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Amazing News!

We were absolutely thrilled to be informed that Arden Library has been shortlisted as one of the top 10 libraries of the year. That is ALL libraries, not just school libraries! The award is run in partnership with the Bookseller magazine and charity The Reading Agency. It is a truly amazing achievement to be shortlisted and is a reflection of all the wonderful things Miss O'Brien has done in the last 18 months.

You can read more about the award and the shortlisted libraries [here](#).



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JUNE / JULY 2019

Another Year Over

This last half term has, as always, flown by. Yet when we reflect on what has taken place in those seven weeks, it seems like a lifetime ago that our Year 11 and Year 13 students were in the midst of their GCSE and A level exams. We sincerely hope that this August brings them the results that their efforts so richly deserve. The attitude and focus of both sets of students was exemplary. An exhausted, but very proud set of staff, could not have been happier with how the students approached their exams; we eagerly now await those all important results on the 15th (A Level) and 22nd (GCSE) of August. Our pride in these groups of students was cemented as we rounded off in fitting style at the Year 11 Prom and Year 13 Leavers' Ball; both events were a fantastic celebration of the students' time at Arden.

Beyond these year groups we have seen our Year 10 and Year 12 students on work experience. Our Year 12s have had an amazing 3 day 'Futures Event' when they met with former students, professionals from industry and representatives from universities, all who provided the most specific and engaging input around decisions for Post 18 destinations that the students could have hoped for. A true Arden Family effort involving huge amounts of staff, staff connections and networks and former students who all willingly gave our existing Year 12s the benefit of their experiences.

Whilst I am unable to retell all events of this

last half term, I do wish to cite the great pride and satisfaction that I feel when I see and experience the vast array of opportunities that our students have. I do wish to draw reference to the recent Sports Day, Mental Health Awareness day and our sensational performances of Chicago as aspects of school life that really do encapsulate the true depth and scope of Arden. We offer our students a fantastic education that is as rich and broad as is imaginable. It is so very rewarding to see our students immerse themselves and to take such great pleasure from their performances, their sporting activities and their growth as individuals as they consider our welfare messages and reflect on different approaches to maintain their positive well-being.

As we complete another year I want to extend huge thanks to our students who have worked so hard this year. You deserve a good rest to recharge those batteries before we come back again ready to really challenge and push ourselves next year. Thank you to you as parents/guardians who do so much to support our ethos and values and instill in your children the significance of education; this has been so evident in this year's Parent Consultations and just this week in huge parental support at our Awards Assemblies.

Mr Warwood, Associate Headteacher

Lost Property and Uniform Exchange

Students have been asked to ensure that all of their property is taken home at the end of term.

Parents are able to view lost property on Monday 22nd July from 10.00-1.30 in the main reception area.

We will be holding a Uniform Exchange on Tuesday 23rd July from 10.00-1.30 in the main reception area.

Any uniform or lost property left after this date will be donated to local charities.

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

Mental Health Awareness Day

July saw our second annual Mental Health Awareness Day where the whole school went off-timetable to participate in activities to promote positive mental health.

The aim of the day is for students to try new activities and get involved with each other and staff in a positive and stimulating environment. In total over 65 different activities were on offer. The day was a great success and here, Year 7 student Bonnie Davidson gives her account of the day:



'The bell went for my first session which was singing. At the start we talked about how looking after your mental health is important and how singing can help. Then we were allowed to pick a song out of the pot to be played and sung. My second session was Yoga and the teacher explained how Yoga can help both your physical and mental health. After this we went to a session where we sat and calmly did jigsaws. Next we went to crafts which gave us the chance to paint and decorate jars. My final session was dodgeball. We played and played until five minutes before the end of the day when we stopped to talk about what we had learnt over the day and why it is so



important. I think overall that the day was an important and really good learning experience for us all.'

It is a huge undertaking to organise and co-ordinate a day like this and we would like to thank Mrs Pemberton for her work and Mr Fletcher for his technical support as well as all staff who helped out with sessions.

All That Jazz

It is genuinely difficult to put into words what an amazing production Chicago was. The talent on display was phenomenal and from lead parts to back stage crew members, from band to tech team, every single student gave their all. In total, over 130 students took part in the production.

Every year we are blown away by the talent of our students and this year was no exception. We would like to congratulate everyone for their role in the production and would like to thank the Music and Drama teams for their hard work in making this so much more than a school production.



Oxford Reading Museum Visit

On the 5th July 2019 a group of talented young readers were taken, as a reward for excellent accelerated reader scores, on a trip to the Oxford Story Museum.

The 60 year 7 and 8 students were split in to 3 groups-each enjoying all the fab activities available. Speaking of which, the first activity that Mrs Lapworth's group did was the dress-up room. It was a room of laughs and...um...a speaking chair! Yep, that's right! The children put on costumes and then had the option to choose an adjective, a title and a place (e.g Green, Lady, Scotland) and then, in your costume, you would walk up the red carpet and sit down in the chair. The chair would then read out the three words you had chosen, like this: "The Green Lady of Scotland!!" One student said she thought the dress-up room was "a fun experience and was helpful for ideas for new stories".

