



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

End of Year Message from our Executive Headteacher - Mrs Lindsay Regan



As we come to the end of a busy and successful academic year at Arbour Academy, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been an incredibly positive and rewarding year.

Firstly, I am immensely proud of the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection. While I can't share the full details just yet, I am delighted with the feedback we received and look forward to sharing the full report with you in the coming weeks. Please do keep an eye on our website – it will be published there as soon as it becomes available.

This year, the school has truly gone from strength to strength. It has been a joy to see our learners growing in confidence, becoming more engaged in school life, and participating more widely in the opportunities available to them. Whether it's through joining new activities, building friendships, or simply showing pride in their achievements, our learners continue to inspire us every day.

A particular highlight for me has been watching our learners take part in the Duke of Edinburgh programme. The way they have challenged themselves, stepped out of their comfort zones, and worked together has been nothing short of remarkable. These experiences are not only memorable but also key to developing the resilience and confidence we aim to nurture in every young person at Arbour Academy.

Thank you to all our staff, families, and supporters for everything you've done to help make this year such a success. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for what promises to be another exciting year!

Update from our Head of School - Mr Gwyn Owen



The end of a busy and successful academic year at Arbour Academy offers a great opportunity to reflect on the many positive and rewarding moments we've shared, I'd like to take a moment to celebrate some of the highlights. Our Year 11 learners have shown fantastic commitment and resilience during their exam, well done to each and every one of them for their hard work. We look forward to seeing them again on results day, 21st August. This term also saw two very successful residential, where all learners had the opportunity to camp overnight at Pennington Flash; however, our DofE instructor will share more on that later in the newsletter. I'd also like to recognise the incredible hard work and dedication of our staff team, who go above and beyond every day to support our learners, and to thank

our parents and carers for their continued support throughout the year. As we head into the summer break, staff and students alike are ready for a much-needed rest, but we're already looking ahead with excitement to the new academic year. We remain committed to driving high standards across the school and can't wait to see what the next chapter at Arbour Academy brings.



News from our Deputy Headteacher - Mr Glenn Prime

With the conclusion of a vibrant and sunshine-filled summer term, we're reflecting on what a truly fantastic few months it has been at Arbour. The glorious weather has opened the door to countless opportunities for our learners to explore, grow, and enjoy new experiences.

From afternoons at the Sailing Club to exciting outdoor education visits in local parks, our pupils have embraced every moment. A special highlight has to be the incredibly successful Duke of Edinburgh residential at Pennington Flash, a real testament to our students' adventurous spirit and teamwork.

One of the proudest moments this term was seeing so many of our pupils attend the rewards trip to Blackpool. This wasn't just a fun day out, it was a well-earned celebration of the commitment and consistency our students have shown in living out our school values every single day. You should all be very proud.

We also want to thank Vision for Education for supporting our attendance rewards over the past two terms. Thanks to their partnership, we've celebrated excellent attendance with special trips to Nando's and Pizza Hut for many of our deserving pupils.

This term has also been a season of transition. Whether moving into a new year group or adjusting to new routines, our pupils have approached change with resilience, positivity, and high standards. We're incredibly proud of how smoothly everyone has adapted, it speaks volumes about the strength and character of our school community.

On a personal note, I want to share some news. I've been offered and have accepted the opportunity to become Head of School at Kassia Academy, another school within our Trust. It's a bittersweet moment, as it means I'll be leaving Arbour at the end of this academic year. I want to say a heartfelt thank you to all the pupils, staff, and families who have made my time at Arbour so memorable. From the moment I arrived, I was made to feel welcome, and I've cherished every moment working alongside such dedicated and inspiring young people.



Though I may be moving on, I'll always be cheering you on from afar and I'll be sure to stay in touch and follow your progress with pride. Wishing you all a restful and joyful summer holiday, and all the very best for the year ahead.

News from our Assistant Headteacher - Mr Alex Jones

It's been an exciting end to the academic year here at Arbour Academy, with the school continuing to move forward and grow stronger each term. There's a real sense of momentum and purpose across the building, and it's a privilege to be part of it. Since joining Arbour in January, I've been warmly welcomed by staff, learners, and families alike—and I can genuinely say that I now feel part of the Arbour family. It's been a rewarding journey so far, and I'm proud to be part of a team that is so dedicated to supporting learners to achieve their very best.



We've made some fantastic curriculum developments this year, (you'll find more details on those later in the newsletter), and I've particularly enjoyed getting to know our Year 9 learners as they've transitioned into the Key Stage 4 area of the school. Their maturity and enthusiasm for the next stage in their learning journey have been brilliant to see.

