

OASIS ACADEMY ARENA

AUTUMN TERM 2023

NEWSLETTER



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the first half of the autumn term at Oasis Academy Arena, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on a busy and successful first half-term that has included:

- Over 3,500 academic lessons
- An in-school public speaking programme and competition
- Open evening - our students supported this with their leadership and musical skills, modelling the kind, ambitious and professional attributes they are developing to potential new joiners
- Two trips to Go Ape in recognition of students' excellent or improved attendance
- A Year 11 residential trip to the Peak District
- A wide programme of well-attended extra-curricular clubs, including a trip to an NFL game for students involved in the American Football club

I am delighted to report that our students have continued to excel in their academic pursuits, demonstrating good behaviour in lessons and dedication to their learning and growth. It is heartening to see their progress, which is impossible without the tireless efforts of our committed teaching and support staff, who consistently go above and beyond to nurture our students' potential.

I want to express my gratitude to everyone who has contributed to our collective success and extend my appreciation to the parents for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your children. Your support and partnership are integral to our mission of providing a safe and enriching learning environment.

As we look forward to the following term, I encourage our students to set new goals, challenge themselves, and continue to strive for excellence. Our commitment to fostering a culture of academic achievement, character development, and personal growth remains unwavering.

In closing, I wish you all a well-deserved break during this upcoming half-term holiday. Please take the time to rest, rejuvenate, and spend quality moments with your loved ones.

Jeanette Bell
Principal



KEY DATES

Autumn Term 1:
Friday 20th October 2023

Last day of Autumn Term 1 - 3.00 pm finish time

Half-term holiday: Monday 23 October to Friday 27 October 2023

Autumn Term 2:
Monday 30th October 2023

First day of Autumn Term 2 - 8.30 am start time

Saturday 11th November
Remembrance Day

Sunday 12th November
Diwali

Monday 27th November
Guru Nanak Jayanti

Thursday 7th December
Start of Hanukkah

Thursday 21st December 2023
Last day of Autumn Term 2 - 3.00 pm finish time

Christmas and New Year holiday:
Friday 22 December 2023 to Friday 5 January 2024

ACADEMY UPDATES

SUMMER SCHOOL

In the summer of 2023, we hosted a fantastic Summer School for our new Year 7 students. Over four days, the students had the opportunity to participate in a range of sports activities and make new friends, thanks to our partnership with Crystal Palace for Life.

The focus of the programme was on building confidence and teamwork skills, while also having fun and staying active. The students enjoyed a variety of sports, including football, basketball, and athletics, and learned valuable lessons about sportsmanship and fair play.

On the final day of the Summer School, the students were treated to a special visit from Tutor Master. They got up close and personal with some amazing animals, including a snake, turtle, and lizard! It was a unique and exciting experience that the students will never forget.

We're incredibly proud of our new Year 7 students for their enthusiasm and dedication throughout the Summer School programme. We can't wait to see them continue to learn and grow as part of the Oasis Academy Arena community!

Ms. Polyviou
Assistant Principal, Geography Teacher



ACADEMY UPDATES

PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Oasis Academy Arena's recent Public Speaking Championship on 27th September hosted by Dallas Leigh-Martene (Public Speaker trainer) saw exceptional finalists from Year 8 to Year 10 showcasing their persuasive skills. Year 8 finalists included Liam, Abban, Lily-Ann, William, and Robert. Year 9 was represented by Julia, Aaqil, Kyle, Mia, Victoria, Sahil, Theo, Cody, and Alfie. Year 10 finalists included Morgan, Sophie, and Great.

The overall champions were:

1st Place: Zoe

2nd Place: Sophie

3rd Place: Theo

Most Improved:

1st Place: Morgan

2nd Place: Sahil

The event also acknowledged student ambassadors, including:

Hilario, Drew, Carolina, Soraya, and Medina

The panel of judges featured notable professionals:

- Ms. Amy Foster, Shadow Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
- Lorraine Anim-Addo, PHD researcher in Education
- Jovan Young, former Jamaican Olympic Boxing Competitor and youth advocate.

A special shout-out goes to Mr. Andrew Litchmore and his team for organizing student participation in this remarkable event. It not only showcased public speaking skills but also nurtured leadership and self-confidence, emphasizing the importance of effective communication within the community.



ACADEMY UPDATES

LAKE DISTRICT TRIP

Twelve Year 11 boys recently returned from an unforgettable week in the Lake District. The boys had the opportunity to take part in a range of exciting outdoor activities, including hiking, rock climbing, river gorging, and even jumping off cliffs into the lakes!

The trip was a fantastic opportunity for the boys to develop their resilience, confidence, and teamwork skills. Led by an experienced course leader, the boys were challenged to step out of their comfort zones and push themselves to achieve their goals.

Throughout the week, the boys worked together to overcome obstacles and complete challenging tasks. They learned to trust each other and communicate effectively, building stronger bonds and friendships along the way.

The trip was a great success, and we're incredibly proud of our Year 11 boys for rising to the challenge and embracing this unique opportunity. We can't wait to see how they continue to grow and succeed in the future!

