



ARROW NEWS

EVERY
SCHOOL
DAY
COUNTS

Winter 2023 Edition | Issue 34



*Artwork by
Julia W. in
Year 12*



Principal's Welcome

Welcome to our Winter 2023 edition of Arrow News. Unbelievably this is our 34th edition of our termly newsletter and this edition shows that Arrow Vale is going from strength to strength.

Arrow News again showcases the fabulous curricular and extra-curricular opportunities that our students are provided, in order for them to be the very best version of themselves.

We started the year with a real focus on togetherness and realising our potential. This was very much evident at the Year 9 team building days at Upton Warren Adventure and our team building days for Year 10, 11 and 12 here at Arrow Vale. Students participated in challenges that pushed them well out of their comfort zones. Some of the bravery and courage on show in the activities at Upton Warren (with students climbing high ropes, learning to fire a bow and arrow, and also jumping into freezing cold water) was excellent to see and hear about.

The rest of the edition, as you will see, is testament to the hard work of all our students and staff.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Arrow Vale community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing our students back in 2024.

Ian Mellor, Executive Principal



This issue of Arrow News uses our SMSC Symbols in the corners of pages to identify the range of opportunities for personal development at Arrow Vale.

Social – **PINK** Moral – **BLUE** Spiritual – **PURPLE** Cultural - **ORANGE**

CEIAG - Careers Education Information, Advice & Guidance

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Message from the Head of School



Dear Arrow Vale School Community,

As the end of this term approaches, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we have undertaken together. It is with great pride and excitement that I share some highlights of our collective achievements as the newly appointed Head of School.

I am immensely proud of the dedication and hard work demonstrated by both our students and staff day in and day out. The accomplishments we have achieved together are a testament to the strong sense of community that defines Arrow Vale School. Our students aim high, excel, discover and believe and build these beliefs so upon leaving us, are equipped with the skills and abilities

needed to pursue their unique paths and destinations, a testament to the quality of education we provide.

In the face of national challenges, our school has risen to the occasion, addressing issues of attendance and retention head-on. I am particularly pleased with the appointments of strong and dedicated staff and teachers who share our commitment to excellence in education. Their contributions continue to be instrumental in shaping the success of our students and school.

Our collective focus on becoming the best versions of ourselves and our approach of "Team around the Child" supports all of us in ensuring our young people can excel in life beyond school. This philosophy ensures that we support our students in the best way possible, functioning not just as a school but as a comprehensive education provider. This commitment to holistic support reflects our passion for making a positive difference in the lives of every student who passes through our doors.

Having served the Arrow Vale community since 2008, my passion for creating a meaningful impact on the lives of our students has only deepened. I am committed to providing the best possible educational experiences, one that prepares our students for the challenges and opportunities of the modern world.

Our Wave 1 teaching is a strong foundation upon which we build, and our efforts to enhance students' communication and literacy skills are central to our mission. By ensuring our students are articulate, we empower them to navigate the wider world with confidence and proficiency. Our school is not just a place of learning; it is our workplace, and we approach our responsibilities with passion and dedication. The pursuit of academic excellence, coupled with the development of essential experiences and skills for the modern world, remains at the forefront of our mission.

As we look towards the future, I am filled with optimism and enthusiasm for the continued success and growth of Arrow Vale School. Together, as a united community, we will shape the next chapter of our educational journey, inspiring and empowering generations to come.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication.

Sincerely,

Matthew Rash, Head of School

Christmas Hampers



As you can see below, another year of fantastic and very creative hampers have been produced by our students, Each Form group was given the task to festively decorate boxes and then fill them with donated food items. The generosity of our families, especially as times are hard and money is tight, has been staggering, with all the boxes overflowing with items. On the last week of term, the hamper boxes were delivered to Redditch Foodbank, which will hopefully make life a little easier for some struggling families. Well done and a huge thank you.

Merry Christmas from Arrow Vale!



Year 9 Team Building Days at Upton Warren Adventure!

In Autumn Term 1, all year 9 tutor groups and their new form tutors spent a day at Upton Warren's Aztec Adventure Centre! Students learnt essential team building and resilience skills with their new tutor group and form tutor as part of our transition programme.

The students had a brilliant time and really pushed themselves out of their comfort zones. Here's what a few of our Year 9 students said:

"This has been the best day ever. I can't believe I was nervous about going, I would have been really sad to miss out on all the fun we've had."

"I've spoken to people today that I haven't before and I feel more confident about seeing those people around school and speaking to them."

"It's been so much fun! I'm really proud of myself for climbing the tower! I was so scared but once I started it was really fun."

"I've always wanted to try archery and I'm buzzing I got to give it a go today, even if I wasn't brilliant at it. I'd definitely like to try it again."

Thank you to all of the staff who attended the trip and got involved in the fun too!



Year 10, 11 and 12 Team Building Days



To welcome back our Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 students to the new academic year, we arranged for all year groups to take part in team building activities run by the fantastic Pioneer Leadership team.

They came and set up a range of team building and problem-solving activities which tested their patience, resilience and team work.

Even though the rain came down, it did not dampen any of our spirits and the students got stuck in and had fantastic fun whilst learning essential problem solving and team building skills!



My First Term at AV



It has been a pleasure to work at Arrow Vale over this first term. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know students and families and working with you to build trust and relationship: we know sometimes we encounter problems but building the relationships to weather these storms is essential, so thank you for all of the families who we have welcomed into school this term so far. I work alongside a talented team who are constantly problem solving and finding solutions to make sure our offer is reasonably adjusted and students are supported as best we can. Over the next term, I am planning on getting into classrooms more frequently, learning more about our areas of need and how we can plan proactive support through class teaching. We are planning more Community Cafes too where we can open our doors to discuss your SEND needs as families and how we can support you – we have first hand experience of this within

our team and are looking forward to making you a cup of tea and having a chat! Please keep an eye on the website and emails for more information.

Here is to a great 2024.

Mrs L Davis, Director of SEND and Inclusion

Christmas jokes are a tradition in most households, so why not try out these topical jokes on your family & friends...

Did you hear about the Christmas Cake on display in the British Museum?

It was Stollen!

Why is Elon Musk's Christmas dinner so awkward?

He can't stop talking about his X!

How does Margot Robbie decorate her nativity scene?

With three wise kens!

What impact will the 20mph speed limit in Wales have on the charts this year?

Chris Rea will be driving home for Easter!

Why aren't any schools allowed to put on a Nativity this year?

They couldn't find a stable building!

Why are the train drivers on the naughty list this year?

Because they've already had three strikes!

What's the difference between The Polar Express and HSW?

One's a fantasy about a train and the other's a film with Tom Hanks!



Discover Plus



It's been a great year so far.

At Upton Warren, groups 1 and 2 have taken part in archery, the low ropes course, traversing, climbing, kayaking, raft building and kata-canoeing.

Self-defence has been the usual mix of boxing and restraint holds, plus the legal aspects of using force.

Students have entered into the activities with commitment, and conducted themselves with credit at all times.

Mr J Thomas, Achievement Assistant



We wanted to take the opportunity to remind you all about our attendance expectations and our policies and procedures in relation to student absence.

Attendance at school is important and research shows missing school for even a day can mean a child is less likely to achieve good grades, which can have a damaging effect on their life chances. At Arrow Vale we encourage all pupils to strive for 100% attendance; every day and every lesson counts.

Our aim is to work with parents to ensure that all our students receive the most from their education and reach their full potential.

This message is to remind all parents/carers regarding the law that requires them to ensure that their child attends school regularly. All schools in the country must follow Department for Education guidance regarding attendance and it clearly states that no child should miss school apart from in exceptional circumstances and schools must continue to take steps to reduce absence to support children's attainment.

What YOU must do:

- Try to telephone the school before 8.30am each day of your child's absence.
- Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.
- Dental and medical appointments should be made outside of school hours where possible.
- Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!



What WE will do:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.



For reference

Attendance	Days Absent	Lessons Missed
95%	9 days	54 Lessons
90%	19 days	114 Lessons
85%	29 days	174 Lessons
80%	38 days	228 Lessons
75%	48 days	288 Lessons
70%	57 days	342 Lessons
65%	67 days	402 Lessons

The students with above 96% attendance in our Summer 2023 cohort performed almost half a grade better on average against similar students nationally.

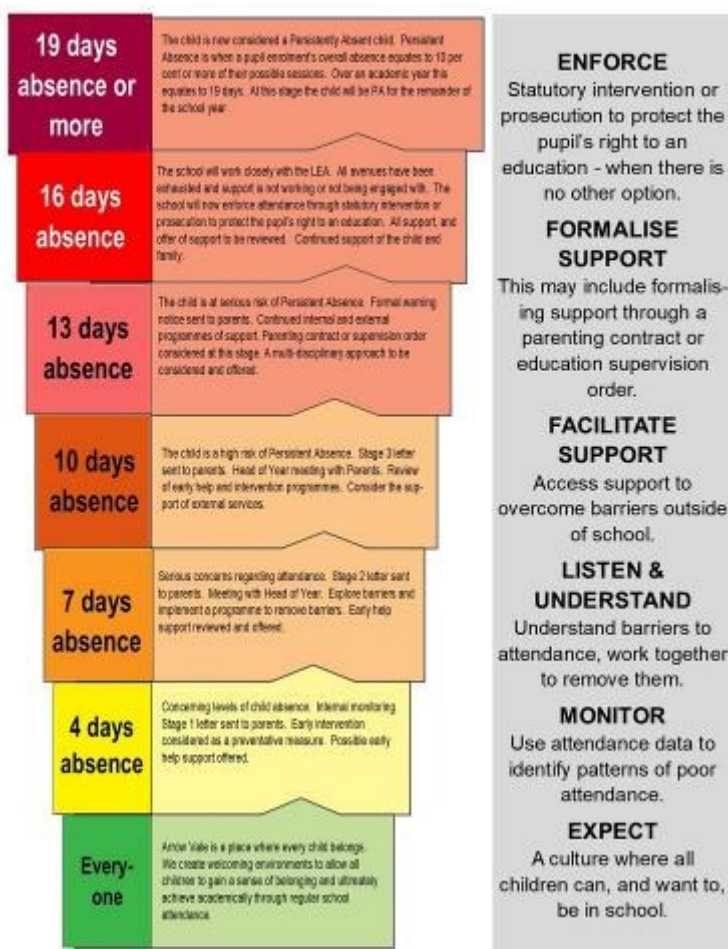


Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day

Poor attendance leads to significant final grade underperformance and this difference in attendance and academic performance significantly influences future earning potential. In fact, improving by just one grade across nine GCSE subjects can potentially increase lifetime earnings by over £200,000.

