricketts and Wilfrid Waters; and the 1,000 time trial. In 1949 he won the 4,000m national event. He went on to come third in the 1,000m at the 1950 British Empire Games, but was already starting to move towards work as both a coach and manager in the sport.

His career in the development of up and coming cyclists was crowned by the appointment Cycling Team Manager for the 1964 Summer Olympic Games

in Tokyo. He was also Chairman of Racing Committee for the British Cycling Federation and President of both Solihull Cycling Club and the Birmingham R.C.C. In 2010 Mr Godwin was selected to be an Ambassador for the 2012 London Olympics.

Visiting Arden Academy in this capacity early in 2012, he kindly took part in the ceremonial planting of the Coubertin Oak Tree that now stands in our grounds, and was our special guest of honour at our 2012 Sports Awards Gala Dinner during which the first "Tommy Godwin Award for Sporting Dedication" was awarded. In 2012, aged 91, he took part in the Olympic Torch Relay on its path through Solihull.

Sadly Tommy Godwin passed away just three days short of his 92nd birthday on November 2nd 2012, but happily he had the chance to be intimately involved in two British Olympic Games and a third as Team Manager.







UPPER SCHOOL
Spring Concert

“These are the days of our lives” sang Alex Cardall, former Head Boy and stalwart of Arden’s Performing Arts Department. It was a poignant lyric, befitting the final concert for our students, as many of those from Year 11 and Year 13 will be moving on to pastures new.

The audience was treated to a breathtaking range of music including; ‘Pirates of the Caribbean’, an ‘Evita’ medley, showstoppers from ‘We Will Rock You’ all rounded off to the usual high standard by Arden’s Senior Band playing highlights from ‘Moulin Rouge’ and selections from ‘Les Miserables’. The diversity achieved by our students was illustrated particularly well by BATS – their three offerings started with ‘It Had to Be You’ and Taverner’s ‘The Lamb’ before finishing with Coldplay’s ‘Fix You’ – all sung beautifully.

As is the custom at this event, the evening finished with a heartfelt thank you and presentation of gifts from the students to Miss Shearwood, Mr Micklewright and Dr Seago for their commitment, guidance, enthusiasm and patience over the years.

A big thank you goes out to all the students and staff who provided such a wonderful evening of entertainment - it was a real showcase of remarkable talent.



Helen arrived with a BBC film crew in tow in time for Friday's debut performance and delighted cast and audience alike by appearing on stage during the Mad Hatter's Tea Party. She really took her role to heart, allowing the backstage support crew to create her costume, hair and make-up.

Still 'in character' Helen helped serve tea during the interval when Arden hosted a Tea Party in The Atrium allowing the audience to enjoy a selection of cakes with a well-deserved 'cuppa' with all monies raised going to support Comic Relief. She certainly seemed to enjoy her visit and later Tweeted, 'Arden School put on a Mad Hatter's tea party... Amazing pupils! Thanks for having me!'

The production was also seen by the Mayor and Mayoress of Solihull, Mr Ken and Mrs Janet Hawkins who enjoyed what Musical Director, Sixth Former Caitlin Mallin, describes as 'images of wonder, confusion, fear and happiness'. A production of this size is a huge team effort – performers, musicians, costume designers, make-up, lighting and sound teams all pulled together to put on a stunning show!

A huge thank you to everyone who made 'Alice' such a success.

Cameron Scriven who played 'A Creature' said "a thoroughly fulfilling performance' does not even come close to describing the excitement felt by all those involved in this year's production. Every cast member put their all into producing what many have



ALICE IN WONDERLAND

AS IF ARDEN'S 2013 PRODUCTION OF ALICE IN WONDERLAND WASN'T EXCITING ENOUGH, IT ALSO HAD THE ADDED MAGIC OF A VISIT FROM BLUE PETER'S HELEN SKELTON IN RECOGNITION OF ARDEN'S COMMITMENT TO COMIC RELIEF!

called the best Arden show yet. I know that everyone from the smallest role to the most major had one of the best experiences of their lives".

The King of Hearts - aka Rob Billingham- said "I think I can speak for everybody involved in Alice when I say we were truly sad to leave Wonderland. With the help of student directors, we created a special performance that we will all remember".

"Being in Alice in Wonderland was a truly incredible experience and I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. I loved playing the Cheshire Cat and getting to explore the characterisation and movement within the role. It was fantastic to be surrounded by so many talented students who share the same passion for Drama. Seeing my sister perform in the play as Alice was very inspiring as well as exciting – I felt so very proud of her. Everyone involved contributed to an amazing performance which was very enjoyable and exciting to be in. I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to work alongside some extremely talented, energetic and fun people" added Callum Beddoes

Mary Keast from the Costume Design team said "it was my task to make five Alice dresses and a ball gown for the Queen of

Hearts as well as numerous other bits of costumes including one for Helen Skelton – she was so encouraging! At first it all seemed a bit daunting but it was so exciting to see it come together in the performances. It was an unforgettable experience and I can't wait until next year".

ALICE IN WONDERLAND





In Brief

Maths Challenge Champions

We are delighted to be able to announce that in March a Year 10 team **WON** the Maths Big Quiz at the University of Birmingham! ■ The Arden entry beat 100 teams from over 40 Midlands schools, including many private schools from the region. The teams took part in various maths challenges and quiz rounds. Arden entered three teams, with Ben Jones, Charlie Corden, Kyle Turner and Rebecca Scott coming joint first with 55 out of a possible 60 points. During a tense head to head to crown the winners, Arden solved the 'Countdown' question first beating their rival team to claim a very well-deserved victory. ■ Our other two teams also did well; Matthew Brenton, Conor McGoldrick and Scott Pinwell finishing thirty first, and Emma Cooper, Alison Wilcock, Jacob Knight and George Beard who finished seventieth. ■ Well done to all the pupils for representing Arden so successfully.



NEDRA Returned!

Back in February, a team of Arden staff members took part in the Chamber of Commerce Annual Quiz in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care. Team Captain Ros Harrison was joined by Mrs Bennett, Mrs Brennan, Mrs Foulkes, Mr Evans and Dr Smye. ■ The team (back row left to right, Mrs Foulkes, Mr Evans, Dr Smye; front row, Mrs Harrison, Mrs Bennett, Mrs Brennan) led from start to finish to win in style. They were congratulated at the end of evening and were told that the education of children at Arden was in safe hands!



Arden students officially 'brilliant'

Students recognised as leaders and positive role models were selected to take part in Arden's first 'Art of Being Brilliant' event which took place on 1 May 2013. Not only did the students benefit personally from the experience, but they will now also be able to mentor and coach other students using the strategies they were taught. ■ Andy Cope, who delivered the event, founded the 'Art of Brilliance' in 2004 and shared his passion for motivation and positive psychology with the students in a meaningful, thought-provoking and hopefully life-changing way through workshops, role-plays and a great deal of humour. Parents, Governors and the Mayor of Solihull, Mr Ken Hawkins were invited to join the Arden and Park Hall students for the final session where they witnessed the results of the intensive training at first hand.

Year 7 Enrichment Day

Creative Arts and Technology held an enrichment day for 60 Year 7 students at the beginning of February this year. The students worked in four areas of the curriculum; Product Design, Art, Textiles and Food. The theme for the day was 'Spain', inspiring creative ideas across all four areas. The students produced some very professional dishes in Food, such as famous rice dish 'paella' and the rich potato dish, 'patatas bravas', with most of the students producing more than one dish. ■ The weird and wonderful Catalan architecture of Antonio Gaudi provided inspiration for T-Shirt designs in Textiles, and large-scale pastel drawings in Art. In Product Design, the students were able to experience specialist computer software, using Google Sketch-up to render Spanish buildings in three dimensions, then rotating them to view the building from all angles in an animation. The students really enjoyed the day and got a great deal out of the experience. Congratulations to the day's prize winners; Jude Mountney, Lucy Connors, Erin Laurie, Ben Jones, Harry Robinson, Liberty Severn, Evie Cyprus and Salman Malik.

