

ad altiora

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

Issue Seven 2015/2016



ARDEN

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Ad Altiora

Editor: Mrs. Adrienne Jenkins
newsletter@arden.solihull.sch.uk

Publisher: Arden, Station Road, Knowle,
Solihull, West Midlands B93 0PT.
01564 773 348
www.arden.solihull.sch.uk

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Welcome to this, our latest addition of 'Ad Altiora', the Arden academy magazine which showcases some of the wonderful achievements and experiences our students have enjoyed throughout this last academic year.

There have been so many highlights and successes this year that it is hard to fit them into one newsletter, but I hope you will agree Ad Altiora gives a flavour of the many opportunities available to our students.

Although each year is different, there are some aspects to life at Arden that remain a constant and one of those is the calibre of our Senior Pupils and Leadership Teams. Every year it seems to get harder to choose which students will represent their peers and the school as they are all so keen to give something back to their community. The selected students were incredible ambassadors for the school and accomplished a wide range of duties with pride and commitment. I am sure this year's teams will succeed equally well (more can be seen of our new team in this issue).

In addition to representing the school, the students were part of the cohort that sat their GCSEs. The Class of 2016 achieved truly impressive results given these turbulent times and changes in the way the Government measures student outcomes. Once again, almost 100% of our pupils achieved 5 A*- C GCSE grades or equivalent. Of these, almost 80% achieved A*-C in English and Mathematics. Our results at A* are once again well above the national average and the percentage scoring this highest grade has increased against a national drop in A* passes. Two of our students, Shirin Anari and Isla Chaplin, achieved A* in EVERY ONE of their ten GCSE subjects. Our students continue to excel at the top grades of A* and A with almost a third of our students achieving these grades in five or more of their subjects.

The Class of 2016 also included Year 13, totalling 170 students - the largest number on record at Arden. We were delighted to report an A Level pass rate of 99.6%, with well over half of our students gaining the prestigious A*-B grades and more than 80% of all grades being above grade C. With all students doing so well it is hard to single out special praise, but we wanted to specifically congratulate Mary Keast with her 4 A* Grades, who is on her way to Cardiff University to study Medicine. Dan Davies scored three top grades is now off to Cambridge to study Natural Sciences. We look forward to celebrating these successes at our annual Awards Ceremony in November as we did with our Class of 2015 students. The evening is often referred to as a 'jewel in the crown' of Arden's calendar and it is indeed a fantastic event which recognises not just academic success, but a range of achievements within the school and local community.

Arden prides itself at being at the heart of the local community. This was particularly evident when, along with primary schools from the area, our students supported a 'Vision for the Future' session at Solihull's Civic Suite. The forum discussed the future of Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath and was an amazing success due to the enthusiasm of all those taking part.

We were honoured that Rt Hon Caroline Spellman found time in her busy diary to open the Sir Adrian Cadbury Building in October. Sir Adrian had long standing links with Arden and each year a student is awarded a prize in his name for outstanding A Level results - this year's recipient was Emma Smith. The new building has had an incredible impact on the school, the extra classrooms providing state-of-the-art facilities for Mathematics, Geography, ICT and Physics.

There have been many, many highlights throughout the year, but the recent production of 'The Sound of Music' has encapsulated many of the qualities that Arden promotes; determination, excellence, courage, inspiration, friendship, equality and respect; all are evident, not just within the cast and crew, but throughout the whole school. Everyone involved should be immensely proud of their achievements - it showcased perfectly what makes Arden so exceptional.

I would like to conclude by thanking all members of the Arden family; students, staff, parents, governors and the local community - everyone plays a part in making Arden such a special place for our young people, enabling them to build strong foundations and become successful citizens of the future.

Martin P. Murphy *Academy Executive Principal*

Top: Mr Murphy and Mary Keast, who scored FOUR A* Grade A Levels.
Bottom: Shirin Anari and Isla Chaplin who achieved A* in EVERY ONE of their ten GCSEs.



A Year in Review

Another extremely busy year has come to an end at Arden. Everybody views Arden from their own particular perspective. As chair of Governors I am privileged to see the many different parts of the Academy family at work and at play on a weekly basis.

Arden has for many years prided itself on some important things. The first of these is to be a 'local community' school with an intake of young people from the area. A huge percentage of the students walk to and from school each day; this is a reflection of their closeness to school and is of course a positive health benefit for all of them.

The staff of Arden work tirelessly to give each student an opportunity to do as well as they can and so enabling them to achieve their academic potential. Giving attention to individual's needs and extra care when needed are two of the reasons why we have, once again, seen some great end of year results.

That care for the individual is extremely important and can be seen being given in different ways by teaching staff, by support staff AND by fellow students. Some of that care comes by getting alongside somebody who is struggling either academically or socially. One of my greatest joys in school is handing out the awards to students who have been nominated by their peers for what could be described as being 'really good friends'. Other care is shown by students to each other as they learn and play sport together or perform in a school production. Last term, the streets of Knowle seemed to come alive to 'The Sound of Music'. What brilliant entertainment hundreds of people enjoyed in the presence of the Arden Von Trapp family and its allies.

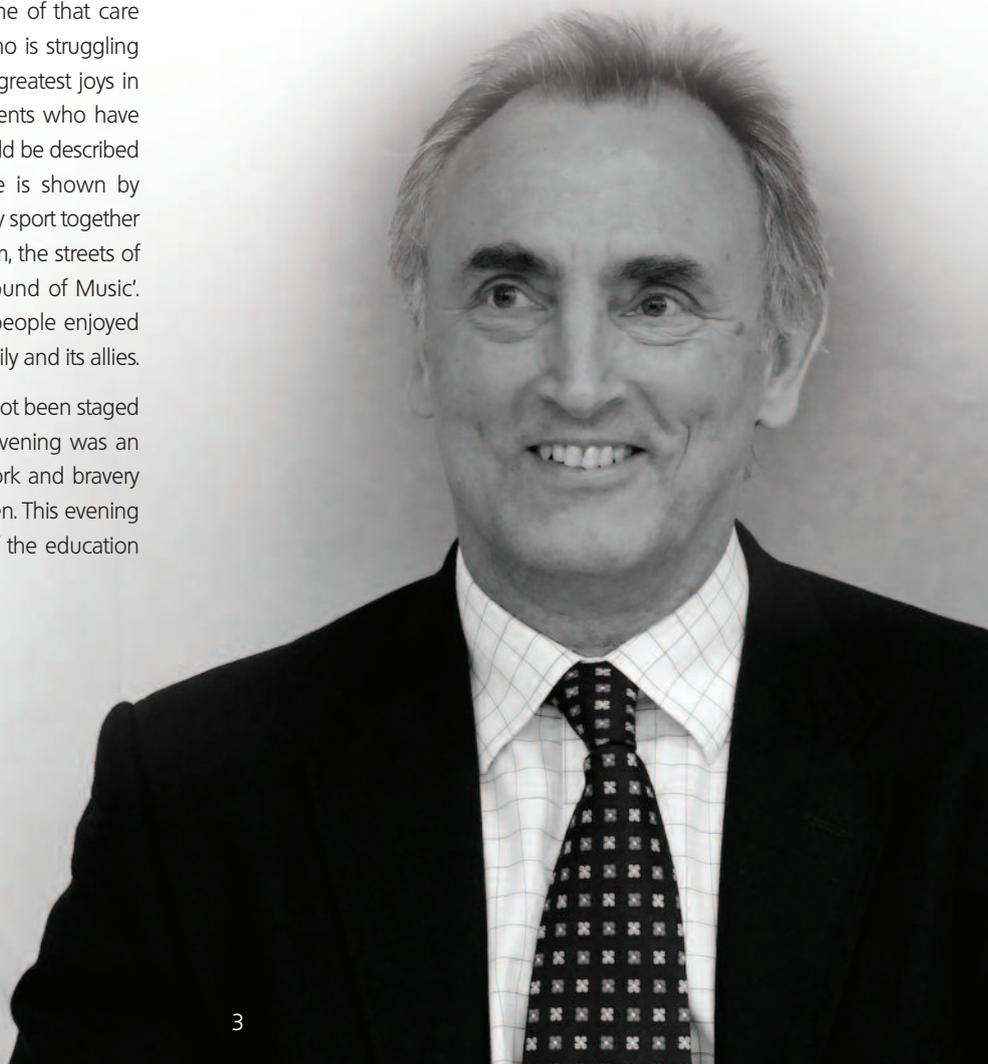
The Gymnastics and Dance Showcase has not been staged for several years. Nevertheless, this year's evening was an incredible display of skill, creativity, teamwork and bravery from students across the age range of Arden. This evening provided another view into the breadth of the education taking place in the Arden family.

Every family has its challenges as well as its joys. Arden is facing significant funding challenges in an educational world in which the goal posts are continually moving. It will continue to be hard work to deliver an education that both meets the academic needs of each individual student and which sets them up for the opportunities available for them after leaving school. Arden is a values-based school and those values of friendship, respect, excellence, equality, courage, determination and inspiration are an important basis to all that goes on both in and out of the class room.

The summer holiday is now gone; the exam results are public; hundreds of new uniforms have been tried on, bought and are now seen all over Knowle. We look forward to the next year of hard work, achievement and development. Whatever your part of the Arden family, I wish you the best for the 2016- 2017 school year.

Geoff Harley-Mason

Chair of the Arden Governing Board



Arden PTFA



PARENTS, TEACHERS, FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Introducing Arden PTFA

Earlier this month, Arden's PTA became a 'PTFA' - a Parents', Teachers', Friends' Association. The reason for this change is to encourage greater membership and collaboration by appealing to people beyond Arden's teachers and parents, including:

- Relatives of students, such as grandparents, aunts, uncles, adult siblings etc.
- Former members of the Arden Parent Teacher's Association.
- Parents of former Arden students.
- Non-teaching staff at Arden.
- Members of the local Knowle community.
- Community groups and organisations from the Knowle and wider Solihull area.

Arden's new PTFA continues to provide much-needed funds which enhance the education of our children, and this month alone has agreed to fund vital sports equipment, including new goals for the Astro turf pitch. The PTFA has also agreed to fund the purchase of two mini-buses from September 2016.

It is our goal to support the PTFA in their fantastic work and we would ask that you consider becoming a member, or even an occasional helper. Working with the PTFA does not mean you are tied down to monthly Committee Meetings for example, although becoming a Committee Member would be most welcomed. If you prefer, you can assist at specific events, or you can offer maybe one hour of your time during each half of a term... YOU determine your level of support you can give.

Continuing the good work of the PTFA requires your support. The Arden Senior Management Team, including myself, regularly meet with the PTFA and we have come to know them as a really great bunch of dedicated individuals who, not only raise lots of money for Arden, but also manage to have lots of fun in the process!

Established events, such as the hugely popular Family Fireworks display, this year to be held on Saturday 5 November, and the Hollybash which will take place on Saturday 3 December, require some practical help. However, perhaps you have a great money raising idea which you would like to pitch to the PTFA, if so, please feel free to pop along to one of their monthly meetings which are held here at Arden from 7.45pm on the first Tuesday of every month.

To register an interest in working with the PTFA, please email adminptfa@arden.solihull.sch.uk.

For further information about this important organisation, visit the dedicated PTFA page on our website, www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/welcome-to-the-arden-ptfa/

Thanking you in advance for your support.

Mr M Murphy, Executive Principal and President, Arden PTFA

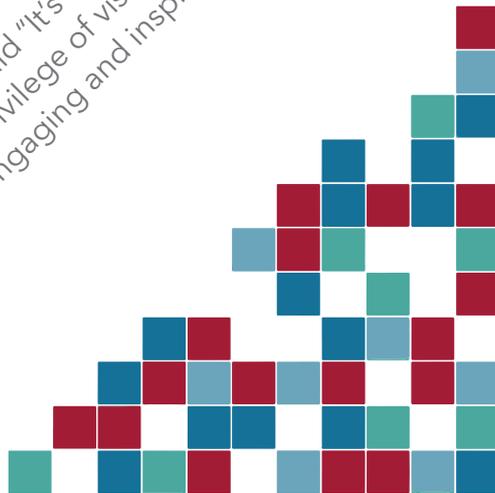


Prestigious SSAT Award

We are absolutely delighted to be able to confirm that Arden has once again won an 'Schools, Students and Teachers' network 2015 Educational Outcomes Award.

This prestigious official accreditation recognises Arden for being in the TOP TEN PER CENT of all non-selective schools nationally. It is measured on attainment in our 2015 Key Stage 4 examinations, and is based on our students' best eight average point scores.

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT said "It's my great pleasure to commend Arden on their excellent 2015 performance... I have the privilege of visiting a lot of schools and I am always impressed by the creativity of teachers in engaging and inspiring their students".



**EDUCATIONAL
OUTCOMES
2015**





Arden's World Champion

In December 2015 Arden Year 13 student, Rebecca Scott took part in the World Dance Council Championships with her partner Lloyd... **WINNING** to become **WORLD Under 19 Latin Dance Champions!**

The pair, who were both aged just 17 at the time, beat strong competition from across the globe, winning ALL FIVE competition dances; the Cha Cha, Rumba, Samba, Paso Doble and Jive.

During the same World Championships, which were held in Disneyland, Paris, they also became finalists in the World Under 21 Latin Dance competition; having already finished as Runners-Up in the British U21 National Championship in November 2015. The pair also made the Final of the British Amateur Championship – having beaten numerous adult couples!

We are extremely proud of our World Champion and her incredible achievements here at Arden. She has been a fantastic role model during her time at Arden; not only does she have an outstanding academic record, she has also been a superb ambassador for the school, particularly in her position as a member of the Year 11 Leadership Team...

In fact, we are very much in awe of how she manages her extremely busy schedule SO successfully!



Sam Jones, Head Boy

Being the Head Boy means you are the face of Arden. The nervous Year 6 and Year 7 pupils look up to you; the parents of the future students expect you to show them why Arden is such a great school and every member of Arden expects you to represent them in a positive way. So, to be asked to be a Senior Pupil and the Head Boy was unbelievable. After a student and teacher vote, as well as two interviews with senior members of staff, over 240 students were narrowed down to eight Senior Pupils, and the Head Boy and Head Girl. To be chosen to be Head Boy is a real honour; I can't wait for Year 11 and to work with such a brilliant team next year!



Georgia Green, Head Girl

I feel absolutely delighted and excited to have been selected as a member of the Senior Pupil team and as Arden Head Girl. To be nominated by my teachers and fellow pupils was a great honour and I am determined to be a good role model and ambassador for the school. I am incredibly thankful to have such an amazing and talented group of people around me, I'm sure as a team we can work together to help improve the school and give back to the Arden community. We are all thoroughly looking forward to the year ahead and the challenges it may throw at us!



