

ARROW NEWS



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS!



Building Team Work & Resilience

At Arrow Vale we believe in doing the ordinary, extraordinarily well to support our students.



CONTENTS

3. Head of School Message
- 4 - 5. Year 9's Adventures
6. We will Remember!
7. Theatre Review
8. 6-Aside Trust Competition
9. Ofsted
- 10-13. Science News
14. Theatre Visit
15. Conquering Competitions
16. Children in Need
17. Fabulous Fridays
18. Spanish Celebrations
19. Getting Published!
- 20-21. Christmas Hampers
22. MFL Film Club
23. Learning Support News
24. Future Writers Competition
25. Physic Students Visit J0drell Bank
26. Rugby
27. Mathematic Challenges
- 28.-30. Creative Arts News
31. Computing
32. Welcoming a Special Visitor
33. MFL Languagenut Competition
34. 6th Form Quiz
- 35.-36. Reading and Art Challenge
- 37 - 38. Safeguarding Update
- 39.- 40. Information



Head of School Message



Dear Students, Parents, and Staff,

Arrow News - Celebrating Our Students' Success

Welcome to this Christmas edition of *Arrow News*, a celebration of what our incredible students can achieve. I am extremely proud of our school—a place where hard work, dedication, and a shared vision from both students and staff drive us forward.

Great learning happens when focus and effort are at the core of our lessons, but it's in moments of challenge that our students truly shine. *Resilience, determination*, and the ability to remain calm under pressure to find solutions are what set the successful apart, and our students have embodied these qualities brilliantly.

This issue highlights a wide range of achievements—evidence of the outstanding efforts our young people put in every day, often as part of a team alongside staff who go above and beyond to support them. The distinctive culture we've built here is what makes our success stand out—it doesn't happen in every school.

We're also celebrating the incredible work of our **Student Leadership Team**, which continues to grow in strength and impact. Every form group now has representation, ensuring that all voices are heard and valued across our school community.

Our students have made a huge difference not just in the classroom but also in the wider community. Visits from Ofsted and the Trust review days have reaffirmed that we have maintained a standard of excellence that is truly worth celebrating.

As you read through this edition, I hope you feel the same pride that I do. This is *our school*, and these achievements belong to *all of us*.

Let's celebrate success together!

Matthew Rash
Head of School

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

Social **Spiritual** **Moral** **Cultural** **CEIAG**

CEIAG - Careers Education Information, Advice & Guidance



Year 9's Adventure at Upton Warren : Building Resilience and Team Spirit!

In the week beginning October 14th, Year 9 embarked on an unforgettable adventure at Upton Warren with the amazing team from Aztec Adventure. The students eagerly took on a series of outdoor challenges, including rafting, canoeing, bell boating, high ropes courses, archery, and abseiling. Throughout the week, they showcased courage, teamwork, and an impressive level of resilience—a skill that helps us face challenges with perseverance and determination. From overcoming fears to mastering new skills, our Year 9 students embraced every challenge with enthusiasm.

The experience didn't just end at Upton Warren; back at school, Mr. Brennan hosted an assembly to reflect on the lessons learned during the adventure. He emphasized the importance of resilience—a vital life skill that allows us to bounce back from setbacks, face adversity, and keep moving forward. In his presentation, Mr. Brennan shared a powerful video about Nick Vujicic, a motivational speaker who has overcome incredible personal obstacles (be sure to look him up to see his inspiring story!). He also opened up about his own experiences with resilience, recounting his journey with Mr. Mellor and Mr. Preston in tackling the gruelling 70-mile ultra marathon, *The Wall*. This challenge, done in memory of a beloved colleague who sadly passed away, raised funds for charity and reminded everyone of the strength we find in facing difficult situations together. They trained relentlessly, pushing through intense, exhausting sessions, which underscored the value of “taking it one step at a time.”

The assembly linked these inspiring examples back to the students' experiences at Upton Warren. Whether it was facing the high ropes or paddling for the first time, our Year 9s demonstrated courage and the willingness to take on difficult tasks—a mindset that will serve them well in their studies and beyond.

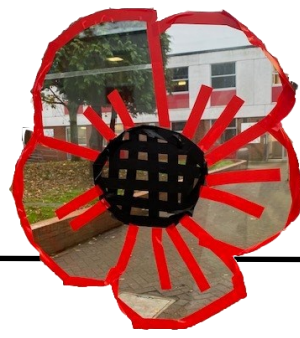
Be sure to check out our social media accounts on X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, and Instagram to see photos of Year 9's amazing experiences at Upton Warren.

We are so proud of our Year 9 students for their hard work, bravery, and support for each other throughout this experience. Their spirit and resilience are a reminder of what they can achieve—both at school and in the world beyond!

Article by Mr Brennan



We Will Remember!



Students in Years 10, 12 and 13 created window displays around the school for Remembrance Day.



Theatre Review

& Juliet reviewed by Year 13 theatre critic L. Wilding

The piece was presented to me, with an unfaithful synopsis, as something that could be considered oversaturated feminist literature. From my expectations, I entered the theatre expecting not much—merely a half-baked exploration of what is a serious social issue. I am glad to tell you I was pleasantly surprised by the entire show! The eye-catching set design set the professional precedence, followed by the snappy introduction and faithful yet innovative re-invention of classic literature. The show takes the great of William Shakespeare and humanises him brilliantly, not afraid to address the flaws in his writing or challenge Elizabethan tradition with a fresh contemporary viewpoint.

The Jukebox Musical format is wonderfully embraced with a constant onset of songs, from the enigmatic Tom S' favourite Backstreet Boys number to the melancholic yet all too fitting Britney Spear's slower pieces. This blend of quality acting (both comical and serious) and entertaining music renditions had Tom S stating "The use of modern, familiar music to ground such a confident yet relevant plot was simply awe-inspiring." The plot in itself saw no issue in addressing potentially uncomfortable issues, creating exposure and support for those facing transphobia, homophobia and the long-standing conformist agenda many of our youth face today.

Overall, the musical "&Juliet" brings with it comedy and diversity, being a brave piece unafraid to explore sensitive issues with a constant engaging stage piece. Whilst the humour is numerous, it never presents itself as obtuse or intrusive to those moments of sensitivity that the audience is exposed to. A brilliant performance, an eye-opening experience and a fun show that merits every bit of positive feedback!





6-aside Trust Competition

On a crisp November afternoon Arrow Vale attended the Trust wide 6 a side competition at Hollyhead.

There was a boys and girls competition with both sides doing the school proud.

Unfortunately, while the girls played some lovely football and tried throughout, they were not able to regain the trophy that Arrow Vale won last year. However, the boys team were not to be denied victory.

