

Message from our Executive Headteacher - Mrs Lindsay Regan

Welcome to the Spring edition of our school newsletter! I'm so pleased to share the fantastic activities and experiences our learners have enjoyed over the past term. It's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and engagement, and I couldn't be prouder of the excellent provision we're offering at Arbour Academy.

The inspectors noted the remarkable improvements we've made in key areas, from our enriched curriculum to the strong pastoral support we provide. They highlighted the positive learning environment we've cultivated, where every student is encouraged to thrive.

Our progress is a testament to the collective effort of our entire school community, and I am so proud of how far we've come. As we continue to grow as a nurturing and caring school, I want to take this opportunity to thank our parents, staff, and of course, our brilliant learners for their continued commitment and support. Your contributions are what make the Arbour Academy community so special.

It's an absolute privilege to lead Arbour Academy and I'm excited to see what the next term brings!

I wish you all a peaceful and restful Easter break.



Update from our Head of School - Mr Gwyn Owen

As we welcome the brighter days of spring, I want to take a moment to reflect on the fantastic achievements of our students and staff over the past term. It has been an incredibly busy and rewarding few months, and I am proud of the dedication and resilience shown by our school community.

This term has been filled with incredible work from all of our students. From challenging themselves in Outdoor Learning and Duke of Edinburgh to inspiring work in the classroom, our students continue to make us proud. A special congratulations to our Year 11 students who are working diligently in preparation for their upcoming exams—keep up the hard work!

We have had a packed term with events such as World Book Day, Science Week, and my personal highlight of mine, Red Nose Day, where, for a small contribution, our students had the opportunity to throw wet sponges at our staffing team. These events have showcased the creativity and enthusiasm of our students, and we are grateful to all who participated and supported them.

As we move into the summer term, we have many exciting opportunities ahead, including residential trips, raft building, sailing and our end-of-year awards ceremony. We also encourage our students to stay focused on their learning, particularly those preparing for exams.

I would like to extend my gratitude to our dedicated staff, supportive parents, and hardworking students for making Arbour Academy such a special place. Your commitment and enthusiasm continue to inspire me every day.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable Easter break.



News from our Deputy Headteacher - Mr Glenn Prime

This term has been a busy and exciting one for all our learners at Arbour! The Spring term always feels like a time of transition, as we move from dark mornings into lighter, brighter days filled with new opportunities.

One of the key changes this term has been our updated morning routines, designed to provide more structure and safeguard our pupils. This has been really successful, with our team at the doors each morning to meet and greet our learners, ensuring a positive and welcoming start to the day.

We've also been focusing on uniform expectations, and it's been great to see positive progress in this area. To make sure our approach is inclusive, I've gathered pupil voice feedback on uniform—looking at how we can meet sensory needs while maintaining a consistent and smart dress code.

This term, we introduced our **three school rules**, which will form the foundation of our **behaviour policy and restorative approach** moving forward. We expect all our pupils to uphold these rules every day:

READY— Arriving on time, in uniform, prepared to learn, and demonstrating a positive attitude.

RESPECTFUL – Showing kindness, listening to others, and treating everyone with fairness.

SAFE – Making choices that protect themselves and others, both physically and emotionally.

We have also been working hard to develop our behaviour policy with a stronger restorative approach, which we will be sharing with pupils and families in the Summer term.

Trips, Rewards & Highlights

Our trips and rewards system have been a great success again this term! Learners have had the opportunity to enjoy ice skating, True Ninja, Trafford Centre, and King Pins, which have been fantastic experiences for all involved.

A real highlight for me was Red Nose Day—seeing our learners competing with big smiles on their faces. The Sponge a Teacher event was definitely a favourite, and I think I got off lightly (this time!).

Looking Ahead

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable Easter break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back for an exciting Summer term



Hello and Welcome to our Assistant Headteacher - Mr Alex Jones

My name is Alex Jones and I am excited to introduce myself as the Assistant Headteacher over Teaching and Learning at Arbour Academy. I joined the school in January, and over the past few months, I have had the privilege of getting to know our students, staff, and the wider school community.

