



The weekly newsletter of
Arena Academy

Welcome

Friday June 19th 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am sure most of you will be following the news regarding the re-opening of schools, but I want to update you on what is happening at Arena Academy. We continue to provide provision for the Key Workers and Vulnerable pupils. They have been attending school regularly and participating in the online lessons and additional activities. Provision for these pupils will be kept entirely separate from the Year 10 pupils on site; they will use different areas of the building.



Online Learning

In recognition of the tremendous work that both staff and pupils have been undertaking, Arena Academy has been featured in the media. The online learning provision at the school has been recognised as exemplar practice for other schools to follow. The national average attendance for online lessons is 30%. I am proud to say that the pupils attendance at Arena Academy is more than DOUBLE the national average. Please continue to encourage your child to continue to participate in these lessons through Teams, starting at 9am each morning with a live PE workout.

Year 10 pupils.

For the past two weeks we have been holding interviews with our Year 10 pupils and parents to outline our expectations and standards for when they return to school next week. The Government have outlined to schools that we may only have up to 25% of pupils of Year 10 at school on any one day. Only one session is allowed each day to enable a deep clean of the room to take place, therefore we are not allowed to have a morning and afternoon session which would allow the pupils to attend more often. From Monday 22nd Year 10 pupils have been allocated a day when they are expected to attend school. They will participate in tutorial style lessons tailored to their individual needs in 'bubbles' of six pupils.

News

I would like to reassure parents that a thorough Risk Assessment has been completed, following consultation with all key staff. This contains guidance of how “bubbles” will work, how movement around the school will be managed and how hygiene will be maintained, along with a range of operational and logistical information. We will continue to monitor and amend our practice with the health and safety of pupils, staff and families in mind. This Risk Assessments are available to view on the school website on the Year 10 CONNECTS page.

I hope that this is the first step towards more pupils returning to school. Unfortunately, and I share your frustration, we have yet to be informed as to what the situation will be in September. As soon as I am able to share any news with you I will do so but in the meantime please keep encouraging your child to participate in the online lessons.

If you have any questions or worries, please do not hesitate to get in touch and we will do our very best to answer them. Thank you for your support in the most difficult and challenging of circumstances. I hope I am able to welcome your child back to school in the near future and look forward to meeting you all.

Kind regards

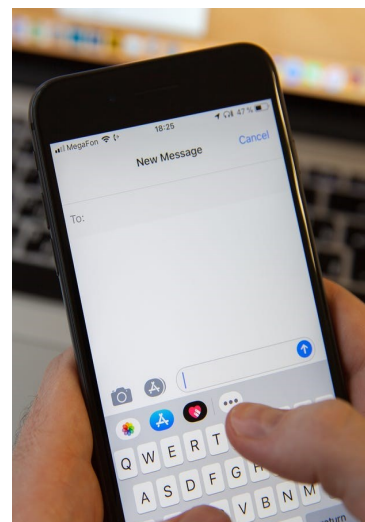
Raj Mann

School Policies Updated:

We have added to our school policies to include a new remote learning policy and an updated behaviour policy. We would be grateful if you could find the time to read through each of these, which are available on our website under ‘Policies’.

From Monday 22nd June you we are going to reintroduce the First Day Text messaging for all of our students to ensure they are engaging in their online learning. For all students Form Time is at 9.30am until 10.00am and all students are expected to attend to take part in the Form Time activity and get prepared for the lessons ahead. If you have already been in contact with the school regarding technical issues or any other reasons as to why students cannot access online learning then please ignore the messages and maintain contact with the school through Form Tutors, Heads of Year or the Welfare Team.

The messages will be sent to you at the end of the registration period and we would then ask that your encourage your child to engage with the lessons for the rest of the day.