Following a sluggish start against the hosts which resulted in a 2-2 draw, Arrow Vale went on to win the remaining games comfortably. There were some sparkling moments in the winter sun but none more than a joyful Noah B. collecting the trophy for his winning team.



Article by Mr Ballantine

To read the full Ofsted Inspection report please go to our Website - News & Events - School News section

[Arrow Vale - Arrow News Ofsted Special Edition 2024](#)

**ARROW
NEWS**

**SPECIAL
EDITION**



Ofsted

Ofsted 2024

Inspection:

Arrow Vale High School has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection in 2019.



OFSTED Inspection

At the end of last term, we were visited by Ofsted. From our inspection, I'm delighted to share that we have now received the final report, confirming:

"Arrow Vale High School has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection."

The two-day inspection involved a thorough evaluation of the school. Inspectors examined key priorities, including safeguarding, behaviour, attendance, sixth form provision, reading, student participation, learning, and leadership. All stakeholders were observed and engaged in discussions to provide a comprehensive view of the school's performance.

We are thrilled to announce that Arrow Vale High School has once again held the standing of the previous 2 inspections. Since 2013/14, we have upheld this standard, which is a remarkable achievement. A huge thank you to our students and staff for their unwavering commitment and dedication throughout the inspection process.

Here are some highlights from the report:

- *"The school is highly inclusive, where everyone is valued."*
- *"Pupils speak positively about the support they receive from staff and enjoy their learning."*
- *"Pupils are safe and say they are happy at the school. Parents and carers are very supportive of the school's ethos."*

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to parents who participated in the inspection, whether through surveys or ongoing support of the school's efforts. Your role in fostering a strong partnership with the school is invaluable and plays a crucial part in our continued success.

We are incredibly proud to be recognised as a leading provider of education for the Arrow Vale community. As we look ahead, the upcoming new school build, with its design phase set to commence in 2025, marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for our school and the wider community.

Warm regards,

Matthew Rash, Head of School

Science Magic Show

This term we welcomed Dr Pritchard as part of a Trust wide enrichment event and through our partnership with the Ogden Trust. Dr Pritchard put on a Science Magic show for our Years 9, 10, 12 & Y13 students, exploring the "magic" in every day illusions and explained them using science from the curriculum. Students thoroughly enjoyed the event and excited to try out some of the magical illusions at home.

"I really enjoyed the science show and it made me realise how fun physics can be. I really liked the experiments that were shown and it inspired me to look further into physics."

"The science magic show was truly a wonderful experience. It was just the right mix of magical illusions, physics and other scientific fun. The host kept everyone entertained with jokes and there was constantly new things happening, making it the perfect mix between educational and fun"

"The performance was absolutely amazing! It made me question so many things and see parts of the world from an entirely different perspective"

World Space Week Competition Year 9

Earlier this term, we ran a World Space Week competition in Science for our Year 9 students. World Space Week is an international celebration of science and technology, and their contribution to the betterment of the human condition. We received over 150 amazing entries and students enjoyed joining their creativity and love for science.

"I absolutely loved the space competition. I loved being able to be creative and research for myself at home in what I was interested in. Space is really cool so it was fun to make something related to this. I loved how it was literally anything, making the challenge accessible to anyone and open to interpretation. Overall I really enjoyed it and the gifts and prizes were generous, inspiring us to do our best."

"I loved the space competition! It was so fun researching about space in my own time and learning about all these different things. It was great being creative and having the freedom to do anything to do with space, like painting. I'm glad this was something we could take part in as it gave me and others in my year a chance to learn about things we usually wouldn't."





STEM Club Update

The STEM Club has been buzzing with creativity, collaboration, and exploration this year! From designing electrical models to planning thrilling escape room challenges, and mentoring younger students, the club members have been fully immersed in projects that are not only engaging but educational too.

The STEM Club's adventure began with the creation of electrical models, to support teaching the difficult concept of potential difference and resistance. Thanks to the guidance of the Ogden Trust, which supports the development of STEM education, students learned how to use models to explain science. After some frustration.

But the STEM Club isn't just about creating; it is also about sharing a passion for Science, so the club had the important task of planning engaging and hands-on forensics lessons for the upcoming Year 7 students who we will welcome in the new year.

The STEM Club didn't stop with forensics—they also took on the challenge of creating escape room activities for the Year 8 students. Using a blend of puzzles, logic challenges, and teamwork, they designed activities that tested both minds and nerves. The objective? To encourage problem-solving skills, communication, and creativity. With teamwork at the heart of the challenge, it was lovely to see the different years collaborate to produce these experiments to share later in the year.

One of the standout moments of the year was when the STEM Club members were tasked with choosing the winners of the Year 9 space competition. With rockets, satellites, and space-themed projects on the table, the club had their hands full reviewing some of the most innovative and out-of-this-world submissions!

Perhaps one of the most rewarding parts of being in the STEM Club has been the opportunity for sixth formers to mentor Year 9 students. They have stepped into the role of guides and educators, helping their younger peers with everything from lab experiments to problem-solving challenges. The mentorship program has not only helped Year 9s build their knowledge and confidence but has also allowed sixth formers to refine their leadership skills and share their own passion for STEM subjects.

The exciting academic year for STEM club is just the beginning and if you're interested in getting involved or supporting stem club we meet every Thursday!

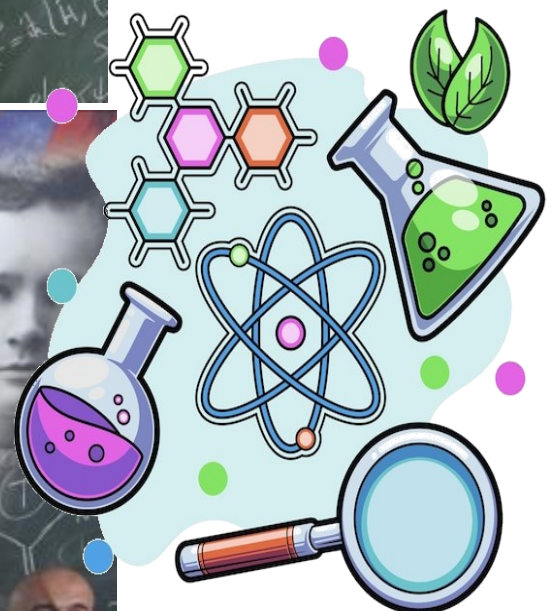


Science Recognition Award

This term has been nothing short of exceptional in Science, and we've been truly impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm shown by our students in every lesson. A special congratulations goes to the students who have received this term's Science Recognition Awards, nominated by their teachers for going above and beyond both inside and outside the classroom. We look forward to seeing who will be nominated next term and wish all students and families a very happy holiday!



