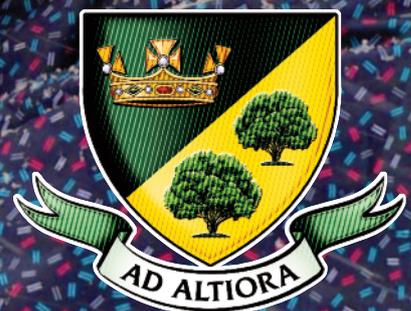


# ad altiora

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

Issue Six 2014/2015



ARDEN

# Inside this issue

- 1: Introduction
- 2: The Catering Crew
- 3: Arden Senior Team 2015
- 7: Arden Awards Evening 2014
- 11: Arden SSAT award
- 12: Numeracy Week
- 13: Arden goes to the Polls
- 14: The Academy's House System
- 15: The International School Award
- 19: Year 11 Prom
- 25: Year 11: The End of an Era
- 27: Arden Sporting Stars
- 29: Rugby legend's visit
- 31: U14 BRITISH Gymnastics Champions!
- 33: Sporting Roundup
- 37: Sports Gala Dinner
- 39: German Exchange
- 43: French Visit
- 45: Shakespeare Festival
- 48: Fame!
- 51: In Brief
- 53: Creative Shrapnel V
- 55: Digital Art Club
- 63: Arden Garden Club
- 65: Digital Leaders
- 67: CERN
- 71: Arden's 2014 Ski Trips
- 77: Year 13 Ball
- 81: Year 13 Fancy Dress Day
- 83: Esther Lau-Mackaay

Front Cover: Arden student Katie Lane enjoying the snow in Italy.

## 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

Design: www.CarneWhitney.com  
01228 596 895

©2015 Arden. The contents of this publication remain strictly © copyright Arden. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the express permission of the Editor. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the publisher.

**W**elcome to this, our latest addition of 'Ad Altiora', the Arden academy magazine. We hope you enjoy the magazine and the overview of 2014-2015. While it has been a very busy and successful year, we can't include every event in the school calendar but our aim is to celebrate the achievements of our students and the life of the school. Many of the articles feature the breadth and depth of our extra-curricular opportunities and the enjoyment the students gain from participating. Not only do these inspirational activities increase a student's confidence, courage and determination; they encourage team-building, mutual respect and friendship in other words they exemplify Arden's core values.

Our intention at Arden is to create well rounded, confident citizens of the future; confident, articulate young people who trust and care for each other – we believe that many of the events featured in 'ad altiora' nurture the qualities required for these characteristics to flourish. I would hope that every parent/guardian encourages their child/children to participate in as many of these opportunities as possible.

Education is going through a time of immense change nationally and locally. Despite the examination structure being overhauled, Arden students have yet again managed to achieve fantastic results. Almost 100% of our Year 11 students achieved 5 A\*-C GCSE grades or equivalent, with a third achieving A\* or A grades in eight or more of their subjects. Year 13 students attained a 100% pass rate at A level with nearly two-thirds gaining the prestigious A\*-B grades. Locally, the numbers of children requiring school places has increased due to increased house building in the area and we are delighted that our new state-of-the-art teaching block is already in use. The extra space allowed us to increase our Year 7 intake from eight to ten registration groups in September. The £4m teaching block will have over 20 classrooms with superb facilities for Mathematics, Geography, ICT and Physics. Sixth Form students will also have purpose built independent study spaces. We are certain this much needed facility will enhance the learning and teaching environment at Arden.

On 1 April, Arden became a Multi-Academy Trust which is an immensely positive progression for the Arden family. This development will allow us to continue to enhance teaching and learning in many ways, recruit and retain the very best teachers and allow our staff to develop across the Trust and thus increase the learning opportunities for all our students. We were also privileged in welcoming new directors to the AMAT (Arden Multi Academy Trust), all of whom bring a wealth of experience, expertise and leadership skills to the table; ensuring the continued success of Arden. You will also be aware that we are moving into difficult financial times where all schools will see a significant decrease in funding. This is made worse for us as Solihull is one of the lowest funded authorities in the country. The opportunities of ensuring better value are much greater across the schools within the Multi-Academy Trust and this will help minimise some of the negative financial impacts.

Life at Arden is always busy but it is immensely fulfilling. As Principal, I am proud and privileged to witness our students mature into young adults. I am able to witness the strengthening bonds of the Arden family. Arden is, and always will be, a community school and our commitment to our primary schools, our local community grows more resolute year on year. While education by its very nature is dynamic at Arden we pride ourselves on maintaining core values that allow our students to achieve their personal potential. I believe this newsletter illustrates the success we achieve.

Martin P. Murphy *Academy Principal*



# Top Marks for Arden's Catering Crew

Congratulations to Angela Berry and all her fantastic catering team at Arden, who claimed the coveted title of the 'LACA Outstanding Catering Team, West Midlands' on the evening of 19 March 2015 recognising the exceptional quality of food they prepare at Arden.

Angela and her team have risen to the challenge of improving and enhancing the dining experience for both pupils and staff. Their main objectives have been to promote a healthy lifestyle ethos at the school through the provision of fresh, sustainable food and to engage pupils in making better use of the modern cafeteria style facilities on site. A key emphasis has been to improve student performance and concentration within lesson time through better nutrition, whilst also preparing students for a healthier future by making informed choices about the foods they eat.

In addition to producing fantastic food on a daily basis, Angela and the team promote themed days during the year, such as St George's Day and Independence Day. They also support calendar events like the PTA Family Firework Display and host Year 10 students during work experience week.

We're sure everyone at Arden really appreciates the catering team's amazing hard work and would like to congratulate the them on winning this prestigious award – they really are outstanding and full deserve it!

*Photograph: Angela Berry (bottom row, far right and inset, right) with some of her team, celebrating St George's Day, along with Mr Murphy proudly holding the LACA award on their behalf.*





**Shirin Anari**

I am utterly delighted on becoming a Senior Pupil and Head Girl. It's very humbling and an honour to be chosen for these roles. I am very thankful and grateful to Arden for giving me such fantastic opportunities; being part of this wonderful team will give the chance to give something back. So far I have loved the responsibility involved with being a Senior Pupil and I look forward to the coming year and the challenges it throws at us – bring on the fashion show! I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the rest of the Senior Pupils because the interviews were very challenging and I'm very glad we have such a fantastic team!



**Megan Burn**

Being a Senior Pupil is something I've wanted to do since primary school and when I found out I had the opportunity to be one, I was thrilled! I'm really excited for this next year and all the amazing opportunities that will come with the job!



**Ed Elvidge**

Hi! For those of you who don't know me, I'm Ed. Recently, I got voted in to be a Senior Pupil which I am delighted about. This is something I have wanted to do since Year 7, so thank you to everyone who voted for me and given me this privileged opportunity. I will strive to do the best I can in this role. I'm really looking forward to being an ambassador for the school.



**Charlotte Lack**

I feel extremely privileged to have been selected as a Senior Pupil and as an ambassador for the school. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to give something back to the school and to take on extra responsibilities throughout the coming year, to help improve Arden. I have already started becoming great friends with the other Senior Pupils and I am really looking forward to the opportunities and experiences to come throughout the year.



# 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.



**Stefan Mason**

No one can put into words how ecstatic and honoured I am feeling to be appointed Head Boy of such a great school. It was always my dream to become Head Boy ever since I started at Arden and to achieve this dream really is amazing. I very much look forward to leading a no doubt fantastic Senior Pupil team into the coming year. I promise that I will do my utmost best in trying to make the next year at Arden, a memorable one.



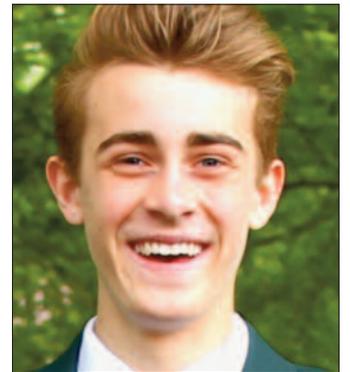
**Max Wilkinson**

When I found out I had become a Senior Pupil, I was extremely thrilled and honoured. Being part of this diverse and talented team allows me to work closely within school and help to improve it. It was a very hard interview process and to come out on the other side as a Senior Pupil was a massive achievement for me and I can't wait to see what the year has in store. I hope to be a good role model for the younger students in the school and it will be a pleasure to work together with the other Senior Pupils to make a difference to Arden.



**Lucy Munden**

I feel extremely delighted and honoured to have been selected as a member of the Senior Pupil team. I can't wait for the upcoming year as I am thrilled to be an ambassador for Arden and look forward to the challenges that lie ahead. Arden has provided me with countless opportunities and I am thrilled I am able to give something back to the school. We have a superb group of pupils and are all gaining instant rapport so I'm very excited to begin this endeavour to represent and support the school in the best way that I can.



**Morgan Scriven**

The interview process to become a Senior Pupil was difficult but definitely worth it! I'm really looking forward to representing the school in many ways and influencing younger students into becoming Senior Pupils of the future.

# Arden Senior Team 2014-15... The Old Guard look back!



**Ben Arnold**

I have enjoyed being a Senior Pupil much more than I thought I would, and it went by so fast. My favourite part was being able to do the Fashion Show of the school uniform for the Year 6 parents, as well as being able to help Year 7 forms adjust for the first two weeks. It was amazing being able to do it as a team and I have made life long friends from it. I wish good luck to the new Senior Pupils, make sure you make the most of the fantastic opportunity. Thank you.



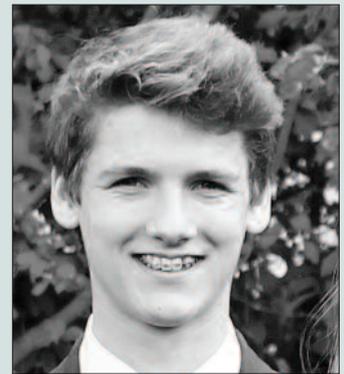
**Joe Craven**

Being a Senior Pupil has definitely been one of the best things I have ever done, with the fashion show to Year 6 parents being a personal favourite moment. We have worked brilliantly as a team and got on really well, becoming close to all members of the team. Thank you to all the teachers for their help and dedication (especially Mr Warwood). It has developed me as a person and has been a great experience.



**Will Davison**

Being a senior pupil has been a fantastic experience and I am gutted that it has come to an end. Throughout the past year, I have made some amazing new friends and shared some great memories such as the fashion show and previous Year 11 prom. We've become really close as a team and this has been a year that I'm going to remember for a long time. Thank you, Arden, and good luck to the new teams!



**Ben Harley-Mason**

This year has flown by, it feels like only a month ago when we were rehearsing for the fashion show! We have all become really good friends in the team this year, it's been nice to get to know people that perhaps I wouldn't have known otherwise. Being on the Senior Pupil team has really helped my people skills, and also to look at challenges with a positive attitude. I'd say that the highlight of being Senior Pupil has been putting on the shows to the Year 6 pupils. I'm very grateful to the school for giving me this opportunity.



**Olivia Johansson**

I have thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of my Senior Pupil role this year and I cannot believe such a fantastic year has come to an end so soon. I couldn't have hoped for a better group of people to work alongside, staff and students, and I have definitely learnt a lot about teamwork and the strengths of our group. My favourite memory is the Year 6 fashion show the first role in which teamwork was particularly important. We really gelled as a group and it was a lot of fun. We got to witness Joe's dancing which was something quite special! I wish next year's Senior Leadership the best of luck and thank you for a great year!



**Holly Munden**

Being a Senior Pupil has definitely been my highlight at Arden. We got on extremely well which made our work much easier. The best experience would have to be the fashion show for Year 6 parents and looking after the new Year 7s in their first weeks at Arden. During our experience, we really gelled as a team and enjoy being ambassadors of the school. Most importantly, I have acquired new qualities while doing my role, these include approaching every task with an open and willing mind. It has been an incredible experience being a Senior Pupil.



**Hannah Northam**

Being a Senior Pupil has been great. I have learned about working in a team and leading and supporting group meetings. Throughout the year, we have done many different things which include; a fashion show to the Year 6 parents, performed plays to the three main primary schools and have done many speeches. I have loved being a Senior Pupil and found it to be a fantastic experience.



**Diana Wheatley**

I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment of being a Senior Pupil. Every part of the role has been challenging, but rewarding. The fashion show was an exciting highlight but taking round the new Year 7s was also fun and getting to meet the new members of the Arden family. It has been a brilliant opportunity to meet and work with so many dedicated people. I will really miss the role and the team.



Danielle Rose singing 'Real Love'

# A R D E N 2 0 1 4 A W A R D S E V E N I N G

The many achievements of Arden's former Year 11 and Year 13 students were celebrated in superb style on Friday 28 November 2014. The night reflected the numerous academic and personal achievements of the 'Class of 2014', witnessed by a large audience of proud parents, staff and important guests. We were very proud to welcome Mr Andy Street, Managing Director of John Lewis Partnership as our Guest Speaker for the evening. We were also privileged to welcome several Solihull Councillors and representatives from key local societies.

Often referred to as the 'jewel in the crown' of Arden's busy annual calendar of events, the Awards Evening is a wonderful way to celebrate the success of students and staff alike. Arden would like to thank everyone who made the evening possible, particularly our many guests and sponsors.

# ARDEN

## 2 0 1 4 A W A R D S E V E N I N G

**The Year 11 Class of 2014 truly excelled in their achievements.** Yet again, almost 100% of students achieved FIVE A\*-C grades. Of these over 85% achieved the 'Gold' standard of five A\*-C, including Mathematics and English. These results were particularly impressive given that the bar was raised significantly for 2014 and that the whole examination system also changed.

**Year 13 students also performed incredibly well in their A Level examinations.** It was with great pride we reported a simply stunning pass rate of 99.2% - with nearly two-thirds of our students gaining the prestigious A\*-B grades. The average point score for our 2014 students was 841 which is a record for Arden and over 86% of all grades were above Grade C. We are extremely proud of the achievements of every single one of our students and wish them well in the exciting challenges that lie ahead for them.

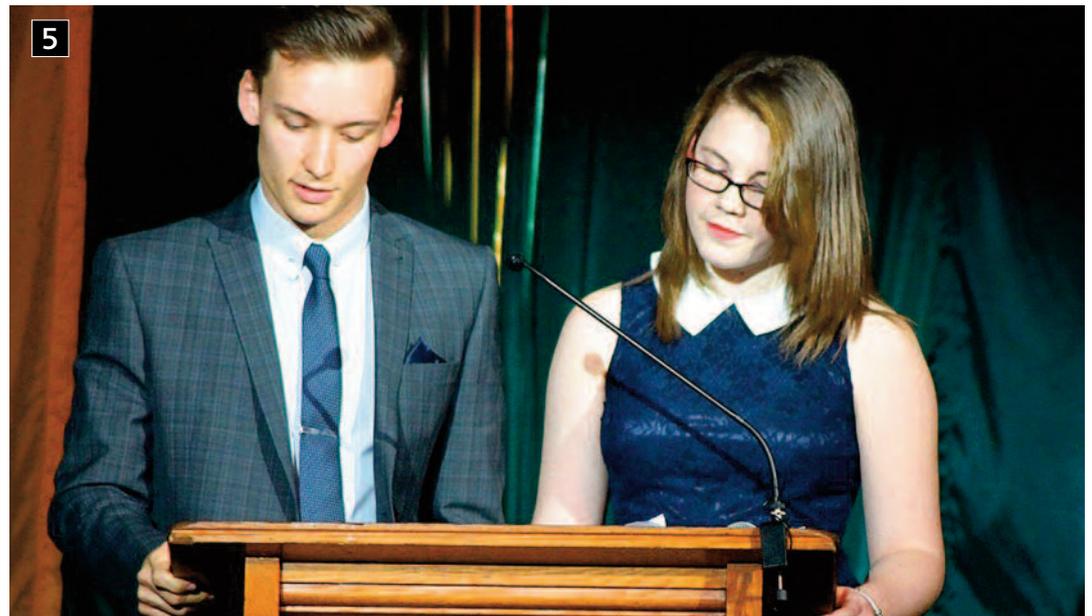
**Obviously there was much to celebrate and the buoyant atmosphere was further enhanced by some fantastic musical performances throughout the evening.** The Ardenaires, The Senior Wind Band, The Chamber Choir, 'Four on the Floor' and B.A.T.S. all wowed the crowd. For many though, the highlight was Arden Sixth Former Danielle Rose's lovely delivery of the much-heard John Lewis Christmas advertisement tune 'Real Love'; a performance that was much appreciated by Mr Street.

