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Charitable Giving

Since our last newsletter, as a school community we have witnessed the horrible natural disasters in Morocco and Libya. The money raised during the non-uniform day in July was sent to the British Red Cross appeal for these two disasters. Thank you for your generosity.



Later in this newsletter you will see recent examples of the generosity of our students and their families.

It really does make a difference.

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ISSUE 44

AUTUMN TERM 2023

Mr Warwood's reflections

It certainly was an action packed Autumn term. You will see from the content of this newsletter that it was a very exciting term with lots of things for us to celebrate. Our Christmas Church Services in the last week of term were a lovely way to close the year and to reflect on the great start to the year that our students have made. We have been delighted with the way all of our year groups have taken to their learning this year, most notably those students in transition years have shown great maturity in adapting to the changes that have faced them as they have begun their GCSE's or their A Levels and of course the newest members of our Arden Family have made a great start to their Arden journey, very quickly adapting to the Arden way of life.

On behalf of all of us here at Arden we wish you a fantastic new year. We hope you enjoyed the break and the time together and are all ready for the term ahead.

Mr Warwood, Associate Headteacher

Train to Teach in the Arden Alliance

You may or may not know that Arden is the lead school in a group of schools that work together to train new teachers and welcome them into our brilliant profession. We work with our partners to train primary and secondary school teachers in a wide range of subjects. The recent closer ties with Dorridge Primary, a primary lead school in its own right, has allowed us to amalgamate our teacher training efforts and further enhance the provision for all new teachers in our alliances.

We accept applications from those who have just graduated as well as those who are career changing later in life. It is particularly pleasing to see a number of former pupils from our family of schools training with us this year, or having applied to train next year. With bursaries for some subjects at £28,000 it is easy to see the appeal, especially to those former students who can convince their parents to once again allow them to stay at home for the training year; £28,000 is a good chunk of a house deposit!

If you, or someone you know might be interested in training to teach through the Arden Alliance they can contact Mr Gunn, see our available places at: [Apply for teacher training - GOV.UK](#) or peruse the available financial incentives here: [Teacher training bursaries | Get Into Teaching GOV.UK](#)

For those whose degree might be a bit less recent, or even if you want to teach in a subject that isn't directly linked to your degree, funded subject knowledge enhancement courses are available.

Christmas Card Competition

The key stage 3 Arden Christmas card design drew an excellent array of entries. Choosing a winner from an incredibly high standard of entry was very difficult. After much deliberation a shortlist of 5 was selected comprising 3 runners up and 2 winners.



Runners up: Sofie Leung, , Riya Panchal, Tanya Danylenko

Winners: Pippa Grant, Leah Hamilton



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



Sunday Times Award

We recently featured in the Sunday Times Parent Power Guide. Each year we, along with 1000+ schools nationally submit our results to the Times along with some data about Co-Curricular and Enrichment opportunities.

This year we have been recognised as: **West Midlands Comprehensive School of the Year**

The calibre of school in this guide is very high, many of the “comprehensive schools” are single sex or faith schools some of which actually have some element of selective entry, so for us to be ranked 42nd nationally within this category and ranked 167th for all state secondary schools is tremendous.

The achievements are a result of all of the hard work and commitment of our students and staff. This link <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/schools-league-table> will take you to the site where you can see more detail if you wish.

West Midlands awards:

- **Secondary School of the Year 2024:** King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls
- **Secondary School of the Year for Academic Performance 2024:** King Edward VI School, Stratford-upon-Avon
- **Comprehensive School of the Year 2024:** Arden Academy, Solihull
- **Independent School of the Year 2024:** Concord College, near Shrewsbury
- **Independent School of the Year for Academic Performance 2024:** King Edward VI High School for Girls

2024 Parent Power National Awards

Charitable giving...part 2!

At this time of year, those that celebrate Christmas are naturally excited about the joy of receiving gifts. However, we are also very mindful that this is not the same for everyone, especially in these current difficult financial times. We took the lead up to the holidays as an opportunity to ask our students to think about others and spread a bit of festive goodwill—and they didn't disappoint! The toys that appeared under the Christmas Tree in Reception were donated to the Birmingham City Mission's Toylink appeal, that aims to provide children with gifts where families wouldn't be able to provide them themselves.



The PE department also built upon the last few years of using this time of year to do the “Rashford Run”. An initiative which asks for food donations in return for the privilege of running around the school field.

Both of these projects were well supported and the recipients are grateful for the generosity shown.



SAVE THE CHILDREN

We always ask our students to be aware of the world they live in and the impact that current affairs may be having on them and others. We have all been upset by the ongoing conflict in the Gaza strip, which has led to many innocent lives being lost. Whilst there is little we can individually do about this conflict, we can respond to the humanitarian crisis that is unfolding in this area. Hence, our annual Christmas Jumper Day grew. Alongside the festive jumpers appeared a tuckshop, with chocolate, cakes and samosas all flying off the tables. We were grateful to all those in the school and local communities who kindly donated all the products sold, as this meant there was no outlay. Together with the money donated on ParentPay for the jumpers, this day raised over just £3000 which will be sent to the Save The Children Gaza Appeal, to relieve some of the trauma that is being experienced.

Thank you to everyone that contributed towards the day and to you all once again for your generosity.



Presentation Evening 2023

On Wednesday 22nd December we held our annual Presentation Evening that celebrates the successes of the cohorts of students that had sat external exams during the last academic year.

