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Reading Tree

We are delighted that work on our Reading Tree is finally complete. The design has been created by Mr Hook and Miss Battle and is the brain child of Miss Corbett and her Reading Club. The tree contains quotes from staff and students relating to their favourite books.

We are thrilled with how it looks.



The busiest time of the year?

People often think that once the Year 11 and Year 13 students begin their examinations, life in school must quieten down. However, this is far from the case. If anything this time of year is even busier. In total there are nine school visits scheduled for June and July, twenty-two sporting events, not to mention the activities taking place in school. These include the Year 6 and Year 12 Induction Days, Year 12 Futures Week, the School Production of *Grease* and our Mental Health Awareness Day. All of this is above and beyond the lessons that are delivered day in, day out, by our passionate and committed

staff and just goes to show what a really special place Arden is.

At the time of going to press we are awaiting the return of our Year 7 pupils following their week in France. Reports through the week have shown that the trip has gone extremely well and I would like to thank Mr Edgington and all of the staff who have given up their time this week to support the pupils in such a caring and compassionate way. We look forward to sharing a full report with you in the next edition of our newsletter.

Mr Murphy

Arden Principal

Year 13 Leavers Ball

On a gloriously sunny evening we celebrated the Arden journey of our Year 13 Class of 2018. The Leavers Ball was held at the Manor Hotel in Meriden and was a fitting end to what has been a demanding two years. We wish all the students a restful summer and look forward to results day!



New Senior Pupil and Leadership Teams

As the Year 11s leave following their GCSE examinations we are delighted to welcome the new Senior Pupil Team and Leadership Team into their new roles of student leadership.

They have already been hard at work representing the school at a number of key school events including the Year 11 Leavers Day and Prom as well as the New Year 7 Parent Information evening.



Above: The new Leadership Team

The students were appointed to these roles following a rigorous selection process including student and teacher



Above: The new Senior Pupil Team

votes and an interview panel. We wish them well in their new roles as ambassadors of the school and we know that they will do us proud.

Charity Day

A whole school charity day was held recently to raise money for the Marie Curie cancer charity. The charity was nominated in remembrance to former colleague, Kerri Rennison.

Kerri was a much loved and valued member of our counselling service who worked closely with the pastoral team and supported many of our students over a period of 12 years. Kerri was diagnosed

with a rare and aggressive form of breast cancer and sadly died last summer. Both of her children Alex and Katie attended Arden and were amazing ambassadors for the school.

Kerri was incredibly hardworking, conscientious and went over and above what was expected of her; her Christian values radiated through everything that she did. Kerri was also great fun and had a real zest for life. A real friend to Arden who is missed by us all.

We are delighted that a total of £2,200 was raised for Marie Curie.



Geography Fieldwork

It has been a busy month for the Geography Department who have carried out seven days of field trips to two different locations.

Year 12 visited Dorset for a weekend to gather case study information about different coastal landforms including Studland sand-dunes, Durdle Door and Old Harry Rocks and His Wife, and to complete surveys on wave frequency, sediment size and longshore drift. The students will now use the information to help complete their coursework.

Year 10 donned wellies and sun cream to spend a morning investigating three separate sights along the river Blythe braving stray dogs, crayfish and welly-breaches, to gather data for their GCSE exam.



Pictured: Year 12 students preparing for wave counts and longshore drift experiments complete with oranges.

Rotary Young Writers

We are proud to announce that Lucy Connors (Year 12) has been selected as the winner of the Heart of England District Young Writers Competition 2018.

Her piece, on the theme of 'A Different Perspective' was written in response to her trip to Auschwitz earlier in the year as part of the *Lessons from Auschwitz* history project and is a sensitive handling of a most difficult subject. An extract is reproduced below:

There are endless footprints etched across their incomprehensible Gehinnom - yet none of them theirs - for the privilege of boots was one that was isolated from them. Their boots now immortalised as if a museum, along with all the aspects of

them as humans – their keys, photos, even their hair. Their inability to make marks in earth, they were not in a place that belonged on earth, removed their imprints before they were eradicated - as systematically as their boots had been made, and removed.

Their stories remain in the dust, kicked up as people tread their graves. They remain in the truth, written by those brave enough to confront the horror. They remain in the shadows, reminding the world where they should have been; reminding the world that hell does freeze over.

