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## Mr Warwood's Reflections

As we reach the end of another busy and successful academic year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the many achievements and experiences that have made this term so memorable.

Firstly, I would like to recognise the resilience shown by both our students and staff during the recent spell of exceptionally hot weather. Despite challenging conditions, lessons have continued with purpose and our school community has demonstrated the positivity, adaptability and perseverance that are such important characteristics of our school. I am immensely grateful to our staff for their commitment to providing the very best experience for our students, and proud of the maturity and good humour shown by students throughout.

This term has also been one of celebration for the arts. Our school production was a truly outstanding showcase of talent, dedication and teamwork. Whether on stage, behind the scenes, managing technical elements or supporting rehearsals, students and staff worked tirelessly to create something very special. Equally impressive were the GCSE and A Level Art exhibitions, which highlighted the creativity, skill and imagination of our young artists. The quality of work on display was remarkable and a fitting reflection of the hard work invested throughout their courses.

PD3D once again provided an incredible range of opportunities for students to develop beyond the classroom. It has been wonderful to see students embracing experiences as varied as Lane 7 Bowling, Drayton Manor and, for our Year 7 students, an unforgettable residential experience at PGL. These activities not only created lasting memories but also helped students build confidence and friendships. Alongside these exciting opportunities, I was particularly proud of the many community action projects undertaken during the week.

Students gave their time generously to support the local community through litter picks, environmental clean-up projects, Speed Watch initiatives and visits to care homes, where they spent time reading, talking and playing games with residents. These activities demonstrated our students' compassion, sense of responsibility and willingness to make a positive difference to the lives of others.



Finally, it has been a genuine pleasure to see students celebrated during our end-of-year awards services. Watching young people revel in the recognition of their hard work, commitment and success has been a fitting way to conclude the year. Their achievements remind us of the tremendous talent, character and potential that our students have.

I wish all students, families, and staff a restful, happy and well-deserved summer break and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year ahead.

*Mr D Warwood, Associate Headteacher*



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



## School Production

This year's school production of *Oliver!* was a spectacular success. More than 200 students came together to act, sing, dance, provide the orchestration and manage the lighting and sound, all under the expert guidance of our Drama and Music departments.

After months of rehearsals and hard work, the cast and crew delivered six outstanding performances that would not have looked out of place on a professional stage. One parent remarked, *"I would have happily paid £100 to see a show of that quality in the West End."*



Audiences enjoyed all the well-loved songs, including *Consider Yourself*, *Food*, *Glorious Food* and *Oliver!*, accompanied by the full musical score used in professional productions. Students from Year 7 through to Year 13 took part, with a former student currently at University also returning to support the event as a member of the production crew.

The show was a wonderful demonstration of the talent, commitment and teamwork that make Arden so special. It also perfectly embodied one of our core values, **Belonging**, bringing together students, staff, alumni and families in a shared celebration of creativity and community.



## Charity Bike Ride 2026

On the 14th July 2026, 40 Year 9 students (the most ever so far) took part in a 100km bike ride from Arden to Stratford and back. We raised money for Birmingham Children's Hospital for our friend Nancy Dunne. We have raised over £27,000 with our target being £10,000, well over what we hoped.

Our journey started in September when we set out for our selection ride that was 27 miles to Kenilworth and back. As there were so many people who applied, this motivated us all to train and work harder for our place.

In our 47 mile training ride, we had to take a big step up from the selection ride to build up our resilience and strength. However the ride was not uneventful as Jack ended with a total of 3 punctures! At lunch, there were many competitive headstand and pressup competitions. The standout was Tobias with his 5 minute headstand and Jez Emmett with his impressive pressups.

Due to the 30 degree heat, the bike ride was postponed to 3 weeks later on the 14th July. We set off at 6.30am with a 6am meeting time. Our first stop was at Hatton Country World where lots of jelly babies were devoured. Around lunchtime, Jack (you guessed it) got another 2 punctures! But the punctures didn't stop there, Sophia and James both got more punctures, delaying us by half an hour.

In Sambourne, Mr Riches decided he was not going to complete the ride. After lots of persuasion and reminding him of his famous motto: "we all sink or we all swim together," he then decided to finish the ride. He continued on the ride, despite all his jelly babies being eaten by the girls.

Back at Arden, our family, friends and the Birmingham Children's Hospital were all there to congratulate us at the finish line. A big shoutout to Deen who completed the ride on a bike donated from the charity, Solihull Wheels for All.

Thank you to all the people, families and staff who supported us and helped us to complete this challenge. We wouldn't have been able to do it without you.

### Students:

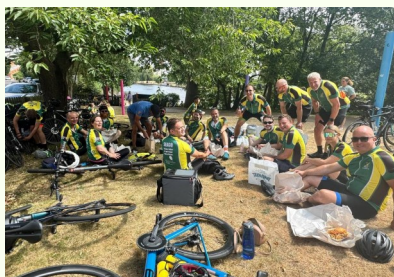
Luke Ager, Will Bamforth, Shaan Bhopal, Reuben Blackburn, Blake Brown, Freddie Cheetham, Ben Conyers, Jack Corey, Ethan Craddock, Sophia Delaney, James Emmett, William Fallis, Ruaridh Finn, Will Flannery, Joshua Gardner, Elijah Hartland, Caylan Hayre, Morgan Hughes, Deen Hussain, Libby Jackson, Henry Johnson, Sophie Jones, Tom Justice, Ethan Leonards, Carys Lorne, Joshua Macfarlane, Grace McCarthy, Maisie McCarthy, Peter Osborne, Sophia Parkes, Euan Pickard, Oliver Pirie, Alexander Reid, Catherine Rindfuss, Frankie Smith, George Stott, William Tyson, Ethan Underwood, Tobias Warrender, Niamh Williamson

### Staff:

Dr Cannadine, Mrs Crawford, Mr Fletcher, Mr Goldenfeld, Mr Humphries, Mr Hussey, Mrs Hyde, Mr Last, Mr Riches, Dr Seago, Mr Simpson, Mr Singh, Mr White

### Parents supporting:

Leigh Dunne, Jez Emmett, Ant McCarthy, Katy Tyson, Sara Conyers, Gurmukh Hayre, Abid Hussain, Jayne McCarthy



*Grace, Libby, Maisie, Niamh, Sophia & Sophia*



## Year 8 Pupils Shine in Big Ideas STEM Competition

Over the past six months, a group of talented Year 8 pupils have been taking part in the Big Ideas STEM Competition, an exciting challenge that encourages young people to identify a real-world problem they are passionate about and develop an innovative solution. Pupils were required to create a detailed business plan and deliver a professional presentation to showcase their ideas.

We were delighted to have 10 teams representing Arden in the local stage of the competition. Every team demonstrated exceptional creativity, teamwork, commitment and enthusiasm, producing a range of thoughtful and inspiring solutions to global challenges. An outstanding four teams progressed to the regional finals:

### **TurbineFilters** – *Hester Cheung, Anya Lee, Hayley Leung, Allie Ling and Sarah Luk*

This team developed a combined turbine and water filtration system designed to address expensive energy costs and limited access to clean water in developing countries. Their innovative design generates electricity while simultaneously filtering water, helping to tackle two major challenges at once.



