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Recent Letters

We have sent a number of important communications over the past couple of days. In case you have missed anything, here are the links to the letters:

Mr Warwood's end of term letter including Covid updates, lost property, school trips and school meals information: [LINK](#)

Miss Berry's uniform reminder letter: [LINK](#)

Mr Hooper's letter inviting parents to a Well-Being information evening: [LINK](#)

All of our recent letters can be found on our school website in the information section. You can find the link: [HERE](#).

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ISSUE 39

SPRING TERM 2022

Headteacher's Reflections

This term has been dominated by the tragic loss of one of our wonderful young people. The death of Ella Swann rocked our school community, as I know it did our wider community. Her loss has been felt across our school, from Governors, to teachers and from parents to students. The messages conveyed in Ella's book of condolences reflect the warm, intelligent, energetic and kind young lady that was such an important part of our Arden Family. Whilst we mourn and grieve Ella's passing, we also reflect and celebrate the happiness, friendship and kindness that she brought to our school and the contributions she made to our wider community.

We have been very proud of the courage and empathy that our students have shown in the face of such a distressing situation. The manner in which they have supported one another, providing care and demonstrating understanding to others has been very humbling to see. It has been equally uplifting to begin to discuss with Ella's friends their ideas for ways in which the school can celebrate and recognise Ella's contribution to our school and our community. We will make you aware of more details as they evolve and as we agree plans with Ella's family.

Mr Warwood, Associate Headteacher

A Busy Term

This term has provided us with great opportunity to celebrate. Fantastic results in the National Reading Championships regional competition was a great achievement. You will read in more detail in this newsletter that we have seen great success in the sporting arena with our Year 7 football team being crowned Birmingham Schools Cup Champions with Katy Scott taking the player of the match accolade amongst fierce competition. Our Year 10 footballers are also in the Birmingham Cup Final with our Year 8 team losing out in the semi-final. This is just a small example of the success of our students in recent weeks as you will see.

Despite the ongoing challenges of Covid which continue to impact staff and student absence we have been able to further increase the amount of co-curricular clubs and the school visits that we can run and plan. The summer term promises to see even more opportunities for our students with our enrichment week seeing a welcome return to a wide range of opportunities and activities that have been sorely missed over the last two years. We will be sending out more information about these opportunities after Easter. We also excitedly look forward to the return of our school production and our summer music concerts. Boasting a cast of nearly 200 students the production of *We Will Rock You* which will take place at the start of July really is a celebration of the great talent and wonderful teamwork of our students and staff and is something that we all look forward to.

For now, enjoy a restful Easter



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



Metacognition: Understanding your Learning

As part of our drive for continual improvement in teaching and learning we have had a focus this year on metacognition. Metacognition is having awareness and understanding of one's own thought processes; it is often referred to as "learning to learn" in educational settings. Our staff have received training on how to support this in the classroom through a variety of methods. We have asked teachers to try to make time in our busy curricula to teach consolidation/revision skills such as how to make flash cards, or how to make the perfect mind map. We have also made further improvements to our modelling techniques where teachers, as experts in their subjects, make explicit their thought processes when faced with questions, problems, or exam style material. This focus on modelling also ties in to our literacy drive linked to the understanding of what command words in questions mean and what processes and structures should be deployed as a result. This modelling drive has been aided by investment in visualisers, small flexible webcams, that allow us to show and discuss in real time how we would answer particular

questions or solve particular problems on paper just like the students.

Students have received assembly presentations on a variety of aspects of metacognition including our seven step process for consolidation/revision and why continual consolidation is the most advantageous strategy. Exam groups have had an additional focus on this, receiving workshops from outside agencies and bespoke presentations and tips from Arden staff.

In addition, we have produced a number of videos reiterating these tips and processes along with collecting a playlist from YouTube of videos that explain specific details of revision techniques. All of these can be accessed by students (useful for all year groups) on our revision Google Site (<https://sites.google.com/arden.solihull.sch.uk/year-11-revision-resources/home>). Additional support for Year 11 can also be found on that site by following the subject links of the left hand menu and Year 13 can access additional support material via the A-level subject specific Google Sites.

Science Week

It was National Science Week in March and within school we engaged students by providing a range of opportunities within lessons and at lunchtimes. There was a special Science Club event on the Friday with Mrs Hammond and Miss Campbell as well as a golden ticket award for the Year 7 and 8 students to engage with provided by Dr Cannadine and Miss Campbell. The main winners received science based prizes. Well done to them all! There was also time spent discussing science career pathways and jobs within lessons.