At the time of writing, her entry has been forwarded to the judges of the National Competition. We await the results with nervousness and anticipation!

Many thanks as always to John Endall from Rotary who always supports us with this competition.

Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions

It has been a busy month for the Duke of Edinburgh students with Bronze, Silver and Gold expeditions all taking place.

Twenty-five Year 10 students completed a weekend of walking between Arden and Kenilworth with an overnight camp in Hatton. Student Emily Harris had this to say about the experience:

'Our Bronze DofE Expedition was such a great experience and I think we can all say that although it was quite challenging at times, we were all so proud when we reached the end. The weather was so good that in the evening many of us played rounders and relaxed outside the tents, toasting marshmallows and making smores! I know our group definitely had an amazing time, keeping up motivation by singing and laughing and we will all have lots of funny moments to remember'.

Three Year 11 students completed their expedition from 25th-27th June. They canoed from Glasbury to Hereford on the River Wye. They all did really well, despite the heat, to finish this last section of their Silver Awards.

Finally ten Year 12 students working towards their Gold Award spent part of Half Term canoeing from Welshpool to Hampton Loade on the River Severn. They all reported to have enjoyed the challenge and the assessor was very impressed with them all. They had to dodge rain showers towards the end of the week (and occasionally got caught!) but all coped well with the changeable weather and after their exams we are looking forward to seeing their presentations.



Design and Technology Trip

On Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th June, 60 of our Year 10 students went to visit Hockerton Housing Project near Newark to find out about sustainable living, in preparation for their GCSE in Design and Technology.

Hockerton Housing Project is a community of sustainable homes. It incorporates a business and a self-sufficient co-housing development. Their mission is to, by practical example, act as a catalyst for change towards ecologically sound and sustainable ways of living.

Students were taken on a guided tour of the site to learn about all the different aspects of the project. The topics included energy efficiency, renewable energy, water and broader sustainable living.

The day was a really enjoyable one and we learnt far more than just reading about the project. It helped put all the sustainability information needed for the exam into real world examples.



Humanities Summer School

Congratulations go to Lucy Ford in Year 11 who has been chosen as one of only 30 students, from hundreds of applicants across the country, for a week long Humanities summer school, with a strong focus on Italian, at Selwyn College, Cambridge University. The event will take place at the end of this month.

Lucy had to independently write a lengthy application in order to achieve this, during prime GCSE revision period, and very much deserves her place. We look forward to hearing how she gets on.



Holocaust Survivor Talk

We were delighted and humbled to welcome Holocaust survivor Joanna Millan from the Holocaust Educational Trust to talk to Year 9 pupils this month.

Joanna's life story is extra-ordinary and it was truly thought provoking for the pupils to hear. You can read Joanna's story [here](#).

We are very grateful to her for taking the time to visit us.



Young Enterprise

Our Year 12 Young Enterprise Company "Altiora" took part in the West Midlands Regional Final this month.

They did really well and picked up two awards for their product, a revision book entitled "25 Ways to Revise for Your GCSEs". They won the award for the best interview with the judges and they were awarded the overall runners up trophy.

The team have had great success this year and have completely sold out of

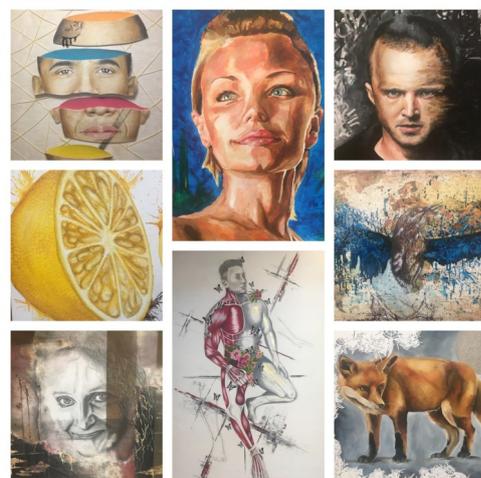


their product now, thanks to excellent sales through Parent Pay. We would like to thank everybody who supported the team through purchasing a copy.

The students represented themselves and Arden brilliantly with their professionalism, confidence, team-work and presentation skills. We are very proud of them.

