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## Staff News

Congratulations go to Mrs Anton (Head of Business and Economics) and her husband who welcomed baby Harry George to their family last weekend. Mrs Anton will now be on maternity leave.

As is the norm at the end of a term we bid farewell to some of our team. Miss Harvey (teacher of Art) is leaving us for a position elsewhere and we wish her all the best for her new role.

After Easter we welcome Mr Mason (Business and Economics) and Mrs Atwell (Art) to the Arden team.



# ad altiora news

ISSUE 32

SPRING TERM 2 2020

## A New and Strange Time

Well I think we can all agree that the last half term has been a busy, if not surreal one. Strangely, so much has happened over the last three weeks, it's hard to recall the first three weeks of term when we had the normality of school life. Having been in school a lot over the last two weeks, I can assure you it is a strange feeling walking round silent grounds when it should be full of the normal buzz of learning and children's voices. That said, what we have achieved in our recent transition into remote learning has been remarkable. As I indicated in our end of term letter; we always say that we pride ourselves on teamwork, this has never been more evident. I would just like to again reiterate how proud we are of the way that we have moved into this new way of working; whilst this is not a perfect situation I have every confidence that we will absolutely most of it and collectively ensure that the impact and disruption to learning is kept to a minimum while providing consistency and routine for all of us to help us navigate through these challenges.

This edition of the newsletter is really a tale of two halves. In the first part we have provided our usual summary of all the hustle and bustle of school life from the first few weeks of term. Following this we have tried to give just a small overview of some of the amazing work and activities that have been taking place since school closed. We hope that you are as impressed as we are by the dedication shown by our school community.

Have a lovely Easter break, take care and look after yourselves.

Mr Warwood, Associate Headteacher

## A-Level English Trip

The English department took a group of A-Level students to the Hamlet conference, run by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in Stratford, a couple of weeks ago. It was a day of interactive and vibrant presentations and lectures by professors in Shakespeare studies, exploring the richness of the language, contexts and performances of 'Hamlet' across the ages.

It gave the students some valuable new perspectives on interpreting the

play and its theatrical aspects. It was a thoroughly engaging day and the students got



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

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

## Library News

This term saw one of Arden Library's largest events ever – World Book Day 2020! We have the full round-up elsewhere in the newsletter, but I must reiterate how proud I am of all the students from Year 7 – 6<sup>th</sup> form who were involved with the day, for their focus and enthusiasm.

Please do check out the new Arden Library e-magazine (e-zine) which can be found here: <https://www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/departments/library/library-e-zine/> or by searching Arden Library on the Arden website. There are plenty of reading activities to keep you busy over the upcoming Easter holidays with House Points and Achievement Points to be won.

Now on to the Accelerated Reader winners for this term!

### Year 7

Most Books Read: Peter Mitchell (10) and Gracie Evans (9)

Most Points: Jasmine Hu (88.9) and Isla Jewsbury (69.1)

Most Effort: Yusuf Ahmed & Ketaki Chaubal

Prize Draw: Will Beckett

### Year 8

Most Books Read: Matthew Hawkins (6) and Sabian Day (5)

Most Points: Matthew Fan (74.1) and Lauren Taylor (74.3)

Most Effort: Max Campbell

Prize Draw: Megan Wright

Well done to the winners. Prizes will be distributed when we return to Arden. Keep reading! - Miss O'Brien.

## GCSE Drama

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February the Year 11 Drama GCSE students performed their scripted pieces to a visiting

examiner. Their hard work, dedication and creativity shone through on the day with all pupils showcasing their talents. Well done to all students on their hard work.



## Charity Fundraising

Back in March we held a non-uniform charity day to raise money for the Zuri Project. This is a UK based charity which supports locally based projects in Uganda.

<https://www.zuriproject.co.uk/>

We have been working with the charity for two years now and the £2787.68 money raised by the non-uniform day will be spent on a project chosen by the Year 12 students who were due to visit Uganda this Easter. Although their trip cannot now go ahead, we will continue to work closely with the charity and stay up to date with the progress of new and existing projects.

Last year the money raised was spent on a new classroom block at a primary school. We were delighted to receive this photograph of the completed building. On behalf of the Zuri Project we would like to thank everyone who contributed to this, and last year's fundraising.