Attendance Mentoring Pyramid



Some easy steps you can take at home to raise the importance of attendance with your child and support them to make the most of their education:

- Discuss the benefits of school attendance regularly. These include academic achievement and opportunities to develop important social skills that will set them up for life.
- Establish a regular evening and morning routine. Getting a good night's sleep and being organised in the morning helps to remove some of the barriers to positive attendance.
- Unless essential, schedule medical and other appointments outside of school time. This will also help model how adults must manage personal commitments around work.
- Encourage attendance to extra-curricular activities: students who play an active role in the school community are likely to be more motivated to attend school.
- Explain that sick days should only be taken when absolutely necessary. Unless there is a specific reason for a student to be off school, they should attend and will be sent home if they are too unwell. Colds etc are unpleasant but aren't a reason to be off school.
- Explain that students can speak to any member of staff if they have concerns about school. Students must be in school for us to help fix problems with them.

Rewarding and celebrating positive attendance

We value the effort our students and families make with maintaining and promoting positive attendance. So far this year we have celebrating students in the following ways:

- 100% attendance certificates
- 100% attendance reward breakfast
- Recognition Based Attendance Awards
- Most improve attendance rewards
- 'Hold your 100' rewards
- 'Skip the que' award
- Recognition during morning announcements
- Nando's at Christmas Family Awards



Mathematical Challenges



October 2023 saw Year 12 and year 13 maths students taking part in the Senior Mathematical Challenge and we had some excellent results across both year groups. Nine students also sat the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls in September with Maddie D. achieving a Distinction and Isla R. achieving a Merit which are phenomenal results.

The following students obtained Gold (top 11% of the country), Silver (top 33%) and Bronze (top 66%) Certificates in the Senior Mathematical Challenge 2023:

Timothy B. - **Gold** and **Best in School** who was also invited to participate in the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo follow on round, a fantastic achievement

Thomas G - **Silver** and **Best in Year 12**

Silver : Jack W., Rachel C., Ryan H., Tinotenda S., and Kieran R.

Bronze Harry R., Benjamin A., Konrad W., Maddie D., Ashley P., Ryan W., Harrison F., Isla R., Stanton H., Joshua H., and Owen H.



Ever held up your thumb and noticed that 5 billion neutrinos are passing through your nail every second? Or wondered about the safety of ultra pure water? Or had the revelation that 68% of the world is approximately made up of dark energy? Well, us physics students embarked on a 3 hour trip to west London, where the A-level Physics Live event unravelled where Doctors, Melissa Uchida, Simon Singh (who replaced Roma Agrawal MBE at the last minute), Emma Chapman, Jessica Wade, and Jim Al-Khali presented their talks, delving into the particle theory, the big bang, astronomy and telescopes, materials and quantum biology.

First on the agenda was Dr. Melissa Uchida, a lecturer in high energy physics at the Cavendish Laboratory and leads the neutrino group. She began delving into the realm of particle theory. From Sakharov conditions to quarks, leptons, and neutrinos, she painted a vivid picture of the fundamental particles shaping our reality. Next up was Dr. Simon Singh who is a popular science author, theoretical and particle physicist who wrote books such as Fermat's Last Theorem, The Code Book, Big Bang, Their Mathematical Secrets etc. He peaked the audience's interest with a demonstration. Using the backward playback of "Stairway to Heaven," he played a short snippet and asked us what we heard, we heard nothing. Then, he handed us a paragraph to read before revisiting the reversed song. Surprisingly, we all were able to discern the non-existent "lyrics." This exercise, in his words, was to "underscore the importance of going against our common sense in the pursuit of knowledge." Singh then went on to talk about the big bang theory and Georges Lemaitre's struggle against scepticism and how his theory got proven with maths.

Our third speaker was Dr. Emma Chapman, a space enthusiast conveniently inspired by Simon Singh when she was in university. She is a Royal Society research fellow based at the University of Nottingham where she is among the world's leading researchers in search of the first stars to light up our Universe 13 billion years ago. She went to talk about neutrinos and astronomers successfully observing and recording the aftereffects of the Big Bang. Then there's Jessica Wade, fun fact about her is she aced 5 A-levels - Chemistry, Maths, Physics, Further Maths, and Art. and from an Art University in London, she jumped into physics and materials. She was the winner of last year's IOP Daphne Jackson Medal and Prize award and recipient of the Medal of the British Empire for services to Gender Diversity in Science. She went on to talk about plastic electronics and what they could be utilised for. Lastly, Professor. Jim Al-Khali, a leading expert on the structure of neutron halo nuclei, the quantum expert, opposed the question if life needs quantum mechanics. The A-level physics event sparked inspiration, and one student even got drawn to quantum biology thanks to Prof. Jim Al-Khali.

In conclusion, the Physics A-level Live exposed us to the different pathways that branch from the broad subject that is physics, whether that be in particles, astronomy, materials and quantum mechanics.



Girls Fixtures & Clubs



Netball

All year groups have had a great start to the academic year in terms of taking part in extracurricular fixtures. We have had a variety of fixtures so far in netball.... we have several students attending training week in week out!!

Year 9 Netball :

Year 9 played in a variety of netball games against Trinity, Tudor Grange, North Bromsgrove, and Woodrush and St Augustines. It was the first time the group had played competitively together, they all shown great teamwork! They shown some great shooting and defending.

TEAM: Maisie D., Ivy-Rose O., Sophie Y., Jessica W., Amelia W., Abigail H., Skye R., Millie B., Abbie M., Lily-Rose G., and Amelia G.

Year 10 Netball

Year 10 have played in a variety of Netball games against, Tudor Grange and St Augustines. It was the first time the group had played competitively together and shown fantastic effort from all!

TEAM: Priscila B-G., Paige W., Laura B., Lily B., Jodie H., Kiera G., Summer L., and Francesca G.



Football

Girls football has been massively successful this term, with fantastic success on the pitch so far, with hopefully even more to come!

Girls Football Fixtures:

Under 14's (Year 9 and 10) : Loss Vs Tudor Grange Academy Solihull

Under 16 (Year 10 and 11) : Arrow Vale 2 vs 3 Alcester Grammar School – The girls went 1-0 down but showed great desire and determination to bring the game back level! The girls played some great football, and all worked hard for each other! A fantastic 35-yard screamer by Scarlett M.! Despite the result, the girls all worked hard and played well!

Year 9 Trust tournament

WINNERS! The girls came first in the Trust Tournament! Unbeaten in all 5 games, only conceding 2 goals throughout the tournament! The girls played some good football and showed great teamwork. Well done!!

A MASSIVE thank you to Josh B. for referring all our matches!

The following students who took part in football training or football matches:

Year 11

Lucy H.,
Kiera B., and
Maggie O.

Year 10

Priscila B-G.,
Paige W.,
Charlotte E.,
Isabella Mi.,
Tayah-Louise H.,
Isobelle A., and
Teagan L.

Year 9

Scarlett M.,
Aimee Wi.,
Teighan M.,
Milly R.,
Madison H.,
Amelia V., and
Isla C.



Miss G Harris

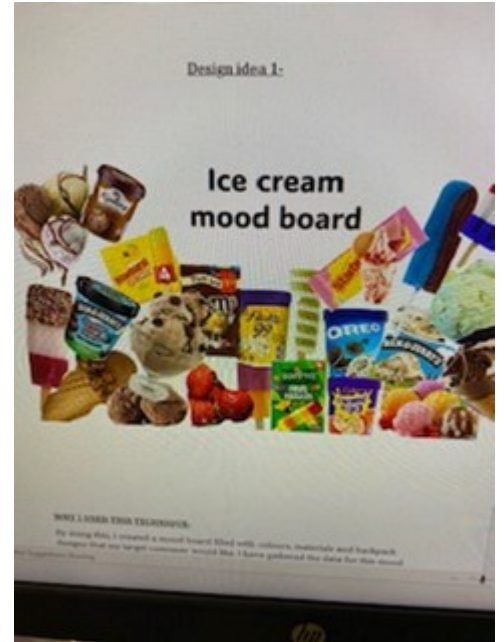
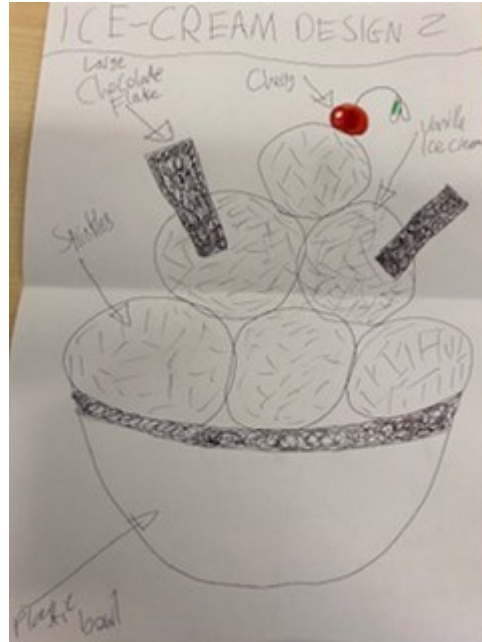


**WORCESTER
WARRIORS
FOUNDATION**

in school every Tuesday and Friday to teach our Girls Core PE groups to give them a taste of the basic skills in rugby! The groups have also moved onto some basic contact rugby skills too! The groups have absolutely loved it! After Christmas, the coaches are in to teach the Boys groups. We are also hoping to set up a Rugby Extracurricular club in the New Year! Exciting times ahead!!