Year 10 STEM Trip

Members of the Year 10 STEM trip to Birmingham University had a great time! Especially since our pupils were the stars of the show! Charlie Cordon was the Arden representative in the Robotics project and Physics were particularly impressed with Ben Northam (especially with the banana and liquid nitrogen) and Joe Lynock. Both Arden teams annihilated the competition in the Civil Engineering competition and won themselves a Birmingham University tape measure each. ■ The Civil Engineering Department were so impressed by the professionalism of our students and the quality of their ideas that we have been invited back to do a more involved bridge building workshop with them in the future, normally aimed at A Level students!

Alex Kirby RBBI Young Chef finalist

We're pleased to report Arden's Alex Kirby reached the National Finals of the prestigious Rotary Club Young Chef 2013 competition. The final comprised just eight entrants, each representing their home region.

Alex worked incredibly hard to reach the final ahead of a staggering original 6,800 entrants. In the final he created a three course meal that any restaurant would be proud to serve.

The Starter was a 'deconstructed' burger with steak tartar and potato toile. The Main Course was a fabulous sea bass with sweet corn and mushroom puree, spinach and popcorn. Finally Dessert comprised a banana tower with dark chocolate tart and peanut quenelles.

With all of this completed in just two hours, the pressure was certainly on!

We're very proud to say Alex came a very creditable fourth place, he should be justly proud of this amazing achievement... Look out Master Chef here comes Alex!

Alex has been mentored by Neil Steyn, a former Arden pupil who has been working as a Chef at the Michelin Starred Turner's Restaurant in Harbourne. His inspiration, passion and skill played a key role in Alex's success. We'd like to wish both Alex and Neil good luck for the future and hope that they will continue to pass on their expertise to our younger pupils.



WORLD BOOK DAY

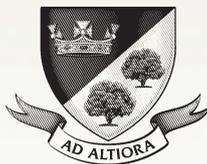
7 MARCH 2013



Arden staff enthusiastically celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as a range of characters from a number of famous tomes.

Arden works hard to support reading across all years, considering extensive reading an essential part of children's wider education - not merely as a vehicle to pass exams. Demonstrating the value placed on reading within the school, all lessons were stopped for ten minutes during World Book Day to enable teachers to read a section from their favourite book to pupils.

Pupils were then encouraged to take part in a quiz in which they had to identify characters including 'Harry Potter's' Hermione and Katniss from 'The Hunger Games'.



West Midlands' Athletics Success

Numerous Arden students recently competed on behalf of Solihull against other district teams in the West Midlands' Athletics Championships. The team not only WON the Championships, but also performed superbly as individuals, indeed several of our students are now West Midlands Champions in their own right:

Ashley Bailey	West Midlands' High Jump Champion
Hallam Cox	West Midlands' 1,500m Champion
Fiona Foulkes	West Midlands' 100m Champion
Oliver Russell	West Midlands' High Jump Champion
Oliver Russell	West Midlands' Javelin Champion

Year 12 Induction

Arden held a very successful and well attended induction afternoon on Thursday 27 June. On arrival, students were greeted by Mr Parman, Head of Sixth Form, members of the Sixth Form team and Prefects. Superb live music was provided by the Ardenaires.

After a welcoming speech by Mr Murphy, the students were taken on a tour of the school by Prefects, where they had the opportunity to talk to members of staff about their A Level subject choices.

The afternoon concluded with all the guests enjoying a hog roast, accompanied by vocals from Hannah Stevens, Isabel Owen and Georgina Wheeler. In spite of the rain everyone had enjoyed a relaxed, yet informative afternoon.

Cadbury World Visit

ON 22 MAY, Arden's Year 10 Business Extended Certificate class went on an exciting trip to Cadbury World. The trip included many interesting facts about the history of the company and featured an educational business presentation with a Manager. There were many fun activities that took place on the day, such as a tour around the factory, a 4D cinema and a cocoa bean ride! We had to work hard though as there were sheets of work we had to complete that would be related to future assignments.

At the beginning of the tour, the guides gave a welcome speech that caught everyone's attention. They explained our itinerary for the trip included the first stop at the 4D cinema, interactive area which gave us the opportunity to play games in a futuristic-looking games room. We then had a tour around the factory where the smell of chocolate made everyone hungry. When the main tour had finished we had our lunch in the outdoor play area.

After lunch, we had a business presentation from a Cadbury World Manager which gave us the chance to ask questions. The day was great fun and it was great to see some of the things we have been taught actually been done in a real business setting.

■ Contributed by Harveen Marwaha.

Warwick Racecourse

Mrs Griffiths and Mr Goodridge took a group of forty Year 8 students to Warwick Racecourse recently. The management were SO impressed with their behaviour that they arranged the opportunity for all of us to be part of the Race Winners' Presentation Ceremony; with Year 8 Representatives, Stefan Mason and Shirin Anari, actually presenting the trophy to the owners of the winning horse!

Year 8 at Warwick Races: Impeccably behaved.



Arden joins the 3D revolution

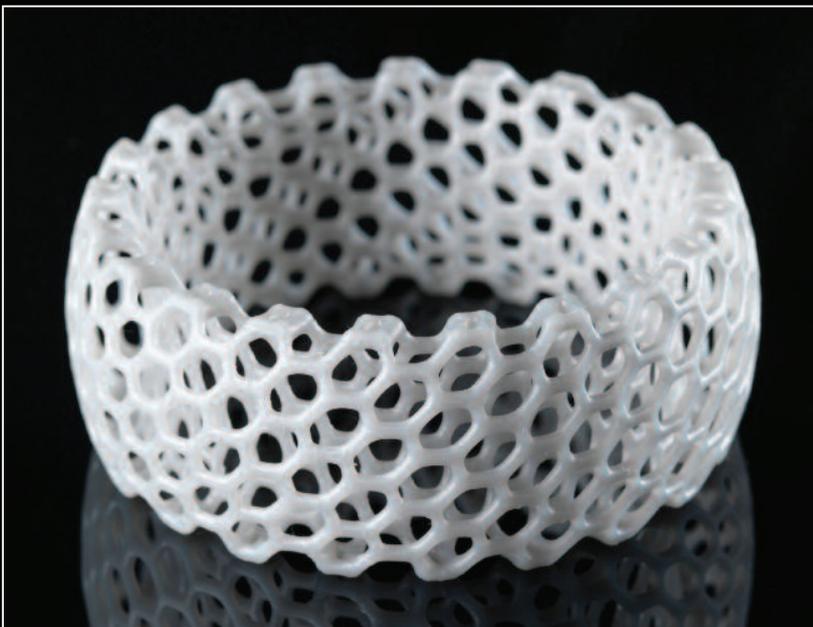
Arden was very fortunate to be invited to take part in a National Strategy to promote STEM links within schools using leading edge technology. The revolutionary new innovation is 3D printing and at this stage the emphasis was placed on getting Science and Mathematics students involved.

So what IS a '3D Printer'? This amazing piece of equipment is quite simply the next revolution in technology; many predict will be in every home in just a few years. It can take a 3D CAD drawing, then using a brilliant piece of software called a GM Code Generator it slices the drawing up into very thin, half a millimetre thick layers. The printer then builds the drawing up on a platform using very fine strands of injected plastic, layer by layer until your design is recreated in 3D!

What did we do? In Science, Year 7 students were involved in a 'predator' project in which they studied predators in the wild. They researched and discussed the benefits of 3D printers and then used 'Google SketchUp' to create their own predators which were then brought to life on the 3D printer.

In Mathematics, Year 8 students were working with co-ordination. Using 3 dimensional Pythagoras and trigonometry, they were challenged with working out the spacial coordinates of the points for 3D objects, for example a pyramid. These coordinates were then used to draw out the object on Google SketchUp and printed out to see if their calculations were correct.

These workshops were carried out alongside the post-16 Product Design students who were testing the new printer's capabilities and using it for prototyping. The possibilities offered by this new piece of equipment are simply amazing.. We all look forward to expanding its use across the curriculum.



Jaguar LandRover visit

In March a group of Year 10 GCSE Business Studies students had a fantastic opportunity to visit the Jaguar LandRover plant in Solihull.

Students were given a guided tour of the production process and were left hypnotised by the speed of the robots' precision movements and the showers of sparks from the welding.

