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Charitable Giving

Thankyou for your generosity to our Christmas Kindness appeals. The Rashford Run was a massive success, with a huge donation of around 300kg of food. The toy appeal received a lot of kind donations. Our Christmas Jumper Day has raised over £1500 for Save the Children. Donations are still welcome on ParentPay. Thank you!

Mr Warwood's Reflections

As is always the case at this stage of the year, it's hard to believe that Christmas is upon us. As you will see from the content of this newsletter, it has been a busy and thriving start to the year. We have had a terrific start to the year in so many ways. Although they are now old stagers, our year 7 and new year 12 students have started their Arden journey brilliantly and have very quickly settled into the Arden way. Although the summer's exam results have seemed a long time ago, we have thoroughly enjoyed our Prize giving and celebrating the success of our year 11 and 13 students – we were thrilled to see so many of our year 13 return for the event.

The amount of incredible hard work that our staff put into making our Children's Arden experience all that it is, is just incredible. From the exciting and engaging classroom environments to the sports fields, School visits, music concerts and the early stages of the rehearsals for the summer performance, I am thrilled to see the opportunities that our children have – this jam packed newsletter gives a good flavour of this, I really hope that you enjoy seeing all that has been going on in school.

Have a wonderful Christmas and enjoy quality time with your families and loved ones.

Mr Warwood, Associate Headteacher

Christmas Card Competition

Our annual Christmas Card competition brought in some incredible entries this year from across Key Stage 3. The decision to shortlist proved to be particularly difficult this year and after much deliberation we were able to shortlist 5 designs which comprised of 2 winners and 3 runners up.

Winners:

Sofie Leung and Jess Willetts

Runners up:

Pearl Barker, Stephanie Parkes and Beth Bates-Gamble



Sofie Leung



Jess Willetts

Remembrance Day

Arden once again came together as a community at 11.00am on 11th November to remember those that had lost their lives in World Wars.

There was a small gathering on the front lawn which was live streamed to all classrooms across the school. Mr Warwood reflected on what Remembrance Day was about, a poem was read that had been written especially for the event by Emre Hodgetts (9L), which is featured elsewhere in the newsletter. A



Poppy Wreath was laid by Anton Rozhin (Y13) followed by Ben Seago (Y13) playing The Last Post, which signaled the time of silent reflection across the whole school.

Mrs Birch and Mrs Hemmings had also organised a whole school display of poppies that students had written on what remembrance meant to them. It was a very poignant time, which the students showed a huge amount of respect for.



Presentation Evening

Arden's annual Presentation Evening took place on Wednesday 18th December. This is the evening where we celebrate the success of last summer's Year 11 and Year 13 students.

The Sports Hall was packed with students and their family and friends who had come together to reflect on their time at Arden.

For some it had been a fast two years at Sixth Form, others had been here for up to seven years. The evening comprised of a few short speeches, with our Guest of Honour, Izzie Miners, giving a superb speech about what success really is and how we should define it in our lives. She spoke of her journey through Lode Heath, Arden Sixth Form, University and now into her dream career working in Costume Design for Film and TV. It was truly inspirational and a joy to hear.



The awards part of the evening saw 98 different students recognised in subject awards, contribution to school and community awards along with emotional intelligence and character awards. We were also thrilled to award the Kirsty Smitten Award for Science for the first time, in honour of our former student who sadly passed away. Her ground breaking working in developing a new antibiotic will change many lives in the future.



Futures Christmas Quiz 2024

Congratulations to Anson, Millie, Eydie, Edward and Ava (Year 7); Eloise (Year 8) and Maddie, Seb, Kaylee and Toby (Year 9) on being the first 10 students to achieve 100% in the Christmas Futures Quiz. Well done! And, congratulations to Nat, Ekam and Emma (Year 7) and Sophia, Grace, Emily and Pippa (Year 8) on getting 100%! We thought you too should have a chocolatey treat to say well done. Thank you all for participating.

