

# ARROW NEWS



**EVERY SCHOOL  
DAY COUNTS!**



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



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Dear Students, Parents, and Staff,

As we come to the end of a long and demanding autumn term, I would like to take a moment to reflect, celebrate, and say thank you to our whole school community.

The darker mornings, longer evenings, and relentless pace of learning require resilience and commitment from everyone. Our students have worked hard, shown determination, and demonstrated real strength in the way they have approached their learning. This term is now behind us, and that achievement should not be underestimated.

One of the great strengths of our school is the importance we place on enrichment and extra activities and this edition of Arrow News captures some of what we do. These experiences are not an “add-on”; they are crucial. They build character, confidence, teamwork and ambition. Whether through sport, the arts, clubs, trips, or wider opportunities, these moments help young people discover who they are and who they can become.

I am also proud of the student leadership shown this term and many of them have produced and supported this publication. Many of our students have stepped forward, grasped opportunities, and taken responsibility for developing themselves and supporting others. These experiences shape future leaders and reinforce the message that success comes from involvement, courage, and a willingness to try.

As we look ahead to January, we do so with optimism. A new term brings new beginnings. It brings clarity and purpose. There is no magic formula for success — only hard work, grit, and determination. These are qualities we will continue to nurture and expect as we move forward together.

To our parents and carers, thank you. Your support, calmness, and collected teamwork with the school make a real difference. Education is a partnership, and your encouragement at home underpins everything we do in school.

I wish you all a peaceful, restful, and joyful Christmas. May the break provide time to recharge, reconnect, and look forward to the opportunities that the new year will bring.

With warmest wishes,

**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.



**CEIAG - Careers Education Information, Advice & Guidance**

# Arrow Vale Remembers!

For this year's Remembrance display, students were asked to create a poppy to be featured in a group presentation. They had complete freedom to do this however they wanted, and it was wonderful to see such a big variety of approaches to creating their pieces. Thank you to all of the students (and staff!) that took part – I think you'll agree that it is a wonderful display of thoughtful art work, showcasing lots of talent.



# Honouring Remembrance Day : A Proud Moment for Oscar

On Sunday 9th November, Redditch Town Centre came together for its annual Remembrance Day Parade. Among the crowds of veterans, members of the Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force, Scouts, Girl Guides, Cubs and Beavers, one of our own students was proudly taking part: Oscar W., from 10D2, who has been a committed member of the Churchill Army Cadet Force for the past year and a half.

Oscar marched with his troop through the town centre before joining the service that followed. The atmosphere was reflective and respectful as the community paused to remember those who lost their lives in service to the country.

After the parade, Oscar spoke about what the day meant to him. "I felt really proud to be able to attend the service," he said. "It's important that we remember those who have sacrificed their lives for this country."

Oscar's involvement in the parade is something he can truly be proud of, and we're proud of him too. His dedication to the Cadet Force and the respect he showed throughout the event were a credit to both his troop and our school.



# Script to Screen Workshop

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, Year 12 and 13 Film Studies students visited *Warner Bros Studios* in Watford to get an insight into the magical creation of the Harry Potter film franchise.

When we arrived, we were taken upstairs to attend a script to screen workshop, where we learnt about the extensive process of bringing a film to life, from the initial idea up until the distribution process. In the workshop there were genuine props that had been used in the film, like wands, costumes, and even Hagrid's 'dead head' that was worn by his stunt actor. We were also able to see white card models of the set designs, like Hagrid's hut, and the storyboards that inspired the film's cinematography which were useful to see in the development of our own storyboards for our coursework.

After this we took a self-guided tour through the magical world of Harry Potter, starting in the Great Hall, decked with Christmas decorations, all the way to a scale model of the Hogwarts Castle. We walked through a range of set designs, like the moving staircase, classrooms, and common rooms, and were able to read about all the small details and how they were designed for the films. We stepped

onto Platform 9¾ and saw a life-size model of the Hogwarts Express, as well as having the opportunity to try some Butterbeer for refreshments. The highlight of my day was being able to walk through a snowy Diagon Alley and seeing all the shops in detail that I had recognised from the films, as well as seeing the Hogwarts Castle model to round off the tour. The trip was not just a magical experience, but also informative into all the roles that go into making a film as immersive and as detailed as it can possibly be.

**Article by Lola**



# Exciting News: Thank you to the National Lottery Community Fund!

We are absolutely delighted to announce that our school youth centre has received generous funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, made possible thanks to National Lottery players and our local community.

This vital support means that our youth centre can now remain open until January 2027, offering a welcoming, safe and engaging space for our young people to enjoy. We are incredibly grateful to the National Lottery.

Thanks to this funding, we will continue to run our free weekly sessions for students: Tuesdays: 6pm - 8pm and Fridays : 6.30pm - 9.30pm.

These sessions provide a consistent opportunity for students to socialise, take part in fun and creative activities, build friendships, and receive support in a positive environment.

Our youth centre is more than just a space - it's a lifeline for many young people. With this support, we can continue to invest in their wellbeing, growth and confidence for the next year and beyond.

We'll be sharing regular updates, photos and stories from your youth centre, so please follow us on Instagram at @avyouthclub to keep up with everything happening!

Once again, a huge thank to the National Lottery Community Fund and everyone who plays the National Lottery. You are making a real difference in our community.



## OUR WEEKLY SCHEDULE

We use the 3G facilities at arrow vale. This is a great venue to have a laugh with your friends and play football with adults fully supervising!

Youth centre has Xbox, darts, pool tables and more...

**TUESDAY'S**  
YOUTH CENTRE 6PM - 8PM

**FRIDAY'S**  
FOOTBALL 7PM - 9PM / YOUTH CENTRE 6:30 - 9:30

# Girls Fixtures & Clubs

## Netball

### Year 9 Netball

Year 9 played a tournament against our local schools. The girls showed great teamwork, shooting, defending, and passing. The girls have only competed in a few matches together, and are getting better and better every time!

Honey A.; Ibbly F.; Paige F.; Elsie H.; Marcy H.; Freya M.; Miley N.; Isabelle O'F.; Eden O.; Danai P.; Barbara S.; Connie S.; Isabel S.; Bethany W.; Millie W.

### Year 10 Netball

Year 10 team competed against our local schools in a tournament. They shown some great, shooting, defending, and passing. Also great teamwork was shown with the girls encouraging each other to do well! Daniella B.; Torrie G.; Elsa L.; Millie M.; Elena P.; Abigail R.; Emilia T.; Farrah W.; Kearney W.; Darcey W.;



## Football

Girl's football has got off to a good start! We have only played one fixture as of yet, but there are many more to come!!

### Fixtures:

#### Under 14's - Year 9

Arrow Vale VS Tudor Grange Worcester – Unfortunately the girls lost this game 6-2. However, the scoreline didn't reflect the result. We had lots of chances on goal throughout the game. The girls didn't give up and continued to work hard until the final whistle. The girls played some great football, and all worked hard for each other!