### **Revogue** – *Mavis Lau, Amy Edwards, Conelia Kondisetti and Chimmy Tang*

Revogue focused on reducing clothing waste caused by fast fashion. Their idea involved creating a clothing collection and donation service to support local clothing banks and encourage sustainable fashion choices. Impressively, the team has already begun collecting donations from members of the school community.



### **BioPaint** – *Jack Lennon, Eddie Oldham, Toby Richmond, Joey Thorley, Oscar Edwards and Avaani Sandhar*

BioPaint tackled the issue of rising carbon dioxide levels in urban areas. Their solution was a resin-based paint containing microalgae that could be applied

to buildings, helping to improve air quality while enhancing the appearance of urban environments.



### **Marine Trust** – *Ashleigh Evans, Kavya Goenka, Emma Powell and Rawaan Alkhder*

This team focused on the growing problem of ocean pollution and its impact on marine life. Their proposal combined education and awareness campaigns with the development of a rehabilitation centre for injured and endangered marine animals.



Following their success at the local stage, the teams further refined their ideas by exploring finance, marketing and business development opportunities to strengthen the viability of their projects.

On 20th May, the four teams attended the regional finals at the University of Birmingham, where they presented their ideas to a panel of judges alongside pupils from 11 other schools. All of our teams presented with confidence, professionalism and passion, demonstrating an impressive understanding of both the problems they had identified and the solutions they had developed. They were excellent ambassadors for Arden and represented the school superbly.

Following their success at the regional finals, our BioPaint team travelled to the Houses of Parliament to compete against 11 other schools from across the country in the national finals of the Solutions for the Planet competition.

The day began with a fascinating tour of the Houses of Parliament, including visits to the House of Lords and the House of Commons, before the team delivered their presentation to the judging panel. Presenting second from last, the pupils confidently demonstrated their innovative idea, showing an excellent understanding of the science behind their solution and explaining how it could provide a sustainable, achievable benefit for the wider environment.

Although BioPaint were not placed in the top three, every pupil represented Arden Academy with professionalism, passion and commitment. They should be incredibly proud of their achievements and the way they showcased both their idea and our school throughout the competition.

Congratulations to all the pupils involved for their hard work, creativity and dedication.

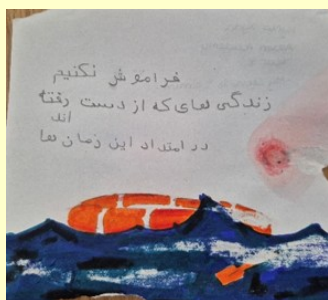
*Mr J Hussey*

## FCBG Children's Book Awards Ceremony

Students Shiwaa Ramaswaamy, Evie Keddie, Sarah Luk and Lauren Woolley, accompanied by librarian Miss O'Brien, attended the Federation of Children's Book Groups (FCBG) Children's Book Awards Ceremony. The day was an opportunity to celebrate outstanding children's literature and meet some of the authors and illustrators behind this year's shortlisted books.



In order for students to be invited, they had to read the three shortlisted books in the Older Readers category and produce creative work to contribute to a national portfolio, alongside work from children across the UK.



The day began with a shared lunch alongside acclaimed illustrators Chris Haughton and Dapo Adeola, who compared their creative processes by showcasing traditional sketchbook drawings alongside digital illustrations created on an iPad.



Following lunch, students had a chance to meet all the invited authors & illustrators for autographs and selfies.

Then came the main event which was also being livestreamed. The students were invited on-stage to present the completed portfolio to author Fidan Meikle. The moment became even more memorable when later, Meikle's book *My Name is Samim* was announced as the winner of the Older Readers category.

The entire day was a once-in-a-lifetime experience where students left with signed books and amazing memories.



Miss E O'Brien

## Danceathon on Arden's Day of Action

On Arden's Day of Action, ten Year 8 girls and eight Year 9 girls completed a danceathon for 5 hours in the scorching heat! Between them, they choreographed a street dance and a beautiful contemporary piece, in the name of raising money for the Children's Hospital.

Well done girls!

Miss E Crutchley

## National Reading Champions Quiz Final 2026

As promised in the last newsletter, here is the write-up about our experience at the National Reading Champions Quiz Final in London! There was no better time to compete in the final than during the National Year of Reading. Our team read often and widely from picture books to Young Adult in preparation. Upon arrival, students were treated like celebrities, having their pictures taken and their table was covered with free books!



The quiz consisted of 80 questions - eight different categories with ten questions each, all from the wonderful world of literature. It was a challenging but exciting event for our students, an opportunity to use their wider reading knowledge in competition against other schools.

Sadly we couldn't claim a first-place win competing against the best readers across the UK. Nonetheless, the students - as always - were wonderful, balancing their reading quiz with their exam revision on the train there and back!

Congratulations to:

Heather Reid

Lottie Fleming

Avaani Sandhar

Rosie Reed

Oscar Edwards (reserve)



Thanks also to Miss George for joining us and supporting on the day.

Overall, it was another great day of celebrating reading with schools from across the UK and we still returned with a trophy to add to the library shelf 🏆 📖

*Miss E O'Brien*

## Community Action Day

What do you do when you're given two hours to support the community during Community Action Day?

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June we spent ours volunteering at The Royal Star & Garter, an award-winning charity care home dedicated to supporting UK Armed Forces veterans, ex-Service personnel, and their partners through specialist nursing, dementia, and respite care. 14 Year 8 students, Mrs Butcher-Johns and myself spent the afternoon chatting with residents, helping to brighten their day. Our students made us incredibly proud. They confidently struck up conversations with residents, listened to their fascinating life stories, and five students even had their hair plaited by one of the residents! We were also reminded just how small the world can be when Mrs Butcher-Johns discovered that one of the residents had worked in the library at Arden Academy more than 40 years ago. Francis of Assisi famously said, "*It is in giving that we receive*" and that certainly felt true that Friday afternoon. We all came away having gained something valuable.

Thank you to Lorraine Bishton, Well-being Coordinator, for giving us the opportunity to visit; to the wonderful staff, whose compassion and dedication were inspiring to see; to the residents for welcoming us and sharing their stories; and, finally, to our Year 8 students for being such fantastic ambassadors for the school.

*Miss K Tipping*

## Arden Students Crowned UK National Champions at the Kids Lit Quiz UK 2026

When an invitation arrived during the Easter holidays to compete in the first Kids' Lit Quiz for six years, I quickly assembled our two teams and resumed training ahead of the event. On Friday 24 April, we travelled to Bilton Grange School to compete against schools from across the UK - predominantly independent schools - including teams from London, East Anglia and Scotland. The morning was the first heat and only eight out of twenty teams would progress to the National Final in the afternoon. This included ten rounds with ten questions on various themes from Bugs to Beverages.



When the results were announced, our NRCQ regional-winning team narrowly missed out on the National Final, but Arden Team B had secured second place in their heat to progress to the afternoon competition. For Nationals, it was now a buzzer round on the stage (!! ) where correct answers earned two points but incorrect or unanswered questions lost two. I knew the team had the knowledge; I just hoped their nerves wouldn't get the better of them.