We had the chance to see panels being pressed, the construction of the body frame and the fitting of the engines and seats to the chassis. The tour was rounded off by the privilege of visiting the

Special Vehicles Department at the factory. Here we saw television screens being installed, bullet proof glass being added and even the luxurious customising of the Beckham's new car!

The trip provided us with an excellent opportunity to see the business theories we have studied in class being applied in real life. Students learned about the benefits of 'Just-In-Time' (JIT) production and how Jaguar LandRover holds only four hours' worth of stock on site, saving on storage costs.

Every student felt the trip greatly enriched their knowledge with first-hand experience of a manufacturing plant. It taught us a great deal about the working environment as a whole and provided a greater understanding of the processes involved in making a world-beating product.







AS ALWAYS, every Arden gymnast was a real credit to the school at the recent National Championships. We had a surprise success with the U19 boys team taking third place to receive very creditable bronze medals. Given the team contained four U14 lads and only two U19's this was a simply fantastic result.

The U14 boys were all newcomers to gymnastics, but they still acquitted themselves admirably. Performing in front of an audience of hundreds is no mean feat yet the U14 mixed team delivered a highly polished performance and were unlucky to miss out on a medal. The U19 mixed team also did well against some very strong opposition.

The impressive teamwork and strong support that the gymnasts gave each other was a real pleasure to see. Every one of them gave 100%, but I have to mark out Maddie Reid in Year 7 for a special commendation. She had a frightening crash during her practice vault, skinning the bridge of her nose. Despite being tearful and understandably shaken she stepped up to the mark, pulling off two great vaults just minutes after her tumble.

Above, top: Back row, left to right; Hannah Northam, Lillian Jenkins, Raya Pascua and Ellen McKenning; Front row, Joseph Butler and Will Hitchcock.

Above: Left to right; Will Edwards, Tom Robinson-Jones, Jude Mountney and Harry Llewellyn.

Opposite: Left to right; Callum Beddoes, George Spittle-Maguire, Ed Elvidge, Alex Bouvier, Josh Rice.

Sixth Form Cup Success!

Arden Sixth Form 4 – John Henry Newman 1

Arden Sixth Formers were up against last year's runners up John Henry Newman Catholic College in the Finals of the Solihull Cup. With a buoyant atmosphere in the changing room and many of the squad playing their final game for Arden after seven years at the school, we started the game on a high. The boys in black had much of the possession, but were unable to carve open any real chances with Aaron Williams coming closest with a fierce free kick.

The opening goal came in the twentieth minute as the ball finally crossed the line. Following a video review, the panel eventually awarded the goal to Arden's Ollie Clift who played an outstanding game in the heart of midfield. Harry Cook, Tom Biddle and Williams all had chances to double the lead, but were unable to convert. Two half-hearted appeals for a penalty were waved away from the referee, so Arden broke for half time with just a single goal advantage.

John Henry Newman made a good start to the second half, putting Arden on the back foot for the opening ten minutes. However some excellent work from Michael Breslin resulted in a corner and Aaron Smallwood nearly opened his Arden account but his header was just over the bar. John Henry Newman then deservedly equalised after a good spell of play.

It wasn't long though before Breslin scored a bullet header after 65 minutes, putting Arden back in the lead much to the delight of our avid supporters. Captain Joe Wykes almost added a third goal from a

20 yard shot, but JHN's keeper scrambled it out for a corner. Substitute Brad Carpenter then scored, making it 3-1 and putting the game beyond JHN and spurring a series of substitutes by Arden.

Sam Craven made an instant impact with some positive forward runs. With the game now in injury time, it was only fitting for Arden's captain of two years, Joe Wykes, to score the final goal for a clear 4-1 victory to Arden. With moments left, there was just time for Harry Morgan to make a point blank save at the other end, capping a wonderful personal season.

There are so many candidates for 'man of the match' who deserve a mention; Will Sutherland and Breslin were outstanding at full back, whilst Stuart Grant also had another great game at left midfield. The middle two of Cook and Clift were colossi and Williams worked tirelessly out front and at right midfield. Carpenter also made an impact after, joining the game as a substitute, thoroughly deserving his goal, but Captain Joe Wykes was a well-deserved choice.

It was a great end to many of the lad's school careers at Arden, with Jon Gough, Aaron Smallwood, Will Sutherland, Stuart Grant, Ollie Clift, Dan Barnes, Nick Lawrence and Joe Wykes all playing their final games. Many of these excellent players have represented Arden through all seven years!

Thank you to everyone who came to support us. After the game the lads commented how much the support was felt on the pitch - it was certainly greatly appreciated. We're now looking forward to another fantastic season next year.

■ Contributed by Clift, Breslin, Carpenter and Wykes.



Tennis Slams

Arden's Tennis team played in the Tennis Slams against the area's other schools at Solihull Tennis club. The girls' team had a really successful day, winning the competition and going on to play against eight other schools from Birmingham who had also won their local first rounds.

On Thursday 13 June, Mrs Hull took the girls' team to Edgbaston Priory to play the next round. The Aegon Classic was taking place on the same day, so there were lots of professional tennis players involved in matches at the same time! We played against Kings High School, King Edward Camphill, Sutton Grammar School, Stratford Grammar School, Rugby School and Blue Coat School.

Our first singles player was Ellie Barbieri who won four out of five matches. Year 7's Anna Kirk was our second player out, and she won all but one of her matches. The competition was strong, but so far we were doing really well. Our doubles pairing of Hannah Plumbly and Lucy Munden won ALL of their matches, taking the Arden team into the lead and on the way to the semi-finals. Our second doubles team, Lucy Connors and Emily Baxi, and solo player Victoria Gregory also did well, winning the majority of their matches ensuring our place in the semi-finals against Blue Coat School

Ellie started brilliantly, Anna also won thanks to her superb forehand! Then it was time for the doubles teams.. Hannah and Lucy finished with a clear win. Next up Lucy and Emily sadly lost against very strong

opposition. Despite this, Arden had done enough to play one more match to fight it out for first and second place. We had to play against Kings High School, a very strong team. Once again Ellie was first out first for Arden but unfortunately lost, Anna Kirk was now under huge pressure, but still managed a win! Arden had now lost one and won one, so it was up to the doubles pairing of Hannah Plumbly and Lucy Munden. They played brilliantly and managed to win by three points.

This meant that it was all down to the last doubles match... No pressure there then! Lucy and Victoria played gallantly, but the match didn't go their way. The team were now convinced we'd been beaten into second, but were still desperate to hear the results which were delayed by a sudden down pour!

It was a nervous few minutes until the rain eased enough for the results to be announced... "and the Second Place of the Tennis Slams 2013 is... Kings High!" We were stunned and confused - we'd WON! After Kings High collected their awards it was our turn. We went up to receive our certificates, medals and a glass winners' trophy. It was a very proud moment for the girls.

Everyone in the tennis team had a fantastic day capped with a prestigious team win! We would all like to say a massive thank you to Mrs Hull who made it all happen.

■ Contributed by Hannah Plumbly, Lucy Munden and Ellie Barbieri.



Pictured Mrs Hull with, left to right:
Back row; Anna Kirk, Ellie Barbieri,
Hannah Plumbly, Lucy Munden, Emily Baxi.
Front row; Lucy Connors, Victoria Gregory.

Wacky Races!

