

SEPTEMBER
EDITION



ARENA
ACADEMY

OPTIMISM, AMBITION & ONENESS

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Message from the Headteacher

Dear all,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2025/26 academic year.

For parents of Year 7 who may be receiving this newsletter for the first time, the aim of it is to highlight all the amazing opportunities and experiences our students undertake.

This first newsletter is full of wonderful events that have taken place in September. It is incredible that in just a few weeks our students have done so much. The newsletter is always student led, and there are many examples where students show initiative and leadership – particularly the Year 6 Open Evening where they did us proud showing parents around the school and showcasing the best of Our Arena.

In every newsletter there will be a focus on reading. Students recommend books that other students may wish to read, the progress made in Reading Plus, and in September, students received their Reading Age results.

On page 11 you will find the extra-curricular timetable. It has a very comprehensive programme, with more activities than ever added this year. I hope that every student gets involved and joins in the fun.

We showcase the many talents of our students in the newsletters, our talented cooks, and tennis players, and I am looking forward to the completion of the mural—it is looking truly amazing and shows what talented artists we have.

In just one month our students and staff have done so much, I am proud of what they have achieved and am looking forward to seeing so much more in the coming months.

Enjoy reading our first newsletter of this year.

Mr Mann
Headteacher

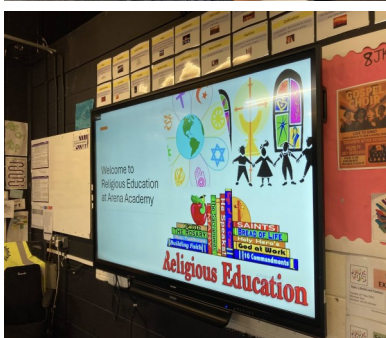
COLLABORATION

Open Evening

On Thursday 18th September we hold Our Arena Open Evening for Year 6 students and parents to visit the Academy. We presented the very best of each subject department from a murder mystery scene in Performing Arts to questionable looking foods and drinks in History...

Staff were assisted by our student helpers who parents noted were very respectful and helpful throughout the evening. It was an evening filled with excitement and knowledge as well as taster pots from our catering company Mellors who treated guests to samples of Cottage Pie and Terriyaki.

The evening was a huge success and we cannot wait to see familiar faces return in September 2026.



COLLABORATION



Tennis—Sporting Opportunity for KS3 Girls

'Sport for Life' will be coming in every Monday to work with Key Stage 3 girls in Year 7, 8 and 9. This is a funded tennis programme that all CORE schools are involved in. Students can develop their tennis skills during this time whilst having fun and interacting with others.

COLLABORATION

Make & Bake—Stirring up excitement!

Cooking Club is stirring up excitement—and some delicious dishes! Open to students of all years, in groups of 2 or 3, the club meets every Tuesday from 3:15pm – 4:15pm, giving some of our new year 7s and students who don't normally get to bake, a chance at a hands-on opportunity in a fun and supportive environment!

Each week, students come into Room 19, wash their hands, grab their aprons, ingredients, and their recipe sheets, and learn basic kitchen skills to discover new and nostalgic sweet and savoury recipes and gain a deeper appreciation for healthier eating but also some sweet treats too! From Chocolate Krispie Cakes to Shortbread and more, there's something tasty for everyone to enjoy. Plus, teamwork and creativity are always on the menu!

Led by Mrs. Dowe & Miss Dorsett, Cooking Club isn't just about making food—it's about building confidence, learning responsibility, and sharing meals with friends.

Whether you are a budding chef or just want to try something new, it's a great way to mix learning with flavour. Spaces are limited, so be sure to sign up early!

Bon appétit!



COLLABORATION

National Fitness Day

National Fitness Day encourages the nation to celebrate the fun of fitness and physical activity across the UK.

Why is fitness important?

Consider Cristiano Ronaldo. Ronaldo was born in a poor area of Portugal. His family did not have a luxurious life when he was younger. He also had to share one room with all of his siblings. However, he



used football and fitness as a way of keeping fit and distracting his mind to become one of the best football players in the world. Fitness has so many physical and mental benefits on your body!



What did our students get up to?

During form time and personal development, our students took a well-being walk with their form groups and form tutors around the astro. Overall, it was a grand and energetic start to a great day!

