

Headteacher Bulletin 17th March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers and Students of Our Arena,

School has felt different this week without 210 Year 10 students not in school, we have missed them. The feedback I have received has been fantastic. Many employers have been glowing in their praise of our students and how well they have done. They have been a credit to the school and parents should feel incredibly proud of their child. I hope that there have been many conversations between parents and students about their experiences, and that this will be an incentive to gain the best possible GCSE results in order to achieve the career they are aiming for.

The impact of school absence of lifetime earnings

A recent report produced by the Government details the impact of poor attendance on future earnings. This is a lengthy report however I have listed a summary below:

- an additional day of absence for the typical student is associated with a decrease of £750 in future earnings.
- the likelihood of being in receipt of benefits increases by 2.7 times for pupils who are classified as persistently absent (>10% absence). This rises to 4.2 times for those who are classified as severely absent (>50% absence).
- pupils who had between 95-100% attendance in Year 11 were 1.9 times more likely to achieve a Grade 5 (strong pass) in English and Maths GCSE compared to pupils who only attended 90-95% of the time
- For 13 days of absence, it approximately equates to a 1 grade decrease per subject

I urge all students to attend school every day and ask parents to encourage their children to do the same. The full report is attached for your reference.

After school and lunch time clubs

We have added some additional new clubs to an already packed programme we have been offering. A full schedule is available on our website. Clubs are available to all students, and I would encourage all students to attend at least one. Can I remind students to inform parents if they are staying in school so they are aware of where you are and what time you will be leaving school. If students do not want to stay behind after school, there are also many clubs on offer at lunch time. A full timetable can be found here: [Clubs and Activities - Arena Academy](#)

Year 8 and 11 Examinations - 17th March onwards

Hopefully Years 8 and 11 have been revising and are now ready for their examinations. Year 8 should be using their knowledge organisers to help them revise: [Knowledge Organisers - Arena Academy](#). The Year 8 exam timetable can be found here: [Year 8 Examinations - Arena Academy](#)

As mentioned last week, each week we will give additional examination tips/resources for Year 11, and this week's focus is on Maths. We have new resources available for students here: [Year 11 Maths Revision - Arena Academy](#)

The full year11 mock examination timetable can be found here: [Year 11 Examinations - Arena Academy](#)

Rewards Fair – Monday 17th March

We have an additional rewards fair scheduled for tomorrow. This will take place at lunch time in Arena central. Here, students can redeem their CORE Points for prizes or collect any prizes they have previously bought from the CORE Point Shop.

Reading for pleasure survey

A reminder to please complete the survey to help us further improve our reading provision: [World Book Day survey: Do you read for fun?](#)

Concerts at Symphony Hall

If you are interested in attending some concerts at the Symphony Hall, we have some discounted tickets available. The attached poster gives further details.

I will end as I started - well done to all our Year 10 students for the maturity that was shown throughout the work experience placements. You have been amazing.

Kind regards
Mr Mann