We were joined on the evening by the Year 11 and Year 13 classes of 2023, along with their families. Also present were some of the friends of the school, that had sponsored some of the prizes. We are grateful to the following for attending the evening: Paul Wheatley and Bob Thurtle from the Knowle & Dorrige Lions, Lilla Baker and David Adderley from the Knowle Society, Robert Pannifer from the Rotary Club of Knowle & Dorrige, Bill Bohanna and Angela Bird, Michelle Herbert, along with Arden Governors & Staff.

Our Guest of Honour for the evening was former Arden student, Monty Stonehewer. Monty is fondly remembered as a great pupil since he joined in Y7. However, It was during his Key Stage 4 Catering experiences that his passion for the hospitality industry started to develop. He left Arden to go to UCB to study for a Level 3 in Professional Cookery, which eventually led him to work at Peel's Michelin-starred restaurant in Hampton Manor. During this time he also appeared on the BBC show Masterchef, reaching the knockout stages in 2019. He is currently working as sous chef at Whatley Manor in the Cotswolds. Monty gave the keynote speech of the evening about following your passions and the virtues of hard work.



The students from Year 13 were in Year 10 when the world of education was majorly disrupted by a global pandemic that changed normal life for the next two years. We were allowed back into school for most of the second year of their GCSEs, however, the resilience they had had to show was incredible. None of us know what the long term effects of all of this will be but the short term effects were plain to see and it is to their credit that they persevered and dug deep to still make educational progress. The start to their A-Level journey was a little more settled and we were pleased to welcome 141 to our Sixth Form. Choosing from a list of 28 subjects, they started out on the very fast paced 2 year Key Stage 5 - and they made it!. The results they achieved were absolutely fantastic with the best Average Point Score Arden Sixth Form has ever seen, and individually results that every one should be very proud of. Not everyone can get straight A*s, but everyone can be the best that they can be - this is a phrase that they all lived up to. They all continued their journeys in a wonderfully diverse way, with some continuing their education at University, and a great number starting work-based learning through the apprenticeship route. There were a few not able to be here on the night due to exciting gap year plans—the best excuse being representing Team GB in Sailing in Rio, Brazil—well done Oscar!!

For the year 11 class of 2023 the covid affected years came a bit earlier in their journey and will have undoubtedly affected their formative years in secondary education. The start of their KS4 journey was as “normal” as normal could be and they set about their business, laying foundations across many different combinations of GCSE and vocational qualifications. Whilst the outside world was rebuilding and re-establishing itself, these students had to get their heads into their books alongside all of the usual teenage life events. Most of us that were involved with them will remember their spark and zest for life, which we certainly saw in and around school. When the time came they got stuck in and we are thrilled with the set of results they achieved. Results that will massively help them in their next steps and futures.



There were 122 prizes given out on the night, so too many to mention individually. The prizes ranged from individual subject prizes to recognition of contributions to school music, performing arts and sport. There were prizes for brilliance in academia as well as emotional intelligence prizes. We are grateful to everyone that came and hope you all enjoyed the evening.



Art Department

Y7 Walsall art gallery trip

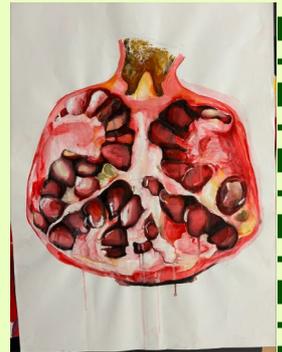
Year 7 students visited Walsall Art Gallery where they experienced a range of different art and genres, saw a visiting artist exhibition by Karla Black and took part in an artist workshop where they made their own pieces inspired by Karla's work. Some students also completed Karla Black-inspired homeworks. They looked amazing!



Core Gallery Exhibition

All of our Year 12 Art students were invited to showcase their artwork at the Core Gallery in Touchwood. They carefully selected which pieces they wanted to exhibit and assisted in the curation of the exhibition.

We are really pleased to report that Arden won 'Overall Best School Submission' in the college / sixth form category.



Harry Potter Careers Trip

Students in Year 9 went to Harry Potter World on an arts-based careers trip where they got to see all of the work that goes in to making the Harry Potter movies and characters. Students said they had a great time!



Photography Club

Year 10 students have started their first series of Photography Workshops, learning key camera and composition skills as well as how to create digital art using Photoshop. They also had creative assignments each week where they could show off their creative photography skills- we thought they did a great job!



English Department



October gave pupils the opportunity to participate in a number of exciting competitions for National Poetry Day. Students in all year groups had the chance to win House Points by creating their own poem from a selection of words or create a Found Poem from famous lines of poetry that were pinned around the school! We had some lovely entries and lots of pupils won prizes from our Book Vending Machine. Pupils also had the chance perform in a Poetry By Heart competition where they learned a poem and recited it in front of a panel of judges. We were blown away by the confidence and passion of the students – it really was food for the soul!

Poetry By Heart Winners:

Alexander Reid (7D) – Overall winner
Ava Ho (8L) – Best performance
Best Teamwork – Angie Yip (8A) and Daphne Chow (8L)
KS4 Prize – Hayden Nicholas (11S)

Year 10 Magnetic Poetry Winner:

Izzy Hulme (10R), Tabitha-Belle Qureshi (10A), Annabelle Lavender (10R)
Moon light shadow
Through our sea of blood.
Rain crushed her scream;
A thousand frantic whispers,
As the bitter goddess rose.
Worship our storm:
Together, as one,

Year 9 Magnetic Poetry Winner:

Heidi Foxley (9L), Annika Lemke (9H), Sophie Eagle (9C)
Summer time is over,
As we recall the black storm.
Blood shing through but
Love whispers ache.
So sing bitter sweet scream.
Together a lazy symphony;
No diamond day
From above. We say
Never shadow us:
Worship it.