I have been teaching science for ten years, working in pupil referral units across Bury and Macclesfield, as well as a specialist SEMH school in Crewe. These experiences have shaped my passion for creating learning environments where every young person feels valued, understood, and motivated to succeed. Arbour's vision of re-engaging students in education and ensuring they leave with the skills and qualifications for their next steps directly align with my own values and beliefs that all pupils are entitled to a high quality education.

Being from central Manchester moving to Salford to take up this role has felt like returning to my roots. I am fully committed to supporting our students in overcoming barriers to learning and ensuring that the teaching and learning at Arbour is engaging, aspirational, and tailored to their needs.

It has been fantastic to see the hard work and dedication of both students and staff, and I am looking forward to continuing to build on this momentum. My door is always open, and I welcome conversations about how we can continue to work together to make your child's education the very best here at Arbour Academy.



Important Dates

- Friday 4th April – School Closes
- Tuesday 22nd April – Progress Review Day
- Wednesday 23rd April – School Re-opens





PASTORAL TEAM UPDATE



This term, our Arbour learners have been engaging in a variety of enriching interventions and pastoral activities. As part of our therapeutic timetable they are taking part in weekly mindfulness lessons, along with enjoyable sessions in jewellery making, arts and crafts, and baking. Our learners also continue to benefit from ELSA interventions, supported by our pastoral team, and have the opportunity to meet with our school counsellor, David Montoya, every Thursday. We are also pleased to announce that Sophie Booth, our Inclusion Manager, has completed her training and is now our school's Senior Mental Health Lead.



After the holidays, we are excited to welcome Jade Howard to the Pastoral Team as our new Learning Mentor. Jade will be supporting our KS3 students and helping to ensure their well-being and success. We look forward to having her on board!

SEND SUPPORT

We are proud to share we are now working with Salford SEND Leaders to provide your child a balanced academic and holistic offer. We are now rolling out an extensive staff training package including Successful behaviour management. The impact of and how to manage ACE's, Mental Health training and Zones of Regulation, putting them in the best position to support your child and their needs.

An increase in the number of EHCP, Educational Psychology and Neurodevelopmental pathway referrals have been made this term, to ensure your child's needs are being met with a multiagency approach. The Arbour Outreach offer is now at capacity with each pupil now successfully accessing and engaging in a bespoke offer, be it academic, holistic or a combination of both.



The KS3 Autumn half term rewards trip to Jump Ninja was a huge success and everyone, including staff, had a great time.

Back in the classroom, pupils have been working hard on developing their literacy and numeracy skills and a programme called GL Assessment has started to be rolled out and we are determined to make the pupils and parents/carers aware of their child's progress and academic achievements. Science lessons will begin in the labs once again in the next few weeks and the smells that come out of the kitchen on the pupil's cooking lessons are incredible. In PSHE The Zones of Regulation programme is being delivered to help the pupils become aware of their emotions and how to manage their feelings and behaviours in a safe and healthy manner - KS3a really enjoyed zones bingo (and the chocolate bar prizes too).

All in all it has been a really successful term, and we look forward to the last term of the academic year, which will bring more opportunities to our learners to help them flourish and develop academically and emotionally.



This term pupils have made the most of Outdoor Learning and PBL visiting locations such as Delamere Forrest, Heaton Park, the local area and Moss Bank Park where they got the opportunities to explore, zip line, play frisbee golf, see animals and even get a hot chocolate (if they wanted). Moving forwards, the pupils will get the opportunities to give input into the planning of upcoming offsite visits.

Congratulations to Jade Howard who has thoroughly earned her promotion from TA/HLTA to Learning Mentor. Jade will definitely be an asset on the Pastoral Team. A new TA has been appointed to backfill for Jade and the KS3 team and pupils wish them luck in their new role.



Students particularly enjoyed soaking staff with wet sponges!!

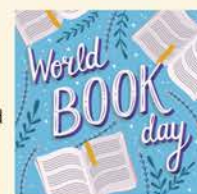


Arbour Academy raised a brilliant **£43.18** for Comic Relief by taking part in activities and wearing an item of red clothing.



WORLD BOOK DAY

As usual we celebrated the joy and value of books and reading on World Book Day, recently. Staff and students had fun dressing up as characters from books and enjoyed Breakfast with a Book, competitions and lots of reading for pleasure.



