Arnold

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Arnold School

Headmaster's Annual Report to Parents

2009/2010

This has been another extremely busy and successful year for Arnold. As the Acting Head, I am delighted to record the highlights of the last twelve months and I am, of course, very proud of all that has been accomplished. Academic performances have been excellent and the examination results in the summer were extremely good. We will, however, strive to raise even further the standards of teaching and learning in all parts of the school.

We have enjoyed a most successful year on the sports fields, with very many children playing in matches and with boys and girls representing us at local, regional and national level. After more than a decade of competing at the highest level, we were finally crowned National Hockey Champions. Congratulations to the U14 team! Large numbers of pupils have also been involved in music and drama and participation in the many different dramatic and musical groups we organise has continued to rise. It is also easy to overlook the fantastic chances that Arnold offers to develop leadership, teamwork and entrepreneurial flair. However, when you read about the numbers of pupils involved in the CCF, Duke of Edinburgh Award, Young Enterprise and the plethora of other activities available you can see that there are phenomenal opportunities here to develop the 'whole' person.

As a school we are lucky to have highly supportive parents and talented pupils whose commitment and enthusiasm continue to keep Arnold at the forefront of education on the Fylde and beyond.

What follows is a report on the 2009/2010 school year. Information can be found under these separate headings:

1. Public Examination Results 2010 & Related Information
2. The Curriculum, Teaching & Learning
3. Extra-Curricular Life
4. Staffing Matters
5. Staff Development
6. Other News

Best wishes

J. E. Keefe

J E Keefe
Acting Head

1. Public Examination Results

A2 Results

GRADE	A*	A	B	C	D	E	N/U
%	11	28	31	19	7	3	<1

GRADE	% A*, A & B	% A*, A, B & C	% A* – E
%	70	89	100

(These results do not include General Studies)

Of the 90 students who took A2s in 2010:

- 4 recorded three or more A* grades
- 17 gained three or more A grade passes
- nearly 40% of all grades were at either A* or A

GCSE Results

GRADE	A*	A	B	C	D	E
%	24	21	26	21	6	<2

GRADE	A*	A* & A	% A*, A & B	% A* - C
%	24	45	71	92

Of the 97 students that sat GCSE examinations this year:

- 10% of pupils are celebrating 7 A*s or more
- Nearly one in five pupils achieved 9 or more A*/A
- Three pupils achieved a clean sweep of A*s
- 12 got A or A* grades in all subjects
- 25 got at least 8 A or A* grades
- 33 got at least 7 A or A* grades
- 99% achieved at least five passes at grades A* to C

In addition:

- A number of Year 11 pupils sat AS mathematics a year early and between them achieved 8 A grades and 2 B grades.
- 14 Year 10 students took their GCSE mathematics examination a year early and all achieved A* grades.

University Destinations (as at 31st August)

- 65 obtained their first choice or second choice university place
- 13 obtained a place through the Clearing system
- 23 will join Russell Group universities
- 6 will study at Durham University
- 9 intend to apply next year
- 1 has entered employment
- 2 started non-degree courses

Full details of university destinations are available on the school website.

Cambridge

Abigail Lucas	Gonville and Caius	Medicine

Results by department are available on the school website.

2. The Curriculum, Teaching and Learning

In the classroom this year: In line with our new Teaching and Learning Policy, senior and middle managers have made regular, short visits to lessons taking place throughout the school, as we work together to find ways of developing yet further the high standard of classroom provision on offer. At various meetings and training days we have discussed different ways to engage pupils from the very start of each lesson, as well as how to use questions effectively to make pupils think more. The interactive whiteboards have now all been upgraded with the latest ActivInspire software. An increasing number of lessons take place where teachers are using the hand-held ActivExpression voting devices to elicit and monitor pupil answers.

In March 2010, UCST carried out an internal ICT review to ascertain how effectively Interactive Technologies were being used to enhance teaching and learning. The review praised the number of outstanding lessons observed at Arnold and the range of varied and engaging activities that took place in our lessons.

Planning new developments for 2010/11: After much consultation and discussion, we have decided to change the length of our lessons from 35 minutes to 50 minutes. This means that each lesson will be 50 minutes long, with no doubles, and there will be 6 lessons in each day. One of the many advantages of this is a weekly increase in actual learning time of 100 minutes. Our school day will still start and finish at the same times, but there will be a long, combined lunchtime and activities session in the middle of the day, which will make better use of our dining facilities and allow more flexibility in our extra-curricular programme.

As a consequence of this development, the school curriculum will also benefit from some small improvements. In Lower School, pupils will have separate weekly lessons in drama and music, whereas currently these lessons are on a carousel. There will be an increase in the teaching of ICT in Years 7 and 8, but the subject will no longer be studied in Year 9. Further details are available in our Curriculum Policy, an updated version of which is available through the school website. Should you have any questions about our curriculum, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Jenkinson, our Director of Studies.

