

ad altiora

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

Issue One Spring 2012



ARDEN



WELCOME to this, the first issue of Arden's new school magazine 'Ad Altiora'. The name is of course taken from our long standing school motto 'to higher things' which also sums up what we're aiming to achieve with this publication; something which makes an interesting read, is informative and gives us all the opportunity to recognise some of the fantastic achievements of our Arden students.

My first term at Arden has been busy yet fulfilling and I have thoroughly enjoyed the many opportunities to meet Arden pupils and staff. I have also been privileged to meet several guests from the local community. On Friday 4 November assisted by the newly appointed Mayor's Sea Scout, Arden's own Joseph Evans, I was proud to welcome a number of distinguished guests on behalf of the school. The morning saw the arrival of The Worshipful, The Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Irene Chamberlain and The Mayor's Escort, Mr Robert Chamberlain. The visit to Arden began with a tour of the school provided by Arden's Head Boy, Tom Briggs and Head Girl, Megan Davies.

Tom and Megan commented that "it was a pleasure and a privilege to show someone round who had such passion and enthusiasm for learning and the experiences of young people". We were delighted when our guests agreed to attend a working lunch with the School Council. This team of students, of whom you will read more later, is made up of representatives from each year group. The School Councillors put questions to the Mayor about Solihull Council's policy on recycling, Youth Services throughout the Borough and road safety; an issue about which they clearly feel passionate. The Mayor was also kind enough to present a gift to Hannah Fulcher, who has been a Science Technician at the school for an amazing 25 years.

In the afternoon, the Right Honourable Caroline Spelman, MP for Meriden and Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs also visited the school and our Senior Pupils gave her a tour of Arden's latest facilities, including The Smart Centre and the Sixth Form.

I have to say it was a great honour for the school to receive these distinguished guests on the same day! We are all very proud that Arden is considered such a showcase for learning. The theme of learning continued with a visit from our local Primary School Headteachers, who were delighted to see how their former pupils were settling in and progressing at Arden.

On a lighter note, I was lucky enough to be able to join in all the fun of Children in Need day at the school. I enjoyed the day cunningly disguised as Woody from Toy Story as you will see from the photograph opposite. I am accompanied in the picture by saddle sore Sixth Former, Calam Bruce (all is explained later in the magazine!).

Children in Need day was a resounding success and proved to me just how deeply compassionate and caring the family Arden is. As the months have progressed, it has been most satisfying to see Arden's place in the community strengthen and celebrate the success of so many of our pupils both academically and in extra curricular fields such as sport, dance and music. I am very much looking forward to this success being built on during the terms to come.

Finally I'd like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone - pupils, parents and staff- who have helped make my first term such an enjoyable experience!

Martin P. Murphy *Arden Principal*



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German Exchange 2011

Saturday 19 November 2011 Arden saw Arden pupils and staff up with the larks and boarding the 7.00am flight to Frankfurt. It was an early start for all of us, and by 9.30am (German time), we had already arrived safely. By 10.00am, every student had been introduced to their new host family with whom they'd be staying for the following week. For the remainder of the day, the pupils spent time with their exchange partner and made themselves at home.

On Sunday, we spent the day with our exchange partners and a large number of us went to visit Frankfurt; one of Europe's most impressive modern cities. There are many interesting things to see, including the Messeturm skyscraper. The German citizens often nickname the building 'Bleistift' because it is shaped like a pencil. There is also the famous Radisson Hotel, a circular shaped building that goes hand-in-hand with the Messeturm as the rubber!

Back to Schule!

On Monday, being a school day, we accompanied our exchange partners to the Albert Einstein Schule and met with their teachers and friends. We were taken to a classroom and met by the Headteacher who welcomed us to the school, we were then given our school timetables for the week. Afterwards we walked down to the Town Hall, where we met the Mayor. We asked her lots of questions about herself and her job, and even found out her favourite football team! She kindly gave us some souvenirs to remember the trip before we returned to school to spend the rest of the day in different classes.





Arden's exchange students take a minute to relax from their busy shopping schedule in Frankfurt!