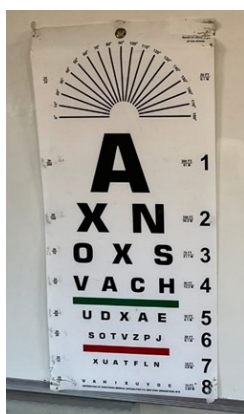
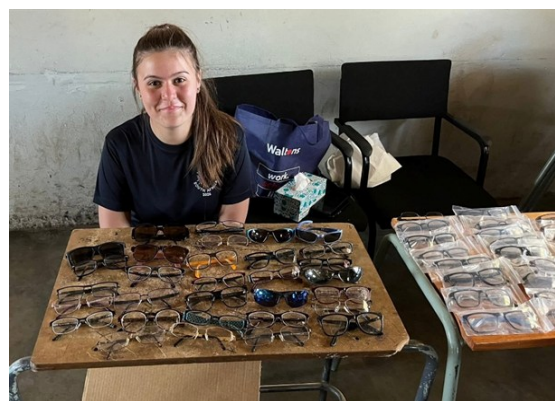
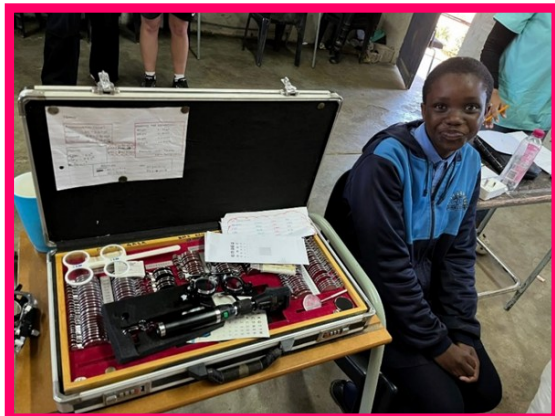
OPPORTUNITY

South Africa 2025 Recap!

Our fantastic staff and students revisited South Africa to continue their charity work with Shiyane High school, to learn more about the conservation efforts and how we can play our part.

Through the Trust's charity Spec Buddies they eye tested 42 students at Shiyane High School. They have now provided 27 students with prescription glasses and other students were given eye drops.

During the visit to Shiyane High School, they offered the students an opportunity to participate in enrichment sessions. These sessions consisted of sporting activities such as netball, volleyball and football. Arts and crafts sessions of bead making, drawing and colouring, mote and bailey castle building with play doh. Gaming sessions with board games, playing cards, UNO, chess, checkers and more!



OPPORTUNITY

They were fortunate to visit Lions Rock Big Cat Sanctuary and learn about the amazing work they are doing to save big cats from poachers, circuses', illegal captivity and conservation due to habitat loss. Look at these amazing pictures!

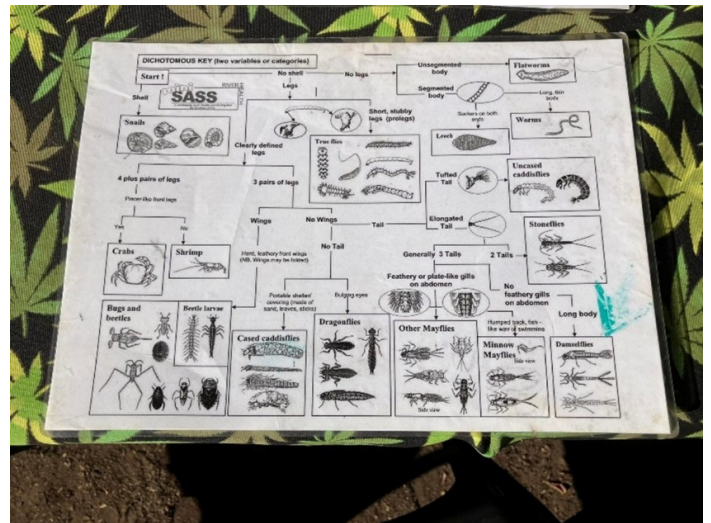
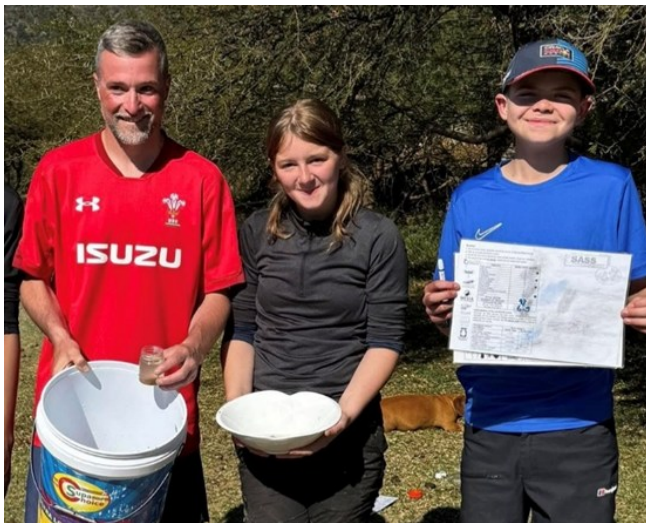