Christmas Concert

On Monday 16th December the School Hall was transformed into a place of festive cheer with an abundance of musical talent on display. The Christmas Concert was sold out with nearly 300 people attending and over 100 students participating in this extravaganza of musical excellence. The Ardenaires started the night with Uptown Funk, Let it Snow and Here Comes the Sun. The



Chamber Orchestra played the Concert Suite from The Polar Express. The Flute Choir played White Christmas, followed by the Lower School Windband with Highlights from Annie. The B.A.T.S choir finished off the first half with Bohemian Rhapsody and Sleigh Ride. The interval saw a change of volume, with the Lower School Rock band kicking off the second half with Eye of the Tiger and then a quite unforgettable rendition of

Sweet Child of Mine by the Senior Rock Band. The Chamber Choir then sang Choral Highlights from Frozen. It was great to see the return of S.T.R.U.M, our Ukulele Band with their rendition of Step into Christmas, Christmas (Baby Please Come Home) and Must be Santa. The Lower School Choir, with 35 students, which was lovely to see. They sang Somewhere only we know and Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas. The evening was brought to a close by the Senior Windband with two movements from A Circus Suite and then the Raider's March.



Massive thanks to all the students who took part, the parents who get them to rehearsals and the fantastic music department who help make this such a wonderful evening.

Train to Teach with the Arden Alliance

Did you know that Arden is the lead school in a group of highly regarded primary and secondary schools working together to train the next generation of teachers? As part of one of the top-performing Multi Academy Trusts in the West Midlands, we offer exceptional opportunities for aspiring teachers to begin their journey in a supportive, professional, and collaborative environment.

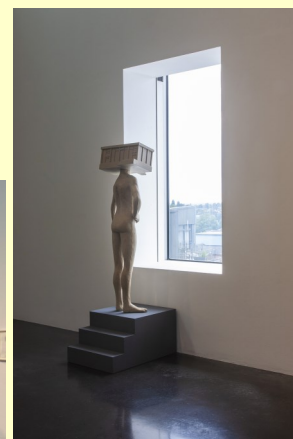
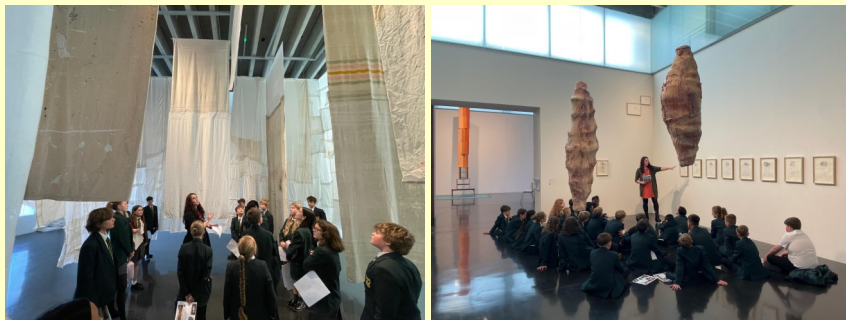
We work with our partners to train primary and secondary school teachers across a wide range of subjects. Our recent closer ties with Dorridge Primary, a primary lead school in its own right, have allowed us to combine expertise across all education phases. This partnership enhances our training provision, ensuring that every trainee benefit from outstanding mentorship, excellent training, and a personalised approach tailored to their needs.

Our program welcomes applications from recent graduates as well as career changers. It's especially rewarding to see former pupils from our family of schools returning to train with us, with some already making plans to join next year. With bursaries of up to £28,000 available for certain subjects, it's an excellent opportunity to start a rewarding new career—whether you're fresh from university or ready for a change later in life. And for those former students still living at home, it's a great way to save for the future while building a meaningful career.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a teacher through the Arden Alliance, contact Mr Gunn for more details or see our website <https://sites.google.com/arden.solihull.sch.uk/ats/home>. Check out our available places at <https://www.apply-for-teacher-training.service.gov.uk/>, or explore the financial incentives here: <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/funding-and-support/scholarships-and-bursaries>

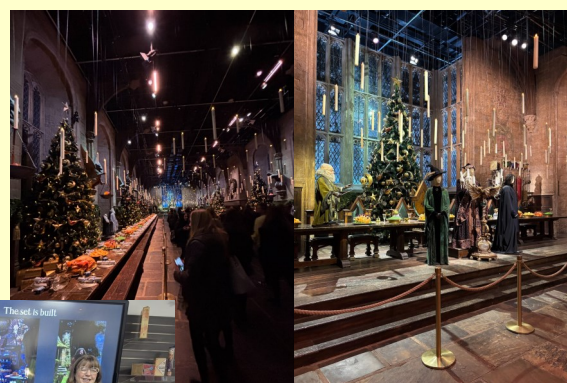
Y7 Walsall Art Gallery Trip '24

Year 7 students visited Walsall Art Gallery where they experienced a range of different art and genres, saw a visiting artist exhibition by Carlos Bunga and took part in an artist workshop where they made their own pieces inspired by Carlos's work.



