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Year 11 Musicians

If you have attended a school concert recently, you may have been privileged to have seen the wonderfully talented **Destination 6** which is a band made up of Year 11 students. Despite having had their education disrupted this year, the students have still been working hard on their music, using social media and other technology to connect with each other.

They write a lot of their own music and are absolutely fantastic. You can see what they have been getting up to here:

https://youtu.be/_qjztS07niw



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

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ISSUE 34

SUMMER TERM 2 2020

Light at the End of the Tunnel

2019-20 will certainly go down as one of the most difficult school years that any child has faced in many, many years. We could not be more proud of the way that our school and community have responded to the challenges that we have all faced. We want to thank you as parents and guardians for all that you have done to support your children educationally, to maintain their engagement and motivation, and to continue to work with us as a school to minimize the impact that this time will have had educationally on our students.

We are really looking forward to seeing our students back in school in September. As I speak to staff around school, they have thoroughly enjoyed working with students in school over the latter stages of this year and are genuinely excited about seeing all of our students back in school based learning. It's been heart warming to see just how much our teachers have missed the daily contact with all of our students.

For now, we wish you a wonderful summer and a good rest.

Mr Warwood, Associate Headteacher

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Arden Academy runs a very successful and popular DofE programme. Students are invited to apply for enrolment onto the Bronze Award at the start of year 9.

Students coming to the end of Year 8 can look into what the Award offers and if they are interested they should find out about it through the DofE website so they are ready to apply at the start of the school year.

The DofE gives students a chance to make a difference, get fit, learn a new skill and get out in the countryside.

Whilst the current restrictions mean some activities have had to be curtailed we are still planning to enable students to do their DofE and have a great time. DofE has

launched

DofEwithadifference to support students to complete activities from home.

There are lots of activities students can do for their DofE from home for Volunteering, Physical and Skill. Don't worry if there are other activities you want to do when restrictions ease because you can change your activity without adding any time.

Why not take a look and then see if you might be interested in applying to take part in the award in September. You can read more about the Volunteering aspect of the award later in the newsletter.



STEM Competition

Back in October 150 Y8 pupils took part in a **Big Ideas** event focused on generating sustainable ideas to solve issues from all around the world. This competition is run by an organisation called **Solutions for the Planet** and the launch day was a great success with all the pupils really enjoying the experience and coming up with some fantastic and very imaginative ideas.

After the launch day, pupils have the option to continue with their big idea, by developing a product, campaign or service that is aimed at solving a problem that they have selected. They have to work in small groups to develop their product and create a business plan which contains a broad range of information from 'What is the Problem', to 'What are the start-up costs and where is the money going to come from'. The pupils are supported by the school STEM team and some external mentors that work with **Solutions for the Planet**. This year we had eleven teams take part and submit an idea into the local competition.

From this, we had four successful teams move through to the regional finals but all of the groups worked very hard, putting in hours and hours of work and creating some amazing business plans and ideas.

The four teams were **Faper**, who wanted to create paper from leaves instead of trees to stop deforestation; **The Tree Toppers**, who developed an adopt a tree solution with an aim to stop deforestation; **Eco Scan**, whose idea was to stop the use of palm oil by creating an app that would allow customers to scan products to inform them of how much palm oil has been used and suggest an alternative product; and **2 Yorkies of the West**, who came up with the idea to collect food waste from companies and schools and use this waste to create bio fuel, therefore stopping all food waste.

The finalists were announced as the school went into lockdown so we were unsure if the competition would continue but **Solutions** created an online platform to enable to pupils to continue. All of the groups took this in their stride and were not fazed at all. They have been working hard over the past three months, improving, adapting and researching their ideas to develop them into viable products and companies and I have been very proud of the work they have completed. Their activities have included creating videos of themselves presenting their ideas, creating adverts and posters and researching in more detail how much their product would cost.

