



Arden Academy
Station Road
Knowle, Solihull
West Midlands, B93 0PT

Telephone:
01564 773348

Email:
office@arden.solihull.sch.uk

Mr Warwood's Reflections

Happy Easter to you all. Again, it feels like only a blink of an eye since we finished for Christmas, yet here we are again at the end of another highly successful term. I hope that you will enjoy seeing the huge range of activities that have been going on within school this term. I was inspired by the incredible work of our students during science week, the projects produced by our students and the articulate way that they explained their projects was a true highlight of the term.

You will see that there have been a huge number of things going on for us to celebrate, from overseas travel to Austria, Belgium and France to code breaking at Bletchley Park, competing in Poetry Slam, and reading competitions. We are very proud of the wider offer of learning and development that is provided for our students, and I hope that you can get a flavour of this from our newsletter.

As we move into Easter for most it's a time of rest, for our year 11 and Year 13 students it's both rest and revision on the horizon as they move closer to their final examinations. We look forward to seeing over 240 of our year 11 students in Easter School as we begin the final phase of revision ready for a successful summer term.

The summer term always has a lot to look forward to with concerts, school performances, PD3D, Charity Bike Rides, Sports Days, Awards Assemblies and our Summer Ball and Prom. I am certain that it will be a busy and exciting summer term. Ahead of that I wish you all a restful and peaceful Easter.

Mr Warwood, Associate Headteacher

Arden Bike Ride 2026

As part of our week of Enrichment Week activities this June, 40 of our brave and dedicated Year 9 students will be taking on an incredible challenge! On Tuesday 23rd June, they will set off on a 100km cycling route from Arden to Stratford and back. This annual feat has become a proud Arden tradition showcasing our students' determination, courage and inspiration – and each year they raise an impressive amount of money for charity in the process.

This year's ride carries a particularly special meaning. We are dedicating it to the memory of our fellow Year 9 student, Nancy Dunne whom we tragically lost last year. Nancy embodied kindness, hard work and loyal friendship and it feels deeply fitting to honour her through this event. In her memory, Nancy's family and the students have chosen to support Birmingham Children's Hospital. All funds raised will go directly towards the vital care and support the hospital provides to children and their families.

If you would like to support the students in their challenge, we have set up a JustGiving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/ardenbikeride2026>

If you are able to donate, please give what you can to help us reach — and hopefully exceed — our fundraising target in memory of a truly missed shining star.



British Science Week: A Brilliant Celebration of Curiosity and Discovery

British Science Week at Arden was packed with excitement, hands-on learning, and plenty of “wow” moments for our students. Across the week, just under 1,000 students took part in a range of extracurricular activities designed to spark curiosity and bring science to life.

“Which Material Makes the Best Hankie?”

In Chemistry, students carried out a light-hearted but surprisingly revealing experiment: ‘Which material makes the best hankie?’ After plenty of testing (and a lot of laughter), the results were clear, good old-fashioned cotton still does the best job at absorbing the runny noses we all know too well. A simple experiment, but a great success.



The Science Dome & Explosive Chemistry



We were thrilled to welcome the Science Dome, which ran a variety of immersive shows covering everything from shaping the future to exploring outer space. Students were captivated by the visuals and storytelling. We even had the pleasure of welcoming year 6 students from our AMAT primary school, Dorridge Primary.

Alongside this, our visiting Chemistry show delivered an unforgettable performance, complete with reactions that went off with a literal bang. The hall was buzzing with excitement and curiosity.



The Grand Finale: Arden’s Science Fair

To round off the week, we hosted our very own after-school Science Fair. A huge well done to all the students who took part and helped make the event such a success:

Deep Sangupta

Cameron Reid and Shaiwaa Ramaswaamy

Oliver Mackay and Mathew Fleming

Lewis Tasker and Edward Earnshaw

Laiba Rasheed

Evie Keddie and Emma Powell

Toby Richmond and Jack Lennon

Olivia Kellie, Grace Parkes and Stephanie Parkes

Vincy Ho, Terri Ng and Hannah Wong

Angie Yip and Daphne Chow


Myrto Xyda

Ashleigh Evans and Scarlett King

Shaan Bhopal, Macus Lau, Eesa Ahmed and Will Flannery

Bridget Broadhurst



 And the Winners Are...



A massive congratulations to **Vincy, Terri and Hannah**, whose winning project recreated **Spiderman's spider web** with incredible creativity and flair. Their entry was clever, imaginative, and had the whole audience captivated.

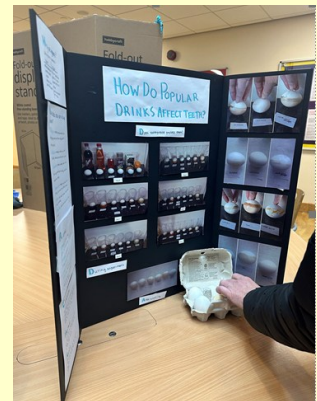
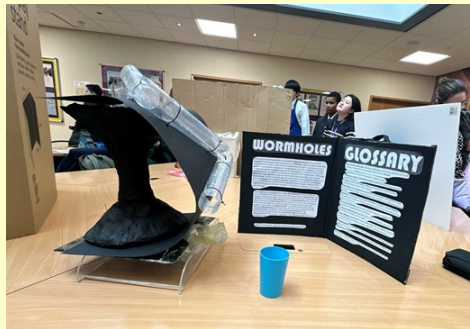
Our brilliant runners-up also deserve a huge round of applause:

- **Myrto Xyda**, who wowed us with a fascinating (and slightly alarming!) demonstration on how sugary drinks affect our teeth
- **Toby Richmond and Jack Lennon**, who took us on a mind-bending journey through their wormhole project

The enthusiasm and originality of all the projects made the judges' job very difficult.

British Science Week was a joyful celebration of curiosity, creativity, and scientific wonder. We're already excited to see what our young scientists dream up next year.

Mrs S Malique-Ahmed



Arden's Second Iftar Brings Our Community Together

Arden's second Iftar was a wonderful success, with more than 100 parents, students, siblings, and staff joining us for an evening of community and reflection. It was lovely to see everyone sitting together, sharing food and drink as we broke fast at sunset.

Ramadan & Iftar

Ramadan is a holy month for Muslims, during which many people fast from dawn until sunset as a way to practise self-discipline, gratitude, and kindness. Iftar is the meal eaten at sunset to end the day's fast, often shared with family, friends, and the wider community, just as we did here at Arden.



Thank You

A special thank you to Ortada Restaurant in Dorridge for generously providing delicious samosas, and to everyone who attended and helped make the evening so memorable.

Mrs S Malique-Ahmed

Sixth Form Psychology Students Take Part in Research Methods Workshop with Dr Rachael Molitor

Sixth Form Psychology students recently took part in an engaging and highly authentic Research Methods workshop led by **Dr Rachael Molitor**, offering students a valuable insight into how psychological research operates beyond the classroom.

The workshop was designed to replicate the work undertaken by professional Research Assistants, condensing a process that would normally take several weeks into an intensive and immersive day. Students explored a topical and highly relevant research question focused on the relationship between **social media use, wellbeing and self-esteem**, reflecting current national and international debates surrounding young people's online behaviour and mental health.



Working as a research team responding to a simulated brief from the Department of Education, students investigated both the potential benefits and drawbacks of social media use. They were guided through the complete research process, including:

- Developing a research proposal
- Collecting and analysing **quantitative data** from within their own cohort
- Evaluating the strengths and limitations of quantitative approaches
- Designing and carrying out **qualitative research**, including interviews and rapid thematic analysis
- Drawing conclusions, considering limitations and identifying future research directions

Students worked collaboratively in small groups, combining quantitative and qualitative methods to gain a clear understanding of mixed-methods research and its importance in addressing complex psychological questions. Findings were shared in smaller seminar-style presentation groups, allowing students to develop confidence while engaging in high-level academic discussion.

For Year 13 students, the workshop provided a valuable opportunity to consolidate and extend their understanding of Research Methods ahead of final examinations. Year 12 students were able to use the experience as a foundation for future learning, as well as to support their **UCAS work experience reflections**, with dedicated time built in to translate the day's activities into high-quality application material.

The workshop was an excellent example of how Psychology at Arden bridges theory and practice, supporting students to think critically, work collaboratively and engage meaningfully with contemporary psychological research.

We are exceptionally grateful to the PTFA for funding this opportunity, which we would otherwise not have been able to offer. Thank-you also to all the parents and friends of Arden who support the PTFA events- it makes a real difference to our students.

Miss H Endley

GCHQ Webinar

On Tuesday 24th March, half of Year 9 language classes had a very exciting webinar with GCHQ analysts, talking about how their linguistic skills are invaluable in the work they carry out. The students were enthralled by their identities being kept secret by avatars and the dramatic music and video that explained a bit more about what they do. They then learned that they had all learned languages just like they had and were now helping to keep the country safe! We broke off into French, German and Spanish and had to crack the code in encrypted text messages about a cyber attack and what it involved. A truly different language lesson that inspired students and teachers alike! Thanks to Mr I Edgington for arranging this and we hope all those involved enjoyed it.

Miss E Crutchley

On Tuesday, I had the privilege of taking part in an event that GCHQ (One of the UK's Intelligence agencies) were running. The focus of the event, hosted over a teams call, was to show us how language could be a crucial element in codebreaking and security. To prove this, after an exciting introduction and opening video, we were given an example where we had to unscramble ciphers and translate the results we got to English from our chosen language (Spanish for me!) It was an interesting experience and an interactive example of how studying languages can help us in more paths than we see at face value. I'm sure that it was an eye-opening experience for many of us, myself included! Overall, I found it very fascinating and engaging, demonstrating all the places Languages can take me in the future!

Alexander Reid, 9D

A Great Day out at Bletchley Park

150 Year 8's and a range of staff had a great day out at Bletchley Park earlier in the term. The day was planned as a carousel of activities including a personal security seminar plus plenty of time to explore the site synonymous with WW2 and the now famous enigma decoding machines. They learned about the people involved and the secrecy needed. The weather was sunny and the walk around the grounds was very engaging with volunteer tour guides to relay information and answer student questions.

Dr J Cannadine



Arden's Futures

Airport Trip

✈️ What does a 24-hour airport operation look like from a career's perspective? ✈️

On the 10th March, we took 68 KS4 and KS5 students as part of our Arden Futures programme to visit Birmingham Airport and find out.

Handling 13.8 million passengers every year, flying to 150+ destinations, and powered by 8,000 employees, the scale of operations alone is incredible. But this visit wasn't about catching flights. It was about discovering futures.

Students took a tour of the airport through a career's lens, created a new airport brand, slogan and logo and heard directly from professionals through a career's carousel, including:

- Security
- Baggage Handling
- Pilot
- Electrical Engineering

Experiences like this bring careers education to life and help students see the real opportunities behind industries like aviation.

Our hope is that some of the students who took part in this visit will one day become part of our Arden Academy alumni, returning to inspire the next generation and share where their own journeys have taken them. Maybe... just maybe... aviation will be part of that story.

A huge thank you to Meganne Gill-Swift, Andy Holding, and the fantastic team at Birmingham Airport for giving our students such valuable insights into their roles. And finally, well done to our students, who represented the school brilliantly and embraced every challenge.



Miss K Tipping & Mrs S Butcher-Johns

Farm Futures Trip

🐏 Ewe have got to be joking! 🐏

No, I'm not...

One of our Arden Academy governors offered a fantastic opportunity to our students interested in animal care. His wife is a local farmer and kindly offered our students the opportunity to experience life on a working farm.



What followed was an unforgettable afternoon at Ladywood Farm as part of our Arden Futures programme.



We witnessed a ewe give birth to triplets – an incredible and wholesome moment to experience first-hand. Over the past few weeks around 400 lambs have been born at the farm, with 85 still to come after our visit!

Our students were outstanding. They showed real enthusiasm, compassion and curiosity, getting stuck in to help feed lambs that had been orphaned or needed a little extra care and nurture.

Experiences like this make such a difference. For our Year 11 students, it reinforced that they are choosing the right pathway as they move towards their Post-16 destinations. For our Year 10s, it provided plenty of inspiration as they begin to consider their own future choices.



A huge thank you to Jo and Jeremy Emmett for welcoming us to Ladywood Farm and giving our students such a memorable, hands-on experience. Thank you to: Charlotte, Layla, Henry, Billy, Joe, Will, Amogh, Maddie and Alvin for representing the school so well.

Miss K Tipping & Mrs S Butcher-Johns

Book Club

We absolutely LOVED reading *The Tulip Touch* by Anne Fine at book club. We enjoyed the surprise ending and discussed whether someone is truly evil or misunderstood.

Think they loved getting their Easter eggs even more though! Well done Arden Book Club!

Miss E Crutchley



National Reading Champions Success

On the eve of Arden's World Book Day, the crème de la crème of Arden readers competed in the West Midlands National Reading Champions Quiz. Competing against over twenty teams, our Team A & Team B had been attending bi-weekly practices after school and at lunchtimes learning as much as they could about books and authors, alongside the library mascots: penguins Pepsi & Cola.

The quiz consisted of eight rounds, each with ten questions on various themes from Heroes & Heroines to Fantasy vs Reality, alongside brainteasers and dingbats. Both teams performed brilliantly and I had no idea who the winners would be. The National Literacy Trust began the announcement and we were informed it was a **tie-break**... between both Arden teams!!

The teams had three final questions & an ultimate tie-break:

- 1) The narrator of this book: "CHAPTER ONE: I Accidentally Vaporize My PreAlgebra Teacher. / Look, I didn't want to be a half-blood."
- 2) The narrator of *Lockwood & Co.*
- 3) The narrator of *Divergent*.
- 4) Final question: How many words are in *The Cat in the Hat* in total.



Could you have answered these correctly?

Arden Team B gave it a good go, but Arden Team A won!!

So, in **second** place we have Arden Team B:

Oscar Edwards
Lucy Bates-Gamble
Imogen Letters
Georgina Reed

In **first** place and going to [nationals in London](#) are Arden Team A:
Heather Reid (Heather's second time going to London to compete in a national competition!)

Avaani Sandhar
Lottie Fleming
Rosie Reed

I am so proud of all of them, not just for their incredible answers, but their conduct and support for each other was exemplary. Shout-out also to our wonderful reserves who helped us set up the room and had fun too: **Cameron Reid & Shiwaa Ramaswaamy**
The next update will be about our experience at Nationals!!

Miss E O'Brien



World Book Day Celebrations 2026

World Book Day this year brought a real buzz across the whole school with students and staff getting involved throughout the day. The English department fully embraced the occasion by dressing up, helping set the tone and atmosphere from the start.

We also welcomed author William Hussey who delivered a range of sessions across different year groups. Year 7 and Year 8 students took part in his *Witchfinder Experience*, where they explored a darker historical setting and were encouraged to question ideas around fear, suspicion and power. It was an engaging session and students were keen to contribute, especially when it

came to dressing up. In Year 7, Zahra Ogunbanjo & Lachlan Griffiths-Jones acted as the fiendish Witch Hunters, and Shiwa Ramaaswamy as the pursued Witch. In Year 8, the Witch Finders were portrayed by Bella Fratila and Ozzy Biggs who were mercilessly hunting Ben Beard, our innocent Witch.



Later in the day, a smaller group of Creative Writers, Reading Club members and Student Librarians took part in a workshop with William. This gave students the chance to focus more closely on their own ideas, develop their writing and build confidence in sharing their work.

The day ended with an *Introduction to Gothic* session for a Year 9 class. Students were split into two teams, representing Dracula (played by Jack Corey) and Van Helsing (played by Freddie Cheetham). In order to battle, they had to answer academic questions about Gothic themes and concepts, with each correct answer pushing their side forward.



After a very competitive session, Van Helsing's team came out on top and Dracula was defeated.

Overall, it was a great way to celebrate World Book Day and bring reading to life across the school.



Miss E O'Brien

Poetry Slam Success!

What an incredible journey our students have had in this year's Poetry Slam!

On 5th February, 90 students gathered in the school hall for an exciting and energetic in-house Poetry Slam workshop led by Spoz. The morning was filled with creativity and laughter as students performed poems all about chocolate, including some unforgettable rap battles. In the afternoon, the focus shifted to the theme of *Play*, where students began shaping ideas that would later form their final performances.

By the end of the day, standout performers had been selected from across the teams and our final group was decided.

The team worked tirelessly giving up many of their lunchtimes to rehearse and refine their piece – even performing in front of their friends for feedback. Together, they created a powerful performance in which each student embodied a different facet of play:

- **Hannah Shooter** as an aspiring actress who is secretly shy
- **Willow Mair**, a dancer who struggles with public speaking but whose heart starts pumping when she hears “5, 6, 7, 8”
- **Arjun Seehra**, rapping about how gaming helps his character feel less like a failure
- **Imogen Reed**, whose sense of play comes from imaginative dreaming through reading
- **Grace Wadsworth**, the trickster who garnered the most laughs of the night with her intentionally failed tricks and witty quips
- **Bridget Broadhurst**, whose play comes from the sports field, whilst the team performed some impressive skills behind her (as pictured)



On 11th March, the six Year 7 students went on to perform their piece and represent Arden at the Worcester Schools Poetry Slam Final.

Our team certainly delivered the longest performance of the night as they had written so many lyrics and refused to cut them. I certainly wasn't complaining, especially when they were so committed to writing, learning and showcasing their lyrical prowess.



I am delighted to announce that the team achieved an incredible **third place**, bringing home a fantastic trophy to add to the library's growing collection.

More than the result, however, it was the students' dedication and character that stood out. They gave up their breaks and lunchtimes for weeks to rehearse and their behaviour on the night was impeccable. They were also the first team to congratulate the other performers, which was truly heart-warming to see.

Miss E. O'Brien



Reading Champions Bookshop Visit

As part of their journey towards becoming National Reading Champions, our student team were given the opportunity to visit Kenilworth Books, a local independent bookseller.

Each student was given a budget of £50 to select books for the school library. The aim was not just to choose books for others to enjoy, but to think carefully about what would support their own reading journey in preparation for the national competition.

The impact of this became clear during the competition itself. A question came up on *Seraphina* by Rachel Hartman and, because of this project, Arden A Team member Lottie Fleming already chosen, bought and read the book. They were able to answer immediately and with confidence with a subtle nod to myself, Miss O'Brien, as we both knew Lottie had an answer no-one else in that room did.

With a tie-break deciding the final outcome, every point counted. This was a clear example of how thoughtful reading choices can make a real difference.

The project not only gave students ownership of the library, but also showed them that reading widely and with purpose can directly support their success.

Miss E O'Brien



Staff News

During the term, we said goodbye to Mrs R Baylis (Leader of Learning Support), Mrs V Filor and Ms M Yuen (Learning Support Assistants). Wish them continued success in their next chapters.

We also welcomed Ms M Raughter (Leader of Learning Support) and Ms C Barton (Learning Support Assistant), and are delighted to be joined in April 2026 by Miss J Meeneghan (Teacher of Maths).

Welcome to the Arden family!

PTFA News

Making a big difference, one fundraiser at a time

Arden's PTFA is all about supporting our school and enriching the experience of every pupil. Our mission is simple: raise funds that make a real difference in classrooms, clubs, and learning across the school.

And wow, have we been busy! Thanks to the incredible energy of our members and volunteers, we've been able to fund a whole host of fantastic resources, including:

- Science knowledge organisers
- Mannequin heads for Hair & Beauty
- DT equipment
- Dual-set podcast device for Media
- Netball dresses
- First Aid grab bags
- A 3D printer
- Stage blocks for Drama
- Games for Games Club
- A brilliant Psychology guest speaker
- An inspiring author visit for the Reader Awards celebration

Every one of these items has helped bring learning to life and we couldn't have done it without your support.

Pre-Loved Uniform: Save Money, Support the School Need a replacement blazer or spare PE kit? Our pre-loved uniform service offers great-quality items at a fraction of the cost. Just message us via the Pre-Loved Uniform Facebook page.

Join the Big Cash Draw! For just £12 a year, you'll be entered into draws where you could win between £50 and £200. It's fun, it's easy, and it helps raise vital funds. Check ParentPay for details. Remember: you've got to be in it to win it!

Our Biggest Event of the Year: Fireworks Night! Save the date: **7th November 2026** This spectacular event is our biggest fundraiser, and we'd love your help—whether that's in the run-up or on the night itself. Every pair of hands makes a difference.

Come Along to a PTFA Meeting We meet on the second Monday of each half term, and new faces are always welcome. Whether you want to join the committee or just pop in to see what we're about, we'd love to meet you.

Upcoming meetings:

- Monday 11th May 2026, 7:00pm at Arden Academy
- Monday 13th July 2026, 7:00pm at The Gres

Upcoming PTFA Events

- **PTFA Ball** – Saturday 16th May, 7pm at Copt Heath Golf Club—Tickets still available! Check the PTFA Facebook page for details.
- **Annual Fireworks Display** – Saturday 7th November at Arden Academy

Every Bit of Support Counts Even if you can't commit to regular meetings, you can still make a huge impact. Volunteer at an event, attend a fundraiser, or simply spread the word. Together, we can continue to create amazing opportunities for our pupils.

Stay Connected Follow us on Facebook or Instagram, or drop us an email at ptfachair@arden.solihull.sch.uk.

Train to Teach with Arden Trust – School Direct Routes into Teaching

Have you ever considered a career in teaching, or know someone who might be interested in taking the first step? **Arden Multi Academy Trust** is proud to offer **School Direct teacher training routes** across our Trust schools, providing an exciting and supportive pathway into the profession for people in our local community.

The Arden Alliance includes **Arden Academy, Henley-in-Arden School, Lode Heath School, Park Hall Academy, Dorridge Primary School, Coppice Primary School, Smith's Wood Primary Academy, Balsall Common Primary School, and Stirchley Primary School**. Training with us means becoming part of a strong, collaborative network of schools with a shared commitment to high-quality teaching, professional development and community values.

What is School Direct?

School Direct is a school-led route into teaching. Instead of training mainly at a university, trainees are based in a school from the very start, gaining hands-on classroom experience while being supported by experienced teachers and mentors. Alongside this practical experience, trainees complete accredited training with our **partner provider, the University of Warwick**, leading to **Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)**, with the option of also gaining a **Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)**.

This partnership combines the best of both worlds: high-quality, research-informed training from a leading Russell Group university, alongside immersive, real-world experience in Arden Alliance classrooms.

Up-to-date information about bursaries and eligibility is available via the [GOV.UK teacher training bursaries pages](#), which are linked through the teacher training application service.

How to Apply

Applications for School Direct are made through the **“[Apply for teacher training](#)” service on the GOV.UK website**. Applicants select their chosen School Direct provider and school(s) and follow the step-by-step application process.

If you hold (or are on track to hold) a degree and have a passion for working with young people, we would be delighted to welcome an application.

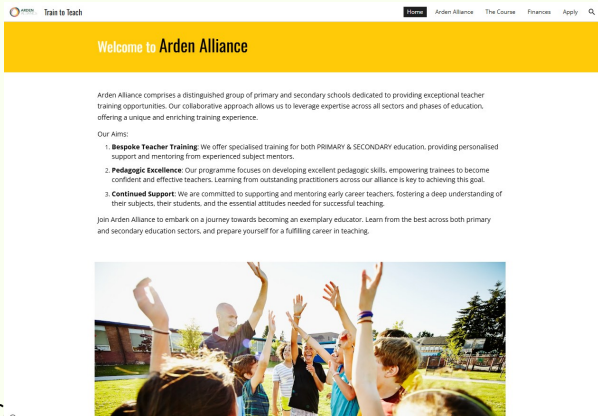
Not Sure Yet? Try School Experience First

If you're interested in teaching but want to explore it further before committing to training, we also offer **school experience placements** across our Trust schools. These placements allow you to observe lessons, talk to staff and gain a realistic insight into day-to-day school life.

School experience can be arranged through the **“[Get School Experience](#)” service on GOV.UK**, where you can search for Arden Trust schools and apply directly. Many of our successful School Direct trainees begin their journey in this way.

If you have any further questions, please contact traintoteach@arden.solihull.sch.uk and we would be delighted to help.

Miss H Endley



Arden Alliance comprises a distinguished group of primary and secondary schools, dedicated to providing exceptional teacher training opportunities. Our collaborative approach allows us to leverage expertise across all sectors and phases of education, offering a unique and enriching training experience.

Our Aims:

- Bespoke Teacher Training:** We offer specialised training for both PRIMARY & SECONDARY education, providing personalised support and mentoring from experienced subject mentors.
- Pedagogic Excellence:** Our programme focuses on developing excellent pedagogic skills, empowering trainees to become confident and effective teachers. Learning from outstanding practitioners across our alliance is key to achieving this goal.
- Continued Support:** We are committed to supporting and mentoring early career teachers, fostering a deep understanding of their subjects, their students, and the essential attitudes needed for successful teaching.

Join Arden Alliance to embark on a journey towards becoming an exemplary educator. Learn from the best across both primary and secondary education sectors and prepare yourself for a fulfilling career in teaching.

Sports News

South Solihull Secondary Schools' Sportshall Athletics Competition

On Wednesday 4th March, 30 Year 7 and 8 competitors, and 15 Year 9 leaders had an afternoon out at the South Solihull Sportshall Athletics Competition. The leaders, who were also there in the morning helping with the Primary Schools' event, represented the school excellently with event organisers commenting on their fantastic effort, enthusiasm and execution. The participants competed in a range of track and field events and put in their absolute all with an excellent display of talent! Standout individual performances go to Henry Bedford on track, Layla Roddy on speed bounce, Chloe Burt on long and triple jump. Our Year 7 boys, Year 7 girls and Year 8 boys teams all came first overall and qualified for the County Finals to be held on the 23rd March! The Year 8 girls put on a fantastic display of perseverance and determination and finished a very respectable 3rd in a highly competitive field.