Throughout their time in South Africa our students experienced valuable life skills, but this was apparent during the Game Ranger Experience. This is where aspiring Game Rangers learn how to track poachers, spot wildlife, identify the animal by the footprint or the damage caused to trees/bushes and be self sufficient in the wild.

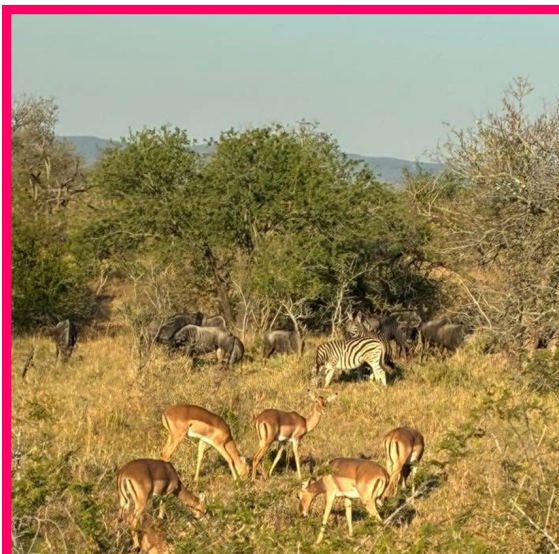


OPPORTUNITY

In Zingela, they had hands-on experience of river conservation and learnt how the organisms we find in the river dictate the pollution levels. Congratulations to Jack, Adana and Mr. Joyce who were the river conservation winners by evaluating their findings and correctly identifying the current health status of the river!



If you would like to find out more about the CORE Trip to South Africa, please visit or email Mr. Joyce:
B.Joyce@corearena.academy



OPPORTUNITY

Extra—Curricular Timetable for Autumn Term

Please see below for our clubs timetable. We have a great variety of clubs for our students to get involved with this term!

Extra-Curricular Timetable - Autumn Term			
Monday			
Breakfast Club	City Year	8 - 8:35am	Arena Central
Calm Colouring Club	Miss Fellows	Break and Lunch	Library
Guitar Lessons	Services for Education	9am - 1:20pm	Room 20
Art Club	Miss Freeman	Lunch	Room 17
Cricket Club	Miss Hazem	Lunch	Gym
Homework Club	City Year	Lunch	Room 28
Anti-Bullying Drop In	City Year	Lunch	Room 8
Board Games	City Year	Lunch	Arena Central
Vocal Lessons	Services for Education	12:20 - 3:20pm	Practice Room
Debate Club	City Year	3:15 - 4pm	Room 8
CoreUs	Miss McKenzie / Audrey	3:20 - 4:20pm	Room 18
Tuesday			
Breakfast Club	City Year	8 - 8:35am	Arena Central
Keyboard Lessons	Services for Education	11:20am - 1:20pm	Room 18 and 22
Homework Club	City Year	Lunch	Room 29
Science Club	Mrs Spence	Lunch	Room 139
Board Games	City Year	Lunch	Arena Central
Chess Club	Mr Zs	Lunch	Room 24
Reading Plus Homework Club	English Team	3:15 - 4:15pm	Room 28
Our Arena Boxing Club	Mr Rahman	3:15 - 4:30pm	Sports Hall
Make and Bake / Cooking Club	Mrs Dowe, Miss Dorsett and Mrs Dowling	3:15 - 4:15pm	Room 19
Music Club	Miss McKenzie	3:20 - 4:20pm	Room 22
Gospel Choir	Mr King and Miss McKenzie	3:20 - 4:20pm	Room 18
Wednesday			
Breakfast Club	City Year	8 - 8:35am	Arena Central
Whisper Wednesday	Miss Fellows	Break and Lunch	Library
Clarinet Lessons	Services for Education	11:30 - 12:30pm	Practice Room
Homework Club	City Year	Lunch	Room 28
Board Games	City Year	Lunch	Arena Central
Sparx Maths Homework Club	Maths Team	Lunch	Room 29
Athletics	Mr Taylor and Mrs Joyce	3:15 - 4:15pm	Astro Turf
Thursday			
Breakfast Club	City Year	8 - 8:35am	Arena Central
Film Club	Miss Fellows	Break and Lunch	Library
Drum Lessons	Services for Education	11:20 - 1:20pm	Practice Room
Homework Club	City Year	Lunch	Room 28
Board Games	City Year	Lunch	Arena Central
Handball	Mr Simon	3:15 - 4:15pm	Gym
Cadets	Miss Hazem	3:15 - 4:30pm	Room 32
Drama Club	Miss Alam	3:15 - 4:15pm	Room 18
Friday			
Friendship Club	Mrs Sweet	Lunch	Room 8
Chess Club	Mr Zs	Lunch	Room 24
Football	Mr Joyce	3:15 - 4:30pm	Astro
Youth Club	Sporting Elite	3:15 - 5pm	Astro / Sports Hall

