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Charitable Giving

Our non-uniform day in March raised £1580.13 which was donated to Papyrus and Acorns, following a student vote.

Thank you for your generosity.

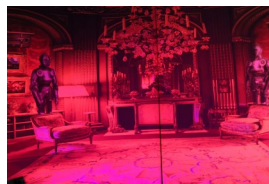
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ISSUE 46

SUMMER TERM 2024

Mr Warwood's reflections

As you will see from this newsletter the summer term has been action packed and exceptionally rewarding. The school production showcased beautifully the beating heart of Arden and encapsulated so much of what is special about our school. The huge cast that



took part accompanied by exceptional musicians and a dedicated tech crew spanned all years from Year 7 to Year 13, working together with their teachers to create something quite incredible.



This week's sports day was another tremendous event, the atmosphere of celebration and enjoyment was a delight to see with each student applauded and encouraged in every part of the afternoon.

I very much hope that you enjoy in this newsletter the huge breadth of success and achievements of our students this summer. Mr Warwood, Associate Headteacher

Year 9 charity bike ride

On 25th June 2024, 18 year 9 students rode 100km to raise money for Parkinson's UK. We cycled from Arden to Stratford-upon-Avon and back.

First we had to complete a 27 mile ride to Kenilworth and back. We had meetings to attend beforehand where we learnt how to cycle safely and communicate in a group. 18 of us were successful and were chosen for the charity ride.

We got to nominate then vote for which charity we wanted to raise money for. We chose Parkinson's UK because some of us have family members who have been affected by this terrible disease.

After a 47 mile hilly training ride to Wootton Wawen and back, we were ready for the main challenge!

The day before the ride Mr Singh moved the start time an hour earlier to 7am because it was going to be a very hot day! We set off with lots of confidence and had our first stop at the Hatton Arms. On our way towards Wellesbourne Airfield, first Joe lost a pedal then Jamie went the wrong way! Once we were all back together, we went on to Stratford-upon-Avon where we had lunch. It was very hot on the way back to Arden but we all completed the ride. Our friends and families were at the finish line to cheer us on.



In total we raised over £8,000 for Parkinson's UK between the 18 of us and we did so with the support and love of our almost 400 supporters. On our rides we had help from Mrs Hampson, Mr Mitchell and Mr Dorney who drove a support vehicle. A big thanks to all the teachers who helped marshal the rides: Mr Singh, Mrs Hyde, Mr Ali, Mr Cole, Miss Mason, Miss Rowley, Mr Fletcher, Mr Dhaliwal, Mr Humphries and Mr Goldenfeld.

The cyclists who completed the ride and raised a fantastic total for Parkinson's UK are:

Rhys Ram, George Fitzgerald, Olivia Smith, Olly Gale, Max Ward, Oscar Mason, Jack Flannery, Jamie Godfrey, Joe Fox, Daniel Brennan, Amit Senthilkumar, John Mitchell, Neil Hampson, Will Dorney, Harry Justice, Jino Cheung, Edward Mace and Crystalle Jardine.



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



Staff News

At the end of this academic year we are saying goodbye and good luck to the following colleagues:

Miss Campbell – Teacher of Science
Mr Carbery – Teacher of Maths
Miss Eales – Teacher of Geography
Miss Guest – Teacher of DT
Mrs Hinks – LSA
Miss Hyett – Teacher of Hair
Mr Mason – Head of Business & Economics
Mrs Steele – ASD Specialist Advisor
Ms Wade – Teacher of MFL
Mrs Walsh – Teacher of MFL

We are delighted to be joined in September by:

Mr Brocklebank – Deputy Curriculum Leader for Science
Mr Davis – Teacher of DT, Catering & Hospitality
Miss Heslop – Teacher of DT, Food & Nutrition
Mr James – Teacher of Maths
Miss Peters – Teacher of Geography
Mrs Smallwood – Teacher of Science
Miss Vincent – Head of Geography

Student Positions of Responsibility

It is with great pleasure that we announce our new student positions of responsibility.

Senior pupils: Lola Barker (head girl), Cleo Kakoullis, Tabitha-Belle Qureshi, Evie Richards, George Burns (head boy), Will Irvine, Caden Law and Teddy Wright.

School council chairs: Aleena Dharamshi and Zak Wilson

Leadership team: Carter Adey, Daniel Baker, Anniyah Hussain, Zoe Lewsey, Ella Perry, Rohan Sethi, Max Warrender, and Josie Webb.



We received a great selection of written applications from year 10 which then led into a group presentation task and then an interview with staff to make the final selection. All applicants were fantastic and some tough decisions had to be made!