The second thing the children were able to participate in was to explore the centre of Oxford on a 'Wonder Walk.' They were taken around Oxford by a guide from the museum. They visited some sites of Oxford University where many famous writers happened to have worked.

They saw where a scene from Harry Potter was filmed, as well as the lamp post that inspired 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.' A year 7 student said she really enjoyed the tour "I had no idea about how many things that we are right in front of have been inspirations for so many amazing authors."

The final thing the children did was have lunch in the open Christ Church Meadow. The kids had an awesome day and they really deserved it too!

Finally, a huge thank you goes to Miss O'Brien, Mrs Lapworth and Miss Ladkin for taking time out their day to take the children on this special trip.

Written by Holly Watkins

Edited by Bethan Sibbing



Year 11 Prom

It was another beautiful evening for the Year 11 Prom. The students looked radiant as they walked down the red carpet in their formal wear.

The room at the Hilton was superbly decorated and the food and music went down a treat. It was a fabulous night and a wonderful way to signal the end of this part of the students' journeys. We are very proud of them all.



Year 13 Celebration Ball

Year 13 enjoyed a super night at their celebration ball.

Parents, staff and students had the opportunity to reflect on what has been an incredible, all be it challenging, Sixth Form experience.

It was a fitting way to say goodbye and good luck to this super group.

Mr Simpson and Mrs Hodgkinson are incredibly proud of each and every one of them and we will all miss them very much.



Year 7 French Study Visit

On Monday 24th June 6 coaches of year 7s waved bye to their parents and went on an adventure to France with their form tutors, French teachers and Mrs. Dunbar, Head of Year. Monday and Friday involved long coach journeys, a few motorway delays (which tested all of our patience), and two ferry journeys across the English Channel.

Tuesday morning started for all students at a local French school meeting pen pals, having conversations with French students and teachers in French, playing different team games and spotting some differences between French and English schools (e.g. a baguette for lunch being delivered on a tractor). Some of us even posed for the local news!

The rest of the week involved exploring Normandy on a coach and at points, meeting up with other groups to share the experience together. As Normandy played such an important role in World



War 2, particularly D-Day, we explored some of the areas that were defended by the Germans and invaded by the British and allies. We visited some museums and in Arranches went to the 360 degree cinema to watch a film about the D-Day landings,

metres away from where it all took place. We also visited Point-du-Hoc and spent time running around and exploring the sites where bombs from the British had hit the land.

Along with seeing the damage to the physical landscape we also took the time to remember those who fought during the war; we visited Colleville, an American cemetery and a British one at Bayeux. For some, it was a chance to remember those family members who served and lost their lives during the Second World War. For others, it was a chance to see how many people represented their country and realise how young some of those soldiers were.

To practise our French and learn more about the French culture in Normandy we visited a chocolate factory, completed our market mission and enjoyed the goat farm.



For 7R the goat farm was the highlight of the trip, with some students being brave enough to try milking the goat and drinking the milk straight from the udder.

Evenings were no time to rest; bowling was an activity for all students and we got a chance to watch Mr. Edgington lose at bowling (video evidence available). Coaches 1 and 2 were able to spend their evenings on the beach playing football, cricket and even practice some gymnastics.

We returned home a little later than planned with some very tired students (and staff) who can all confidently say they had a week to remember. It was great to see so many take a step outside their comfort zone and try their French at some point throughout the week and also learn a few skills as independent young adults.

A huge thanks to Mr Edgington and all of the supporting staff members.

U16 Debating Competition

A few weeks ago Mrs Ellender took a team of four Year 9 students (Kirsten Duthie, Emily Perkins, Sophie Scott and Tom Yorke) to Solihull School to compete in the U16 Debating Competition.

She was incredibly proud of them and reports that they excelled across all of their debates, despite it being their first ever competition and being up against some of the best debating schools in the Midlands. In their final debate Kirsten and Emily only narrowly lost out to a team from Trent College who went on to win the whole competition. Particular congratulations to Kirsten Duthie who made it into the Top 10 best speakers for the whole competition. Well done to all.



Chemistry Festival

Back in June a group of Year 8 students; Troy Yu, Scarlett Butler, Violet Lethbridge and Joshua Bowley went to the Salters Chemistry Festival as a reward for their hard work in science and for participating as Science Ambassadors.

They were a real credit to Arden as they took part in some challenging practical investigations, which involved code breaking and investigating the identity of unknown substances in a forensic science style mystery. They also took part in a University Challenge competition putting practical skills to the test and they won 3rd prize for their efforts out of 10 schools from across the Midlands!

