

ARROW NEWS



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS!



AV Students Go Travelling!



Switzerland

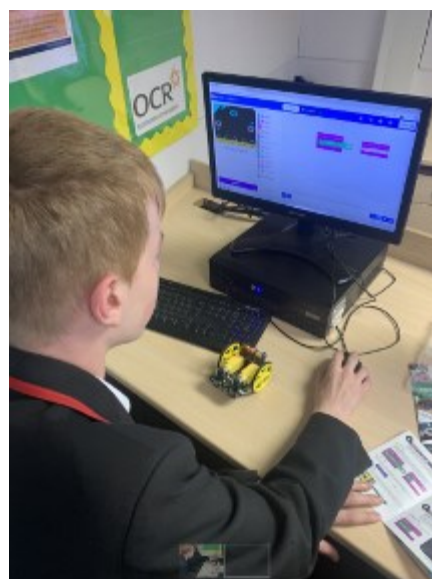


At Arrow Vale we believe in doing the ordinary, extraordinarily well to support our students.



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Dear Students, Parents, and Staff,

Celebrating a Remarkable Year at Arrow Vale (2024–25)

As we bring the 2024–25 academic year to a close, it's the perfect moment to reflect on what has been an exceptional year at Arrow Vale. At the heart of everything lies the incredible achievements of our students — their dedication, growth, and determination have been truly inspiring.

This year, our students have lived and breathed our core values of **Aiming High**, **Excellence**, **Discover**, and **Belief**. Whether through academic success, creative expression, or contributions to our school and wider community, they have consistently demonstrated resilience, focus, and a genuine commitment to becoming experts in all they do.

There is a real sense of *community and belonging* at Arrow Vale — a culture where students look out for one another, stand up for what is right, and take pride in doing things the right way. Our student leadership this year has been exceptional, with students not only taking on roles of responsibility but actively shaping the culture and opportunities within our school.

A brilliant example of this is the recent edition of **The AV Advocate**, a publication created by our students that showcases the wide range of student-led activities and initiatives that have taken place throughout the year. Their voice, creativity, and leadership shine through on every page.

Likewise, the latest article in **Arrow News** captures just how exceptional this year has been — from student achievements to the incredible dedication of our staff. Their unwavering commitment to our shared vision and the consistent drive to support every student has been a cornerstone of our success.

Together — students, staff, and families — we've made 2024–25 a year to be proud of. Thank you to every member of the Arrow Vale community for their part in it. We look ahead with excitement and belief in what we can continue to achieve.

Mat Rash

Principal



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

AV Visit Barcelona

29th March - 1st April 2025

Mrs Kiddle, Mr Blankley and I are incredibly proud of the 29 students that we took on our recent trip to Barcelona. It was an amazing few days, packed full of culture, fun, and brilliant memories – and the attitude and effort of all the students genuinely blew us away.

On the trip, we explored some incredible sights – from the stunning Sagrada Familia to the Olympic Stadium and a boat trip around the city. We also visited Poble Espanyol, relaxed at the beach, and walked over 40km in total (they earned those tapas!).

What stood out the most though was how brilliantly the students threw themselves into every part of the experience. They tried all kinds of local food (including homemade paella!), engaged in proper conversation at mealtimes (phones away by choice!), and really made the most of the chance to experience Spanish culture firsthand.

It was lovely to see friendships grow, new bonds forming, and students from different groups mixing, chatting, and laughing together. They showed respect, curiosity, and kindness throughout, they were a credit to the school and their families.

Mrs Hensel

Lily Cartwright year 11

Our trip to Spain has opened my eyes to a whole new walk of life. We spent four days travelling around the bustling city of Barcelona, and we experienced new social cultures; practiced our language skills; saw famous landmarks as well as tried new Spanish dishes, some we even had a hand at making ourselves! I think writing about memories is especially difficult, but Barcelona was such a refreshing wave from England that it'll be hard to ever forget our visit. I personally loved the food, however, at first, I was worried I wouldn't like it at all, but I was so thrilled to actually be there that I didn't want to miss the opportunity to try the food. It was so good, better than what we have over here in England. I knew from the moment I stepped off the plane that this was going to be an incredibly good trip, and if you're thinking of going, please snatch up every chance to try something new, it's a hundred percent worth it!







World Majorette Championships

Three Arrow Vale Students, Matilda P. (Year 9/10), Estelle S. (Year 10/11) and Felicity S. (Year 13), have all secured places and will be representing England at the World Majorette Championships in Turin, Italy on 1st – 3rd August. It's a world stage and a very tough competitive platform. All 3 girls have previously competed at the inaugural World Championships in Liverpool in August 2023 and did secure 1 team gold and 2 team bronzes! This time around the event is being hosted internationally which is incredibly exciting for them all!

The girls have been training with their England team for well over a year now in preparation of

travelling to Italy on 30th July. Their national team is based up north so the girls have been travelling each month to squad training sessions hosted Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield and Barnsley areas.

Majorette and baton twirling requires hours of dedicated training to perfect and master the core skills and then requires further training to blend these seamlessly within a team where even the slightest arm movement out of sync causes penalties. The girls have worked incredibly hard to secure their places to go to Italy and aspire to competing in world class performances with their teammates.

The girls and their families have had to fund their own places entirely to train, travel, pay for costuming, flights, hotels and every cost incurred which has come to a shocking amount now we are near the end of their journey, our budget for each of them has easily exceeded £2000 + each!

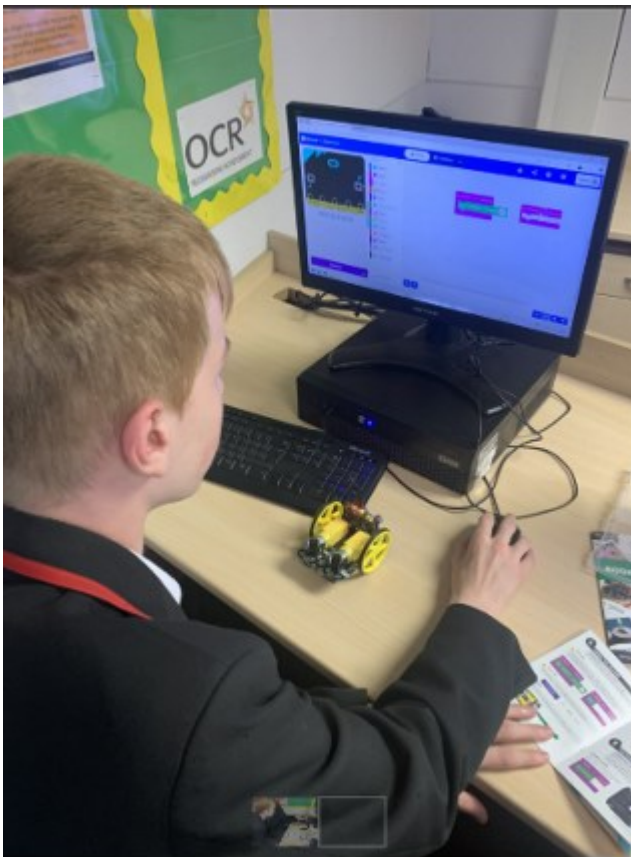
As well as training tirelessly, the girls have run raffles, football cards, tombola's, cake stalls, tin shakes and an incredibly fun and well supported quiz night, and have successfully secured some wonderful sponsorship towards their costs and training kits! All this has been against the backdrop of them always being in school with excellent attendance, doing mocks, A levels, representing the school regularly in sporting events, student leadership initiatives etc.