German Exchange 2011

Frankfurt

The next day, Tuesday, the group met at the school before visiting Frankfurt's beautiful city centre. Frankfurt is a mixture of splendid old buildings and a fabulous new financial quarter that rivals the City of London. It was lots of fun shopping all day!

There are hundreds of shops in Frankfurt and we must have visited almost all of them! The City's biggest shopping complex is the Galleria Kaufhof, it holds thousands of stores where you can purchase many interesting things. We then returned to the school where we were collected and taken back to the homes where we were staying.

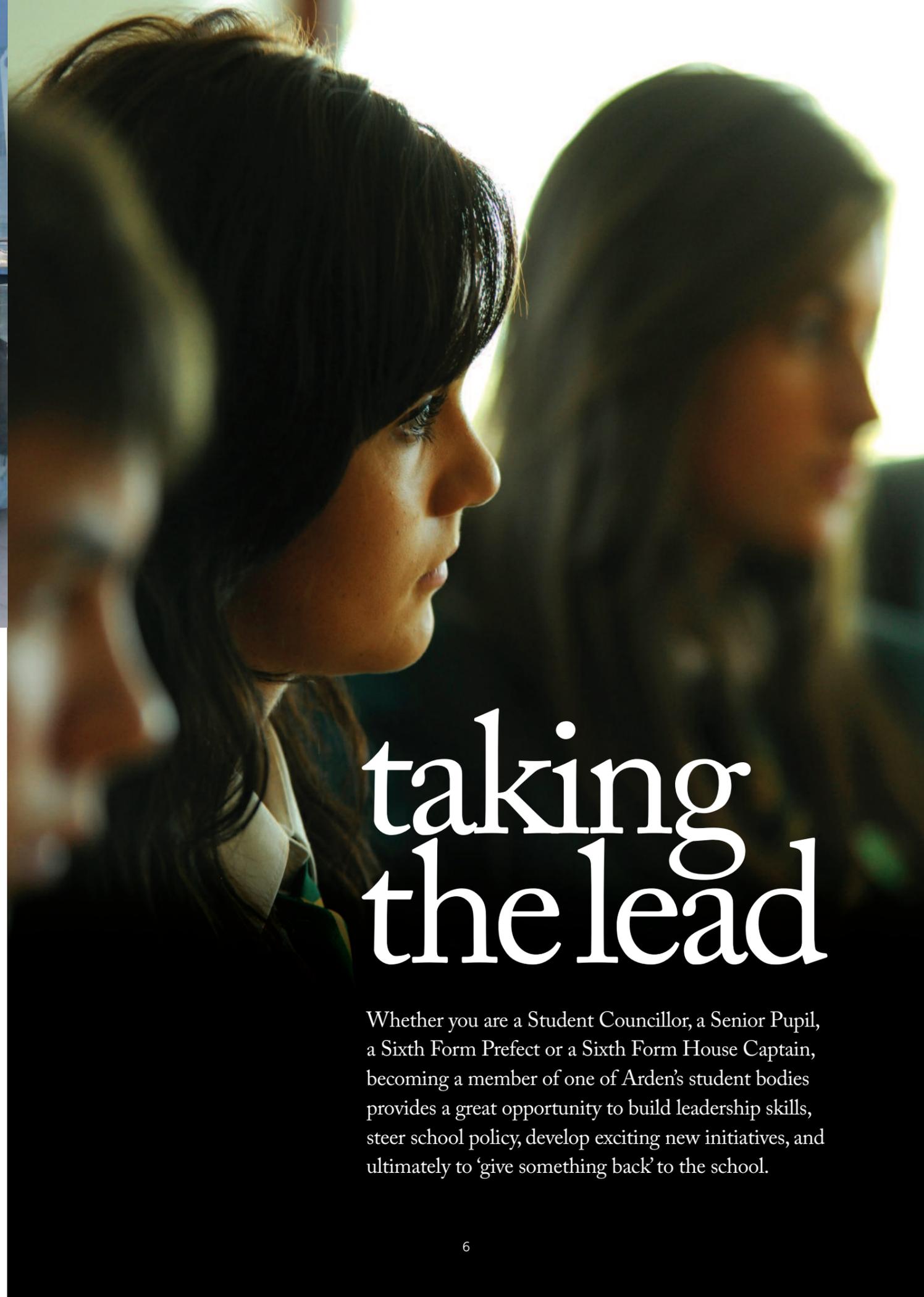
On Wednesday we spent the whole day with our exchange partners. It was quite an eye-opener to see how German schools work in comparison to English schools. The pupils are not required to wear uniform in Germany, whereas most English schools do. In addition, instead of the children moving classroom for each different lesson, it is their teachers that move. If a German student receives a six or two fives in their report, they have to repeat the year!

