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STOP PRESS...

STOP PRESS

Our annual Sports Day took place on Wednesday 16th July, with the whole school being out on the field, in their House Pens, cheering on hundreds of willing athletes. It was great to see so much participation and good-natured support of all participants. We are thrilled to say that Curie house were declared the winners – well done!

Mr Warwood's Reflections

We are delighted to have had such an eventful and exciting summer term. You will see throughout the newsletter the staggering array of activities and opportunities that our students have engaged in. We are always proud of just how much our students do and how much they achieve, it just seems like year on year they do more and achieve even more, something that we really are genuinely very proud of. Celebrating in style with the Year 13 at their Sixth form Ball and greeting our Year 11 onto the red carpet for their Prom are always annual highlights. The Magical performance of Little Shop of Horrors was simply fantastic, encapsulating all the strengths of Arden as students and staff work tirelessly together to create something truly exceptional. The success of our sports teams this year has also been incredible, success at local, regional and national levels is again something that we are very proud of.

We look forward with real confidence to the exam results of our year 11 and year 13 students which we are sure will provide another opportunity for celebration. At the end of a long year we wish all of our students and families a very happy summer and we hope that you all enjoy a well-deserved break.

Mr D Warwood, Associate Headteacher

School Rebuilding Project

As you know Arden was accepted into the school rebuilding programme a number of years ago with us being placed into an April 2027 start date group. We are delighted to have been informed that our start date has been brought forward to Jan - March 2026.

This is great news for us as a school. The exact details of the refurbishment or rebuild will not be known until we begin the formal feasibility studies in the early stages of 2026. We are confident that the work that Mr Murphy has done on this project over the last 10+ years will become a reality in the next 2-3 years. We will of course keep you updated as we have more details and plans to share.

Mr M Murphy and Mr D Warwood



House Logo Design Competition Winner Announced!

We are thrilled to announce the winner of our House Logo Design Competition: Maisie Keohane in Year 10!

Maisie's entries stood out for their clean, simple, and consistent style, creating a set of house logos that are modern, easily recognisable, and perfect for use across school materials. A huge well done to Maisie—her designs will now represent our five school houses across all future events and displays.

A big thank you to Mr Fletcher for his help and support throughout the design process, and to all students who submitted entries—the creativity and effort on display was outstanding. Choosing a winner was no easy task! Maisie's new designs are below:



A New Era for the House System

The house system is about to become a central part of school life. From September, students will have the chance to earn house points and represent their house in a wide range of events and competitions across sport, drama, academics, music, and the arts.

Each house will be led by a dedicated Head of House:

- **Attenborough (Green)** – Miss Butler
- **Curie (Yellow)** – Mr Dixon
- **Darwin (Blue)** – Mr Fletcher
- **Nightingale (Purple)** – Mr Weaver
- **Parks (Red)** – Miss Finneran

Sixth Form Leadership Opportunity

There will also be an exciting opportunity for **Year 12 students** to apply for the role of **House Captain**. These students will play a key part in helping to run house events, promote house spirit, and support the development of the new house system.

Full details on how to apply will be released in September.

Mr M Horsfield

Austria Ski Trip 2025

What an amazing week away skiing!

From a 24hrs+ coach journey, we journeyed from Arden down to the port of Dover for a late evening ferry crossing, and a day and travelling before arriving at our amazing hotel for the week.



The hotel was a fantastic place for our students to rest, relax, play, socialise, and most importantly EAT! The hotel gave us a wide range of delicious foods for breakfast, our packed lunches, and a well-earned three-course meal in the evening, too. The students loved the food.

The students embarked on five and a half days of skiing over the week, constantly improving and developing into confident little skiers. The progress that every student made from the start to the end of the week was incredible. I hope every student is proud of their skiing accomplishments, as are the Ski Trip Staff are of all of their accomplishments, too.

The week of skiing never ended when we got off the slopes, no! We had a whole host of evening activities planned for the students to keep them engaged throughout: Ski Trip Quiz, Alpine Coaster, Tobogganing, and a Celebration Disco evening, too.



The students were a credit to themselves, as well as Arden. They were an absolute delight on the trip, conducting themselves with such positive manners throughout all of their skiing lessons, evening activities, coach journeys, and in the hotel, too. The

owners of the hotel stated how wonderful our students were and that Arden were the best and their favourite school to have stay with them. Well done Year 10 skiers, super proud!



I would like to give one last massive thank you to all the staff who gave up their February Half Term to support me in taking the 88 wonderful students away on a 9-day skiing adventure to Austria: Mr Cole, Miss Finneran, Mr Eades, Miss Mason, Mr King, Dr Webb, Mr Humphries, Miss Rowley, Mr Reed, Miss Peters, and Miss Heslop.

