

JANUARY
EDITION



ARENA
ACADEMY

OPTIMISM, AMBITION & ONENESS



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Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our January newsletter! We are delighted to share with you the many exciting activities that have been happening in our school. In this edition, you will find a plethora of pictures showcasing the diverse range of programs and events that our students have been participating in.

We are particularly thrilled to announce that we have recently received a UNICEF silver award in recognition of our commitment to promoting the rights and well-being of children. Additionally, we are excited to let you know that our food bank now offers fresh Jamaican patties in addition to fresh pizzas for our students.

We understand the importance of providing students with opportunities for educational trips and excursions, and we are happy to inform you that many of our students have recently been on trips that have greatly enhanced their learning experiences and broadened their perspectives.

We would also like to remind you about our half termly Parent Forums. This is an opportunity for all parents and carers to join us in helping to improve our school. We value your input and feedback and believe that by working together, we can make our school an even better place for our children to learn and grow. We encourage you to attend these forum and share your thoughts and ideas.

We hope that you find these newsletters informative and useful. In addition to these newsletters, we also provide regular updates to parents via Twitter [@COREArenaAcad](#), so please do follow us to stay informed about the latest happenings in our school.

Sincerely,
Mr Mann

COLLABORATION

Year 9 Options Evening

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Year 9 Options Evening, we hope your children were helped in the decision making for their GCSEs. If you would like any more information about subject choices, please don't hesitate to contact us.



COLLABORATION

Y7, 8 and 9 Flu Vaccinations



Reminder: NHS Nurses will be at Our Arena all day on **Friday 3rd February** for Year 7, 8 and 9 Flu Vaccinations.

Please ensure your consent forms have been returned to school.

COLLABORATION

UNICEF Outright Campaign

As part of our OutRight campaign with UNICEF, our Year 10 and 11 Ambassadors had training delivered by the NHS Birmingham Community Healthcare Charity. They were trained on the use of the Health and Wellbeing App. The App:

- Provides safe and verified healthcare apps for all to use
- Avoids people googling and finding unsafe advice
- Simple and easy to use resource which directs people to the correct healthcare apps and websites.

Our students will take part in a 4 step programme which involves the following:

Level 1 – Training

Level 2 – Take your knowledge home and explain the App Library to older adults you know

Level 3 – Community Engagement Event – We will support you to promote the App library to adults in your community at a local event

Level 4 – Put on your own event to help spread the word

Additional Training and Careers advice along the way. We are so excited to see where this opportunity can take us and are committed to helping to improve healthcare systems in the UK and around the world.



COLLABORATION

UNICEF Silver Award

We are extremely pleased to tell you that we have recently been awarded the second stage of UNICEF UK's Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA), **Silver: Rights Aware**.

The RRSA is an initiative run by UNICEF UK. The Award recognises achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school's planning, policies and practice.

We are so proud of our students and staff who were involved in the accreditation process. Some of the comments made by students can be found in the report which has been linked [here](#).

Achieving Silver: Rights Aware means there is evidence that:

Our school is explicitly embedding the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in its policy, practice and culture

We are promoting knowledge and understanding of the Convention throughout our school community

We are beginning to see the positive impact of these actions on children and young people, staff, and on the school's ethos, practice and environment

Children and young people are beginning to see themselves as rights respecting global citizens and advocates for fairness and children's rights, both locally and globally

We look forward to continuing to share our journey with you and hope to achieve Gold: Rights Respecting in 2024.



COLLABORATION



RRSA ACCREDITATION REPORT SILVER: RIGHTS AWARE

School:	Arena Academy
Headteacher:	Raj Mann
RRSA coordinator:	Shabnam Nahar
Local authority:	Birmingham City Council
Number of pupils on roll:	1050
Attendees at SLT meeting:	Headteacher, RRSA Coordinator
Number of children and young people spoken with:	10 pupils, some with leadership roles
Adults spoken with:	3 Teachers with 1 also a staff governor, 1 parent governor
RRSA key accreditations:	Date registered: 14 th April 2021 Bronze achieved: 11 th February 2022
Assessor:	Hilary Alcock
Date of visit:	17 th January 2023

ACCREDITATION OUTCOME

Outcomes for Strands A, B and C have all been achieved.

