



ARENA
ACADEMY

SEND NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2023

Proudly sponsored by CORE Education Trust

Dear parents and carers,

I'm excited to start the new calendar year with our termly SEND Newsletter which will provide you with information about the SEND provision at Arena Academy. Here at Arena, we ensure that all of our students receive an education that is appropriate to their needs, promotes high standards, and the fulfilment of potential. We welcome all students from the local community, and want to offer everyone the opportunity to receive an outstanding education.

In creating an inclusive learning environment, our aim is that every child will:

- Achieve their best.
- Become confident individuals living fulfilling lives.
- Make a successful transition into adulthood, whether into employment, further or higher education or training.

Further information regarding the ways in which we support our students with Special Educational Needs and/ or Disabilities (SEND), as well as useful information and resources on how to support young people with SEND in school and at home, is available on our school website: You will also find a link to the Birmingham City Council's Local Offer, which provides help, advice and information about the services available for your child.

You will shortly receive information regarding your child's mentor who will be your first point of contact if you have any concerns. Until you receive this information, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require further support. I look forward to meeting you at our Autumn Learner Support Plan Reviews later this term.

Mrs K Whitehouse, SENDCo

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Learner Support Plan Reviews

COLLABORATION

As part of your child's educational provision at Arena, the Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) department provide additional support and guidance to enable students to better access the curriculum and manage day to day life at Arena. This provision includes regular monitoring and 'catch ups' with your child's mentor. We will shortly be reviewing how well your child has settled into Arena this term and would like to invite you to discuss their Learner Support Plan. The Learner Support Plan details their learning strategies, intervention log and their progress target for the Autumn Term. The strategies and target will be reviewed each term by your child's mentor and subject teachers to reflect on successes, areas of development and identify any additional/alternative provision required to support your child's learning. You will be given the opportunity to feedback/comment on the provision and support, working in partnership with your child's mentor to develop strategies which best support your child.

Learner Support Plan reviews will take place on Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th December from 9.00 – 15.00. During this time you will be able to book a 15 minute review slot with your child's mentor. We understand that it may be difficult to take time off work for extended periods of time to attend these reviews, and have decided to offer the option of a face to face appointment or a virtual appointment over Microsoft Teams to offer more flexibility to attend. Appointments will be allocated on a first come first basis and can be booked by e-mailing your child's mentor. Further information on how to book your review appointment and details of your child's mentor will be provided in the coming weeks.

The form is titled 'My Strategies' and contains the following sections:

- Name: _____
- I like: _____
- Target Grade: _____
- photo: _____
- Form: _____
- Ambition: _____
- What works for me: _____ (with a green smiley face icon)
- What doesn't work for me: _____ (with a red sad face icon)
- Target: _____ (with yellow star icons)
- My Strategies: _____

SEND Coffee Mornings

OPPORTUNITY



We hope to be able to further support parents and carers through SEND coffee mornings with professionals, following the success of the Autism and Dyslexia sessions in the Summer term. If there are any areas of concern, or if you would like more information on how to best support your child, please let us know what sort of sessions you would be interested in.

These sessions could focus on Speech And Language Therapy, Social Skills, Autism, ADHD, SEMH or any other area in which you feel you need more support.

Please email **Mrs Bensely**, Trainee SENDCo with suggestions for sessions so that we are able to formulate a calendar moving forward and invite professionals to attend and support you and your child.

We have recently been training our SEND team on Lexia, an online reading platform which is used to support students who have been identified as requiring additional support with reading or have been identified with someone who may be Dyslexic.

If your child has been identified as requiring additional support, Lexia will be accessed by your child during their Reading Plus English lesson each week for Key Stage 3. Your child will also be able to access the platform at home to complete additional study sessions if they are able to.



The platform will identify specific difficulties for your child and target these within the program. If your child continues to struggle with this, it will identify a face-to-face session which will be completed with a Teaching Assistant in school to support your child's understanding.

Lexia® PowerUp Literacy® accelerates literacy gains for students in Years 6–12 who are at risk of not meeting College- and Career-Ready Standards. Proven to be up to five times as effective as the average middle school reading intervention, PowerUp enables students to make multiple years of growth in a single academic year.



In addition to Lexia, the SEND team have received refresher training for 'Read Write Inc. Fresh Start'. This is another platform which will be accessed by students during school. This will be completed over four 30minute sessions across the school week, with students who have been identified as needing additional support with phonics and early reading.

The platform will identify specific phonics difficulties to help your child read and identify the correct sounds. The sessions will include oral learning along with reading and comprehension activities to develop your child's ability to read. This intervention was extremely successful last academic year and will begin with the new cohort this term.

Read Write Inc. Fresh Start is a successful intervention programme developed by Ruth Miskin to rescue pupils age 9 and above who are below age-related expectations.