Harry Potter Careers Trip

Students in Year 9-11 went to Harry Potter World on an arts-based careers trip where they got to see all of the work that goes into making the Harry Potter movies and characters. Students said they had a great time!



Arden's first ever Flashmob

In October, half of Year 8 took part in secret workshops where they learned a dance routine to perform on the last day of half term on the MUGA.

Students and staff were so surprised when half way through lunch time, music started blaring and 150 students broke into synchronised dance!



Miss C Finneran

English Department

National Poetry Day

It has been a busy term in the English Department and it all kicked off in October with National Poetry Day. All pupils were gifted a poem to read and respond to which gave them a chance to win a prize in our raffle. We had over 280 pupils take part and a special mention must go to Beatrice Yeats, Gabby Addison and Will Rogers for their lovely sensitive interpretations of the poems they read. There was also an Acrostic Poem Competition for Year 7 who were challenged to produce an acrostic poem about Arden School. First place was won by Toby Richmond and the Runner Up was Oscar Edwards who both had the chance to choose a book from our book vending machine.

Ad Altiora:

Rollercoaster of emotions;

Doors opening;

Exciting

New People.

Toby Richmond 7E

A new place,

Restarting.

Diamond-like

Education

Now we are in Secondary School.

Oscar Edwards 7R



Arden Pupils Help Set a Guinness World Record

National Poetry Day also gave a lucky group of Year 7 the fabulous chance to help set a Guinness World Record for the largest poetry lesson. 31 budding poets joined an online lesson with the poet Laura Mucha to collaborate in building a poem about "What Counts". It was pretty hectic as we tried to vote on the lines to include and choose which bits to edit out but we managed it! Many thanks to Mrs Collett who had the very important task of being our "Official Witness" so that our school would count towards the record. We are still waiting for final confirmation of the record; as you can imagine it takes a long time for them to check all the evidence submissions from all the different schools! If you would like to read the final poem, it can be found at the on the Children's Poetry Archive website (<https://childrens.poetryarchive.org/poem/what-counts/>).



Ghostly Goings-On for Halloween

We had a gang of literary ghosts take over the English corridor for Halloween with pupils being given the chance to match the literary ghosts with creators and contribute their own recommendations for spooky films and books to our haunted house!



Miss C George

Christmas Poem Competition

To celebrate our wonderful KS3 writers, we invited pupils to submit their poems on the theme of the Christmas Spirit and Kindness to our competition. The lucky winners had their poems shared in the Arden Christmas Services and received a prize from the English Department. Mrs F Hale took on the difficult job of judging the poems which were anonymised to make it a completely fair contest! The lucky winners were Sophia Whittaker (7R) with Jessie Massey (7L) a close runner-up; Semi Gene (8D) and Stephanie Parkes (9N) and Grace Parkes (9R) who submitted a collaborative entry. There were over 40 entries which all demonstrated the thoughtful and caring natures of our pupils – it was a delight to read every single one!



In the glow of twinkling lights,
joyful laughter fills the nights.
Snowflakes dance on Winter's breeze;
Carols sung with hearts at ease.

Fires crackle; warmth surrounds;
Love and kindness with no bounds.
Gifts of hope and peace we share.
Magic lingers in the air.

Families gather, stories told,
Memories cherished, hearts of gold.
Christmas spirit, bright and true,
A time for laughter for your family
too.

Sophia Whittaker 7R

It's the season of joy: let kindness flow.
A gentle touch, a warm-hearted glow.
With every smile and every laugh,
We spread kindness and hope around
Christmas time.

As snowflakes dance in the frost winter
air,
Let's share our blessings, show we
care.
A helping hand, a listening ear,
In acts of kindness in the show.

So gather round at this time of year,
Embrace and make spirits bright.
For in giving and sharing,
We find the true meaning of Christmas
kindness.

Jessie Massey 7L

The air is crisp, the snow gently falls,
As the world awaits the season's call.
Twinkling lights adorn every street,
Casting a shadow that's warm and
sweet.

The Christmas tree stands tall and
proud,
Its branches laden with ornaments
bejewelled and bowed.
Baubles of red, green and gold,
Reflecting the festive stories they
hold.

Children's laughter, a symphony so
pure,
As they eagerly await gifts they're
sure
To find beneath the twinkling tree,
Filled with wonder, hope and glee.

For Christmas is a time of giving,
Of showing love and thanksgiving,
For all the blessings we hold dear
And spreading kindness far and near.