Noah C.
Chloe C.
Ludwig K.
Aston F.
Leo W.
Liam P.
Lewis L.
Natalia G.
Kinlay R.
Hollie P.
Henry V.
Gabbie H.
Tilly G.
Freya T





Theatre Visit



On Wednesday 20th November, Year 12 and 13 English literature students, visited the RSC Stratford to watch a production of 'Othello'

It was a great performance and staff and students all had a great experience.

Article by Mrs Jones



Conquering Competitions

District Competition

On Thursday 14th November, a group of students in Years 9, 10 and 11, competed in a district trampolining competition at Saint Augustine's school and came out with 3 bronze medals, 1 silver and a gold medal! One bronze medal winner described the competition as "*exhilarating yet nerve-racking*".

County Competition

On Wednesday 27th November, the same group of students, competed yet again in a county competition. Again success was achieved and the students walked away with 1 Bronze medal, 1 Silver and 2 Gold medals. One of the students competing in the intermediate 1 challenge said that the competition was "*Scary but fun*", whilst another quoted the competition as "*challenging but a skilful learning experience*".

Well done to all the students who competed in both Competitions.

AV's Charity

FUNDRAISING

We kicked off the term with a heartwarming and delicious coffee morning to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Students sold an impressive array of cakes, and the event was a great success, raising a total of £168.

During World Mental Health Week, the Charity Committee focused on raising awareness of mental health issues. They sold green ribbons to spread the message of hope and understanding, helping to foster a positive conversation around mental well-being. In addition to this, a cake sale raised £62, with the funds going toward supporting mental health.

One of the most anticipated events of the year was the Children in Need fundraiser, where students and staff came together for a fun-filled day of activities. The committee organized an Own Clothes Day, where students paid a small fee to dress in casual attire, a cake sale featuring tasty treats, Kris B did a sponsored silence and the always-popular "Guess the Baby Teacher" competition. After much anticipation, Harry H was crowned the winner of the competition, correctly identifying the most baby pictures of teachers!

Additionally, the committee ran a creative poetry competition, inviting students to write poems about childhood. The winning entries, penned by Kris B and Chloe C, were both thought provoking and meaningful pieces of poetry. Together, these events raised a fantastic total of £734, all of which went directly to Children in Need.

The best was the final week, Christmas Charity week. Money was raised from selling kindness candy canes to serving up delicious hot chocolate and cakes, as well as the traditional festive wear Friday, we can't wait to see how much this event raises for Birmingham Children's Hospital.





Fabulous Fridays: Rewarding Attendance in Style!

At Arrow Vale, we believe that every school day matters and we love celebrating students who show their commitment to learning by attending school every day. One of our exciting initiatives to promote positive attendance is our weekly 'Attendance Draw,' affectionately known as 'Fabulous Friday.'

Every Friday during Tutor Time, students in Years 9, 10, and 11 gather for the highly anticipated 'Spin the Wheel' event. Names of students with 100% attendance for the week are entered into the draw, and the wheel spins to determine not only who wins but also the fabulous prize they'll take home.

From trendy hair dryers to top-notch ear pods and even air fryers, our prizes are a hit! The excitement in the room is palpable as students wait to see if their name will appear, and what they'll win.

So, if you want to be part of the fun, remember: it's simple... show up every day, make it to 100% attendance, and you could be our next Fabulous Friday winner!

Let's make every Friday fabulous by showing up and showing out!



Article by Mr Brennan



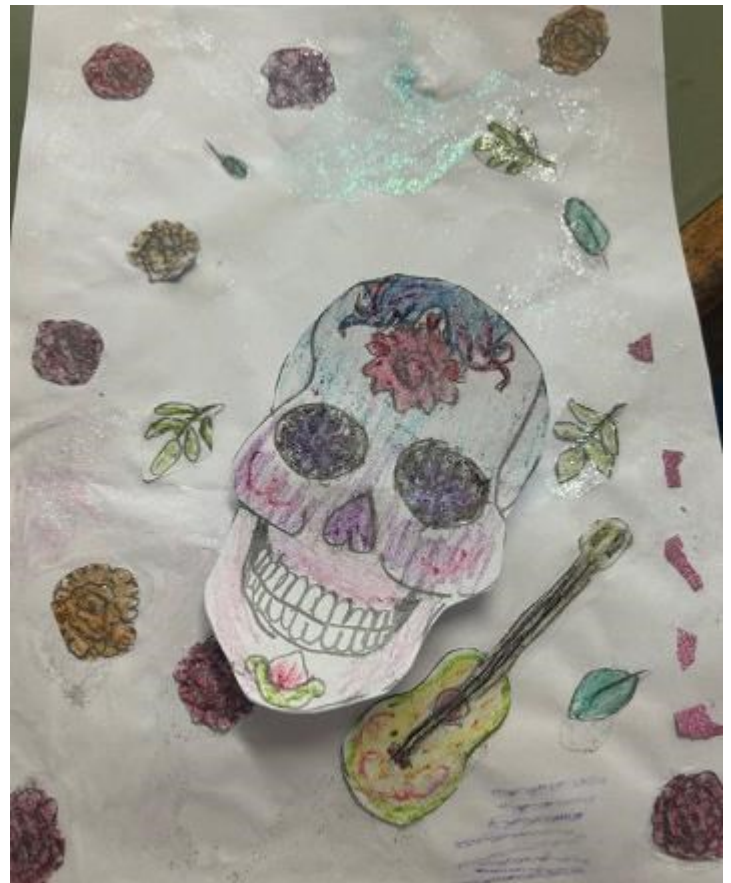
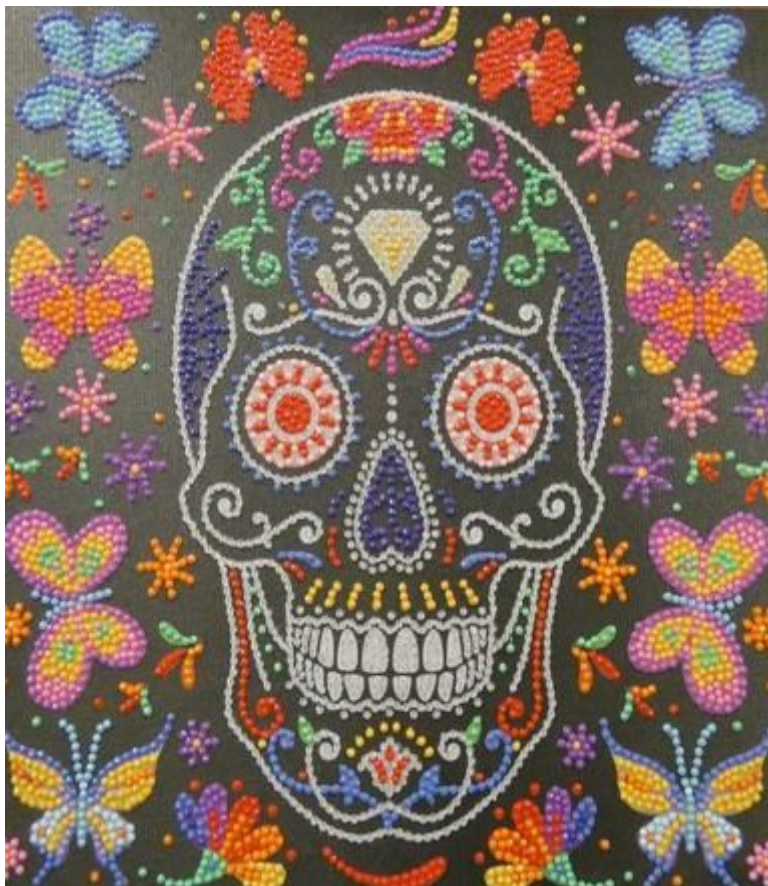