## Lecturer Visits the MFL Department

Recently the MFL department welcomed Dr Alex Lloyd, Stipendiary Lecturer in German, Magdalen College & St Edmund Hall at University of Oxford.

Our Year 12 and 13 German students were given a lecture from Dr Lloyd on "Die Weisse Rose" (The White Rose: Voices of the German Resistance) as part of their A Level course. We learnt in depth about this non-violent intellectual resistance group that conducted an anonymous leaflet and graffiti campaign calling for opposition to the Nazi regime.

Dr Lloyd also did a Q & A session with our Year 11 and 12 potential Oxbridge applicants about the application procedure for University of Oxford which was very helpful for the students.

We would very much like to thank Dr Lloyd for giving up his time to visit us.



## World Book Day

On Friday 6th March, Arden celebrated World Book Day. Three authors were invited into school to demonstrate to students that no matter what subject you are interested in, reading underpins everything.

Lauren James, Bali Rai and Matt Oldfield were invited to each represent a different area of the curriculum. Lauren's focuses as a science-fiction writer and Chemistry and Physics graduate were STEM subjects, Bali's focus was History and Citizenship and Matt's focus was sport/PE.

Each author delivered a year group talk, a Subject Ambassador workshop and a smaller talk to encourage a love of reading.

Bali ran an exceptional workshop with Y9 showing them how starting with the most exciting incident will grip the examiner and give them the highest marks. He gave an entire year group talk to Y8 and ended the day with a riveting session with Y10 RE students. Ms Mehrban, Head of RE, had this to say, "that was such a good session – the students all wanted more information about his books – I could see them all thinking and questioning."

Lauren held back-to-back workshops, firstly with Y8 and Y9 and then with Y7 students. The attendees were nominated by their English teachers. In the workshop, Lauren discussed her early life and inspiration for writing, students were then invited to have a go at writing their own science fiction stories using a STEM stimulus. Y7 student Jenna Makepeace attended the workshop and reported, "It was a really interesting and fun experience and we all had a great time". Lauren also ran a workshop with the Y10 Triple Science students who thoroughly enjoyed using Mr Lomax as the key to saving the world in their stories!

As well as a year group talk to Y7, Matt's 'Bouncing Back from Setbacks' workshops with Y8 were hugely popular. It was really encouraging to see many of the students waiting after the workshop to show Matt the stories they had written in the session. English teacher Miss Ladkin supervised the workshop and said, "Matt engaged with so many students who don't always see the fun and joy that can come from reading and writing stories... what was most inspiring for the students was the focus on stories which show characters 'bouncing back from setbacks'... All in all, it was a very uplifting and engaging workshop".

After the sessions, the authors came together to judge the staff costume competition (well done, Science department!) and the House

Competition, where students had to design a door based on a book – we had some excellent entries but the authors agreed that 8N were the winners with their Alice in Wonderland inspired creation. Congratulations!

As well as the author workshops, local bookseller Tamsin Rosewell joined us on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March to speak with two 6<sup>th</sup> Form business classes about the Bookselling industry where students were surprised to learn that it's not all fairy tales and lullabies – publishing contributed in excess of £10 billion to the UK economy in 2018, compared with the fishing industry, for example, which contributed £989 million in the same year. Fascinating facts around the business of books!

Over the two days, over 800 students were directly impacted by attending the different workshops. Judging by the atmosphere and the students and staff I spoke with, the day was a success. I would like to thank all the teachers who supported the day by supervising sessions, adjusting their lessons and being flexible on the day; thanks also to Mr Warwood & the SLT team for letting me run with my ambitious plans and thanks to the admin team for sending letters home, assisting with timetable arrangements and printing worksheets. Finally, a BIG thank you to parent volunteer Cathie Kelly who assisted for the entire day, to all the authors for being so professional and engaging and to the Y8-10 student librarians who assisted in every session as 'Author Hosts'. Simply put, the day could not have gone ahead as successfully as it did without all of these elements coming together – and that is down to the excellent Arden Family we have and how everyone is so willing to help and support one another.