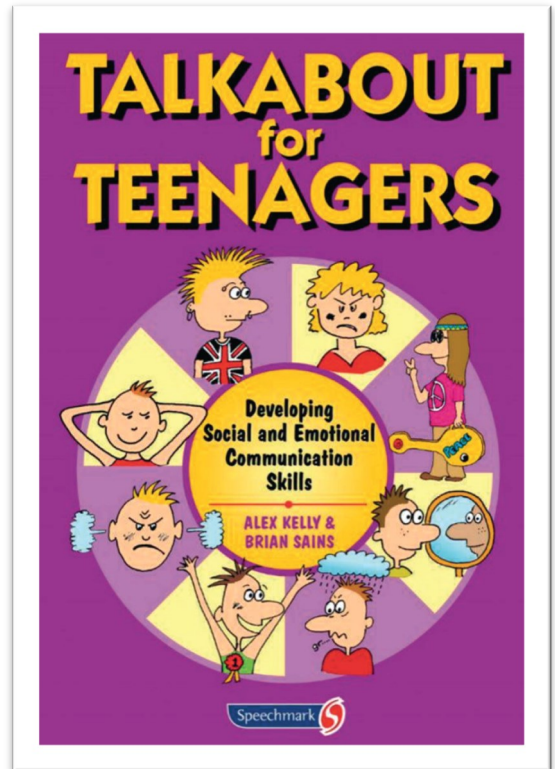
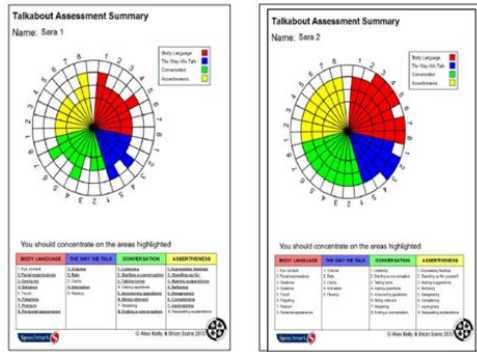
Social Skills Intervention

RESPECT

As part of our SEND provision at Arena, we offer Social Skills as an intervention for students who require some additional support to build their communication and social interaction skills.

The programme is called 'Talkabout for Teenagers' and is a bestselling professional workbook supporting educators and therapists who deliver social and relationship skills groups for older children and young adults with social, emotional or behavioural difficulties. The intervention is measurable with pre and post assessment tools used to identify progress and any areas of development.

The intervention is led by Miss Maher and is tailored to students individual needs. If you feel that your child would benefit from this intervention and support, please liaise with your child's mentor to discuss this further.



Speech, Language and Communication Intervention

EXCELLENCE

As part of our SEND provision at Arena, we offer Speech, Language and Communication (SALT) as an intervention for students who require some additional support to build their communication and social interaction skills.

The programme has been developed with our Speech and Language Therapist who acts as a consultant for our Speech and Language Provision. Miss Maher has been trained to lead the intervention which focusses on four main areas of need as part of the progression tool:

1. Understanding spoken language and verbal reasoning
2. Understanding and using vocabulary
3. Sentence structure and narrative
4. Social interaction

Students in Years 7-9 who require this intervention are taught individually or in small groups dependant on their individual needs. Students in Year 10 and 11 complete the intervention through an independent work booklet to ensure that their GCSE lessons are not disrupted. If you have any concerns or feel that your child would benefit from this intervention, please liaise with your child's mentor.



Support for EAL - CORE Hello

RESPECT

We are very pleased to be able to offer support for those with English as an Additional Language (EAL) through our CORE Hello program which is offered at all schools within CORE Education Trust. If you are concerned that your child has not managed to grasp the English language well, use some of the prompts as a guide for you to refer your child. Please email **Mrs Whitehouse**, SENDCo, for further information.

New to English	Early Acquisition
Silent in the classroom	Uses English for social purposes
Copying/repeating words or phrases	Some skills in reading and writing
Minimal or no literacy in English	May understand simple instructions
May use first language for learning and speaking	Follows day-to-day social communication



Mental Health and Wellbeing

COLLABORATION

As a school, we understand and recognise the increasing need for support with mental health and wellbeing for our students, as a result we are pleased to say that we have been able to secure a number of counselling sessions through Two Ten Therapy which will take place during school hours in our Welfare Room.

Counselling can be a safe and confidential space for students to explore any concerns or problems they may be experiencing, some feel it can be helpful to speak to someone with a neutral standpoint which can help them to make decisions in their current circumstances or help them to understand situations from the past.

If you feel that your child could benefit from attending counselling sessions in school, please email **Mrs Bensley** with a brief summary of need.



Parents Helpline: 0808 802 5544
 Website: www.youngminds.org.uk

 @YoungMindsUK

Support for Young People with SEND

COLLABORATION

Birmingham City Council Local Offer



BIRMINGHAM
CHILDREN'S TRUST



Help, advice and information about the services available for your child or young person from birth to 25 years with a Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND).

www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk

Communication and Autism Team (CAT)




CAT recognises that parents and carers are fundamental to supporting the children and young people they work with and believe that working in collaboration is essential to promoting success, visit the website below for more information.

www.accesstoeducation.birmingham.gov.uk/communication-autism-team

Educational Psychology Service (EPS)



Educational Psychology  Birmingham
City Council

A team of professionals applying psychologically informed evidence-based practice to support the learning and development of children and young people from birth to early adulthood.

www.birminhameducationsupportservices.co.uk/Services/4524

Pupil and School Support (PSS)



We work with children and young people with cognition and learning difficulties, and specific learning difficulties.

www.accesstoeducation.birmingham.gov.uk/pupil-and-school-support

Physical Difficulties Support Service (PDSS)



Physical Difficulties Support Service
Parent/Carer Information



PDSS can offer advice on children accessing the curriculum and adapting the educational environment as well as recommending resources and equipment that could help and support your child.

www.accesstoeducation.birmingham.gov.uk/pdss