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## Charitable Giving

Arden's long tradition of giving to those in need has continued this term.

Following the earthquake in Turkey & Syria we held a non-uniform day on Friday 17th February.

We are pleased to announce that the day raised £4693.39 which was sent to the DEC appeal. A fantastic sum that is sure to make a difference in the lives of those that were directly affected by the earthquake.

Thank you for your generosity.

# ad altiora news

ISSUE 42

SPRING TERM 2023

## Springing into Summer

It seems an eternity ago since we began the new term with our first Prize Giving for two years. This event really made for a terrific start to term as we were able to celebrate and reflect on the great successes of our Year 11 and Year 13 cohorts of 2022, capped off by a thought provoking input from former student Sarah Millbanks.



Guest speaker  
Sarah Millbanks



Headteacher's Prize Winners 2022

Year 11—Charlie Delaney

Year 13—Melissa Shirley

Continuing the theme of seeing key parts of our school calendar return we have also enjoyed seeing the return of some of our residential overseas trips. The Paris trip and the Austrian Ski trip at February half term have really reminded us of what a crucial role our school visits play in providing the widest possible education and range of opportunity for our students.

As you will read throughout this newsletter, the opportunities and successes that our students have had this term are vast. We very much hope that you will enjoy the insight into the vibrant and diverse nature of our daily school life. From careers fairs to sporting success and author visits to charity work I am sure you will note with as much pride as I do the great opportunities that are afforded to our students.

Mr Warwood, Associate Headteacher

The Arden Futures Team put together Arden's first *College Fair*, which took place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Colleges represented include Solihull College, Solihull Sixth Form College, Stratford Upon Avon College, Access Creative College, Warwickshire College Group and West Midlands Young Engineers Academy. All of Year 10 and Year 11 students interested in vocational study, were in attendance.

Exposing our students to a variety of FE providers is a really important part of helping them work out their routes to success! Also on hand was our Enterprise Advisor, Brad Parkes, providing expert world of work advice which linked directly with vocational courses on offer.

Current Year 9 students should look forward to their College Fair this time next year! The Future will be here before you know it!



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



## Computing department—Game Jam

The computing department has some exciting news to share about two extraordinary university students who recently visited Arden, Ellie Cooper and Stephen Holmes. They recently organized a game jam for our year 7 and year 8 pupils, where the students were divided into teams and asked to develop games using the Scratch programming language.

The game jam took place over this term. Ellie and Stephen coached the students, teaching them the basics of game development using Scratch. The students worked tirelessly, brainstorming, designing, and programming

their games. The outcome was nothing short of impressive. The games were not only creative, fun, and engaging, but also had multiple groups of pupils working collaboratively.

The game jam was a huge success, and we are proud of Ellie and Stephen for their initiative and dedication and wish them the best in the final year of their courses, Ellie is currently pursuing her BSc in Computer Science with Digital Technology Partnership with PwC, while Stephen is pursuing his Integrated Masters in Computer Science at the University of Birmingham.



## Maths Challenge

This term over 250 students from year 9 and year 10 participated in the intermediate maths challenge, a competition across the UK with questions designed to make students think to solve interesting problems. A number of students achieved certificates but a huge well done to Veronica Chung for the best score in year 9 and to Vaari Goenka for the best score in year 10!

The junior maths challenge (for students in year 7 and 8) will take place after Easter so remember to use the google classrooms for further practice but there is a question below for you to start with!

Each row, each column and each of the bold 2 by 3 rectangles in the grid has to contain each of the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 (one number in each cell).

What number should go in the cell marked  $x$ ?

A 1      B 2      C 3      D 4      E 6

			$x$	5
			6	
	1	2		
	3	4		
	4		3	
2				1

## Paris Trip

We were thrilled to be able to put a residential trip on over half term to Paris.

90 Year 10s joined 10 staff in visiting the Science Museum in Paris, Eurodisney and a sightseeing trip around this beautiful city.

Massive thanks to Miss Cooper for leading on this trip.