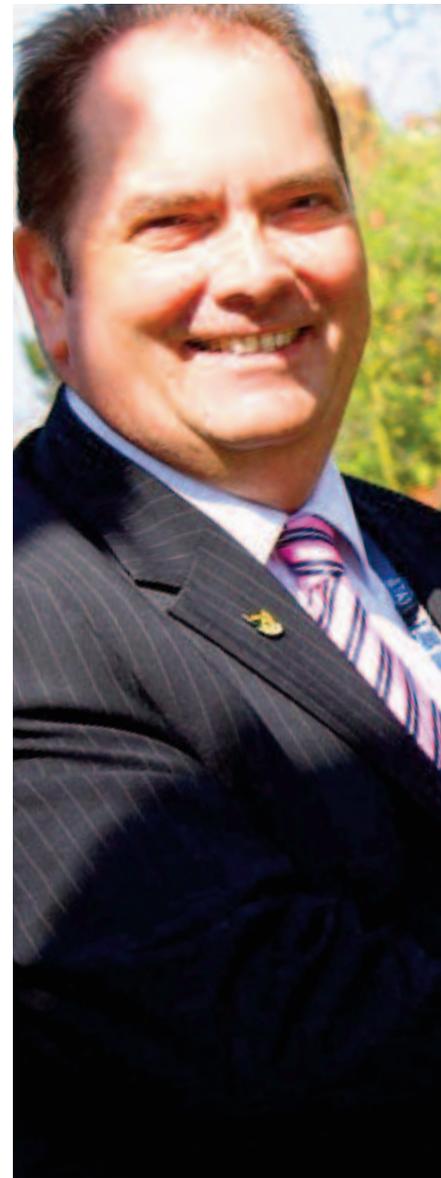
**Eve Rimington and Will Norris provided 'A Look Back' at their seven years at Arden.** Their words proved to be both insightful and humorous, as did the reminiscences of popular former Head Boy and Head Girl, William Penny and Eleanor Wilkes. Speaking on behalf of their peers, all four students conveyed a huge affection for Arden and all its staff.

**Among the many award winners was Cameron Scriven.** He received the prestigious Governors' Cup for his commitment and contribution, not only to life at Arden but also within the wider community. 2014 also saw the inaugural 'Derek Smart Arts Award' in honour of Arden's greatly missed former Chair of Governors who passed away in 2014. The award was presented by Mrs Ann Smart herself to two former Arden Sixth Form students, Isabelle James and Thomas Briggs.

**Photographs:** **1** Andy Street, Managing Director of John Lewis Partnership, Martin Murphy and Geoff Harley-Mason, Arden Chair of Governors. **2** Andy Street, Managing Director of John Lewis Partnership. **3** William Penny and Eleanor Wilkes, former Head Boy and Head Girl. **4** Arden Senior Wind Band. **5** Will Norris and Eve Rimington. **6** Hannah Northam and Will Davison. **7** Geoff Harley-Mason, Arden's Chair of Governors with Winner of the Governors' Cup, Cameron Scriven and Martin Murphy.







# Arden SSAT Awards

I am **VERY** pleased to inform you about two awards that Arden has recently received giving prestigious national recognition for our students' exceptional progress and high achievement at GCSE level. SSAT, the School, Students and Teachers' network, recently undertook its annual in-depth analysis of official Department for Education data on all state-funded schools in England and marked out Arden's particular success.

The school has qualified for two SSAT Educational Outcomes Awards by being in the TOP TEN PER CENT of schools nationally for the progress made by its students during the period between Primary School (Key Stage 2) when they join us and their GCSE results at age 16. Arden is also ranked in the TOP TEN PER CENT across the whole country for pure high attainment as well. Taken together, this means that our students not only improve exceptionally well during their time at Arden, but that they also achieve some fantastic results during their exams.

The school was invited to receive the awards at a regional celebration ceremony hosted by the SSAT organisation in Birmingham on 23 April this year.

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT said, "Arden should be congratulated for their exceptional achievement. They have proved themselves to be leading the field in improving GCSE outcomes for their students. There is SO much good practice that this school could share, and I hope they will join us at the celebration evening for the chance to network and share strategies with award-winning schools".

She continued "These results are testament to the commitment and hard work of the students, teachers and leadership team at Arden, and show what can be achieved when skilled teachers have high expectations and ambition for every young person. I am proud that this school is a member of the SSAT network".

These awards are a worthy tribute to the fantastic hard work of all the students and staff at Arden, and come as a great positive boost as exam time fast approaches for many of our students.

Geoff Harley-Mason, Arden Chair of Governors

*Photograph: Mrs Christine Robinson, Arden Vice Principal, with SSAT Director & Chief Executive, Mrs Sue Williamson at the recent celebration ceremony held in Birmingham.*





# Arden Numeracy Week

**A**rden's first official Numeracy Week was held in March 2015. Teachers from across the whole school used a raffle competition to recognise and reward the use of numeracy in their lessons.

We all use 'numeracy' at different times in our subjects, but we don't always have the opportunity to celebrate and recognise the transferrable skills between subjects. Everyone enjoyed having numeracy as a focus during the week and collaborating and sharing with other departments.

Competition is a great way of further motivating students to achieve their best at Arden, so once students were awarded the raffle tickets they posted them into the Numeracy boxes across school. At the end of the week the raffle was drawn and students won prizes of Touchwood vouchers and Easter chocolates. There is a video of the draw on the Student Dashboard on the Frog VLE.

---

## The Numeracy Raffle Prize Winners were:

<b>First Prize:</b>	<b>Olivia Ment Year 10 (Maths)</b>
<b>Other Prize Winners:</b>	Harvey Wiseman Year 7 (ICT), Leah Hughes Year 8 (MFL), Caitlin Devitt Year 9, Je-Yi Kim Year 9 (PE), Sarah Robins Year 9 (French)



---

During the week the Mathematics Department also ran some other activities including classroom treasure hunts and learning linked to other subjects. For example there were Year 9 lessons about weight and distance looking at Solar Systems (Science) and in Year 10 they looked at comparing two graphs or charts (History, Science, Geography and D&T). In Year 11 they linked numeracy to the workplace rearranging formulae that Opticians might use to make different strengths of lens.

**Photographs:** Top: Martin Murphy with Olivia Ment, Raffle First Prize Winner. Left: Numeracy Raffle Winners: Harvey Wiseman, Leah Hughes, Je-Yi Kim, Caitlin Devitt & Sarah Robins

# Arden's General Election

Arden held its very own General Election on 7 May. Year 12 Government and Politics represented and led campaigns for the main parties: Labour; Liberal Democrats; and Conservatives (the three main parties from the last election). Due to a passionate request from a group of Year 13 Government and Politics students we also included the Green Party entry from Year 13 as well.

The students involved in the campaigns attended assemblies and form periods to introduce the election. We held a leadership debate which was really well attended and the party leaders showed real passion when discussing the policies of their political party. It was great to see such heated and informed debate!

Our focus was on teaching the whole school about the value of democracy – and spark their interest in politics. Students from all years were discussing the general election – and on polling day there were queues outside the door! We had a massive turnout of 65% of the whole school, with Conservatives scoring a landslide victory.

## Conservative Candidates

Taylor Culey  
James Molloy (Leader)  
Harry Thompstone  
Izzy Smith  
Pooja Kaur

## Liberal Democrat Candidates

Will Taylor  
Amy Fortnam  
Peter Sexton  
Holly Shipway  
Matt Horsley  
Patrick Lindsay (Leader)



## Distinguished Literary Guest for Sixth Formers

Adrian Barlow, the President of the English Association and former Director of Public and Professional Programmes at the University of Cambridge, came to speak to the English Literature A level group on 27 January. He spoke about the importance of context in literature and gave some interesting insights into the work of Emily Bronte, Caryl Churchill and Sylvia Plath.

The students, who are currently preparing their coursework dissertations, found the session stimulating and useful and were not afraid to ask questions and make known their own views on the authors in question. Mr White and Mrs Thompson have reported that some very pleasing essays have now been handed in. It was a pleasure and a privilege to have Adrian in the school to share some of his knowledge and experience with the students.

**Photograph:** Mr Barlow with Arden Governor Dr O'Donovan and Arden Principal Mr Murphy



## Labour Candidates

Matt Bliss (Leader)

Chris Wyart

James Ryan

Emily Armstrong

## Green Party Candidates

Rose Crees

Jack Partridge

Sinaede Bates

Martha Rowe

Laurie Cromwell

Laura Shaw

Ollie Mason



# The Arden House System

## 2013/2014 Results

For the second year running Baird won the House Cup. Huge congratulations go out to Mr Singh, Mrs Heard and the whole of Baird House on such a fantastic achievement!

<b>First</b>	Baird	671.5 points
<b>Second</b>	Fleming	603.5 points
<b>Third</b>	Aylward	579.5 points
<b>Fourth</b>	Eliot	500.5 points

## The 2014/2015 Houses

This is the third year of the new House System. Special thanks have to go out to Mrs Thompson who has stepped down as Head of Fleming House after doing such a wonderful job – she claimed the House Cup more than once during her time in the role.

In addition Mr Pillinger, having taken on the role as Head of House System, had to part ways with his beloved Aylward – a house for whom he had developed a very strong bond – though now he is obviously totally impartial.

## The House Heads are now:

**Fleming:** Mr Spence and Miss Peapell

**Aylward:** Mr Wood

**Baird:** Mrs Heard and Mr Singh

**Eliot:** Mrs Few and Mrs Harnett.

This year students have taken part in no fewer than THIRTY competitions. These have included Bench Ball; Tug of War; the Shoebox Appeal; Badminton; Black History Month; Football; Charity Cake Sale; Basketball; Group Quiz; Cross-Country; and various photography competitions, including Young Rotary Photographer of the Year, plus of course the two whole school events, House Music and Sports Day, and many, many more.

Throughout the year, Fleming have been leading the field, but Eliot and Aylward have been hot on their heels, sadly Baird may have now left it too late for a climb to the top. As of the May Half Term break the results were as follows:

<b>First</b>	Fleming	650.0 points
<b>Second</b>	Eliot	630.0 points
<b>Third</b>	Aylward	622.0 points
<b>Fourth</b>	Baird	590.0 points

Well done to everyone who has participated, it's been a huge team effort from all the students, tutors, house heads and staff who are in charge of updating the website, Mrs Jenkins, and the various screens around school, Mrs Steele and Miss Jamieson.



# International School Award

## and special World War 1 Summer School 2014



### International School Award

Arden is absolutely delighted to announce that we have been awarded the British Council's 'International School' Award, which recognises our excellence in the area of international learning. We wanted to share the school's success with you and explain what it means for pupils, teachers and the school as a whole.

The Award is a prestigious globally recognised accreditation given to schools that forge special links with partners overseas and add an international dimension to their curriculum. By working on joint projects and adding international elements to lessons, pupils (and indeed teachers) are given a fresh perspective on the world and their place in it.

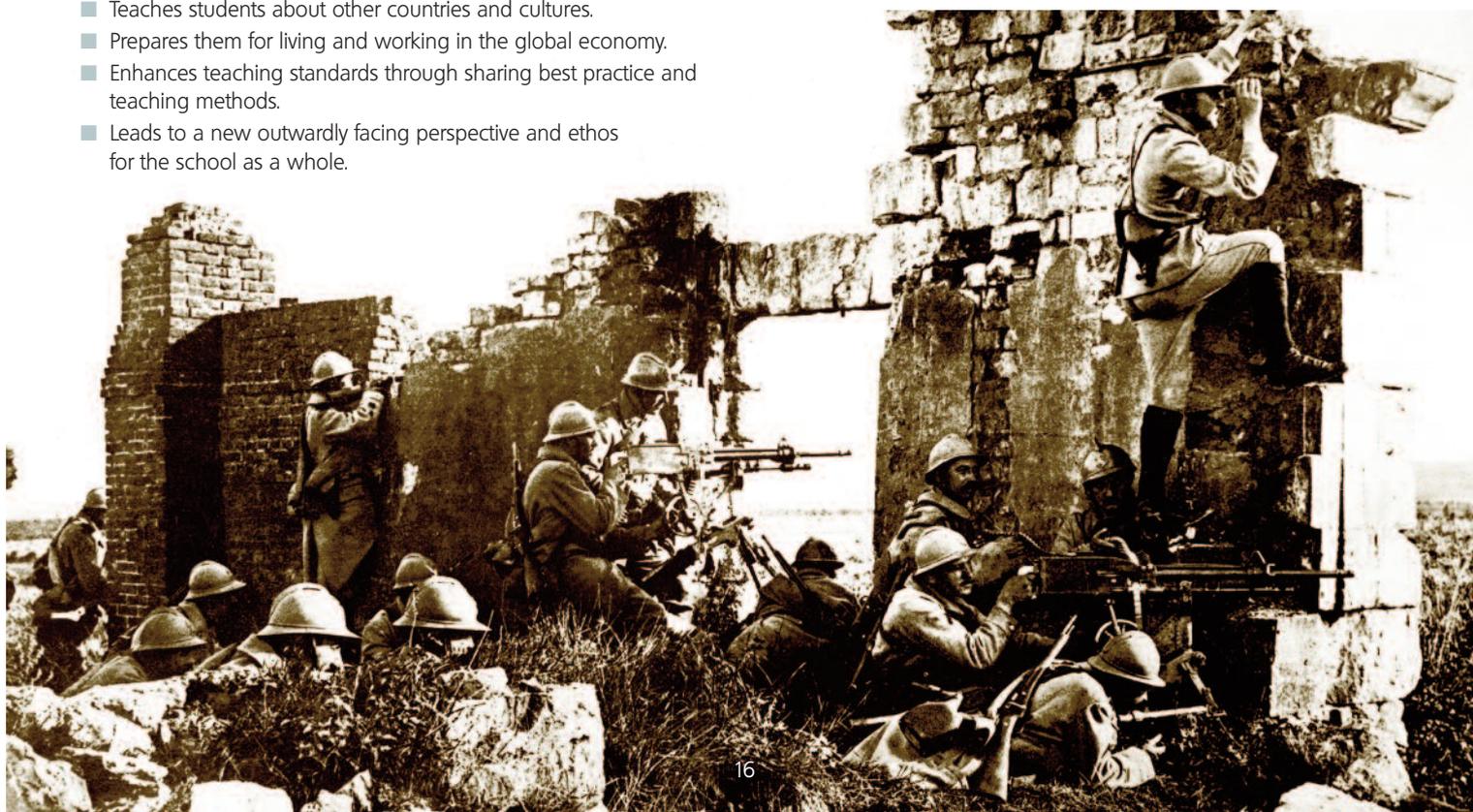
#### Taking part in the International School Award:

- Links schools with others around the world.
- Teaches students about other countries and cultures.
- Prepares them for living and working in the global economy.
- Enhances teaching standards through sharing best practice and teaching methods.
- Leads to a new outwardly facing perspective and ethos for the school as a whole.

In addition to the outstanding work of our Languages Department in the area of international relations and educational development, many projects undertaken are cross-curricular.

The finest example is the recent work around Arden's commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of the start of World War 1 which, featured in the last edition of 'Ad Altiora' and developed into the Summer School event detailed overleaf.

The receipt of the International Schools Award is a huge honour for Arden. It recognises the commitment our staff and students put into adding an international dimension to school life and ensuring our students become the positive global citizens of the future.



## WW1 Summer School

In addition to the e-twinning connections with fellow 1914-18 combatant countries, France, Turkey and Northern Italy, a WW1 summer school was held for students from Years 7-10 during the first week of the summer holidays. Three days were spent in school and two visiting key WW1 sites in and around the town of Ypres in Belgium.

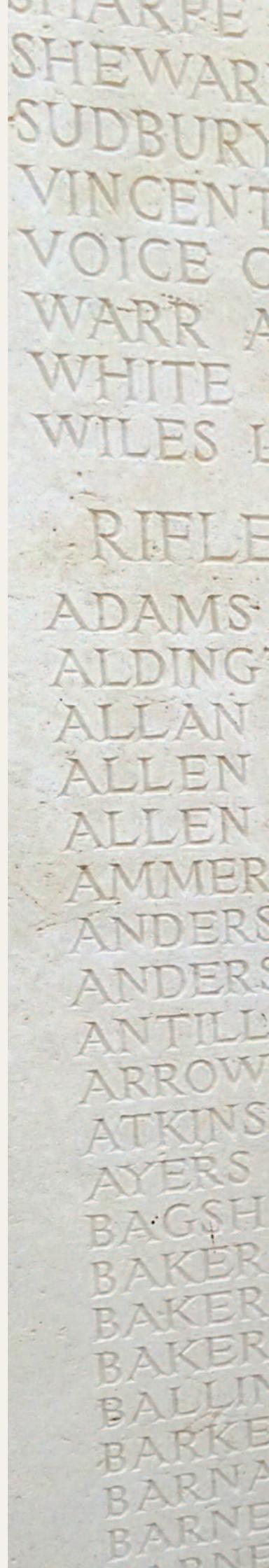
The summer school was primarily funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, which also supported some History and English curriculum-related workshops for everyone in Year 9 during the 2014 Autumn Term.

Two of Arden's Digital Leaders also attended all week to record the work students did to show the local community and to save it for future generations. They did fantastic job, and the excellent film they made can be viewed at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GAA-l\\_iaLmw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GAA-l_iaLmw)

There was lots of great positive feedback from the students and parents so a big 'Thank You' goes out to everyone who made the visit such a successful and fulfilling experience for everyone involved, your support was much appreciated.

Mrs Allton nominated a couple of personal highlights of the Belgian trip. The first was Harry Gibbons who discovered the real life 1914-18 soldier he was researching actually lived on his road. Harry followed his story closely and placed a cross to remember him at Tyne Cot Cemetery.

Her second nominee was Joe Shirley's playing of the piano at Talbot House, Poperinge in Belgium, birthplace of the 'Toc H' charitable soldier's missions which was incredibly moving (perhaps you remember the famous old expression 'Dim as a Toc H Lamp'?).