Spanish Celebrations

During October the theme for the MFL Film Club was 'The Day of the Dead' and the students watched in Spanish 'The Book of Life' during Wednesday lunchtimes.

The Day of the Dead is a holiday traditionally celebrated in Spain and Mexico on or around November 1 and 2nd. It involves family and friends gathering to pay respect to their departed loved ones. Offerings are made, usually by decorating altars with bright yellow marigold flowers, adding photos of departed loved ones and favourite foods and drinks. The offerings are believed to encourage visits from the land of the dead as the departed souls hear their prayers, smell their foods and join in the celebrations! I know it sounds morbid but the celebrations are very festive and colourful... it is a rare holiday celebrating both death and life.

Also during the half term break, the MFL Department ran a competition based on "the Day of the Dead". Well done to both Grace and Alice in Year 9 who created some fabulous artwork.





Getting Published!

Congratulations to Kris B. in Year 10 who has had a piece of writing published in a book called 'Mission Chaos - Fictional Worlds' (pictured right). As you will be aware from previous issues of Arrow News Kris is a fantastic writer. The book can be purchased from all known bookshops.

Here is Kris's published story...

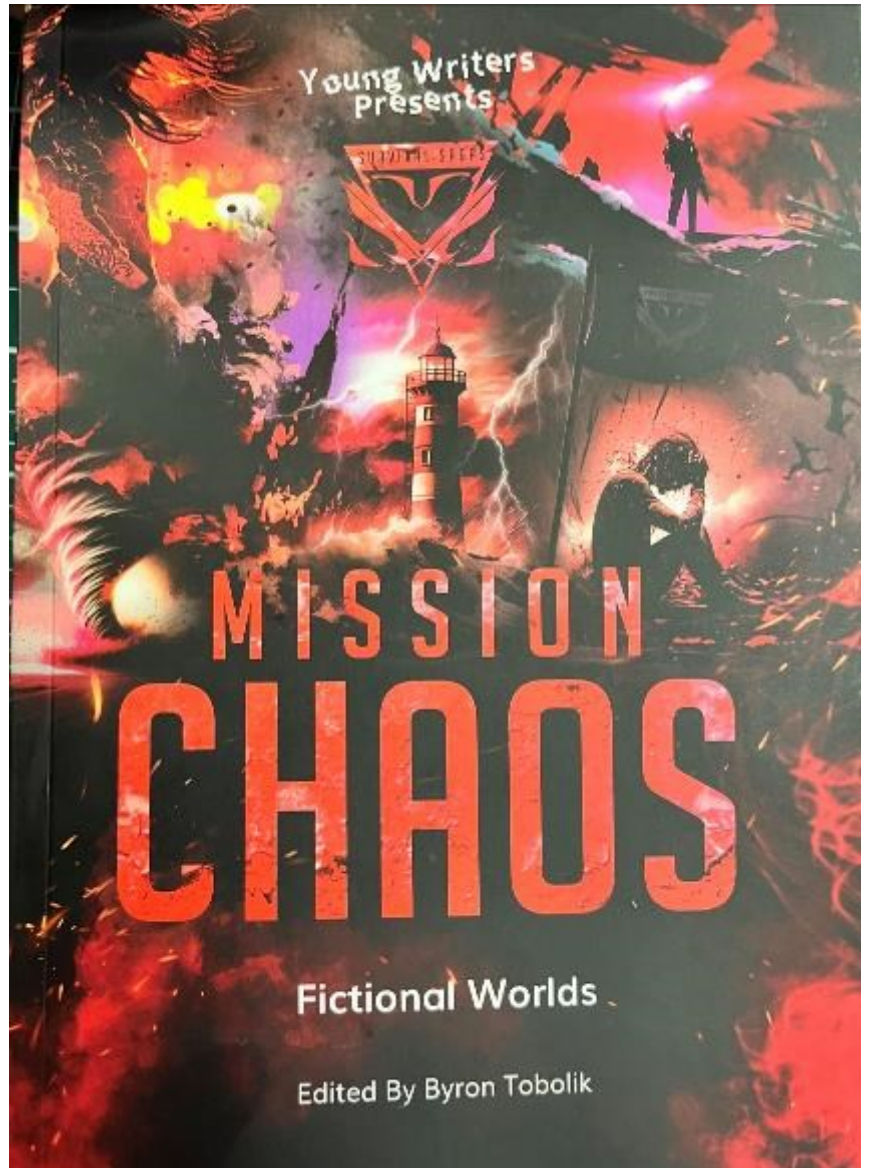
Limited

I only have so long to write this, but there's so much to tell. Whatever you do ...

Don't turn on the radio or the news!

This city isn't what it says. We know first-hand the pain families are in when they are not picturesque. My dear, Cortext, I must hand this burden to you. I'm sorry. The code to the safe in my room is mine and your mother's wedding day. It has everything you need. Show them what we saw and stay safe. Remember what happened to uncle Zenth.

Kiddo, I love-



Christmas Hampers

Here are a selection of the fabulous hampers that our students have produced this year. As many of you will know, our students are given a task to festively decorate boxes and then fill them with donated food items.

We thank our families for the generosity they have shown in donated food items for the hamper boxes, which have now been delivered to the local food-bank. Hopefully with the help of your donations it will make life a little easier for struggling families in the Redditch area.

Well done and a huge thank you to all. Merry Christmas!