May peace and joy be yours this
season
And may your heart be filled with
reason
To envelop the love that infuses the
air
And show compassion everywhere.

*Stephanie Parkes 9N and
Grace Parkes 9R*

The smell of Christmas is a tree:
a real tree brought inside.
It stands there in our living room,
Its green branches spread wide.

Hang up the stockings,
Decorate the tree.
Presents placed perfectly.
What a sight to see!

Milk, cookies and pudding are out;
Kids are tucked in tight.
There is so much to do
on Christmas Eve night.

Christmas is full of shiny things
that sparkle, gleam and glow;
These holiday pleasures dazzle us
and yet, deep down, we know...

That Christmas has its special gifts
But our year-round joy depends
On the cherished people in our lives
that we love, like family and
friends.

Semi Gene 8D



Remembrance Poetry Competition

To mark Remembrance Day and connect with Year 9's learning about conflict poetry, they were offered the chance to write their own poem about remembrance. We had some beautiful, thoughtful entries but the winner was Emre Hodgetts who had his poem read out as part of the Arden Remembrance Service. We were very proud to see our pupils recognising the importance of the sacrifices made by so many in conflicts both past and present.



*We should remember those who marched so true,
Neglecting their future and past for you.
For the soldiers could not even shed a single tear
Being slowly encased by a feeling greater than fear.*

*Even when hope was dimming and bleak,
The beacon of courage was set tough and deep
To keep the nameless striding on
And make sure home was safe and war was won.*

*Poppies now thrive where once they fought
In silent tribute, their sacrifice caught.*

Emre Hodgetts 9L

ECO Club

Visit to COP Conference at Solihull Council Chamber

On 20th November, we selected a few students from The Eco Committee (who proudly volunteered to represent different countries across the globe) to work together and voice our speeches at The Solihull Council Chambers as a Mock Conference of the Parties 29 (COP29) along with several other schools and colleges, such as Solihull School. Prior to the upcoming and inspiring day, we were asked to split into 3 groups on behalf of three different nations: China, Indonesia and the European Union and to formulate a speech that would inform other countries on what our climate goals and actions were. On the day of arrival, all spirits were high and lifted to hopefully, passionately promote our messages to the other countries whilst silently debating on what some other nations should improve on to tackle the climate crisis. Fortunately, halfway through we had a mini break to just catch up with each other and express our views to not only our school but to other groups and learn to work as a team collectively. After the conference had officially ended, to finish off, we discussed what we should be doing and are currently working on as a Solihull Community to ensure we all live in a sustainable environment and learn to create a perfect balance of the need for nature. As the event closed off, we brought back memories of an Inspiring day and most importantly a need to spread more awareness for the ongoing war between Us and Climate Change. 'The Greatest Threat to our Planet is the Belief that Someone else will save it' ~ Robert Swan



Photo with Lord Mayor

People who attended - George Burns, Rohan Sethi, Eva Lee, Ketaki Chaubal, Emre Hodgetts, Pearl Barker, Sam Blackburn, Chloe Fung, Tobias Warrender, Alex Reid, George Lee, Thomas Jenkinson

Emre Hodgetts 9L and George Burns 11N

MFL Department

Warwick University Languages Challenge

The following students successfully completed an MFL summer project which was organised by Warwick University. They have received silver or gold certificates awarded by Warwick University.



Ben Fowler	Year 8	Silver			
Luca Eccleston	Year 8	Silver			
Thomas Phillips	Year 9	Silver			
Lily King	Year 9	Gold	Alex Waddams	Year 10	Silver
Dylan O'Donnell	Year 11	Gold	Bella Tipton	Year 10	Gold
Ivani Loi	Year 8	Silver	Annika Lemke	Year 11	Gold

Mr I Edgington

Over the summer holidays, students taking a language for one of their GCSE courses had an opportunity to be involved in an extremely beneficial opportunity to keep their languages skills up to date for when these courses were to begin in an engaging and exciting way - something very different to any textbook methods that people would be completely uninterested in. I was one of these people who took a series of tasks and completed their gold. The first task, one of many, was to explore the music industry in the language you were taking. As somebody taking French, I got to look at brilliant French speaking artists such as Celine Dion and Stromae. For week 2, the university encouraged you to get up and go on a walk, taking note of different objects you see and noting them down in both English and in my case, French. Week 3 was by far the most interesting, going into depth about different European dishes which you got the opportunity to make. I made ratatouille, a popular French dish consisting of aubergine, courgette, tomatoes, garlic, onion, herbs etc. It was extremely fun and tasted amazing. The next 3 tasks were less active, involving watching a French movie, sending texts in said language and making a comic strip. All activities were a brilliant idea to get students involved in not only the language itself but also the rich and fascinating culture behind it - I recommend taking the opportunity. *(Bella Tipton 10S)*