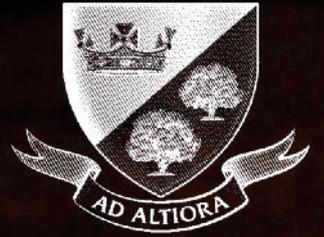


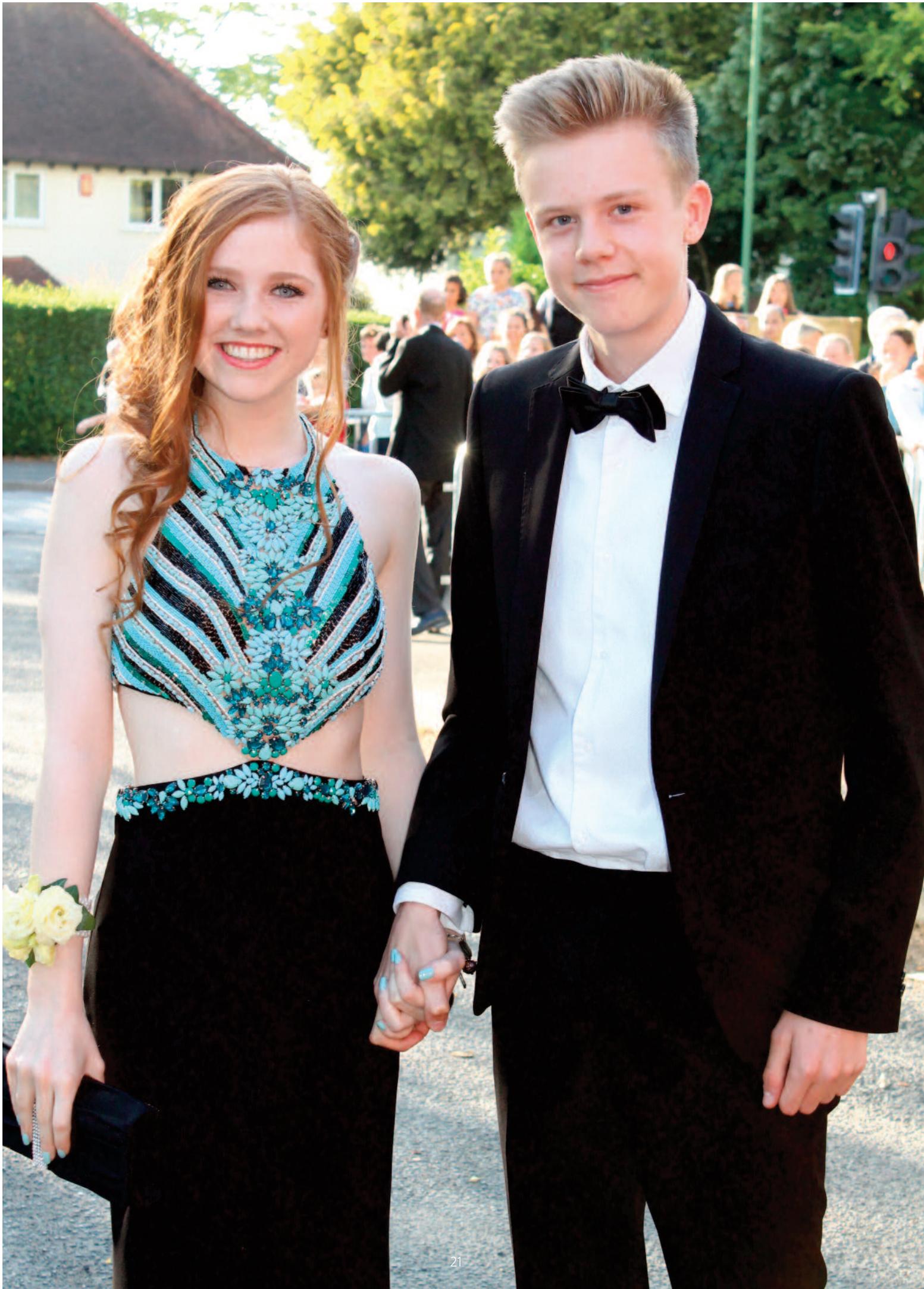


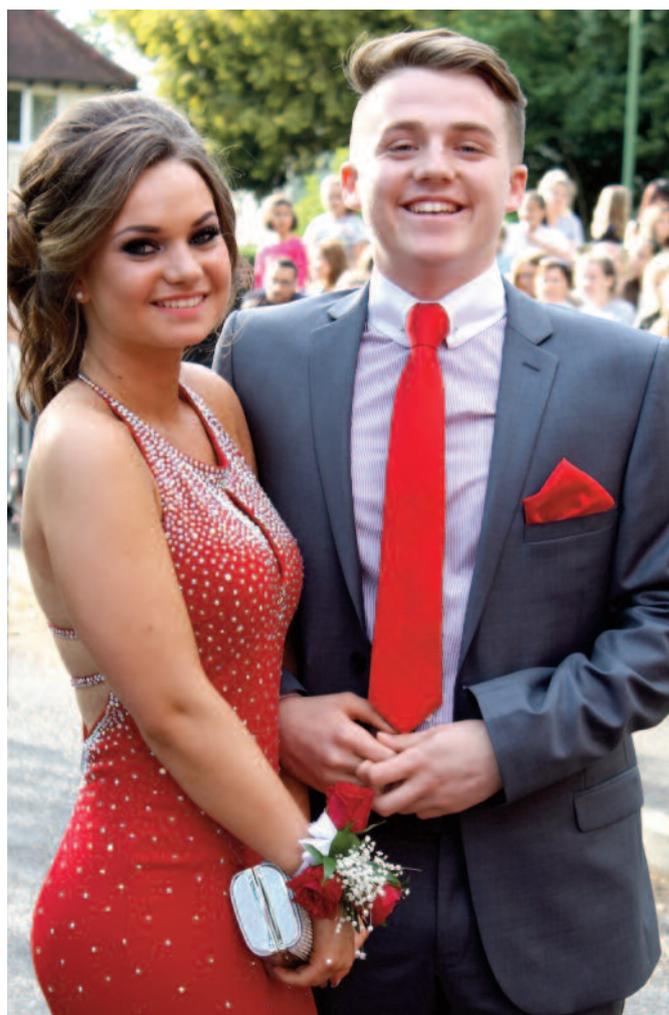


# Year 11 Prom

Arden's Year 11 students were blessed with a beautiful evening for their Prom on Friday 26 June. The fabulous night was a fitting finale to five great years at Arden - although we'll be welcoming back many of them to the Sixth Form in September of course.



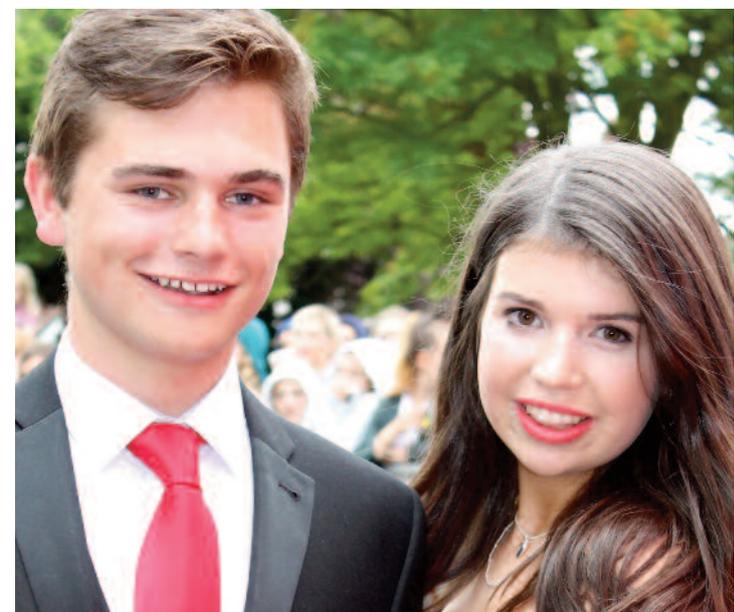


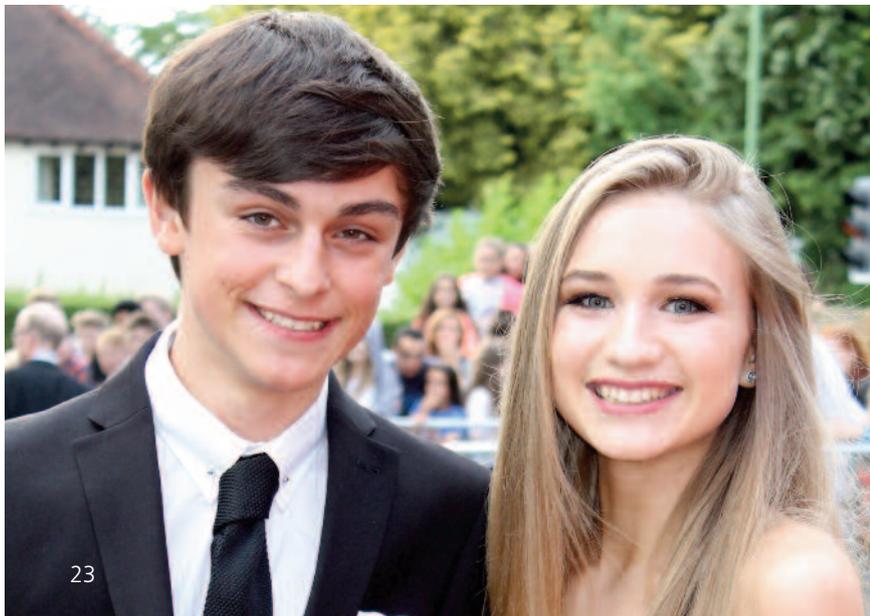
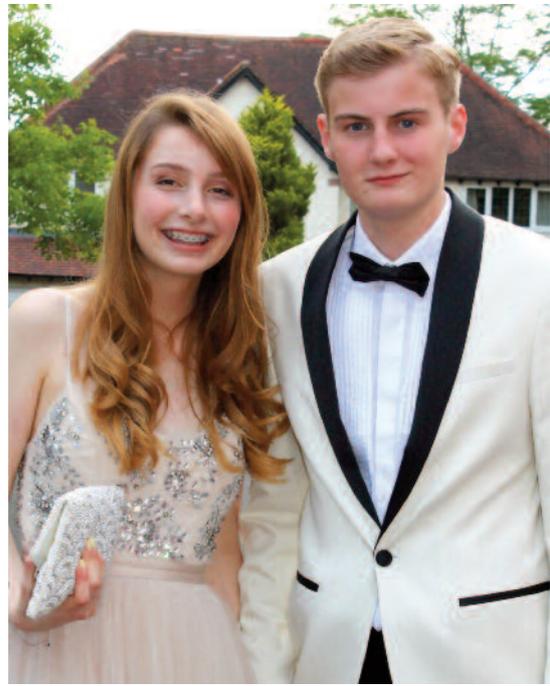


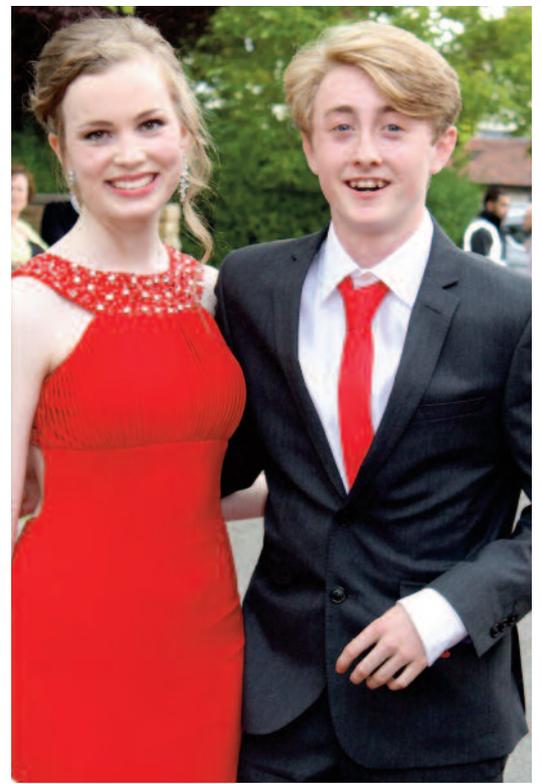
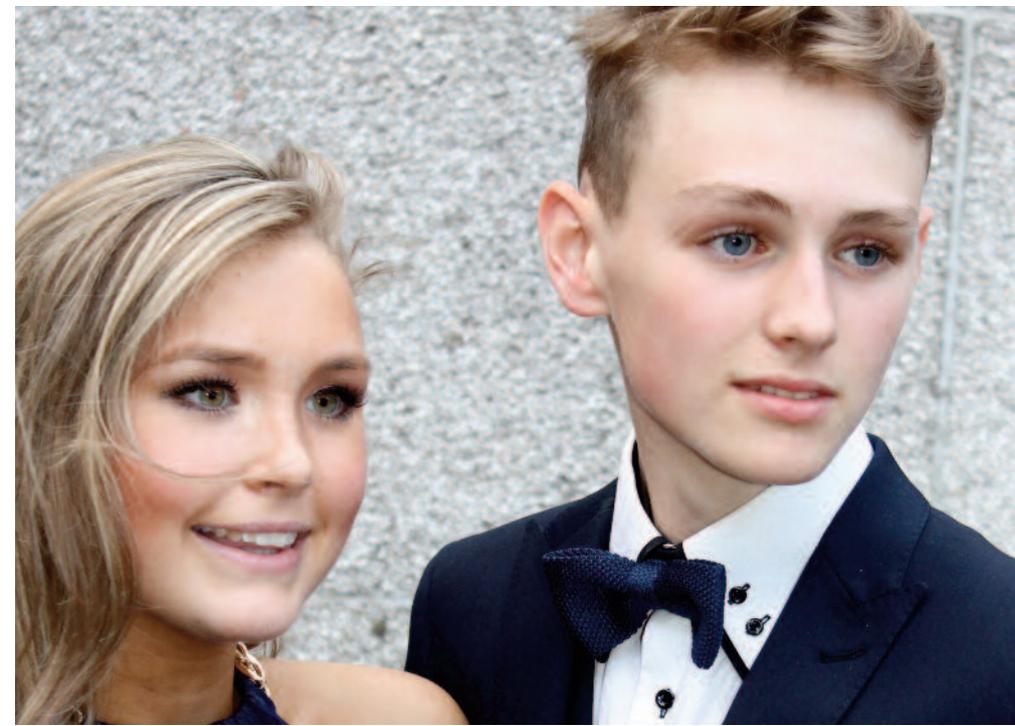
**Year 11 Prom** The stage was set and our Year 11 students didn't disappoint...they did the red carpet proud at their Prom which was held on Friday 26 June. Many of the boys could have given none other than a certain '007' a run for his money while the girls were stunning in dresses that covered every colour of the rainbow and more!

This year's Prom had a different format than previous years... the red carpet walk was still the same and the students delighted the crowds who had turned up to watch. After a warm welcome from Mr Murphy and Mr Singh, the students were able to watch the arrival of their peers, have photographs taken and were then taken to The Birmingham Metropole Hotel by coach where the festivities continued.

The evening was a huge success thoroughly enjoyed by staff, students and of course, parents. As one mother commented, "the Prom was truly amazing, what a great spectacle for the whole community to see and my daughter had the best time ever. She wants to do it all again!"











# Year 11 The End of an Era

**At** the start of each academic year, the Year 11 students are warned how quickly the months will fly by and this year was no exception! The process begins with the last day – a celebration of fancy dress costumes, concerts, hoodies, year books and the reality that five years at Arden are finally drawing to a close.

Friday 8 May dawned sunny but a tad chilly. The students excelled themselves we had a set of traffic cones (which were particularly useful when the cohort was crossing Station Road), penguins, grapes and gladiators to name but a few. After some stellar (and somewhat enthusiastic) performances at the concert, the students received their hoodies and yearbooks. The day was brought to a close by a final, farewell assembly in which prizes for costumes were given out, thanks and presents were received by form tutors who had nurtured, encouraged the students throughout the preceding months and years.

With words of encouragement ringing in their ears from Mr Singh (Head of Year), Mr Warwood (Head of Key Stage 4 and Vice Principal) and Mr Murphy (Principal) the students left the hall for the last time (although many will be returning to Arden Sixth Form).

We wish them well with their examinations and whatever their future has in store for them.





**Henry Thorneywork**

Henry's main sports are athletics and rugby. A member of the Solihull & Small Heath Athletics Club, he recently competed successfully at the England Athletics Championships in Sheffield. His rugby achievements are equally impressive, he plays for Warwickshire, is a member of Worcester Warriors' Academy and was officially recognised as 'Player of the Year' for Greater Birmingham in 2014.



**Elliott McMillan**

On 2 November 2014, Elliott went to Cardiff to compete in the Welsh Open International Judo Championships.

He competed in the Cadet Boys Under 66kg category against athletes from France, Italy and Russia.

It was a fantastic experience which one he hopes to repeat in the near future.



**Keavy Monaghan**

Keavy started Irish dancing at the age of three and has been dancing ever since.

Her biggest achievement was qualifying for her very first World Competition, where she came an extremely impressive twentieth.

Since then, she has been to two more world events, as well as competing in the prestigious 'All Irelands', 'All Scotlands', the British Nationals and the 'Great Britains'.



**Ethan Wallace**

Ethan's passion is the highly competitive world of BMX.

To-date his greatest achievement is getting to the world championships in Holland.

He rides for Nuneaton BMX Club, which has its own a national spec, eight lane competitive, as well as a smaller four lane pump track.



**Emma Crampton**

Emma's Irish dancing career has seen her compete in many highly prestigious competitions, including 'All Ireland', 'All Scotland' and Great Britain.

Her biggest achievement in solo dance to-date was achieving first place in the 'All Islands' competition.

Emma was also a winner as part of the team dance in the 'All Scotland' competition and came second in London at the World Championships in the Team Dance category.