Another hectic day!

After meeting at school on Thursday, we said goodbye to our exchange partners for the day. We were all quickly hustled onto a coach and taken to Schloss Freudenberg which is a real 'experience for the senses'.

The Schloss (that's 'castle' to you and me!) is an amazing museum with so many different things for you to explore. Many of us thought the best bit was 'Der Dunkelbar' (The Dark Bar) where you are served food and drinks in total darkness. It was fascinating to get a snapshot of how blind people have to cope with the world every day. We then went to a little town called Mainz where we wandered the German market in the freezing cold!

Friday came very quickly. Once again we spent the day at school with our partners and went to lots of their lessons, but first we went line dancing with our partners. It was a great way to round-off a brilliant week which we all really enjoyed. We learned a lot and would recommend it to anyone thinking of taking part in an exchange next year.



taking the lead

Whether you are a Student Councillor, a Senior Pupil, a Sixth Form Prefect or a Sixth Form House Captain, becoming a member of one of Arden's student bodies provides a great opportunity to build leadership skills, steer school policy, develop exciting new initiatives, and ultimately to 'give something back' to the school.

Pictured: The Senior Pupils in consultation with Arden Principal, Mr Murphy.

The Student Council

Arden Student Council is a key breeding ground for ideas and initiatives and has a lot of input into school life. It is also an excellent sounding board for the staff to consult on a wide range of matters!

Pupils can talk to their Student Council representatives about any concerns or ideas they may have, these are discussed at one of the weekly Council meetings. Arden's Senior Pupils also sit on the Council. The Senior Pupil team take points raised during Council meetings on to their regular sessions with Mr Murphy. This provides an effective way of keeping the Principal aware of pupil interests and gives every student a direct route of contact with the highest authority in the school.

Every year the Council chooses a special focus on which to concentrate. Last year the House system was the centre of activity, the team's work led to a vote on new House names

by the entire school during an assembly. This year it is the development of a new Rewards system that identifies and recognises special achievements by pupils that is receiving close attention.

The Council played a key role in the introduction of the 'Leadership Ladder' which helps acknowledge achievements. The Council also helped finalise the designs for the soon-to-be-built Multi-Use Games Area or 'MUGA' and the refurbishment of the Youth Centre.

There is also a smaller group within the Council known as the 'Food Committee' which holds meetings with the Head Chef and discusses food-related issues which are then further investigated by the catering team.

In December, team members also attended a Student Council Conference at Heart of England School. The Arden representatives made a presentation about their work and received some feedback from other schools.



MP Caroline Spelman meets Arden Senior Pupils Jonny Foulkes and Georgie Stockton.

Senior Pupils

At the start of the year, the Senior Pupils were asked to give a small presentation to Arden's prospective students at the local primary schools. The team felt the only way they could effectively communicate life at Arden was through a musical. It was very well received and by popular demand was repeated at the Open Evening. Once again, 'Arden: The Musical' was a huge hit!

During September, Arden welcomed the new Year 7 pupils. To ease their transition from primary to secondary school, the Senior Pupils were each assigned a form. were each assigned a form where they acted as 'human sat-navs'; directing the new pupils to classes and answering questions.

Hot on the heels of the new school year comes the annual Arden Charity Day. Senior Pupils dressed as Cowboys or Indians to help raise money for Children in Need. As term end approached, many of the Senior Pupils got into the Christmas spirit by acting as Santa's Little Helpers at Sunrise Care Home. The team also assisted with hosting VIP visits, such as the recent chaperoning of the Mayor by Head Boy, Tom Briggs and Head Girl, Megan Davies.