Mathematics Department

Maths Challenges

The sixth form students have been actively involved in various maths competitions this term. Over 30 of them participated in the Senior Maths Challenge, with Noah O'Donnell, Luke Mullins, and Keisha Lam all qualifying for the next round. Additionally, Year 12 and 13 students competed in Ritangle, another prestigious national competition, where our team achieved great success by reaching the final stage. The team, consisting of James Dowson, Noah O'Donnell, and Gabriel Avery, demonstrated exceptional teamwork and commitment.

Inaugural Inter-Trust Maths Relay

This term marked the inaugural inter-trust maths relay, where we sent two Year 10 teams to compete at Lode Heath. Both teams achieved



outstanding results, securing first and third place. The team members included Harry Justice, Joe Fox, Sofia Tam, Alistair McArthur, Eva Tyson, Emily Conway, Daniel Swann, and Dylan O'Donnell. Their impressive teamwork and dedication were key to our success.

Miss M Davies

Psychology Department

Year 12 Psychology Research Opportunity

Recently, Year 12 psychology students at Arden Academy had the chance to participate in an exciting research project led by the University of Birmingham. The project, taking place on the 4th and 7th of October, offered students a glimpse into university-level psychological research, focusing on empathy and perspective-taking.

Students were invited to engage in a study where they listened to short stories and answered questions about the thoughts and feelings of characters. This experience not only helped students understand how psychological research is conducted but also allowed them to explore future opportunities in psychology.

The research will contribute to the development of a tool that could support school staff in addressing social conflicts and helping students improve their social understanding. The university researchers plan to share the findings once the project is complete.

This project is a fantastic example of the opportunities available to our students, helping them engage with cutting-edge psychological research and gain valuable insights into university life and future career paths.

Mrs H Endley

PTFA News

A Fantastic Start to the Academic Year for the PTFA!

We are thrilled to share that the PTFA has had an outstanding start to the academic year! Our Fireworks event was a tremendous success, raising an incredible £18,000 in profit. These funds have already made a significant impact, helping to fund a school minibus, essential DT items, reading pens, and online learning platforms. The turnout was truly remarkable, and we are immensely grateful for the support from all our wonderful parents, students, and community.

Save the Date! We are excited to announce that the Arden Ball will be held on **10th May 2025** at The Forest in Dorridge! This glamorous event is set to be a highlight of the year, and we hope to see many of you there. Tickets are available on ParentPay, so don't miss out on this fantastic evening.

Big Cash Draw: Don't forget we are running a big cash draw. It is £12 to enter for 12 months (it's rolling, so doesn't matter when you join), and you can enter as many times as you wish. The prizes are £50 a month except for December, April and July which are £200. All profits go directly to the school.

Call for Help! We are still desperately in need of a treasurer. If you are able to help or know someone who can, please email us at PTFAchair@arden.solihull.sch.uk Your support is crucial in helping us continue our work.

Upcoming Meetings: Mark your calendars for our next committee meetings are 13th January and 10th March, 7.30pm at school. Everyone is welcome.

Thank you once again for your incredible support. Together, we are making a difference!

PTFA team

Religious Studies Department

Visit to Birmingham Central Mosque

On the 15th November the Religious Studies department took Year 10 and 11 GCSE students to Birmingham Central Mosque. This faith forms 50% of our students' final grade. Their course includes questions about Muslim beliefs and practices as well as their responses to the issues of Crime and Punishment and Peace and Conflict. The main purpose was to let our students experience being in a Mosque and hearing about their practices. It therefore helped solidify what students had been taught and to see these beliefs and practices live. It was great to see the work being carried out there as the community have raised 6 million pounds which are currently going towards the renovation work of the Mosque. What was humbling was the sight of the queue forming at the Mosque for the food bank as we left. It was a reminder of how lucky we are and of the importance Birmingham Central Mosque is to their community. As a department we hope to get more students to experience different places of worship and feel the spirituality they learn about in the classroom. Our Year 10 and 11 students were exemplary.