Year 7 Found Poem Winner:

Ivy Dutton (7L)
Nothing's changed:
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.
You may trod me in the dirt but like dust I'll rise.
There's worse things than being alone.

Physicists Reach for the Stars at National Space Academy Workshop

On December 7th, a select group of Year 10 Physicists participated eagerly in a Space Workshop organized by the National Space Academy. The session began with students impressively calculating distances in our Solar System, and culminated in a hydrogen fuelled rocket challenge.

During the two-hour workshop, our budding scientists delved into the intricacies of rockets, asteroids, and meteors. They crafted their own hovercrafts and launched hydrogen rockets, with mini rockets zipping across the classroom. The winning team—Anna, Ruby, Sienna, and Zara—stood out for their technical prowess and collaborative spirit.

The students were excellent representatives of Arden and the community, asking insightful questions that showcased a deep understanding of the subject. Their exceptional enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the workshop was a joy to behold.

This National Space Academy experience not only broadened their horizons but also highlighted the promising future of scientific exploration within our school. As we celebrate their success, we anticipate further accomplishments from our Year 10 Physicists, using their Science learning as a launchpad for curiosity, knowledge, and achievement.

Overheard conversation: "I'm so proud of myself" - "I love space right now" - "Me too, I'm going to be an astronaut"

Psychology Conference

Our psychology students recently had the exceptional opportunity to attend an enriching conference on November 30th, featuring esteemed speakers who delved into various facets of psychology.

The event commenced with an engaging presentation by Dr. Sophia Frangou, exploring the fascinating topic of how the brain undergoes transformative changes throughout development. Her insights provided a comprehensive understanding of the intricate processes that shape cognitive functions from childhood to adulthood. It was also really helpful to revise concepts we have been studying from the biopsychology module, extending our thinking in some areas.

Following this, Dr. Gaia Scerif shared her expertise on cognitive development in children, emphasizing the pivotal role early experiences play in shaping cognitive abilities. Her research shed light on the profound impact these insights can have on fostering healthier development in our youngest minds. This talk gave students the opportunity to broaden their understanding of cognition and development as this is not a topic we currently choose on the current AQA specification.

Blanca Piera Pi-Sunyer, a PhD student from the University of Cambridge, then took the stage to delve into the complexities of social and self-development during adolescence. Her research provided valuable insights into the challenges and triumphs of this critical period in human development. She also gave the students an opportunity to participate in future research, which fits in nicely with the practical lessons we undertake fortnightly.

Additionally, our students gained perspectives from a specialist speech and language therapist, offering practical insights into the intersection of language and psychological well-being. This dynamic field left our students with a deeper appreciation for the role of language in shaping our understanding of the mind.

Closing the conference on a high note, we were honored to have Dr. Arjune Sen, a distinguished consultant epileptologist, share clinical insights into mind-brain health. Dr. Sen's expertise not only provided a bridge between theoretical knowledge and practical applications but also offered a unique perspective on the intersection of psychology and neurological health. His valuable contributions enriched our students' understanding of the real-world implications of their studies in clinical settings.

This conference was a significant enrichment opportunity for our students, allowing them to engage with leading experts and broaden their perspectives in the field of psychology. The conference was pitched at a high level and offered an insight into how psychology is studied and practiced at a University. During the conference they conducted themselves impeccably and asked pertinent questions, demonstrating their maturity and readiness for their next stages.

Economics Professor visit

On Friday 24th November, the Year 13 Economics group had a double lesson provided by Prof Caroline Elliott from Warwick University. The aim of the session was to provide students with a better understanding of what they could potentially learn by studying the subject at university. She gave them a lesson on game theory, looking at how economic agents react and make decisions based upon both their preferred choices and those of others. She explained the theory to the class of Nash equilibria and dominant choices before asking the class to create their own games to test their understanding.

Prof Elliott also provided the Business and Economics department with free Business Review and Economics Review magazines, the latter of which she is a contributory author to.

Harrison Sargeant & Lucas Marcroft (Y13 Economics students) wrote:

Caroline was very clearly an expert in her field, yet her introduction to game theory broke it down into its core concepts and principles so effectively that even non-economic students could comprehend it. Her presentation had a multitude of examples for us to apply our learning and the interactive nature made the lecture even more exciting, particularly the real world application and origins of the game theory. As well, the opportunity to ask questions at the end allowed us to divulge and take further the theory we had been taught.



Year 12 enrichment



Year 12 were offered the opportunity of a 3 week CPR and First Aid course in November. It was offered by friends of the school, Linda and Mark Atherton who are part of the Central Fast Response team.



Staff News

We would like to offer our congratulations to the following staff who have had babies this term.

Mrs Reddish, Miss Ladkin, Miss Berry & Mr Gethins, Mrs Thorne, Mr Horsfield.

Since our last newsletter, the following staff have left Arden: Mr Hayes and Mr Brown (Site Team), Mrs McCrone (PA to Mr Warwood), Mr Lewis (Science), Mrs Whitney & Mr Shepherd (Learning Support), Mr Bookes (IT support).