All at Arrow vale wishes Matilda, Estelle and Felicity the best of luck at the World Majorette Championships.





Computing Club



Year 9 have had the opportunity to explore physical computing using Micro: bits this year. We have also been running an enrichment club after school. Computing Club has been running most Wednesdays in IT1 with Mrs Somel. The students have wanted to develop their Computer Science skills and chose to focus on programming languages like Python and Lua which has been installed for students to explore. We invested in two kit cars and micro: bits to aid with learning physical computing, which has been a great success. Students have been able to develop their programming skills whilst being able to see the success of their work through the movement in the cars they have programmed.

Article by Mrs Somel



SPORTING NEWS

District athletics

We were proud to take over 20 students to this year's District Athletics Championships, held at the prestigious Abbey Stadium. All students represented the school with pride, determination, and excellent sporting spirit throughout the event.

A huge well done to everyone who took part — your commitment and enthusiasm were outstanding. We would also like to celebrate some standout performances on the day:

- Jack C stormed to victory in the 100m sprint, securing first place with an impressive finish.
- Torrie G showcased her talent in the javelin, earning qualification for the next stage of competition.
- Alex M not only won the high jump but also qualified for the 100m, demonstrating incredible versatility and athleticism.

Well done to all students involved — we're excited to see what you achieve next!

Year 10 Shine in Practical BTEC Sport Assessments

A massive well done to our Year 10 BTEC Sport students who have recently completed their Practical PSA assessments with great success.

Students delivered a range of exciting and engaging coaching sessions across various sports, including football, rugby,

dance, and dodgeball. Their sessions were not only enjoyable for those taking part, but also showcased high-quality planning, confident delivery, and clear feedback — all key elements of successful coaching. It's fantastic to see the hard work and preparation pay off, and we're incredibly proud of the progress being made as students continue to develop their leadership and coaching skills.

Well done to all involved!



Trust Sports Day Triumph – Team Arrow Vale Represent!



Central Region
Schools Trust

Founded by the RSA

A massive well done to all students who proudly represented Team Arrow Vale at this year's Trust Sports Day. It was a fantastic day filled with great energy, team spirit, and outstanding athletic performances.

Our students showed true determination and sportsmanship across a wide range of events including sprints, middle-distance races, jumping and throwing events. The atmosphere was electric, with every athlete giving their all — and it paid off as Team Arrow Vale came away with a host of 1st-place finishes and medals!

Special recognition goes to our outstanding performers across a range of events:

Boys Team Highlights

- 100m: Joe A. & Jack C.
- 200m: Alex W. & Theo E.
- 300m: David U & Ajay B.
- 800m: Josh B. & Billy H.
- High Jump: Alex M & Xander P.
- Long Jump: Alex M & Ajay B.
- Shot Put: Junior L.
- Javelin: Theo E.

Girls Team Highlights

- 100m: Chloe B. & Isla C.
- 200m: Maisie C. & Phoebe E.
- 300m: Macey B. & Amelia G.
- 800m: Torrie G. & Madison H.
- High Jump: Nikola M & Estelle
- Long Jump: Isla C. & Isla C.
- Shot Put: Torrie G. & Maisie



Team Arrow Vale students made us proud, not just with their results, but with their enthusiasm, respect, and encouragement for each other throughout the day.

Well done to all athletes – you've truly done your school proud!

SPORTING NEWS

County Athletics – Proud Performances at Stourport

Congratulations to our students who represented the school at the County Athletics Championships, held at Stourport Athletics Club. Competing against some of the best athletes in the region, our students once again did us proud with their commitment, performance, and sportsmanship.

- Alex M impressed in the high jump, securing a brilliant 2nd place finish after a closely contested final.
- Torrie G threw superbly in the javelin, finishing 3rd overall — and doing enough to earn a prestigious selection for the upcoming Mason Trophy. What an achievement!
- Jack C put in a strong performance in the 100m sprint, showing great pace and composure, despite facing incredibly tough competition.

Well done to all athletes involved — your hard work and determination continue to shine through at every level of competition!

Softball Lessons a Real Hit!

Our recent softball lessons have truly been a home run with students — and we're not just throwing that out there!

From the very first pitch, students have shown incredible energy, enthusiasm, and a real knack for knocking it out of the park. Engagement has been sky-high, with every lesson packed full of swinging success and fielding fun.

It's been brilliant to see the competitive spirit come alive — with pupils going bat to bat in friendly matches and showing great teamwork both on and off the field. Whether it was a pitch-perfect throw, a glove-worthy catch, or a cheeky slide into base, the commitment was first class.

Softball has definitely struck a chord, and we're excited to keep the momentum going. Well done to all students — you've really caught our attention this term!

Year 10 PSA Success Across the Faculty

A massive well done to all our Year 10 students who have recently completed their Practical and Written PSAs (Pearson Set Assignments) across a range of subjects. From Sport to Health and Social Care, Hair and Beauty, and Business & IT, students have demonstrated fantastic effort, focus, and professionalism.

Across the board, staff have been impressed with the quality of work submitted, the engagement shown during assessments, and the positive attitude displayed by so many students.

We are incredibly proud of the work ethic and commitment our Year 10 cohort have shown, and we look forward to seeing this momentum continue as they move into Year 11.

Keep up the great work — your efforts are laying the foundations for future success!



Central Region Year 10 Trust Rounders Tournament

10 Arrow Vale Students took part in The Trust's Rounders Tournament at Gospel Oak in May.

It was an extremely competitive afternoon that the students thoroughly enjoyed. Out of the six schools that competed. We managed to take home a bronze medal, whilst scoring a whopping 39 rounders! These 10 were a credit to the school that day. Well done all

AV Youth Centre

A Heartfelt Thank you to our Community

We wanted to inform you about some important updates regarding our Youth Centre and its future.

As many of you may know, the funding that has supported our Youth Centre was due to come to an end on August 31st. This brought a great deal of uncertainty, as the Centre plays a vital role in supporting our young people, offering a safe, inclusive space for socialising, learning new skills, and accessing guidance and support. However, we are thrilled to share that thanks to the incredible rallying of our local community lead by our Youth centre ambassador **Billi B.**, we have been able to extend the Centre's operation until February 1st 2026. This remarkable outcome has only been possible due to the dedication and generosity of many individuals and organisations.

We were honoured to receive a visit from our local MP **Chris Bloore**, who listened closely to the concerns of young people and staff, and pledged to advocate for ongoing support. Local councillors **Cllr Spilsbury, Cllr Hartnett, Cllr Snape and Cllr Stringfellow**, also stepped up, with several contributing key funding from their community budgets to help keep the Centre running. We'd also like to extend our sincere thanks to **Public Health England**, whose support has been instrumental in recognising the positive impact the Youth Centre has on the wellbeing and mental health of our young people.



Most importantly, a massive **thank you to all the parents, carers, and community members** who spoke up, donated, shared our campaign, and helped show just how valued this space is. While we are now funded through to **February 1st 2026**, our work to secure long-term funding continues. The outpouring of support so far gives us hope—and strength—as we push forward to ensure the Youth Centre remains open for years to come.

far gives us hope—and strength—as we push forward to ensure the Youth Centre remains open for years to come.

Many Thanks Mrs Gaspar

Please see the full article from Chris Bloore MP in the Redditch advertiser and his work with our school and youth centre, here through this QR code.



