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Charity Update

Our first whole school charity day of the year was a fantastic success. With crowd-pleasing activities like 'Beat the Goalie', staff vs pupils netball and the always popular cake sale, there was lots going on in addition to the non-uniform day.

In total a huge £3173.77 was raised for Mind, the Mental Health charity. Many thanks to everyone for their contributions to this fantastic cause.



Celebrating Examination Success

We were delighted to welcome the Year 11 and Year 13 Class of 2017 back to Arden to celebrate their fantastic personal and academic achievements for our annual Awards Ceremony. The evening was a joyous occasion and we were thrilled that so many students could be a part of the evening.

Special congratulations go to Year 11 student Samuel Jones who was awarded this year's Governors' Cup and Benjamin Cornforth and Lucy Connors who received the Principal's Prize. The Year 13 Principal's Prize went to Zebedee Trett and Emma Gough, with the Cadbury Prize (for outstanding A Level results) going to Diana Wheatley.

We were privileged to have Baroness Sue Campbell, Chairman of UK Sport, as our guest speaker. She shared wise words with the students about her insight into success. Creativity, Aspiration, Resilience, Empathy was her message and we are sure that the students were inspired by her speech.

We are immensely proud of all the students and wish them all the very best for the future.

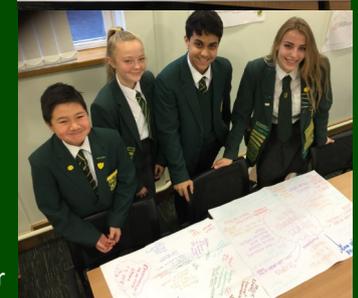
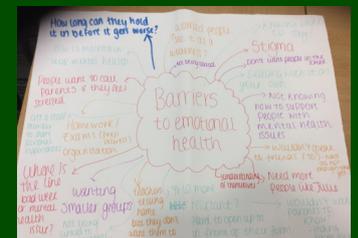
Mr Murphy
Arden Principal



Emotional Health

As part of our push on emotional health we have begun canvassing the views and thoughts of all students and staff. The student council have worked with every form group to identify what the students believe are the existing barriers to being emotionally well, and we have also begun to explore what we as a school can do to further help our young people. We know that this is not an overnight fix and is not something that will be addressed and solved in an assembly, but we are very committed to exploring how we can better equip our young people to stay emotionally healthy in what is undoubtedly a challenging time to be a teenager.

A reminder that we have a parents information evening on Tuesday 23rd January at 6.30pm where Liam Loughton of Solar and Barnados will be attending to offer advice and guidance to parents on how to help support their children.



Dame Caroline Spelman MP

We were delighted to welcome Dame Caroline Spelman MP to Arden as part of UK Parliament week. Groups of pupils from years 7-11 met with Caroline during their lunchtime to ask probing questions on issues such as Brexit, university tuition fees and crime in the local area. After that there was no time to pause before the Year 12 and 13 Politics students delivered



their equally challenging questions.

It was a superb opportunity for the students to hear first hand about life as an MP and we were delighted to see such enthusiasm and engagement from the students. We would like to thank Caroline for giving up her time to come and speak to our students.



Sixth Form Open Evening

On Thursday 23rd November we welcomed over 600 visitors to Arden for our Sixth Form Open Evening. We were thrilled that so many students are considering continuing, or starting, their education with us. It was a great night with both staff and students demonstrating a passion for their subjects.



Details about applications to the Sixth Form can be found [here](#). Applications close on January 12th.



Knowle in Lights

The Ardenaires braved the cold this week to perform beautifully at the annual Knowle Christmas lights

playing to a packed local crowd.



Beyond-16 Exhibition

The annual Beyond-16 Careers Exhibition took place this month in conjunction with the Rotary Club. Over thirty local and



national businesses were represented, along with a number of further education providers. The evening was a fantastic insight into the world of work and gave the students lots to think about. A huge thank you to the Rotary Club for helping to make the evening such a success.