Here's to next year's event - keep reading! - Miss O'Brien



## If in this world you can be anything, be kind

Kindness, one of the most simple and easy things to do that grown-ups have been reminding us about since we were tiny children. I have no doubt that if you have younger siblings or if you have watched a video of yourself when you were young, you would have heard your parents say, "be kind!" or something similar. You'll probably laugh now, but they have a point; a little kindness can go along way!

If you think about it, when was the last time you said something kind to someone and meant it? When was the last time you thought about how a comment could make someone feel? If it was yesterday, then well done! But if you can't remember, then think about this: Kindness is one of the simplest things to do. It makes others feel good and it makes you feel good too. It could be as simple as picking up someone's bag for them when you finish at break or holding the door for someone. It isn't so hard, but the effect is long lasting on you and the person you were kind to.

It has been proven by psychologists and scientists that kindness can improve mental health, anxiety and shockingly, the common cold! So, if being kind is so simple and easy, why do so many people struggle? Well in this busy world it's easy to forget about something so small, it's easy just to look after ourselves and let others get on with their own lives.

Have you ever considered that if everyone was kind and thought about other people's feelings, we could take away half of the world problems? For example, the amount of fall outs people have would decrease tremendously because everyone would just be kind to each other so nasty things wouldn't be said. Bullying rates would decrease because

bullies wouldn't exist. It's likely that self-harm and suicide rates would fall as well because people's reasons for feeling so down would diminish. Also, homelessness would reduce as people would give them more money and make them feel more welcome in our society. They are just normal people like you or me that need a home and a little bit of love.

But let's bring it back to school. Sometimes we just need to think about how we make other people feel. Whether what we say is helpful and if we are joking, would others take what we say as a joke? Do we always need to be judgemental? Sometimes should we just stop and think about what may be going on in others lives to make them do and act in the way they do? Maybe, if we all accepted and lived to help one another then the school would be a better place. Because that's what we want, isn't it, for Arden to be an inclusive and accepting environment?

Now, I know things can't change over night and wishing for a perfect world is unreasonable because there is always going to be someone we don't like. We all can't say kind things all the time. But we can try! If we try to think before we speak and to accept each other's differences, then we will be one step closer to making the world happier for everyone!

Holly Watkins (Y8)



## GCSE Food and Nutrition

The GCSE Food and Nutrition students completed their practical cooking exam. For this they had to make three complex dishes in three hours showing as many skills as possible including filleting fish and portioning chicken.

Mrs Bennett was really impressed with the work produced, a selection of which is shown here.

Well done to all of the students for their fabulous creations.



# Sports News

## Gymnastics

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

 @ArdenPE

## Indoor Rowing

Very well done to our Y8 and Y10 indoor rowing teams who came 3rd and 4th respectively in the South Solihull competition last month.

At the start of March, Miss Sheppard took six students to a national gym event in Stoke-on-Trent.

An U13 girls team of Mia Conduit, Lily Conduit and Hatty Connolly were in a really strong field of 23 teams and came 11<sup>th</sup>. They performed really well in each of their solo routines and got a great score in their group routine, performing it to the best standard Miss Sheppard had ever seen it!

The U16 mixed team of Katie Minal, Adam Batts and Ben Seago did incredibly well in their competition and came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the country which is absolutely fantastic.

At this competition there are two teams from each county and the scores for the two teams are combined in a regional competition. The combined West Midlands teams came 1<sup>st</sup> overall.

An excellent day in all, well done to all of the students who competed.

## Hockey

Our boys Hockey team recently took part in a tournament along with 6 other teams from across the borough. Miss Blenkinsop was delighted with the performance and team spirit of the students. There was some very tough competition and the Arden team ended



up finishing 3rd overall. A super result deserving of the whole team's efforts.

## Sports Hall Athletics

Our sports hall athletics team excelled themselves at the recent Sports Hall Athletics Solihull competition.

There were gold medals for the Y7 girls, Y8 girls and Y8 boys and silver medals for the Y7 boys, who only missed out on gold by 4 points. Very well done to all who took part.



## Rugby

We were delighted to hear that six Arden pupils have been selected for Worcester Warriors Rugby Club's Development Player Programme.

Silhillians Rugby Club were invited to enter two teams into the Worcester Warriors Selection Festival for their Development Player Programme (DPP) earlier this year. The DPP is a pathway into their Senior Academy, identifying talented young players in the hope to find the next generation of first-team players.