Reward Trip for our Student Leaders



On 1st May a group of Sixth Form students went to Hollywood Bowl in Rubery as a reward trip for their dedication to student leadership.

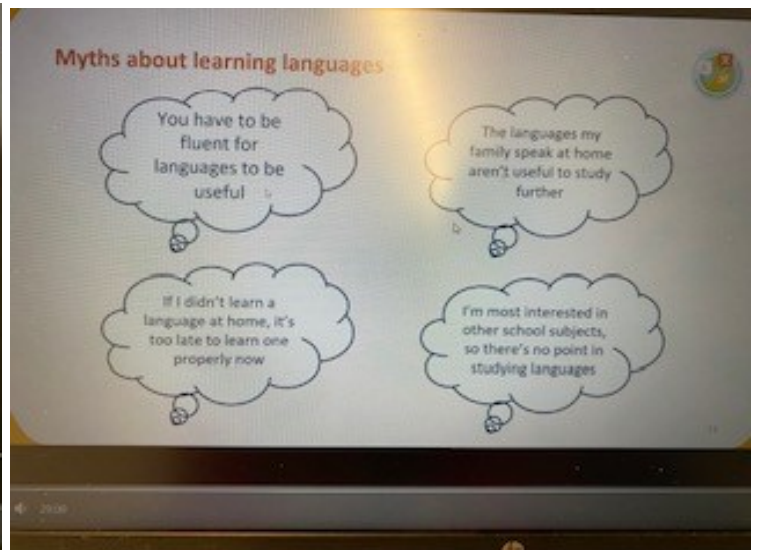
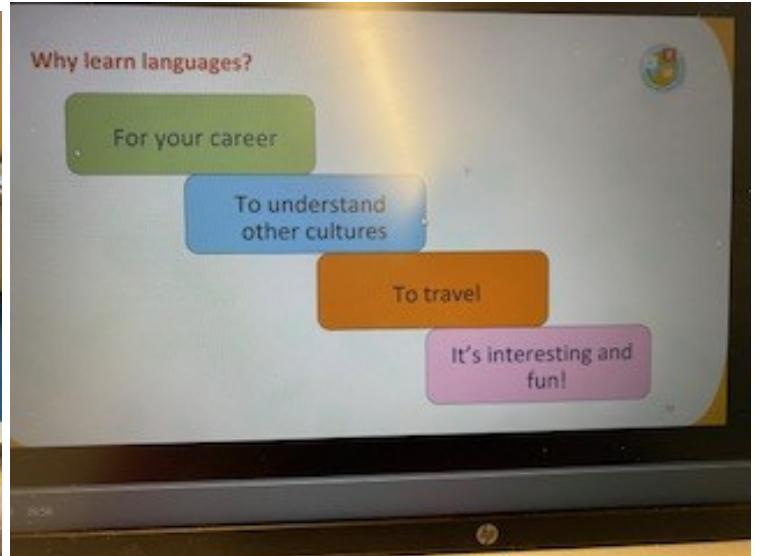
All of the students involved were ambassadors for different committees and together they had worked hard throughout the school year giving up their time with everything from mentoring, organising charity events, creating a STEM club within school and representing Arrow Vale student leadership at school events.

The students had lots of fun battling it out on the bowling lanes, followed by some food to end their afternoon on a high!

Article by Mrs Price



Government Language Outreach Event



Some of our Year 10 students were able to attend a webinar that had as its main objective to answer this question: "*Where can languages take you?*".

Various speakers from GCHQ, the British Council and the British Embassy in Germany were keen to relate their language journey and how various languages are used on a daily basis in their current role.

Our students paid rapt attention and were surprised to learn how versatile, cross-curricular and relevant language learning can be.

MFL Department.

Ajay's Amazing Charity Challenge

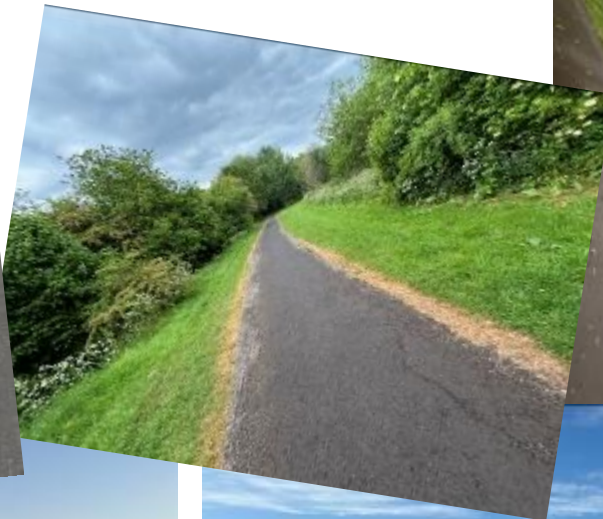
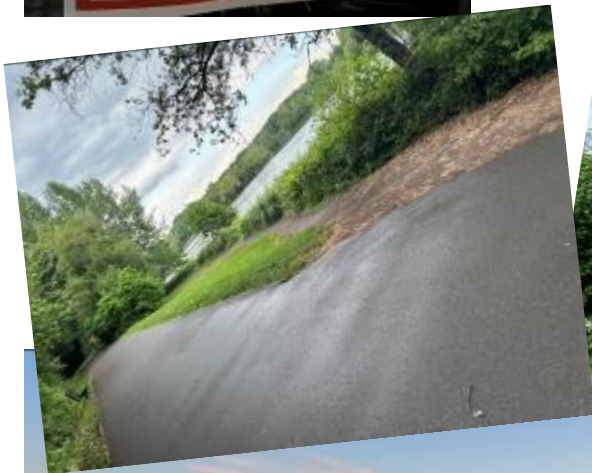
This May, Ajay B. from Year 10 put his best foot forward, quite literally, to raise money for a wonderful cause.

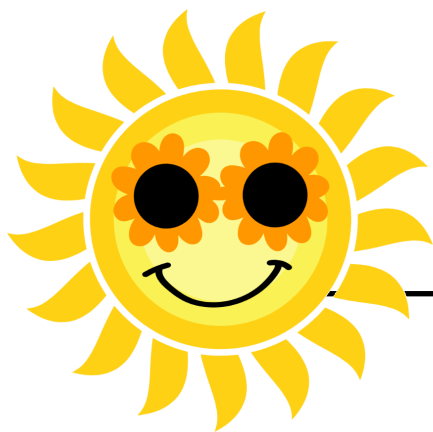
Ajay challenged himself to walk 62 miles during the month of May, but he didn't just meet his target, he went above and beyond and walked a total of 82 miles. The furthest walk of all was a 15 mile trek among Blackpool beach, a huge accomplishment that shows just who much perseverance Ajay has.

Ajay was walking to raise money for bone cancer, a cause close to many people's hearts. His hard work and generosity raised £225 in total, a wonderful contribution that will help fund vital research and support.

Ajay's achievements prove that when you set a goal and put in the effort, you can make a huge difference. Well done Ajay, we're all proud of you.

Article by Mrs Hinchliffe





Exciting News - Summer Just Got Better!

Calling all young people aged 12–16!

We're thrilled to announce that thanks to **HAF funding**, we'll be running an **amazing 4-week summer programme** packed with fun, friends, and free food!

