

Headteacher Bulletin 2nd March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers and Students of Our Arena,

I am delighted with the manner in which students have settled back into school this week following the half term holiday, uniform continues to be good, and attendance has improved this week. Thank you to everyone.

Careers Fair - Tuesday 3rd March

All students will have the opportunity to visit the Careers Fair at some point during the day on Tuesday. We have over 50 providers who will be present including Sixth Forms, Colleges, Apprenticeships, Employers etc. It is a fantastic opportunity to become knowledgeable about any potential future careers you may be considering. Come prepared to ask questions, for example, what qualifications and grades will I need, what job sectors will I be able to gain employment in.

World Book Day - Thursday 5th March

Next Thursday, students will see staff dressed up as characters from books - try and guess what they are. At Arena we encourage all children to read - aim for at least one book a week. During form time there will be activities to celebrate 'World Book Day', would you be able to name your favourite book? Research suggests that children whose parents read are also most likely to read, so we would like to encourage parents to support their child by either reading their own book or reading with their child.

Year 11

There are only 35 school days remaining before the GCSE examinations begin and Year 11 should be making sure they are using the time wisely. Recently there has been a dip in attendance to Period 6 lessons, maybe it was the dark nights, but I expect all year 11 to attend and make the most of these sessions from next week.

Revision sessions will be taking place during the Easter holidays so please keep these days free.

If any Year 11 is feeling apprehensive and requires support, please speak to your Form Tutor in the first instance.

Advance notice - in previous years, students have missed crucial exams due to parents booking a holiday or planned a family occasion. Can I ask all parents not to arrange anything during the exam period - students have been working hard for these exams for many years and it would be a shame if they did not get the opportunity to sit them. The exam season starts on **Monday 4th May until 26th June**.

Year 8 Exam Week

During the next two weeks Year 8 students will be undertaking the second set of assessments this year. Teachers will inform them when they are doing their subject. Students should be revising all the work that they have done so far this year. The results will be used to assess a child's progress and identify which topics they need to revisit.

Important dates this half term

- Week beginning 2nd March - National Careers week
- Week beginning 2nd March - Year 7 + 8 PC2 Exams
- Tuesday 3rd March - Careers Fair
- Tuesday 3rd March - Parent Forum 17:30 - 18:00
- Week beginning 9th March - Year 10 Work Experience Week
- Wednesday 11th March - Rewards Fair
- Friday 13th March - Pi Day
- Friday 13th March - Opportunities Day
- Tuesday 17th March - Year 11 Pre-Exam Evening
- Friday 20th March – Cultural Diversity Day
- Week beginning - 23rd March - Rewards Trips
- Friday 27th March - end of term

A short half term but lots to fit in.

Kind regards
Mr Mann