Rosie Breslin

For all of us, it's a real privilege to be chosen as a Senior Pupil and to now be considered an ambassador for the school. I hope to be a positive role model for younger students and aim to represent the school well in the community too. I am excited to become part of the team and to work together with them to give back to Arden, which has given us so much. I'm also grateful for the other amazing people on this team – we already get along so well and I'm really looking forward to everything ahead of us.



Joe Gould

I feel extremely privileged to have been selected as a Senior Pupil and as an ambassador for our amazing school. It is an honour to be recognised by both the staff and my peers in being put forward to represent the school. It was a tough interview process and to be selected was a massive achievement for me. Arden has provided me with numerous opportunities in the last four years and finally I am able to give something back to the Academy. I'm really looking forward to all the opportunities and experiences to come. Working with such a diverse group of people will make the experience even better.



Arden senior team

Towards the end of Year 10, students are nominated for the prestigious position of Senior Pupil. There are eight Senior Pupils, comprising four girls and four boys, and including a Head Girl and Head Boy. Nominations come from peers and staff, with each potential candidate having to go through a selection process that culminates in an interview with members of Arden's Senior Management Team. The role of Senior Pupils is a very responsible one and is perfect for those who want to develop personal skills and leadership qualities and take on extra responsibility, whilst enhancing their own profile and that of Arden within the local community. The Team become positive role models for students in all year groups and are particularly active in welcoming the new Year 7 pupils when they start in September.



Tom Parkin

I am honoured to have been selected as one of the Senior Pupils at Arden. I'm now looking forward to representing the Academy in the local community.

I'm also looking forward to an exciting year in my new role and to the chance to work with such a great group of people through all of the challenges the role may bring.



Alisha Sharma

It's a real honour and privilege to have been given the opportunity by the staff and my peers to represent such an amazing school. I will do my best to inspire and encourage the younger members of the Arden community to become the best versions of themselves they can be and I will wear my tie with pride. To be surrounded by such an enthusiastic and charismatic team makes the experience all the more worthwhile. I can't wait to start making memories as well as making the school proud.



Arabella Trett

I am very grateful to have been selected to be part of the Senior Pupil team and to know that I can use this opportunity to give something back to Arden.

I feel particularly honoured to have been selected by both teachers and students to represent the school. I'm really looking forward to the year to come and hope I can make a difference.



Charles Watson

I'm delighted to become a Senior Pupil as it's an important role I've wanted to undertake since my first day at Arden.

I love being able to help people and I hope I will inspire future students to take on the role. I'm also really looking forward to representing the school in the community.

Main picture: Arden's Senior Pupils 2016-2017, left to right: Sam Jones (Head Boy), Alisha Sharma, Tom Parkin, Rosie Breslin, Joe Gould, Arabella Trett, Charles Watson, Georgia Green (Head Girl)

Arden Leadership Team 2016-17



Lucy Connors, Lead

I am extremely grateful to have been given the opportunity to become head of the Leadership Team. The roles of both the Senior Pupil and Leadership Teams are ones that I have revered since I came to Arden in Year 7, so it is a real honour to have been recognised by both staff and peers as a suitable candidate for these positions. It was an extremely rigorous selection process and I was delighted to have made it to interview, let alone to have then been given the position of Lead Student Leader. I am tremendously excited for the year to come, and everything it will bring with it!



Jacob Arnold, Lead

I feel extremely honoured to become part of the Leadership team. Ever since joining Arden in Year 7, I wanted to become a 'leader' in some way or other within the Academy. I promise to make a difference in the school, I am determined to help those in the younger years with any problems they face, and will continue to do my best to be a great ambassador for the school. I feel I have great leadership qualities, and this is why I am eager to help the school through my new role.



Lucy Bugg

I'm very honoured to have even been considered for the role of a Leadership Student, so to have been chosen is a great achievement for me. I'm really looking forward to working with such an incredibly responsible, respectful and passionate group of young people and the chance to be an ambassador for such a high achieving school. In addition, being given the opportunity to help combat bullying within the Academy and supporting the younger members of our community is going to be very rewarding for me and a very humbling experience.



Josh Craven

After going through the steep learning curve of a tough interview process, I'm really pleased to have been given the role of a Leadership pupil and am particularly looking forward to working with my own leadership team, as well as the Senior Student team as well.

I feel sure this will be a highly rewarding role for me. I also hope that the whole Academy community will be positively affected by the work we all do.



Mia Davies

I am delighted to gain the opportunity to of becoming a Leadership Student, as I feel that I can fulfil the role. I feel that it's a great achievement to get nominated by your peers and teachers, and I'm extremely proud to now represent Arden. Being given the opportunity to work with students from our younger years is going to be very rewarding and I'm sure I'll gain great insight from the experience. I think that everyone has done extremely well to win these roles and I'm really excited to work with the other members of the Leadership Team.



Max Nagra

I'm grateful for this opportunity, primarily for the fact that it means that both my fellow students and my teachers feel I would be a good ambassador for Arden.

Given this responsibility, I feel I'm going to be able to make a positive impact within the Academy and I look forward to working with this excellent student team.



Kyle Watt

I feel very honoured to be included in the Leadership Team. I was extremely happy when I found out I had been put through to the final sixteen by my teachers and the student body. To be honest, I thought the nerves would go away, but they only got stronger as we came nearer the decision. I simply can't describe the feeling of relief I felt when my new role was confirmed. I now look forward to working with the team to help better our school.



Hope Talbot

I am extremely proud of my nomination and of gaining my position as an Arden Leadership Student.

I am so excited to start working with the team and am so lucky to be surrounded by such incredible people.

Main Photograph: The Senior Leadership Team 2016-2017, left to right: Hope Talbot, Team Leaders, Jacob Arnold and Lucy Connors, Max Nagra, Lucy Bugg, Kyle Watt, Mia Davies, Josh Craven

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

'The Sound of Music' was the choice for Arden's annual production. Somewhat later than usual in the academic year and after many Year 11 and Year 13 students had left... It was a total triumph! It was an ambitious project but one the whole school came together to support. It has received many glowing reviews, overleaf is one written by 'Love Midlands Theatre' (www.lovemidlandstheatre.co.uk).

A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved; students, staff and parents; it was a phenomenal success!





THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Many groups would shy away from the challenges that such a well-known and much-loved family story like 'The Sound of Music' presents... Arden does no such thing, confidently pushing ahead and creating a truly wonderful and very professional school production that measures up to the prestige that Arden shows have come to claim.

As 'Maria', Olivia Saunders provided stunning vocals and good interaction with the other characters, creating lovely, intimate scenes with 'The Mother Superior' played by Carmen De Pons. Playing both Mother Superior and 'Elsa Schraeder', Carmen De Pons excelled, managing to keep her characters separate and engaging, with particularly enjoyable renditions of 'No Way to Stop It' and the beautifully sung 'Climb Ev'ry Mountain'. Both Olivia and Carmen interacted very well with Callum Beddoes' 'Captain Von Trapp' Callum performed authoritatively as the stern and forbidding Captain, transitioning nicely to the softer and more romantic character we see as his relationship with his children and Maria flourishes. In addition, James Dunbar as 'Max Detweiler' really brought the character to life; expertly delivering all the asides and jokes with great comic timing and joviality; a much-needed drop of humour and light-heartedness in the quickly darkening story.

Katie Davie was enchanting as the innocent 'Liesl', performing a lovely rendition of 'Sixteen Going on Seventeen' and sharing great chemistry and charm with Ben Harley-Mason, who portrayed the smitten yet politically conflicted 'Rolf' well.

Making up the rest of the Von Trapps; Rachel Evans, Lucy Bugg, Hannah O'Leary, Archie Spittle-Maguire, Georgia Fair and Rosalie Carter; all worked very well together, easily slipping into their roles as the playful younger children and coming together with great vocals and enthusiasm for famous numbers like 'Do-Re-Mi' and 'So Long, Farewell'.

A veritable crowd of Nuns, Nazis and Servants supported the leads admirably and certainly filled the group scenes in the Abbey and the Party with hubbub and life in a way that a small cast would struggle to achieve – it was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and energy shared by the players! Well done to everyone for so deftly managing some very quick costume changes, large set moves and numerous different small dance and music segments; a particular highlight being the Nazi Plate Dance!

Whilst the energy dropped a little nearing the end of the first act, we were immediately boosted back up going into the second half. Whilst stage's size slightly limited the sheer number of cast members, it was fantastic to see such hard-working and like-minded people all coming together to share a love of performing!

A special mention must also be given to the 'backing singers', whose gorgeous harmonies perfectly melded with the voices of the cast, as well as the live band conducted by Dr Seago; their joint efforts really enhanced the talents of the cast.

Congratulations to all cast and crew for working together to create such a smooth and enjoyable production!





ROTARY CLUB WINNERS

Arden has regularly entered Rotary Young Writers Competition over last few years and has enjoyed some significant success.

However, this year has been a particularly exciting one for our Senior writers, as they managed to make a clean sweep in the 1060 District made up of 62 smaller Rotary Clubs, with their submissions for the task 'Our World is Beautiful'. An Intermediate submission also won second place in the District Competition.

1060 District Senior Winner:	Lucy Jones
1060 District Senior Second Place:	Sam Jones
1060 District Senior Third Place:	Miranda Vaughan
1060 District Intermediate Second Place:	Emily Harris

Senior Winner and Second placed Lucy and Sam are twins by the way; adding another interesting dimension!

Even more success came with the announcement of the Winner of the national competition, in the senior section: Lucy Jones. This achievement involved her beating submissions from as many as 1,800 Rotary Clubs nationwide! We are absolutely thrilled to see her excellent work receiving national recognition.

If you would like to read her winning piece it can be seen on the Arden website at www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/news-events/latest-news/rotary-young-writers-competition/

Whilst there innumerable writing competitions across the UK, there are two huge advantages to the Rotary competition; it allows our young writers to create work for a specific audience and purpose and exposes their work way beyond the confines of school. The recognition and feedback that winners receive from Rotary members is invaluable in helping to develop their personal style, as well as allowing them the personal satisfaction of their writing being received 'in the real world'.

We are already planning our approach to next year's competition!

Below: Rotary Winners; Colin Winstone of Knowle & Dorridge Rotary Club with Miranda Vaughan, Sam and Lucy Jones at the Year 10 Awards Ceremony.





ARDEN 2015 AWARDS EVENING

The **Annual Awards Evening** is often referred to as the ‘Jewel in Arden’s crown’ and quite rightly so, as it recognises the fantastic personal and academic achievements of our former Year 11 and Year 13 students... Many of whom take a break from university life, and travel from far flung corners of the country to attend this special evening. The Sports Hall is transformed, the musicians finely tuned, the VIPs present, the lights dimmed and we’re good to go for an evening of justified celebration.

This year, Arden was delighted to welcome Kate Grey as our guest speaker for the evening. Kate stepped up at very short notice as the original speaker, Baroness Sue Campbell, was unable to attend. Kate is no stranger to Arden, as she joined us in 2012 to celebrate our many Olympic events.

As a Paralympic Swimmer, Kate represented Great Britain for ten years. During that time she competed at European Championships, World Championships and the 2008 Beijing Paralympics. Following her illustrious sporting achievements, she has now begun carving a new career in the world of media and broadcasting.

Pictured Opposite: Head of Year 11, Mr Guv Singh, delivers his address.



ARDEN

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A W A R D S

E V E N I N G

Photographs: **1** The Mayor's Consort, Mr Clive Slater; Mayor of Solihull, Cllr Glenis Slater; Arden Chair of Governors, Geoff Harley-Mason, our guest speaker, Kate Grey and Arden Principal, Mr Martin Murphy. **2** Winners of The Janet Nash Maths Award, Laura Wheatley and Daniel Simpson with Guest Speaker, Kate Grey. **3** Winners of The Knowle & Dorridge Lions Prize for Music, Megan Hathaway and Ben Harley-Mason with Mayor of Solihull, Cllr Glenis Slater. **4** Kate Grey with William Davison, winner of The Governors' Cup, and Chair of Governors, Mr Geoff Harley-Mason. **5** Kate Grey with Oliver Mason, winner of the Year 13 Principal's Prize, and Mr Murphy. **6** Kate Grey with winner of the Year 11 Principal's Prize, Kristian Bennett with Mr Murphy.



Communicating with Parents goes high(er) tech

At Arden we are constantly seeking ways to further improve our communication systems and wish to use technology wherever possible.

We currently use an emailing system called 'Schoolcomms', which is a free service and one we will continue to use when we need to send you detailed information, such as reports and letters. However, we now wish to extend this service to include the use of text messaging, which will be a more efficient way of communicating shorter messages.

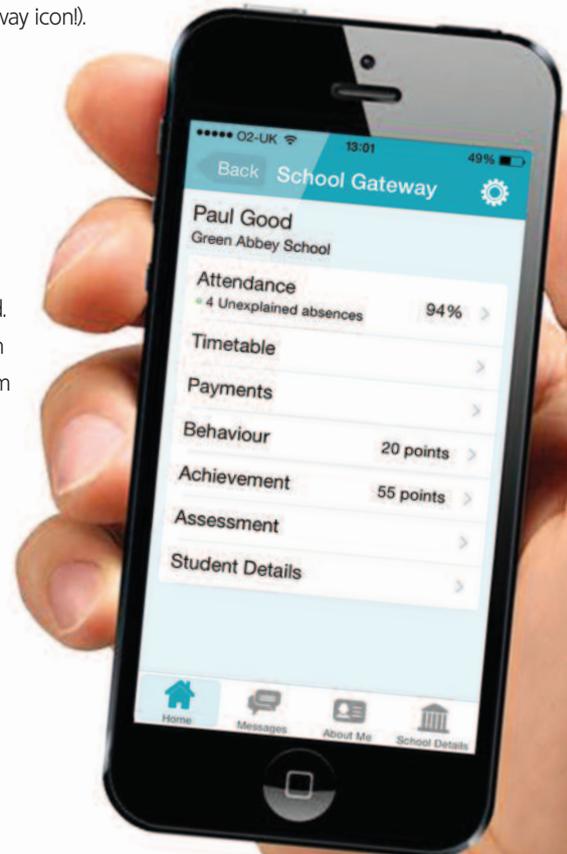
Previously, there was a cost implication in using the texting service, but that has now changed. The new service is called 'SCHOOL GATEWAY' and in order to use it you will need to download the special FREESchool Gateway App. If you have an Android or iPhone smartphone, you will need to download the free 'School Gateway' app from your app store. By doing this we can send you text messages and avoid the cost, AND you can message back for FREE. It's quick and easy to upload:

- Search for the School Gateway App in your app store (make sure it has the School Gateway icon!).
- Register as a New User, providing your email address and mobile telephone number.
- A PIN will be sent to you via text.
- Enter the PIN to LOG IN.