Arena Academy has met the standard for UNICEF UK's Rights Respecting Schools Award at Silver: Rights Aware.

COLLABORATION

EVIDENCE FROM THE ACCREDITATION VISIT

STRAND A: TEACHING AND LEARNING ABOUT RIGHTS

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is made known to children, young people and adults, who use this shared understanding to work for improved child wellbeing, school improvement, global justice and sustainable living.

- All pupils spoken with knew a wide range of rights from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). They confidently described why rights are important to them. They knew that rights are universal, unconditional and inherent. One pupil said, *"Rights are for all children under 18 around the world"* Another commented, *"Your right to your name, nationality and identity is what makes you an individual and different, but it's also what makes us all the same, because all children have these rights and they should all have them respected."*
- Pupils explained why some children are being denied their rights and the impact this can have e.g. *"Not having the basic necessities of food, water and health care or made to take part in war which means that they can't go to school, have their dreams taken away and they are not safe."*
- Rights Respecting Ambassadors described how they lead assemblies and share the Article of the Week resource with each form. Staff now incorporate rights into teaching a range of curriculum subjects. They also said that rights have a visible profile around the school.
- The headteacher described how a child rights base approach is having a significant impact on the school's development priorities commenting, *"Children are now at the centre of what we do...one of our values is respect and this is driving our school forward."*
- Parents are kept well informed about the school's rights respecting journey through regular newsletters, open evenings, displays and comprehensive information on the school's website.

The following recommendations were discussed during the visit to help the school to progress to Gold.

- Further develop staff and young people's understanding that rights are inherent, inalienable, indivisible, universal and unconditional, using language appropriate to children and young people's age and ability. Consider using the RRSA resource [ABCDE of Rights](#).
- Continue to widen the range of articles that the whole school community are familiar with, appropriate to children and young people's age and ability.
- Consider developing the school's strategic documentation to link to and reflect the values and articles of the CRC so that school development priorities and relevant policies include reference to children's access to specific rights. You might find [Articles in Action](#) a helpful resource.
- Continue to support parents/governors/families/the wider community to engage with the school's rights respecting journey.

COLLABORATION

STRAND B: TEACHING AND LEARNING THROUGH RIGHTS – ETHOS AND RELATIONSHIPS

Actions and decisions affecting children are rooted in, reviewed and resolved through rights. Children, young people and adults collaborate to develop and maintain a school community based on equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation; this includes learning and teaching in a way that respects the rights of both educators and learners and promotes wellbeing.

- Pupils were confident that adults in school as duty bearers are upholding their rights. One commented, *"We all have the right to be treated fairly and in this school we are."* There was consistent messaging from senior leaders, staff and children that since the school started its rights respecting journey and the language of rights was introduced that relationships at all levels have improved. One pupil said, *"We can speak more about our emotions now and we know that everyone should feel comfortable and protected from unnecessary disagreements."* A parent said that it was noticeable how older pupils interact with younger students creating a caring and inclusive environment.
- Students feel safe in school. The pupil Bullying Integration Ambassador group (BIG) are approachable and help to provide advice and resolve issues. All adults commented on how they now hear rights respecting language being used around the school and that using this alongside introducing a restorative and reflective approach to supporting behaviour expectations and sanctions was having a significant impact with far fewer negative incidents occurring e.g. in relation to bullying, homophobia and sexism.
- Staff consider that pupils are more respectful of each other's right to learn and the headteacher noted how rewards for positive attitudes and behaviours have increased significantly.

The following recommendations were discussed during the visit to help the school to progress to Gold.