Art and Photography Exhibition

Our annual GCSE and A-Level Art and Photography exhibition took place this month and was, as always, a delightful display of the talent of the Arden students. Mrs Astle, Mrs Crawford and Mr Fletcher are very proud of all of the students.



Children's Book Award

Twenty students across Years 8 and 9 are currently judging the Children's Book Award. The Children's Book Award is owned and coordinated by the charity the Federation of Children's Book Groups. Inaugurated in 1980, it is the only national award voted for solely by children from start to finish.

For the award, students must read as many books as they can and vote on them – the only criterion is the books must have been

published in 2018.

At the time of writing, the students have read and reviewed 67 books in just three and a half weeks! Special mention to Alice G in Year 9, who has read eight books and Sophie M in Year 8 who has read ten books.

Well done to all participants – keep reading!



Year 7 Reading Club: Author Skype

With huge thanks to Miss O'Brien, we were able to have a live question and answer session with the author of *The House with Chicken Legs* during the regular Reading Club lunchtime meet.

Sophie Anderson has written a book which has really engaged young people up and down the country as well as being selected for Waterstone's Children's Book of the Month. It was an absolute pleasure to hear how she came to write the book and the ideas that she used to create some of the characters and events that occur in it. Many of the ideas authors have which inspire them to write books are not able to be guessed at: they are a result of a family joke, a special event or

merely something an elderly relative happened to mention one day. Being able to speak to Sophie directly provided an insight into what makes a writer tick. It was also fabulous to listen to the questions that the pupils asked: insightful, clever and entertaining.

I know that the pupils were very pleased to be able to speak with Sophie and gained a great deal from having to be articulate and insightful when putting an author on the spot! In return, Sophie was brilliantly dynamic and effervescent. Let's hope we can do this again!

Ms Corbett

Charity Presentation

New Head Boy, Ben Garside and Head Girl, Sophie Randall recently presented a cheque for £3173.77 to Dave Skerrett, Vice Chair of Solihull Mind following our charity day earlier this year.



He said he was absolutely delighted to be collecting such a large cheque to go towards the charity. Whilst he was with us he said that the gardeners were going to help build one of the gardens at Gardeners World from Wednesday

as they have been involved in growing plants and providing willow for the designer and so we will be credited for our work.



Debate Society

Four Year 9 pupils from our Debate Society recently participated in a debating competition hosted at Solihull School.

Mrs Ellender reported that they were great representatives for Arden; speaking eloquently, knowledgeably and articulately. They did really well considering it was the first time they had competed in such a competition and we were the only non-selective state school participating.

The team came second several times through the day and they learnt a lot from the experience. The boys are itching to go back next year and do even better.

Well done to Sachin, Ciaran, Thomas and Mikhail for their efforts throughout the day.

The PTFA Committee

The PTFA Committee members and helpers represent approximately 0.5% of the parent population here at Arden. This dedicated group of parents and friends of Arden raise on average £25,000 per year for the school; your child has no doubt benefitted from this. With government cuts to education, the role of the PTFA is crucial in funding much needed resources for our children. To see exactly what the PTFA have funded this year alone, please take a look at the brand new PTFA page on the school website – <https://sites.google.com/arden.solihull.sch.uk/ardenptfa>

On the first Tuesday of every month the Committee meet to discuss event planning and general fundraising. Staff are invited to attend the meeting to 'pitch' their bid for funding. In their June 2018 Committee Meeting, Mrs Hodgkinson and Mrs Hale (English teachers), pitched their bid. Here's what Mrs Hodgkinson had to say when the bid was awarded:

"The Sixth Form team are absolutely delighted that you have agreed to fund the Elevate Sessions and purchase seating for the Sixth Formers to enable them to sit outside during the warmer months. This will free up so much space inside - as you know we are a little cramped at the moment! Your generosity has blown us



away. In addition, as part of the English Department, I would like to say that similarly delighted at receiving 2 brand new sets of all 3 text books used in Year 7; we can't wait to replace our current stock which is literally falling apart.

The PTFA have made a huge difference to the lives of Year 12: the purchase of computers has already made Room 10 far more successful as a silent study area. The additional seating, when purchased, will help with space as well as allowing students to have slightly more relaxation space at lunchtime thus contributing to positive mental health at a time when exams provide enough stress to deal with. The contribution earlier this year towards Brook workshops, and the further contribution towards Elevate, will ensure that our students continue to be well informed about issues that massively affect their lives.

