

Headteacher Bulletin – 20th January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers and Students of Our Arena,

There are times in our lives that are memorable moments for a variety of reasons, and this week we were able to arrange for some of our students to have such a moment. To meet, shake hands and sing to King Charles was a truly unforgettable opportunity for them. They represented the school superbly, I am so proud of them. Attached are photos and please click here for videos of the event: https://youtu.be/YvTPNJox_MM?feature=shared. We will continue to seek opportunities which will enable our students to have these memorable moments.

Attendance – Everyone’s Responsibility

Our focus continues to be on the attendance of students. This week has seen an increase in attendance compared to the last few weeks of the Autumn Term. This is a pleasing start to the Spring Term, and I hope that this standard is maintained throughout the term. The attached poster shows what impact attendance has on GCSE grades. The chart indicates that students with poor attendance, average a grade 2 (a grade 5 is classed as a ‘Strong Pass’). This is not what we want for our students as we have high aspirations for them. Please ensure students attend school in order to maximise their potential. For more information about attendance, please click here: [Attendance - Arena Academy](#)

Year 11 Mock Examinations

I am delighted with how the first week of the examinations have gone. Year 11 students are responding to the challenge of them magnificently which I hope is maintained for the second week. Results will be given out during the last week of this half term, the week commencing 10th February. The purpose of the mock examinations is for students to understand the demand of the exams and how to achieve the best results. One issue that has arisen is that some students are not finishing an exam due to not using the time available effectively. This is something that teachers will be addressing with students over the next few weeks.

Year 8 and 9 Parents Evening

Thank you to all Parents/Carers and Students who attended to the Year 8 Parents Evening, we had an overall attendance of 91%. I hope that you were able to meet your child's teachers and have some meaningful and constructive discussions. The next Parents Evening is for Year 9 on Thursday 30th January 4:00 to 7:00pm. In addition, there will be a careers fayre to support with the choices of subjects students are making for when they are in Year 10. The following organisations will be in attendance, West Midlands Police, NHS, University of Birmingham, Sandwell college and many more!

Knife crime

Anyone who follows the national news will know that knife crime is still prevalent. Please continue to have discussions between parent/carer and students in regard to the danger of knife crime. Please see the attached poster which may help with your discussions.

Mathletes competition

A reminder to our Year 9 students that the mathletes competition is open and available to all students regardless of ability. The link is as follows: <https://forms.gle/UzDDD971siq2n7Ac7>

Kind regards
Mr Mann