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ISSUE 10

SEPTEMBER 2017

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Transition

Our Senior pupils have been busy at the start of this academic year. Not only have they been acting as "Human Sat Navs", collecting the Year 7s from one lessons and dropping them off at their next lesson, they have also been starting the induction process for next year's Year 7 pupils. With only a few days' notice they were asked to prepare a sketch to give the Year 6 pupils and their parents a flavour of what a day at Arden is like. They did a tremendous job, performing at Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath. The feedback from pupils and parents was terrific; a really great start to the transition process.

A bright start to the new school year

The new school year has been a hive of busyness. The students have come back from their Summer holidays refreshed and ready for the exciting year ahead. We have spent time over the past few weeks reflecting on the achievements of last year and we are very proud of the fantastic exam results of the Class of 2017, especially when we consider the huge upheavals in the examination system which these students have had to endure. As much as we look back, we must always look forward and we are excited about the opportunities that the next academic year will bring. Our new pupils in Year 7 have settled in well and are finding their feet both academically and socially. Students new to our Sixth Form are also doing well and have very quickly become part of the Arden 'Family'. We would like to thank every member of our community who has helped to contribute to the wonderful start to the new year. I look forward to sharing news of many exciting events and experiences as the year progresses.

Mr Murphy
Arden Principal

Open Evening

It was a fantastic showcase night for Arden on Thursday 28th September as we welcomed almost 1500 prospective pupils and their parents into school. The school looked and felt wonderful and our student helpers were an absolute credit. Our dedicated staff went the extra mile to show our visitors what a special place Arden is. Many thanks to everyone who supported Open Evening in some way.



South Africa

Over the Summer holiday eight intrepid Sixth Form students travelled to South Africa for this year's partnership with Schitsdrift school. The students had a fantastic time and found their experiences teaching the youngsters in the school particularly rewarding. Student Alex Jenner recalled 'Over the course of three weeks at the school, we held a sports day, a class election and a music festival. We worked around the language barrier and bonded with our classes, delivering a range of different lessons'.

Every year the Arden students leave a legacy gift with

money raised through their fundraising efforts. This year the theme was 'Regeneration' and the students painted the classroom and bought resources

such as new cork display boards. They are planning more purchases for the school in the coming months. The students would like to thank everybody who donated to their fundraising cause and helped them to make this legacy possible.



Charity News

The first Charity Day of the new academic year has been set for **Friday 24th November 2017**. This will be a non-uniform day for students in aid of the charity Solihull Mind who offer a wide range of services providing advice, information and support to people with mental health problems. More details to follow.



Tommy Godwin Charity

A huge thank you to all the students who baked cakes for the charity bike ride on the weekend of 23rd September 2017. The event was a great success with a number of students and staff involved, both participating and helping out behind the scenes.



Staff go the extra mile

A number of members of staff have been raising money for good causes recently. In the holiday Miss Potter completed an amazing London to Paris cycle ride in aid of mental health charity Mind. In total Miss Potter raised £1,280.95!

Continuing the cycling theme, Miss Sheppard completed the extraordinary 100 mile Birmingham Velo last weekend, spending a total of 7 1/2 hours on her bike.

Earlier this month Mr Kilbey took part in the Great North Run and raised over £700 for the Alzheimer's Society. Mr Kilbey



would also like to mention that he ran a personal best time of 1:33:04 finishing 1,288 places behind Mo Farah out of 55,000 starters!

Well done to everyone on their fantastic achievements.

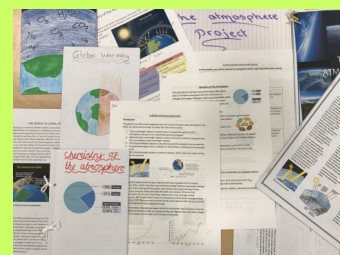


Chemistry of Atmospheres Project

Over the Summer holiday all the students moving from Year 10 into Year 11 completed a project on the chemistry of the Earth's atmosphere. All of the Year 11 teachers have been 'blown away' with the amount of time and effort that has been put into these pieces of work. Working independently the students have clearly learnt a considerable amount about sources and the effects of atmospheric pollutants and the Greenhouse Effect. Most were also able to present a balanced argument, evaluating evidence concerning the likelihood of Global Warming.

Some of the very best projects have received a personal commendation, on top of that we wanted to share with the whole school community how impressed we were with the work that has been produced.

Mrs Lennon, Head of Science



Twycross Zoo

On Friday September 22nd, fourteen Year 13 Biology students visited Twycross Zoo to learn about different methods of conservation. Throughout the day they attended two workshops and conducted their own research on animals within the zoo to study their conservation state, and the programmes that were being implemented to maintain genetic diversity within their restricted populations.