We concluded the fantastic Ski Trip '25 with a Celebration and Awards Evening, where Gabby Quaid was awarded the 'Phil Howe' Award for outstanding contributions to the Ski Trip. And, to reminisce the happy memories of Ski Trip '25, Miss Finneran created an incredible Ski Trip '25 video that everyone, students, parents and staff all watched together to share in our happy memories from February Half Term.



Well done Year 10 Skiers!
You are awesome!

There are still spaces available on the Jasper Ski Trip in Easter '26, if any Year 11, Year 12, or Year 13 students are interested. If so, please email me at bfletcher@arden.solihull.sch.uk



Mr B Fletcher

Panathlon Event



On 7th May 2025, I had the privilege of taking four of our lovely students to a Panathlon sport event. It was a really special event and it made me feel very proud to be a teacher!

Taking part was Deen Hussain, Anwen O'Hara, Nat Beecham and Seb Henebury. They took part in 7 different activities against 7 other secondary school teams and they did amazingly well. They walked away with a medal, certificate and huge smiles on their faces.

Miss E Blenkinsop

School Production

A Little Shop of Horrors comes to Arden

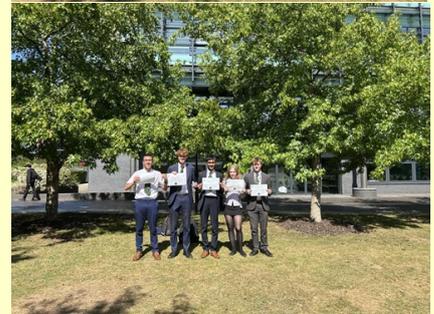
What an absolute joy and pleasure it was to see the culmination of a year's worth of rehearsals coming together in the recent School Production. Friday night rehearsals throughout the year had laid the foundations, lines had been learnt and moves had been choreographed ready for the intensive 2 weeks of full-time rehearsals. The cast and crew were ably led by the Performing Arts Team who all gave their time and talent to creating a show worthy of the West End. To see so many students involved was an absolute privilege, along with the smiles on their faces as they received a standing ovation at the end.



Warwick University STEM Visit (8th July 2025)

As we arrived, we went into the Zeeman building and were guided into the main lecture theatre, where we had a talk on the problem solving mindset. This is essential for all STEM studies and was a complex talk involving problems that were integral to our understanding. The collective favorite was 'THE MAGIC ANTS'. There is a metre long stick with a hundred identical ants on it that all start in random positions. They move in random directions at one metre per minute and when they bump into each other, they turn instantaneously. When they get to the end they fall off and can't get back on. The question asked was if and when the ants would all fall off. Identical ants bumping into each other and turning instantaneously is the same as them phasing through each other, so all ants would fall off within a minute.

We then had a talk on mathematical fluency and AI. This was an informative talk about how the use of AI is preventing independent thinking and hurting students' test scores. The lecturer then showed us studies that explained this rationally. We then moved on to the mathematical proofs talk. This talk explained 15 different ways to prove or disprove conjectures. After lunch, it was the fun maths roadshow where we worked in teams to derive solutions to complex problems efficiently. This exercise was integral to our development of problem solving skills throughout the day. Harvey Stuchfield and Jess Carter won an award for solving the most difficult problems available at the roadshow; Harry Parkin, Peter Mitchell, and Aaryan Lobin won an award for the best teamwork of the day. We were then moved back into the lecture hall for the final session on admissions tests where we went through several TMUA questions explained to us by a lecturer at Warwick university.



Overall, we thought the day was totally rad and we all agreed that we can solve more complex problems in a more rational way. Fun fact to end:

$$2025=45^2=(1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9)^2$$
$$=1^3+2^3+3^3+4^3+5^3+6^3+7^3+8^3+9^3$$

Harry Cheetham 12D and Bella Gaskin 12N

Maths Challenge

Following on from the Sixth Form's fantastic performance in the Maths Challenge back in September, over 450 students in Years 7, 8, 9, and 10 have taken on their own Maths Challenge this year — with impressive results!

Altogether, our students have earned an outstanding 121 Bronze, 69 Silver, and 27 Gold certificates. A special mention in the Intermediate Challenge goes to Daniel Swann for achieving *Best in School*, and Isaac Lee for *Best in Year*.

In the Junior Challenge, congratulations to Toby Makepeace for *Best in School*, and Arthur Woodman for *Best in Year*.

Well done to everyone who took part — your hard work and mathematical flair are something to be proud of!

Miss M Davies

English Department

On Friday 4th July, we welcomed award winning poet, Kayo Chingonyi, into school along with representatives from the publisher Vintage.

The visit was arranged as a result of our partnership with Vintage Publishing, part of Penguin Random House. We are the only school in the country partnered with Vintage. So far, Vintage have arranged three author visits, given talks about careers in publishing and donated hundreds of books. In Year 9, students are currently studying the novels *The Passing*, by Manjeet Mann and *Catching Teller Crow* by Ambelin Kwaymullina and Ezekiel Kwaymullina which were all donated to us from Vintage. Vintage have also donated generous prizes for World Book Day and texts to support the wider reading of our A-Level students.

