



**ARENA**  
**ACADEMY**

# NEWSLETTER

Friday 26th March 2021

Proudly sponsored by **CORE** Education Trust

Good afternoon parents and carers,

As we approach the end of this term, we have all been reflecting not just on the weeks since the end of the last term, but also on everything that has happened over the last 12 months.

It is difficult to comprehend that one year ago this week we first entered lockdown, on the 23rd March 2020, and that we are still dealing with the devastating impact of this pandemic.

We know that many members of our community have suffered terribly in many different ways during all this, and on Tuesday as we remembered all those that have been lost, we feel that our approach at school over these last few weeks since our return has been prudent and justified.

By focussing on the wellbeing of students, by spending time and effort on their reintegration, and by instilling a sense of routine, high expectations & standards in to their lives once more, we are in a far better position for the upcoming term to focus on their academic recovery.

Next term will see us maintain our focus in terms of mental wellbeing, but will also see it broaden out to the academic wellbeing of your children.

We are pleased to see that afterschool clubs will soon be starting up once again, and that many students have already been passing on their suggestions for clubs to their heads of year. Sports clubs have always been popular but it was great to see a chess club suggested along with a Dungeons and Dragons club too.

All of these are the type of enrichment clubs that we love to see at Arena!

This last fortnight has been incredibly busy here in school, as you would expect. On Thursday of last week we held our year 9 Pathways meeting for parents. This was held virtually over Zoom and it was great to see so many parents logging in and getting involved in the discussions about their child's GCSE choices.

Yesterday we held our first virtual parents evening via Schoolcloud, an exciting piece of software that allows us to meet up with parents to discuss their child's progress and attainment electronically.

We also held a 'Wear a Hat to School Day' today to raise money for brain tumour research and it was fantastic to see so many staff and students wearing such a wide variety of hats in aid of this very worthwhile cause.

It just leaves me to say once again a big thank you to all our stakeholders for all the support and all the feedback we have received this year. It has been a challenging term for so many reasons but we are all so happy that our students are back in our classrooms and learning, and we're positive that next term will be a fantastic term of teaching and learning.

We break for Easter on Thursday 1st April at 2.45pm for years 7 & 8, and 3.15pm for years 9-11, and we all return on Monday 19th April.

Wishing you all a safe and restful weekend and Easter break.

**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

## Year 9 Pathways Meetings

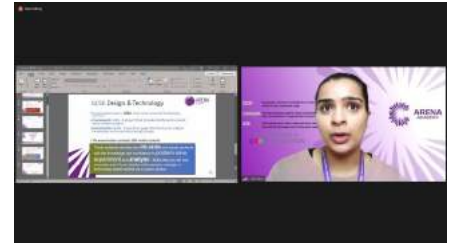
Thank you to all the parents who joined us for the Parent Consultation Evenings last week. For any parent that missed the presentations, please contact the email address below and we will do our best to get them across to you.

Pathways Options Forms will be issued / go live on Teams on Monday 22nd March. We kindly request that students now spend the next four weeks:

- researching potential career paths and Post-16 options before making their choices. Use the links contained within the Pathways booklets, as well as [www.startprofile.com](http://www.startprofile.com).
- Hold discussions with parents and carers regarding their potential choices.
- Hold discussions with their subject teachers to find out more information about their potential choices.

The deadline for returning the Pathways Options Forms is Monday 19th April, 5pm. We request that these are returned online, however, paper copies can be issued if requested.

Please email [pathways@arena-birmingham.academy](mailto:pathways@arena-birmingham.academy) if you have any questions about any of the above.



## Year 11 Parents Evening - Schoolcloud

On Thursday of this week we held our first parents evening using our new software programme called Schoolcloud.

This is a system that allows parents to book appointments with teachers as you would normally during an in-person parents evening, and then hold that meeting virtually.

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.



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.

Our other year groups will also have the opportunity for a Schoolcloud parents evening as we progress through the school year and more details will be coming out to you as that time nears.