Blood Brothers

The Year 10 Drama students put on two fantastic performances of Blood Brothers this week as part of their GCSE course. It was a real team effort and the students' performances were an absolute credit.

Well done to all involved.



Economics Conference

Economics students from Year 12 and 13 attended an IEA economics conference recently.

Students took part in a series of economics lectures, looking at globalisation, the gender pay gap, Brexit and different careers within economics.

There were topical debates where our students posed insightful questions and counter argued other schools.

The students had a really thought provoking and productive day with one commenting that "the lecturers were really interesting and helped us see how what we are learning in class links to real life". Another student said "it made me realise that it is important to analyse statistics and to take headlines with a pinch of salt as some figures highlighted the gender gap was 22.5%, where as others suggested 9.1%". What a great opportunity for the students to get out of the classroom and contextualise their learning.

History Students visit

Warwick University

Year 12 and 13 History students had the opportunity to visit Warwick University last week for a series of lectures linked to their studies of Weimar and Nazi Germany. The students were certainly put through their paces with five lectures from leading historians including Sir Richard Evans, President of the Wolfson College, Cambridge.

The Year 13 students are now busy putting what they learnt in to their coursework, whilst the Year 12s are about to embark on a project based on their learning from the day. A great experience all round.



Sir Richard Evans

Tommy Day

Year 9 pupils were treated to the annual 'Tommy Day' workshops recently. The workshops are a fantastic way to support the pupils' learning. The team from Frontline Living History facilitated a series of interactive activities aided by their extensive collection of artefacts. One of the year 9 pupils commented "it was great fun. A really helpful way to visualise the things we have been learning about and to help deepen our understanding of the First World War."



Bin-It Roadshow

Year 7 and 8 were treated to a dramatic roadshow this month which shared important messages about the environmental impact of littering and the importance of correct disposal of rubbish, especially chewing gum. It was a great way to get the pupils' attention about this important issue.



UCB Future Chef Competition

Huge congratulations go to Year 11 student Deeah Chohan who has won the local round of the UCB Future chef competition. Her two course menu was prepared and cooked in 1hour 30mins and consisted of pan fried sea bass served on cauliflower purée, broccoli, asparagus and roasted potatoes, followed by an orange infused treacle tart and homemade custard.

Deeah will now go on to represent the West Midlands in February.



Year 10 Catering Students

Nine Year 10 Catering students recently attended University College Birmingham for a "Have a Go" taster day.

Sessions included designing, naming and making a Christmas mocktail; and my personal favourite 'Merry Berry' which involved decorating cupcakes and gingerbread biscuits, with the support of a bakery and cake decorating apprentice, which enabled the students to develop their sugar craft skills and creativity. We finished the day with a knife skills chef session in the kitchen.

Arden Food department have established excellent links with UCB and over many years have seen our students excel in the different fields of Hospitality, Food Service,

Bakery and Professional Culinary skills. It is just great to see what our students can achieve in the vocational sector. Our thanks always to UCB for such a fantastic opportunity.

Mrs Herbert



More Catering News!

Connor Leake in Year 10, who is studying Hospitality and Catering, has completed an eight week Waiter's course at UCB. Following the taster session which Connor attended with school at the end of Year 9, he has jumped at the opportunity to gain more experience in the catering field.

At the celebration of the end of his course, which Mrs Herbert attended, Connor was the wine waiter for the lunch service. He is pictured talking to chefs from Birmingham restaurants including Purnell's.

Mrs Herbert says that it was a delight to see Connor working so well in a team, leading the station and chatting so confidently with guests over a superb lunch.

Connor will now take part in the Chef's Academy in January.



'Bank, Camera, Action'

Five members of Politics Club are taking part in the Bank of England's 'Bank, Camera, Action' video competition.

They have been asked to produce a three minute video on 'What Independence means to you'.

