

# The Advocate

Student Leadership - Autumn Term 2024



## A New Era

Mr Linington and the Student Ambassadors have successfully relaunched a new student leadership initiative.

We have more committees than ever before, with leadership becoming increasingly popular this year!

## A Special Visit



Tom, Isla and Fizz are seen with Jacqui Smith, Mr Shears, Mr Rash and Mr Mellor.

It was a pleasure to welcome Jacqui Smith, Minister of State for Skills, back to our school last week! Having started her teaching career here, she enjoyed a tour led by our Senior Ambassadors & shared stories of her incredible journey.

## Our Committees



The Creative Arts committee were having an insightful meeting about future plans and progression, lead by Brooke and Loki!

Each committee has started to develop their main aims this term. These are all contributing to making Arrow Vale more inclusive as all students can get involved in doing something that they love which will benefit the school. The process is entirely student led with specific teachers being there to support them if needed.

# Our Committees

Hear from some of our committee leads on what they have achieved so far.

## Sport

Sport Committee have actively been planning future events and new clubs throughout this term, and it's been amazing to see lots of people involved in these clubs run by the PE department and some amazing volunteers across the school. Students across all year groups have been taking part in sports leadership events with Miss Pearson and Miss Clarke where they help lead or officiate games for lower years. These events have been really successful and couldn't be ran without the help of the fantastic sports leaders.

We took a student voice at the start of this academic year which gave us crucial insights to what you guys as a student body want to be a part of. These ideas have been heavily considered, and some will be coming into action as of next term. Into the next calendar year, you can expect to see more events, such as Teacher Vs Teachers and The Healy Cup and a new event of AV world cup. A bigger push on clubs this year will be reinstated next term with new clubs leading on from the results of the student voice. We hope to see as many of you involved in these exciting events as possible.

Ruby and Wojciech

## Learning Forum

Our goal this year is to bridge the gap between the lower years and Sixth Form. We have actively done this by putting together a mentoring team of sixth formers that get involved with lessons, lunch and listening sessions overall to give back to the community and build the connection, trust, and comfortability between year groups.

So far Sixth Form students have offered their time, passion and skill during their free periods to help support in the lower year lessons. This has been a popular form of enrichment and has been well received by the teachers. This also allows a pathway for Sixth Form and lower school collaboration and is beneficial for all year groups. Our mentors have further involved themselves in an extended mentoring program called lunch and listening sessions. Providing students with a platform to ask questions and get answers from students that relate to their position and introduces a calm, quiet and accepting environment to provide this help.

Our future prospects involve inviting alumni speakers to deliver presentations on their post-school experiences, whether that be university, apprenticeship or work and will hopefully cover a large range of careers. This will help students to contextualise what they want to do in their future.

Fizz and Anjali

## STEM & Eco

In STEM & Eco Committee, our biggest priority so far this year has been revamping the greenhouse to make it safe for students to use. In the greenhouse, we aim to grow the crops needed for the science practicals students do in their lessons. This promotes sustainable farming which helps reduce the school's carbon footprint. Furthermore, this helps get students out of the classroom and get outdoors more as this is shown to have positive impacts on mental health. In addition, the year 12 STEM Ambassadors have been mentoring lower school chemistry and maths lessons. This is beneficial to both the lower school students and the sixth formers as this helps give the students in the classroom a deeper understanding of difficult topics whilst giving sixth formers tutoring experience. In Stem club, we have built 3D models to demonstrate how electricity and current works. We narrowed the width of the model to show how the current experiences resistance. These were designed for middle school students to help them visualize electrical current easier. At the moment, the members of STEM club are planning small lessons for local middle school students. They are organising the topics, exercises, and practicals themselves with the overall goal of teaching them the lessons in the new year.