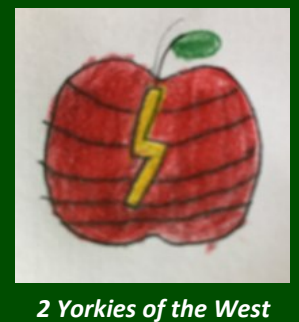
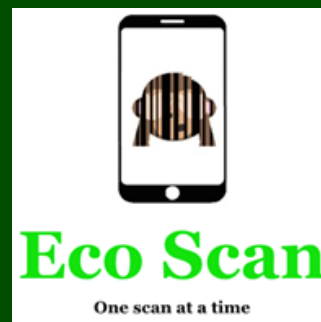
During the week beginning the 6th July, the groups had to take part in a live Q&A with some external judges and they

all performed amazingly well. It was great to see the passion and confidence the pupils had in their ideas. They answered all of the questions in a great amount of detail and, despite the fact that some of the questions were extremely hard, it didn't faze any of them.

Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in making it through the regionals but it doesn't have to end here. The pupils can use the contacts they have collected over the course of the competition and continue to develop their ideas.

These young people could become some of the leading experts in making our future a sustainable one. Again a massive congratulations to all the pupils that have taken part, they should be very proud of themselves as all of Arden staff are.

Mr Hussey



Fundraising

Yet more students have been doing their bit through fundraising over the past term. Sibling pair Ben (Y7) and Holly (Y9) have been raising money for BBC Children in Need by walking 150 miles in one month. Their original aim was to raise £600 but they have actually managed to raise over £700.

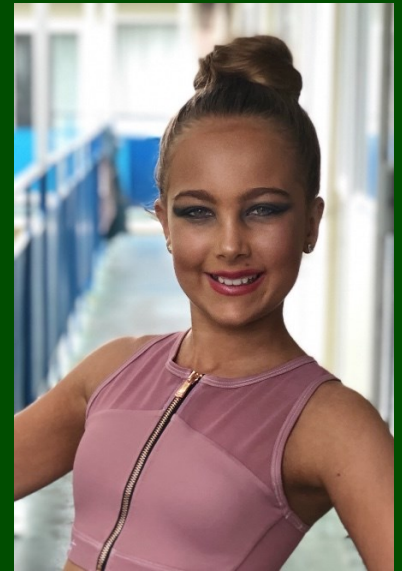
Y8 student Daisy along with her little brother and sister, have run a 'marathon' in their back garden to raise money for St Mary's Hospice and have raised £1150 in total. They decided to do this to help a charity that has helped members of their family because they knew that charities were struggling to raise funds during lockdown.

What an absolutely fabulous achievement. Well done all!

Global Dance Festival

Year 7 pupil Roxanne Cooper has been dancing her way through lockdown and recently entered a GLOBAL DANCE FESTIVAL. With over 1700 entries from 9 different countries, Roxanne has made the final of 15 dancers in the *Slow Dance* section for her age group. She will be representing her dance school, **StarStruck Performing Arts Academy** who are thrilled for Roxanne's achievement.

The first event of its kind for the IDTA (International Dance Teachers Association) was launched to encourage dancers from IDTA schools to keep active through lockdown and retain their strength and technique. Entries filmed their routines at home and only had 1 minute maximum to impress the judges with their steps and movements! Congratulations Roxanne on making it to the final of such a prestigious competition, we have everything crossed!

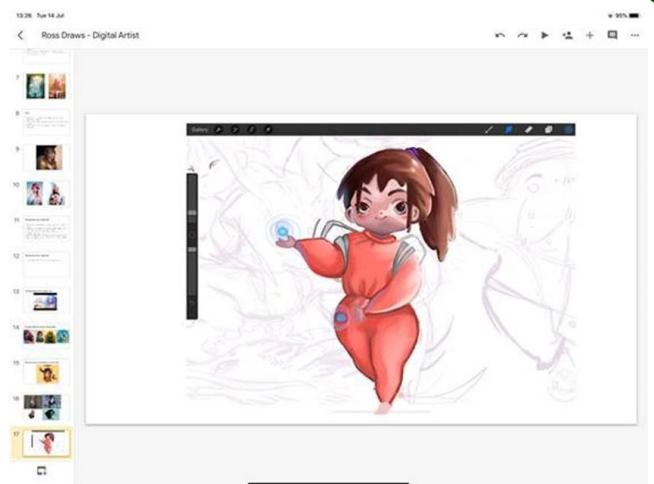


Virtual Work Experience

Year 10 student Sebrina Stein recently took part in a virtual work experience placement along side her school studies. Here is an account of her experience along with some of the fabulous work she produced during the week:

