



# ad altiora news

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ISSUE 2

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Arden currently has a vacancy for a Learning Support Assistant (part-time). Please see [website](#) for further details.



During the last few weeks we have been involved in the Rotary International campaign to eradicate polio by selling a crocus (£1 each) When Rotary International started this campaign there were 125 countries affected by polio, now there are just two – Pakistan and Afghanistan. For every £1 donated, the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation will donate a further £2!

We will also be planting some crocus bulbs to promote fundraising. We will let you know where you should look out for them come January.

## Introduction

Welcome to the latest edition of Arden's monthly newsletter. We were delighted that the inaugural edition was so well received. There have been a number of important events throughout November many of which will feature on the website, here are some of the highlights...



Mr Murphy with Mr Fiddaman of the Rotary Club, former Sixth Form student Sam Gilluley who visited Schitsdrift School and Mr Simpson (Head of Arden Sixth Form)

Arden is very proud of its connection to **Schitsdrift School** in South Africa. As well as several visits from Sixth Form students, there have been charity days to support schemes and equipment that have proven life-changing to the pupils who attend the rural school based in Kwazulu Natal. Our commitment was acknowledged by the Rotary Club of Solihull who distributed a recent legacy to worthwhile causes – the Arden to Africa project was one of the beneficiaries and the sum of £2000 will allow us to purchase further equipment.

**Fantastic Awards Evening 2016** – on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November we celebrated the success of our former Year 11 and Year 13 students. We welcomed Guin Batten (Olympic Rower) and the Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Mike Robinson to present the awards. This year the Governors' Cup was awarded to Megan Burn and the Principal's Prizes went to Morgan Scriven and William Penny. For more information please follow the [link](#) to the website. The photograph below shows Rhys Edwards (joint winner of the Knowle & Dorridge Lions Prize for Music along with Olivia Saunders) and the Mayor of Solihull.

## Upper & Lower School Concerts

Tickets are now available for the **Upper School Concert** which will take place on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the School Hall. The evening will be a wonderful start to the festive period, as will the **Lower School Concert** on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Tickets are available to purchase via ParentPay.



**SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING** took place on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November. For the prospectus and details of how to apply please follow the [link](#).

As in previous years, Arden's school bell rang at 11.00am for the start of the period of silence to mark Remembrance Day. Students are reminded that each year at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, we observe a period of silence. Armistice Day on 11 November marks the end of the First World War and is a day to remember and honour those who have paid the price for our freedom. They are also reminded of the reasons why the act of remembrance matters - Great Britain still believes strongly in remembering those who fought not only in World Wars, but the more than 12,000 British Servicemen and women killed or injured since 1945.

The Governors have granted an additional Inset day on **Tuesday 3 January 2017**. This is to allow teachers additional time to work together and plan for the implementation of the new curriculums introduced by the Government.

Over the weekend of Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 November, the **Arden Young Enterprise** team was in Touchwood, Solihull attending their first trade fair. They were a credit to Arden and the judges commented on their team work and "Go for it" attitude. The morning was a success and the students won the prize for best customer service!



Thank you to everyone who sent in a gift for Operation Christmas Child, the response has been fantastic!



## House information

Results from the House competition to support Operation Christmas Child are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> = Fleming
- 2<sup>nd</sup> = Eliot
- 3<sup>rd</sup> = Aylward
- 4<sup>th</sup> = Baird

HUGE thank you to 7L - Miss Lane's form created 14 boxes but the best form were 7H - Miss West who created 16 boxes

Overall House results:  
 1<sup>st</sup> = Fleming 265 pts  
 2<sup>nd</sup> = Eliot 260 pts  
 3<sup>rd</sup> = Aylward 195 pts  
 4<sup>th</sup> = Baird 185 pts

On Wednesday 9 November, four Year 13 students (Alice Allen, Joe Craven, Jack Mitchell and Tom Rees) took part in the Midlands **Debating Matters** qualifying round at the University of Derby. Despite winning the popular vote by members of the audience our team, unfortunately, did not progress. Our students did, however, make the judges deliberate for a long period of time which shows how close the final decision was to make. Everyone involved said participating was a wonderful experience and they recommend Year 12 students enter the competition next year. The team now look forward to taking part in the Cambridge and Oxford debates in early 2017.



Congratulations to Josh Daniels (7H) who won the Roald Dahl competition featured in 'BookBuzz' - the Library newsletter. He obviously knows the books exceptionally well as he achieved a very impressive score! The latest issue is now available

**Staff news:** Congratulations to Miss Endley (Teacher of Psychology) on the birth of a beautiful baby girl. Miss Endley will now be on maternity leave.

## Mythbuster:

**Myth** - Children are allowed to contact parents directly by phone if they feel ill whilst at school

**Fact** - If a child feels unwell during the school day they must obtain a note from their class teacher and report to Reception. Reception will contact home.

**Myth** - You can park on the yellow zig zags near to school and block neighbours' drives for 10 minutes

**Fact** - No, this is against the law and could result in a traffic offence and fine. Please be courteous to our neighbours.

**Myth** - You need to go to a grammar school sixth form to get the best grades

**Fact** - Our A Level results are fantastic. If last year's results are analysed looking at those students who came to Arden with a GCSE profile matching or exceeding a grammar school entrance profile, they achieved an Average Points score per Entry of 253 and an Average Points score per Student of 908 - these are in line with grammar school results.

Congratulations to the Year 12 and 13 students who recently participated in the [Senior Maths Challenge](#) run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. The students had to complete 25 multiple choice questions in 90 minutes and their mathematical skills were certainly put to the test as no calculators were allowed.

eg For which value of k is  $\sqrt{2016} + \sqrt{56}$  equal to  $14^k$  ?