This Half Term we have teamed up with Rugby Coaches from Worcester Warriors Foundation. The coaches have been





Year 10 students have made a fantastic start to their Design a Business Proposal coursework! Students have been researching the ice cream market and have started to design their own products based on primary and secondary research. They have been using creative techniques such as mind maps and mood boards to support the development of their product ideas. Keep up the good work year 10! **Mrs J Molloy, Teacher of Business**

**SHOWCASE
SCHOOLS
& COLLEGES**

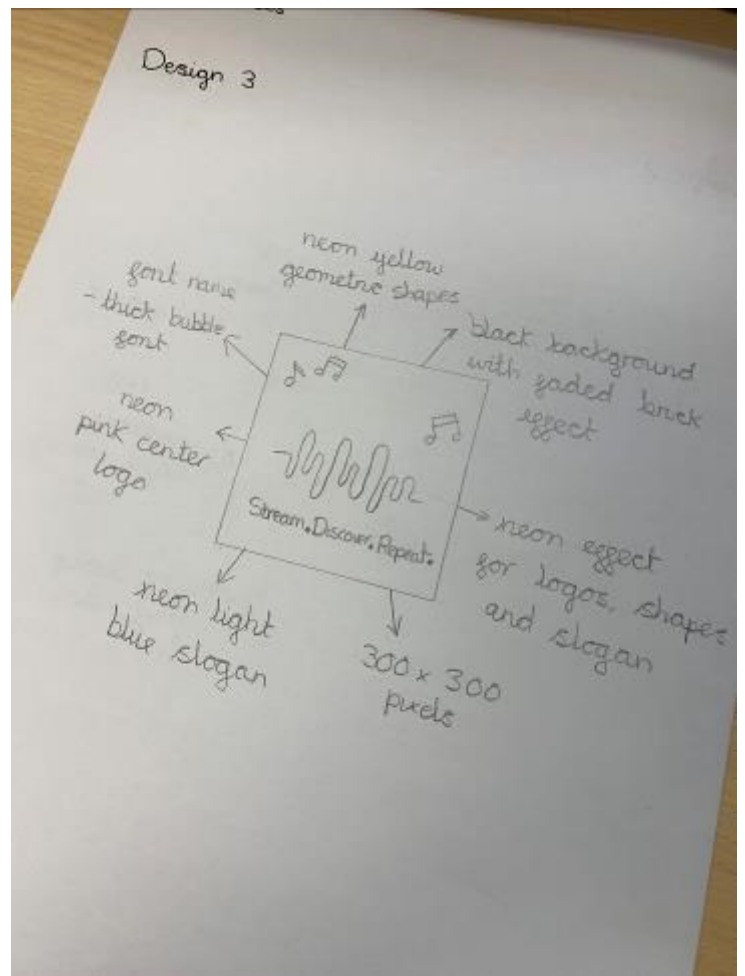
Microsoft

WE ARE PROUD TO BE
A MICROSOFT
SHOWCASE SCHOOL!

2023-2024

ARROW VALE
REDDITCH

Students Learn How to Use Adobe Photoshop



Year 10 are learning how to use Adobe Photoshop. Students are completing a 6 hour tutorial on different skills and tips on how to develop their knowledge and understanding of how to use the application to its fullest. The tutorial came with a full set of images and Mrs Somel split it up into sections so that it was more manageable for students to access and complete within their lessons. Each tutorial created has been logged by students to show knowledge and understanding of the skill learnt in TEAMS. Some students have also developed their own notes and screen shots to support review and recall at a later date.

The coursework is about creating a visual identity for a given assignment brief in this case our mock assignment is about Mp3Me a music streaming business. Students have had to read for meaning, create a work plan and really understand the target audience in order to create an advert for the business. Students have created some fabulous logo ideas as part of the visual identity and graphic design work to illustrate what the final design of the advert will look like. They have had to justify their design choices and explain how their ideas are fit for purpose and audience.

Year 10 have absolutely outdone themselves in this mock assessment challenge and I am so very proud of them all. R094 is a coursework element of OCR Creative iMedia and is worth 25% of the students grade. Students will be sitting the actual assignment in February-March 2024.

Mrs S Somel, Teacher of IT & Computing

Poppy Wreaths



This year the art department organized a display for Remembrance Day. Most of the Year 9 students crafted paper poppies, which were intricately pieced together to fashion poppy wreaths. The wreaths were then displayed outside in the quad for everyone to see. The collective effort was brilliant, and together, the pieces were quite striking. We commend the students for their contributions to this meaningful tribute. Well done!

Mrs L Crawford - DLS for Art & Photography



Fascinating Talks at Warwick University

So

C



I took a group of Year 12 Biologists to Warwick University. Whilst there we enjoyed fascinating talks on:

- ⇒ how disease has impacted us all immeasurably over the past few years;
- ⇒ how does disease affect wildlife and ecosystems;
- ⇒ infectious diseases and how they are littered throughout historic literature, art and text;
- ⇒ how technology is being used to reduce the pressure in the NHS and drive improvements in life expectancy.

We also heard about the impact of local gold mining and illegal logging is having on the rainforest and the goal to protect at least 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030.

Mr J Couper, DLS for Science



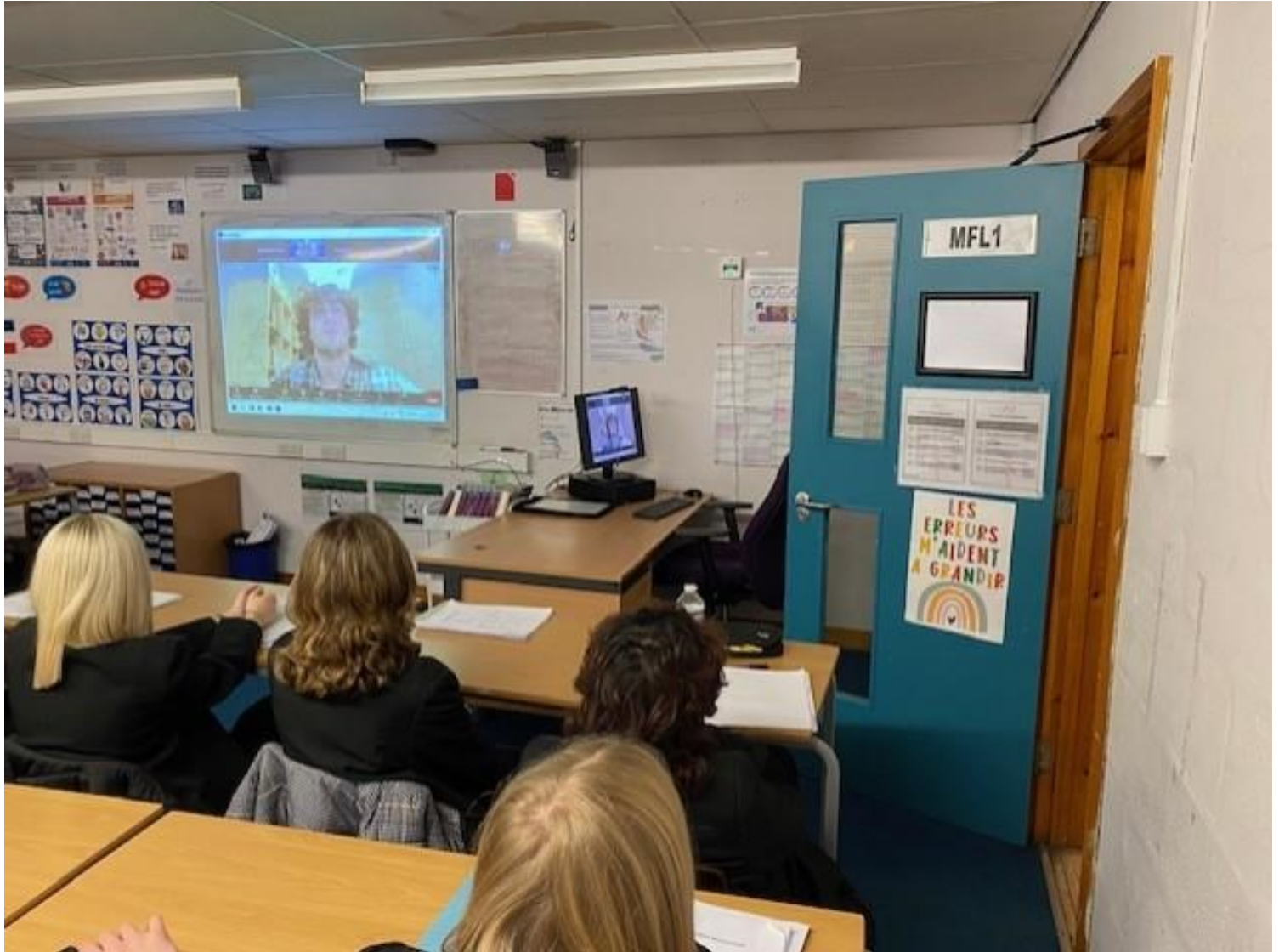
Arrow Vale raised for

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

£106.79



Preview of the January 2024 Careers Week in the MFL Department



Some of our GCSE and A-level students got ahead of the game on Monday 4th December when they attended two events hosted by the MFL department: a 'Careers with languages' webinar and an in-person visit from two Warwick University students.

