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## Online Safety

National Online Safety is a website designed to support schools, parents and young people in learning how to stay safe online. The website contains a wealth of useful information including guides for staying safe in relation to specific apps and online platforms. These guides are easily downloadable and can be found [here](#).

Some of the latest guides to be published include one about **being kind** on Social Media, with a focus on Mental Health, and others focusing on TicTok and Minecraft. Help and guidance is also provided for parents to start conversations to support Mental Health. We recommend taking a look.



# ad altiora news

ISSUE 3 |

JANUARY FEBRUARY 2020

## Looking Forward to Spring

2020 has picked up where 2019 left off with school moving at a frenetic pace. With Christmas a distant memory our staff have been working tirelessly to support our Year 11 students following their mock exams. Huge amounts of feedback have been given to help provide the final push towards the summer exams; both our students and staff are moving with real purpose towards making the summer's results another set to be proud of. Similarly our Year 13s have been working hard towards their Mock Exams which take place after February half term. Having invested a huge amount of time focusing on making sure we give our A level students the absolute highest quality of teaching and learning, we are excited to see the progress they are making.

This term we have seen drama examinations, language orals, A-Level coursework in history, geography and English, vocational examinations and practical examined components of our catering course take place. As well as this, rehearsals for Les Miserables take place weekly, and we have competed in sports finals and semi-finals in Table Tennis, Basketball, Football and Netball. The amount of time that our staff and students commit is absolutely staggering.

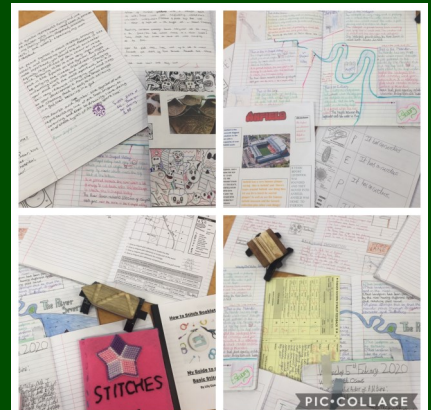
This half term has also brought more tragic news to Arden as we learned that former student Harvey Morris, who left us just last July, sadly passed away suddenly. Harvey was a lovely, cheerful young man who had attended Arden from Year 7 through to Year 11. Throughout those 5 years Harvey enjoyed great relationships with students and staff alike. His positive and warm personality made him a real pleasure to work with; our staff and students who knew Harvey share great sadness of this sudden loss.

Mr Warwood, Associate Headteacher

## Super Student Work

Mr Warwood has been taking some time to speak to groups of students about their work, asking them to highlight things they are most proud of.

He has been blown away by the standard of work he has seen across a range of subjects and the passion expressed by Year 7 and 8 students. He is looking forward to seeing the other year groups after half term.



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

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

## Dancing Success

Congratulations to Year 7 pupil Roxanne Cooper who, following her recent dance exams, has been nominated for a Freestyle Dance Scholarship.

Roxanne has been dancing since she was 3 and started taking IDTA (International Dance Teachers Association) exams 7 years ago. Throughout this time she has been consistent with her high scores and has performed at some of the countries top theatres in shows and festivals.

Freestyle Scholarship candidates are initially nominated by the Association's Examiners when taking a Freestyle Solo medal test at a particular level. Dancers must obtain a mark of at least 90%, showing outstanding and exceptional potential. Roxanne achieved a tremendous score of 97% and her family are all very proud of this remarkable result and her nomination. She will be competing with other

candidates in May at the MAC Theatre in Birmingham and if successful will go on to receive a trophy, cash prize and further training with industry professionals.

Roxanne is extremely pleased to have received this recognition and we all at Arden wish her the very best of luck for her competition. We look forward to hearing how she gets on.



## Year 11 Catering

The Year 11 Catering students have been working hard to prepare for their practical exam. We were really impressed with the dishes they produced. Super effort all round!



## Year 7 English

Mrs Lapworth's Year 7 English group have been working hard and making children's books. She is very proud of the work they have produced. Here is an account of what they have been doing:

'This year we have created our own books for 3-4 year olds. It took a lot of work, time and days of planning. Trust me! But of course it all paid off. Our books had so much imagination, adventures and comedy in them all. Every single one of them. Mrs Lapworth decided they were so good that she even brought her daughter in so that we could read them to her. Mrs Lapworth's daughter loved them and she made us all laugh. At the end Mrs Lapworth chose one to read again and she chose my story about fairies! We had a great experience making our amazing books for nursery children.'