The senior pupils will be the representatives of the school over the next year. They have already taken part in a cross trust student conference, presenting on stretch and challenge in the classroom. They were also seen on the catwalk in the Arden Fashion Show for the parents of the new year 7s.

The school council chairs will lead the school council, chairing the meetings with representatives from each year group and working with staff.

The leadership team will work on projects throughout the year, with the first one being leading assemblies to all year groups on the role of democracy in the run up to the General Election.

The year 10's join our year 12 students in making up the student leadership structure at Arden. The year 12 students were elected earlier this term: Jonnie Carter, Nel Connors, James Downson, Carrick Hayre, Amy Jolliffe, Abby Martin, Shaan Purewal, Sophie Rafferty, Nishwan Rega, Rosie Robinson and Ry Taylor. The sixth form team have been driving uplearn in the sixth form and leading assemblies on relevant issues.

We look forward to sharing updates as the teams progress throughout the next school year!

Arden General Election

We feel it is important for the student's to learn what it is like to be a British citizen, so try to take advantage of national events. The recent General Election was an opportunity to learn about democracy and being part of the voting process. We set up a mock polling station and asked students to vote for one of four of the main parties that had existing MPs.

The results were: Conservative Party – 17%, Green Party – 23%, Labour Party – 50%, Liberal Democrat Party – 11%




Maths Challenge

During the school year we have had over 500 students participate in the maths challenge from year 7 all the way through to year 13! The maths challenge is a selection of puzzles designed to make you think about maths you have learned in the classroom and apply it to solve problems – all without a calculator! (Think the 1% club on TV!)

There are many students who excelled in this challenge with 23 students earning a gold certificate for their efforts!

Each year group had students that excelled in the maths challenge and went on to qualifying rounds. These are Noah O'Donnell, Daniel Swann, Veronica Chung, Ted Montali, Caden Law, Harry Justice, Josh Gardner, William Wu, Karson Law, Toby Bowden, Sebastian Lewthwaite, James White, Owen Hulme, Maddie Eales and Isaac Lee.

Enjoy a sample from each of the papers!

<p>Senior challenge (year 12 and 13)</p>	<p>How many lines of three adjacent cells can be chosen from this grid, horizontally, vertically or diagonally, such that the sum of the numbers in the three cells is a multiple of three?</p> <p>A 30 B 24 C 18 D 12 E 6</p>	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1	2	3	4															
5	6	7	8															
9	10	11	12															
13	14	15	16															
<p>Intermediate challenge (year 9 and 10)</p>	<p>The 'Penny's Puddings' company uses one tonne of rice to make twenty-five thousand cans of rice pudding. Each tonne of rice contains approximately fifty million grains of rice. Approximately how many grains of rice are there in a can of Penny's rice pudding?</p> <p>A 200 B 2000 C 5000 D 50000 E 125000</p>																	
<p>Junior challenge (year 7 and 8)</p>	<p>The diagram shows a large square which has been divided into four smaller squares. It also shows both diagonals of the large square and two diagonals of smaller squares. What fraction of the area of the large square has been shaded?</p> <p>A $\frac{3}{16}$ B $\frac{1}{4}$ C $\frac{5}{16}$ D $\frac{3}{8}$ E $\frac{7}{16}$</p>																	

Textile Club

Textile club members have worked with different surface decoration and techniques this year and also managed to include a recycled Christmas task.

The year started with button pictures, using buttons to create a picture or design.

Christmas rapidly approached and Christmas gonks were a favourite. This task had to use a no longer needed sock and small pieces of fabric from the recycling fabric bin, not to mention the odd sparkle or two. The New Year and a new challenge, the PTFA had kindly donated a screen printing kit, inks and fabric, which meant textile members could have a go at screen printing designs. Simple designs with added surface decoration created amazing pieces.



Beneath the sea was the theme, two different turtle screen were set up with another screen to add extra decoration once the first print was complete. Surface decorations were added once the prints were complete.



Final part of the year focused on embroidery. Repair embroidery (visible mending) was chosen and a variety of designs were completed, using different embroidery stitches, surface decoration and a few sequins. A great skill to learn if you want to repair a hole in your favourite pair of jeans.



Textile Club runs from October to June in AR1 with Mrs Miners and Miss Durling



ECO Club



Eco Club launched their Park & Stride competition to encourage active travel to school. The competition, which took place over a 2 week period, promoted walking, cycling and the use of drop off zones. The campaign has been painstakingly strategised over many Friday lunch times, and uses funding won from Solihull Council. We hope to see a reduction in congestion and pollution around the school, and students feeling the benefit of active travel.

