



**ARENA**  
ACADEMY

# NEWSLETTER

Friday 23rd April 2021

Proudly sponsored by **CORE** Education Trust

Good afternoon parents and carers,

We hope you all had a restful Easter break and managed to enjoy some of the sunny - if chilly - weather over the fortnight.

We have launched ourselves straight in to our summer term this week, with our year 11 students preparing themselves for their upcoming assessments. Enrichment sessions have been in full swing and it has been great to see so many students taking advantage of those extra sessions with their teachers, and especially those who took part in online revision sessions via Teams over Easter.

The Government has confirmed that masks should continue to be worn in **classrooms** as well as all communal areas within the school building when pupils return after the Easter break. This will be reviewed at Step 3 of the government's roadmap which will be no earlier than Monday 17th May. It is currently expected that from this date face coverings will no longer be required in classrooms. We have been assured that we will be given a week's notice of any changes and of course, we will pass any information on to you as soon as we receive it.

If you have contacted school because your child is exempt due to medical reasons, there is no need to contact us again. Please could I ask that you provide your child with a mask and remind them to bring it to school every day. We have a small number of

masks available at the main school reception desk, should any pupil forget.

All other safety measures will remain in place, including regular asymptomatic testing for families, year group bubbles, increased hygiene, ventilated rooms, and social distancing must be maintained where possible.

Our risk assessment is available on our website if you wish to read through this further.

This week we have been celebrating Earth Day with many activities taking place throughout the week. We have also had the second of our SchoolCloud parents evenings, and the school photographer paid a visit on Friday, so look out for more information on a new set of photographs of your child.

Next week our year 11 students begin to sit their final assessments. Good luck to all our year 11 and well done on all the extra work you have been doing towards these assessments.

Don't forget that it is the May Day bank holiday on the 3rd May and we break up for Whitsun half-term on Friday 28th May.

Kindest regards,

All at Arena

**Arena Academy**

Beeches Road  
Birmingham  
West Midlands  
B42 2PY

tel: 0121 729 7310

email: [enquiry@arena-birmingham.academy](mailto:enquiry@arena-birmingham.academy)

[www.arena-birmingham.academy](http://www.arena-birmingham.academy)

📧 @COREArenaAcad

📷 @core\_arena\_academy

## National Tutoring Programme

At Arena we are determined that no student will be left educationally disadvantaged due to the missed classroom time caused by the two lockdowns.

To ensure that our students not only regain any lost ground due to the pandemic but also accelerate on-wards, we have devised a recovery programme.

Form times will now be spent on a series of recovery lessons, expertly planned by our heads of faculties and their teams. We are also going to be investing heavily in the government's National Tutoring Programme of additional tutors, who will be working with students in English, Maths, Science, Languages and Humanities.

It is our aim that all students will receive additional tutoring between now and the end of the next academic year to ensure that they do not just recover, but excel.

**National  
Tutoring  
Programme**

Letters have gone out to the parents of our first cohort today.

These need to be signed and returned on Monday 26th April, ready for starting on Tuesday 27th.

This is an ongoing and rolling programme of tutoring so don't worry if you haven't received a letter today. We will be in contact in the near future to confirm allocation of a place.

## Year 9 Parents Evening - Schoolcloud

On Thursday of this week we held our year 9 parents evening on Schoolcloud.

Once again it was fantastic to see so many parents embrace this new technology and book their appointments, and thank you to those who contacted us afterwards with their positive feedback.

As we mentioned previously, nothing will ever replace the face-to-face nature of a 'normal' parents evening but those teachers who took part - and many of the parents who contacted us afterwards - said that this was an extremely effective alternative during these uncertain times.



 **schoolcloud**  
Parents Evening



# Student Artwork

Exceptional creativity from our year 10 art students.



Nicholas



Brooke



Daniel



Kara

*'Year 10 Art students have created these unique observations using Milton to remove ink from the surface of the paper to record the areas of highlight. I am really proud of the outcomes, the students have excelled!'*

Ms Freeman



Ashpreet



Gracie-Mae



# Earth Day



As you can see from this incredible poster by Morgan in 7CLY we have celebrating Earth Day all week in Arena.

There have been many events taking place such as litter picking, a poster competition, assemblies, bring in a recyclable item, and a staff and student bake-off.

Brilliantly organised by Ms Biswas, the week has been a great success.