Isla

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## Creative Arts

In the creative arts committee, we are striving to create the art mural that has been in the works now for some time and we are just waiting for confirmation on a date for this to be created in the new year. With Christmas being just around the corner we have had lower school students create Christmas decorations using the laser cutter and decorating them to be displayed on a Christmas tree that has been put up in Worcester, this has been taking place on a Tuesday lunch time. The artists of the school are going to be helping out within Matilda Jr creating set designs for the performance to capture the scenes just like in the original book. Any volunteers for this would be greatly appreciated as anyone is welcome to help out.

We in the Drama committee have taken up roles in the cast to bring Matilda Jr to life! From acting, to song and dance, we are truly dedicated to showing the best we have to offer. Outside of this, we are also hosting seasonal showcases, such as the up-and-coming Winter showcase! These events are entirely student-led meaning the tech, talent and tactics all come from Arrow Vale's very own student cohort. We believe that everyone should be given the chance to show their capabilities to the world, so come one-come all!

Brooke, Loki and Ella

## Student Council

This past term Student Council has been really successful, especially in its early stages! With a great uptake from across all year groups we had a brilliant first meeting discussing the meaningful changes we want to make at Arrow Vale and working very well collaboratively to create these ideas. With new ideas such as a change in the rewards system and an increase in teacher sporting competitions we hope to make the school even better. We are aiming to execute these ideas across half term, with our next meeting being on the 12th December to discuss how to complete this. There is still time to sign up so if you are interested please email [20kthompson@arrowvaleacademy.co.uk](mailto:20kthompson@arrowvaleacademy.co.uk).

Kezia and Georgia

## Equality & Diversity

It's the first year in which Equality and Diversity has functioned as a standalone committee and following its launch we plan to make its first year one of its best. Our overall aim is simple; we want everyone to feel included and loved at school for who they are, making school an environment for them in which they can thrive as their true self. Following Culture Day's conception early in the year, we intend to continue it with the assistance of the whole student leadership team, bringing it back this academic year with a bang on the 14th of March. Once we reach the handover point to our new student leaders next year, Equality and Diversity deputies will step into the role of Leaders and make next year's upcoming Pride Month a celebration at school to truly remember. We hope you enjoy all that Equality and Diversity will bring to the school in the coming year.

Tom

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## Wellbeing

The wellbeing committee has had a great start this term. Currently, we are in the process of acquiring training for our wellbeing mentors so that sessions can start early next term. This is a great opportunity for the pupils, teaching them lifelong skills. Alongside this, the heads of the committee have both been involved in delivering safeguarding assemblies alongside Mr. Crane to the whole school. Our team is slowly but surely coming together, and we hope to have a kick start straight after Christmas. Keep a lookout for details around when lunchtime drop-in sessions are starting!

Carla

## Charity

The charity committee's main aim is to raise money to support charities that help people.

We do this through non-school uniform days, having bake sales and selling ribbons. We have recently raised money for Macmillan by holding our annual bake sale, and Children in Need by hosting a number of fun activities throughout the day. Thank you to everyone who has donated towards these! Other charities we raise money for are Birmingham Children's Hospital, Comic Relief (red nose day) and many more.

The next big event for the charity committee is the Christmas Charity week where there is going to be a raffle for a BIG hamper full of chocolate and sweets. There is also going to be a bake sale and many more exciting events. Keep an eye out for them!

Lana and Bernard

## Marketing & Communications

The Marketing and Communications committee has been off to a great start this term. With the help of our Year 12 deputies, we have made a number of posters to promote Children in Need and the Winter Showcase. We have also been busy making this newsletter! This has been our main priority since the beginning - we're looking to release these alongside Arrow News so that you can get an insight into how student leadership is going, and hear it directly from us. We are working closely alongside Mr Brennan to keep promoting events within school by using the TV screens and creating more promotional material too. Thanks to Megan, we are able to include lots of photos within these so that you can all see what is happening! It's like we have our own professional photographer with us. It's never too late to join us, so if you're interested in this, feel free to email

[20iframpton@arrowvaleacademy.co.uk!](mailto:20iframpton@arrowvaleacademy.co.uk)

Isobel and Evan

**Have you found a committee that appeals to you? You can easily sign up through the QR Code here!**