Kayo gave an inspiring poetry reading to a group of Year 10 students, including talking about his beautiful poem 'Kumukanda' which is one of the anthology poems we study at GCSE. Many students brought along their poetry anthologies to make extra notes and even asked Kayo to sign them! Vintage have donated sixty copies of Kayo's poetry anthology, also called *Kumukanda*, which we will be giving to some of the students who attended the poetry reading. These will be given out in September.

After lunch, Kayo delivered a poetry masterclass to our Year 12 English Literature students and a group of Year 10s who had applied to attend. As well as being an award winning poet, Kayo is Assistant Professor in Creative Writing at Durham University so this poetry masterclass was incredible – he even wrote part of a poem for us, live on the board in the classroom. He was incredibly supportive and empowering when talking to the students and reading their work. He has asked for any students who complete their poems to send them to him so he can give them some feedback.

After the masterclass, our friends from Vintage gave a presentation about careers in the publishing industry, even sharing with us the cover for a novel not yet published.

We are in the process of arranging our next author visit in the autumn – all as a result of this special and unique partnership.

Mrs F Hale



Oxford University Stephen Spender Translation Competition

This year we launched a competition for Key Stage 3 students to take part in in the Stephen Spender Poetry Translation Competition, which is organised by Oxford University. Students need to find a poem in a foreign language, translate it into English and then write a commentary about the poem, explaining why it is so important to them. We will receive a list of the prize winners in October but all entries receive a certificate from Oxford University. This is the poem, translation and commentary written by Myrto Xyda, 7H.

Αν όλα τα παιδιά της γης (Γιάννης Ρίτσος)

Αν όλα τα παιδιά της γης
πιάναν γερά τα χέρια
κορίτσια αγόρια στη σειρά
και σήνανε χορό
ο κύκλος θα γινότανε
πολύ πολύ μεγάλος
κι ολόκληρη τη Γη μας
θ' αγκάλιαζε θαρρώ.

Αν όλα τα παιδιά της γης
φωνάζαν τους μεγάλους
κι αφήναν τα γραφεία τους
και μπαίναν στο χορό
ο κύκλος θα γινότανε
ακόμα πιο μεγάλος
και δυο φορές τη Γη μας
θ' αγκάλιαζε θαρρώ.

Θα ῥχόνταν τότε τα πουλιά
θα ῥχόνταν τα λουλούδια
θα ῥχότανε κι η άνοιξη
να μπει μες στο χορό
κι ο κύκλος θα γινότανε
ακόμα πιο μεγάλος
και τρεις φορές τη Γη μας
θ' αγκάλιαζε θαρρώ!

"This poem is important to me because it represents how we should focus on the simpler things. This poem represents how adults always think about work and making a profit, while kids focus on more important things, like being loved. For me it also shows how important working together is." (Myrto Xyda)

If all the children of the Earth (Giannis Ritsos)

*If all the children of the Earth
Held each other's hands tightly
Boys, girls all in a circle
And started dancing,
The circle would become
Very, very big
And all of our Earth it would embrace*

*If all the children of the Earth
Called the adults,
And they left their work
And joined the dance,
The circle would become
Even bigger,
And all of our Earth
It would embrace twice*

*Then the birds would come,
Then the flowers,
Then spring would come
To join the dance
And the circle would become
Even bigger,
And it would embrace our Earth
Three times.*

Mr I Edgington

Textiles Club 2024-2025

The new Year 7s started this year off embroidering their initials with a variety of surface decorations, including applique, buttons, sequins and more. From this they then created gonk garlands for the Christmas season!

During the Spring we made identity flags. Each student had an individual strip of material which they decorated with fabric paint and stitch to represent them and their hobbies. These have been backed with fabric and threaded together as bunting to be proudly displayed in AR1.

This Summer we have run our visible mending and repair project for a second year in a row. Students learnt how to patch a hole and how to use embroidery to decoratively mend denim. These have been made into small cushions and keyrings. Students were engaged and created some really lovely samples. "I have really enjoyed textiles club because it is really fun and has taught me lots of things about sewing." – Lauren Woolley (7O)

The year 9s have whizzed through many projects, starting the year off with learning batik (a wax resistant dyeing technique) into cushions, creating fabric flowers into brooches and finally cross-stitch this Summer.

The year 9s have learnt how to cross-stitch, translating pixels into stitch to create a complete image. Students engaged really well with this and have developed a real interest with this embroidery technique. "I love Textiles Club! I look forward to it every Monday! My favourite project has been the cross-stitch keyrings because it has allowed me to be creative and produce a product I can use as well as a skill that is helpful in everyday life." – Stephanie Parkes (9N)

Textiles Club runs from October-June/July in AR1 for KS3 students with Mrs J Miners and Miss J Durling.