- Create opportunities to explore the concepts of fairness and equity and ensure children and young people can describe how school promotes these concepts. (Outcome 2)
- Consider how the use of charters could enhance the language of 'respect for rights' so that relationships are seen as mutually respectful. Unicef's [Charter Guidance](#) can support this approach. (Outcome 3)
- Explore with staff and students the concept of 'dignity' – what it means and how it underpins policies, actions and interactions between everyone at school. (Outcome 3)
- Ensure that young people and adults know how the school supports their right to physical and mental health and wellbeing, that information is available and accessible to all and that they understand how this provision relates to rights. (Outcome 5)
- Develop the role children and young people have in engaging with their right to learn. Consider, with them, how they can be more active participants in deciding what and how they learn and what they need to do to progress. (Outcome 7)

COLLABORATION

STRAND C: TEACHING AND LEARNING FOR RIGHTS – PARTICIPATION, EMPOWERMENT AND ACTION

Children are empowered to enjoy and exercise their rights and to promote the rights of others locally and globally. Duty bearers are accountable for ensuring that children experience their rights.

- Pupils in the focus group consider that student voice generally throughout the school has been elevated. They consider that they are listened to more and their ideas and views taken seriously. The school has developed a range of pupil voice roles and groups. One pupil with a leadership role described how, *"We have regular meetings with staff and can speak with them and share this with other students. Freedom of speech is important in this school."*
- The headteacher considers that because of the school's rights based approach, *"It feels as if pupils have more of a voice."*
- Pupils have written to their local MP as part of Unicef's OutRight campaign to raise suggests ways to improve access to local health care provision. They have also raised funds to support children affected by floods in Bangladesh and held a Clarks ShoeShare event.
- To celebrate World Children's Day students chose an article from the Convention that is important to them and chose which medium to use to represent and shares these with the school community.
- The Eco Committee have undertaken litter picks as part of their sustainability focus.

The following recommendations were discussed during the visit to help the school to progress to Gold.

- Continue to provide opportunities for young people to be involved in pupil led groups. Ensure they understand how this links to Article 12 and participation and can articulate the positive impact they have on school improvement and the school community. A 'You said, We did' approach can help with this. Involve students with ways to share their actions and impact to the school and wider community e.g. through your newsletter, website and social media (Outcome 8)
- Continue to develop pupils' understanding of what it means to be a rights respecting global citizen. Support them to be informed about the world so that they are critical thinkers and challenge discrimination and stereotypical attitudes. (Outcome 9)
- Support young people to engage in a range of advocacy, campaigning and fundraising activities that promote children's rights locally and globally perhaps linking with Unicef UK's [Outright Campaign](#) and using Unicef's [Youth Advocacy Toolkit](#). For fundraising, consider involvement with the [Soccer Aid for Unicef Playground Challenge](#) (Outcome 9)
- Develop campaigning and fundraising activities from the perspective of rights, justice and equity so all children are seen as rights holders rather than just recipients of charity. (Outcome 9)
- Enhance ambassadorial activity by encouraging pupils and staff to promote knowledge of the CRC and the Rights Respecting Schools Award with other schools and in the wider community. (Outcome 9)

Silver: Rights Aware report

Rights Respecting Schools Award | UK Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK)

unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools

COLLABORATION



ARENA
ACADEMY

**Food Bank, Clothing, Toys, Fresh
Pizzas, Frozen Patties**

Every Friday 3.30pm-4.00pm


Warm Welcome

**Community members
come and join us for a hot
drink and a warm welcome
3.30pm-4.30pm**



COLLABORATION



OPPORTUNITY

Envision

Well done to all who took part in a 12 week Envision Programme. Envision partners young people with coordinators and mentors to tackle social problems affecting their community. By engaging young people in what matters to them, Envision support them to make change happen whilst building their skills beyond the classroom.

"Envision has been such a great experience, which has allowed me to improve my public speaking skills and my understanding of how important it is to work well in a team. I would recommend anyone to take part in Envision so that they can help others and start new friendships on the way! Moreso, I would also recommend that you practise your presenting and speaking skills to improve your ability to communicate more effectively."

Overall, my Envision team was fun and filled with interesting people that have become great friends, who have helped me learn new things. Charlotte our mentor was always very supportive, and I just wanted to say thank you for this opportunity."

Tyrese 10HCU



OPPORTUNITY

Etihad Stadium

Our Year 9 students had the opportunity to visit and have a tour of the Etihad Stadium.



OPPORTUNITY



SPEAKERS
for schools

Welcome to our New Year spotlight!