Ideally, we would like to be able to contact ALL parents using this method. If you do not have a smartphone, then you will still receive text messages from the school, but there will be a cost to the school. Where BOTH parents wish to receive emails, you'll both need to download the School Gateway App.

Many thanks for your continued co-operation. Kind regards

Mr M Murphy, Executive Principal



In Brief

Birmingham City Mission Appeal

Thank you to everyone who made the Toy Appeal on behalf of Birmingham City Mission such a fantastic success! Many of you sent in wonderful gifts while others donated money. Your generosity was overwhelming - the representatives from the mission were incredibly grateful.

Arden's Senior Pupils purchased toys with the money donated ensuring that every age of child is catered for. Birmingham City Mission will now be able to distribute gifts to children who wouldn't normally be able to enjoy the festive period.

Pictured, top right: Senior Pupils, left to right: Head Girl, Shirin Anari and Stefan Mason, Head Boy, Charlotte Lack and Morgan Scriven.

Pictured, bottom right: Senior Pupils, left to right: Ed Elvidge, Max Wilkinson, Lucy Munden, Morgan Scriven, Charlotte Lack, Megan Burn and Head Girl, Shirin Anari.





TEENAGE CANCER TRUST

ARDEN was delighted to welcome representatives from Teenage Cancer Trust into school on Wednesday 15 June. The charity was here to deliver information sessions to students from Year 12 and Year 10. While cancer can be a difficult subject, the sessions were sensitively handled and in an age-appropriate manner.

There were several videos to accompany the event. One which was particularly relevant, given the time of year, featured the 'ShunBurn' campaign and explained how damage done to skin by sunburn or too much tanning when you're young could lead to skin cancer developing in later life.

A range of subjects were covered including:

- What 'Cancer' is.
- Common signs and symptoms of Cancer.
- The impact of Cancer on a young person.
- The various types of treatment.
- Healthy Living and how a healthy lifestyle can actually reduce the risk of Cancer.

Photograph: Alice Whitmarsh, Teenage Cancer Trust Education & Awareness Executive, Louise Walker, Anaiya Chohan and Arden Assistant Vice Principal, Mrs Collett.





Iceland

On Friday 23 October, we all met up at Birmingham Airport ready for a fantastic trip to Iceland. Everyone was really buzzing about visiting this amazing place, and the prospect of duty free. After a two hour flight we landed in Iceland, though we were quickly delayed by Georgia losing her bag, finding Celia's bag and then realising Celia had Georgia's... I was a bit confused! However, we soon made our way to our first hostelry, Hotel Eldhestar, where we got settled in to our rooms before dinner. After our first Icelandic meal many of us took advantage of the jacuzzis outside. A few people were even lucky enough to see the famous Northern Lights!

After waking up crazily early, we departed for the Þingvellir National Park, where we saw some stunning waterfalls and lakes. From there we made our way deeper into the mountains to go caving, before unfortunately our bus broke down, leaving us to hike to the cave. Once we arrived, we quickly suited-up in some rather sexy boiler suits and helmets and descended into the cave. It was then time to get down to what we had gone to Iceland to do; some Geography.. So we looked at some rocks!

Then it was time for the spa.. The infinity pools looked out onto lakes surrounded by magnificent mountains and, despite the fact the whole place stunk of rotten eggs, it was really beautiful. Before going to the Hotel, we stopped off at a geyser, which also stank like egg!

The next morning we woke up to snow! We travelled to more waterfalls which you could actually go under and into, and which were absolutely stunning. We also travelled to Eyjafjallajökull, a volcano which erupted a few years ago and went to the Visitor's Centre where we learnt all about a single family and their experience of the eruption. We then went to another waterfall (can you see the theme here?), before returning to our hotel.

One of the huge excitements of Thursday was that the Hotel served waffles for breakfast, rather than the usual selection of cheese and meat. So, naturally we all stuffed our face and left on the coach happy! After a '20 minute' two hour-long walk to the top of a mountain, passing some beautiful views, we saw ANOTHER, albeit breathtakingly beautiful, waterfall!

After taking loads of group shots we made our way to an ice lagoon. A few members of the group were lucky enough to spot some seals during a boat trip around the frozen lake, but even if you missed them, the views alone were special enough! Back at the Hotel Mr Anwar and Miss Walsh lost abysmally at 'Articulate', and everyone took the opportunity for some nice down time.

On the last day we all packed our bags for the final time and loaded them onto the coach before making our way to Suðurland for a spot of glacier climbing. Feeling like Miley Cyrus with our little hammers, we made our way to the top, with our guide Gutni helping us when we all fell over.

Finally we returned to the coach for the trip back to Reykjavik, and a little bit of gift shopping. Needless to say everyone bought gifts for their Mums, Dads and siblings, as well as the all-important chocolate to get us through the flight. We then ate some really fresh fish and chips, before saying goodbye to Gutni; a truly heart-breaking experience. It was then time to book into the Airport Hotel ready for our flights in the morning. Iceland was a breathtakingly beautiful country and we all had an amazing time!

Megan Burn







Year 12 Psychology Visit

On 30 June, thirty seven Year 12 Psychology students arrived at Arden for an early 5:45am coach pickup and a three hour drive to London. Twenty one students visited a Hypnosis Workshop and the Royal Courts of Justice, meanwhile the remaining sixteen visited the Sigmund Freud Museum and London Zoo for a talk on animal intelligence.

The twenty one heard a fascinating talk on hypnosis by a lecturer who explained the process of overcoming of phobias using hypnosis. High success rates in eliminating phobias of 39% have been recorded.

Those in attendance were put in a state of relaxation and for 15 minutes were made to imagine positive encounters with spiders. When taken out of this state, both of the arachnophobes within the group had overcome their phobia and were able to hold Marg the Tarantula.

We then went on a mile-long walk across London to the Royal Courts of Justice. When arriving we went through security checks and then made our way to our allocated Courtroom. Our guide then explained some of the cases she has witnessed and defended; her worst case was defending a man who was charged with cannibalism; a real shock for the 21 students on the trip. We then adopted the various roles of the Court; the Judge, Jury, Barristers and Witnesses. One by one the witnesses were questioned, concluding the session with the defendant being found guilty and sentenced to death!

The other sixteen students continued on the coach to the Freud Museum after we had been dropped off. The building was actually Sigmund Freud's house for the final year of his life and included all of his possessions and furniture.

We were welcomed by Stefan, the guide, who was very passionate about the museum and the methods taught by Freud. He explained about Sigmund Freud's past and the development of his theories. Around the house there were various rooms that informed us about different parts of his life that had been conserved to look exactly how they were when Freud was living there. These included the first therapist's couch... Often thought of as the most important piece of furniture in the world!

Once the tour around the museum was finished, we headed towards London Zoo. Here we were given 40 minutes to freely walk around the Zoo and look at all the animals, before heading to a talk on Animal Intelligence. During the talk we learned in detail about 'classical' and 'operant' conditioning and how the Zoo uses these methods to train their animals; including the lions, monkeys and rats. The speaker then brought out a small rat called Sage who had been trained to follow her around and be calm for school visits and with children. We then got another 40 minutes around the site to see all the animals we may have previously missed.

Both groups met up together again at 4:30 to go on a boat cruise down the River Thames. It gave us a great view of various landmarks and sights of London, including the Houses of Parliament, London Bridge and the Tower of London.

Finally it was back onto the coach. We arrived home at 9.00pm all tired and ready for bed after an interesting action-packed day!

Touchwood Challenge

Over the week of 20 June, myself and 28 fellow students attended a week of work experience in partnership with Touchwood Shopping Centre. The overall aim of the project was to, in our separate teams, come up with a day's event to celebrate Touchwood's Fifteenth Anniversary with a budget of up to £10,000. At the end of the week, these ideas were presented to a panel and a winning team chosen, their event is being held in September.

Initially, we were split into groups and put through various team building exercises, shown safety videos and given our task. Before heading home, we spent the remainder of the day brainstorming initial ideas. This gave us time to understand what it was that Touchwood wanted from the planned event. It also enabled us get to know our team and choose the roles we would take.

The second and third days were spent shadowing members of the Touchwood team, ranging from Managers, to Cleaners and Security Staff. All the staff were engaging and a delight to work with, and we all agreed they made us very welcome. It was great to be genuinely joining in with their work and not simply getting coffee and emptying bins for them.

On the fourth day, we spent the whole time working on our ideas and coming up with our final plan; introducing what we had learnt over our shadowing periods to finalise our concepts, whilst aiming to meet the expectations of Touchwood. Once the ideas were finalised, we had to create a presentation to demonstrate not only what the idea was and its costing but, equally, all the Health & Safety issues and how to resolve them.

The experience was invaluable and even if event 'planning' isn't your future aspiration, the Touchwood challenge taught us so much more. Simply having to arrive in a smart suit, on-time, showed me that punctuality is key in the work place. I also found that the presentation not only helped me learn how to show my ideas in a clear, cohesive way, but it also improved my confidence in public speaking.

However, for me, the most important lesson learned was that the workplace is competitive, not everyone can win, but to come out on top you have to give it all you've got in order to stand out... You can't expect to just 'turn up and succeed'.

Zebedee Trett

Comments from other students involved include:

- "It was an amazing experience, I cannot thank Touchwood enough!"*
- "A chance to enhance your teamwork skills, independent thinking and creative mindset. Definitely worth it if you're set on a career in retail or marketing, and if not, I believe you should still consider it; the world of retail incorporates a wide range of different jobs."*
- "We were given the freedom to do what we wanted. It was good to have control over something real."*
- "Demanding, challenging, engaging, enlightening, insightful."*
- "Eye opening, enjoyable, interactive, and well organised."*

Extract from Touchwood's press release:

Two groups were chosen as the overall winners consisting of team 'Synergy' and students Alex Hunt, Becky Davies, Joe Shirley and Anish Naik, and team 'Boogie', Jack Macey, Martha Maurice-Smith, Matt Taylor, Virginia Kinahan and Zebedee Trett.

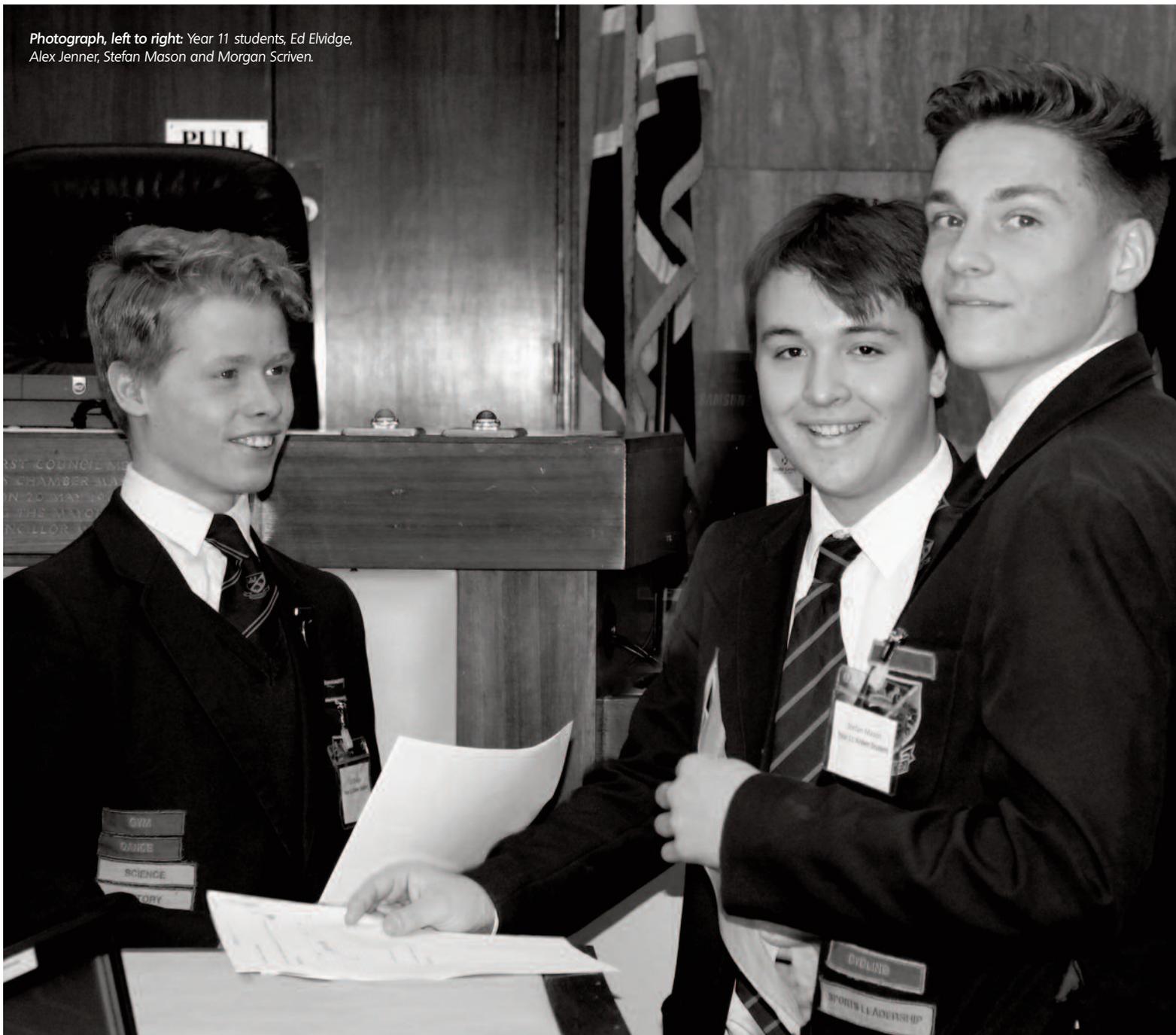
The lucky winners will see their event brought to life by the Touchwood team in September 2016, with an invite to attend and help preside over the event which will be featured on the Retail Matters website and blog.

Commenting on the success of the 'Touchwood Challenge', Andrew Cole, General Manager for Touchwood, said: "The Touchwood Challenge was a huge success whereby students got to experience a real sense of achievement. They showed an enormous amount of interest in the task and remained completely committed from start to finish. Not only did it help spark creativity, it delivered inspiring learnings for us all, and plenty for our marketing teams to think about.

Below: Solihull's prestigious Touchwood Shopping Centre is undergoing further development and improvement all the time. Arden students have been hard at work developing concepts to celebrate fifteen years of retail success.



Photograph, left to right: Year 11 students, Ed Elvidge, Alex Jenner, Stefan Mason and Morgan Scriven.



Language visit to Cambridge University

■ Thirty young linguists from Year 9 visited Girton College, Cambridge on Wednesday 20 January to find out more about studying languages. ■ They were given an introduction to studying at Cambridge University and then met two of the Girton Fellows to work on an introduction to the Italian language and translating Harry Potter into French! ■ After a hearty lunch they were taken on a tour of Cambridge by current under graduates. It was an extremely enjoyable day - despite our long delay on the motorway - and has made our students think about their opportunities for future study.