"Last week, I went to work every day and took part in a Virtual Work Experience Week run by Speakers4Schools with a placement at UK National Artists. We all met using Google Meet and I was at work with 9 other students who had a really strong interest in the arts including music, fine art, drama, dance and musical theatre. Vikki, our engagement coordinator, organised everyone and made sure we all got there on time! The days were really busy, interesting, fun and educational with sessions from a conceptual artist - Ant Hamlyn, a musician - Jay Johnson, and a professional dancer called Danni! They were able to give us all lots of advice, stories and tips on how to get on in the arts sector.

I was also able to gain a Trinity Bronze Arts Award and had to produce a lot of material including: mood boards; a PowerPoint presentation on my favourite artist; 'attend' a film and write a critical review (I chose 'Being Elmo'); follow a YouTube tutorial to produce some art; make an Insta advert and create my own video tutorial for others to follow (I showed everyone how to do pedal slides on the harp). We completed 30 hours of work in total and I really did feel that I had been to work each day. It was an amazing opportunity and experience and I'm so grateful that I had the chance to do this during lockdown."



Business Language Champions

Students from across all year groups were encouraged by their languages teachers to get involved in the Business Language Champions competition. **The Virtual Team Challenge** was designed to help students with their languages during the lockdown. The challenge tasked students to make a short news video in one or more languages. They could work in groups of 4 to 6 from any year group and present in any language. It was a great opportunity for the students to experience what it is like to work in a virtual team and test themselves on their technology and communications skills.

We ended up putting two teams forward for the competition and Mr Edgington was thrilled by the quality of the content they produced. Below, Year 7 student Lucy McGuinness gives her account of the experience:

"For the Business Languages Competition we were asked to form teams of 4-6 pupils from Years 7-11. I joined a team with 3 others from Year 10. In my team we had to make a video in a foreign language explaining how we were managing life in lockdown. We had different roles including a news reader, journalist, reporter, interviewer and interviewee. We met together on Zoom where we decided who would do what roles and rehearsed what we wanted to say.

When we thought we were ready we filmed the full video (after a few tries). When we got our final take one of my team members edited the video and added subtitles at the end. Because it took us a few tries we thought the judges would like to see a few of the outtakes and added a bloopers section at the end. The judges commented very positively on our creativity and that our team included both French and Italian.

After a few days we had the results from the judges; my group came second overall all and we were highly commended. I really enjoyed the whole experience and recommend other people to do it."

Well done to all of the students who took the time to participate in the competition. The Year 9 team were Olivia Sheard, Erica Murphy-Hogg, Finbar Seery and Imogen Constable. Working with Lucy were Lulu Gervas Le Saint, Rachel Walker and Matilda Murphy.



Duke of Edinburgh

Despite the obvious disruption to the Duke of Edinburgh's award programme this year, we were delighted to receive a certificate rewarding our students for their volunteering work this year. Students participating in all levels of the award scheme have to complete volunteering activities. Not only does volunteering provide vital support to local communities across the country, it also provides young people with the opportunity to take part in new experiences, develop new skills and feel a sense of pride in supporting the communities that they live in.

Collectively, Arden students completed 2119 hours of volunteering which equates to a social value of £9,217. The social value is calculated based on the minimum wage for under 18's of £4.35, multiplied by the total amount of volunteering hours conducted.

The volunteering aspect of the Duke of Edinburgh's award is a huge time commitment from the students and they should be congratulated for their efforts.



Year 7 Virtual Trip to France

Mr Edgington and the MFL team were so disappointed to have to cancel the Year 7 trip to France. As part of their remote lessons, the students have been carrying out a number of activities linked to things they would have seen and done in France.