Miss K Tipping and Ms I Allyas

Staff News

We would like to offer our congratulations to the following staff who have had babies this term:
Mr F Chowdhury and Mrs S Hindley

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: Mrs J Cooper (Head of Year 10 & Teacher of Science), Ms K Ladkin (Teacher of English) and Ms F Sheppard (Teacher of PE).

We are delighted to be joined in January 2025 by:
Miss C Cunningham (Teacher of Science)
Mrs M Dawes (Teacher of English)
Mrs E Ridler (Teacher of Science)

*Welcome to the
Arden Family!*

Other staff news: As October arrived, Dorridge Primary School were holding a special day for *El Dia de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead), a Mexican festival where people celebrate and remember their ancestors. The children were dressed in their own colourful clothes ready for a colour parade, before watching the film *Coco*. Miss E Crutchley joined them in the morning to teach them the colours in Spanish, and they even thanked her and said Goodbye in Spanish.



Future Fridays

Future Friday continues to inspire and inform students about careers. A key part of our careers education provision is broadening students' horizons and providing employer encounters – the more they learn about jobs the more choices they will have, and the more fulfilled they will become because their decisions will be informed! Being inspired by someone's work also helps students become more focussed, driven and motivated. So far, this academic year, we have heard from a published author, electrician, civil engineer, counsellor, digital marketer and architect, with lots more to come. Future Friday is



a unique opportunity for students to explore if a job might be for them – remember, “they don't know what they don't know”, so taking advantage of these opportunities is important, particularly for students in Years 11-13 who are making critical decisions about their further education and training. Perhaps attending a Future Friday and hearing first hand from an expert in their field would be enough to tip the balance and push them to pursue their dream career? Or, conversely, perhaps knowing more about the role will help them understand it's not for them.



Parents play a big role in supporting our Future Friday talks and we'd like to thank those who have contributed. All of our speakers have enjoyed the experience and even offered to come back! If you feel you would like to give a talk at one of our Future Fridays please fill in this very short [form](#).

Mrs S Butcher-Johns

Work experience review by Bok Him Fung

The Weightmans Work Experience provides a diverse entry level understanding about the work environment and the different pathways to begin a career in law.

The people who attended the Work Experience programme had a mandatory pre-reading to do. Although unfortunately I can't delve deeper into this topic as it is considered as “classified after use”. The work experience consisted of two days of clear explanations about different subgenres of law. During the first day the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) presented us with “The Code for Crown Prosecution Service” which was part of the pre-reading the attendees had to do. Using this code was vital as it was necessary to get an understanding of the “Full code test” which we had to implement in order to bring the offender to justice.

The second day consisted of information towards becoming a solicitor (not a barrister). The attendees were informed of different ways and apprenticeships that someone could take in order to work as a solicitor. Such as taking a qualification after GCSE's to immediately be exposed towards a work environment or going to take an apprenticeship after A level to get a law degree at the same time as working in a law firm. Then taking your solicitors exam to become a solicitor.

In conclusion, the Work Experience programme implicitly informs the attendees of the prerequisites to becoming a solicitor in the future. The Work Experience programme also gives a respect amount of insight into the far and near future whatever the attendees might choose.

Bok Him Fung 10L

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme at Arden 2024

Bronze Awards

Arden Academy's successful and popular Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) programme has once again resulted in a fantastic number of students completing their Bronze Award in 2024:

Ismail	Chaudri	Oliver	Seago
Saoirse	Cole	Emily	Sheard
James	Collier	Lara	Showell
Sebastian	Frowd	Samuel	Underwood
Neve	Gerry	Samuel	Wadsworth
Dylan	Hardie	Joel	Whittaker
Eleni	Koumblis		

Some of the students above joined our Silver 2023 Cohort; they should be completing their Silver Awards shortly.

The students below have joined our Silver 2024 cohort and will aim to complete their Silver Award in 2025. These Bronze Awards are awaiting verification.

