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DofE Expedition

Congratulations to the intrepid group of Year 10 students who recently embarked upon their Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze expedition.

They braved the rain, freezing temperatures and a few missed turns but their spirits always remained high. A truly first class performance and a real show of resilience!



A bright start to the new school year

Although experience tells you that time in education goes exceptionally quickly, I still cannot quite believe that we sit here at the end of October already. This month has, as always provided some great opportunities for our students, and our extra-curricular activities are well and truly up and running. The sheer volume of students involved in our extra-curricular programme is always something that I admire and for that I would like to thank our incredibly hard working staff, our fantastically committed students and our unwaveringly supportive parents and carers who help to facilitate this participation.

Beyond our extra-curricular activities we have seen visits to art galleries, visitors coming into school to bring history to life in workshops about the First World War and theatre visits to complement GCSE drama study, to name but a few.

In addition to our enriching education we have also raised close to £3000 for St Basil's from our most recent charity day. A fantastic amount of money going to a very worthwhile cause.

October also saw a very special award presented to one of our students from last year's Year 11. Sam Miners won the Jaguar Land Rover award for making the most progress in English across the entire borough. A very proud Mrs Reddish and Mr Murphy were there, along with Sam's parents, to see him receive his prize and we would like to reiterate their congratulations. Well done Sam!

Mr D Warwood
Associate Headteacher



Tommy Day

This month, Year 9 students were given the opportunity to learn about the life of soldiers in the First World War during our annual Tommy Day workshops.

Two First World War specialists, David and Richard, dressed as soldiers and educated us about what it was like to be in the army at the time and what it was like in the trenches. We had the chance to dress up in outfits from the time period, including French and German soldiers' uniforms. We also tried on some of the equipment soldiers would have had to carry in battle - which was very heavy - and we even got to hold some actual weapons from the war, such as the Lee Enfield rifle and hand grenades as well as bayonets. We learnt some

very intriguing things, such as how the youngest



soldier to join the army was just 12 years old! We looked at how trench warfare technology had developed over the years; it was interesting to see how things like gas masks have changed over time

Overall, it was a great experience and has definitely improved our knowledge about the First World War and has prepared many of us for our future studies at GCSE.

By Phoebe Peake and Sophie Scott, both 9D

Arden is part of Arden Multi Academy Trust: Chief Executive Officer, Mr M Murphy and Executive Headteacher, Mr D Burgess

Arden values: Determination : Excellence : Courage : Inspiration : Friendship : Equality : Respect

Charity Day

Friday 29th October saw the first whole school charity day of the year. Students attended school in non-uniform to raise money for St. Basils.

St. Basils is a fantastic organisation that works with young people aged 16-25 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, helping almost 5000 young people each year across the West Midlands region. Every year over 1500 young people are housed in their 33 supported accommodation schemes, which for some young people includes their own young children as well. They have a range of prevention, accommodation and support services to help young people regain the stability they need to rebuild their lives, gain skills, training and employment and move on. The aim is to help them successfully break the 'cycle of homelessness' so that they can go on to experience a bright, fulfilling future and never return to a state where they are at risk of homelessness again.

In total £2,651.03 was raised on the day and we would like to thank everyone for their donations.



Library Updates

What a fantastic start to the year for Arden School Library – a successful Open Evening, a bookshop visit for the Year 9 & 10 Library Ambassadors and a lovely atmosphere cultivated by all students during break and lunchtimes.

The Year 7 and 8s have now all completed their first Star Reader tests and are quizzing on books as part of the Accelerated Reader programme in their library lessons.

The Accelerated Reader prizes for this half term were based on the Star Reader test. The Year 7 winners won a new book including a signed message from author Piers Torday, some stickers, a bookmark and an early lunch pass; whilst the Year 8 winners won a Classic novel donated by the production team who visited Arden in summer, as well as a signed message from author Ruth Estevez, some stickers, a bookmark and an early lunch pass.

