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## Lost Property

Any lost property left at school will be placed in the Reception area and you may come to school on **Friday 17th December between 10am-1pm** to view this and retrieve any items. Any bags/uniform/kit left on site after Friday 17th December will be donated to charity.

# ad altiora news

ISSUE 38

AUTUMN TERM 2021

## Another Term, Another Set of Challenges

The new school year has brought the return of so many of the special elements of life at Arden that have been interrupted over the last year or two. The sight of our students back in their co-curricular clubs has been so satisfying. The buzz around the school hall - full of students playing table tennis after school - and the sound of Friday night rehearsals for our end of year *We Will Rock You* production are welcome sights and sounds! Equally, hearing the discussions over the sports results or an upcoming cup fixture has reminded us all of the importance of the wider aspects of school life that have such a beneficial and uplifting impact upon our students.

It was also a delight to receive an email from Walsall Art Gallery thanking our Art team and complimenting the impeccable behaviour of our Year 7 students on their visit earlier this term; it is so great to see trips back again.

We are delighted with our students and how hard they have worked this term. There is no doubt they fully deserve a good rest over the Christmas break and an opportunity to recharge their batteries before the start of the spring term.

As per previous letters please be aware of our remote learning day on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January** where each student will have an allocated time slot to attend school for LFD testing ahead of a full return to school for all students on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January**. Work will be set via Edulink for students to complete on the Tuesday around their testing appointment.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a very happy new year.

Mr Warwood, Associate Headteacher

## Christmas Card

Our annual Christmas Card competition once again saw some fabulous entries this year. Huge congratulations to Avika, Joe and Ella who are this year's prizewinners. Overall winner, Joe (centre), has had his design made into Christmas cards and sent to members of our local community as a thank you for their ongoing support of our school.



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



## Eco Club

Back in November, students from Arden's Eco Club took part in the Solihull Schools Climate Conference which took place at the Solihull Council Chambers.

It was an amazing experience for the students – they each had to prepare a speech representing a country, very much in the style of the COP26 Conference.

They then took part in a debate against the other countries. The Arden students were some of the youngest there as many other schools had sixth form and KS4 students representing their schools. Despite this they held their own and very much stood up for themselves.

Miss Blenkinsop was especially pleased with George Burns for his assertive thoughts on China's global climate position and Lucy McGuinness for her thoughts on India's climate policies! Overall the students all did themselves and the school proud.

Eco Club meets on a Tuesday morning at 8am and are always keen for new faces with fresh ideas. Interested students should see Miss Blenkinsop in the PE Department.



## Year 11 French Cinema Visit

On 19<sup>th</sup> October myself and Mrs Spencer took a group of Year 11 French students on their first trip since the pandemic.

They went to Warwick University and watched the French film *Night of The Kings*.

All students enjoyed the experience, even if the ending was largely unexpected and somewhat confusing.

It was also great to see Warwick University campus first hand as many of the students are thinking of this as a university choice.

Mr Allport



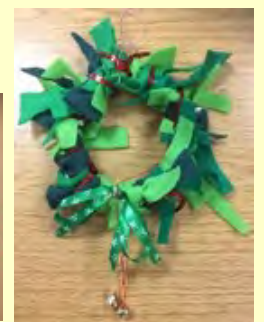
## Textile Club

Textile Club students started the year with learning different embroidery stitches before moving on to making glove monsters.

In the run up to Christmas, the students have been making fantastic Christmas tree decorations such as holly leaves, reindeers and wreaths - the selection has been amazing. Below you can see some examples of the students' work.

In the new year the group will be looking at surface finishes for fabric and are aiming to complete a group piece.

Textile Club meets on a Tuesday lunchtime and is open to Years 7, 8 and 9.



## Meet Thor and Loki

Thor and Loki are the newest additions to the Arden family. They are a pair of 16 week old Rankins dragons. They are based in S6 and are helping to add greater context to lessons on adaptations, food chains and interdependence.