**The following students who took part in the football match:**

### Year 9

Eden O.; Holly B.; Honey A.; Freya M.; Layla S.; Isabel S.; Alexia P.; Milly B.; Felicity M.; Summer-Grace T.; Elsie H.; Miley N.; Lacey T.;



## Under 15's - Year 9 & 10

Arrow Vale **4 VS 0** North Bromsgrove –The girls played against North Bromsgrove winning 4-0. some great football, and all worked hard for each other! Isabel S. scored 2 and Lacey T. scored 2. With one of them being a screamer!

The girls played some really good football, passing to each other and using the space out wide to attack their defence.



**The following students who took part in the football match:**

### Year 9

Eden O.; Holly B.; Honey A.; Freya M.; Isabel S.; Alexia P.; Milly B.; Felicity M.; Summer-Grace T.; Elsie H.; Miley N.; Lacey T.;

### Year 10

Phoebe F. and Jessica G.



# Geography Fieldwork

This term, our Year 12 and 13 Geography students took part in a fascinating fieldwork trip to London, exploring two very different urban environments as part of their A-level studies.

The day began with a minibus journey to Stratford, where students spent the morning walking through the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Once an industrial area, Stratford has seen major regeneration since the 2012 Olympics. Students investigated how this transformation has changed the character and identity of the area—what



geographers call "the concept of place." As part of their fieldwork, they carried out environmental quality surveys, took photographs for later analysis, and conducted questionnaires with members of the public to gather a range of perspectives on the changes.

In the afternoon, the group headed to Brick Lane, a vibrant and culturally rich part of East London. Here, the focus shifted to how the Bangladeshi community has shaped the area over time. Students explored the streets, noting the influence of migration on the built environment, local businesses, and cultural identity. They continued their investigations with more surveys and photo analysis, comparing the two locations and reflecting on how different communities contribute to the sense of place.



The following week, the same Year 12 and 13 students took to the streets of Redditch town centre to carry out a local fieldwork investigation focused on the concept of "changing places."

The aim of the day was to explore whether Redditch could be considered a "clone town"—a place dominated by chain stores and lacking a distinct local identity — or whether it retains a unique character shaped by its community and history. Students visited key locations around the town centre, observing how the space is used by local people and how the built environment reflects (or resists) the pressures of commercial homogenisation.



These trips were a brilliant opportunity for students to apply their classroom learning to real-world settings, and to develop key fieldwork skills that will support their coursework and exam preparation. A big thank you to the Geography department for organising such an insightful and engaging day!

**Article by Mrs Weynberg**

# An Experience of a Lifetime!

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Brody, A. in Year 10, got to have an experience of a lifetime. Brody and a fellow cadet from 216 (Redditch) Squadron, were lucky enough to be selected for a special Air experience flight in which they spent the day looking out the back of an RAF Chinook as it took flight!



# Children In Need



Our school went all out for Children in Need this year, and the results were incredible! Thanks to everyone's enthusiasm, generosity, and love of fun, we raised an amazing **£598.82** for this brilliant cause.

The day was packed with activities. We had a casual wear day and the teddy tombola and cake sale were busy from start to finish. The competitions were just as exciting, guess the number of sweets in the jar and name the teddy had everyone putting their guesses to the test.

But without a doubt, the most popular activity was Guess the Teacher from the Baby Photo. Crowds gathered around the board all day, pointing, laughing, and arguing over who was who. Some were easy... others, not so much!

A huge thank-you to everyone who took part, donated, baked, or helped run the stalls. Together, we made a fantastic difference for Children in Need, and had a brilliant time doing it!



# Children's Mental Health Week

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Our aim was to raise awareness for children's mental health week but our bake sale and yellow ribbon stall also helped us raise an impressive **£95.52** for Young Minds, a charity supporting young people's mental health.

Students and staff enjoyed delicious homemade treats and proudly wore their yellow ribbons to show support. A huge shout-out to Jacob M, who was our top fundraiser and played a big part in helping us reach this total.

Thank you to everyone who baked, donated, and supported the event—together, we made a real difference!

**YOUNG MINDS**  
fighting for young people's mental health

# Christmas Hampers

Here are a selection of the fabulous hampers that our students have produced this year.

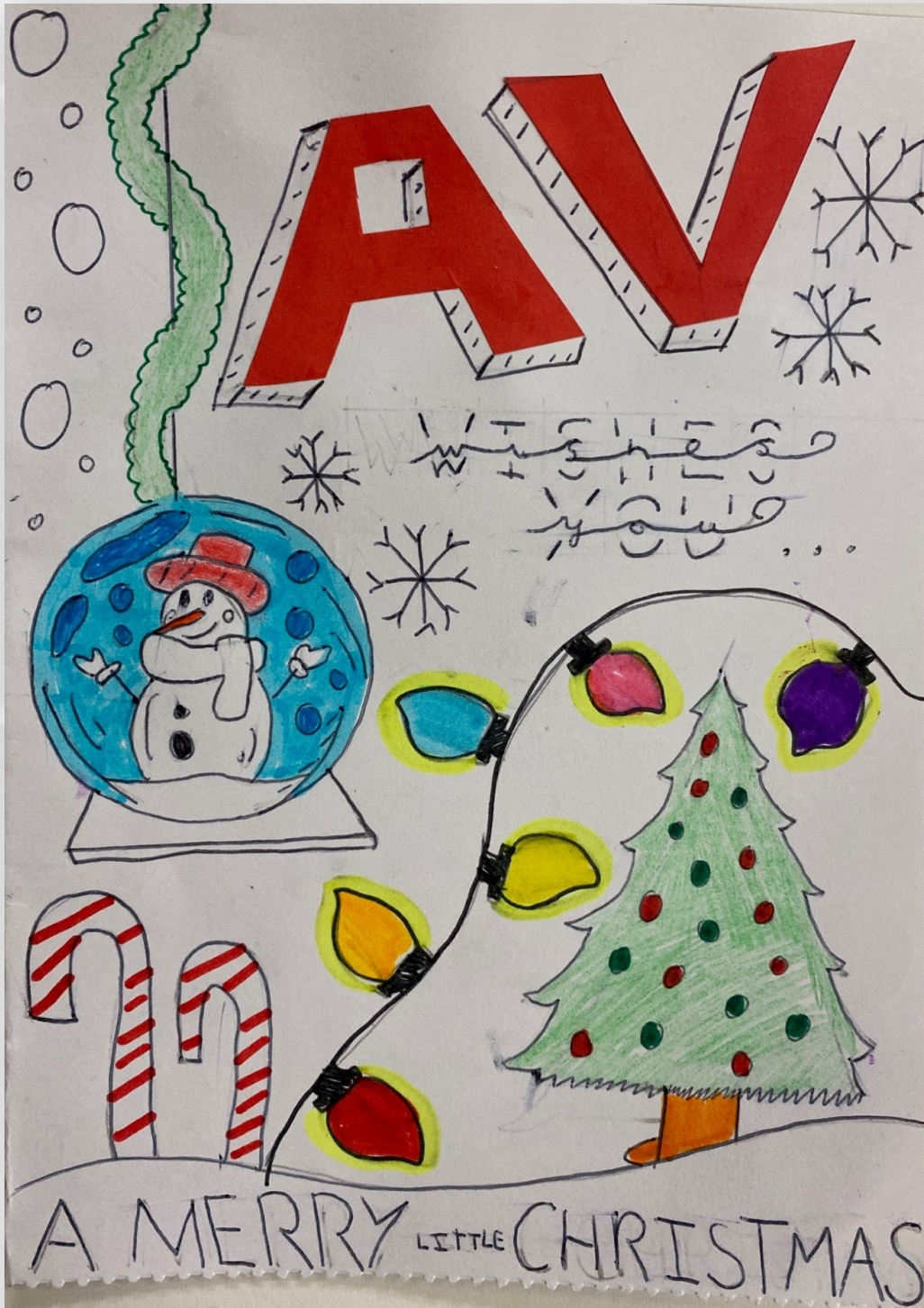
We thank our families for their generosity in donated food items for the hamper boxes, which have now been delivered to a local foodbank. Hopefully with the help of your donations it will make life a little easier for struggling families in the Redditch area.