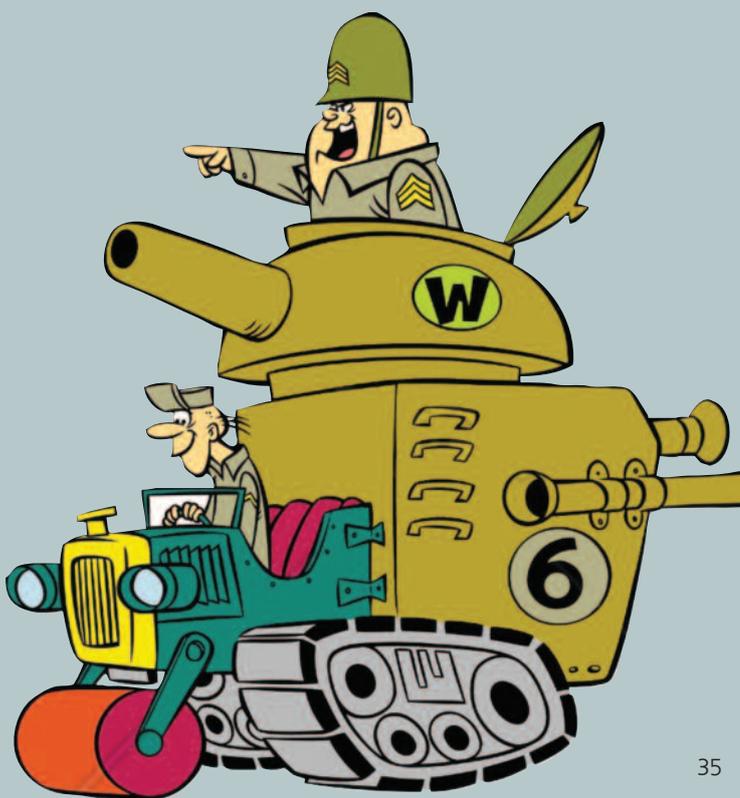
Arden had the opportunity of assisting Dorridge Junior School in a vehicle challenge they were completing. The aim was for students to design a solar powered car using a solar panel to charge a capacitor which was used as a power pack to run the engine. The winning team would be the builders of the car that went the furthest.

Students constructed their car chassis and electronic circuits in class then, using the CAD drawing package 'Techsoft 2D design tools' supplied by Arden, students rendered the developments for their car designs prior to being cut out by laser.

As part of the project, Dorridge students visited Arden's Smart Centre and saw demonstrations of how the electronic circuit was constructed, the laser cutter with which their designs would be cut out and the department's newly acquired 3D printer which they found very interesting.

All this hard work culminated in a race day at Dorridge School, which the many parents and students in attendance thoroughly enjoyed. We helped provide a tremendous experience for the junior students, every one of whom enjoyed the project and finished their cars.

I would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Davies from Dorridge Junior School who organised and arranged the project and Mr Crawley for all his hard work on the laser cutter... Here's to next year when the wacky races can start again.



Community Theme Day

As part of Creative Arts and Technology week in November, many Year 9 students took part in a community theme day. Food students created a variety of savoury and sweet dishes that had been passed down within their community and families; Graphics students worked on a logo for branding of the Knowle Fun Run which was judged by a member of Knowle and Dorridge Lions; Art students visited Knowle for inspiration for their clay work; Product design students designed some community areas for Knowle.

Hairdressing students contributed to an online community; and finally Arden Textile students designed and made wind socks for festivals featuring designs inspired by the local area.

We were lucky enough to have a visit from the Mayor who took also part in the judging of awards from the different areas.

Art workshop with Fiona Payne

Earlier this year, local artist Fiona Payne ran her third annual Year 12 workshop. The workshop encouraged the students in their abstract work, drawing on a range of materials - from credit cards to sponges - to apply paint. Working at a large scale with unfamiliar materials really challenged students to step outside their comfort zone.

After a tentative start, the Arden artists really started to gain confidence from the experience resulting in bold, dramatic images. The positive impact of the workshop can now be seen shining through in many of the students' coursework projects where they've confidently used similar techniques.

We are now very lucky to have Fiona working within the Department as a technician and practicing artist. In addition to supporting the Department on a practical level, she is using her experience and expertise as a professional artist to support our students in enhancing their work.



Year 7 Drama Club present 'The Whale'

For my Silver Arts Award I co-led Year 7's Drama Club with Chloe Thomas as my leadership task. After considering a number of plays we chose 'The Whale' with its interesting story and numerous roles. Auditions took place and planning meetings, not only between myself and Chloe, but also our awesome team including Harriet McGowen, Rachel Holroyd and Simran Kaur. Miss Pearson also played an important part in the running of the club.

My aim was to make the club organised and enjoyable, encouraging other pupils to take part in Drama. We set up rehearsal timetables, registers, plans and designed our own posters for the performance.

The Whale by David Holman is a play based on the real events of October 1988 when three Californian grey whales were trapped under the Arctic ice cap and Point Barrow in Alaska.

The pupils faced many challenges, learning lines, working with each other and learning new skills; having not previously experienced drama. This made the whole process worthwhile for me and the other Year Ten leaders.

The performance went really well and I am proud of all of the pupils, taking a much needed day off the school timetable to work on the show really paid off. The lighting delivered by Max Topham-Steele - Year 7 student(!) - was great! It made the play easier to understand, as well as more professional. The simple costume also made The Whale interesting to watch as it focused concentration on the players. The

pupils rose to the challenge of performing to a drama studio full of parents and siblings, making it a fabulous evening for all involved.

Having learnt a lot from this leadership challenge I hope to continue with my Gold Arts Award next year, as well as continuing to help out with the Year 7 Drama Club every Wednesday lunchtime. We are currently working on a new play to be performed to the new Year 6 pupils joining Arden in September.

■ Contributed by Amy Fortnam.



Sixth Form Rugby referee

ARDEN SIXTH FORMER, Toby Holroyd has recently been officially recognised for his outstanding rugby refereeing skills. "Having played rugby down at the Old Silhilians' Rugby Club since I was in primary school, I was lucky enough to be able to join the Warwickshire Whistlers in October 2011. The Whistlers is a highly successful pilot scheme aimed at encouraging young referees into the game run by the Warwickshire Society of Referees (WSOR) in conjunction with the RFU, which will shortly be rolled out to other societies across the UK." ■ Over half term in October 2011 I went over to a rugby club in Coventry and completed the Entry Level Refereeing Award (ELRA) with 15 or so other 15-16 year olds. The Whistlers had managed to secure an agreement which allowed its members to referee school matches within the local area and for the rest of that season I regularly refereed school matches and Warwickshire Club Festival matches up to U16 level." ■ When I turned 17 in September 2012 I was allowed to start refereeing adult games as a Level 12 referee, as I have done most Saturdays this season. Being a referee has helped me develop many skills, it has given me a better understanding of the game and of how it is played. I have had to learn how to make solid decisions when under pressure, and learn how to receive respect and occasional negative comments from players and supporters of all ages. Becoming a Referee has been very good for my personal development as I have had to learn to command the respect of others and to speak authoritatively in public before, during and after matches." ■ Having had a very successful season, which has included the opportunity to referee at both the prestigious Rugby School and Rosslyn Park, and had an article published in the RFU's 'Touchline' magazine I have moved up a further two Referee Levels. Hopefully I'll continue to improve over the next few years with the invaluable assistance of the Warwickshire Society of Referees." ■ Old Laurentians' team skipper, Tim Chambers was so impressed with Toby's refereeing that he wrote to the Society's Chairman, Steve Challis "It was quite evident from before kick-off that Toby was very young to be taking charge of a game at this level. I felt compelled to write to you as Toby did a first class job of refereeing this game which, at times, had the potential to get 'lively'. He was assured, quietly assertive, kept up well with play and made the correct decisions - adding to our enjoyment of the afternoon immensely." ■ All of our players made comments to that effect and I know that this view was shared by many of the opposition Pinley players... Certainly one of the best referees that we have had over the past couple of seasons and a credit to his Society. Please pass on our thanks and wish him all the best for his future with the whistle!"

