



ad altiora news

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Latest news – appointments of new Sixth Form Prefect Team

We are thrilled to announce the new Sixth Form Prefect team for this year. There are some really exciting ideas being formulated about what projects this team will get involved with, so watch this space! The successful students are: Leila Audhali; Jack Bailey; Max Beesley; Chris Bengé; Hannah Bradshaw; Wiremu Curtis; Emilia Driver; Rhys Edwards; Peter Fitzroy; Lewis Hall; Meagan Johnson; Asad Kahn; Holly Koumides; Charlotte Lack; Isabelle Miners; Imogen Mould; Jesal Patel; Lauren Pittaway; Olivia Saunders; Teo Sutherland.

Introduction

We trust everyone enjoyed a relaxing and enjoyable half-term despite Storm Doris' attempts to disrupt it. Our Year 10 students returned tired but happy from their ski trip to Saalbach in Austria – thank you to the staff for accompanying and supporting them throughout the week. Many staff and students committed their half-term to final rehearsals for our annual production beginning on Wednesday 1st March. 'Into the Woods' promises to be every bit as successful as previous productions and we wish all cast, crew and staff well.

Although this half-term is slightly shorter, the calendar is as full as ever! Full details of all the events can be found on the [website](#).

We were proud to host an '**Arden Teachmeet Solihull**' session at Arden on Wednesday 15th February.

We were privileged to welcome Sir David Carter, National Schools Commissioner to this collaboration and sharing good practice event. Sir David said 'The continued development and growth of multi-academy trusts (MATs) like yours is essential in helping us realise our vision of a country in which every child realises his or her potential, regardless of background'.



Sir David Carter

Sporting success recognised

We are proud and delighted to announce that Arden is ranked in joint fourth place in [School Sports magazine's](#) of the top 100 state schools for 2016 .



Reaching the top 30 puts a school in the top 1-3% of the country's state or independent sporting schools. To achieve this, schools have to reach the latter stages of at least two, three or four national competitions to make the list. They cover nineteen different sports and more than 120 different competitions. More weighting is given to success in a range of sports rather than single sports and those sports with more schools competing.

This placing is richly deserved and is recognition of the effort, dedication and commitment shown by everyone involved: students, staff and parents.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the appeal for football boots featured in last month's newsletter. The response was fantastic and there is still time to donate boots (box in Reception). The young footballers who benefited have thoroughly enjoyed playing matches and taking part in street soccer activities! Sadly, the Seniors and U16 failed to qualify for their finals but the U12s made the final, narrowly losing out to rivals Steenberg.



'Words of the Week' for March...

Pragmatic:

An adjective meaning of or relating to a practical point of view or practical considerations

Technological:

An adjective meaning of or relating to technology; relating to science and industry

Parliament:

A noun meaning the legislative (law making) body of a country

Penultimate:

An adjective meaning next to the last

On Thursday 2nd February, Year 9 students were treated to an action packed **RAF Roadshow**. 'Fun with Flight' was a 50-minute jet fuelled presentation exploring the physics of flying. Pupils discovered how the physics they study in the classroom is an integral part of the work that engineers undertake in the RAF and other engineering organisations.

Using exciting demonstrations, pupils were invited to take part in some literally jaw dropping experiments. Drones, balloons, airships and even jet engines were explored in a way that was fascinating and engaging. The pupils also learnt about the microlight world altitude record and the physics behind how the RAF achieved their goal.

This was a great workshop which helped pupils to explore some of the options that are available to them whilst demystifying some of the myths around engineering.



Sporting successes

Girls Football

On Wednesday 8th February, the Year 7/8 Girls' football team won the South Solihull Tournament and now go through to represent the area at the Level 3 games. They played three group games beating Tudor Grange 4-1, Lighthall 3-0 and Langley 2-1 and then faced St Peters in the final who also topped their group. We won 1-0 thanks to an Emily Davies solo effort.

Congratulations to:

Isabella Bowen	Izzy Mitchell	Connie Smith
Zoe Constantinou	Esme Norman: 1 goal	Erin Winslow: 1 goal
Emily Davies: 5 goals	Poppy Pryor: 3 goals	
Amy Garside	Evie Reid	

Ski Races

Friday 3rd February saw the final of four winter races at Ackers. We had the most competitors (23) compared to all the other schools competing - which is fantastic.

Individual Winners:

U12 Boys Gold – Rex Winslow	U14 Boys Gold – Scott Johns
U16 Boys Silver – Owen Johns	U20 Ladies Gold – Jess Mayhew

Ski Club

February 2017 saw the launch night of our very own ski satellite club linked to the Ackers Midland Ski Club. We currently have 14 students registered for this fantastic opportunity with many more students interested. The photograph (right) shows all the students involved.



