



22nd May 2025

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

I write to share with you the many ways in which we at Arden Academy are rewarding and recognising the outstanding achievements, effort and character of our students. Over the past year, we have raised our expectations of behaviour, attendance and academic endeavour, and I am really pleased with how our brilliant students have responded.

As mentioned, we have increased expectations on our students, but we must ensure we balance this with ample opportunities to recognise their brilliance. Arden already has a well-established rewards and recognition system in place and we are building on these excellent foundations. Our aim is to have a system that upholds our revised, tougher behaviour policy and ensures that every student's progress and positive choices are celebrated formally and frequently.

We aim to recognise our students through a balance of short term and long-term opportunities.

Learning PRIDE “Tray of Treats”

The learning PRIDE tray of treats provides opportunities for teachers to recognise students on the identified aspect of Learning PRIDE. Participation, Respect, Independence, Determination and Energy are the attitude to learning characteristics we want all our students to demonstrate.

Zero Hero Events

Achieving zero behaviour points across a term is no small feat. Students who succeed are invited to bespoke “Zero Hero” events, marking their excellent conduct and self-discipline. These social events aim to recognise the many brilliant students and the unbelievable achievement of doing everything correct every single lesson, every single day and every single week in school.

Head of Year Recognition Events

Events based on various metrics where Heads of Year recognise students in their year group. They may recognise highest achievement points, improved behaviour effort, attendance or excellent learning PRIDE.

The year culminates with our fantastic end of year rewards and recognition ceremony. It is one of the highlights of the academic year where we welcome parents of students who will be recognised during the event. We will recognise the following:

Attendance

Excellent attendance has a huge impact on progress and attainment. We award badges and certificates to students who achieve 100% attendance for the academic year, reinforcing the importance of being in school, on time, every day.

Commendations

Commendations recognise effort, progress and consistent application in lessons. Students will stand in a moment of collective recognition and receive a certificate.



School Colours

School colours have significant value at Arden and students wear them with pride. They are difficult to achieve, and students and parents should quite rightly be pleased and proud in receiving this achievement.

We award Colours as a mark of distinction in two areas:

- **Achievement Colours** – for outstanding academic performance
- **Effort Colours** – for those who consistently go the extra mile in their studies.

Emotional Intelligence Colours

Whilst attainment and effort are fundamental to success at school, developing good people that will contribute positively to society is fundamental to Arden's aims. These special Colours acknowledge positive character traits that we hope to develop in our young people:

- Friendship
- Contribution to the community
- Care and support of others

They sit alongside our academic and attendance awards to celebrate well-rounded young people.

Learning PRIDE Recognition Badges

Our teachers assess students' behaviour and attitude in each Progress Report. The top 50 learners, ranked by combined behaviour and attitude to learning scores, will receive a Learning PRIDE badge in recognition of their sustained excellence. This is a significant achievement and recognise our most dedicated students.

Behaviour Balance Badges

With our increased expectations of behaviour and attitude of our students we have placed great emphasis on having a positive behaviour balance. This means having more achievement points than behaviour points. At the end of the year, we will now recognise and reward this. We will award gold, silver and bronze badges to the 100 students with the best behaviour balance:

- **Gold** – Top 30 students
- **Silver** – Next 30 students
- **Bronze** – Next 40 students

In addition, we will continue to recognise students that contribute to the wider aspects of school life:

Drama and Music Recognition

We acknowledge dedication to the performing arts in several ways:

- **KS3 Drama Club:** An Extracurricular Colour is awarded to each student who attends regularly.
- **KS3 Music:** An Extracurricular Colour is awarded to each student that shows dedication to the numerous music clubs available.
- **School Productions:** All participants receive a Half Colour in recognition of their rehearsal attendance and performance.
- **Full Production Colour:** Awarded after involvement in three school productions.
- **Performing Arts Tie:** Each year, two students across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 are honoured for exceptional commitment and contribution to the department.

Physical Education Recognition

Students who engage in our extra-curricular sporting activities may earn Half Colours or Full Colours. To qualify, a student need only attend their chosen club regularly throughout the year:

- **Year 7:** Half Colour awarded to two students selected in each sport
- **Year 8:** Half Colour awarded to every student who has attended the club on a regular basis
- **Year 9:** Full Colour awarded to two students selected in each sport
- **Year 10:** Full Colour awarded to every student who has attended the club on a regular basis

Sports Ties

Over a student's five years at Arden, they may earn the prestigious Sports Tie in recognition of outstanding contribution to PE lessons and school sport. This is awarded not for athletic prowess alone but for peer support, team commitment and a positive attitude to physical activity. The International Sports Tie is reserved for those who have represented their sport at the highest level, either by playing for a national team, competing in major international events or reaching national finals where no formal national side exists.

We believe that high standards, applied fairly and firmly, create the climate in which all students can thrive. We make no apology for expecting the very best from our young people—Arden Academy's success is built on high expectations, outstanding teaching and a supportive community.

Thank you for your continued support in reinforcing these expectations at home. Together, we will ensure that every student at Arden Academy has the motivation, recognition and environment they need to flourish.

Yours faithfully,



Mr N Burke
Deputy Headteacher