Year 8 visits Paris

On Monday 8 April 2013, Year 8 French language students had the opportunity to visit the famous city of love, Paris. After an early night, before we knew it, it was six in the morning. 'Up with the larks' meant nobody's face had fully fallen into place, but we were so excited to get there and see all the sights-regardless! ■ **En-Route!** The coach journey started off, as ever, calm but after the first stop sweets were getting shovelled down and the sugar rush was starting to kick in! However after three DVDs, numerous quizzes on the Spice Girls and countless e-number treats we were finally across the channel and rolling into the French capital! What a relief that was! ■ **Nous sommes arrivés!** We were introduced to our French tour guide before settling down to some well-deserved lunch after learning some important words for eating and dining. Then with a quick location change we arrived at the hostel. The all-important room keys were

handed to us and, after the long day I can safely say, we fell asleep pretty instantly! ■ **Disneyland!** After a relatively peaceful, but cold night everybody was ready and pumped-up for the day's adventures because Tuesday meant we would go to Disneyland! First though was a delicious French breakfast consisting of pan au chocolat, cereals, orange juice and creamy hot chocolate. ■ **All-aboard le charabanc!** Then we had to hop on the coach to our destination! I don't think anyone has ever seen a group of thirty teenagers so excited about reaching Disneyland! We had such a brilliant time going on all of the rides, taking photos, shopping and seeing the teachers staggering out of high adrenaline rides white as a sheet! Best of all, the weather was holding up.. But I spoke too soon because lunchtime saw the heavens open on us! Luckily it did not affect the rest of the day in the slightest because of course we are BRITISH and experts on rain! Unfortunately it was the end



of our time in the Disneyland Park, but we needn't worry as we had 'Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show' to look forward to! ■ **Spectaculare!** It was a spectacular show to behold and the food, of course, was as you would expect; delightful, a highlight was the cookie and ice cream. We all were getting into the cowboy mood and having a great time - we just didn't want it to end! As our entertainment came to an end, it was time to head back to the hotel. On the coach most were half asleep or singing the 'if you believe in magic' song that had been playing throughout our visit. A good night's sleep was needed because we had a long day ahead of us tomorrow. ■ **Stade de France.** Wednesday meant an early start for all of us because we the was day packed to the brim and we could not afford to waste any time hanging about! So, after a very brisk breakfast, it was on to the coach to the Stade de France. This was the place to be for any football or rugby fan because it's hosted some of the most momentous games in the sporting calendar. We were very lucky to have a look at the players' changing

rooms and what goes on behind the pitch. Then it was a quick drive to the boat ride on the Seine. This was a great opportunity to take pictures, sit back and relax and have a bite to eat... Still, there was so much left to do! ■ **Avec le Sacred Heart!** We then took a trip to the famous Sacre Coeur cathedral and took some photos of the beautiful city spread out beneath us. Next up on the checklist of places to go was the Louvre. Unfortunately the gallery workers had gone on strike, so we opted to go shopping then have some dinner. ■ **La tour Eiffel.** The pinnacle of the day was watching the Eiffel Tower light up and sparkle whilst we were standing on it! This was the end of our trip, but we had a wonderful time. We took away some great memories and lots of new French vocab! It was definitely worth all of the long coach journeys because we will never forget this trip!

■ Contributed by Shirin Anari.



Arden Summer Exhibition

Arden was delighted to welcome Solihull's new Mayor, Councillor Tildesley to the Creative Arts & Technology Department Summer Exhibition in June.

Adding to the honour, the previous year's Mayor, Councillor Hawkins also attended which was much appreciated by the staff, pupils and the many parents who also came to admire the artwork, textiles and design products.

We were all teased by the marvellous aromas wafting out from the kitchens where seventeen Gifted and Talented Year 7s were busy creating culinary masterpieces for a competition on the theme of 'rethink'. Dishes had to be designed and made using Fairtrade, locally sourced produce or seasonal fruit/vegetables to ensure they were sustainable.

The unanimous winner, as judged by the Mayor and supported by Mr Murphy, was Annabel Taplin for her 'Pasta Primavera'. The Mayor was keen to praise the work of all the students; culinary and artistic, later Tweeting "incredible art exhibition, amazing food comp well done to everyone at Arden!"



Mayor Tildesley with Annabel Taplin.



Mayor Tildesley with Rosie Breslin.

Serious Games

On Thursday 25 April 2013, Year 10's Computing class visited Serious Games International (SGI) at the Coventry University Innovation Village. The company uses video gaming science and technology to solve business problems and create engaging business solutions. On arrival we were greeted with light refreshments followed by presentations from Frank Mills, the Executive Chair/MD of Coventry University Enterprises and Tim Luft, CEO of Serious Games International.

The group were then introduced to the basics of the Unreal Developers' Kit (UDK) game engine and given the opportunity to put our skills and ideas into practice by creating our own 3D environment. There was a competition to create the most imaginative environment using the tools available.

After lunch, we were given a guided tour of the Simulation Centre which has been created by SGI to train construction workers without the risks of a real construction site. Although this is the main use of the centre, it can also be used to train Aircraft Marshalls and Healthcare professionals. After the simulation centre there was just time to announce the winners of the competition before it was time to return to Arden.

The day offered a fantastic opportunity to gain an insight into the industry and the kind of work that goes on at SGI. We all found the trip very interesting and would highly recommend the GCSE Computing course to anyone who is interested in this kind of work.

■ Contributed by Scott Pinwell, Ben Jones and Jacob Lamb.



Table Tennis News



It has been a busy year for the newly formed Table Tennis club, who have played in a series of team league events at nearby John Henry Newman College, as well as entering individual and team competitions within the Borough. ● Training under the guidance of Dr Cannadine, the Year 8 team have done well, narrowly missing-out on a medal in the Solihull team event, coming fourth. Meanwhile the Year 9 team gained useful experience against older and stronger players from Years 10 and 11. ● Back in school there were House Table Tennis competitions for KS3, KS4 and the Sixth Formers. These were great fun and well attended, with the winners coming from three different houses which was good to see. ● More recently Arden's Year 8 team finished runners-up, with Heart of England just beating Arden into second place in the regional section of the Schools' Table Tennis Competition at Lode Heath School. The winners went on to represent their school at the next round held at The University of Warwick.... Maybe 2014 will be Arden's year. ● There are further events planned for the autumn, depending on numbers the school will try and enter two teams for each event. ● The players listed below have earned their Table Tennis colours which they can now wear proudly on their blazers for representing the school. Well done to all of them, as well as those who have played on a Thursday after school as part of the Arden Table Tennis club.

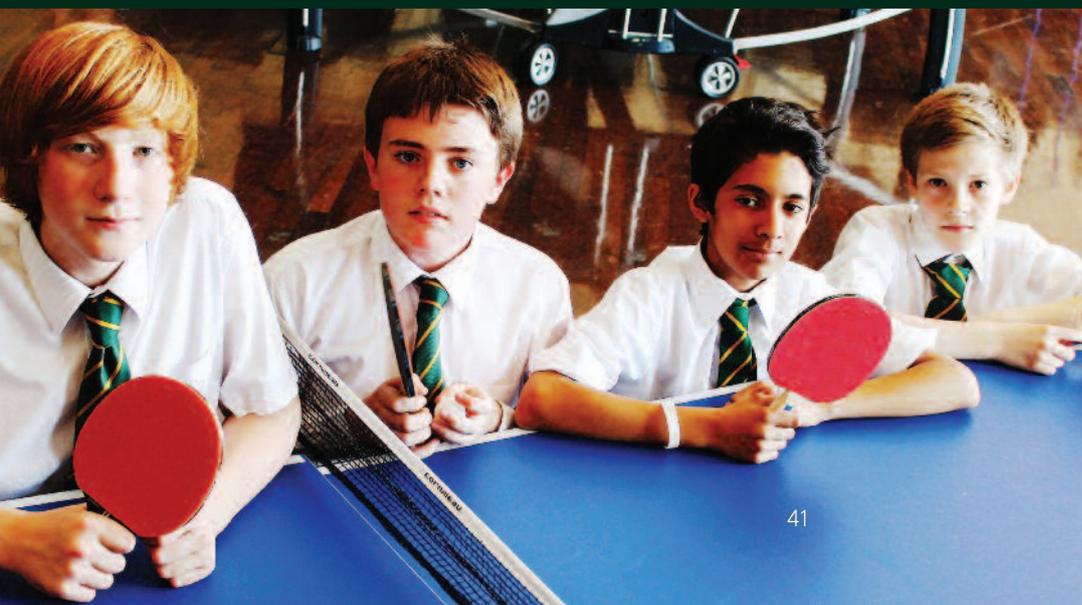
Year 8 Team:

Lexi Bouvier, Joe Warner, Joe bloom, Haider Hussain and Tom Curley.

Year 9 Team:

Jack Dixon, Ben Arnold, Jonah Hughes, Jamie Biggs and Morgan Jackson.

Pictured: Arden Table Tennis L-R: Jack Dixon, Tom Curley, Haider Hussain and Jacob Arnold





Fast becoming an annual cycle tour, Arden's **C2C Challenge 2013** saw a group of determined students and teachers tackle some of the UK's toughest terrain to cross the country between Whitehaven in Cumbria and Sunderland on the shores of the North Sea.