The winners are:

Year 7

Anya-Rose Lewsey 7D

Jonnie Carter 7O

Year 8

Heather Wilkinson 8A

Freya Connolly 8D

Well done to those winners. Keep reading!

Biology Week

Biology week was held from the 6th - 14th October 2018 and this year we decided to participate in the Royal Society of Biology West Midlands School Poster Competition. Pupils were asked if they wanted to participate to win points for their school house and also have the chance of their designs being submitted to Warwick University for recognition.

We would like to congratulate particularly Scarlett Butler, Holly Hames and Izzy Fogarty all from 8E for their amazing efforts on creating a huge 3D biology poster. They all won a prize and points for their house. Thank you to their form tutor Miss Hammond for her encouragement to get involved.



Debating Competition

This month a group of brave Sixth Form students took part in the Solihull Sixth Form Debating Competition. They did brilliantly and represented the school impeccably. Well done to the students involved.



Teenage Cancer Trust

We were delighted to welcome representatives from the Teenage Cancer Trust back to Arden this month to give a presentation to Year 10. The presentation tackles important issues about cancer and understanding your health. Although this can be an emotional presentation it is incredibly valuable and we are very grateful to the TCT for continuing to work with us. This is the fourth year we have welcomed the TCT to school to hear these important messages.



Library Ambassadors Bookshop Visit

"Going to Peters Bookshop in Birmingham felt a little like having access to a secret society – it's a bookshop exclusively for libraries, and on Thursday 25th October Arden's Library Ambassadors were invited to buy new books for the library.

The Library Ambassadors were split into three teams – myself and the other Year 10s were on Classics and the Year 9s were divided into two: one group on short stories and one on general fiction. Each team had done a survey before the visit of all the forms in the school to find out what our peers wanted which taught us a lot about public opinion and how to collect it. Also,



each team had a budget of £50 – which was very difficult to stick to – and taught us a lot about budget management.

Getting to choose so many new books was a really exciting opportunity, which we really

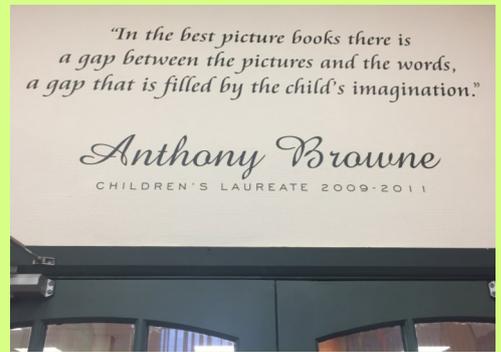
hope will benefit the school library and the Arden students."

Holly Webster 10N

"When we arrived at the Library we split into our individual groups and roamed

around the library to see all the amazing books they had. After that, my partner and I looked at the amazing range of short stories they had. One of the staff members was kind enough to give us a computer so that we could check that the short stories we chose were on Accelerated Reader. Accelerated Reader is the programme that school use to quiz the pupils on the books that they have read. When all of the teams had finished collecting their books one of the members of staff gave all 11 of the students a bag to take home which contained: 2 posters, 1 badge and one book for which we were very grateful."

James Stanley 9L



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Last month we reported on the success of our MacMillan Coffee morning. We are delighted to announce the winners of the Year 7 cake competition were as follows:

First place: Megan Wright and Gracie Koumbilis

Second place: Charly Jordan

Third place: Evie Moss

Highly Commended: Cuimhe Gantley and Mary Furlong.

Congratulations to all the pupils who took part. Once all the money was counted over £320 was raised.



Restart a Heart

This month we once again participated in the annual Restart a Heart day in conjunction with West Midlands Ambulance Service. Representatives from WMAS joined us to teach Year 7 pupils vital CPR skills.