Here are some fabulous letters written as reflections following work completed on WW2 which included looking at the background of the war and studying key speeches by Churchill. The students also looked on Google maps at the terrain of Pointe du Hoc and how steep it was to help them visualise the location.

Dear Mum

We are sitting on the boat shivering as we approach the border of France. It almost feels like I'm sailing towards death. Churchill has made the decision to go to the border of France and save the remaining people backed into the beaches called Utah, Sword, Omaha, Gold, Juno. One of the steepest beaches to climb is Pointe du Hoc. As you probably know, the Nazis are taking apart France piece by piece. Many people are on my boat and feeling like me that this is one of our most dangerous missions by far. There are some men on my boat questioning whether it is a trap and we are being drawn right into the Nazis and the French are already dead. We are approaching France now so I have to go but I'll write to you when I get back.

Clara James

Dear Toby,

I really miss you but I'm so glad you're still alive. Ma's beside herself worrying about you and if anything happened to you, I don't know what she'd do. I know that you're probably having a hard time right now but I want you to remain positive and hopeful. We all can't wait for this stupid war to be over and to be able to see you again. We're all so proud of you, keep yourself safe. Lots of love

Jenna Makepeace

Dear Mother,

I can barely describe the emotions I'm feeling as the boat sets sail. My stomach is in knots and I am missing you more than I can say. I sit with fellow soldiers in a small, rickety boat while it rocks back and forth over the waves. There is an atmosphere of fear and pain but I am brave, mother and I'll do this for you.

The sky is grey and cloudy and my compatriots and I are shivering and shaking in the cold salt air. My uniform is itchy, mother, but it is nothing compared to last year's Christmas jumper. My heart thuds as we are approaching shore; we have a few minutes.

I love you mother and I promise we'll meet again.

Libby Reid

Library News

Arden library has transitioned to digital format with two Google classrooms keeping students engaged with both creative writing and library activities. It has been wonderful to see students engaging with those activities and with each other as well.

Additionally, a Reading Attitudes Survey was sent to all students with 251 responses. It has been a pleasure to read through all the suggestions for what the library can do for students and I have enjoyed looking up all your recommendations for lockdown reads. Thank you to all who took the time to respond.

The Year 7 student librarians attended a virtual end of year party where they participated in a book quiz – results to be determined! I would also like to say a big thank you to the secret Year 7 journalist who wrote and compiled the summer edition of the e-zine including a very impressive introduction to the library for the upcoming Year 6s. You can read the summer edition of the library e-zine [here](#).

Now onto Accelerated Reader! Firstly, congratulations to the fifteen Year 8 and twenty-eight Year 7 Word Millionaires who all received a certificate posted to them. It is incredible to see such a fantastic commitment to reading – a BIG well done to those students.

Normally at the end of the year we announce the overall winners of the Accelerated Reader competition, but this has been postponed until September. Instead, here are the winners of the summer term:

Year 7: Most Books Read - Imogen Rose and Joel Hurd. Most Points - Megan Roberts and Zoe Watkins. Most Effort - Isabella Gaskin and Leon Harris.

Year 8: Most Books Read - Ella Swann and Freddie Gaskin. Most Points: Jack Yorke and Ella Homan. Most Effort: Phoebe Owen and Luke Mullins.

Well done to all the winners. Have a relaxing, book-filled summer everyone and I'll see you in September!

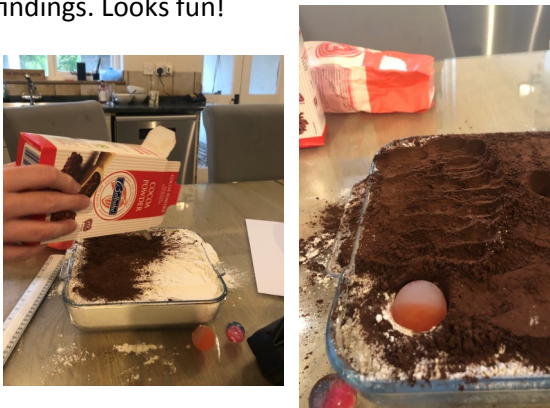
Miss O'Brien

Amazing Student Work

Over the course of the last term we have continued to be amazed by the resilience and dedication of our students to their studies. We are thrilled to celebrate some of their efforts with you once more.