The students gave some stellar answers and showed incredible teamwork, even rescuing one another under pressure when nerves struck. Gresham's Prep B proved to be our closest competition, and with just two points between us going into the final Folk Tales round, the result remained tense until the very end. Arden Team B held their nerve, finishing on thirty-four points ahead of Gresham's Prep on thirty-two. Then they were announced as **UK National Champions** and invited to compete at the World Final in New Zealand!! There, we could compete against teams from Europe, Asia, America and Africa to become World Champions in reading.



*Pictured Left: Miss O'Brien, Librarian & Kids' Lit Quiz Coach*

*Back row L-R: Arden Team A - Myrto Xyda, Anya Lee, Lottie Fleming, Heather Reid (holding Cola the Penguin)*

*Front row L-R: Arden Team B - Georgina Reed, Oscar Edwards, (Pepsi the Penguin), Lucy Bates-Gamble, Imogen Letters*

Sadly, the World Final was not to be. With just one month to raise £12,000 for flights, rising fuel costs, the need to avoid some traditional travel routes due to world events and the significant distance to New Zealand, the trip presented considerable financial and logistical challenges. After carefully weighing these factors, the difficult decision was made that the team would not be able to attend the World Final.

Although we were unable to compete at the World Final, I am immensely proud of every student who represented Arden. Both teams demonstrated outstanding literary knowledge, teamwork and resilience throughout the day, and Arden Team B's crowning as UK National Champions was a wonderful achievement for the whole school.

*Miss E O'Brien*

### A Royal Correspondence

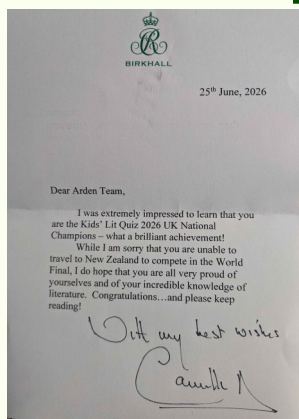
After becoming the Kids' Lit Quiz UK National Champions, the team decided to write to Her Majesty Queen Camilla to share the exciting news of their success. We were delighted to receive a reply from Her Majesty, congratulating the team on their incredible achievement and recognising their passion for reading.

Her letter read:

*I was extremely impressed to learn that you are the Kids' Lit Quiz 2026 UK National Champions - what a brilliant achievement!*

*While I am sorry that you are unable to travel to New Zealand to compete in the World Final, I do hope that you are all very proud of yourselves and of your incredible knowledge of literature. Congratulations...and please keep reading!*

We are also honoured that the students have kindly donated the original letter to the library, where it will be framed and displayed for all to enjoy. We hope it will inspire future students to pick up a book and see just how far reading can take them.



## AIM High: Poet Damani Dennisur visits Arden

A select few Year 7 students who have demonstrated potential in English were invited to an inspiring AIM High Day with poet/rapper Damani Dennisur, alongside students from Langley and Park Hall schools.

Damani led the students in a day of poetry encouraging them to be dynamic and how vocabulary choice can change the meaning of a piece. Students worked initially on a group poem, followed by an individual poem inspired by a place they loved or where they were happiest.

At the end of the session, Arden students had a private Q&A with Damani where they got a chance to hear all about his time working with artists such as Kanye West.



*Pictured: Beni Morris, Isaac Stancliffe, Lachlan Griffiths-Jones, Tom Elsworth, Kaiden Atkins, Zayn Khan, Evelyn-Mae Telford, Zahra Ogunbanjo, Ta'Leah Jennings, Nylah Rahman, Livs Evans, Eloise Price with Damani Dennisur.*

*Miss E O'Brien*

## Eco Club Bingo Bonanza Competition

Eco Club challenged students to photograph a variety of things on their walk to school, filling in a bingo card in a chance to win prizes. This was an active travel campaign to promote walking to school, rather than driving, something that has numerous benefits for students' health and also our local environment. We were incredibly impressed with how observant students were on their walk to school!

Elise Broughton came out as the overall winner – well done Elise! Anya Lee, Steven Wu, Grace Oddy and Myrto Xyda came out as winners of the best row or column. And finally, an honourable mention to Emily Burrows, Elinor Smith, Imogen Letters, and Owen Horsley. Make sure to look out for future Eco Club competitions for your chance to win prizes, and if you want to join us... come to the Drama studio, 1<sup>st</sup> half of Friday lunch.



*Mr H Goldenfeld*

## MFL Competition

A huge congratulations to Ethan Swann in Year 7 who was 1 of 2 winners of the Key Stage 3 Mother Tongue, Other Tongue Poetry Competition. We had a number of entries from Arden School and we were commended as a school by Warwick University.

Overall there were 120 entries to this competition from pupils aged 8-18 years. Students had to choose an inspirational poem under this year's theme of "Nature and the Environment". There were entries in SO many languages! including Tamil, Punjabi, Hungarian, Chinese, Russian, Italian, Ukranian, Korean, Vietnamese, Thai and Dutch to name but a few! Even though we were competing against many other schools, we are delighted that Arden won a main prize.

We also had 4 Year 7 pupils who qualified for the Regional Spelling Bee Competition, which was held at Warwick University. The 4 pupils regularly met with Mr. Edgington or Mr. Cox after school to be tested on over 200 foreign words to make sure they could pronounce them, write them down and spell them phonetically in the foreign language. We are so grateful to Emilia Turner, Faye Lang and Noah Holtom who showed true dedication and resilience in learning their words. They performed very well but unfortunately did not qualify for the national competition. However, Cameron Reid, a Year 7 pupil of German, did qualify for the finals which were held in June in Cambridge University. He performed very well and we are very proud of his efforts. This is the first time that Arden has taken part in the Regional and National Spelling Bee Competition and next year we are hoping to have winners again!

*Mr I Edgington*

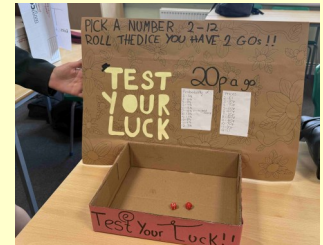
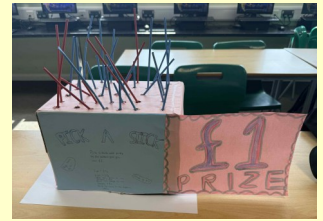
## Probability Fair

July brings around one of the longest-running traditions in the Arden Mathematics department, the Year 7 Probability Fair!

Students in Year 7 are placed into groups across their year half and then tasked with creating a game that will collect money for charity. There is a strict understanding that these games are to be based in chance only (although we always have a couple of groups that always try to sneak a game of skill past the teachers) and prizes had to be cash prizes, carefully weighed against the cost of playing the game.

After two to three hours of preparation and creation (with some students taking their games home to finish up) the fair took place on the 2nd of July. It's always

wonderful to see the flow of students and staff going from room to room and seeing the wide range of creativity that the fair encourages. Students manning the stalls were enthusiastic without being pestering (stalls offering sweets as prizes were very popular...in the short term) and the atmosphere was positive throughout the duration.



