

Dear Families,

It has been a positive week at Arena, with students settling back into routines and showing great engagement in lessons. Within the SEND team, our focus has been raising awareness so that every child feels Arena is a place where they belong.

### **Everybody Belongs – Whole School Assemblies**

This week, I delivered assemblies on the theme of “*Everybody Belongs*.” We spoke about respecting differences and recognising that some students face “daily struggles” linked to SEND. The assemblies encouraged students to support each other and reinforced our message that Arena must be a safe and inclusive school. I was proud to see how engaged students were, and I am confident this will make a positive difference to the experiences of our children with SEND.

### **Spotlight on ADHD**

ADHD is something we see regularly at Arena. It affects focus, organisation, impulsivity, and emotional regulation. We know this can be challenging for families, and we want you to know we understand.

Every child with ADHD at Arena has a Learner Support Plan so teachers know their needs, with strategies in place to support them consistently. At home, parents often find it helpful to use routines and visual schedules, break tasks into smaller steps, give regular movement breaks, and create a calm space to self-regulate.

Local support includes the ADHD Foundation Birmingham Hub, Forward Thinking Birmingham, and Barnardo’s ADHD Parenting Courses. A free six-week course, “*Nurturing ADHD Kids*,” begins in November 2025 and comes highly recommended by families.

### **Can Schools Diagnose Dyslexia?**

Dyslexia is a lifelong learning difficulty affecting reading, writing, and spelling. Common signs include difficulty decoding words, slow reading speed, and challenges with spelling and memory. Schools cannot diagnose dyslexia, this can only be done privately or externally, but a diagnosis is not needed for support.

At Arena, strategies such as larger print, step-by-step instructions, scaffolds, and extra processing time are used with all students. Those with a diagnosis may also be supported with Reader Pens or coloured overlays. Alongside this, we run interventions such as Reading Plus and Fresh Start, reflecting our whole-school focus on improving literacy for every child.

### **Understanding EHCPs**

An EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan) is a legal document for children with complex needs, setting out the support they must receive in school, health, and care. As SENDCo, I carefully review each case to judge whether an application is likely to succeed. Families often ask us to initiate the process, but you also have the right to apply directly. Once submitted, the Local Authority will ask me to complete the school's section. More information is available here:

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/education-health-and-care-plan/how-to-request-an-ehcp/>

### **Year 11 Mocks and Access Arrangements**

Mock exams are approaching in over 3 weeks' time. Most SEND students already have access arrangements, and if used last year, they will continue in these mocks. We have booked our external assessor to complete formal reviews before Christmas, as they have the final say on entitlement to adjustments such as 25% extra time. This ensures all students receive the right support for success.

### **Looking Ahead – NGRT and PASS Results**

Next week, students will receive results from the NGRT (New Group Reading Test) and PASS (Pupil Attitudes to Self and School) surveys. NGRT gives us a picture of reading ability, while PASS highlights how students feel about themselves and school. Both results will be added to Learner Support Plans, giving teachers a clearer understanding of each child's needs.

### **Further Information and Contact**

To learn more about SEND support at Arena, please visit:

<https://www.corearena.academy/our-academy/send/>

If you have concerns about your child's provision, please use this feedback form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/BB9XTeCPF7>

You may also contact my line manager, Mrs Kilroy (Assistant Headteacher – Inclusion & Safeguarding), if you feel your concerns are not being met.

### **Final Message**

Parenting a child with SEND can feel like a balancing act, but please know you are not alone. We are here to work in partnership with you. Thank you for your continued support as we look forward to a successful year for every child.

Best wishes,

Mr Ahmed

SENDCo, Arena Academy



# Nurturing ADHD kids

This online 6 week course is free for Birmingham parents and carers of children and young people with ADHD or suspected ADHD

## LED BY ADULTS WITH ADHD

Does your child have ADHD or suspected ADHD?

Are you trying to support them but find that everyone gives you different advice?

In this 6 week course, you will

- learn about ADHD
- Understand the effect on our mental health
- Understand the reasons behind behaviours
- Gain confidence in advocating for our children
- Learn new strategies
- Help our kids be confident, resilient and be their best selves

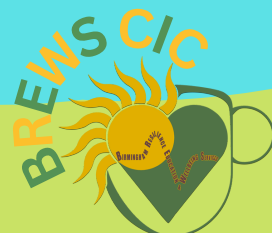
## What parents have said about this course

*This course is literally game-changing for parents, caregivers, teachers and anyone living with a child (or adult) with ADHD. So much misunderstanding, frustration and worry could be prevented if everyone had access to this amazing resource.*

*Essential course for any parent of a child with ADHD. It changed the way I see my son and my ability to respond to his needs effectively.*

*Very informative, friendly, no pressure, enjoyable sessions*

**Email:**  
**[contactus@brewseducation.org](mailto:contactus@brewseducation.org)**





# Nurturing ADHD kids

## NEW GROUPS STARTING SOON!

Free online 6 week course for parents and carers  
Each session is 90 minutes

### September 2025 courses

**Mondays 7- 8.30 pm**  
**starting Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Register [HERE](#) or use QR code**



**Wednesdays 10-11.30 am**  
**starting Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Register [HERE](#) or use QR code**



**Registration closes at**  
**5 pm on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September**

If you miss the deadline, email us at  
[contactus@brewseducation.org](mailto:contactus@brewseducation.org) and you can  
join the next one starting in November