Student Leadership

The Arden Senior Pupils met with fellow Senior Pupils from across the Trust to talk about what makes Arden special to them and make plans to work collaboratively towards a 'contagious kindness' initiative that will be picked up and led by our newly appointed Senior Pupils of 2022-23.

It was a great day for both our Year 11 and Year 12 leadership teams and an excellent opportunity to hear about the different experiences of students in other schools.



Sports Leaders

Last week saw 15 of our Year 9 Students travel down the road to Silhillians Sports Club to help run the SENDactive Hockey Festival. In the first half of the morning over 40 young people from schools in Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire benefited from the expertise of Arden students who led hockey skills activities for them. Following on from these activities, Arden students then helped to officiate some friendly matches between the schools. Afterwards, one of the festival organisers said, "The development and progression in their confidence and delivery throughout the event was clear to see, and they all showed a real understanding of what it takes to be an excellent leader. They should all be very proud of themselves."



Robots Take Over Arden!

The Computing department was excited to offer Year 7 students the fantastic opportunity to work with students from the University of Birmingham on developing programs to control the movement and actions of a set of LEGO robots.

Mary Codicott and former Arden student, Sam Harrison, hosted a lunchtime coding jam over five weeks. Students were tasked with a series of challenges designed to develop their coding skills in the block-based programming environment; OpenRoberta. They designed and tested solutions on the computers before transferring their code to the robots for the real test!

Our students rose to the challenge, coding the robots to move and turn. In later sessions they combined their new skills to complete a fiendishly-difficult final challenge - coding their robots to follow a set path of complex turns and sense and react to different colour markers on the floor.

As part of their degree programme in Computer Science Sam and Mary also spent time in lessons assisting students with their Computing studies and discussing their experience of studying Computer Science in Higher Education. They also planned and delivered a code breaker series of activities for Year 10 students studying GCSE Computer Science to develop their problem solving skills.

On behalf of all of the students that took part, we thank Sam and Mary for making the Robotics Club a success, and wish them all the best with their Degree courses.

If you are interested in programming and animation look out in the future for more information on clubs and opportunities to develop your skills both inside and outside of your lessons. If you are interested in helping run a club please speak to your Computing teacher.



Lent Project

Mr Eades, Head of DT, was approached by Knowle church to help them with a Lent display. He agreed to make the plastic container you can see below as part of the display which you may have seen outside the Church.

The idea was to have rubbish displayed at the bottom of a cross that would be on show to the community until Easter, when the rubbish will disappear and then flowers (new life and beauty) will appear as a reference to resurrection.

The instillation focuses on climate change, with a focus on waste, and the impact this has on the poorest people in society around the world and makes a striking statement in our local community.



Hair and Beauty Competition

Three Year 11 hair and beauty students have entered themselves into an external competition.

The competition is run by Concept Hair and students have the chance to win the 'School Spotlight Award'.

It is a photographic competition where the students created a hairstyle that was inspired by Festival Season.

The students had to create a mood board to accompany their look, demonstrating where they took inspiration from. They then created their Festival Hair look on a training head.

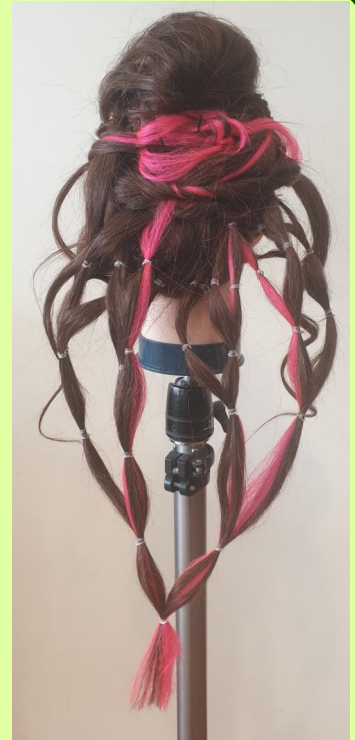
Rebecca Grasby was inspired by hair and beauty through the times, using different hair techniques to create her look.

Hannah Stanton was inspired by 'animal cruelty', creating an animal shaped hairstyle on her training head.

Grace Parsons was inspired by the colour pink and creative abstract, using various techniques including added hair to complete her look.