🕒 **When:** Week One 29th July- 1st August 6-9pm. Week Two 5th-8th August 6-9pm.
Week Three 12th-15th August 6-9pm and Week Four 26th-29th August 6-9pm

⇒ **Where:** At the Youth Club based at Arrow Vale High School

What's included:

- ✓ Fun sports & recreational activities
- ✓ Free evening meal every session
- ✓ Access to our youth club facilities and events

Whether you're into games, sports, chilling with friends, or just want something fun to do – we've got you covered this summer!

Spaces are limited, so don't miss out!

To register or find out more, contact **Hayley Gaspar** on
hgaspar@arrowvaleacademy.co.uk

Follow us on Instagram [av_youthclub](#) for updates!

Let's make this summer one to remember!

AV Y12 STEM TRIP TO SWITZERLAND

Day 1

Brimming with excitement and anticipation, we gathered at Arrow Vale at 7:30 AM, ready to embark on our journey. A swift transfer brought us to Birmingham Airport, and by 11:40 AM, we were airborne. Our first destination: the Balexert shopping centre, where we took our initial steps into the heart of local life. Following a moment to unwind and refresh, we returned to our hotel for our first group dinner.



Yet, the day had more in store. As twilight settled, we headed back to Balexert, this time to immerse ourselves in its vibrant Bowling and Arcade Centre. Laughter and camaraderie echoed as we competed in rounds of Air Hockey, Mario Kart, and a variety of other arcade games. The atmosphere was electric, and even our teachers joined in the fun. The evening culminated with an energetic bowling session, during which Mr. Jackson—unsurprisingly—secured a victory in one of the games with over 120 points, as the rest of us valiantly bowled with sore fingers and joyful spirits. Thus concluded a thrilling first day in Geneva.

Day 2

With early sunlight glinting through the windows, we began our day with breakfast at 7:30 AM, fuelling ourselves for a day of scientific discovery. Soon after, we made our way to Geneva's main train station, acquired our lunches, and boarded the train bound for Lausanne. With great pride and excitement, we found ourselves in a reserved section labelled "Arrow Vale"—a small but memorable moment. Our destination was the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), home to the prestigious Swiss Plasma Centre. There, we delved deep into the mysteries of plasma—the fourth state of matter composed of ions and free electrons. A series of illuminating demonstrations revealed plasma states of noble gases, alongside comprehensive insights into nuclear fusion and plasma confinement using the Tokamak—a magnetic marvel that shapes plasma into a torus. We stood before the impressive TCV (Tokamak à configuration variable), one of only 50 functioning Tokamaks in the world, its sheer scale and engineering ingenuity leaving us in awe. Our guide walked us through its mechanisms and its vital role in projects like ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor), expanding our understanding of the future of energy.



From there, we ventured into the world of digital heritage at Museum Bolo—a celebration of computer science, video game history, and the evolution of digital culture. Old and new technologies coexisted within its walls, a testament to human advancement.



Returning to Geneva later that day, we found ourselves in the heart of the city centre for a few hours of exploration. We visited the iconic Jet d'Eau de Genève, which hurled 500 litres of water per second to a height of 150 metres, driven by immense 500kW pumps—a spectacle of hydraulic power that left a few of us surprisingly soaked due to a sudden shift in wind! After shopping for delectable Swiss chocolates and charming souvenirs, we convened at the picturesque L'Horloge Fleurie (The Flower Clock). Then we headed to the port. A scenic boat ride carried us to the other side of the city where an authentic Swiss dinner awaited us at Hotel Edelweiss. There, cheese fondue was served amidst the melodies of traditional yodelling and folklore instruments—an unforgettable culinary and cultural immersion. We returned to our hotel, hearts and stomachs full, bringing an extraordinary day to a close.



Day 3

As rain gently tapped the windows, our third day began. At 7:30 AM, we gathered for breakfast, and by 8:00 AM we boarded the tram to Meyrin—the beating heart of scientific marvels—home to CERN. There, the grandeur of science welcomed us. One of the first sights to greet us was the majestic “Wandering the Immeasurable” sculpture, spiralling 11 metres into the sky, adorned with 396 historic discoveries about science, including Mathematic Formulae, Physics constants, Elements of the Periodic Table across languages such as English, Arabic, Chinese, and Sanskrit—each a tribute to humanity’s relentless quest for knowledge. Inside CERN, our group was welcomed into Lab B by a PhD student involved in the ATLAS project. Here, we crafted simple cosmic ray chambers using Methylethanol, dry ice, and torch lights, enabling us to observe and hypothesise about high-energy particles from space. The lab also included huge whiteboards, where we could write, our favourite formulae. Many of our students took part in that and wrote theorems and equations like the Pythagoras' Theorem, Trigonometric rules, the Quadratic Formula. Most physicists wrote quantum physics equation correlating to our recent topics in A-levels. Like equations like $(d\sin\theta = n\lambda)$, $(E = hf)$, and $(hf = \phi + KE_{\max})$.





After a group presentation of our findings, we were given the opportunity to wander through CERN's exhibitions—each more enlightening than the last. From the Big Bang to the formation of the Higgs field and galaxies beyond, we engaged with physics in truly immersive ways. We donned VR headsets to experience the Large Hadron Collider from a particle's perspective, turned ourselves into "electrons" to witness wave-particle duality, and visualised Young's Double Slit Experiment—directly linking back to our A-Level curriculum. After a hearty lunch at the CERN canteen, we reassembled for a guided tour to the ATLAS Observation Centre.

Here, we learned about the discovery of the Higgs boson—the "God Particle"—and the mechanisms of particle detection at such extreme energies. A presentation highlighted the full Standard Model of particle physics, including quarks, leptons, and the elusive force carriers. We also explored the superconducting toroidal magnets and marvelled at the wire technology, composed of tin and nickel, that made it all possible. The visit concluded with some enthusiastic shopping at the CERN gift shop—many of us, including Miss Ottey and Mr. Jackson, proudly purchased CERN hard hats. Despite the lingering rain, we ended our day with a return visit to Balexert mall, followed by a final arcade session filled with pool games and laughs. With tired feet and inspired minds, we turned in for the night.



Day 4

A relaxed morning greeted us on our final day. After breakfast, we visited the Musée d'histoire des sciences de la Ville de Genève, a museum dedicated to the history of science, featuring a captivating special exhibition on human anatomy. Following our exploration there, we proceeded to the renowned Palace of Nations, home to the United Nations Office in Geneva. Among its dignified grounds stood the "Broken Chair" monument and the impressive display of member flags—symbols of international unity and peace, we clicked some photos for Miss Mistry. Returning to the hotel one last time, we gathered our belongings, donned our new CERN hard hats, and made our way to Geneva Airport. After security, we enjoyed a final indulgence—sampling an abundance of Swiss chocolates (who could resist?)—before boarding our 5:10 PM flight. Touching down at Luton Airport at 6:20 PM BST, we passed through border control and began our journey home. We arrived back in Redditch by 9 PM, bringing our unforgettable Swiss adventure to a close. A heartfelt thank you to Mr. Jackson and Miss Ottey for guiding us through an incredible journey of science, culture, and cherished memories.

Article by Avaneesh D (Year 12)



Futbol Lingo Enrichment

(Year 9 Student Voice)

Motivational talk on languages in sport

Monday 10th March's assembly was very interesting and very fun to listen to. We learnt about how important languages are in football. Most football teams have different languages within them so learning different languages as a manager is really useful. The speaker who came in was very understandable, he also brought some funny stories too which made us all laugh.

We also saw the languages spoken by famous football players. The assembly was very interesting and fun and I hope to see something like this again (:

-Jaylen F.