*Written by Amelia Smart*



## Library News

The library has enjoyed a fantastic start to 2020. Academically, Y7 & 8 have been taking their STAR Reader tests, whilst the Y7 -9 Creative Writing group continue to work on their upcoming publication.

The student librarians have been preparing to mentor the new intake of Year 7s – we have had 19 applicants, taking our total cohort up to 37! Furthermore, we have been avidly planning for World Book Day which will be celebrated at Arden on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March.

Now on to the Accelerated Reader winners for this term!

This term, prize draw winners both received a goody bag with lots of bookish prizes. The Year 7 winner won a signed copy of Wrecking Ball (Diary of a Wimpy Kid) by Jeff Kinney; the Year 8 prize draw winner won a signed copy of Murder Most Unladylike by Robin Stevens.

### Year 7

Most Books Read - Ryan Nixon (8) and Amy Simpson (10)

Most Points - Josh Dunne (127) and Jenna Makepeace (67.4)

Most Effort - Gracie Jordan and Sam Sesay

Prize Draw winner - Zara Wallis

### Year 8

Most Books Read - Deon Hall-Brotherson (8) and Jemima Ensell (9)

Most Points - Charlotte Miller (59.3) and Laura Hampson (64)

Most Effort - Zak Arfan and Callum Lowe

Prize Draw winner - Grace Smith

Well done to the winners. Keep reading!

## KS4 Creative Writing Group

The Key Stage Four Creative Writing group have visited both Knowle and Dorridge primary schools over the last few weeks, and have shared their enthusiasm for creating character and plot through reading extracts from their own work, before running sessions creating characters and plot ideas.

With Year 5 and 6 pupils, the Arden team enjoyed developing scenarios that started by creating a character, then using the four humours as bases for temperaments they then introduced a murder-mystery plot element, describing a Cluedo-type setting and dinner party event, discussing all the characters' reasons or motives for being there. Next they announced that the first character had been found dead, apparently poisoned; the others had to write an alibi for their characters, as well as consider why or how they might have 'dunnit' should they be revealed as murderer... it

was a good interactive discussion that explored layers of characterisation, different possible plot directions, and hopefully helped inspire creativity in future Arden pupils!



Milly Llewellyn-Charlton, Grace Monteiro and Henry Dean.

Student finalists on the day were : Marnia Baig, Matthew Pollock, Nia-Mae Vernon-Wynter, Annie Mackiewicz, Kareena Bhogal, Trinity Stephens and Aisha Martin.

Well done to all those involved!

Some reflections from the students : "I am extremely grateful to have been selected to participate in this educational and valuable workshop" and "I really liked the workshop and it was very interesting".



## Speak Out Workshop

On Monday 3 February a groups of Year 10 students had the opportunity to work with a facilitator from the Speakers Trust, to develop their confidence in public speaking.

One amazing fact that was presented on the day, is that a US survey found that those questioned feared public speaking more than death!

Students were given a set of strategies to use in helping them to speak more clearly and confidently in front of others. The day culminated in students presenting to the rest of the group on a subject of their choice. The facilitator was hugely impressed by all those in the group.

Students that were highly commended on the day were :



## Special Fundraising

Following the loss of our colleague Julie Llewellyn in the summer of last year, we held a charity day in school last October to raise funds for SoLO, a Solihull charity for children and adults with learning difficulties, which was very close to Julie's heart. During the non-uniform day, with everyone wearing something red, the students and staff ate their way through boxes of warm samosas and bhajees, homemade cakes and Krispy Kreme doughnuts and the PE department held a Ninja assault course.

Following on from this the Staff Room Association held a quiz for staff after school and the money raised from this was also donated.

We were delighted to invite Ryan (Julie's son) and Jamie Wood (from SoLO) to Arden where Mr Warwood presented a cheque for £4667.28 to Jamie. Once again we were proud to be able to come together, as the Arden family, to raise funds for a local charity and to remember Julie.