We have also decided to change how we monitor the progress of our pupils and how we can share this information with parents more regularly. This is because there have been significant changes nationally in how the new GCSE specifications are examined, which for many subjects includes modules and Controlled Assessment in Year 10. All parents will receive a letter in September informing them about the internal assessment methods their child will experience and what information they can expect to receive about their child's progress during the academic year.

3. Extra-Curricular Life

- At the start of the Autumn Term there was a bewildering array of indoor and outdoor extra-curricular activities laid before all pupils at the Activities Fayre. Children could choose anything from ICT to fencing.
- 48 teams from schools and colleges in Blackpool and across Fylde & Wyre took part in the Rotary Technology Tournament back in March. Everyone had to build a tall structure from the materials provided to advertise a new charity. Our Sixth form team (Alex Garrod, Alex Willams, Jack McGuinness & Mark Atkins) and our Intermediate team (Alex Card, Michael Yaxley, Simon Swarbrick & Nanthesh Kiruparan) won their section and were awarded a magnificent trophy and a selection of science books.
- We were delighted to welcome Dr Guy Sutton to Arnold for our Brain Day. Under his direction, 30 A level Biology students took part in a series of tutorials, lectures, online computer exercises and even a sheep brain dissection. Everything was aimed at improving their understanding of the workings of the human brain.
- The fourth Holdgate Society lecture, *Mind and Brain in the 21st Century*, focussed on current research in neuroimaging and the "science-fiction" style development of bionic limbs.
- A group of enthusiastic 'time-travelling' Sixth Form physicists attended a fascinating lecture arranged by the Institute of Physics at Lancaster University. The talk debated the mystery of time, and the extent to which established physics supports the possibility of time travel.
- As part of National Science and Engineering Week, 7 Arnold pupils attended the "Schoolslab" programme at Liverpool University. The day focussed on diffraction and emission spectra and their relevance to Astrophysics.

- At Manchester Museum a group of very keen Year 9 pupils learnt more about the use of DNA in forensic science.
- In the Royal Society of Chemistry's Schools' Analyst competition at UCLan our team of Robert Brocklehurst, MJ Phipps and Kimberly Millard came second, with Robert taking the prize for the best mark in the individual quiz.
- Led by team captain Chris Barrett, Olivia Hughes, Stephanie Lees and Lizzie Salmon presented their advice on how to stimulate economic recovery to Bank of England executives at the regional heats of the Target 2.0 competition. Our team was praised for their understanding of economic theory, wide variety of source material, comprehensive coverage of issues and clear conclusions as well as their good answers to probing questions.
- A Year 10 team competed in the regional heat of the ESU public speaking competition. Robert Smyth, Tim Duthie and Theo Birch spoke on the subject of voting not being compulsory, and were one of only two teams chosen on the night to go through to the Regional Final.
- Our Sixth Form public speaking team of Lizzie Salmon, Olivia McRea-Hedley and Claire Harbourne won the regional heat of the BPW public-speaking competition. Speaking on the subject of 'why exams might make you more stupid', the three girls were victorious against teams from KEQMS, Kirkham and St Bede's.
- In September, 12 Sixth Formers went to see Molière's 'The Miser' at Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre.
- At Cheadle Hulme School, Manchester, two U6 French students, Abigail Lucas and Ameya Verma, competed well against teams from other independent schools from the region in the Northern Schools' MFL Debating Competition.
- 40 Germanists headed off to Cologne for the famous Christmas markets. An overnight stay in a youth hostel in the former German capital city of Bonn was followed by a traditional German breakfast and a day spent shopping and sightseeing in Cologne.
- A2 English Literature students went to the Central Hall in Manchester to hear a series of lectures on Dracula, one of their set texts for study in Year 13.
- A Level Drama and Theatre Studies students went to see *'In a Thousand Pieces'* by *The Paper Birds* at The Carriageworks in Leeds.
- Candidates assessed by the English Speaking Board examiner who came in to hear the talks, readings and poems of some of our Year 9 students received a good number of *merit* or *merit plus* awards, with two girls - Jessica Omassoli and Emily Owen - receiving distinctions.
- Arnold company 'Sew Comfy' was the winner of this year's Fylde Area Young Enterprise competition. The company was also awarded prizes for the best trade stand and the best use of ICT. All 25 students involved in the Young Enterprise programme were also entered for the OCR Level 2 Certificate in Enterprise. Not only did all 25 students pass the award but 13 received credits and 9 received distinctions for their external examination.