The end of term also brings about some staff changes as we see some colleagues relocate and move onto new ventures. We are saying goodbye to Miss Thomas, Miss Darcey, Miss Dreznin & Mrs Claymore

We are pleased to be joined in January by Mr Oliver (Deputy Curriculum Leader for History), Mr Luton (History teacher), Ms Herrmann (MFL teacher), Mrs Yeung (Admin team) - welcome to the Arden family!!

Year 7 Study Visit to Normandy

The Languages Department is so excited to be organising the Year 7 Study Visit to Normandy, which will take place 24-28 June 2024. We have been organising study visits to Normandy for a number of decades and we are delighted that this year we have over 250 Year 7 pupils who are going to be taking part. We have established links with a number of French schools, including Miss Le Saint's secondary school, which is near to Le Havre! Miss Le Saint has been in touch with some of her former teachers, who never knew until this year that she has also become a teacher.

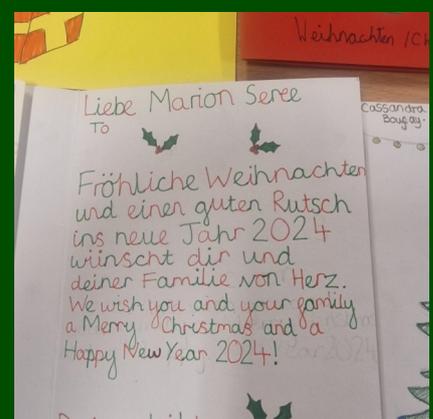
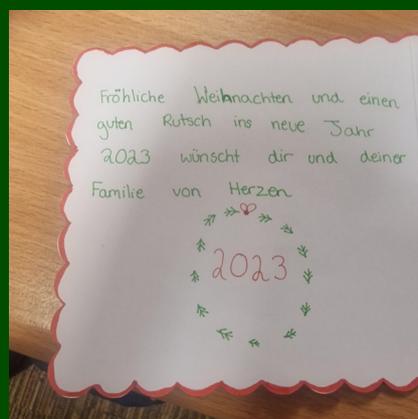
All Year 7 Arden pupils going to Normandy will have a French pen pal and have been creating Christmas cards in French, German, Spanish and English. We have, without doubt, some highly talented, creative linguists in Year 7. We are awaiting New Year cards from the schools in Normandy, which we hope will arrive very soon.

After Christmas we are looking to send some Easter cards to our pen pals in France as well as a letter to describe themselves, including their sports and hobbies in the language which they are studying.

We are so pleased to see the enthusiasm which Year 7s have shown in this project and we are looking forward to strengthening our links with French schools. Vive l'Entente Cordiale!



Mr. Edgington



F1 in schools

We are really excited that Ms Mbofana has brought her knowledge and expertise of the F1 in schools project to Arden. The project started this term with a presentation and then an opportunity to race model cars. The project involves designing, building and racing a model F1 car. Part of the initiative consists of students having to develop strong business links with potential sponsors to help fund their pit displays, outfits and development of their model car. Please get in touch if you are interested in getting involved.



ECO Club

Litter picking:

Eco club have been busy picking up the school's litter on Monday's after school. This is with the simple hope of improving the school environment and making our school a greener place. If anyone would like to join in with an eco-club litter pick then it is open to anyone who would like to help every Monday after school. We also sometimes dress up to make the litter picking even more enjoyable!

Active Travel Ambassadors:

Our Active Travel Ambassadors worked really hard and achieved their Green award last year and are now working towards their next award. This involves creating a campaign in order to promote more active travel to school. This year we have decided to try and grow the park and stride initiative and we are also looking at trying to improve road safety. They will be pitching their campaign at Solihull Council in January in order to try and win £250 which will be used to go towards their campaign.

Eco club meet every Friday lunchtime and everyone welcome to come along and find out more about what we are doing at Arden to tackle climate change! Please feel free to come along at any point!

Miss Blenkinsop



Oxbridge and Medics Group

We are always helped by volunteers and have been especially helped this term!

Our Oxbridge candidates benefited from Mock Interviews from long-ex students who responded to my LinkedIn requests: Madeleine Parkin; Thomas Hornigold and Alex Rennison... all who have very busy jobs of their own but made the time to help our students prepare. We were also lucky to have the support of a parent, Colonel Bowley who conducted a mock Medical interview for Cambridge and also ran an Ethics seminar for students in Years 12 and 13. And last, but not least, our own Miss Page who carved out time from her incredibly busy schedule to help our Chemistry candidate.

More recent ex-students are also fantastic at helping us, most saying that they want to repay the school for the preparation they themselves benefitted from. In the next two weeks we are welcoming Meg Burn (final year) and Mia Evans (first year) to talk to prospective Medics.

And, finally, a thanks to Troy in Year 13 who took a Y12 Medics session for me so I could attend training on changes to Medical interviews.

I genuinely feel that the support we gain truly exemplifies the Arden Family and the strong relationships that exist within the Sixth Form.

Mrs Hodgkinson

Solutions for the Planet

On 16th November 91 pupils across years 8 and 9 took part in a STEM workshop, ran by an external company called Solutions for the Planet. The focus for the day was on learning about a range of ongoing issues across the globe and finding ways to solve a chosen issue.

Pupils started the day by working in their chosen groups, exploring the ongoing issues and identifying the causes and consequences of each issue.

The next stage of the day involved each group discussing a range of issues that they are passionate about and deciding which one issue they are going to move forward with to create a solution to the issue. Working in their groups, pupils then started to come up with their company name and logo along with imaginative and creative ideas to solve the ongoing issue, the solution could be a product, campaign, or service.

