



ARENA
ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

Friday 7th May 2021

Proudly sponsored by **CORE** Education Trust

Good afternoon parents and carers,

Today in school we commemorated the 76th anniversary of VE Day, an important date in our calendar when we remember the hardship and sacrifice of World War II and how, with victory assured, brighter times were on their way, though many difficulties would remain for a long time to come.

It would be disrespectful to make a direct comparison between the current pandemic and the war, but with falling infection rates we do appear to be at a stage when we can start to look forward to happier times. We must not be complacent however and it is essential that COVID testing continues twice weekly and that results are recorded.

The year group zones will be remaining in place certainly for the remainder of this academic year, and the current guidance states that masks must still be worn inside the school building. As a nation we have gone through so much that it is imperative that we don't allow ourselves to go backwards. Please keep yourselves and everyone around you safe.

Within this newsletter you will find details of a change that we are making within school; the banning of fizzy drinks. This decision has been introduced as a way to encourage a more healthy lifestyle. Please ensure you discuss this with your children and do not

allow them to bring energy, sugary or fizzy drinks in to school.

Many thanks to all the parents who completed the survey that was emailed out last week. We will be responding to all the comments and actions points in a 'You said, we did' document. Next week we shall also be asking all our students to complete a survey. This will take place during form time on Monday.

Also in this newsletter is information from Birmingham City Council regarding resources and financial aid that may be available if you have been impacted financially by COVID-19. There are also several free online courses that you may wish to attend.

The first is a parenting course for all parents, carers and grandparents with children from 'bump to 19'.

The second is a webinar on Thursday 13th May hosted by St Giles, and this is about gangs, country lines and crime. The link to register for this free webinar is in the poster and you are encouraged to join if these issues are a concern to you.

As always, we wish you all a safe and restful weekend.

All at Arena.

Arena Academy

Beeches Road
Birmingham
West Midlands
B42 2PY

tel: 0121 729 7310

email: enquiry@arena-birmingham.academy

www.arena-birmingham.academy

 @COREArenaAcad

 @core_arena_academy

Student Survey

We are giving students the opportunity to express their views about their learning experience and overall well-being after the recent period of disruption.

Our aim is to provide insights regarding these topics so that we can construct sustainable action plans that will support our students and contribute to a nationwide study on this important issue.



To help us with this, we're working together with the Edurio survey platform.

Students will be completing the surveys in form time from May 10th. Surveys are completely anonymous and confidential, though the responses will be aggregated for the purpose of analysis.

If you have any concerns please contact Mr Parker on jparker@arena-birmingham.academy

Health

In a bid to support healthy lifestyles we want to encourage you to drink more water.

Therefore, as of next week students are not allowed to bring fizzy, sugary or energy drinks in to school. Any banned drinks will be confiscated and disposed of.

For more information please watch this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkPfe2LpF20>



Immunisations

We have a few dates for your diaries regarding HPV immunisations in school.

Tuesday 11th May – Year 10 ‘mop up’ immunisations for those who missed their injection previously

Wednesday 12th May – Year 8 immunisations

Thursday 13th May – Year 8 immunisations



National Tutoring Programme

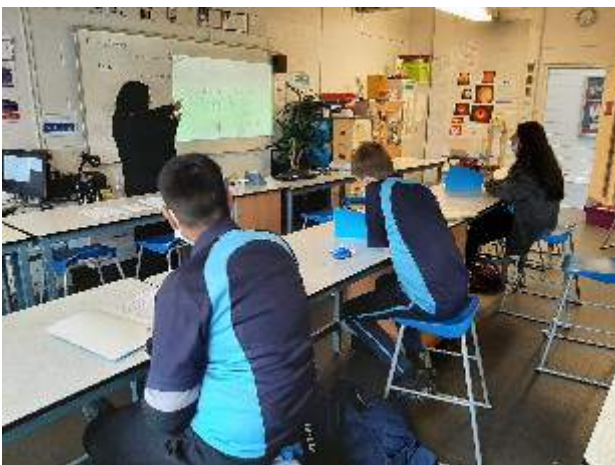
National
Tutoring
Programme

As we have mentioned previously in these newsletters, we are acutely aware of the impact that two lockdowns may have had on our students in terms of their education.

We are determined that no student will be left educationally disadvantaged because of any missed classroom time. So many of our students engaged fully with our online learning provision during the lockdowns but we all know that nothing replaces the teaching that takes place within the classroom.

We are putting together a full recovery plan of action to close any gaps that have opened up, and one part of that is additional tutoring. Arena is investing heavily in the government's National Tutoring Programme which we are trialling for the remainder of this term.

Additional tutors in English, Maths, Science, French and Humanities are being drafted in to spend additional time with small groups of students. Our aim is to give all students at Arena time with a tutor over the course of the next 16 months.



Students are nominated by their teachers and heads of faculties in the first instance and they are then assigned a tutor for 15 hours in 1.5 hour blocks of time, once per week.

The students on the first year 8 cohort have said that it is a big help to go over work they have done already to reinforce that knowledge and also to introduce them to new concepts in readiness for when they do it in their timetabled maths lesson.

We are aware that many parents - and indeed many students - are very keen to be part of the tutoring programme and we are committed to ensuring that everyone is included, though as we're sure you appreciate, this will take time. If your child has not yet been contacted, please do not worry. Our recovery programme has many facets of which this is just one, and it will take time for us to get to everyone.



If you wish to read more about the impact of tutoring, here is a link to the research conducted by the Education Endowment Foundation:

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidence-summaries/teaching-learning-toolkit/small-group-tuition/>

VE Day Celebrations

Tomorrow - Saturday the 8th May - marks the 76th anniversary of VE Day, so we are celebrating and commemorating those events from 1945 in school.