Congratulation to the winners of the Park & Stride competition:

Dominic Penfold - 1st Place, wins a Fitbit
Brogan Carter - 2nd Place, wins a £10 Amazon Voucher
Tom Beck - 3rd Place, wins a £10 Amazon Voucher

Personal Development enrichment

Between Wednesday 26th and Friday 28th June we held our Personal Development Three Days (PD3D).

On the first day students did a carousel of five sessions, which each session looking at a different step to wellbeing. Research suggests that if we focus on these five steps it can enhance our feelings of wellness. The five steps are Keep Learning; Give; Take Notice; Be Active and Connect. Each of the sessions were planned by teachers who put their individual take on the step into the planning of the session.

Some examples of the sessions are:

Students in one of the *Connect* sessions with Mr Horsfield reflected on their personal connections, and created artwork to represent the special connections in their lives, examples are seen in this photo.



Students in 9D had the opportunity to visit Knowle Primary Academy with Miss Endley as part of a connect session. The visit fostered meaningful interactions and promoted a sense of community and connection. They enjoyed reading to the Year 1 students, sharing stories and sparking imaginations.

Some students in a Year 7 Give session really enjoyed writing letters to local care home residents which were delivered to them by Miss Ilyas.

The second day was a competition day with sports competition and our own Arden version of Taskmaster.

The trips to Alton Towers and Star City on the Friday were a huge success.

We are appreciative to all staff for the efforts that were put into these few days of enriching activities.

Duke of Edinburgh Award programme

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants at Arden together logged a total of over 4000 hours of volunteering between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024. This is equivalent to a social value of £21140 and has directly benefitted the community in and around Arden Academy. Some students volunteer in school helping with extra-curricular clubs and many more volunteer in the wider community with sports clubs; food banks; litter picking; charity shops etc. We hope this contributes to a lifelong willingness to give up some time for others.



Bear Grylls reward trip

Following a successful mentoring programme in Year 11, the following students were rewarded with a trip to the Bear Grylls Adventure Centre in Resorts World:

Team Horsfield (Ana Shepherd Elis, Yusuf Ahmed and Harry Mitchell) and Team Davies (Mia Hodgetts, Jessica Carter and Matilda Lucas)



ARDEN FUTURES

Work Experience

We are thrilled to share the success of this year's work experience program under Arden Futures! With over 270 students participating, our young learners had the opportunity to explore various professions across the West Midlands, gaining firsthand experience in a range of industries.

From technology firms to creative agencies, our students were immersed in real-world environments, learning valuable skills and understanding the demands of different career paths. The employer feedback has been outstanding, with many praising our students for their enthusiasm, professionalism, and eagerness to contribute. One company representative noted, "The Arden students were a breath of fresh air – their dedication and curiosity were truly impressive."

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the numerous businesses that welcomed our students in and gave them a week to remember.



Engineering Morning

We recently hosted a highly successful Engineering morning, offering our students unique opportunities to engage with leading companies in the engineering sector through interactive workshops. Additionally, past student Lucas Laurie delivered an inspiring engineering assembly to Year 7.

Students participated in workshops, guided by representatives from four renowned companies:



Siemens: A global technology company focusing on industry, infrastructure, transport, and healthcare.

KUKA: Leading suppliers of intelligent robotics and systems engineering.

Ingu: Manufacturers of energy chains®, flexible chainflex® cables, and harnessed readychain systems.

Marvellous Manufacturing: Collaborators with UK manufacturers to link education with industry.



The hands-on workshops enabled students to engage in real-world engineering projects, with highlights including KUKA's virtual reality engineering experience, Ingu's robot demonstrations, and Marvellous Manufacturing's creative recycling solutions.



Celebration Event

Early this month, we held our yearly Network Arden - Celebration Event. Guests heard some of our students talk about our career programme's impact on them this year, including work experience, employer talks, assemblies, and more. Followed by our two impassioned guest speakers. Kim Hulse, discussed how partnerships between employers and education can benefit both, finishing with an incredible advert created by two of our students on work experience. Prof. Petro Nicolaides talked about his role as a school governor and the importance of careers leading in school systems to help prepare our students.