Filming is fully under way - special thanks to the Digital Leaders for their help with filming and for letting them use their green screen!



One of the strands of ArdenAIM is 'Excellence Students'. Tying in with the Arden Values, this aims to highlight and celebrate some of the astounding achievements made by Arden students, in a range of different activities, outside of school.

We are very proud that a number of our students have received recognition for their outstanding talents in the arts and in sport at local, national and international levels. They are truly inspiration role models.

Every month, we shall be shining the spotlight on one of our Excellence Students to find out exactly just what it takes to excel in their field and to achieve such success.

Hattie Jones (Year 11)

Hattie is an amazing ballroom dancer. In November 2016, she came in the top three at the UK Championships, held at the famous Blackpool Winter Gardens. She specialises in the Ten Dance, involving 5 Ballroom and 5 Latin dances. Such success requires time, hard work and dedication, as Hattie explains in the following interview:

When did you first realise that you were such a talented dancer?

I first started dancing when I was in Year 6. I attended Saturday morning classes at the Aura Studios in Olton. I started competing about a year later and, when I was 12, I was paired up with my first dance partner. I have been competing ever since, with a few different dancing partners, and last year I moved up from the Junior section to the U21 category for competition.

How much training do you have to do?

I train for between 2 and 4 hours on five days per week. This is usually after school, which means that I have to be very organised in the evenings and it can be exhausting. Sometimes I don't get home until after 11pm. If I am preparing for a competition, I have to do additional training to make sure that I am absolutely ready.

Where do you train?

Most of my training still takes place at the Aura Studios, however I sometimes have the opportunity to train in London, at studios run by former World Champion dancers, which is amazing.

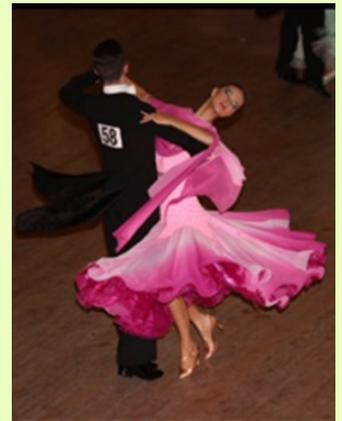
How do you fit your school work in, if you are training every evening?

It is really difficult, especially as I have got older and am now working towards my GCSEs. I have to do what I can when I can and just hope that I can fit it all in.



Apart from training, what else do you have to do to be a successful dancer?

It is important to have the right diet. I have to make sure that I keep my weight up, so that I have enough strength and energy to dance properly. This means that I have to eat a lot of carbohydrate-rich foods, like pasta and bread, as well as plenty of protein, including meat and cheese.



Do you get to wear the fabulous costumes like those we see on Strictly Come Dancing?

Yes. There are different costumes for Ballroom and Latin, which are designed to enhance the different styles of dance. I have to have two costumes for each style. They can, however, be very expensive, each costing upwards of £500. I also have to have a spray tan and do my hair and make-up. It takes ages. I usually have a spray tan the day before and do my hair. It can take up to an hour on the day to the make-up.

When is your next competition?

I am not competing at the moment, as my partner has decided to stop dancing. It's actually quite a good time to have a break, as it means that I can really focus on my GCSEs. When my exams are out of the way, I will look for a new partner, so that I can start competing again. Even though I am not competing in the UK Championships at Blackpool this year, I am still going and, because I'm not dancing, I'll get to really enjoy watching everything, without the pressure of having to perform. All the Strictly pro-dancers go, so I will actually have a chance to meet and chat with them, which is really exciting.

What is your motto?

Keep focused, 24/7.

Sports News

For all the latest news about all things sports related don't forget to follow the Arden PE Department on Twitter

 @ArdenPE

Cross Country

Our Year 7/8 (Junior) Boys Cross Country team competed in the ESAA Cross Country national cup final last weekend. They had won their first round, then came second in a very competitive regional round to reach the final. They ended up finishing 18th in the country and all five runners put in a great performance on an extremely difficult course. Congratulations to all of the boys.