 **schoolcloud**  
Parents Evening

## 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.

# COVID Testing - Easter



## Lateral Flow Testing at home – Easter 2021

Please continue to test regularly every 3 to 5 days over the Easter break, it is recommended that you test on the same day in order to form a routine i.e. complete tests every Sunday and Tuesday evening.

A test on Sunday will ensure your child is tested prior to returning to school, giving you confidence that they are ok to return

You child will be issued enough test kits to continue to test over  
The Easter break

Please continue to log your results, there are links to follow on the Parents Area of the school website



## PC Talabani Careers in Policing Meeting

All the staff and students would like to thank PC Talabani for taking the time to meet with us all via Zoom on Friday morning to discuss the many different routes in to policing.

The was a very inspiration talk about the importance of pol-icework and the many different elements to the role, from armed response to detective work, from school liaison to dog handling.

As you would expect, this prompted many different ques-tions from students who were all engaged in this fascinat-ing discussion.



West Midlands Police

More Careers Information on Page 7

# 'Wear a Hat to School' Day

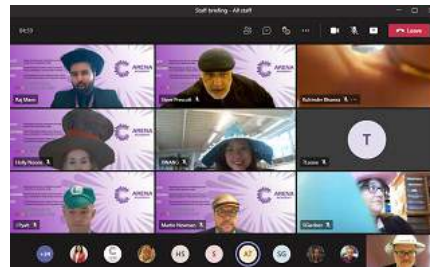
The staff and students at Arena were inspired by Ms Rowles from the English Department this week to get involved in a charity that is new to us.

'Wear a Hat Day' is a fundraising event lead by Brain Tumour Research to raise awareness and funds for the fight against this terrible disease.

As their website states, *'Brain tumours are indiscriminate; they can affect anyone at any age. What's more, they kill more children and adults under the age of 40 than any other cancer... yet historically just 1% of the national spend on cancer research has been allocated to this devas-*

On Friday 26th March we held our own 'Wear A Hat Day' to help raise money to find a cure for Brain Tumours. Students have been asked to create a Hat or wear a hat of their choice for a donation of £1. Badges and wristbands have also been available to buy in school.

As Ms Rowles says;  
"This is a fantastic opportunity for students to put their creative skills to use and enter the competition that we are holding. I feel this will be a great opportunity for staff, and students, to have some fun being creative whilst raising money to help such a worthy cause. First prize will win a £10 Amazon Voucher and second prize will be some chocolates."



Further donations can be made via JustGiving by [clicking here.](#)

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

## Science Ambassadors



We are proud to announce our first 'green initiative' at Arena Academy.

These are our Students 4 Climate Change who will be fighting for a cleaner tomorrow.

Congratulations to our year 11 science ambassadors on their appointment to this role:

Angel, Dmitri, Miene, Ruqayyah & Ellie.

#Arena4climatechange

## History

Nothing makes us happier than seeing students so inspired by their learning that they go that extra mile. Just look at these! A fantastic model of Titanic - complete with iceberg - made by Sandra in 8SVA in year 8, and these amazing Titanic cookies made by Jayden also in 8SVA.

Absolutely fantastic work both!



**LAPTOP Update: We are still waiting on the return of a number of laptops from lockdown. If you were loaned a device, can you please ensure it is returned ASAP**



This weeks live Arena Academy Careers webinar was hosted by PC Kanar Talabani who is our local community police officer. PC Talabani shared her career journey with all of our students. This included them discovering about the role she now does within the police force and what the routes are into policing. We would like to thank PC Talabani for her time today and are looking forward to students being able to meet her in person as soon as this is possible.