The objective of these two exciting events was to raise the profile of languages by making students aware of the wide range of opportunities open to them if they carry on studying languages beyond GCSE.

Students subsequently made such comments as:

'I didn't know I could do all these jobs if I pick a language for A-level!'

'I didn't know I could combine a language with another subject I like!'

We now look forward to the calendared 'Careers week' in January!

Mrs N Adams, Teacher of Spanish and French

Trampoline Success

In October and November, nineteen students competed in the District & County Trampoline Competitions in a range of categories. The students achieved the following medals;

County Competition

Beginners Category –

- 1st Gold medal – Estelle
- 3rd Bronze Medal – Evie

Beginners Team – GOLD MEDAL WINNERS!!

- (Estelle, Evie, Millie, Eleanor, Chloe)

Intermediate 1 Category –

- 2nd Silver Medal – Elsa

Intermediate Team – BRONZE

- MEDAL WINNERS!! (Paige, Priscilla, Elsa, Maggie)

District Competition -

Beginners Category –

- 1st Gold medal – Estelle
- 2nd Silver Medal - Evie
- 3rd Bronze Medal – Millie

Intermediate 1 Category –

- 1st Gold Medal - Thalia
- 2nd Silver Medal – Evie F

Intermediate 2 Category –

- 2nd Silver Medal – Kiera
- 3rd Bronze Medal - Millie



FIG World Championship Trampoline Trip

On Thursday 16th November the PE Department travelled to the Utilita Arena in Birmingham as part of a reward trip for our selected Super Star Students! The criteria was based on attending certain clubs and also participation and attitude to learning in Core PE lessons since September.

Students were in awe witnessing such talented gymnasts from around the World compete at such a young age! All students behaved impeccably and represented the school brilliantly!



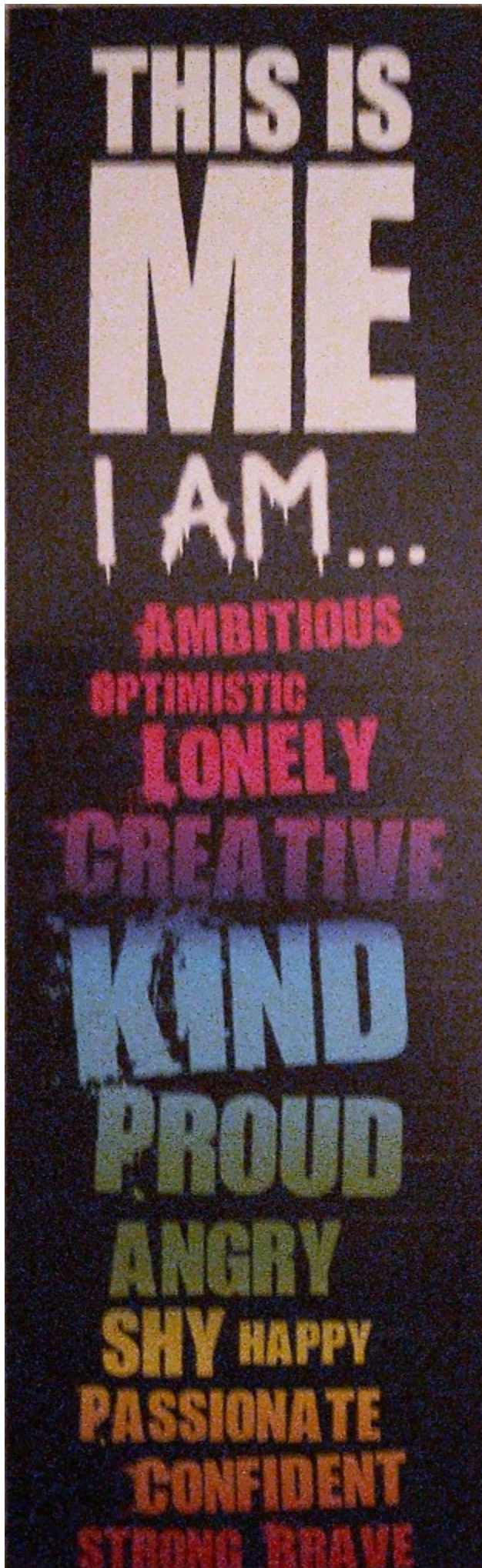


Young Writers Competition

Young Writers is a fantastic company that regularly run national writing competitions in the hope of building imagination and creativity and encourage students to turn this into beautiful and original written work. Kris, Year 10, took the time and effort to send off a wonderfully thought-provoking poem based upon the idea of 'This is Me: I Am...' which allowed Kris to write passionately about the theme of identity and LGBTQ+. Kris created a poem entitled 'The Dress' and sent this off to their latest competition.

We are incredibly proud to announce that Kris heard back from Young Writers recently where they announced that Kris' work has been chosen for publication in their upcoming book 'This Is Me: - I Am - Future Echoes' which will be an anthology showcasing young adult's work submitted. This is an amazing achievement and a wonderful platform for Kris to share their voice and be able to express themselves in a creative and original way. Young Writers also rewarded Kris with a certificate and an inspiring bookmark.





We are so proud of Kris' talent and achievements and know that they will go far!

Please take time to read their poem below:

The Dress

The dress:
Elegant and unmissable
but yet,
Unwearable!

Everyone said, "Wear it,
it's beautiful"

I said, "No
That's not who I am"

Everyone said, "Wear it
it's just a dress,
don't be so dramatic"

Everyone says, "Wear it
it's who you should be"

I say, "No
This isn't who I am"

They're still persistent.
The dictators of a life I can't call my own.

They said,
"Live your life"

They said,
"Be who you are
unless you don't fall in line"

They warned.

This was never about that stupid dress...

Kris (15)

STUDENT LEADERSHIP NEWS

Student leadership is dedicated to achieving a collective improvement in our school. Some of the improvements we have already made are, improving the size of our meals provided by the school catering team, replacing the old AstroTurf to make it more accessible and better for our school sports, moving the location of the a-level exams to somewhere more familiar to our year group.

Student leadership is vital in ensuring that all students have a voice so we can all have an input to ensure we feel happy and safe in the school premises. Macey C-G and Tashantie T were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to show MP Rachel Maclean around the school ahead of the new school build and told her about the success in our student leadership team and the impact that it has had on our school lives.



Tashantie's and Ashley's work in CRST6 (a collective of students from sixth forms throughout the trust) worked with the other schools to raise money for the Birmingham Children's hospital, with the goal of each school to raise £1000 each. On the final week of term, at Arrow Vale the student leadership team which was led by Tashanite and Ashley held cake sales, had a Christmas jumper day on the final day and raffled hampers. Hopefully this will have a momentous change to the local community, whilst working in a larger team it will have provided opportunities to develop skills which will be valuable for life.

In the student leadership team we have a variety of committees ensuring that there is something for everyone, however if there is not something for you there is always the opportunity to create something new.

This term Isla.R in year 12 has created a new STEM committee which has aimed to use student voice to not only improve STEM within our school but also have the STEM club lead by students, this will help build confidence, teamwork, and communication.

Aside from the new committees which are emerging we also have our long-standing committees which are working hard on their termly priorities. Such as Civic Responsibility which is led by Macey C-G along with Shannon B and Ellie MP who are looking to implement a new anti-bullying scheme, after a successful transition scheme, they are looking to build the committee to ensure that the new scheme is the best it can be with a large amount of support behind it.

The charity committee hosted a successful children in need event with money being raised in a vast variety of ways such as a raffle, bake sale, own clothes day resulting in a large sum being raised which will make a difference to families across the county, Haniya H and the team are looking to carry their success with the up and coming comic relief day in March, in which plans are already in progress to ensure that the school can do the best to support the cause.

There are plans for the sports committee to host a charity sport games with Tash P and Josh B wanting to use their committees love for sport to raise money for a good cause. Furthermore, lunch sport tournaments are also in planning which would provide time for year groups to come together and share their competitive traits while having a good time. The duty prefects will have an increased roll assisting with these.

We received feedback suggesting that prefects would like to be re-positioned, something that will be looked into. Hopefully, the team will have opportunities to grow, this will be advertised by the media committee who are designing a student newspaper to advertise activities, achievements, and opportunities. Media are also looking at expanding the school by creating a recruitment video for potential 6th form students on what life looks like here at Arrow Vale and the benefits that go along with it.

Learning forum are now looking to expand their team by identifying subject ambassadors who are going to take information, criticism, and praise from students to improve learning and teaching here at Arrow Vale.

Breakfast youth club is the focus of our social committee, where students can speak to other fellow students when attending the breakfast club. They can chat about any concerns and anything else required, hopefully limiting the effect of any worries they might have. The social committee are also hard at work, on both the year 11 & 13 Proms ahead of next year, time to celebrate the hard work of the students after exam season.

The Eco Committee led by Jasmine M and Kylah T aim to improve the amount of litter found around the school, arranging allotted times for litter picking to take place along with gardening sessions to help people de-stress.

Finally, the Creative Arts team are hard at work planning their upcoming winter showcase where families will be able to see an evening of performances. They are also working on an Art club in which art competitions will take place with them also designing Christmas cards for the school.

All the Student leadership are excited about what is to come in the New Year and looking forward to the team growing.