On top of all of this activity, Senior Pupils are also closely involved in the School Council, forming a link between pupils and staff and meeting regularly with Mr Murphy.

The Leadership Team

Once the ideas for the Leadership Award had been formulated at the start of the new school year, the Leadership team gave presentations to each year group in assembly. The aim was to inspire the lower years to recognise the value of the leadership work at the school and to encourage their participation.

The Leadership team maintains enthusiasm in the scheme by visiting each form every two weeks and running a drop-in clinic on a Monday breaktime which provides one-to-one support. These initiatives also help to keep the Award, which is also profiled in the Arden homework diaries, running smoothly.

The Leadership Team is very pleased with the way the scheme has developed, and plans to further expand the Award to encompass the Sixth Form in future. New ideas are welcomed from all pupils. Form Representatives should be contacted with any suggestions or queries:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| A Will Norris | R Alex Gray | D Josh Hull |
| E Eve Rimington | N Laura Edwards | S Grace Sellers |
| C James Taylor | H Maddie Parkin | |



Head Girl and Boy, Megan Davies and Tom Briggs, welcome Solihull Mayor, Cllr Irene Chamberlain.



Sixth Form Prefects

During the autumn term, the Sixth Form Prefects had weekly meetings and discussed various topics. One of our first events as Prefects was to organise a disco for Year 7 pupils. We decided to arrange this as a welcome to Arden but with proceeds going to SoLO – a charity that enables children, young people and adults with learning disabilities to enjoy social and leisure activities the rest of us take for granted. It was a huge success with over eighty Year 7s attending and many of the teachers too, including Mr Murphy and his daughter.

During the Christmas period, Prefects and Senior Pupils volunteered at Sunrise Senior Living Care Homes. We got into the Christmas spirit as Santa's elves and helped out at the Christmas fete. The Care Home staff commented on 'how wonderful the students all were and they were all very helpful, polite and generally made themselves very useful indeed'.

Another topic discussed in meeting is the potential to have a blazer for Sixth Form students. With some research, Mr Murphy found a company which would enable us to design and customise our own blazer, different from the traditional Arden blazer. We thought this would be a practical solution to Sixth Formers' worries about what to wear each morning! As Prefects, we are still negotiating this idea and hope to have reached a decision in readiness for the new intake of Sixth Form students in September.

Contribution by Claudia Carr and Ellie Smith

Sixth Form House Captains

September 2011 saw the Sixth Form take over the House system and give it a face lift! All events were split into cultural and sport categories and Captains were given roles of promoting and encouraging students to participate. Publicity Captains were also chosen to promote and publicise these events.

Assemblies are planned to keep pupils 'in the know' and to interest them in competitions that they may be suited to. The focus on sport has decreased and this gives an increased opportunity for non-athletes to show off their skills.

All House Captains have weekly meetings to think up ideas for new competitions and ways of publicising these events to raise interest levels. We also have Twitter and Facebook pages of all four houses to encourage support and for pupils to be able to ask questions and raise any queries on upcoming events or current standings.

Pictured Left: The Sixth Form Prefects.

Just some of the students working hard to enhance Arden's prestige and performance...



The Sixth Form House Captains.



The Sixth Form Cultural Captains.



The Sixth Form Sports Captains.



The Sixth Form Publicity Captains.

In Brief

Local Primary School Heads visit Arden

Principal, Mr. Murphy was delighted and honoured to receive a visit from Arden's local Primary School Headteachers. The meeting presented an ideal opportunity for them to see for themselves just how well their former pupils are settling into life at Arden, some of whom were given the honour of showing their former Heads around the school.

Local Primary School Heads in attendance included Miss Godsall of Knowle Church of England Primary School; Mrs. Llewellyn, Executive Head of Dorridge Infant and Junior Schools; Mr. Williams of Bentley Heath Church of England School; and Mr. Foxon of Saint George and Saint Teresa Roman Catholic Primary School. We're pleased to report that they all thoroughly enjoyed their visit!