RESPECT

Book of the Month: September 2025

The First Year by Matt Goodfellow

Nate is eleven and has just finished Primary School. After a challenging final year, life is looking up. His brother has recovered from a life-threatening heart condition, he's got his mum, brothers and Auntie San, and he's off to Secondary School with his two best friends.

But while he's meeting new people and avoiding Turner, his old nemesis, and struggling to come to terms with a strict new teacher and a sense of isolation from his brothers, a sudden surprise appearance in Nate's life threatens to throw him completely off course. And 'The Beast' - the anger he tries so hard to control - reappears. Will Nate find a way to keep himself and his family together?



If you liked The First Year by Matt Goodfellow, you might also enjoy...



Matilda by Roald Dahl



The Final Year by Matt Goodfellow

RESPECT



Student Book of the Month: September 2025

How to Train Your Dragon: Book of Dragons by DreamWorks

Dragons come in all shapes and sizes, with different strengths and weaknesses. But make no mistake, they're all mighty! Find out all there is to know about each species, like their size and special powers, in this guidebook to the dragons of Berk, inspired by the new film.

This book was chosen by Aiden from 8LAM!

Here is Aiden's review:

I like this book because it has a lot of facts about the different dragons. It made me feel like I was actually in the realm of Berk!

I think that other people would like this book because if they haven't read the books or watched the films 'How to Train Your Dragon' they might want to find out more about the dragons first.



Cressida Cowell's 'How to Train Your Dragon' series is available to loan from the Arena Library!

RESPECT

Arena's Graffiti Mural

We have had an exciting start to the academic year in the Art department with the graffiti mural project getting underway in the quad area. Working with artist, Si Wingfield (Wingy UK) a select group of Year 9 and 10 students have created designed and created some stunning artwork using spray paint, posca pens and even a VR headset.

The students have gained a wealth of skills and knowledge about graffiti techniques and developed confidence in applying these techniques and in their own creative abilities.

The students have excelled themselves so far and we are really proud of the work they have created. We hope they have enjoyed creating this visual art which will be inspiring students in many years to come.

Work on the mural will continue over the next two weeks when the final walls will be completed and the artist will create the final portrait of the chosen local hero. Watch this space!



RESPECT



MacMillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 26th September, we held a MacMillan Coffee Morning hosted by our very own amazing receptionist, Ms. Barrett. Macmillan's cause is one that touches so many of our lives, and your support helps make a real difference to those facing incredibly difficult times. Together, we've shown that even the smallest gestures — a shared treat, a warm conversation — can add up to something truly powerful. As a staff body, we raised £539 for MacMillan!!