Practical football session using Spanish

During the football session on Monday, we learnt the importance of language in sports and had fun while doing so. I for one wasn't as football skilled as the others but the drills we did were enjoyable and fit for all. For example, the first drill was to dribble a ball, drop it off in a small goal, collect a flashcard with English football terminology and return with the ball. We then matched the English to the Spanish words and the first team to do so won. That was fun especially when we could tackle other teams! At the end we played mini matches where when a whistle was blown, a player from each team would run to the centre and would write a word they had learnt that day (in English and Spanish). Overall, a fun and enjoyable experience!

Leo W.

I think that the football was a great way to teach other than being in a classroom. Playing football is a different way of teaching and it was entertaining as well as educational.

Rocky C.





Mathematical and Physics Challenges 2025 Results

Intermediate Mathematical Challenge 2025

January 2025 saw Year 9, 10 and 11 participate in the UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge with over 50 students achieving Gold, Silver or Bronze certification. Gold places students in the top twelfth, Silver places students in the top quarter and Bronze in the top half of all those who participated nationwide.

Oscar B (Best in School), Ching Yu K and James C all achieved Gold certificates with Oscar B and Ching Yu K qualifying for the follow up Kangaroo round which is a fantastic achievement and which they both achieved Bronze awards in.

Year 9 : 14 Bronze

Year 10 : 1 Gold, 6 Silver and 11 Bronze

Year 11 : 2 Gold, 5 Silver and 15 Bronze

Physics Challenges

November 2024 saw four Year 13 students participate in the British Physics Olympiad Round 1 - this is a challenging paper that really tests students resilience and problem solving skills in contextual problems. Tom G achieved Silver, George B achieved Bronze I and Sam J and Kieran R achieved Bronze II certificates, which are amazing achievements.

Spring term saw Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12 students participate in national Physics challenges run by the British Physics Olympiad. Our students have been competing with some of the best students in the country and our results have been impressive in what are extremely difficult challenges:

Junior Physics Challenge Online - Year 10

4 students achieved Gold (top 17% of participants) - Oscar B, Noah D, Taylor C and Keenan M (Best in School)

3 students achieved Silver

13 students achieved Bronze

Intermediate Physics Challenge Online - Year 11

1 student achieved Gold (top 20% of participants) - Samuel O (Best in School)

16 students achieved Silver

7 students achieved Bronze

Senior Physics Challenge Online - Year 12

5 students achieved Silver - Matthew M (Best in School)

9 students achieved Bronze

Central Regions Schools Trust Maths Challenge



Central Region
Schools Trust

Founded by the RSA

We welcomed 23 year 8 and 9 pupils to Arrow Vale on Monday 7th July, to participate in the Central Regions Schools Trust second annual maths challenge!

These students had been chosen by their teachers as outstanding mathematicians who have displayed resilience, curiosity and determination in their maths lessons all year.

Each team contained a mix of different schools and the students had to work together to solve complex mathematical problems.

We were proud of every single team but a big well done to team Fibonacci, who took the gold prize of brand new scientific calculators, and team Lovelace who came in second and won maths equipment sets!

Article by Miss N Ottey

Well
DONE!

Science News!

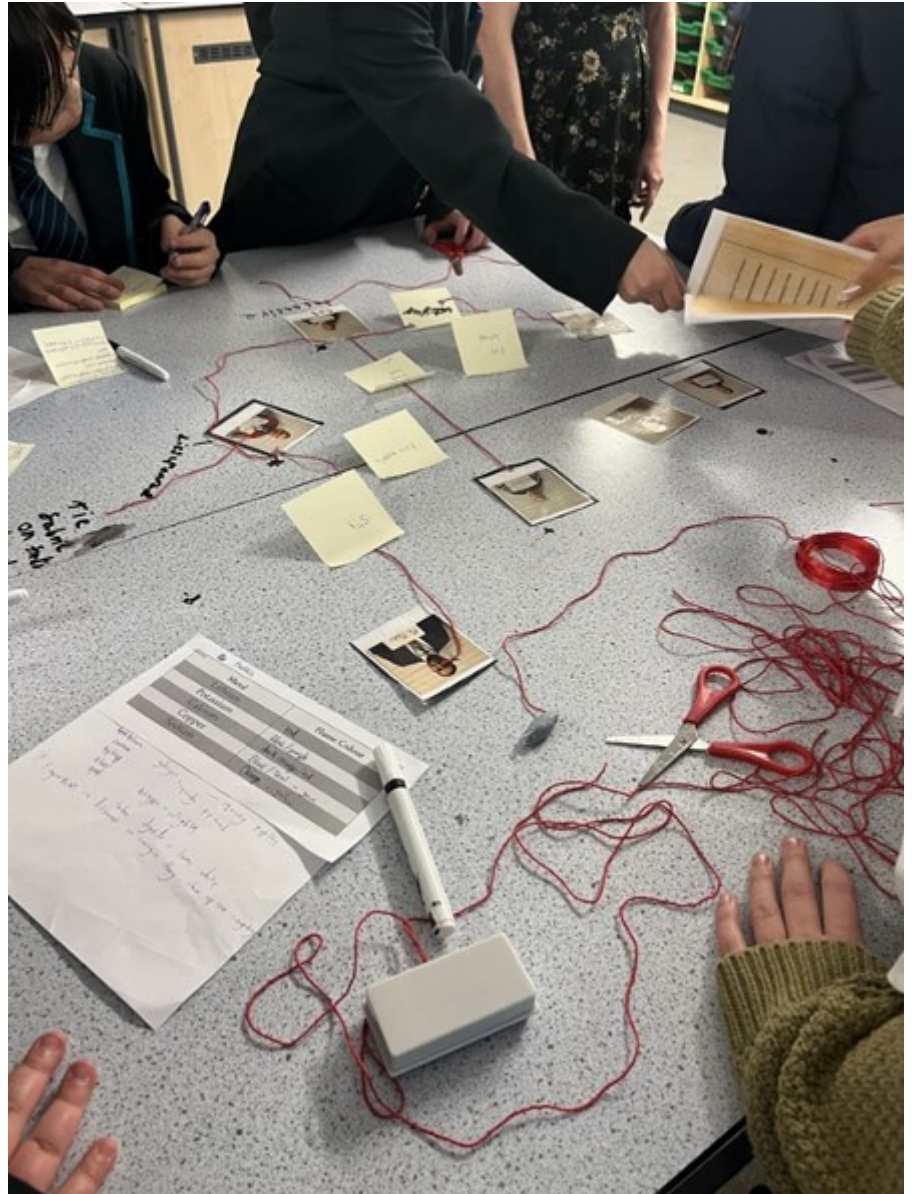
This term has been an exciting one for science, with a wide range of events and activities that have brought learning to life across all year groups. From national competitions and hands-on workshops to STEM Club challenges and cross-school collaborations, students have had countless opportunities to explore, experiment, and engage with science beyond the classroom. Whether investigating crime scenes, escaping from labs, or testing their knowledge in Olympiads and quizzes, it's been a term packed with discovery, creativity, and scientific curiosity.