Not a trip for the faint hearted!

Congratulations go to Calam Bruce and Alex Rennison! The pair recently completed a mammoth 964 mile bike ride from Land's End at the tip of Cornwall to John O'Groats in the far north of Scotland. Amazingly it just twelve days of cycling 80 miles a day!

Hard work though the long ride was, it was all for a very worthy cause, as Calam and Alex raised just short of £2,000 for Kampala Children's Centre, an orphanage in Uganda which takes in deprived children and provides them with an education.

The start of the journey was dogged by heavy rain and steep hills, but eventually the weather and terrain improved, and it turned out that the sunniest day was to be had in Scotland! When asked if they'd recommend this feat to their friends, Alex's response was yes! Though he went on to qualify this by adding 'friends I don't like!' Along with a real sense of achievement came highly toned legs. Their proudest moment came when they managed to set off a speed camera, though they do acknowledge that gravity and a steep hill may have played their part!

Mr. Murphy was keen to congratulate the two students on behalf of the school, but 'graciously' declined their offer to experience the ride at first hand!



Cyclists, Alex and Calam.



Year 9 Language Afternoon.

Kid's Lit Quiz success!

Congratulations go to four particularly clever and knowledgeable Year 8 students. The four girls represented Arden at the regional heats of the extremely challenging international 'Kids' Lit Quiz'.

The local heat, held on Monday 21 November in Coventry, saw Emily Dekker 8E, Miranda Yates 8R, Daisy Brown 8D and Megan Hathaway 8E do Arden proud!

Half way through the competition the girls were in second place with 41 points. Their final score came in at 76.5, earning them third place, with just half a point separating the second and third place teams! This was a remarkable outcome given the strength of the other teams and the tough questions involved. Mrs. Thompson, who supported the team, was incredibly proud of the girls, complimenting them on their hard work and dedication.



Megan Hathaway 8E, Daisy Brown 8D, Miranda Yates 8R and Emily Dekker 8E.

Year 9 Language Afternoon

On Thursday 8 December about 30 Year 9 pupils were chosen to take part in an exciting afternoon, which is aimed at identifying where foreign language skills can take you in your career.

The afternoon kicked-off with a talk by a visiting speaker, Mr Rich who explained how his success in business was a result of his own language skills. Mr. Rich went on to give some fascinating examples of just how languages had helped him succeed in these hard economic times.

When applying for jobs, if you can speak a language and your opponent can't, you are more likely to get the job. He really inspired us to make use of the opportunity to learn two languages through school, rather than having to go back and learn a language later on.

We were then split into groups and given a scenario in which a sweet company wanted to expand into other countries. The company needed help marketing in a different language. We had to either keep the name 'Sweet Tooth' that was provided, or come up with our own name. We then we needed a logo and slogan, all translated into French or German.

We then had to produce an eye-catching poster to persuade the judges to buy our product. Marketing ideas were presented to everyone and two groups won a prize. Thank you to the Six Formers and everyone else that helped make it a wonderful afternoon.

Article by Rachel Plumby



Matthew Cottell, Lauren Saunders, Tanguy Feraud and Luke Trueman.

Success for Sixth Form Physicists

Congratulations go out to four Year 13 students on their recent success at the Physics Olympiad. Lauren Saunders, Tanguy Feraud, Matthew Cottell and Luke Truman all did brilliantly, but special mention must go to Matthew who scored a top 'Gold' Award! This means he is in the top fifty of the 1600 students nationwide who competed! He will now be invited to take part in the next round for a place on the British Physics Olympiad team.

We also offer congratulations to our Senior Maths Challenge team. They were runners-up in a hard-fought competition between nine local schools. The competition was held at Solihull Sixth Form College and saw James Smith, Bradley Stonehewer, Tom Hornigold and Matt Cottell come in a very impressive second to Solihull School.

Arden retains International School status!

School Principal Mr. Murphy hosted a 'cream tea' thank you for some of the staff and students who had been closely involved in helping Arden secure its prestigious International School Award status re-accreditation.