Out of the 30 players that represented Silhillians Rugby Club, 9 players have been selected for the DPP programme and 6 of these are Arden pupils!

So a big congratulations go to the following Year 8 pupils:

Zachery Smith, Charlie Morgan, Heath Madurai, Monty Bryant, George Marston and Sam Tree

The Sils U13 coaches would also like to thank Mr Carter & Mr Hunt for their continued support with the Year 8 Rugby Team, who are all taking shape on and off the field.



**WORCESTER  
WARRIORS**

# Parent Workshops

Arden is a very special institution due to the students that we work with. This is, in large, due to the support that is offered by parents to their education. Prior to our closure, we ran our first parental learning strategies workshop on growth mind-set and supporting mental health. This is the first in a series of workshops to develop parental understanding of the strategies that are employed by teachers to support progress in our students. If these strategies can also be used at home then the benefits offered by revision and homework could be hugely improved.

The first session was an excellent success and the remaining sessions were fully subscribed prior to our closure. We hope to complete this series once we reopen, and continue to feel very grateful for the educational interest and support offered to students by their parents.

# Surprise Visit

The Year 7 Football team had their training interrupted recently by some very special guests.

Footballers Micah Richards and Joleon Lescott paid a visit to Will Beckett to tell him that he had won a

competition to be the official match day mascot at the Carabao Cup final between Manchester City and Aston Villa.

What a fabulous surprise and experience for Will.



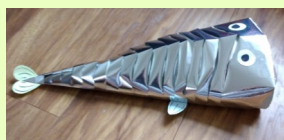
# School Closure Activities and Team Spirit

We have been incredibly impressed by the commitment and dedication shown by our staff and students during the last few very challenging weeks. We wanted to share with you some of the fantastic pieces of work that our students have been producing. Here is just a selection.

**Year 8 MFL students have been writing poems about Easter and creating 'Easter Fish' to tie in with their topic of festivals. Here are some examples:**

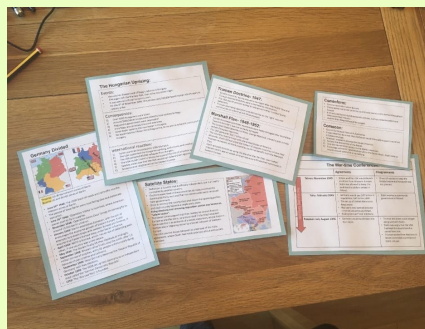
Pâques est très amusant!  
 Les oeufs de pâques tombent dans jardin  
 on les voit le matin  
 Pâques est jaune, bleu, vert et bien plus encore  
 le chocolat est délicieux  
 les bébés agneaux et poussins sont nés  
 Pâques est très amusant!  
**Lucy Hawker**

À Pâques,  
 J'aime trouver les oeufs du chocolat  
 Il sont dans le jardin.  
 Grands oeufs,  
 Petits oeufs,  
 sous le banc,  
 dans l'arbre,  
 derrière le hangar,  
 j'aime manger tous les oeufs!  
**Luke Mullins**



Voici Pâques le matin  
 Un soleil jaune vif  
 Brille sur les végétaux près verts  
 Le lapin a caché les oeufs:  
 rouge, orange, jaune, vert, bleu  
 Les cloches de l'église sonnet  
 Mais qui manque ?  
 Qui trouve les oeufs, triomphants  
 Je crois que ce sont les enfants!  
**Bethan Sibbing**

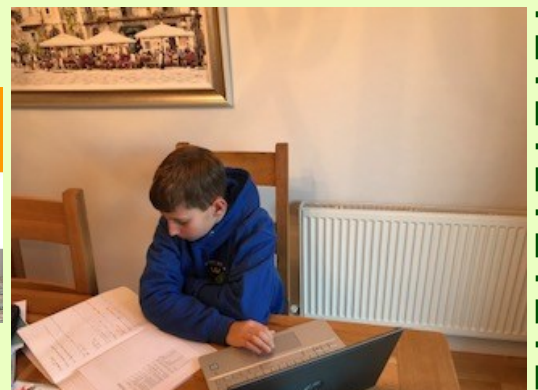
J'adore pâques  
 il y a des chasses aux oeufs  
 il ya rassemblement de famille  
 il y a amusement et jeux  
 ma partie préférée est le chocolat  
 ma partie la moins préférée c'est  
 quand quelqu'un mange mon  
 chocolat  
 mais je le cache  
 c'est pourquoi s'aime pâques  
**Sophia Bannon**