At both stages of the day, groups were chosen to present their findings back to the rest of the pupils, which to a hall of 87 other pupils can be quite overwhelming but they all did a fantastic job.

All pupils were amazing throughout the day and it was fantastic to see their passion and dedication to solving a range of issues. Each group tackled their issue in a completely different way and came up with 24 different solutions. They were all a credit to Arden and should be very proud of what they achieved.

Pupils will now attend development sessions to help improve their solutions, ready to be entered into the local stages of a competition in March and hopefully progress further into the competition giving them the opportunity to present at Aston University for the regional stages.



COP28 Climate Conference

This year we had the privilege of attending the next schools climate conference at the Solihull Council Chambers. This year we represented three countries which were all very different in terms of their climate views. We had Bangladesh, South Africa and we were also the hosting nation of the United Arab Emirates, some tough questions were fired in the direction of the UAE team but Alexander Reid (Year 7) always had a firm answer to help his country stand their ground. It was an excellent event and the students that attended should be really proud of the hard work that they put in to preparing their opening statements and for answering difficult questions from other countries. Well done to team Bangladesh: Dominic Penfold, Zak Spittle and Alfie Williamson, Team UAE: Emre Hodgetts, Ava Ho and Samuel Blackburn, Team South Africa: George Burns, Lola Barker, Pearl Barker and Rohan Sethi.



Karl Nova Inspires Year 7 Students at Arden Academy

Renowned hip-hop artist Karl Nova recently collaborated with Year 7 students at Arden Academy alongside students from neighbouring schools in the region. The workshop focused on R-A-P: Rhythm and Poetry, aiming to unlock creativity and confidence in English.

Karl Nova's hands-on session delved into the art of hip-hop, guiding students to craft rap poetry, focusing on their own lives. Karl explored a variety of poetry styles, from haiku to acrostic, and encouraged a range of poetic skills from alliteration to hyperbole. Alongside the literary skills he was teaching, Karl used his humour and personality to engage students and make every individual in the room feel appreciated and heard.



The day concluded with students gaining tangible poetry skills and a newfound confidence in creative expression.

Haunted Birmingham

Arden students were invited to enter the National Literacy Trust's Haunted Birmingham writing competition in response to a 2022 article in the [London Review of Books](#) which described Birmingham as, "a place without mythology or ghosts".

Lily Peacock (Y7), Jacob Turnbull (Y7), Pearl Barker (Y8), Emre Hodgetts (Y8), Izzy May (Y13) and Meg Kerrigan-Saunders (Y13) each wrote a spooky story set in Birmingham and were invited to a celebration event at the Library of Birmingham on Saturday 9th December. Emre has written an article about his experience of the day:



My experience at the Haunted Birmingham competition was absolutely amazing!

I had first entered the competition with my limited horror short story (1000 words max) which was soon submitted along with many other students all across Birmingham, this was a special opportunity to recognise all the people across many ages with their talent in story writing.

During the event, a panel of four judges had a very intriguing conversation on why spooky stories are fantastic and benefit yourself which I found very interesting. However we also had the opportunity afterward to read our stories out loud to either everyone or in small groups. I found this very exciting as people with not that much confidence could still read their story and feel proud for what they had done. The night ended with everyone being able to take at least one book home for free as a reward for our hard work and effort towards this fabulous event. Overall this was something I would do again without a doubt!

Thank you, Miss O'Brien for this wonderful experience!

You can read all the stories on the interactive Haunted Birmingham Map:

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/communities/birmingham/the-haunted-birmingham-map/>

A Literary Windfall for Arden Academy's Library

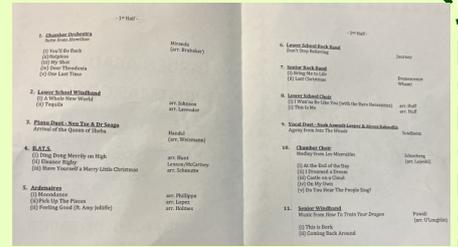
Arden Academy's librarian, Miss O'Brien was successful in winning a £100 voucher for non-fiction books from What On Earth! books. The £100 was then offered to the student librarians who faced the delightful challenge of choosing the new additions for the library.

Excitement reached its peak when the anticipated day arrived for the unboxing of the chosen titles. The crowning jewel was the signed encyclopaedia by author and historian, Christopher Lloyd. The students were over the moon to have such a prestigious addition to Arden library's shelves.



Christmas Concert

It was a joy to spend an evening surrounded by musical brilliance at the annual Christmas Concert. The talent and enthusiasm on display was fantastic and all the students involved should feel very proud of their contributions. Massive thanks to Dr Seago, Miss Butler, Mr Hodgetts and Mrs Hale for their contributions.



Christmas Church visit



Every year group visited the beautiful Knowle Parish Church in the lead up to the holidays. This is an important part of our community involvement as we walked down to the church through Knowle to have a period of reflection in our local church. The time was spent listening to the amazing BATS choir, some Christmas poems and readings, a festive message from KPC and an important message from Mr Warwood / Miss Page about being mindful of others at this time of year and the struggles they may be going through. It was lovely to be a part of this and we are grateful to those that made it happen.