We were very touched to receive this note of recognition from SoLO:

*'I am writing to acknowledge with heartfelt thanks and sympathy the amazing donation from Arden School in memory of Julie Llewellyn. I understand that this comes with very mixed emotion all round.*

*Julie was held in such high esteem with staff and pupils alike that it makes us as an organisation feel very humble to be receiving this incredibly generous donation in her memory. I know that it is truly a tribute to her as a person and we are very grateful to you all on behalf of our members and families, especially Ryan, as we strive to do the best we can for people with learning disabilities in the borough.*

*This just shows what a difference can be made in our communities and how much it is appreciated.'*



## Psychology Trip

Forty-two Year 12 psychology students attended a lecture by Dr Amanda Waterman at the University of Leeds on the development of memory. This is an area of their course that they are currently studying and stretched them beyond the A-level specification. Students were very lucky to be given this opportunity that undergraduates pay £9000 per year for. The students were shocked to see that lectures were delivered to hundreds of people at once and so it was certainly an eye opener for future pathways.

After the lecture we walked into the city centre and students conducted their practical project which they have been planning in class. These group projects ranged from use of mobile phones in public to the variance of friendliness up north, and everything in between. The students enjoyed exploring the city and some are hoping to go back to study further there in the not too distant future!



## Computing Competition

Our KS3 students have been taking part in the UK Matrix Challenge that is run by the Police. This competition is open to every 11 to 17yr old in the UK. The qualification stage is an online game consisting of five mini tasks. The top 40 players from each region will qualify for a regional semi-final held at an exciting central midlands venue in early March 2020. Semi-finalists will take on 5 activity stations competing for a place in the National finals to be held at Newbury on 4th July 2020.

Fingers crossed that some of our students make it through!



## Food Demonstration

The Year 10 Food and Nutrition students were very pleased to welcome into school Nick Lyons from Eric Lyons butchers in Knowle this month. He came in to demonstrate portioning chickens and it was a great opportunity to talk to a professional and learn some valuable tips. The students were then able to try the techniques themselves under Nick's watchful eye.

Mrs Bennett and all of the students would like to thank Nick for giving up his time to visit.



## Careers Fair

On Friday 7 February, all Year 9 students and some students from years 11, 12 and 13, were invited to attend the Careers Fair, at which over 20 employers and representatives of Further Education providers were able to provide information, advice and guidance to our students about a variety of different pathways for their future.



The exhibitors included all of the Armed Forces, the Police, many local businesses, Solihull College and Solihull Sixth Form College. Students were able to circulate freely around the stands, listen to information given and have the opportunity to ask questions.

The timing of this event is designed to coincide with the Year 9 Options process, to ensure that students are as well informed as possible for the decisions that they are currently having to make.



The atmosphere in the room during the Careers Fair was really positive and many of the exhibitors commented on the high standards of the students' conduct and the quality of their relevant and thoughtful questions.

## Student Librarians

Nineteen Year 7 students have been appointed to be Student Librarian Apprentices after a successful application and interview. After half term the students will be assigned a mentor from the existing Student Librarians in Years 8-10 and begin their training programme.



We had some excellent answers in their interviews which clearly demonstrated their passion for the library and reading including:

*The most important quality in a student librarian is:*  
Teamwork, Communication, Kindness

*Libraries are important in schools because:*  
They are an escape, They are quiet, They give you a place to find like-minded people to connect with.

I am really looking forward to working with such a super group of students.

Miss O'Brien

## Year 12 Politics and Law Trip

Year 12 students studying Law and / or Politics had the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament and Supreme Court last month.

The trip was a superb way for the students to apply their learning to reality as they witnessed debates in both the House of Commons and House of Lords and were able to meet and ask questions of the



recently elected MP for Meriden, Saqib Bhatti. Mrs Harris and Mr Richards were hugely impressed with the interest the students showed on the day and with their insightful and thoughtful questions.

In the Supreme Court the students toured the chambers, learning more about the workings of one of the UK's newest judicial institutions. Again, a great opportunity to see the reality of what they have been learning about at school.