Jointly, we have this year alone received well over £6000 worth of resources all courtesy of the PTFA. Thank goodness for you and all your efforts. It is massively appreciated".

Mrs Lisa Hodgkinson, Head of Year 12 and Teacher of English

They really make a difference - imagine what could be achieved if more parents became involved. The PTFA often appeal for help at specific events or perhaps you might consider joining the Committee and bringing some new ideas to the



The PTFA Committee

table. Current events include the Fireworks Festival, Arden Christmas Ball, Bingo & Balti Nights, Table Top Sales and more. To express an interest in helping, even for half an hour, email adminptfa@arden.solihull.sch.uk

Next events:

Year 11 Prom – Friday 29th June 2018

Fireworks Festival – Saturday 10th November 2018

Arden Christmas Ball – Saturday 8th December 2018

Thank You



PTFA Bingo Night

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 inspirational 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.

ArdenValues
aiming higher

Aaliyah O'Hare (Year 10)

Aaliyah is an incredibly talented Irish Dancer. She has been crowned World Champion for the past five years consecutively, competing in numerous different locations around the globe. Despite entering Year 11 next year, she is committed to retaining her title for the sixth year running, by winning the 2019 World Championships, which will take place next April, in North Carolina in the USA.

When did you first realise that you were such a talented Irish Dancer?

My family is Irish and when I was about six years old, my Nan suggested that I should try Irish Dancing. I went to a few classes and really enjoyed it. It was only when I started

competing that I realised that I was actually pretty good at it and being the World Champion feels amazing.

How much training do you have to do?

I train at Scanlons in Birmingham every day, except Sundays and Mondays. On weekdays, I train from 6pm-9pm and on Saturdays, I train from 10am to 1pm. It takes about 40 minutes to get there in the car. My Mum takes me to training; I owe her a lot really, as it's a huge a time commitment for her as it is for me. In addition to training at Scanlons, on Sunday and Monday, I have to practise at home. On Thursdays, I also teach Irish Dancing with one of my coaches at St George and St Teresa's Church Hall

in Dorridge, from 5pm until 6pm, so it can all get a bit hectic.

How do you fit your school work in?

I just have to be really organised. I have to do quite a lot of my homework in the car as I'm travelling to and from training. I also have to use Sundays to keep on top of my

school work. It's going to be a real challenge next year, as I will be in Year 11, but I'll just have to find a way to fit it all in.

Apart from the incredible time commitment, what else do you have to do to be the best?

It's really all about the training and then practising what I have learnt at home. I am supposed to be careful about what I eat, so that I can be as fit as possible, but I am not as strict as I should be; I love food too much!

What is your best achievement?

Winning the World Championship for the first time was amazing, however, being able to retain my title year after year feels like a great achievement. One year, I was bumped into and slipped, but I still managed to win the competition; that felt pretty good.

Who is your inspiration?

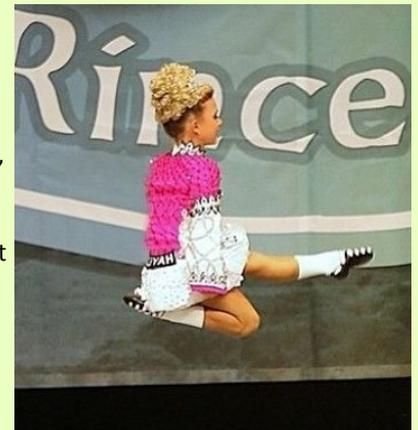
My dance teachers, because they have been with me from the start. They show such commitment to Irish Dancing as a sport and work so hard to support their students. They are constantly striving to achieve the best.

What is your ambition?

To win the World Championship again next year. I would ultimately love to be able to make a career out of my dancing and to perform in the big shows like Riverdance or Lord of the Dance.

What is your motto?

Positive mindsets lead to positive outcomes.



Sports News

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

 @ArdenPE

Sports Day

This year's Sports Day will be held on **Monday 16th July**.

More details to follow.

Motocross

It was great to receive news about Year 9 pupil Ryan Lowe who recently competed in his first Motocross competition.

Motocross is a form of off-road motorcycle racing held on enclosed off-road circuits.