Celebrating World Book Day is just one of the many ways we promote the importance of reading throughout the year. Please read our dedicated **'Read All About It'** page for more reading news.

Charity Shop – Work Experience



A group of our Key Stage 4 students have been gaining valuable work experience by volunteering at the charity shop run by Oakwood Academy, part of our school trust. As part of this initiative, they have been sorting donations, assisting customers, and organizing displays.



Our students were given complete creative freedom to arrange the shop as they wish, they have transformed the space with mesmerising colour-coordinated clothes rails and runway-worthy mannequin displays.



Their hard work and dedication have been greatly appreciated by both the charity shop staff and its customers.

Read All About It



KS3 pupils have been working hard in English this term. They have recently completed a unit on *The Ruby in the Smoke*, where they explored the themes, characters, and the exciting plot twists of this gripping mystery novel. This half-term, pupils have started a new unit, 'The Power of Language', which focuses on how writers use language to influence others and bring about change in society. They've delved into the works of renowned poets, Benjamin Zephaniah and Maya Angelou, analysing the language and messages within their powerful poems. The unit will progress to studying the language used in persuasive speeches, and pupils will have the opportunity to apply their learning by crafting their own persuasive speeches.

In addition, pupils have had the opportunity to write a short story for the Sadie Massey Awards, organised by the Portico Library. The pupils' creativity has been impressive, and we are looking forward to seeing how their stories fare in the competition.



Reading continues to be a vital part of our curriculum, and students regularly read in form, lessons and reflection time. It is great to see pupils engaging in book talk and developing a love of reading.

We're also excited to announce an upcoming opportunity for pupils to take part in the Salford Children's Book Awards at Arbour. Pupils who are interested can read the shortlisted books and attend the awards ceremony later in the year. It's a wonderful chance to engage with contemporary literature and celebrate the best in children's books.

Well done to all KS3 pupils for their continued hard work in English! Keep it up!



SADIE MASSEY BOOK AWARDS



This is an edited version of Gracie's book review, which we entered recently for a competition run by the Portico Library in Manchester. The original version is two pages long. Well done Gracie - this is a brilliant piece of writing!

Several students also wrote short stories for the competition. Fingers crossed!



Book Review: by Gracie Leeming
Title: Of Mice and Men
Author: John Steinbeck

Of Mice and Men is a beautifully constructed novella, weaving the themes of loneliness, companionship and 'The American Dream' throughout the novel. This tragedy digs deep into topics of racism, ableism and sexism, highlighting these twisted ideologies to show us how bad times were generations before. This book was written in 1937, this year adding much crucial context to the book, as this was the era of the 'Great Depression' in America: a time of economic failure, unemployment and mass migration. This provides the key themes of the book, heavily impacting the main characters. Overall, this novella is very deep and impactful, despite the short length of it. It has been enjoyed by generations and affected lots of young readers, including myself, yet it has recently been removed from the GCSE syllabus, and even KS3 teachers have been advised not to teach it.

Sensitive topics

As I mentioned, this book digs deep into topics such as racism, ableism and sexism. The victims of these being Lennie, Curley's wife and Crook: the oppressors being the rest of the characters. Another theme I personally think takes place in this novella is toxic masculinity, as the cast of character is predominantly white, cis men who assault the minorities verbally (and physically) throughout the book. For example, it mentions in the book that Crooks gets beaten and paid less, often referred to as the 'n word'. Curley's wife is referred to as jailbait and doesn't even have a name, she's simply known and seen as Curley's property. Lennie doesn't get the help he needs, constantly scolded by George for his 'stupidity'. I believe that Steinbeck highlights these issues in a negative way, showing us as the reader that these behaviours, to treat minorities without respect, are wrong. He portrays it in such a good way, showing us realistic situations that tend to happen in these toxic masculine environments.