A Vision for the Future



On Monday 1 February 2016, 83 students from across the area assembled at Solihull Civic Centre to take part in a youth forum on the future of Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath. Young representatives from all the local schools took part; Dorridge Primary, Knowle Primary, Bentley Heath Primary, St George and St Teresa's and of course Arden, with the age of those involved ranging from seven to seventeen.

The day began with a welcome from the Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Glenis Slater, followed by an address from Nick Page, the Chief Executive of Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council. Mr Page used his address to inform the young people in attendance of the council's priorities for the future, as well as to remind them that with these priorities came the challenges of an increasing population in a time of decreasing funding. He then urged the participants to embrace the unique opportunity that they had to be involved in shaping the future of the area.

The student delegates were then divided into seven different groups, comprising members from all schools and of all ages. Arden's Prefects and Senior Pupils led the sessions and facilitated the discussion. The children were given the opportunity to inspect maps of the local area and wider region and to understand planning concepts like the greenbelt and integrated transport.

The first task was for each person in the group to identify three things they felt that were good about the KDBH area and three things that could be better. These were recorded on Post-It notes to allow for information-sharing and distribution. They then worked together to identify key themes from these suggestions which formed the basis for discussion and, in the next session, were identified as key priorities, linking with those of the Neighbourhood Plan:

- People and Communities
- Arts and Culture
- Housing
- Learning and Schools
- Transport
- Environment and Spaces
- Sport and Leisure



Taking the original suggestions, the discussion groups were split into sub-groups, each with a remit to create a 'vision' for the future for one of the key themes. They recorded their ideas on a 'brick' for the 'vision wall'. Before returning to the Chamber to feed back to the rest of the forum, each group was also asked to combine their ideas and generate a 'vision statement', beginning with 'In our vision, KDBH is an area where'...

The day ended with representatives from each group presenting their suggestions for each of the categories and their vision to the audience in the Chamber. The confidence with which the young people, of all ages, spoke and the assuredness of their delivery of their vision was very impressive and confirmed just what an important resource our young people are in shaping the future of the KDBH area.

The 'Building a Vision for the Future' Day was a great success. The students were enthusiastic and the confidence, leadership and commitment shown was something which, as a community, KDBH can be very proud of. The passion that our young people demonstrate in wanting to sustain the good that they find, as well as improving the bad, is something that must be harnessed in shaping the future of the area. The young delegates demonstrated an uncomplicated clarity of vision, which can be surprisingly accurate; often they are concerned by issues of which adults are not necessarily aware. Many of those involved in this event asked about when the next forum was taking place, demonstrating their enthusiasm for, and commitment to, being an integral part of building the future of the area. The forum represents a wonderful opportunity to capture the energy and passion of young people in planning for the future.

SPO

National Girl's Badminton Champions

FIVE students came away from the National School Championships in Milton Keynes with the top prize in the KS3 category.

Kiara Henry, Milly Evans, Mia Kirk, Tessa Franks and Katie Fagg met last year's winners, Westgate in the final at the National Badminton Centre, but this time they came away with their name on the trophy!

The competition started last year with 1,600 schools across the country taking part in local, county and regional rounds, before progressing to the finals.

The Arden girls had not dropped a single game on their way to the finals day. That stood them in good stead in the first round of matches and they were the only team not to drop a single game again as they progressed from the group stages into the final three in their quest for gold.

Arden played Chelmsford Girls High School and took a commanding 2-0 lead, with Kiara Henry winning a closely fought singles battle 21-17. Then Mia Kirk and Tessa Franks showed their skill and tenacity by out-playing the Chelmsford girls.

Milly Evans lost out in the singles against Mia Hillsden, but the Arden girls rallied together to take the next two matches to claim a 4-1 win going into the final showdown against Westgate.

Fellow England Juniors, Arden's Kiara Henry and Westgate's Annie Lado went head-to-head, with Arden coming out on top. Meanwhile Mia Kirk made it 2-0, but Westgate pulled it back to 2-2 to set off a tense final match.

Milly Evans and Mia Kirk held their nerve to finally snatch the win and Arden were crowned the new Schools National Champions.

Congratulations to the team on their amazing success. A special mention (and gratitude from the girls) must go to Miss West who has supported the team throughout the last couple of years.

Pictured below, left to right: Milly Evans, Tessa Franks, Kiara Henry, Mia Kirk & Katie Fagg with Mr Murphy in the background



Girls Win County Football

Arden Year 7/8 Girl's Football Team have had a superb year. Starting back in September with training through the dark and cold evenings was tough going, but all of the hard work really paid off. Throughout the year, the team have worked really well together and have been rewarded by winning the Solihull Games held at Lode Heath School where they won every game against local schools within South Solihull.

The Solihull Games success secured their place in the Level 3 School Games where they all gave 100%; winning the competition convincingly as they beat teams from around the county.

Finally, the last game of the year was in the Solihull Cup Final against JHNCC, where they won 8-1.

The girls have improved so much over the year and worked really well together... They should be really proud of their achievements, well done!

Solihull Football Cup Finalists

Year 9

The team had an excellent season, reaching the final of the Solihull Cup for the first time. Having been knocked out of the National Cup in the first game of the season, the team went on a four game winning streak, putting in some impressive performances before being narrowly knocked out of the Birmingham Cup.

The team again found their winning ways to reach Solihull Cup Finals in the latter part of the season. A special highlight was beating Light Hall in the in the Semi-Finals having been trailing after the first half. They fought very well against a strong and talented Park Hall team but sadly lost the game.

Overall, the Year 9 team had their best season to-date and gelled incredibly. Hopefully next year they can push on and challenge again and maybe snap up our first title.

Year 7

Year 7 also had an excellent year, only losing two games all season. They reached the Finals of the Solihull Cup, sadly losing 2-1 to Langley. Played at CTC, they fought very well against the strong Langley team, but a slow start meant we were soon 2-0, leaving ourselves too much to do.

A highlight of the Solihull Cup was beating our sister academy, Park Hall in the semi-finals. In the Birmingham Cup we lost to St Peters in the semi-finals. However beating North Birmingham Academy 1-0 in a very close encounter was a memorable achievement.

Overall the team played incredibly well and looks very promising for next year and eleven-a-side.

Solihull Schools Basketball Champions

Our Year 9 basketball players trained incredibly well this year before school and were well rewarded by winning the Solihull Schools Basketball Finals. A number of players were rotated during the league stages and won comfortably the semi-final against Langley. We played an unbeaten Heart of England team in the final and dominated the first two quarters, only to be pegged back in the last two quarters, however we had done enough to win the game by four points. The boys worked really hard during training and in their matches. Special thanks to Sixth Former, Luke James who helped with training.

Tennis

Congratulations to the Under 15 Girls' Tennis Team who have had a brilliant summer. They are undefeated and finished top of the Solihull tennis league. They now qualify for the regional rounds and will go on to represent Solihull. **Congratulations to the following:**

Anna Kirk	Katie Fagg
Mary Takwongi	Sarah Crane

The Under 13 team also performed very well and produced some very pleasing results, finishing third in the Solihull league, they are beginning to gel as a squad and already looking forward to next season. **Well done to the squad members:**

Clara Stride	Frankie Barbieri	Heidi Bach
Mia Kirk	Millie Evans	

Sixth Form Football Team in the last sixteen nationally

This year, Arden's Sixth Form Football Team equalled their best ever performance in the National Cup, managing to reach the LAST SIXTEEN out of more than 550 teams.

The first round saw a 4-0 away victory at St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School from Kings Norton and South Birmingham; followed by a 5-0 away victory at Erasmus Darwin in Cannock. The third round saw a 5-3 home victory against Prince Henry's High School from Worcester; before going-on to hammer Groby Community College from Leicestershire 7-2.

The last 32 stage saw a 3-0 away victory at Stroud's Marling School. Unfortunately this fantastic run finally came to an end with a 3-2 loss at home to Arnold Hill Academy from South Notts.

The boys performed extremely well and against all odds equalled an incredible record set by a very strong Arden team two years previously. Total goals scored – 26, total goals conceded – 8.

sport

Year 11 Football Team in the last thirty two nationally

The Year 11 Football Team are probably the most talented year group for football that the school has ever seen; made up of a fine mix of academy players and some very strong Saturday/Sunday league players. The first round saw a 5-0 away victory at RSA Academy from Sandwell; before a further 1-0 away win at Idsall School from the Telford area.

On-to the third round and a 6-1 home victory against Shrewsbury's Belvidere School. Still at home, this time against Kingsmead School from Cannock, saw the lads register a 3-0 victory. The last 32 stage sadly saw a 4-1 loss at home to Thomas Telford School from Telford... Though they DID go on to become the eventual winners of the trophy! Total goals scored – 16, total goals conceded - 5.

All of the boys were a credit to Arden throughout the season and were an absolute pleasure to manage. I wish them all the very best in their footballing careers – a few of which should surely have a career in the game.

Mr Pillinger

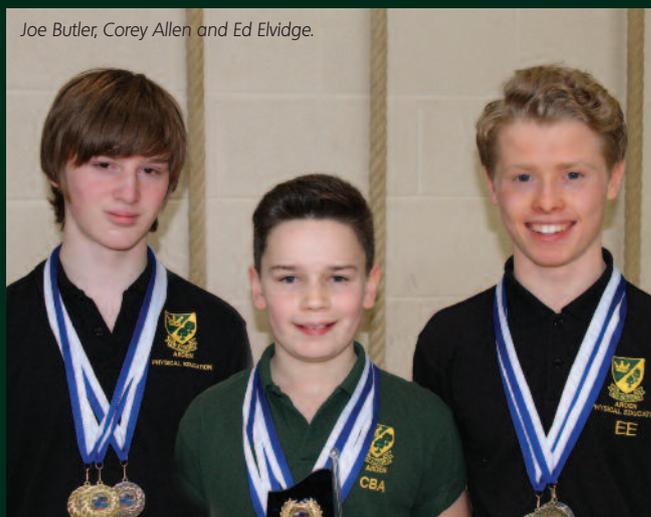
Borough Athletics

In June, a large number of Arden pupils attended the Borough Athletics Competition. It's always very competitive, with Solihull School and St Martins normally our biggest rivals. Arden managed to win three out of the four age groups; Under 14 Girls, Under 16 Girls and Under 16 Boys. Stand out performances came from Caleb Taylor in the High Jump, Mary Takwoingi running the 300m and Ashleigh Bailey's Shot Put; they each broke the Borough records in their respective events. There were also a huge number of other students who won medals on the day. Congratulations to everyone who represented Arden at this event, we're proud of each and every one of you.

Table Tennis

It has been another productive season in the world of Table Tennis at Arden. Numbers have risen to around fifty Years 8-11 students attending an after school club each week and a newly formed Year 7 Lunchtime Club. Success too for the Under 13 Table Tennis Team; comprising Faaris Mohammed-Aslam, Josh Taylor, Sam Hurley and Henry Belcher, who won a Bronze Medal at the School Games for the first time, having already won the South Solihull Games.

They played really well and were first class Arden ambassadors. Well done also to the Under 16 team of Saif Mohammed-Aslam, Alex Smith, Rohan Dehele and Tom Hinder, who narrowly missed out, losing the bronze medal in a play off match. Nevertheless, they again behaved impeccably and won the fair play award too for the spirit in which they play the game. These lads have also been coaching the others on a Friday which has been great to see.



Joe Butler, Corey Allen and Ed Elvidge.

Arden Gymnasts

This has been the best ever haul of medals for Arden at the National finals in Stoke on Trent! Last year's winners were split between two age groups and we had three Year 7 pupils and two Year 8s in the Under 14 Boys' team, consisting of Corey Allen, Ryan Daines, Jenson Williams, Aidan Wilson, Matt Bambrook. They came very close to beating Newcastle-upon-Tyne's Royal Grammar School, but finished in second place. Nevertheless this really is a fantastic result, as only two of the team had previous gymnastics experience and they were competing against boys who have been trained in their school from the age of seven.

Special mention has to be made of Corey Allen the Under 14 Captain. He has been a fantastic role model, helping to coach the younger members of the team and gaining the highest score of all the boys within the competition.

We fielded a very strong Under 19 Mixed team. Joe Butler led the way with a fantastic score of 15.2 on Vault - beating even Corey! Ed Elvidge, Kaili Woodward, Lois Mansfield and Lottie Mason also performed well, putting us in a strong position going on to the Floor. The Judges complimented the team on their floor routines, with Lois Mansfield gaining our best score; helping push us into a fantastic Third Place, given we never won any medals before in the extremely competitive Under 19 Mixed category!

The Under 19 Boys were on in the last round and competed against some incredibly good teams from around the country, including Royal Grammar School, Devon's Ivybridge Community College and St John's School from London. The lads finished out of the medals, but all had performed really well, with Tom Robinson-Jones getting our highest score on Vault and Chris Denton on Floor. The rest of the team comprised Harry Boddington, Will Hitchcock and Ryan Cambridge.

This national success was built on the foundations laid earlier in the year when our gymnasts had an incredibly successful day at The West Midlands' Schools Gymnastic Competition, held at Fenton Manor. Individual Bronze and Silver in the Under 19 Boys' category went to Ed Elvidge and Joe Butler respectively. Corey Allen WON not only the individual Under 14 Boys' competition, but also the George Finney Trophy for the highest overall score!



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Arden has an extremely popular and oversubscribed DofE programme. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is for those who want to leave their comfort zone behind them. Get up, get out and have a great time. Year 10 students are working towards their Bronze Award and 28 of them have just successfully completed their 30km (20 miles) Assessed Expedition Walking over two days, carrying their tent and equipment in a rucksack. Even in Warwickshire it's possible to get lost for a while, but a good time was had by all!

Many students who completed their Bronze last year are now nearing completion of their Silver Award. They have worked through all their award sections and have trained for and completed their practice Canoe Expedition, prior to the Assessed Paddling Expedition at the end of June. One student commented "It's the best thing I've ever done" recently at the end of their expedition.

Seven students are now leading the way towards a Gold Award – aiming to complete their Volunteering, Skills, Physical and Residential sections by the end of 2016. They are about to undertake further training to equip them for walking in wild country in the Brecon Beacons this summer.

2016 is the year the Duke of Edinburgh Award's Diamond Anniversary. Open to everyone, the Diamond Challenge is a special opportunity to get your own Award. This could be perhaps comprise learning a new skill, doing something adventurous, or simply something you particularly want to do.

You can be creative and inventive and as innovative as you like; just as long as you raise your £60, you can take on the Diamond Challenge, visit dofediamondchallenge.org

Arden's Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator, Mrs Mary Foulkes and Mr Murphy were invited to Buckingham Palace on 16 May where they received the school's official Duke of Edinburgh Licence plaque from England and Wasps RFU star, James Haskell. Over 1000 representatives from Licenced Organisations around the country were in attendance to celebrate 60 years of this wonderful scheme.