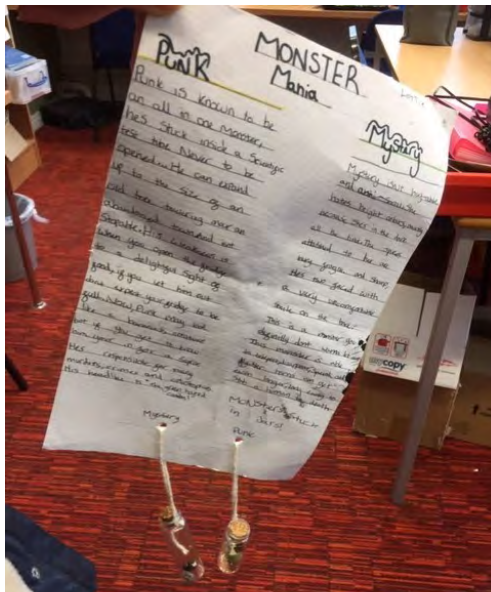
## Year 7 English

From the Railway Children, to the BFG, to our most recent topic of monsters, we have covered a wide variety of language and structure devices throughout the first term in English.

There is always a lot of energy and laughter in our English classes which makes it a nice environment to work in. Everyone has enjoyed the library lessons and being able to have time to read our own books and explore new ones has been great.

I can't wait to find out what we are going to be doing next! I really enjoyed drawing and making a monster, and you can see some examples of the creative work produced here.

*Paige Edginton, 7C*



## Economics Enrichment

Professor Caroline Elliott from Warwick University came in to speak to Year 10 & 11 about the subject of economics on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November. She explained to students how economics was relevant to their everyday lives, walking them through how they made choices in relation to their perceived enjoyment (utility) from consumption of different cereals to choice of phones, computers and games. She delved further into looking at how firms have to compete with one another in order to survive in different markets, and explained how firms can set prices.

Later the same day, Year 13 were treated to a lesson from Caroline where she had the students up and active, learning in a practical way about the diminishing marginal returns of labour by challenging them to move as many balls from one bucket to another in just 30 seconds. The lesson also looked at monopsony buyers of labour and the market failure that arrives from a sole buyer of labour in terms of the lower wage rate and reduced quantity of labour that is employed. Students thoroughly enjoyed their session, which culminated in a Q&A about applying to university and what the university experience is like for students.

*Mr Mason*



## Year 10 Charity Cycling

On a Saturday in October, ten Year 10 students cycled 100km to Stratford-upon-Avon and back, to raise money for Dementia UK. They did fantastically well and were positive and cheerful throughout.

The students have raised over £4000 so far for their chosen charity! If you would like to sponsor them you can do so via this link: <https://www.justgiving.com/team/Y10Arden2021>

The participating students were Matthew Bate, Jack Burton, Jonnie Carter, Sam Eden, Freddie Gaskin, Carrick Hayre, Alex Lockett, Jake Morgan, Ben Seago and Grace Smith. Special mention also to Finn Clarke who couldn't make the postponed date and so cycled the route a week earlier with his dad.

Massive thank you to Mrs Batten, Mr Humphries, Mr Goldenfeld and Mrs Hyde for helping marshal and support the ride.

### Year 11

Back in September a group of year 11 students also completed their 100km ride to raise money for Cancer Research UK. They all did brilliantly well and should be very proud of themselves. The students were Typhaine Jardine, Ben Morgan, Rachel Steele, Matthew Swales,



Charlotte Turpin and Nathan Walsh.

If you would like to donate to this fantastic cause, you can access their online fundraising pages here: <https://www.justgiving.com/team/Y11Arden2021>

## Drama Theatre Trip

Drama students from Year 11 and Year 13 enjoyed their first trip to the theatre since the pandemic began when they attended a performance of *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* at Wolverhampton Arena. The Victorian gothic thriller saw the lead role played by the accomplished, not to mention slightly menacing, actor Phil Daniels. The students loved being back in the theatre again and they will now use their experience of what they saw to support their studies in school.



## Music Events

It was beginning to feel a lot like Christmas when Arden musicians were once again able to perform at the Knowle Christmas lights event. It was lovely to be back in the local community again and to see the joy on the faces of the students as they were able to perform in public once more.

We were saddened to have to change our plans for the Christmas concert. However, in a bid to show what the students have been working towards, Dr. Seago and the music team spent two days recording the 'Concert not Concert' medley of performances. Although we couldn't invite guests in, we were thrilled to hear the sound of music as we went about our school business. The recordings have now been shared for the families of the performers to enjoy.