‘Doing the ordinary things extraordinarily well’

At Arrow Vale, we know that our students reach their potential and meet our high aspirations for them when our teachers do the ‘basics’ extraordinarily well.

				
Establish a purposeful learning environment.	Determine prior knowledge (what students already know).	Frequently check the understanding of <i>all</i> students.	Adapt teaching so that <i>all</i> students can access lessons.	Provide students with opportunities to discuss learning.

So far this year, our teachers have been particularly focused on further developing their questioning habits. We have been embedding approaches to questioning that ensure *all* students have to think hard about the questions asked during their lessons. This is really important so that teachers don't *assume* that *all* of our students understand what has been taught, move on, and start to create gaps between those who *got it* and those who didn't. The following joke summarises this well: one man says to his friend, 'I've taught my dog to speak French.' 'Really?' says his mate, 'let's hear him then.' 'I said I taught him, I didn't say he'd learnt it' comes the response.



Front load instructions for question, e.g., 'without shouting out', 'I am going to give you one minute to discuss...'



Pause and provide thinking time so that students can develop their answers.



Pause and provide time for students to discuss their answers with the person next to them.



Target questions to specific students all around the classroom. Do not ask students with their hands up.



Do not allow student to 'opt out' of answering the question. If they are struggling, give them support to reach the answer.

As students were told during the assemblies that Mr Bayley led at the start of December, we will be asking students to ensure they are also continuing to do the following *ordinary things, extraordinarily well* with our big push on developing students' ability to talk about their learning after the Christmas break:



Show PRIDE in all work and books. Make sure you are using a purple pen for corrections and developing answers.



Commit to challenge: push yourself to complete work and homework to the best standard possible.



Show good oracy: express yourself clearly and communicate with others effectively through speech.

In addition to this, we have shared with parents and carers where our curriculum overview documents can be found on our new website. Miss Yeomans sent a letter to encourage parents and carers to use these documents to help support learning discussions at home. The documents outline the units that will be studied by each year group in each subject and details the knowledge and skills that will be developed as well as the key assessments planned.

“The key to success is not in doing extraordinary things, but in doing the ordinary things extraordinarily well.”

Sports Leadership Events

The sports leader's academy is well under way and has already ran different events across different ages for many schools. Leaders have been selected across year 9,10,11 and Sixth form.

Year 7 & 8 Extended Netball: On Friday 29th September, Year 7/8 extended netball took place here at Arrow Vale. We had 10 Sport Leaders from Year 11 and Sixth Form helping with the running of our first event. The students were fantastic, the event ran smoothly. Staff from visiting schools said how well the students did and how fantastic their leadership skills were. Students conducted themselves very well, and umpired the games fairly!

Year 6 Extended Football: On Friday 6th October, Years 9 and 10 leaders ran and organised an event at Arrow Vale. The leaders were in charge of referring, scoring and time keeping. The leaders were fantastic in getting the younger pupils involved and talking to them about what it is like at Arrow Vale and what they can expect if they come here. The leaders encouraged the participating students whilst they were playing. Big well done to Year 9 students who completed their first sports leader's event!

Year 7 Extended Football: On Friday 13th October, Years 9 and 10 leaders ran and organised an event at Arrow Vale. This event was very similar to the previous event. The leaders were in charge of referring, scoring and time keeping. The leaders were fantastic in getting the younger pupils involved the leaders motivated the participating students whilst they were playing. Big well done to Year 9 students who completed their first sports leader's event!

Years 8 & 9 Girls Only Event: On Friday 20th October, Years 10, 11 and 12/13 leaders ran and organised a GIRLS ONLY event at Arrow Vale. This event was to encourage girls to participate in sport. The leaders were in charge of a specific activity, and were fantastic in getting the younger pupils involved, helping motivate them in each activity! The leaders ran events such as Glow Dodgeball, Zumba, Boccia, Kurling, team building and Q&A. Staff from visiting schools said how well the students did and how fantastic their leadership skills were.

Years 7 & 8 Dodgeball: On Friday 8th December, Years 9 and 10 leaders ran and organised an event at Arrow Vale. The leaders were in charge of referring, scoring and time keeping. The leaders were fantastic in getting the younger pupils involved and staff from visiting schools said how well the students did and how fantastic their leadership skills were.

There will be more leadership events running throughout the academic year. Please keep an eye out for the different events and leaders selected via Arbor and the Sports leaders notice board in the PE area.



Miss G Harris

CRST Key Stage 3 Football Tournament

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On Monday 13th November 2023, Arrow Vale hosted a Central Region Schools Trust Key Stage 3 Football Tournament. All our Middle/High/Secondary schools within the Trust competed; Arrow Vale, Church Hill, Gospel Oak, Holyhead, Ipsley, and Waseley Hill. Here at, Arrow Vale, we hosted it on our 3G and also provided a selection of Sports Leaders from our Sports Leadership Academy to help with organisation and setting up. The Sports Leaders did a fantastic job of referring and keeping scores to enable the event to run smoothly.



**Central Region
Schools Trust**

Founded by the RSA

All schools entered one Boy's and one Girls' team, they both played a round robin tournament which consisted of competing in 5 competitive matches and playing against all schools. All schools played some fantastic football, showing great teamwork, resilience, and great determination. Some of the results from the games were very close, with some schools such as Arrow Vale Girls and Waseley Hill Girls drawing their game 2-2.



[Arrow Vale Girls 1st Place]

[Arrow Vale Boys & Girls Teams]

[Arrow Vale Boys 2nd Place]

All students had a fantastic time taking part and enjoyed themselves! Arrow Vale Girls finished the girls CRST tournament in 1st place and Waseley Hill Boys CRST Tournament in 1st Place!

Boys Tournament	
Place	School
1 st	Waseley Hill
2nd	Arrow Vale
3rd	Gospel Oak

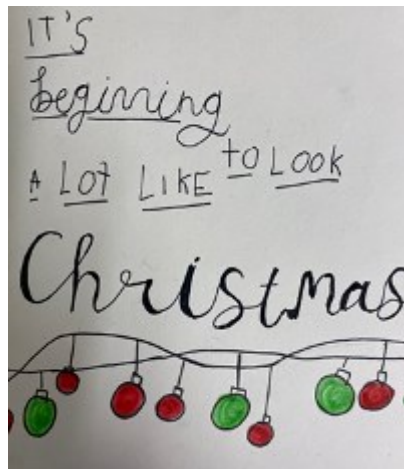
Girls Tournament	
Place	School
1 st	Arrow Vale
2nd	Waseley Hill
3rd	Gospel Oak

Overall, the CRST tournament was a success! We look forward to the next Trust Tournament in the Spring Term which will also be hosted at Arrow Vale.

Miss G Harris

Christmas Card Competition

Thank you to all the students who took part in the Art Christmas card competition. We had some very creative and beautiful designs this year! Here are a few of the entries. Well done to Julia W in year 12 for winning the competition (below red post box)!



Tasty Christmas Biscuits

Thank you to all the students who took part in the Food lunch club to design and decorate your own biscuits and cakes. We had some very artistic designs well done!



DT Lunch Club create Christmas Decorations

Worcester Cathedral tree Festival



Thank you to all the students who worked hard in the DT lunch club to create Christmas decorations for the Arrow Vale tree. The sparkling Christmas tree looks fantastic and is stood proudly in Worcester Cathedral (location 5). We are very proud of our students for all of their hard work to make the tree happen.

The Christmas Tree Festival will be open to visit from Thursday 7 December 2023 until Sunday 14 January 2024 10am-5pm Monday to Saturday (last entry 4.30pm) and 1-3pm on Sundays (last entry 2.30pm). Booking is not required!

The Evergreen Dream

By Marleigh P. in Year 9



Once upon a time, in a snow-covered town called Evergreen, there lived a young girl named Michelle. She had a heart filled with love and a contagious joy which spread happiness to everyone she encountered. Michelle had always dreamt of meeting Santa Claus and being a part of his magical journey. Little did she know, her wish was about to come true.

One frosty winter evening, as Michelle walked through the town, she noticed a sparkle of light coming from a hidden pathway in the woods. Curiosity sparked within her, and she couldn't resist exploring its enchanted allure. Holding her breath, she stepped onto the path and found herself standing in front of a cosy cottage. As she approached, the door swung wide open to reveal none other than Santa Claus himself.

"Ho Ho Ho! Welcome, Michelle!" He exclaimed warmly, inviting her inside.

Over a hot chocolate, Santa explained that he had seen Michelle's incredible kindness towards others and wanted her to help with delivering Christmas presents. Overwhelmed with joy, Michelle accepted Santa's request. She was given a magical sack full of beautifully wrapped presents and climbed aboard Santa's sleigh.

With every home they delivered gifts to, Michelle's heart swelled with delight as she imagined the pure happiness on the faces of the children who would soon be opening their presents. It was a night filled with laughter, love, and the festive spirit which only the holiday season could bring. As dawn approached, Santa guided his sleigh back to the cottage, and Michelle prepared to bid him farewell. But just as she was about to leave, Mrs Claus emerged with a tray of freshly baked cookies.

Appreciating Michelle's selflessness and help with delivering the presents, Mrs Claus invited her to stay for breakfast. The two connected instantly, sharing stories and laughter as they discovered their mutual love of spreading joy and cheer. Days turned into weeks, and Michelle found herself spending more and more time with the Claus family. They became like her second family, and their bond was unbreakable. From that day, Michelle visited the Claus family every year, and together they nurtured beautiful Christmas trees, made ornaments, and delivered presents. The reindeer, always eager to see Michelle again and filled with the magic of the holiday season, joined in on the fun with their playful antics.