## Warwick Future Economist

Congratulations to Harrison Sargeant and Jacob Jones (both in Year 12) who recently entered the Warwick University Future Economist essay writing competition.

They both wrote an essay on the title "How can nudge theory be used to increase voter participation in the next general election?" (Behavioural Economics)

They both did extremely well, with Harrison being awarded first prize (against a national field) and Jacob was awarded second prize.

Well done to both!

# A Level Politics trip to Westminster

At the start of the term, year 12 and year 13 Politics A-Level students had a day trip to London, where we spent the morning having a tour around Parliament followed by a meeting and behind the scenes tour with our MP Saqib Bhatti. In the afternoon students took part in an interactive workshop at Europe House, where they assessed and debated the relationship between the UK and EU post-Brexit. This is always the highlight of our course as students are able to see all of their classroom theory put into a real-world context.



## Poetry Slam

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, ninety Year 7 students participated in a poetry slam with local poet, Spoz.

The day started with some nervous Year 7s being exceptionally quiet, but Spoz soon warmed them up with some jokes and conversations about what poetry really is – rhythm and rap, not always rhyme!

In groups, students spent time co-writing a poem about chocolate and some brave students performed in front of their year – two groups even volunteering for a poetry battle!

After lunch came the real challenge – the teams worked together on a poem about the environment, and practiced their performance skills. By the end, every single student had stood in front of their peers and confidently performed their piece. Miss O'Brien, who organised the event, was incredibly proud of every student who had the bravery to stand on stage, and impressed by the clever lyrics and performance skills.

Finally, Mrs Bhurra, Miss Riley and Miss O'Brien had to judge alongside Spoz and choose six students who would be Arden's top team and go on to compete in the regional final in Redditch. It was a difficult decision but they settled on six fabulous students whose performance skills, lyric writing and teamwork impressed us the most.

We are looking forward to attending the grand final at The Palace Theatre, Redditch, competing against other schools in the West Midlands at the end of the month.



# Past student achievements

It is always fantastic to hear about how students get on once they leave Arden. Here are a few highlights that we have heard about recently.

Brandon Khela—current BCFC professional

Brandon left Arden in 2021 to take up a contract with Birmingham City. It was great to see Brandon appearing on the BBC's Football Focus show on 21st January. He was part of a group of players that were talking about football and faith.

You can see the show here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/av/football/64268354>



Calam Bruce— PhD

Following his time at Arden, Calam went to Aberystwyth University and achieved his undergraduate degree in Biochemistry. He continued studying there, achieving an MSc in Parasitology in particular dog heart worm, where he discovered new mosquito vectors for the disease.

Subsequently, against fierce competition from students from other universities, he was awarded the opportunity at the University of the Westminster to undertake his doctorate thesis in "the evolution of immune genes in tsetse flies (Glossina) and insights into tsetse- symbiont-trypanosome interactions."

We are looking forward to hearing where his journey takes him next.



We were thrilled to hear about Tom Parkin's recent acceptance onto a medicine course at Cardiff University. This was always his first choice whilst studying here but that door did not open immediately. He didn't accept this as the end of his medical journey. He spent a year in the Solomon Islands doing volunteer work, completed an undergraduate degree in Medical Pharmacology and has just been accepted as a post-graduate onto the course of his dreams. A fantastic story of perseverance and determination. Well done Tom!

Tom says "I'm extremely excited to start along a career path to becoming a doctor and my advice to anyone starting to decide about their future and unsure about medicine, I absolutely recommend exploring your options through a Pharmacology/ Biomedical degree before encountering on a long journey in medical school as this will provide you with a lot experience to make an informed decision."



