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Headteacher: Raj Mann

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Friday 28th May

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of another busy half term, I would like to thank you once again for your continued support. Whilst the situation with Covid has improved, we still have to ensure that we are complying with all safety measures until such a time we are told otherwise. Please continue to use the testing kits and encourage your child to adhere to safe practices.

Banning of fizzy drinks in school

Students have responded exceptionally well to this initiative and again thank you for your support in encouraging your child to drink more healthier options. Hopefully, your child will see the healthy benefits of drinking more water or less sugary drinks.

Response to Parent Survey

Recently I asked you to complete a survey which would help identify the strengths of the school and what we can do to further improve the school. Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey as your opinions matter a great deal to us. In response to your answers, I have compiled a 'You Said...We did' document which highlights how we are going to address several of the issues that you raised. A copy of the 'You Said...We did' document is detailed below.

End of Year Examinations

Yesterday, all students in Years 7 to 10 were given documents which outline what they are required to do in preparation for the End of Year examinations. The booklets include advice on how to revise, the topics that will be tested and a generic examination timetable. Your child will be given a personalised timetable after half term. Our aim is to replicate the experience of sitting the examinations in the Sports Hall at some point during the two weeks. By doing this, students will familiarise themselves with the experience and not find it too daunting when they reach Year 11 and undertake their external GCSE examinations.

Year 11 remaining time in school

After half term, Year 11 return for just three weeks. Time will be spent in the first week ensuring that all the evidence is complete, with the following two weeks spent firstly preparing for the next step of their careers, followed by a week of spending time together in a variety of activities. The final year of their school life is not what we would have hoped for, but they have coped magnificently. Our intention is that they leave with good memories during their final week in school, with their final day being marked by a Graduation Ceremony at the start of the day, and a Prom at the Belfry at the end of the day. We wish all our Year 11 students all the best and much happiness for the future.

Sincerely,

Mr R Mann



Number of respondents: 245

Introduction

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to the survey that was sent out. Whilst the overwhelming majority of the responses were positive, there are always areas in which the school can improve. All the results have been analysed and the key areas for improvement have been identified. Whilst I cannot respond to every individual concern, I have grouped and summarised the key areas below in the form of 'You said, we did'

You said	We Did
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	
<p>Some Parents are not aware what their child is learning and what topics are being covered by teachers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information regarding curriculum content for each year group and every subject has been provided on our website: https://www.arena-birmingham.academy/our-curriculum/ From September 2021 every child will be given a booklet which will outline the curriculum coverage for each subject on a termly basis so you are aware of what you child will be learning. On Thursday 27th May, all Year 7 – 10 students were sent home with a pack detailing what topics will be covered in the End of Year examinations. In September each subject will publish a learning journey which details the journey of learning from the beginning of year 7 to the end of year 11. For an example of the Maths learning journey, please see: https://www.arena-birmingham.academy/maths-2/
My child has been bullied and the bullying has been dealt with quickly and effectively	
<p>A small number of Parents reported that their child had been bullied.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have partnered with the BIG (Bullying Intervention Group) to address any incidents of bullying: https://www.bullyinginterventiongroup.org/ We have created a new anti-bullying policy and framework which will be implemented from September. Once it has been ratified by the Governors, it will be shared with parents and pupils. A BIG (Bullying Intervention Group) will be formed next half term, consisting of staff and pupils who will lead and resolve any bullying issues using evidence-based approaches.

- The BIG will produce an anti-bullying charter to be displayed around the school so every pupil is clear on our expectations.
- A new software system called 'Whisper' will be installed ready for September which enables students to confidentially report any incidences of bullying, harassment and discrimination
<https://swgfl.org.uk/products/whisper/>
- In addition to the Head of Year, there will be a Year Group Coordinator appointed for each year to support with behaviour, well-being, bullying and other pastoral matters. We have appointed four members of staff to these roles, and I am confident that we will have the fifth member of staff by September.

Arena Academy lets me know how well my child is doing and the progress they are making

Some Parents reported they would like more information about how their child is progressing with their learning.

- We have purchased a new system called SIMS Parent App. SIMS Parent will be launched to give instant feedback to parents on praise, conduct and assessment. This will start from September and all Parents will be given training on how to use the app next half term.
- From September, Parents will be sent a grade summary sheet (Attitude to Learning, Behaviour and Progress) at the end of each term.
- Students in Years 7 – 10 will be given their End of Year Examination results in an envelope, so they experience the 'GCSE results day' feeling each year. Parents will be emailed their child's results the same day.
- From September 2021 all students will be given an **Academic Mentoring sheet**, which will be discussed in a one-to-one meeting with their Form Tutor. This will enable your child to identify their strengths and develop strategies for areas of improvement. Students who are of most concern will have an additional meeting with a Senior Leader/Head of Year.
- Each year group will have Personalised Learning Checklists (PLCs) ongoing from September.

The school makes sure the pupils are well-behaved

Some Parents commented that behaviour in the school needs improving for some pupils. Some Parents also commented about the behaviour of students outside of school on their way to school or on their way home from school.