## Mental Health Postcards

In the summer term students were invited to submit design ideas which could be used to help support Arden's continued work around mental health and well-being. The designs we received were simply excellent and it was a hard choice to select the winners! In the end it was the images shown here which were chosen as the final five. Look out for the finished postcards over the coming terms. Well done to all of the winners.



Simran Rai



Maddie Blunt



Daisy Henderson



Lola Barker



Izzy Robinson

## PTFA News

The PTFA hosted a welcome event for Year 7 parents on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September, providing new parents with the opportunity to meet one another and get to know a bit more about how they can support the PTFA and ultimately the school.

Mr Warwood, Associate Headteacher, spoke at the event which was ably supported by members of our senior pupils and leadership team. Altogether a lovely evening!

This term also saw the return of our spectacular Family Fireworks Festival, which unfortunately we were unable to host last year. It was a fabulous event with a massive turnout meaning we raised a significant amount of money for the school. We will keep you updated as to how the money is spent as we move through the year. There are already a number of projects in the pipeline.

Thank you to the team of volunteers who made it possible.

If you would like to join the PTFA, or help at one of our events, even for one hour per year, contact [adminptfa@arden.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:adminptfa@arden.solihull.sch.uk).



## Lessons from Auschwitz

Across October and November, four Sixth-formers (Annabel Shaw, Emily Perkins, Holly Webster and Tom Yorke) took part in the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' online project, which was a replacement programme since we were not actually able to go to Auschwitz-Birkenau (one of the many Nazi camps), in order to learn about the Holocaust.

The Holocaust is defined as the murder of approximately 6 million Jewish men, women and children by Nazi Germany and its collaborators during World War Two.

The sessions involved the participation in three live sessions which were supplemented with learning modules between them, with a focus on humanising both the victims and perpetrators of the Holocaust by learning specifically about individuals involved. We took part in a range of activities during the programme and we were even assigned our own educator who was able to provide deeper insight and answer more specific questions. We gained a deeper understanding of these complex events such as the fact that the Book of Names that holds the names, date of birth, date of death and means of death of all remembered Holocaust victims is missing 2 million people's names. This is a fact that really shocked me.

We felt very privileged to hear the remarkable testimony of Eva Clarke BEM, who was born whilst her mother was a Prisoner of War. Her mother, Anka Bergman escaped death several times and lived until she was 96 years old. Eva now shares hers and her mother's testimony with people across the country, in order to spread awareness of the Holocaust.



Something that was emphasised, that as a group we felt we did not know a lot about before, was the origins of anti-semitism. Anti-Semitism is based on a complex tower of myths, that started with the death of Christ. Many Christians blamed the Jews for killing Jesus even though Jesus was a Jew himself too. During the medieval era, when they were forced to work as unpopular tax collectors, Jews were blamed for everything including the Black Death. Anti-semitism is still an important contemporary issue as it has been seen to be on the rise and this is one of the reasons we felt it was so important to highlight: as it is based on lie after lie.

We were incredibly grateful for this experience and felt we have learnt so much from the sessions. We will now be embarking on a project in order to spread our knowledge of the Holocaust in which we will be educating other students, thus keeping alive the memory of all the individual people affected by this extreme event.

*Emily Perkins*

## Craft Club Rises to the Challenge

Students who attend Craft Club have been celebrating making pots of cash for charity!

The Year 7 and 8 students decided that they wanted to take part in the Royal British Legion's 11:11 Challenge in November to coincide with the charity's annual Poppy Appeal.

The group, which is run by Learning Zone's Mrs Birch and Mrs Miners, had to take on 11 new challenges to raise as much money as possible for the charity.

Their challenges included making and selling poppy badges and biscuits, making Halloween and Christmas decorations and overall having fun.

They smashed their target of £50 by raising £63.30. Thank you to those who bought the goodies they produced. Well done Craft Club.



## Sporting Achievements

We absolutely love hearing about what our students manage to achieve in their time away from school and this term has been no exception.

Year 11 student Kai Turner has made the England team for water polo which is an incredible achievement!