- 35 students went on the Year 11 Geography trip to New York City. Despite Arctic weather and snowdrifts, the party examined the urban structure of midtown and downtown Manhattan, and looked at the impact of tourism on the city centre.
- Our A level Geology students flew out to Sa Tuna in Spain at Easter to study the impact of past volcanic activity on the Spanish Landscape. Ironically, the eruption near the Eyjafjallajoekull glacier in Iceland forced the party to remain on the Costa Brava for a few more days.
- Head of History Mr Davey and U6th students, Alice Ann Eastham and Ben Dagger, visited Auschwitz as part of a group visit organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust.
- In a full day of varied activities, the whole of Year 8 took part in a technology competition that had them building boats, planes and bridges and navigating a minefield. Working in small groups, every pupil took turns to be the team leader, presenter, tester and quality controller in some fascinating technology exercises, which were designed and presented by staff from BAE Systems.
- The annual Headmaster's Debate took place in May. OA Sam Winter returned to participate with Mr Smyth, Mr Hayden and Mr Davey, as well as sixth formers Ben Dagger and Lizzie Salmon, to discuss the topic 'This House believes that too many people are going to university'. Perhaps surprisingly the Proposition did not completely annihilate the Opposition, but were nevertheless victorious by a margin of four votes.
- Eric Che was one of four pupils who qualified from the school chess competition for the Lancaster Megafinal of the UK National Chess Challenge. Harry Baines and Eric played all six rounds with Eric winning four of his games and thus qualifying for the next round, the Gigafinal at Manchester.
- In November, Mr Bell organised the annual Senior Mathematical Challenge. This year there were 30 entries; 20 certificates were awarded, including 2 gold and 9 silver. Star performers were Emily Pomeroy and Alex Card, who both won gold certificates. We also entered a team in the Senior Maths Team Challenge at Lancaster University.
- In March, Arnold hosted the regional round of the UK Intermediate Maths Team Challenge. With a wide range of different mathematical activities to challenge them, Arnold's talented mathematicians were given a chance to test themselves against the best in the region.
- At the start of the summer term, all of Years 7 and 8 took this year's Junior Mathematical Challenge, a one-hour multiple-choice paper that was completed by more than 240,000 students throughout the country. As a result we received 53 certificates: 9 Gold, 18 Silver and 26 Bronze.
- The Classics came to the fore when *Medea*, a tragedy, written by Euripides and *Thesmophoriasuzae* (or *The Poet and the Women)* written by Aristophanes received rave reviews. Two sixth formers, Claire Harbourne and Lizzie Salmon, directed the plays.
- The Classics Department's bi-annual trip to Italy focussed on Rome and Sorrento.

- The musical *'Grease'* was staged to full houses and great applause. This high-energy, high-decibel production showcased our youngsters' acting, dancing and singing talents to the full.
- The Swing and Soul Bands both played in aid of charity at Blackpool Tower Ballroom to an audience of more than a thousand guests. The President of Blackpool South Rotary Club, Dr Martyn Lucking, wrote that "the construction of the programme and the professional manner in which the performances were played were truly magnificent."
- After two carol services in school, the choir entertained the congregation in the beautiful setting of Holy Trinity Church at Hoghton, near Preston. An enjoyable evening was rounded off with mulled wine and mince pies.
- During the Christmas break the Girls' Choir visited the historic city of Krakow in Poland where they sang in a variety of locations.
- In April the Memorial Hall reverberated to the sound of Haydn's *Missa in Angustiis* and, in the week that the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the UK had a £178 billion budget deficit, it was appropriate that the Choral Society chose to perform Haydn's 'Mass for troubled times'.
- At the Lower School Teatime Concerts many pupils were playing before an audience for the first time. They gave wonderful performances and showed great promise for the future.
- The fifth annual Evening of Swing was the liveliest evening of the Spring term. Almost 200 guests enjoyed supper, good company and the superb musicianship of the Arnold Swing Band and the musical combo, *Got Soul.* A growing repertoire of classic swing numbers was augmented by wonderful singing from Amy Clark, Joe Shaw, Catherine Lusher, Michael Yaxley, Emily Adams, Chloe McConville and Faye Shearer.
- At the Summer Music Concert, a huge cast of pupils from across the school treated an appreciative audience to an astonishingly diverse range of music.
- In June, the Swing Band started their annual concert in the park a little earlier to avoid a clash with a crucial England World Cup football match. The sun shone and at least the Swing Band's fans left the park happy!
- Associated Board music examinations brought several merits and distinctions.
- Sisters Gemma and Chloe McConville were highly successful at The Fleetwood Music & Arts Festival, winning trophies galore in a range of speech and drama categories.
- In 'Daisy Pulls it Off' plucky heroine Daisy Meredith, played splendidly by Lydia Bourhill, exchanged her elementary school for life in a traditional girls' boarding school.
- At the Fleetwood Drama Festival, Arnold's production of 'Daisy Pulls It Off' received nominations for Best Actress - Lydia Bourhill and Best Supporting Actress - Emily Tonge. Harriet Bourhill was given the Adjudicator's Award for her role as Winnie Johnston and the technical crew led by Ben Dagger received the Backstage Award.