Currently open for individual student applications ...



Boots Camp – go
behind the scenes of
this iconic brand

Dates: 25/01/23 - 30/03/22



With you. For life.

Application deadline:
13/01/2023

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Who doesn't love
chocolate? Join the
team who develop
Cadbury chocolates
and learn about how
it's done

Dates: 17/07/2023 –
21/07/2023



Application deadline:
26/05/2023

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Delve into the world of
Digital Forensics, be a
Digital Detective

Dates: 21/02/2023



Application deadline:
03/02/2023

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Digital, Business and
Project Management

Dates: 31/01/2023



BENTLEY

Application deadline:
24/01/2023

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Navigating the route
into apprenticeships
with Azets

Dates: 09/02/2023



Application deadline:
20/01/2023

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Behind the scenes
of a live theatre
show

Dates: 16/02/23



Application deadline:
20/01/22

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



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SPEAKERS
for schools

Discovery Workshops currently open for teacher registrations ... *



Global IT with IBM –
How IT is changing the
world and the world is
changing IT

08/02/2023



Application deadline:
25/01/2023

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



International
Women's Day –
Women in
Accountancy! –
Azets

08/03/2023



Application deadline:
17/02/2023

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



What is the 3rd
Sector and what jobs
are out there?

10/03/23



Application deadline:
24/02/2023

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



What apprenticeships
are there in the NHS?

08/02/2023



Application deadline:
25/01/2023

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Curious about careers
in the theatre
industry? Join us for a
Q&A opportunity!

07/03/2023



Application deadline:
03/03/2023

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Meet Hinkley Point
C's apprentices
powering up the
UK's Net Zero
future!

09/02/2023



Helping Britain Achieve Net Zero



Application deadline:
26/01/2023

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



DISCOVER MORE WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES [HERE](#)
OR REGISTER DIRECTLY ON OUR USER PORTAL [HERE](#)

*please note that Discovery Workshops are for bookings of 5+ young people
www.speakersforschools.org

Follow us on:



OPPORTUNITY



Unleash your coding hero - women only event!

In-person work experience,
Cornwall Street, Birmingham.

14 March -16 March,
10am - 3pm daily.

Women continue to be under-represented in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and Kainos want to do something about it!

Do you want to understand more about the Computing & IT sector?

Do you fancy building your communication skills, problem solving or IT Skills?

Are you interested in Team work, project life cycles and learning Industry basics?

This is an exciting opportunity for you to visit the Kainos office in Birmingham, meet their people, learn more about the world-changing projects they work on and get hands-on experience of web development.

Using coding challenges, you'll then put everything you've learned into action by creating your own web applications.

Kainos want students who are willing to learn, keen to try new things and are enthusiastic. This will be a popular event and with only 15 places available, make sure your application stands out from the crowd!

Sign in and apply below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



IT Skills are essential for the Jobs of the Future, so get a head start on your next steps and sign up today. Kainos can't wait to meet you!



OPPORTUNITY

RE Debate Club

The RE Department at Arena are so excited to launch Year 7 and 8 **Debate Club** every Monday breaktime. Debating gives pupils of all abilities a fun way of becoming more informed about the world around them. Learning to debate reaps lifelong benefits and teaches students to:

- Develop excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Develop excellent critical thinking skills.
- Develop effective tools for research, organisation and presentation.
- Develop strategies to overcome fears of public speaking.
- Discover the confidence and desire to participate in all academic classes.

RE Debate Club

If you are in year 7 or Year 8, the RE Department would like to invite you to be part of RE debating society. This is where you will be debating current issues in the news and media.