Across the UK, there are over 30,000 cardiac arrests outside of hospital every year, but the survival rate is currently less than 1 in 10. The European Restart a Heart Day was founded with the support of the European parliament and takes place on the 16th of October every year. This year saw the first global event and we were delighted to be able to take part. We would like to thank all of the volunteers who joined us on the day to help facilitate the event, and Mrs Crane for organising it all.



Sports News

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

 @ArdenPE

Sailing

It has been a fabulous month for the Cawthorne family as brothers Oscar (Year 9) and Ralph (Year 7) won the UK team racing championship event. This is a really great achievement for them both.

In addition to this Oscar and sister Scarlett (Year 10) have also been selected to sail for the Welsh squad!



Badminton

Congratulations go to Millie Evans who won Gold at the Warwickshire Restricted 2018 Girls doubles event with partner Phoebe Moore beating ex-student Kiara Henry and her partner Victoria Liang 18-21, 21-12, 21-17.

What a fantastic result!



Football

The Year 7 boys football team have made a good start to the season. They have won 2 out of 3 cup games so far and are through to the quarter final of the Solihull Cup after beating Langley 3-1 (special mention to Rhys Khela who scored a hat-trick) despite falling a goal behind.

They are also in the last 32 of the Birmingham Cup after a convincing home

win. Top scorer so far is Rhys Khela on 5 goals.

Well done to the squad and all those who have attended training sessions on a Tuesday evening after school. We have been delighted to see over 50 pupils turn up each week!

Dr Cannadine and Mr O'Connell

Cross Country

This month fifteen Arden runners competed in the West Midlands County Cross-Country trials. To qualify to race they had to finish in the top 20 in one of the borough races this year.

To qualify to race for the West Midlands they needed to finish in the top 15 so in total nine of our runner have qualified for this going forward. Congratulations to all of the pupils who took part.

Year 7 Girls: Mia Conduit, Jessica Bray, Ella Swann, Laura Hampson.

Year 7 Boys: Daniel Scott (Qual.), Luke Mullins (Qual.), Matthew Bate (Qual.), Finn Jayne.

Year 8/9 Girls: Rachel Batchelor (Qual.), Typhaine Jardine.

Year 8/9 Boys: Nathan Carter (Qual.), Tomas Maidment (Qual.)

Year 10/11 Girls: Abi Wheelhouse (Qual.)

Year 10/11 Boys: Jenson Williams (Qual.), Jay Fletcher (Qual.)

Rugby

This month saw a superb performance from our Year 10 team who ran in 67-0 winners against Kenilworth School. It was a great team performance from the boys in a 13 try win.

The Year 10 and Year 9 teams also both beat King Edward VI Five Ways this month with Year 10 winning 25-0 and Year 9 36-7. Well done to all the teams.

Netball

It has been a difficult month for our Netball teams with some tricky matches. The Year 7 team have had a tough couple of losses but are showing fighting spirit and resilience as a team.

The highlight of the month has been the Year 10 team's 6-16 victory over Solihull School. This is a super result for the Arden team against tough opponents.

Gymnastics

A huge well done to Anna Bambook who competed in Compulsory Grade 1 in Gymnastics this month and passed, automatically qualifying her for the British Championships which will be held in March next year.

This is the highest level of gymnastics competition in the country and it is a huge achievement just to qualify. Anna is the first girl to ever qualify from her club. We look forward to hearing how she gets on.

Congratulations also go to Year 7 pupil Ellie Davies who has recently been crowned the British Equestrian Vaulting champion for 2018. This is an unusual combination of gymnastics and horse riding. What an amazing achievement.



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.

Brandon Khela (Year 9)

Brandon is an extremely talented footballer. He has a coveted place at the Birmingham City Football Academy, which he attends for a full day every Tuesday and for whom he plays in the U14 team. In February, he competed with them in the RIGA Cup in Latvia, in which they came second.

