



ARENA
ACADEMY

SEND NEWSLETTER

January 2023

Proudly sponsored by CORE Education Trust

Dear parents and carers,

I'm excited to start the new calendar year with our new half 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.

Last term you received information about who to contact regarding any SEND needs for your child. This person is your child's mentor and should be contacted in the first instance. If you are unsure of who your child's mentor is, please e-mail Mrs Whitehouse who will be able to provide you with this information. Contact details for mentors are below:

Mrs K Whitehouse	SENDCo	kwhitehouse@corearena.academy
Miss T Christian-Doherty	Trainee SENDCo	tchristian-doherty@corearena.academy
Mrs T Brookes	Teaching Assistant	tbrookes@corearena.academy
Mrs N Smith	Teaching Assistant	nsmith@corearena.academy
Miss P Maher	Teaching Assistant	pmaher@corearena.academy
Miss J Krawczyk (Miss K)	Teaching Assistant	jkrawczyk@corearena.academy

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy new year and look forward to continuing to share updates on the SEND provision at Arena.

K Whitehouse

Mrs K Whitehouse, SENDCo

Arena Academy

Beeches Road
Birmingham
West Midlands
B42 2PY

tel: 0121 729 7310

SENDCo email: kwhitehouse@corearena.academy

<https://www.corearena.academy/our-academy/send/>

[@COREArenaAcad](#)

[@core_arena_academy](#)

Learner Support Plan Reviews

COLLABORATION

It was lovely to see so many parents and carers at the end of term to review Learner Support Plans (LSPs). I hope that you found these meetings beneficial in understanding how your child is supported and what provision is in place for your child. If you were unable to attend the review meetings and would like to discuss your child's provision, please contact your child's mentor to arrange a convenient time to meet.

We plan to continue this review process each term and will continue to involve parents and carers in the review of provision for your child. Appointments will continue to be offered with the option to have a 15 minute slot of either a face-to-face meeting, an online meeting via Microsoft Teams or a phone call at your convenience. Hopefully this will enable you to attend and fit around any commitments or work. The Spring term review meetings are provisionally booked for Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th March 2023.

Name: _____ I like: _____ Target Grade: _____ photo: _____
Form: _____ Ambition: _____
Primary: _____
What works for me (with green smiley face icon) _____
What doesn't work for me (with 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. 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, PSS, SEMH or any other area in which you feel you need more support.

Please email **Miss Christian-Doherty**, 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.

Improving Reading

OPPORTUNITY

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

Lexia will be accessed by your child during school across two form sessions and during one English lesson per week. 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, we also have been training the SEND team on 'Read Write Inc. Fresh Start' which is another online platform which will be accessed by students during school. This will be completed during form time sessions 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 will begin at Arena in the next few weeks.

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.

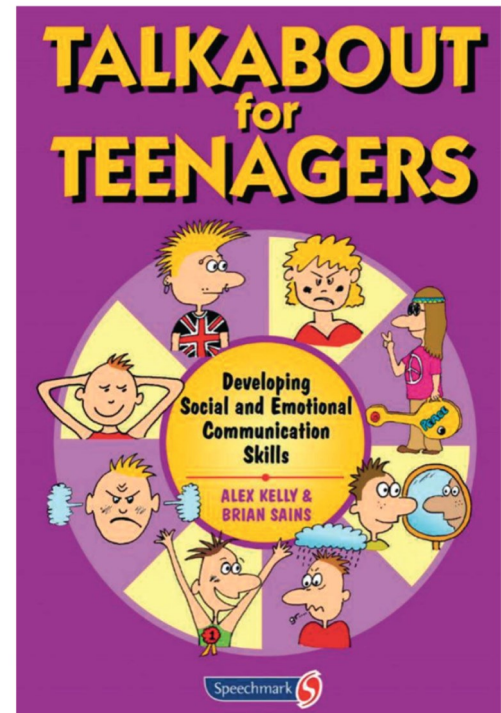
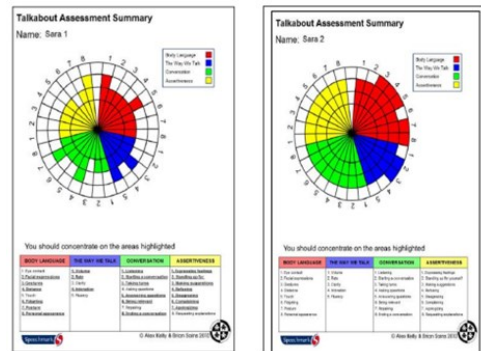
Social Skills Intervention

OPPORTUNITY

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 best-selling 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 OPPORTUNITY

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

OPPORTUNITY

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

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. 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 **Miss Christian-Doherty**, Trainee SENDCo, with a brief summary.



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