Conclusion

This book has been enjoyed for generations even my mother did this for GCSE and loved it as much as I do! It has challenged my world perception and changed how I view history and culture. At first, I didn't want to read this book, since I thought it was racist, yet as I read it, I learned Steinbeck's true intentions. *Of Mice and Men* is such an educational novella, it has taught me about tough times, friendship and The Great Depression, which I previously had no idea about. This book has truly stuck with me and will always hold a special place in my heart, yet it breaks me to know it's been removed from the curriculum.

Meet the Author Visit

In February the students had the opportunity to meet Jack Nicholls, an award winning local writer, and to take part in a creative writing workshop. Students were supported to write their own stories and to enter the Sadie Massey writing competition. This is an annual competition run by the Portico Library in Manchester. Students could either write a story or a book review. We have some very talented young writers at Arbour and we hope you enjoy reading their work in this newsletter.



Design a Book Cover Winner

We are pleased to announce that Marley, year 7, won our 'Design a Book Cover' competition with this awesome drawing. It was a difficult decision, because there are many talented young artists in Arbour, so well done Marley! Hope you enjoy using your prize of a £10.00 book token.



The Memory Fox by Amy Cauchi - Butcher

On a cold and rainy day, the rain was softly kissing the ground making small tapping sounds on everything it hits. The miserable streets of Eccles were filled with fog thicker than mud and the air was as cold as ice. John's beat-up old shoes dragged and scraped across the wet, slippery pavement and his eyes were extremely tired looking with purple bags as big as boulders and his eyelids as heavy as dumb bells. His hair looks scruffy like he had just been fighting with a stray cat. Although his clothes were wet and he was shaking like an electric toothbrush he still continued walking. The air on that day smelt like the day the accident happened - like smoke and burning and it was cold enough to burn your nose.

He continued to walk with feelings of guilt and regret as he replayed what happened on that dreadful day. After about thirty more minutes of walking, his tired feet pulled him to a fast halt. In front of his eyes was a cemetery, more specifically the cemetery his wife was buried in a year ago today. He took a deep breath and mustered up the courage to go to his wife's grave stone.

After another ten minutes he found himself in front of a tombstone with the name "Sandra Jones" carved across the front of it. He looked at the tombstone and was upset by the moss and bugs stuck to it. After a moment he slowly sat down. As he was looking at the tombstone, all of the memories of that dreadful day came rushing back to him like a bolt of lightning.

It was a cold winter Friday a few weeks before Christmas. On this specific day it was arctic cold out and it was snowing extremely heavily. John and his wife Sandra were sitting on the couch cuddling up watching the *Nightmare Before Christmas*. Then all of a sudden their son Mark came rushing down the stairs. "Mum, Dad can I go play in the snow?" he cried excitement coursing through him. "Yes of course you can", John replied.

"No he cannot play out in the snow it is far too dangerous", Sandra interrupted. John and Sandra had a heated argument over it, until Sandra ended up storming out of the house. Dashing angrily through the streets and blinded by the thick, white falling snow Sandra heard a loud, deafening screech. In a panic she looked around to see what it was but she didn't realise a speeding car was coming straight towards her swerving to miss an animal in the road. There was a massive crash and everything went black. With the little bit of life she had left in her, Sandra opened her eyes slightly, just to see a bright orange and white fox dash by as her life slowly ebbed away. Unfortunately, the ambulance couldn't get her to the hospital in time and she passed away on a stretcher in the back of an ambulance.

As John sat there reminiscing and feeling guilty, he heard the rustle of cracking twigs from a bush nearby, which snapped him back to reality. John froze for a moment feeling a surge of fear rush through him. He took a deep breath and a moment later he looked around to see what could be making the noise. After a moment or two John noticed a bright orange tail and black eyes peering out from a bush a few feet away from him. "A fox!", John thought to himself. A few moments later the fox slowly crept from behind the bush and cautiously walked up to John. John sat looking at the fox, waiting for the fear to kick in but for some reason it never did.

After a moment the fox sat down close to John. A wave of calmness washed over him and he felt like his wife was near. There was a certain sweet smell in the air, or the special feeling of euphoria he would get whenever she was near.

John and the fox just sat there for a while looking at the grave. After a while John had to pick up Mark from school, but he went home that day feeling like his wife was back with him, if only for a while.