The tale of Michelle, the girl who met Santa and befriended Mrs Clause, became legendary. The spirit of giving, love, and joy was alive in the hearts of every Evergreen resident, and it all began with Michelle: the girl who embraced the enchantment of Christmas and forever changed the lives of those around her.

We are delighted to share with you all of the amazing events that have happened in Science this term!

Science Live and Education in action Trips

Our sixth form science students have had several opportunities to hear from Scientists at the cutting edge of their specialisms as part of the A-Level Live events in London and Education in Action at Warwick University. Our chemists were inspired by Professor Andrea Sella, Professor Serena Cussen, Dr. Peter Wothers and Professor Lucy Carpenter and Dr. Tim Gabriel. The biologists travelled to education in Action at Warwick where they had discussions, interactive sessions, and inspirational stories from CRISPR technology to climate change as well as a session on examination success. Finally, our Physicists were in awe of special guest speakers when they visited London including Prof. Jim AL-Khalili, talking about how quantum effects may be the key to understanding some of biology's greatest mysteries, and Dr. Melissa Uchida bestowing them with her knowledge on high energy Physics and how it is helping us to understand the universe.

During this half-term, we travelled down to London for the A-level Chemistry Live Event. Whilst there, we listened to multiple talks by Professors, Doctors, and Scientists. This included a presentation by Professor Andrea Sella who showed us the chemistry behind Nerve Agents. He went into detail about the origins of nerve agents, for example, how they were found when scientists were meant to be making pesticides. Furthermore, he highlighted how some of the scientists' careers were tainted by their accidental discovery of these nerve agents. In addition, Dr Tim Gabriel enlightened us about the chemistry behind Nanotechnology. In Gabriel's talk, he explained how nanotechnology helps keep materials liquid-resistant. His talk also included a volunteer from the crowd, which he then threw water at. Overall, we all had a very interesting and intriguing day!



By Isla R. (Student STEM Ambassador)

Year 9 cells competition

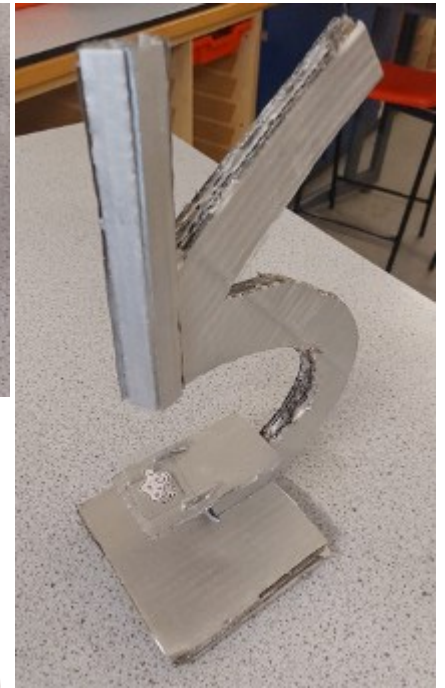
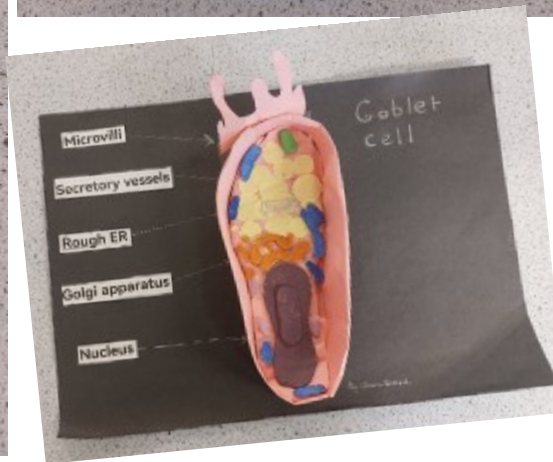
Thank you to all students that took part in this year's Cell Model competition. It was a difficult choice but this year's winners were:

1st Place – Esme D (microscope and various slides)

2nd Place – Jeana B (Goblet cell)

3rd Place – Jess W (Plant cell)

4th Place – Amaan W (Plant Cell)



STEM Club

The STEM Club have had a busy term with most recently, having fun creating lessons based on Forensic Science ready to deliver to Year 8 students early next year. The suspect pool are a selection of Arrow Vale staff and we have honed our fingerprinting, chemical analysis, anatomy and creative skills so that we can get justice for Fred. We can't wait to welcome Ipsley students in January so we can pass on these skills and inspire them with the STEM activities.



Boys Football Fixtures



Football and basketball fixtures have taken place this term, with all our boys teams competing in a range of competitions. Check out the team lists, along with some of the standout fixtures below!

Year 11 Football

This year, the Year 11 football team have completed some fantastic performances and are currently in the semi finals of the county cup. They opened the season with a 7-2 win over local rivals St Augustines.

This match was followed by a hard-fought national cup loss 1-2 to a very good Colmers school and had the game been longer I have every confidence that we would have scored the equalising goal and then, who knows what would have been the outcome at that point? Their most recent game was 2-6 demolition of Bowbrook school in the county cup.

There have been fantastic performances across the team; the unity, the battling and covering for each other is fantastic and something to be admired. Their cover versions of Adele on the bus are less inspiring!

The boys pictured right, looking fantastic in their new kit sponsored by P&E Sports.

Mr A Ballantine



Year 10 Football

The Year 10 football team have had a great start to the year, winning all their league games as well as still being in and competing for the Worcester County Cup. The lads have really gotten to grips with Breeze ball, being constantly reminded to “trust the process” by the gaffa and subsequently reaping the fruits of their labor. They return in February hoping to venture deeper into the Worcester County cup and continue their winning form.

TEAM; Billi-Neil B., Josh W., Sam O., Liam G., Kinlay R., Oliver S., Charlie F., Rafael L., Jake S., Nojus B., Liam F., Mckenzie O., Charlie M., Shaun O;H., Zach S.k, Logan E., Sam E. and Ashton C

Year 9 Football

A first run out for the year 9's against a very good Tudor Grange Solihull, first half was a closely contested affair with them edging 2 goals at the break. Unfortunately after the break is where their experience of them playing together since year 7 got the better of the boys and they managed to score a few more goals. AV unfortunately losing 6-0.

The Year 9 boys came up against a good strong King Charles team. A slow and sloppy start meant we were 3-0 down after 12 minutes. The boys then managed to get a foothold in the game lead by Harry H. and grab a great goal by Josh H. making it 3-1 at half time. There were some tired legs and King Charles had come armed with subs, Ajay kept us in the game with some sublime saves. 2 unfortunate errors and a well taken finish meant we were 6-1 down. The boys still dug deep and began to play some good football. Final score 6-2

If you are interested in playing football for the Year 9 team then please get yourself down to training Monday after school.

TEAM: Ajay B., Junior L., Billy H., Noah D., Liam P., Harry H., Sam H., Ethan C., Harrison W., Ben S., Josh H., Alex T., Alfie., Will T-G., Alfie R., Jack C., and Michal S.

Sixth Form Football

We arrived to a brand new Kenilworth school with a depleted team. As the boys walked onto the astro expecting a very tough game they put up a good battle and made it a competitive game. 1-0 down at half time and we had some glorious chances to score ourselves. The message at half time was keep going and try and squeeze a goal out of them. Despite only having one injured sub we battled hard, amongst some controversial refereeing decisions we were edged out in the end.

A valiant effort from the 6th form boys in the Worcester County Cup vs last years winners South Bromsgrove. A cracking first half where we had plenty of the ball and possession but lacked the killer edge were undone by two set piece goals. Fitness became an issue second half and we couldn't claw back the deficit. MOM Sam playing up a year group for 6th form kept us in the game second half with some great saves.

TEAM: GK - Jake W., LWB - Hayden R., CB - Josh L., CB - Jeosh B., CB - Konrad W., RWB - Tino S., CM - Harry S., CM - Tim B., LW - Samet O., ST - Wojech G., RW - Josh J., George H., and Matt T.



Children in Need



On Friday 17th November, Arrow Vale held several charity fundraising events, throughout the day, to raise money for Children in Need.

Students could come in their own choice of clothing for the day, for a donation of £1. There was the usual cake sales outside the LDR at break and lunch times, where students and staff could pick up a tasty treat for as little as 20p. Raffle tickets were also sold for 20p or £1 a strip, to win a hamper filled with tasty goodies. Well done to Miss Sherwood who was the luck winner of the hamper.

Arrow Vale raised a total of....



£818.55





The 2023 GCHQ National Language Competition

So

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The 2023 GCHQ National Language Competition,
6th November - Friday 10th November 2023.

The National Language Competition (NLC) is a virtual competition where teams from schools around the UK compete against each other to solve language-based puzzles and score points. The overall winners are then invited to GCHQ's headquarters in Cheltenham to receive their trophy!

With the NLC, GCHQ aims to inspire language learning by encouraging students to discover their aptitude for learning languages.

Here is what Maisie in 9X1 had to say about it.

"I enjoyed the GCHQ competition as it was a very challenging activity and helped broaden my language skills. We had to use the clues given to us in our tasks to create a password which started in FLAG and then a series of letters after it. Whoever had the most points by the end of the week won the competition and the opportunity to go to the GCHQ office in Cheltenham and meet the team."

Unfortunately, the competition across the UK was strong and we didn't win the national competition, but we did have our own competition within year 9. The winning team was Maisie, Noah, Alex, and Ivy. Well done!



Mrs M Hensel, Lead Practitioner for MFL

Exams and Outcomes

This term our GCSE cohorts have been extremely busy making superb progress towards their goals!

Year 11 have begun the year incredibly positively. Interventions have been running from September with excellent attendance and the November Mock exams were completed with excellent commitment, effort and ownership shown. Students studying our BTEC courses have also completed parts of their external assessments and performances which we are really excited to see the results of.