This is a huge honour for the School that re-affirms the exceptional quality of language teaching at the school. Mr. Murphy was particularly keen to thank Mrs. Harrison, who was responsible for co-ordinating the successful presentation.





Mrs Hull, Head of Year 10 with Cian Harris.

Arden Ambassadors

Sport: Cian Harris was recently picked to play football for Wales. Cian, currently in Year 10, had to put in extra time learning the Welsh national anthem after being selected. Not only has he joined the national team, but he was picked for the U16 squad; a year above his age group. The match against Scotland in the Victory Shield, resulted in a 0-0 draw and was televised on Sky Sports 2. Cian, who is a member of the Coventry City Football Club Academy, commented about what a great experience it was and is hoping to be involved in future matches.

Dance: Principal, Mr. Murphy presented four certificates to worthy 'Arden Ambassadors'; Imogen, Alice, Rebecca and Kelsey were all recognised for their success in the field of dance.

Imogen Shepherd-Roberts has been offered a place at Elmhurst School of Ballet, The Royal Ballet, English Youth Ballet AND the Midlands Ballet! As she is currently in Year 11, she can only attend on the weekends and evenings to train, but is hoping to go full-time at the end of this year. In addition to this spectacular set of offers, she also achieved the highest marks of the year for her Royal Academy of Dance Intermediate Ballet exam - an exam that is notoriously difficult to even pass!

Alice Martin was also offered a place at English Youth Ballet School and Midlands Ballet School. However, she is currently focusing on her Ballroom training where she was selected as the new partner for England's Number One Male Ballroom Dancer. She competes on a regular basis at international level and is currently English Number One herself in a number of styles!

Rebecca Scott is an outstanding all-round dancer. She regularly trains in ballet, tap, modern and theatre craft. However, like Alice, it is in ballroom where she truly excels. Rebecca and her partner first appeared together on 'Baby Ballroom', a documentary showcasing the world of ballroom dance. She regularly competes and comes first in international competitions. In addition to being an outstanding performer, she is an excellent role model and gives freely of her time to run a popular ballroom dance club at Arden. Her dance display accompanied by her partner was one of the highlights of the recent Open Evening.

Kelsey Fryer is another ballroom dancer who regularly enters international competitions. Kelsey often competes at adult level and is frequently the youngest competitor. Whilst it's tough dancing against older, more experienced dancers, it's also a testament to her talent - as she regularly wins!



Dance Ambassadors Kelsey, Imogen, Rebecca and Alice.

A busy month for Arden's charity work!

November's an exceptionally busy charity month for the school. In addition to the Children in Need event covered in a special feature in this issue of Ad Altiora, several members of staff could be seen sporting a range of very dubious moustaches, they raised over £300 in support of the Movember campaign to raise awareness of male cancers.

The month of November also saw the sale of red ribbons in support of World AIDS Day on 1 December. £275 was raised, bolstered by monies raised by staff 'forcing' themselves to eat copious amounts of homemade cakes during a 'particularly gruelling' Staff Briefing!

This year Arden continued in its support for Operation Christmas Child, with yet another successful shoebox appeal. Since it began in 1990, the charity has brought joy to underprivileged children in the form of a shoebox full of gifts. Staff and students at Arden produced over 100 shoeboxes. Groups of friends and form groups had great fun putting the boxes together.

On Monday 7 November, the shoeboxes were collected and members of the Charity Committee helped load them into the van before being presented with a certificate in recognition of the school's work. Arden's Charity Co-ordinator, Adam Goodridge said "It is fantastic to see the way both students and staff get behind charity events. Simply knowing that a child somewhere in the world will wake up on Christmas Day to receive their first ever Christmas present, is worth every penny".

Arden girls hard at work for 'Operation Christmas Child'.



Joseph 'sails' into a Top Honour!

Arden Sixth Former Joseph Evans has been appointed as the Mayor's Sea Scout for the 2011-2012 Mayoral year. This is a huge honour for him and his family and represents some well-deserved recognition for the dedication he has shown in his scouting activities, voluntary work and charity fund-raising.

Currently a Year 12 student at Arden Sixth Form, in addition to his Scouting activities, Joseph enjoys skiing, hockey and cycling. Indeed, when he was 16 he cycled from London to Paris to raise money for the British Lung Foundation - raising £2,500 for the charity.