Staff were able to enter a baking competition with their own home made cakes as well as enter a raffle to win a fabulous range of prizes. Congratulations to Mr. Bhamra and Miss. Van DeVenter for winning the cake competition! Mr. Moosa wrote a fantastic poem in honour of MacMillan, and the work we have done as a school to support this brilliant charity. Thank you to all staff who baked a cake, donated, or simply joined us for a cuppa and a slice of cake. Your kindness and generosity mean more than words can say.

RESPECT

MacMillan Coffee Morning—Mr. Moosa's Poem

MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT

Yo, it's cake day at Arena, the vibe's on fire,
Macmillan Cancer Support — the cause we inspire.
Brownies, cupcakes, cookies stacked neat,
Change in the bucket with every sweet treat.

Mr. Mann in the hall with that leader's pride,
Headteacher steppin' strong, always by our side.
Mr. Malik on the mic, energy so slick,
"Donate for the fight, yo — do it real quick!"

Big up Mr. Moosa, he's reppin' the crew,
Always bringing hype, keeping spirits brand new.
Mr. Rahman drops wisdom, calm but bold,
Heart full of courage, got a spirit of gold.

Shout out Mr. Amos, steady holding it down,
With that Arena Academy rep all around town.
Together they stand, the dream team's tight,
Guiding the students to a future so bright.

Now, here's Mr. Stephens — yo, what's this I see?
Cake crumbs on his tie, sippin' cake with his tea.
Brownie in his pocket, donut in his hand,
But no coins in the box — c'mon man, understand!

Still we laugh, we give, 'cause the mission's true,
Every pound in the pot makes a difference too.
And when the day ends, yo! the scene is serene,
Tina's smile shines brighter than the frosting's sheen.]

Arena Academy, we're raising the bar,
Macmillan in our hearts, that's just who we are.

Mr Syed Moosa

EXCELLENCE

Attendance raffle winners!

Students with 100% attendance each week are placed into a Year Group raffle. Students who win the raffle get a choice of amazing prizes such as canteen food/ drink vouchers, lunch queue fast track, 20 CORE points or automatic entry into the end of term raffle.

Congratulations to the following students on their first week back at Arena:

Year 7

Abdulla M

Year 8

Layla A

Year 9

Aaban A

Year 10

Renesemee B

Year 11

Leah B

Keep up the excellent work!



EXCELLENCE

NGRT Results

During the last week of September, students at Our Arena collected their NGRT (New Group Reading Test) results. The NGRT test measures each students reading skills. From their results, students discovered their reading ages.

Here is what students can do to continue to improve their reading skills:

- **Read 10-15 minutes a day (or longer if you want to!)**
- **Find a comfortable and cosy space to read.**
- **Track your reading—how many pages did you read today? Set yourself daily reading goals of 10 pages or more!**
- **Read what you are interested in (this could be anything!)**
- **Visit the school library or local library—they are free to use, and you can find many different books at your fingertips.**
- **Read aloud to someone as a parent/ carer or friend to listen to you read if you feel comfortable doing so.**



“Reading feels like a new experience or a new adventure in somebody else’s shoes.” - Amrit, Year 11

EXCELLENCE

Year 11 Going for Gold



Our Going for Gold evening for Year 11 students was a tremendous success. With a Sports Hall full of parents and students, it was excellent to see the levels of support and motivation from both parties. At Arena Academy, we believe that it is vital for us to maintain communication with parents to ensure the best outcomes for our students. Thank you to all Year 11 students and parents who attended.

EXCELLENCE

Reading Plus—Most Progress in September

<u>Reading Plus - Most Progress in September:</u>			dreambox READING 
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	
Dominic Waniya H James N Jessica-Louise C Joshua R Cameron H Mahi B Amaya C Adam P Anthony H	Emely J Szymon K Ajit D Alfie G Mason F Olivia H Jannat H Dhillon M Harvey W Evelyn F	Sofia H Zonnairah I Aviyah S Iona-Mae C Alicia D Grace P Max M Jesuferanmi B Elizabeth G Harlow S	<u>Top 10 Pupils Overall in KS3:</u> Dominic B Sofia H Waniya H Emely J Szymon K Ajit D James N Alfie G Mason F Olivia H 

A huge well done to the above named students for starting the academic year on such a fantastic high with their reading!

At Arena, we want our students to know how important reading is as well as wanting them to enjoy it. Reading can help with quality of sleep, concentration, knowledge, mental health and much more. We hope to see many other student names on the Reading Plus board in the months to come!