The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves undertaking some exciting chemistry challenges and watching amazing demonstrations from university staff. It was a wonderful day out. Big thank you also to Mrs Allen for driving the minibus.



Knife Crime Awareness

We were pleased to welcome representatives from West Midlands Police to school to support their campaign to raise awareness of knife crime and its consequences.

The officers brought a 'Knife Arch' into school to show the equipment used as part of stop and search procedures. The talk given was very informative and was supported by

Tutorial discussions in the preceding days which focused around choices.

We are very grateful to the Police for coming in to school to talk to the students about this relevant issue.



Art and Photography Exhibition

This term once again gave us the chance to celebrate the fabulous talent of our Art and Photography students. Each year we are simply blown away by the work the students have produced. Below is just a sample.



Charity Cycle Ride

Last month on a Saturday morning at 8am 13 Year 9 students set off on the longest bike ride they'd ever attempted... 100km! It was all to raise money for their chosen charity: Cancer Research UK.

After 2 miserable weeks of weather, the sun was shining and the kids were full of energy. It was a tough but very scenic route, starting from Arden then going through Balsall Common and Honiley before the first break at Hatton. Then it was on through Snitterfield, Wilmcote, Coughton and Studley with a break in Sambourne, followed by lunch in Ullenhall. Then came the hardest leg of the journey: the long uphill slog to Tanworth. After a final break in Wythall, it was back to Arden via the Earlswood Lakes and Hockley Heath. The students not only rode the whole distance but navigated it themselves too!!

All of the students completed the

100km and still had enough energy to smile for photos! The 13

students were Dan Batson, Matthew Price, Dan Wheeler, Eoghan Dunnion, Ollie Lidgate-Taylor, Joe Dillane, Jack Brennan, Dom Jayne, Ryan McCourt, Sam Harden, Katie Smith, Ed Jackson and Josh Daniels.

In total a mammoth £3,250 was raised for the charity. In addition to this, students nominated Cancer Research as our school charity for the final fundraising day of the year which means we can add a further £2,033.34 to this total!

Well done to all students for their determination and excellence during this ride and all the training rides, and a huge



thank you to all the staff members who have helped out along the way.

Mr Singh

Reading Club

It has been an absolute joy, again, to witness the sheer variety of books that the students read in their own time. At Reading Club this year, perhaps more than ever, students have shared their experiences of books that so many of us who are part of the group would not have heard of had they not been recommended to the rest of us. We read 'to know that we are not alone' but we also read to share our experiences and to make sure that we can benefit from these experiences that others have loved reading about.

It has also been interesting to see that the 'classics' do not go out of fashion, either. There have been many times this year when I have seen someone take a classic out of their bag and expound upon the many aspects of it that have delighted readers over the years, decades and even centuries.

I have been absolutely delighted with the commitment, enthusiasm and sheer hard work of the students this year and we are already looking forward to sharing our summer reading in September when we hope that many new Year 7s will join us to delight in the best pastime that there is!

Miss Corbett

Year 12 Biology Visit to Margam

Year 12 biology students went on a sampling expedition to Margam Discovery Centre near Port Talbot last weekend. Through this highly instructive and educational weekend, students investigated the range of biodiversity at different locations of a river; the changing biodiversity of a sand dune to explore the impact of succession on an ecosystem; and planned and investigated the impact of an abiotic factor on a living organism at the beautiful Bracelet Bay rocky shore line.

Our students performed incredibly well, demonstrating excellent resilience, determination and commitment to their studies. They remained highly focused and engaged with the course tutors, showing off impressive knowledge and conducted themselves impeccably throughout the weekend.

Thanks to their efforts, the weekend was a great success and we were very proud of the group.



Diversity Day

On the 21st of May we celebrated the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development which is a United Nations-sanctioned international holiday for the promotion of diversity issues.

Throughout the week, students were able to learn about various cultures and religions during form time. In the mornings, each form had an RE student ambassador and student volunteer present, each of whom ran a variety of different cultural activities such as: Bollywood dancing, Origami and Chinese letter writing.

In addition to the morning activities, many of our teachers dedicated their period 5 lessons to teaching about cultural links to their subjects. The feedback received from many students has been overwhelmingly positive.

A huge thank you to all the ambassadors, volunteers and teachers who helped out and took part in the day.

Throughout the week, there was also a house competition to create a logo to represent diversity at Arden. The winning logo was submitted by 8S who have received a tub of celebrations and 300 house points. In second place was the logo submitted by 7N who have received 150 house points and in third place was the logo submitted by 8R who have received 30 house points. Well done to all students who contributed ideas to the logos. The winning design (shown below) will now be used as a symbol of diversity in school.



Library News and Celebrations

Thank you so much to everyone for a fantastic year of reading – here is the library round-up:

I am honoured and humbled that Arden Library has been announced as one of the Top Ten Libraries of the UK by The Bookseller. This is an incredible achievement that simply would not have been possible without the support of all the staff, Governors and PTFA. But I must also thank the students of Arden. The library ambassadors have worked immeasurably hard over the past year creating displays, assisting on Open Evenings, putting on a play for World Book Day, and generally promoting reading to their fellow students throughout the school. So, a big THANK YOU to the Arden students!