Arden staff and pupils would like to congratulate Joseph on receiving this prestigious award and wish him well in his new role.



Creative Arts Technology Week

Arden held its second Creative Arts & Technology Week during November 2011. Students were involved in a range of special activities, visits and workshops with experts. Creative Arts & Technology includes all areas of Design and Technology, Art, Photography and Hairdressing.

There were a huge variety of things happening during the week, these are a few of the highlights:

Year 10 Resistant Materials Students: Visit to The National College of Furniture in Oxford, for a tour and workshop. They got to see and help make a part of Oliver Mason's chair design that won a national competition last year and is being made from a tree from Blenheim Palace.

Year 12 A Level Product Design and Art Students: Visited London and the Victoria and Albert Museum for talks and workshops centred on the creative industries. Year 12 Art students worked with an Abstract Artist, while Year 12 Photography students were able to take part in a lighting workshop with a professional photographer. Year 12 Product Design students worked with a jewellery designer to help discover new jewellery making techniques to enhance their project work.

Key Stage 4 Home Economics and Hospitality Students: Took part in a range of activities including visits to Lyon's Butchers in Knowle and Loch Fyne Restaurant. Home Economics also welcomed Nathaniel Hateley, a chef at UCB (University College Birmingham) who delivered a fascinating cookery demonstration.

Year 10 Art Students: Took part in a Graffiti Art workshop, learning how artists work as well as getting to try out the technique.

Key Stage 3 Students: Participated in competitions including 'Design a Christmas Cracker', 'Design the Branding for the Four School Houses' and Doodle-a-Google. Year 8 Art students took part in a Hundertwasser-inspired project during the week.

After another very successful week we are already thinking about next year and what opportunities we can offer students in Creative Arts & Technology.

Contribution by Mrs Allton, Head of the Creative Arts & Technology Faculty.

Main Picture: Following the recent Graffiti Art Workshop some fabulous new public art can now be seen at Arden near the Smart Centre.

Insets: A guest Chef demonstrates the art of making some of fabulous sweet pastries.

Year 12 students visit London's V&A museum.



Arden Awards 2011

Arden celebrated the outstanding success of the Year 11 and 13 pupils who left the school in the Summer of 2011 with a very special evening held on Thursday 10 November. The Awards Ceremony proved a huge success and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone in attendance. Local dignitaries included The Worshipful Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Irene Chamberlain and the Mayor's Escort, Mr. Robert Chamberlain.

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Mr. Parman, Assistant Principal and Head of Arden's Sixth Form. Mr. Murphy also spoke about the amazing success that the pupils had enjoyed and wished them all "an exciting future, whatever path you chose to follow".

Former Year 13 students, Chris Pickering and Jenny Morris then spoke, followed by Doctor O'Donovan, Chairperson of the Governing Body who introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Andrew Richardson, CEO of Metalrax plc. Mr. Richardson was an inspirational speaker who enthused the audience and pupils about work and 'giving back to society'.

Pictured: Former Head Boy, Jonathan Gough and Head Girl, Ferdous Audhali address the Awards Ceremony audience.



Arden Awards Ceremony 2011

Following our guest speaker, Mrs. Hull announced the Subject Prizes awarded to Year 11 pupils. Once the prizes had been given, former Head Boy, Jonathan Gough and Head Girl, Ferdous Audhali addressed the audience. The pair reminisced about their years at Arden, thanking their Year Heads and all the staff who had contributed to their enjoyment and success throughout their time at the school.

One of the many highlights of the Awards Ceremony was the announcement of the newly launched 'Governor's Cup' and its first recipient, Jonathan Gough. Jonathon received the prestigious new award for his service to the school. Other special prizes included 'Exceeding Personal Targets KS4 to KS5 Award' which was presented to Jonathan Guck. The 'Cadbury Prize for Outstanding A Level Results' went to David Lawson. The school was particularly honoured that Sir Adrian Cadbury was present to see the prize being awarded.

