

Headteacher Bulletin 13th October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers and Students of Our Arena,

As you may have seen in the news, Friday was World Mental Health Day. Whilst these days are to raise greater awareness, at Arena Academy we believe EVERY day should be considered a Mental Health Day. To support students at school, they can speak to any staff member if they need help or support. We have counsellors in school who can help with any mental health related issues. Students can also use the Whisper system: [Whisper - Report a Concern - Arena Academy \(corearena.academy\)](https://corearena.academy).

Attendance – Everyone's Responsibility

Please continue to support our drive for students to attend school every day; every day a student is in school is a day of learning and connection with others. Good attendance is one of the most important factors in a child's success—academically, socially, and emotionally (a student with 95% or above attendance is twice as likely to achieve at least a grade 5 in English and Maths: [Insights Update: Understanding Attendance](#)). When students attend regularly, they:

- Keep up with the curriculum and avoid falling behind.
- Build strong relationships with peers and staff.
- Develop routines and habits that support lifelong learning.
- Feel more confident and engaged in school life.

Even occasional absences can add up and impact progress and we expect all families to support our drive for excellent attendance. Please encourage your child to be in school every day, on time, and ready to learn. For more information about attendance, please click here: [Attendance - Arena Academy](#)

Year 11 Mock Examinations

I am delighted that these have got off to a good start last week, with the practical examinations of Art, Music, Drama and Food taking place. From Monday 13th October, the mock examinations will start in the Sports Hall. Can all Year 11 students ensure that they know their seat number, the venue, and the examination regulations. The expectation is that all Year 11 students will attend all their examinations. They will be done in line with their GCSEs next summer, there will not be an opportunity for a student to resit their exam if it is missed. During the mock examination period, from 7:30 to 8:30am, we are hosting Examination booster sessions for all year 11. I highly recommend all students to attend these booster sessions – breakfast will also be available.

In class and formal assessments 2025 - 2026

Throughout the year, students undertake two formal assessments. During lessons they also undertake 'in-class assessments'. The dates for all assessments for every subject can be found by going to our website, clicking on 'Curriculum' and clicking the relevant 'Year x Examinations' webpage. Students should be using their Knowledge Organisers to revise for all assessments using the Learn, Cover, Write and Correct method.

Free Bus travel during October half term holiday

I want to make you aware of the travel offer which allows adults to travel free on the bus during half term. Transport for West Midlands gives details of how to apply for this offer. Hopefully this will enable families to get out and about this half term and get the students away from their electronic devices. [FREE bus travel for parents this October half-term | Transport for West Midlands](#)

Message from Year 10 student leaders: Halloween Disco - Thursday 23rd October, 6:00 – 8:00pm

Hi, my name is Cole, and I am in Year 10. I'm writing on behalf of the Year 10 Student Leadership Team, and we would like to invite all students and staff of Arena Academy to come to our Halloween Disco on Thursday 23rd October from 6:00-8:00pm. At the event there will be a DJ, games room and a Monster Market selling sweet treats, drinks, patties, samosas, and lots more! Look out for tickets and vouchers to purchase on ParentPay.

Finally, as the nights get darker, can I remind students to go straight home after leaving school, particularly if you have stayed to attend an after school activity. Stay safe and do not hang around the streets and park – please find attached a letter for more information.

Kind regards
Mr Mann