

Dear Parents/Carers and Students of Our Arena,

Student attendance this term has remained strong with figures above national average. Following an audit on Wednesday we received an award from a national organisation 'Inclusive Attendance'. They were very complimentary in regard to the procedures and practices we have in place to support students and families. This award was only possible due to the collaborative efforts of everyone parents, students and staff in ensuring that students attend school regularly.

Year 11 Strategies

As our Year 11 students prepare to sit their GCSE examinations, we would love to share some words of encouragement and support with them. We know how much their hard work and dedication mean, and a few kind words from home can make a real difference to their confidence and motivation. We kindly invite you to send in a short, good luck message for your child. These messages will be shared with students in the week before they start their exams, to remind them that they have a strong support system behind them. Please send your messages by Friday 11th April by completing this short form: <https://forms.office.com/e/efM0BYeCqH>. Thank you for your ongoing support, as we work together to help our Year 11 students achieve the very best in their exams!

Opportunities Day - Friday 28th March

Students had a good day on Friday, with many activities planned for their enjoyment, but also to think about their future careers, mental health and well-being, social interaction with others and many important life skills which helps them grow into good citizens. We had many visitors in school from several organisations giving expert insight into a range of issues. Their impression of our students is always positive, saying how polite and well-mannered they are. Feedback from students and staff indicate a high level of success, with students valuing the activities they were engaged in.

School Meals

After Easter we will be extending the range of meals on offer to students to enable them to eat more healthily. Nutritious meals will be served on plates and eaten using a knife and fork. Can parents please encourage their child to eat these healthier meals rather than eating pizza every day. Further details will be given to students when they return after the Easter holidays. Parents can check parent pay to see what their child is purchasing during the day.

Spec Buddies

Imagine sitting in a classroom eager to learn but the words on the board are nothing more than a blur. Struggling to see your teacher's instructions, the pages in your textbook, even the faces of your friends. During our visit in 2024 to our sister school in South Africa, for many students this is a reality, not because they lack the motivation to learn, but because they lack something as simple as a pair of glasses.

From this, Spec Buddies was born, and it is our mission to raise enough money to get all students at Shiyane High School a sight test and glasses for those that need them, simply the gift of sight. A sight test currently costs approximately £8.50 per child. We have set our minimum target at £500 and between now and our return at the end of the academic year, we will be organising various fundraising events and activities. Our first fundraising event is Tuesday 1st April, we will be having a Krispy Kreme doughnut sale at break time in Arena Central with a minimum donation being £1. We appreciate your donation and support.

Eid - 30th/31st March

This weekend is a very busy weekend for many families as they celebrate Eid. I hope you all have a very happy and enjoyable time with your families. Eid Mubarak to all who are celebrating this weekend.

In addition, it is also Mother's Day today, where we thank our mothers for all that they do for us. This should happen every day, not just on Mother's Day, but on Sunday please make the extra effort to make your mother feel even more special.

Kind regards

Mr Mann