



Beeches Road, Birmingham, B42 2PY

0121 729 7310 • enquiry@arena-birmingham.academy

Headteacher: Raj Mann

[@COREArenaAcad](#) [@COREeducate](#) [@COREeducate](#)

Date: Tuesday 9th February

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of yet another extraordinary half term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. As you are aware the Government will make an announcement in the week beginning February 22nd outlining when schools will be re-opening. We know that the earliest date will be March 8th, but as yet we do not know if this will be all years. As soon as I have any further information, I will keep you informed.

Postponed training day

February 12th was previously scheduled as a CORE Education Trust Training day, however, due to our current situation this will not be taking place and it will be a normal school day. School will be open to pupils of Critical Workers and Vulnerable pupils, with all other pupils continuing with their remote learning. Pupils will break up for the half term at 2:45pm on Friday 12th February. All pupils will be required to log back into their online lessons for 8:45am on Monday 22nd February. If you require any support during the half term holiday, please do not hesitate to contact us on enquiry@arena-birmingham.academy.

Year 11 Results Summer 2021

The consultation period has ended, and we are awaiting details of what the format of the 2021 results will be. During this period of uncertainty, it is essential that pupils continue to engage with their remote learning and produce work that reflects their abilities. As soon I have any further details, I will inform you.

'Free Food Friday'

Due to the generosity of our providers, Mr Singh Pizzas & Thomas Franks meals, we are able to continue to offer free meals to ALL Parents on Friday from 1:00 – 2:00pm. Throughout this pandemic it is essential that we do what we can to meet the needs of our community, and if you, or someone you know, needs any support please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Student and Families Wellbeing

Over half term, there is support out there for families in terms of wellbeing and welfare. Staff will not be in school, however, the student welfare email address will be monitored during working hours over half term so please email us on student.welfare@arena-birmingham.academy

Alternatively, here are some links to support:

<https://www.forwardthinkingbirmingham.org.uk/services/13-pause> - PAUSE - Forward Thinking Birmingham

<https://youngminds.org.uk/> - Young Minds

<https://www.kooth.com/> - KOOTH – Your online mental wellbeing community

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/> - CEOP – For any online safety concerns

www.arena-birmingham.academy

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**DELIVERING A
CORE EDUCATION**



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Parent Survey

I have summarised the comments that came out of last week's survey and you will find them at the end of this letter. Feedback is always valuable to enable us to reflect on our practice and act upon the concerns raised.

May I thank all the parents/carers who took the time to write such kind and generous comments thanking the staff for all their hard work and amazing lessons during this period of remote learning. Staff are working extremely hard to deliver the curriculum pupils would receive in school to minimise the impact on pupils' learning remote learning may have.

I hope you have a safe and relaxing half term and I look forward to welcoming the pupils back to school in the near future.

Kind regards

Raj Mann
Headteacher

Parent survey responses

Thank you for taking the time to complete the recent survey. Please find below some of the responses to questions that were asked. Questions 2, 4, 6, 8 and 11 asked for feedback which has been summarised at the end.

1. During this period of remote learning Arena Academy has clearly and effectively communicated with families.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Agree	88
Agree	159
Neutral	37
Disagree	10
Strongly Disagree	2



3. Arena Academy has provided high levels of support to families and the community.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Agree	73
Agree	144
Neutral	66
Disagree	13
Strongly disagree	0



5. The content and information regarding remote learning on our website is both informative and useful.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Agree	64
Agree	158
Neutral	68
Disagree	5
Strongly disagree	1



9. Arena Academy has provided an effective education to your child during this period of remote learning.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Agree	69
Agree	158
Neutral	48
Disagree	19
Strongly disagree	2





The issues which received several responses are identified below. What we have done in response to each issue is outlined.

Technology and Equipment.

You said.....

Concern was raised about the lack of internet access, laptops, exercise books and other equipment.

We did.....

Technology additional laptops/tablets have been distributed to parents; Wi-Fi cards have been given to families; and many passwords have been re set and other issues resolved.

The school minibus will be parked in six locations on **Wednesday 10th February**, giving out stationery packs and exercise books to pupils. Please see the newsletter of Friday 5th 2021 which gives times and locations of each stop.

Improve communication

You said

We require more information on how often my child is attending lessons and what progress they are making.

We did....

All parents will receive a summary of their child's attendance to lessons at the end of each week. In addition, parents will be sent a summary of the quality of work their child has completed and their engagement in lessons. Feedback will be given by subject teachers on a more regular basis.

All pupils will receive a welfare call each week to offer support and determine if any additional support is required.

Scheduling and timetabling of lessons

You said.....

Pupils find it easier to access their lessons if the lesson is on their calendar.

We did....

All staff have been asked to ensure that all lessons are scheduled so that they appear in a pupil's calendar before 8am each morning.

Too many assignments/insufficient time to complete work

You said.....

Pupils are having to spend a significant amount of time outside of lesson time to complete all the assignments / classwork. Teachers are spending too much time talking leaving insufficient time to complete all the work.

We did

Teachers have adapted their remote learning teaching to enable more time to be spent on completing the tasks set. Staff have been advised to only set sufficient work that can be completed in the lesson.

Too much time spent in front of the screen/more short breaks between lessons.

You said....

Pupils are spending too much time in front of the screen, starting to have an impact on their mental health.

We did

After half-term the lessons will be reduced in length to allow for a five-minute break between each lesson. In addition, for pupils in Years 7 – 9 one afternoon each week will be 'Screen Break' time when projects will be set which can be achieved away from the screen.

Through our weekly training sessions staff are constantly sharing good practice, exchanging ideas aimed at improving the lessons we offer. We need pupils to continue to engage with the lessons by using the chat function, completing work set, and liaising with the subject teacher if the work is too challenging.

As always, if there is anything else you would like to comment on, please do not hesitate to contact us on enquiry@arena-birmingham.academy