Ms. Dodd

Assistant Principal, Attendance Leader and English Teacher



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

We are excited to share with you about the Black History Month performance by our talented Music students. Following the success of last year's Arena's Got Talent, our students geared up for a spectacular showcase on Thursday 19th October.

The event featured a variety of performances, including spoken word, speeches, and dance. We had a special performance from our very own Arena's Gospel Choir, who will be sure to leave you feeling uplifted and inspired.

This was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and honour the rich cultural heritage and contributions of Black communities. We encourage all members of the Oasis Academy Arena community to come together and support our students as they showcase their talents and creativity.

Ms. Crawford
SENCo and Music Teacher

GEOGRPHY DEPARTMENT

Our Geography classes have been bustling with exciting explorations and knowledge-building activities. Here's a glimpse of what each year group has been up to:

Year 7

In Year 7, our students embarked on a journey to discover the world's continents and lines of latitude. They also delved into concepts like scale, 4 and 6-figure grid-references, distance, and relief, and explored the fascinating physical and human geography of the UK. Next term, students will dive into 'Social and Economic Development,' where they'll explore topics such as development indicators and fair trade.

Year 8

Year 8 students have been on a quest to unravel the mysteries of population and urbanization. This included the study of population distribution, migration, natural increase, and the intriguing world of megacities. As we move into the next half-term, students will explore 'Cold Environments,' focusing on topics like glacial processes and landforms.

Year 9

Year 9 students have been navigating the theme of 'Interconnectedness.' They've dived into intriguing subjects such as the 2010 Icelandic volcanic eruption and how it had a global impact. In the next half-term, students will turn their attention to 'Future Threats,' honing in on challenges like overpopulation and climate change.

Year 10

Year 10 students have been exploring urban issues and challenges in Rio de Janeiro. The next half-term will see them continuing this journey as they shift their focus to London, including the impact of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Year 11

Our Year 11 students have been immersing themselves in 'Resource Management,' with a particular emphasis on the significance of water resources worldwide. As we move into the next half-term, they will embark on the fieldwork element of their GCSE, applying their geographical knowledge in practical settings.

ACADEMY UPDATES

We're incredibly proud of our students' dedication and passion for geography. They are truly becoming informed global citizens. Stay tuned for more exciting updates as they continue their geographical adventures.

Mr. Nash
Head of Geography

CAREERS DEPARTMENT

Year 11 Interviews

Our Year 11 students have kicked off their one-to-one interviews with our independent, level 7 qualified careers advisor. These interviews offer valuable guidance and insights as students plan their future paths. Remember, every student will have the chance to meet with the advisor in both Year 10 and Year 11.

Post-16 Taster Day at Croydon College

Selected Year 10 and Year 11 students will have the opportunity to attend a Post-16 taster day at Croydon College during the second half of this term. This hands-on experience will help them explore their options and make informed decisions about their future.

Further and Higher Education Fair - 18th October

Our inaugural Further and Higher Education Fair was held on Wednesday 18th October. This event was open to all Year 8 - 11 pupils during the school day. Following the school day, we continued the fair for Year 11 students and their families as it was also the Year 11 parents' evening, offering families the chance to connect with educational providers face-to-face.

Work Experience Week for Year 10

Our team is gearing up for Work Experience Week, scheduled for the summer term of 2024, specifically designed for Year 10 students. We invite families who may be able to provide work experience opportunities to get in touch with Ms. Maguire at kat.maguire@oasisarena.org. Your support is highly appreciated!

Mock Interview Sessions for Year 10

In the Spring term 2024, Year 10 students will have the valuable opportunity to participate in mock interview sessions. These sessions will give them a taste of a real interview process and teach them the skills necessary to present themselves as successful candidates. Stay tuned for more details as we approach this exciting initiative.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to helping our students build their paths to success. If you have any questions or would like to get involved, don't hesitate to reach out.

Best regards,

Ms. Maguire
Maths Teacher and Careers Department

NEW SENDCO INTRODUCTION

I am writing to introduce myself as the new SENCO at Oasis Academy Arena. I am absolutely delighted to have been appointed to this role and feel excited and privileged to join such an inspiring and nurturing SEND department.

Last academic year, I was the deputy SENDCo at Arena and a music teacher for KS3. I have previously worked in a range of education settings including Special Needs School, Pupil Referral Unit, Primary Schools and Secondary Schools. I am a qualified teacher and music specialist. I am very much looking forward to building upon the strong foundations already in place and the dedicated work that the Learning Support Department has done over the years.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, either by email atlanta.crawford@oasisarena.org if you have any concerns or if you would just like to talk something through or ask for advice.

With Best Wishes,

Ms. Crawford
SENCo and Music Teacher

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SEND INTERVENTIONS

We look forward to our new academic year and the start of our new SEND interventions to assist in improving not only the academic potential of our SEND students but also their social skills and emotional well-being, which at our school is important and key to our student's success.

We have included a brief outline of some of our key interventions: Our Vocabulary Groups

WHY VOCABULARY INTERVENTION

Introduction

“Without grammar, very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary, nothing can be conveyed.”

