



14/12/2022

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Headteacher: Raj Mann

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Arena Academy – School Improvement Update

Dear parents and carers,

As we near the end of term, I wanted to update you on our work to improve Arena Academy, and ambition to create a school where dreams can truly be built and realised.

Our Ofsted inspection last summer recognised the progress we have made in recent years and set out helpful recommendations for our continued progress. We used these recommendations as the basis of our school improvement plan and we have been working hard to implement them over the past few months. I am very pleased with how everyone in the Arena community has engaged with the plan. We are all 100% committed to making Arena Academy even better, and to giving our students the very best education and opportunities possible.

Since receiving Ofsted's report, we have also taken feedback from you, our parents and carers, through termly surveys and parent forums. It is very encouraging that these are becoming more positive: in our last survey, 86% of parents said their child is happy at Arena Academy and 88% would recommend the school.

In this document, I am pleased to set out our progress. Key areas to highlight include:

Communications

You said: You told us you wanted us to improve communications between school and home, and to be better at resolving issues when you raise them. At a recent parents' forum, you told us you appreciated text messages and the weekly Headteacher bulletins but would like to have key areas of the website better signposted.

We did: We introduced half-termly parent forums where you can raise concerns; introduced year-group co-ordinators to be a dedicated point of contact; and launched the ClassChart tool so you can track your child's rewards and sanctions in 'real time'. We have also introduced a new telephone system to ensure calls are answered more efficiently.

We will: We plan to continue carrying out termly surveys and half-termly forums, and we will analyse your responses to ensure that we are on track, getting better, and communicating in a way which you find effective. We will continue to highlight in the Headteacher bulletin any new and important information that is published online.

Bullying and behaviour

You said: We were disappointed to learn that some parents felt behaviour at Arena Academy was not consistently good, and that a minority believed their child had experienced bullying.

We did: We will not tolerate anti-social behaviour or bullying and we are taking active steps to make this better. Amongst other things, we have introduced new rules to improve behaviour. For example, students in years 7 to 10 now line up after break and lunch, which is leading to a calmer and more orderly atmosphere around school; members of the senior leadership team are being posted along Beeches Road to prevent any anti-social behaviour on the way in and out of school. In addition, we have introduced new ways for students to access to mental health support, where needed; and a programme of lunchtime clubs, to give students something productive to do during their downtime.



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In terms of bullying, we have strengthened our anti-bullying framework, including to launch the Bullying Improvement Group (BIG), which includes student ambassadors; and created the Bullying Student Charter, which has been signed by every member of the school community.

We will: Making Arena a welcoming school, where everyone feels respected and safe, is a top priority. We will maintain our behaviour measures and introduce new rules where we think this is necessary to create a more pleasant school environment. Our anti-bullying work will also continue to be high on our agenda and, next term, we plan to strengthen BIG by adding opportunities for teachers, governors and parents to get involved. Further details will be shared with you in the new year.

Keeping parents up to date on teaching, learning, opportunities and progress

You said: Some parents had less knowledge of the curriculum, clubs and opportunities we provide than we would like, and not everyone felt we were letting them know how their child is doing. At a recent parents' forum, parents said they would like to receive notifications of updates on ClassCharts.

We did: To help you feel more informed, we have published curriculum information on our website. We have also published the timetable for our extensive list of clubs and sports which are available every break and lunch time.

We will: We will now provide two reports during the academic year, giving you additional information about your child's academic progress, behaviour and attitude for every subject. To help you get the most out of ClassChart, we will provide instructions on how to set up notifications in our next bulletin.

Looking ahead:

- Our next parent survey will be issued 14th March 2023
- Our next parent forum will be held 31st January 2023

I hope you find this update useful. While there is still more to do, I hope you will agree that we are listening to your feedback and are committed to changing Arena Academy for the better. May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and engagement, which is really appreciated. I look forward to seeing you at a parent forum soon.

As we head into the Christmas holidays, a reminder that students will start to be dismissed from school at 12noon on Friday 16th December. The final day of term is a non-uniform day for all students and staff.

There will be a staff INSET day on Tuesday 3rd January 2023 and the school will be closed to students. All students are expected to return to school in full school uniform on Wednesday 4th January 2023.

I look forward to seeing all students in January ready for the term ahead. I hope that you have a very peaceful and restful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best wishes,

Raj Mann
Headteacher