Bethany Tomlinson (Year 9) and Rosie Robinson (Year 10) have been selected into the U15 South Midlands Performance Centre under the England Hockey Player Pathway. They were the only state school students to be selected which is amazing. Jess Cox (Year 12) has also been selected for the U17 category. They were selected by Warwickshire County to trial for the Performance Centre and following months of tough assessments they were whittled down to the last 20 girls. They will now train with this cohort until July when they'll have an opportunity to be selected for the England squad after a national competition.

We are really excited to hear how Rosie, Bethany, Jess and Kai all get on in the coming months.



## Knife Crime Education

This term we welcomed representatives from the Police into school as part of their borough wide programme which aims to raise awareness of the problems associated with knife crime. The students gained a lot from the important messages which were shared.



## Year 11 Futures Event

For three days at the end of term and following a tough schedule of mock examinations, Year 11 took time to pause and reflect on the options available to them at the end of this year, and possible career pathways which might be of interest to them. This was a virtual event due to the additional complications brought about by COVID but even with these extra challenges the event was a great success.

The event was made up of fifteen different sessions over the three days. Each day began with a keynote speaker. Brad Parkes who is our school Careers and Enterprise Advisor spoke about the labour market and Martin Carter, our Chair of Governors, gave an address entitled 'It's Ok Not to Know!'

The next session was a pathways insight during which time the students heard about the different Post-16 options such as school sixth forms, colleges and apprenticeships. Following this, teachers guided the students through a skills builder session.

Each afternoon a series of speakers in law, marketing, healthcare, military, teaching and construction talked about their experiences in their sector. In total over

twenty different speakers joined us for the event, some of whom are Arden Alumni, and we are very grateful to everyone who gave up their time to contribute to the sessions. An event like this would just not be possible without them.

Overall it was a very valuable experience which helped students to either confirm the decisions they have already made, or to consider possible pathways previously not thought of. Exciting times ahead for all of our Year 11s!



# Library News

The Library has been a busy hive of activity this term, with a cohort of over fifty active student librarians from Year 8 – 13; all of Year 7 & 8 participating in the Accelerated Reader programme, fourteen Young Story Curators, twelve students voting on the Children's Book Award, two Creative Writing Clubs, two trips to the Oxford Story Museum, an author visit and a penguin in a Christmas tree!

This term, I have two requests to students and parents. Firstly, please check at home for any books stamped with the word Arden. We currently have over 800 overdue books, many of which were from before the lockdown when students were disrupted. Please have a search over the holidays and ask students to return these in January.

Secondly, if you have any books at home you are finished with, please do donate to Arden Library. Arden students can hand book to me in the library, or parents can drop these in reception marked for my attention.

Wishing you all a lovely Christmas break - keep reading!

Miss O'Brien, Librarian



## Author Visit

In November, Arden was visited by young adult thriller author Sue Wallman for a brilliant talk and book signing. This had been three months in the making, as during the summer holidays I entered a thriller writing competition organised by Sue with Scholastic, in celebration of the release of Sue's latest novel *I Know You Did It*. I wrote a story about a theatre rehearsal that took a spooky turn, and found out a few weeks later that I had won a visit from Sue!

While the visit was originally going to be virtual, Miss O'Brien very kindly organised for Sue to come in in person. She began the visit with a book signing for students (and some staff members!), and I had a quick chat with her about my writing and plans for after A Levels. Then, Sue did a talk for a group of students in Years 9-13.

Sue's talk covered a variety of topics, from how she comes up with plot ideas to how much she gets from the sale of her books (it's not as much as you might think!). It was incredibly interesting to learn about how Sue started in writing, and what it's like to be a published author. Afterwards, I got to talk to Sue one-on-one in more detail about my entry.

It's a very different experience having a proper, published author comment on your work, but also very enlightening! Sue gave me lots of detailed feedback on what she liked about my story, and gave me a notebook to write down any future ideas. The entire experience definitely gave me more insight into all things involved in being an author, and has encouraged me to continue to fit in writing alongside studying. Overall it was a really wonderful day and I feel very fortunate that it was able to happen!