Useful websites relating to the police force are:

<https://www.policenow.org.uk/national-graduate-leadership-programme/>

<https://www.joiningthepolice.co.uk/ways-into-policing/apprenticeship-and-traditional-entry-programmes>

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/police-officer>

<https://www.bcu.ac.uk/courses/professional-policing-bsc-hons-2021-22>

## COLLABORATION

## OPPORTUNITY



Speakers for Schools offer free webinars about a variety of careers for students. Below are 2 that are next week. More details can be found here: <https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/upcoming-vtalks/>



DATE: Monday 29th March  
TIME: 17:00 – 18:00  
YEAR GROUP: ALL STUDENTS  
[CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)



**Speaker:** Sarah Henderson, Managing Director, Murray Chalmers PR

### Are you interested in working in the music industry?

Do you want to know more what is like to work in Celebrity PR? MCPR is home to some of the world's most-loved artists and bands including Coldplay, The Stone Roses, Liam Payne, Kylie and many more. MCPR also looks after world-renowned entertainment businesses and events including Abbey Road Studios and Lovebox Festival. Sarah will be sharing insights into her career and is looking forward to answering your questions.

DATE: Tuesday 30th March  
TIME: 17:00 – 18:00  
YEAR GROUP: Years 10 & 11  
[CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)



**Speaker:** Dr Sarah Mackenzie Ross, Award Winning Clinical Psychologist & Honorary Associate Professor at University College London  
**Thinking about studying Psychology?** Join leading Clinical Psychologist, Dr Sarah Mackenzie Ross on how she pursued a career in the field and is now running her own private practice. Sarah has worked for multiple organisations including the NHS, the Ministry of Defence and as a Researcher. Students who are thinking about studying Psychology further should not miss out on the opportunity to have your questions answered by Sarah!

## OPPORTUNITY



UNIFEST  
2021

UniFest is an opportunity for **year 10 students** to learn more about higher education and to gain insight into what life is like as a university student. Although it is not possible to offer residential events this year, six universities have prepared an exciting range of activities to inspire and motivate year 10 to explore their future options. They'll have the chance to see what university is really like, speak to university students and staff, and receive advice and guidance on careers. Check out each university's event offer to see the fun and interactive programme of activities you could take part in!

This event is in partnership with Aston University, Birmingham City University, Newman University, University College Birmingham, University of Birmingham and University of Worcester. Each university is offering a standalone event and has provided information detailing more about their offer. Please read the details for each university event thoroughly before applying. All universities hope to offer a campus visit if and when it is safe to do so.

UniFest is for students in Year 10 at state-funded secondary schools in the West Midlands who are from backgrounds and communities that are less likely to be considering university as an option. To apply for a place, you will need the support of your school and the consent of your parents or carers, and you should be able to answer "yes" to at least one of the following:

- My parents or carers did not go to university
- I receive Free School Meals
- I have a disability or learning difficulty
- I am in the care of my local authority
- I am a young carer
- I live in an area where not many young people go to university

This opportunity has no cost attached. More details and the application form can be found here:

<https://aimhigherwm.ac.uk/unifest/>

**Please inform Mrs Batsford if you do apply or have any questions:**  
[mbatsford@arena-birmingham.academy](mailto:mbatsford@arena-birmingham.academy)

## OPPORTUNITY

### Downloads for Parents and Carers



These parent / carer guides are free to download from:

<https://targetcareers.co.uk/parents-and-teachers/313443-resource-zone>



If you have any post 16 related questions please email Mrs Batsford: [mbatsford@arena-birmingham.academy](mailto:mbatsford@arena-birmingham.academy)

Other useful sites for parents and carers:

<https://careerpilot.org.uk/parent-zone/all-questions/what-are-the-choices-for-my-child-at-16>

<https://www.ucas.com/further-education/post-16-finance-and-support/parents-and-carers>

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/career-choices-at-16>

<https://www.birminghamcareersservice.co.uk/publications/>

## OPPORTUNITY



# Family Literacy

with

**ARENA  
ACADEMY**

Our focus this week is on allowing pupils to view stories as a form of **Escapism**. This could be through entering the realm of Hogwarts when reading Harry Potter, exploring Bag End whilst watching The Hobbit or creating a world of mystery through playing Minecraft.