Congratulations to this year's Accelerated Reader overall winners. The top 2 students from each class visited the Oxford Story Museum for a Children's Literature tour. Congratulations to our overall winners of the entire year group who received an Excellence in Reading Certificate and the top Reading in Excellence Award for two students who each won a signed book by former Children's Laureate Chris Riddell:

Year 7: Most Books Read - Muneera Hasani and Laura Hampson

Most Points – Will Johnson and Elsa Guy

Reading Excellence Award: Lola Farrell

Year 8: Most Books Read – Ben Lewis and Lara Duffy

Most Points – Maddie Jennings and Typhaine Jardine

Reading Excellence Award: Bella Heselden-Hamer

Good news for the library's Creative Writing Club as writer Holly Watkins has won a competition with the Federation of Children's Book Groups for their Travelling Tales Competition. This is a massive achievement competing against students from all across the UK – well done, Holly!

Hope everyone has a fantastic summer - Keep reading!

Miss O'Brien

Personal Fundraising Efforts

Well done to Year 7 student Daisy Powell who took part in the Race For Life event in Solihull recently to raise money in memory of her Aunt.

We love to hear stories like this of students embodying the Arden Values in all aspects of their lives. Super work Daisy!



Year 12 Visit to Uganda

This year, Arden Sixth Form, took part in a unique adventure. Four Year 12 students and Mr Simpson travelled to Uganda for a "Cultural Immersion" trip. The aim was to experience what life is like for those that live in Uganda, as well as decide what the group would like to donate the money raised in a recent non-uniform day to. We viewed three different projects, a Secondary School in need of a science laboratory, a Primary School in need of urgent refurbishment, a Health Care Centre in need of improvements. As part of a co-production project with Opportunity Africa, a Ugandan-based Community Organisation, the money was donated to Kishunju Primary School. The accounts below are the reflections on the experience by the four students that went:

Frankie Smith

For me, Uganda was an experience of a lifetime. It opened my eyes to the opposing lives people in different parts of the world lead. Uganda's economy has very little money yet I can guarantee that I have never seen people with smiles as big as those in Kihembe.

I chose to apply for this trip to Uganda because the opportunity excited me; not only has it taught me about a completely different culture but has also taught me that money doesn't provide happiness, it is the people around you who do. I can't wait to go back!

Ashleigh Lawrence

Our visit to the village of Kihembe is an

experience I will never forget, it was genuinely life changing. We came to Uganda to appreciate and learn about its culture, to meet new people and interact with the villagers. We saw and did so many incredible things but for me, the close relationships we built with the 'Opportunity Africa' team and the villagers was something I didn't expect and is honestly what I miss most about it. The welcoming, unconditionally generous and generally happy nature of these people made our visit the wonderful experience it was and I know it was the beginning of some very special friendships.

Eoin Russell

The trip to Uganda was a life changing experience and I am grateful that I've had the opportunity to see an area of the world that is so different to England. Our experience of Uganda was definitely not what any of us expected. I think England on the whole is fed quite a negative image of Uganda through the media but I must say that it deserves a much better reputation than the one it is given. I tried to approach the trip with empathy for the Ugandans but in fact left the trip envious of them and their culture. They are some of the happiest people I have met and this has taught me that money definitely doesn't make happiness.

Nihal Bhatt



I would like to thank Arden and the Zuri Project for exposing me to such a different culture and lifestyle to the one we have here. While we were in the village we went to visit some of their most important facilities and while they were incomparable to the facilities we have here even then everyone was very appreciative and were very optimistic for what these facilities can and could provide in the future. Everywhere we went we received a very warm reception and were made to feel at home which was a truly heart-warming experience. This hospitality led to me building some great relationships. It was also very refreshing to see overseas charity work being done with the community in charge. What really stood out to me was the selflessness and ingenuity of the community members especially the members of Opportunity Africa. I am delighted to have had the chance to be a part of the Zuri Project charity.

National STEM Competition

Earlier this month Year 8 pupils Maddie Harper, Charlotte Turpin, Frankie Cox, Olivia Sheard and Shreya Senthikumar took part in the National Finals for the **Solutions 4 the Planet** competition at the Houses of Parliament.

Over the past five months the girls have been working on their idea: they had to identify a world problem and create a solution for this problem. They chose to tackle water depletion and developed a product to help reduce water usage when having a shower. Out of 1000 teams across the country 12 teams

made it to the final where they had to present to a panel of judges along with the other groups and MPs.

The girls were amazing on the day, they were confident when presenting and everyone could see how passionate they were about their idea. The judges must have seen this also as they were awarded with second place.