Science Experiments

Pupils in Science have been experimenting at home, modelling asteroid impacts. They collated data and drew graphs to show their findings. Looks fun!



3D Artwork

Mr Fletcher shared this amazing creation by Y9 student Heather Wilkinson following an assignment to make a 3D home. I think you will all agree it is pretty special!



Hair and Beauty

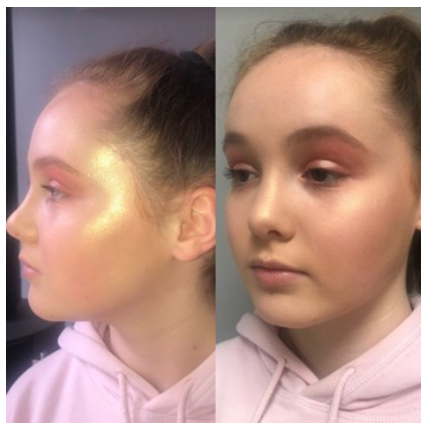
Here are some great pieces of Y10 Hair and Beauty work. The students had to complete a creative task based on their chosen theme.

Sebrina Stain expressed her fantastic hair and makeup skills to create this mermaid theme look which showed amazing special affect artistry.

Charlotte Tulley embraced the festival theme by using all components of hair, beauty a fashion to show her excellent skills, technique and knowledge.

Other students that took part in this task and showcased great hair and beauty skills are Poppy Swift, Natalie Buzzard and Ella Malcolm.

Fantastic efforts.



GCSE Business

The GCSE Business groups were tasked with creating their own festival with a series of assignments over a two week period, including idea formation, creating marketing material for social media and dealing ethically with the aftermath of a festival.

Mr Mason was really impressed with what the students produced. Here are two examples by Maddie Van De Ven-Neade (below) and Marnia Baig (right).

These pieces are just a small selection from a wider portfolio of work which really showed careful thought and attention to detail in relation to the task set.

Well done!

Social Media Post:

Logo(enlarged):



Hashtags:

#festival #tempodefesta #brazil #party #dance #drinks #carnival #ole #ola #2020 #happy #ClaudiaLette #samba #Cachaça #sambadancers #southamerica #feijoada #Aluá #São Paulo #rio #RioDeJaneiro #UK #allnight #fóliões

Influencers:

@claudialeitte
@sofiavergara
@giizeoliveira

Aims & Objectives -

The aim of the festival is to create a reasonable profit, allowing the festival to be held every 4 years.

The objective is to provide small street artists with a platform to present their talent and have their art on display.

Unique Selling Points -

In this festival, European artists from every corner of the continent will have the chance to paint a street with their art. This is unique and will attract customers because they can watch the artists create their masterpieces live which will create a very authentic yet laid-back atmosphere.

Target Market -

The festival is aimed at younger people, who typically tend to prefer street art more than older generations. It is also made for people with passions of art and photography as they will be able to watch the art take place and possibly learn techniques or gain inspiration for their own pieces.

Health & Safety -

A small group of security will be placed at the entrance of the street to protect the customers and employees.

Face masks will also be offered to all customers on arrival to prevent the paint fumes and toxins reaching the lungs etc.

Viability / Profitability -

This festival will be on a much smaller scale than previous festivals as it will take place on a small street to provide an original experience.

There is little costs except the artists themselves - who will be fairly unknown therefore limiting costs - and the permission to paint a public area. This means that any profits made will be incredibly helpful in securing another festival in the next upcoming years.