- The GCSE and A level drama groups performed pieces by Oscar Wilde and Alan Ayckbourn.
- The Academic Society headed off to Lancaster University to ask “What makes people do things?" They returned with sore heads after engaging in some serious philosophical thinking.
- 10 pupils from the RAF section of the CCF flew over Blackpool and could easily see their school and other Blackpool landmarks when they had an opportunity to fly with the Royal Air Force at RAF Woodvale, Southport.
- Cold temperatures could not dampen their enthusiasm as our CCF contingent marched up the sea front to join the crowds at the Blackpool Cenotaph and show their respect for the fallen of two World Wars and other conflicts. Comprising Air Force, Navy and Army cadets, these volunteers continued the school's long and proud tradition of support for this annual expression of gratitude and provided the single largest presence at the town's Service of Remembrance.
- 16 cadets took part in an overnight exercise organised by the soldiers of 40 Cadet Training Team at Warcop Army Camp in Cumbria. The exercise was part of a week-long course for senior ACF and CCF cadets from the North West.
- Over the Easter holiday a group of cadets travelled to Snowdonia for several days of Adventure Training whilst being accommodated at Capel Curig Training Camp.
- The School CCF contingent supported the St George's Day celebrations in Lytham and took part in the parade behind the Band of the King's Division from Lytham Green to the main square.
- 14 Royal Navy cadets spent a weekend at HMS Eaglet in Liverpool for two days of boat work, leadership tasks, weapon training and rock climbing.
- The two CCF Field Days were an opportunity for the cadets to put into practice the training they receive on a weekly basis throughout the year and to try new activities. In June, the Royal Navy Section spent the day sailing at Southport Marina; the Army Section used the shooting ranges and training area at Altcar and the Royal Air Force Section went to RAF Woodvale. The RAF's Assistant Chief of Staff Health, Air Commodore The Honourable Richard Broadbridge QHS RAF, conducted the contingent's biennial inspection.
- Four Year 9 cadets recently travelled to St Bees School to represent Arnold CCF in the annual *Bega Banga* Military Skills Competition.
- Arnold cadets took part in The Preston Military show at Fulwood Barracks. Our team was only narrowly beaten by the Royal Marines cadets in the final. They were presented with a plaque by Major-General D.A.H. Shaw, the General Officer Commanding of 2 Division. The cadets then took part in a march past in front of senior officers, local dignitaries and members of the public.
- The CCF Summer Camp was held at Warcop in Cumbria. The training package included watermanship, first aid, leadership training, assault course, shooting and adventure training (canoeing and climbing). Cadets and staff also attended the annual RAF Camp.
- Lizzie Salmon passed her RAF leadership course at Cranwell.

- Mark Atkins and MJ Phipps were selected to attend a 10 day course at 615 Volunteer Gliding Squadron, RAF Kenley. Both Mark and MJ successfully completed a Gliding Scholarship with MJ being awarded his Gliding Scholarship wings and Mark being awarded his silver wings for completing a solo flight in an RAF Viking Glider.
- Lower Sixth students braved challenging weather conditions on the ridges of the Howgill Fells near Sedbergh as part of their Gold Duke of Edinburgh award preparations. The group were also challenged during a training walk in the Whernside area of the Yorkshire Dales in February. Above 500m the snow was very thick, burying the walls, and ice meant that any steep sections had to be treated with care. Everyone successfully completed the walk and enjoyed the snowy conditions. These excellent training walks enabled 26 pupils to complete their Gold expedition in Snowdonia during August.
- More than 50 Year 10 pupils completed the Bronze award expedition after training that included map reading, first aid and hill walking.
- Following a Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award expedition, independent instructors commented that the Arnold groups were amongst the best they had seen at Bronze level.
- Arnold Rugby Club had an excellent season: 1st XV U18 Lancashire Plate finalists; U16A Lancashire Cup semi-finalist; U14A and U15A reached the semi-finals of their respective Plate competitions.
- Arnold Rugby Club was delighted to host the Tauranga Boys' College touring team from New Zealand.
- The 'top try' scorers for the school were: Matthew Radley (16 for the U14A), Josh Beaumont (13 for the 1st XV), Sam Royle (13 for the U12A), Alex Casey and Louis Mottley (11 for the U15A). Sam Crowther also scored 142 points for the 1st XV and U16A while Andrew Walkden scored 80 points for the U15A team.
- Josh Beaumont was selected for the North of England U18 side.
- Jacob Nickson represented the North in the England Divisional Festival, which was held this year at Broadstreet RFC.
- Richard Whiteside, Alex Casey, Louis Mottley, Jacob Nickson, James Aird, Jacob Reid, Josh Beaumont and Ben Perkins played for Lancashire.
- Ben Perkins played for Sale Sharks U20s in their match against Cardiff, which was played at Cardiff Arms Park in the shadow of the Millennium Stadium.
- 1st XV player Ben Ruddlesdin played in the North of England Schools Barbarians Trial match.
- The 1st XV captain, Josh Beaumont, took a huge step in his rugby career when he made his senior debut for Fylde RFC in their National 2 North league match with Broadstreet at The Woodlands.
- The U13B Netball team was Fylde and Wyre Champions and the U13A Netball team was Fylde & Wyre runners up.
- Rebekah Aspin, Rebecca Pearson and Hannah Hesketh were selected to join the Lancashire Netball Academy. To gain selection, the girls attended two trials and