# Sporting Stars



**Caitlin Hubbard**

Caitlin is the official National Champion for Butterfly at both 100m and 200m. The Butterfly stroke is widely recognised as the most gruelling of all competitive swimming styles.

Caitlin is also the Midland and Warwickshire Butterfly record holder at both 200m and 50m. She has been selected for the England Junior Team to compete in Italy this year. After successfully medalling at an international meet in Luxembourg, her aim is to now make the cut for GB Team attending the European Youth Olympics in July.



**Ashleigh Bailey**

Ashleigh Bailey's main sport is athletics. Like Henry Thomeywork, she is a part of Solihull and Small Heath, and has been a member of this excellent athletics club for six years.

Athletics started to become 'serious' for Ashleigh at the English Schools' Championships in 2014 when she achieved sixth place individually and third as part of a relay team.

She is now ranked second in the UK for long jump, and is both excited and absolutely determined to score a medal at English Schools this year.



**James Bowen**

James has a long list of impressive golfing achievements, having enjoyed phenomenal success at Club, County, National and International level.

He has represented England at Under 16 level and has played in the English Boys' National Championships.

At County level he has represented Warwickshire at Under 14, Under 16 and Under 18; becoming Warwickshire Boys' U14 Champion in the process and is now a member of the County's Elite Squad.



**Saskia Inman**

Saskia started sailing aged just seven when she was on a family holiday in Wales.

Winter sees her participating in numerous training specialised programmes, ensuring she is fully ready to compete in both National and World Championship events during the summer.

Saskia has already competed in the 2012 Pwllheli Nationals and at Southend-on-Sea. She took part in the 2013 World Championships at Grosseto in Italy, also competing in the 2014 World Championships at Carnac, France.

She says she particularly enjoys meeting and competing against people from around the world, including the famous competitive sailing nations of Australia, America, as well as many other countries.



**Kiara Henry**

Kiara's principle sport is Badminton, for which she represents Warwickshire and England at Under 13 level.

She has been selected to represent England at all the 2014/2015 season Under 13 International competitions. She has already travelled to Denmark and Germany to compete against other top European players. Kiara is Warwickshire Junior Champion at Under 13 Singles, Doubles AND Mixed and has held all three titles for the last two years. Kiara is also the current Yonex East Scottish Under 13 Badminton Champion at Singles and Doubles.

In March she took part in the English National Championships in Milton Keynes in which she won Bronze in Singles and Doubles and a Silver in Mixed, ranking her third in the whole country at all three disciplines.

**With so much fantastic academic success to constantly report at Arden, we sometimes forget that our school is also home to some brilliant young athletes. They represent school, club, town, county, region and even country at the very highest levels. This issue we're taking the opportunity to salute ten Arden stars who are making their mark in the highly competitive worlds of sport, dance and athletics.**

# Arden's Inspiring Rugby Visitor

**On** Thursday 5 February, selected pupils from Year 7 and 8 spent the afternoon with Wasps RFC ambassador and former England rugby player, Paul Sackey. Paul spent time answering questions - many of them quite probing and insightful - and passing on some valuable lessons drawn from a career that saw him make 22 England appearances, score 11 tries and play in the 2007 World Cup Final.

The pupils then had a chance to have their photographs taken with Paul and The Heineken Cup, as well as receiving signed photographs. Undoubtedly though, the highlight of the afternoon was when the pupils had the opportunity to take part in a rugby training session delivered by the Wasps' coaches and of course Paul himself.

The top flight Coventry-based team has been kind enough to offer the pupils a chance to experience the special atmosphere of a match day with free tickets for their match versus London's famous Harlequins - a great opportunity for them once again.

Our thanks go out to Paul and Wasps RFC for giving our students such a great time and inspiring them hugely. Our lads really appreciated the opportunity and have gained a lot from the experience. We would also like to thank Verity Brown for organising the session.









# U14 Boys are British Champions!

**T**he competition was held at Fenton Manor, Stoke-on-Trent on Sunday 3 May, which required an early start for all concerned! Unfortunately, Will Hitchcock picked up an injury during warm up, so Mrs Bennett and I had to make a decision whether to substitute from the Under 14 boys or the mixed team. We decided to sacrifice the Under 19 mixed team and keep the lads as strong as we could. We had to make a quick substitution and Cree Amory had little time to prepare before he performed his floor routine. The Under 19 Boys finished in fourth place despite some great vault scores.

The Under 19 mixed team were of course now a team member short, but despite being up against very experienced opposition, they acquitted themselves well, coming achieving twelfth place.

The Under 14 boys had been hanging around since 9.30am, but didn't compete until 5.00pm - so it had been a VERY long day. They were last on the floor, but their vaulting was excellent. We were delighted with their routines; every member of the team performed better than we had ever seen, with Scott Johns yet again having the eyes of the crowd on him as the very last gymnast... A daunting experience in front of an audience of more than 500 people.

We were hoping for a medal but had seen some extremely strong performances from Coopers' Company and Coburn School and The Royal Grammar School, Newcastle. As these schools were announced in second and third places we increasingly disappointed. It left us wondering just who had beaten them and assumed the school had performed in one of the rounds we missed whilst warming up our other team... So it was a real surprise and absolute delight to find that it was ARDEN who were the winners!

**The Arden Under 14 Boys Gymnastics Team are now the British Schools' Champions. We simply couldn't be more proud of them!**

HUGE thanks must go to Mrs Bennett, without whom we couldn't have competed at such a high level. Thank you also to all the parents who have supported us SO well and to Mr Mullett for driving the bus up to Stoke on a Sunday.

Congratulations must also go to Year 7's Corey Allen who also won an individual Silver Medal in the Boys' Tumbling event.

Our gymnasts are: Kristian Bennett, George Spittle-McGuire, Ed Elvidge, Coel Taylor, Will Hitchcock, Cree Amory-Reid, Jamie Russell, Sarah Crane, Lois Mansfield and Kaili Woodward.

The winning Under 14 Boys' team were: Joe Butler, Harry Boddington, Henry Thornywork, Corey Allen, Ryan Cambridge and Scott Johns.

Mrs Heard

#### Photographs:

*Main picture, Left to Right; Harry Boddington, Ryan Cambridge, Corey Allen, Joe Butler, Henry Thornywork and Scott Johns*

*Floorwork from Corey Allen. Tumbler: Harry Boddington*

*Left, The British Under 14 Champions, Left to Right; Mrs Bennett, Mrs Heard, Scott Johns, Corey Allen, Joe Butler, Harry Boddington, Ryan Cambridge and Mr Murphy (Henry Thornywork was absent from school)*



# Sporting Roundup

## Basketball - Win, Win Win!

As long ago as February, Arden's local domination of basketball continued, with all three teams playing and winning their individual matches in the Borough finals.

Year 8s were behind for most of their game, but scored 10 points in the last quarter, with six from Fraser Ramsay alone, to see Arden romp home 24-17 winners over Heart of England.

Year 9 survived two late scares, with Josh Craven hitting two points in the last ten seconds taking the game into overtime, when he scored another two pointer to force a Golden Basket decider. We're pleased to report that the winning shot was scored by Arden's Chris Bird, beating Alderbrook 33-31.

Year 10's team was out in front for long periods of their match, but sadly lost James Kinder, Dan Seaton AND Coel Taylor due to being fouled out. Despite losing three critical players, incredibly they were able to hang on for yet another WIN - 37-36 against our long-time sporting rivals, Heart of England.



## Year 9 Basketball

The Year 9 Basketball team has had a fantastic season which saw them unbeaten in six games.

In the Round Robin they came out comfortable winners against Heart of England in the play offs. The closely contested game saw the win by three points, setting up a final against Alderbrook.

This was an eventful match where Josh Craven scored in the dying seconds levelling the points at the end of the fourth quarter. The game eventually came down to a Golden Basket playoff that saw Chris Bird finally secure a two point score for a 42-40 Arden win.

The Year 9 Basketball squad were as follows:

Tom Parkin	Callum McGregor	Josh Craven
Tom Rose	Chris Bird	Dom Orton
Gabe Henderson	Ben Cornforth	Sam Harris
Will Edwards	Jacob Arnold	

All three of the excellent Basketball teams reported here owe much of their recent impressive success to some simply superb coaching by Alex Richard and Luke James - thank you very much gentlemen!

## Tennis

Arden teams performed brilliantly at the Solihull tennis slams held at Solihull tennis club on Monday 8th June.

The girls played against Alderbrook, Light Hall and Tudor Grange and managed to win all of their matches. They worked very well as a team and were deserved winners of the group stages.

They now go through as winners and represent Solihull in the regional games on the 2 July at Warwick University.

Congratulations to the following:

Katie Fagg	Kiara Henry	Sarah Crane
Mary Takwoingi	Heidi Bach	Frankie Barbieri

The boys also played against Tudor Grange, Alderbrook and Lighthall. They too were winners in all of their matches. They won a total of ten games out of a possible twelve losing the two games in a well fought doubles games. They will now progress through to the regional games at Warwick University representing Solihull.

Number One Singles Player: Luke McSkimming

Number Two Singles Player: Jack Naisbitt

Number One Doubles Pair: Liam Granger & Mohamed Youssef

Number Two Doubles Pair: Jackson Snell & William Boles

## School Games

March saw the involvement of Arden students at the School Games Level 3 competition in Rugby

Girls' Swimmers, FIRST:

Sophie Wright, Rosie Breslin, Caitlin Hubbard, Georgia Green

Boys' Swimmers, SECOND:

Matt Wilkinson, Gabe McLaughlin, Tom Parkin, Callum Mitchell

Boys' Rowers, SECOND:

Max Topham-Steele, James Blewer, Chris Bird

Girls' Rowers, SECOND:

Amy Burton, Bella Trett, Annabell Taplin, Emily Johannsson

## Badminton National Finals

In April, Arden Badminton players took part in the regional round of the Centre Parcs National Badminton Competition. Between them they played a total of 20 games, but amazingly lost only one of them!

As a result, our girls went through to the National Final which took place in May. They achieved a very creditable fifth place. They were fantastic ambassadors for Arden and we would like to congratulate them on their success.

The Arden Badminton Squad (below) comprised:

Kiara Henry	Katie Fagg	Anna Kirk
Grace Viney	Milly Evans	



# Sporting Roundup



# Year 9 Netball

Huge congratulations also go out to the girls of the Year 9 Netball team who were runners up at the recent Lode Heath Tournament. They won all of the games in their group, meeting last year's winners, Solihull School in the semi-final.

It was a close match but our girls won through, going on to play Tudor Grange in the final. Once again it was a close match. Arden led for the first quarter, but a slight loss of concentration allowed Tudor Grange to take a four goal lead at the end of the first half.

In the second half Arden fought back valiantly to narrow the score but ran out of time, losing by two goals. As runners-up they will now go forward to the County competition in November.

## **Arden's Year 9 Netball Team comprises nine talented, committed players:**

Emma Crampton (GS)	Ashleigh Bailey (GA)
Emily Johansson (WA)	Lucy Conners (WA)
Annie Taplin (C)	Amy Burton (WD)
Bella Trett (GD)	Amelia Cutbill (GK)
Georgina Green (GK)	

## **The Captain's Review**

As a team we have played many matches this season. One of the matches we played was against St Peter's, it was a tough match as we had an injured player and no available subs, however the girls showed excellent perseverance and changed some positions around to ensure we could play our best given the circumstances. This amazing example of teamwork paid off and at half time although very tired the score was 12-6 up to Arden, St Peters played well and started to catch up but could not surpass Arden resulting in a final score of 16-12.

Another match was against St Martin's School, although they tried they could not keep up with the excellent play by Arden. Yet again the girls showed excellent skills and teamwork and showed off their hard work out stepping, shooting and marking to win by a considerable margin.

Arden girls were on a winning streak until an unfortunate loss against Lode Heath sadly blew our chances of winning the A league. Lode Heath pulled ahead after half time just beating us by a very small margin.

Our next match was against Tudor Grange who are an incredible team with new innovative tactics, these tactics just caught us off guard and pulled ahead in the first half although we tried to catch up we couldn't quite beat them and unfortunately lost by 2 goals but it was a brilliant effort by Arden!

This was followed up by a fantastic tournament where Arden won all but one of their matches which placed us second in the tournament and secured a trophy at prize giving. Our placing allowed us to go through to a county tournament which was held at North Leamington High School. Due to another injury we didn't do as well as we hoped however we came away with many valuable lessons and since this tournament we have already progressed further as a team and are very excited about next year's season!

**Annie Taplin**, Year 9 Netball Captain

## **Year 8 and 9 Hockey Teams**

Year 8 and 9's Hockey Teams have made great strides forward from previous years. They have performed excellently throughout a season that has seen them prove to be very competitive - particularly against the local private schools. Both teams' dedication has been impressive, they turned up week-in, week-out on some very cold early winter mornings and it was great to see them reap the richly deserved rewards with some great results, in particular the win against St. Martins! Well done girls.

## **Sportshall Athletics**

The Sportshall Athletics team won decisively back in March against the other teams from the South of Solihull. Usually there are only a few points between teams, but this time Arden athletes were dominating the leader boards, leading their closest rivals by around 40 points. The Year 8 girls shone especially brightly, beating their rivals by simply HUGE margins in every race.

This fabulous success ensured the Arden Sportshall Athletics teams qualified to represent Solihull in the County Round just three weeks later. The Arden teams had a fantastic afternoon, every one of our teams WON at County Level against the best of the best from across Coventry and Warwickshire. These young athletes are superb ambassadors for Arden's sporting prowess.

# ARDEN ANNUAL Sports Gala Dinner

**A**rden was delighted to welcome Kelly Sotherton as the guest speaker at the Annual Sports Gala Dinner held on Friday 24 April 2015. Kelly has had an amazing career and was an inspirational guest; spending time with students during the day and passing on words of wisdom to those who attended the dinner.

Among her many achievements are a Bronze Medal at the Athens Olympic Games, Gold in the 2006 Commonwealth Games and Bronze in the 2007 World Championships. Sadly injury meant Kelly was forced to retire just before the London Olympics in 2012, but her participation in sport continues.. Running the London Marathon in 2013, completing the nine-day Deloitte ride across Britain and participating in the Prudential London Triathlon.

Kelly has a strong interest in sports governance and combines this with her media career and corporate appearances. We would like to thank her for taking time out of her busy schedule to join us in celebrating the sporting achievements of our students.

This annual Gala event recognised the amazing depth and breadth of sporting participation and success enjoyed by our students. This year students who have successfully achieved Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards were acknowledged and welcomed onto the stage, along with Arden's excellent team of Sports Leaders.

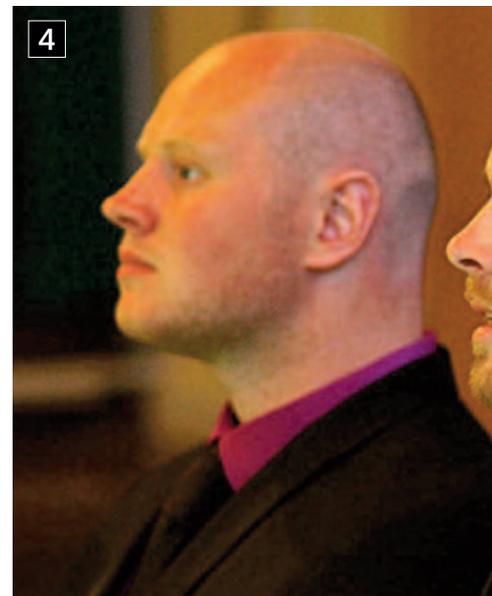
Special recognition was given to those who have represented their sport at County, National and International Level. 'Players of the Year' awards were presented to Year 10 and Year 11 students in Athletics, Basketball, Cricket, Cross-Country, Football, Gymnastics, Hockey, Netball, Rounders, Rugby, Swimming and Table Tennis.

The winners of the prestigious 'Team of the Year' award was Arden's highly successful Cross Country Team, comprising; Nicole Beard, Ellie Cox, Caitlin McDonald, Katie Mladenovic and Abbie Nolan.

#### Individual awards also included:

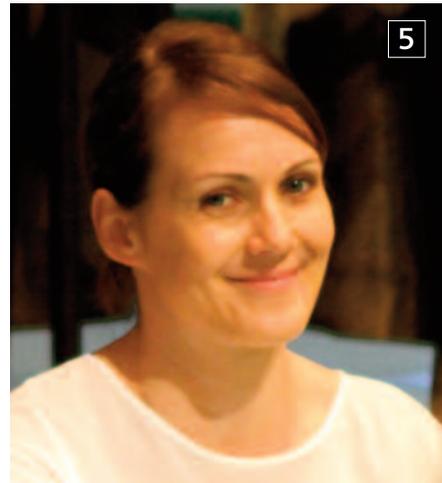
Dancer of the Year:	Megan Burn
Choreographer of the Year:	Beatrice Sher
Excellence in Sport:	Fiona Foulkes
Unsung Hero:	Emma Gough
Coach of the Year:	Luke James
Tommy Godwin Award for Sporting Dedication:	Alex Richard
The highlight of the evening was the presentation of Arden Sports Personality of the Year which went to:	Oliver Russell

**Pictured:** **1** Martin Murphy with Kelly Sotherton. **2** Lauren Clarke, Jonah Hughes, Emma Gough, Elvie Cox. **3** Oliver Russell, Arden's 'Sports Personality of the Year' receives the 'Sports Personality of the Year' prize which is sponsored by Arden Governor Mr Bill Bohanna. **4** PE Teachers, Mr Hunt and Mr Spence. **5** Kelly Sotherton. **6** Fiona Foulkes and Timothy Bug. **7** Tommy Godwin's daughter, Mrs Kay Jones presenting Alex Richard with the 'Tommy Godwin Award for Sporting Education'. **8** Arden PE Staff, Mrs Foulkes, Mrs Crawford, Mr Pillinger, Mr Hooper and Miss Sheppard.