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



# Christmas Card

Thank you to the students who took part in the Art Christmas Card competition. Here is the winning art work, by Elena P in Year 10. This was chosen to become Arrow Vale's Official Christmas Card.





# New Code Club Launch

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We are excited to share news about the launch of a brand-new Code Club, running every Tuesday lunchtime and open exclusively to Year 9 and Year 10 students. Whether completely new to coding or already building digital creations, the club offers a welcoming space to explore, experiment and develop a range of valuable digital skills.

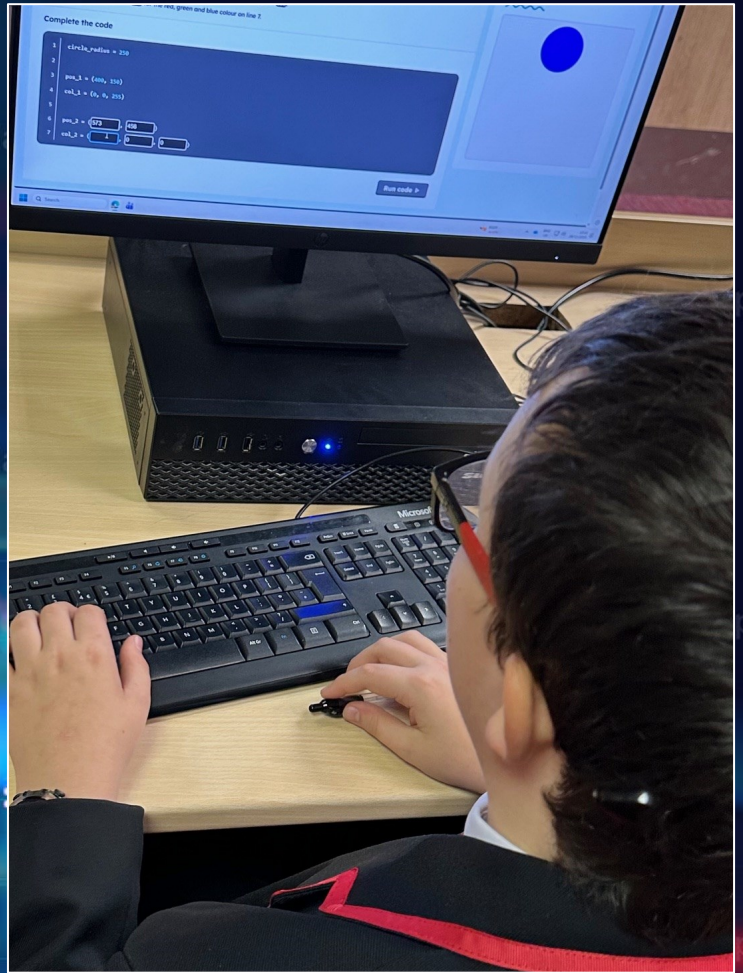
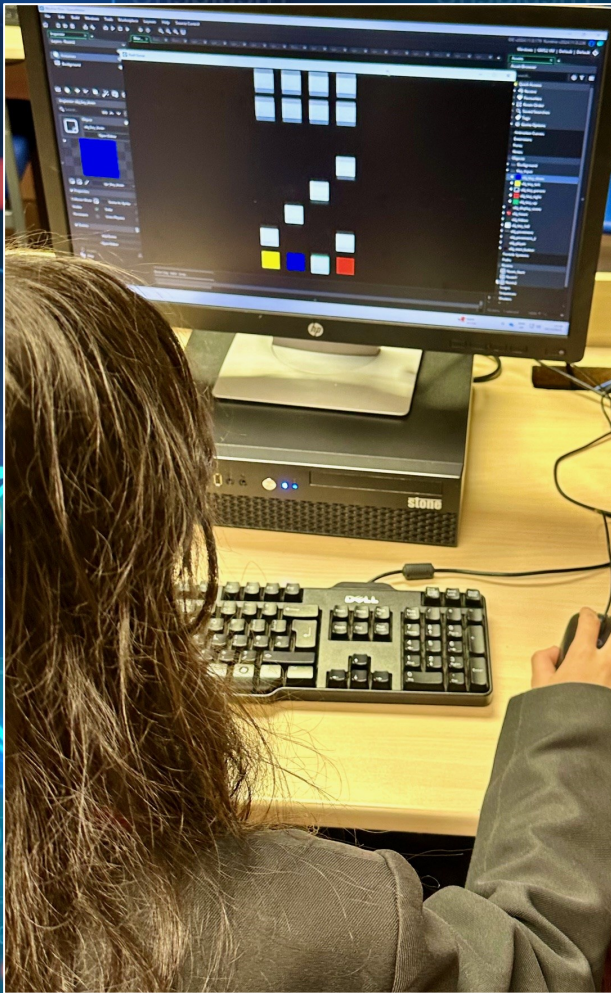
Affiliated with the global Code Club movement in association with the Raspberry Pi Foundation, this extra-curricular opportunity is designed to support a wide range of interests and abilities, giving students the chance to learn about software development through both block-based and text-based programming languages. For beginners, platforms such as Scratch and Micro:bit provide an accessible introduction to key programming concepts through drag-and-drop code blocks. These tools make it easy to bring ideas to life – whether it's creating interactive stories, animations or simple games.

Students who are ready for a greater challenge can explore Python, one of the world's most widely used programming languages. Used in industry, it is ideal for those interested in developing real-world computing skills and opens doors to everything from data science to software development. The club will also feature creative tools such as GameMaker, allowing students to design their own 2D games, and Minecraft Education, where coding can shape entire virtual worlds using logic and imagination.