The donations were all going towards the Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity. Altogether we made over £200, which was an excellent haul from the fair. We look forward to seeing if the next Year 7s can outdo this wonderful total!

*Mr C Dimmick*

## UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Challenges

This year has been another fantastic one for mathematics at Arden, with **over 500 students from Year 7 through to Year 13** taking part in the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Challenges. The enthusiasm and commitment shown across all year groups has been truly impressive.

Our students achieved an excellent set of results, earning a total of:

**27 Gold certificates**

**95 Silver certificates**

**129 Bronze certificates**

These results reflect the strong problem-solving skills and determination of our students, as well as their willingness to take on challenging mathematical thinking beyond the classroom.

Special congratulations go to those students who progressed to the **follow-on rounds**, a significant achievement that places them among the highest performers nationally.

**Sixth Form:** Deep Sengupta, Sam Perrins

**Key Stage 4:** Isaac Lee, Grace Parkes

**Key Stage 3:** Eamonn Dillon, Matthew Fleming, Noah Gardner, Chloe Banting, Jayden Chan, Freddie Cox, Toby Makepeace, Roma Panchal, Oliver Powell, George Ward

This is a remarkable accomplishment and demonstrates exceptional mathematical ability and resilience. We are incredibly proud of all students who took part and look forward to even more success in next year's competitions.

*Miss M Davies*

## French Penpal Scheme

Two Year 7 classes have participated in a French 'penpal' scheme this year with Dorridge Primary Year 5 students. We have written three letters to them throughout the school year and have received three in return! It has been great getting to use **our** French to communicate with others and showcase what we have learned about our family, where we live and our hobbies in French! Well done Year 7!

*Miss E Crutchley*



## Student Achievements

### **Zak Spittle (Y10)**

We are thrilled to congratulate Zak Spittle (Y10) on winning the Soroptimist International Public Speaking Competition last night. He spoke for four minutes about Climate Change and the need for action.



Massive thanks to Mr S Lenton for his expert coaching .

## Student Leadership

It is with much joy and pride that we can announce the Student Positions of Responsibility for the next academic year. The recruitment process involved a written application, which then led to students completing a group presentation in front of Mr Warwood, Mr Simpson, Mr Ambris, Miss Davies and last year's senior students. The final 18 students were then selected and given their respective roles after a formal interview.

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

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

The leadership team will work on projects and assemblies, driving the Arden values forwarded in the school community.

**Head Girl** – Neveah Wilson

**Head Boy** – Zak Spittle

### **Senior Pupils**

Sarah Carter

Georgie Massey

Ada Masson

Emre Hodgetts

Andrew Irvine

Jamie Underwood

### **School Council Leads**

Stephanie Parkes

Chloe Fung

### **Leadership Pupils**

Grace Parkes (Co-Lead)

Dan Shooter (Co-Lead)

Poppy Burrows

Rose Malkin

Maisey Stephens

Angad Kooner

Alex Malkin

Will Rogers

*Miss M Davies*

### Senior pupils (2025-2026)

Well, this past year has been a whirlwind of experiences for us as the Senior Pupil team, and as our time in our positions draws close to the end, with next year's applications well under way, we as Head Girl and Head Boy wanted to share some of our highlights as a team.

For us specifically as Head Girl and Head Boy, our favourite aspect has definitely been the fame we were given once our names were plastered on that prestigious board in the main hall, which we would often stare at, hoping one day we would be able to admire our own names up there. However, whilst that was definitely the most fun part, the most rewarding part of it all is the change we hoped to have made over this past year through our many presentations, meetings and speeches.

On 15th April, we embarked on our final conference as a team, with the theme of 'Keeping ourselves and others safe online and offline'. Over our three conferences together, we have created and utilised many new and differing ways of collaborating, each time ending up with a new twist on our presentations. These conferences have been one of our most enjoyable aspects of being on the team as we have been able to meet and join together with new people, making new friends, new connections and taking away fond memories. Being able to advise and present our ideas to the leadership members of the Trust has given us the fulfilment that, hopefully, we have been able to influence positive change in the future environment of each school.

Each of us have our own favourite and fond memories, but we can all agree that one of the most embarrassing moments was at the future Year 7 parents information evening. Here, we were asked to create a fashion show, incorporating a dance, and very creative music mix by Harry, and showing off our catwalks. Our performance ended the evening and was complimented and laughed at by many parents and members of staff.

We have had to learn many lessons over this year, such as organisation, collaboration, communication and taking initiative and responsibility, but we will look back on this year with fondness and will be forever grateful for the opportunity we were given this time last year.

Best of luck to next year's Senior Pupil team, we hope that you will go above and beyond anyone's expectations and thank you!

*Harry, Eden, Dan, Bebe, Misha, Sofia, Nishi and Alistair*

### School council chairs (2025-2026)

Our role as Heads of the School Council has been to work with the Year Representatives on developing a kindness project. In our weekly meetings, we brainstormed a number of different ideas, presented the best ones to our SLT and we have settled on these 3 main projects as part of this: kindness postcards, kindness themes and a focus on kindness in the community. For our kindness postcards, students fill in a google form acknowledging someone else's kindness and we send home a postcard. For our kindness themes, each week there is a different theme. Teachers and a select few students spot for others who show kindness and we award them with achievement points. As part of our kindness in the community, we will start a peer mentoring programme for the Year 6s to ease their transition. We are also going to start sending Christmas cards to care home residents nearby. This year has taught us a lot about responsibility and confidence as we have had to lead discussions and organise projects. We've really enjoyed working with the representatives across all year groups to hear their ideas and see them brought into action. A huge thank you to all the school councillors, teachers and form captains who have made this all possible.

*Martha and Lucy*

## Leadership team (2025-2026)

This year, the Year 11 Leadership Team has taken part in a variety of valuable and memorable experiences, helping to develop confidence, teamwork, and communication skills while representing the school.

One of the most enjoyable aspects for many was attending conferences. These events provided the opportunity to meet students from across the trust, work collaboratively, and share ideas in a new environment. They pushed students out of their comfort zones, helping them to build confidence and form new friendships, while also learning about different approaches to leadership.

Public speaking was another key part of the role. Whether delivering assemblies, presenting to other year groups, or speaking in church, students were regularly challenged to step forward and speak in front of large audiences. Although this was nerve-wracking at first - particularly when presenting to their own peers - confidence grew over time, and many came to find it one of the most rewarding parts of the experience.

As a team, there were challenges along the way, especially when it came to organising ideas, dividing responsibilities, and working effectively together. However, through practice and improved communication, the group became more cohesive and supportive, allowing them to deliver stronger, more confident presentations.

Overall, being part of the Leadership Team has been both enjoyable and highly rewarding. The experience has helped students grow in confidence, develop important life skills, and make a positive contribution to the school community.