Film Club

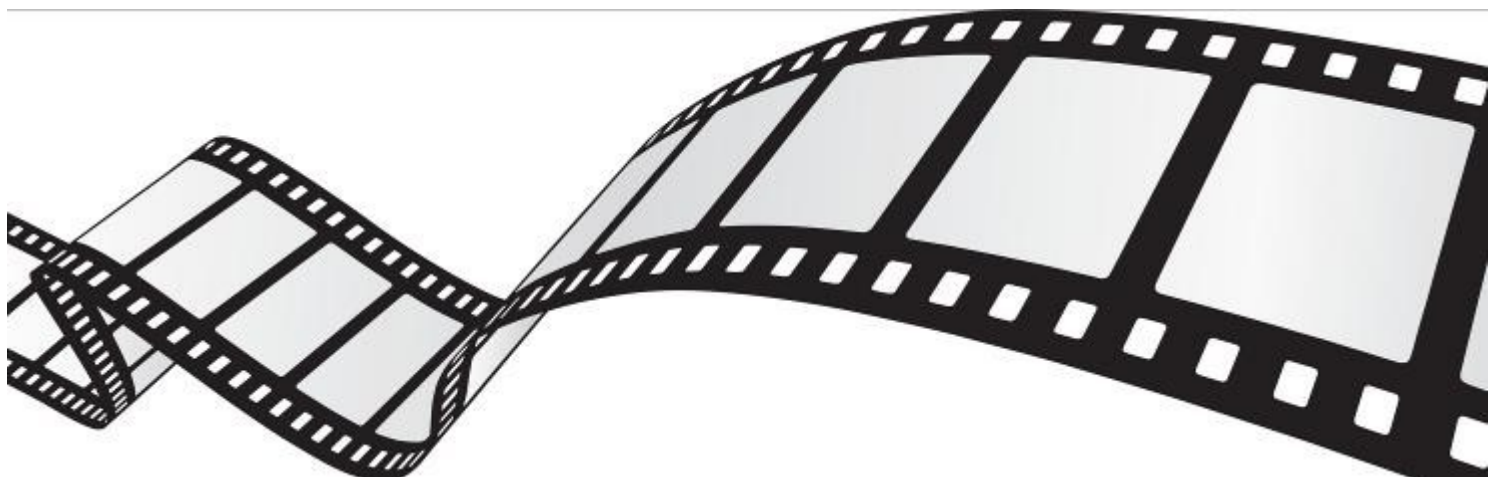
As previously mentioned on page 14, the MFL department hold a film club every Wednesday lunchtime, where students can enjoy and watch a variety of films in a different language. Here is Chloe C. in Year 9 and what she has to say about the MFL Film Club...

This term we enjoyed a varied array of brilliant cultural films in different languages, mainly French and Spanish.

We've been immersing ourselves in fascinating cultures and intense entertainment. If you want to delve into brilliant fun, come to MFL 3 on a Wednesday lunchtime for the most fun you'll have on a weekday lunchtime!

The first film in January will be Bill & Boule, a funny story about a boy and his amazing dog!

See you there!



Community Cafes



This term we have held two Community Cafes within the Learning Support department. Our first welcomed our new Year 9 families and it was so fulfilling to hear them speak so positively about the support their children receive. Even better was the sense of community that is building with families too: we know with firsthand experience what it is like being in a family with SEND children and sharing experiences is a key part of our work. Parenting is tough but parents with SEND children can feel isolated, alone and frustrated with long waiting times for referrals. Our events aim to connect families and build our own community. This was also keenly felt with our autism focus. Ably assisted by Lucy Clarke, our Autism specialist teacher from SEND Supported, families got to ask questions about exams access arrangements, sensory adjustments and an array of other topics. This term was more special due to the wonderful refreshments created by our Year 10 students who made delicious cookies and signs to share with families. Please keep an eye out for future events!

Have you seen our SEND Information Report? If you have any concerns regarding SEND processes, key people and how we support and identify children with SEND, please visit our website and browse the information available.

Achievement Assistants

First term in and how are our new AA's settling?

Miss Simmonds: My first few weeks here at Arrow Vale have been both exciting and challenging (in a good way)! I've enjoyed getting to know students, being their support when needed, also getting to know the staff too. The staff have been so welcoming, especially within the SEND department which I'm entirely grateful for. This is a very rewarding job and I'm excited to continue my journey here at AV.

Mrs Hamer: I have found my first few weeks working at Arrow Vale very fulfilling. I was, however, apprehensive, and sometimes felt foolish having to ask so many questions. I was fearful that people would become annoyed with me. All staff members: not just those in the Learning Support Department, have been so welcoming and supportive which has been reassuring. I am learning new things every day from which I am benefitting from. I am enjoying the opportunity to be challenged, to grow and develop my skills and abilities that will enable me to become a fully competent member of the team.

I enjoy spending time with the students with whom I am beginning to build relationships with. I am starting to recognise which students need my help and finding it gratifying to determine how I can best support them.

I am excited about what my future holds working at Arrow Vale!



Future Writers Competition

Last month, two Arrow Vale students wrote and submitted poems for a national Future Writers competition. Presented by Birmingham City University, the Benjamin Zephaniah competition celebrates the writer's remarkable legacy and encourages students to enter poems or short stories based on a particular theme.

This year, Kris B. (Year 11) and Marleigh P. (Year 10) worked extremely hard to create poems focused on this year's theme of 'People Need People' - read their entries below. Well done both!

By Marleigh P.: A Person's Choice

A woman's body, a woman's choice,
A woman's mouth, a woman's voice.
The American government restricted abortion
Without giving the population any caution.
A woman's body, a woman's choice,
A woman's mouth, a woman's voice.
People need people to escape this hole,
Which now burns hot like a piece of coal.
A woman's body, a woman's choice,
A woman's mouth, a woman's voice.
Background stories stemming and sad,
A freedom they never knew and now never had.
When someone says 'no' they need to be heard
The first time. Not second. Not third.
No where to turn - imagine how they feel,
Walking home from what just happened, wishing
it wasn't real.
Reiterated understanding of the word 'no',
In a way which we all should know.
Human connections, bonds and trust,
A lifeline, a necessity. A human right, a must.
To be heard, to be seen,
The universal change that this would mean.
A person's body, a person's choice,
A person's mouth, a person's voice.
If they say no, you need to accept it.
If you can't do that, you need to go reject it.
17% sexually abused,
Mistreated, discarded, emotionally used.
17% too many, don't you agree?
If you're in a relationship like this, set yourself

free.

No one and nothing should feel this way,
Isolated and lonely, lives led astray.
No one in the world should feel this way.
Those are my thoughts on sexual abuse,
People need to read this and put it to use.
Imagine your friend, imagine their thought,
Imagine the lessons which need to be taught.
A person's body, a person's choice,
People need people, and we all have a voice.

By Kris B.