The event also saw awards handed out to some of the school's programme's most supportive advocates by the borough's mayor, Shahin Ashraf. The winners were:

- Work Experience Provider Award – Studio Forty Six
- Mentorship Award: Amanda Crane
- Employer Engagement Award: Eric Lyons LTD
- Inspiration Award: Solihull CEP
- Future Friday Award: Darryl Eales from Solihull Moors Football Club
- Education Provider Award: Yvette Taylor from Solihull College & University Centre



Fittingly, we also took this opportunity to celebrate and thank our Career Lead, Paul Carbery, who is moving on to new opportunities within the Careers Education landscape.

Art Department

BCU Fashion Photography Collaboration

Our Year 12 and 13 Photography and Fashion students, along with a select few Year 10 Photography Club students collaborated with BCU Masters-Level Fashion students and BA Photography students to document their final projects. Our students were credited in the BCU exhibition and 4 students won prizes for their contributions!



Creative Careers Exhibition

14 of our A-Level students visited an exhibition at the Core Gallery run by Solihull CEP, curated with the help of 6 of our own students. They sat in on panels with a dozen professionals in each area of visual arts, performing arts, TV and film and gained some valuable insights. There was also opportunities for work experience placements introduced in this session. A few of our students have since been through the interview process and have secured some amazing placements for the summer!

Royal Academy Online Exhibition

A large number of our Y10-13 Art students submitted work to the Royal Academy for the chance to be featured in their Young Artists Summer Show. This is a highly competitive exhibition with thousands of entrants all over the country. One of our Y13 students, Adam Batts, was selected to showcase his work in their online exhibition which opens on 16th July on the Royal Academy website. Well done Adam!



Life Drawing Club

The Year 7s have been working hard on their teacher portraits in life drawing club this term- hopefully the teachers are pleased with their likeness!

Rotary Club Competition

A number of our students entered the Rotary Club art competition, creating pieces to suit the theme of 'Rebuilding'. Sofie Leung in Y7 won her age category, and Beth Bates-Gamble came second in her age category. Both were invited to meet the mayor to receive their prizes. Well done girls!



Year 8 Superhero Characters
Year 8 have been working hard on their superhero figures- they look great!



Year 12 London Trip

Year 12 Art and Photography went to London for a day of culture looking around galleries and participating in workshops aimed at developing their own project ideas.

National Reading Champions

On Friday 22nd March, Arden's avid bibliophiles competed in the National Reading Champions cross-regional heat.

The Year 7 team comprised of Alex Reid, Evelyn Butcher, Eva Movassaghi, and Oliver Pirie (and reserve Rosie Reed) and the Year 8 team consisted of Ava Hinde, Billy Kirkbride, Charlotte Howden and Pearl Barker.

As the cross-regional heat unfolded, Arden's teams faced off against 26 formidable opponents from across the country, answering a variety of questions from literary brain teasers to questions about book blurbs, bestsellers and Children's Laureates. In the end, despite their valiant efforts, the Year 7 team secured a respectable 4th place finish and the Year 8 team finished in 14th place.

Both teams competed brilliantly and their dedication to reading gave them an opportunity to compete in the 'sport of reading' and have fun with friends.

Miss O'Brien

AIM High Days: Boosting English Excellence

Welcome to our exploration of AIM High Days, an innovative program dedicated to fostering academic excellence in English among promising students. These articles highlight how targeted guidance can inspire learning and enhance academic performance.

Footballer Turned Author Seth Burkett Inspires Arden's Year 7s

Arden was thrilled to welcome former professional footballer turned author, Seth Burkett, to our school for an enriching educational experience with our Year 7 students. Seth joined forces with students from various schools across the region to delve into the world of biography writing.

The day 'kicked off' with workshops where Seth shared his experiences and writing tips. Our students heard firsthand how he transitioned from footballer to author, giving them a unique insight into the art of storytelling.

The highlight was definitely the kick-about on Arden's field. Seth played a friendly game of football with our Year 7s, teaching them some unique skills. The students loved having a chance to chat with him casually, sharing stories and enjoying the game.

As the day wrapped up, it was clear that Seth Burkett's visit left a big impact. Our Year 7 students walked away inspired and excited about writing their own stories. A huge thank you to Seth for spending time with us and for sparking a new passion in our young writers.



AIM High Day: Poetry and Performance with Kimba



Four Year 7 students were invited to an AIM High Day with poet and performer, Kimba. The day focused on developing poetry techniques and building confidence.

Kimba's workshop guided the students through various aspects of poetry using the 'SHAMPOO' technique. Students were encouraged to write a poem on a topic they are passionate about and were offered professional, constructive feedback from Kimba.

The highlight of the day was the performance segment, where students delivered their poems with confidence. Thank you, Kimba!