6



5



7



8

# GERMAN EXCHANGE

Saturday 17 January 2015, saw a group of Arden's Year 9 students fly out to Frankfurt in Germany from Birmingham Airport... It was an amazing experience!





### **Arrival in Frankfurt**

When we arrived in Germany our exchange partners were already there waiting for us full of excitement. Tired after the flight, we then paired off with our opposite numbers and went to their homes.

### **Sunday 18 January**

On Sunday we spent the whole day with our German exchange partners and their families. Some people went swimming, some sightseeing around Frankfurt, others even went off to play indoor crazy golf.

### **Monday 19 January**

On Monday we went to the Albert Einstein Schule that our German friends attended. We met up with all the other Arden students and their partners, and were then officially welcomed to the school by the Headmistress and other German teachers.

We then went to Frankfurt airport where we had a fascinating 45 minute tour. It was really interesting to see all the different planes from across the Globe flying in and out of this major airport, which is the biggest operated by German national carrier, Lufthansa. We were very lucky to be able to take this tour because it enabled us to see parts of the airport which a lot of people don't get to see up close.

In the afternoon we went on a tour of the amazing modern city of Frankfurt which is a huge financial centre like the City of London. We were each given a map and had to find the different places identified on it and answer questions about them. This was very interesting because we got to learn a lot about the long history of Frankfurt.

### **Tuesday 20 January**

On Tuesday we went to the Gutenberg museum in Mainz. This was a printing museum, the town is the site of the first ever printing press so it had a lot of history behind it. At the museum we saw the printing of a page of Genesis and then got to decorate our own prints with quills and inks to take home with us. The tour guide showed us how they printed back in the 1400s when Gutenberg invented it.

After the museum trip we were given time in the town to do some shopping and to find out more about Mainz.

### **Wednesday 21 January**

On Wednesday we had a tour of the highest skyscraper in Frankfurt, the Commerzbank, a huge building that actually has more steel in it than the Eiffel Tower! We were told about different floors, some floors even had special gardens with plants and trees growing in them. We were fortunate to even be allowed on the highest floor.



Later we visited The Dialog Museum, which enables people to experience a little of what it is like to live with being blind.

We had the challenge of getting around in total darkness, at the end of the experience we had to order drinks - still in total darkness! It was very impressive the way in which the man giving us the drinks knew what drink to give us and how much change we needed back. I was also impressed by the way our tour guide told us what was where and what to look out for because he couldn't see anything either.

#### Thursday 22 January

On Thursday we went to Heidelberg. We were very lucky to have our German exchange partners along with us. In Heidelberg we went on a tour of the town and found out some very interesting facts about the history of Heidelberg. There was a lot of things which our tour guide told us about, such as the prisons we visited, and the amazing architecture of Heidelberg. After lunch we were given some free time in which we could go shopping and just enjoy ourselves with our German partners.

#### Friday 23 January

On Friday we got to meet the Mayoress of Frankfurt. In this meeting she asked us questions about ourselves and very kindly let us ask her questions about her lifestyle and any other things we might be curious about.

Later, it was back to the Albert Einstein Schule where we attended our German exchange partners' lessons. We got to see the interesting ways in which a German school works and how it is different to English schools. We then had a drama lesson with everyone. Next, some people had further lessons with their German exchange partners, whilst others were allowed to go home. Finally at the end of the day there was a farewell party for us, this was a lot of fun and a perfect way to end an amazing week.

#### Saturday 24 January - Homeward Bound

On Saturday it was time to fly home. We were all sad to be leaving, as were our German exchange friends and their families... Now we can't wait for them to come to England!

Hannah Dacombe and Anna Kirk, Year 9





## Language Theatre Visits

Arden students in Years 8 and 9 recently had the opportunity to be entertained by The Onatti Theatre Company in both French and German.

The French production, 'Erreur d'Identité' was a slapstick comedy set in a crazy hotel with a suspected murderer on the loose. The German play, 'Meine neue Schwester' was a tale of two very different girls, one who loved One Direction and the other who was into very loud heavy metal music. Students learned a lot of new phrases and improved their pronunciation as they listened to the native speakers on stage. They then used parts of the script to put together their own role-plays.

## Juvenes Translatores

If Europeans are to be 'united in diversity', as the EU's own motto puts it, we need to be able to understand languages other than our own. Held on 27 November 2014, the 'Juvenes Translatores' (Young Translators) competition, which started in 2007, helps those who have a thirst to learn foreign languages.

In the long run, learning languages will bring us closer to our national neighbours and help us understand each other's cultures. It will also make it easier for tomorrow's adults to study and work around Europe.

Studies show there's an ever-growing need for translation and translators across Europe. It's valuable for language students to be prepared for this, especially as translation will be a skill required for the new type GCSEs.

This year was Arden's most successful in terms of the 'Juvenes Translatores'. Four Arden students entered this prestigious competition alongside competitors from 28 different countries and more than 750 schools. Congratulations to Amy Bartlett, Holly Shipway, Hannah Stephens and Ben Carter who all received certificates, T-shirts and other prizes presented by the European Commission.

Special mention must however be made of Ben Carter's achievement. For the very first time in Arden's history, one of our students received a special mention by the European Commission, reflecting the remarkable skill and quality of his translation.

Congratulations go out to all our entrants, you proved yourselves very worthy international ambassadors for the school.







# Arden's French Visitors

On Monday 18 March, Year 9 students were delighted to welcome a group of visiting French students for the day. The students, who were in England for the week, were paired up with Arden students and the couples then worked together throughout the day.

In the morning, we undertook a PowerPoint project with our partners. We talked with them about our families, our hobbies, interests and the similarities and differences between our lifestyles. During break, we gave our French visitors a tour of Arden and talked about the differences between our schools.

After break, we all came together in the hall to play some games, such as passing a balloon along the line and Chinese Whispers - in both French and English! It was funny hearing the sentences we ended up with!

After lunch with the exchange students, we took them on a tour of Knowle. We formed groups with some of the French students and found out information about certain shops in the area. After the tour around the town, the French students went on to see other things around the area, including Solihull centre.

They spoke incredible English, and some of them had only been learning it for a few years! It really showed us just how much time they spent learning the language and really made some of us think British schools should be teaching foreign languages from an earlier age.

The day was very enjoyable and it was really interesting to meet some of our neighbours from across 'La Manche'. Despite the surprising cultural differences we all got on with them very well. It really has encouraged us to put lots more effort into learning French and other foreign languages.

Miranda Vaughan and Katie Thomas



# Shakespeare Schools' Festival

Seven weeks of rehearsals started immediately on our return to school in September 2014 for the Shakespeare Schools' Festival 'Tempest' performance. Meeting twice weekly, the Year 8 pupils explored new ways of interpreting the text.

Caliban was multi-role played by four actors; their exploration of exaggerated movement and choral speech allowed the character to have a haunting feel. With hair that smoked against the black set they left a scent that could be followed. The chorus multi-role played throughout; from fairies to sailors they captured the ever-changing environments of the play. Their opening scene used ensemble movement to visually capture the sinking of the ship.

Not only did pupils work tirelessly on the piece they were a credit to the school when they attended an acting and technical workshop at the Midlands Arts Centre where they worked alongside a group of young adults from a local Special School.

The evening performance was played to a full house of 250 on the evening of 6 November. The confidence and clarity from all students truly showcased the array of talent Arden has to offer.

Mrs Warrender, Head of Drama



# Shakespeare Schools' Festival



**On** 6 November 2014, the Gifted and Talented Drama group performed 'The Tempest' at the Mac Theatre in Edgbaston. Two other schools also performed at the Mac Theatre that evening; Calthorpe School and Sports College, 'Much Ado About Nothing', with whom we rehearsed a scene and St Herbert's Catholic Primary School, 'Romeo and Juliet'.

The Tempest is set on a remote island where Prospero, played by James Corr, the rightful Duke of Milan plots to restore his daughter Miranda, delivered by Frankie Smith, to a better life by conjuring up a dreadful storm with the help of his eager spirit Ariel, played by Amy Boulton. His aim is to lure his usurping brother Antonio, acted by Jessica Gardiner, and the complicit King Alonso of Naples, played by Tilly Davison, to the island. However, Miranda falls in love with the Prince of Naples, Thomas Shingleton.

## James Corr

I played the leading role of 'Prospero'. All the lines and complex stage directions were extremely demanding, but it was a great experience which helped me improve my drama skills. When we got on stage, I was very nervous, but as it was so bright I couldn't see anything so I just pretended we were still rehearsing back at school and that really helped. It was interesting watching the other schools perform, especially the primary school pupils who worked really hard to make the audience understand the bond between the two main characters – they included a dance routine to 'All of Me' which made many of the girls in our group cry! Everyone did brilliantly and I wish I could repeat the night just to enjoy the feeling of relief that came over me when we came off stage... It really was a brilliant experience.

## Georgia Fair

The 21 students involved in our play had spent months in the Drama Studio auditioning and rehearsing. Some of us had the difficult task of learning many lines while others had multiple roles requiring quick costume changes and different routines. I was a Nymph which meant I had several quick changes and had to keep checking for my cues – I was also busy backstage helping other people change and rehearse lines! We all started out nervously but ended feeling exhilarated and happy that we had done our best. I also really enjoyed St Herbert's Romeo and Juliet performance, although it made me cry! Overall I think the evening was a complete and utter success.

## The Cast

Prospero	James Corr	Miranda	Frankie Smith
Ferdinand	Thomas Shingleton	Ariel	Amy Boulton
Alonso	Tilly Davison	Antonio	Jess Gardiner
Sebastian	Eleanor Alberici	Gonzalo	Emma Cole
Francisco	Will Boles	Stephano	Paige Davis
Trinculo	Ruby Kibble	Boatswain	Lucy Ford
Iris & Sailor	Hannah Jane Moorhead		
Caliban	Phoebe Price/Harriet Jones/Zoe Bull/Ashleigh Lawrence		
Nymph & Sailor	Georgia Fair/Kiara Henry/Sarah Fleetwood Walker/Jemima Cray		
Technicians:	Matt Morgan/Callum Mitchell		
Directors:	Lydia Morris/Mrs Warrender		

Photograph: Zoe Bull, Phoebe Pryce, Harriet Jones, at the front Ashleigh Lawrence.

# Fame

**Fame has been in ideal performance for our school as there is such a variety of roles; dancers, actors and musicians, including a band and a choir.**

Being in the choir has been the perfect way for us to take part in the production because even if we aren't directly in the stage light, which not all of us want, we still play an important part in the show and are vital for supporting the other actors in the songs. ■ Rehearsals were every Wednesday lunchtime and we started in September! Helpful, knowledgeable staff were always on hand to help us and there has been a really friendly atmosphere. Even when the whole cast came together, there was a real sense of community and a universal wish to work together to create a real showstopper. ■ In the last weekend of half-term, students and staff both attended two marathon rehearsals. In these two long, tiring days, the show started to really come together. We worked on all aspects; singing, lighting dance routines, line delivery.. you name it, we did it! The cast had the chance to perform for the first time on stage which had been transformed into a school, complete with American bunting, lockers and band posters. Throughout the rehearsals and performances, we have sung difficult harmonies, supporting the main cast and soloists, who are all extremely talented. ■ The production has been a thrill. It has been a challenging, yet thoroughly enjoyable experience for us all in the choir. We'd like to thank the teachers and cast for all their hard work. We can't wait for next year. ■ A Member of the Fame choir



# Fame

In February, Arden put on a production of 'Fame', a timeless story of a group of children struggling their way through four years at P.A. (High School of Performing Arts), with various love stories, personal struggles and catchy songs. But we didn't just create a whole production in one month. The whole process began in September 2014, when the auditions were held. After the auditions were the callbacks, and for both, there was a scene we had to perform and part of a song. Soon after, the cast list was displayed, and everyone was overjoyed with the parts they were given. This year, we had a special edition of a choir, who worked tirelessly perfecting every harmony and who, by the end, were thought of as completely invaluable.

Rehearsals began right away, with the first attempt at tackling the 11-minute number that is 'Hard Work'. The cast attended weekly rehearsals, and as February drew closer, we all got more and more excited. The weekend before the production, all the cast got together at school for a long two-day rehearsal, but even though it was long, it was thoroughly enjoyable. When we rehearsed during the following week, it all became so real; the microphones were fitted; the lights were finalised; the costumes, makeup and hair were all practised and ready; and the lines, songs and dances were all learned. We had countless run-throughs, and by the time the 25th of February came along, all the cast were eager to show the audience just what we'd been working on.

Stepping out onto the stage each night and seeing all of the people who'd come to see Arden students perform was such a magical feeling, and when the final performance was finished, the emotions ran high backstage. The cast this year felt like one big family, and knowing that we'd have to say goodbye to such a special production brought most people to tears, with many hugs and 'well dones' being exchanged backstage.

Meg Evans played a Mabel's girl, and she said "Being part of Fame was an outstanding experience and will 'live with me forever!'" Callum who played Schlomo Metzenbaum thought that "Fame was easily one of the highlights of my Arden career. There was never a dull moment during the rehearsals and I'm sure everyone involved would agree that there were many friendships made through the production, and others strengthened. I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to perform in such an amazing show with such talented, friendly and fun people." Lucy Munden, who played the fame-crazed Carmen Diaz said "Arden's school plays are such a fantastic opportunity to make new friends and to be the best that you possibly can, which is why Fame was such a success! I think we all now can't wait to start the next one!" Fame has definitely been the highlight of my year, and such a special experience for me, and I'm super excited for everyone to come together for next year's; hopefully we'll see some new faces!

Olivia Saunders





# In Brief

## Gold Arts Award



Throughout my time at Arden, I have taken part in the Arts Award scheme. In Year 8, I did Bronze, in Year 9 Silver, whilst throughout Years 10 and 11, I have had the opportunity undertake the Gold Award. The Gold Arts Award comprises five units; 'learning a skill', 'work experience', 'researching career paths and companies', 'forming a view on a topic within the arts' and your own leadership project. For 'learning a skill' I took part in card making classes where I learnt skills to put towards my art work and for 'forming a view' I developed a website on the stereotypes of ballet and how they should be challenged.

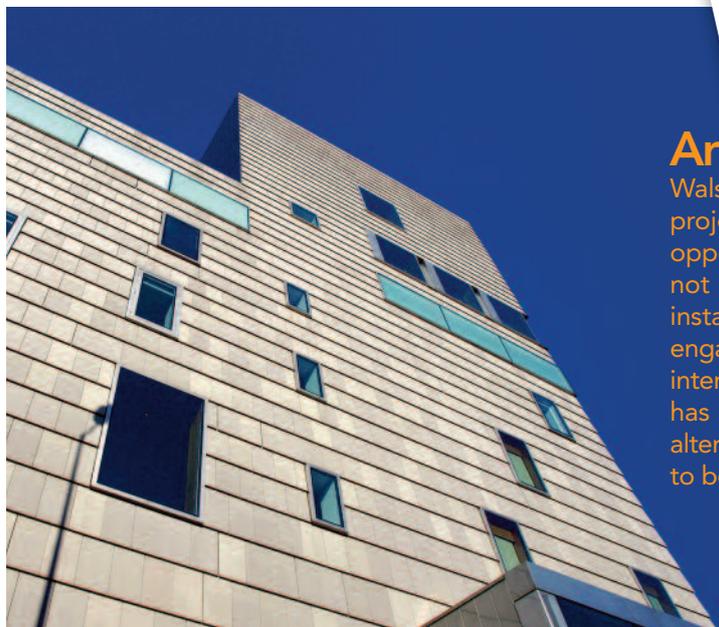
However, my two favourite parts were 'work experience' and my own 'leadership project'.

I was lucky enough to get five days' work experience at the Solihull Arts Complex where I helped out with children's day clubs and in their advertising department. I found it all very interesting as I was able to see behind the scenes of how an arts-based organisation works and the preparation carried out for classes - classes in which I myself had taken part in as a child myself.

My leadership project was a Year 7 'Arts & Crafts' club which ran for two terms. I included a variety of activities which they all seemed to enjoy and it was really interesting to see their designs come together. Although it has taken a lot of time and commitment, it has been really satisfying achieving a final result that I am really proud of.

Charlotte Bowen 115

Photograph: Diana Wheatley, Charlotte Bowen and Mr Murphy



**Art Gallery Visit** Year 7 pupils recently enjoyed a visit to Walsall's impressive new Art Gallery. Centred around their first art project, entitled 'What is Art?', the trip gave them the perfect opportunity to explore a fascinating range of different artforms: not just drawing, painting and sculpture, but also print making, installation, conceptual art, digital art and film. Our young artists engaged extremely well with the artwork on display, showing a keen interest in the meanings and ideas behind the each piece. The visit has also encouraged Year 7 students to go on to investigate alternative media for their own homework pieces during the year and to be expansive with their ideas and creative with their materials.

# ARDEN YEAR 7 FAMILY LEARNING P R O J E C T

We have been quite simply 'blown away' by the number and quality of entries to this year's Year 7 Family Learning Project!

Before the 2014 Summer Holidays commenced, our soon-to-be Year 7 students were set the task of visiting one or more of the nine excellent museums forming the 'Birmingham Museums' group.

