

Dear Parents/Carers and Students of Our Arena,

I am sure that like myself you will have been shocked and saddened by an incident which took place at Turnberry Park on Monday evening, whilst maintaining patient confidentiality, I am at liberty to tell you that having undergone successful surgery in hospital the student is now recovering well. The police investigation is ongoing. Students in school have shown a very mature attitude and school has remained calm throughout the week. Please can parents continue to remind their child to come straight home from school and not to hang around the park or shops.

Year 8 and 11 examinations

On a more positive note, Year 8 and 11 students have conducted themselves extremely well in their examinations this week. They have certainly taken these examinations seriously with evidence of students doing plenty of revision. Results of these examinations will be given to students and parents before the end of term.

- Year 7 results day: Friday 4th April
- Year 8 results day: Friday 11th April
- Year 11 results day: Thursday 10th April

Year 11 GCSE examinations

Final preparations for the GCSE examinations, which begin on April 7th with the Art examinations, are well underway. Students have been made aware of the many revision sessions that are on offer, been given practice papers to support their revision, have revision guides for each of their subjects, and are familiar with the many revision strategies they can use. If any student is feeling anxious about their examinations, they should speak to their form tutor in the first instance. I am very impressed with how Year 11 students are currently responding to the demands of the examinations, which hopefully will be reflected in excellent outcomes this summer. We will be inviting all Year 11 Parents/Carers to a pre-examination evening on Tuesday 8th April, more details will be sent to you shortly.

Attendance – Everyone’s Responsibility

Thank you to all the students who attend school regularly and to the parents who actively encourage consistent attendance. As a reminder, there are numerous rewards available for students with outstanding attendance and those who show the most improvement. Please find attached a poster outlining how attendance can influence future earnings.

Opportunities Day - Friday 28th March

Our next Opportunities Day is taking place on Friday 28th March, with many activities planned to give our students additional experiences beyond the classroom. Throughout the year it is my intention that all students have the opportunity to attend as many off-site opportunities/trips as possible.

Year 7 September 2025

We have been notified by Birmingham Local Authority of the number of year 6 students who will be attending Arena Academy in September 2025. As in previous years we are heavily oversubscribed, with capacity for only 180 students, and over 500 applications. We look forward to welcoming them in September and further details of our Induction Day in the summer term will be sent to parents in the Summer term.

World Theatre Day – Thursday 27th March

World Theatre Day is a day dedicated to the performing arts and creativity that takes place on stages all around the world. This day is all about appreciating the incredible art form that is Theatre. This day holds significance at Our Arena for several reasons:

1. **Celebrating Theatre's Impact:** Theatre is an art form that has been shaping cultures for centuries. World Theatre Day serves as a reminder of the power of storytelling and the role of theatre in bringing people together, educating, and inspiring change.
2. **Highlighting Theatre's Social Influence:** Theatre often tackles societal issues, such as political unrest, identity, and human rights. World Theatre Day highlights theatre's capacity to provoke thought, challenge norms, and inspire audiences to reflect on the world around them.
3. **Acknowledging the Role of Theatre Professionals:** The day honours the work of playwrights, actors, directors, stage designers, technicians, and all those who contribute to the creation of theatre. It recognises their dedication, creativity, and the vital role they play in the arts.

At Our Arena, we will be holding a range of different events this week to promote World Theatre Day 2025 such as competitions, spin the wheel, bake sales and many more which will encourage creativity and raise money towards our school production 'Hairspray'. Please see the attached poster that outlines the events for the week.

The safety and well-being of our students is of paramount importance. Everyone has a part to play in ensuring that they remain as safe as possible. Please continue to have the important conversations of how to stay safe both within the community and online.

Kind regards
Mr Mann