European Street Art Festival

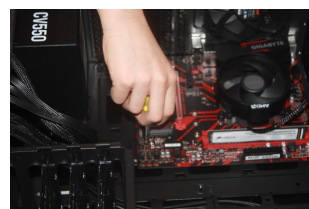
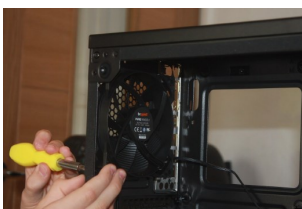
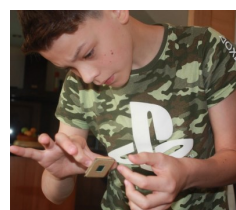
Employment Law -

In this case, the main employees are the artists. To ensure they are in a safe environment, safety gear such as masks, gloves and goggles will be provided to prevent the toxins of the paint causing any damage.

A small gate or barrier will separate the artists and customers. Therefore the artists are protected and their focus can also be maintained.

Amazing Computing Skills

Year 7 pupil Henry Graddon has BUILT his own gaming machine as part of a project given to him by his Dad. He has never done it before and completed the challenge by following YouTube instructions independently. Here is a pictorial account of what Henry did.



All in all the task took Henry only (!) five hours to complete. What an absolutely incredible achievement.

Henry says that he has plans to develop the project further and hopes that he will be able to add one terabyte of storage, a better keyboard, more monitors, a better mouse and a wireless headset!

Fabulous Artists

Usually at this time of year we would celebrate the achievements of our school artists in our annual Art Exhibition. Sadly that is not to be this year so we thought we would give you a taste of the incredible work the students have produced. You can see more of the amazing work by following this [link](#). Please do take a look at the wealth of talent from Year 7-13.



Adam Batts Y9



Megan Wilson Y13



Izzy Bach Y10



Abi Wheelhouse Y11

Olympics Project

The History department decided to focus on the Olympics for the last two weeks of the term. Students were taught about the spirit of the Olympics through time and looked at examples of how the Olympics has been used as a stage for protest through time. This was an opportunity to reflect on, and link together, a number of the themes that students have studied this year. Following these lessons, students completed a reflection task based on their learning. Here are some of the fabulous things the students produced:

- The Olympics,
- A form against prejudice
- A symbol for equality
- Every nation invited
- To compete in the games
- Continents compete
- But in unison we are together
- Regardless of race, gender, Sexual orientations
- We are all equal
- And we stand together in the games.

Zak Arfan Y8



Charlotte Turpin Y9



Hayden Stanley Y8

Sam Eden Y8

Olympics is a tournament
 Lots of people gather to watch
 You think to yourself... who will get the medal
 Many people from around the world
 Pictures being taken up in the crowd
 I can see the flashes from the other side
 Celebrating with golden medals
 Supporting each other throughout the tournament



Scarlett Butler Y9



Nel Connors Y8



George Topham-Steele Y9

Sports News

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

 @ArdenPE

Cross-Country

Just before lockdown, Abigail Wheelhouse (Y11) and Rachel Batchelor (Y10) were selected to represent the West Midlands team for the England Schools Cross Country event. Both girls did themselves proud and ran a really good race. Congratulations!



Recognition for Contribution to Sport

Despite the cancellation of sports fixtures, Arden students have been continuing to work hard on their sport over the past few months. As well as working hard on the lesson work set by the PE team, students have been earning points for the school by participating in the Virtual School Games. Back in June we even won an award for the highest percentage of pupils participating in the Basketball competition. Well done to all the students who have taken part in the Virtual School Games competitions.

Mr Hunt was also thrilled to receive confirmation that we have retained our **School Games Mark Award** which recognises Arden's ongoing commitment and achievement in the School



Games Programme during the Autumn & Spring Terms. This is a great achievement for the school and a reflection of the PE team's continued commitment to keeping competitive sport at the heart of the school and providing more young people with the opportunity to compete and achieve their personal best through sport. Well done to all the students who have participated in school sport this year. We are excited to get back to business as soon as we are safely able.



