

Arden

Station Road Knowle Solihull West Midlands B93 OPT

Telephone: 01564 773348

email:

office@arden.solihull.sch.uk



twitter: @ArdenAcademy

Charitable Giving

This term students have been involved in a number of charity events. Our Christmas jumper day was very successful and raised nearly £1500 for St Basil's homeless charity. Students have been bringing in donations for a local food bank as part of their Rashford Run and Rashford Games events in PE and we were thrilled with the toy donations (a sample of which are shown below) which have been sent to Birmingham City Mission. We thank

everyone for their generous donations for all of these events.



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ISSUE 41

AUTUMN TERM 2022

Festive Cheer and Celebrations

It has been another very busy but ultimately very rewarding term. Completing the term with our Christmas Jumper day, Christmas lunch and our wonderful Lower School Christmas concert has really put the festive sparkle into school. Our students have worked very hard this term, making the most of their curriculum time and really enjoying their learning. Our Year 11 students have really responded extremely well to the challenge of their Mock Examinations and have showed the highest levels of maturity and focus as they have completed a very intense fortnight of exams.

The highlights that you will see throughout this newsletter are vast and really capture the breadth of opportunity that our students have. It's a real pleasure to see how much our students have enjoyed these opportunities and how well they have done given the chance to compete in such a wide range of activities.

As mentioned in our end of term letter we also want to celebrate the achievements of last years Year 11 and 13 students. The recently published "Sunday Times ParentPower" publication cites Arden the third highest achieving Comprehensive school in the West Midlands, we are actually the highest achieving mixed Comprehensive school in the West Midlands, an achievement that we are exceptionally proud of. For wider context, last years results saw us record the 69th highest set of results nationally for all Comprehensive or partially selective entry schools. Once again we wish to congratulate our students for their achievements.

Whilst on the topic of thanks I will leave you with a few messages that our students have passed to our staff. We provided the opportunity for any students who wanted to say thank you to a member of staff to do so. We received nearly 900 notes of thanks, a couple of which are shared below:

"Thank you so much for all of your support you have given me throughout Year 12 and Year 13. I am extremely grateful, thank you!!"

"I would like to thank Miss because I really struggle with maths and she has helped me so much and I feel as though I have really improved because of her teaching and she is one of my favourite teachers and she is just amazing"

"I would like to thank you for taking the time out of a free period to help me in improving my essays for history and politics. I think that my essays have definitely improved since that meeting, and I cannot thank you enough for your understanding and compassion."

Finally from all of us at Arden, we wish you a fantastic Christmas and a wonderful new year.

Mr Warwood, Associate Headteacher





Author Visit

On Friday 2nd December, Mark Ballabon visited Arden to deliver workshops with Eco Club, and two library lessons on the topics of climate change, antibullying, activism and confidence, as featured in his book *Home*.

Miss Blenkinsop's Eco Club were delighted to be invited to their session. Mark discussed the challenges faced by climate activists and offered students the opportunity to explore what they could do to make a difference to the world. Mark utilised role play and commented that Aleena Dharamshi and Lola Barker were the best young actors he had worked with during his UK school-wide tour.

Mark then delivered sessions to Year 8 and Year 7





students. In the sessions, Mark asked students to write their name in any style they like, expressing themselves as they saw fit. Mark then read their names using graphology techniques, inviting students to comment on the names too. Students suggested their classmates were "wild", "loyal", "creative" and "kind-hearted". With one look at Max Ward's name, Mark was able to correctly identify that Max played Centre-Mid in football – so it seems his graphology skills were on point!

Thank you to Mark for visiting us and well done to the participating students who engaged fully with the session and were an asset to Arden.

Miss O'Brien, Librarian.

English Theatre Trip

The English Department took a group of Year 12 and 13 students to see Hamlet at the Old Vic Theatre in Bristol earlier in November. It was a very interesting production where Hamlet shot Claudius dead before the interval, and the Ghost of his father turned out to be the devil himself or so we were led to believe! A very entertaining night and a fascinating new version for the students to refer to in their analytical essays.



Christmas Lunch

Mr Warwood and Mr Hooper served Christmas lunch to students on Wednesday as part of our festive celebrations!





Christmas Card Competition

We were delighted to receive over forty entries for our Christmas card competition. Thank you to all of our fantastic entries, we shortlisted to a final five before deciding on our winner who is Dasha Zhyhlata (Year 7).

Dasha's entry has been made into a professional card and has been used as our school Christmas card and sent to over ninety local schools, organisations and individuals who work with and support us as a school.

The runners up were: Beth Bates-Gamble (Year 7), Noah Hartland (Year 8), Lola Barker (Year 9) and Ella Callaghan (Year 9)





Maths Challenge

Senior Maths Challenge: This term a group of our Year 12 and 13 students took part in the UK Mathematical Challenge. They did extremely well with many earning certificates reserved for the top percentage of students taking part. A huge congratulations to William Sutton who earned a Gold Certificates and progressed to a follow on round.

Intermediate Maths Challenge: Many of our Year 9 and 10 mathematicians have been preparing for the intermediate Maths Challenge coming up at the start of February. We wish them best of luck with their challenges and look forward to seeing them show off their skills.

Junior Maths Challenge: The Junior Maths Challenge preparation has started with a house competition! Many of our Year 7 and 8s are competing for their House in a weekly challenge posted on google classroom. All the information is on the Edulink page of students who are involved. I look forward to see which house triumphs when they sit the real challenge in April!

Year 7 Art Trip

Once again the New Art Gallery, Walsall were very welcoming to our 300 Year 7 students over 2 days in November. The students experienced a wide range of activities and experiences during the day, discussing the work in the exhibitions and engaging in a workshop with gallery staff.

PSHE Presentation

As part of our PSHE programme, students had a number of presentations this term from external speakers. These have included Stop and Search talks from the Police to all year groups and a mental health presentation linked to drug use for Year 9. These are a vital part of awareness raising and more talks are planned for the new year.

Careers in Art & Design Trip

Whether or not our students are muggles or, indeed, witches or wizards, all eighty Arden students thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Warner Bros. Studio Tour of the Making of Harry Potter.

Students from Year 9 Art and Year 10 Engineering were invited to walk through the labyrinth of fabled sets from the Harry Potter films: the Great Hall, Gringotts Bank and Vaults, The Ministry of Magic, The Weasley's Kitchen, Snape's Potions Classroom, and Dumbledore's Office before finishing their tour marvelling at the glorious grandeur of the Hogwarts Castle glistening in snow.

This trip was associated with 'Careers in Art & Design' and showcased a multitude of potential careers available to our students if they were to pursue a career in the Art & Design industry. This echoes the main focus behind our Year 9 scheme of work in Art, whereby all project work is based upon different professions in the creative industry: graphic illustration, architecture, and fashion design. Therefore, it was a great opportunity to show a small number of our students the numerous careers and job roles associated with a film franchise such as the Harry Potter series.

This experience was enriched further by having a one hour workshop about 'Set Design'. Here, the students discovered the step-by-step process behind how the Set Designers created each piece of set for the films. The workshop leader exemplified this by presenting and discussing the set plans and models of 'Hagrid's Hut'; she explained how the 'Hagrid's Hut' set had to be built at two different scales, one at normal size and a second at 120% scale to illustrate the half-giant's hut size to the character of Harry Potter. The students were able to witness cardboard models of previously seen set plans, a prosthetic mask of Hagrid, as well as enormous-sized clothing that could fit two of our students within. The workshop concluded with the students creating their very own stylised origami house that we presented together to create our own little Arden village.

To see the magic unfold before your eyes on screen is one thing, but to see how the magic is created through





the power of set design, construction, sound effects, visual effects, special effects, or CGI is another thing. Our students really were becoming fascinated by how the magic of Harry Potter was created. Some of our students were trying to catch the Golden Snitch on a green screen broomstick. Some students were able to levitate a broomstick or have a conversation with a half-giant teacher due to visual effects. Some students were even able to move and control a House Elf through the use of CGI.

In the style of Harry Potter, I'd like to give a massive thanks to the following teachers (Professors) to whom these students wouldn't have had this amazing day out: Professor Crawford, Professor Goldenfeld, Professor Hook, Professor Hayward, Professor Miners, Professor Hartshorn, and Professor Eades.

Overall, our students had an incredible day exploring the behind-the-scenes magic of the Harry Potter films and may well have some insider knowledge the next time they watch one of the films.

Written by, Professor Fletcher



Arden Futures

Arden's Futures Programme continues apace with Future Fridays proving very popular. This academic year alone we have had representatives from the BBC (journalism), Rolls Royce (engineering), Navy, RAF, Army, events management, accountancy, physiotherapy, medicine, dance, investment banking and automotive design. In 2023 our first FF kicks off on 6th January with representatives from Taylor Wimpey talking about quantity surveying and construction trades. This will be followed by talks during January and February on primary school teaching, HR management, hair & beauty and law to name but a few. Stay tuned for FF notifications! #FUTUREFRIDAY



Where possible, students can to speak to professionals on a one-to-one basis...



So, what is the point of students engaging with professionals and skilled workers? The benefits of this are considerable: it provides context, meaning and an understanding of the day to day activities of specific job roles. How can a student possibly know what career is right for them if they don't know it exists, or they don't know what it entails?

#THEYHAVETOSEEITTOBEIT!

If you would like to engage with our students by talking

about your profession or offering virtual or in-person insight opportunities, please register here.

This term also saw our entire Year 12 cohort visit the National University & Apprenticeship Show at Edgbaston Stadium. Nearly all UK universities had a stand and several apprenticeship providers such as the Police, West Midlands Ambulance Service and PwC, to name but a few, were also present. This one-stop-shop was a great opportunity for students to speak to representatives about their post-18 journey and participate in insightful seminars on apprenticeship opportunities.

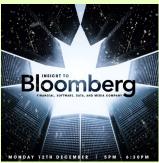


Year 13 students interested in higher or degree level apprenticeships now can engage with our *Get Apprenticeship Smart* Programme - like our UCAS application support service it guides students in finding and securing apprenticeships. They have had workshops delivered by local business partner Gemma Noble and apprenticeship providers including sessions on application support and how to stand out on LinkedIn

#APPRENTICESHIPSAREFORME

You may have noticed many opportunities appearing in your inbox for students to participate in virtual work insights or webinars. These online events give students the opportunity to talk to industry representatives and find out more about careers in their sector. As the idea and benefits of participating in online events and webinars gains traction, more and more students are participating and getting an excellent insight into industry sectors and careers. To help you filter and find these notifications in the future, we will entitle these emails "Career Insights". #EXPANDINGHORIZONS





Nearly 100 students attended this term's Solihull Apprenticeship Show at Cranmore Conference Centre. Over 50 training providers included JLR, Balfour Beatty Vinci, West Midlands Police, NHS Careers, Solihull College, WMG Academy for Young Engineers were present and students had a unique opportunity to gain some insight into apprenticeships and make useful contacts. #NETWORK



We're excited to launch the Arden Job Quest Job Site! Students in Year 9 (and selected groups in other years) will have the opportunity to apply for 1 of 8 virtual job roles including finance, engineering, marketing, etc., (or find a real job advertisement and submit an application for that). Mr



Brad Parkes, our Enterprise Advisor, and other industry experts will assess the applications, providing feedback to unsuccessful candidates and inviting successful candidates to the second

stage - the mock interview. The student who gets the job



will receive a Touchwood voucher in recognition of their efforts. #JOBSKILLS

Check out our website for more information; take a look at our 12 Jobs of Christmas! The Futures Team wish you all a very merry Christmas. Follow us @ardenfutures



Mr Brad Parkes, Enterprise Advisor

Christmas Concert

This week we were delighted to welcome visitors in to school for our Christmas Concert. The evening was a wonderful display of our students' talent and musical accomplishments.

We would like to thank Dr Seago and the music team for coordinating the evening and say a huge well done to all of the students for their performances.

It was a great start to Christmas!



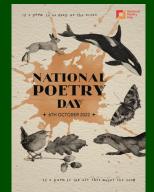
National Poetry Day Competition

At the start of October it was National Poetry Day and the English Department asked Year 7 pupils to take part in a competition to write poems that connected to the theme of the environment. Pupils had to write an acrostic poem, like the ones from the beautiful "Lost Words" collection by Robert Macfarlane, about an animal or an aspect of nature.

We had some beautiful entries but the three winners were: Eliza Dunne 7H, Jamie Farrell 7O and Bryher Martin 7C.

To be a beautiful tulip,
Underneath the moonlight,
Like a glamorous red star
In the garden. So unique,
Perfectly placed amongst the grass.

1st Place - Eliza Dunne



Fortunate that Mother Nature gave them.

Oblivious to their slayers of steel.

Refreshing the air which they make.

Emeralds they hold in their infinite patterns.

Spectacular shapes,

The animals seek their shelter as the moon steals the light.

2nd Place – Jamie Farrell

Rising sun shining over earth, awakening the flowers.

Over the horizon the lonely person marveled at the stunning view as

Seasons change and time goes by,

Endless beauty remains.

3rd Place – Bryher Martin

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Arden Academy's successful and popular Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) programme has once again resulted in a fantastic number of students completing their Bronze Award this term. Well done to:

Omar Abdelbaky, Charlie Baden, Thomas Bamforth, Jessica Bergin, MatthewBowley, Alexander Brennan, Tristan Briggs, Jesse Britland, Lucy Brookes, Jessica Carter, Harry Cheetham, Rukudzo Chibamu, Benjamin Coulthurst, Madeline Curley, Lexie Cutter, Ollie Dowthwaite, Gracie Evans, Marissa Flannery, Dylan Foxley, Finn Gahan, Luke Gale, Isabella Gaskin, Vaari Goenka, Daniel Grist, Olivia Hallworth, Victoria Henderson, Mia Hill, Jasmine Hu, Lawrie Humby, Joel Hurd, Clara James, Jess Jenkinson, Isla Jewsbury-Nairn, Lachlan Kilduff, Matilda Landon, Billy Lee, Violet Lyons-Dolman, Jenna Makepeace, Erin Mayse, Beatrice McCorry, Lucy McGuinness, Peter Mitchell, Heidi-Rose Moore, Harriet Moss, Amy Nicholas, Ryan Nixon, Holly Pannett, Kyle Patel, Abigail Pearce, Elkie Perkins, Annie Poole-Rich, Sahib Rai, Joe Reed, Megan Roberts, Saoirise Smith, Jessica Smith, Alice Smith, Ffion Smith, Samantha Steele, Tilly Stuchfield, Lauren Tait, Lyla Thomas, Elizabeth Thompson, Ella Rose, Timothy Morris, Nathan Tsang, Amelia Turk, Zara Wallis, Zoe

Watkins, Lily Mae Watson, Sophie Whitehead, Arthur Wilson, Chloe Wood, Harry Wood, Isaac Yeats.

Over 30 of these students have signed up for the Silver Award;

they have started on a slightly longer programme and will have a more challenging expedition in Summer 2023.

The following students need to be congratulated having completed their Silver Awards this term (several more just have to submit their final pieces of evidence to complete their Silver):

Thomas Adams, Matthew Bate, Jonnie Carter, Finn Clarke, Florence Collins, Amy Garside, Freddie Gaskin, Laura Hampson, Benjamin Hocombe, Will Johnson, Joshua Lerat, Bethan Sibbing, Lucy Stuchfield, Daniel Sutherland, Harriet Walker, Jack Yorke.

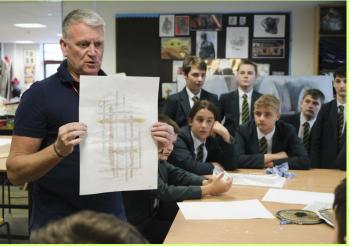
Finally, huge congratulations to these three students who completed their Gold Awards and will receive an invitation to a Gold Award Presentation at the Palace:

Jamie Hyde, Lottie Stiles, Jessie Humby.



Artist Visit

In late November twenty-five Year 9 students were invited to learn some tricks of the trade from professional artist Ian Murphy. The students learnt how to use Ian Murphy's specific techniques of creating layered and textured backgrounds, as well as how to push their pen and pencil skills. During the all-day workshop they were challenged by Ian Murphy to produce work quickly and confidently. There was some strikingly bold work created which students and staff will be able to view in a display. Our thanks go to Ian Murphy for his expertise and for inspiring our young artists to push themselves.





Remembrance Day

This year, to recognise Armistice Day we held a service of remembrance which took place on the front lawn and was live streamed to the whole school. Miss Dunbar and Mr Simpson worked with groups of students to organise the event. Senior Pupils led the ceremony which was a touching acknowledgement of the dedication of our armed forces.

In addition to the ceremony students were encouraged to write remembrance poppies which were then used to create a fabulous display by Mrs Birch and our wonderful team of LSAs.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make the commemorative events so successful.





House Badminton

This year saw our first House Badminton competition. In a similar set up to the highly contested House Tennis, the event saw students pair up with staff to compete. There was a lovely atmosphere to the event and lots of excellent games were played.