T **Training Rides:** We feel very special to be on the C2C. Everyone tried extremely hard to get onto this trip, because it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience and we are all very grateful to be on it. ■ Our fourth training ride as a team took us south into the Cotswolds and Chipping Camden. DOVERS HILL... We had Kristian Bennett who flew the whole way to the top, and Kathryn Green who was the 'Queen of the Hill'. Sadly Ollie's bike chain came off at the start of this gruelling climb, but everyone helped him get back on his bike. In the end we all made it to the top through pure team spirit with everyone cheering each other on. So that was our fourth ride which went well in the end, although we were sore for the rest of that week. ■ The following Saturday it was off touring round Alton Towers so we could hear the screams. We got off to bad start just about to head onto the motorway to Ashborne for our last training ride. Then Mr Singh said to everyone "I've forgot my cycling shoes" (a likely story!); off he goes back to Arden to get his shoes from his car - phoning us back up to "I've left my car keys on the coach" meaning he THEN had to go home from Arden to grab his spare set! ■ We had waited for about an hour, but the further delay meant we had to set off without him - though he caught us up within 5 miles! ■ You'd think all the bad luck was over, but then Katie cycled over a black cat! Luckily the puss bounded off in one piece (we think). A black cat crossing your path means bad luck, I guess **RUNNING OVER** one is good luck because everything went smoothly then-on! ■ Contributed by Sam Bird and Ollie Russell.

DAY 1 The trip up north wasn't too bad. Though a long journey, we sang most the way making it go a lot quicker. Some of the views on the way were stunning, especially as we approached Keswick and the Lake District. On our arrival at our overnight stop, we sat down for dinner, before going to the park to play rounders and rugby - which was great fun. ■ Contributed by Sam Bird and Ollie Russell.

DAY 2 **Whitehaven-Keswick:** Day two started off with a 40 minute drive to Whitehaven which was fab! When we got there we unloaded all the bikes. There were a lot of birds around meaning one pooped on Gin's bike. Before we set off we had to take a lot of photos to prove that we actually started by the sea! Mr Singh splashed us - which I'm sure he will regret when we get to Sunderland. ■ The ride started off easily on an old railway track. It seemed to go slightly up for a very, very long time! Later on it got very hot - as you can tell in the photos from our strange tan lines; especially Ollie! ■ Before lunch provided by the Keswick youth hostel at Loweswater we had to climb another steep hill in the burning heat which meant that we were all very tired and ready for the break. The chocolate cakes were the best, especially as they were gluten free! After lunch Mr Singh's bike broke which caused a small crash - including Fiona's bike doing what looked like the splits! Mr Singh's wheel then broke for the second time straight after he changed it! ...continued overleaf.

An on the road account...

DAY 2 The next big hill that we had to face was the Whinlatter Pass. It was extremely steep and very long too. Sam was first up for the boys and Kathy for the girls. After everyone had managed the long slog there was a very quick, fun descent that was SO fast we had to go in single file to prevent any accidents! In the middle of the decent we stopped for some photos of the fantastic view over Bassenthwaite Lake and Mr Singh and Mr Robinson did some realistic impressions of 'Sally' (Sam and Ollie). ■ We then had to make our way through the busy streets of Keswick where there were some very impatient drivers who seemed to want to run us over. Toby got a puncture right in the busiest part. ■ At the hostel we all wanted to jump in the shower - a bit of a struggle with only one between dorms! For entertainment in the evening we all played 'around the world' table tennis which a few people weren't the best at...Not naming any names (Lily)! After table tennis, we all went to our own dorms and chilled until it was time for an early night ready for our very tiring day ahead. ■ Contributed by Fiona Foulkes and Nicole Beard.

DAY 3 Keswick-Alston: Today is supposed to be one of the hardest days and it WAS extremely tough! It was a long day of around 50 miles and the weather turned nasty after the first day of blazing sunshine from yesterday. ■ In the morning we left Keswick and got straight into it. Toby got another TWO punctures, making a total of three so-far, I think it must be some sort of record! ■ The day started with light rain as we rode round the south face of Blencathra - one of the biggest mountains in the Lake District! Lily and Ginny had a little tumble just before lunch while going down a very steep, sharp bend, but luckily they were fine. The morning break was at a café in Greystoke (home of Tarzan) to drink hot chocolate and stuff ourselves with delicious cake. We then officially left the Lake District, riding under the M6 and through Penrith into the Eden Valley. The views were simply amazing, though the temperature plummeted as it started to pour down. ■ We stopped for lunch at Langwathby in torrential rain. Mr Singh made the mistake of

going down a kids' slide - getting even wetter than he was before! After that the SEVEN mile climb up Hartside began. It is no exaggeration when we say it was sheer hell. ■ At the summit just under 2,000 in the sky we were all expecting fantastic views, but the weather was SO atrocious we couldn't see a thing - just a thick blanket of cloud beneath us. ■ Sam was the first up the mountain, closely followed with Kristian, Toby, Ollie and Kathryn. After meeting up at the top and refuelling with more hot chocolate and cake we began the scary, but exhilarating descent down towards Alston and a bed for the night! ■ Mr Singh put together a hilarious quiz for the evening, with lots of rounds like 'Name The Celebrity', 'Dingbats' (which Mr Robinson was very excited about), Music rounds and General Knowledge. ■ The winning team was the 'Hartside Top 4', so-named in honour of being the first the mountain. Other teams were 'Laura' (an inside joke) and 'Blibblob-Cupcakes - You're A Disease - You're Out' - an even more inside joke. We all enjoyed the quiz, the first of its kind for Arden on the C2C. ■ Tomorrow we will be off to Edmundbyers. Wish us luck! ■ Contributed by Megan Perry and Ellie Rylah.

DAY 4 Alston-Edmundbyers: Day 4 was 36 miles and it felt like the hilliest day of the week! We started off on Alston's really steep, cobbled High Street with many of us struggling to get up it. ■ After a few more climbs we came across a very steep descent. It didn't go down well with Mr Singh, because a while later we found him with cuts and bruises to his head, elbow and knee. ■ Thankfully there was a strategically located bike shop at the bottom of the hill so at least we could fix his bike. We hid in the minibus, trailer and a phone box to escape the cold and wet whilst his bike was fixed. ■ We finally came together at lunchtime ready for the afternoon. Toby managed yet ANOTHER puncture, ensuring his name would go down in the record books with four punctures in the space of just three days! ■ The blistering descents down off the Pennines in gale force winds left a few people shaken up. With the wind blowing straight across the road, many found it hard to remain on the left right side - and even to stay on their bikes! ■ A few more

hills lead and we were at Edmundbyers and the last hostel. We quickly got ready for our first meal out at the Manor Inn. The food was delicious, especially the sundae for pudding with fudge sauce and a chocolate brownie! ■ This evening's entertainment was hosted by Mr Robinson; every student received an individual award for different aspects of the trip, such as 'King' and 'Queen of the Mountains' which deservedly went to Sam and Kathryn. ■ Contributed by Katie Mladenovic and Gin Kinahan.

DAY 5 Last Day, Edmundbyers-Sunderland: We started our last day with Sam, Ollie and Toby cooking breakfast for everyone. Unfortunately it turned out that eggs weren't Sam's strong point! After breakfast it was over the first serious hill of the day (and the last of the journey) and on towards the coast and our finish line! Once we'd polished off the climb we realised that it could only get easier because it was all down hill from here. ■ The day passed really quickly and soon we were at the monument marking the end of our journey at Sunderland. After pausing for numerous pictures it was time to finally complete the C2C by going into the water. Most of us ended up diving fully under the water so we were soaked when we finally got out. ■ Looking back it was a fantastic experience that we ALL enjoyed being part of. On behalf of the all the students taking part we'd like to give a massive thanks to Mr Robinson for organising it and all the helpers, including Mr Singh, Mr Green and Mrs Bennett, for making it possible by cycling with us and driving the support bus. We would really recommend this trip to anyone who likes cycling or would just like the challenge. ■ Contributed by Toby Green and Kristian Bennett.