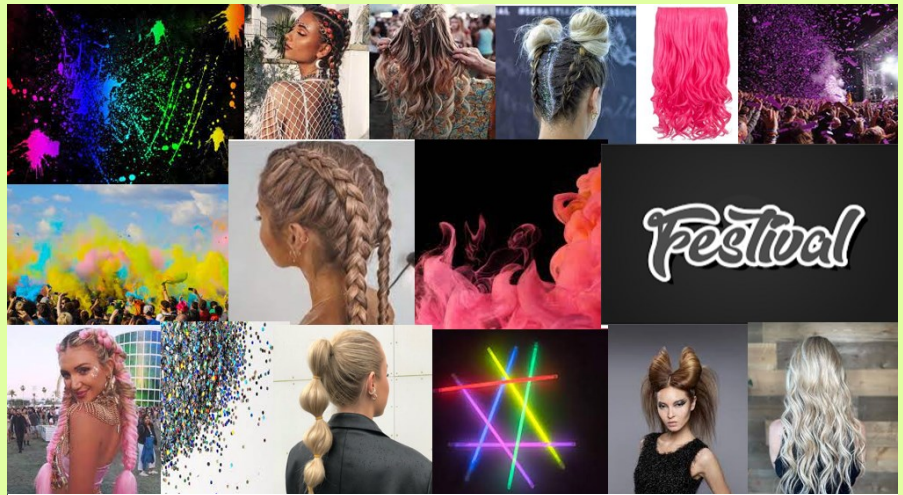
Becky's finished work



Grace's finished work



Hannah's finished work



Grace's Mood Board

Autism Acceptance Week

Led by our Learning Zone, Arden recognised Autism Acceptance Week at the beginning of April. Students received assemblies to help them to understand more about Autism and the work of the National Autistic Society.

On Wednesday staff wore blue to recognise the week and on

Friday the Learning Zone sold keychains and badges made in school with the support of the DT department. These are still available from the Learning Zone Office.

If you would like to know more about the work of the National Autistic Society the link to their website is [here](#).



Ukraine Fundraising

We have been working hard in school to help students understand the circumstances around the events in Ukraine and we have been proud to see how mature the students have been in asking questions and discussing this difficult issue.

Earlier this term we held a fundraising day to raise money for the Red Cross' Ukraine Crisis appeal. The students took part in a non-uniform day with a blue and yellow theme.

We were absolutely overwhelmed by the generosity of our school community and in total we raised over £4800 for the appeal. We would like to thank everyone for their incredibly generous donations.

Arden Futures



Arden Futures is Arden's careers education service; it is the provision of impartial student-centred advice and guidance designed to assist students in making appropriate post-16 and post-18 choices and career decisions, which are informed and well thought through. We want to set students on a pathway of self-awareness and mindfulness about setting goals, skills awareness and understanding opportunities from Year 7 onwards. We have some amazing initiatives currently ongoing within our [Futures Programme](#) and we look forward to announcing our plans for the remainder of this academic year and for 2022/23.

New Team Member - A warm welcome to Mrs Butcher-Johns who has joined our Futures Team as Arden's new Careers Advisor. Mrs Butcher-Johns looks forward to working with our students in helping them understand their potential and guide them through the vast array of opportunities open to them.

Learning for Life tutor programme - Within form time students have been learning about core skills, such as confidence, teamwork and determination, why they are important and where they help them succeed.

National Careers Week - To get involved with National Careers week Arden students engaged with activities across the curriculum with teachers focusing time in lessons on their subject's skills and prospects. This was a time for all students to think about their futures and reflect upon what skills and experiences they are already developing. Student feedback was inspiring about how these sessions helped them appreciate the subjects they take and how everything they do influences their career

journey!

Futures Fridays - National Careers Week saw the re-

launch of our Futures Friday programme. These are employer-led sessions run every Friday lunchtime, open to all students. This gives students a chance to learn about a range of different jobs, sectors and career paths. I want to send thanks to all of our employers this term: Lid Project, Vinci Construction, Hilton Hotel, St Basil's and Paragon Bank.

You can see the schedule for the upcoming sessions below. If you think any of these would be useful for your child please encourage them to come along.

Year 12 Futures Conference - This term also saw our Year 12 Futures Conference which was a superb event which kick-started a programme designed to help students think widely about the options available to them after they finish their studies at Arden. You can read more about this day elsewhere in the newsletter.

We will soon be issuing our own Futures Bulletin to keep you informed about all the brilliant initiatives available so look out for that. For the moment check-in with our Futures website for more information and resources.