National General Knowledge Quiz

Arden students showcased their passion for learning and collaboration as they participated in the national What On Earth! Quiz. Eager to put their knowledge to the test, Alexander Reid (Y7), Dylan O'Donnell (Y9), Izzy Mills (Y9) and Anna Humphreys (Y9) dove into the competition, armed with research from six issues of the "What on Earth!" magazines, spanning various topics from the realms of science, history, geography, and more.

The strength of the Arden team lay not only in their individual knowledge but also in their ability to work collaboratively. The shared enthusiasm for learning and the mutual support among team members created a dynamic environment.



We were hopeful for a win and the team's answers were strong, but unfortunately their time-keeping fell short and in the final moments of the competition, the pressure of the ticking timer proved to be a formidable challenge. Despite their best efforts, they missed the deadline to submit their final answers and consequently missed out on the opportunity to progress to the national final.

While the disappointment of falling short in the final round may linger momentarily, the Arden students remain resilient and optimistic. With a wealth of experience gained from the Britannica Quiz, they view this setback as a valuable learning opportunity. The team is already gearing up for future challenges, vowing to hone their time-keeping skills and strategize more effectively in future quizzes.

PTFA Update

It's been a busy start to the year for the PTFA, with our Fireworks Festival and Christmas Ball both taking place in this term. As always, the support from everyone both in and outside school is phenomenal and has meant we've raised almost £15,000 from both events!

Our Pre-Loved uniform sale is ongoing via our dedicated Facebook page. This has been running for just over 2 years and to date we've raised over £3500. If you have contributions, they can be left at the school reception and if you're interested in buying anything, please do check out the **Arden PTFA Pre-loved Uniform** Facebook page.

When you're making purchases online, an easy way to support the school is via Easyfundraising - most retailers are included and it won't cost you any more for your shop but does mean that when you make a purchase, a contribution is made to Arden PTFA. <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> to sign up or login.

The Big Cash Draw is another way to support fundraising. It costs £12 annually and means you are in with a chance to win either £50 on a monthly basis or £200 in each end of term draw. It's easy to enter - simply via ParentPay - and the draws are made at our committee meetings.

Committee meetings are held monthly on a Monday at 7.30pm at school. Dates are already published for 2024, and everyone is welcome, so why not come along and find out what we're all about. There is always a member of the SLT who can update on the latest happenings in school and as well as organising our fantastic fundraising events, we also hear bids directly from staff. These bids and their success determine how we distribute the money we raise. This school year already we have distributed over £14,000 in bids to a variety of departments including PE, Maths, DT, Science, Arden Futures, Photography, Up Learn resources for a variety of A-Level subjects in addition to new table tennis tables for use by the whole school. We also fund one of the minibus leases annually at a cost of c. £7000.

This is all just a taster of what we do but hopefully it's provided some insight and more importantly, why, given the range of support that we directly fund to the school. It's more important than ever that we get new volunteers joining in - you can commit as much or as little as your time allows. So please do consider getting involved if you can, and if not, please do support by attending future events!

If you are keen to get involved or would like to know more, please email PTFAChair@arden.solihull.sch.uk

Julie Sutton, Arden PTFA Chair



International partnership

Mr Dhaliwal has started a very exciting international partnership with a school in Japan. The school is Sanyo Academy Junior Senior High School. It is located in the city of Okayama.

There are 5 sixth formers who are helping out with leading some of the activities and 25 students in year 11 who have been recruited, and they have completed their first activity which was an 'about me' page which they will send to their partnered student in Sanyo Academy.

We look forward to seeing this partnership develop.

Women in Sport Conference

Arden was pleased to take part in a cross-trust Women in Sport conference. Miss Rowley took a large number of up and coming sports women from Arden who joined with students from Park Hall, Lode Heath and Henley-in-Arden to debate the issues facing women in sport today.



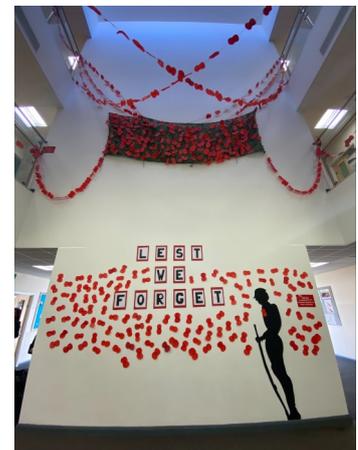
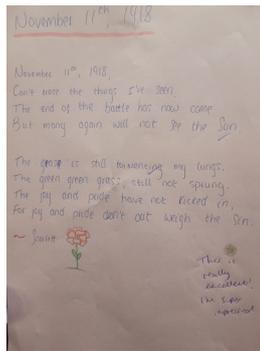
Arden Remembers

The whole school paused for a period of remembrance at 11.00am on 11th November.

There was a poignant ceremony on the front lawn with Mr Warwood saying a few words, a wreath being laid and an extremely moving observance of the Last Post, played by Miss Butler. The whole ceremony was streamed into every classroom, so the whole school could join in this important event in our calendar.

Students were also encouraged to spend some time in remembrance in English lessons, with a few examples from Miss Riley's and Mr Lenton's classes included here.

We shall remember them...



Futures

During Futures CPD our year 7's have each created their own tree on their worries, community and dreams.