This was a fantastic achievement for the team. Well done to all! Mr Hussey and Mr Hartshill are very proud of what they have achieved.

Year 12 Futures

At the start of July Year 12 took part in their Futures event which is a three day conference aimed at helping students understand more about the potential opportunities and pathways available to them after they have completed their A-Levels. Students selected a menu of workshops from over 100 choices across the three days.

Here, Year 12 students reflect on their highlights from the event:

Keynote speaker: Martin Carter (Chair of Governors)

Martin started by saying that a lot of his talk was based on his recent experiences as a Leadership Coach, a job where he comes into contact with a range of employers and clients: from prison to the bottom of the sea and the whole range in between. Obviously, for our students, being given to access to that wealth of experience through him was a real privilege and they gave the talk the rapt attention that it deserved.

He started with this question:

'In ten years time, if you could be doing anything, what do want that to be?'

This was followed with the most important question, probably, that they will be asked all week: **'Why?'**

The main message of his talk was to urge students not to lose their curiosity. The world is full of opportunities; the workplace is constantly changing and most people don't have jobs for life anymore.

***'Don't think about what the world needs but what makes you come alive.'* Martin Carter**



Grant Thornton Mock Assessment Centre

This session was lead by four employees of Grant Thornton. The idea was to give students (who are interested in apprenticeships) the opportunity to experience what an assessment centre is like. They were tasked with the following:

- A 10 minute reading task where they had to understand the task brief and digest lots of information related to the task ahead
- A 20 minute group discussion where they shared their ideas and responded to the brief.
- A 5 minute presentation to feedback to the panel of interviewers

All students did very well throughout the task but more importantly they learnt a lot and have all got something to improve on for the future.

MMI Mock Interviews

Our prospective Medics enjoyed (or endured) nine Multiple Medical Interviews with a team that included 3 ex-students currently studying Medicine. These ranged from analysing a video showing a consultation with a patient; talking about Ethics and sewing up a banana!

Tom Aitchison - Civil Service

As a speaker, Tom was funny and offered a different view on careers, stressing the importance of liking a career rather than being 'financially successful' which was nice.



Daniel Warkup - Academic Resilience (University of Sheffield)

Daniel was a really lovely guy who helped clearly explain what academic resilience meant in terms of A-Levels and how to use it.

Mr L Gordon - Life as a Network Administrator

This was an incredibly insightful and entertaining talk with interesting personal anecdotes and many opportunities for interaction which gave me a clear understanding of the profession.

Final thoughts

Obviously we are incredibly grateful to the organisations and individuals (many of whom are Arden Alumni) who enable us to put on this unique event every year. The Sixth Form team are, in particular, indebted to Mrs Hyde who coordinated the entire event and created the most amazing Google Site to showcase the programme.



Former Arden student Tom Aitchison has worked for NATO and the EU



@ardenfutures



Careers News

Career Mark Gold

We are delighted to announce that Arden has been awarded the Career Mark Gold in recognition of the work that is done across the school to support our students with Information, Advice and Guidance in relation to their future beyond Arden. The assessment criteria for the award require very high standards to be met and are verified by an external assessor, who visited the school during the Spring Term. The assessor spoke at length with students from every year group to make a judgement on the impact of the Futures work that takes place in school. In her report, she stated:

"Students of all ages know that there are staff across the school who will provide support and can be asked for careers and course information. They cite their careers adviser, tutors and teachers as key to their network."

and

"The [Careers] programme is fully integrated within the curriculum through PSHE, tutorials, events, enrichment, subjects and academic mentoring activities. The impartial delivery begins with year 7 and progressively develops to the end of year 13: the student entitlement is met in full."

We are very proud of and grateful to the students who were interviewed, not least because it shows that our input and activities are worthwhile and impactful. Achieving the Career Mark Gold is a fantastic springboard for us to further develop what we do at Arden to support our students' futures and there are lots of exciting developments to come in 2019/2020. Watch this space!



Professional Services Week

On 25 June, a group of 20 Year 9 students were able to take part in two workshops being run within Solihull Professional Services Week. The students visited Thursfield Solicitors and Prime Accountants, where they were able to learn about what 'Professional Services' are and specifically what is involved in Law and Accountancy. It was very useful to be able to experience the Professional Services working environment and to understand what daily life is like within such professions. Towards the end of the morning, Andy Street, the Mayor of the West Midlands joined the session and spoke to all of the students about the nature of Professional Services in the West Midlands and its fast rate of growth. He emphasised to the students how important young people are to the future of the local labour market, particularly in the Professional Services sector. The event concluded with a delicious buffet lunch, courtesy of Prime Accountants. Many of the students who attended said that they had found the experience very informative and that it had made them consider a future in the Professional Services.



Solihull Sports Federation Awards Ceremony

Arden celebrated a wonderful year of sport at the Solihull Sports Federation Awards Ceremony this week. The ceremony rewards schools and individual students for their performance over the year.