Our Queen

A T N I N E T Y

ARDEN joined in with the nation's celebrations for the Queen's Ninetieth Birthday with a short service and a flag raising ceremony at the front of the Academy. Arden Principal, Mr Murphy spoke about the many attributes the Queen has displayed throughout her long reign, highlighting in particular her self-sacrifice, service and staying power.

He impressed the audience with a number of surprising anecdotes about Her Majesty, such as the fact that she doesn't have a Driving Licence and is not actually obliged to have a registration plate on her vehicles! Of particular interest was the fact that she is possibly the only monarch who has been trained to change a flat tyre or spark plug on a heavy truck - skills she learned while serving in the wartime ATS as Second Lieutenant Elizabeth Windsor.

However it was her dedication, hard work and commitment that particularly resonated with the assembled Governors, Staff and Students. Her fortitude after the London bombings in July 2015 was a great source of strength to the whole nation.

Along with musicians and members of the Lower School Choir, everyone in attendance joined in a rousing performance of 'God Save the Queen', before watching the 'Union Jack' being raised in the Queen's honour.

Pictured below, left: Mr Harley-Mason, Chair of Governors, Sarah Sharpe of Knowle Parish Church, Mr Murphy, with Year 13 students Cameron Scriven and James Molloy.

Pictured below, right: The wonderful ladies who work in Arden's kitchen also got into the spirit of things...





Pop Quiz

Arden's EU Referendum

With the upcoming referendum, Arden decided to hold its own to find out just what our pupils thought about Britain potentially leaving the European Union. Miss Tite, her Debate Club, and many others who were interested organised the vote and ran each side of the campaign.

We made a video, which I was involved in producing, explaining briefly what we were doing, as well as providing information about the EU and how to vote.

We then organised teams for each side of the debate who promoted their competing viewpoints with posters that they displayed around the school. There was also a debate that people could watch where the two teams put across their points of view and ideas. Speakers from all Year Groups, from Year 7 to Year 12, took part.

On the day of the vote, Ballot Boxes were placed around school. There was a good turnout, with 546 votes cast. Reflecting the views generally held by young people across the UK as a whole, Arden voted to remain in the EU, 336-210, contradicting the outcome of the actual referendum.

Evan Atkins, Year 9



Black Country Museum Trip

Tuesday 12 April saw five forms take a fascinating trip to explore - and experience - what life was like in Victorian times. It was a really fun and interesting learning experience!

During the visit we went down an old coal mine. It was intriguing to experience first-hand what life was like for the miners. We learnt about the job of the miner and the deadly risks they endured, like falling rocks, high exposure to the coal dust and the constant explosions. It's not surprising that the average miner was only expected to live to thirty five!

We also visited a Victorian school. It was great to learn how different it was for students back then. We learnt how the Victorian children wrote and about the pieces of slate they wrote on. We also learned about the harsh punishments meted and how they memorised their times tables. The Victorian Teachers' most important rule was 'Silence is Golden.'

The place I most enjoyed visiting was the 'Tilted Cottage'. It was entertaining to see how the cottage really WAS tilted because of mine subsidence. Inside the cottage we found out about the history of the family who lived there and how they went about their daily lives. Luckily the original occupants also had a farm so food was easy to get.

In my opinion, the most important places we visited were the village houses and shops. This is because we found out about all the jobs people did and living spaces they were crammed into. It was interesting to look around the shop and learn what they sold. We also played the street games that children would have taken part in over hundred years ago.

We also got to go on the Museum's Tram, which is brought out very rarely, and see the canal narrow boats that families worked and lived on. The space they all lived in at the bow of the boat was absolutely tiny, but there's documented case of a family with eleven children living on a single canal boat. Another thing we saw was chain making. This was fascinating, we were told how they were made and all the dangers chainmaking involved.

Overall, I had a great time at the Black Country Living Museum and would definitely like to visit again!

Alice Glithero, Year 7

only

Visit to Berlin

At Half-Term in February we were lucky enough to be able to go on a history trip to Berlin, the capital of Germany, to help us understand more details about our GCSE course. Emma and I went with 40 other students from Year 10 and Year 11. We were fortunate to visit many of Berlin's most important memorials and museums during the five days we were there.

On the first day, we visited the Holocaust Memorial in the city centre. This was very moving, and looked spectacular in the sunset. We got a good insight into the scale of the suffering that the people endured during the Holocaust and its horrifying effects.

The next day, we did a four hour walking tour of the whole of Berlin city centre... Whilst it was amazing and we got to see so many different things, I have never been so tired in my life! One of the most interesting points was seeing the memorial to the Syrian refugees on one of the city's major art galleries. That was really powerful.

During the rest of the week, we visited the infamous Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp on the outskirts of the city and a museum about what it was like to live in East Germany and East Berlin during the cold war. Finally, we visited the famous Checkpoint Charlie from the days when Berlin was divided between the capitalist West and communist East.

My favourite part of the trip was the visit on the last day to the Olympic Stadium. This was built on Hitler's orders in 1936, but has been used a lot since then for things like the Champions' League final last year. We had a tour of the whole stadium and even got to see some of the things from behind the scenes, such as the dressing rooms and press rooms.

Overall, we had a brilliant trip, learning so many new things- even though it was very, very cold. I really recommend a visit to Berlin if you get the opportunity.

Evie Cyprus, Year 10



Tommy Visit

In October, back at the very beginning of Year 9, a visitor came to our school to talk about World War One. It started off with him telling us about the Great War and we learnt about what it was like for soldiers.

He then dressed up one of the boys in a World War One soldier's uniform and he got to feel how heavy it was and what the material felt like.

We then split off into groups and got to hold and look at various artefacts from World War One. These included medals, food and things that they would have carried with them. After that we found out about the trenches and the kind of jobs the soldiers carried out in the daytime and through the night. Finally, we all got to participate in a role playing exercise and pretended that we were in the trenches ourselves.

Overall, it was a very interesting and enjoyable experience which helped us to understand what life was like for soldiers in the trenches.

Madeleine Corcoran, Year 9

Imperial War Museum

Upon arrival at the museum, the Year 12 visitors were split into two groups. Group one took part in the 'Life in Nazi Germany' workshop, whilst the second group were taken to the Holocaust Exhibition. I attended the Nazi Germany workshop, held in a classroom at the Museum.

We were split into small groups and given a variety of artefacts to examine and some questions to help lead our thoughts and discussion. The artefacts were of great contextual significance and I was surprised at the relevance they had to our course. For example, my group were given several letters and photos but also two original examples of the Nazi Mothers' Medals, something that I remember being taught about in the Year 12 course.

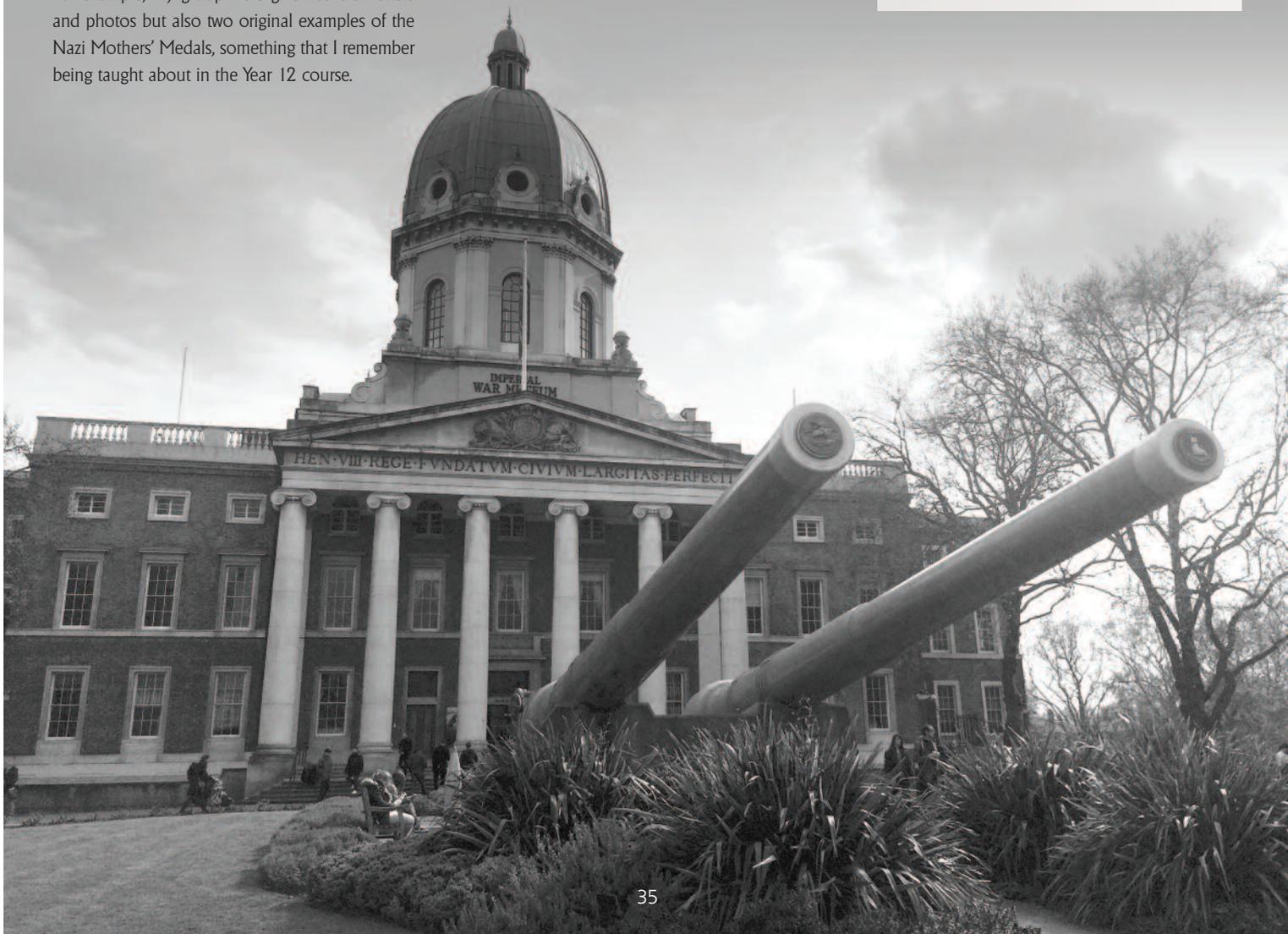
After the first workshop the two groups met up for lunch, which we enjoyed our lunch in the park that surrounds the Museum. This was followed by the two groups swapping over.

I have visited the Holocaust Exhibition at the IWM before when I was younger, but I felt the experience was a lot more significant after studying the Nazi era in the Year 12 course, as well as following our visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau earlier this year.

The two groups then met once again and we were all given over an hour for personal research for our Current History Projects. I collected valuable material for my Afghanistan conflict project. Whilst not everyone may have collected information for their projects, it was nonetheless a very interesting time exploring the excellent array of displays and exhibitions on offer.

To conclude, I would highly recommend this trip to all future history students and even non-history students, if the trip is open to you. The exhibitions are constantly changing and being added at the museum so it will always be relevant and enlightening to those interested in the topic of history and especially military history.

Matthew Blackadder, Year 12



Sixth Form Induction Weekend

Some of you reading this may be undecided as to whether to go on the trip to Symonds Yat in September. That's fine, decisions are hard! I nearly ruptured a vein the other day trying to decide whether to buy Maltesers or Counters for the Cinema - stressful! I am here to ease the stress, to guide you into making the right decision like sirens guide sailors to their watery demise - but, you know, with less death.

If you are an external student, this is a fantastic opportunity. If you are already at Arden, this is a fantastic opportunity. Am I selling it yet? Are you persuaded? No? OK.

The trip is a genuinely amazing opportunity to meet people from other secondary schools in a relaxed environment before Sixth Form starts in earnest and you have to try and make rushed acquaintances while walking from Psychology to Product Design. What better way to bond with someone than sharing a near-death experience as your group's incompetently built raft capsizes, leaving you bobbing amongst the wreckage? Well, maybe, it's not that dramatic. Even so, falling in the River Wye as a result of your joint lack of construction skills is an exciting way to meet people.

I guess you could just try to build a raft that works, but I fail to see the fun in that. Other activities include cycling, rock-climbing, canoeing, kayaking, walking, and high-ropes. You won't be able to have a go at all of these, but they all provide great opportunities to work with other people and, dare I say it, make friends.

When packing (I assume you're going to go; this mastery of persuasion must have swayed you), it is advisable to bring roughly three times as many shoes as you first thought you'd need... Either that, or think really carefully about what shoes dry the quickest; if you wear your sturdiest walking shoes on your first activity of, say, raft-building, thinking you won't get wet (you will!) and ruin them for the weekend, you might end up with only ill-fitting wellies left for your last activity, which, if it's walking, will leave your feet with more blisters than the number of grammatical errors in a sentence spoken by Joey Essex.

Also blankets. Bring more blankets than seems legal, because the outdoors is cold; that is if you decide to stay in a tent, which I would advise. There's no better way to feel close to new people than being the third person in the middle of what was probably designed as a two-man tent.

Though, you must be warned, you will have to wake up early. I mean REALLY early - like earlier than 10.00am early! But no fear, as the accommodation provides the staple of any soon-to-be sixth former's diet: coffee.

Abbie Edwards

Hospitality and Catering

Year 9 students opting for Hospitality and Catering recently spent the day at University College Birmingham (UCB). The morning was spent learning how to wait at tables using 'silver service' and working on the all-important customer service skills. They learnt about menu choices, wine storage and the most suitable wine to accompany a main course. Some students worked front of house whilst others were in the Brasserie or the Á La Carte Restaurant. During the lunch session in the restaurant the students waited on tables to the paying public. They were a credit to Arden and impressed the UCB tutors with their skills and dedication.





Jaguar Land



I found many things about our trip to Jaguar Land Rover most enjoyable.

One reason was because we were in a different learning environment; it was fun to get out of the classroom and into a unique workplace. There were many areas of the business that we had learned about in school, such as for instance that the factory was in the 'secondary sector' of business, manufacturing; the production of raw materials being the first sector.

Another thing would be looking at all the different methods of worker motivation Jaguar Land Rover provide for their employees. These include fringe benefits, a structured reward+recognition system and daily staff briefings. In addition, we also learned about the Jaguar Land Rover production process, which is operated on a 'just-in-time' basis. The JIT system sees the parts needed for car production ordered only when actually required, and being delivered just a short time before they are actually bolted onto the chassis; this modern manufacturing process means the Company doesn't need to hold costly components in stock, improving cashflow and reducing warehousing costs.