Mr Carbery

Careers & Pathways Lead



Date	Employer	Sector
Friday 29th April:	GAIN (Girls Are INvestors)	Investments & Finance
Friday 6th May:	Armed Forces	Military
Friday 13th May:	MUA	Hair & Beauty
Friday 20th May:	Bauer Media (Audio) UK	Media & Events
Friday 27th May:	Holland & Barratt	Retail & Marketing
Friday 10th June:	Independent Artist	Children's book illustration
Friday 17th June:	Ministry of Defence	Human Resource Management

RE Project

Year 7 students have been learning all about the Golden Temple and its role in the religion of Sikhism. Part of their home learning has been conducting research into the history of the Temple and demonstrating their creativity by building their interpretations of the Golden Temple.

We have seen Golden Temples made out of Lego, clay, hand drawn portraits, Minecraft versions and cake!!!

A big well done to all the Year 7s for showcasing their excellent skills and vast creativity.

Mrs Joseph



Year 8 STEM: Solutions for the Planet

The annual Year 8 STEM competition is called *Big ideas*, run by a company called *Solutions for the Planet*. At the end of March, students submitted their ideas. The focus of the competition is for groups of students to select a current issue that is taking place locally or nationally and create a product, campaign or service aimed to solve or try to tackle the problem.

Arden submitted four teams, all of whom have created a business plan along with accompanying PowerPoints and videos explaining how passionately they are trying to solve some very big problems.

Here is an overview of the teams' ideas:

- **Live Like a Martian:** Currently people's ecological footprint is high so Live Like a Martian aim to create an app to advise people on how to reduce their footprint.
- **Re-Bound Energy:** Existing available solar panels lose a lot of energy so this group's aim is to solve the issue by designing an improved solar panel.

- **Eco Tech:** At the present time a lot of paper is thrown away, wasting both paper and the ink on the paper. Eco tech are designing a printer that reverses the printing process and removes the ink with the end result of being able to reuse the ink and paper.

- **AACT:** Too many animals are being affected by the creation of products whether that be through animal testing or deforestation. AACT's aim is to create an app where customers can search for a product and find information about whether the product has had an impact on any animals. It will then offer an alternative product.

All four groups were successful in the initial stages and have progressed to the regional finals. These will take place at Aston University where the groups will need to present their idea to a panel of judges and twenty other teams from a range of schools.

We wish them luck!

Library News

It has been another busy term for Arden Library. Here is just a sample of what has been going on.

Author Louisa Reid Visits Arden

Back in January, author Louisa Reid visited Arden. Louisa delivered writing workshops to Year 8 and Year 9, based around her book *Gloves Off*, which encourages students to have confidence and stamp out bullying. In the workshop, students were encouraged to write their own verse novels based on a comparison between 2020 and the present day using a range of metaphor and simile.

Here is a poem written in the workshop:

Last year was grey as Britain's sky,

Each day blowing dandelions for all problems to fly away.

In a new year now, I can smell a new change,

I can taste a new beginning.

Let's hope it doesn't fly away.

Jayda Jamal, 8N

On the feedback forms, every student said they had improved in their feelings around reading and in their levels of confidence. When asked what they enjoyed about the workshop, the students commented:

"I liked getting a bookmark"

"I enjoyed the reading and being questioned"

"I enjoyed learning how to use new writing skills in the form of poetry and wish it could be able to do it for two hours!"

Louisa also delivered a workshop to a Year 12 English class on the role of women in Macbeth.

(41.8 points).

Most Effort: Maddison Edwards

Prize Draw: John Mitchell (winning a signed copy of *Infinity Drake* by John McNally)

Year 8

Most Books Read: Martha Glennan (6 books) and Zac McDermott (3 books)

Most Points: Sameer Sajaad (59.2 points) and Beth Parry (41.0 points)

Most Effort: Autumn James-Parsons

Prize Draw: Erin O'Sullivan (winning a signed copy of *The Star Outside My Window* by Onjali Q Rauf)

Well done to the winners. Keep reading!