Harriet McGowan and Rebecca Scott.





The Wiz of Ardz

'A fantastic show of two halves!'

The first half of the show started with a gripping contemporary group piece, 'Out of the Dark'. It was performed by some very talented Year 7 and 8 dancers and choreographed by Miss Battle. 'Out of the Dark' was followed by performances from Mrs Churchill's 'Arden Dance Company', which showcased pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 with contemporary, jive and Irish dance routines. The first half was then concluded by the beautiful angelic voice of Sixth Former, Izy James singing 'Somewhere over the rainbow' accompanied by Dr Seago on the piano.

Part Two

The second half of the show was the 'Wiz of Ardz', performed by 32 auditioned dancers from Years 7 to 10, produced and choreographed by Miss Murray. This 35 minute all-dancing showcase was an interpretation of the classic 1930s movie 'The Wizard of Oz'. The production maintained the basic story from the movie, but with no vocals or acting it used a variety of expressive movements and dance genres; contemporary, soca, salsa and street dance; to tell the story with an amazing twist.

Year 10 was represented by Sky 1's 'Got to Dance' finalist, Rebecca Scott playing 'Dorothy', Katie Rennison as 'Scarecrow', the 'Good Witch' was played by Harriet McGowan and the 'Wicked Witch' by Abbie Gould. Year 8 dancers included Morgan Scriven as 'Tin Man' and Eleanor Mitchell as 'The Lion'. Not only did they put in superb performances themselves, but each of the lead dancers contributed hugely to the choreography and organisation of the other dancers.

Praise Indeed...

"The choreography was superb, the choice of music made me giggle and I loved the interpretation of the musical. What a thrilling night. I am 'blown away' by the evening. Superb, still smiling from ear to ear" commented Ms Lewsey, Arden Assistant Principal.

"Wow, I have never seen anything like that in my life, what a fantastic show, very entertaining" added a parent attending the performance.

"I had a really good time and thought the performance was FANTASTIC! We have so many talented dancers!" Mr Goodridge, Head of Year 8.

Choreographer, Miss Murray was very pleased, commenting that "All the hard work paid off, well done - thanks to all the dancers, helpers and staff who contributed to such an amazing night. I'm now looking forward to next year's dance production!"

Abbie Gould, Harriet McGowan, Morgan Scriven, Rebecca Scott, Eleanor Mitchell and Katie Rennison



2013 London Marathon

Sunday 21 April saw three Arden staff members participate in the London Marathon, 2013. All three raised money for charity; Mr Simpson ran for Macmillan Cancer Support, while Dr Smye and Mr Pillinger were supporting the Young Epilepsy charity. Dr Smye's account of the event begins the day before... "We travelled to London to register and pick up our timing chips. In the evening we attended a pasta party, eating as much carbohydrate as we could manage before retiring for a good night's sleep!"

On the day itself there was an amazing atmosphere - this is what all our training had been building up to! There was a real sense of anticipation at the start; when the first runners moved off and the rest of us advanced towards the line we knew this was going to be a great experience. The crowd was tremendous all the way, cheering and willing us on. The route was lined with wellwishers for the whole 26 miles. As a result, even when it started getting tough around the docklands area the support kept us going. After a few hours of running we came in sight of Big Ben and knew the end was near."

Crossing the finish line in front of Buckingham Palace meant we'd succeeded; all our training through the snow and cold had been worthwhile. It is an experience we will never forget. Special thanks must go to Mr Singh who sadly had to withdraw only weeks before the race, but who still drove down to London and did much to look after us while we were there."

Over to Mr Simpson and his experience... "Have you ever been told that things get easier the more you do them? It may be true of many things, but it is not true of marathon running! This year's marathon was my third, having previously run it in 2008 and 2009. I felt like I had some unfinished business with the streets of our capital, aiming to complete the 26.2 miles in under 4 hours."

The training through the winter was tough, but with the finish on the Mall always on my mind I kept focused and determined that I was going to win my own personal battle with this awesome event. The weather on the day was great, although seeing the sun after months of darkness was a bit of a shock!"

My training had gone well and I was running at a good, constant pace - something all the experts say is the only way to run a good marathon. I set off running 9 minute miles and felt really good. However, runners often talk darkly about 'THE WALL' and unfortunately I ran headlong into it at around 20 miles. I have to say it was a very tall, very hard wall and it took quite some getting over."

I started to slow down and soon realised my sub-4 hour marathon was not to be. I was lifted at 23 miles by Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain - the Arsenal and England player - providing me with a Lucozade, and managed to haul myself round, crossing the finish line in 4 hours 12 minutes. It was a respectable time, and though just a little outside my target was still a personal best... I suppose targets ARE aspirational after all!"

Overall, it was a superb experience and one I would recommend to anyone who has the desire. It IS a big undertaking though, but is well worth the effort, because the sense of achievement afterwards is massive. People have asked if that's it?... Am I finished with marathons? The answer? YES... For now!"

Hearty congratulations to all three members of staff who went through all the training and hard work to raise money for charity. To-date, £5,700 has been raised for Young Epilepsy - if anyone would like to contribute to help us reach the magic £6,000 target, you can do so via ardenmarathon.co.uk



Mr Singh, Dr Smye and Mr Pillinger.

80s Day



It was way back to the days when suits were shiny and mullets were cool as Arden made a huge success of its 80s Day in aid of Comic Relief!

This was another amazing, fun-filled charity day that illustrated Arden's commitment to fund-raising... The fancy dress theme for Red Nose Day 2013 was the 1980s. As ever students and staff really took the theme to heart - shops within a ten mile radius must have been stripped bare of leg warmers, shell suits and various other items of fluorescent nylon clothing!

There were several TV greats featured... Crocket and Tubs from Miami Vice were a popular choice, as well as a brilliant Vyvyan from The Young Ones. The day included a 'Harlem Shake' and a 'Gladiator' style contest among many, many other events... Not to mention a huge quantity of fabulous cakes that were eagerly snapped up!

As already mentioned in this issue, Arden received a visit from Blue Peter's Helen Skelton who got involved in a fundraising 'Mad Hatter's Tea Party'. The visit was in recognition of Arden's continued support of Comic Relief over the years and we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made this support possible.

The total raised was an amazing £4913.23!



Arden does 'Fame'.



Some 'SUPER' Mario Brothers: Mr Pillinger, Mr Hooper, Jamie Blewer, Gabriel Henderson & Mr van der Merwe.



Year 11 Rubiks Cubes.



'Sonic' Read and Mr Marlow.



Mr Hunt waxed for charity!



Crockett, Hulk Hogan and Slash.



Harlem Shake in an Arden style.



A Hero in a Hard Shell: Mrs Hull with Jack Partridge and Isabel Owen.



Top Guns!



Arden's own Baywatch 'Babes'.





Ski Trip 2013

Excitement grew as the February half term came upon us and the imminent Year 10 Ski Trip. Students had been waiting 16 months for this adventure and we were all prepared for an amazing trip. We headed off to Saalbach in Austria to view the fabulous alpine scenery and the awesome skiing and snow conditions that awaited us. I could continue to elaborate on the trip for many a page but let's hear what the students thought in the words of Ben Northam...

'Are we there yet?'

The 24 hour coach journey got off to a good start with Sarah Dawes putting her bag on the wrong coach; 'skilled skiing' and 'reading signs' clearly don't go well together. We scraped into the ferry port at the last moment, just in time to catch the boat and embarked for the journey that lay ahead. Although the coaches consisted of 'mature' Year 10's, this didn't stop the endless singing, fidgeting and choruses of 'How long left?' which were answered by the patient Mr Evans who, every time, put his hands about half a metre apart and replied with 'This far!'

Saalbach

We stopped at the side of a large Austrian mountain which loomed over the coach, then it was a mad rush to see who could get onto the taxis first. As we entered the cosy, warm hotel, it was 'survival of the fittest' to see who could get the first shower. Once we got over the initial desperation to be clean, we finally saw the beauty of the resort from our hotel, which was right on the edge of a ski slope. After a well-needed night's sleep, we went first thing to get our ski boots which went relatively smoothly. The Year 10 skiers were then placed in the hands of our capable, yet crazy, instructors who took it upon themselves to go as fast as we possibly could and over just about every off piste jump they could find. Although this was tiring, it was definitely worth it! The conditions were perfect - but just weren't quite right for making snowballs!