Exciting Author Visits Spark Creativity in Our Students

Our school recently had the pleasure of hosting two incredible author visits that left our students inspired and eager to create. Authors Liz Kessler and Bryony Pearce engaged and motivated our students through a series of workshops and assemblies.

Liz Kessler kicked off the excitement with a Q&A session for the FCBG Children's Book Award group and a writing workshop for Year 7 students where students were allowed to explore their creativity and develop their storytelling skills.

Bryony Pearce's visit was a special honour as Bryony visited us on the launch day of her new book, *Hannah Messenger and the Gods of Hockwold*. Bryony delivered a year group assembly, complete with a giveaway of pencils for positive participation, around the book, followed by a mythology-themed writing workshop for Year 7. Bryony also delivered a Year 8 horror writing workshop where students worked on using real life events to add a sincere message behind their creativity.

These back-to-back author visits provided our students with invaluable experiences, sparking their passion for reading, writing, and performing. We are grateful to Liz and Bryony for their time and inspiration.



Reading Rewards



On Friday 12th July, Arden was thrilled to welcome author Julian Sedgwick and Manga artist Chie Kutsuwada as part of our Reading Rewards day. The event was a special treat for our winning Year 7 and Year 8 students, who had demonstrated exceptional dedication to their reading throughout the year in library lessons and at home.

The day began with a talk by Julian and Chie, who shared their adventures in Japan with tales of ghosts to poignant, first-hand accounts from survivors of the devastating 2011 Japan tsunami. Following the talk, the students participated in two separate workshops designed to spark their creativity and immerse them in Japanese culture. In the writing workshop, students worked in pairs to craft atmospheric pieces inspired by abandoned places. Meanwhile, the Manga workshop led by Chie Kutsuwada provided a step-by-step tutorial, guiding the students through the basics of Manga drawing. Her expert tips and hands-on approach helped students create their own unique characters and scenes, fostering a deeper appreciation for this popular Japanese art form.

Adding to the cultural experience, the walls were decorated with origami created by students in library lessons and invited students were treated to an array of Japanese snacks. They sampled wasabi seaweed and matcha tea, which offered a taste of traditional Japanese flavours. There was also some sushi made from sweets on offer, prepared by myself (librarian - Miss O'Brien) as an extra treat.

Huge thanks go to the English Department for their support throughout the sessions, and a special thank you to Ms Crutchley in MFL for supporting the event and assisting with snacks and decorations. Thanks also go to Julian Sedgwick and Chie Kutsuwada for their time and for sharing their incredible journeys with our students. We are immensely proud of all the hard work our students have put into their reading.

Miss O'Brien, Librarian

Creative Writing Success

This term brought a double success as two of our students won the regional Screen Your Story competition, which led to their work being published and being invited to a gala in London. Amber Wan, Year 10 & Isaac Large, Year 7 competed for the chance to see their work transformed into a short film.

Though they did not clinch the overall prize, Isaac accepted the opportunity to attend the London gala alongside celebrity impressionist Alistair McGowan and award-winning actress Patricia Hodge. Both stars took time to interact with the students, offering words of encouragement and celebrating their creative achievements.

In addition to the gala, the students' stories were published in a commemorative book, which they received as a keepsake. This publication not only serves as a testament to their hard work and creativity but also provides a tangible memento of their success.

Congratulations Isaac & Amber!



Story Museum Ambassadors

As part of Arden's partnership with The Story Museum in Oxford, Arden students have the opportunity to become Story Museum Ambassadors. In this role, students read and review books for the 1001 Stories collection, reading as widely as they can to ensure the list is diverse and representative of all peoples – young and old, from a variety of backgrounds with different likes and dislikes. Story Museum Ambassadors also write captions for museum exhibits and provide feedback to directly shape the Museum's rooms and events.

Miss O'Brien, librarian, and the Story Ambassadors (Pearl Barker, Emre Hodgetts, Ava Ho, Samuel Blackburn, Luke Hyland and Mya Heron) visited The Story Museum to see their work in action and to gain a better understanding of the museum's processes.

The day involved analysing the existing exhibits and spotting things they would change, either for relevancy or accessibility for visitors.

When asked about the museum, Emre said, "The story museum its self is marvellous as it delves into facts about authors or books. The reviews are a fun way to express your feelings on a book." When asked about the programme itself and how it supports them, Pearl said, "Loved it and would love to do it next year" and Ava added, "It encourages me to read more".

We look forward to continuing the programme next year for our existing members and our new Year 7 cohort! Keep an eye on the co-curricular timetable for more details.



BIG IDEAS

We were thrilled to take part in a regional finals STEM event called Big Ideas.