How many will it take?
HOW MANY?!
You see a photo of a boy on 6 O'clock news.
"Murdered."
You say "Her fault."
You say "Acting."
You say "Asked for it."
HOW MANY WILL IT TAKE!?
Some only care for a second when we become
statistics.
Just boxes buried in the ground.
6 feet will not silence.
Fire and ash will not silence.
Governments will not silence.
We will not stay silent.
We will hold each other together when our flesh
and blood won't.
We will act as the adults.
We will ask
how many headstones will it take?





Physics Students Visit Jodrell Bank

On 14th November, A Level Physics students visited Jodrell Bank to look around the site. We started our day close to the Lovell Telescope with a 76 metre diameter. Did you know? If you tune your TV between channels, about 1 percent of the noise on the screen is actually the fading glow of the Big Bang. The information given allowed us to build upon prior knowledge and get a clearer understanding of the role of Jodrell Bank.

We participated in an interactive talk on the role of the Lovell and other telescopes. This talk showed us images of the Milkyway through different wavelengths on the Electromagnetic Spectrum. This was followed by a viewing of "We are Stars" which showed the creation of the universe after the big bang from the formation of atoms to the evolution of animals on Earth.

We then wandered around the exhibition, which gave the history of Jodrell Bank and its importance in WW2. This also gave us information on Bernard Lovell, one of the builders of the telescope, showing the time and resources it took to build. Along with this, there was a scaled version of the solar system, showing the time for each planet to complete one rotation.

We all really enjoyed this experience, and the Lovell Telescope is very impressive.

Article by Isla C. and Georgia R.



Rugby

On the 10th of December Arrow Vale took 10 year 10's to the district rugby 7s at Bromsgrove school. These boys were competing a year up in this joint year 10/11 competition. The quality and size of opposition was very high however the team did not give up. There were many players making their competitive debuts within the sport. They played the best team in attendance first up but were not disgraced and put up a very good fight till the end. The highlight match was against St Augustine's where Jacob scored a great try, out powering then out pacing the opposition following him picking up a loose ball just outside his own 22.

Many of the boys looking forward to next year when they will be in year 11 and as a school we look forward to the year 8/9 competition in the new year.

Article by Mr Ballintine



Congratulations to our Mathematical Students

In October, we 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. Four students also sat the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls in September, with Zara C. achieving a Merit and Best in School and Fizz S. 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 2024:

THOMAS G - Gold and Best in School - Also invited to participate in the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo follow on round, a fantastic achievement

EVAN W - Silver and Best in Year 12

ZARA C - Silver

CHARLIE D - Silver

RYAN W - Silver

JOSHUA T - Bronze

ISLA R - Bronze

GEORGIA R - Bronze

ISLA C - Bronze

SAMUEL J - Bronze

KIERAN R - Bronze

ISSABELLA C - Bronze

EVAN S - Bronze

OWEN H - Bronze

MATTHEW M - Bronze

THALIA K - Bronze

KAYLA M - Bronze

MARIA E - Bronze

CAITLIN L - Bronze

THOMAS E - Bronze

EMILY T - Bronze

AVANEESH D - Bronze

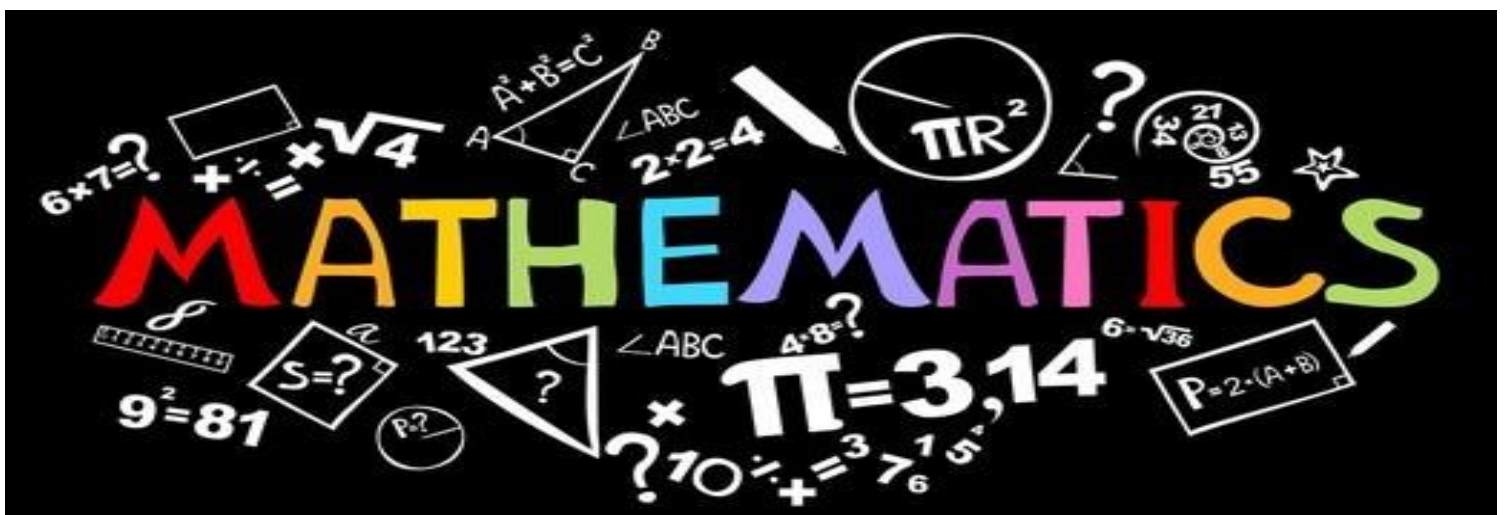
BEN G - Bronze

BARTOSZ C - Bronze

STANTON H - Bronze



Article by Mr Jackson



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 Katelyn S in year 9 for winning the competition!



Design Technology Club

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 55). We are very proud of our students for all of their hard work to make the tree happen. Thank you!

The Christmas Tree Festival will be open to visit from Thursday 5th December 2024 until Monday 6th January 2025 10am-5pm Monday to Saturday (last entry 4.30pm) and 1-3pm on Sundays (last entry 2.30pm). Booking is not required!