Something I found particularly interesting on the trip was the fact that all cars produced on the site are actually already sold before they're even made! This is purely because the Company now only builds its vehicles to order, reducing waste and ensuring every car is be sold at the full price. Despite this impressive fact, there is STILL a 12 month waiting list for their cars!

Another interesting point of note is that most of the cars made at Solihull were going to be shipped abroad - with one in four going to China - so most cars rolling off the production line are left hand drive.

The final thing I found surprising was that, despite there being 1200+ employees at the factory, there is a great sense of community amongst the workforce. This is reinforced by the fact that there is a restaurant, a bank, a crèche and sport clubs and other activities located at the site.

These facilities are provided to enable workers to socialise with other employees and to help them really enjoy being at work. In addition, the tour guides were very welcoming and friendly, they answered all our questioned and explained the work of the different manufacturing areas, including the stamping room and the assembly line, as we were shown round.

Charlie Eaton

Photograph: Arden visitors, Aristos Constantinou, Owen Johns, Matt Wilkinson, Ibraheem Ahmed, Josh McCabe, Zak Borland and Max Adam, at JLR Solihull.

Rover





The Sir Adrian Cadbury Building

This prestigious new teaching block was officially opened by Rt Hon Caroline Spelman, MP for Meriden constituency on Friday 23 October 2015. The building was named in honour of the late Sir Adrian Cadbury, who sadly passed away earlier in the year aged 86.

Sir Adrian retired from the family businesses, Cadbury Schweppes - makers of course of the famous chocolate and soft drinks - in 1990 at the age of 60. Earlier in his life, he attended world famous public school, Eton, before going on to read Economics at Cambridge. Whilst at university he won a Rowing Blue, before representing Britain as part of the Cambridge Eight at the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki.

He was knighted for his work in 1977 and was recipient of many awards and Honorary Degrees.

Arden is exceptionally proud of its links with Sir Adrian Cadbury, which are celebrated in the special Annual Prize awarded each year at the Presentation Evening for outstanding A Level results. This year's recipient was Emma Smith.

The Cadbury Building dedication ceremony was attended by a number of respected representatives of the local community, many of whom were themselves instrumental in our achieving the new build, further adding to the excellent quality of education that is today on offer at Arden.

Pictured Top: Arden Principal, Mr Murphy, Mr Geoff Harley-Mason, Chair of Governors, and The Rt Hon Caroline Spelman MP.

Pictured Bottom: Chair of Governor, Geoff Harley-Mason in attendance as The Rt Hon Caroline Spelman MP for Meriden cuts the ribbon during the official opening of the Sir Adrian Cadbury Building



Year 7 visit The New Art Gallery, Walsall

In October 2015, Year 7 visited Walsall's striking art gallery to view the extensive collection of artworks, as well as an exhibition of Matthew Collishaw's work.

Students were able to see and discuss works like 'Last Meal on Death Row' (below), which explores the fragility of life through still life photography, and which references the Vanitas paintings of the 17th Century that are filled with symbolism of man's mortality.

Students also got to see Collishaw's 3D zoetrope which was made using a 3D printer, bringing to life solid sculptures into a moving image.

The students engaged very well with the tasks at the Gallery and gained a better understanding that 'Art' is not JUST about painting and drawing, but that it can be created in many forms and be used to communicate many meanings.



Art Trip to London 5 July 2016

Arden's AS Art class got the opportunity to take a trip to London in July. We were able to choose from the wide range of famous galleries and exhibitions that the capital has to offer; a considerable advantage as it enabled us to develop our essay research and gain an understanding of our related-study artists.

The National Gallery allowed us to experience our artists' work first hand, seeing the pieces up close gave us a chance to study techniques like 'impasto's' thick laying on of paint and raised brush strokes. It was highly informative, with dates and the artist's interpretation for each of the works.

The chronological organisation of the gallery was also extremely useful, as we were able take a journey through previous similar paintings that led up to our artist's own pieces, and in turn those that stemmed on from it. The workshop gave us an indepth insight into paintings that we would otherwise have had limited knowledge of, allowing us to discuss them and share opinions and values of the time, along with useful information on the painting styles.

Moving-on to the Tate Modern provided a completely different experience to the National Gallery, showing us the other side of art; the contemporary and conceptual ideas of modern day artists. The Tate also enabled us to get an insight into the approaches of artists in our related studies It also highlighted the surreal concepts of new artists, inspiring those of us hoping to pursue a career or further education in art.

The general experience of the trip made for significantly diverse observations, enabling each student to choose their favoured gallery; ones that displayed either their artist's works, their themes, or the artistic movement they were part of, or for inspiration on their related study. It also allowed us to see plenty of London on the way to our chosen galleries and gave us a chance to navigate the underground network.

Beth Winward, Year 12

"It's an all you can eat buffet for art" Sophie Wheeldon

"It was inspiring and widened my knowledge about my artists helping me write my essay" Olivia May

"I learnt that art can open windows to so many different backgrounds, societies and values" Rachel Skinner

Year 9 Enrichment Day

In December 2015, Year 9 had the opportunity to take part in a fascinating enrichment day focused on 'Careers in Art and Design'. The students who took part learned about the broad spectrum of careers in the 'creative industries', such as Illustration, Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Architecture, Game Design, Theatre Design, Interior Design and all the roles associated with these sectors.

Students then chose either a workshop in Fashion Illustration one in Digital Illustration under the guidance of practicing designers. Kiran Kang, a recent graduate from BCU in Fashion Design who now works for Steel and Jelly Menswear set the students the task of creating a 'mood board' and some designs for a clothing range based on different themes.

Meanwhile, Martha Bowyer supported her students in designing a greetings card using digital tablets and editing software. As practicing professionals, both designers were able to give valuable insights into the way they work and the industries in which they operate.

Rotary Young Photographer

Year 8's Zoe Wilkinson has yet again won an award for her photography! This time it was the District Prize for her age group in the Knowle and Dorridge Rotary Club Young Photographer competition. Zoe, below, was presented with a £50 voucher for her award winning photographs by John Endell of the Knowle and Dorridge Rotary Club.



WORLD BOOK DAY

3 MARCH 2016

Unfortunately, the 2016 World Book Day event coincided with the all-important Year 9 Parent Consultations, so it wasn't altogether the best day for staff to dress up as book-themed characters... Nevertheless many did!

There were a variety of characters on view: Queen of Hearts, Alice in Wonderland, Willy Wonka, Captain Hook, Mary Poppins, a bare-footed Hobbit and even Biggles.

The students had a number of quizzes they could take part in, these included one to identify the first lines of famous novels.

World Book Day tokens were also available for students from Years 7, 8 and 9. Older students were also able to collect tokens from the Library if they wanted one.





Deutscher Film für teenagers

We set off to take part in this Key Stage 3 Study Day at about 7.40am on Tuesday 19 January. It took us two hours to reach the edge of London due to the traffic. On the way, we saw Big Ben, London Bridge, Madam Tussauds and the London Eye. It then took ANOTHER hour to reach our final destination, The British Film Institute Southbank. Having arrived a little late we missed a few activities.

Our first activity was watching a clip from a German film called 'Run Lola Run'. It was filmed by Tom Tykwer in 1998 and tells the story of Lola and her boyfriend Manni. Manni is in big trouble as he has left a bag with 100,000DM on the train and a tramp has picked it up. He needs to pay the money to a gangster and rings Lola for help. They have 20 minutes to find the money. Lola Rennt very cleverly tells three different versions of the same plot. We then had to:

- Put the scenes into the correct order
- Learn the photography techniques
- Describe the film
- Make up a conversation with a partner about the film

Next, we viewed a 14 minute clip about a nine year old boy who is reluctant to speak. His school friends think he is odd. He likes to spend time in the afternoon with his grandma, where he is happy to speak. His parents want him to see a specialist. He communicates via notes.

His grandma falls ill and he feels very lonely but he is not alone as he has made a new friend. We then had to:

- Answer questions about the film
- Match up technical terms with the English translations
- Work out the order of the frames and put scenes in the right order

Before lunch we watched a film and had to fill out the missing words of a song, translating the phrases into English. We then made our way out of the BFI down to a dance studio to eat lunch.

On our return we were introduced to a German film called 'Wintertochter' (above). It was about a girl, Kattaka Weise, who lives in Berlin with her mother, who is expecting a baby. She is a keen speed swimmer and is friendly with Kevin 'Knacke' who lives next door. Nearby lives a sad, but kind older woman, Lene, who sometimes looks after her. It is coming up to Christmas when Kattaka answers a mysterious phone call from a man who she soon discovers is her 'real' father. She's very angry about not being told about her father and so sets off with Lene and Knacke on a trip along the Polish coast to find him. On the way, it also becomes a search for Lene's past. Kattaka learns not only about her origins, but about the tangled history of Germans, Poles and Russians. In the second half of the movie she reaches out beyond her own situation to support and understand others. It's Christmas time and there is a birth in an unusual place...

We answered questions about the film and worked through a speaking flowchart about the film.

When we left BFI Southbank we saw the London Eye and The Shard before heading back to school. It was a great day and we really learned a lot.

Mariana Drinkwater, Year 9

Drama GCSE Year 11 Performances

On April 22 our GCSE Drama students showcased their final productions; a wonderful celebration of the performing talents of our Year 11s. Their play choices were diverse; with comedies such as 'Teachers', 'Shakers' and 'Bouncers' by Godber, as well as some striking drama in 'Lord of the Flies', 'Punk Rock' and 'Be My Baby'.

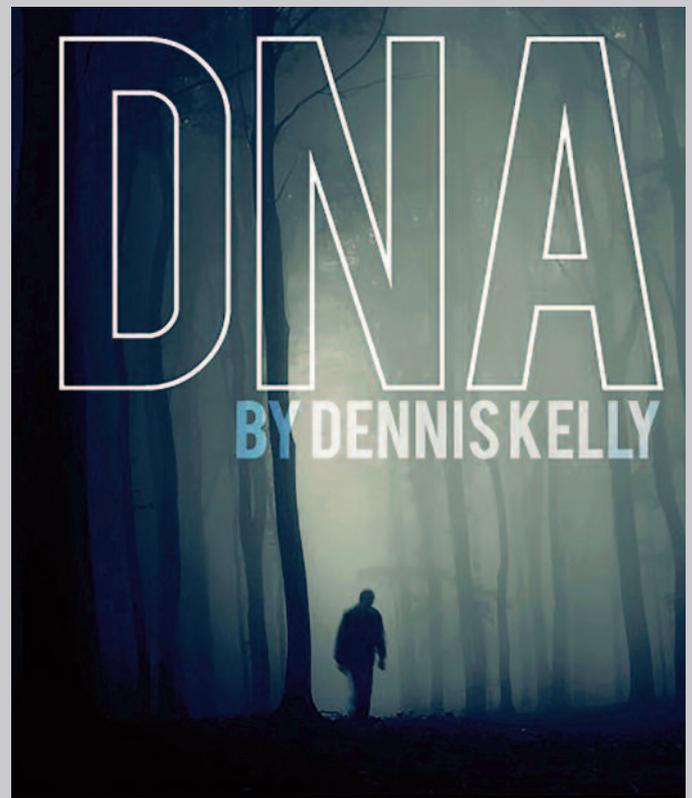
A particularly memorable performance was given by Will Lloyd in his role as William Carlisle. Will's intense portrayal of a self-doubting young man built to a shockingly tragic and violent climax which transfixed the audience.

Olivia Saunders also delivered a notable portrayal of a Cocktail Waitress in 'Shakers'. Even the examiner shook with laughter at her hilarious 'audition speech'... The brassy young waitress was quite a contrast to her current role as 'Maria' in Arden's production of 'The Sound of Music'.

The ensemble performance given by students in 'Lord of the Flies' was particularly successful, with an original and creative physical interpretation of the plane crash and of the gang violence of the boys on the island. Alexia Holman as 'Jack' gave an energetic and courageous delivery that captured the wild savagery of the boys as events spiralled out of control.

Strong, emotional performances were given by many of our players, including the cast of 'Be My Baby' where the five female actors had to portray the real-life experiences of young unmarried women in the 1960s, whose babies were taken from them. The students communicated the girls' relationships with touching realism and sensitivity. The role of 'Dolores' in 'Be My Baby' was the last performance from the extremely talented Lucy Munden, who has previously shone in Arden productions like 'Alice', 'The Little Shop of Horrors' and 'Fame'. Lucy has now left Arden to study Musical Theatre at the highly prestigious Tring Park School for the Performing Arts; we wish her well in her new adventures and are looking forward to seeing her career blossom.

The drama students had been working extremely hard on these performances from December 2015, rehearsing at lunchtimes, after school and during weekends. Yet again they demonstrated striking maturity, professionalism, dedication and excellence in achieving polished and engaging pieces of theatre... The Drama Department are exceptionally proud of them all!



April saw a gripping performance of 'DNA' delivered 'in-the-round' in Arden's Drama Studio by eight of our talented Year 12 Drama and Theatre Studies students.

Dennis Kelly's contemporary play portrays the disillusionment of teenagers and the ways in which their amoral choices rob Adam of his life. ■ The cutting-edge 'white-box' set meant the audience saw the action simultaneously live and on huge screens, reminding us of the CCTV footage that we see on TV capturing criminals at work. ■ Hannah Northam and Holly Munden played a sharp and devious pair who stirred up the tension amongst a group of teen friends as they tried to cover up their own persecution of Adam. The audience, who sat on all four sides, could not only see each other's reactions to the unfolding drama, but were also subjected to the taunts of the bullies - as if they were in Adam's shoes themselves. ■ This play, which contrasts hectic, loud aggression with silent and still tension, was a real rollercoaster of the frightening possibilities of the dangerous games played by gangs. ■ Megan Hathaway gave a particularly strong performance as 'Cathy'; a confident, arrogant and devious manipulator whose status grew beyond her own control in the play. ■ Megan was this year's recipient of the Performing Arts Spotlights Personality of the Year Award; presented in recognition of her sheer talent and commitment to Drama... And Music: she is playing lead violin in the Orchestra in Arden's production of 'The Sound of Music'. ■ The production, which was shared with Key Stage 3 audiences across the school, has inspired many young actors by demonstrating the power of live theatre to make an audience think... **Look out for more productions from this talented group in December 2016!**

MUSIC

OSoSic

In Brief

Mass Orchestra Project, March 2016

The Orchestras of Solihull Schools in Concert, 'OSoSic' is an exciting project that was initiated by teachers of the Secondary School Music Network, who recognised that orchestras, and classical music as a whole, are in decline.

Seventeen Arden students from Years 7 to 9 represented the school during the project, which culminated in a fantastic concert at Symphony Hall in Birmingham back in March.

The fabulous concert saw our young musicians playing alongside students from other primary and secondary schools in our hub, as well as players from the Solihull Music Service and Birmingham Conservatoire.