This term has also seen us welcome new learners into the school community. It's been a whole-school effort to ensure that all learners—both returning and new—have experienced a smooth and supportive transition. This has laid the groundwork for us to hit the ground running in September, with everyone settled and ready for the year ahead.

Thank you to our staff, families, and wider stakeholders for your continued support. I'm excited for what's to come as we keep building on the great work already underway.

Important Dates

- **Tuesday 22nd July - School Closes**
- **Thursday 21st August - GCSE Results Day**
- **Thursday 4th September - School Re-Opens**





PASTORAL TEAM UPDATE

It's been a busy and positive term for the pastoral team! We've continued supporting students with their wellbeing, offering a listening ear and practical help wherever it's needed. A big highlight this term was our involvement in Mental Health Awareness Week, where lots of pupils took part in activities and discussions to help break the stigma around mental health.

We also hosted a Spiralling Minds workshop, which gave students a great opportunity to explore their feelings and learn healthy coping strategies. As always, we're here if your child needs support—please feel free to get in touch with any member of the team.



There will be a range of fun and engaging activities for young people running over the summer holidays at The Beacon Centre. It's a great chance for students to stay connected, try something new, and enjoy time with their peers in a supportive environment. For more information, please contact **Kasia Touray** on **07548 953257**.



Beacon Centre
*Address: 6 London St,
Salford M6 6QT*



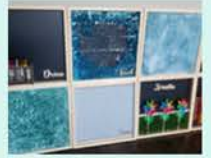
ART THERAPY

As a strategy of support to help students manage and release their pent up feelings, we engage a therapeutic paint throwing and stomping session. We share our emotions whilst creating the piece of art. Amelia is pictured below with her piece of art, she said she can see all the anger and frustration in the large black and red area, and the release of these feelings in the outer splatters.



SEND UPDATE

At Arbour Academy, we are committed to providing the very best support for every learner. We're delighted to share that plans are now being finalised to kit out a brand-new sensory room for our Key Stage 3 students — an exciting step



forward in creating calm, supportive spaces that help our young people thrive.

We are also incredibly proud of our Year 11 learners, who have shown such resilience and determination in sitting their GCSEs. Many of them made excellent use of access arrangements and have succeeded in completing their exams — a huge well done to them all! Looking ahead, we have invested in new resources for the upcoming academic year to ensure we continue to meet each learner's unique needs in an individualised way.



Together, we will keep building an inclusive environment where every child can flourish. Thank you for your continued support.



Elisabeth Cohen - Arbour Academy, SENDCO

COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT AT ARBOUR



Unbelievable but yes, summer is here!

Summer is a time for fun, relaxation, and adventure! However, it can also be a period of transition and uncertainty for children. Supporting your child's mental health during the summer break is crucial for their overall well-being. As we know summer is a very difficult time for some parents and caregivers to keep their children busy and entertained for 6 weeks. So with this in mind, I have shared 5 tips and ideas to support your child's Mental Health over the holidays. Supporting your child's mental health this summer doesn't have to be complicated. So by incorporating simple strategies into your daily routine, you can help ensure that your child enjoys a happy and healthy summer. And finally, and most of all, have fun and enjoy the break! Have a great summer and I will see you back in September.

Warm wishes for a happy summer break.



- David Montoya, Arbour Academy School Counsellor



TOP TIPS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

1. Maintain a Routine

While summer often means a break from the usual schedule, keeping a consistent routine provides a sense of stability. As much as possible, set regular times for meals, activities, and bedtime, to help your child feel safe and secure.

2. Promote Physical Activity and Play!

Encourage your child to stay active through sports, dance, or even simple outdoor play (especially when the weather is dry). Physical activity releases endorphins, which can improve mood, and reduce anxiety. Play is essential because it contributes to the cognitive, physical, social, and emotional development and well-being of your child. Play also offers a great opportunity for you, as a parent or caregiver, to positively engage and interact with your child. Never underestimate quality time and you don't need to break the bank to do it.

3. Foster Social Connections

Arrange play-dates and meet-ups, group activities, or a trip to the park to help your child stay connected with friends and peers. Social interactions are vital for emotional health and can help reduce feelings of loneliness.

4. Support Their Interests

Whether it's a hobby, sport, or artistic pursuit, encouraging your child to engage in activities they love can boost their self-esteem and provide a sense of accomplishment.

5. Be a Role Model

Children often mirror the behaviour of their parents. Demonstrate healthy coping strategies, positive thinking, and emotional regulation. Showing that you take care of your own mental health sets a powerful example and sets the foundation for lifelong health.