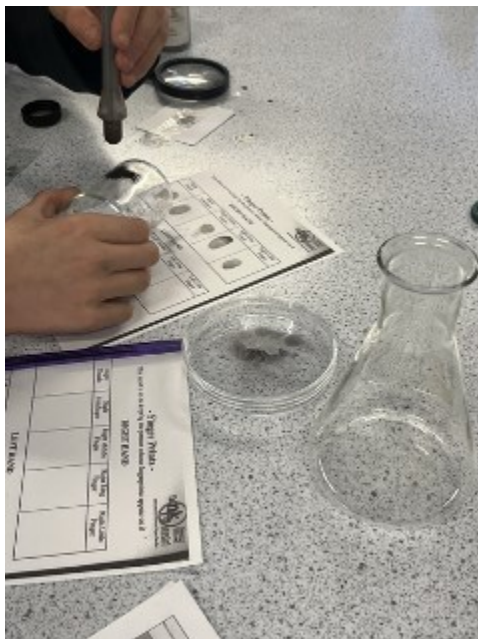
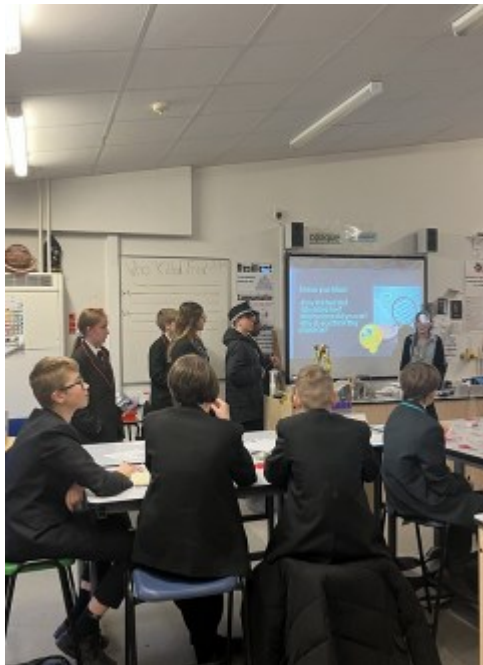
STEM Club Forensics

This term, our Forensics STEM Club brought science to life in a thrilling and interactive way, as Year 9 and Sixth Form students stepped into teaching roles to deliver hands-on forensics-themed lessons to visiting Year 7 students from Church Hill and Ipsley Middle Schools.

The sessions transformed the science lab into a mini crime scene, where budding detectives investigated clues using real forensic techniques. Activities included fingerprinting, analysing flame tests to identify mystery substances, carrying out gas tests, exploring basic anatomy, and using observational skills to piece together a crime scenario. The lessons were designed and delivered by our own students, who took on the challenge of teaching and leading the activities with confidence, creativity, and great enthusiasm.

It was a fantastic opportunity for the Year 7s to get a taste of science in action, while our older students developed leadership, communication, and teamwork skills. After a competitive and engaging investigation, the winning team – who impressed everyone with their sharp detective work and teamwork – came from Church Hill Middle School. A big congratulations to them and a massive thank you to the Arrow Vale STEM students!





Biology Olympiad

Half of our Year 9 and 10 students eagerly took on the exciting challenge of the Royal Society of Biology (RSB) Biology Challenge. This is a national competition that dives deep into the wonders of the living world. Designed to stretch young minds beyond the classroom, the challenge features fun, fast-paced multiple-choice questions that explore everything from cutting-edge science to fascinating facts about animals, plants, and the human body. It's not just about what they've learned in lessons – it's about thinking like a biologist and exploring the big questions in science. Students rose to the occasion with enthusiasm, showing off their curiosity, creativity, and passion for biology. We had some great results but all students who took part should be incredibly proud of themselves!

Special mentions

Silver

Taylor C

Keenen M

Bronze

Aimee W

Oscar B

Noah D

Niamh H

Myanna F

Highly Commended

Milly R

Vida P

Mirri B

Joanna O

Aleena P

Isla C

Commended

Imogen N

Matthew T

Mikee W

Antoni W

Amber E

Noah C

Callum B

Darcey B

Sammie C

Peter C

Maisie D

Amelia G

Abigail H

Science News Continues!



Our Year 12 students also recently took on the demanding Intermediate Biology Olympiad, a prestigious national competition run by the Royal Society of Biology. Aimed at stretching the most able and ambitious biology students, the Olympiad presented a series of complex and thought-provoking questions that tested not only their knowledge but also their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Covering advanced topics beyond the A-level syllabus – from molecular biology to ecology – the paper challenged students to think deeply and apply their understanding in unfamiliar contexts. Despite the intensity of the competition, our students approached it with determination and intellectual curiosity, gaining valuable experience and a taste of what real-world biology looks like at a higher level and massive congratulations to all who took part.

Special mentions

Highly commended

Emily T

Commended

Maria E

Issabella C

Akifah C

Millie S

Rose Y

Biology

Olympiad



Cupboard of curiosity

Science took centre stage this term in our fascinating *Cupboard of Curiosity*, where students were invited to explore the weird, wonderful, and sometimes downright strange side of science. From the stunning symmetrical patterns found in viruses and bacteria to the ancient mysteries revealed by prehistoric poo, the display captured imaginations across the school. But the standout feature was the *Whodunnit?* mystery, which challenged students to use forensic science to identify a guilty teacher. After careful observation and deduction, it was Kris B who cracked the case, correctly identifying Mrs. Lal as the culprit! Thanks to their impressive scientific thinking and attention to detail, Kris walked away with a prize voucher and plenty of praise for their investigative skills.