- A  $\frac{1}{2}$       B  $\frac{3}{4}$       C  $\frac{5}{4}$       D  $\frac{3}{2}$       E  $\frac{5}{2}$

Jack Dixon from Year 13 achieved the 'best in school' and a Silver Certificate. Other Silver certificate winners were Katie Mladenovic, Billy Connors, Toby Green and Owen Cope from Year 13 and Chloe Mychajluk, Wiremu Curtis and George Parnell from Year 12. Bronze certificates went to Diana Wheatley, Jonah Hughes, Simon Bone and Callum Beddoes from Year 13 and Olivia Saunders, Will Lloyd, Alex Botez, Paven Hardava, Sarah Paddock and Sam McGarr from Year 12. Congratulations to all of the students that participated in this prestigious event.



November has been a very busy month for the [careers](#) team who have hosted and organised a number of events to help the students find out about the various career opportunities available to them.

## Arden Alumni

We are hoping to feature regular articles from former students - where they are now and their journey after leaving Arden. If you know of someone who would like to be featured please contact Mrs Bull via [office@arden.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:office@arden.solihull.sch.uk)

To read this about former Head Boy Tom Brigg's time since leaving Arden in 2014, please follow the [link](#).

**NEW PE KIT** - Arden sports leggings and fleeces (shown below) are now available to purchase from either Palmers or [Early Years](#). Ideal on these chilly winter days!



On a recent inset day, Arden staff enjoyed a coffee and cake break to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. The total raised was £305. A huge thank you to Mrs Herbert for organising it.

### PTFA news:

Thank you to everyone who attended the Family Fireworks event, it was a fantastic evening despite the cold!

The next event in the PTFA calendar is The Holly Bash on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. More information can be found by following the [link](#).

For everyone who contributed to Harvest Festival – a thank you Sparkhill Foodbank



All pupils will be visiting Knowle Parish Church for our annual Christmas services and they are invited to bring **new or as new** Christmas presents to the services. These will be passed to the Birmingham City Mission who will distribute them to those in need. If you are unable to donate an unwrapped present, we will be **collecting donations of money** and with this our Senior Pupils will purchase Christmas presents on your behalf. Here are some guidelines for the Christmas gifts and toys:

- Toys should be new or as new, in the original packaging where possible
- All toys should have the CE label on, for health and safety reasons
- Battery operated toys should be in full working order
- Books must be in good condition, not torn or scribbled on
- Puzzles must be complete
- Gifts should be unwrapped
- Gifts suitable for boys over 9 and children under 2 are normally in short supply

## Christmas Services

Church services will take place on the dates below (Upcoming dates at the bottom of the page) and pupils will be walking to/from church, accompanied by their Form Tutors.

### Arden Parent Forum

Parent Forum is a group of volunteer parents that meet three times a year with the Pastoral Management Team to discuss a variety of aspects to school life. The purpose of the forum is to gather parent voices, which help to steer policy within school. The meeting provides an opportunity for parents to see the school in action and have access to a variety of staff members and pupil representatives.

This term's meeting focused primarily on Sixth Form and "Sexting". A range of Sixth Form issues were discussed including how to develop our Sixth Form further. It was brilliant to be able to have these discussions prior to this year's Open Evening so that we can address some of the issues raised and further build on the many positive aspects of our Sixth Form.

Our Student Leadership team presented on the work that they have been doing with Solihull Council on the dangers of "Sexting". This was a really well received piece of work that Parent Forum felt was very useful and our intention is to offer opportunity for our Student Leadership team to work on a wider scale with our parent body to support awareness of this issue and provide suggestions on how to support our children in managing their on-line communications.

At our next meeting we will be discussing how we can further support pupils in managing their emotional well-being. As you all know emotional and mental well-being is a huge worry nationwide amongst teenagers; we share this same concern and are looking to explore a variety of ways of further supporting our young people through the challenges of school and teenage years. If you have suggestions or offers of support or indeed you are interested in supporting us to grow our provision in this area please let us know through [office@arden.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:office@arden.solihull.sch.uk)

Arden Leadership team with Solihull Mayor, Councillor Mike Robinson with Hope Talbot, Kyle Watt, Lucy Connors, Mia Davies, Lucy Bugg and Jacob Arnold after their presentation.



### Upcoming dates:

<b>Thursday 1 December:</b>	Year 7 visit to Treasure Island Year 10 Parent Consultations (2.45pm-6.30pm) PTFA Holly Bash
<b>Saturday 3 December:</b>	PTFA Holly Bash
<b>Monday 5 December to Tuesday 13 December:</b>	Year 11 Mock examinations
<b>Thursday 8 December:</b>	Year 10 HE visit to Knowle Friendship Club A Level Drama & Theatre Studies performance A Level Drama & Theatre Studies performance Christmas Service – Years 12 & 13 (Knowle Parish Church) Lower School Christmas Concert
<b>Friday 9 December:</b>	Christmas Service – Year 7 (Knowle Parish Church)
<b>Monday 12 December:</b>	Christmas Service – Year 9 (Knowle Parish Church) Christmas lunch (£2.15 for students)
<b>Tuesday 13 December:</b>	Christmas Service – Year 8 (Knowle Parish Church)
<b>Wednesday 14 December:</b>	Year 11 & 13 individual/year photographs
<b>Thursday 15 December:</b>	Christmas Service – Years 10 & 11 (Knowle Parish Church)
<b>Friday 16 December:</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSSES at 12.30pm</b> <b>STUDENTS RETURN ON WEDNESDAY 4 JANUARY</b>