

## Headteacher Bulletin 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers and Students of Our Arena,

Last Thursday, on 'World Book Day', students would have seen many staff dressed up in costumes representing their favourite character from a book. Some students may have done something similar when they were in Primary school. This is a fun way to get across the serious message of how important reading is. Over the last three years, we have made reading a key focus for the school, and the data I have received shows how the standard of reading of our students has improved. Thank you to all Parents/Carers for supporting your child read at home, it is so important that this key aspect of learning is maintained. Please find below some interesting facts about reading:

### Reading facts

- Children who read 1,000,000 words a year are in the top two percent of achievement.
- Reading is the fastest way to build vocabulary. Children learn 4,000 to 12,000 words per year through reading.
- 80% of children have increases in specific areas of the brain when they read daily.
- 83% of children love or like being read to a lot.
- If children read for an additional 6 minutes every day, their reading performance will increase by 100%.
- 1 in 3 (34.6%) children aged 8 to 18 said that they enjoyed reading in their free time in 2024. Reading enjoyment levels have decreased by 8.8 percentage points over the past year alone.
- Slightly more children aged 8 to 18 said that they enjoyed reading at school (40.5%) than in their free time (34.6%).
- Only 1 in 5 (20.5%) 8- to 18-year-olds read something daily in their free time in 2024, again, the lowest levels recorded since 2005, with daily reading levels decreasing by 7.5pp in the last year alone.

Please visit our reading webpage for details on how we support your child with reading at school: [Reading - Arena Academy](#)

### Year 7 Examinations

I was delighted with how well the Year 7 students conducted themselves in the Sports Hall for their English and Science examinations. Their behaviour was exemplary. Feedback from teachers is that the examinations in the classroom are also going well, and students are taking them very seriously - well done Year 7. Results will be given to students on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April during form time.

### Year 8 Examinations

Year 8 examinations will commence the week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> March, students in Year 8 should be busy revising using their Knowledge organisers: [Knowledge Organisers - Arena Academy](#)

### Year 11 – Preparation for actual GCSE Examinations.

**There are only 28 school days remaining until the actual GCSE examinations start.** The Mock examinations will start on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March - a full timetable can be found here: [Year 11 Examinations - Arena Academy \(corearena.academy\)](#). Please find below important information for all Year 11 Parents and students:

- All students should be revising for at least 2 hours a day using a revision timetable.

- Everything you need to know about revision is detailed in the attached booklet. It is also available on our website here: [Year 11 Examinations - Arena Academy \(corearena.academy\)](https://www.corearena.academy/year-11-examinations)
- 'Exam Papers Society' is available for all Year 11 students every Tuesday and Friday after school in room 11. Students will have the opportunity to work on past exam papers with their peers.
- Past exam papers are available to download here: [Past Exam papers JCQ](#)
- This is an essential video to watch for students revising Maths: [What Past GCSE Data Tells Us: Prioritising Your 2025 Maths Revision](#)
- For further Maths revision, please visit our Maths revision webpage: [Year 11 Maths Revision - Arena Academy \(corearena.academy\)](https://www.corearena.academy/year-11-maths-revision)

### **Rewarding good attendance – Attendance Screen of Fame**

All students who have achieved 100% attendance the previous week, will have their names displayed on the 'Attendance screens of fame' located in Arena Central. Please visit the screens at break and lunch time to see if your name is displayed – many rewards are in place for students who have 100% attendance.

### **Year 10 Work Experience**

Next week, Year 10 will be undertaking a week of 'Work Experience'. It is an excellent opportunity for students to get into the routines and demands of what 'working life' is truly about. I am delighted that 100% of our students have been placed. Can parents please encourage their child to make the most of these opportunities, remind them of how to conduct themselves in a workplace, and talk to them about their experience at the end of each day. This is an invaluable opportunity to give them an insight into potential future careers, what qualifications and experiences are required and whether this is a career path they wish to follow. If you have any questions about work experience placements or the logistics of the week, please contact either your placement directly, or contact Andy from LearnToWork at [andy@learntowork.org.uk](mailto:andy@learntowork.org.uk) or Mr Stephens at [ASStephens@corearena.academy](mailto:ASStephens@corearena.academy)

### **'Spread the love' – clothes donation**

Thank you to everyone who donated clothing to this appeal, we had a tremendous response. These donations will be passed onto families who are in need of our support. I will let you know when we will be holding a similar appeal in the future.

### **Arena Youth Club – Every Friday in the sports hall**

Reminder, we have a youth club running every Friday from 3:15 to 5:15pm in the Sports hall. Students can partake in Fifa competitions using a PS5, dodge ball, football, basketball and much more! Please see attached poster.

We often have visitors at the school and this week was no exception. On Tuesday James Mcneillie, Ofsted Regional Director, made a visit and the feedback he gave was extremely positive. He commented on how polite and respectful our students are; Behaviour and attitudes observed were strong, there was a nice atmosphere around school which resulted in a calm and orderly school environment, and relationships between staff and students are warm and positive.

Comments like these are only possible due to the collaboration of everyone - staff, students and parents. Thank you for all your support.

Kind regards Mr Mann