Miss van Deventer planned an assembly for the whole school and lessons that were delivered throughout the day. Students were learning about the impact that World War II had on the people of the UK and what the war ending meant to those people.



COVID-19 Testing

Thank you to everyone for the continued twice-weekly testing for COVID-19. As the country continues to make great strides towards where we all want to be, it is essential that we do not become complacent. Please continue testing twice a week, Sundays and Tuesdays, and recording the results both on the NHS page and on our own school page.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.arena-birmingham.academy/home-covid-testing/>

HOME-COVID TESTING

Home-COVID Testing

Home-COVID TESTING

Home-COVID Testing

Home-COVID Testing

Home-COVID Testing

Home-COVID Testing

Home-COVID Testing

Home-COVID Testing

Home-COVID Testing

Home-COVID Testing

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.

How many tests do I need for a week COVID-19 test kit

1. Wash your hands
2. Open the test kit
3. Dip the test strip in the test solution
4. Read the results

If you are running low on testing kits, please contact Mr Newman at Arena on mnewman@arena-birmingham.academy

Family Literacy

with

**ARENA
ACADEMY**

We all understand the significance reading has on a child early on in life. We sit with our toddlers and read them story after story, hoping they absorb the words and phrases we use, hoping they are able to decipher sentences and understand what is being said, hoping it expands and nurtures a creative and curious mind. We often forget that as our children grow up, their minds are still sponges and the benefits of reading do not disappear as soon as they become teens! As families we should encourage our learners to engage

Family reading tips:

1. Ask your child to read aloud to you, whether it is a book, a film review or even their homework!
2. Read your favourite stories with your children and discuss themes and topics that may arise.
3. Take a trip to your local Waterstones, Rymans or even library. Make a day out of



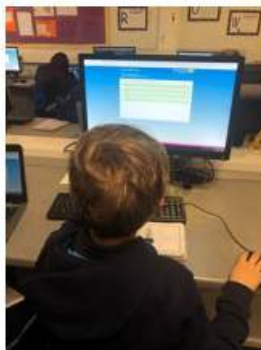
On the 23rd April 2021, we celebrated the 456th birthday of the infamous playwright William Shakespeare! To commemorate the wonderful plays and sonnets, the commonly used phrases we use unknowingly today and his heavy hand on our English curriculum, we honoured him with an entire day of Shakespeare inspired lessons!

Our pupils created their own versions of his plays through various different forms, whether it be a text conversation, a drama piece or even through Art!



Our school is using this program to help our learners become a better reader. Reading Plus facilitates the development of skills required to be proficient readers and lifelong learners. Through regular Reading Plus practice, reading will become easier, comprehension will increase, and your student will make meaningful connections between reading and learning. This is currently being trialled with forms 7NYE and 7MLO for the next six weeks during form time.

To learn more about Reading Plus, visit www.readingplus.com.



Word of the
Week

Versatile

This weeks WOTF links directly to National Superhero Day celebrated on the 28th April 2021.



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

COVID Relief News from Birmingham City Council



Families are telling us about the many challenges they face, and their concerns as a direct result of Coronavirus. So as partners across Birmingham we are connecting together to support families who want early help.

The following sectors are connecting together in ten localities: community, voluntary and faith sectors, health, family support, social work, police, schools, further education, nurseries, children's centres, health visitors and GPs.

Emergency food and fuel assistance for families

Emergency food and fuel assistance and early help is available for families. The grant limit has now been raised to £100.

A reminder that Birmingham City Council has announced £100k to be distributed in localities, and free school meals vouchers that are being sent direct to schools by Sodexo.

How to access the assistance:

If you are working with a vulnerable family that requires some extra help or has complex needs, then please get in touch with your Locality Lead (see our [list of the ten Locality Leads](#)) who will help.

Birmingham Children's Partners are grateful for your help to support families through these difficult times, we are all part of the early help system for families.

COVID-19 support in ten localities

Each area has a voluntary sector Locality Lead and staff from a range of services, see our [list of the ten Locality Leads](#).

The ten Locality Leads have close relationships with partners and communities, so they can help the whole family.

For example: provide family support, give advice and guidance including linking to food banks, connect families to the professionals who can support them and coordinate the help, support early help assessments, connect families into the local community resources to help families to be more resilient, and give small grants for emergency food assistance.

COVID Relief News from Birmingham City Council

From Birmingham

With Love



VOUCHER

FOR ALL PARENTS CARERS &
GRANDPARENTS

to help with children
from bump to 19

**ONLINE
PARENTING
COURSES
worth £88**

[https://inourplace.heiapply.com/
online-learning](https://inourplace.heiapply.com/online-learning)

access code = community

Birmingham Children's Partnership

BCC have pre-paid for every parent in Birmingham to access a [parenting course](#).

Just enter the access code "COMMUNITY" at the top of the page to claim.

There are courses for parents, carers and grandparents of children from bump to 19.

Learn about how your child develops, and get tips to manage their behaviour.

Available Funding

Birmingham's [Local Welfare Provision](#) scheme helps vulnerable people in short-term crisis with food and essential items. It is grant-based, which means people who receive help from it will not have to repay anything. It is not intended to replace the councils' statutory duties.

The scheme is funded on an annual basis and once the fund has been exhausted for that financial year, there will be no further awards.

The scheme is purely discretionary and people have no statutory right to an award.

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 deglamorise 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

[Click HERE to register for the 13th May](#)

Thursday 13th May 2021

5-6pm

St Giles

Turning a past into a future

St Giles is a registered charity No 801355.

St Giles Head office, 64-68 Camberwell Church St, London, SE5 8JH

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: sosplus@stgilesst.org.uk

T: 020 7708 8047

All other information

E: SCSP1us4admin@stgilesst.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>