It actually ended up being a tie for first place. Miss Blenkinsop and Alex Luckett had the same number of points as Mr Edgington and Rosie Robinson. However, in our head to head match Alex and Miss Blenkinsop were the winners!

Shout out to Mr King and Fran Johnson for having an excellent smash and Miss Leadbeater for showing excellent commitment by doing a dive roll in order to reach a shot! She was partnered with Jonnie Carter.

Well done everyone!

Eco Club

Eco Club have had a really busy term working with community representatives to gather information and ideas about how to make Arden a more environmentally friendly and sustainable school. Back in November they took part in a conference at the Solihull Council Chambers in the style of the COP27 conference. We had two teams and were representing the countries of Australia and Senegal. The students had an excellent morning and all worked really hard to prepare for the event. They all spoke really well in a conference room

filled with adults and sixth formers.

Eco Club also recently presented to the Senior Leadership Team with their plans for school and are now busy working on their next steps.





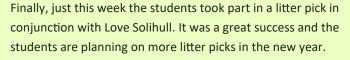


events in your area to help look after the environment – check out <u>Love Knowle Park</u>, <u>Knowle Society</u> and <u>Knowle & Dorridge Lions</u> who all get involved with litter picking in Knowle.

Did you know you can also do litter picking to count towards the volunteering element of your Duke of Edbinburgh Award? If you are working towards a bronze, silver or gold currently, Love Solihull could match you up with a local community leader who can be your assessor for volunteering — e-mail lovesolihull@solihull.gov.uk

for more information.

You can find out more about the Love Solihull initiative via our website: www.lovesolihull.org and follow us on Twitter and Instagram @lovesolihull



Love Solihull had the following to say:

It was so inspiring to join Arden Academy's eco-club to carry out a litter pick inside the school grounds. The pupils came up with plenty of ideas about how to become litter-free and inform other pupils of how to dispose of waste responsibly. I know that the community of Knowle will be very proud of their determination and I am sure the whole school will follow their lead. If any pupils feel inspired and would like to start litter picking in the local community, a parent or guardian can register via the Love Solihull website on your behalf. Once registered, free kit (including litter picker, bag hoop, bags and high-vis vest) is available to collect from your local library - there are even small litter pickers for any younger siblings who want to get involved too!

You can join a local community group or take part in annual



Staff News

This term has been a busy one with staff welcoming new additions to their family. Congratulations to Mr Last, Mr Shah and Mr Dhaliwal who all welcomed babies earlier in the term. Congratulations also to Ms Coniry who welcomed a baby girl to her family and is now on maternity leave.

At the end of this term we will be saying farewell to some of our staff as they move on to pastures new. Miss Avill (Pastoral Support Officer), Miss Dunbar (Teacher of Maths) Mr Hughes (Head of Computing), Mrs Thomas (Teacher of

Science) and Mr Cheung (Teacher of Maths) will all be leaving us. We would like to thank them all for their time and dedication to the Arden students and wish them all the very best in their new roles.

In January we will be welcoming a number of new staff to the family. Mr Cole, Miss Davies and Mr Dixon will all be joining the Maths team. Mr Fleeman, Miss Hanbury and Mr Jennens will be joining Science and Miss Mason will be joining PE. We have already welcomed Mr Evans to the Computing team. We are very much looking forward welcoming them in the New Year.

Student Achievements

We are exceptionally proud of all our students and we are delighted when we hear about their accomplishments outside of school. Please continue to keep us updated. Here are a few of the fabulous stories from this term:

Swimming

Ella Homan (Year 11) was selected to compete in swimming for Team GB at the Summer European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) which took place in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia from 24 to 30 July. It is an incredible achievement as only 40 young athletes were picked to participates across all of the events. Well done Ella!

Ice Hockey

Katie Anderton (Year 9)
has been taking part in
the England National
Team Programme for
Ice Hockey and
competed in trials for
the England Under 15
Girls team.



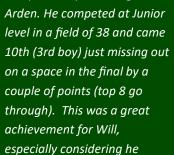


Subsequently, she was also invited to trial for Team GB Under 16's Women in preparation for a tournament in 2023. This is a really exciting time for Katie and we look forward to hearing how she progresses in the new year.

Well done Katie!

Shooting

Will Garner (Year 7)
recently attended the
National Schools Pistol
Championship at
Ellesmere College in
Shropshire representing



normally competes for the pony club at 7m and only attempted 10m for the first time 2 weeks before the championship. Well done Will!