Seek Professional Help if needed over the holidays. If you notice persistent changes in your child's behaviour or mood, don't hesitate to seek professional support.

Read All About It



And the Winners are.....

Celebrations are in order for two of our KS4 students! In the last newsletter, we shared the news that some of our students had entered a writing competition organised by the Portico Library in Manchester. We are proud to announce that two of our students Amy and Gracie won prizes!

Amy, Gracie and their families attended a wonderful prize giving event at the historical Portico Library in June, where they were presented with their certificates and prizes.



This is an amazing achievement for the students of our small school, as there were over 1000 entries from schools all over the north-west. Also the judges announced that the quality of writing was of a very high standard this year. Congratulations Amy and Gracie !

My Life in Books

Ellie (Year 10) interviewed Arbour's New Cover Supervisor, Luke from South Africa about his love of reading. This is what he said.



1. What is your earliest reading memory?

I would say the year 2000, my mom reading *The Jungle Book* to me. Baloo the bear was my favourite character.

2. What was your favourite book when you were growing up?

Harry Potter – the first one, *Philosophers Stone* – a classic, my mom also started reading this to me when I was young. Shout out to my mom for encouraging and making me love reading!

3. Was there a writer who changed your views or had an impact on you?

Madeline Miller – *Song of Achilles*, at its heart, the novel is a tragic, tender, and beautifully written love story between Achilles and Patroclus. It gives voice to Patroclus, a character often sidelined in the original myth, and makes their bond feel incredibly real and personal. The emotional payoff is intense and heart breaking in the best way.

4. Is there a book you reread every now and then?

Animal Farm. *Animal Farm* is a comfort zone for me, and every time I reread something new jumps out at me.

5. Is there a book you could never read again?

No, there is something to take and learn from every book you read.

6. What is your comfort read?

Bhagavad Gita which literally translates to "Song of God" which is a spiritual Hindu Text. The *Gita* is practical wisdom on duty (dharma), selfless action (karma yoga), devotion (bhakti), knowledge (jnana), and meditation—guiding readers toward spiritual growth.

7. Do you have a favourite genre ?

History, Greek Mythology and Spiritual.

8. Do you ever find it difficult to read?

Yes, I can get distracted easily by day to day distractions but I always set time aside even if it is 30mins-1 hour a day to read.

9. What are you currently reading?

Much Ado About Nothing – this is for the year 10 English class. But I am excited to get started reading my summer time reading list too, which includes all of the books I have collected over the past few months.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2025



Reading Makes a Difference

Research shows that reading for pleasure over the school holidays helps students to retain knowledge and skills learned in the previous school year. Students who read are less likely to fall behind in their learning in all subjects, not just English.

Reading age-appropriate books during the summer can help prevent what is known as the 'summer slide' or learning loss. For this reason, all around the world, young people are taking part in the 2025 Summer Reading Challenge. This event takes place every year during the school summer holidays. We are asking pupils to pledge to read at least two books over the summer holidays and complete a short questionnaire about the books. Their names will then be entered into a prize draw for a chance to win a book voucher. Last year our winners were Bella, Sophie and Lorelle.

Pupils can of course read more than two books! Your child can borrow books from the school library to complete the challenge.

We will also be taking your child to the local library in Eccles where they will be able to borrow books using their own library card (providing the membership consent form has been returned).

Reading is also beneficial for wellbeing and supports good mental health and we hope you will support and encourage your child to read for pleasure as often as possible.



On 24th June, a group of Arbour students had a fun morning at the Salford Children's Book Awards, listening to children's authors discuss their writing. The event took place at the University of Salford's New Adelphi Theatre, where there were over 150 students from local high schools.



This annual event is organised by the Salford Schools' Library Service to promote and celebrate the power of reading. It involves children reading six shortlisted books and voting for their favourite one.

The six short-listed writers discussed their novels and the inspirations behind their writing, answering questions from the students in the audience. This experience greatly impacted our group of learners and will hopefully encourage them to continue to read for pleasure.

The 2025 award winner was Kimberly Whittam for her inspiring book, *Quiet Storm*. This was also the favourite book of Arbour students.

Year 11 & Exams Update

We're incredibly proud of our Year 11 pupils who have now completed all their exams and officially become Arbour Academy leavers. Their hard work, determination, and resilience throughout this year, especially during exam season, has been truly inspiring.

We had the pleasure of celebrating their journey with a heartfelt leavers meal, where staff and pupils came together to reflect on memories and wish each other well. It was a special send-off for a group of young people who have made a lasting impact on our school community. They will be missed dearly, and we look forward to hearing about the exciting paths they take next.