The end



Outdoor Learning & Duke of Edinburgh

Learners have taken part in many activities in their outdoor learning, from rock climbing, Disc Golf and visiting animals.



As part of Science week all Arbour Academy students were invited to take part in a visit to the Museum of Science & Industry in Manchester.



A quick stop at Old Trafford for photo opps!



Teaching & Learning

As we reach the end of another exciting and productive term, it's a great opportunity to celebrate the fantastic learning taking place at Arbour Academy. Across all year groups, students have been engaging with a wide range of topics, developing their understanding and practical skills.

KS3 Maths is where numbers come to life. Maths isn't just numbers—it's a puzzle, a game, and sometimes even a song!

From building epic 3D shapes to making sense of money like a future millionaire, KS3 have been building their skills and growing in confidence.

Learners can continue to sharpen skills at home with Doodle, turning maths into a fun, daily challenge!



Maths may seem tough at times, but it's a skill that will help you no matter where life takes you. Keep practicing, stay positive, and remember that it's okay to make mistakes—every mistake is a step towards getting better!

KS4 have been busy with Mock Exams this term and Year 11 continue to work towards their GCSEs this summer.

We hope you continue to explore the exciting world of numbers and enjoy discovering how maths can make your life easier and more fun. Keep up the great work, everyone!



Key Stage 3

Our KS3 learners have been working hard to build their foundation in science, covering a variety of important topics. In biology, they have been learning about health and lifestyle, exploring how diet, exercise, and lifestyle choices impact the body. In chemistry, they have investigated separation techniques, discovering how mixtures can be separated using methods such as filtration, evaporation, and chromatography. In physics, they have been studying forces, understanding how different forces act on objects and influence motion. These topics have helped develop their scientific thinking and prepare them for more their studies into key stage 4.

Year 10

Our Year 10 students have been deepening their knowledge in both biology and chemistry. In biology, they have been learning about infection and response, investigating how the body fights disease, the role of vaccines, and the importance of antibiotics. In chemistry, they have been exploring atomic structure and how this links to the periodic table, gaining a clearer understanding of elements, their properties, and their reactivity. These topics lay the foundation for their GCSE studies and future scientific exploration.

Year 11

With exams approaching, our Year 11 students have been working through a wide range of topics to ensure they are fully prepared. In biology, they have studied animal and plant adaptations and the role of ecosystems in maintaining biodiversity. In physics, they have explored waves and electromagnetic waves, as well as radioactive decay, learning about nuclear radiation and its applications in medicine and industry. Their focus and determination have been fantastic, and we are confident they will continue to push themselves as they approach their summer exams.



Year 11 Update

Year 11 recently completed their assessments in preparation for their upcoming GCSE exams after Easter. Well done to all students for their hard work and dedication during this important time.

Attendance Matters

We emphasized the importance of being on time and in full uniform throughout the term. A special congratulations to Alexis Donoghue, who has achieved 100% attendance since January—a fantastic achievement!

Reward Trip

At the end of the term, students who earned 10 HERE Award points were invited on a reward trip to the Trafford Centre. Pupils enjoyed free time to explore, shop, and spend their rewards vouchers as a well-deserved treat for their commitment and positive behavior.

Careers & College Guidance

As part of their post-16 preparation, students met with Danielle, our careers advisor, to explore college options and future pathways. These sessions provided valuable insight into available courses and career opportunities, ensuring that students felt confident about their next steps after GCSEs.

Progress Review Afternoon

We hosted a Progress Review Afternoon, inviting parents and carers into school for a drop-in session with teachers. This was an opportunity to discuss mock results and receive final preparation advice before the summer exams. Thank you to all who attended and supported their child's learning journey.

With GCSEs fast approaching, we encourage students to stay focused, maintain good attendance, and use revision time effectively. We are proud of your efforts so far—keep up the hard work!



Careers Corner

Ewan Martin and Jazz have joined the team as Careers and Outdoor Education Leaders



All learners are now working towards Asdan Qualifications within their Careers lessons.

KS3 are working their way towards a Personal Development award and KS4 are concentrating on Careers and Experiencing Work.

Students have taken part in many different interactive lessons and we have been on trips to local colleges and a National Apprenticeship & Education Event.

