

Headteacher Bulletin WC 3rd March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers and Students of Our Arena,

I hope that you all had an enjoyable half term. It was great to see our students return on Monday with smart uniform and ready to start their learning. Attendance overall has been strong however this needs to be maintained and not dip as the term progresses. There are many rewards offered to students who attend school every day – please speak to your form tutor.

PC2 Examinations - Years 7 and 8

With the first half of this academic year completed, it is the time of year when Year 7 and 8 are to complete their formal examinations. Throughout the year their subject teachers are regularly checking their progress through assessments and feedback in class, and over the next few weeks they will be undertaking formal examinations. Most of these will take place in the classroom under strict examination conditions and subject teachers will inform their class when these are taking place. To familiarise the students of examinations in the Sports Hall (to replicate GCSE examinations) Year 7 will be sitting an hour examination of each of English and Science, and Year 8 will be sitting English, Mathematics and Science. Students should be revising for these examinations using their Knowledge organisers (Learn, Cover, Write and Correct method) [Knowledge Organisers - Arena Academy](#). The Year 7 examination timetable can be seen here: [Year 7 Examinations - Arena Academy](#)

- *Year 7 examinations start the week beginning 3rd March*
- *Year 8 examinations start the week beginning 17th March*

For details on what topics are covered in the examinations, please see the attached document titled 'Subject Assessment Maps'.

Advance notice of Year 10 GCSE Mock Examinations

Once the Year 11 GCSE examinations are completed, Year 10 will undertake a full set of mock GCSE examinations in June. The preparation for these should begin now with students starting their revision of all the subject content they have learned this year. A timetable will be given to them at the start of the summer term, but it is never too early to start recapping their learning and practising past examination papers. All past examination papers can be found here: [Past Papers - JCQ Joint Council for Qualifications](#)

Year 11 - Mock and Intervention timetables

From the week beginning 17th March, Year 11 will undertake additional mock examinations in English, Maths, Science, Geography and Business Studies, the timetable can be found here: [Year 11 Examinations - Arena Academy](#). In addition, the intervention timetable is also available on the website with the addition of Geography being offered on a Monday as a period 6 session (any student who attends the Geography period 6 session will receive a free waffle voucher). There are also many lunch time revision sessions available where students can skip the queue in the canteen, get their lunch and take it to the classroom where the session is being held.

Careers Fair - Tuesday 4th March

We will be hosting a Careers Fair for Years 7-11 on Tuesday 4th March. All students will have the opportunity to talk with representatives from a range of colleges, sixth forms, universities and industries to learn more about their post-16 options. We are excited to welcome representatives from:

- Many Colleges
- Many Sixth Forms
- University College Birmingham
- Birmingham City University
- West Midlands Police
- NHS
- Ministry of Defence
- Birmingham City Council
- Hippodrome
- Aston Villa Football Club
- Virgin Atlantic
- BDP (Architect)
- Nail Technician
- Reflections Training Academy
- Free 2 Dream

- Global (Broadcast Journalist)
- Sandwell Council
- In-Comm Apprenticeships and Training
- Connexions Sandwell will also be on hand to offer advice and support to students.

Thank you to everyone for all that you do to support Our Arena. We are now becoming a school where many educationalists are visiting us to witness first hand the fantastic work we are doing – reminder to all students, please always warmly welcome all visitors in school.

Kind regards

Mr Mann