A reminder that results day is on **Thursday 21st August**—we can't wait to celebrate their achievements once again. To all our Year 11s: thank you for everything, and good luck for the future. You'll always be a part of Arbour.



Oakwood Academy Community Shop



This term staff & Students went armed with bags of donations to Oakwood Academy's community shop based in the Lowry Outlet. The items were collected by students during volunteer week and were very greatly received. Staff & students also took the opportunity to do a little shopping for themselves and snagged themselves some great bargains.

Sailing Club



Over several weeks this summer term, our students took part in a fantastic series of water-based sessions at Leigh and Lowton Sailing Club. They built and raced their own rafts, tried their hand at sailing, and even got to ride in the big rescue boat. Along the way, they also learned important lessons about water safety. It was an exciting and rewarding experience—full of fun, teamwork, and new skills!



Outdoor Education & Duke of Edinburgh



This term we have been exploring our surrounding countryside, learning orienteering, den building & tent pitching amongst other things. This has culminated in two very successful overnight camping trips.

The first was for our DofE participants who endured a grueling walk, followed by pitching their tents, cooking for themselves and then surviving the wilderness overnight. They were stars, all of them, I have led many DofE expeditions in the past, and this one was up there with the very best. Their enthusiasm and willingness to get stuck in to everything asked was brilliant. The second camping trip was for our younger learners, a chance for them to experience staying out under the stars, and for some, sleeping away from home for the first time. Their walk was shorter, and they were not required to carry their packs, however it was an entertaining walk, through some thick forest, "This is like 'Nam" one was heard to say. However after all our travails we eventually made it to the campsite.



Tents were pitched and then it was an afternoon of water based activities. Fortunately, the weather was amazing and this helped the experience be one of a lifetime. After the activities it was tea time, cooked on travel stoves, and then evening chill time. Again the behaviour and enthusiasm was top notch.

These two overnight trips were the first we had offered since I arrived at the school, and I can without doubt say that they far exceeded my expectations, the pupils were amazing, and reminded me why I come to work and do my job. To see their faces, beam with pride at what they had achieved made all the planning and preparation worth it.

I am looking forward to next year's trips already.



Ewan Martin
- Duke of Edinburgh
Lead

Careers Corner



During this term we have waved off our year 11 pupils to pastures new, after they beavered their way through their GCSE exams, we wish them all the very best in their future endeavours. The rest of the school have been busy doing Buzz quizzes, to find out their 'work' animal and which line of work they are most suited for. They have also been learning about support network organisations and providers, within the local community, nationally and worldwide, and the career paths available within them. We have also begun visiting Further Education colleges in preparation for applications next year.

Teaching & Learning Update

As we come to the end of the summer term, I'm delighted to share an update on some of the exciting developments in teaching and learning at Arbour Academy.

New Key Stage 4 Options

From September 2025, we're expanding our Key Stage 4 curriculum to offer learners new option subjects: Business, Cooking, and Child Care. These subjects are designed to give learners practical skills, prepare them for future careers, and further enhance engagement with learning.



Art and Creative Expression

We're also introducing dedicated one-hour Art lessons for all learners each week. These sessions will blend traditional art teaching with a broader exploration of 'the arts'—including design, performance, and music—to encourage creativity and self-expression in new and inspiring ways.



September 2025 Timetables

All learners should now have received their new timetables for the next academic year. If you or your child have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us. We're here to support a smooth and confident start to the new term.

Enrichment Opportunities and Trips



This term has seen learners take part in a wide variety of enrichment activities and educational visits. Highlights include trips to Jodrell Bank, participation in the Salford Book Awards, and drumming and music sessions that have brought rhythm and creativity into our curriculum. These experiences play a vital role in promoting curiosity, confidence and cultural awareness.



Curriculum Highlights

In science, learners have been studying genetics and variation, the Earth and rocks, and light and sound waves, with excellent engagement throughout. In maths, pupils have focused on money and time, alongside learning how algebra can be applied in real-life situations. In English, our Key Stage 3 learners have been studying *Much Ado About Nothing* by Shakespeare, while Key Stage 4 learners have been developing their writing skills through work on expressing a viewpoint and exploring different perspectives. Across the curriculum, learners have shown great effort and enthusiasm, and I'd like to thank our staff team for their continued dedication in delivering such a rich and engaging learning experience.

We're proud of everything our learners have achieved this term and look forward to building on this momentum in September.

Wishing all our families and stakeholders a restful, safe and enjoyable summer.