Get Active Week

During this last week of term, and in his last act as Head of PE, Mr Hunt has been running a 'Get Active' house competition as a way of encouraging physical exercise at a time when we would ordinarily have been celebrating with Sports Day. Students and Staff have been winning points for their houses by taking part in daily exercise. In order to gain a point, participants had to take part in a form of exercise on any day – this needed to be a minimum of 30 minutes of low intensity exercise (walk) or 20 minutes of medium to high intensity exercise (running, cycling, playing sport etc.) Students who managed to get

another member of their household involved have been able to double their points.

The uptake has been fantastic with activities including HIT, weights, walking, cycling, dance, trampolining, gardening, cricket, football, tennis and loads more. The final results were as follows:

Winners: Nightingale with 643 points! 2nd: Attenborough - 620, 3rd: Curie - 565, 4th: Parkes - 555 and 5th: Darwin - 530 points.

Very well done to everyone who got involved. Make sure to keep active over the summer holidays.



Staff News

Huge congratulations to Mrs Johnson (MFL department) and her family on the birth of a baby boy (Finn) who joined their family back in May.

As is usual at the end of the academic year, we bid farewell to some of our staff as they head off for new opportunities. Mr Hunt will leave us to take up a role in Hereford and Ms Petley is relocating back up to Liverpool to be closer to her family. Mr Blankley is also leaving to take up a new role. We wish them all

the best in their new ventures and would like to thank them for their contributions to Arden.

In September, we are excited to welcome the following new staff. Mr Masson will join us as Head of PE, Mr Dimmick and Mr Carbery will be joining the Mathematics department, Mrs Spencer will join the MFL team, Mr Goldenfeld is joining us as a teacher of Art and Photography and Mr McLaughlin will join the Science department. We are looking forward to welcoming them to Arden in the new term.

PTFA News

The PTFA would like to say a huge thank you for all the support we have received this year. With your help we have managed to raise enough money to cover the cost of one of the School mini buses, to contribute to the Year 8 STEM event and to fund some much needed teaching and learning resources this year despite all of the challenges this school year has brought.

We anticipate that there will be new challenges for students to face in 2020/21 and our focus as a PTFA will be on initiatives that support pupils impacted by Covid 19. With all the uncertainty we have going into next year, we are having to be more creative in finding ways to raise money which do not rely on ticketed events. We hope that you will continue to support us by joining our Big Cash Draw for and by signing up to Easy Fundraising or Amazon Smiles which allow you to raise funds for us by simply shopping on line. When you do any kind of online shopping from buying groceries to insurance, visit the retailer via the Easyfundraising site and the PTFA will receive a donation. Similarly if you sign up to Amazon Smile and chose Arden Parent Teachers and Friends Association as your 'cause' we will receive a donation every time you shop through Amazon Smile.

We are also going to try something a bit different in September by holding a Bags2School collection so if you have done some clearing out over the last few months and are able to hang on to old clothes, curtains, duvet covers, soft toys, bags and accessories until September, we would be very happy to take them off your hands. Simply bag them up in black bin liners and drop them into school before 9am on the 17th September 2020 (more info to follow).

As always we are very grateful for any ideas on new ways to raise money and offers of support. If you would like to help out in any way please contact us on adminptfa@arden.solihull.sch.uk or via Twitter or our Facebook page.

We hope you have a happy and healthy summer and look forward to seeing you in September.

Jo Guy

PTFA Chair

Arden Teaching School

The Show Must Go On!

Behind the scenes, trainee teacher recruitment continues for the Arden Teaching School Alliance and we are pleased to announce that we will be training fourteen graduates and career changers, across our Alliance of secondary and primary schools, from September 2020.

Arden Teaching School has a proven track record of turning out outstanding teachers who are more than prepared for a lifetime of teaching. It gives us great satisfaction to see our trainees grow and develop their teaching skills and in turn reap the fantastic rewards that come with teaching a subject they love to our younger generation.

If you know someone who is thinking about *Training to Teach 2021-22*, they can get in touch via email on [**traintoteach@arden.solihull.sch.uk**](mailto:traintoteach@arden.solihull.sch.uk)

For more information you can also visit the Arden Teaching School page on the school website.

<https://sites.google.com/arden.solihull.sch.uk/teachingschool/home>



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TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE