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SSAT award

Arden has been nationally recognised for its exceptional 2016 performance by the Schools Students and Teachers network (SSAT). Educational Outcomes data analysis from SSAT has shown that the school is in the top 10% of non-selective schools nationally for attainment.



Into the Woods

The Sondheim musical 'Into The Woods' was this year's school production, performed at Arden 1st - 4th March. This year we had over 140 students involved in the show acting, singing, dancing, playing and working in the technical team. The students produced a very visual production with a set comprising of a scaffold tower and several trees; complete with beanstalk, palace steps and a milky white cow! We chose to produce the full length, professional show and not the schools' version which was a significant challenge. The students rose to this challenge performing with the skill, energy and sense of ensemble that we have grown used to in Arden productions. Particularly memorable were the vocal performances of Nicole

Rose, the Baker's Wife, and the characterisation of the Baker performed by Ciaran Walker. In his first Arden school production, Jack Carter in Year 9 performed the role of a Woodcutter and Wolf and was nominated by the cast for always 'Pursuing a Polished Performance', we hope to enjoy more of his performances in year 10!

It was the last school production for Will Davison who completes his A levels this summer. Will, who knows the lighting and sound desk manuals inside out, has headed up the lighting and sound team for several years; his skill and calm and patient manner will be missed. Despite the catchy repetition of the 'Into The Woods' tunes, the amount of sound and underscoring was vast

for this production. It was also 'Performing Arts Spotlight's Personality' Megan Hathaway's last performance at school before she leaves to study music at university; I'm sure her 'bird song' composition will go down in Arden PA history!

Over 1,000 of you came to watch the production this year, celebrating the enjoyment that students get from the participation in the show. With such high aspirations for every aspect of the production the professionalism achieved is stunning; an opportunity for our pupils to feel proud of what they have achieved and part of the Arden family.

Auditions for next year will be in September... ..Grease is the word!



More performance photographs can be found [here](#).

Sixth Form Charity Day

Friday 24th March 2017 saw Arden students and staff at their best. We were raising money for the Schitsdrift School in South Africa, the school that we have supported for the past four years. Each year a group of Sixth Form students travel to South Africa to support the work of the school for 4 weeks over the summer. We are thrilled to report that £4023.41 has been raised which will enable us to leave a massive legacy at the school. A huge thank you to the students and staff for their enthusiasm and support on the day. More information can be found [here](#).



Knowle and Dorridge Rotary Club have been incredibly generous in supporting the South Africa project. Colin Winstone (President) is seen above presenting Arden Sixth Form students Megan Burn, Dylan Ahmed and Lewis Hall with a cheque for £2000 to support their fundraising efforts.

British Science Week

During the week of 10th to 19th of March pupils at Arden undertook various activities for British Science week 2017. The theme of the week this year was change. To celebrate this all pupils in year 7 were given a moon diary to take home and fill in the phases of the moon over its twenty eight day cycle. Pupils of all ages received an assembly on British Science week, the discoveries of teenage scientists and how they could get involved including the citizen science project, Penguin Watch. On Thursday lunch time Mr Gunn, Ms

Page and Mr Smith, ably assisted by some of the year 9 science ambassadors, undertook "Demo Thursday" demonstrating some explosive experiments to the crowds in the playground and even turned copper coins to gold (sort of).



Bus consultation

Consultation on proposal to cease the school bus service to and from St George and St Teresa Catholic Primary School

On 16 February 2017 Cabinet Portfolio Holder resolved that a consultation take place from 13 March 2017 to 28 April 2017 on a proposal to cease the St George and St Teresa Catholic School bus with effect from 25 July 2017. This service is used by a small number of our pupils, in the afternoon, who live in Balsall Common.

You can find all the details of the consultation on the Council's website:

www.solihull.gov.uk/About-the-Council/Consultations/currentconsultations including how to respond.

BAE Systems STEM Event

On Wednesday 15th March, BAE Systems in partnership with the RAF and Royal Navy presented their 2017 Roadshow to years 7 and 8.

This year's show was in three interactive parts each promoting the STEM subjects. Part one explored the world of drones, the technology behind them, the multifarious uses that they are currently put to and their possible uses for the future. Part two focused on computing and control systems that all modern technology is built around. Two students got to control the camera of a drone while it was flown around. The final part of the show featured a very special robot who could walk, talk, interact with her surroundings and even pick herself up if she fell over.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for all those involved and we hope to be able to invite BAE Systems back to Arden next year.



St. Basils sleepout

On Friday 10th March a team of brave staff took part in the Solihull Sleepout. Seven staff members slept out for the night to raise money for St. Basils. A total of £1025.44 was raised and all of the money will go directly to support the prevention of youth homelessness in Solihull.

Youth homelessness is a growing issue in the Solihull area but because of the pioneering work done by St Basils, hundreds of young people will have a safe home to go to tonight and support moving forward.



BBC School Report

The Digital Leaders have once again submitted a BBC School report and this year's production might be the best yet

They tackled multiple topics such as Future Media, Mental Health & Brexit as well as that day's news.

You can watch their broadcast at:

<http://bit.ly/2o9Baij>

This is one of the many projects Digital Leaders are involved with and you can join Digital Leaders who get together every Thursday lunch time in M21.



Arden Young Enterprise

Year 12 Young Enterprise group have been busy selling their book this month.

They were in Solihull on Saturday 4th March and they were amazing! The students were really professional and made me really proud as they represented all that is great about Arden.

To cap off a great day... the team WON best company!!!! They had some tough competition from Solihull School, St Martin's School and a school from Small Heath. The judges were really impressed with the company, "Zest" and commended them for their great business ethics and product. We still have the final in May but it gives a good indication of how well the team are doing so far.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the students so far.

Miss Long



GCHQ CyberFirst

Arden took part in the exciting GCHQ CyberFirst Girls competition this month. We entered a team of four Year 10 computer science students; Meg Fear, Emma Cole, Lily Graham and Jemima Cray. They were trying out their skills and learning new skills in order to solve the problems that Cyber Security experts face all the time. Covering a range of topics from logic and coding to networks our team of computer scientists put in a valiant effort and solved a lot of the challenges.

It was a great experience for the girls involved.



Childline App

We would like to draw your attention to a new app that has been launched by Childline where young people who are in need of help can get counselling and guidance directly through their mobile devices.

The app has been named '**For Me**' and is free to download in the UK.

When Childline first launched over 30 years ago all contact was over the phone, with many calls being made from telephone boxes. How children and young people contact Childline is now very different:

- Last year, 1.8 million sessions on the Childline website were conducted via mobile devices.
- 71% of counselling sessions were delivered online via email and via 1-2-1 chats

Because of this change in how young people contact Childline, it became obvious that there was an urgent need to

be able to offer easy access to confidential advice and support via a young persons mobile devices and so Childline, collaborating with teenagers for ideas, created the new '*For me*' app.

Because '*For me*' has no obvious branding on the logo it can be discreetly installed on a mobile phone (and locked with a PIN), which means that if someone else happens to see the young person's phone they can't necessarily tell it's a Childline service.

You'll need an iPhone 5 and iOS 9.0 or later to download For Me. Childline are working on an Android version of '*For Me*', which should be finished in a few weeks

'*For me*' enables young people to tap directly into Childline's expanding range of services through their mobile phones whenever and wherever they need their help.

We would encourage you to discuss this app with your child.

The link for more information is:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/for-me/>

Stressed?

Emotional Health and Wellbeing on the move at Arden – talking about Apps

Stressed by exams?

Anxious about school?

Frazzled by Parenthood?

www.headspace.com is well worth investigating. It includes ten free mindfulness sessions to soothe and calm the mind. It is a free app with further modules available on subscription.

Mindfulness sessions are run in school by Miss Potter every week on Mondays and Wednesdays from 15:40 until 16:00 in M12 for pupils in key stages 4 and 5. The sessions offer guided breathing exercises and visualisation to enable the students to consciously relax their bodies and minds. The techniques taught can be used by students in any place and at any time to consciously relax.

Year 9 German Exchange

On the week beginning 20th March, nine students embarked upon the German exchange, travelling to Schwalbach am Taunus in Germany. The pupils had a fantastic week and Ms Wardle reports that they were an absolute credit to the school.



"I think that the German Exchange is an exciting, once-in-a-lifetime experience and an opportunity that shouldn't be missed. The nerves when we arrived at the airport were short lived because I felt so welcome with my host family and quickly integrated into the new German lifestyle that was my home for the next week. It was full of lots of different activities with perfect opportunities to try the local food, shops and make plenty of new friends. It is my favourite trip I have done with the school so far and would love to do something similar in the future."

Grace Lord 9A



"The German exchange trip was one of the best experiences of my life. I became very good friends with my partner and all the other German students. During the week I enjoyed getting know the other exchange students from going to the park and getting together in the evenings as well as during the day trips. One my favourite activities was the Dialog Museum in Frankfurt which I really enjoyed, I also found the Roman Fort in Saalburg very interesting, as the Romans in Germany is something I've never studied. I have become more confident in my German and learned lots of new words and phrases as well as understanding German culture. I learned about the German school system and started a new hobby in which my partner introduced me to. Hearing German around me and speaking it as much as possible resulted in me starting to think in German which was a really good experience"

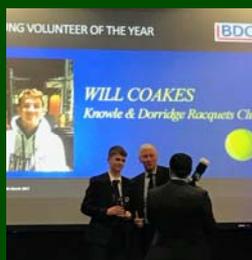
Tom Batchelor 9S

Sports News

Special Award

Congratulations to Will Coakes who collected the award for Young Volunteer of the Year at the Warwickshire LTA Awards. This is a fantastic accolade and a result of Will giving up nearly 300 hours of his own time on a voluntary basis to support Knowle and Dorridge tennis club.