Young Story Curators

Arden students have been working with the Oxford Story Museum to read and review books to contribute to their curation of a 1001 Stories Collection. Students have various reading challenges to complete, such as 'Read a book recommended by an adult'. Here is one review:

Calvin and Hobbes:

There is something enthralling about Calvin and Hobbes; the mildly sadistic attitude of Calvin, the practical yet imaginary Hobbes, and the ridicule aimed at Calvin from the various, rather sceptical adults. Watterson has the ability to capture the frustration of being a 6 year old boy with a friend that no one else believes to be existent; this echoes Phoebe and Her Unicorn, a more recent American daily comic strip, in which Calvin is an 8 year old girl and Hobbes a haughty unicorn. Also, the drawings themselves are wonderfully handcrafted, from his stick-like arms to his round little shoes. I would thoroughly recommend any collection of Calvin and Hobbes - it is suitable for all ages, and is certainly comprehensible and relatable.

Freya Hosking, 8E

Accelerated Reader Winners

In library lessons, it's been wonderful to see students in Year 7 and 8 enjoying reading and quizzing. This term's Accelerated Winners were announced in assembly and won a bespoke bookmark, with the prize draw winners winning signed books!

Year 7

Most Books Read: Lily Rose Westley (7 books) and Aivlen Quinn (5 books).

Most Points: Lexi Warwick (56 points) and Annika Lemke

World Book Day

Following virtual World Book Day events in 2021, it was a treat to have large-scale, in-person author events back again. Sufiya Ahmed, author of *Noor-Un-Nissa Inayat Khan* and *Princess Sophia Duleep Singh*, was our visiting author for the day. Sufiya began her day delivering a workshop to Y9 History students, drawing on her research for her novels, as well as her life experience working in the Houses of Parliament. Following this, Sufiya ran a Creative Writing workshop with a Year 8 class on the theme of 'The Spy and the Suffragette', inspiring students to write their own characters. At lunch, Sufiya spent some time with the student librarians and Young Story Curators in Year 7 - 13, followed by a whole year group talk to Year 7 in the school hall about her writing experience and basing her books on real life historical characters. Sufiya ended her day in a Maths lesson delivering a spy decoding workshop with a group of Year 7s who were keen to work one-on-one with Sufiya following her inspiring talk.

For myself, the day was a success based on the student's enthusiastic response to having an author visit Arden, and seeing so many students reading Sufiya's books in library lessons the following week demonstrates how impactful Sufiya's visit has been.

Sufiya had this to say, "As a visiting author it becomes clear fairly quickly whether the school library is valued within the school. One measure is the interaction between the pupils and the school librarian.

At Arden Academy, it was clear that Miss O'Brien is well known, respected and appreciated by the pupils from all year groups, and her library is a safe and happy place for many, many pupils.



Reading for pleasure is so important for pupil development, and not just for literacy but for empathy too. It's always great to meet pupils who enjoy reading and I met many of them at Arden. It was an absolute pleasure to visit and I would love to return some day."

As well as an author visit, all Arden teachers also participated in the fun through the use of a Golden Ticket. Every teacher received one, and one only, that they could distribute to any student for a literacy or reading based activity during the day. Arden students were then invited to take their ticket to the library after school to receive a prize! The buzz in the library was palpable as students from Year 7 to 6th form were all eagerly waving their ticket and sharing stories about what they did to achieve their ticket ("I used the word cardiovascular" and "Miss sees me reading my book in the corridor every morning" were just two examples). Many students not only accepted their chocolate prize, but also kept their ticket as a memory, which was really heartwarming.

Happy World Book Day!

National Reading Champions

On Tuesday the 8th of March, we attended the regional heat of the National Reading Champions, a competition, open to the whole country, and focused on children's and young adult literature. It was a wonderful experience despite the virtual format not being perhaps as engaging or enjoyable as it would have been in person.

For roughly two months in advance, 8 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 met in the library to revise authors, genres and characters, whilst reading books from specific genres, ranging from historical fiction to contemporary. This was fun, as it introduced me to people with similar interests and simultaneously felt as if COVID was easing; last year we had to keep the teams within bubbles, and were wearing

masks the whole time.

On the day we were faced with eight rounds, from Horror and Comedy to Word games. After around an hour and a half of answering questions, we were given the results; Arden Team A came 2nd overall, runners-up to the team who had previously come second in the national competition. Team B came in 15th place, out of 28 teams.

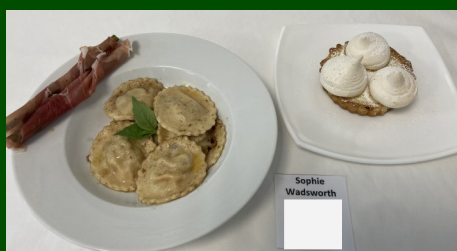
I would definitely recommend the experience; any book-lover will enjoy it, and it widens your preferred genres.

Freya Hosking, 8E



GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition Practical Exams

The Year 11 Food Preparation and Nutrition students have been working extremely hard in the last few weeks to get ready for their practical examinations. Mrs Bennett was absolutely delighted with the finished products. Here are some examples of what was produced.



Maths Challenge

Since the beginning of this academic year, 150 students (from Year 9 to Year 13) have taken part in the United Kingdom Mathematics Challenge. Students that achieved superbly in the first round went through to the next round and were invited to take part in the next level of the challenge!

Year 12 – 13

After the huge success of our Year 12 and 13s last term, both Matty Boles and Thomas Johnson did themselves proud in the follow on rounds both getting a score in the top 25% of mathematicians nationally resulting in a Merit Certificate.

Year 9 – 10

At the start of January 120 students completed the Intermediate Maths Challenge. They did incredibly well

achieving a total of 3 Gold, 12 Silver and 41 Bronze Certificates! Huge Congratulations to Luke Mullins, Jess Carter, Claudia Cribb and Ted Lamb who then proceeded to follow on rounds.



United Kingdom Mathematics Trust

Special congratulations to Keisha Lam and Harry Mitchell who in their follow on rounds achieved in the top 25% of mathematicians in their year achieving a merit certificate in their follow on rounds.

Year 7 - 8

The Junior Mathematics Challenge is taking place on Wednesday 27th of April. Good luck to all the students who are taking part!

Mr Carberry

Year 12 Futures Conference

Tuesday 5th April was the Year 12 Futures Focus Conference. This was a day aimed at prompting the Year 12s into further thought about what they were going to do when they complete their A-Levels.

The day was structured like a professional conference, with students choosing which five sessions to attend from a choice of up to eight sessions each hour. There were sessions throughout the day on the following themes:

- Life Skills – looking at those all important financial awareness skills
- Employability Skills – such as Presentation, Problem Solving and Teamwork
- Industry Insights – with experts in their fields, talking about their industries. These ranged from Finance & Business Management to Psychology to Marketing and PR
- University Perspective – with input from the full range of Universities on offer to the students
- Apprenticeships – both the recruitment process and the lived experience
- Gap Year Plans – lots of exciting sessions on structured gap years, through Project Trust, Camp America & Gap Year Canada
- Ex-Student Experiences - ex-Arden students returning to their Sixth Form to “tell their story” about how they had arrived where they were. It is always a joy to see ex-students returning, especially to share the benefits of their accrued wisdom!

Our new Careers Advisor, Mrs Butcher-Johns also ran some mentoring sessions for those that wanted a bit more help deciding on the next steps.

It was a full-on day!

Our aim was to provoke to thought and help create the motivation to carry on the all important research into their next steps.

Special mention to Mrs Hyde, who was the mastermind behind the whole day.



GCSE Skills Session

Arden ex-student Nick Lyons from Eric Lyons butchers in Knowle came into school recently to support the GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition students.

Nick demonstrated how to properly portion a chicken. The aim of the demonstration was to continue to improve high level skills which the students need to be able to demonstrate in their practical examinations. The chicken portions were then used to create BBQ dishes, casseroles and stir fries.

Mrs Bennett would like to thank Nick for giving up his time to come into school to work with the students.



A-Level Business Exam Booster

Year 13 Business students went to Star City on Wednesday 30th March for a Tutor2u exam booster workshop. The students were engaged with the day and benefited from the exam tips and further support with exam structures. The day was interactive and left students motivated and equipped with a plan for their Business revision. A successful day for Year 13 students and hopefully the day will help them achieve the best possible grade in their exams in the summer.



Book Vending Machine

There has been a buzz of excitement and curiosity in the English block over the last few weeks as we took delivery of a very special vending machine. Not for sweets or snacks, this machine will vend books as prizes for students who demonstrate outstanding achievement or progress in literacy.

Despite the display temptingly and incorrectly stating all contents of the machine can be bought for a pound - some rather enthusiastic Sixth Formers rushed to get change to snap up a book bargain! - students will actually be able to win a golden token which they put in the machine and select a book of their choice.

There will be books available for students from Year 7 to 13. Students will be supervised and shown how to use the machine so won't be able to inadvertently select a book not really appropriate for their age range.

More information will be shared very soon about how the first golden tokens can be won.

Books should be inspiring, rewarding and get our students talking. Our vending machine is only a small part of the way we get students enthused about books and reading but it's a pretty exciting part!

Mrs Hale , Head of English and Literacy Lead



Staff News

Two babies joined the Arden Family this term. Back in January Mrs Khatma (Teacher of Science) gave birth to a baby boy and at the start of March Mrs Hoskins (Head of Law) welcomed a baby girl. We are thrilled for them both.

At the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to some of our colleagues. Mrs Spencer (Teacher of MFL) is leaving to take up a new post whilst both Miss Malone (Teacher of Science) and Mrs Joseph (Teacher of RE) have decided to pursue new roles outside of teaching, although still in other aspects of education. We would like to thank them all for their contributions to Arden and wish them well in their new ventures.

After Easter we will be welcoming two new members of the Science department. Miss Hill is joining us as Teacher of Science and Miss Allport is joining as Head of Science. We are looking forward to working with them in the new term.

GCSE and A-Level Prize Winners

We were unable to hold our annual Presentation Evening to celebrate the success of our Year 11 and Year 13 students. In place of our usual evening we held a virtual event where Year Heads, Heads of Department, Governors and members of our Senior Leadership team made videos announcing prize winners and highlighting key successes. You can see the videos [HERE](#).

One of our prizewinners, Archie Kindon has donated his prize (£125 for the Knowle & Dorridge Lions All Round Achievement award) to the South Africa charity we support. What a wonderful gesture and a true show of character.

Although not quite the same, it was still lovely to recognise the hard work of these two wonderful year groups.



Celebrating Student Success



This term we have been inundated with reports of current and past Arden students doing some amazing things outside of school. We wanted to celebrate their successes with a round-up here.

As always, if you have any information about the fabulous things our students are doing, please do let us know via your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year.

Swimming

Ella Homan (Year 10) has had a busy term competing in Swimming competitions, during which she has had some fabulous success.

In January she competed in the Warwickshire County Swimming Championships where she competed in three individual events: the 100m backstroke, 400m freestyle and also the 100m freestyle.

In the 400m freestyle not only did she become the champion of the U15 age group, but she has also won the Open age group to make her the quickest in Warwickshire and the Warwickshire Champion.

She also repeated this feat for the 100m Freestyle, becoming both the U15 Champion and also the Open Champion for which she has received some large trophies to take home! For the 100m backstroke she has finished 2nd in Warwickshire at U15 age group.

Ella is currently competing in the National Junior Championships for Swimming and this week so far she reached the final of the 200m freestyle, finishing 3rd fastest for the whole of Great Britain!

This week she will also be competing in the 100m and 400m freestyle so fingers crossed and we wish her all the best for her remaining races.

Student Legacy

We were contacted recently by Dorridge School to tell us about the legacy of two Year 11 students, Abbie Clark and Mia Barber. When they were in Year 6 they approached their teacher with a fundraising idea. They wanted to run a marathon spread over two weeks. That first year the Dorridge Primary Marathon was born and raised £7894 for St Mary's Hospice.

This has now become an annual event and since it began in 2017 the initiative has raised over £35,000. How wonderful that an idea from two of our students has had such a lasting impact.

Thank you to Cath Guevara at Dorridge for letting us know.

Cross Country

Peter Mitchell (Year 10) was selected to represent the West Midlands Schools AA in the All England Schools Cross Country Championship back in March.

The day was a brilliant experience for Peter and one which he really enjoyed.

The run was 4.4km which took him 14 minutes and 46 seconds. He came 103rd out of 330 runners, and was 2nd for West Midlands. What a great achievement.



Musical Theatre

Mia Jones (Year 7) spent six months performing in the West End as part of the cast of *Tina: the Musical*. She has had the most amazing experience. She spent most of the time performing as Alline (Tina's sister) but she was also offered the opportunity to perform as Tina herself. This meant that she got to realise her dream of singing solos on the West End stage. How fabulous!



Alumni Success

We were delighted to hear about two Alumni students recently.

Alliyah O'Hare is currently on tour in Taiwan with Michael Flatley's *Lord of the Dance*.

Lucy Munden has landed a leading role in the West End musical *Footloose*. She is currently on a UK tour of the show and is receiving incredible reviews (see [LINK](#)). The show comes to Birmingham this Easter. Tickets are available [HERE](#).

What amazing achievements for both Alliyah and Lucy.

Sports News

Indoor Rowing

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

 @ArdenPE

Back in February we took teams of students from Years 7-10 to the borough indoor rowing championships.