Miss J Durling



Year 9 Charity Bike Ride

On 24th June 2025, 23 Year 9 students (the most ever taken on the bike ride) set out to complete the 100km ride from Arden to Stratford and back. We decided as a collective to raise money for The Lily Mae Foundation. We did this because it is a local charity that supports families who have experienced stillbirth and miscarriages.



Our journey began on the 17th/18th May when we set out for our selection ride that was 27 miles to Kenilworth and back. We practised our safety signals and gained experience and confidence on the road as a large group for the first time.

Once we were selected we had to complete a training ride that was to build our stamina and prepare us for our main ride. The selection ride was 47 miles to Wotton Warren which was a big step up compared to the selection ride.



For the charity bike ride, our day began at 7am and we set off with positive attitudes ready for our long hot day ahead. Once we arrived at our first official stop, Ed realised that he lost his bottle and made Mrs Spencer drive back in a support vehicle to go search for it. Unsuccessful, we met the car at the Hatton Arms where lo and behold Ed found his bottle in his bag where he left it all along. Though Ed was not the only one to lose equipment as Orla also had her pump fall off her bike just a short while after, making Mr Fletcher go back to find it (successfully this time). Fast forward to lunch where we had a lovely break by the river Avon in Stratford where the teachers refueled with fish and chips (much to the appeasement of Mr Ambris) while the students watched in awe. Eventually we had to move on from lunch and get back in the saddle, where almost instantly we were met with the steepest incline of the day (Mr Ambris was not happy, proceeding to walk up it with his bike by his side!) though we persevered and continued through the next few miles. Coming upon the last few miles group C began to make their way up the field increasing the pace all the way to the finish, where we rode back into Arden as a group. We were met by A LOT of proud parents (some even with flares!), ending the day exhausted but also proud to have taken part in the event.

But we did more than just a bike ride, for the weeks leading up to the ride we worked hard on raising money for The Lilly Mae Foundation. By the end of the bike ride, we had collectively raised over £7,000 (with money from a Krispy Kreme doughnut sale still to come!), with some people raising over £600 so thank you so much to the 282 people who donated (including K&D Round Table!).



We would also like to thank all the people who helped the event take place including:

Lorna Hulme, Victoria Spencer, Rachel Mills as well as David & Kirsty Eales for driving the support car on each ride.

Dr Seago, Mr Simpson, Mr Goldenfeld, Mr Fletcher, Mr Ambris, Mrs Hyde, Mrs Crawford, Mr White and finally Mr Singh for helping organise the ride.

And finally, of course, to all the riders:

Pearl Barker, Sam Blackburn, Ed Burrows, Poppy Burrows, Orla Cole, Maddie Eales, Matt Eales, Emre Hodgetts, Owen Hulme, Andrew Irvine, Billy Kirkbride, Sebastian Lewthwaite, Sam Lidgate-Taylor, Lucas Manton, Jude Mason, George McMonagle, Mia Mills, Ollie Oakley, Jude Pails, Dominic Penfold, Sophia Roddy, Emmie Spencer and Zak Spittle.

Emmie Spencer 9A, Orla Cole 9S and Andrew Irvine 9N

Reading Rewards Trip to the Story Museum

This year's Reading Rewards trip to The Story Museum in Oxford celebrated the enthusiasm and commitment our Year 7 and Year 8 students showed in Library Lessons.

Upon entering the museum, students were whisked away on a Wonder Walk, winding through the historic streets of Oxford. Our students visited the original lamppost that inspired Narnia and the school buildings which influenced Philip Pullman's Jordan College. There was a real sense of excitement and curiosity as they walked. At the end of the tour, our students had the chance to perform a scene from *The Lord of the Rings*, with Oliver P (Year 8) proudly taking the lead role of Frodo, following in his older brother's footsteps—or should we say hobbit steps—from two years ago.

After the walk, students visited The Story Museum itself. Beginning at the Whispering Wood, students engaged with interactive exhibits about oral stories through time and a Dragon Exhibition about legends from around the world. In the main museum, students were able to act as characters from books, entering the pages of worlds such as the Hundred Acre Wood, Wonderland, and more modern texts such as *The Art of Being Normal* and *Noughts and Crosses*. Students particularly enjoyed relaxing in the Snowman Room on comfy sofas, while others elected to test their courage in the room with the secret Subtle Knife.

After visiting all the rooms and exhibits, students were invited to work in groups. Year 8 participated in a Museum Maker workshop where they designed their own room based on the museum's style, while Year 7 created freeze-frames around the idea of story portals. These sessions were engaging and also hilarious as students impressed us with their creativity, gymnastic skills, and dramatic flair.