## Year 12 Physics Visit to CERN

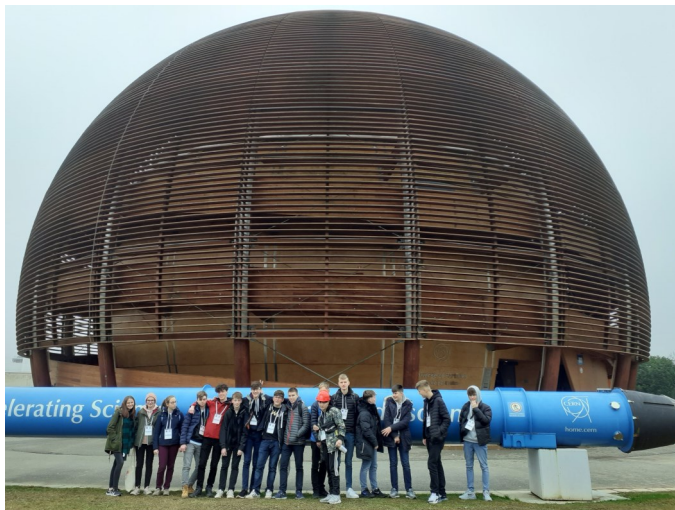
In January, the Year 12 physics students went to CERN in Geneva, for a visit around the facilities, to support our learning in the particles and radiation topic of our A-Level course.

Arriving late on Thursday night, we all went straight to the youth hostel and to our rooms; which were best described as cosy and had 3 bunk beds each, with a view over the city.

On Friday, after having breakfast, we took the tram to CERN. CERN is the European Organisation for Nuclear Research and has the famous Large Hadron Collider, a 27Km circumference particle accelerator buried 100m underground. The LHC is capable of colliding 1 billion protons per second consuming 1.3TWh of electricity every year. The first thing we did there was take a look at their cryogenic testing facility, which is where they design, build and test magnets at temperatures of as low as 1.9K (-271.3C). Within this building, they had some sections of the LHC for us to look at and learn about, like the 35-ton magnets that bend the beam of protons around the circle, the supercooled electrodes that power those magnets, and the sections of copper pipe used to accelerate the particles to 299.8 million metres per second, by simply changing the magnetic field within them.

Following this, we were taken to see the control room at CERN, a massive room filled with computers and screens which looked like the control room of the death star but with slightly fewer laser blasters. They explained that there have been 4 different particle accelerators at CERN over the years, with each one being able to collide particles with more and more energy, and it was easy to see the four different sections of the control room, one for each accelerator. After that was lunch and then the gift shop.

That night we went out for a fondue dinner. After getting over



the heavy smell of sweaty feet, the atmosphere was pleasant and the fondue itself tasted amazing. The evening was complemented with live traditional music where someone played a huge 8-foot swiss horn (which some of us even got to try out) and even used a saw as an instrument.

The next day we went to the St. Pierre Cathedral, a beautiful 850-year-old gothic place of worship in the heart of the old town of Geneva. We went up to the very top tower where we saw amazing views of the city and the lake. Following this, after having lunch, we walked over the bridge towards the new town and got on a boat tour of Lake Geneva, with the main attraction being the Jet d'eau; a fountain consisting of a 140-metre vertical column of water moving 500 litres of water per second at 120 mph.

On the last day, we went to the botanical gardens at the UN, where we saw all their greenhouses and plants and Mr Smith had great fun on the slide in the playground. The whole trip was really interesting and very good fun. We are very pleased to have been able to go and would like to thank our teachers for taking us.

*Will Rose*

## A-Level History Enrichment

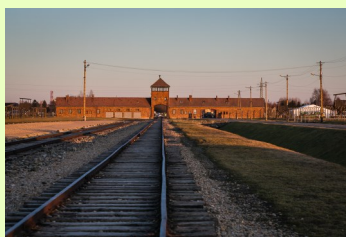
Four Year 12 students have had the opportunity to take part in events organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust.

Zoe Wilkinson and Josh Blood took part in the Lessons from Auschwitz programme which includes UK based workshops and a day visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland. The students were accompanied on their trip by Mrs Harris who works as an Ambassador for the Trust. It was a very powerful experience for the students.

Olivia Boam and Tanith Cox took part in a new project called Belsen75 which is structured in a similar way and included a visit to Bergen-Belsen in Germany. This project has been organised to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the camp. Both of the students and Mr Humphries who also had the opportunity to attend were

humbled by the thought provoking experience.

Both pairs of students will now embark on a legacy project as part of the programme and we are looking forward to seeing what they come up with.



# Sports News

For all the latest news about all things sports related don't forget to follow the Arden PE Department on Twitter

 @ArdenPE

## Mixed Results

As well as our featured events, many of our other teams have been busy competing this term. Here is a round-up of results:

The Year 7 boys Football team beat King Henry Newman Catholic College 5:0.

In Netball there were wins for the Year 8 and Year 9 teams against Shipston High School (33:3 and 52:7). The Year 8 team also beat Saint Martin's 22:5 while the Year 7 team bravely fought but lost their game against Saint Martin's (5:16).

The Year 9 Basketball team beat Heart of England 36:34 and the Year 10s beat Alderbrook 32:22 but lost to John Henry Newman Catholic College.

The Year 10 Rugby team put in a valiant performance against King Henry VIII school but sadly lost 7:23.

## Basketball

It has been another great term for our basketball teams. Our Junior Year 7 NBA team continued their great form with a 30-47 win against Westacre Middle School.

The Year 8 boys had a thrilling basketball final against St. Peter's at Smith's Wood Academy. After losing an earlier game against St. Peter's in the league rounds (32-10), Arden had to dig deep to win the final and the Solihull shield with the final score sitting at 38-30. Congratulations to all of the boys!

Well done also to the Year 9 team who came a close second in their event.



## Gymnastics

Once again we are celebrating after another set of fabulous Gymnastics results. Two teams of students competed in the West Midlands round of the Floor and Vault competition in Stoke on Trent.

Our under 14 team consisting of Holly Woolmore, Katie Minal, Mia Conduit, Lily Conduit, Ben Seago and Adam Batts managed to win their competition securing their place in the National finals in May. Adam Batts was an absolute star as he pushed through an injury to compete.

Our under 19 team of Corey Allen, Ryan Cambridge, Annabel Harrison and Hatty Connelly came second in their competition against some tough opponents.

All of the students also competed as individuals meaning their scores were compared with everyone else in the



competition and we had some amazing results:

U14 boys

Ben Seago = 2<sup>nd</sup> place

Adam Batts = 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (even though he was injured!!)

U19 boys

Corey Allen = 1<sup>st</sup> place

Ryan Cambridge = 2<sup>nd</sup> place

Congratulations to all of the students who took part in the event.



## Rugby

We were delighted to hear that a group of Year 10 Arden students have been selected for the South Warwickshire Under 15's Squad. Ryan McCourt, Ollie Pitt and Dom Jayne were selected from a very strong and able group of over 60 other hopefuls and will now go for FULL county selection in February.

They all achieved A+ & A standard in their trials by 3 RFU assessors and were a credit to themselves, their Club and School in the selection process.

Very well done on such a super achievement.



## Netball

In January our Year 9 girls had their regional netball competition following on from our success at the Solihull, Warwickshire and Coventry round before Christmas. There were 14 schools from across the West Midlands split into 2 groups. In our group we played 6 matches in totals; winning 3 games, drawing 2 and losing 1. Unfortunately this wasn't enough to get us into the semi-finals as we ended up 3<sup>rd</sup> in our group needing just 1 more point to go through, if we could have converted one draw into a win it would have been enough. However, despite this narrow disappointment the girls should be proud of the fact that they played really well and were a credit to the school with their behaviour and sportsmanship being exemplary.

Results are as follows:

Game 1: Bromsgrove School 6 – Arden 4

Game 2: Wolverhampton School for girls 4 – Arden 11

Game 3: King Edwards VI School for girls 1 – Arden 5

Game 4: Newcastle-under-Lyme School 5 – Arden 5

Game 5: Wrekin College 7 – Arden 7

Game 6: St Mary's RC high school 0 – Arden 10

The girls involved were: Eva Robinson, Grace Jones, Evie Moxley, Kate Winn, Hanoria Flannery, Jess Fathers, Izzy Raisbeck and Amy Grantham. Scarlett Collins (Year 8) also played in the afternoon games.

Well done to all the girls. It is an amazing achievement to have even made it to this round and to come 3<sup>rd</sup> in our group means they did really well.

## Badminton

February saw another excellent result in Badminton as our boys and girls KS4 teams both won the School Games Level 3 events. They both won their finals 5-0 as well in amazing performances! Well done to all competitors and a special mention to Tessa and Mia who have won the Level 3 event every year since year 7!



## Table Tennis

Last month three U13 table tennis teams consisting of 4 players each competed in the South Solihull Championships at Lode Heath School. All 12 players from Year 7 and Year 8 did really well and represented Arden with first class attitudes.

The event turned out to be one of the closest in recent years. Arden A team drew their first game with the old foe Tudor Grange 2-2. Both teams then managed to beat the other competing teams with some solid performances. Along the way Arden A had slipped behind Tudor Grange A team and needed our B team to help out. As long as someone from the B team beat a player from Tudor Grange A team the whole event would go to total points scored and give us a chance. Ruben Jogi in Year 7 stepped up to the plate and did exactly as asked. This took the final standings to what turned out to be tense and very close finish. The good news is that Arden A scored 419 to Tudor Grange A's 395 so Arden are winners of the u13 event again! They will play in the regional Level 3 event in April.