Please keep us informed about what the students do as they leave Arden, so we can keep this as a regular feature in future newsletters. Send your email to [office@arden.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:office@arden.solihull.sch.uk)

## Eco Club

The Eco Club continue in their bid to create a better planet for us all. They are involved in several projects, which we are excited to see complete next term. The following students recently pitched to the council to bid for money to run an eco-campaign:

George Burns, Lola Barker, Phoebe Davies, Aleena Dharamshi, Teddy Wright, Maelie Dubreux, Alice Henderson, Zak Spittle, Alfie Williamson, Emily Cox, Ketaki Chaubal, Vaari Goenka

Our Futures team have been so busy they have decided to produce their own newsletter. Click on the logo to find the latest edition, if you haven't seen it already:



## Cultural exchange trip



Since September 2022, Mr Masson (Head of PE) and Miss Dreznin (Modern Languages) have led on a Sports Culture Exchange for Sixth Form. Drawing on Mr Masson's links through the Erasmus scheme, this exchange has been an opportunity for some of Sixth Formers to experience school life and sports culture in Europe. Our partnership links up with Niva-Kaija School in Nivala in north-western Finland, and Timrå School near Sundsvall, north-eastern Sweden.



In September, Mr Masson and Miss Munn-Smith accompanied a group of seven Year 12s and 13s to Finland. The group had an enthralling visit to the country's capital Helsinki, where they visited the Olympic Stadium (host to the 1952 games) and the Sports Museum. They also took a ferry trip to the island Suomenlinna, with the chance to try out the Finnish throwing pin game Mölkkö. For the second half of the trip, the group travelled six hours north by train to Nivala. Arden pupils were met by the host students and their families. Over the course of the next two days, students and staff from Arden and from Sweden were integrated into life at Niva-Kaija School, attending lessons, enjoying meals with the host students and their peers and getting to know one another over evening meals and activities. Students also got to practise the Finnish game of pesäpallo (similar to baseball) and go ice-skating.

In the second phase of the exchange in January, Mr Masson and Miss Dreznin, along with another group of seven Sixth Formers, journeyed to Sundsvall to reunite with the Finnish and Swedish schools for four days in Timrå. In the thick of Swedish winter, students and staff got fully stuck into the winter sports culture in the area, trying cross-country skiing, ice hockey, floorball (an indoor sport similar to hockey) and outdoor survival skills. We also attended a game with Timrå's national ice hockey team in their stadium, located right next to the school.

For the final stage, students visited Arden in the final week of term in March. Just as we had been hosted in the homes of Swedish and Finnish families, visiting students were warmly welcomed into the homes of our pupils. Our visitors experienced lessons at Arden and were taken around Birmingham. Students and staff also met with Mr Warwood to share their experiences of the exchange. They had the chance to try out a variety of British sports, including cricket, rugby and netball at Arden, as well as field hockey at Solihull School.

We are incredibly proud to have facilitated this opportunity for our students. In just a few days in each country respectively, the strength of connection between our pupils and their European counterparts was plain to see, not only in their interactions at school, but also in the hosts' homes and in the wider community. At a time of unease for the world, it was extremely heartening to see pupils throw themselves into new experiences and develop important life skills through cross-cultural collaboration and friendship.

Here are a few testimonials from this year's participating pupils and parents:

'When I first heard about the trip, I knew I wanted to do it, but was so nervous about staying with another family. I think that can be seen as overwhelming to a lot of people. However, the families are amazing and so appreciative of having you stay with them, making you feel so comfortable in their homes...I wish we could do it all again.'

'My child really enjoyed the trip; he has made friends for life in a foreign country and widened his cultural experience'

'I definitely recommend the experience as the communication and networking skills learned from this trip are invaluable'

'Simply put, the best time of my entire life.'

Special thanks must go to Mrs McCrone, Ms Duncan and Miss Cox for all of their support throughout the year.

Mr Masson and Miss Dreznin



## Snow Day



We had the unusual event of a snow enforced closure earlier this term, which caught us all by surprise in the middle of March! With our increased abilities to remote teach we were able to keep the learning going. However, there was still time for a bit of fun in the snow. Here are a few of the images that were sent in to Miss Berry.

## Accelerated Reader



Arden has been awarded a plaque for becoming an Accelerated Reader Partner School. This award recognises our dedication to promoting reading and literacy among our students.