Food Technology Club

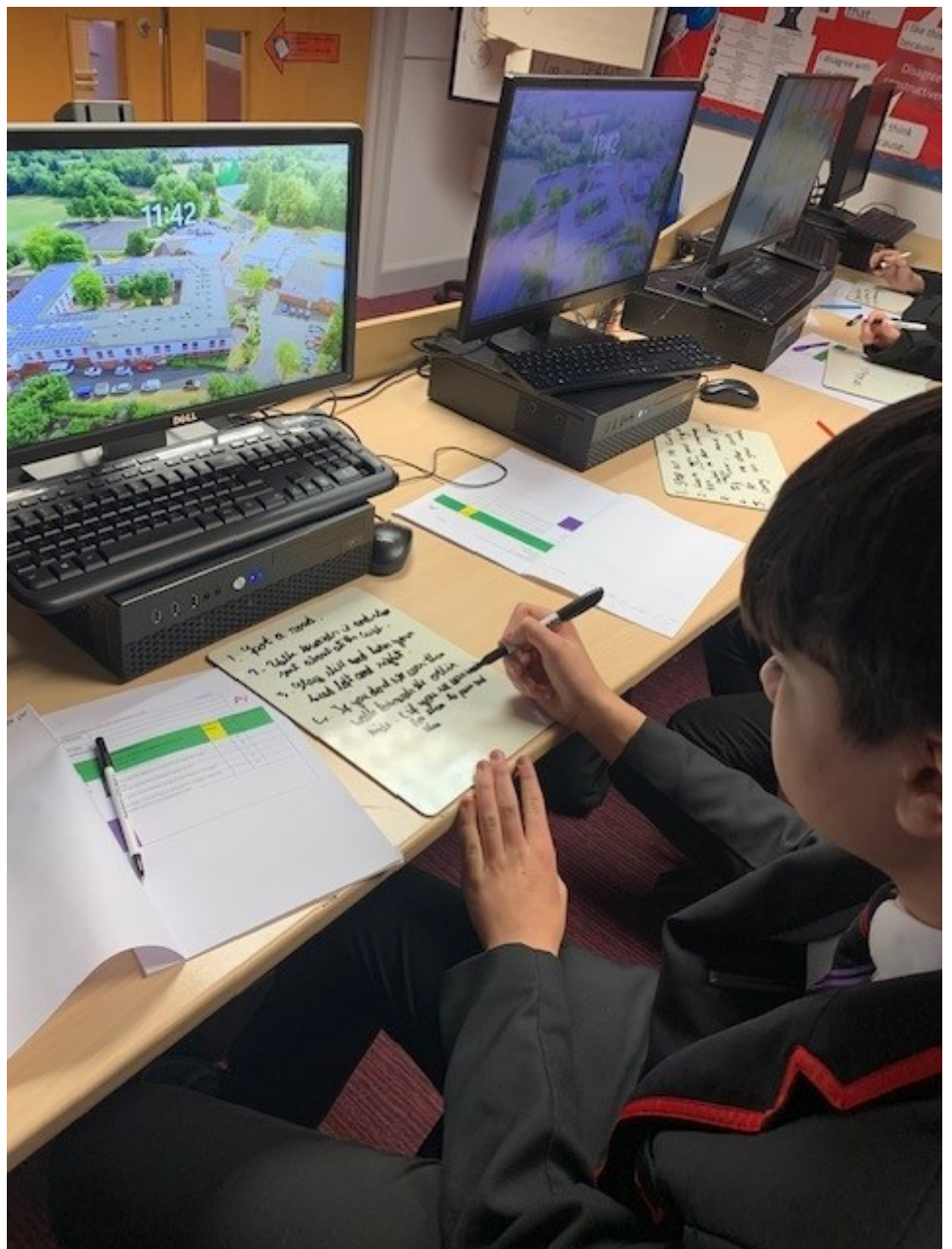
Thank you to all the students who took part in the Food lunch club to design and decorate your own biscuits and cakes. We had some very artistic designs well done!



Computing

Year 9 have made a great start to the year in Computing. We are using Office 365 for all our lessons with workbooks being online and accessible via TEAMS assignments.

In Autumn term 2 we have started learning about Python programming and started writing algorithms. Students will be exploring how to use Python in January. Students have been registered with code.org which is a website they can develop their coding on at home. We are also looking forward to taking part in the GCHQ Christmas challenge which takes place after school on Wednesday 11th December 2024 in IT1 with Mrs Somel.



Welcoming a Special Visitor



It was a pleasure to welcome Jacqui Smith, Minister of State for Skills, to our school last week!

She started her teaching career here, at Arrow Vale and enjoyed her tour of the school led by our Senior Ambassadors. She shared stories of her incredible career journey.



MFL Languagegenut Competition

This term all of our year 9 students had the opportunity to take part in an international language competition through Languagegenut.

Students had a great time completing a wide range of quizzes and games in order to win points for themselves, their class and the school.

Students practised the phonics that we have been learning in French and Spanish lessons and enjoyed fun games like the Watermelon sling shot!

The competition was fierce with tens of thousands of schools and hundreds of thousands of students participating. We were delighted that Arrow Vale came 616th with some students achieving amazing individual scores.

Our top scoring student was Daniella B. with 630000 points. We are so proud that Daniella came 311th in the whole competition. An outstanding achievement.

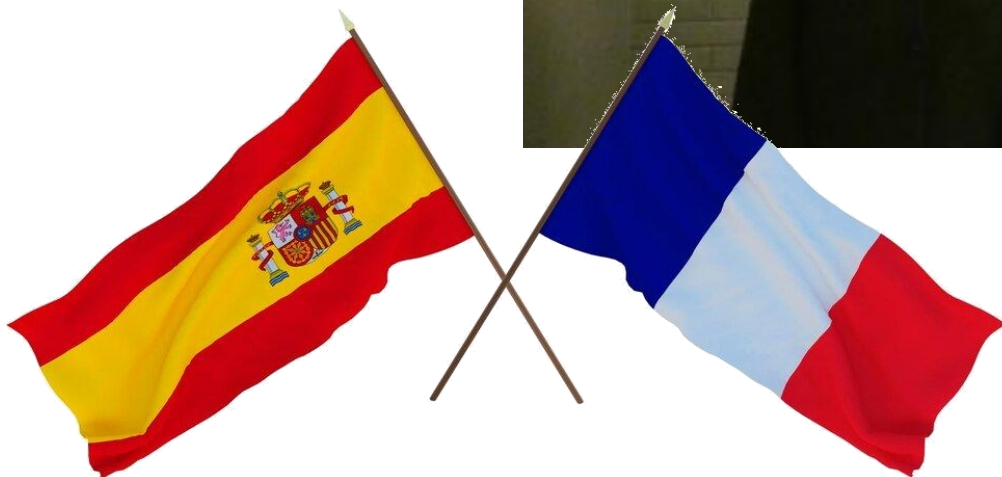
Our runners up were Peter T. with 150600 points and Riley C. with 110800 closely followed by Corey H. with 107600 points.

Well done to all of the students that took part in the competition, we are very proud of you!

Look out for more MFL competitions in the future.

Top Picture: Peter T. (Left) Corery H. (Right)

Bottom Picture: Daniella B.