The session will run every Thursday at break from 26/01/23. If you are interested and like more information, see Miss Kanwal (Room 6) or Miss Nahar (Room 5)

Benefits to joining:

- There will be chances to win prizes such as Arena Awards/postcards/CORE Points
- You'll gain debating and leadership skills
- Develop excellent critical thinking skills
- Most importantly, you'll HAVE FUN



OPPORTUNITY

Sports Council



Year 7 Sports Council



Year 8 Sports Council



Year 9 Sports Council



Year 10 Sports Council



Year 11 Sports Council

Students from each year group had the opportunity to apply to become a Sports Council Ambassador to represent their year group and the school within sporting opportunities. There were over 60 applications from various year groups and the following students were chosen:

Senior Sports Council Leaders – Evie Davis 11 SFE and Finn Bloomfield 11 HKA

Year 7 - Kian Davis 7BJE and Daisy Palmer 7WCH

Year 8 - Samuel Price 8 KRW and Tilly Corcoran 8KRW

Year 9 - Oliver Davies 9LFR, Alice Tattam 9FTI and Hanna Abba 9NYE

Year 10 - Kiran Uppal 10 SNA and Dante Hesson 10FBE

Year 11 – Reegan Pidgeon 11SFE and Grace Rogers 11SFE

The sports council students have all been assigned to a CORE Sports activity at break and lunch time that they oversee with a staff member to provide physical activity to all students if they choose to take part. The students have met to discuss ideas to develop sports provision within the school with suggestions such as interform competitions and assisting with primary PE to aid their leadership skills.

OPPORTUNITY

CORE Sports

CORE Sports activities are facilitated every break and at lunchtime to enable students to be active during their social time. Students can take part in football, basketball, dance, dodgeball and fitness activities that are overseen by PE staff and Sports Council students. Any student can turn up to these activities, preferably with their trainers and develop their practical skills within that specific sport.

CORE Sports					
		BREAK		LUNCH	
	Location	Year 7, 8 & 11 Break (10:00-10:20am)	Year 9 & 10 Break (11:00-11:20am)	Year 7, 8, 11 LUNCH (12:25 - 1:00pm)	Year 9 & 10 LUNCH (1:25-2:00pm)
Monday	Sportshall	Year 7 & 8 Mr Moosa	Mr Moosa	Mr Rahman (Daniel 11IDH)	Basketball Mr Moosa
	Gym Hall	Year 11 Mr Rahman	Mr Joyce (SL Kieran 10SNA)	Dance Miss Allen	MR Rahman (SL Alice 9FTI)
	Astro	Mr Stephens Mr West		Mr Stephens & Mr West (SL Finn 11HKA)	Mr Taylor Mr West
	Fitness Room	All years Miss Allen (SL - Tilly)	Mrs Joyce		
	Outdoor gym		Outdoor gym	Outdoor gym	Outdoor gym
	Playground	Mr Skidmore	Mr Rahman	Mr Moosa	(student led)
Tuesday	Sportshall	Basketball Mr Rahman	Basketball Mr Rahman/Mr Asad	Basketball Mr Moosa	Basketball Mr Rahman
	Gym Hall	Dodgeball Mr Moosa (SL Daisy yr7)	Mr Moosa SL Hanna 9NYE	MR Rahman (SL Samuel 8KRW)	Dodgeball Mr Moosa/Mr Asad
	Astro	Mr Stephens Mr West	Mr Taylor Mr West	Mr Stephens Mr West	Mr Taylor Mr West
	Fitness Room				
	Outdoor gym	Mr Zahoor (SL - Kian 78SE)	Outdoor Gym Mr Joyce (RBI)	Outdoor Gym (SL Jack 11KJO)	(student led) (SL Oliver 9LFR)
	Playground				
Wednesday	Sportshall	Mr Moosa (SL - Grace 11SFE)	Mr Moosa	Basketball Mr West	Basketball Mr Moosa
	Gym Hall	Tennis Skills Miss Allen/ RBC			
	Astro	Mr Stephens Mr Rahman	Mr West	Mr Stephens Mr Rahman	Mr Taylor Mr West
	Fitness Room	Fitness (all years) Mr West	All years	Mr Moosa (SL Kian 78SE)	Year 9 Fitness Mr Rahman
	Outdoor gym	Mr Moosa (SL - Finn 11HKA)	Mr Rahman	Outdoor gym (Student led)	Outdoor Gym (SL Kieran 10SNA)
	Playground				
Thursday	Sportshall	Basketball Mr West	Mr Moosa		Mr West (SL Hanna 9NYE)
	Gym Hall	Mr Rahman (SL - Samuel 8KRW)	Mr West (SL Dante 10FBE)	Mr Rahman (SL Tilly 8KRW)	
	Astro	Mr Stephens Mr Moosa	MR Rahman	Mr Stephens Mr Moosa	Mr Taylor Mr Rahman
	Fitness Room			Y11 Fitness Mr West	Y10 Fitness Mr Moosa
	Outdoor gym	Outdoor gym Miss Allen	Outdoor Gym Miss Fenton	Basketball Miss Allen	Outdoor gym (student led)
	Playground				
Friday	Sportshall	Basketball Mr Rahman	Basketball Mr West	Basketball Mr West	Mr West (SL Hanna 9NYE)
	Gym Hall	Miss Joyce (SL - Eira 11SFE)			
	Astro	Football Mr Stephens Mr West	Mr Taylor (SL - Oliver 9LFR)	Mr Stephens (SL Eira 11SFE)	Mr Taylor (SL - Dante 10FBE)
	Fitness Room				
	Outdoor gym	Mr Moosa (SL - Raegan 11SFE)	Outdoor Gym (SL - Alice 9FTI)	Outdoor Gym (SL Daisy 7WCH)	Outdoor Gym (student session)
	Playground				