*Dylan, Maisie, Olivia, Paige, Zac, Oscar, Joe and Molly*

## Staff News

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

|                                             |                                               |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Mr J Ambris, Teacher of PE                  | Mrs S Pratt, Teacher of English               |
| Mrs S Anjam, Head of Spanish/Teacher of MFL | Mrs T Qureshi, Administrative Assistant       |
| Miss E Blenkinsop, Teacher of PE            | Mr M Riches, Teacher of History               |
| Mrs A Hoskins, Teacher of Business/Law      | Mrs G Smith, Teacher of Science               |
| Mrs L O'Brien, Teacher of Business          | Mr A Teviotdale, Head of Business & Economics |
| Mr G Ord, Teacher of English                | Mr R Young, Teacher of History                |

We are delighted to be joined in September by:

|                                                   |                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Miss V Andrews, Teacher of English & Head of Year | Miss A Smith, Teacher of English                        |
| Miss A Bevan, Teacher of Business & Economics     | Mrs R Thompson, Associate Assistant Headteacher & SENCO |
| Miss S Murphy, Teacher of Hair & Beauty           | Mr J Waterhouse, Teacher of Maths                       |
| Mr N Oliver, Teacher of History                   | Ms E Woodburn, Head of Spanish                          |

***Welcome to the Arden Family!***

# PTFA News

## Arden PTFA – Another Fantastic Year!

The PTFA is here to do two things: raise as much money as possible for our school and have plenty of fun along the way!

Over the years, thanks to your incredible support, we've been able to fund all sorts of resources across the school. From reading books, DT equipment, PE kits and media studies gadgets, to what may well be our most unexpected purchase yet – a whole set of mannequin heads! We've also funded inspiring author visits and a psychology guest speaker event, helping to bring learning to life for our students.

Every year, we aim to raise between **£15,000 and £20,000**. This year, thanks to our amazing volunteers and incredibly generous school community, we've absolutely smashed that goal and raised **£28,000!** Thank you to everyone who supported our events, bought raffle tickets, volunteered their time or simply came along and joined in the fun.

One event always stands out on the calendar – our spectacular **Fireworks Display**. It's our biggest fundraiser of the year and quite literally ends with a bang! To make it happen, we rely on a fantastic team of volunteers. If you can spare even a little time to help at this or any other event, we'd love to hear from you. Every helping hand makes a huge difference. Simply get in touch at [ptfachair@arden.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:ptfachair@arden.solihull.sch.uk).

Looking for an easy way to support the PTFA? Join our **Big Cash Draw!** For just **£12 a year**, you'll be entered into a prize draw every half term for the chance to win up to **£200**. Keep an eye on ParentPay for details.

We also run our popular **Pre-Loved Uniform Service**, providing a lifeline for families whose children have somehow misplaced their PE kit, blazer or what feels like their 73rd tie of the year! We know the lost property struggle is real, and there's absolutely no judgement here. You can contact us via the Pre-Loved Uniform Facebook page or through the PTFA email address. We'll also be hosting uniform sales in the school hall throughout the year, with dates shared via Synergy.

We're always keen to welcome new faces to the PTFA. Our committee meetings take place at school on the **second Monday of each half term**, and whether you'd like to become a regular member, help occasionally, or volunteer at one of our events, we'd love your support. The first meeting of the new academic year will be held on **Monday 14 September 2026 at 7.00pm at school**.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us this year. The difference your contributions make to the school is enormous, and we couldn't do it without you. Whether you volunteer regularly, help out once a year, buy a ticket, donate a prize or simply show up and support our events, you are helping us make Arden an even better place for our students.

**Stay in touch:** Follow us on Facebook and Instagram, or drop us a line at [ptfachair@arden.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:ptfachair@arden.solihull.sch.uk).

Have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to another fantastic year ahead!

## Reading Rewards: An Afternoon with Author Christopher Edge

Throughout the academic year, our Year 7 and Year 8 students compete in their library lessons for the chance to earn a place at the end-of-year Reading Rewards event. This year, our successful readers enjoyed a special afternoon with award-winning author Christopher Edge.

Before the main Reading Rewards event began, members of our Creative Writing Club and Reading Club were also invited to an exclusive Q&A session and book signing with Christopher. Students had the opportunity to ask questions about his books, writing process and inspiration, gaining a fascinating insight into the world of an author.



Now for the main event: firstly, students were treated to a presentation by Christopher, who explained the different elements that make up his books, including plot devices, characterisation and the real-life science behind many of his stories. Students also took part in a fun interactive quiz throughout the session.

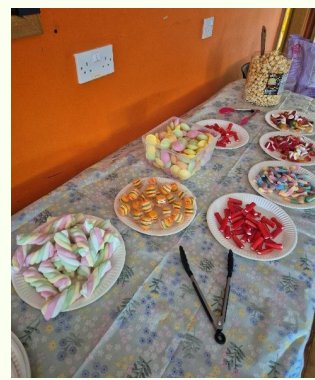
In the afternoon, students attended two experiences. The first was an Escape Room challenge with Christopher, where they worked together to solve a series of increasingly complex puzzles. I'm pleased to say that both groups managed to escape!



Students also attended a time-travelling cinema experience inspired by *The Black Hole Cinema Club* and Christopher's newest book, *How to Steal the Future*. The Drama Studio was transformed into a makeshift cinema, where students travelled all the way back to the 1900s... the 1990s, in fact, to watch classic cartoons including *Hey Arnold!* and *Fillmore*. To complete the experience, students enjoyed cinema-style treats including pick 'n' mix and popcorn.

Finally, a big thank you to the PTFA for sponsoring this event. The Reading Rewards are truly a highlight of the year, and events like this simply wouldn't be possible without their support. Not only is it a fantastic reward for our most dedicated readers, but it also gives all students something to work towards throughout the year, encouraging them to have a purpose for their reading whilst, most importantly, enjoying their books.

Miss E O'Brien



## The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme at Arden 2025/2026

Arden Academy's successful and popular Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) programme has broken records for the number of students who have completed their awards. We have a fantastic number of students who completed their Bronze Award in 2025 and 2026 to date:

|                         |                          |                       |                      |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Imogen Ager (S)         | Yosef Dallol (S)         | Chloe Homan           | Bethany Lunt         |
| Jack Baglole (S)        | Milly Davie (S)          | Alexander Horsley (S) | Lucas Ma (S)         |
| Hannah Baker            | Alanna Deery-Horsley (S) | Charlotte Howden      | Rose Malkin          |
| Charlotte Bamforth (S)  | Thomas Dowson (S)        | Charlie Hughes (S)    | Elias Mannell        |
| Pavan Bansal (S)        | Eliza Dunne (S)          | Owen Hulme (S)        | Bryher Martin        |
| Pearl Barker (S)        | Maddie Eales             | Lucy Hulse            | Fleur Mason          |
| Beth Bates-Gamble (S)   | Seb Edwards (S)          | Amy Hurdman           | Georgie Massey (S)   |
| Liv Beecham             | Malaika Ejaz (S)         | Shabar Immad (S)      | Ada Masson (S)       |
| Ava Beesley             | Ernie Emmerson (S)       | Alvin Ip (S)          | Daniel McDermott (S) |
| Joe Biddlecombe         | Elizabeth Evans          | Andrew Irvine (S)     | Eli McGee (S)        |
| Eleanor Bieliauskas     | Lucy Fallis (S)          | Jake Jepson           | George Mcmonagle (S) |
| Daisy Bird (S)          | George Fitzgerald (S)    | Louie Jeynes          | Ava Menzies          |
| Samuel Blackburn (S)    | Ethan Fitzpatrick (S)    | Greg Johnson (S)      | Lola Moore           |
| Alex Bowley (S)         | Lola Frost               | James Jones (S)       | Sofia Morton (S)     |
| Emma Brookes (S)        | Olly Gale (S)            | Samuel Keogh          | Thomas Mumford (S)   |
| Poppy Burrows (S)       | Lily Gannaway            | Lily King             | Evie O'Sullivan      |
| Ed Burrows (S)          | William Garner           | William Kirkbride (S) | Oliver Oakley (S)    |
| Annabelle Burton        | Libby Garner (S)         | Mia Ko (S)            | Mia O'Brien          |
| Alexa Caldicott (S)     | Caitlin Gill             | Angad Kooner          | Dylan O'Donnell (S)  |
| Esme Carman             | Suri Goenka (S)          | George Koumbilis (S)  | Freya Pannett (S)    |
| William Chivers (S)     | Seth Gowen               | Emma Ladbroke (S)     | Jack Parkes          |
| Amos Chu                | Beth Guy (S)             | Hailey Lam (S)        | Jamie Parkes (S)     |
| Alexandru Ciortescu (S) | Beth Harriman            | Charlie Landon        | Jude Parkins (S)     |
| Orla Cole (S)           | Charlotte Henderson (S)  | Oscar Lee             | Pixie Partridge (S)  |
| Olivia Coles (S)        | Isla Herbert (S)         | Sophia Lee (S)        | Kirti Patel (S)      |
| Maia Collett (S)        | Charlotte Hewitson (S)   | Oliver Leeson (S)     | Lewis Pearce (S)     |
| Lois Conduit            | Zac Hill-Brown (S)       | Callum Lerat (S)      | Emma Pearson         |
| Bebe Cooper (S)         | Ava Ho (S)               | Sebastian Lewthwaite  | Alex Pennell (S)     |
| Alfie Cox               | Emre Hodgetts (S)        | Isaac Lloyd           | Henry Poole (S)      |
| Barney Cullen           | Oliver Hollis Smith (S)  | Trinity Lloyd         | George Reilly (S)    |

|                     |                    |                                      |                      |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Alexa Richards      | Molly Smith (S)    | Arabella Tipton (S)                  | Finn Wassall         |
| Jake Rippington (S) | Olivia Smith (S)   | Josh Tomlinson (S)                   | Sam Whitehead (S)    |
| Maisy Roache (S)    | Emmie Spencer (S)  | Dylan Tooth                          | Lily Whitehouse      |
| Sophia Roddy (S)    | Matthew Steele (S) | Eva Tyson (S)                        | Amelie Whittaker (S) |
| Harley Rooke (S)    | Joe Stott          | Jamie Underwood                      | Seb Williams         |
| Ewan Sambrooks (S)  | Daniel Swann (S)   | Amit Vadivelmurugan Senthilkumar (S) | Nevaeh Wilson        |
| Hirraaj Seehra      | Matilda Taylor (S) | Alex Waddams (S)                     | Frederick Wilson (S) |
| Elliot Sharp (S)    | Joshua Taylor (S)  | Monty Wainwright (S)                 | Georgia Wiseman      |
| Daniel Shooter (S)  | James Tebbit (S)   | Lukas Ward                           | Luca Woodley         |
| Amy Sibbing (S)     | Oliver Timothy (S) | Daniel Ward (S)                      | Alexandra Wright (S) |
| Safiya Siddiqui     | George Tipton (S)  | Max Ward (S)                         | Beatrice Yeats       |

S=Advanced to Silver Award

### **Silver Awards:**

These students have also completed the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award which requires a further 6 months commitment to volunteering.

|                      |                        |                      |                      |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Megan Adams (G)      | George Fitzgerald      | Callum Lerat         | Emily Sheard (G)     |
| Imogen Ager          | Sebastian Frowd (G)    | Zoe Lewsey (G)       | Olivia Smith         |
| James Baglole (G)    | Kara Furlong (G)       | Beatrice McCorry (G) | Joshua Taylor        |
| Daniel Baker (G)     | Olly Gale              | Daniel McDermott     | James Tebbit         |
| Charlotte Bamforth   | Benjamin Griffin (G)   | Euan Millington (G)  | Josh Tomlinson       |
| Amy Banting (G)      | Charlotte Hall (G)     | Sofia Morton         | Samuel Underwood (G) |
| Lola Barker (G)      | Dylan Hardie (G)       | Daisy Newey          | Amit Senthilkumar    |
| Connie Bate (G)      | Charlotte Henderson    | Dylan O'Donnell      | Alex Waddams         |
| Hugo Capelin (G)     | Charlotte Hewitson     | Freya Pannett        | Joseph Wakeman (G)   |
| William Chivers      | Zac Hill-Brown         | Jamie Parkes         | Daniel Ward          |
| Saoirse Cole         | Isobel Hulme (G)       | Pixie Partridge      | Max Ward             |
| Olivia Coles         | Shabar Immad           | Lewis Pearce         | Sam Whitehead        |
| Maia Collett         | Greg Johnson           | Alasdair Pirie (G)   | Joel Whittaker (G)   |
| James Collier (G)    | Cleo Kakoullis (G)     | Tabitha Qureshi (G)  | Chloe Wood (G)       |
| Milly Davie          | Mia Ko                 | Simran Rai           | Alexandra Wright     |
| Alanna Deery-Horsley | Hailey Lam             | George Reilly        | Edward Wright (G)    |
| Thomas Dowson        | Annabelle Lavender (G) | Evelyn Richards (G)  |                      |
| Malaika Ejaz         | Oliver Leeson          | Benjamin Rood        |                      |

G=Advanced to Gold Award

### **Gold Awards:**

Finally huge congratulations to these students who spent at least a year completing their Gold Award alongside their A level studies and have recently gone to Buckingham Palace (or they will receive an invitation to a Gold Award Presentation at the Palace next summer):

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Thomas Adams       | Lawrie Humby    |
| Matthew Bate       | Joel Hurd       |
| Luke Gale          | William Johnson |
| Daniel Grist       | Joshua Lerat    |
| Carrick Hayre      | Jessica Moxley  |
| Victoria Henderson | Anna Poole      |
| Benjamin Hocombe   | Chloe Wood      |

Special mention to Lawrie Humby who got to have a conversation with the Duke of Edinburgh during the celebration.



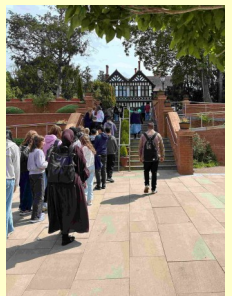
Students currently in year 8 can begin to research how they might work towards their Bronze Awards. More details will be sent to students and parents as students start year 9; watch this space for your opportunity to join Arden's successful Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme.

*Ms M Foulkes*

### **RE Trip**

'What educational visits have left a lasting impression on you?'

On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June, we took 80 Year 8 students to Bhaktivedanta Manor for a spiritual welcome back to the term. I hadn't visited since my own RE teacher took me there over 35 years ago, yet it is a place I have never forgotten. It was wonderful to return to this prominent Hare Krishna temple and spiritual sanctuary, donated to ISKCON by George Harrison, and to see how much it has grown over the years.