Sixth Form Christmas QUIZ



On Friday 13th December sixth form students were offered the chance to take part in a festive quiz, organised by Mrs Price. It was held during their lunch break, and 16 teams entered, which amounted to over 70 students! Questions were Christmas themed and included "How many gifts in total were given in the twelve days of Christmas song?" and "which Christmas decoration do the Royal family not have on their trees?" along with a picture round of celebrities disguised as Santa! (if you're wondering, the answers to those questions were 364 gifts and tinsel!)

The winning team, "The Gingerbread girls plus Jimmy" took the prize with an amazing score of 19 out of 20! They won chocolates to share, and now hold the title of the winning team until students battle it out at our next quiz which will be held in February. Most importantly, fun was had by all and it definitely kick started the countdown to Christmas!



Christmas Reading Challenge

See how many of the 6 challenges below you can complete by the end of the Christmas School Holidays!



"Christmas is always brighter when lit by the magic of a good book"



- 1** Read a book with a red cover
- 2** Read a book with a Christmas theme
- 3** Read a Christmas Horror or a Christmas romance
- 4** Read a book with snow on the cover
- 5** Read a Christmas murder mystery
- 6** Read a book with a green cover

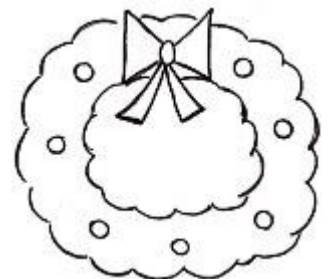


Love Drawing

Bored? Then try this doodle challenge



1. Snowman
2. Christmas Tree
3. Carol Singers
4. Christmas Lights
5. Christmas Jumper
6. Mistletoe and Holly
7. Christmas Cookies
8. Scrooge or the Grinch
9. Presents
10. Elves
11. Father Christmas
12. Hot Chocolate
13. Christmas Market
14. Christmas stockings
15. Christmas Wreath
16. Sleigh
17. Angel
18. Candy Cane
19. Baubles / Decorations
20. Reindeer
21. Christmas Pudding
22. Scarf and Gloves
23. Bells
24. Snowflakes



Safeguarding at Arrow Vale



Cost of Living Information

If you are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis, Redditch Borough Council has a handy webpage that provides links to support and advice that is available. This is advice from a wide range of agencies. Even if you don't claim any benefits, you may be entitled to support you weren't aware of, and not just monetary support, but good advice from legitimate sources you can trust. Have a look and please share the links with anyone else who may be struggling financially.

www.redditchbc.gov.uk/costofliving

Arrow Vale have worked with a community project called Reach who have kindly provided food hampers and toy vouchers to some of our families who are in need this Christmas. We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Reach for their kind donations and we look forward to continuing to work with them in the coming years.



Operation Encompass

At Arrow Vale we have conducted assemblies with the year groups which were co-hosted by Tom Simons and Carla Young (our sixth form ambassadors for emotional wellbeing) on the following safeguarding issues:

- ⇒ Year 9 had an introduction to Safeguarding at Arrow Vale.
- ⇒ Lockdown Procedures Drill
- ⇒ Online Safety – Deep Fakes and Nudification Apps
- ⇒ Drugs and Alcohol awareness
- ⇒ Radicalisation & Extremism

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 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, raising awareness on homelessness and Contextual Safeguarding.

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, so right are are a few numbers for families and students to contact if they need any support or help over the holidays.

Please also remember that you can find lots of supporting information on the school website.

Can I also ask parents to check their child's information on EduLink is correct, and ensure any updates necessary including GP details are amended so if we need to contact you in an emergency, school will have the correct details to hand.

The Safeguarding Team would like to wish you all a happy and safe holiday & New Year.



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

Police **999** for emergency reporting of a crime



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



Free, safe and anonymous
online support for young people



[Arrow Vale - Family Support \(devwebsite.co.uk\)](http://devwebsite.co.uk)

[Cost of Living Support - redditchbc.gov.uk](http://redditchbc.gov.uk)

	Designated Senior Member of Staff for Safeguarding Children: Mr S Crane, Vice Principal
	Senior Deputy Designated Member of Staff for Safeguarding Children: Mrs D Downes, Senior Deputy Safeguarding Lead
	Single Point of Contact for Extremism and Radicalisation and Deputy Designated Member of Staff for Safeguarding Children: Mrs F Stanley, Vice Principal
	Deputy Designated Member of Staff for Safeguarding Children: Mr N Linington, Assistant Principal
	Deputy Designated Member of Staff for Safeguarding Children: Mr T Bayley, Assistant Principal
	Deputy Designated Member of Staff for Safeguarding Children: Mr A Fortune, Year Team Lead
	Deputy Designated Member of Staff for Safeguarding Children: Mrs L Davies, Director of SEND
	Deputy Designated Member of Staff for Safeguarding Children: Mrs S Curtis, Intervention & Emotional Wellbeing Co-Ordinator

Meet the Safeguarding Team



Information

Spring Term 2025

Dates for
the Diary!

Monday 6th January	Staff Learning Days (School closed to students)
Tuesday 7th January	School re-opens
Thursday 16th January	Year 11 Parents Evening
Thursday 6th February	Year 9 Parents Evening
Monday 17th - Friday 2nd February	Half Term Holiday
Monday 24th February	School re-opens
Thursday 20th March	Year 9 Options Evening
Thursday 29th March	Year 11 Exams Information Evening
Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th April	School Production 'Matilda Jr'
Monday 14th April - Friday 25th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 29th April	School re-opens



**Don't forget
the Fab Friday Prize Draw!**
For further information see page 17.



Are you feeling anxious? Experiencing low mood? Like help with your mental health?

If you're in year 12 or 13, you can now confidentially self-refer for mental health help and support from the WEST team by scanning the QR code:



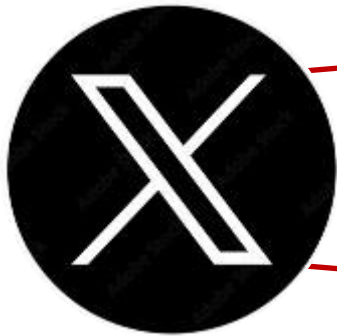
Wellbeing and Emotional Support Teams (WEST)
www.camhs.hacw.nhs.uk/west

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

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 any news with us so that we might celebrate it via the school website, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and other publications, please email your 'articles' to (office@arrowvaleacademy.co.uk), photographs are also very welcome.

Why not Follow us and keep up to date on all Arrow Vale News!



Are you on X (Twitter)? Follow us at **@ArrowValeSchool**

Are you on Instagram? Follow us at **ArrowValeAcademy.**



School Website
www.arrowvaleschool.org.uk

Ian Mellor, Executive Principal : Matthew Rash, Head of School

Matchborough Way Redditch Worcestershire B98 0GF

Tel 01527 526800 : Fax 01527 514255 E-mail office@arrowvaleacademy.co.uk