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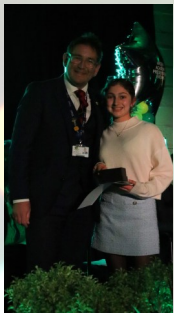
Mr Warwood's Reflections

As is always the case we have had an extremely busy term, this newsletter will showcase so much of the exciting opportunities that our students have been enjoying. Whilst we reflect on all the positivity and all of the excitement that we have enjoyed this term, I also want to recognise the great challenge that our school community faced this term following the tragic death of Nancy in year 9. The resilience, friendship, care and support that I have seen from our students has been exceptional. Our thoughts this Christmas continue to be very much with Nancy's family and those that were closest to her. Mr Last spoke in beautiful tribute at her funeral and again honoured her memory during our year 9 Christmas service, stressing how Nancy and her family remain firmly in our thoughts and prayers at this special time of year.

When reading our newsletter, I think it is hard to ignore the huge range of activities that our students engage with and the great success that they enjoy. This week's Christmas services and our Christmas music concert has been a wonderful way to welcome in the festive season. It was a pleasure to see so many of last year's year 11 and year 13 at this week's prizegiving, where we could recognise their individual and collective successes. This was undoubtedly a fabulous way to close the term.

We would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Christmas, we very much hope that you enjoy quality time with your families and loved ones.

Mr D Warwood, Associate Headteacher



Christmas Kindness

We were thrilled with the response to our request for Christmas Kindness. The photo shows all of the gifts that were donated for the Birmingham City Mission Toylink Appeal that will bring joy to others on Christmas morning. The recent Rashford run and games has brought a fantastic donation of food that will be donated to a foodbank. We are also really pleased to be raising money for the Save the Children charity through our Christmas Jumper day on the last day of term. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.



House Events Round-Up: A Brilliant Start to the Year

Our House system has enjoyed an energetic and varied first term, with students and staff embracing a wide range of events designed to celebrate talent, teamwork and healthy competition.

Miss Blenkinsop organised a very popular Staff & Pupil House Badminton with our Year 11 students, which brought out impressive skill and plenty of good-natured rivalry. The overall winners were Nightingale.

Miss George also put together a brilliant Poetry Competition for Year 7, where pupils demonstrated creativity, confidence and a real flair for language.

In November, our A Level maths students took part in the Senior Maths Challenge, earning valuable points for their houses while representing the school in a national competition. Mr Hussey hosted the first STEM Event of the year, giving Year 8 pupils the chance to collaborate on hands-on problem-solving tasks linked to science, engineering and technology.

We have also seen Year 7 participate in a brilliant House Quiz, organised by Mr Horsfield and some of our sixth form House Captains. The winners were Bethan, Pru, Imogen and Faye, representing Parks.

The excitement doesn't stop there. A fantastic programme of events is lined up for the rest of the year, including the Photography Competition, House Football, Debate Competition, MFL Spelling Bee, The Maths Cup, House Film Competition and the Science Fair. We will also hold our annual Sports Day in the summer term, along with the return of House Music (more details to follow). These activities will give pupils a wealth of opportunities to get involved, show their strengths, and contribute to their house totals.

In the run-up to the festive season, two creative competitions are also underway: the MFL Christmas Card Competition and the Headteacher's Christmas Card Competition. We look forward to celebrating the winning designs before the end of term.

With so much already achieved and plenty more ahead, the race for the House Cup is well underway. Current standings are as follows:

Position	House	Points
1	Nightingale	194
2	Curie	172
3	Attenborough	171
4	Parks	156
5	Darwin	152



Huge congratulations to Nightingale and their head of house, Mr Weaver, on their current lead for this term!

Thank you to every pupil and member of staff who has taken part so far. Your enthusiasm and commitment are what make our House system such an important and enjoyable part of school life.