*Alice Glithero, 13H*



## Accelerated Reader Winners!

Congratulations to the winners of this term's Accelerated Reader prizes, who each win a bespoke bookmark. Students who read two or more books across the term and achieved over 85% or above in their AR quiz were entered into a prize draw to win a signed book. The winners are:

### Year 7

Most Books Read: Nishi Chohan (8 Books) and Eshan Rehman (13 Books)

Most Points: Amit Senthilkumar (82.2 Points) and Edward Mace (89.9 Points)

Most Effort: Harper Morris

Prize Draw: Elliot Dugdale (winning a signed copy of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Wrecking Ball* by Jeff Kinney)

### Year 8

Most Books Read: Freya Hosking (20 Books) and Hannah McDermott (10 Books)

Most Points: Rohan Sethi (172.8 Points) and Ben Basterfield (101.2 Points)

Most Effort: Nathan Large

Prize Draw: Darcey Garner (winning a signed copy of *Dead Popular* by Sue Wallman)



# Oxford Story Museum

## Y8 Reading Rewards Trip to The Story Museum, Oxford

On Friday 5th November, the top two pupils in each English class for Accelerated Reader, were chosen to go to The Story Museum, Oxford. When we arrived, I kid you not, we were all amazed at the sight before us.



We were led to an amazing room called the 'Whispering Woods' where we were told the tale Anansi and challenged to see if we were worthy of Arthur's sword. None of us were! Soon after we were led up a flight of stairs to the 'Hope Room' inspired by a book written in lockdown by Katherine Rundell. There we found many sheds where we could write on the walls, gaze into space, dress up as characters and write our own short stories. We both wrote short stories. The atmosphere in the space was immensely calming.

Next were the Galleries, which featured lots of rooms that resembled scenes from popular books such as 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe', 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' and many more.

After we had explored, we were given the opportunity to design our own museum space based on a scene from 'Alice in Wonderland' - which we then presented back to our group. Some amazing rooms were showcased.

After our mini lesson we ate lunch, then boarded the City of Stories Film Experience where we time-travelled all the way back to Anglo-Saxon Oxford and learnt about a thousand years of stories that had originated there. We learnt about Oxford based authors such as CS Lewis and J R R Tolkien and Lewis Carroll and the novels they wrote.

To end our trip, we toured Oxford and looked for bookish and learnt about what had inspired them to write their famous novels and more.

When asked what they learnt, Rohan Sethi said, "I learnt about a group called the Inklings which was made of several authors that would give feedback on each other's story ideas."

Ella Perry, another member of our group said: "The Story Museum was amazing and I loved it! It was also enriching, interesting and had great exhibits. It was a brilliant trip to be part of."

Written by Aleena Dharamshi 8N and Alice Henderson 8N

In Year Eight, we achieved a high number of points on the school's reading program, Accelerated Reader. Because of this, us and some classmates were given the opportunity to visit the Story Museum in Oxford. We learnt all about how the museum brings books to life in interactive, immersive rooms and about the city of Oxford and how it has inspired so many books that are still known and loved today.

We were toured through the many incredible rooms, each one depicting a well-known scene or setting from a book. Seeing the rooms felt like we had been transported into the book itself, it was amazing! Afterwards, we had a workshop with one of the Story Museum's staff where we learned the process of how they create the rooms and we had a go at creating our own rooms based on our own favourite novels.

When we walked around Oxford we learned about all of the famous authors that grew up and lived in Oxford and how the city inspired famous books such as Philip Pullman's trilogy, His Dark Materials and The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S Lewis. On our walk we were even able to witness landmarks behind these stories including Oxford University, the gargoyle that was the inspiration for Mr Tumnus and the legendary Narnia lamppost!

Here are what some of the students thought:

"This trip gave me a deeper understanding of the vision and creativity you need to have when writing a book!" - Lucy McGuinness

"I enjoyed the setting rooms and I loved dressing up with the capes and walking around the city of Oxford." - Kezia Malcolm

"I enjoyed the walk around Oxford. The buildings were very interesting and it was cool to see how stories were formed from Oxford itself." *Lauren Tait*



# UK Mathematics Challenge

Some of our brightest mathematicians have been getting involved with this year's Mathematics Challenge. This is a national competition and it has been great to see everyone getting involved.

