

Headteacher Bulletin 23rd March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers and Students of Our Arena,

To all Parents/Carers and Students who may be celebrating Eid, may I wish you all Eid Mubarak. As we enter the final week of this term, there are several pieces of information that I wish to bring to your attention.

End of Spring Term, Start of Summer Term

The last day of term, Friday 27th March, will be a normal full school day, finishing at 3:10pm. Students should attend in full school uniform and will undertake their normal lessons until the end of the day. It is not a half day, nor a non-uniform day, and all students are expected to attend and not start the holiday a day early. Can parents please ensure their child attends school as normal. As in previous practice, it will be DOUBLE CORE points day, and students can break out their dance moves to the live DJ at lunchtime. Students will return to school on Monday 13th April - all students are required to attend - it is not a Training Day.

Year 10 - Visit to Rome

Unfortunately, the proposed Year 10 trip to Rome will no longer be going ahead due to unforeseen circumstances. I appreciate that many students were excited about the opportunity. Despite this setback, we remain very committed to ensuring that our Year 10 students have the opportunity to take part in a memorable trip before they leave school. When plans have been made for another trip, we will communicate this to all Year 10 students as soon as possible. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Year 11

Can all Year 11 students ensure that they have their exam pack and all the revision materials they need for the holiday period. A holiday revision class timetable will be given to all students next week. Please make every effort to attend these sessions. An examination timetable is attached for March Mock examinations taking place on Monday and Tuesday of next week.

End of Term Celebrations - all years

Throughout next week, Celebration Assemblies will be taking place for every year group. There is so much to celebrate this term, if your child returns home with an award, please do congratulate them - it will have been well deserved. In addition, there are many students who be taking part in the end of term rewards trips. Can all students work extremely hard next term, I want EVERY child to qualify for the rewards trips at the end of the Summer term.

World Book Day - Reading

Our Arena was featured in an article outlining the work we do in encouraging reading. We have an ongoing focus on how important it is for students to read. I thank parents for their support with this and to ask them to continue to encourage their child to read

every day: [Schoolchildren celebrate World Book Day with literary character dress-up | Express & Star](#). Please find below some interesting facts about reading:

Reading facts

- Children who read 1,000,000 words a year are in the top two percent of achievement.
- Reading is the fastest way to build vocabulary. Children learn 4,000 to 12,000 words per year through reading.
- 80% of children have increases in specific areas of the brain when they read daily.
- 83% of children love or like being read to a lot.
- If children read for an additional 6 minutes every day, their reading performance will increase by 100%.
- 1 in 3 (34.6%) children aged 8 to 18 said that they enjoyed reading in their free time in 2025. Reading enjoyment levels have decreased by 8.8 percentage points over the past year alone.
- Slightly more children aged 8 to 18 said that they enjoyed reading at school (40.5%) than in their free time (34.6%).
- Only 1 in 5 (20.5%) 8- to 18-year-olds read something daily in their free time in 2024, again, the lowest levels recorded since 2005, with daily reading levels decreasing by 7.5pp in the last year alone.

As the nights are getting lighter, there is an increased tendency for students to hang around the park or shops after school without informing parents. Can parents please remind students to go straight home after school.

Kind regards
Mr Mann