We hope to hear more about Ryan's progress as he competes in more competitions in the future.



Athletics

The junior girls athletics team recently came third in the Schools Athletics track and field regional finals.

It was a great effort from all of the competing girls and helped them to gain a lot of experience which they can take forward to events in the future.

Well done to everyone who competed.

Sports Person of the Year

A huge congratulations to Year 8 pupil Izzy Mitchell who was awarded Sports Person of the Year at the South Solihull School Partnership awards ceremony.

Mr Hunt had this to say:

'Izzy has taken part in a huge number of sports (including Football, Netball, Swimming, Basketball, Rounders and Athletics) and each of those teams have gone on to achieve success at level 2 or 3 this year. She is a main player in each of

those teams and has been simply outstanding in her approach to PE and sport this year. Through her knowledge of netball, as a county player, she has even helped to coach our successful Year 7 team as well.

If there is a sport she can take part in, she excels in it pure and simple.'



Dylan Murphy

Well done to Dylan who remained true to his word and won his recent fight to be crowned National Schoolboy Champion U37kg!



Year 7 Rounders

The Year 7 Rounders team competed in a tournament this month and came runners up.

The team won the group stage and ended up playing St Martins in the Semi-final. It was such a close game, both teams were outstanding at fielding which kept the scoring low. In the end the teams drew on rounders, but due to the Arden team getting more of the St.Martins' players out we went through to the final. The girls faced a very strong Solihull School in the final who unfortunately we lost to.

The girls played very well and their sportsmanship was fantastic. Congratulations to all of the players.



Cricket

Well done to the Year 9/10 girls Cricket team who came runners up in the U15 Regional Cricket Finals held at Walmley Cricket Club. The competition involved 14 teams and for some of our girls it was the first time they had competed in cricket. They did really well, narrowly missing out in the final by 5 runs.



Softball

Congratulations to our Year 9 Softball team who competed in a tournament this month and came home with three wins out of three under their belt.

They have some really exciting fixtures ahead of them so watch this space for more news.



Oscar Cawthorne

Year 8 pupil Oscar has just returned from a fantastic experience in Venice, sailing as a member of the GB Optimist team racing squad.

He and three other 13 and 14 year olds flew to Italy to compete in the international event, the Trofeo Marco Rizzotti 2018. Nineteen teams from competitive sailing nations flew in to contend the prestigious team



racing trophy, from as far a field as the USA, Thailand and Russia. While the sun shone the determined competitors fought against

the lagoon tides and shifty wind patterns in 3 days of exciting racing.

The event was won by the team from Thailand with a 100% win

rate but the quality of all squads had forced some close and dramatic sailing. Oscar and his team were awarded the "fair play" award for sportsmanship on the water. It was a memorable time for all involved and Oscar looks forward to finding some more opportunities for team racing in the future.



Staff News

Congratulations to Miss Way who got married at Half Term in the delightful May sunshine.

Congratulations also go to Miss Endley on the new arrival of a son, Alexander, who was born just before half term. Miss Endley has now begun a period of maternity leave.



Important dates for July

Monday 2nd July	Year 12 Induction Day
Tuesday 3rd July – Fri 6th July	Year 12 Futures Week
Wednesday 4th July	Year 7-10 Solihull Championship Athletics Year 10 Maths Conference
Thursday 5th July	Year 6 Induction Day
Friday 6th July	Year 8 DT enrichment day
Friday 6th - Sunday 8th July	Year 12 Biology Field Trip to Margam Discovery Centre, South Wales
Saturday 7th/Sunday 8th July	Rehearsal weekend for School Production (compulsory for all cast)
Monday 9th – Friday 13th July	Year 12 Work Experience Week
Tuesday 10th July	Mental Health Awareness Day
Wed 11th – Saturday 14th July	School Production of 'Grease' (Tickets available to purchase on ParentPay)
Monday 16th July	Sports Day (revised date) Year 12 Physics Trip to Alton Towers
Tuesday 17th July	Year 7 Awards Assembly (9.00am) Year 9 Awards Assembly (1.45pm)
Wednesday 18th July	Year 8 Awards Assembly (9.00am) Year 12 Awards Assembly (11.30am) Year 10 Awards Assembly (1.45pm)
Thursday 19th July	House Music
Friday 20th July	End of term - students last day in school