Our inductees and their families then had to come up with a project inspired by something they had seen on their visits. Inspiration could be drawn from the whole museum, a single artefact, the building itself, or even an event happening there when they visited.

Lisa, one of the dedicated Education Officers from Birmingham Museums, visited four of our Primary Feeder Schools during the Summer Term, while our upcoming students were still in Year 6 to tell them about the project.

Arden also launched the project with parents at the New Parents Evening prior to the summer holidays. The youngsters and their families then had from the summer break up until the end of December to complete the project.

In addition, if they wrote about what they did and what they had seen that inspired them, they could be entered by Birmingham Museums into the Discover Arts Award programme.

The completed work has been displayed in the Smart Centre. Innumerable visitors, staff, parents and other students have been simply amazed by the wonderful, highly original range of projects that have been developed. Presentation have included news reports, project books, sculpture, models, bread, jewellery, paintings, collages, displays, scripts, dances and much, much more.

Thank you SO much to everyone who got involved to help our young people show just how wonderfully creative and hardworking they can be... It is all just brilliant!

Mrs Allton

Photographs of the work can be viewed at  
[www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/ad/galleries/year\\_7\\_museum\\_project](http://www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/ad/galleries/year_7_museum_project)



## Flying the Flag

**This year Arden was extremely proud to participate in the 'Fly a flag for the Commonwealth' event held on Commonwealth Day - Monday 9 March.**

**This important initiative celebrates our fellowship with the 52 other members of this global organisation, which is made up mainly of countries that, like India, Canada and South Africa, were once British colonies.**

**The event which was launched in 2014, has proved a huge success. In fact, this year saw the largest co-ordinated raising of the Commonwealth Flag in history.**

**All those attending the ceremonies around the United Kingdom were read the special message of support and encouragement penned by the Head of the Commonwealth, Her Majesty the Queen.**



# Creative Shrapnel V

**I**n December 2014, we welcomed Steve Voake, top name author of 'Blood Hunters' and 'The Dark Woods', to Arden to share his writing expertise with Year 7. Bravely, he took on the somewhat daunting task of talking to half a Year Group at a time, helping them to create a story based on the idea of "discovering a stone which had magical properties". Everyone then had a chance to create their own story in their Science and English lessons, which they could then submit for publishing in this year's collection. ■ Melvin Burgess, author of the Carnegie Prize-winning 'Junk', also visited. He spoke to older students and helped them to recognise the links between traditional fairy tales and modern stories, focusing on plot and character. ■ Arden PTA generously funded part of the Creative Shrapnel event and have also continued their funding of the Creative Shrapnel Special Edition compendium of Arden creative writing. This enabled an edition of students' work to be presented to each Year 6 student upon joining Arden in September - helping give them a taste of the superb standard of creative work that we aspire to.

*Pictured: Author Steve Voake with Year 7 student, Hadley Power.*





## Arden's new Digital Art Club is the enjoyable way to learn professional design industry software, Adobe Photoshop, whilst honing their design skills.

During this academic year, a group of creative Year 9 students have successfully mastered the basics of computer-aided design, enabling them to transform their pencil sketches into digital portraits, greetings cards, landscapes, posters and more.

Working at their own pace over Monday lunchtimes, students have access to a whole host of gadgetry during Digital Art Club. There are iPads for creating rough sketches, a suite of Wacom Graphics Tablets for honing their digital drawing skills and iMacs loaded with the same industry-leading Adobe Software used extensively to put this magazine together.

### Extremely Rewarding Career Potential

Gaining an understanding of computer graphics software at this early stage can help students to develop their Art, Photography, D&T and Textile design skills - sparking enriching new interests and giving them a real headstart into highly competitive, but extremely exciting and rewarding future career paths... Access to this professional standard equipment will certainly help smoke out the budding Pixar animator future international fashionista that may be lurking in our midst!

This year, club topics for exploration were 'Cities at Night', 'Portraiture' and a self-initiated brief in which students chose their own subject matter. Although themes are suggested for each project, outside interests are also welcomed and each student's style of working

celebrated. From anime to fashion illustration and street art, there is something for everyone at Digital Art Club!

### 'Twiggy' by Hannah Davies

I decided to draw legendary supermodel Twiggy as I like the style of 60s' photography and think she's a true icon of the period. Starting with pastel watercolours for the background to compliment the monochrome portrait, I then used a graphics tablet to help with some of the detailed aspects, such as the eyes and lips. A soft digital brush was then used to create the cheekbones and hair, whilst a sharper, darker brush was used for the facial features to help them stand out. I kept my document organised by using 'layers' which enabled me to adjust parts of the drawing without affecting other elements.

### 'Legolas' by Lucy Bugg

I am a HUGE Lord of the Rings fan - drawing Legolas was a no-brainer for me! I also love creating detailed pencil drawings, so using this most traditional of media was the starting point for my portrait. Once I was happy, we scanned the drawing in and I began to build up layers of foliage using a soft brush on my graphics tablet. I then used a sharper custom 'leaf' brush to add some detail on top and make the image more realistic. I really enjoyed creating this portrait so I'll be drawing more people in my next project!



## 'Cities at Night' by Alex Farmer

For my Cities at Night project, I chose to draw four iconic buildings from four different locations: Seattle, London, Paris and Dubai. I created a collage from maps of each country that the cities are in, then drew the buildings on top of these with black fine-liner. Finally, the collage was scanned in and I carefully edited the image to remove white areas of paper. The colours were changed in Photoshop using some of its vast array different blending modes. I'm really happy with the outcome. Taking the project forward, we even developed a visual showing my drawings placed onto four separate canvases within a bedroom setting.

Digital Art Club's Year 9 students have worked exceedingly hard to create some fantastic, designerly outcomes and should be very proud of all they've achieved. Many of them have chosen to study Art, Photography and Design Technology at GCSE and will be continuing their hard work in Digital Art Club next year. Well done Year 9!

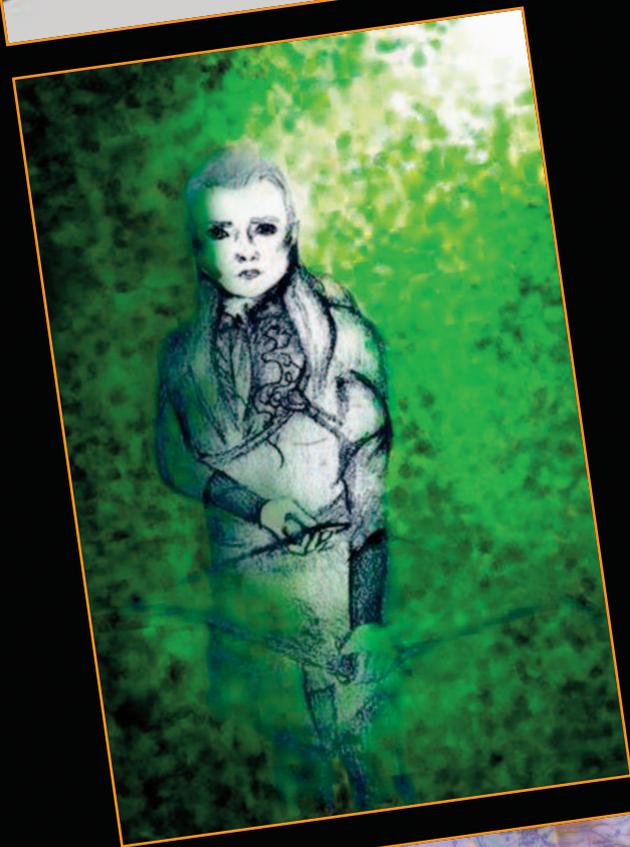
## Calling ALL Creatives!

Are you moving up to Year 9 after the summer? Do you have a passion for Art, Design, Textiles or Photography? Digital Art Club is now recruiting new creatives for its September 2015 cohort. Look out for posters in the Art Department and sign up for a taster session.

## About the Tutor

Martha Bowyer is a Solihull-based designer and illustrator represented by The Bright Group, a top name illustration agency. Graduating in 2013 with First Class Honours in Printed Textiles & Surface Pattern Design, she now creates highly detailed artwork in both traditional and digital media for greetings cards, stationery and homewares.

You can book private tuition and find out more about Martha's work at [www.marthabowyer.com](http://www.marthabowyer.com)



## Rotary Club Young Writer Competition

We are delighted to be able to report that Year 11's Vicky Knight won the district's Rotary Club Young Writer Competition this year. Her writing's maturity and flair brought her work to the attention of the competition judges who were very impressed!

"What a superb piece of writing. Engaging, fascinating, concisely making and explaining the important points in a consistent style with a total absence of superfluity that can detract from the story. As a magazine editor I only wish the contributions I have to sub had so few and such minor errors. This is good enough to be published in a newspaper or magazine with very few amendments and reads like a genuine piece of factual reporting written by a professional. Excellent" commented one of the Rotary Club Judges.

Sam Gardiner, Year 11, also won a prize for his submission, prompting the panel to say "Define 'community' is the challenge in the first line and the writer goes on to do just that in an often very witty way. There is no shortage of similes both obvious and subtle and the first paragraph explains how a community is made up of many elements coming together very effectively."

Vicky's piece has now gone on to the National Rotary Club Young Writer Competition Final. We wish her every luck with this and, hopefully, future competitions!

**Photograph:** Rotary Club Young Writer Competition; Mr John Endall of Knowle & Dorridge Rotary Club, Vicky Knight, Sam Gardiner and Arden English Teacher & Literacy Co-ordinator, Mrs Hodgkinson.



## Rotary Club Young Photographer Competition

Year 7's Zoe Wilkinson has won an award for her fantastic photographic skills. She entered the Knowle and Dorridge Rotary Club Young Photographer competition this year, winning the District Prize for her age group. Zoe was presented with a £50 voucher to spend at Touchwood and the also the fantastic opportunity to work with a professional photographer for a day.

**Photograph:** Young Photographer

*Pictured left to right, John Endell of Knowle and Dorridge Rotary Club, Zoe Wilkinson, Mr Murphy and Mrs Astle, Arden's Head of Art & Photography.*





## Year 9 Enrichment Day

75 Year 9 students took part in an enrichment day in December, with a focus on careers in Art and Design. The creative industries are worth £76 billion per year to the economy and there are wide ranging opportunities for students who decide to embark on a career in Art and Design. The special day was organised to encourage students to understand the breadth of opportunities in this sector, with an introduction to the range of careers available followed by an in depth workshop with one of the three visiting practitioners.

Connor Smith is a concept artist who is currently working on graphic novels. He ran an exciting workshop involving the students in designing their own images for a graphic novel, working both traditionally and digitally.

Martha Bowyer, illustrator and surface pattern designer, invited students in her workshop to design a greetings card by drawing images in the morning and scanning them to continue with them in digital form in the afternoon. The finished designs were printed onto a greeting card for each of the students to take home.

Eleanor Scott is a fashion designer who specialises in knitwear. She trained in Fashion after completing an A level in Art and a foundation in Art and Design. Her workshop was very creative with a focus on creating patterns and textures from a range of different materials and then designing a garment or accessory that the material created could be used for.

By the end of the day, the students had not only developed some new skills, but also had a better awareness of the range of career opportunities that a GCSE in Art and Design can lead to, and an understanding of the individual roles of the three visiting designers.

Arden Art Department would like to thank the Arden Decorative and Fine Arts Society for their sponsorship of the event.





# Mock European Council

With youth participation in politics becoming alarmingly low, an opportunity to engage in the processes of the European Union, a huge part of global governance, whilst also being able to practice language skills was a great way not only to learn new things, but also to demonstrate that the younger generation is still interested in politics. The mock European Council, led annually by the European Commission, is a reconstruction of the negotiations and proceedings actually carried out by the European Council, fundamental to the overall decision making process of the EU.

Admittedly overwhelmed at first by the prestige and formality of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office building in central London, I was soon engaged by the discussions on environmental restrictions and the treatment of juveniles in prison overseas, and interested in the different perspectives of other students from UK schools representing states across the EU. It was of course not easy to reach agreements in controversial areas, however I was grateful as a student of both Politics and German to witness first hand just how part of the European Union works.

From a languages perspective this experience was invaluable, as not only did some of the members of the actual European Commission who were present speak many languages, but we too were encouraged to use our own second languages to convey our ideas, with translators in booths on hand to deliver our arguments to the rest of the participants. For me personally, this brought a sense of authenticity to the Council, as we then seemed to better represent different countries coming together. As opposed to merely English, Italian and French were also heard at the table - as was some (slightly nervous) German from myself!

Overall I would honestly recommend this experience not only to anyone studying languages or politics, but also those with even just a slight curiosity over how the EU works, as the experience makes what seems to be a blurry and complicated aspect of politics seem so much simpler. And perhaps it could even go some way towards helping others develop a stance on the controversy of whether or not we should be in the EU in the first place- it has certainly helped make my mind up.

Sineade Bates, Year 13

On Monday 8 December, I travelled to London with Sineade to participate in the Mock EU Council meeting. At first, the idea of speaking to 59 other people in a foreign language which I still wasn't totally fluent in really frightened me, but once it got started, the nerves settled fairly quickly, and it became fun.

It really helped that there was a translator, because they could really empathise with you and put you at ease. In conclusion, the experience over all really helped my confidence, and I now have a new perspective on my future choices, as now I am considering a career in the EU.

Katie Armstrong, Year 12

In Brief



## Bravery Award for Arden Sixth Former

Arden is immensely proud of Sixth Form student, Lewis Oseman who has been given a 'Good Citizen' award for his bravery after intervening when he saw a young girl being viciously attacked by an older woman. Without hesitation, 17 year old Lewis approached the woman and physically stopped her from further assaulting the girl. He then called the police and stayed to protect the girl until local officers arrived.

The son of a retired police officer then made a full statement, providing details of the offender, her identity and details of the car that she made off in. The woman was later arrested and charged. Given the violent nature of the attack, he was understandably worried about giving evidence, but nevertheless stood up in court because he believed it was his duty as a good citizen. As a result the woman was found guilty and received a community order and was required to Court costs and compensation to the young girl.

Lewis showed great courage and community spirit from start to finish in this case and is a credit to himself, his family and of course our school. We are privileged to have such a remarkable young man as part of the Arden family. We applaud his bravery and commitment throughout this process - it is indeed a cause for celebration. Well done Lewis!

**Photograph:** Lewis collecting his award from the West Midlands' Police Chief Constable Mr Chris Sims.



# Defibrillator

I recently listened to a radio article about a young man who had sadly died from an un-diagnosed heart condition, but who could have been saved if a community defibrillator had been close at hand. This type of emergency situation is not an isolated incident. In fact, as cardiac arrests outside of hospital affect 60,000 people a year in the UK - with just 10% of that figure surviving and requiring admission to hospital.

75% of people who have had a cardiac arrest can be saved if a defibrillator device is quickly available to deliver an electric shock to restore the heart to its normal rhythm. Time is of the essence, because for every minute that passes without defibrillation the chances of the victim's survival decrease by around 14%.

Armed with the young man's story and facts from the British Heart Foundation I determined that a Community Defibrillator sited at Arden would benefit both the school and local community and so I set about securing sponsorship of this life saving equipment.

I am very pleased to say that we now have a community defibrillator at Arden. I'm extremely grateful to David Hofton Manager/Director at Hunter's Estate Agencies Knowle, Dave Carter of Knowle & Dorridge Lions and Edmund Smith from Knowle and Dorridge Round Table as the businesses and charities they represent collectively came forward to fund a Cardiac Science Power Heart G5 AED. This will now enable rescue professionals and lay responders to effectively administer therapy, maximising the chances of survival for victims of sudden cardiac on or near the school premises.

Arden PTA also generously supported this venture by donating funds to purchase an alarmed and heated cabinet for the Defibrillator. The new unit is now sited by the main entrance at Arden, so we can be assured that it will always be available when needed.

Timpsons Locksmiths in Knowle also kindly provided an engraved plaque adjacent to the Defibrillator, allowing us to record our gratitude to everyone who contributed to this important medical equipment.

Andy Jeynes from West Midlands Ambulance Service recently provided specialised Defibrillator Training for several Arden staff members. However, in an emergency any member of the public would be able to use the Power heart G5 defibrillator as it is fully automated and has a 'RescueCoach' with auditory prompts that clearly guide users through each critical step of a rescue. The alarm code required to release the Defibrillator from its secure cabinet is given to the caller as soon as 999 is dialled.

Other Defibrillators in the area are situated at the following locations: Vernon James Butchers, Bentley Heath; Bentley Heath Community Centre; Station Bar Café, Dorridge; Dorridge Village Hall; Hunter's Estate Agents, Knowle High Street; Knowle British Legion; and St George and St Teresa Primary School.

Mrs Crane, Arden First Aider

Photograph: Mr David Hofton (Hunters Estate Agents), Mr Dave Carter (Knowle & Dorridge Lions) and Mr Edmund Smith (Knowle & Dorridge Round Table)

# ENGLAND CALL UP FOR ARDEN CRICKETER

ARDEN YEAR 8 STUDENT, ISABELLE WONG HAS RECENTLY HAD HER CRICKETING SKILLS RECOGNISED BY A CALL UP TO A UNDER 15 ENGLAND TRAINING SESSION.

Issy started playing 'Complete Cricket' after school, she then got nominated and selected to play for the County Team in Year 5. In Year 7, Issy was scouted by England leading to her current involvement.

Mr Hooper, Head of Key Stage 3 and a PE Teacher, commented, "We are very proud of Issy's achievements and her continual hard work and dedication to cricket. I have no doubt that if she continues to display such a positive and hardworking attitude then she will be able to achieve a full cap in the future".