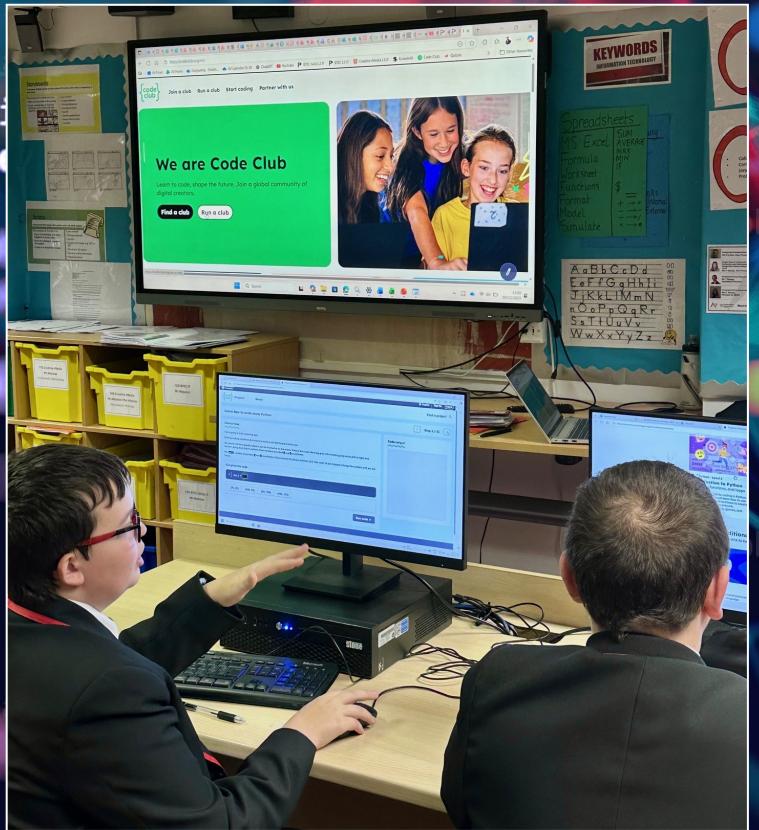
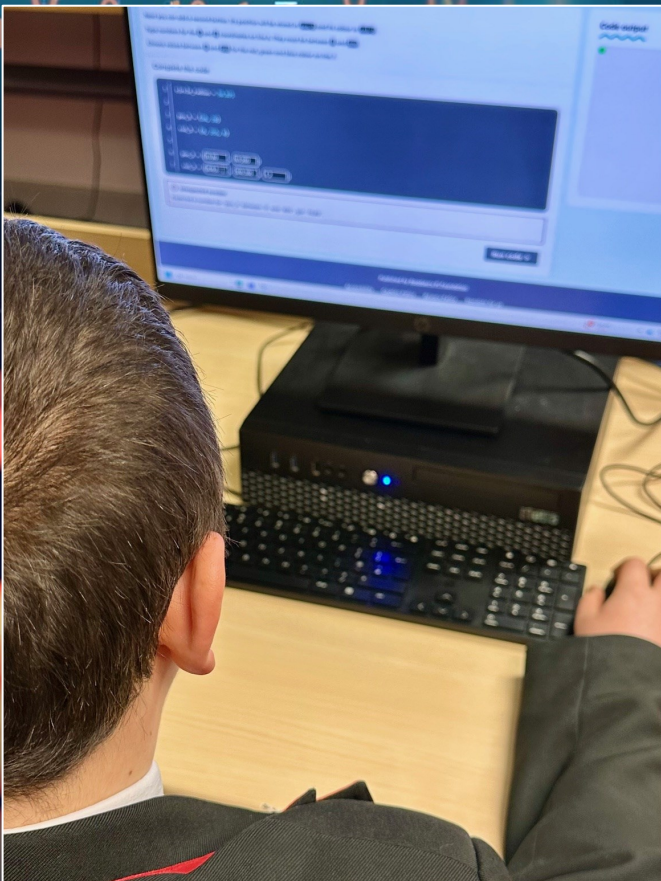
This term is the perfect time relaunch of our Code Club as we will also be officially celebrating the international Hour of Code event, running at the start of December (from Monday 8th to Friday 12<sup>th</sup>). This global celebration aims to introduce millions of students to the power of computer science, showing that anyone can learn the basics and enjoy the process of creating with code. Throughout the week, students will have the chance to take part in special coding challenges, tutorials and activities linked to the worldwide event.

Organiser and DLS for IT, Mr Webster, said: "By joining us in Code Club, students will not only learn technical skills but also develop problem-solving abilities, creativity, resilience and teamwork that are essential qualities for many future careers. Whether you dream of becoming a game developer, engineer, designer or simply want to try something new, Code Club offers the perfect opportunity to get started. We look forward to welcoming new members every Tuesday lunchtime!"

**Article by Mr Webster**



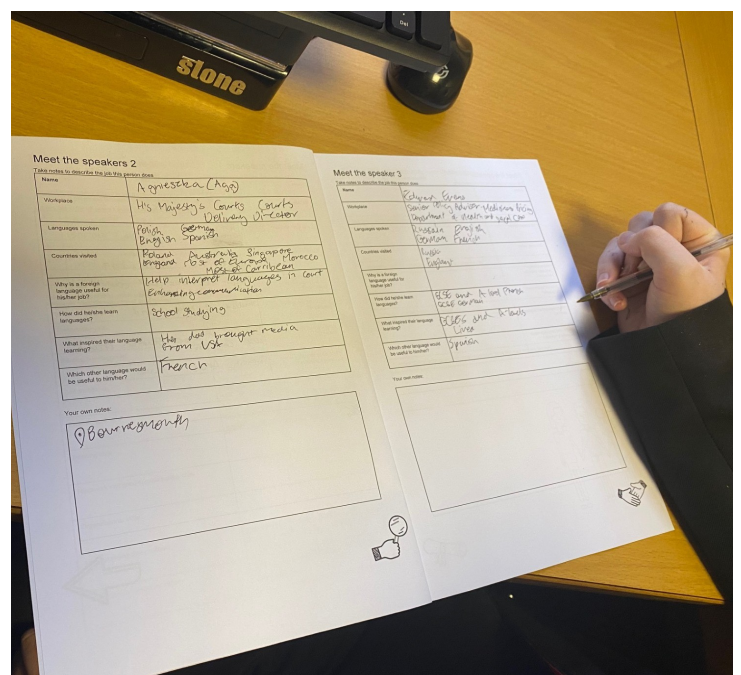
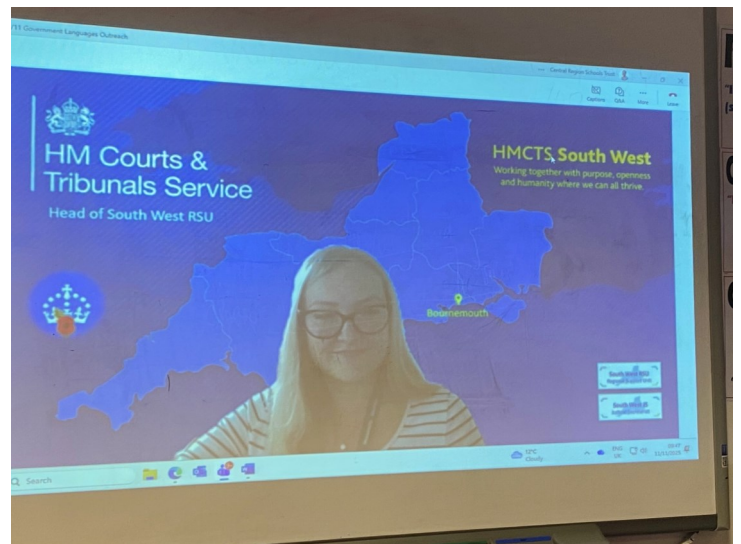
#selection at the end -add back the deselected mirror modifier obj  
10\_ob.select= 1  
modifier ob.select=1