competed with over 70 other talented players to become three of only 19 girls selected.

- The Arnold hockey season was one to applaud: 1st XI Regional Champions, Lancashire Champions and North of England Finalists; 2nd XI Lancashire Champions; U15 Lancashire Champions; U13 Regional Champions, Lancashire Champions, North of England Finalists and National Finalists; U12 Lancashire Champions and Jean Torrance Tournament winners.
- The U14 team had a great year! They were Regional Champions, Lancashire Champions, North of England Finalists and U14 National Champions.
- In total, 26 girls and 3 boys gained county recognition for hockey.
- A number of Arnold's best hockey players gained selection to the North of England Performance Centre. Georgina Read, Elizabeth Thorpe, Rachel Fackey, Charlotte Evans, Holly Monteiro, Sophie Akhtar, Emily Adams and Jessica Omassoli were all selected to be part of the regional training squad at the Manchester Academy.
- Georgina Read, Rachel Fackey, Charlotte Evans and Holly Monteiro were selected to play for the North against the Midlands, the West and the South.
- Andrew Walkden and Alex Evans both played for the Lancashire U15 hockey team in the North West Counties tournament.
- Over 120 boys were involved in close on 70 cricket matches this season.
- The 1st XI enjoyed a fantastic season winning the Fylde "Triple Crown".
- The U14B team won the Fylde & Wyre Cricket League. In an amazing final, Sam Walton smashed 22 runs off the final over of the match to snatch a quite extraordinary victory when all seemed lost.
- The U15 cricket team finished their superb season in style with a resounding victory in the final of the Fylde & Wyre Cup.
- Matthew Radley scored a century against Lisneal College.
- The top five run scorers this season were Andrew Walkden, Tom Hessey, Callan Barrow, Richard Whiteside and Matthew Radley.
- The top five wicket takers this season were Joe Welch, Tom Hessey, Louis Mottley, Charles Laycock and Andrew Walkden.
- At the final of the English Schools Track and Field Cup, our junior and intermediate girls' athletics teams finished as clear winners against 9 other teams from across the North West.
- Daniel Quarmby, Marcus Quarmby, Amelia Betmead and Molly Betmead represented Lancashire at the English Schools Cross-Country Championships.
- In Athletics, Charlotte Evans represented Lancashire in the English Schools Championships at the Don Valley Stadium in Sheffield. She competed in the Junior Girls 1500m.
- Megan Eccles was placed 8th in the U12 Girls' Sabre event at the British Youth Championships.
- Having secured a silver medal at the Invitational School's Biathlon Championships at Crystal Palace, Marcus Quarmby was selected to represent Great Britain at the World Biathlon Championships in Monaco.

- Brothers Alasdair and Rory Humphries were selected for the Lancashire Team for the UK Topper National Schools Regatta and the Topper World Championships in Lake Garda.
- The U15 basketball squad entered the Lancashire Cup for the first time this year.
- The annual residential courses for Year 7 pupils at Almond Lodge proved to be very successful once again.

4. Staffing Matters

At the start of the year we welcomed Mr John Riding (Physics), Miss Laura Hanson (Head of Psychology) and Mrs Liz Luke (Head of Learning Support). In January, Dr Treharne took over the command of the CCF when Mr Ashcroft stepped down after 17 years of distinguished service to the Corps.

In May, Magdalena Budweiser, Carmen Santillana Heras and Emilie Lagarde, our three language assistants, each completed their year at Arnold and returned to their native countries.