You can read more about Will's award [here](#).



Ski-Team

Multiple gold and silver medals were won by our ski team when they took part in the Midland Ski Club schools' race on Sunday 12th March.

Congratulations to the following medal winners:

U16 Boys' Team Winners

William Annandale
Scott Johns
Owen Johns
Stanley Amphlett

Individual U14 Boys

Gold Medal – Scott Johns
Silver Medal – Jamie Hyde

Individual U16 Boys

Gold Medal – Owen Johns
Silver Medal – Stanley Amphlett

Watch out for the new extra-curricular timetable which comes out after Easter. Lots of exciting opportunities.

Overall Male

Silver – Scott Johns
Gold – Owen Johns

Nothing like a little bit of sibling rivalry!



Badminton

Congratulations to Mia Kirk (Year 8) and Milly Evans (Year 9) on their recent success at the Warwickshire Under 16 Silver, Badminton England Tournament on 11th March 2017.

The girls played girls doubles together at the event which was attended by over 100 competitors from all over the country. Milly and Mia won Gold beating the no. 1 & 2 seeds along the way.

Milly also won Gold in the other event that she entered, the mixed



event. The mixed was an all Warwickshire final with Mia and her partner losing to Milly and her partner in the final to take Silver.

Mia also had success in the singles event, getting through to the semi finals and winning a Bronze.

More badminton success came when the KS3 girls team won the regional round of the National Badminton Schools Championship. They are through to the finals which take place in April. What a fantastic achievement to be down to the last eight nationally. Well done girls!



KS3 team:

Mia Kirk
Tessa Franks
Milly Evans
Francesca Barbieri

Gymnastics

The Under 13 boys, together with Painsly school in Stoke won the National Gymnastics competition on 11th March 2017. The team consisted of Reuben Dudley, Jenson Williams and Matt Bambrook.

The Under 16 boys; Harry Boddington, Joe Butler, Corey Allen and Christian Mobsby were also joint winners in their category with Woodrush school.

What a fantastic weekend for the boys!

Many thanks to Mrs Heard and Mrs Bennett for supporting and training the teams.



Staff News

So long, farewell ...

We are very sorry to be saying farewell to Ms Lewsey, Assistant Principal, and Ms Lane, Head of Computing and ICT.

Ms Lewsey will be leaving us at Easter for promotion to Deputy Head at King Edwards VI grammar school for boys, Aston, Birmingham. Ms Lewsey joined Arden in 2004 and has been a teacher of Drama. Head of Drama and Assistant Principal during her time with us. You will probably have seen her leading many a school production over her thirteen years with us. Some of our favourites have included *Animal Farm*, *Grease*, *We will rock you*, *Guys and Dolls* and this year show *Into the Woods*.

Ms Lewsey has led on Teaching & Learning through the school in her

Welcome!

We would like to welcome new staff after Easter:

Miss Pomlett (Teacher of English); Mr Tongue, Teacher of Maths and Mr Gordon, Teacher of Computing & ICT.

Additionally we would like to congratulate Mr Hughes on his promotion to Head of Computing and ICT.

role as Assistant Principal and will be passing this baton on to a new team—more details to be announced after Easter.

Ms Lane has been with us since September 2010 and over her seven years at Arden has taught Business Studies, Economics, ICT and Computing, latterly leading the Computing and ICT Department. She is leaving us to relocate to sunnier Devon where she will be taking up a part-time position as Teacher of Business.

We will be sorry to see them go but we wish them well in their new endeavors.

Baby News — Congratulations to Mrs Pemberton on the birth of a beautiful baby girl (Sophie). Mrs Pemberton has now begun a period of maternity leave.

Wedding News — Our very best wishes go to Ms Cook on her recent marriage to her long standing partner. Ms Cook showed her dedication to the school by celebrating her special day on her day off! We wish them all the best for their future happiness.



Vacancies

We are currently advertising for a Finance Officer across the Multi-Academy Trust. Further details about this vacancy can be found at: <http://www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/vacancies/>

Year 7

Poetry

anthology



A group of Year 7 pupils have created a poetry anthology with the support of Mr Hook. You can read their work at: <http://www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/news-events/galleries/year-7-poetry/>

Important dates for April

w/c 3rd April	Easter Assemblies
Tuesday 4th April	Lower School Spring Concert (7.00pm), School Hall
Tuesday 4th April	Year 12 Drama Trip to Nottingham
Thursday 6th April	Year 13 Parent Consultations (school closes at 2.15pm)
Friday 7th April	Last day of term
Monday 10th April - Friday 21st April	Easter Break
10th-14th April	Year 9/10 MFL Trip to Florence, Italy
10th-12th April	Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition
Monday 24th April	Students return to school