# Where can Languages Take You

A group of Year 10 MFL linguists attended an informative webinar organised by the Government Languages Outreach programme our school has signed up to in order to explore future options opened to them as linguists. Live speakers related how their linguistic journey has helped them with their current profession and previous ones as well. These speakers mentioned fascinating anecdotes as to how speaking languages traditionally taught in UK schools (French, Spanish and German) as well as others acquired along the way widened their horizon both professionally and socially. Students were able to reflect on their own linguistic potential, possible career paths and thoroughly enjoyed this MFL enrichment opportunity!

**Article by MFL Department.**





# Design A Burger!



Year 10 Enterprise students have been busy creating burger designs for their coursework. There have been some amazing creations, using market research and creative techniques.

After the holidays, students will move on to costing their burger designs and develop a marketing campaign.

**Article by Mrs Molloy**



# THIS GIRL CAN

## Empowering and Inspiring Girls Through Sport



Students from twelve different schools across Key Stages 3 and 4 came together for a vibrant '**This Girls Can**' event, superbly organised and led by **Mrs Pearson**. The aim of the day was simple yet powerful: to inspire confidence, celebrate participation, and encourage more girls to get involved in sport both inside and outside school.

Throughout the event, students had the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities, including skipping challenges, dodgeball games, team-building tasks, and more. There was a real buzz of energy and laughter as girls tried new sports, pushed themselves out of their comfort zones, and supported one another.

A highlight of the day was an engaging talk focused on breaking down barriers to girls' participation in sport, encouraging them to find activities they enjoy and feel confident pursuing. The message was clear: sport is for everyone.

The event was a resounding success, and it was fantastic to see so many students taking part with enthusiasm. A huge thank you to Mrs Pearson for her organisation and leadership, and well done to all the girls who represented the school so brilliantly.

**Article by Mr Blankley**

# Determination Leads to Victory

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Our girls' football team, made up of a mix of Year 9, 10, and 11 students, took on North Bromsgrove in what proved to be an exciting and competitive fixture. The match also contributed to the Year 11 students' sports assessment, adding an extra layer of focus and motivation.

From the first whistle, the team demonstrated fantastic teamwork and determination. The older players led by example, while the Year 9 students showed remarkable maturity and resilience, standing strong against physically and technically challenging opposition. Their confidence and composure were impressive throughout.

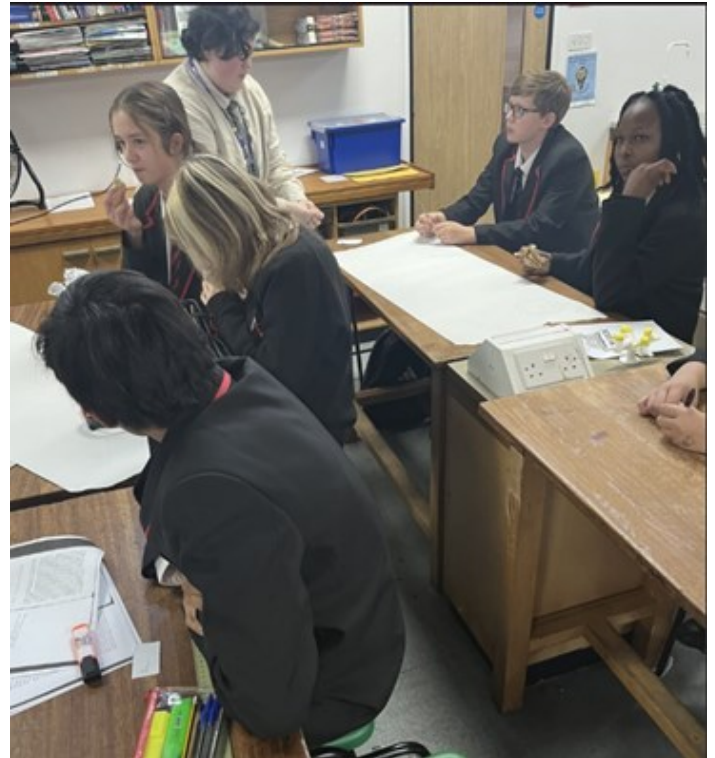
Arrow Vale dominated large spells of the match, pressing high, moving the ball well, and creating several scoring opportunities. Their hard work paid off as they secured a well-deserved **2-1 victory**.

The game highlighted not only their skill and commitment but also the supportive environment within the team. Every player worked tirelessly for their teammates, and the win was a true collective achievement. A brilliant performance all round!

