

Headteacher Bulletin 10th February 2025

Dear Parent/Carers and Students of Our Arena,

There are many dangers our young people face as they go about their daily business. This can range from the horrific incidences of knife crime to exploitation and bullying through social media. During our Personal Development lessons, we outline the potential dangers and what young people can do to minimise the risks and stay safe. I would be grateful if parents can support our message through conversations with their child, as only by working together can we do all that is possible to keep children safe. For more information about our Personal Development curriculum, please click here: [PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT - Arena Academy](#)

Safer Internet Day competition

In line with the above, students will be given details by our Digital Leaders of a competition to reinforce the message of how to stay safe online.

Year 11 Mock Examination results - Thursday 13th February

Year 11 students will be given their mock examination results on Thursday. Students worked incredibly hard for their examinations, so I am hoping for some good results which reflect their efforts. The mock examinations are a good indicator as to where they are at and will be used to identify any gaps in knowledge. Teachers will be analysing where the students need additional support in order to maximise their chances this summer. All Year 11 students will be given holiday packs of revision materials for them to use over the half term holiday. Please click here to view the actual GCSE examination timetable [Year 11 Examinations - Arena Academy](#). **All students should be revising for a minimum of 2 hours a day.**

Rewards Fayre - Monday 10th February

This is the opportunity for students to cash in their CORE points if they wish to, some may be saving theirs up for a bigger reward at the end of term. Students have been rewarded throughout the half term for many reasons - attendance, work, behaviour, supporting other students etc, and now is the time to reap the rewards.

Year 9 Options

Thank you to Year 9 students for submitting their option forms. I know from the conversations with Parents/Carers at the Year 9 Parents Evening, that a great deal of consideration has gone into your choices. Mr Stephens and Mr Malik will be looking through the choices over the next few days and having individual conversations with students who may need to reconsider one of their options.

Attendance – Everyone’s Responsibility

Whilst I appreciate that this time of year when students are more likely to be off with colds, sickness bugs etc, it is not always necessary to take the whole week off. Once a student starts feeling, better they should return to school. As we have done previously, attendance texts for this half term will be sent to parents on Sunday 23rd February, the day before students return to school. Students will be given an attendance letter outlining their attendance in more detail when they return on Monday 24th February.

Spread the love at Our Arena

Do you have any unwanted clothes or toys at home? If yes, can you please ‘spread the love’ and bring them into school and give them to your form tutor. We have many families at school

who are financially struggling so our plan is to donate your clothes and toys to those families who need them the most. We will also add the clothes and toys to our food bank we offer to all Great Barr community members from 3:30 to 4:00pm every Friday. Please see attached poster for more information.

Friday 14th February – last day of half term

Not only is it Valentines Day, but it is also the last day of half term. It will be a normal school day and we will finish at our usual time of 3:10pm. As in previous practice, it will be double CORE points day, so please attend school, produce excellent work and begin to stock up on your CORE points having traded them in on Monday. There will be a live DJ in the playground at lunchtime - maybe as its Valentines Day, students may wish to request a song for that special person?

Have a good week everyone, stay safe and well.

Kind regards
Mr Mann