Collectively, they formed an orchestra of over 200 players, and performed a selection of works from the 'BBC Ten' pieces, which included Beethoven's 5th Symphony, 'The Toreador Song' from Bizet's Carmen, and Bernstein's fun-filled 'Mambo' from West Side Story. They sounded absolutely magnificent, and did Arden proud!

Arden's Musicians included:

Katy Rimington	Mikhail Rozhin	Lucy Ford
Zoe Wilkinson	Dan Jennings	Ashleigh Lawrence
Hannah-Jane Moorehead	Harriet Eden	Rachel Evans
Natasha Cannell	Lara Nevitt	Dave Blackmore
Olivia Lynn	Jess Leach	Gabe Schroeter
Bruno Stain	Will Topham-Steele	

"Playing in such an iconic venue was definitely one of the highlights and an incredible experience! Performing within a huge orchestra with other schools and more experienced musicians was great – I was very impressed by the size of the cello section. There was a good variety of music, and getting to play with the international hornist was brilliant!"

Zoe Wilkinson, Year 8, Arden Cellist

Symphony Hall Birmingham

Grace Academy

Lighthall School

Arden Academy

Smith's Wood Sports College

Lyndon School

Tudor Grange Academy

Our Lady Of the Wayside Catholic Primary School

St. Peter's RC School

Langley School

Heart of England Academy

Donmidge Primary School

Shirley Heath Junior School

John Henry Newman Catholic College

St Mary and St. Margaret's Junior School

OSoSic
Orchestra of Solihull Schools in Concert

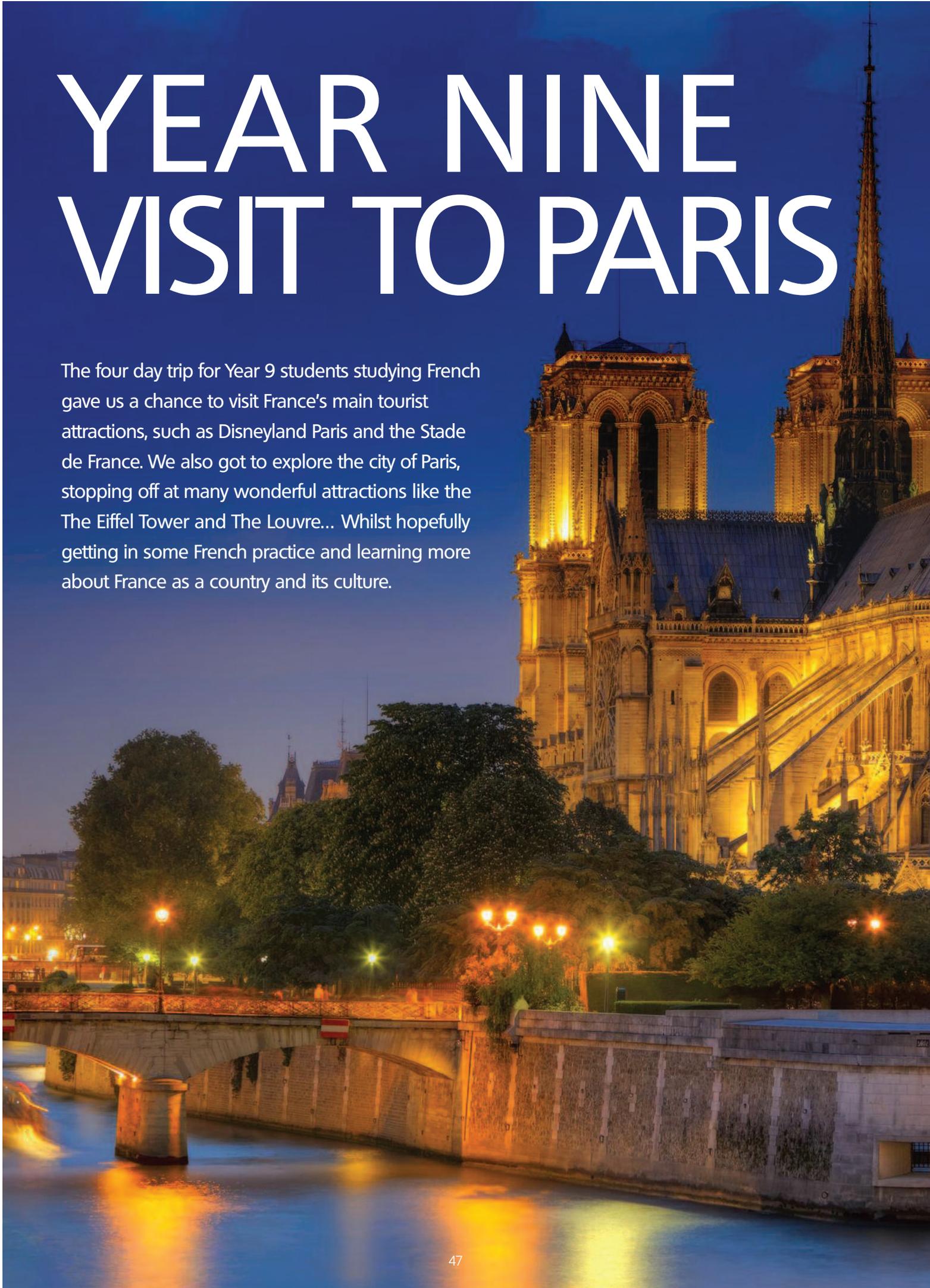
TEEN PIECES
SET CREATIVE WITH CLASSICAL MUSIC

Concert presented by:
Solihull Secondary Music Network
Supported by: Solihull Music Service
The Birmingham Conservatoire
The Rotary Club of St Aphege Solihull

Tickets available from
the Symphony Hall Box Office
£9 (£6 Cons)
<https://www.thsh.co.uk/symphony-hall/>

YEAR NINE VISIT TO PARIS

The four day trip for Year 9 students studying French gave us a chance to visit France's main tourist attractions, such as Disneyland Paris and the Stade de France. We also got to explore the city of Paris, stopping off at many wonderful attractions like the The Eiffel Tower and The Louvre... Whilst hopefully getting in some French practice and learning more about France as a country and its culture.





Day One: Arrival

Day One was spent travelling. We all had to have a fresh, early start and for most of us stropky teenagers, this was a real challenge!

The coach departed Arden at 7:00am and most of us experienced quite a pleasant journey to Dover. We got on the ferry at 12:15pm and went in groups around the ferry, exploring the shops and entertainment on offer until we arrived in Calais at 2:45pm - so it was quite a nice, short ferry trip.

We then had a long coach drive to Campus St Therese, a boarding school where we were staying. We arrived at 8:00pm and, after the long and tiring journey, had a bit of an adventure trying to find all the rooms! Once ensconced, it was a quick 15 minute unpack before everyone came together for an evening meal, before making our way back to our rooms to get some rest.

Day Two: á Paris!

Our first morning was quite hectic. The teachers had to ensure everyone had their yellow card containing their personal details, that they had eaten some breakfast, and that we were wearing appropriate clothing - that was a big one for Miss Wardle!

We set off on a fairly short trip to Paris seeing all the famous attractions the city had to offer. We visited Sacre Coeur, listening to a French prayer service; although it was quite a shock when everyone had their bags searched before entering the building. Unfortunately, we only got to see Notre Dame from the outside. We then walked around the Montmartre district for a little while.

The crepe shop was heavenly, with all sorts of savoury and sweet crepes on offer. We then stopped for some lunch in this restaurant called 'Flunch'. It was great to have some good old 'french' fries and chicken wings and finally get access to Wifi for the first time!

After that, we visited the Musée du Louvre. Unfortunately, we didn't get to see the art inside, such as the Mona Lisa, since we were running out of time. Nevertheless visiting the Eiffel tower made up for it since it is easily the most famous building in France. We visited a few more places before taking to the water for a river cruise where we got to stretch our legs, relax and enjoy the fresh air.

At 6:00pm, we went on a guided tour of the huge 210m high Tour Montparnasse, getting some incredible views across the city before departing Paris and returning to our accommodation.

Day Three: Disneyland!

Disneyland was probably my favourite day of the trip. We departed our accommodation at 9:30am carrying a packed lunch. When we arrived, we spent an hour in the first park. We got to see the inside shops and experience the Tower of Terror - which was extremely scary!

The inside of the studio area was decorated beautifully and it felt like we were inside a real life Disney movie. On entering the second park, we got a free voucher to go and get some food in groups of four. While that was going on, a Good Friday float parade was happening and we got to see all the Disney characters dress up in fancy outfits with flowery floats in front of Disney's famous Palace.

After lunch, we all went and explored the rides! The real thrill seekers went on the roller coasters, such as Space Mountain, whilst the less daring among us spent their time in Toy Land; generally a calmer area of the park. We all explored the numerous shops Disney had to offer; spending our money on presents for little brothers and sisters - and of course ourselves!... After all, who'd miss the opportunity to spend a few Euros on a Mickey Mouse jumper or a pair of Minnie's ears which most of the girls had by the end of the trip?

After a long day on various rides and in shops, we all returned back to our rooms to pack a few things away and enjoy some social time with our roommates before our last evening meal.



Day Four: Stade de France and Home

Day Four was another early start for everyone since we had to pack and then load our bags, as well as collecting our packed lunch.

We then visited the famous Stade de France where we got a tour from a very nice French man who showed us the stadium from the fans' point of view and talked us through the memorable events that happened in the stadium. He divided us into two teams to walk onto the pitch area as if we were one of the famous football players.

It was an amazing experience, after which we got to purchase some souvenirs from the shop, before heading back to the coach to start our long, long journey back home. On the ferry, it soon became clear that the sea was unusually choppy, and a lot of people were not feeling at their best. We were given a meal on the ferry which, considering the conditions, we all enjoyed!

We finally arrived at Arden just after 10.00pm and waited for our parents to collect us from what had been an amazing trip. Overall the trip was an incredible experience; we all had a great time even though the coach journey was a long one. We all have loads of souvenirs which will remind us of our great trip to Paris in Year 9.



Year 7 Study Trip to Caen

On 20 June, Year 7 went on a trip to Caen, France. I have to say really enjoyed it! My group stayed in the Gold Beach Hotel, which was really nice; each of the bedrooms were on two floors, with an upstairs and a downstairs, and the beds were very comfy!

On the first day, we visited a caramel factory, which was particularly interesting as we got to see how the caramel was made, and then learned about the different types of caramels there were..We also got to taste some! Later on, we went to one of the D-Day landing sites. There were still craters in the ground where the bombs had landed. After that, we visited the Normandy American War Cemetery, where there were lines of hundreds of grave stones for the soldiers who had died fighting. I learned a lot there, and gained respect for their sacrifice.

On the second day, we went to the 360° Cinema and watched a 20 minute documentary on the war and how it affected different people. I thought that it was amazing; learning about the different weapons they used. It also gave you a feel of just how scary it would have been, as it was very realistic. Later in the morning we went to a market, where we could buy friendship bracelets and ice creams and where there were a lot of cafés. As it was a lovely day, we had lunch on the beach. Then it was on to visit a French supermarket, and a shopping centre and the chance to buy some treats and presents. Later on, we had a special meal and then returned to the beach to play some sports, which was really fun!

Altogether, I really enjoyed the French trip, and I got to know other people including teachers.

Bea Hughes, Year 7





This year has been a fantastic time for skiing at Arden! We have entered more ski races than ever and more than twenty students have competed in various events. We are now registered with the English Schools Ski Association (ESSKIA). This nationally recognised organisation provides the opportunity for pupils to take part in races, training days in England, as well as snow training and races abroad.

The ESSKIA qualifying round took place at Gloucester Dry Ski Slope on Sunday 20 September 2015. In the Under 19 Girls' category, Rebecca Tinley finished fourth with a combined time of 49.48 seconds. In the Under 16 girls category Lucy Connors finished ninth with a combined time of 55.75 seconds. In the Under 16 boys category, Owen Johns finished third with a combined time of 46.11s. Finally in the Under 14 boys category, Scott Johns finished fourth with a combined time of 54.24 seconds, however unfortunately he fell which added an extra 10 seconds to his overall time.

There have been far too many individual winners and podium finishes to mention over the year; however, as teams we won three major trophies over the season. Competitions were held on dry ski slopes at Telford, Stoke and Ackers in Birmingham. The first trophy was won at Telford, where our Under 16 Girls, Lucy Connors, Bea Hughes and Lisa Hobbs, won as a team. The second and third trophies were both won at Ackers; these were for the Under 16 Mixed Team of Lucy Connors, Rebecca Tinley, Owen Johns and Scott Johns and the Under 16 Boys' Team.

So, overall the season has been fantastic! The future of skiing at Arden is bright and exciting, with many new students in lower years also now competing. Mr Pillinger is currently organising a Arden Satellite Club at Ackers, which is operated by the Midland Ski Club. Hopefully this will assist Ski Racing participation to grow at Arden.

This year we were also very fortunate to receive a very generous sponsorship from Prime Accountants. As you can see from the photograph below, as a result of Prime's generosity the students now have soft shell ski jackets and sweatshirts which they can wear during the ski races. These items of ski clothing look very smart and certainly give our students a real sense of 'belonging to a team'. We cannot thank Prime Accountants and Kevin Johns enough for their kind contribution to skiing and school sport as a whole at Arden.

Below, Left to Right: Mr Murphy, Emily Annandale, Byron Carthey, Clara Stride, Lucy Connors, Charlotte McMillan, Owen Johns, Scott Johns, William Annandale, Mason Carthey, Martin Aamodt-Leeper, Bea Hughes, Stanley Amplett, Mr Pillinger.



Skiing 2015-16







Sixth Form Ski Trip

Over Easter 2016, forty seven students and five staff jetted off to the USA for the ski trip of lifetime!

During the visit the students spent five days skiing in the picturesque resort of Stowe in Vermont, exploring the slopes on both the Spruce and Mansfield Mountains. Although the conditions and weather were very challenging for both beginners and experienced skiers alike, all skiing abilities were catered for, with our students receiving outstanding tuition from expert local instructors.

Students made the most of their free time in the evening revising for their summer exams in the hotel conference room as well enjoying the excellent facilities on offer.

After the skiing was complete we made the six hour journey to New York City stopping on route at the Woodbury Common outlets. While in New York students were able to take in all of the iconic sites and experiences such as a visit to Madison Square Garden to watch the New York Knicks play the Indiana Pacers, The Empire State Building, Top of the Rock, 9/11 Memorial, Wall Street and the Financial District, Central Park, Fifth Avenue and a city sites cruise down the Hudson river past the statue of Liberty.

The behaviour from the students was exemplary during our time both in resort and in New York City and I would like to thank the staff and students for making this a truly outstanding trip.