Students need to bring trainers for all sessions. No eating in the halls.

RESPECT

Reflect Competition

A huge well done to Tosin in Year 10.

Tosin's artwork was beautifully constructed, with clear links to Survivor Testimony. One of the judges stated that her artwork had stayed with them beyond the judging process.

Tosin has been presented with a £100 Amazon voucher. Well done Tosin.



RESPECT

INTRODUCING OUR MENTAL HEALTH AMBASSADORS

Isabel 9MZA

Kayanna 8RCA

Iqrah 8RSI

Lewis 8JLA

Jolene 9UHU

Lacey Leigh 8DH

Maddison 8RSI

Saroop 8RBA

Lizzy 9MZA

Tia 10GSK

Summerlea 10SNA

Roseanna 10SNA

Anabel 10HCU

Khari 10TCH

Tashannie 9FTI

Gursharan 9LFR

Aathes 8RSI

Amelia 10LAM

Bharmit 8DH

Finley 7SHU

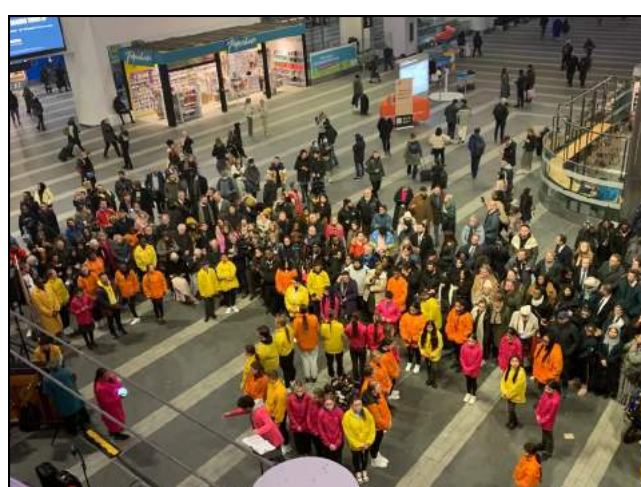
Maymunah 8RSI



RESPECT

Echo Eternal Horizons 2023: Ordinary People

Students from all of our CORE schools came together on Thursday 26th January, working with Birmingham Opera Company and Autin Dance Theatre to explore how we can bring Survivor testimonies and echoes to larger public audiences and spaces. They performed live at Grand Central. The event was a huge success.



EXCELLENCE

Childnet Digital Champion

Parina, our Head Student, was interviewed and successfully became a Childnet Digital Champion. Parina and her fellow Digital Champions had a meeting at Google Headquarters in London planning for Safer Internet Day, discussing online safety modules for Key Stage 2 students.



EXCELLENCE

Reward Trips

Throughout January, students who had 100% attendance and had not received any sanctions throughout Autumn Term were taken Ice Skating.

Well done to all you!!