GCSE History revision notes produced by a Y10 student



Sock Puppet mood board created as part of a Textiles project by Martha Poole (Y7)



Jack Yorke (Y8) working hard on home learning

**Lesson 1 - 24/03/20**

LASAGNE, SALAD AND GARLIC BREAD...



Delicious creations from Charlotte Halton (Y11) for Hospitality and Catering



Graphics work from Max Campbell (Y8)



Scarlett Cawthorne

Year 11 Art students have been keeping themselves busy on some amazing pieces. Here are just a few:



Hannah Devitt



Amelia Boam



Mia Kirk



Liberty Burrows

What a fantastic selection of work across a range of subjects. Keep working hard and maybe we will show your work in the next edition of the newsletter.



Abi Wheelhouse

Go create

# Challenge

Your challenge, should you choose to accept it, is to:  
Draw, paint, bake, sew, knit, model etc. something that makes you Happy. So, what makes you happy?

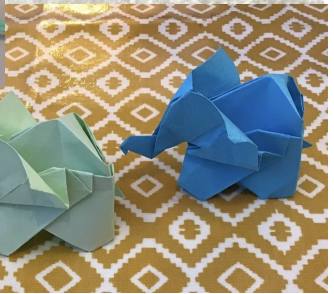
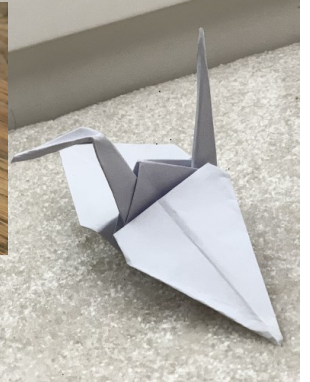
Submit your work by uploading it or a photograph of your work to Google classroom no later than Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020.  
Here is the google classroom code:  
**2e32uni**

Winners will be selected after the Easter Break and they will receive a voucher.  
A selection of your creations will also appear in the school newsletter.  
Happy crafting, Miss Guest

Miss Guest has launched a Go Create challenge for Year 8. Why not get involved?

# Pastoral Challenges

As well as curriculum based work, the Heads of Year and Form Tutors have been setting challenges for the students to do at home. We have had the Origami challenge for example and Miss Berry has been encouraging Year 7 to help out at home during this time. She has also asked Year 7 to share what else they have been getting up to. Here are some examples.



Isla Jewsbury painting a new planter for the garden



Jenson Holroyd making the tea



Lucy McGuinness watering the plants



Joel Hurd emptying the dishwasher



Olivia Hallworth making tea for her Mum



Toby Yan (pictured left) has set himself a very special challenge. He is aiming to climb the height of Ben Nevis without even leaving his house! He has worked out that he needs to climb 401 flights of stairs to achieve the equivalent height. He is doing this to raise money for The Shakespeare Hospice in memory of his uncle who passed away last year. Like all charities the Hospice have seen their fundraising affecting by current situation. What a great thing to do to stay busy and active. You can read more about Toby's story here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Toby-Yan>



Bethany Tomlinson has been racing girls from her netball team - she has been doing 15km against them on Facetime.



Lunch and snacks from Isla Gow



Mia Hodgetts has been making lunch and walking the dog



Home made lemonade from Ketaki Chabal



Abi Kane keeping the family fed



# Easter Activities

As you will be aware from Mr Warwood's updates, we will not be setting work for students over the Easter break. This is to allow everyone to have a well-deserved rest. However, we also know that these are unusual times and so we have put together a selection of ideas which families could do together over the break, to help keep busy and perhaps try something new. We hope that they provide some inspiration!