We were nominated in three categories:

- Games Organisers Inclusive Award – Cairo Mendes-Brown
- Secondary Sports person of the year – Charlie Billinge
- Secondary School of the year

We are absolutely delighted to report that we won in all three categories!

Mr Hunt is extremely proud of Cairo and Charlie and would like to thank **all** of the students, staff and parents who have supported sport at Arden this year.



House Figurehead Artwork

Arden students have created a series of stunning portraits of their appointed Head of Houses. These were made using thousands of tiny painted dots in the art style of pointillism.

The five large portraits celebrate the inspirational figures; David Attenborough, Florence Nightingale, Charles Darwin, Rosa Parks and Marie Curie. Students at the school are given one of these people as their house leader which is built into the school's achievement system.

In total over 60 Arden students

got involved with the project giving up their time at lunch and after school for a number of weeks.

Huge thanks to Mr Hook and Miss Battle for leading this amazing project. We are absolutely delighted with the result.

The portraits will now be displayed at the back of the main school hall.



Duke of Edinburgh Alumni

Congratulations to ex-student Rhys who, along with the students featured last month, also recently collected his Gold Duke of Edinburgh award.



Literary Inspiration

Resident artist Mr Hook has been beavering away at these superb illustrations which he has produced on the blinds in one of the English classrooms.

They are truly wonderful and a brilliant inspiration for the students who study in that room. Mrs Venables, whose classroom they are in, is absolutely thrilled by the finished designs. I am sure you can see why!





Below is the second article from our student roving reporter: Holly Watkins, who here gives us her account of the Year 7 residential study visit to France.

France says 'Bonjour' to Year 7!

On the 24th June 2019, about 260 year 7's went off to explore the wonders of Normandy, France. Throughout the past year, meetings have been held, preparations had been put in place, all to make sure that year 7 had the best time possible...and it seems they certainly did!

The children had been divided up into 6 coaches, with 2 attending one the three fabulous centres booked by school. Coach 1 and 2 went to Gold Beach, 3 and 4 stayed at Bon Sejour and 5 and 6 based themselves at St Aubin. All accommodations seemed to be a success for the students, with comments like "...we had an outdoor space with a football pitch and a sea view..." The beaches, where the hotels were situated by, also caused excitement; "Gold hotel right next to the beach!" "We got to go down to the beach twice whilst we were there and it was so much fun!"

The children participated in many exciting- activities over the week. Although each coach did them on different days at different times, all coaches did the same activities. For example, they visited a real French school and got to meet some of the students, one pupil said "I loved the French school! It was fun trying to communicate with our pen pals as well as meeting new friends!" Whilst there, the kids took part in some activities like ultimate frisbee or in some student's case, an English class!

The children also got to explore the Normandy beaches on history day. They learned about D-Day through watching a film in a 360 cinema, as well as exploring a museum next to the iconic town of Arromanche. They finally got to see the



horrific number of deaths when they visited the American cemetery. It was a real learning experience thoroughly devoured by the pupils.



The final activities endured by the students was the Market mission and the goat farm. The students loved picking out their lunch and using their new found knowledge of languages. The goat farm was also loved, "the goats cheese farm was fun," "The goats were so cute!!" the students said.

Unfortunately, not everyone in Year seven was able to go to France, but also had fun back in school. When I spoke to a student who stayed home, she said "In history we made shields and painted them. In art we did some picture tracing and we had P.E and form time."

So, it looks like everyone had fun on the week from 24th to 28th of June. The activities were full of enjoyment and it looks like new friends were made and time was spent with old ones, with students quoted as saying: "we got to be with our friends," "I got closer to so many people," "I spoke to people I had never met before!" We thank the teaches who organised it and made the trip a huge success.

By Holly Watkins



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

Excellence Signoff

Over the past two years, it has been fantastic to be able to share the incredible talent of many of our students in this 'Excellence Spotlight' column. To learn what it takes to be at the top of their discipline has been both interesting and inspirational. From boxing to equestrian vaulting and sailing to brass playing, we have learnt about the incredible passion and commitment that is exhibited by our featured students. Perhaps one of the most impressive things about these students is the humility and modesty that they have demonstrated, despite their outstanding achievements.

Thank you to all of the students that have contributed to the Excellence Spotlights column. Here are some of the 'mantras' that have kept them going and enabled them to reach their incredible successes.

100%, all of the time.

Losing is not an option.

Keep focused, 24/7.

'Hard work will beat talent, if talent doesn't
work hard'

Don't just practise until you get it right;
practise until you don't get it wrong again.

Live life to the full.

Work hard, play hard.

Losing is not an option.

The best defence is a good offence.

If you believe, you will. If you don't, you
won't.

Always give it a go!

Vacancies

As a Trust we are currently seeking mini bus drivers with the flexibility to work, as and when required by the schools, to transport students (age 11-18) on school visits or sporting fixtures; many of which take place at the end of the school day (3:30pm).