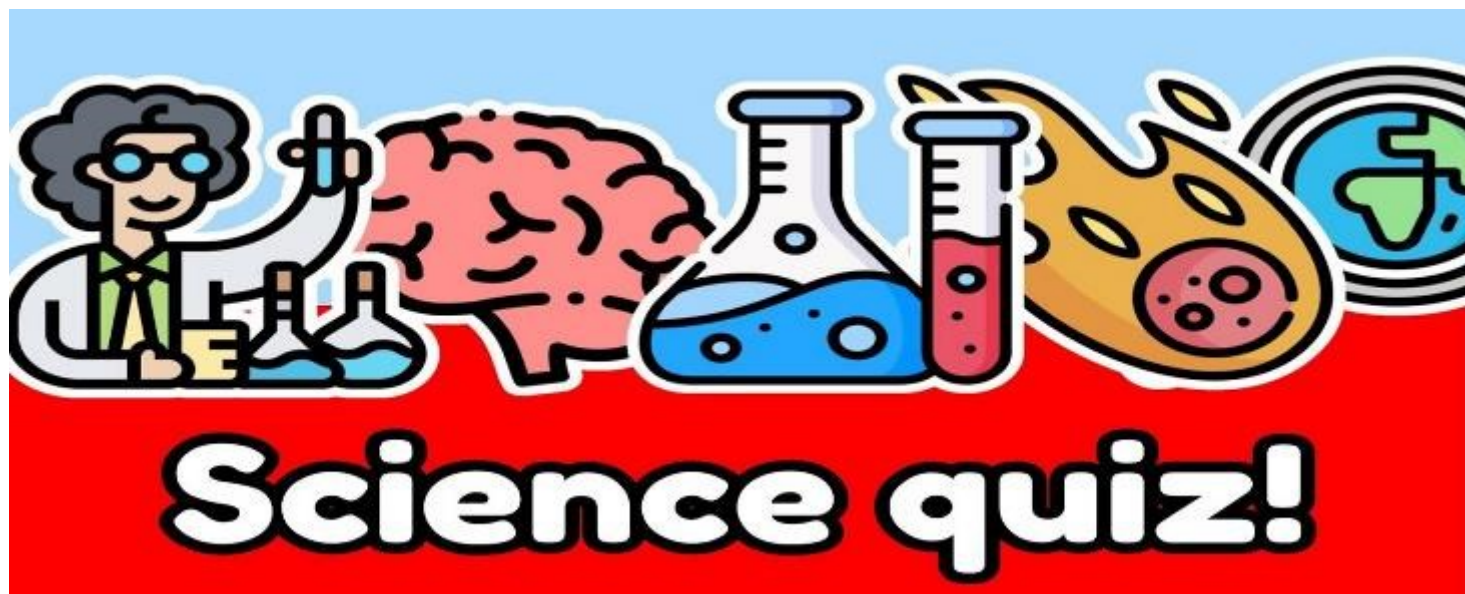
Central Region
Schools Trust

Founded by the RSA



CRST Science Quiz

This term, six of our young scientists proudly represented the school at the CRST Science Quiz, held at Holyhead School. Competing against teams from across the trust, they faced a series of challenging rounds covering all areas of science – from chemistry conundrums and physics puzzles to biology brain-teasers and general knowledge. With quick thinking, teamwork, and impressive subject knowledge, our team held their own against tough competition and secured an amazing third place! It was a fantastic achievement and a great opportunity for our students to showcase their passion for science on a wider stage.



Science News Continues!

STEM Club escape the lab

STEM Club was full of energy and excitement as we welcomed Year 8 students from Church Hill Middle School for an action-packed *Escape the Lab* challenge. This unique event was designed and delivered by our enthusiastic STEM Club members, with Year 9 this time leading with fantastic support from Sixth Form students who took on mentoring roles throughout the weeks.

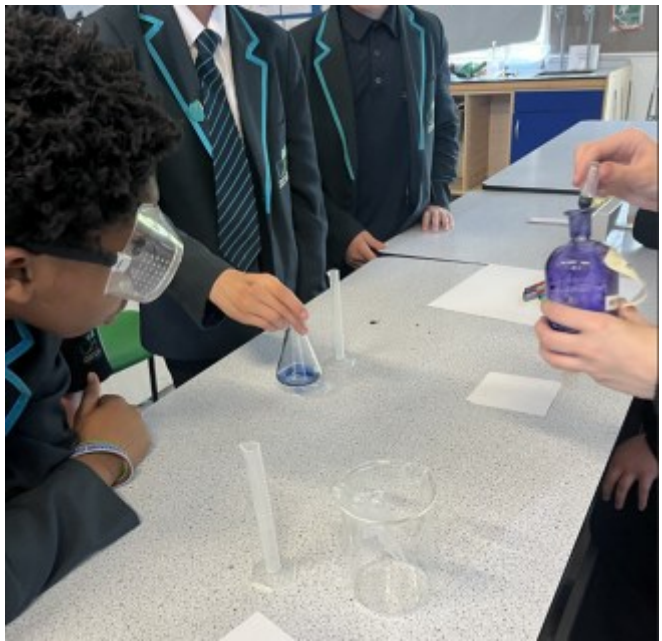
In this thrilling escape-room-style experience, Year 8 students worked in teams to complete a series of hands-on science and problem-solving tasks. Each completed challenge earned them valuable points – and only by collecting enough could they “escape” the lab in time! The activities tested their knowledge, creativity, and teamwork across a wide range of STEM areas.

Challenges included building the tallest and strongest towers from limited materials, using static electricity to move cans the furthest and fastest, navigating space-themed table maps, solving a rapid-fire maths quiz, observing disappearing chemical reactions, and identifying substances through exciting food tests. The lab was alive with curiosity, competition, and discovery as teams raced against the clock to solve puzzles and crack codes.

It was fantastic to see the Year 9s take the lead in running the activities with confidence and enthusiasm, supported by Sixth Formers who offered guidance and encouragement throughout. The Year 8 students rose to the challenge brilliantly, showing great problem-solving skills and teamwork under pressure.

A huge congratulations to all who took part, these sessions were a brilliant success, packed with fun, learning, and a shared love of science!





Wishing all our students a fantastic summer and welcoming you back next year when remember we have the Moon coming to visit us!

Team Science

Sports Fest 2025



Summer Reading

Name: _____

AMAZING A to Z Reading Challenge



B	
C	D

G	H	I	J	K
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F	<p>Can you read 26 books by authors whose last names start with each letter of the alphabet? After reading each book, colour in the letter that begins with the author's last name.</p> <p>Have fun reading from A to Z!</p>	L
E		M
		N

U	T	S	R	Q	P	O
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V	
---	--

W	EXtra Author	Y	Z
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© Stephanie Trapp

READING TRACKER

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-  15 - 30 PAGES
-  31 - 50 PAGES
-  51 - 70 PAGES
-  > 70 PAGES

MY RECORD:

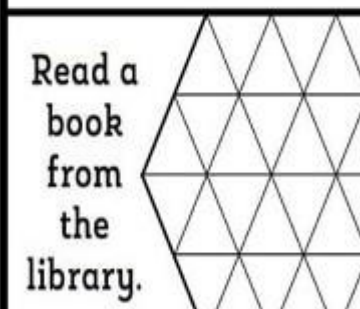
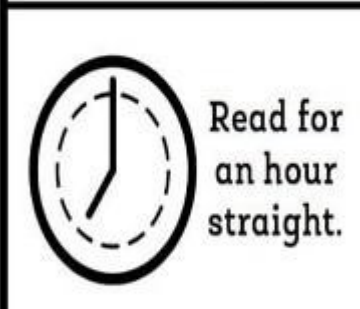
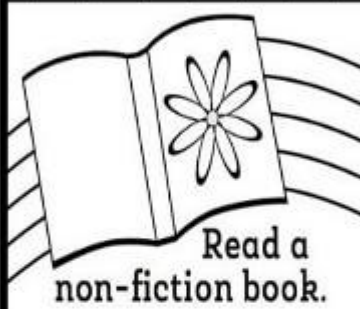
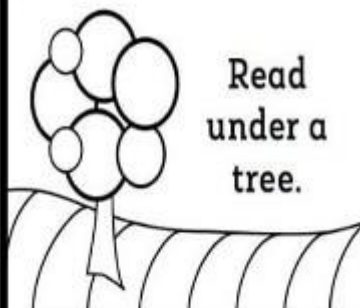
IN ONE HOUR:

IN ONE DAY:

IN ONE MONTH:

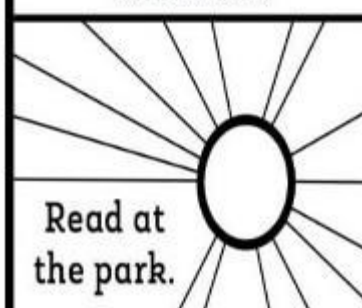
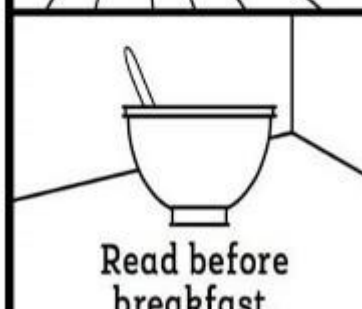
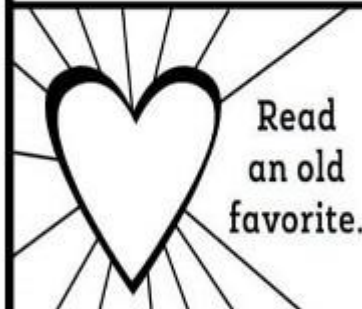
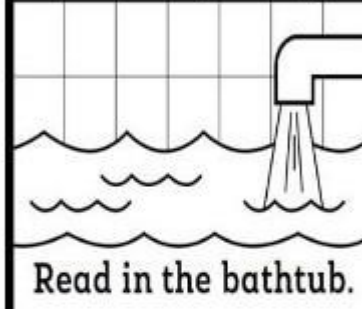
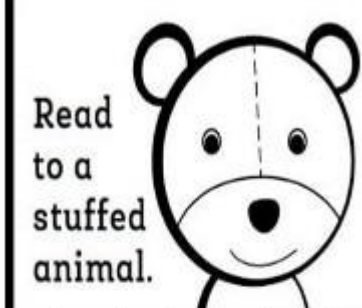
READING CHALLENGE

Color as you go!