Huge congratulations to all of the students who competed. A special thanks also to James Stanley in Year 10 who also came along as a sports ambassador/assistant and was really helpful as usual.

A team (winners): Joe Riley, Zak Arfan, James Campbell and Luke McCourt.

B team (joint 3rd): Josh Lorat, Jake Morgan, Ruben Jogi and Daniel Grist.

C team (6th place): Zoe Watkins, Chloe Robinson, Zac Varachia and Jess Carter.





# 2020 OUTDOOR CINEMA



**PRE-SHOW PERFORMANCES:  
ARDEN SENIOR WIND BAND  
& "GENERATION 6"**

Arden Academy, Station Road, Knowle

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020, 7.00-10.30pm

Tickets: Family 2+2 - £25;

Adults - £10.00; U18s - £5.00. Payment:

<https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/Ardenpftathegreatestshowman>

Or [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)

Streetfood, Bar, Refreshments, Popcorn

(Bring your own deck chairs or picnic blankets)

**Arden**  
**PTFA**  
PARENTS, TEACHERS, FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

## Staff News

Congratulations to Miss George who welcomed another baby boy into her family in January.

Congratulations also to Mrs Joseph whose baby daughter Saniye was born in January too.

Both Miss George and Mrs Joseph will now be on maternity leave.

## PTFA Fundraising

Some years ago the PTFA agreed to help lease two brand new, and much needed, school minibuses. The minibuses are paid for by the PTFA by annual instalments, with the majority of the funding coming from our biggest event – the Fireworks Festival. Unfortunately this year, for the first time in 9 years, bad weather and low turnout on the night of our Fireworks Festival had a major impact on profits. As a result we are struggling to cover the cost of the minibuses and would like to ask if you would be prepared to help. You will notice that a new item of £3 has been added to your ParentPay account to enable you to make a voluntary contribution. Of course, we would be very grateful for any amount you are able to donate and this item will remain on ParentPay until the end of this academic year so you can donate more than once if you wish.

## PTFA Minibus Fundraising

Goal  
£6,000

Arden  
PTFA  
PARENTS, TEACHERS, FRIENDS ASSOCIATION



45%

Thank you to everyone who has donated so far. Our minibuses are an invaluable resource to us. Without them, parents would be obliged to ferry children to/from events or there would be transportation costs added onto school trips. Let's try and reach our goal by July 2020. Please donate via ParentPay, minimum donation £3.00. (Any excess monies will help fund 2020/21 payment).

## Important dates for next term:

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Monday 24th February</b>          | INSET Day  |
| <b>25th February - 6th March</b>     | Y13 Mock Examinations (students on study leave)                |
| <b>25th February &amp; 6th March</b> | Y11 2nd English and Maths Mock Examinations                    |
| <b>2nd &amp; 3rd March</b>           | Y12 Geography Visits to Coventry                               |
| <b>Monday 2nd March</b>              | Y9 Options Evening for Parents                                 |
| <b>Tuesday 3rd March</b>             | Y12 / 13 English theatre visit (evening)                       |
| <b>Thursday 5th March</b>            | Y9 Parents Consultations (school finishes for pupils at 2:15)  |
| <b>Friday 6th March</b>              | World Book Day (various events in school)                      |
| <b>7th - 14th March</b>              | Y9 French Exchange visit                                       |
| <b>Thursday 12th March</b>           | Y12 / 13 English workshop in Stratford                         |
| <b>Wednesday 18th March</b>          | Year 10 Drama theatre visit (evening)                          |
| <b>Thursday 19th March</b>           | Y12 Parents Consultations (school finishes for pupils at 2:15) |
| <b>Friday 20th March</b>             | INSET Day  |
| <b>Tuesday 24th March</b>            | Y12 Biology Field Trip & Y12 Oxbridge Conference               |
| <b>25th - 27th March</b>             | Y9 Rugby Sevens tournament                                     |
| <b>26th March - 3rd April</b>        | Y10 Examinations   |
| <b>Thursday 2nd April</b>            | Y12 Parents Consultations (school finishes for pupils at 2:15) |
| <b>Friday 3rd April</b>              | Last day of Term   |