It was a rewarding and enjoyable trip in which the students excelled in applying their knowledge to new, unfamiliar contexts.

Mr Butler



Jaguar Land Rover

Year 11 GCSE Business students have been out and about visiting Jaguar Land Rover this week. In a packed visit they got to have a tour of the production facility to observe all of the different methods of production that are used. They were also able to see how the assembly line operates.

It was a really valuable visit which has enabled the students to put their classroom learning into a practical context.



Arden AIM: Able and Inspired Minds

At Arden we encourage students to recognise and realise their potential in a range of different areas, from high academic outcomes to sporting prowess and from active citizenship to artistic excellence. To support this we have introduced the AIM (Able and Inspired Minds) framework, the underlying principle of which lies in aspirational expectations.

AIM students are those who demonstrate great potential to be highly successful. Once identified, we will support AIM students through a range of different learning and extra-curricular activities, as well as progress monitoring and, where needed, personalised intervention strategies. Through these, we aim to stretch, challenge and extend our young people to secure in-depth thinking and learning and advanced skills for learning.

At Arden we understand that 'success' can be defined in a range of ways and, as such, divide AIM students into three broad categories, 'High Attainers', 'Ambassadors' and 'Excellence'. As always, the involvement of parents/carers in supporting the learning and progress of our young people is invaluable and the AIM project will be at its most effective through student-school-home interaction.

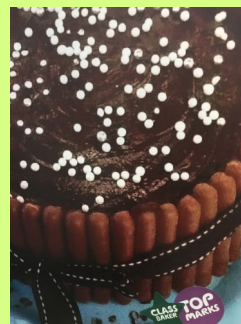
Elements of ArdenAIM, including Take It Further, the TIF Zone, Ambassador articles and Excellence Spotlights, will be regular features of forthcoming newsletters. Watch this space!

Miss Fallis



MacMillan Coffee Morning

Mrs Herbert organised a fantastic MacMillan coffee morning at Arden. Staff and students made an array of cakes and biscuits to support this fantastic cause.



Congratulations to Jessie Humby and Grace Monteiro in Year 8 who won this year's student Bake-Off competition. You can see a picture

of their fantastic winning cake on the left.

A total of £320 had been raised so far. Thank you to everyone who has donated or who helped to make the cakes.



Extra-curricular activities

There are over seventy extra-curricular clubs and activities which currently run at Arden. Our dedicated staff have put together an extensive programme ranging from Rugby to Dance, Choir to Brass Band, and Origami to Eureka! There really is something for everyone. For a full timetable of what is on offer see our website:

<http://www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/assets/Uploads/Extra-Curricular-2017-2018.pdf>

Early Start for Sports Enthusiasts

Our pupils have been getting up bright and early to take part in our before-school sports clubs. Mrs Hull was delighted to see so many students at Hockey Club, while over fifty girls turned up for the first Netball Club of the year. Badminton Club has also proved really popular. Let's hope the enthusiasm for sport continues and that this is another successful year for Arden's teams.



Ceramics Club

The ceramics club started off the new school year with a huge gathering of willing and eager potters-in-the-making. Over thirty enthusiastic students arrived at Mr. Fletcher's art room to learn and discover what it takes to become a master Arden Ceramicist. The students, ranging from Year 7 to Year 10, have started manipulating clay into small rollers that will be transformed through having engraved patterns all around the outer edge. These individual delicacies will allow the student potters to imprint continuous patterns into slabs of clay.

Over the course of the year, the Arden Ceramicists will be creating hanging Christmas decorations, coasters, decorative tiles, clocks and bird houses. Stay tuned to find out how the Arden Ceramicists get over the course of the year.

Ceramics club runs every Tuesday after school in M6. Students from all years are invited to attend.



History Club

The first project of the year for History Club is to design and make a Roman shield. Once they have been made the pupils will be re-enacting a Roman testudo.

History Club is run by Miss Atkins and Mr Humphries every Tuesday lunchtime in M17. All pupils in Year 7 or 8 are welcome to attend.



Table Tennis Club

Over fifty pupils attended the first Table Tennis club of the year. Dr. Cannadine was overwhelmed with the turnout and even had to set up a mini-table so that everyone could have a go.

Table Tennis club runs every Thursday after school in the Dance Studio. All pupils in Years 7-9 are invited to attend.



Sports News

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

 @ArdenPE

Thank You

A huge thank you to everyone who brought in Sainsbury's Active Fit vouchers last year. We have been able to get a fantastic range of equipment with your generous donations.



Rugby

The new Rugby season has started extremely well for our Year 10 team. In the first round of matches we were drawn against King Edwards VI Aston. The Arden team won by a landslide victory of 58-0.