At the end of November, Year 11 took part in a well earned reward as a 'pat on the back' for the mock exam performance. A fiercely competitive 7-a-side football tournament was won in a penalty shootout by "Team Ashford" – well done to Jacob and his team. We also ran a cinema reward in the Theatre.

A huge well done to Year 11 so far and keep up that hard work as we move into the new year!

Year 10 have started strongly in their GCSE options and are building knowledge well ahead of future challenges. The year group had their first experience of doing assessments in exam venues at the end of November and behaved superbly during this period. Well done on some promising results and keep it up going forwards! Well done to all students!

Mr J Barratt, Assistant Principal & DLS for Maths





StarChaser Event

We were delighted, with the support of the Ogden Trust partnership, to take 30 Year 9 students to the StarChaser event at South Bromsgrove High School. This was a reward for students that have consistently shown commitment and enthusiasm in their Science lessons.

Steve and Claire from StarChaser Industries took us on a celestial journey in their aim to educate and inspire us, the next generation of engineers, scientists and space explorers by bringing a 39 foot rocket into the car park! We first took part in the Propulsion lab where we saw demos of the chemicals and power of rocket fuel, all jumped when a loud hydrogen balloon was popped and were mesmerised by the flaming vortex that was created using a bin and a lazy Susan! We then headed upstairs to the hub to see all the different items that had returned from space including meteorites, solid rocket fuel and even space food which accidentally burst all over Calli! We then all went outside to look at the giant rocket in detail!

My favourite part of the propulsion lab was when Kaleb set off the rocket that shot off so fast and bounced around the hall!

Estelle S





Thank you to all of the students who took part in these events and we look forward to more of you joining in next term with numerous opportunities such as the poster competition, Girls in STEM Event and GCSE and KS3 Live trips. Have a lovely break!

The Science Team



Sporting Successes



Year 9 Basketball : We've had good attendance to basketball training at Thursday Lunchtimes this year. The Y9 boys played in two competitive tournaments against local schools, unfortunately coming in last in the first tournament and second place in the second tournament, you can see as the games are being played that the quality of play is increasing. **TEAM:** *Oliver K., Xander P., Charlie A-H., Dyaln H., Harrison W., Charlie F., Jacob R., Dylan B., and Tamas.*

Year 10 Basket Ball : The year 10 boys worked incredibly hard regardless of their results, they showed resilience and represented AV valiantly in some thrilling local basketball games.

Table Tennis Tournament: The boys in year 10 put on a valiant display of both skill and resilience as the competition this year at the county table tennis championship was fierce. Being placed in the far harder group resulted in some early losses for us which resulted in only being able to push for a 5th place finish overall this year. **Sam E., Johan James L., Daniel W., and Zack T**



District Cross Country: We saw success again this year at the District Cross Country event, with 3 of our students progressing on to the next stage of the competition.



Fitness Suite - Monday Lunchtime: Our Lunchtime numbers have increased with plenty of you accumulating your house points! KEEP COLLECTING and KEEP UP YOUR MOTIVATION!!

Thank you to all the PE staff that have also given up their lunchtimes to run the activities. Students please don't take this for granted as staff give up their own time to run these clubs and fixtures for you. Maybe a little thank you would go a long way next time you attend a club!

Your Sport Successes

A huge well done to the following students who have achieved sporting success outside of school

Calum H.: Has progressed his BMX ranking to #1 in the West Midlands and into the Top 50 in the UK.

Football's in the family! Aimee and Jack W's footballing success continues. Jack is currently signed for Burton Albion FC Academy and Aimee is signed for Wolves Academy. Both continuing to work hard on both their football skills and their academic studies. We enjoy following their fixtures, results and success on social media. Keep up the good work both!

Rainee S. also continues to play for Birmingham City FC Academy and is thriving with the club! We look forward to continuing to follow the results into the New Year! Keep up the good work!

County Football Success

Aimee W., and Scarlett M. are dedicated members of our Arrow Vale Academy Girls Football Team, however they have recently been selected to represent the County Girls Football Team! Well done both!!

The message for all of our talented Sportspeople is..... Hard work pays off! Well done all!!!

If you are a student that competes outside of school and we are unaware of your achievement, please do not hesitate to tell us! We LOVE hearing about your talents and success!

New Arrivals



In September, Central Regions Schools Trust was pleased to announce the arrival of three brand new Ford Transits onto its minibus fleet providing students of all the Trust schools with opportunities to enhance their curriculum. The minibuses provide daily transport to a variety of destinations, i.e. Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, lectures in London and Birmingham and transport to Birmingham and Heathrow airports for ventures abroad.

The vehicles offer airline style air conditioned transport with reclining seats and access to USB charging points for up to 16 passengers.

Mr P Marples, Mini Bus Manager



12 Days of Christmas

READING CHALLENGE

Keep boredom at bay and try a challenge a day!



NEW YEAR



READING CHALLENGE

Front Cover Colour Book Challenge

Tick off the colour of the front cover of the book you read. Challenge yourself to see if you can read a rainbow of colourful books!



red



orange



yellow



green



blue



violet



pink



gray



black



white



brown



teal



maroon



peach



lime



purple

Even when the pressure is on, choosing to read

BOOSTS YOUR WELLBEING

Make a

READING HABIT

try scheduling 10 minutes a day

Choose your

READING MOOD

to match your

Hide distractions to find

YOUR FOCUS

GET READY

take a breath or two

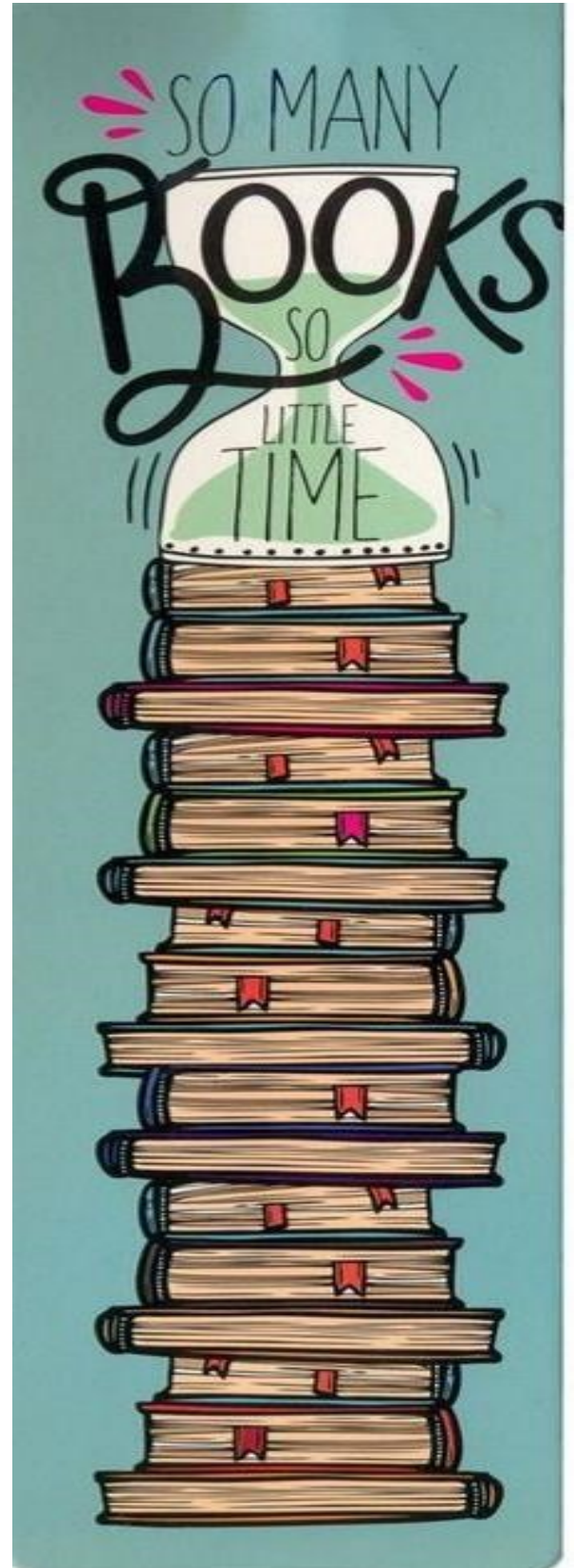
MIX IT UP

try an audiobook on a walk

SOCIALISE

chat about it, read together or
join a book club

Print, cut out, colour in and use the bookmark below for your next great read!



Christmas Word Search

G Q C E L V E S Z L I G H T S
 D C Z L F J S R V N U L B Z B
 C E L E B R A T E W M J E Y F
 Q F D C W G N R E I N D E E R
 P F Z E H J T G C O O K I E S
 G R A N C R A I R I W B I H C
 O M E M N O I U K S F V A Z A
 R I I S I N R S N D O H J D N
 N M M S E L E A T E C Q B W D
 A G Z D T N Y C T M J C P R Y
 M I I I U L T T W I A B T E C
 E V H N Z W E S S Q O S B A A
 N I E N A Q Q T F T P N J T N
 T N G E P Q I C O P Y Z S H E
 D G A R J W D E Q E Y P E B S

Decorations

Celebrate

Lights

Giving

Candy Canes

Ornament

Presents

Dinner

Christmas

Reindeer

Family

Wreath

Mistletoe

Cookies

Elves

Santa



Safeguarding At Arrow Vale



During the summer holidays two of our Year 11 students, Elsa L. and Maggie O. raised money for the community to buy two bleed kits. These bleed kits have been delivered to Trinity High School and to Arrow Vale. Arrow Vale's was delivered by Elsa, Maggie, Pete Martin from Drop the Knife and PCSO Rainbow. It was received by the Head of School, Mr Rash at Arrow Vale. The bleed kit is held in our reception for the community to use in the event someone is bleeding from an injury. The two girls have shown great leadership skills and continue to support the community through their commitment to supporting and raising money for lots of different charities and supporting young people with mental health issues. They can often be seen in the kingfisher Shopping Centre handing out resources to help young people and their families.