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Waterpolo

Charlotte Turpin (Year 12) spent half term competing in Hungary after being selected as a member of the ESSA (English Schools Swimming Association) Waterpolo team

following trials which took place over the summer. It was a fabulous achievement and a great learning experience for Charlotte who says the team are building their skills and experience ahead of some exciting tournaments in the future. We look forward to hearing more next year. Well done Charlotte!



Sports News Winter Showcase

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



Just this week, over sixty students took part in a 'Winter Showcase' which was a display of all the things they have been working on over the term in their co-curricular clubs. Students performed in dance, gymnastics and cheerleading. It was a wonderful evening and a lovely opportunity for families to come into school and see what the students have been working on.

Well done to all the students for their performances and thank you to Miss Leadbeater for making it happen.

Netball

Our Year 9 Netball team have had a fantastic term. They played in the Solihull tournament, coming second to Solihull school and making it through to the Warwickshire, Solihull and Coventry tournament. We then played at Kings High School, Warwick against 5 teams of a very high standard. The Girls were absolutely fantastic and we won 2 out of our 5 games, only losing by 1-2 points in our other games. I would also like to thank all the parents and supporters who came along on that evening to watch and support the girls, you were also fantastic.

Miss Leadbeater

The Year 7 team attended their first league competition in November. Miss Rhodes said that they were fantastic all evening which shows as they won all 3 games. The results were: 8-2 vs Tudor Grange, 7-1 vs Solihull School and 7-0 vs Alderbrook.

In December, 16 of the Year 7 Netball players attended the Netball Skills Competition. Both the A and B teams won their sections (by completing the 5 set drills in the quickest times). The results were: A team - 5.01 (winning by 45 seconds) and B team – 6.15 (beating their round 1 time by 9 seconds, and the other times by 48 seconds). Super work girls, well done!

Basketball

In November, Year 8 students took on Tudor Grange in their first game of the season.

Both teams had a nervous start whilst they navigated the court in the intense game atmosphere. But after the first basket was scored by Olivia Smith, the whole team settled into a closely fought game.

The final score came down to a 27-26 win due to a last minute basket from Olivia Smith again. Well done to all of the team who worked brilliantly together throughout the match.

Girls Football

This year Arden entered the girls into the National Cup, playing 11 a-side. This is something that the girls have absolutely loved and have worked extremely hard for. We had students from Year 8/9 and 10 playing within the fixtures. We had a great first game winning 6-2 but the girls unfortunately lost in the second round 4-2. However this has been a great experience for the girls and we will continue to push and enter every year.

Miss Dunbar and Miss Leadbeater have also been working with the girls to fundraise for kit and equipment to support the girls football teams moving forward. They have been working in partnership with delivery company DPS who are fund-matching whatever the teams raise. We are very grateful for their contributions. We can't wait to show you the results of the fundraising next term.

Football

It has been a busy term for our football teams who have been getting underway with their competitions.

The Year 8 team have been doing well in the National Cup. They played Southam College in their Round 1 match where they won 5-1. The team then travelled all the way to Banbury for their Round 2 fixture at Warriner School. Fortunately, after such a long journey, the Arden team won the match 11-0. The team all played well and contributed to the result but special mention to Alfie Pease who scored 5 of our goals. Well done to all the team.

The Year 10 team have had some great success this term also. They played absolutely brilliantly in their National Cup fixture and won 5-1 to progress to the 4th round. Scorers in the game were Lewis Meaden, Cian Quinn, Lucas Bailey, Harry Supperstone, Theo Busby (who was also Man of the Match). A couple of weeks later they played their 4th round match. The boys played extremely well, battling hard and taking their chances to come away with a 6-2 win against Aldridge School. There were goals from Harry Supperstone, Lucas Bailey, Cian Quinn, Dheyaan Gill & Theo Busby. This is a really great achievement for the boys and progressing to the 5th round means they are one of the last 64 schools in the country of 690 that entered this year. Well done to all of the players.

The 6th form team have also been playing in the National Cup. They played Myton School in the 2nd round and won 4-0.

It is not always possible to include the details of every sporting fixture which takes place in school in the newsletter. More year groups and teams will be featured in our Spring edition. May we take this opportunity to thank parents / guardians for supporting our co-curricular sports offer.