## Year 12 – 13

In October, Amelia Boam, Ellie Maggs and Maria McNamara took part in a Maths Olympiad. They had two and a half hours to complete five extremely challenging questions; impressively all girls scored highly, achieving a Bronze Award.

In November, 27 sixth formers took part in the Senior Mathematical Challenge. This consisted of 25 "out of the box" thinking questions that pushed the students' knowledge of the subject to the limit. With the help of a few preparation sessions all students achieved bronze awards and higher – a great achievement for them.

Special Congratulations to Matty Boles and Thomas Johnson who achieved Gold Awards and have since gone on to compete in the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo Competition.

## Year 9 – 10

A selection of our Year 9s and 10s are busy preparing for the Intermediate Challenge this February. Fortnightly

challenges are being posted with great results on these problem solving questions.



## Year 7 - 8

Similar to our higher years some of our Year 7s and 8s are also busy preparing. They will be sitting the Junior Mathematical Challenge in April. Over the Christmas period those who have been selected will be able to take part in a Christmas Competition. The winners of this competition will be taking part in a special 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge this January.

*Mr Carbery*

## Rashford Run

Over the last couple of weeks of term students have been completing the Rashford Run which is an event inspired by Marcus Rashford's work on child food poverty last year. Students each ran 2.4km and brought in items to donate to local food banks. The PE Department was overwhelmed with the donations and would like to thank everyone for their contributions.



## Sixth Form News

It has been fabulous to welcome a new set of prospective Medics and Oxbridge students to the clubs in Year 12. These groups aren't just for people set on those careers or universities but they are a great place to sharpen your discussion skills and encounter a range of subjects that probably don't come up very often in 'normal' A level lessons: Ancient Greek music anyone? We were lucky enough to start the year with a visit from an ex-student who was about to embark on her own Oxford adventure... and her communications so far suggest that it was worth the effort!

The new Medics are, hopefully, the doctors; dentists and nurses of the future and we all know how important it is to support them. So far we have discussed the NHS Constitution; had an hour long training sessions with Mary Keast (an ex-student currently in her final year) and have started preparing for the MMIs. A special shout out goes to Year 12 Mia Evans who assisted with the Year 13 MMI on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> – see below.

### November MMI

Our Medic students are fortunate in that we are able to offer to full interview sessions: one during the Futures Careers event and one in November, closer to the reality of interviews. We held this year's 'Autumn Session' on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November putting through 8 current students and 2 ex-students through their paces at 11 stations. They all equipped themselves well and we wish them the best of luck with the real thing.

*Mrs Hodgkinson*

## Staff News

It has once again been a busy term for our staff with a number of new arrivals. Congratulations to Miss Fellows (Teacher of Maths) who welcomed a baby boy back in September. Mrs Hill (Head of Media) also greeted a baby boy in November and in the same week Mr Clark welcomed a baby girl to his family. Mrs Anton welcomed a baby boy in December, taking her a little by surprise as she hadn't even started her maternity leave! Last but by no means least, Ms Sheppard recently welcomed a baby girl. We wish them all the best in the coming months.

As is usual at the end of a term we are bidding farewell to some of our team. Mrs Webber is leaving our associate staff team and Mrs Swain is leaving us after her time working as a technician in the Science Department.

Miss Willis is also leaving the PE Department, and finally we say goodbye to Mrs Fallis who is leaving the Geography Department. Mrs Fallis has had a number of roles during her time at Arden. Most recently her work as Director of Careers and Pathway has made a huge difference to many of our students.

Good luck to all the departing staff on their next steps.

## Year 11 News

The 2022 Yearbook, hoodies and Prom arrangements are progressing nicely.

Year 11 Students should make themselves familiar with the website - <https://sites.google.com/arden.solihull.sch.uk/class/home> Make sure you fill in all your forms :)

Prom theme is... James Bond!