**Article by Mr Blankley**



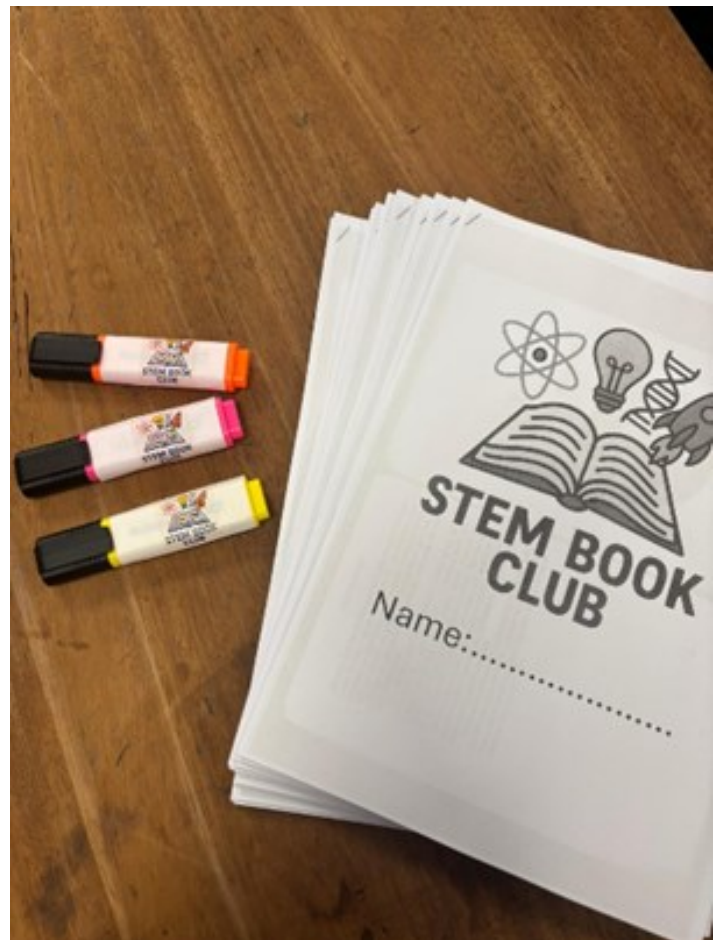
# Curie-ous Club



We do a range of fun and exciting activities at Curie-ous Club including debates on scientific, ethical dilemmas, as well as, learning about different scientists who have majorly contributed to our knowledge of the world today. Not only this but we also engage in reading interesting books about science and then discussing surprising facts we have learnt and we even had a movie night that the members of the Curie-ous Club and STEM club attend in the theatre after school.

Overall, I really enjoy spending my time at Curie-ous Club and I love talking about science, which is my passion with like-minded people. I'm thankful to all the teachers and sixth formers who organise this club, for giving us students the opportunity to explore science beyond the curriculum and spend time in such a meaningful way.

**Article by Alice M. (10E2)**





## Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance

Miss Hughes is now our CEIAG Lead. She has already been busy in her new role, organising 1 to 1 careers guidance interviews for Year 11 and Year 13 students which are currently ongoing. Miss Hughes also arranged for Matt Sen, a professional boxer, to come and give an aspirational talk to a group of Year 10 students. Feedback from the students was very positive, and there will be more guest speakers invited in to provide an insight into careers to inspire our students.



Mrs Price is our work experience coordinator and has recently launched information regarding work experience for both Year 10 and Year 12 students which will take place week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026. We are excited that our students will have the opportunity to experience the world of work in a setting of their choice. We encourage students to start looking now for a placement as it can be competitive and spaces get filled quickly. The deadline for consent forms to be returned from both parents/carers and employers is Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February. This allows time for health and safety checks and risk assessments to be carried out before placements are approved.

And finally, not too far into the new year is National Apprenticeship week running throughout the 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026. We know that many students are interested in this route after leaving school, and we will therefore be sharing lots of information surrounding Apprenticeships in February for our students to access.



# MFL Language Nut Competition

This half term the Year 9 and 10 MFL students have once again participated in the Language Nut Christmas competition. This is a national competition involving nearly 2000 schools and nearly 200,000 students. In order to compete, students had to complete a variety of language-based games and quizzes, all working against each other to reach the top of the leader board. There was fierce competition from the get-go with students desperately working towards the top spot.



At the end of the competition there were only tiny margins, but the winners were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sophie H..
- 2<sup>nd</sup> William H.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Natan B.-C.

These students should be incredibly proud of themselves. Sophie was ranked 103<sup>rd</sup>, William, 178<sup>th</sup> and Natan 228<sup>th</sup> out of over 197,000. Arrow Vale came 616<sup>th</sup> out of all of the entries. What an amazing achievement!

Huge congratulations to these students and all of the students that participated in the competition. Look out for details of our next competition coming soon.

**Article by Mrs Kiddle**

# ATTENDANCE RAFFLE



EVERY FRIDAY @ 8:35AM 100% ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK

- AMAZON KINDLES
- ANKER ACTIVE NOISE CANCELLING HEADPHONES
- META QUEST 3
- APPLE IPADS
- AMAZON ECHO POPS
- APPLE AIRPODS
- GHD ORIGINAL HAIR STRAIGHTENERS
- AMAZON ECHO SHOWS
- ACER CHROMBOOKS
- BABYLISS TURBO SMOOTH 2200 HAIR DRYERS
- TEFAL EASY FRY DUAL ZONE DIGITAL AIR FRYER
- 'ALL IN ONE' £10 VOUCHER
- PS5
- TRESEMME CURLING TONGS
- TRESEMME HAIR DRYER
- REVLON VOLUMISER

# Sporting News!



## Year 10 Basketball Tournament at Trinity : A Strong First Outing

Our Year 10 boys travelled to Trinity to take part in a competitive basketball tournament—an exciting challenge, especially considering many of the students had **never played basketball competitively outside of PE lessons**.

Despite their limited experience, the team approached every match with determination and a willingness to learn. Their opening game against Trinity was a closely fought battle, with Arrow Vale narrowly losing by only a few points.

Their second game against Ridgeway proved to be one of the most evenly matched contests of the day. Both sides demonstrated great teamwork and skill, and the Arrow Vale boys held their own superbly from start to finish.

The final fixtures were against Bromsgrove School, who brought **three strong teams**, each presenting a different level of challenge. Arrow Vale rose to the occasion, giving 100% in every game and refusing to be intimidated by more experienced players.

Overall, the boys represented the school with pride, maturity, and sportsmanship. Their resilience and team spirit were clear throughout the tournament, and they should be incredibly proud of their performances.

## Cross Country at Tudor Grange – Strong Running and Standout Results

A dedicated group of Year 9, 10, and 11 students travelled to Tudor Grange for this year's cross-country competition. With perfect running conditions—cool air, firm ground, and a clear course—the stage was set for some excellent performances.

The students showed tremendous grit and determination across the challenging course, supporting one another and giving their best from start to finish. Many achieved personal bests, and several runners placed strongly within their age categories.

A special congratulations goes to **Joe A.**, who produced an outstanding run to finish in the **top three**. His pacing, stamina, and focus were exceptional, and he thoroughly deserved his podium position.

All our runners demonstrated real commitment and team spirit, making the school proud with their effort and attitude.



## U18 Football – A Tale of Two Tough Fixtures

### Arrow Vale vs Christopher Whitehead

The U18 team faced a challenging match against Christopher Whitehead in what turned out to be a game of two very different halves. The opening 45 minutes were tightly contested, with both teams defending well and creating chances.

After the break, a scrappy goal gave Christopher Whitehead the advantage, and despite the team's efforts, their heads dropped momentarily. The opposition capitalised, scoring twice more in quick succession.

Arrow Vale did, however, produce a moment of brilliance:

**Ollie H.** struck an incredible shot from just outside the box, sending the ball curling into the top corner. It was a goal worthy of any highlight reel and a clear demonstration of the team's capability even in tough circumstances.

### Arrow Vale vs Prince Henry's

The next challenge saw the team travel to Evesham to face Prince Henry's, who had previously beaten us in last year's county competition. Despite travelling with only **10 players**, the squad showed remarkable courage and determination.

Two of our players, **Billy H** and **Ajay B**, stepped up impressively to play above their usual age group, a testament to their enthusiasm and commitment.

