



Dear Parents/Carers and Students of Our Arena,

I hope that you have all had an enjoyable half term and spent quality time together. This next half term is equally as short as Spring 1 - 25 days in total - so I want to take this opportunity to outline what we will be focussing on:

- Attendance to school – Particularly those students who are persistently absent from school.
- Year 11 preparation for actual GCSE Examinations - students to have a deep understanding of what topics they need to focus on and how many marks they need to achieve the next grade.
- Invisible mobile phone policy – if a phone is seen or heard on school premises, it will be confiscated with Parents/Carers required to collect it.
- Attendance to reflections – if a student gets a reflection, they must attend the reflection.

As is our normal practice at the start of each half term, we will be reinforcing our standards and expectations during periods one and two on Monday morning – Our Arena Way.

Attendance – everyone’s responsibility

We will continue to focus on attendance this half term after the improvements made last half term. Parents will have received a text message on Saturday 17th February outlining the number of days your child missed last term. It was pleasing to see that 594 students had 100% attendance last half term and didn’t miss a single day – well done. Early next week, all students will also be given a letter indicating attendance data for last term. Please click here for more information about attendance: [Attendance - Arena Academy \(corearena.academy\)](https://corearena.academy)

Year 11 preparation for actual GCSE Examinations

Students will receive their final mock examination results on Friday 1st March. These will show what needs to be done in order to improve prior to the GCSE examinations starting in May (**only 47 school days left until actual GCSE examinations start!**). This next half term is pivotal in determining what will be achieved in the summer. Support will be given to students throughout the half term, signposting them as to how and where they can access revision materials and help. Please continue to revise using the evidence based strategies on our website: [Year 11 Examinations - Arena Academy \(corearena.academy\)](https://corearena.academy). Also, please see attached poster giving information about the forgetting curve and to avoid revision cramming. For Maths revision, please visit our new Year11 GCSE Maths page: [Year 11 Maths Revision - Arena Academy \(corearena.academy\)](https://corearena.academy)

Invisible mobile phone policy

As mentioned in the last bulletin, if a phone is seen or heard on the school premises, it will be confiscated and placed in our school safe. Parents/Carers will be required to collect the phone, the phone will not be given back to a student. Please see attached poster.

Attendance to Reflections

Although the number of Reflections is pleasingly reducing, there are some students choosing not to attend. We will be focussing on this during the half term, firstly to not get a Reflection, but if such an occurrence happens, then students must attend. Failure to attend reflections will result in escalations of sanctions including being suspended from school.

Academic progress of Years 7 -10

The progress that is made starting from Year 7, puts students in the best possible position when they start Year 11. For this purpose, I have invited Mr Stephens to join our Senior Leadership Team. Whilst he will remain as Head of Year 9, he will have additional responsibility for the academic progress of students in Years 7 - 10. More information will be given throughout the half term.

Key dates this half term

- Friday 23rd February - 'Stand Up to Bullying'
- Tuesday 27th February – Collaboration Coffee morning available to all Parents
- Thursday 29th February - Year 9 Parents Evening
- Tuesday 5th March - Parent Forum 4:30 - 5:30pm
- Thursday 7th March - World Book day
- Friday 8th March - Opportunity Day
- Thursday 14th March – Year7 Parents Evening
- Monday 18th - Friday 22nd March - Celebration Assemblies
- Thursday 21st March - World Poetry Day
- Friday 22nd March – Last day of term

A lot to fit in this half term - let's get it off to a good start on Monday morning.

Kind regards

Mr Mann