Mr M Horsfield

Music Concert

On Monday 15th December, nearly 200 students showcased their hard work and skill in our annual Christmas Concert. The level of musical ability was astounding and it was a beautiful start to the last week of a busy term. Massive thanks must go to the Music teachers for their expert tuition and the sense of belonging that they create for the students involved.



Art & Poster Competition

To coincide with the United Nations “16 days of action” we were invited by the Solihull Soroptimists to submit entries for their art and photography competition. The theme of the competition was to promote the prevention of gender based violence. An amazing amount of students showed an interest in the competition and we were pleased to submit 19 entries. We were extremely proud of all the students who submitted a poster. The competition was open to students from across the whole of Solihull and I am thrilled to announce that students from Arden won the top two prizes. Eleanor Bieliasukas was awarded first prize and Ava Love-Green was highly commended. Congratulations to both girls.



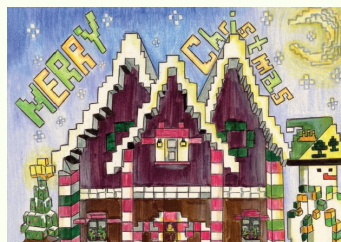
Christmas Card Competition

This year’s annual Christmas Card competition showcased an array of outstanding entries from Years 7 to 10. Selecting the shortlist was especially challenging, but after careful consideration, we narrowed it down to five exceptional designs—one winner, two second prizes and two runners up.

Winner: Sofie Leung

2nd prize: Jed Barker and Hilton Kwok

Runners up: Cherie Ngan and Emily Williamson



Art Department

Year 7 Walsall Art Gallery Trip

During the first half term, the Art Department organised a whole Year 7 cohort trip to the Walsall Art Gallery, over two days. It was such an enriching experience for our students as they explored the concept of 'What is Art?' in their first project in their Art lessons.



The day trip was jam-packed with activities for the students to engage in all aspects of the gallery experience: a community-led experience, focused around the theme of 'Identity' within the local community; a portrait exhibition from the gallery's own collection, exploring the variety of materials used to create a "portrait"; a guided-tour of a large collaborative exhibition all around the concept of 'Home', what does a home mean and look like to many different types of people; and, a gallery-led workshop, where students were able to have a go at re-creating a wire-framed cage seen from the "Home" exhibition from before.



All in all, the students had a wonderful time being exposed to the wide range of materials and styles that "art" can be portrayed as in a gallery space. The students were incredibly well-behaved and this was exemplified by the warm and positive comments from the gallery staff at how polite and friendly our students were. Well done Year 7, you are a credit to Arden and to yourselves.

A massive thank you to Mrs Crawford and Mr Goldenfeld for organising such a wonderful day for the Year 7 students. Also, a big thank you to the following members of staff who gave their time to support the running of this trip: Mrs Crawford, Miss Durling, Miss Donovan, Miss Finneran, Mr Goldenfeld, Mr Hussey, Mr Hook, and Mr. Luton.



Mr B Fletcher

Staff News

We would like to offer our congratulations to Mr J Gethins & Miss K Berry, and Mr M Horsfield who have had babies this term. Congratulations!

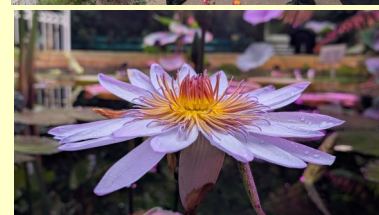
At the end of this academic year, we are saying goodbye to Mr A Cole. Wish him continued success in the next chapter.

Year 8 Botanical Gardens Trip

Over the course of three days in October and November, all of Yr.8 had the wonderful opportunity to visit the Birmingham Botanical Gardens in Edgbaston as part of an enrichment programme to support their learning about Still Life and Nature Forms in Art.



On each trip, the students were involved in four different activities associated with the landscape and environment of the botanical gardens around them: a guided tour around the four glass houses, listening about the plethora of plantlife living in a range of varying habitats; a natural art



workshop, collecting natural materials from around the gardens and using them to construct a beautifully colourful piece of land art on the lawns of the botanical gardens; a photography bingo card activity, students had to try and capture a range of twenty-five different descriptive words from around the botanical gardens, such as, small, spikey, strange, or symmetrical; and a range of observation drawing worksheets, focused around different areas of the botanicals gardens. Students were encouraged to draw the natural forms around them from observing by eye and not from photographs.

All students were taught how to utilise the camera on their phone to achieve a range of photographic techniques, such as, leading lines, filling the frame, and the rule of thirds. Plus, exploring the visual benefits of capturing a photograph from different angles, either from a birds-eye perspective or from a worm's eye view. Students were encouraged to experiment with a range of editing techniques and filters on their cameras, too.

All of these photographic experimentations of different editing techniques and different natural forms are now being used by the students to support and enrich their learning back in the classroom as they can choose their own photographs to work from as their explore using a variety of different materials, such as, mono printing and watercolours, to develop a mixed media piece of artwork inspired by their time in the green spaces of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

I hope all the students enjoyed their time at the botanical gardens. The students were a credit to the school and the staff at the gardens expressed how well behaved they all were. A big thank you to all of the following members of Arden staff who gave their time for the Year 8 students to have an amazing time: Mrs Crawford, Miss Durling, Miss Finneran, Mr Goldenfeld, Mrs Hendry, Mr Hook, Mr Hussey, and Mrs Miners.



Mr B Fletcher

Year 9 Warner Bros. Studio Tour: The Making of Harry Potter

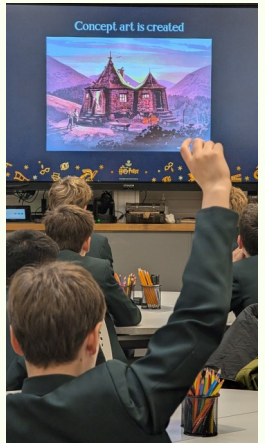
On a wet and windy December day, 45 Year 9 students all ventured down to Watford in London to enrich their own experiences of the World of Harry Potter. This was a trip to also enrich their futures; a trip to open their minds to the opportunities of different careers they could venture into within the creative industry.

The day started with a special workshop that only members of school groups get to see at Warner Bros. Studios; a workshop exploring the creative process of Set Design. The students were exposed to the creative process of designing and creating Hagrid's Hut by being shown: the script, multiple concept sketches, white card models, huge drawing plans of the set, costumes worn by the actors, and a prosthetic head of Hagrid. To finish off the workshop, the students tried creating their own origami house.

Following the workshop, the students were then invited into the tour itself. Expanding over two huge warehouses, the tour shows examples of all the different: sets, staging, miniatures, props, wigs, costumes, graphic design, visual effects, special effects, animatronics, and prosthetics. The tour illustrates tremendously how many different types of careers and opportunities there are for young people to confidently venture into the creative industry and find a career suited to their passions and interests.

I do hope this 'Careers in Art & Design' trip has inspired your children to pursue their love for the creative arts. As the Year 9 students are considering what GCSE options they wish to take, may I remind you that any of the following subjects would support your child's journey into this field: Art & Design, Design & Technology, Graphic Design, Engineering, Photography, and Hair & Beauty. If you wish to find out more information about any of these courses, please refer to the school's 'GCSE Options Brochure' on the school's website.

A massive thank you to the following members of staff who supported this day trip: Mrs Crawford, Miss Finneran, and Mr Goldenfeld.



Mr B Fletcher

Sixth Form BCU Photography & Product Design Workshop Day Trip

Over the past few years, Arden Academy has built a strong working relationship with the staff at Birmingham City University (BCU) to offer workshop day trips to the university facilities to give engaging exposure into what is potentially available to our sixth form students who wish to pursue a future career into the creative arts industry.

On a sunny November morning, we were excited to take the Year 12 & Year 13 Photography students and the Year 12 Product Design students off to BCU to engage in a host of different workshops.

The Photography students were able to experience the energy and joy of using a professional infinity studio, with a range of different studio lights, and professional capturing software, all guided and supported by the wonderful third year students at BCU.

In the afternoon, the Photography students engaged in a visual communications workshop, led by one of their lecturers. The workshop demonstrated the creative process of combining cut-out collaged segments the students find visually interesting, combining the different elements together to form the rough composition of a face, sketches out multiple iterations of the collaged-composition to form more association of facial features and a face, to finish off the workshop with a black outline illustration of a character they had designed from a few collaged images.

It was a fantastic experience for the students to be free and loose with the ideas they generate for their character designs. This freedom will hopefully translate back into their photography coursework, back in school.

The second half of the day trip to BCU involved the Year 12 Product Design students who engaged in an architecture-focused workshop, tasked with designing and developing a pavilion that created a meaningful connection with its chosen site. Working from an open brief, they explored a wide range of creative ideas and then brought them to life using simple modelling materials such as paper and card. The results were outstanding, showcasing fantastic creativity and innovation across the group.

In the afternoon, they participated in a session led by a BCU Product Design lecturer, focusing on the design and development of a structure capable of holding a full water bottle. Students first explored aesthetic design before refining their ideas to create functional solutions.

Throughout the day, all students engaged enthusiastically with the activities, demonstrating genuine passion and commitment to their subject. It was an excellent opportunity to experience practical design challenges in a university environment and to develop their creativity and problem-solving skills.

All in all the students had a great taste of what university courses could be available to them, located on their doorstep. A big thank you to Mr Hussey for his support throughout the day.

Mr B Fletcher & Mr J Hussey

Year 10 Photography Workshops- Freedom Project

Year 10 students participated in 3 x 2 hour photography workshops, taking photos, cyanotypes and tintypes under the theme of 'Our Freedom: Then and Now'. This was a national project celebrating 80 years since the end of the war. Arden was one of 60 centres chosen to participate across the country, and the student's work could form part of the national exhibition/publication for the project!

Miss C Finneran



Year 11 Mock Art Exams

At the end of November, 75 Year 11 students all sat down to complete their Year 11 art mock exam. Lasting for a grand total of 10 hours, spanning two days, students spent this time sat in their art classroom creating and producing their final piece of artwork. The final piece the students create comes as a result of a huge amount of time, effort, and planning that is the creative end to their coursework project. Students could choose what materials they wished to use for their final piece. We had a huge range of skills, techniques, and materials used over this exam period.

The Year 11 art students are an incredibly talented group of students who have all worked hard to produce some fantastic final pieces. Their efforts should not go unnoticed and all members of the Art Department are very proud of how they conducted themselves throughout the two-day exam.

Well done, Year 11 Art students!

Mr B Fletcher

ECO Committee at the COP Conference

This year on the 19th of November, the Eco Committee proudly represented Arden by taking part in a collaborative COP 30 Conference at the Solihull Council Chambers. This conference is held as a model of the UN Climate COP Conference for local schools, where we explore critical issues and discuss climate actions. Students were asked to divide into groups, each representing a different nation. Our assigned nations included the UAE, Australia, and Bangladesh. Within these groups, we were instructed to prepare speeches that stated the country's climate ambitions and the strategies they are employing to help reduce climate change.

On the day of the conference, the atmosphere was filled with excitement and determination. Following the opening of the event, we began delivering our speeches, aiming to promote our ideas to other countries. Once all the speeches had been delivered, the floor was opened for a session of questions and rebuttals, debating among the nations on what to improve when addressing to the climate crisis. Some of the discussions got very heated, very quickly!



After an extended but passionate round of questioning, the conference officially closed, and our focus shifted to reflecting what our community and schools have been doing to maintain a sustainable environment. Selected schools were invited to share their plans to inspire others and raise greater awareness of climate action. Arden was chosen to present our own initiatives, which included our weekly Eco Committee meetings, the Park and Stride campaign, the new litter system, and more. It was encouraging to witness how schools in our community are actively working to protect the environment, and the event provided a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from others.

Well done to everyone that went!

Team Australia: George Burns, Rohan Sethi, James Hogan, Beth Bates-Gamble

Team Bangladesh: Ben Cronin, Chloe Fung, Sam Blackburn, Kavya Goenka, Ashleigh Evans

Team United Arab Emirates: Alex Reid, Emre Hodgetts, Dom Penfold, Emma Powell, Evie Keddie

Chloe Fung and Toby Warrender

Study Visit to Poitiers

Over the October half term, we had the opportunity to explore France. The trip was the perfect balance of fun and education; between buying macarons and riding rollercoasters to visiting historical sites and speaking to French natives.

To start, we visited Futuroscope, a renowned theme park which unlike others, speaks exclusively French. This pushed us to practise not only our speaking but our reading too, in a real world setting, to be rewarded with the park's innovative attractions. Another highlight of the trip has to be meeting our pen pals, who we had been corresponding with for a few months prior. They were welcoming, friendly and talkative when showing us their local town and their lives as French students.



We visited various destinations such as the historical city of Tours, the quaint town of La Rochelle and the beautiful island of Île de Ré. Being KS4 and KS5 students, we were granted the independence to roam around the city, discovering hidden French gems such as cute little cafés and boulangeries. The itinerary was so jam-packed with activities, such as the 12th century cathedral, bee apiary and the Château de Chenonceau, that we could not possibly talk about them all.

This trip was exceptionally well put together by Mr Edgington and was very rewarding for us as Year 13s, experiencing the culture and language of France. We made memories which we shall forever treasure and which have built upon our passion for languages.

Christie Shaw 13A, Jenna Makepeace 13R and Lily Tait 13E

Inter-trust Maths Relay

In November, Arden proudly hosted the annual Trust Maths Relay, welcoming eight teams from across the trust for an exciting afternoon of fast-paced problem-solving. Representing our school were two teams, Arden 1 (Kaylee Ho, Karson Law, Isaac Lee and Grace Parkes) and Arden 2 (Aoife Furlong, Georgie Massey, Jamie Underwood and William Wu), who approached the challenge with great enthusiasm and focus.

After a closely contested competition, Team 1 secured first place for the second year in a row, winning by a narrow margin of two points and successfully retaining our trophy. Team 2 also delivered an excellent performance, finishing third overall and helping to showcase the strength of maths talent within the school.



A big thank-you goes to Kara Furlong, Sophie Harris and Josie Webb who volunteered their time to support the event by helping with marking. Their assistance was vital in keeping the relay running smoothly and efficiently.

Congratulations to all students involved on a fantastic achievement and another memorable year for our school in the Trust Maths Relay!

Miss M Davies

Sixth Form Debate at University of Law

On Monday 24th November, the Sixth Form Debaters travelled to the University of Law in the city centre to compete in the English Speaking Union's MACE competition - Alumni of this competition including Malala Yousafzai and Krishnan Guru-Murthy.

With Matheo Pouroullis as dutiful (and sometimes overenthusiastic) timekeeper, and Max Ko and Ellen Egan as moral support, we proposed the motion that 'This House would ban all relationship and dating based reality TV'.



Joel Hurd opened emphatically, setting the stage for a confident team performance. With clarity, he argued that relationship-based reality tv is branded incorrectly, and guilty of a "disgusting concoction of greed, toxicity and exploitation."

Tabitha Qureshi followed up with an assertive edge as second speaker, with some very powerful responses when challenged by the opposition. She exuded confidence and authority, and her anecdotal style when arguing that "watching women being objectified - as a young girl myself - is extremely disturbing," was difficult to disagree with.

Finally, Aleena Dharamshi concluded with incisive wit and no small amount of charm, providing a fresh and affable angle to the main points of the debate. One (of many) notable quips was her criticism of "producer created characters: the villain, the ditz, the emotionally unavailable man child whose only hobby is 'vibes.'"

The judges praised our cohesion and teamwork as a notable strength, and we have progressed to the second round, due to take place in January, so watch this space!

A special mention must go to Max Ko, who has been the driving force behind this group of debaters. For the last year he has been relentless in organising lunch time debates and getting a range of speakers involved, and it was his initiative to enter the MACE competition. Hopefully we can progress further!

Mr G Ord

Arden Science Club

Science Club has been running this year with huge numbers of students enjoying getting involving in a range of science investigation and using some of our specialised equipment. This year we have had some shocking fun with Static electricity, demonstrated diffusion with skittles at Halloween, written some secret messages using glowing water and made some glittery slime for Christmas.

Science club will continue in 2026 and is always available for some new recruits.



Mr J Gethins

What On Earth! Finals in London

The week before October half term, I was informed of an online general knowledge quiz with *What On Earth!* Magazine. I quickly contacted students and was able to whip up a team, thinking this would be a good way to get students exploring more about science, history and general knowledge, but with only a week to research it was unlikely we would win but at least the students would learn a lot and work as a team. However, despite only one week of studying the magazines – we managed to win the online heats and were invited to compete in the National Final! (Coincidentally, Knowle Primary won the junior heats as well!)

So, on 27th November, four Arden students, myself and Miss Sharma, travelled to London to compete in the What On Earth! Finals. The team – Y9s Oliver Pirie and Alex Reid & Alex's twin siblings Y7 Cameron & Heather Reid – were exceptional.



We were randomly selected to compete against the defending champions, independent school Ryde from the Isle of Wight, in the play-offs. These scores combined with their written quiz took Arden to the final where we faced Ryde once more. Our team were nicknamed the 'mind readers' as often they buzzed in with an answer before the question had barely begun! Ultimately, Ryde successfully defended their title and went on to the Championship round where they competed against the junior champions: Knowle Primary. Ryde took the win again with some excellent answers and we left with second place, a lovely trophy and our proud library mascot: Pepsi the penguin.



Our students not only impressed the quizmasters and the audience with their knowledgeable answers (as underdogs we definitely received the loudest applause with every question answered!) but they were also an absolute credit to Arden. A few students from other schools found the pressure overwhelming but there were no tears from Arden when a question didn't go their way and they congratulated every other team at the end.

Well done to our brilliant quiz team — a fantastic achievement on a national stage!

Miss E O'Brien

AIM High: Author Tamsyn Murray visits Arden

A select few Year 9 students who have demonstrated potential in English were invited to an inspiring AIM High Day with acclaimed author Tamsyn Murray, alongside students from Langley and Park Hall.

The day was designed to stretch creativity and encourage students to AIM high in their writing ambitions. Tamsyn shared insights into her own journey as an author, offering practical advice on crafting compelling characters, building believable worlds and developing original story ideas.

Together, the students created an idea for a story around a mysterious house and in the afternoon were allowed the freedom to continue the story themselves. By the end of the session, students left buzzing with confidence and inspiration. The AIM High Day was not only a celebration of creative writing, but also a reminder of the value of believing in your ideas and enjoying writing.



Miss E O'Brien

PTFA News

As we wrap up the year, the PTFA would like to thank you all for your incredible support throughout 2025.

Fireworks Success

Our annual **Fireworks Night** was a spectacular evening, enjoyed by families across the local community. We are delighted to share that the event raised an **incredible £18,500** that will go directly towards supporting our students and enriching their school experience. A huge thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, and contributed to making the night such a huge success.

PTFA Meetings

Our PTFA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on 12th January at 7pm at school. Everyone is welcome, and we would love to see as many of you there as possible. Your input and support make a real difference to the school and to our students.

Big Cash Draw

Don't forget to take part in our **Big Cash Draw** — a fun and easy way to support the school while being in with a chance to win! For just £12 a year, you will be automatically entered into a prize draw every half term and you could win up to £200. Look out for info on ParentPay.

Pre-Loved Uniform

We also run a **pre-loved uniform service**. We know the lost property struggle is real and we promise we don't judge, so get in touch via the pre-loved uniform Facebook page or via the PTFA email address. We are also planning to hold a pre-loved uniform sale in the school hall in February – date to be confirmed in the new year.

Upcoming Events

Looking ahead, we're excited to announce our Spring Ball will take place in May 2026. The venue is still to be confirmed, but please save the date: **Saturday 9th May 2026**. More details to follow in the new year.

From all of us at the PTFA, we wish you a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**. Thank you for your continued support.

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

Disneyland performance

Francesca O'Sullivan (8E) performed at the event 'Let's sing Christmas' and featured Theatretrain singing with the Disney Characters on stage in front of around an audience 500- 600 people at the Videopolis Theatre in Disneyland.

The "Let's Sing Christmas" event at Disneyland Paris in late 2025 featured groups like Theatretrain performing festive Disney songs on stage with characters (Mickey, Minnie, etc.) as part of the "Disney Enchanted Christmas" offering workshops and a magical choir experience with professional Disney production elements for participants.

Arden Futures

Work experience at Siemens

During my week at Siemens, we partook in a range of activities both in the office and off site. Their Birmingham office oversees all their work on rail infrastructure. On the first day, a project engineer came in to talk to the six of us about how he and his team manage the projects and tasks at Siemens, with an introduction to railway signalling systems and how they integrate with the wider, sometimes old railway systems network. We also had a build-a-bridge task to complete. On the second day, we were introduced to Siemens 'Westcad' - the software that controls the entire interlocking system. The next day was spent on designing and learning the different components of the actual train platform - we even helped design an upcoming Siemens project at Aston Station and my group's idea got picked!

On the fourth day, we took a deeper look into the Westcad design system and began to see how the different signals communicated with each other. This was then helpful on the last day for our trip down to Birmingham New Street Station, where we went onto a platform and saw behind the scenes and what we had been learning about the previous day in action.



Overall, I enjoyed my time at Siemens and I hope that this encourages other people interested in engineering roles to consider applying for their work experience programme. It was great to see how departments of a big company work together and all the different job roles and opportunities, even just within engineering, that exist within a company of that size.

Oliver Leeson 11L

Solihull College Visit



In November we took two groups of students to visit Solihull College's Blossomfield and Woodlands Campuses. Students were given their own private tour of the college, including departments such as construction, engineering, aerospace engineering, motor mechanics, health & social care, hair & beauty, media production, animal care, computing, Esports & gaming, and sports science. Students got to experience the college environment and see how it differs to a school environment – they were pleasantly surprised to see access to state-of-the-art gyms, hair and beauty salons, lounge areas, and street food vendors. Students considering college are generally looking for a step-change which includes taking responsibility for their learning and their free time. Colleges are places where students can express themselves and meet like minded people with similar interests – they provide excellent preparation for the university experience. Colleges have excellent facilities and good links with industry. All students, and parents, are encouraged to visit during their open events. Be curious!



Mrs S Butcher-Johns & Miss C Mason

Year 8 World of Work Event

Whether you have worked with us before, or have expressed an interest in working with us, or you are a past student...

Would you be willing to participate in our World of Work Event during National Careers Week on Wednesday 4th March 2026?

Our intended outcome is that students in Year 8 learn more about jobs, become more engaged and focussed, broaden their horizons and get them thinking about the importance of employability skills. Something which might benefit you or your organisation, or the wider economy, at some point in the future. Maybe, you will meet a future employee or colleague? Or boss? 😊

We are planning on running multiple sessions (talks, workshops) where you, the employer/professional, come into school and engage with our students. There will be 3 x morning 50-minute sessions, and you can choose to participate in 1, 2 and/or 3 – it’s up to you.



Engaging with “real people” in the “real world of work” has proven itself to be very meaningful for our students – improving their performance, attitude, motivation and confidence; this is why we start early in KS3. And, with continued emphasis on the need for world-of-work engagement and an understanding of employability skills, one of the ways we can do this is to get them in front of you! Or you in front of them – depending on which way you look at it.

Would you be prepared to run a session which provides insight into your job*, with perhaps a practical or interactive element?

If you would be willing to *consider* participating – could I ask that you complete this very short [form](#). We are in the planning stages and this does not tie you in, but merely gives us a perspective on what the event will look like.

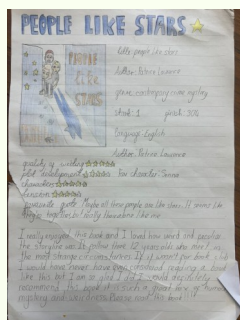
If you have any questions, please get in touch. Thanks so much in advance for your consideration.

*Insight being why you chose your job, what you like about it, qualifications required, skills required, typical activities, (perhaps some task or interactivity to demonstrate this?), typical day...



Mrs S Butcher-Johns

Book Club



Grace Oddy (7E) did a wonderful book review for our first book at book club.

Miss E Crutchley

Sports News

Cross Country Success

The cross-country team have had a wonderful first half of the season, with the first three races already under their belts. The Arden school teams in all age groups have dominated every race so far and we have had multiple race winners. In addition, we have had multiple students coming in the top 20 which means they get entered into the second round where they get to race and represent Solihull as a borough. Many of our students entered the school races but I wanted to highlight the students who went the extra mile and entered the borough competition to represent Solihull which took place at Himley Hall on Saturday 18th October.

Year 7 girls – Emily Ross came first! Olivia Reeve, Bridget Broadhurst, Emilia Riley and Zahra Ogunbanjo

Year 7 boys – Joshua Delaney, Tom Fox, Jake Weale, Rufus Jones

Year 8/9 girls – Molly Spencer, Grace Fox, Niamh Williamson

Year 8/9 boys – Joshua Baylis, William McMonagle, Alexander Reid, George Ward, Owen Rostron

Year 10/11 girls – Emmie Spencer, Crystalle Jardine

Year 10/11 boys – Joe Fox, Harry Justice, John Mitchell, Max Ward, Nathan Lang

Let's hope that the second half of the season is just as successful after the Christmas break – well done to all of our amazing runners who show commitment and dedication to continue with their running training.

Miss E Blenkinsop



National Schools Squash – 1st round win

Our team of 5 players in the KS4 Boys competition are through to the next round in the National Schools Squash competition. In our 1st round match on the 19th November at Edgbaston Priory Club, we beat Malvern College, and Tettental School, lost out to King Edward's School, but still progressed to the next round where we'll face tougher opposition. Congratulations to Lucas Askey, Jacob Askey, Oscar Mason, Lily Gannaway and Alex Pennell.

Mr H Goldenfeld

Year 11 Football

The Year 11 football team have had a productive first term under new coach Dr Cannadine. Bunsen Burner 2 have had some handsome wins in all cup competitions scoring plenty. Dan Brennan has led the line, assisted by Tom P, Jamie G, Joe F and James B in midfield whilst Lewis P at the heart of defence has marshalled the rear action with Harry J at left back. There have been over 20 players involved in the squad. More games to look forward to in the new year and already into the semi-finals of Solihull cup, last 16 of west mids and this achieved despite a loss in the Birmingham cup to a strong team from Sutton. They deserve acknowledgement for their commitment and showing Arden values.

Dr J Cannadine

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.

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).