At the end of the summer term we said goodbye to a number of colleagues. Esther Alabart-Lorenzo returned to her native Spain after three years in Blackpool and Helen Banks left for pastures new after teaching maths with us for the last five years. Julian Ross and Gill Townsend departed after five years with our thanks and best wishes for everything they have done for Arnold music. Gill's husband, Chris, also leaves as our peripatetic guitar teacher and will be replaced in September by Mr Chris Hodder.

Retirement beckoned for four senior colleagues. After clocking up over 150 years of dedicated and committed service between them, John Ashcroft, Rod Bedford, Andrew Bell and Kendall Lee had to find something else to do when the new term started in September. They have all made a tremendous contribution to life at Arnold and we wish them all the very best for a long and happy retirement.

Mr Barry Hughes left as Headmaster at the start of July to take on the Headship at Holy Trinity School in Toronto, Canada. He departed after seven years of distinguished service in which he led the school through many significant changes. His tireless and positive leadership enabled the school to grasp the opportunity of joining the United Church School Trust and he was tremendously proud of the developments that were made in music during his time at school. We wish him and Pat every success as they take on a fresh challenge in a new country.

The following appointments were made for September 2010: Mr Daniel Chandler (Director of Music), Mr David Hewitt (Music), Miss Jessica Lamarra (Geography), Mr Nick O'Loughlin (Head of Geography), Miss Rebecca Porritt (Modern Foreign Languages) and Mr John Rimmer (Mathematics).

Following the recent re-structuring of the senior school leadership team, Mr Jenkinson takes on the role of Acting Deputy Head and Mr Hayden and Mr McKeown will be Acting Senior Teachers (Pastoral).

5. Staff Development

Many attended examination training courses this year and, in addition, our membership of UCST enabled us to offer six colleagues specific middle and senior management training through the group's People Development Programme. This programme also enabled four other colleagues to study on Master of Education courses. Mrs Caunce and Mrs Donald spent a valuable day with fellow Heads of Department in another UCST school; this is not only more cost effective than traditional external training courses but is much more personal and useful. All of these courses should enable colleagues to improve the quality of our provision in the classroom.

All members of the teaching staff have undertaken two 'Interactive Whiteboard' training days. Geoff Gould, UCST's ICT Training Director, and his team have helped us improve the quality of teaching and learning that takes place in the classroom. We are already planning more training to enable us to introduce the use of Learner Response Devices across the whole school. These devices allow teachers to monitor pupil understanding instantaneously. This helps support traditional methods of pupil tracking and provides feedback that can help guide teaching.

6. Other News

- The redevelopment of some of the oldest parts of the Senior School was completed in the early days of the new school year. Structural changes and improvements provided us with a refurbished and modernised Sixth Form common room, a relaxed seating area and dining room and a new Year 11 common room.
- The Head Boy Dominic Mistry was assisted by Deputy Head Boy Josh Beaumont and our Head Girl, Claire Harbourne, was supported by Deputy Head Girl Abigail Lucas.
- The Arnold community was delighted that Jimmy Armfield, Vice-Chairman of Governors, was awarded the CBE in the New Year honours list. Her Majesty The Queen presented the award to the former England and Seasiders' captain at Buckingham Palace.
- In the Financial Times Top 1,000 Schools in England, Arnold came in at 282, confirming our excellent performance of last summer and placing Arnold well ahead of all other local schools, both maintained and independent.
- Lord Carey of Clifton, Chairman of the United Church Schools Trust and former Archbishop of Canterbury, was our guest at the Sixth Form Celebration Evening.
- Air Marshal Ian Macfadyen was the Guest of Honour at the Celebration Evening in July.
- Abigail Lucas will go up to Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge to read Medicine.
- A very high proportion of leavers got safely into a university of their choice. Destinations included Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Nottingham and St Andrews.