There were nine groups and every day two people would earn the silly hat award for doing the daftest thing - on or off the slope. Every group has their own tales to tell, so I will share just a couple of interesting award winners from my group:

On the second day, whilst Group 1 were still finding their skiing legs, Becca Hicks decided to try and be a bit fancy by going over a massive jump. However, afterwards she had clearly decided against stopping because we found her hugging a tree! Another memorable moment was when Will Stride attempted to show off to the girls of Group 5 by going very, very fast past the group over a jump. Needless to say he wiped out and slid 20m down the mountain on his backside, thankfully I think any pain was probably forgotten due to the sheer humiliation!

The skiing itself was tremendous and everyone improved a lot during the week, whatever standard they were before!





Freizeit (Free time)

Alongside the awesome skiing, the teachers set up some fun evening activities. The first of these was ice skating where Mr Singh decided he wanted a few extra hats and so took everybody else's to put on his head.

The next of our eventful evenings out was a pizza night. Will Cutbill toppled over a small ledge on his chair and took out an ice bucket in the process. It was clearly just any excuse to get revenge on the ice that had caused him so much pain the night before!

As the week drew to an end, we still had one more evening to spend in glorious Saalbach. Everyone had a great time whilst travelling; Miss Cassidy particularly enjoyed herself showing the students, and those who attended the presentation, her dancing skills to 'Pokerface'. We did the evening in style as rather than staying in the sports hall at the hotel, we went to a local club to dance and receive the awards for the week. It was a fantastic evening and was finished off by a lovely rendition of 'Angels' sung beautifully by the teachers!

French Border Control

The last day of skiing was brilliant, as we sped down the empty slopes in perfect conditions for four hours, though sadly it was then time to set off home. We arrived at the ferry port on time to meet the moody faces of the French Douanes. Not only was it irritating that we all had to get off, but the coach being checked consequently made us late for our ferry!

Despite the hold up we finally arrived home just about in one piece... It had been an awesome week and I think everyone wishes we could go back again!

Thanks to Ben for his fantastic account of the trip, I know it reflects the overall opinion of all the students... It's another successful Arden trip and a ski boot full of memories for students to take with them. I would like to personally thank all the students for making it so amazing and leaving me with some wonderful memories, and of course kudos to my colleagues for making the trip so easy to run!

Here's to next year... Flachau, Austria here we come!

■ Contributed by Mr Eades.





FutureChef 2013

Laura Ventrella's Journey to the National Finals in London

8,768 school heat competitors... 76 local finals... 12 regional finals... And our Laura made it to the National Finals!

The challenge in the School Heat Stage was to cook a hot main course in under an hour within a budget of £5.00. Passing this first test, Laura went on to represent Arden in the Local Final held at Wolverhampton in which she had to prepare and cook another hot main course, with hot or cold dessert for two within a budget of just £7.00.

Laura's Heat winning menu was Sage and Mushroom Stuffed Pork Tenderloin with a Potato Rosti and White Wine sauce, followed by luscious Raspberry Meringue tart and Passion Fruit Sorbet.

After winning this local round Laura went on to participate in one of the twelve Regional Finals. She received mentoring, encouragement, expert advice and assistance for the remainder of the programme from Chef Dan Robinson. Having gained a great deal from the mentoring they have received, the regional finalists had to prepare and cook a hot main course and a hot or cold dessert for two.

Laura won the West Midlands Regional Final and took her place alongside just eleven other finalists from the original 8,768 entrants at the FutureChef 2013 National Final held in London.

At the final, the format of preparing and cooking a hot main course and hot or cold dessert remained, but this time it was for three and she had a choice from a specially selected basket of ingredients and two hours to serve up her entry. Laura's menu consisted of a tempting Sage Crusted Pork with Wild Mushroom Tortellini, Butternut Squash Puree and Spring Vegetables served with a Mustard and Broad Bean Sauce followed by a delicious warm Chocolate Fondant served with Poached Pear and Pistachio Praline Ice Cream.

Despite Laura's valiant efforts she sadly missed out on taking the FutureChef 2013 title, but everyone who has supported Laura throughout this process was delighted at her success in reaching the finals after putting in such a brilliant performance at every stage in this extremely prestigious national competition.





ITALY 2013

Day 1: We arrived at Arden at about 4.00am Sunday morning! Everyone was excited about the days ahead in lovely Venice. Despite all being tired we managed to stay awake all the way to Manchester airport. After a good few hours checking-in, we were finally on the plane ready to take off for our adventure. The two hour flight, was followed by a short 45 minute coach trip to our hotel. Everyone was either resting after the gruelling journey or taking photographs of the amazing landscape around us.

On our arrival at our accommodation, we were allocated our rooms and got a welcome chance to unpack and freshen up after the long journey. Because of the hour time difference between England and Italy with our clocks going forward one hour for British Summer Time as well, nobody knew what time it was! After about five minutes of confusion, we finally got it sorted and everything was settled. Eager to get the best of every minute in Italy, the teachers decided to take us on a walk to the sea and a town nearby. The beach was really lovely and it was nice and sunny. The town was fascinating with lots of small shops selling food and little gifts. We all bought Italian ice cream which tasted amazing as we wandered through the streets. While buying our ice creams, some of us accidentally spoke Spanish or French instead of Italian which amused the shop owners no end! We returned to the hotel for tea before being told what was

planned for the next day. Back in our rooms the busy day saw us ready for our beds! The end of a long day; the journey was exhausting, but we were all excited about the days ahead in Venice.

Day 2: Up with the larks at 6 30am we got ready for another busy day ahead of us. Everyone looked much better after a good night's sleep. Today we were escaping to the beautiful city of Verona. After breakfast, we joined the coach for the two hour journey to the city. Nobody knew what to expect, but it was just as beautiful as everyone promised. Our tour guide told us about the town's history as we rode the coach to a hill offering amazing views of the ancient city. Later our walking tour took us to see 'Juliet's Balcony' and the fabulous Roman Coliseum.

Day 3: Another coach ride, this time to the ferry port and a short trip across the bay to Venice. We didn't have long to wait as we already had our tickets. We actually arrived too early to go into the basilica, so had an hour's free time. People with roses came up to us and tried to hand them to us, we were warned NOT to take them as you have to pay for them afterwards. Finally the basilica opened its doors and we waited patiently in line outside. We had to leave our bags in a basket which a lot of people weren't pleased about.

After our tour of the basilica, we had some more free time before going to the gallery. We then went straight to a museum about the famous Bridge of Sighs which included a visit to the dungeons where we saw drawings that prisoners had carved into the walls. There was plenty more free time around Venice with the chance to buy souvenirs such as masks.

Some of us discovered an amazing hot chocolate, ice cream shop. I'm sure everyone found something to their 'taste' in there! As we were leaving a particularly high tide saw Venice start to flood, we hurried back to the ferry and the return trip to the hotel.

Day 4: On this, our last full day, we went to the massive Gardaland theme park. It was amazing! It poured down on the way, so everyone assumed it would be a miserable day, but on our arrival after three hours in the coach, the weather was glorious making it a great day. We split into groups depending on who would go on the scary rides. I went on the 'Blue Tornado' with my friends which was like being strapped in to 'Top Gun' supersonic jet. We stayed at Gardaland until 5.00pm so didn't get back to the hotel until 8.00 that evening, a long day but well worth it! The hotel served us up with pizza, chips and tiramisu on our return which was really good.

Day 5: This wasn't really much of a day as we were travelling home. At the airport, my bag broke and I had to get it wrapped in bright pink cling film. There was a delay but the flight was fine and we all landed safely back at Manchester ready for the journey back to Arden. Everyone went home exhausted, but having really enjoyed a fantastic trip. If there is another Venice trip next year my message is - GO!

■ Contributed by Elizabeth McLurgh and Lucy Slaney.



We hope you find Ad Altiora enjoyable. If you have any special news, or would like to help by contributing articles for consideration, please email our Editor, Mrs Jenkins at newsletter@arden.solihull.sch.uk