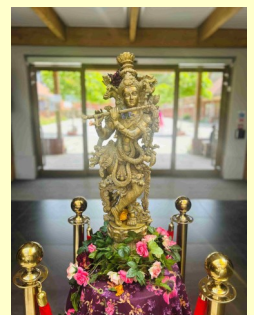


Throughout the day, our students experienced Hinduism as a living faith. They witnessed worship in action, enjoyed a cart ride pulled by two sacred bulls, fed the cows, took part in exploring the Ramayana, and finished their visit with a yoga session.

One of the most memorable aspects of the day was sharing a meal together. For a while, we were able to slow down, focus on the food we were eating, and enjoy one another's company. Our students made us incredibly proud by embracing the experience, trying everything that had been prepared for them, and in some cases even asking for seconds!

Visits like this remind me that some of the most powerful learning happens beyond the classroom. Seeing a faith lived and practised brings a depth of understanding that textbooks alone cannot provide.

If you have never visited Bhaktivedanta Manor and are looking to experience a faith community first hand—or simply seeking a moment of spirituality and reflection—I highly recommend it. However, our new year 8 will be offered this trip in 2027.



*Miss K Tipping*

## Textiles Club

To start off the year, each member of Textiles Club stitched a speech bubble with one positive word to summarise how they feel about Arden. Words such as 'creativity' 'fun' and 'hope' were hand-embroidered onto these templates which are now proudly on display in D0.3.



For our Christmas project, students created their own felt tree decorations. They cut out star shapes and decorated them with hand embroidery and embellishments, creating faces and personalities for these stars. They were then complete with running/blanket stitch around the edge and filled with stuffing for dimension.



We have continued the identity flag project with the Year 7 and 9s. They used fabric pens, paints and posca markers to draw things important to them. Imagery such as their favourite animals, books, hobbies and nature. These banners were then backed with additional fabric and students were shown how to safely operate a sewing machine.

"Textiles Club is the best club I've joined this year. I have found my love for embroidery and now know I have a club in which I am welcome" - Margot Lamont, 7E.

Our Year 8 members have been making drawstring bags. Students tie dyed calico, marked out seam allowances and hems then constructed these bags using a sewing machine. Bags were then embellished with beads and delicate hand embroidery, replicating a galaxy and starry scenes.



Year 10s have created their own skirts, learning construction techniques, measuring accurately and problem solving. They also created their own tote bags in which they upcycled old bed sheets and used techniques such as reverse applique (layering materials and cutting into them to reveal backgrounds).

"When I was new here this was the first place I made great and funny memories. I really like it here and as a craft lover it's a really good way to spend my time." Nora Agdere, 9L.



With the lovely range of projects, we have collated them to create a display board in D0.3 showcasing all the wonderful work the students have created. Textiles Club runs from October - June/July in D0.3 with Miss Durling and Mrs Miners on Mondays, first half of lunch.

*Miss J Durling*

# Arden Futures

## Year 10 Work Experience 2026

As you can no doubt imagine, a lot of work goes in to co-ordinating a work experience programme for 300 students, which begs the question: Why do we do it!? Well, the answer to that is simple – school is all about preparing our young people for adulthood, and WORK! Wouldn't you agree? And it would be remiss of us to not allow our students to experience what it's like to actually go to work, and get a sense of what finding employment and building employability skills essentially looks like. We know (because we've been doing this for a long time) that work experience can be extremely beneficial in terms of providing labour market information, insight into specific job roles or sectors, and – possibly most importantly – helping students build key skills such as confidence, resilience, perseverance, time management and communication skills – the very things which employers look for!

Despite the impact of extreme weather conditions on some placements (let's not talk about the weather!), this year's programme was an overall success, and the feedback we've had from employers has been truly heart-warming...

*NAME has been polite, hardworking, enthusiastic, and a genuine pleasure to have as part of the team. We hope they enjoyed seeing both sides of the property industry and have a better understanding of the work that goes into helping landlords, buyers, sellers, and tenants every single day. Whatever path they choose after school, we wish them every success for the future. If they decide that a career in property is the path for them, we'd be delighted to welcome them back as an apprentice and help them begin their journey in the industry.*

*During my meetings with NAME, he came across as a polite, thoughtful and a capable young person. Although he may not yet have decided what he would like to do in his working life, I have no doubt that he will succeed with the positive attitude he has shown.*

*NAME was an absolute delight to have with us. She got stuck into every task with enthusiasm and accompanied me on all viewings, where she confidently engaged with potential buyers. Her personal demeanour and presentation were excellent throughout, and she represented herself and her school extremely well. She was a pleasure to work with.*

*It was a pleasure to have NAME complete his work experience placement with us. He integrated into the team exceptionally well from the outset and quickly became a valued member of the office during his time here. NAME approached each day with a positive attitude, showed genuine enthusiasm for learning, and wasn't afraid to ask thoughtful questions to better understand the business and the work we do. His curiosity and willingness to get involved were particularly impressive, and he engaged confidently with colleagues across the team. Throughout the week, NAME conducted himself professionally, was punctual, polite, and eager to contribute wherever he could. He represented Arden Academy very well, and we hope the placement has provided him with valuable insight into the workplace.*

*NAME followed up on his work experience week with a comprehensive and insightful essay. I consider this to showcase his motivation, attention to detail and ability to research and understand nuanced subjects quickly; his overall response to the brief is also excellent, which is key to being successful in their chosen occupation - they will no doubt go far! We were delighted to have had them join us and NAME's conduct was a credit to the school, well done and keep it up!*

*Thank you for giving us the opportunity to support NAME's development through your Work Experience Programme. We wish him every success with his future studies and career.*



# Alumni Sharing

## Former Student Bonnie Returns to Inspire Arden's Next Generation of Writers

It was a real pleasure for Arden Library to welcome back former student Bonnie Doyle, who returned to school to speak to our Creative Writing students about her journey from aspiring young writer to self-published author. Having once been a member of the very same Creative Writing group, Bonnie shared her experiences of self-publishing and launching her debut poetry collection, *The Glass Girl*, giving students an honest and inspiring insight into what it takes to turn a passion for writing into a published book.



Described as *"an intimate journey through the kaleidoscope of life as a foster child and care leaver,"* *The Glass Girl* explores

Bonnie's experiences through heartfelt poetry. Following the talk, students had the opportunity to have their books signed and Bonnie also donated a signed copy to Arden Library. The visit ended with a catch-up with some of her former teachers, including Miss Cheadle, who had always told Bonnie that one day she would write a book: and now she has.



Miss E O'Brien

## From School Leaver to Security Industry Advocate at 22

Ethan Girling, a former student of Arden Academy, recently returned to Arden to speak with Year 12 students as part of the Futures Programme, sharing his own experiences around university, apprenticeships, business, and career uncertainty after leaving school.

Now aged 22, Ethan Girling has quickly established himself as one of the emerging voices within the UK security industry. He is the Managing Director of a nationally operating, SSAIB-certified security company specialising in monitored security systems, compliance led delivery, and modern security technologies.