Year 10 Return to School

The following will be read to all students at the start of each Year 10 Bubble from 22nd June. The school would appreciate parental support in ensuring students are fully aware of these conditions and the importance of their compliance:

- Throughout your time on site, and on your way to and from school, you must remain 2m away from anyone you do not live with.
- You have been given an assigned seat. You must remain in this seat for the entirety of the session. If you leave your seat without permission, I have to notify SLT and you will be asked to leave site.
- We would prefer that you wait until you are at home to use the toilet. However, if you are desperate, please raise your hand and ask for permission. You must remain 2m away from others on your way to the toilet. Once you arrive at the toilet, knock on the door and ask whether anyone is present. If so, please wait 2m away from the door until the toilet becomes vacant. After using the toilet, please wash your hands thoroughly (at least 20 seconds). You must use the hand sanitizing gel before re-entering the classroom.
- You may drink water from your own bottle, if you have bought one. However, you cannot consume food until you are off site.
- The classroom door and all windows must remain open for the entirety of the session. This is to ensure a flow of fresh air which reduces the risk of infection.
- No stationery/resources may be shared between one another. Anything you are given in the lesson (e.g.: worksheets) must be taken home with you at the end of the session.
- The normal Fire Drill procedures are to be followed. However, on evacuation, you must remain 2m apart from other students. Instead of lining up in your form group lines, you will line up in front of me out on the Playground – staying 2m apart from others in the line.
- We will be dismissed from around 11.50am by a member of SLT. When leaving the classroom, you must remain 2m apart from one another and are encouraged to keep the same distance when travelling home. If a parent is collecting you in a car, you must meet them in the car either in the Car Park or at an arranged meeting point.
- A number of other students are on site accessing our Key Worker provision, and there are 5 other Year 10 Bubbles. You must avoid mixing with these groups in order to reduce the risk to yourself and those you live with.

If you are a parent/carer of a year 10 student and you do not know what day your student will be attending school from next week, please contact enquiries@arena-birmingham.academy



@core_arena_academy



@COREArenaAcad

Black Lives Matter



Here at Arena Academy, we stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and the positive changes it promotes. As a school we are proud to have a multicultural intake of pupils and we disagree with the mistreatment of black people, hate crimes and any acts of racism in our school, community and across the world.

Arena will continue to listen, learn and make changes despite how challenging the topics discussed may be, and it is important that we reflect on where we are and what can be done to make progress.

As a school we will continue to discuss how we can improve and assure you that we are still committed to providing your child with an education that ensures learning, respecting and celebrating differences. It is important that we work as a team to educate our children and we hope that you would join and support us with the fight against racism. This must be an ongoing priority as part of the positive agenda.

Ways to incorporate diversity in your home includes:

- Diversifying your bookshelf
- Buying a wide range of toys for younger children, especially dolls and action figures of diverse cultures.
- Watching diverse television programs. Where characters from different backgrounds are portrayed in different ways
- Talking about race. Talking about acceptance and tolerance and equality.
- Acknowledging your privileges and challenging subconscious biases and stereotypes
- Introducing culture. You can be from any background to learn about the world's history.

“If you are neutral in situations on injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.”

Supporting Our Community

The current lockdown crisis has meant that many people are now looking for work. We have gathered together some links and information to help if you are in this position.

The National Career Service:

They provide information, advice and guidance to help you make decisions on learning, training and work. The site includes support in writing a CV, interview advice, skills assessments and much more.

There is also a free phone line to speak one of their advisers.

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

The logo for the National Careers Service, featuring the text "National Careers Service" in white on a pink background.

Helping you take the next step



Advice & Support from Job Centre Plus:

Despite the disruption caused by the coronavirus outbreak, there are still jobs out there to apply to. Job Centre Plus are there to help you get started.

You can also find hints and tips on applying for jobs if you haven't done so for a while. If you are looking for a full or part-time job in England, Scotland or Wales – or even some temporary work

<https://jobhelp.campaign.gov.uk/>

The Skills Toolkit:

82% of all job vacancies require digital skills. The Skills Toolkit is made up of free online courses, tools and resources to help you improve your digital and numeracy skills. There are courses that will give you an introduction to getting confident online to more advanced digital skills for use in the workplace. These are all short courses that can be completed at home, in your own time, at your own pace.

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/find-a-course/the-skills-toolkit>

The logo for HM Government, featuring the text "HM Government" next to a small crest.

The Skills Toolkit

New free online learning platform to boost workplace skills

Boost your skills while staying at home at gov.uk/thekillstoolkit