The pupils have been working on solving an ongoing problem going on in the world that they are passionate about. They had to work in teams to complete a detailed business plan about their idea, covering a range of topics, some being, background on their chosen issue, what their solution is to the chosen problem, finance associated with starting a new company, marketing opportunities. They also had to create a presentation to support the business plan.

On the day of the finals each team had stand up in front of a panel of 5 judges and 11 different groups to present their ideas.

The Save the Wage team (Dominic Penfold, Matt Eales and Sam Doble) suggested an app with the aim to support NHS key worker on a low wage through the use of donations from the public and organisations.



Kipp & Co were the winners on the day. The team comprised of Olivia Kelly, Andrew Irvine, Grace Parkes and Stephanie Parkes. Their idea is to improve the efficiency of solar panels by replacing the glass on the panel with a polycarbonate to improve the efficiency and the amount of energy generated.

As winners of the regional final they progressed to the National finals at the Science Museum in London.

They had to present in front of 10 different teams from around the country and a panel of 5 judges from a range of different sectors.

Unfortunately we didn't win on the day but the group were fantastic, they presented with such passion and knowledge of the subject that feedback from one of the judges was that if he didn't know any difference it was a sales pitch for a product they were actually trying to sell.



They received a special commendation for how professional they were.

Year 7 study visit to Normandy

After extremely early starts and long coach journeys, the students reached their destinations via the channel tunnel, service stations with real French people and real French accents. The drive over the Pont de Normandie (a spectacular bridge that allowed entry into Normandy) signaled the start of the adventure.

An evening meal with a starter of snails in garlic allowed those students brave enough to try the local cuisine.



The trip offered a variety of activities including visiting the Musée De Batterie which had WW11 bunkers used to present interactive parts of the story for the battle of Normandy after D-Day. The 360 cinema experience supported this along with visits to Arromanches town, Pointe du Hoc and the US military cemetery. More cultural days offered a trip to Bayeux, a traditional French market plus a picnic in the park, where much camembert was eaten. All students were able to visit a French school and the students played games on a nearby field followed by another picnic together. It was excellent to see staff and students exchanging stories and having fun through the medium of sport.



We are extremely grateful to all the staff that were willing to go along and allow the study visit to happen. We hope that this has created many positive memories for years to come.



Arden PTFA

Arden's PTFA is dedicated to supporting our school and pupils and we are also a great bunch of people who have fun whilst doing so. The primary goal of the PTFA is to fund crucial educational resources that enhance the learning experience for all pupils. Over the past few years, we have been able to provide a lot of valuable resources for the school, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our members and volunteers. Some of the items we have funded over the last 12 months include:

- 12 chrome books for library
- 80 maths text books
- 340 reading books for Year 8
- Supplies for the Design and Technology
- Online learning platforms for various departments
- Fieldwork equipment for the Geography department
- A wireless mic and iPhone camera stand for Media Studies
- Table tennis tables and bats, athletic vests, netball posts, crash mats, football and netball kits for the PE department and school sports teams
- Photography equipment for the media studies department



And two school minibuses, which is our largest contribution and a significant investment of £6,000 per year.

Our aim is to raise between £15,000 and £25,000 each year to meet these commitments and continue to support our school. One of our most important events is the Fireworks Night, which is taking place on the 9th of November this year. This event raises the most money for our school, but we need volunteers to help make it a success. If you can spare some time to volunteer, please do so. It's a great night, and we all end up at the pub afterwards if you need an added incentive!



Another way we raise funds for school is via our pre-loved uniform service where you can purchase replacement items for a fraction of the cost of buying new uniform. Our service is available throughout term-time and you can contact us via Facebook and pre-loved email address. We will also be holding a couple of uniform sales in the school hall throughout the academic year. Dates are yet to be confirmed but we will let you know when they are as soon as we can.

Our committee meetings will be taking place at school on the second Monday of each half term from September, and we are always looking for new members and volunteers to join our team. If you fancy coming along to see whether you like us or not, our first meeting will be on the 9th, September at 7:30pm.

Even if you can't commit to regular meetings or taking on a specific role, you can still help by getting involved in the many fundraising events throughout the year. Volunteering for just one event or even just attending our events makes a huge difference.

And don't forget to get involved in the Big Cash Draw, details can be found on ParentPay. For an annual subscription of just £12 you could win between £50 and £200 per draw. But you have to be in it to win it, so get involved.