Art Taster Session

Pupils recently took part in an inspiring Art taster session, ready for their option next year, whereby they worked collaboratively to create a sculpture inspired by the bold, graphic style of artist Charles McGee. Using his distinctive black and white patterns as a starting point, each pupil contributed individual pieces that were brought together to form a striking group sculpture.

The session encouraged creativity, teamwork, and self-expression, while giving pupils a taste of how art can be both personal and shared. It was fantastic to see their ideas come to life and to witness the pride they took in creating something meaningful together.



This year in Mathematics at Arbour Academy, we are incredibly proud of the progress and resilience shown by our pupils. They have engaged with key topics such as **statistics**, **fractions**, and **ratio** through practical, real-life activities that brought maths to life. From analysing data to solving everyday problems, learners have grown in confidence and developed valuable numeracy skills.



Our **Number Day** was a real highlight, filled with fun challenges and team activities that celebrated effort and problem-solving. We're excited to build on this success next year with an even bigger focus on **STEM**, including a dedicated STEM Week full of hands-on projects, cross-curricular learning, and opportunities to see how maths connects to the world around us.



Growing Together

We're excited to share the blooming success of our school horticulture and gardening project, where students and staff are working hand-in-hand to create a green, thriving environment on the school grounds!

✿ Student Involvement

Our pupils have been getting their hands dirty—in the best way! From planting seeds to watering, weeding, and harvesting, students have taken on gardening duties with enthusiasm and pride. They've been learning practical skills such as:

- How to grow seasonal vegetables like lettuce, tomatoes, and carrots
- The importance of sunlight, water, and soil in plant health
- Sustainable practices like composting and recycling in the garden



🌱 Health & Well-being Benefits

Gardening has proven to be more than just an educational activity—it's also a powerful tool for promoting mental health and well-being. Being outdoors, working with nature, and seeing the fruits (and vegetables!) of their labour has helped many students:

- Feel calmer and more focused
- Build a sense of responsibility and teamwork
- Gain confidence and patience



🌸 Staff Support & Ongoing Maintenance

A big thank-you goes out to our dedicated staff, who provide guidance, encouragement, and regular maintenance to ensure our garden continues to thrive. Whether it's prepping new planting areas or making sure the plants are well cared for during weekends and holidays, their support keeps our garden growing strong.

We love capturing the joy and learning that comes from the garden, look at the wonderful moments we've had so far!

✿ Looking Ahead

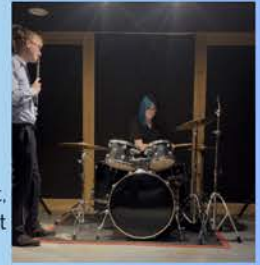
As we head into the next season, we're planning to introduce new crops, build raised beds, and even start a wildflower area to encourage pollinators. We welcome more volunteers—students, staff, to join us in making our school a greener, happier place.

Let's keep growing together!



Drumming Project

Arbour Teaching Assistant Ollie successfully secured funding for drumming sessions at a local music studio. Pupils have had the fantastic opportunity to visit the studio, explore a range of instruments, and develop their drumming skills in a professional environment. The sessions have been a big hit, with many pupils expressing excitement about forming a school band!



It's been wonderful to see such enthusiasm, and it's clear we have some very talented musicians here at Arbour. We hope to continue offering these sessions in the new school year.

VE Day 80th Anniversary



We stepped back in time in May to commemorate Victory in Europe (VE) Day, marking the end of World War II in Europe on May 8, 1945. The day was filled with engaging activities, hands-on learning, and 2 educational trips that helped bring this moment in history to life.

Students designed their own wartime decorations and the classrooms and corridors were dressed with Union Jack bunting. We celebrated with a special lunch menu including Coronation Chicken, Finger Sandwiches and Victoria Sponge Cake.



There were also 2 visits to **Stockport Air Raid Shelter**, where students got a first-hand glimpse of life on the Home Front. Walking through the original underground tunnels, they learned about air raids, rationing, blackout procedures, and how families sought

safety during bombings. The immersive experience sparked meaningful conversations among the students and deepened their appreciation for the resilience of those who lived through the war.

Special thanks to all staff, students, Parents and Carers who helped make the day memorable. It was a powerful reminder of how history can be both educational and deeply inspiring when brought to life in meaningful ways.



Wishing all our Arbour students, parents, carers, staff and wider community a wonderful break over the Summer Holidays.



For any urgent safeguarding concerns please contact: our safeguarding team as below:

gowen@arbouracademy.uk
ecohen@arbouracademy.uk
sbooth@arbouracademy.uk