Imogen	Ager	Daniel	McDermott
Connie	Bate	Sofia	Morton
William	Chivers	Dylan	O'Donnell
Maia	Collett	Freya	Pannett
Bebe	Cooper	Pixie	Partridge
Milly	Davie	Lewis	Pearce
Alanna	Deery-Horsley	George	Reilly
Thomas	Dowson	Jake	Rippington
Malaika	Ejaz	Maisy	Roache
George	Fitzgerald	Molly	Smith
Ethan	Fitzpatrick	Daniel	Swann
Olly	Gale	Joshua	Taylor
Isla	Herbert	Josh	Tomlinson
Zac	Hill-Brown	Eva	Tyson
Shabar	Immad	Amit	Vadivelmurugan Senthilkumar
Greg	Johnson	Alex	Waddams
Mia	Ko	Monty	Wainwright
Hailey	Lam	Daniel	Ward
Oliver	Leeson	Max	Ward
Callum	Lerat	Sam	Whitehead



The following Bronze Awards are also awaiting verification:

Charlotte	Bamforth	John	Mitchell
Erin	Boyle	Jamie	Parkes
Daniel	Brennan	Henry	Poole
Oliver	Butler	Emilia	Pykett
Olivia	Coles	Aivlen	Quinn
Beth	Ferguson	Rhys	Ram
Jack	Flannery	Harley	Rooke
Joe	Fox	Neve	Rossiter
Neil	Hampson	Izzy	Sargeant
Isabelle	Harrison	William	Service
Flo	Hurd	Rebecca	Smith
Harry	Justice	Finlay	Sutherland
MIKEY	King	Pippa	Tait
Nina	Larkin	Sofia	Tam
Annika	Lemke	Eleanor	Thelwell
Eden	Love Green	Erin	Thomas
Bailey	Mannion	Arabella	Tipton
Keira	Marcroft	Martha	Williams

Silver Awards

Marion	Walsh		Beatrice	McCorry	G
Joel	Hurd	G	Daniel	Baker	v
Nathan	Tsang	G	Hugo	Capelin	v
Sahib	Rai		Benjamin	Griffin	v
Dylan	Guest-Nicholls		Charlotte	Hall	v
Tristan	Briggs		Isobel	Hulme	v
Harry	Wood		Cleo	Kakoullis	v
Olivia	Hallworth		Olivia	Readman	v
Elizabeth	Thompson	G	Joseph	Wakeman	v
Lucas	Marcroft		Joseph	Davis	v

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

Gold Awards

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

William	Lockett
Thomas	Batchelor
Thomas	Davies
Toby	Franks
Ben	Garside
Laura	Hampson
Alyssa	Kakoullis (awaiting verification)

Mrs M Foulkes

Student Leadership

As Head Boy and Head Girl, we are both incredibly proud to reflect on the events that have taken place this term. It has been a busy and rewarding period, one that has given us numerous opportunities to contribute to the school and work alongside an amazing Student Leadership Team. From commemorating Remembrance Day to Senior Pupil Conferences, we have been involved in a wide range of initiatives that have made this half-term special for the entire Arden community.

This term we attended a conference where student leaders from across the Arden Multi Academy Trust gathered with senior staff to discuss issues and explore ways to improve the school experience. This was a fantastic opportunity to voice the opinions of our fellow students and engage in collaborative efforts to bring about positive change.

During November, we helped towards the Poppy Selling campaign leading up to Remembrance Day, this helps raise funds for the Royal British Legion while remembering those who have sacrificed their lives for our country. It was moving to see the level of support from both students and staff. We took part in the Remembrance Day Ceremony where we led the school in the two-minute silence, paying tribute to the sacrifices made by others and reflecting on the importance of peace and gratitude in our world.

As Head Boy and Head Girl, we would also like to take this opportunity to express how incredibly proud we are of the entire Student Leadership Team. The commitment, passion, and dedication shown by every member of the team have been outstanding. Everyone has worked tirelessly to support the school, organise events, and represent the student body.

We are excited about the challenges and opportunities the rest of the year will bring. We look forward to continuing into the New Year!

Lola and George
Head Girl and Head Boy

Teddy, Caden, Will, Tabitha, Cleo, Evie
Senior Students

In May 2024, Arden Academy's very own School Council was re-established, Zak Wilson and Aleena Dharamshi (Both in Year 11) were elected as the chairs of the School Council and three students from each year group were elected to represent their respective years. Current Year 8 and Year 10 representatives were elected in May, and the current Year 7 representatives were elected at the start of the 2024-2025 academic year, in September.

The Council meets up weekly to discuss ideas, sometimes with guests, such as Mr Simpson, to help pull pupils' ideas through and make the changes they want to actually happen. This helps make sure that everybody feels listened to when they go to school.

The School Council has come up with many ideas and suggestions both from the last academic year and also from the start of this school year. Ideas include: a Form Captain Conference to discuss their form's ideas and wants for change, themed weeks across the year and a charity drive. The Council hopes that pupils all around Arden Academy will also come up with ideas for change to help the school become an even better and safer space for all students; so please speak to your form captains and School Council representatives to pass on any ideas!