The successful team of Nathan Carter, Jamie Eden, Tom Maidment Oliver Swann and Matt Carter



Rugby Stars in the Making

Congratulations to Alex Lidgate-Taylor and Owen McDougall in Year 11 who both played for the Worcester Warriors academy in their game against Saracens during half term. Both players put in a good performance in their quest to make the Midlands U16 squad.

We look forward to hearing how they progress through the season.



Rugby

There have been some great Rugby results this month.

The highlight for the Year 10 team was a 45-14 win over Tudor Grange.

The Year 8 team have had a series of successes including a 50-0 victory over Light Hall. Huge congratulations to Oscar Cawthorne for playing his first game and to Oliver Swann for his first ever try.



The Year 8 team

Gymnastics

Mrs Heard was pleased to welcome Mary Small from West Midlands Schools' Gymnastics this week to watch the routines that the teams have been working on.

She was really complementary about what she saw and her feedback will be useful as the team prepare for their first competition in January.

Thank you

The PE department would like to extend their thanks to Old Silhillians Rugby club who have provided funding that has allowed two Sixth Form students (Olly Sands and Tom Parkin) to become level 2 Rugby referee qualified. They will now be able to referee school matches and progress through the young whistlers programme.

Individual Netball Success

Kate Winn

Congratulations go to Year 7 pupil Kate Winn who has successfully trialled and been offered a place for year 2017/2018 with the Birmingham Netball Under 12 Satellite Academy, which is a great achievement. This is a scheme that is a pathway for excellence in the sport.

Kate has played netball since the age of 8 for a Birmingham based club 'Foxes'. In her opening year she won the 'Most Improved Player' Award and in the following two seasons she has won two back to back 'Managers

Players' awards. She excels in the Goal Defence position but is also proficient in many other positions including Wing Defence and Goal Keeper.

Kate clearly has a bright future ahead of her in the sport.

Izzy Mitchell and Poppy Koumbilis

Congratulations also go to Year 8 pupils Izzy and Poppy who have both been selected for the county netball squad.

We are excited to hear how Kate, Izzy and Poppy get on over the course of the season.

Hockey

The Arden U16 girls hockey team had a spectacular victory against Solihull school this month, winning 3-2 after coming from behind and being under real pressure from a strong Solihull team. Goals came from Lauren Hobday, Katie Fagg and Clare Browne. The team were absolutely brilliant and worked so hard for each other, it was a real team performance and Mrs Hull is really proud of every one of them.

The girls then followed this up with a double sweep for both KS4 teams over St Martins. Another great team performance with Lauren Hobday being named player of the match.



Ski Race

Seventeen students recently took part in a ski race at Ackers.

Once again we had the highest number of entrants from one school with the rest of the racers representing private schools and the Midland Ski Club.

Individual successes were Scott Johns (Gold in U16 category and 2nd fastest on the night overall) and Luke Reid (Bronze in the U14 category).

Fantastic results!



Luke Reid



Scott Johns



Football

We have had a good month in football with the Year 10 and Sixth Form teams both doing well.

Year 10

The Year 10 football team played against Tudor Grange in the National Cup.

Arden won 2-1 despite only having ten players available. Alfie Guy-Lyon scored both of our goals, the first of which was one of the best goals that Mr Pillinger has "ever seen EVER!"

Congratulations to the team of Jamie Russell, Ethan Girling, George Hobbs, Taylor Hicks, James Driscoll, Caleb Taylor, Sam Walters, Alfie Guy-Lyon, Ben Young and Jamie Boyle.

Sixth Form

The Sixth Form football team also had a great win when they played Alcester Grammar. The team demonstrated some excellent skills and were eventual 5-0 winners.

Basketball

Year 10

The Year 10 boys basketball team played against John Henry Newman Catholic College in their first fixture of the season. We are delighted to report that they won 44-31.