Although the opposition eventually came away as comfortable winners due to their extra player and physical advantage, the Arrow Vale team displayed incredible resilience, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout.

Both matches showed the group's character and willingness to battle for the team, regardless of circumstance.



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## Year 11 PSA Achievement – Outstanding Effort and Progress

Our Year 11 students have shown exceptional focus and determination as they completed their latest block of PSAs. Their work ethic has been nothing short of impressive, with many students going the extra mile to refine their skills and understanding.

This sustained effort has resulted in significant improvements across the board. The progress made during this phase of coursework has had a substantial impact on their overall grades, placing many students in a much stronger position going forward.

The PE department is incredibly proud of the maturity, dedication, and resilience shown by the whole year group. Their achievements reflect both their hard work and their commitment to improving. Well done, Year 11—keep it up!

## Year 10 PSA Progress – Positive Attitude and Promising Results

Year 10 students have now completed two of their PSA units, and their attitude throughout the process has been excellent. They have approached their work with enthusiasm, focus, and a genuine desire to improve.

Teachers have been particularly impressed with the students' willingness to listen to feedback, make improvements, and challenge themselves. Early indications suggest that many students are on track for very strong grades if they continue at this standard.

By putting in this effort now, Year 10 are setting themselves up for a smoother and more successful experience when they move into Year 11. Their hard work is paying off, and the future looks incredibly promising for this group.

# STEM Film Club - Hidden Figures

Last term, our STEM Film Club watched *Hidden Figures* and had way more snacks than any of us probably needed (no regrets, though).

The movie itself was super inspiring. *Hidden Figures* is about three amazing women, Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson, who worked at NASA in the 1960s. Even though hardly anyone believed in them at first, they were basically the brains behind some of the biggest space missions ever. Katherine did the math that helped send John Glenn into orbit, Dorothy taught herself how to program the giant new IBM computer, and Mary became NASA's first Black female engineer.

After the movie, we talked about how cool it was that these women changed history using math, engineering, and just plain determination.

Overall, it was an awesome movie night, the snacks were amazing, and we're already excited for whatever we watch next!



## STEM CLUB

This term in STEM Club has been absolutely packed with excitement as we welcomed students from Churchill and Ipsley for another full-on forensics investigation. With a brand-new crime to solve, a fresh list of suspects, and so much evidence to test, every session felt like stepping straight into our own crime-lab TV show.

Over the past few weeks, we've thrown ourselves into all kinds of awesome science activities to crack the case. We kicked things off with anatomy, breaking down how injuries and clues

can link to different parts of the body. Then we dove into gas tests, figuring out how to identify mystery gases like real forensic chemists.

Of course, things got extra dramatic with the methane mamba and the legendary whoosh bottle, both guaranteed to get everyone's attention (and maybe make us jump a little). We also carried out colourful flame tests, lighting up the room with bursts of bright reds, greens, and blues as we matched chemicals to suspects.



No investigation would be complete without classic forensic techniques, so we practiced fingerprinting, comparing whorls and loops to our suspect list, and even created weapon moulds to analyse possible matches to the crime.

Every week brought new clues, new challenges, and loads of teamwork as we pieced everything together. With Churchill and Ipsley students joining in, the energy was amazing, everyone was sharing ideas, testing theories, and racing to uncover the truth behind the mystery.

STEM Club has definitely been on fire this term (sometimes literally... thanks, whoosh bottle), and we can't wait to reveal the final culprit. One thing's for sure: science has never felt more like an adventure!





# Maths Challenge

October 2025 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. Two students also sat the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls in September, with Zara C achieving a Merit which is a phenomenal result.

The following students obtained Gold (top 11% of the country), Silver (top 33%) and Bronze (top 66%) Certificates in the Senior Mathematical Challenge 2024:

Priscila B - Silver

Archie C - Bronze

James C - Silver and Best in Year 12

Tristan J - Bronze

Bartosz K - Silver

Seweryn P - Bronze

Jacob S - Bronze

James T - Silver

Finnley W - Silver

Daniel A - Bronze

Luke B - Bronze

Zara C - Gold and Best in School - Also invited to the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo where Zara achieved a Bronze. Well Done!!!

Adam D - Bronze

Thomas E - Bronze

Eryk F - Silver

Ben G - Silver

Thalia K - Bronze

Caitlin L - Bronze

Matthew M - Silver

Evan S - Silver

Fraser S - Bronze

Emily T - Bronze

Joshua T - Bronze

Evan W - Bronze



ARROW VALE

# CONGRATULATIONS!

Microsoft has once again recognized Arrow Vale as



## MICROSOFT SHOWCASE SCHOOL

for Program Year 2025-2026



Arrow Vale has officially been named a Microsoft Showcase School for 2025-26. We are proud to be recognised globally for leading innovation, digital transformation and education excellence.

# Christmas Quiz : Just For Fun

## NAME THE ADVERT?



1 :

2 :

3 :



4 :

5 :

6 :



7 :

8 :

9 :



10 :

11 :

12 :

Answers on page 39



**NAME THE CHRISTMAS MOVIE?**



1 :



2 :



3 :



4 :



5 :



6 :



7 :



8 :



9 :



10 :



11 :



12 :

Answers on page 39

# Christmas Reading Challenge

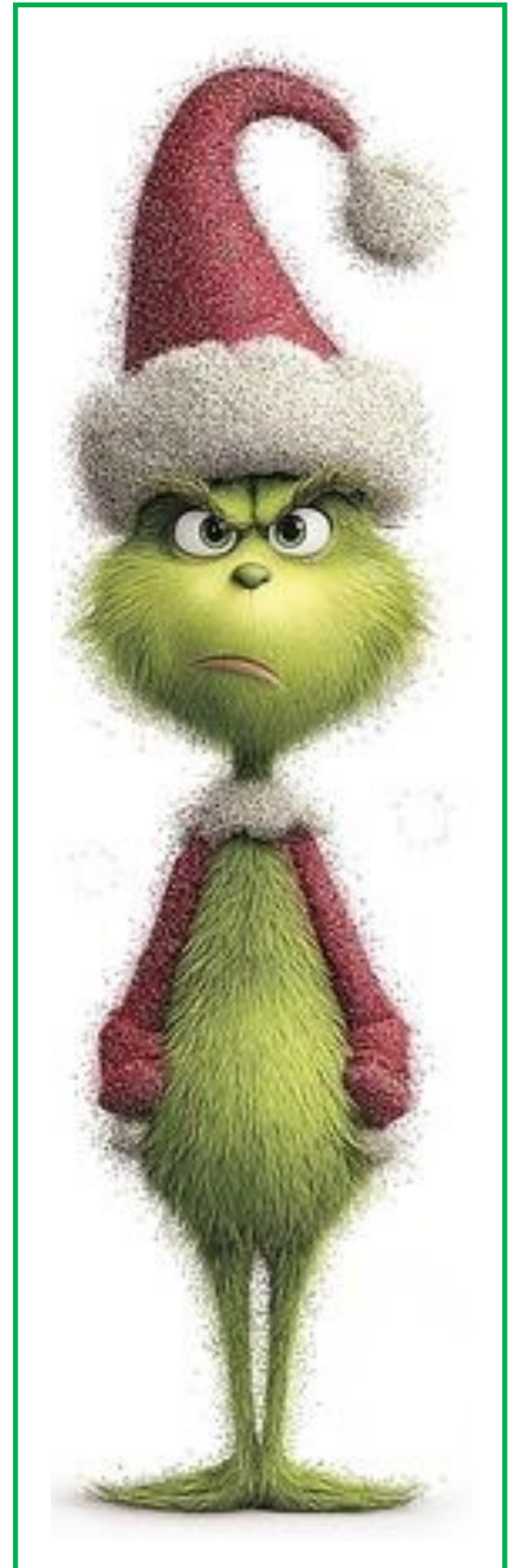
Below are 6 Christmas reading challenges. Roll a Dice to find which challenge to begin with!