Mr Hooper

Year 10 Ski Trip

'On the Piste' Remembered

The Annual Year 10 Ski Trip is justly famous for being absolutely the best trip the school has to offer! The following is a brief overview of the one in 2016.

This year's trip began with a gruelling 25 hour coach journey, where, living up to the ancient school tradition, TWO ferries were missed! This time one coach was also searched and the teachers were left with eighty ravenous teenagers baying for burgers!... Nevertheless, all in all it was a great start to what would be a fantastic trip.

We started our week of skiing, with a fifteen-minute walk through snowy fields, with a few people taking a tumble before we even got onto the slopes! To begin with, there were a few issues, such as Sam Hobbs's skis which had trouble staying attached, resulting in an epic one-ski run crowned with massive wipe out. Although Group One were supposed to be the experienced ones, we struggled with some simple things - like getting on and off chairlifts!

Despite ours being the 'top' Group, we all still fell over plenty of times, with the award for the fewest tumbles going to both Pete and Chris,

who only stacked it four times each. Our group also gained a reputation for 'not always skiing fairly', with a lot of pushing and shoving, as well as sneaky unclipping of other's skis... The Group even managed to get Miss Sheppard involved in making sure people got what they deserved! Each night when we got back to the Hotel we spent much of the evening discussing the best falls and how people's day on the slopes had been.

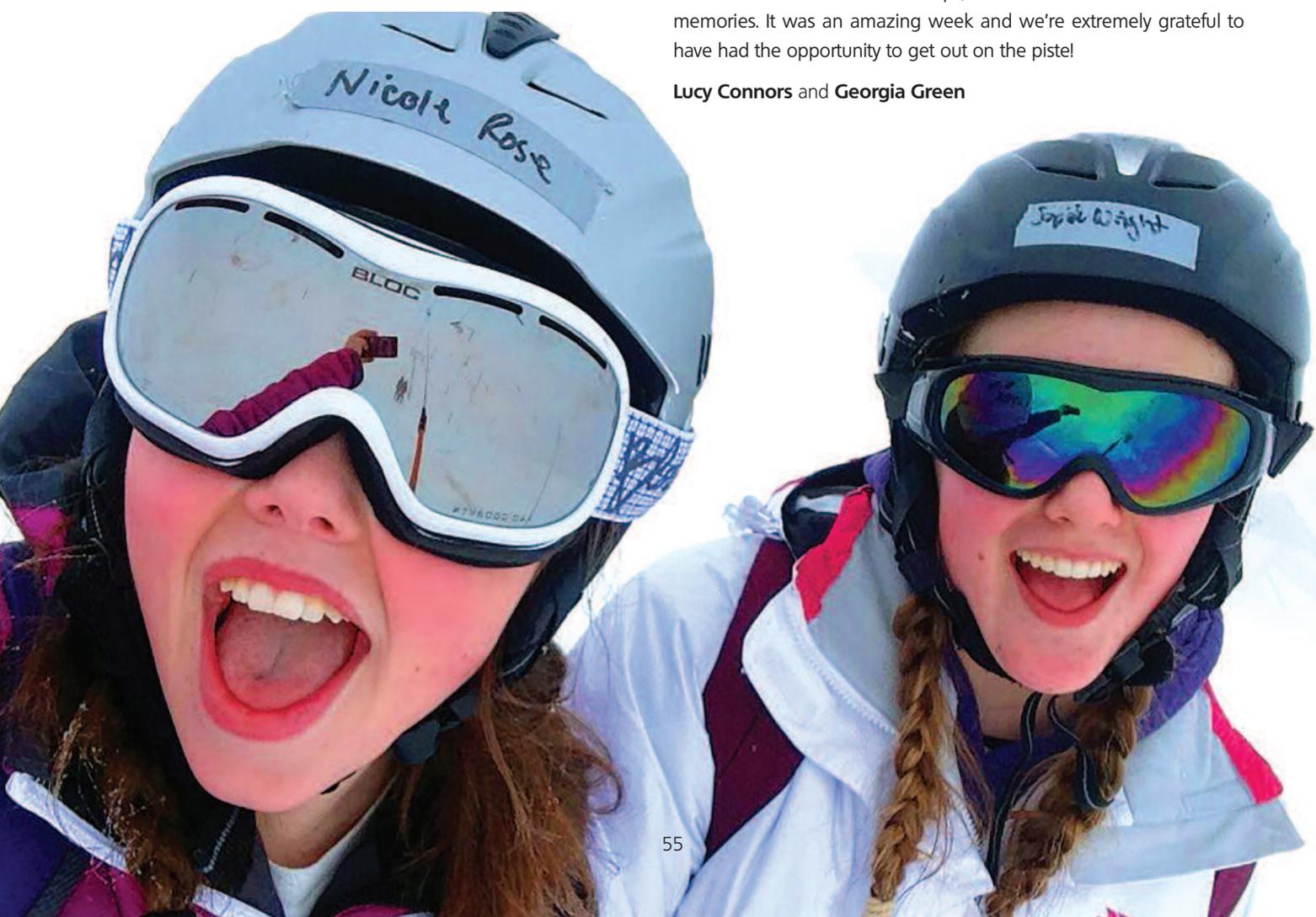
The silly behaviour perpetrated by Group One soon spread from the students to the teachers,

leading to a great moment when Mr Hunt came up behind Mr Singh as he was setting up a group photo and pushing him to the floor, covering both him and his camera in snow!

During each day we had six hours on the slopes, with plenty to keep us busy in the evenings as well. Everyone in our group's skiing improved massively, we're sure the same happened in all the other groups. A couple of our favourite pursuits were tobogganing on one of the ski slopes and the disco, where we received our ski race medals and Mr Singh busted some of his best dance moves.

We have to say that it was one of the best experiences we've had. We each made lots of new friendships, as well as lots of wonderful new memories. It was an amazing week and we're extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to get out on the piste!

Lucy Connors and Georgia Green







Year 11 Fancy Dress

Friday 13 May dawned bright, but chilly... Nevertheless this didn't deter our Year 11 students from enjoying their last 'official' day at Arden: Though of course many will be returning to study at our Sixth Form in September. As is traditional, uniforms were cast aside for fancy dress costumes... We had groups of Sumo Wrestlers, Ali G lookalikes, Babies complete with 'nappies', Pink Ladies, Grass-Skirted boys and several Bin Men.

The traditional concert took place in the Hall, with many Year 11 students taking to the stage to entertain their peers. After lunch, everyone gravitated to the field and the sun attempted a fleeting appearance as the Year Books were given out. This is when the reality of this momentous day really started to sink in, and emotions went up a notch during the final assembly. Gifts were given to Form Tutors in thanks for the support and sheer hard work they had put in throughout the years. Students then listened to addresses by Year Head, Mr Spence, Vice Principal and Head of Key Stage 4, Mr Warwood, and of course Mr Murphy. With words of encouragement ringing in their ears and a teary eye or two, the students were released.

Of course now the exams have been completed... there's the small matter of the Year 11 Prom!







Year 11 Prom

Friday 1 July was a day that had been long in the planning for many students. It was of course the day of the Year 11 Prom. It's a day that'd been uppermost in their minds throughout the year (and possibly many preceding ones too).

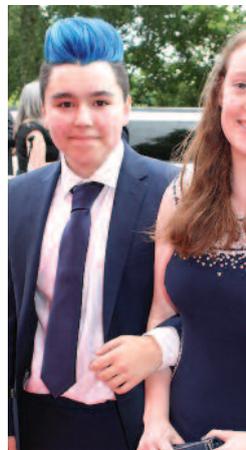
Despite an occasional shower at the beginning of the evening (thanks go to Senior Pupils and staff for wielding the umbrellas so effectively) the night was a huge success. Various modes of transport deposited the students on the famous red carpet, where they were welcomed by Mr Warwood.

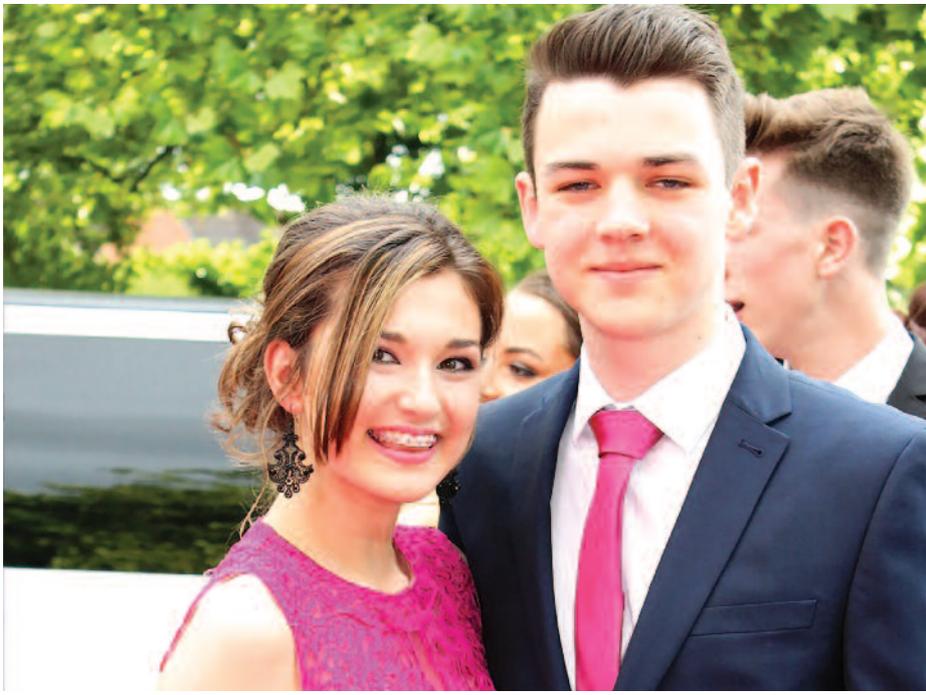
Stunning dresses, smart suits... Our students certainly hit some stylish notes. Proud parents, family and friends all came to watch; cameras flashed, tears were shed – it was a triumph!

As the students processed up the carpet, Mr Murphy was on-hand to wish them well before they met up with Form Tutors and members of the Pastoral Team. Many felt it had all gone far too quickly but they still enjoyed every moment.

A fleet of coaches then whisked the students away for the second half of the event at The Metropole Hotel. For many, this will be final farewell to Arden, although we welcomed many back to study at Arden Sixth Form in September.

Whatever their chosen path, we wish them all a happy and successful future!









Year 13 Ball

Year 13 students and their parents were invited to The Forest of Arden Hotel & Country Club on a lovely evening at the end of June.



Year 13 Ball

After the fancy dress day and weeks of exams...

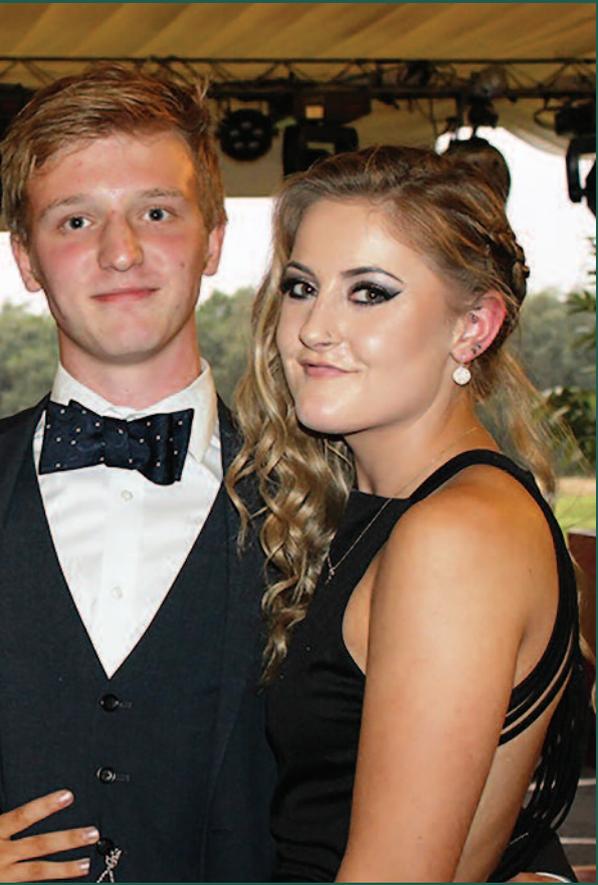
The final farewell to our Year 13 students arrived. The Ball is a very special event as in many cases, students have been at Arden for seven years and we've seen them develop into wonderful young adults, as have those students who joined us in Year 12. Indeed, just how well the students integrate is one of the many strengths of Arden's Sixth Form; it's particularly evident on a night like this.

It has to be said, Thursday 30 June wasn't the warmest of days! But that didn't diminish what was a wonderful evening at the superb Forest of Arden Hotel. Students, their partners and parents arrived and spent an hour chatting to each other and members of Arden staff in the somewhat luxurious, specially erected marquee where the event was taking place.

After the parents left, dinner was served followed by a disco. Many of the staff commented on the wonderful atmosphere and heartily agreed that this was one of the closest year groups they'd worked with - it has been a joy to witness SUCH strong friendships!

We wish each and every student the future success and happiness they so richly deserve.









Year 13 Ball



Year 13 Fancy Dress

Every year the last day for Arden's Year 13 students is celebrated in fancy dress... But unlike Year 11 students, they have to adhere to a theme. Traditionally outfits have to start with a particular letter, this year it was 'C'. As ever there were numerous ingenious C themed outfits, including a 'cereal Killer', Chickens, Cowboys, Cones and Chavs. We also had the Chuckle Brothers, along with Charles and Camilla!

Despite the silliness, it was an emotional day... Whilst some students had only been at Arden for a couple of years, for many the day represented the last hurrah in a seven year partnership with the school and its teachers ...So was truly the end of an era.

The next step in the leavers' lives will take them onto new challenges and experiences - higher education, training, travel or the first steps in their future career... Whatever path they pursue, they will be well prepared thanks to their time at Arden.

Mr Murphy addressed the students wishing them well not only for their forthcoming examinations but for their future life choices. Many of the staff joined in with the celebrations to round off a lovely day in a positive way.











Coventry City Player, Cian Harries visits his old school

We were delighted recently to receive a visit from now famous ex-Arden student, Cian Harries. Cian, who left in 2013, is of course a very talented footballer who signed his first professional contract with Coventry City following his progression through the Team's Football Academy.

Three year deal with the Sky Blues was sealed in June 2015 after he displayed consistently impressive form for the League One's Under 18 and Under 21 teams. Cian also plays in the Welsh Under 21 national team.

During his visit, Cian spent time with students as well as meeting with his old Head of Year, Mrs Hull and our Executive Principal, Mr Murphy. He also very kindly donated a signed Coventry City shirt to the school.

Below: Cian Harries with Mr Murphy, Arden Executive Principal and Mrs Hull, who was Cian's Head of Year while he was at Arden.



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