



Beeches Road, Birmingham, B42 2PY

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Headteacher: Raj Mann

@COREArenaAcad @COREeducate @COREeducate

Date: Friday 18th December

Dear students and Parents,

As we come to the end of term, and before all pupils go off to celebrate Christmas and New Year with families, I want to take this opportunity to thank every pupil for the way that they have conducted themselves this term. It has been a term like no other I have known, and we have had to adapt to how the school operates in many ways. I have been tremendously impressed by how quickly the pupils adapted to the change in movement around school, the restrictions of the zones; the staggered breaks and lunches; the sanitizing, social distancing and the online learning when working from home. It has been a challenge, but everyone has responded to the challenge magnificently.

Although the operation of the school has been both difficult at times and different, there is still much to celebrate:

- Our school attendance this term has been much higher than other schools and the number of positive COVID19 cases low.
- The way pupils have responded to the Arena Conduct Cup, and massive congratulations to the winners this term and the 'Team of the Term'
- All the winners of Arena and/or Headteacher Awards.
- The presentation assemblies which celebrated some impressive work.
- The Drama production, the Music recordings and the work of the Eternal Flames have all contributed to the Pearsons Gold Award won by Echo Eternal.
- The attitude of pupils towards their assessments in Years 7 -10, and the Year 11 Mock examinations, was exemplary.
- The charitable nature of our pupils and families continues to be overwhelming - the mountain of food that was donated to the Food Bank; Children in Need and Save the Children has been a credit to you all.
- I am grateful to the Student Leadership Teams and the contribution that they have made to support the work of the school.

There are many more positives that I could mention that have contributed to the success of this term. Pupils, should be proud of what they have achieved and build upon the successes of this term.

You will no doubt be aware that the Education Secretary announced that secondary schools in England will operate a staggered return after Christmas, with all non-exam year groups being educated remotely for the first week of term. I can now confirm the arrangements at Arena Academy.

Students in year 11

Students in year 11 should return to school on **Tuesday 5th January** as planned.

Students in years 7, 8, 9 and 10

Students in years 7 to 10 who are considered vulnerable (children with an EHC plan, young people who have a social worker) or are the children of critical workers ([Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/critical-workers-and-vulnerable-children-who-can-access-schools-or-educational-settings)) should return to school on **Tuesday 5th January** as planned. If you are a critical worker and your child will be attending school can you please complete the Microsoft form using the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=55DRKCv6p0Cw09P6gNyQuggOx1RLBAVBsXyryVrWR2JUNINPVFRPREhEV1NSNFNM1o1SVpBVE8zSC4u>

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All other students in years 7 to 10 should not return to school as planned on **Tuesday 5th January**. Instead, they should log onto Microsoft Teams and join their lessons online. Their online education will be as close as possible to any normal day in school: students will register at the same time and have form time at 8:30am for Years 7/8 and 9:00am for Years 9 & 10. All lessons will be delivered live and teachers will be available throughout the day to respond to questions. A timetable and guide on how to use Microsoft Teams has been included in this pack.

If your child is entitled to a free school meal, they may collect a packed lunch each day from reception between 12pm- 1pm from Tuesday 5th January to Friday 8th January.

Access to equipment and technology

CORE Education Trust is committed to ensuring every student has access to a laptop or tablet device so that they can continue to receive a high quality of education. Should you need to borrow a device for this period please contact: onlinesupport@arena-birmingham.academy. Arrangements will be made to collect a laptop from school on **Monday 4th January**. If your child has any difficulties logging into Microsoft Teams or you have any general questions about online learning, please contact us at: onlinesupport@arena-birmingham.academy

I appreciate this news may be unsettling and I want to assure you that we will do everything possible to continue to deliver a high standard of education to your child, and to keep disruption to a minimum. Our overriding priority is to ensure the safety of all students and staff and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support over the measures we must take to manage the pandemic. **All pupils are to return to school as normal on Monday 11th January.**

Finally, I want to thank you for the warm welcome I have received since becoming the Headteacher. It has been a pleasure speaking to the pupils and getting to know them. I am extremely proud to be the Headteacher of Arena Academy, it is a school that I will lead and work hard for, in order to be judged Outstanding in every way.

Have a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas and New Year, stay safe and practice all social distancing measures

Kind regards

Mr R Mann

Headteacher