A current full UK driving licence with a D1 entitlement will be required and it will be necessary to undergo an enhanced DBS check on appointment.

If you know anyone who may be interested more detailed information is available on the following website <https://www.ardenmat.org.uk/careers/> or by contacting us directly on 01564 773348.

Our cleaning contractors, Churchill are recruiting cleaners to join the team. Please see advert below and direct enquires to the given email, not the school office.

Arden Academy Cleaning Staff Required

Morning, Afternoon or Saturday shifts available up to 16hours per week.

£8.21 per hour.

Contact Jason Dyke the Account Manager by email

Jason.Dyke@churchillservices.com

Sports News

Solihull and Warwickshire School Games

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

 @ArdenPE

On Thursday 4th July Arden had a very busy day at the level 3 Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire school games. We had an amazing four teams qualify by winning the South Solihull level 2 event; two Athletics teams, Tennis and Softball, and progressed through to represent South Solihull. They all performed superbly well in what was a true show of the Arden Values under competitive pressure. Below are the results for each team:

Y7&8 Tennis – Gold; Y7 Boys Athletics – Silver; Y8 Boys Athletics – Silver; Y9 Softball – Silver

A superb performance from all competitors and a busy day that will be remembered for a long time.

Athletics

Over 30 Arden students competed at the West Midlands Athletics Championships in June representing Arden. All of the students performed superbly and contributed to Solihull winning the championship for the 9th time in a row.

Below are the Arden students who finished in the top 3 in their events:

1st Place: Daniel Scott - 200m, Rachel Batchelor - 1500m, Sophia Davila - 300m, Joe Munns - javelin

2nd Place: Sophie Williams - high jump, Poppy Koumbilis – javelin, Jamie Russell - long jump, Charlie Billinge - shot putt

3rd Place: Sophie Rafferty - 100m, Thomas Watson - high jump, Jessica Cox - 200m, Jamie Davies – discus, Callum Webber - long jump

It is incredible for a school to have so many performers gaining a top 3 finish in their events. All

the students commitment and effort make everyone at Arden very proud.

A week later Arden competed in the Borough Athletics competition. Despite having students not able to compete due to the France trip and Y10 work experience week we still put in an amazing display. We managed to medal in 17 of the track events with 6 of those being golds and match this superb performance in our field events as well. Our overall performances were:

Y7&8 Girls – 2nd

Y9&10 Girls – 3rd

Y7&8 Boys – 2nd

Y9&10 Boys – 6th

The results show what amazing potential we had despite missing some of our athletes. A massive well done to everyone who competed and thanks to those students who filled in with unfamiliar events.

Tennis

Last month the Year 7/8 tennis teams took part in the local tennis slams with the winners progressing through to the regional round.

The girls won every fixture beating Alderbrook (1) 20-0, Alderbrook (2) 20-0 and Tudor Grange 15-5.

The boys did well but unfortunately came runners up beating Tudor Grange 15-5, Alderbrook (2) 15-5 but losing to Alderbrook (1) 15-5.

Miss Blenkinsopp also wanted to mention the following:

'The U13 girls tennis team who I have been working with have been absolutely amazing this year and have won the Solihull league by winning all of their matches against schools in the Solihull borough.

Along the way they have beaten Solihull School, Saint Martin's, Tudor Grange, Heart of England.

Overall this team have been absolutely outstanding and a real credit to Arden! They have turned up to tennis practice every single week and have demonstrated real commitment and determination to win! I have been so impressed with them.'

Personal Tennis Mission

Year 10 student Clara Stride has been on a personal mission recently as she went to Parliament to support the Lawn Tennis Association as they announced plans to develop hundreds of indoor courts to increase the opportunity for everyone to learn and play tennis around Great Britain.

Well done to Clara for getting involved and making her voice heard!



Sports Day

It was a glorious day for Sports Day and a great time was had by all. With 'fun' events in the morning to the highly competitive relay races at the end the students were a real credit to their houses and to the school.

The results were as follows: Darwin: 1042, Attenborough: 1003, Nightingale: 989, Parks: 987 and Curie: 952. Congratulations to Darwin on their win.



Serious scoring!

England Selection

Congratulations to Lottie Mason on her England selection for the Double Mini Trampoline (DMT) squad. Lottie was first selected December 2018 and has since attended numerous training camps at Lilleshall with the full squad. She was selected to represent England at the International Frivolten Cup held in Sweden where she was sitting in 2nd place after prelims and finished 6th overall which is incredible for her first international competition. Lottie has now qualified for the British Championships which are being held in September 2019 and the Loule Cup being held in Portugal in October 2019.

Lottie trains 10 hours a week with her home club Heart of England and she will attend a 6 day England training camp in Portugal from 21st July 2019. We look forward to hearing how she does in her competitions during the next academic year.