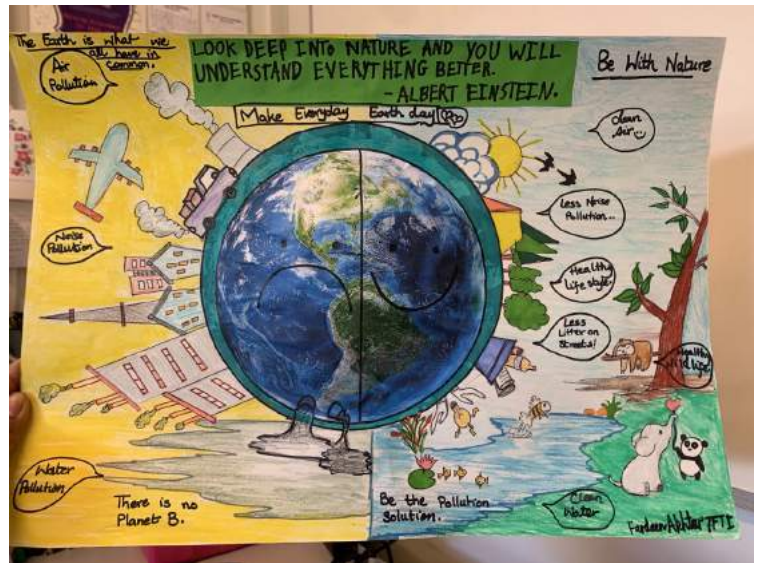
Well done to everyone who entered all our competitions. Winners will be announced next week.



For all the latest news about Arena please make sure you follow us on our Twitter account: @COREArenaAcad



# Earth Day





# Earth Day 2021

## What's going on at Arena Academy?

To celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021, Arena Academy will be launching a variety of exciting competitions and activities to raise awareness on ways we can 'Restore our Earth.'

### Arena's top tips to go greener:

- Go on Nature walks in your local area: <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/whats-on/whats-on-news/27-stunning-summer-walks-birmingham-9758138>
- 'Grow your own' vegetables and reduce plastic waste. Shop local to reduce food miles.
- Clean up your area - go to your local park and spend some time litter picking.
- Build a bird feeder house in your back garden/ bee garden.
- 'Meat Free Mondays' switch to one plant based meal a week.
- Recycle unwanted toys and donate to environmental charities.

### Earth day Activities at Arena:

**Monday:** Assembly and Competition Launch

**Tuesday:** Poster Competition

**Wednesday:** Year 9 and 10 Well being Walks. Year 7 and 8 Community Litter Picking.

**Thursday:** Bring a recyclable item to School (plastics, clothing, cardboard), 50 p donation to WWF.

**Friday:** Earth Day Baking competition for staff and students

## Changes to the Test and Trace support payment for parents



Parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a [Test and Trace Support Payment](#) or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria.

The extension of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, which is administered by district and unitary local authorities in England, ensures that parents receive the financial support they need if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities.

Parents and carers should apply to their local authority to receive a payment. Applications for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme are made via the local authority in which the parent or carer resides, not the local authority where the setting is situated, if these are different.

To be eligible applicants must meet all of the criteria that:

- they are the parent or guardian of a child or young person in the same household and need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate. This is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period
- they are employed or self-employed
- they cannot work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result
- they meet all the other means-tested eligibility criteria for a Test and Trace Support Payment or locally determined criteria for a discretionary payment


That their child or young person:


- is aged 15 or under (or 25 or under with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC)) and normally attends an education or childcare setting
- has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their education or childcare setting because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)



Nurseries, schools, colleges and further education providers are required to provide a letter to all parents or carers of the children advised to self-isolate, to support their application to the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme. Parents or carers will then be able to provide this letter to their local authority as evidence that their child is required to self-isolate.

Once an application for a payment has been received, the local authority will be in touch with your setting to verify the details of the child provided on the application. This will include a check of the child's name, age, address and days of self-isolation. This check is to minimise the event of fraudulent claims. It may be conducted before or after a payment is made, depending on the arrangements the individual local authority has chosen to put in place.

# Friends Resilience

 Educational Psychology





## FRIENDS RESILIENCE


Support wellbeing within your family with the 'Start building resilience' package. This includes:

- A 2-hour video aimed at equipping adults and teenagers with resilience building skills (this can be watched in small sections);
- eBooks per relevant age group:
  - Start building resilience for adults and teenagers
  - Start building resilience for children
  - Start building resilience for young children

This programme will support your child to better manage their feelings, develop more helpful thinking and learn about a healthy lifestyle.

Your child's school might run the FRIENDS programme (<https://friendsresilience.org/>), this package brings these skills to families. To access this package for your family please email the following address and include your child's age and the name of their school: [Friends4Families@Birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Friends4Families@Birmingham.gov.uk)

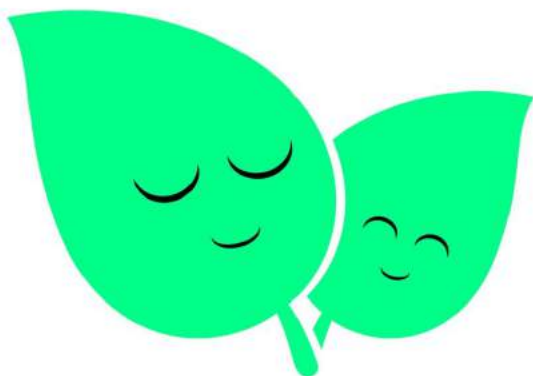
You will then receive a log-in for the website within five working days and a code which will allow you to create an account and use an online workbook and video.



## Wellbeing for Education reform – free resources

As part of the Wellbeing for Education Return (WER) offer, the 14-19 Participation and Skills Team are offering all families in Birmingham access to the Friends 'Start Building Resilience' package at no cost to families.