As an Accelerated Reader Partner School, Arden has committed to promoting a love for literacy with our students and to support other schools with training. This is a great opportunity for us to share our experience and knowledge with other educators and help them promote a love of reading in their own schools.

The plaque will be displayed within our school to celebrate this achievement and serve as a reminder of our ongoing commitment to promoting reading and literacy among our students.

## Nick Lyons visit

These photos were taken when past pupil Nick Lyons returned to Arden to share his expertise. Nick is a local butcher in his family business Eric Lyons, in Knowle.

Each year Nick visits the year 10 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition classes to demonstrate chicken portioning. This is a skill required for the practical element of this course and his guidance is invaluable.

All the pupils enjoyed his attention to detail; and feedback with scores. The pupils went on to prepare a dish using their chicken portions.

Thank you once again Nick for coming in to help us achieve such high standards.



# World Book Day

On Friday 3rd March, Arden celebrated World Book Day in style with a visit from author and actor Joseph Elliott. Elliott delivered an engaging assembly to Year 7 students where students were thrilled to learn that Elliott played Cook in the CBeebies show, Swashbuckle, which they enjoyed in their younger years. Grace Parkes, a Year 7 student, said, "I adored his engaging presentation, displaying the main characters, and that we got to choose our role and clan. Joseph's enthusiasm would make a reluctant reader more eager to explore the vast world of books and the wonders of reading."

After the assembly, students were invited to the library for a bookmark signing, where they eagerly queued up to meet Joseph. Millie Seel expressed her gratitude for the event, saying, "It was really fun and exciting thank you for the opportunity to meet an author."

After lunch, Year 9 students participated in a Scriptwriting Workshop which gave students the chance to learn about the art of scriptwriting and how to create engaging characters and storylines.

The final event of the day was a Creative Writing Workshop for Year 8 students. This workshop encouraged creativity and imagination and gave students the chance to flex their writing skills.

World Book Day is a global celebration of books and reading, and Arden's celebration was no exception. The day's events encouraged students to engage with literature and explore their own creativity. Elliott's visit also encouraged inclusivity and understanding. Year 7 student, Ed Burrows said, "That being dyslexic isn't a bad thing and it's just who you are."

Miss O'Brien



## National Reading Champions Quiz

On Tuesday 28th March, Arden students took part in the National Reading Champions Quiz, pitting their knowledge of children's literature against twenty other schools in the West Midlands region.

The Arden teams were made up of Aleena Dharamshi, Dylan O'Donnell, Lola Barker, Nathan Large on Arden Team A, and Beth Bates-Gamble, Charlotte Howden, Daniel Shooter, and Pearl Barker on Arden Team B. Suri Goenka was also present as a reserve and a fabulous assistant for Miss O'Brien whilst setting up the quiz virtually. The students attended practices at lunchtimes and after school for months prior, honing their knowledge of children's literature and preparing for the competition.

The competition was fierce, with each team demonstrating their passion for reading and literary knowledge. After a fun but challenging morning, the final results were announced. Arden Team A achieved an impressive 7th place, with Arden Team B coming in at a respectable 14th place. The students involved showed great dedication and enthusiasm throughout the competition, and their participation is a testament to Arden's commitment to promoting a love of reading and literacy among its students.

Congratulations to both teams!

Miss O'Brien

# Ski Trip 2023

45 Yr.10 students, 45 Yr.11 students, and 11 members of staff all arrived at Arden on Friday 17th Feb for the beginning of a ski trip experience of a lifetime. By lunchtime, we were departing Arden for the start of what was to be a 28-hour journey to Flachau in Austria.

The students were delighted to finally get off the coach, have a shower and have a hot meal on the Saturday evening. Over the week, the students were treated to fantastic facilities in the hotel: a big sports hall, basketball hoops, football goals, tennis table, basement chill-out area, TV area, delicious all-you-can-eat meals every day.