Arden Alumni profile: Madelaine Smith Arden student 2006-2013

"Most people from Arden know me as the 'sporty one', during my time at Arden I was part of nearly every sports team but back then my passion was swimming and sprint hurdles.

Since finishing my A-levels at Arden in 2013, I went to the University of Bath studying Sports Performance (BSc) and I graduated this year with a first class honours degree. I competed as a National level sprint hurdler during my first year and a half at Bath, medaling in both indoor and outdoor BUCS championships and I thoroughly loved it. However, after watching the Sochi Olympics I took a fancy to Bobsleigh and Skeleton.

After finding out about a Skeleton talent identification programme called Power2Podium which was set up by UK Sport following Lizzy Yarnold's gold medal success at Sochi 2014 Olympics, Madelaine's sporting career changed direction.

After an initial entry of over 1,000 athletes, she successfully made the cut to the final ten competitors travelling to Norway for the first time sliding on the famous track in Lillehammer to see if she would make the final selection and have sliding capability. Following a lengthy process over 8 months Madelaine was selected into British skeletons world class programme, one of four girls selected for Great Britain.

To read the full article on our website, please follow the [link](#).



Left: Madelaine in action on her skeleton where she can achieve top speeds of 147km/h/ 91mph and experiencing up to 5G of force in big corners!

Right: at Lake Placid





Our Year 8 Boys Basketball team unfortunately lost in their recent final after a thrilling semi-final victory against John Henry Newman Community College. The semi-final was a tough match throughout, but they kept their head up and came through to win 26-20.

Congratulations to everyone in the team:

Charlie Billinge
 Matty Boles
 James Cordwell
 Ewan Edwards
 Nathaniel Gardiner
 Christian Harrison
 Josh Hooper
 Finley Kneller
 Matthew Moore
 Rudi Newman
 Will Sands
 Ruben Waters

Year 10 Ski trip!

At 5pm on Friday 17th February, the last day of half term, 88 Year 10 students set off to Saalbach in Austria for Arden's annual ski trip, and after a long 26 hour journey they arrived in resort.

The first day of skiing had many falls as the students found their ski feet but no complaints and they soon set off downhill successfully. During the week we had every type of weather imaginable, from clear blue skies and sun to snow blizzards and even some rain! Through all of the different conditions students were fantastic and stuck it out on the slopes for their tuition.

Ice skating was a huge hit and we saw the majority of the pupils taking to the ice where I think we had more falls than skiing (and that was just from Mr Fletcher!) By the end of the week we saw huge improvements on the slopes with a highlight of group 5 keeping up with group 1 on the last day.

The students that went made the week so enjoyable, and I hope they had as much fun as we did. The week was a huge success and I couldn't have done it without the other 11 members of staff: Mr Hunt, Mr Eades, Mr Singh, Mr Pillinger, Mr Fletcher, Mr Smith, Mr Cunningham, Miss Cassidy, Miss Hyett, Miss Berry & Mrs Hawthorn.

Miss Sheppard

The photographs on the left show what a fantastic time the students had!

Sainsbury's Active Kids 2017 vouchers

The Sainsbury's Active Kids 2017 campaign has started. Premier League footballing ace Daniel Sturridge, swimming legend Ellie Simmonds, world record-breaking sprinter Jonnie Peacock and England Women's World Cup striker Lucy Bronze are this year's Active Kids ambassadors.

Vouchers are available to collect from Sainsbury's until Tuesday 2 May 2017.

We are collecting vouchers and we will be able to exchange them for a variety of learning equipment which all our children, will benefit from. Last year we collected enough vouchers to enable us to purchase a wide variety of equipment that is used every day in PE lessons, such as shuttles, badminton rackets, balls, cones, stop watches and bibs.

We would really appreciate your help again this year and remember, EVERY VOUCHER COUNTS.

This is a House Event and all students should, therefore, bring their vouchers into school and place them in their Schoolcomms bag during Form time. There will also be a collection box left in Reception for vouchers.