Our Sixth Form team followed up this impressive result with a 22-19 win over King Edwards VI Aston themselves. It looks like it could be a successful season for our boys.

Netball

Congratulations to our Year 9 Netball team who recently played in their first tournament of the year. They beat Heart of England, Tudor Grange and Langley on their way to the Semi-Finals. They were beaten there by Solihull School who were the eventual tournament winners and were helped by their County Team representatives. A fantastic start for our girls!

Well done also to Millie Cox in Year 13 who umpired brilliantly during the tournament.

Athletics

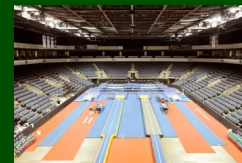
We are delighted that Jamie Russell in Year 10 has recently competed in the English Schools Junior Boys Pentathlon event.

Congratulations to Jamie! We look forward to hearing more about his athletics achievements as the year progresses.



Trampolining

Three of our girls have been selected to take part in an international trampolining competition in January. Lottie Mason and Gabi Woodward (Year 9) have been selected alongside Elizabeth Cornforth (Year 10). We are excited to hear how the girls get on and would like to congratulate them on their selection.



Wedding Celebrations and baby news

Huge congratulations to Mr Ball, Miss Duffy-Turner and Miss Tite who all got married over the Summer. Miss Tite's wedding was a real Arden affair as she married her Year 11 Prom date! Miss Tite will now use her married name, Mrs Ellender at school.

Congratulations also go to Mrs Goodridge, who gave birth to a beautiful baby girl in August. Mrs Goodridge is now on maternity leave.



Alumni News

Sophie Hull

Former Arden student Sophie Hull has been named as West Bromwich



Albion FC Women's captain for the 2017-2018 season. What an amazing accolade!

Callum O'Hare

Continuing the football theme, Callum O'Hare made his first team debut for Aston Villa over the Summer. We look forward to seeing Callum's career progress over the next few years.



Fantastic Firsts!

We were delighted to recently receive letters informing us that two Arden Alumni have been awarded First Class degrees.

Thomas King has achieved a First Class degree in English from the University of Leeds and Thomas Hornigold has been awarded a First Class degree in Physics from Merton College, Oxford. What a fantastic achievement for both students; we are all very proud of them.

Polite Reminder

Please can we take this opportunity to remind you to be respectful of our neighbours when visiting Arden. In particular please can car drivers obey the parking regulations outside school and also refrain from blocking the drives of our local residents.

Staff News

We are delighted to welcome the following new teachers to Arden: Mr Burrows and Mr Ryall (Geography); Ms Barracks-Sahota and Mr Lenton (English); Miss Fellows (Maths); Miss Tillsley (Science); Miss Jones (Drama & Media) and Mr Humphries (History).

We are also delighted that the fantastic staff who trained at Arden last year via the School Direct route have successfully gained teacher status and are now fully qualified teachers at Arden: Mr Hussey (Design Technology), Miss Smith (Geography), Miss Atkins (History) and Miss Cockerill (Languages).

Our team of Associate staff has also seen some new appointments and we are delighted to welcome the following new staff: Miss Gyurki (Cover Supervisor) Mr Llewellyn and Mrs Bull (Learning Support Assistants) and Mrs Johnson (Lunchtime Supervisor).

Some staff will soon be moving on to pastures new and we wish them well: Mrs Jenkins (Librarian), after 14 years at Arden, is taking up a part-time post at the new Breast Cancer Haven centre in Solihull and Mr Cunningham (Cover Supervisor) will be moving on to a role supporting children in residential care. A huge thank you to these staff for their commitment and dedication to Arden.

Important dates for October

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| Tuesday 3 rd October | Year 11 Progress coaching (8:45-9:05); all other Years start at 9:05am Year 7 & Year 12 Tutors Consultations (4.30pm-7.30pm) |
| Sunday 8 th October | Arden PTFA Table Top Sale, Arden |
| Friday 6 th October | Year 7 Trip to Walsall Art Gallery (Half year – (A,R,D,E,N) |
| Tuesday 10 th October | Year 7 Parents Meeting – Numeracy (7.00pm) |
| Thursday 12 th October | Year 7 Trip to Walsall Art Gallery (Half year – (S,C,H,O,L) |
| Monday 16 th October | Year 7 'Restart a Heart' CPR Training (am) |
| Thursday 19 th October | Year 11 Parent Consultations (2.45pm-6.30pm) (1/2) * School closes to all students at 2.15pm Principal's Drop in (8.45am-9.30pm) and (4.15pm-5.00pm) |
| Monday 23 rd October to Friday 27 th October | Half Term |
| Tuesday 31 st October | Year 7 Parents Meeting – Literacy TBC (7.00pm) |