All students had the privilege of visiting six different ski resorts, across the Ski Amade region, over the course of the week: Altenmarkt, Eben, Flachau, Flachauwinkl, Radstadt, and Zauchensee. Despite the warm weather, the snow was great to ski on. The weather was wonderful, with sun out for most of the week. The students were had an unbelievable time in their ski groups, building upon the skills they'd learnt from Mr. Evans and Mr. Pillinger during their time at Ackers. Their confidence on skis grew hugely over the week which was a delight to see. The students were skiing from the top of the mountain to the bottom multiple times over the course of each day. They would all be eating their lunches at the top of the mountain in the blazing sun, chilling with their friends, surrounded by snow. The students even enjoyed the competitive spirit of a slalom race on their penultimate day of skiing, with the three fastest skiers in each group winning themselves a medal. Certificates were presented to all students for their successful completion of their week of skiing during an evening disco we'd organised for all the students to celebrate their amazing week of skiing. The legendary night time tobogganing was one of absolute highlights for most students as an adrenaline-fuel experience for them all. But the views from the top of the mountains, and other countless experiences, will certainly be ingrained into the memories of all the students and staff that went and will be remembered over countless retellings of ski trip stories for years to come.

The students were an absolute delight over the week, and I'm glad that the school was able to give this opportunity and experience to all of those students that went. A massive thank you must also go to my fellow members of staff who gave up their half term break away from their families and friends for this experience to happen. Please join me in thanking: Ms. Blenkinsop, Ms. Hyett, Miss. Thomas, Miss. Darcy, Miss. Mason, Mr. Eades, Mr. Singh, Mr. Reed, Mr. Humphries, Mr. King, and, of course, Mr. Evans.

There will be a 'Ski Trip Video' evening on Friday 28th April for all of the students, and their parents, who came on the ski trip to attend to watch the ski trip video that Mr. Singh has created. More details about this will come out to all families involved after Easter. Mr Fletcher



## Staff News

We would like to offer our congratulations to the following staff who have had babies this term. Mrs Hammond had a baby boy in January and Miss Eales and Mrs Pratt both had baby girls in February. We wish them well in the start of this exciting phase.

The end of term also brings about some staff changes with Miss Lauder (Science) and Mrs Johnson (MFL) taking up new roles in other schools after Easter. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their work with us here at Arden.

We are pleased to be joined after Easter by Miss Claymore (RE), Miss Fay (MFL) and Mrs Yaqub (Science)

In other staff news, a staff parkrun group was set up recently and 8 staff met up, ran the 5km parkrun at Brueton park. Students from the school regularly participate too and were pleased to see and support the staff. Future events are planned at local parkrun destinations such as Cannon Hill Park and Warwick.

The first EVER Arden staff Easter Egg Hunt took place. Huge thanks to Miss Hyett for arranging the chocolate-rich early morning run around school.

## 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:

### Taekwondo

Dawud Ahmed (Year 8) and Yusuf Ahmed (Year 10) are continuing their Taekwondo journey. At the recent Midlands Championships, Yusuf placed 2nd in his age category and Dawud won gold! They went on to compete in the National Championships and both won Silver. The journey continues onto the International Championships in July.



### Golf

Jack Hewitson (Year 10) has been working hard at his golf. He is winning men's competitions at his club and his handicap is coming down all the time.

He has been invited to join the Warwickshire U16s County Squad and has enrolled in the Warwickshire Opens.

Well done Jack!

### Swimming

Ella Homan (Year 11) competed at the Warwickshire County Swimming Championships in January. She became the open age county champion in both the 400m freestyle and the 100m freestyle, retaining her titles from last year. Well done Ella!

## Arden's Inaugural Squash Team

The Year 7 squash team had a tournament against Solihull Arden club and Sutton Squash club and had some fantastic matches.

It was their first experience of competitive squash. The whole event had a lovely atmosphere and they played really well showing good sportsmanship and sporting values.

Thank you to Mr Goldenfeld and Miss Blenkinsop for their continued support in the running of this club.

## Rashford Run

Thank you for all of the contributions that were made towards the PE departments Rashford Run initiative. The foodbank that received the donations were thrilled.