Each year has had Futures CPD relevant to their year group. With the important decisions Year 9 and Year 11 are about to make about their next steps, this part of our curriculum is vital. Thanks to Mr Carbery and Mrs Butcher-Johns for the excellent ongoing work.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Once again, Mrs Foulkes and her team have enabled the following students to achieve their BRONZE Award since Summer 2023:

William	Adams	
Megan	Adams	S
Daniel	Baker	S
Amy	Banting	
Lola	Barker	S
Callum	Boyle	
George	Burns	S
Hugo	Capelin	
Max	Carman	
Jemima	Chapman	
Daniel	Chapman	
Amaan	Dass	
Ruby	Dempsey	V
Millie	Desai	V
Mae	D'Onofrio	V
William	Dowding	
Natasha	Edelsten	
Skyla	Edwards	
Joshua	Evans	
Imogen	Evans	V
William	Filor	
Thomas	Fitzgerald	
Marissa	Flannery	V
Kara	Furlong	S
Euan	George	
Benjamin	Griffin	S
Charlotte	Hall	S
Lottie	Harden	V
Sophie	Harris	S
Avani	Hayer	V
Jack	Hewitson	
Dylan	Hughes	
Isobel	Hulme	S
Emily	Hulse	
Iana	Ineshina	V
Cleo	Kakoullis	S
Lachlan	Kilduff	
Annabelle	Lavender	V
Caden	Law	S
Zoe	Lewsey	S
Nathaniel	Lewthwaite	V
Holliana	McCann	V
Hannah	McDermott	V
Evie	McGoldrick	V
Euan	Millington	S
Edward	Montali	V
Guy	Mullins	V
Amy	Nicholas	
Erin	O'Sullivan	V
Maya	Panchal	V
Aimee	Parsons	
Alasdair	Pirie	S
Ludi	Poniewierski	
James	Price	V
Anna	Quantrill	V
Tabitha	Qureshi	V
Simran	Rai	S
Olivia	Readman	S
Joe	Reed	
Evelyn	Richards	S
Maya	Sinha	V
Laaiba	Siraj	V
Harvey	Smith	S
Katherine	Smith	V
Emily	Spencer	V
Connie	Stott	V
Tilly	Stuchfield	
Lauren	Tait	S
Lily	Tait	V
Alexandria	Turner	V
Joseph	Wakeman	S
Imogen	Ward	V
Max	Warrender	V
Molly	Weaver	
Josie	Webb	V
Alfie	Whatmore-Underwood	
Harrison	Wibberley	V
Joseph	Wilson	V
Emma	Woods	V
Edward	Wright	S

The following have achieved their SILVER award

Thomas	Adams	G
Matthew	Bate	G
William	Brown	
Jonnie	Carter	G
Finn	Clarke	G
Martha	Cornforth	
Luke	Gale	
Amy	Garside	G
Freddie	Gaskin	
Daniel	Grist	
Laura	Hampson	G
Carrick	Hayre	G
Victoria	Henderson	
Benjamin	Hocombe	G
Jasmine	Hu	
Lawrie	Humby	
Joel	Hurd	V
Will	Johnson	G
Matilda	Landon	V
Joshua	Lerat	G
Jessica	Moxley	G
Kyle	Patel	
Annie	Poole-Rich	
Megan	Roberts	
Bethan	Sibbing	
Grace	Smith	
Saoirse	Smith	
Jessica	Smith	
Lucy	Stuchfield	G
Lauren	Tait	V
Nathan	Tsang	V
Harriet	Walker	
Marion	Walsh	
Henry	Whitehill	
Jack	Yorke	

Finally huge congratulations to these students who completed their GOLD awards and will receive an invitation to a Gold Award Presentation at the Palace:

Rachel	Batchelor	
Thomas	Batchelor	V
Cameron	Bradshaw	
Edward	Cyprus	
Olivia	Eva	
Tessa	Franks	
Isobel	Harris	
Robyn	Hughes	
Deeksha	Anand	
Francesca	Rollason	
Charlotte	Whitehill	

G = Students working towards Gold Award (students need to be over 16 years old to start their Gold Award).

Mrs Foulkes—recognised by the Duke!

The Duke of Edinburgh Award takes a huge amount of coordination, planning and administration. To ensure all the many students have all of their achievements recognized and verified is a massive undertaking. Mrs Foulkes has been doing this job for quite a while now and probably deserves her own award—which she got! She was recognised by the award coordinators for her long service and was presented with the award by Mr Warwood. We, and the hundreds of students that have successfully completed the awards because of Mrs Foulkes, are extremely grateful.



V = Awards awaiting Verification.

S = Students working towards Silver Award

Sports News

Girls football

We have been thrilled with the uptake for the girls football club, since Mr Ambris took this on in September. There have been over 70 girls (too many to individually mention), from all year groups, that have trained and represented the school in fixtures and tournaments against other schools. This is such a vital part of our co-curricular provision and we are delighted that so many want to be involved—well done girls.

Boys Football

The boys remain committed to their football, with all year groups being represented. Special mention goes to Dr Cannadine, who gives up a lot of time to coach the Year 8s. He has written the following summary of the season so far:

The year 8 football team have continued where they left off and had a positive season to date. They reached the last 32 of the National Cup and are through to the semi finals of the Solihull Cup (current holders). They are also in the last 8 of the West Midlands Cup too (which they also won last season!). They have won 7 out of 8 games so far this season. New players have been brought in too. The B team have also been in action winning 6-4 at home to St Peters. The wet weather has affected some matches but let's hope the games get played and they keep on winning.

Dr Cannadine

Table tennis

The 2 table tennis teams from Arden had a very productive u16 Solihull championships at host school Tudor Grange. Both teams had qualified for the semi-finals after the A team won their group convincingly and the B team squeaked through. The 12 teams competing had been reduced to a final 4 and even though Zane, Shabar, George and Dan played well they lost their semi-final 4-0 and finished in 4th place.

The A team had a much closer semi-final with a year 11 TG team who were the reigning champions. Rody won, as did Hailey to make it 2-0 to Arden in the opening matches but unfortunately Keane and Dawud were just beaten to make it 2-2 and a tie. The countback score for all points won was also 51-51 so scores were dead level. A play off was needed. Rody had to play their best player in a tie break and he duly won this to send the team to the final against Alderbrook.

The final also ended 2-2 but on countback Arden were victorious once again (51-40) and crowned u16 Solihull champions, with a young year 9 team which was very impressive for the players involved. Several y11 players were unable to play due to the on-going mocks.



It is also a massive well done to the u13 table tennis squad (2 x teams of 4) who went to John Henry Newman School and played very well in the u13 Solihull championships. The 'A' team managed to win their group then beat Grace Academy in the semi-final before playing the old foe Tudor Grange in the final. Arden had to settle for a runners-up spot this time but seemed happy enough as TG have several county and international players whilst we have just one (Hazel Lam in y7 who played superbly, only losing one match in the final).

Meanwhile Arden won the 'B' team competition after some fine individual performances from all the team. There were 8 different schools participating in the whole event and it was a decent standard. All of our players regularly attend the club on a Wednesday and are all improving still. Table tennis club happens on Wednesdays after school in the dance studio. All welcome.

Dr Cannadine



It is not always possible to include the details of every sporting fixture which takes place in school in the newsletter. May we take this opportunity to thank parents / guardians for supporting our co-curricular sports offer.

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

Sports News

Year 7 Dodgeball

On Monday the 27th November a fabulous dodgeball team of Year 7 students attended the first round of a Solihull dodgeball competition at Lode Heath School. During this tournament the students not only played some fantastic dodgeball but they also demonstrated the School Games values of respect, teamwork and honesty. This meant that they were incredibly successful at this event and they came second out of 10 schools! This result meant that they were awarded with a medal and also proceeded through to the next round. This took place on Monday 4th December at North Solihull Sports Centre and there were 15 other schools in attendance. It was a fantastic event and the Year 7 Arden team should be really proud of how they played and what they achieved. Well done to the following pupils for their excellent dodgeball skills and for displaying the School Games values.



The team was: Brogan Young , Carys Lorne , Zara Kaval , Lilly Sesay, Jacob Turnbull, Isaac Large, Luke Hyland, Rosie Reed, Daisy Keep.

House Badminton

There was a great turnout for our House Badminton tournament at the end of term. It was a great success as we had 28 pairs this year with each pair being a mixed pair of staff and Y11 student.

We had group stages followed by quarter finals, semi-finals and then a final which ended up being between Mr Masson and Beatrice McCorry and Miss Mason and Matthew Bowley. The eventual winner after an 11 point thriller of a final was Mr Masson and Beatrice McCorry! Well done to our worthy winners, but also well done to all of our pairings who took part during the whole competition!

We encouraged Christmas dress and there was a clear winner. Dan Grist and Miss Brownell really went above and beyond.

Special mention to Miss Blenkinsop who organised this awesome event.



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Students' achievements

Scout Jamboree

On the 29th of July 2023, we embarked on an adventure of a lifetime. After 18 months of hard work fundraising, we were finally about to fly out to South Korea, representing Solihull and Coventry, for the 25th World Scout Jamboree. After a few days in Seoul, it was time to travel down to Saemanguem. The heat was immense. We were welcomed with a spectacular opening ceremony, which was attended by 50,000 scouts from 158 different countries, Bear Grylls, and even the South Korean president Yoon Suk Yeol.

Unfortunately, our adventure on the Jamboree site was not what we expected. The sanitation was poor, and the heat was scorching. We had also been told that Typhoon Khanun was on its way, heading straight for the Jamboree site. It was not safe for us to stay. After 3 out of 12 nights on site, the entire UK contingent had to leave. The next day 4000 UK scouts were relocated back up to Seoul where we would spend the rest of our Jamboree journey.

Despite all of this, we still enjoyed every moment of our adventure embracing Korean culture, visiting the DMZ, and much more. After 21 long, but incredible, days, we arrived back in the UK. I think it's safe to say that we would both do it again 100 times over again if we could.

Daisy Burton and Zak Wilson



Mayor's Sea Scout Award

Amy Joliffe is part of the Fourth Knowle Explorers and proudly received the Mayor's Sea Scout Award for 2023/24, presented by The Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Diana Holl-Allen MBE, accompanied by Mayors Consort, Mr John H Courtenay MIM C. Eng, (BSc Hons).



Future Lioness?

It was great to hear about Katie Scott, who captained the England U15s in a tournament at St Georges Park—keep roaring Katie!!



King's Coronation Medal

We were delighted to hear about Anton Rozhin, who is going to be awarded the King's Coronation Medal in recognition of his involvement in the coronation parade and celebrations.

Water Polo

Finlay Sutherland went to Hungary to the Egri Vizilabda Klub for half term week with the Solihull Water Polo Team. They were given the amazing opportunity to train with the Hungarian teams.



Future Olympian?

Ben Watson was asked to represent the Midlands in Pentathlon at the English Schools Finals, contributing to an overall 4th place for the team, gaining 2 PB's in 800m and hurdles along the way—well done Ben!



Please continue to contact us with details of achievements students make outside of school, we love to hear about them and feature them in our newsletter.

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