Our young people have gone through some very trying times due to the pandemic and like most of us need a way to sometimes escape reality!

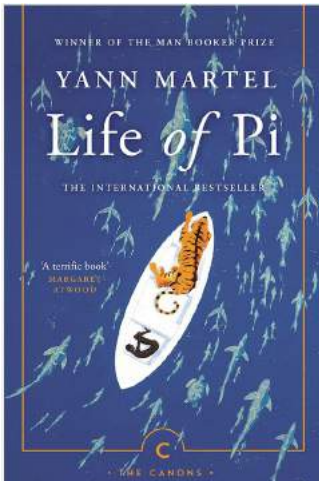
## Tips on Escapism during the pandemic:

**Watch movies:** Pick upbeat, fun films, fantasy films and any films which are entirely removed from the pandemic.

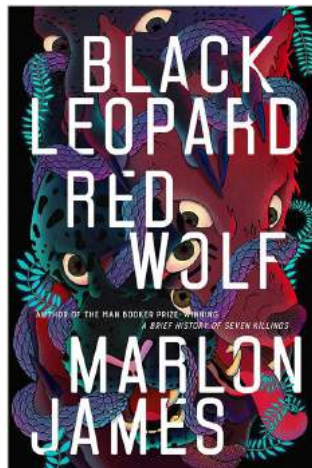
**Playing games:** Choose a game which is suitable for all and spend some quality time together playing. Board game or video game– doesn't matter!

**Read Fiction:** Generally, the best books to read for this are fantasy books as they allow the reader to

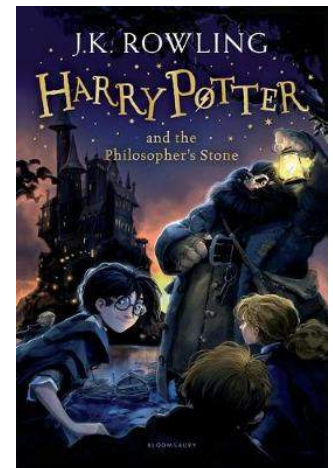
## Perfect Escape Reads:



Escape to: The Pacific Ocean



Escape to: Ancient Africa



Escape to: Hogwarts

**In one line:** An adventure story

**In one line:** The first novel in a fantasy trilogy about the hunt for a missing boy.

**In one line:** Story of an orphaned son of two powerful wizards and possesses unique

## Young Writer's Competition:

Imagine... invites 11-18 year-olds to enter their thought-provoking poetry into Young Writers' national poetry competition! Imagine if we were all equal... Imagine if you had one wish... Imagine if the world ended tomorrow.

### Deadline:

Monday 29th March 2021

## Imagine! | Poetry Competition

11-18 Years



**Imaginations can be ignited anywhere, it's one thing the pandemic can't restrict!**

Did you know that the National Literacy Trust reported only 50% of children and young adults enjoy writing and it's decreasing year on year... Let's put a stop to that now!

Use Imagine! to inspire your young writer to create a thought-provoking poem today.

Download the independent entry form, which includes poetry prompts in case any extra inspiration is needed! You don't have to print the form, the poem can be handwritten or typed then emailed over.

Who or what will inspire your young writer's poem?

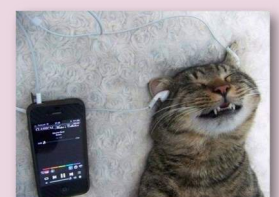
Imagine, just imagine...

<https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/KS3-4>

Word of the  
Week

**Jubilation**

This weeks WOTF links directly to the **International Day of Happiness** celebrated on the 20th March 2021.



Thank you for reading! If you have any questions, feedback or good literacy practice you would like to share, please email me at:

# School Nurse Virtual Drop-In Clinic

Birmingham School Health Support Service

**NHS**

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>

 Best Care  
Healthy Communities

 attendanywhere®