Other prizes awarded to former Year 11 pupils included:

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| The Rotary Prize for Service to the School and Community | William Salloway |
| The Rotary Prize for Practical Cooking Skills | Annabel Ackroyd |
| The Newman Prize for Music | Caitlin Mallin |
| The Arden Governors' Prize for Academic Achievement at GCSE | Marianna Nicholson. |



Arden Award Ceremony's Guest Speaker

Arden was very lucky to secure Andrew Richardson as guest speaker for the Awards Ceremony. He provided an inspirational speech on meeting personal responsibilities to society, as well as presenting some of the key prizes on the evening.

As Group Chief Executive (CEO) of Metalrax PLC, a leading global supplier of specialist steel products, Mr. Richardson is a serious business heavyweight at the very top of his profession.

A Chartered Engineer with an Engineering degree from Cambridge, he started his career at Rover Group, going on to become Divisional Chief Executive of Water Management at Halma PLC before his latest position. Mr. Richardson has worked with many top companies, including Webasto Roof Systems and Automotive Products, as well as Mars confectionery!

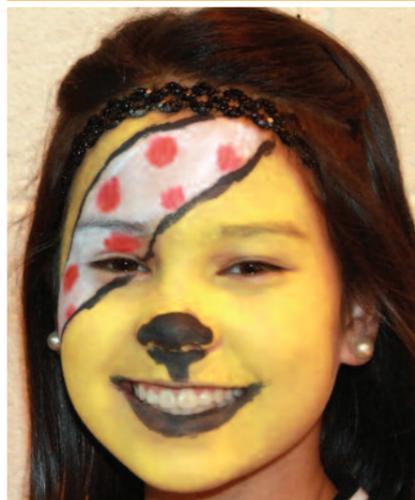
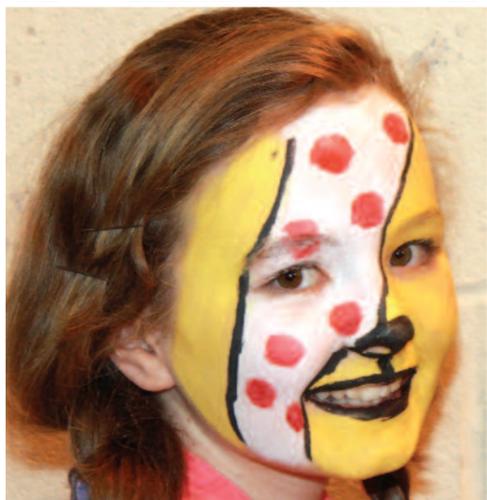


Arden goes 'wild' for Children in Need!

On Friday 18 November, Arden staff and pupils enjoyed a day in the Wild West (Midlands!) in aid of Children in Need. The non-uniform day welcomed numerous 'Cowboys', 'Cowgirls' and 'Red Indians' to Arden classrooms.

Principal, Martin Murphy joined the fun, becoming Toy Story's 'Woody' for the day. There were also numerous themed activities, such as horseshoe throwing, rifle ranges and line dancing. Arden has supported Children in Need for many years, but this was one of the best ever! So far we have raised over £3,000 - and still counting!

Adam Goodridge, the member of staff responsible for co-ordinating the day commented "It's so impressive to see the commitment and enthusiasm of both staff and pupils to raise money in this way. We all had a lot of fun, but never lost sight of the reason we were doing it!"



Arden Open Evening

Ad Altiora is pleased to report that the recent Open Evening proved a great success! Mr. Murphy welcomed a record number of visitors to Arden's Open Evening on 20 October 2011.

Over 1,500 parents and pupils attended the evening which introduced them to the broad spectrum of school life at Arden. There were vibrant displays of dance and pupil performances illustrating the school's successful sporting ethos, language workshops and numerous other activities showcasing the wide-ranging academic and extra-curricular strengths of the school.

The response from the many visitors was extremely positive, further consolidating Arden's place at the heart of our town's community.



We hope you find Ad Altiora enjoyable. If you have any special news, or would like to help by contributing articles for consideration, please email our Editor, Mrs Jenkins at newsletter@arden.solihull.sch.uk