Print and cut out the below bookmark to use this Christmas

1	Sit and read a couple of chapters whilst drinking a cup of hot chocolate.
2	Read a book with a Christmas theme.
3	Read a book that has been recommended.
4	Read a book where snow features.
5	Read a few pages before going to bed on Christmas Eve.
6	Read a book that was made into a Christmas Movie.

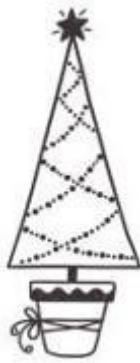
**“Christmas is always brighter when lit by the magic of a good book”**



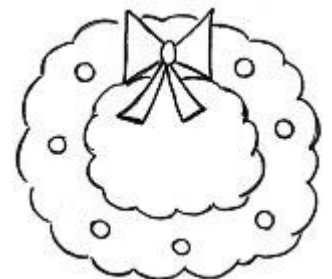


# Love Drawing

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



## Christmas Hampers

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.

## Sixth Form Students Gather at Memorial in Poignant Act of Remembrance

Wednesday 10th December witnessed a deeply moving scene as a group of Sixth Form students and staff gathered at the memorial by Matchborough Pond to honour the memory of a fellow student who tragically passed away three-years ago, on December 14th, 2022.

The event provided a poignant opportunity for reflection and remembrance ahead of the Christmas period. The atmosphere was one of quiet solemnity as attendees paid their respects and shared a moment of collective grief and reflection.

In a touching display of continued affection and remembrance, they laid colourful painted pebbles, placed flowers, and carefully hung garlands around the memorial site. Each item served as a small token of enduring memory for their former peer.

It was a privilege for both students and staff who attended to have this reflection time. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone this Christmas who has lost a loved one.

The gathering served as a powerful reminder of the strong community spirit within the Sixth Form and the ways in which memory keeps loved ones close, especially during significant times of the year.





## **Operation Encompass**

Arrow Vale supports the initiative Operation Encompass, which is a process whereby the police and county council will inform a member of the safeguarding team at school, if a child or young person has experienced any domestic incident. This will be done prior to the start of the next school day.

Information sharing between professional agencies allows school staff to provide emotional and practical support to their students experiencing domestic abuse.

## **Assemblies**

At Arrow Vale we have conducted assemblies with the year groups which were co-hosted by Elsa L., Zoe W. and Charlotte E. (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
- ⇒ Child on Child Abuse

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 Training**

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 Annex B Questionnaires along with briefings on our most disadvantaged students, Honor Based Abuse, Honor Based Violence, Female Genital Mutilation, Breast Ironing, Children Missing in Education, Children Absent from Education and Elective Home Education.



## **EduLink - Is Your Child's Information Up to date?**

Can I ask parents to take a few minutes 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.**

## Meet the Safeguarding Team

	<b>Designated Governor for Safeguarding Children:</b> <b>Ms Nicky Fagan, Governor</b>		<b>Designated Safeguarding Lead</b> <b>Mr S Crane, Vice Principal</b>
	<b>Senior Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead</b> <b>Mrs D Downes, Senior Safeguarding Lead</b>		<b>Single Point of Contact for Extremism and Radicalisation and Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead</b> <b>Mrs F Stanley, Vice Principal</b>
	<b>Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead</b> <b>Mr T Bayley, Assistant Principal</b>		<b>Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead</b> <b>Mr N Linington, Assistant Principal</b>
	<b>Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead</b> <b>Mr A Fortune, Year Team Lead</b>		<b>Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead</b> <b>Mrs L Davies, Director of SEND</b>
 ARROW VALE Central Region Schools Trust <small>Founded by the RSC</small>	 Ofsted Outstanding Provider	 IQM AWARD	 IQM AWARD
			<b>Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead</b> <b>Mrs S Curtis, Intervention &amp; Emotional Wellbeing Co-ordinator</b>

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.



Free, safe and anonymous online support for young people

Call NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 or email them on [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto: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 Parent Tab, Family Support, the link is below.

[Arrow Vale - Family Support](#)

# Spring Term 2026

Mon 5th Jan	Staff Learning Day : School Closed to students
Tues 6th Jan	School reopens
Tues 13th Jan:	Year 11 Parents Evening
Thu 12th Feb	Year 9 Parents Evening
16th - 20th Feb. :	Spring Half Term
Mon 23rd Feb	School reopens
Thu 5th Mar	World Book Day
Thu 12th Mar	Sixth Form Information Evening
Thu 19th Mar	Year 9 Options Evening
Thu 26th Mar	Year 11 Information Evening
30th March - 10th April :	Easter Holidays
Mon 13th Apr	School Reopens



## Christmas Quiz Answers from pages 34 - 35

**Adverts:** (1) Sainsburys; (2) John Lewis; (3) Argos; (4) ASDA; (5) British Garden Centres; (6) Boots; (7) Waitrose; (8) M&S Foods; (9) Morrisons; (10) Aldi; (11) Tesco; (12) Amazon.

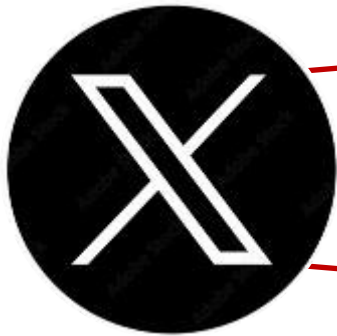
**Films:** (1) The Polar Express; (2) Arthur Christmas; (3) Muppets Christmas Carol; (4) Deck the Halls; (5) A Wonderful Life; (6) The Grinch; (7) Elf; (8) The Snowman & Snowdog; (9) Love Actually; (10) Santa Claus : The Movie; (11) Home Alone; (12) Miracle on 34th Street.

**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@arrowvale.crst.org.uk](mailto:office@arrowvale.crst.org.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](http://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](mailto:office@arrowvaleacademy.co.uk)