Photograph: Issy with a recent cricketing award.



## Eco-School Competition:

Arden has worked very hard over the years to ensure we retain our status as an eco-school and there are many different criteria we have to ensure happen for this to be maintained. One of them is linked to recycling which involves encouraging and educating pupils on the importance and need to recycle. ■ If pupils are aware of this message as early as possible we can ensure they can contribute to making the world a tidier place. In order to meet this challenge, we set up a poster competition to encourage not only recycling but doing it in a particular way; paper in blue bins, garden waste in brown etc. Prizes were awarded for the winning posters. In first place was Grace Lord, second place – William Topham-Steele and in third place, Rebecca Jones.

Photograph Left to Right: Rebecca Jones, Yaslana Dhugga, Grace Lord, Peter Fitzroy, Hope Talbot, Alisha Sharma, Ellis Meadows and Rachel Hope.

A R D E N  
GARDEN  
CLUB



WITH SUMMER 2015 UPON US, THE ARDEN GARDEN CLUB IS NOW IN ITS SECOND YEAR. WE'RE VERY PLEASED TO REPORT EXCELLENT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE FROM THOSE EARLY FIRST STEPS BACK IN 2014.



**F**orgive the pun, but I have to say it's really 'growing' from strength to strength. The initial discussions at the Year 7 assemblies lead to the sowing of seed and harvesting of produce - a genuinely rewarding experience for everyone involved. The whole process has helped Club members develop a clearer understanding of seed germination, nurturing plants and nutrition.

Students were also, no doubt, popular back home when they arrived with a whole range of healthy produce they had grown and harvested themselves, including potatoes, tomatoes, green beans, carrots, flowers and herbs.

The whole concept of AGC has received excellent support from other Cover Team members, Mrs Alton and Arden's Senior Management Team. More recently the project been further aided with funds from Arden's excellent PTA, enabling the Club to purchase an organic wormery. Also, following a successful appeal to parents and local community, the AGC acquired a range of essential tools, pots - and even a wheelbarrow!

Arden Academy's status as an 'Eco School' has also been further enhanced; we now recycle materials such as green waste from the kitchen, tea bags and coffee grindings from the Sixth Form each day. Following the kind donation of two composters from our Principal, Mr Murphy, and by utilising pallets and old bricks we have created five additional composters. They are now all busy generating lovely, natural fertiliser for our garden.

There also have been multiple benefits for the broader cross-curricular activities. For example in the growing of sunflowers we used estimation skills to predict the sunflowers would be over two metres in height.

The AGC registered with the Potato Council at the start of this year. The organisation kindly sent several seed potatoes for planting in March and in June we had our first harvest of 'Casablanca' new potatoes. We will now use this harvest to create several potato dishes for school dinners which will be tasted by pupils and the most popular entered into the potato council competition.

February saw the Arden Garden Club register our 'School Garden' with 'Solihull in Bloom' and we have grown flowers from over 150 plugs for the forthcoming BBC Garden Show at the NEC.

Our student club members' achievements were also submitted to the Royal Horticulture Society, resulting in the AGC being awarded an RHS Level 1 certificate. We're all now working towards Level 2.

Gardening sessions have been varied. Members in attendance have been enhancing their vocabulary with specialised gardening words such like seed 'drills'; 'dibber', 'composting' and 'potting', though we've been careful to steer clear of discussing Alan Titchmarsh's controversial double-digging term!

We also have a fantastic Sixth Form student, Jess who has volunteered her gardening skills as part of her enrichment work.

Finally, we have developed a small area of waste land which we have now sown with wild seeds provided by Kew Gardens to create a natural meadow area as part of the national plan to attract pollinators.

Year 7's Lillian Schroeter commented "I like the way we can choose what we can plant and that we can find out about the range of plants. I really like that we have our own wormery and two flower beds. The Garden Club is a relaxing place and it takes your mind off the stress of lessons. It is a place where we can go to have fun and learn about wildlife. I like that we have our own patch of land and that we have a greenhouse. It's great to be able to grow a variety of plants and nice to take some of the vegetables home. I also like that we have been sent plants by the Horticultural Society (as well as booklets on birds, insects and plants)... It's a really, really fun club."

Sarah Fleetwood-Walker of Year 8 said the Arden Garden Club is a "Very quiet and calming with satisfying produce"; "It was fun and we learnt how to grow different plants" added Amy Vincent. "It's calming, with tips and tricks for a budding gardener" says Deeah Chohan, whilst Katy McCabe "Loved planting and learning how things grow".

Mr Coall



# Leaders of the DIGITAL Pack

## Arun

As 'Digital Leaders', we help train staff with software use, whether it is new software or providing assistance with the latest updates or refreshers.

Teachers can contact us in many ways, such as our email address or in person, we'll then arrange a time to go and assist them.

For instance, Mrs Astle in Art recently emailed us for assistance in creating a colour mixing quiz. We then went and saw her and agreed a lunchtime to help.

In addition to one-to-one staff assistance, we also conduct evening group events where we present widely used software to staff as well as showing them just how to use it.

To further promote the use of valuable new software/apps in lessons, we submit an 'App of the Week' via email for teachers, usually training everybody to use it effectively in our weekly Thursday meeting. We've found doing these regular activities has been great for promoting the use of technology in everyday school life.

## Saul

Lots of Digital Leaders recently met up from eight different schools to discuss how different apps and IT has and should be used in school and the benefits of it.

We have also attended numerous specialist workshops - seven in total so-far. Each group undertook different training but here is a list of all the workshops we did on the day:

- 3D printing
- Sphero
- Raspberry Pis and Minecraft
- AppSmashing
- How to be a great communicator and coach
- Alternatives to PowerPoint
- Redstone School
- Microsoft

Overall, I think the Digital Leaders Kids Meet was very successful! This was because not only did it teach me about loads of new software and valuable skills, but it was really fun and I enjoyed all of it! I really hope it happens again next year, because it was great to meet other Digital Leaders from other schools and their different perspective on IT use in schools.

## Saif

In January, some of our Digital Leaders took part in helping with the 2015 Safer Internet Day (SID). The afternoon session saw us joined by some young ICT enthusiasts from Bentley Heath Primary School.

The students all had to complete a O2-sponsored 'Safe Bot' where they were presented with a net and LED lights. The aim of making the Bot was to help students understand how to be safe online. They had to watch a video before constructing the robot, so they knew how to complete it successfully and how to stay safe online. To aid with their understanding of how to be safer, the students had to write their own e-safety message on the bottom of the robot. Students could also decorate the finished machine with whatever they wanted, making the whole experience just that little better!

At the end of the day, the students got to share their e-safety message on the safe bot map. This was a great idea because the advice could be seen by anyone, allowing everyone to benefit from SID, 2015. All the students were also awarded with a digital badge as seen on the site [www.makewaves.com](http://www.makewaves.com) ..What a great ending to the day!



## Rohan

On Thursday March 19, many of Arden's Digital Leaders took part in the fantastic BBC School Report 2015 event. It was held in Arden's in the Smart Centre, with some groups recording around the school.

The BBC School Report represents a fantastic opportunity for schools across the UK. The main concept is for groups of students to recreate a news report for something which has been reported in the media recently, using the latest equipment. At 8.45am on Thursday, all of the students were ready to produce a masterpiece of a story.

Our group, which consisted of myself, Rohan Dehele, Saif-Mohammed Aslam, Arun Barnard, Riley Robinson, Saul Batts and Tom Rose created a report on several different stories, such as the latest microchip and the copyright battle surrounding unlicensed use of a famous Marvin Gaye disco hit.

This presentation was delivered in a 'Newsround'-style format. Saif interviewed me, with Riley and Tom providing anchor man roles as the presenters. Saul and Arun then did the editing in the video lab.

## Isla

This January, six Arden Digital Leaders got the opportunity to attend Bett in London. The Bett Show is the world's leading learning technology event and brings together digital inspiration and innovation within the education industry.

We got to speak at the Frog Stand, test out the new software available to schools, meet other Digital Leaders and spend the day trialling the new FrogSnap app.

As soon as we arrived, we headed off to the main arena to watch Max and Luca answer some questions about Digital Leaders and our use of technology in school on a live panel.

We Tweeted their progress and shared what we were up to with some Digital Leaders from Lady Lumley's school, North Yorkshire, who were also represented on the panel.

Late we got the chance to speak at Frog Stand on how we use 'Frog' in School. During the presentation we showcased all the ways in which staff and students have got involved with Frog and discussed the in-school training we have been running. Arden even got a mention from Frog's MD - they were really impressed with our work promoting Frog in School.

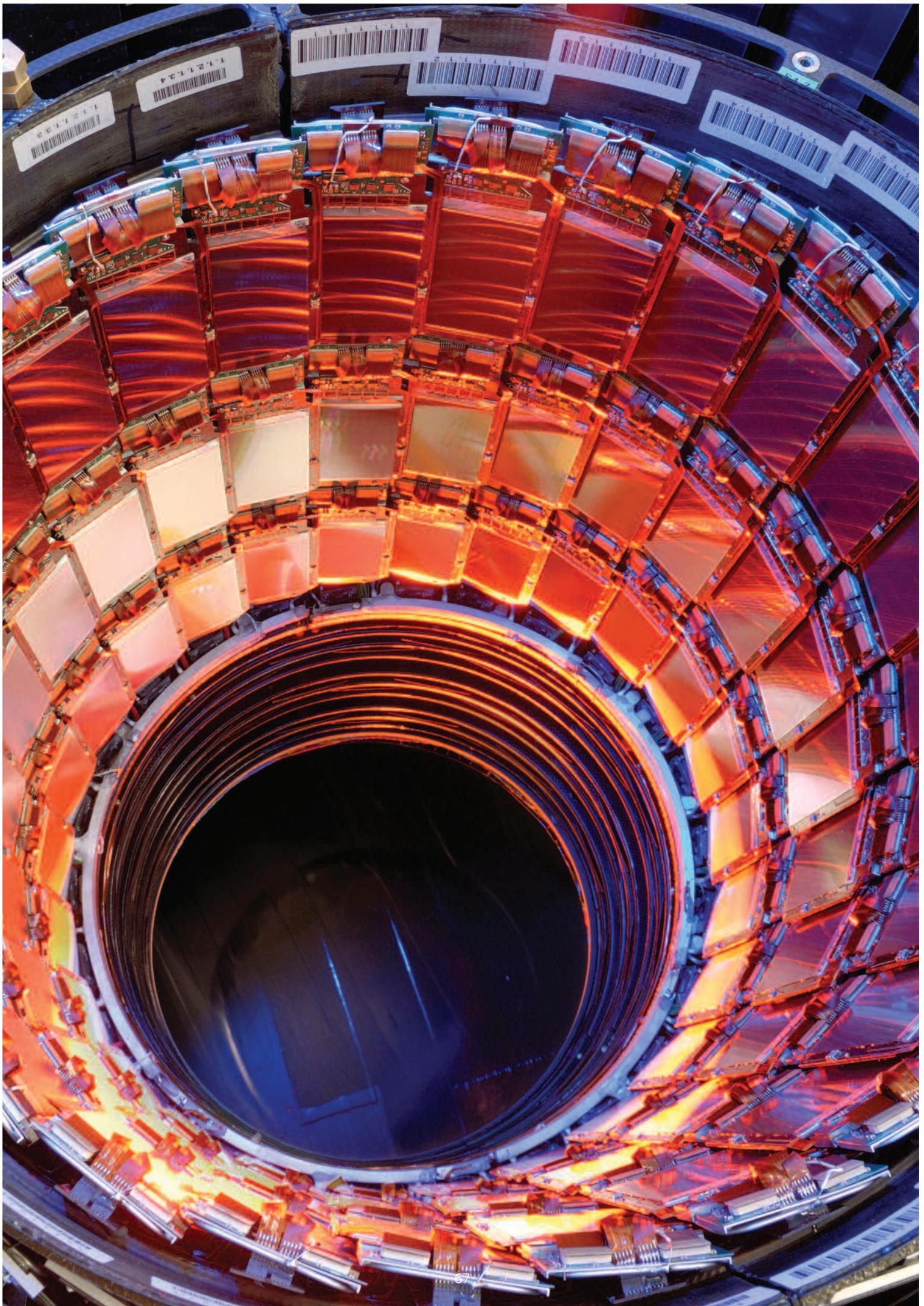
The rest of the day was spent trialling new software, talking to Lady Lumley's about what they get up to as Digital Leaders in their own school and testing out FrogSnap.

We managed to snap ourselves a green screen (and even have a go with it), share App of the Week ideas in a Q&A with the other Digital Leaders and sample all sorts of learning software for PCs, tablets and smartphones.

Just before we departed, we were fortunate enough to be interviewed for the Bett Radio about what we'd been up to on the day, which was a lovely end to a fantastic visit.

All six of us came away from Bett with exciting new ideas for the future and new enthusiasm for doing what we do as Digital Leaders - plus we were given some great FREE hoodies! We're already really looking forward to Bett 2016!

**Photograph: The Digital Leaders:** Max Topham-Steele, Matt Best, Tom Rose, Ryley Robinson, Luca Cantone, Arun Barnard, Rohan Dehele, Saul Batts, Saif-Mohammed Aslam and Mr Hughes



# CERN

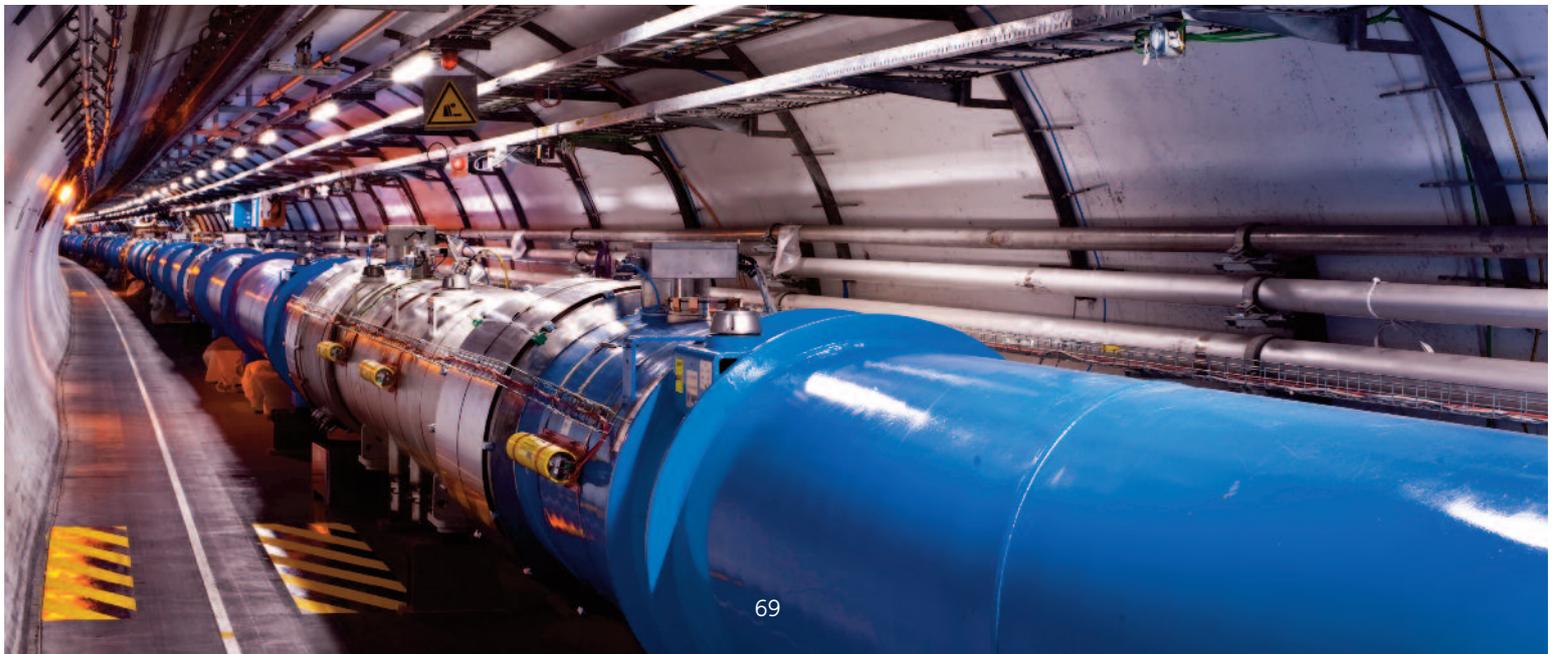
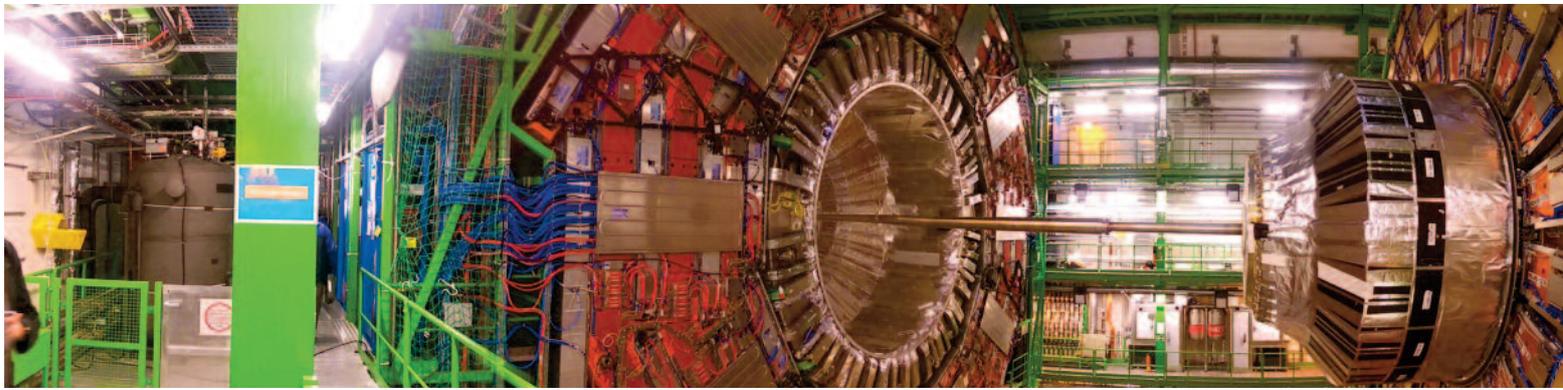
In February, we travelled to Geneva, Switzerland to visit CERN and the Large Hadron Collider, which is a very big and very important thing. The trip was organised by Dr Hayes, and made possible by support from Mr Smith and Mr Phillips.