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

I first started playing football in the back garden when I was about 4 or 5 years old. From this I started to attend a small club in Coventry (Christ the King) and played in their U6 team. It was actually my uncle who suggested that I should attend trials for the Blues Academy. It was a two week process, in which I had to play and train in front of their coaches. It was quite a daunting experience, but I must have done enough, as they invited me to join them at U8 level.

What does it mean to you to be part of the Academy?

It is a great opportunity to progress and become a better footballer. I get access to brilliant coaches, with lots of club experience and to play football at a high level. The Academy is organised into different stages, so there is a clear journey through, as long as you stay good enough. When I am 16, I want to become a Blues Academy Scholar. This means that you get additional support to break through into professional teams and hopefully secure a contract.

How much training do you have to do?

I train for three evenings per week from 7pm-8.30pm at the Birmingham training ground in Redditch. On Tuesday, I am out of school for the whole day, to attend training from 8am to 5pm. This includes lots of drills e.g. passing, shooting and defending and it is broken up by study sessions, during which I have to make sure that I keep up with any school work that I will be missing that day. On Sundays, we have match practice, which is usually as friendlies, but can be at home or away, so there can be quite a bit of travelling involved as well.

What other commitments do you have to make?

I have to be careful about what I eat and keep junk food and

treats to a minimum. I also try to get to the gym to support my general fitness, over and above my football-specific training.

How do you fit your schoolwork into such a busy schedule?

I just have to be very organised and make sure that I use the time that I do have effectively. I try to get as much homework done as possible between school and training and to use the time that I am given for study sessions on a Tuesday to make sure that I don't fall behind. I have to be organised and think ahead to collect work that I will be missing from my teachers.

Who is your inspiration?

I really look up to Jermaine Dele Alli, who plays for Tottenham and for England. If I make it to be a professional footballer, I would love to be like him, as he comes across as a fair player. He plays in a similar position to me (Centre/Midfield) and his style of play is something I would like to emulate.

What is your ambition?

I would like to carry on with my football and make it into a professional career. I would love to play for one of the top clubs like Tottenham or Real Madrid and would hope to be able to represent England one day.

What is your motto?

Work hard, play hard.



Arden Alliance

Congratulations go to Mr Gunn who received an award at The University of Warwick annual awards event this month.

Mr Gunn received the Professional Mentor of the Year award for his work supporting all of the trainee teachers across our Teaching School Alliance. This is a huge achievement and a reflection of the outstanding teacher training that we provide.



PTFA News

The wonderful PTFA have been busy organising two of the biggest fundraising nights of the year: the Fireworks Festival and the Christmas Ball. We hope to see many of you attending these fabulous events which help to raise funds for projects which support the school.

For more information about either event please contact:

adminptfa@arden.solihull.sch.uk



Important dates for November and December 2018

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| Tuesday 6th November | Sixth Form UKMT Maths Challenge Year 11 Geography visit to Stratford Upon Avon Year 10 STEM visit to Millenium Point |
| Wednesday 7th November | Year 12/13 English visit to Othello |
| Thursday 8th November | Year 11 Geography visit to Stratford Upon Avon |
| Friday 9th November | Year 10 Engineering visit to JLR |
| Wednesday 14th November | Year 12/13 Politics visit to Westminster, London |
| Friday 16th November | Presentation Evening for all former Year 11 and Year 13 students & parents (7.00pm) |
| Wednesday 21st November | Year 11 Progress Coaching |
| Thursday 22nd November | Sixth Form Open Evening (6.00pm-8.30pm) <i>* School closes to all students at 2.15pm No parking on school site</i> |
| Monday 26th November | Online Safety Parents Information Evening (7:00pm) |
| Wednesday 28th November | Year 12/13 Young Professionals Conference at Innovation Birmingham 'Ardennaires' performing at Knowle Lights Switch on |
| Thursday 29th November | Year 10 Parent Consultations (2.45pm-6.30pm) <i>* School closes to all students at 2.15pm No parking on school site</i> |