Arrow Vale supports the initiative Operation Encompass, which is a process whereby the police and county council will inform a member of the safeguarding team at school, if a child or young person has experienced any domestic incident. This will be done prior to the start of the next school day. Information sharing between professional agencies allows school staff to provide emotional and practical support to their students experiencing domestic abuse.

At Arrow Vale we have conducted assemblies with the year groups on the following safeguarding issues:

- ◆ Diversity: raising the awareness we are all different.
- ◆ Year 9 had an introduction to Safeguarding at Arrow Vale.
- ◆ Lockdown Procedures Drill: This has been delayed until the New Year
- ◆ Student Voice feedback

There are further assemblies planned for the remainder of the year, which will cover many issues, which are relevant in both a local and national context.

Staff have also undergone training in safeguarding and have completed the annual safeguarding refresher training in September, completing Safeguarding Young People Level 2, Keeping Children Safe in Education Part one and Annexe B Questionnaires along with briefings on our most disadvantaged students, how we manage visitors to our school and our family support offer.

We have also collaborated with West Mercia Police who delivered an online conference around online child sexual exploitation to staff and parents. The conference was a huge success, and they were able reach hundreds of families across Worcester as the link was sent out to all the schools in Worcester, so they could also share the link with their parents. Arrow Vale will follow up with our parents in the New Year and we will be sharing lots of important information on how to keep your child/young person safe online.

As a school we continue to work closely with external agencies to support the wellbeing of all our students and this time of year is particularly difficult for some. On the next page are a few numbers for families and students to contact if they need any support or help over the holidays.





Designated Safeguarding Staff

	Designated Governor for Safeguarding Children: Mr Chris Elston, Governor		Designated Safeguarding Lead Mr S Crane, Vice Principal
	Senior Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead Mrs D Downes, Senior Safeguarding Lead		Single Point of Contact for Extremism and Radicalisation and Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead Mrs F Stanley Assistant Principal
	Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead Mr N Linington, Assistant Principal		Designated Deputy Safeguarding lead Ms H Barnes, Wellbeing Lead
	Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead Mrs N Ierston, Head of Year		Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead Mrs S Curtis, Intervention & Emotional Wellbeing Co-ordinator
	Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead Mrs R Rowson, Head of Year		Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead Miss D Davies, Educational Welfare Officer



Meet the Safeguarding Team



NSPCC
Cruelty to children must stop. **FULL STOP.**

Call NSPCC On 0806 800 5000
or email help@nspcc.org.uk

TALK TO US
if things are getting to you

116 123
jo@samaritans.org
samaritans.org

SAMARITANS

kooth
Free, safe and anonymous
online support for young people



West Mercia POLICE
SERVING - PROTECTING - MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

Police **101** for non-emergency reporting of a crime
Police **999** for emergency reporting of a crime

Vaping & the Law



Under
18

Selling vapes to under 18s is illegal.

Buying vapes for under 18s is illegal.

Know somebody selling vapes to under 18s?



Over 600 puffs

Over 20mg/ml (or 2%) nicotine strength

Over 2ml tank size

Contains ingredients such as caffeine or taurine

Not certified by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)

No nicotine warnings on the packet

See it. Report it!



How to spot an Illegal Vape?

Scan me



Call: 0808 223 1133 Citizens Advice Consumer helpline

Online: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/tip-us

Email: TSEnquiries@WorcestershireTS.gov.uk

Trading Standards Service



worcestershire
county council

Notices



Dates for your Diary Spring Term 2024

Return to School	Tuesday 9th January
Year 10 Parents Evening	Tuesday 16th January
Sixth Form Parents Evening	Tuesday 24th January
Spring Half Term Holidays	Monday 12th - Friday 16th February
Year 9 Virtual Parents Evening	Tuesday 20th February
World Book Day	Thursday 7th March
Red Nose Day : Comic Relief	Friday 15th March
Year 9 Options Evening	Tuesday 19th March
Easter Holidays	Monday 15th March - Friday 5th April

Further information on the above will come out closer to the time of the event.

Preloved Uniform Shop



PLEASE SUPPORT US IN BEING ECO FRIENDLY

We are asking for voluntary donations of all items of school uniform.

Our aim is to help save the planet and save money for our families too!

Preloved uniform donations must be in good condition and have been washed.

Please drop off any donations at Main Reception.

HELPING TO SUPPORT FAMILIES

If you would like to request any pre-loved items then please complete Microsoft Form via the QR Code

The funds raised will all go to providing our students with the best experience and rewards!

DID YOU KNOW...

1.4 million wearable school uniforms are thrown away each year!

DID YOU KNOW...

A child wears more than 500 pieces of uniform over their school life!



For more information:

Website: <https://www.arrowvaleacademy.co.uk/>

Reminder!

⇒ **NO HOODIES, BASEBALL CAPS OR ANY OTHER HEADWEAR (except for religious purposes) to be worn in school.**

⇒ **COATS NOT to be WORN INSIDE** the school building, including LDR and OC.

⇒ **NO TRAINERS** to be worn in school.

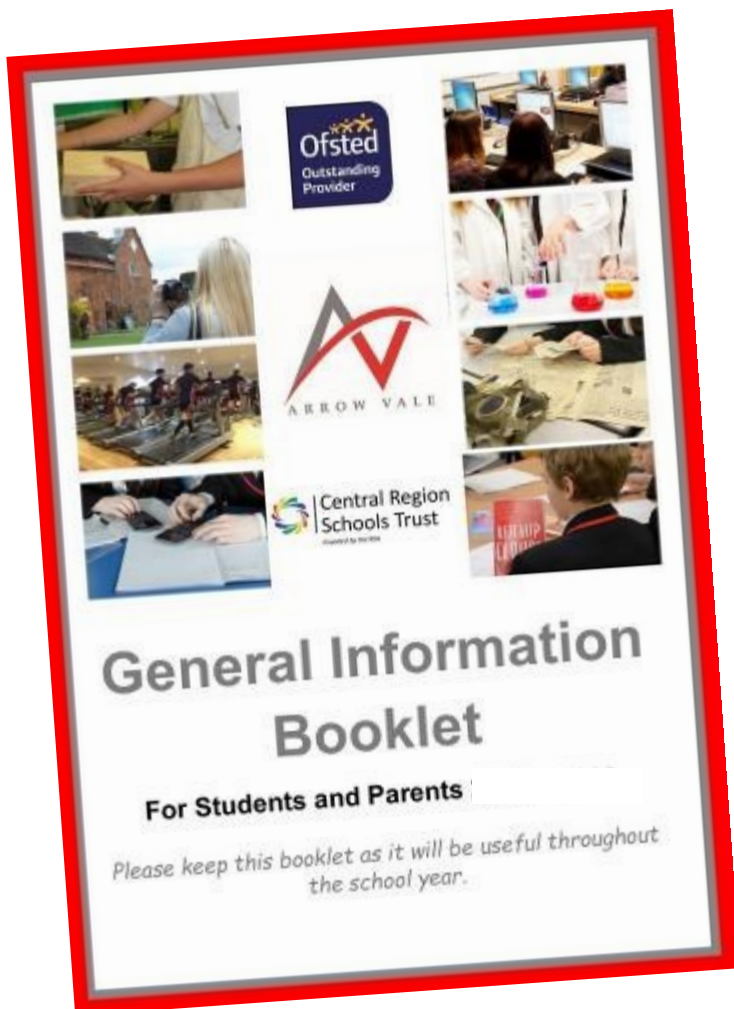
⇒ **MAKEUP** needs to remain discreet **NO FAKE NAILS OR EYE LASHES.**

⇒ **PHONES** on the way in and out of school are **NOT TO BE SEEN.**

⇒ Leave all classrooms, meeting **UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS**

⇒ **FOOD ONLY** to be **EATEN** in LDR and OC — **NO** energy / Fizzy drinks to be seen.

See the General Information Booklet on the website for the full list of rules.



The General Information Booklet, a copy of which can be found on our school website and is updated each year, provides school information for parents/carers i.e. school day, uniform, rewards, house systems, medical procedures, school rules etc. Use the QR Code to take you directly to this booklet.





PARKING AT ARROW VALE

We would advise when visiting the school that you please use the **Matchborough Way Car Park (post code *B98 0GF*)**

There is additional car parking at the Green Sward Lane entrance. Please note the barrier will be closed between 8.30am - 3pm.

Please do NOT park in the residential area of Green Sward Lane.



Parking Notice

Following concerns raised by local residents, can you please ensure when dropping off and collecting your child, you park considerately so as not to obstruct any access required by the residents or fellow road users.

Student News

Follow us on

Instagram, Twitter & Don't forget our Website

If your son or daughter has experienced any success out of school, we'd love to hear about it! If you would like to share the news with us so that we might celebrate it via the school website, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube or other publications, please email your 'articles' to (office@arrowvaleacademy.co.uk), photographs are also very welcome.



Are you on Instagram?
Follow us at
ArrowValeAcademy.



Are you on Twitter?
Follow us at
@ArrowValeSchool



For all news and other information visit our website on

[https://
www.arrowvaleacademy.co.uk/](https://www.arrowvaleacademy.co.uk/)

We love to celebrate our school news, join the Arrow Vale family on social media!