Year 7 Girls:

(back left) Emily Williamson, Emilia Riley, Layla Roddy, Chloe Burt

(front left) Bridget Broadhurst, Olivia Reeve, Emily Ross



Year 8 Girls:

(back left) Edith Masson, Amy Orumwense, Ava Collett, Phoebe Rowe

(front left) Chloe Banting, Grace Fox, Sophie Pearson, Molly Spencer



Year 7 Boys:

(back left) Harry Littlebury, Ayrton Gowen, Tom Fox, Henry Bedford, Joshua Delaney

(front left) Jake Weale, Seb Parkes, Maddox Bates



Year 8 Boys:

(back left) Freddie Warwood, Will Leeson, Dan Parkins, James Pensom

(front left) Judah Hartland, Josh Baylis, Declan Nash, Samuel Pykett

Miss A Rowley

Solihull Secondary Schools' Sports Federation Roll of Honour Evening 2026

On **2nd March 2026**, the Solihull Secondary Schools' Sports Federation held its annual **Roll of Honour Evening**, celebrating young athletes who have made exceptional contributions to school sport across the borough. The event recognises students whose dedication, performance, and commitment to their sport have been truly outstanding. This year, four talented athletes were added to the prestigious Roll of Honour: **Andrew Irvine (Athletics)**, **Charlie Hughes (Athletics)**, **Emmie Spencer (Cross-country)** and **Harry Justice (Cross-country)**. Each of these athletes has demonstrated remarkable determination and success within their respective sports, representing their schools and the local area with pride. It was a fantastic evening celebrating the achievements of young sportspeople and recognising the hard work that goes into reaching such high levels of performance.



Miss A Rowley

Squash - National Schools Competition 2026

The KS4 team narrowly lost out on a place in the finals, playing out a tough few matches at Hallamshire Squash Club. Well done Lily Gannaway, Lucas Askey, Oscar Mason, Jude Mason and Alex Pennell.

The KS3 Mixed team had slightly more success getting to the finals and came 4th overall in the country! A great achievement, well done to Constance Regan-Elson, Connie Mason, Sophia Parkes, Lydia Evans, Charlie Dennis, Frankie Smith and Tobias Warrender.



Mr H Goldenfeld

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.

Year 9 Sports Leaders

The Year 9 sports leaders have been fantastic in helping to lead and deliver the indoor sports games this year.

They have led competitions for KS1, KS2 and KS3 students from Solihull, Warwickshire, and Coventry schools.

They have shown tremendous maturity, worked well as a team, and have demonstrated amazing leadership skills, this was their 5th event on 25th March.

The feedback from the organisers has been outstanding, they are a credit to Arden and it has been my pleasure to lead and take these students to these events.

Mr C Andrews



Mr I Edgington completes his 500th parkrun!

Staff from Arden attended the Cannon Hill parkrun on Saturday 21st March to help Language teacher Mr Edgington complete his 500th parkrun which is a tremendous achievement and worth a shout out in the newsletter. The next to celebrate this landmark will be Dr Cannadine in July. Parkrun happens every Saturday at 9am. There is a run report on the Cannon Hill parkrun fb page for anyone interested. We know some of our students and parents also take part.



Well done, Football Teams!

It has been a very productive football season again at the school for both the boys and girls teams. As I write the new Year 7 boys team have done very well and remain unbeaten. They are through to the semi-final of the West Midlands cup and still in the Solihull cup. Meanwhile the Year 10's are off to Villa Park in May to play the Birmingham cup final and hopefully win a 6th cup since they started the school. They also reached the semi-finals of the Nationals again losing 3-2 to a team from Sunderland. The year 9's are also progressing well in 3 cups, meanwhile the Year 11's are through to the final of the Solihull cup in April and semi-final of the West Midlands cup after a penalty victory in the previous round. The girls have also been involved in regional and National competitions too.

A big well done to all staff and students who give up their time to represent the school. There have been over 50 matches so far with some big ones to come!

Dr J Cannadine and the PE staff who run the teams

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).