Activity	Description	Link
Watch a play	National Theatre Live will screen a NT Play every Thursday at 7pm. They will be available to screen for the following 7 days, It started on 2nd April with James Corden in <i>One Man Two Guvnors</i> .	<a href="https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home">https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home</a>
	The Royal Shakespeare Company has a streaming service which you can sign up to for free for 30 days.	<a href="https://www.rsc.org.uk/news/watch-rsc-shows-from-home">https://www.rsc.org.uk/news/watch-rsc-shows-from-home</a>
Learn sign language	British-sign.co.uk offer sign language courses and these are currently heavily discounted.	<a href="https://british-sign.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360044794654-Coronavirus-Crisis-Discounted-Free-Enrolments">https://british-sign.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360044794654-Coronavirus-Crisis-Discounted-Free-Enrolments</a>
Learn First Aid	The British Red Cross offer first aid courses for free.	<a href="https://email.sja.org.uk/sja_marketing/lz/WebCapture.aspx?plD=248&amp;t=0&amp;utm_source=Communigator&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_campaign=PFA270320">https://email.sja.org.uk/sja_marketing/lz/WebCapture.aspx?plD=248&amp;t=0&amp;utm_source=Communigator&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_campaign=PFA270320</a>
Learn to touch type	This is an engaging, progressive course which teaches you how to touch type. Very useful especially at the moment!	<a href="https://www.typingclub.com/">https://www.typingclub.com/</a>
Improve your language skills	A Language Immersion Challenge is open to all Year 7 to Year 10 students in England and is designed to keep them practising their target language whilst they are not able to attend school at the current time.	<a href="https://protect-eu.mimecast.coms/88QHCJN97tppx4HVD9x-?domain=routesintolanguages.ac.uk">https://protect-eu.mimecast.coms/88QHCJN97tppx4HVD9x-?domain=routesintolanguages.ac.uk</a>
Improve your art skills	Artist Rob Biddulph posts a new draw-along video every Tuesday and Thursday at 10am.	<a href="http://www.robbiddulph.com/draw-with-ro">http://www.robbiddulph.com/draw-with-ro</a>
	Cartoonist Pete McKee has posted a series of YouTube videos which teach you how to draw cartoons.	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8f8ag58jDs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8f8ag58jDs</a>
Visit a museum	Google Arts & Culture teamed up with over 500 museums and art galleries in order to bring everyone virtual tours and online exhibits of some of the most famous museums around the world.	<a href="https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/travel-trivia/stuck-at-home-these-12-famous-museums-offer-virtual-tours-you-can-take-on-your-couch-video/ar-BB119nm6?li=BBnbfcl&amp;fbclid=IwAR0_OBJH7ISyTN3ug_MsOeFnNgB1orTa9OBgilKJ7dhnwlvVHEsptuKkj1c">https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/travel-trivia/stuck-at-home-these-12-famous-museums-offer-virtual-tours-you-can-take-on-your-couch-video/ar-BB119nm6?li=BBnbfcl&amp;fbclid=IwAR0_OBJH7ISyTN3ug_MsOeFnNgB1orTa9OBgilKJ7dhnwlvVHEsptuKkj1c</a>
Create some music	This website offers a range of Music experiments - from basic rhythm to an amazing spectroscope where you can see the sound waves for your own voice.	<a href="https://musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/">https://musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/</a>
Try some Science	This website has a range of Science experiments for you to try at home.	<a href="https://www.flinnsci.com/athomescience">https://www.flinnsci.com/athomescience</a>
Visit the Zoo	Edinburgh Zoo has live webcams so that you can see the animals. Chester Zoo is running 'virtual' visits as well.	<a href="https://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/webcams">https://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/webcams</a> <a href="https://www.chesterzoo.org/">https://www.chesterzoo.org/</a>
Do-it-yourself ideas	<p>Make a birdfeeder and keep a record of which birds come to visit.</p> <p>Handwrite a letter and post it to a family member who you cannot currently visit.</p> <p>Organise a family sports day - you could make medals, certificates and a host of silly competitions.</p> <p>Write a diary - these are strange times, it will be interesting to reflect and read back on it in years to come.</p> <p>Virtual book club - choose a book to read with your friends and then discuss it online.</p>	

If you cannot find anything from the list above there are many more activities and ideas available. You might want to look at the following for more inspiration: <https://chatterpack.net/blogs/blog/list-of-online-resources-for-anyone-who-is-isolated-at-home>

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