The boys were competing first and had some great success. The Year 7/8 team came in 1st place and the Year 9/10 team came in 3rd place. This meant that the Year 7/8 boys proceeded to the regional finals.

The girls followed and performed brilliantly with both teams finishing in second place meaning that they both progressed to the regional finals. Well done to all of the students who participated in the event.

Cross Country

We have had an amazing cross country season. A particular highlight was our last race which was the Albutt Relay races at St Peters, where we had at least one team coming in the top three in every single race.

Particular mention for Charlotte Turpin and Florence Collins who stepped in at the very last minute in order to fill two teams for us. I would also like to mention our most improved runner of the season, William Irvine in Year 8, who has shown great enthusiasm and commitment to his running and as a result he has started to come in the top of 5 of races which is a fantastic achievement.

All of our runners have shown amazing commitment to cross country and have even attended training in freezing cold and rainy conditions. Looking forward to the next season already!



Netball

The girls took part in the Schools Netball tournament against all the local schools in our borough. The students have been working on developing their set plays and moulding well as a team. This became evident within the tournament as all three teams won round one of the tournament winning every single game. All three teams got through to the semi-finals and won, this put them through the finals against Solihull

school. The girls worked really hard, making it goal for goal but unfortunately in the last quarter for all three teams they lost, making them runners up in the tournament. This is a fantastic outcome and achievement for all of our teams, and we will come back stronger and ready to win next year.

Well done to all students involved and everyone else who has played a part in the league tables for their netball year group.

Dance Workshop

Students in KS3 had the opportunity this week to work with a professional dancer in a workshop to learn, develop and create a Hip-hop routine. They will then continue to work on this after Easter, ready to perform within the Commonwealth Street Dance showcase. This is part of the initiative that Arden has signed up to, offering the students a wide variety of opportunities during the year of the Commonwealth Games being held in Birmingham. The students absolutely loved the workshop and are excited to create their final piece.

Miss Leadbeater

Girls Basketball

The girls recently took part in a basketball tournament involving over 30 students from different schools. The Arden students who have been committed to their basketball extracurricular club went along to play. We took 2 teams who both played extremely well, showing fantastic sportsmanship throughout the whole competition. We took home 1st place medals for 6 of our Year 7 and 8s and a fourth place. Great achievement and experience for the pupils to be involved in.

Co-Curricular Timetable

Our co-curricular timetable changes after Easter as we move into our Summer sports. There are a range of activities on offer so please do take a look and encourage your child to come along and get involved.

The timetable has been sent to parents / guardians and will be posted on the school website. You can find the link [HERE](#).

Football

It has been a busy and successful term for our football teams.

Our Sixth Form Team played John Henry Newman who they beat a convincing 5-0. This means they are now through to the Solihull Cup Final.

The Year 10 team have also progressed through to the Birmingham Cup final where they will play Alderbrook. This week they faced the same team in the Solihull League and won 4-1. This gives them huge confidence in the build up to the big final.

The Year 7 football team have also been playing in the Birmingham Cup winning all their matches in convincing style to make it to the final. The final, which was played at Bodymoor Heath, was against a strong Kings Norton team. However, our team went into the match being the only team not to concede a goal, so their confidence was high.

The game turned out to be a tight one but the Arden team came out on top winning 4-2 with goals from James Bythall, Theo Hendrie, Harry Justice and Daniel Brennan. Special mention also to Katie Scott who was player of the match.

A huge congratulations to the Year 7 team and we wish the Year 10 and Sixth Form teams the very best of luck for their finals. We will let you know how they get on.



Indoor Athletics

Our Year 7 and Year 8 teams have been participating in the Regional Indoor Athletics Championships. Having won their local heats impressively, both our girls' teams progressed to the finals where they represented South Solihull.

The girls were competing against the top eight teams in each year group across Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull. The Year 7 girls won their competition with a dominant display and the Year 8 team finished in second place after a very close encounter with Alcester Grammar School. Mr Masson and Mr Spence were really proud of the performances and both results were fantastic given the high standard of athletics on show.



Trampolining

We have had some amazing results in trampolining this term. We took a Year 7 team, two Year 9/10 teams and a Year 11 team to a Solihull trampolining competition. All of the students had to perform two routines and they all put in two fantastic performances despite not having much time to practise. Special mention to Martha Cornforth, Emily Conway, Harriet Moss and Anna Bambrook for winning the individual competitions for their age groups.

In the team competitions we had two teams finishing in second place which again is a fantastic achievement.