## Train to Teach at Arden

As you may already be aware, Arden Academy is the lead school in an alliance of both secondary and primary Solihull schools who provide teacher training to graduates and career changers. Our Alliance provides 'Outstanding' teacher training in partnership with The University of Warwick and by training with us, you gain a PGCE with QTS status and can go on to teach anywhere in the world! Our three main aims are:

- To offer bespoke PRIMARY & SECONDARY teacher training, *and* outstanding one-to-one support from experienced subject mentors
- To equip trainees with excellent pedagogic skills which in turn will enable trainees to become confident teachers - to be the best, it is important to learn from outstanding practitioners
- To continue supporting and mentoring early career teachers, further embedding an understanding of their subject, their students and the importance of developing the right attitude towards teaching

If you know someone considering training in 2022/23 they can get in touch via [traintoteach@arden.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:traintoteach@arden.solihull.sch.uk) or call Sharon on 01564-732610. For more information visit our website - <https://sites.google.com/arden.solihull.sch.uk/ats/home>



**ARDEN**  
ALLIANCE



**"If you're looking for job satisfaction and you really want to make a difference, then teaching might be for you."**



**"My training with Arden Alliance was outstanding and more than prepared me for a lifetime of teaching"**



# Sports News

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

 @ArdenPE

## Year 8 Basketball

Year 8 basketball team have had two fixtures this half term and won both games. First game against Alderbrook we won 16 – 9 and the second was a closer game against Park Hall winning 16-12. They are currently top of the table which has progressed them to the first round of play offs, this fixture will be played in the new year and we will face John Henry Newman Catholic College.

## Cross-Country

The cross country team has had a fantastic season with many of our students finishing in the top 20 of each race meaning that they have made it through to the county competition round. The team comes to training on a Wednesday morning in all weather conditions, even when it is freezing cold, windy and rainy they show real commitment by coming to run around the field!

## Netball

The Year 11 girls netball team have had a fantastic final season here at Arden. They have won all of their league fixtures this year, meaning they have won their final Solihull league. In addition, they won the Solihull schools netball tournament, winning every single one of their matches at the tournament. This meant that they got through to the regional tournament which was hosted at Kings High School in Warwick. This is a huge achievement, as we were the only state school present at the tournament and the girls were up against some really tough opponents. We managed to beat Bablake school in a really tough game, and then unfortunately we couldn't quite clinch any of the other games. It was a great experience for all of them and they definitely finished their Arden netball careers on a high! Huge congratulations to Kate Winn, Jessica Fathers, Evie Moxley, Grace Jones, Amy Grantham, Eva Robinson, Izzy Raisbeck and Hanoria Flannery.

The Year 10 girls netball team have had a fantastic season so far, they have played a couple of league matches and have played exceptionally well in these games. Results so far have included a convincing win against Lode Heath and then a very close loss to St Peter's meaning they have had a cracking start to the season. They are now in training and are preparing for the annual Solihull schools tournament which will be taking place in March.

## Year 7 Dodgeball

On Monday 13th December we took 8 Year 7 students to a dodgeball tournament at Lode Heath school. This was a school games tournament which means there is a focus on important values such as respect, teamwork and honesty. Our 8 students were absolutely fantastic and they ended up coming second place in the tournament mainly due to their excellent demonstration of these values. Each competing school had to award each other points for the values which meant that our students were awarded a lot of these points by other schools. It was a fantastic experience for all of them and we were very proud of them for the way they played and conducted themselves at the tournament.



## Year 7 Football

Our new crop of 75 players in Year 7 who have attended training nearly every week have had an action packed term of matches. Nearly all 75 players have had the opportunity to represent the school in fixtures against schools across the borough, with more being arranged for the new year.

In the Solihull Schools Cup/League, the Year 7 squad has been undefeated in 4 games scoring 21 goals in the process. Currently they are in the quarter finals of the Birmingham Schools Cup competition, looking to progress into the later stages in the new year.

The rest of the football squad have competed in a multi game format against Lode Heath and John Henry Newman, taking 3 different teams to both fixtures. All pupils have acquitted themselves really well supporting each other in trying to play their best football.

Well done lads and have a well-deserved rest over Christmas – there will be more games coming up in the New Year.

## Year 8 Football

Year 8 Football team has done incredibly well remaining undefeated in the league keeping us top of the league with 11 points. Our most recent fixture had us against Colmers school playing in very windy conditions but the players managed to fight to the last minute winning 1-0. This close victory earned the team a spot in the quarter finals of the Birmingham Cup.