And finally, we are also in need of a treasurer, so if you have a knack for numbers and are interested in taking on this role, please let us know via the PTFA Facebook/Instagram page or PTFA email address. Your contribution would be invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Please consider joining the Arden PTFA, come along to a meeting, volunteer when you can, and help us continue to make a positive impact on our school community. Your support, no matter how big or small, is greatly appreciated.

Dates of PTFA meetings:

9th September '24; 11th November '24 (AGM); 13th January '25; 10th March '25; 12th May '25; 9th June '25; 14th July '25

Important date for your diary: Annual Fireworks Display, Saturday 9th November, Arden Academy.

Get in touch: adminptfa@arden.solihull.sch.uk

Sports News

Massive congratulations to Darwin house, who won this year's Sports Day.



We are delighted with another fantastic sporting year at Arden. This success is down to the staff commitment, parent facilitation and most of all the brilliance of the students. Here are some of the highlights:

Solihull Borough Schools boys football: Year 8 Winners; Year 9 Winners; Year 10 Winners; Year 11 Winners

West Midlands County Cup boys football: Under 18 Winners; Under 14 Girls Winners

National Cup: U13 girls football last 4

Indoor athletics (Solihull Borough Champs): Year 7 Boys winners; Year 7 Girl winners; Year 8 Boy winners; Year 8 Girl winners

Indoor athletics (Regional Champs): Year 7 Boy - winners; Year 7 Girls - Runner up; Year 8 Girl – Runner up; Year 8 Boy – winners

English School Athletics Track and Field Cup: Under 14 girls: West Midlands Champions; Under 16 girls: West Midlands Runner up

Gaelic football Northern games: Year 8 winners; Year 7 runners up

Football

Year 8: The highlight was the final of the Solihull Cup final in warm conditions on the TG academy 3G pitch versus a resolute TG. The game started tight as both sides tried to unlock each other and it was 0-0 after 15 mins. However plan B for Arden allowed Alfie Cox to put striker Max C through on goal and he clipped the ball over the advancing keeper to make it 1-0. The game remained close however nice play on the right wing by Max R ended with a cross which fell to left winger Nick P who cut inside and tucked it into the corner of the goal with his right foot! 2-0. As the game headed towards half time it was looking under control but after a defensive slip TG scored to make it 2-1 at the interval. A few drinks were taken and switches made and the second half began. A crowd of nearly 50 had gathered by now and were cheering the lads on. After the break TG had a golden chance to equalise but failed to take it and Arden punished them on the break when Jake J scored with a fine right foot shot. The game ended rather flattering as Jacob scored either side of a further brace from Max C as he completed his hattrick and earned the MOM award from the referee. Final score 6-1 win.



It has been another long season for the y8's with almost 20 matches across 4 different competitions. After the success of 2 cups in y7 they had to settle for 1 in y8 plus healthy runs in the national cup and west midlands cup (semi-finalists).



Dr Cannadine

U14 Girls: Mr Evans led a fantastic team to the West Mids Cup Final, which they won 10-2! Goal Scorers were Katie Scott x3; Lola Peel x3; Maia Collett x2; Adelaide Burke x1; Emmie Spencer x1

Sixth Form: The Under 18s football team played in the West Midlands Cup Final and won 2-0 against a strong Windsor High School team.



We have now retained the trophy and are unbeaten in 12 fixtures over 2 years in the competition.



Here are the Solihull Champions for Year 9 and Year 10



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

Gaelic Football

Following the support of several parents and the local John Mitchels Gaelic Football team we decided to start after Easter training sessions for Year 7 and 8 boys. Only a small number of boys had played the sport before and we were all delighted when almost 40 boys turned up for the first session run by Warwickshire GAA coaches with Arden PE staff and parents.

After less than 5 sessions of training we took two squads up to Manchester to compete in the Northern Community Gaelic Games on Friday 7th June.

The boys considering that this was their first games together did amazingly well.

The Year 7 squad won all their games but sadly were just pipped in the final by a team they had beaten in the earlier league games. That was a tough game for them but their attitude and sportsmanship was exceptional.

The Year 8 squad went all the way actually lifted the trophy smashing the opposition 32 – 10 in the final. This was an incredible performance against a very strong Gaelic team who had played much more football than our boys.

We then took a mixed squad to the All-Britain Competition Gaelic Games in London on Thursday 4th July.



The squad were incredible winning all their games up until the semi – final when they were robbed from a place in the final after some very dubious refereeing. The boys were playing the best teams in the country and to get into joint third place was amazing. It was a sober journey back to Knowle but the boys should be very proud of their achievements.

We have high hopes for the coming year and Arden hopes to have both boys and girls teams with training starting hopefully at the start of the new academic year.