# Sports News

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

 @ArdenPE

## Netball

The year 7 netball team went to the U12 Solihull Borough Netball Tournament.

After breezing through the group stage winning all matches (13-2, 21-0 & 23-0). They were through to the semi-finals where they faced a tough Tudor Grange side. The game went goal for goal but Arden worked hard to pull ahead to win 7-6!

In the final we faced a well drilled Solihull side. The game went scoreless for the first few minutes with many interceptions being made by both sides. At half time Solihull we're up 3-0. In the second half the girls worked tirelessly to pull back the score to 2-3. Unfortunately there was no time to pull back the final goal.

The girls were positive throughout all games and worked well in defence and attack with mid court players feeding the ball through. They should be very proud to have come 2nd against a tough side.

Congratulations to the following students: Orla Cole (Player of the Tournament), Darcie Smith (Player of the Tournament), Beth Harriman, Bethany Lunt, Alexa Richards, Ruby Morris, Lois Conduit, Ada Masson, Hannah Cronin

Miss Rhodes



*It is not always possible to include the details of every sporting fixture which takes place in school in the newsletter. May we take this opportunity to thank parents / guardians for supporting our co-curricular sports offer.*

## Indoor Rowing

Arden took four teams over to Langley for an Indoor Rowing Competition. The Year 9 & 10 boys rowing team finished in 2nd overall and had a very close and exciting relay race. The girls team finished 4th in this age group. The year 7 girls team did very well to come second, with the Year 7 & 8 boys finishing 5th.

Year 7 girls team: Ada Masson, Hannah Cronin, Beth Lunt, Beth Harriman

Year 8/9/10 girls team: Emily Cox, Lola Barker, Annabelle Lavender, Tiffany Fletcher

Year 7/8 boys team: Sam Dyson, Daniel Brennan, Harry Justice, Oscar Thomas

Year 9/10 boys team: Max Warrender, Will Irvine, Charlie Baden, Sam Marfleet

## Solihull Indoor Athletics Championships 2023

The indoor athletics club is one of the biggest clubs in school, providing an opportunity for a range of skills to be developed in busy lunchtime training sessions

In the recent Solihull Championships the Year 7 & 8 girls both WON GOLD, the Year 7 boys achieved SILVER and the Year 8 boys came 5th.

Massive congratulations to all who took part.



## Football

The year 7 football team have had a very positive season to date. They reached the last 32 of the National Cup and were knocked out of the Birmingham cup at the semi-final stage. However they have won 13 out of the 15 games and are in the West Midlands cup semi finals as well as topping their Solihull league with the top 2 sides progressing to the semis. 18 players have represented the A team but another 20 have played for the B team in an inter school event. 12 different players have managed to get on the scoresheet so far for the first team. After Easter they will get to contest the semi-final games.

The year 8 football team capped off another productive season with a fine win in the final of the u13 Birmingham Cup played at Bodymoor Heath in front of around 50 eager spectators. The team won the toss and elected to play with the wind in the first half. A strong cross wind in their favour allowed them to settle quickly and they pushed a strong Tudor Grange side back without creating a clear chance. However after 11 mins midfielder Jamie Godfrey hit a well-controlled right foot shot into the corner of their net to open the scoring. This gave Arden confidence and they pressed for a second. This duly came after Jamie Bythell scored after a scramble in the box. A third after 26 mins followed as Captain Joe Fox hit a left foot half volley into the corner and TJ poached a goal on the stroke of half time to make it 4-0. After the break and against the windy conditions Arden struggled to be as dominant but whilst Katy Scott and Harry Justice at the back were resolute in their defending, their lead was intact. As the game drew to a conclusion the opposition pinched a consolation goal but Arden responded immediately through a second goal for MOM Jamie Bythell. As the final whistle they team congratulated each other on retaining the cup and collected medals and the trophy in front of excited parents. Thanks to the organisers at Birmingham FA and Aston Villa for hosting and Ben Chapman in y13 for his assistance with the team over the past 2 years.

Dr Cannadine