Luke Parkes

Sports News

Year 11 Netball Girls

Congratulations to the following Year 11 girls who played on 13 November 2024 at Kings High School in the County tournament. They played extremely well and we came third overall losing against Solihull and Rugby Schools. We were the only state school there and the girls did themselves and Arden proud.

Sophie Harris
Josie Webb
Charlotte Hall
Anna Quantrill
Winnie Parker
Saoirse Cole
Isobel Hulme
Evie Richards
Neve Gerry

Mrs R Leadbeater

First XC Race of the Year

On 10 October, 29 students from Years 7-11 took to the first XC race of the year at Langley School with some outstanding team and individual performances. Each race was packed full of other pupils (approximately 25 in each race) from across the Solihull Schools including Solihull School themselves:

Individual honours

Year 7 Girls Winner – Molly Spencer
Year 7 Boys 3rd place – Josh Baylis
Year 8/9 Boys Winner – Luca Woodley, 2nd Place – Jamie Underwood
Year 8/9 Girls Winner – Emmie Spencer
Year 10/11 Boys Winner – William Irvine
Year 10/11 Girls Winner – Lola Barker

Amazing first race of the season and our new Year 7 pupils were a real credit to the school on their first outing!

Mr A Masson

Girls' Rugby

Girls Rugby is starting to take off in school. A lot of the girls are complete newbies to rugby and have made unbelievable amounts of progress in the last few weeks!

This is a photo of the girls after 60 minutes in the rain.

Miss A Rowley



Year 9 Boys Football

The Year 9 boys football team have continued their good form in the past term under the guidance of Dr Cannadine. They have recently managed to knock out the current west midlands champions Kings Norton School for boys in that competition as well as progress to the last 16 of the Elite schools cup (knocked out the National champions Thomas Telford School 2-1 after extra time - goals from Jacob Edwards and winner by Jamie Underwood). The squad of players are a real credit to the school and show all the core Arden values in their performances.

Dr J Cannadine

Dance Workshop

Year 9 girls took part in a dance workshop that celebrated Black History Month but also about the continuing racial struggles people undergo. They looked at a piece of interpretive dance to spoken word that told a story and encapsulated the oppression of black people and institutionalised racism. The girls were very moved by this and then had a go at making their own interpretative dance to show stories of this vein.

Miss E Crutchley

National Schools Squash Championships

A team of 6 squash players from years 7, 8 & 9 competed in the first round of the National Schools Squash Championships. Records may need to be checked on this claim, but this may be the first instance for students from Arden to represent their school in squash! We faced tough opposition in the form of Hastings Academy, and we battled it out on their home turf of Hinckley Squash club. Lily Gannaway (year 9) cruised through her 4th string match, dropping only a handful of points and chopped up a nice 3-0 win. Constance Regan-Elson (year 8) came up against a tough 3rd string opponent, although getting into the match in the later stages, ultimately lost 3-0 to a strong opponent. At number 2 and 1 string were brothers Jacob and Lucas Askey (year 7 & 9). Both faced opponents familiar to them from national tournaments, and despite sticking with some lengthy rallies and intense play, both lost 3-0 to very strong players. Ed Burrows and Jude Mason (year 9) played friendlies against the strong Hastings team and won back some pride for the Arden team, putting up a valiant fight in both matches. We await the next round of the KS3 Mixed competition. Well done to all who took part!



Mr H Goldenfeld

Student Achievements



Will Garner (9N)

Will took part in the eventer challenge on 20 September 2024 at Blenheim Palace with his horse Finn. They were competing as part of a team of 4 for West Warwickshire pony club and all 4 combinations had great rounds. Will unfortunately had 1 pole down in the show jumping section but the team finished a

respectable 12th out of 42 teams. He also represented Arden Academy at the Croft school eventer challenge series final on 22 September, and finished 2nd in the 90cm overall series.



Will has also been selected to the U16 Waterpolo National Talent Centre for 2024-25. What an all rounder he is!

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.

Staff Bake Off Winner

The Great Arden Bake Off took place on 13 December. Congratulations to Mrs I Pearson on winning the staff bake off! Her Tres Leches cake was absolutely delicious!



Thank you for reading! Parents/Guardians are welcome to share any news of student achievements made outside of school. We love to hear about them and feature them in the newsletter. If you have anything to share, please send to us by email (office@arden.solihull.sch.uk), with a subject "For Arden Newsletter".