Congratulations to the team which consisted of Tom Batchelor, Mark Berry, Jacob Chantry, Ryan Daines, Zak Fatta, Ben Garside, Ben Graddon, Scott Johns, Joe Munns, Tom Roberts, Jamie Russell and Caleb Taylor.

Netball

Year 7

The Year 7 netball teams have played against Lode Heath and came up against some tough opposition. In two tight matches the A-team eventually drew 4-4 whilst the B-team came in 4-3 winners.

Miss Sheppard also organised a match between the Year 7 and Year 8 teams which saw the Year 8 team win 5-2. It was a great experience for the Year 7s and they held their own against a more experienced team.

Badminton

Congratulations to the Key Stage Three boys badminton team who took part in

the South Solihull School Sport Partnership competition at Alderbrook and finished first! What a great start to the year.

Alumni News

Becci Bugg

We were thrilled to hear that ex-pupil Becky Bugg, who left Arden in 2014, has beaten more than 800 other hopefuls to a place on Coventry Building Society's Graduate programme.

Becci recently started work at the

Society's head office in Coventry, alongside ten other successful graduates, who each underwent a selection process before being accepted on to the two-year programme.

Becci, who received a first-class BA (Hons) degree in International Relations in 2017 from the University of Leicester, has joined The Coventry's 'Marketing,

Customer Experience and Communications' graduate scheme. She will work across different areas of the business, alongside completing a placement at one of The Coventry's 70 branches and call-centres.

What a fantastic achievement!



Staff News

Congratulations to Miss Duerdin on the birth of her baby girl (Rosalie) this month. Miss Duerdin will now begin a period of Maternity leave.

Congratulations also go to Mr (and Mrs) Gunn on the birth of their daughter Poppy.

We have welcomed two new members of staff this month—Ben Morgan and James Gardner have joined us as Cover Supervisors.

PTFA News

Once again, another amazing Family Fireworks event took place on Saturday 4th November. Every year the PTFA put together this amazing community event which is well supported by students and the

wider Arden family. The spectacular fireworks display is second to none in the area and we're proud to be able to bring this event to you. Thank you for all your positive comments, we're so glad you enjoyed this year's fireworks, not to mention the delicious food and refreshments! Next year's Family Fireworks will take place on Saturday 10th November – please pop the date in your diary.

It is with great excitement that we prepare for our fabulous Arden Christmas Ball on Saturday 2nd December. Formerly the Holly Bash, this year's Christmas celebrations promises to be the best ever! News hot off the press: for the first time ever at our Christmas Party, we will be laying on a Gin Bar! Enjoy everyone!

If you would like to help support Arden PTFA please email adminptfa@arden.solihull.sch.uk

Important dates for December

Monday 27th November to Friday 8th December	Year 11 Mock Examinations
Saturday 2nd December	Arden PTFA Christmas Ball (7.00pm)
Monday 4th December	USA Ski pre-visit Meeting (6.30pm)
Tuesday 5th December	Lower School Christmas Concert (7.00pm)
Thursday 7th December	Year 10 Food group visiting Knowle Friendship Club
Friday 8th December	Year 7 Christmas Service @ Knowle Parish Church
Monday 11th December	Sixth Form Christmas Service @ Knowle Parish Church Year 8 Christmas Concert
Tuesday 12th December	Upper School Christmas Concert (7.00pm)
Wednesday 13th December	Year 9 Christmas Service @ Knowle Parish Church Year 7 Christmas Concert Christmas Lunch served in the canteen
Thursday 14th December	Year 8 Christmas Service @ Knowle Parish Church Year 10 Christmas Concert Year 13 Year Group & Individual photographs (am) Year 11 Year Group & Individual photographs (pm)
Friday 15th December	Year 10/11 Christmas Service @ Knowle Parish Church Year 9 Christmas Concert Term ends