In the feedback, students said:

"Thank you so much it was so fun and by far one of my best memories from this school year"

"It is nice to be rewarded for the effort I put in"

"I had a fun time with friends and made tons of memories and learned stuff"

Year 8



Reading Rewards Trip to the Story Museum

The Story Museum trip and the rewards themselves celebrate and encourage curiosity, determination, and a love of reading. Students don't need to be natural readers to earn a place on the rewards day: they just need to be willing to be open-minded and to dream big, something our students truly embodied this year. A big thank you to all the teachers who supported the day, and to the students - I hope this reward made all your hard work feel worthwhile!

Year 7



Miss E O'Brien

Reading Rewards 2.0: Comic Art Masterclass!

This year, for the first time ever, we had so many impressive readers that we needed to create a second Reading Rewards Day. This new reward was a Comic Arts Masterclass with Kev F. Sutherland.

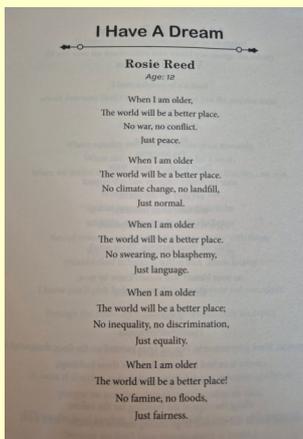
Our Year 7 and Year 8 students enjoyed a wacky and hilarious event featuring Minions, *The Simpsons*, Adam Sandler, and Kim Kardashian. Alongside all the laughter, students also learned real skills, such as how to draw using perspective and how the size of a comic panel can dramatically change the story. Every student involved in the session had their own caricature personally drawn by Kev and placed alongside their comic strip work, all of which was then printed into a comic book they can keep for life.

I was truly impressed by the behaviour of all students on the day. Their energy, enthusiasm, and commitment throughout the year resulted in this special Reading Rewards Day, and I hope they really enjoyed it. I'd like to wish all of them a lovely, well-earned summer break.

Miss E O'Brien



"I Have A Dream"



Sampad Arts, a local arts organisation who Arden worked with previously for a flashmob, launched a competition on Martin Luther King Day and was inspired by his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech. The competition was created to encourage young across the West Midlands and India to articulate their own dreams and aspirations through the written word.

Arden had two winners: Vaari Goenka and Rosie Reed, who were invited to attend a book launch at St Paul's Girls School in Edgbaston. Vaari, who is now studying abroad, could not attend the event so Rosie and some supportive friends attended alongside Librarian, Miss O'Brien and Art teacher, Miss Finneran.

The event was launched with a speech from author Bali Rai (who gave Arden a special shout out as he attended our 2020 World Book Day event!) and a video message from poet Aliyah Begum who both congratulated the winners on their success. Although there were many winners in the room, only a select few were invited to read their work aloud and Rosie took to the stage to confidently read her poem.

This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to be inspired by young writers from around the world and to celebrate the power of creativity within our own school. Thank you to Sampad Arts for launching the competition and well done again to Vaari and Rosie for having their work published in the 'I Have a Dream' anthology.

Miss E O'Brien



Student Leadership

It is with great excitement that we introduce ourselves - Eden Love Green and Harry Justice - as Head Girl and Head Boy 2025-2026, as well as introducing the rest of the student positions of responsibility:

Senior Pupils

Eden Love Green (head girl), Bebe Cooper, Sofia Tam, Nishi Chohan, Harry Justice (head boy), Daniel Brennan, Misha Bukovych and Alistar McArthur

School Council chairs

Martha Williams and Lucy Fallis

Leadership Team

Molly Smith, Olivia Coles, Paige Edginton, Maisie Keohane, Dylan O'Donnell, Joe Fox, Oscar Mason and Zac Hill-Brown.

The process started with our written applications, which then led to students completing a group presentation in front of Mr Warwood, Miss Mason and last year's senior pupils. The final 18 students were then selected and given their respective roles after a formal interview.

The senior pupils will be the face of the school, attending cross trust conferences, meeting current and prospective parents as well as extensive presentations.

The school council leads will head the school council, working closely with representatives from each year group as well as alongside teachers.

The leadership team will work on projects and assemblies, pushing values to the school community.

We look forward to our journey in these roles throughout the next academic year!

Eden Love Green and Harry Justice

School Council Members Meeting with Madam Mayor

Recently, Arden Academy had the exciting honour of attending the council houses for a formal meeting with Madam Mayor along with members of our School Council. This unique opportunity gave students a real insight into civic leadership and the importance of student voice. During the meeting, we discussed a range of meaningful topics, including the re-establishment of the form captain system. It was a privilege to share our ideas and engage in conversation with someone so involved in shaping our local community. To top it all off, we even got the chance to wear the formal attire of Solihull's very first mayor — a moment of history we won't forget and a great bit of fun!



Miss M Davies

PTFA News

Our mission at the PTFA is to raise lots of money to support the school and hopefully have some fun along the way.

Ultimately the funds we raise are used to supply vital educational resources and equipment. Over the last few years, we've helped fund a wide range of essential items across the entire school including reading books, DT equipment, Sports kits, media study gadgets and even two minibuses!

Our goal every year is to raise between £15,000 and £20,000 and this academic year, thanks to the support of our volunteers and generous families, we have smashed the target, raising circa £25k – and there's still a few more events to go before the end of term.

One of our biggest and (excuse the puns) most sparkly event – the one that really lights up the calendar and always goes off with a big bang – is our Fireworks Display. It is our biggest fundraiser of the year but to run it we need lots of lovely volunteers to help make it a success. If anyone can spare any time at all to lend a hand, we would be eternally grateful. Drop us a line at ptfachair@arden.solihull.sch.uk.

One other super easy way you can support our efforts and don't have to actually lift a finger (other than the one you click pay on ParentPay with) is to join the Big Cash Draw. For just £12 a year, you're automatically entered into a prize draw every half term and you could win up to £200. Look out for info on ParentPay.

We also run a pre-loved uniform service for when your child comes home without their PE kit for the third time that term or you have replaced approximately 73 lost ties by the time we break up for Christmas. We know the lost property struggle is real and we won't judge, so get in touch via the pre-loved uniform Facebook page or via the PTFA email address.

Our committee meetings happen on the second Monday of every half term at school and our first one for the next academic year will be on the 15th September at 7pm. You don't need to sign your life away or take on a big role, just come along and see what we are all about and whether you would like to get involved.

Dates for your diary:

- **Annual Fireworks Display, Saturday 8th November**, Arden Academy
- **PTFA Ball 2026** – date and venue to be confirmed

Car Boot Sale to be held in school car park, more details to come but if you need a clear out at home this will be a great opportunity to do so!

Get in touch: Follow us on Facebook or Instagram or drop us a line at ptfachair@arden.solihull.sch.uk

Solihull Family Information Service Parents' Network – Summer Activities 2025

With less than 2 weeks to go until this year's school summer holidays, we wanted to share with you a wide variety of activities/events taking place in Solihull and its neighbouring boroughs, to keep families entertained over the summer break.

Taking on board previous parent/carer feedback, we wanted to share event details with our Parents' Network members as early as possible; in order to help them plan their family days out and to ensure they can book places/tickets in advance (if required). To further support this move, we plan to continually add new events when we hear about them. So please do regularly comeback and visit the Family Information Directory throughout the summer for all the latest updates.

Please see this year's [summer activities pages](#) (via our Family Information Directory) for details of:

Summer camps & clubs

- **Library activities**
- **Creative arts and theatre events**
- **Days out**
- **Activities and events for families**
- **Ofsted registered holiday childcare**
- **Free HAF activities**



Image courtesy of Compton Verney

Please [click here](#)

(N.B. The above weblink will redirect you to Solihull Council's Family Information Service webpages)

Don't forget! Solihull Family Information Service are here to assist and support you and the families you work with, throughout the holidays and beyond.

If you require information or advice relating to childcare, activities or support services, early education funded places (including the new childcare expansion scheme) or free school meals, please visit www.solihull.gov.uk/familyinfo for further details or contact the Family Information Service helpline on 0800 389 8667 or email familyinfo@solihull.gov.uk

Solihull Family Information Service

Visit: www.solihull.gov.uk/familyinfo

Email: familyinfo@solihull.gov.uk

Solihull Family Information Service - providing information to families with children 0-19 years and 0-25 years with additional needs.

*We're small enough to care,
but big enough to make a difference*

www.solihull.gov.uk



Work experience

A Day in the Life of a Midwife

On 7th of April, Mae D’Onofrio, Ava-Mae Hogan, Immy McArdele and Cleo Kakoullis and myself attended a ‘Day in the Life of a Midwife’ experience organised by University Hospitals Birmingham (UHB) and Mrs Butcher-Johns. Initially, we gathered in a lecture theatre in Solihull hospital and had a presentation about what the day would include. We then moved on to a 20-minute discussion with some of the more senior midwives and maternity support workers about their jobs and the different pathways into midwifery. We were then taken around a series of experiences including a discussion about infant feeding with the nurses, a chance to see a water birthing pool, being able to palpate a false pregnancy belly to find the baby’s head and heartbeat, caesarean section operating theatre set up and explanation, and finally, neonatal nursing where we changed a nappy and dressed a baby doll inside an incubator and learned about the different ways to care for a baby.



The part of the experience which we felt we had learned the most from was the one-to-one chat with the midwives where we discussed how you can advance your career in midwifery and what they do in their day-to-day work. We also learned about the support system that is in place for the midwives as it is a very hard and demanding job; whilst the midwives’ main jobs are to support women, they need support as well. We also learned more in-depth about things like water births and the advantages of each different kind of birth and what complications midwives are

equipped to assist with. Overall, this experience helped us to gain a detailed insight into what kind of work midwives do and gave us a good idea of how to gain access into working as a midwife and just how strenuous yet rewarding working as a midwife can be. The experience really helped us to grasp what the job was like and encouraged us to explore that field of work more. Thank you for this experience UHB!

Sophie Pajon 11H



Year 10 Work Experience

Students from Year 10 took part in work experience during the week of 23rd June. We have had some amazing feedback from employers, students and parents which makes us even more determined to continue running this programme – we know it gives students an insight into careers and the world of work, and employability skills; and we know that students return to school after their placement feeling confident, motivated and reinvigorated. We will be talking to our current Year 9s very soon about preparing for work experience in June 2026.

Maisy Roache at UM Advertising Agency (Feedback from Nicola Daniel):

“On behalf of everyone in the agency, and our media partners externally – we first of all wanted to say Thank You for being interested in McCann and secondly, we wanted to say an even bigger, huge Thank You for bringing so much enthusiasm, energy and curiosity with you during your work experience this week. As an advertising agency, we are tasked with understanding generations, cultures and communities alien to our individual selves, it is too easy to “make assumptions” about what is cool, interesting and relevant (that’s why we have amazing researchers, who you spent time with and did an excellent job). Having you around us, and hearing your ideas has instantly made us smarter. Always be yourself. Stay curious – and if you ever want a job in advertising – we’d love to chat!”

Monty Wainwright at Thor Hammer (Feedback from Steve Mason):

“As a small local manufacturing business, producing a globally recognised product, our processes are mix of traditional and new. To have a student in, who was prepared to engage, listen, understand, not be afraid to ask questions and follow directions has been an absolute pleasure. Monty has been a credit to himself, his family and Arden Academy. Whatever future career path Monty decides to embark on, if he can keep the attitude and mentality he has shown us this week, he will go a long way.”



Luca Tuppen at Fresh Building Solutions Ltd



Oliver Leeson at ZF, Blythe Valley



Alayna Mohsin at Yewtree Pharmacy



Bhanu Dubey at Longford Primary Healthcare Centre



George Fitzgerald at Broadway Malyan Architectural Practice



James Tebbit at Solihull Moors



Reagan Ryan at Solihull Riding School



William Clouston-Smith



Sky Johnson at Merstone School



Izzy Mills at Signature Aviation

Mrs S Butcher-Johns

Community Day at Arden Academy



On Friday 26th June, it was officially a Community or 'giving back' day from the students at Arden Academy. They had offered help to a range of local sports clubs, nursing homes and litter picking groups and around 600 students were involved in giving up time to help others across numerous places. A group of 60 year 9's visited Knowle Football club in the morning and were prepared to help the club by doing some general sweeping and tidying up plus painting. The students got fully involved and made a difference. An introduction by Knowle FC member Stuart Lanyon was followed by the



students working in teams to help paint the wall and tidy the place up. A second group helped in the afternoon. Well done all!

Dr J Cannadine, Mr B Smith, Mrs E Bennett, Mrs M Allport and Mr M Riches

ECO Committee at Village Clean-up Event

Students from Arden volunteered part of their Saturday and helped out at the Knowle Village clean up event. They helped with weeding, tidying and litter picking around our local community.



Organiser Angela Bird said - "They got lots of thanks from the residents who passed by and they were very respectful and chatty with folks. A credit to Arden. Thank you so much for your support".

Mr H Goldenfield

Year 7 Book Club

A handful of delightful Year 7 students have joined Mrs V Parkes and myself for a fortnightly book club. We read 'Boy 87' over 3 weeks, an engaging and enlightening book about the plight of refugees, which we rated a solid 9/10 and would recommend! Although we weren't too sold on the ending....

We have now started 'The summer we turned green' which looks at environmental matters but also family issues and we are really enjoying this one too and the students are writing reviews to put up round school. Thanks to the students for their wonderful contributions.

Miss E Crutchley

Visit to Birchmere Mews on 27 June 2025

"I had a really fun time at Birchmere Mews and we all felt really welcomed by staff. There was a fun atmosphere of games, talking and laughing. We loved seeing everyone smile and having the best time. Thank you to Birchmere Mews for inviting Arden Academy. We really enjoyed it and hope to see you again soon!" (Liv Pitt 8D)



"As a student from Arden Academy, I had the opportunity to visit Birchmere Mews Care Home for a couple of hours and it was a truly special experience.

Everyone was so welcoming from the staff to the residents. I enjoyed chatting with them, hearing their stories and handing out cards to them. It was heart warming to see how kind and caring the staff and residents were.

Even though the visit was short, it left a big impact. I'm so glad I had the chance to be part of it. Thank you" (Izzy Westley 8R)

Sports News

Year 8-10 Girls Gaelic Football Team Shine at London ABCs

On 3rd July, our Year 8, 9, and 10 girls' Gaelic football team travelled to London to compete in the prestigious ABCs Schools Tournament. The team performed exceptionally well, showcasing great determination and teamwork to bring home the **Shield Trophy**.

This victory marks yet another impressive achievement, following their recent success in Manchester just a few weeks earlier. Congratulations to all involved for their hard work and continued excellence on the field!



Centre: Captains Orla Cole, Erin Boyle

Front row left to right; Freya Pannett, Lottie Herbert, Connie Bate, Mia Mills, Lola Peel, Annie Tomlinson

Back row left to right; Adelaide Burke, Aivlen Quinn, Emmie Spencer, Maia Daines, Poppy Burrows, Sophia Roddy

Mr A Cole

Achievements of Year 9 Football

The year 9's have had another successful season building on strengths across the previous 2 years. They won a further 2 cups (5 in total since y7) and played over 20 matches. The highlight was a visit to the home of Birmingham City FC where they won the inaugural Trevor Francis Cup 2-0 with goals from Nick P and Captain Max C (see photo). They had won the semi-final with a visit to West Hills training ground which was a new experience for some of the players. Another high was beating Kings Norton (reigning holders) 5-1 in the West Midlands cup on an October afternoon. The squad has increased to beyond 20 that has allowed new players to come in and establish a place in the team, notably the 2 Ollies- Pates and Jones! The team also did amazing and reached the semi-final of the Elite schools ESFA cup only to lose in extra time to a team from Manchester. Overall some superb results against much more established teams with Directors of football employed! Onto their final match, the Solihull cup final, where they had a close first half with Langley they pulled away in the second half to win comfortably in the end with Alex Horsley scoring the final goal! They have worked hard and really do play for each other. This was noticed especially in the higher profile games. I have had a great time with this group of talented lads and I wish them all the best in the future!



*Dr J Cannadine
Bunsen Burner FC*

U16 and U13 Table Tennis

It has been another exciting year in the world of table tennis at Arden. Numbers have been healthy at the after schools club and we sent teams to both the u16 and u13 regional championships. We secured silver and a bronze for the u16 and a silver for the u13 which are terrific results.

Meanwhile the trio of Hailey and Hazel Lam plus Sheryl Chiu reached the finals of the Nationals in the u16 girls event which is a tremendous achievement. Well done to all. Remember table tennis club is on in the Drama Studio on Wednesday after school. All are welcome.

Dr J Cannadine

Year 8 Football

It's been a fantastic year for the Year 8 football team. They WON the Birmingham Cup and also had an awesome trip to the Hawthorns, home of WBA, for the ESFA National Final. We took a coach load of supporters who were noisily led by Mr Riches' chants of "Green & Gold". The result wasn't what we wanted but the performance was one to be proud of.

Congratulations to the squad:

Aidan Ward; Lucas Hemmings; Noah Dowthwaite; Tommy Morris; Zack Bates; Nathan Thomas; Caidan Quinn; Charlie Winn; Edward Bradburn; Jacob Rodgers; Freddie Littlebury; Ethan Underwood; Charlie Stephens; Ollie Shelton; Archie Reilly



Student Achievements

Will Garner (9N)

Will competed in June at the Junior International Tetrathlon competition. He was competing for Central England but then also got selected to compete on the English Boys team. It was an amazing experience with a tough cross country course. The England team came 2nd overall, with Will achieving best swim overall! This is on top of other achievements this year. Highlights being Blenheim horse trials (eventer challenge) - pony club team selection; Windsor horse show (tetrathlon) - Central England team selection; Junior international (tetrathlon) - England team selection; Offchurch eventing qualifiers (eventing) - west Warwickshire pony club We are proud of you, Will!



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 News

We would like to offer our congratulations to Mrs E Hammond and Mr S Anwar who have had babies this term.

At the end of this academic year, we are saying goodbye to the following colleagues:

Mr N Oliver, Deputy Curriculum Leader for History	Mr D Goodman, Teacher of Geography & Sociology
Mr A Masson, Head of PE	Miss L Riley, Teacher of English
Ms D Cassidy, Teacher of Maths	Miss R Herrmann, Teacher of MFL
Mr T Evans, Teacher of Computing	Mrs J Wood, Receptionist
Ms D Le Saint, Teacher of MFL	

We are delighted to be joined in September by:

Mrs S Abedian, Teacher of English	Mr Y Hanif, Teacher of Computer Science
Ms S Anjam, Teacher of MFL (Head of Spanish)	Mr L Henderson, Teacher of PE
Mr T Cox, Teacher of MFL	Miss M Stark, Teacher of PE
Miss G Drain, Teacher of Maths	Miss I van Dijk, Teacher of Geography
Ms G Euridge, Teacher of Science	

Welcome to the Arden Family!

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 (Newsletter@arden.solihull.sch.uk).