- In addition to the Head of Year, there will be a Year Group Coordinator appointed for each year to support with behaviour, well-being, and other pastoral matters. We have appointed four members of staff to these roles, and I am confident that we will have the fifth member of staff by September.
- The current behaviour policy and strategies are being reviewed and updated for the new academic year in September. The structure of the behaviour, pastoral and well-being support is also being changed.
- We have partnered with Pivotal education (<https://pivotaleducation.com/>) the Behaviour specialists and are currently implementing many of their evidence-based strategies using the five pillars of:

- 1. Consistent, calm adult behaviour
- 2. First attention to best conduct
- 3. Relentless routines
- 4. Scripting difficult interventions
- 5. Restorative follow up
- Mr A Taylor has been recently trained as a Pivotal Education Behaviour specialist and is leading on a new behaviour strategy, Pivotal Behaviour Management, training teachers on strong behaviour management strategies.
- Introduction of more positive reinforcement strategies including:
 - VIP (Very Important Pupil) awards. Every staff member to nominate one pupil each week who has gone above and beyond. Names will be displayed on the digital screens within school and a text message sent home.
 - Hot Chocolate Friday. 3 or 4 students to meet with the Headteacher every Friday who have excelled in the week. They will be awarded a hot chocolate mug and other goodies.

Improve communication with Parents

Some Parents want more communication from the school.

- From September 2021 we will be holding regular virtual parent forums led by Heads of Year and Year Group Coordinators to give updates and answer any questions Parents may have.
- Currently weekly newsletters are sent out via email giving parents information as to events taking place in school and other key information.
- As mentioned above we will be introducing a Parent App which will enable parents to see personalised information regarding their child.
- The school website has had an overhaul and is being reviewed and updated on a regular basis; parents will be informed through the newsletters of any changes that are made.
- From September we are launching parents' groups which offers parents and carers the opportunity to meet up and learn new skills. We will cover ICT courses, literacy and numeracy programmes, as well as the European Computer Driving Licence.
- We use Twitter to provide regular updates. Please follow: @COREArenaAcad

Increase the range of activities for students

Some Parents want us to increase the number of activities available to students.

- As you are aware we have been very limited in the number of additional activities we have been able to do this year. There is no doubt that your child has missed out on many opportunities which take place beyond the classroom, sports teams, educational visits, external speakers etc. We have started to introduce some after school activities, and these will increase next half term.
- Information regarding these can be found on our website <https://www.arena-birmingham.academy/school-clubs/>

- In September we will also be introducing clubs and activities for pupils to undertake during Break and Lunch times. At the moment we are unable to do this due to COVID restrictions.
- I am delighted to say that from September we will be launching an exciting, new, CORE Cares initiative which will enable ALL pupils to take part in a range of activities, integrated into the curriculum. I will be sending out more details regarding this project next half term, but if you want more information, please visit the [CORE Cares - CORE Education Trust \(core-education.co.uk\)](https://www.core-education.co.uk)

Food in the Canteen

Some Parents would like us to offer a greater variety of food to students during lunch.

- We have employed a new award-winning catering company called Mellors: <https://www.arena-birmingham.academy/food-drink/>
- The regional catering manager recently met several students across all year groups to get feedback and consider the students voice in what they would like in their dining room. This has resulted in menu development for September 2021.
- From September 2021 there will be more variety of food available to all students. Mellors have been tasked with providing restaurant style food.
- At the end of this school year, we will be reviewing the new provision and inviting pupils to take a pupil survey to gain their feedback.
- In September we will be increasing the time of lunch and break so students will have more time to socialise and enjoy their food.

Staff Retention

Some Parents are concerned that previously there have been a high number of teachers who have left the school.

- I am aware that in previous years there has been a high turnover of teaching staff which has led to numerous classes being taught by several teachers during the year.
- This year we have significantly reduced the number of classes being taught by a non-specialist or being taught by more than one teacher. However, it has been a difficult year due to COVID and there have been, quite understandably, times when staff have been absent which has meant cover lessons.
- When the May 31st deadline for resignations has passed, I will be in a position to inform you how many staff will be leaving this year. So far this year, other than staff leaving for maternity reasons, **there has only been one resignation from a teaching staff member** who is relocating to Dubai. Another teacher had resigned before the Easter holidays to start teaching in a special school. This shows that staff are happy at the school and staff turnover is very low.

My child has SEND needs and the school gives them the support they need to succeed

Some Parents commented they would like more support with their child who has SEND needs.

- We have purchased a new system called Provision Map which is a comprehensive tool that will enable us to map and manage SEND provision more effectively and efficiently.
- We are also appointing an additional Teaching Assistant to support our SEND students



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- We will be sending a monthly newsletter via email to provide updates on our services and signpost Parents to useful websites/information.

Curriculum, options, and equipment/materials

Some Parents want us to improve the facilities available to students.

- Schools are not given a limitless pot of money and decisions have to be made as to the best use of it to keep enhancing your child's education. This year we have focused on improving the IT facilities in the school. I have now sufficient IT equipment to be able to deliver the curriculum effectively. Next year we will be focusing on re-establishing the library, additional texts required, revision guides and other support materials, as one of our key strategies next academic year is to improve reading standards and develop a love of reading.
- Whilst most of the curriculum we deliver is determined by the Department for Education, at Arena Academy we ensure that ALL students study a broad and balanced curriculum throughout the three years of KS3. At Key Stage 4 we offer a variety of subjects to ALL students regardless of their ability level.
- A full summary of the curriculum we offer, with the number of hours studied per subject will be given to parents in the curriculum booklet your child receives in September.

Recovery Programme

Some Parents wanted to know how their child will catch up with any lost learning during the lockdowns.

- Understandably many of you are concerned about the amount of time that your child spent at home with remote learning. Whilst we did our best to deliver the full curriculum, with live teaching in all lessons, nothing can replace the classroom teaching that your child would normally receive.
- Over the next few months all students will be offered a place on the National Tutoring Programme (NTP) and receive 15 hours of tutoring in one subject in groups of three pupils. From September, we will be offering additional recovery classes after school and remotely in the evenings. These sessions will be offered to all students, but students who do not achieve well in the End of Year Examinations will be strongly encouraged to attend.