- Courses chosen include Civil Engineering, Criminology, Economics, French, Geoscience, Law, Management, Medicine Natural Sciences, and Psychology.
- Four students Robert Brocklehurst, Abigail Lucas, Katy Stanage and Ameya Verma completed Open University modules this year.
- Deputy Head Girl, Abigail Lucas, was notified by the Department of Life Sciences at the Open University that her outstanding performance in her OU examination placed her amongst the top 20 students taking the Diabetes Care module.
- Over 40 senior cadets completed the BTEC First Diploma in Public Services. The training provided by the Combined Cadet Force covers 77% of what is needed to achieve the equivalent of 4 GCSEs at A*-C level. During the course cadets learn professional CV preparation, interview techniques, communication skills, first aid and much more. Congratulations to the following cadets who were awarded Distinctions: Christopher Barrett, Matthew Bignold, Liane Brodie, Iain Cumpstey, Ben Dagger, Imogen Davies, Hannah Deuchars, Emily Foster, Laura Hill, Christopher Ingham, Alexandra Lesser, Samuel Leung, Dominic Mistry, Sophie Oliver, Michael Phipps, Georgina Read, Mark Roper, Lizzie Salmon, Paul Thomas, Aled Williams, Alex Williams and Thomas Yaxley.
- In Year 7 every new pupil is "buddied" with a member of the Lower Sixth who acts as their mentor for their first year in the school, and who often stays in touch with them for much longer.
- World Book Day is the biggest annual celebration of books and reading in the UK and Ireland. The Holdgate Library was the venue for 'Murder Investigation' week, featuring books about forensic science, crime scenes and fictional murder mysteries.
- Members of the Senior School Council gave their views on school life and the 'pupil voice' gave all students the opportunity to shape their education.
- With staff on hand from prestigious major companies such as BNFL and BAE Systems, and representatives of several local businesses present, pupils from Years 9 to 13 and their parents were able to take advantage of plenty of good advice at the annual Careers Convention.
- In the annual House 'Hardspell' competition a closely contested final between Penningtons and Listons remained tied until the last few rounds when Penningtons inched ahead to gain a sweep of correctly spelt words.
- Several groups of students entered the 'IFS Student Investor' competition and invested a virtual £100,000 on the stock market. With the volatile nature of the market all the students certainly experienced the highs and lows of trading.
- After an uncharacteristically snowy Christmas break pupils returned to school to find the start of term threatened. In spite of all their prayers however, the school closed for just two days during the first week of term!
- This year students helped on holidays for the disabled, worked as volunteers at the Trinity Hospice and Victoria Hospital, and assisted in our local community centre, charity shops and in local rest homes.

- In January, students studying A level Economics visited the University of Lancaster to attend a lecture by Professor Besley of the London School of Economics on the topical issue of 'Policy Making in the Crisis'.
- Ben Ruddlesdin's AS English Language coursework submission was one of the feature articles on 'Writing for a Magazine' in the February 2010 edition of Emag (The English and Media Centre's Advanced Level English magazine), which has a national circulation.
- As part of the Year 9 architecture topic, pupils attended a presentation on sustainable buildings given by a representative from *Envirolink Northwest*, a company that aids the development and growth of the energy and environmental technologies.
- Built by Starchaser, Britain's only commercial rocket company, the Skybolt rocket spent a day pointing skyward on its transporter on the playground and was visited by junior and senior pupils.
- Four of our A Level art students, Anike Ditchfield, Fiona Stapleton, Francesca Dooley and Grace Foy, entered work into an international art competition run by the IFAC (The International Foundation of Arts and Cultures). Incredibly, these talented artists all finished in the top six. Anike won the competition and will be visiting Japan, and all of the students' work will be displayed at a prestigious Tokyo gallery.
- Dr Charles Moseley, former school governor, this year awarded his Sixth Form Essay Prize to Alice-Ann Eastham (U6th).
- Andrew Lloyd Webber's search for Dorothy included our Head Girl, Claire Harbourne (U6th), who made it through to the wild card stage.
- Sixth form student Harriet White will be spending a gap year in India at the Helen Keller Institute for the blind in the Secunderabad region of Andhra Pradesh. After her Indian adventures, Harriet has a place at Glasgow University to study Psychology.
- A new study skills guide was launched to help pupils improve their reading comprehension and to discover their own personal study style.
- At the British Biology Olympiad, in the company of 2000 of Britain's top A level biologists, Abigail Lucas was awarded a silver medal, Robert Brocklehurst was awarded a bronze medal and Avanti Pandit was highly commended.
- Tom Yaxley became one of only two winners of this year's Pilkington Arkwright Scholarships; a scheme which encourages students to consider a career in engineering or related subjects.
- 40 L6th biologists carried out fieldwork on the sand dunes at Ainsdale-on-Sea on Merseyside.
- Members of AJS Year 6 visited the Senior School laboratories as part of their science week to help with the transition from the Junior School.
- The Library was well used throughout the year. Chess and draughts proved popular, along with the quiet 'reading corner' in the fiction area.
- The trainee Pupil Library Assistant course continued, with many pupils offering their services and asking to be added to the list of volunteers.