Primary Year 5 Rounders

On Friday 5th July 15 Arden sports leaders from year 9 officiated at the primary year 5 level 3 Rounders competition. A mix of boys and girls took control of the whole event; umpiring games, organising the fixtures and tracking all of the results from the day. Julie, the organiser of the event, has passed on what superb ambassadors all of our students were and how much of an impact they had on the day. They were amazing role models for young students from all across the county.

The PE department look forward to seeing how these young leaders develop next year, particularly with them being a part of our leadership programme on Wednesday afternoons.

Synchronised Swimming

Congratulations to Natasha and Olivia Cannell on their most recent synchronised swimming competition. The girls took part in the event at the London Aquatics Centre Olympic pool in early July. Natasha's team won gold in their age group category, Olivia's team won bronze in their age group category. Amazing achievement!



Water Polo

At Arden we have had for some years now a growing number of students taking up water polo for local teams. Our current crop of players are exceeding all expectations with their performances and progressing with increasing pace through the development pathways. In particular there are a group of boys in Year 10 and 11, Rhys Tippings, Callum McCourt and Ben Rice, and Year 9 students, Mia Evans and Charlotte Turpin, who are showing great potential. Their performances

for their club teams have been rewarded with further representative honours right up to National development squad selections and involvement in national tournaments. Well done to all of you the PE department, and the school as a whole, are incredibly proud of all the hard work you are putting in and wish you continued success and hearing about your future awards. Their progress has also inspired younger students to get involved in the sport which has resulted in more students from our early year groups playing the sport. Talent and inspiration to the whole community!

Staff News

Congratulations to Mr Hughes (Head of Computing and ICT) and his wife who welcomed baby Rory to his family this month.

It is inevitably a time when we say goodbye to some of our staff members. Mrs Harrison is retiring after 19 years at Arden. She has been an absolute stalwart of the MFL department in that time, leading on German and ensuring that we maintain our International School status, amongst many other things.

Mrs Dereza is relocating to Devon, whilst Mr O'Connell is off to work in Dubai! Miss Atkins and Miss Cockerill have made the decision to leave teaching for exciting ventures elsewhere whilst Mr Sandford, Mr Judd, Miss Durrant and Mrs McGee are also bidding farewell.

We would like to thank all of them for their dedicated service to Team Arden and wish them all the very best for the future. We will miss them all very much.

School Production Sponsorship

We would like to once again thank our School Production sponsors: **StarStruck Performing Arts Academy**. Here is some information about the Academy.

The award winning StarStruck Performing Arts Academy was established in Solihull in 2003 by Katie Cooper. Classes are taught by the highest standard of teachers offering elite dance, acro, drama and singing training. The acting and musical theatre lessons incorporate audition technique, script analysis and stagecraft whilst the dance and acro classes include strength and conditioning in addition to exciting routines. From freestyle to contemporary, jazz to gymnastic dance, StarStruck now has over 30 classes a week and over 600 students across Solihull and Warwickshire. The school even has it's own patron, musical theatre star Andrew Chadwick and a wealth of industry professionals who provide workshops in term time. In the holidays, StarStruck offer 3 day workshops and shows - The Performing Arts Project - which are extremely popular and Ofsted registered. Run by Katie and her sister Lian Fisher, former GCSE dance teacher at Arden, their aim is to create a fun and friendly atmosphere where all children can learn new skills, make new friends and have lots of fun!

If you have lots of experience, or simply want to discover your hidden talents, StarStruck Performing Arts Academy will provide a safe environment to give you the confidence and skills to realise your potential and live your dreams. Whether you want to embark on a career in the industry or just love performing, this is the place for you!



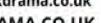
Tel 07748 600035

Email enquires@starstruckdrama.co.uk

WWW.STARSTRUCKDRAMA.CO.UK

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Important dates for September

Monday 2nd /Tuesday 3rd September	Inset Day
Wednesday 4th September	Students return to school Year 12/13 Dedication Service @ KPC (pm) Year 11 Dedication Service @ KPC (pm)
Thursday 5th September	Year 12 & Year 7 Photographs Year 10 Dedication Service @ KPC (am) Year 8 Dedication Service @ KPC (pm)
Friday 6th September	Year 10 Photographs Year 9 Dedication Service @ KPC (am) Year 7 Dedication Service @ KPC (pm) Year 12 Away Day (Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre)
Monday 9th September	Year 8 Author visit (Tom Palmer) Year 10 Year Ahead Parents meeting (6.30pm)
Thursday 12th September	Year 12 Year Ahead Parents meeting (6.00pm)
W/C Monday 16th September	Harvest Collection
Monday 16th September	Year 11 Year Ahead and Revision Parents meeting (6.30pm)
Tuesday 17th September	Year 13 English theatre visit (Lyric Theatre)
Thursday 26th September	Open Evening (6.00-8.30pm) * School closes to all students at 2.15pm No parking on school site
Friday 27th September	Open Morning (10.45-12.00)