READING CHALLENGE

Color as you go!



Safeguarding at Arrow Vale



As the academic year comes to an end, and we take time to reflect on the year, which has come with many challenges not just for staff but for students and families alike, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their contribution to safeguarding some of our most vulnerable students and families. We would like to thank the families who have worked closely with school and other services in ensuring our vulnerable students are kept safe.

Assemblies

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:

- ⇒ Introduction to Safeguarding to Year 9
- ⇒ Sextortion
- ⇒ Online Safety – Computer Misuse Act, Deep Fakes and Nudification Apps
- ⇒ Drugs & Alcohol
- ⇒ Prevent & Discrimination
- ⇒ SNUS & Vaping
- ⇒ Gang & Youth Violence
- ⇒ Water & Railway Safety

Staff have also undergone an array of safeguarding training and briefings throughout the year covering the following topics:

- ⇒ Annual Refresher Update
- ⇒ Read & Understood KCSIE Part One 2024
- ⇒ Read & Understood KCSIE Annex B 2024
- ⇒ KCSIE 2024 Part One Questionnaire
- ⇒ KCSIE 2024 Annex B Questionnaire
- ⇒ NCSC Cyber Security Training
- ⇒ Asbestos Training
- ⇒ Fire Safety Training
- ⇒ Data Protection Training
- ⇒ Honour Based Abuse/FGM – briefing.
- ⇒ Contextual Safeguarding – briefing
- ⇒ Child abduction & community safety incidents - briefing
- ⇒ Homelessness - briefing
- ⇒ Gangs & Youth Violence - briefing
- ⇒ Modern Day Slavery & Trafficking – briefing

Some of our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads have also attended a DDSL refresher course and the Senior Safeguarding Lead has attended a West Mercia Online Conference which looked at the online world including AI (Artificial Intelligence) and the dangers that this poses to our young people and the vulnerable. We hope to be able to share some of the information on how to keep your child safe online and if they use AI in the autumn term.

Staying safe in the community is imperative to all our students, and we urge you as parents to remind your children on the dangers of trespassing on railway lines and going into cold water especially at this time of year where the below surface temperature will be dangerous to anyone entering such waters. We remind parents and students that people should only swim in a swimming pool where there is a life-guard on duty to help you or your child should you get into difficulty.

By entering cold water, you put yourself and others lives at risk.

The water may look calm on the surface, but there may still be strong undercurrents that could pull even a strong swimmer under the water. The water may also feel relatively warm on the surface, but just a few feet below can be icy cold even in the hottest of weather and can very quickly cause severe cramp and hypothermia.

Please take good care during these warmer days and remember to stay safe.

Water Safety Code

The Water Safety Code consists of four icons in blue-bordered boxes:

- Stop and think – spot the dangers:** An icon of an open hand with a green dot on the palm.
- Stay together:** An icon of three people standing in water.
- In an emergency: Float:** An icon of a person floating on their back in water.
- Call 999 or 112:** An icon of an ear with a green dot on the ear canal.

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



Call NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 or email them on help@nspcc.org.uk,



Starting Well Partnership
EVERY CONTACT SHAPES A LIFE



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

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

[Arrow Vale - Useful Information](#)
[Virtual Family Hub | Worcestershire County Council](#)

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.

Meet the Safeguarding Team



Designated Governor for Safeguarding Children:
Ms Nicky Fagan, 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, Vice Principal



Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Mr T Bayley, Assistant Principal



Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Mr N Linington, Assistant Principal



Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Mr A Fortune, Year Team Lead



Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Mrs L Davies, Director of SEND



Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Mrs S Curtis, Intervention & Emotional Wellbeing Co-ordinator



Summer Holidays Activities

Dear Parents/Carers/Guardians

Please find below a timetable of activities which are being offered during the summer holidays through Pete Martin which your child/ young person can get involved with as well as activities for families.

The good news is some of the activities being offered are FREE.

Redditch Self Defence Association

LOCATION: BEHIND THE OLD NEEDLE FACTORY, BRITTEN STREET, B97 6HD



	9:30am	10:30am	11am	1pm	6pm	6:30pm	7pm	7:15pm
MON			FREE OPEN TRAINING	DROP IN SESSION WEST MERCIA POLICE WOODROW COMMUNITY CENTRE			TEENS BOXING	
TUE								AIKIDO
WED			FREE OPEN TRAINING	DROP IN SESSION WEST MERCIA POLICE WOODROW COMMUNITY CENTRE	FREE FAMILY BOXING			PRIVATE HIRE LONEWOLFPT
THUR							OVER 40's FIGHT CLUB	
FRI			FREE OPEN TRAINING			FREE FAMILY SELF DEFENCE WOODROW COMMUNITY CENTRE		
SAT	AIKI GOSHIN JUTSU	WOMEN & GIRLS BOXING	FREE TEENS SELF DEFENCE					

Autumn Term 2025-26

1st and 2nd Sept:	Staff Learning Days 1 & 2—School Closed to students
Wed. 3rd Sept.:	Year 9 and Year 12 Students return to school
Thurs. 4th Sept:	Year 10, 11 and 13 students return to school
Thurs. 4th Sept.:	Year 11 Information Evening
Thurs. 11th Sept.:	Sixth Form Information Evening
Tues 23rd Sept:	Open Evening
Thurs 2nd Oct:	Year 9 Tutor Evening
Thurs. 16th Oct:	Sixth Form Open Evening
Fri 24th Oct:	Staff Learning Day 3—School Closed to Students
27th—31st October : Autumn Half Term	
Mon. 3rd Nov.:	School Reopens
Thurs. 6th Nov.:	Year 10 Information Evening
Fri 21st Nov:	Children in Need
Fri 28th Nov.	Staff Learning Day 4—School Closed to students
Thurs 11th Dec:	Sixth Form Parents Evening
15th—17th Dec:	Sixth Form Charity Week
Fri 19th Dec:	End of Term
22nd Dec.—5th January :: Christmas Holidays	
Staff Learning Day 5 : 5th January—School closed to students	
Tue. 6th Jan	School Reopens

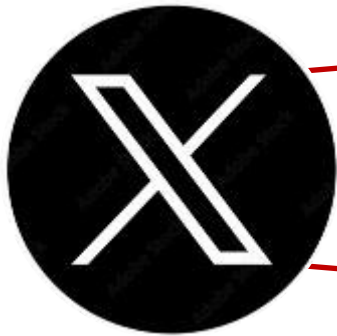


We love to celebrate our school news, so join the Arrow Vale family on social media!

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

Matthew Rash, Principal

Matchborough Way Redditch Worcestershire B98 0GF

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