After leaving Arden, Ethan chose an alternative route into employment, turning down university offers at 18 to pursue hands-on experience within the regulated security industry. Just a few years later, he now leads a growing business operating across the UK.

In 2026, Ethan was named Young Entrepreneur of the Year at the Security & Safety Entrepreneur Awards 2026 and was invited to speak at The Security Event on the future of apprenticeships and attracting the next generation into the industry.

An ex-Young Enterprise student, Ethan has become a strong advocate for apprenticeships, entrepreneurship, and alternative career pathways. He regularly speaks with students and young professionals about the opportunities available within technical industries and the importance of practical experience alongside education.

Alongside public speaking and student outreach, Ethan has also appeared on industry podcasts including Room Secured, discussing modern security, business growth, and the future of the industry.

His wider ambition now extends beyond commercial growth, with a strong focus on helping position the security industry as a modern, professional, and high-opportunity sector for future generations.

We are proud of the accomplishments Ethan has achieved!

# Sports News

## Year 9 Basketball Team Triumphs

Congratulations to our Year 9 basketball team who won the final 36-34 over Alderbrook on 1st July. It was a great game and one that was way too close for comfort. Elijah Hartland hitting the game winning shot with 1.6 seconds left.

The team are rightly proud of their achievements and there is not a more dedicated and well deserving team at Arden than this group. They train every morning together doing fitness and attend basketball practice every Tuesday morning. Their determination and teamwork truly deserving our appreciation. A special mention goes to Aaron in Year 7 who is playing two years higher and contributed with 6 points, 2 steals and 1 assist!

Well done to the entire team on their remarkable achievements!

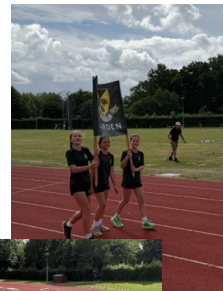
*Mr J Ambris*



## Solihull Schools Athletics Championships

We took just over 50 students to this year's championships. They did so well and were a real credit to Arden.

Our U14's girls came second with 88pts and the U16s girls **WON** with 121pts meaning the girls **WON** overall. Our U14s boys **WON** with 103pts and the U16s boys came second with 90pts meaning the boys came second overall.



A special mention must go to **Andrew Irvine**, running 11.1s in the 80m hurdles, **breaking the Solihull schools athletics record** (which he set last year!!)

## Year 11 Cup Win!



The year 11 have finished their final season in school football with a cup win! In a very close game, played in lovely spring sunshine, against a talented St Peters team in blue, there was nothing to split them and it was 0-0 at half time. St Peters had created a few chances but couldn't score the all-important opener. Arden goal keeper Hiirio had made a string of good saves and with resolute defending from Arden it remained a very tight affair. However after a few changes chances slowly started to appear and finally Theo H found himself on the right and crossed for James B to head home the winner just 15 mins from time, 1-0. They duly hung on and celebrated a much-deserved victory and winners medal. Captain Joe Fox lifted the cup and the team celebrated as only y11 boys know how to! HOY and Mr Ambris were there to watch and alongside myself we were proud of the lads. They have shown Arden PRIDE values and in particular resilience and determination. They just keep going until the end. Expect a cup parade in the next few days as HOY wants to celebrate. Well done to all of them!

*Dr J Cannadine*

## The Inaugural Arden Open

I am pleased to share some highlights from Thursday's inaugural **Arden Open** golf competition, and in particular to recognise the **exemplary conduct** of the students who took part. Thirty-three students (across year nine and year ten) represented Arden throughout the day, with tee times beginning at 9:30am and the final group finishing at 5:20pm after a planned break during the hottest part of the day. It was a fantastic event, but what stood out far more than the golf itself was the way our students conducted themselves. Despite many groups having finished several hours earlier, the students chose to stay around the 18th green to welcome home the final group before gathering together for the presentations and prize giving. It was a lovely display of camaraderie, respect, and support for one another.

Throughout the day, their behaviour in the clubhouse, on the course and while waiting between rounds was exemplary. The General Manager, along with members of the golf club were full of praise for every one of them, commenting that they were a real credit to Arden. Feedback like this is always incredibly rewarding and reflects so well on our students and the wider school community.

Congratulations to all who took part, and particularly to our prize winners:

### Gross

- Winner: Seb Taylor (+6)
- Runner-up: Jacob Bell (+7)

### Net

- Winner: George Koumbilis (Net 58, -13)
- Runner-up: Oliver Pates (Net 61, -10)

### Stableford

- Winner: George Koumbilis (49 points)
- Runner-up: Oliver Pates (46 points)

### Special Prizes

- Longest Drive: Will Haines
- Closest to the Pin: Will Haines



George's victory has certainly sparked plenty of debate, and I'm sure the discussions about handicaps will continue over the coming week! Most importantly, congratulations to all 33 students (listed below) who represented Arden with pride and should be incredibly proud of themselves. Following the success of yesterday's event, I hope to expand the competition to approximately 50-60 students next October for the 2026/27 running of the event, allowing Year 11 and Year 13 students (pending approval). Additionally, I must thank **Copt Heath Golf Club** who kindly supported the running of this event, providing a large LED sign upon entry to the course with "The Arden Open" displayed along with the Arden Academy logo, which set the tone for the day.

#### Year 9

Jacob Bell  
Alfie Meaden  
Eoin Boyle  
Lucas Marfleet  
Seb Spires  
Charlie Snape

#### Year 10

Lucas Askey  
Alex Horsley  
Seb Taylor  
Will Haines  
George Koumbilis  
Matt Steele  
Charlie Hughes  
Ernie Emmerson  
Seb Woodford

Oscar Lee  
Seth Gowen  
Seb Williams  
Dexter Baillie  
Lukas Ward  
Alex McManus  
Darragh Gantley  
Ethan Watson  
Finn Wassall

Jake Jepson  
Dylan Tooth  
Ollie Oakley  
Sam Doble  
Edward Brownjohn  
Oliver Pates  
Fred Wilson  
Jack Parkes  
Alfie Cox

*Mr J Edwards*

## Football

Over the course of the season, the football teams have fulfilled over 150 fixtures this year. The season ended with quite a trophy haul:

- Year 11 boys - Solihull Cup
- Year 10 boys - Birmingham Cup (with the final being played at Villa Park)
- Year 9 boys - Solihull Cup
- Year 7&8 Girls - West Midlands Cup
- Year 7 boys - West Midlands Cup



## Student Achievements

### James Bythell (11R)

In May, James Bythell signed his 2-year scholarship at West Bromwich Albion FC. James will be a full time scholar from 1st July and for the next 2 years combining both football and education. His season ended on a high in early May when he played for the under 18s, scoring, getting an assist and winning 4 nil



### Ben Hales (10S) and Toby Hales (10C)

Ben and Toby completed the 3 Peaks Challenge, climbing, climbing Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon all in less than 24 hours!

As well as this fantastic physical challenge, they also raised over £2500 for the Cardiac Risk in the Young charity.

Well done!



## Kickboxing achievement

Congratulations to Judah Hartland and Alfie Grant who have represented England in kickboxing.



*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](mailto:Newsletter@arden.solihull.sch.uk)).**