Geneva itself is a beautiful city, and we were lucky enough to stay in a hostel that was only a minute's walk from the river. I myself was especially lucky to have the glorious Swiss mountain range and Geneva's brilliant architecture totally and completely blocked by an even more lovely penthouse! This in itself did little to detract from the sights – it was a really nice penthouse – as we were given a great deal of free reign to be able to take in the sights, and see where all our celebrities' precious tax-avoiding money has been spent. And it was spent well. Geneva is home to some of the most beautiful buildings and monuments I've ever had the pleasure of seeing. Despite this, our surrounding area paled in comparison to the older areas of Geneva. The cobbled streets and well-aged, charming cafes

made for some gorgeous scenery as we all pretended to know where we were going.

Moving on from my far too late realisation that - the impractically small road signs were on the buildings themselves, the main reason for this trip was to visit CERN and its Large Hadron Collider. The Large Hadron Collider is a several billion dollar work of science that has led to countless innovations in both the scientific community and our own lives, but it is most famous for everyone being convinced it was going to kill us back in 2012 (it didn't). Previously, I referred to the LHC as a thing, but that wasn't to detract from its grandeur. The LHC is quite possibly the most extraordinary example of human ingenuity this world has ever seen, and represents the cultivation of a large portion of humanity's striving to understand the world we live in. No, I called it a thing because, as we were guided round by some very friendly and very intelligent individuals, it became very obvious that I was most certainly out of my depth.







The people working at CERN are very, very smart. It's a little unfair, really. Travelling underground to actually witness one of the detectors, we captured an insight into the work these people do. Millions of terabytes of data flow through CERN daily. They have a separate organisation working out of China so they needn't work with such data 24/7. Despite the magnitude of such an operation, the people at CERN display a great deal of understanding and passion for what they do. Meanwhile, the very mention of a proton or a stationary wave is enough to give most Physics students a nosebleed.

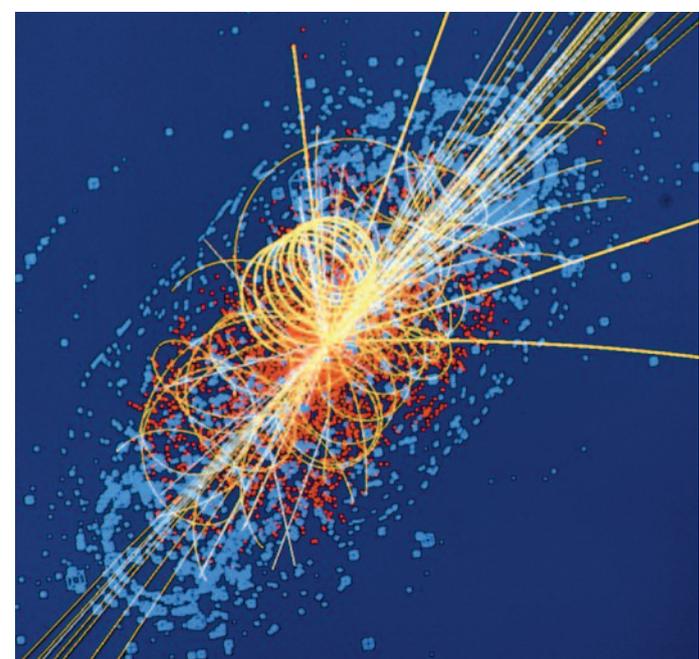
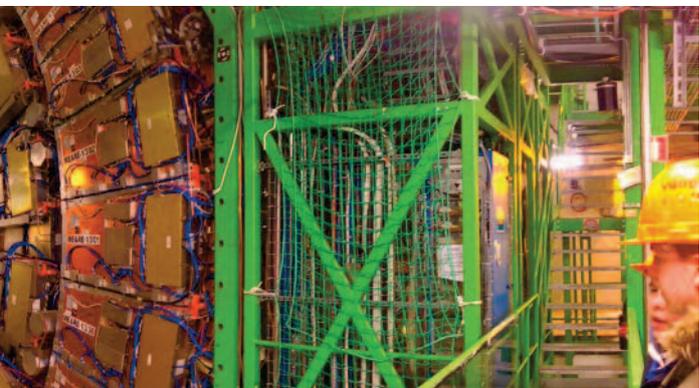
Luckily, the LHC was out of commission whilst we were visiting. This meant we could travel to and actually go underground to see one of the detectors used to calculate the enormous quantity of data associated with throwing particles at one another. It was very pretty. It was big and it had lots of colours and it was far too complicated for my mind to process. I wanted to poke it. Dr Hayes wouldn't let me poke it.

When we resurfaced, we were given time to travel around Geneva. We visited the Swatch Museum on the river (which housed several watches that couldn't tell the time) and the Museum of Natural History. It was there that we met Lucy, who Mr Phillips was very excited to inform us was the first ever example of a human being. She dates back thousands of years and looks remarkably good for her age.

A major recommendation given to us by the teachers was to visit the United Nations building just outside the town centre, because it's apparently the representation of dozens of countries working together towards peace and prosperity. We weren't allowed in, of course, but there was a lovely monument outside. It was a chair. It was an impractically large and impractically designed chair. Impractically designed in the sense that it was missing a leg. I think it must have been Sweden's contribution.

And then we had to leave. And that was the worst part, because this trip was probably the most inspiring and educational one I've been on so far. We were given the opportunity to see a glimpse into a world that we often take for granted, and I have never been more engaged and interested to see such a world. Not only that, but the city of Geneva was a treat to visit itself with all its museums and ridiculously placed road signs -they even put up with my stunted French! I look forward to being able to return there later in my life, and I hope that that time I will be less intimidated by the all the smart people.

Will Howell 12C





Sixth Form

# SKI TRIP



Over the Easter holidays, 47 students and five staff set off to the USA for the trip of a lifetime. During the visit, the Sixth Formers spent five days skiing in the picturesque resort of Stowe, exploring the slopes on both the Spruce and Mansfield Mountains. The conditions and weather were fantastic with all skiing abilities catered for and our students receiving outstanding tuition from local instructors. Our skiers spent 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.





**Sixth Form Ski Trip:** After the skiing was complete we made the six hour journey to New York City stopping on route at the Woodbury Common outlets. Whilst in New York students were able to take in all of the iconic sites and experiences, going to Madison Square Garden to watch the New York Knicks play the Philadelphia 76ers, going to the top of The Empire State Building, Top of the Rock, visiting the 9/11 Memorial, Wall Street and the Financial District, Central Park, Fifth Avenue, walking the highline and taking a city sites cruise down the Hudson River past The Statue of Liberty. Needless to say, being Arden Sixth Formers, their behaviour was exemplary throughout and I would like to thank the staff and students for making this a truly outstanding trip.

# Year 10 Ski Trip 2015

## 'On the Piste' Remembered

**T**he Ski Trip formed a series of embarrassing and brilliant stories that I'm sure will stay with everyone until they are a parent telling their own kids about the ski trip. Many of the special memories I will savour come from the long coach journey to Italy. I worked out there were only three types of people on the coach; those who sat by the window, those who sat by the aisle and those who sat by the toilet(!)

Now I got the best of both worlds, because I sat by the aisle, by the toilet AND by George Lazenby. At breakfast you could clearly distinguish where people had been sitting - everyone by the window had slept, everyone by the aisle had a dodgy neck and had hardly slept at all - whilst anyone who slept by the toilet was just happy to breathe some fresh air.

So, after listening to every Green Day and Cure album played to death on the journey, at last we had just four hours' travelling left... In those four hours everyone showed their true colours. People had simply had enough of talking to the person next to them, and personally I just didn't know enough about video games and Grand Theft Auto to keep the conversation going for four more hours with George... So I guess you could say that we were more than pleased when we reached the hotel.

Then at last came the first day on the slopes and I remember quite vividly that every other group went off skiing whilst group eight were skiing in a circle with one ski on. As we were going round and round in circles with our one ski, it was quite depressing to see a nearby group of five year olds ripping down the hill a break neck speed.

The reason I remember the first day so vividly was because I got my first taste of rugby tackling technique - first hand, whilst skiing! We were going down the first big slope, all 'snow ploughing' because we were so scared. To be honest I feared for my life because we were on a huge mountain and I was sure there was every chance we could fall off, so my points stayed knitted together in the snow plough position as I gingerly slithered down hill. I was 'sensibly' cautious, Brandon was not, he was simply zooming down the mountain and ended up crashing headlong into me... Let me rephrase that; he rugby tackled me. Thankfully, for those who in the know, it was a legal tackle, so no Sin Bin time for the boy. After picking myself up out of the snow, I was delighted to discover that he hadn't caused me to fall off the mountain.

Finally recovering from the shock just minutes before, we made our way uphill on a chairlift for quite a challenging slope. Now, being in group eight meant we needed a bit of TLC - and a challenge. And 'challenge' it was; I'm not joking, that slope was almost vertical!

We learned it was a 'red' slope - if you're unfamiliar ski slopes, a red slope is intermediate. It is aimed at people who can already ski well like those in groups one and two. You will be happy to hear, that despite our trepidation, no one was hurt coming down the mountain, though the Ski Instructor aged about ten years in the space of 20 minutes.

**Day 2** was the day when Deep Heat and Ibuprofen became my new best friends as I nursed my shell shocked body.

**Day 3**, and I did the most spontaneous thing in my life which was singing 'Dancing Queen' and 'Let It Go' on a chairlift at the top of my voice along with Amelia Crees, Theo and George Lazenby.

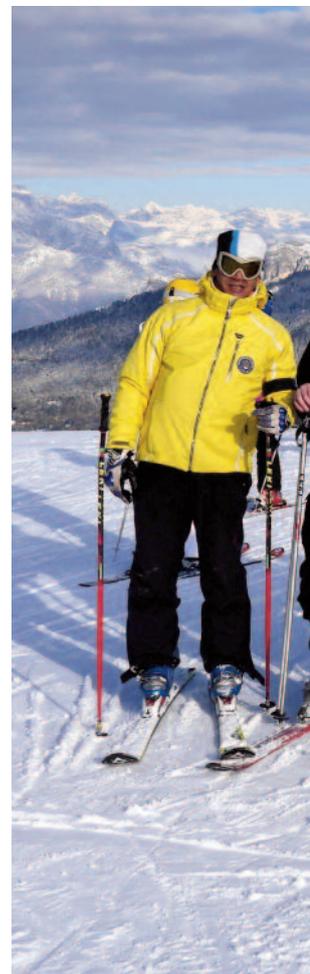
**Day 4** was the day when Miss Griffiths got to know me as the only person who was not alive in the 80s but had a decent knowledge of 80s music; more specifically German synth-pop. Thanks Dad.

**Day 5** was when we went to town and I honestly felt so sorry for anyone who just wanted to do their weekly shop, because they had probably never seen a group of teenagers SO happy to see a supermarket. I mean, our faces just lit up when at the sight of all that Coke and chocolate.

**Day 6** and our last day of skiing was over too quickly and we were soon on our way back home.

It is an understatement to say that this trip was 'amazing'. You can ask anybody who went on the trip this year and they will struggle to identify their best memory, purely because everyone took so many great things away from it. For me this was the actually gaining ability to ski, but also the wonderful memories that I built with my friends. I would like to thank the staff for their patience and kindness throughout the trip. Finally I would like to thank George ('no, not the Australian James Bond bloke') Lazenby who survived sitting alongside me for 50 hours - now I know all there is to know about GTA!

Shirin Anari







# Year 13 Ball

Year 13 students and their parents were invited to The Forest of Arden Hotel & Country Club on a bright but chilly evening in June.





# Year 13 Ball

The students looked simply stunning - as did their very proud parents.

The atmosphere that evening was wonderful – examinations were over and there was a tangible sense of hope and expectation as the students said a fond farewell to Arden and prepare to move on to the next exciting chapter in their lives.

It was truly the end of an era for parents, staff and students and the night was a fitting finale. We would like to wish each and every one of the students well in their chosen careers – they have been a wonderful year group.







# Year 13 Fancy Dress

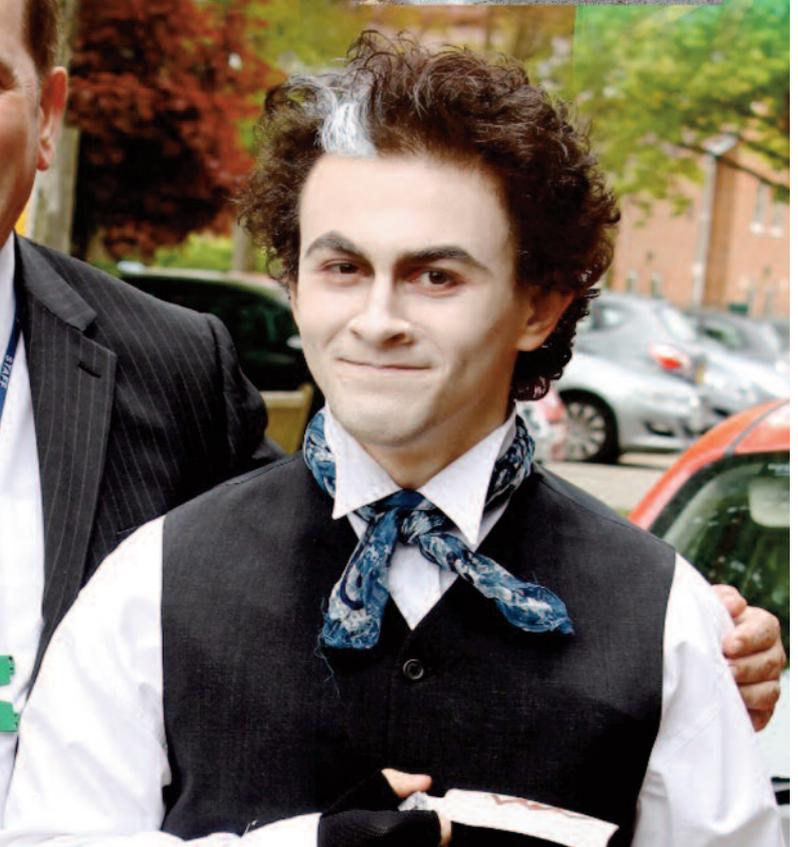
...and so the last day for Year 13 students arrived. What better way to draw their time at Arden to a close than by the traditional day of fancy dress. This year the theme was outfits that began with 'S' – the idea is to work through the letters in 'Arden Sixth Form' (those leaving in 2017 may face a challenging time!).

The costumes embraced a wide range of ideas... SWAT teams, sumo wrestlers, Subbuteo players, skeletons, Smurfs and sailors to name but a few! The students enjoyed a hog roast and the opportunity to chat to, and reminisce with staff.

Fond farewells and words of encouragement were given by Mr Murphy and Mr Simpson (Head of Sixth Form) to draw the afternoon to a close. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by staff and students and it was a fitting farewell to a wonderful year group; those we have known for seven years and those who joined Arden just two years ago but who became an integral part of the Arden family.

We wish the 'Class of 2015' the very best for the future and hope they achieve the success they so deserve.







## Esther Lau-Mackaay

After her GCSEs, Arden Sixth Former Esther Lau-Mackaay, pictured here with Arden Principal Mr Murphy, walked 160 kilometres (equivalent to four marathons) over four consecutive days, with the last 40km being completed in sweltering temperatures of close to 39°C - with the tarmac reflecting the heat and making feel like walking in an oven. ■ She achieved this incredible feat in order to raise awareness and funds for Anti Slavery International, a charity that is sadly still battling slavery around the globe in this, its 175th anniversary year. In fact slavery is still very much in existence - even on our doorstep in Birmingham. ■ Esther had a target of £1,600 - £10 for every kilometre walked - but comfortably exceeded it. ■ As a result of this marathon endeavour Esther was a proud and highly deserving recipient of the Knowle & Dorridge Round Table '2015 Young Hero Award' which was presented to her at Dorridge Park along with a generous cheque for £300 for Anti-Slavery International - plus a well-earned £200 to spend on herself!



**ARDEN**

Ad Altiora magazine is published annually by: Arden, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands B93 0PT. 01564 773 348 [www.arden.solihull.sch.uk](http://www.arden.solihull.sch.uk)

We hope you have found Ad Altiora enjoyable. If you have any special news, or would like to help by contributing articles, please email our Editor, Mrs Jenkins at [newsletter@arden.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:newsletter@arden.solihull.sch.uk)