

Parent/Student Bulletin 13/01/2025

Dear Parents and Students of Our Arena,

It has been a very cold start to the Spring term, but I have been pleased with how students have settled into their studies after the 2-week holiday. Students have the option of staying in school at break and lunch in order to keep warm, but if you choose to go outside, please wear a coat.

Year 11 Mock examinations

The mock examinations begin on Monday 13th January. I know Year 11 students have been working hard to prepare for them. The exams will replicate the external examinations in the summer and will be conducted under the same JCQ (Joint Council Qualifications) rules and regulations. This includes the examinations must be taken on the day of the timetable, **there will not be an opportunity to resit them on a later date**. If a student is absent on the day of the exam, they will be given a U grade. The full mock examination timetable can be found here: [Year 11 Examinations - Arena Academy](#)

All Year 11 students were given a copy of the examination conduct regulations booklet, which I hope they have taken time to read (a copy is also attached).

Free webinars from Elevate [Home | Elevate Education](#) are available to students and parents, with the first one on notetaking taking place on Tuesday 21st January 6:00 – 7:00pm. To register for a place, please click here: [Register your place in our parent support series](#)

Attendance – Everyone's Responsibility

It has been a good start to the new term with attendance averaging over 94% however there is still work to be done as we still have 6% (over 63 students!) who are not attending school. Parents should have received a text message outlining the number of absences last term, and students were given a letter outlining their attendance percentages. The Spring Term is a fresh start so please ensure that attendance remains a high priority throughout the remainder of the year.

Stargazing Evening – Wednesday 22nd January

Come join us for our first ever Stargazing evening at Our Arena on Wednesday 22nd January from 5:30 to 7:30pm. Grab your woolly scarves and we'll provide the telescopes for a night full of wonder and awe. Whether you're an astronomy enthusiast or just looking for a relaxing evening, this event is perfect for all. To sign up, please click here: [Stargazing Evening Tickets, Wed 22 Jan 2025 at 17:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Punctuality to school

Please note all students should be in school and sat in form rooms by 8:35am. Any student arriving after 8:35am is classed as late, must enter the school through the hub entrance and will be issued with a 60-minute reflection. From Monday, we will close the doors sharply at 8:36am, this gives students an extra minute to ensure they are in school.

Year 8 Parents Evening - Thursday 16th January 4:00 – 7:00pm

This will be held in the Sports Hall and Gym - with no appointment times. Parents will be able to speak to their child's teachers, form tutors, Head of Year, Year Group Coordinator and our SENDCo. It is important for all Parents to attend this important evening so please make every effort to attend.

Important dates this half term:

- 13th January – start of Year 11 mock examinations
- 16th January – Year 8 Parents Evening
- 22nd January – Stargazing community event
- 28th January – Parent Forum
- 30th January – Year 9 Parents evening and careers fayre
- 6th February – Safer Internet Day
- 10th February – Rewards Fayre
- 14th February – last day of half term/double CORE points/Live DJ in the playground

Finally, as mentioned in previous bulletins, we are always looking for wider opportunities and experiences for our students. On Monday 13th January, seven of our students have been selected to join other students from our CORE schools to go to Buckingham Palace to meet King Charles. This will be a truly memorable occasion for our students, an amazing opportunity I am sure they will not forget. I will share photos of this visit with you next week.

Please keep warm and have a very enjoyable weekend.

Kind regards

Mr Mann