Important dates for March

Wednesday -	01.03.17	'Into the Woods' production
Saturday	04.03.17	
Monday -	06.03.17	Sixth Form mock examinations start
Wednesday	15.03.17	
Tuesday	07.03.17	18.30-19.00 Year 9 German Exchange meeting (M3)
Tuesday	07.03.17	19.00-20.30 Year 9 Options Parent Information meeting
Thursday	09.03.17	14.45-18.30 Year 9 Parent Consultations
Friday	10.03.17	18.30-19.30 Year 10 Ski Presentation Evening
Sunday	19.03.17	PTFA Table Top sale
Monday -	27.03.17	Year 10 Work Experience week
Friday	31.03.17	
Tuesday	28.03.17	Year 7 visit to Black Country Museum
Wednesday	29.03.17	Year 7 visit to Black Country Museum
Tuesday	28.03.17	A Level Recital evening
Thursday	30.03.17	Year 11 GCSE Drama performance
Friday	31.03.17	19.00-23.00 Sports Award Evening (invitation only)

Sportshall Athletics success

Year 7 and 8 girls won the Solihull round of the Sportshall Athletics Championships, held at North Solihull Sports Centre and will go on to represent Solihull in the Level 3 Games on 14th March 2017.

Year 8 boys came second to Tudor Grange and Year 7 boys came in third place.

We very much hope that the Year 8 girls will emulate their county success from last year. Good luck to both teams.

Gymnastics

Good luck to all our gymnasts competing this month in the British Schools Trio Competition (Joe Butler, Corey Allen and Christian Mobsby – Under 16 boys) (Jensen Williams, Matt Bambrook and Reuben Dudley – Under 13 boys) (Sarah Crane, Katie Lazenby, Liz Cornforth and Ryan Daines – Under 16 Mixed).

Another PTFA date for your diary...a disco on **Saturday 1st April 2017**.

If you'd like to buy tickets you can do so via ParentPay (£5.00) or on the door (£7.00).



PARKING

Could we please ask that anyone visiting the school does not use the area set aside for Disabled Parking unless they are a blue badge holder. We have a number of parents & visitors who need to use these spaces.

Could we also ask that consideration is shown to local residents particularly in Milverton Road and St Lawrence Close so that their driveways are not blocked by parked cars? Thank you.

Futures – Sixth Form Careers Event on 8th February 2017

A short conversation with a talented ex-pupil back in October led to Futures 2017, our first Sixth Form careers conference with an emphasis on 'A Wider View' (more on that later). We were incredibly pleased to welcome a range of speakers from the Civil Service Fast Stream to the police; from a manager of Specsavers to an architect and from an ex-police commissioner to the TA. The emphasis for the afternoon was not on specific jobs, however, but on the malleability and resilience required in today's job market which is constantly in flux. Students were able to choose from a wide range of talks and were given advice that many have said they found invaluable. What amazed me, however, was that it didn't matter which room I was in or who I was listening to, the advice being given was the same: a choice now is not necessarily forever and don't assume that you have closed off all other avenues in the job market because of one decision. The idea of a solid base was covered in more than one talk with Andrew Rennison talking about a firm foundation of skills (some he acquired while in post and paid for by his employers) and Rob Pedley using the idea of a toolkit to represent a CV: constantly collect all the skills and experiences you can because you never know when you might need them.

I know that I learned a lot (and was tempted by a few alternative careers) and feedback from students suggested the same. It was only with support from our contacts that we were able to offer this most worthwhile opportunity and we hope to continue this high quality careers guidance and help with mock interviews for Year 12 in the summer. Mrs L Hodgkinson, Head of Year 13

The Year 12 Young Enterprise group have created and self-published a fantastic little children's book for ages 4-7 year olds. The book tackles the issue of child obesity and promotes healthy eating through a friendly lion cub called Sam. It has been beautifully illustrated and has some great recipes for children to cook with their parents. The book has arrived and the YE group are eager to start selling. They will have a stall in Touchwood, on **Saturday 4th March 2017 (8am until 5pm)**. If you are about in the area then please do pop along to show your support or even buy a copy of their book.

If you can't make it tomorrow then they will be selling the book next **Saturday 11th March** in Stratford-upon-Avon city centre (near Shakespeare's birthplace) from 8am until 5pm.

Safe and Sound

On Tuesday 31st January, **Year 10** were visited by the Loudmouth Theatre Company. The day began with the entire year group watching a powerful performance of the company's Safe and Sound production which explores issues relating to safety and respect in teenage relationships. The students were shocked by the issues raised by the performance and it was a fantastic starting point to a thought provoking day. Following the performance the year group participated in small group workshops where they were able to discuss issues relating to what they had seen. The workshops provided an opportunity for students to think about the quality of the relationships they develop, as well as raising their awareness of the misuse of power and control and how to safeguard themselves against abusive relationships.

A report by the NSPCC showed that 25% of girls and 18% of boys reported some form of physical partner violence. 75% of girls and 50% of boys reported some form of emotional partner violence. It is vitally important that young people are able to have opportunities such as this to develop the tools to build healthy relationships now and in the future. We are incredibly grateful to the PTFA for funding this opportunity for our students. Student feedback was overwhelmingly positive about what they had learnt from the day.