A big thank you to our parents, John Mitchels and our Warwickshire coaches Seanie Boyle and Kevin McGinnity for all their support.



Athletics

After a long hard athletics season for the teams again, the season finished with the Solihull Borough Championships. The Champs are always closely fought battles and bring together the very best athletes from all 16 schools across the Borough including Solihull School.

This year again the pupils of Arden produced magnificent performances across the track and field to dominate the competition from start to end.

Under 14 girls (Yr 7/8) - WINNERS; Under 16 girls (Yr 9/10) - WINNERS; Under 14 boys (Yr 7/8) - WINNERS; Under 16 boys (Yr 9/10) – RUNNERS UP

These results meant we were the OVERALL BOYS & GIRLS WINNERS

2 stand out performances from EMILY COX and ANDREW IRVINE who broke long standing records in shot put and hurdles – AMAZING!!

E Cox – Arden – Shot putt – under 16 girls – 9.93m (previous record 9.89m A Bailey 2016 Arden)

A Irvine – Arden – 80m hurdles – under 14 boys – 11.9s (previous record 12.1s E Harris 2016 TGS)

We are also really proud of the Year 7 boys cross country team who took Bronze in the Boys Team Awards

Dance Competition

Miss Crutchley took a team of ten girls to a street dance competition at Alderbrook. Bebe (9), Hannah (10) and Ellie (10) were so close to winning solo medals and there were hundreds there! We missed out this time but we'll be ready next year! We were really proud of all of them and they had a great time! They worked so hard in the weeks running up to the performance. The team were: Matilda Taylor; Lexie Caldicott; Amy Sibbing; Ivy Dutton; Bebe Cooper; Hannah McDermott; Heidi Foxley; Jessica Guy; Mae D'onofrio; Ellie Cross



Student achievements

We love hearing about the achievements of our students both inside and outside the classroom and try to feature as many of them as possible in the newsletter over the course of the academic year. Please keep passing these achievements on to us for this section.

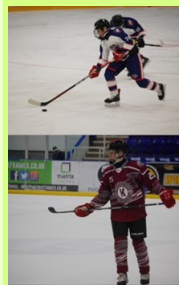
Will Garner—Year 8

Will is a multi-talented sportsman, excelling in a number of different disciplines. Here are a few of his achievements so far this year:

- He qualified in the 90cm eventing (dressage/show jumping & cross country) and will be competing as an individual at the Pony Club Championships in August.
- Selected to represent the pony club area at the Blenheim horse trials, arena eventing.
- Qualified in 3rd place to go through to the finals of the Schools National Pistol Championships, representing Arden
- Took part in the Pony Club Winter Triathlon finals in Grantham, finished 23rd in the country and achieving a PB in his Swim.
- Playing for Solihull/Coventry Water Polo - GB development team in an international tournament that was held in the Czech Republic in June 2024.
- He was selected to compete for the Central England team at the Junior International Tetrathlon Competition in June. The sport consists of Shooting, Swimming, Running and Riding and takes place over 2 days.



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Darragh Gantley—Year 8

Darragh plays Ice Hockey and represented Great Britain with Elite British Selects in Riga in March, and recently was invited to take part in England Draft Showcase 2024, the beginning of the England pathway

Imogen Ward—Year 10

Imogen played a part in helping Dorridge Cricket Club Women's 1st XI reach the ECB national T20 final last season. As a result, the team were invited to take part in the MCC Women's day at Lord's. The day involved a game on the hallowed turf, tour of the ground and a reception in the Long Room.



Evie Richards—Year 10



Evie attended the National Netball finals at the Beacon of Light, with her team Ryland winning 4 games out of 7, coming 13th in the country. She has also got into the Central Warriors (new formed Wasps) U15 squad, one of the NPL superleague sides and hopefully will make the final squad for a summer tournament against the other U15 Superleague teams.

Chloe Fan—Year 9

Chloe is an extremely talented Badminton player and is creating a long list of achievements already in the sport. She is pictured here after winning Bronze in the U14 Girls Singles competition at the VICTOR China Youth tournament in Shenyang. She is currently part of the Badminton England setup and hopes to progress to the European Championships in 2026—good luck Chloe!



Dylan Hardie—Year 10

Dylan recently participated in the Trampolining, DMT and Tumbling Interregional Challenge Cup Final (British Gymnastics) at the Utilita Arena in Birmingham where he secured 1st place in his category for DMT and 7th out of 21 for trampolining. He competed against athletes representing all the regions in England as well as Scotland Wales and NI.