To find out more visit - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nZstJmP02RLPZmCRYSuhRyDG2Z\\_wnF1i/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nZstJmP02RLPZmCRYSuhRyDG2Z_wnF1i/view?usp=sharing)



# FRIENDS RESILIENCE



## St Giles SOS+ Programme

St Giles aims to break the cycle of prison, crime and disadvantage to create safer communities by supporting people to change their lives.

We use expertise and lived experiences to empower people who are not getting the help they need, who are hard to engage because they have been repeatedly failed – held back by poverty, exploited, abused, dealing with mental health problems, caught up in crime or a combination of these issues.

We train Peer Advisors\* to become qualified in Level 3 Information, Advice and Guidance.

They use this qualification and their lived experience to inspire and support people facing similar situations. Being helped by someone who has 'been there' is powerful and underpins all our projects.

### SOS+ SERVICE

St Giles' SOS+ Service delivers early intervention work in educational and community settings, through preventative sessions on violence, vulnerability and exploitation. Our award-winning approach uses trained professionals with lived experience of the criminal justice system to deglamourise gang involvement and expose the harsh realities of crime and violence.

SOS+ delivers educational sessions that tackle the issues of county lines drug smuggling, gangs, and knife crime to young people who are vulnerable and at risk of exploitation, alongside providing training and awareness sessions on these topics to parents, teachers and other professionals.

### SOS+ PROJECT AIMS

- Prevent young people becoming involved in serious youth violence and criminal

activity by demystifying gang culture and educating them about the harsh realities of knife crime and prison life;

- Impart real tools that young people can utilise to make better informed decisions and to avoid negative lifestyle choices;
- Endorse the benefits of education;
- Equip parents and professionals with the knowledge, understanding and tools to help safeguard their young people.

### OUR WORK HAS THREE THEMES:

**Building safety:** most clients cannot focus on longer-term aspirations until they feel safe and secure. Our staff support clients to immediately address these needs.

**Building aspirations:** We support clients to build up the skills, confidence and resilience needed to create and to re-engage with education, training and employment.

**Building connections:** All our clients experience social isolation. We support them to develop the tools to become create positive relationships within their community.

SOS+ webinars -  
click to open

### Parents' SOS+ webinars with Q&A session

Please click on a date to register for the webinar

**Tuesday 4th May 2021**

**5-6pm**

**Thursday 13th May 2021**

**5-6pm**

**St Giles**

Turning a pain into a future

St Giles is a registered charity No 801355.

St Giles Head office: 6468 Camberwell Church St, London, SE5 8J8.

[www.stgilestrust.org.uk](http://www.stgilestrust.org.uk) © St Giles Trust 2021

# St Giles

## SOS+ Programme

Turning a past into a future

### SOS+ GANGS AND COUNTY LINES PARENTS' AWARENESS SESSION

60 minute webinar for parents followed optional live Q&A

### Parents' sessions

Our gangs & county lines parents' session consists of speakers utilising their lived experience within the criminal justice system to unpack and explore the realities and consequences of county lines, gang involvement, and serious youth violence.

Perspectives from previous perpetrators and runners/transporters, combined with relevant case studies, aid audiences in gaining an authentic and credible understanding of this complex and cross cutting issue.

The session will help parents and carers to identify signs and triggers that a child/young person might be involved in county lines and gain an understanding of how to appropriately respond to such indicators.

### SOS+ parents' session aims:

All participants will leave the session able to:

- Define the term county lines;
- Outline the methods used to groom, recruit and exploit young people;
- Have an awareness of the push and pull factors that contribute to a young person becoming vulnerable and susceptible to county lines involvement;
- List the risks and consequences of county lines involvement;
- Recognise key signs and indicators that young people are being exploited or at risk of county lines involvement;
- Understand the perspective of either a survivor or perpetrator after hearing from an expert witness, including a brief overview of how girls are used;
- Facilitate a safe place within the household to encourage healthy conversations;
- Identify the services available to support a young person at risk of or involved in county lines, and the conventional referral processes;
- Utilise practical advice and approaches to keep young people safe, including preventing and reducing risks associated with each stage of the county lines process.

### CONTACT SOS+

#### Bookings and enquiries

E: [sosplusadmins@stgilestrust.org.uk](mailto:sosplusadmins@stgilestrust.org.uk)

T: 020 7708 8047

#### All other information

E: [SOSPlusAdmin@stgilestrust.org.uk](mailto:SOSPlusAdmin@stgilestrust.org.uk)



# School Nurse Virtual Drop-In Clinic

Birmingham School Health Support Service



Birmingham  
Community Healthcare  
NHS Foundation Trust

## SCHOOL NURSE VIRTUAL DROP-IN CLINIC

Every  
Tuesday  
from  
4:30-5:30pm

Your School Nurse is here to help you feel healthy, happy and safe during your school years and to get the best from your education.

**Join the link and talk to a School Nurse.** We provide a confidential and friendly service.

<https://nhs.vc/BCHC/C-F/Schl-Nurse/Drop-In>