- The Rainbow Reading Awards created a lot of competition amongst the pupils to be the first to get certain colours, and to keep their form ahead of the others.
- A number of keen golfers competed in the 6th Arnold Charity Golf Day in aid of *Feet First*, a charity founded by former pupil and consultant orthopaedic surgeon Steve Mannion.
- Our annual Founder's Day service was held in May with Bishop Nicholas Reade of Blackburn as preacher.
- Former pupil Hamish Hamilton, who left Arnold in 1984, is now an internationally known film director who has worked with major acts such as U2, Madonna, Robbie Williams and Usher. During a recent visit to school he talked to the Sixth Form about his fascinating career.
- Once again, Arnold School pupils, staff and parents were involved in the annual Blackpool 10K Fun Run.
- Talented Middle School musicians gave their services by playing in aid of our Village Aid charity. These super young people performed a varied and accessible programme that charmed their audience, who were encouraged to make a donation to this worthy cause.
- 'Purple Pinkie' week is organised by Rotary International to highlight the work being undertaken worldwide to eradicate Polio. Blackpool Sunrise Club took breakfast at school and joined in a school assembly. Pupils added to the coffers by raising over £250 having their 'pinkies' painted purple, mirroring the way in which children in India prove that they have received the vaccine.
- At the 'Stars in Their Eyes' event pupils raised a considerable amount of money for Village Aid.
- As a reward for raising the most money for Village Aid through a sponsored fast, 8M's prize was a trip on the Big One at Blackpool Pleasure Beach.
- More than 50 pupils, staff and parents took part in the Longest Day Walk and Run to raise funds for Village Aid. This event started at Lytham Windmill at 5.00am and ended 10km later at the Carousel Hotel on Blackpool Promenade.
- Former 1st XV captain and Fylde 1st team skipper, Sam Beaumont, was included in the Barbarians squad.
- Former Head Boy and 1st XV captain, Greg Nicholls, was selected for England Students.
- Former 1st XV player Tom Hart was selected to play for the Lancashire U20 team in their match against North Wales.
- Natalie Panagarry, from last year's U6th, played for Leeds Carnegie in the Netball Superleague.
- Gareth Pattinson OA (1996-2003) graduated from Initial Officer Training at the RAF College, Cranwell and is now a Flying Officer and about to join 34 Squadron, RAF Regiment.
- We were delighted to learn that former Head Boy Jack Pailing, who left Arnold in 2005 for Oxford University, was one of only six finalists in this year's *Times* Law Awards essay competition. Jack's essay was chosen from nearly 300 entries.

- We were all very proud of Nikki Phillips, one of our security staff, who recently completed 500 hours as a Community Volunteer for Lancashire Constabulary and was honoured for this achievement at Police Headquarters.
- The whole Arnold community was saddened to learn of the tragic death of former pupil Ben Trend.
- The Prefects' Dinner provided a formal opportunity to say thank you to our senior team. Jimmy Armfield, CBE, DL was our guest speaker.
- Arnold's mock election provided a clear victory for the Conservative candidate.
- Miss Gill Raby's contribution to girls' hockey in Lancashire and the North of England was recognised by colleagues at the Lancashire Schools Hockey Association when she joined a number of privileged guests at the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.
- Mr Rod Bedford completed many years of outstanding service to Lancashire Schools RFU. In recognition of his commitment he was awarded Honorary Life Membership of Lancashire RFU's School Section.
- Mrs Kate Cave and her colleagues in the Choral Society held a farewell event for Mr Ross and Mrs Townsend. Not surprisingly there was some very good musical entertainment!
- MJ Phipps attended the Royal Review and Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, an honour bestowed in recognition of his work with the cadets at 177 Squadron Air Training Corps, based at Blackpool Airport.
- The Lancashire Army Cadet Force Girls team, coached by our Bursar Mr Pat McCarthy, competed at the ACF National Girls' Hockey Championships. The team, which featured a number of Arnold pupils, was undefeated and did not concede a single goal throughout the Championships to triumph as clear winners.
- Year 9 pupils worked with group leaders from the training company Enterprise in Action at the start the Arnold Enterprise Week. Our visiting experts encouraged pupils to examine what enterprise and entrepreneurship meant to them. By bringing the boardroom to the classroom they challenged everyone to use their initiative and team working skills.
- As part of Enterprise Week, Year 9 and Year 10 pupils were challenged to design and market their own soap. After developing their marketing campaigns the youngsters then had to give a final presentation to an audience of their peers. The judges had a tough time deciding on the winners, such was the novelty of some of the ideas and the quality of the finished products.
- The English Department organised an Evening of Spoken English for Year 8 pupils in late June. The quality of the performances was outstanding and many pupils enjoyed their first taste of being on stage.
- A new zebra crossing and central traffic island was installed opposite the Junior School. The Chairman of Governors, Mr Jerry Wooding, was delighted to hand over the school's contribution to its cost to the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Fowler, and his colleague Councillor Tony Lee.
- The Peers' Dining Room in the House of Lords was the superb setting for this year's Old Arnoldian London Dinner. Organised by the London Committee of the

former pupils' association and hosted by Lord Laird of Artigarvan, this annual event attracted almost a hundred former pupils, staff and friends of the school.

In such a busy school it is possible that I have failed to mention someone whose exploits are worthy of note. If that is the case, then I apologise to those concerned.

J E Keefe

September 2010