– David A. Wilkins (1972)

Vocabulary is important across the curriculum. It is the foundation for comprehension – having the ability to understand what you read and hear and make meaning of is fundamental for the success of every student's education. It helps children to communicate in a more engaging way and gives them the ability to grasp ideas, interpret ideas from others and an opportunity to think logically.

Part of our goal at Arena is to develop our student's literacy level so they can communicate effectively – in both written and oral communication. To achieve this, the school has embedded the teaching of Key vocabulary in our curriculum across all subjects, allowing teachers to teach students the meaning of key vocabulary as part of their lesson.

Vocabulary intervention was introduced to pre-teach key vocabulary in all core subjects – English, Maths and Science, to help our SEND students have a better understanding of unfamiliar words they come across in lessons. This helps them to have a better understanding of the lessons being taught.

ACADEMY UPDATES

HOW THE VOCABULARY IS TAUGHT IN OUR INTERVENTION SESSION

Sessions are run once a week - 20 minutes per session for six weeks. Unlike classroom-based teaching, students learn the meaning of words through game-based activities. Good vocabulary activities encourage more than just memorisation of the definitions of words, it helps them explore synonyms and antonyms and how words are used in their correct context.

Examples of the vocabulary games used in our interventions are:

- Charades- a student is called to pick and act the word while the rest of the students guess the correct word.
- Play a round of Pictionary – students draw a picture for each word to create their own visual dictionary. This helps them to develop an association with the word and are able to tap into the word when needed.
- Make a Word Map- students relate the word of the day to other words and concepts they already know.
- Match-Up Words and Definitions- Students are given a card (either a word or a definition), allowing students to circulate in the room and find their match.



At the end of the six weeks, students are assessed through a summative assessment- exam questions to check if they have met their targets – To understand the meaning of vocabulary words and use the words accurately.

Ms. Adjei
Vocabulary Lead

Reading Plus

A key intervention that we run is Reading Plus which aims to increase reading fluency, comprehension, stamina and motivation alongside expanding our students' vocabulary. Years 7-9 have 3 sessions a week for 50 minutes, for the whole of the academic year.

Students pick a book based on their interests, read through an extract and answer comprehension questions. They are very eager to find themselves on the leaderboard in the library at the end of each week and this competitiveness fuels them to out 'streak', 'combo' and 'rate gain' each other.

Ms. Enache
Reading Plus Lead



ACADEMY UPDATES

Zones of Regulation

“When little people are overwhelmed by big emotions, it’s our job to share our calm, not join their chaos”.
– I.R Knost

The world overflows with people who cannot name, let alone regulate their emotions. For children, this can be all the more difficult and daunting. ‘Zones of Regulation’ provides our students with the tools they need in order to identify and cope with their ever-changing, challenging and circumstantial emotions.



Through group discussions, self-reflection tasks and thought-provoking videos, we aim to instil in our students that there is no good or bad emotion – only expected or unexpected behaviours that may derive from these, and how we can manage ourselves when certain ‘triggers’ impact our emotional wellbeing, or ‘kick us out of the green zone’, as we might say.

Our sessions are run once a week for 30 minutes over a 7-week period, culminating in the production of an individualised emotional ‘toolkit’ that students can take away with them and use to regulate, especially in lessons but also in their everyday lives. Below is a snapshot of the 4 zones of regulation and strategies we use.

Ms. Enache
Reading Plus Lead

Lego Club

Our Matrix ELP has been running Lego therapy sessions three times each week, for those students who need help in developing their social; planning; teamwork; communication; collaborative and computational thinking skills. This intervention is targeted at or tailored for students with disorders on the autism spectrum and for those who possess social communication difficulties.

There are usually four students that partake in each session and each student is assigned a specific role to equally contribute to the development, not only of themselves but, of one another.

The roles are Builder; Engineer; Supplier and Director. In each of these roles, there are certain skills that are necessary to be implemented to produce the correct Lego model that is chosen by the Engineer at the beginning of the session.

Some roles are more physically demanding than others; whilst others are more focused on oral engagement. This program runs until the students have done well enough to be discharged.

Mr. Crossingham and Mr. Deti
Lego Leads



HOW CAN YOU HELP YOURSELF?

The BLUE Zone	The GREEN Zone	The YELLOW Zone	The RED Zone
			
HOW MIGHT YOU FEEL?	HOW MIGHT YOU FEEL?	HOW MIGHT YOU FEEL?	HOW MIGHT YOU FEEL?
SAD TIRED BORED MOVING SLOWLY	HAPPY OKAY FOCUSSED READY TO LEARN	NERVOUS CONCERNED SILLY NOT READY TO LEARN	ANGRY FRUSTRATED SCARED OUT OF CONTROL
WHAT MIGHT HELP YOU?	WHAT MIGHT HELP YOU?	WHAT MIGHT HELP YOU?	WHAT MIGHT HELP YOU?
TALK TO SOMEONE STRETCH TAKE A BRAIN BREAK STAND TAKE A WALK CLOSE MY EYES	THIS IS THE GOAL! WHAT CAN YOU DO TO GET TO THE GREEN ZONE? HOW CAN YOU BE HAPPY, CLAM AND READY TO LEARN?	TALK TO SOMEONE COUNT TO 20 TAKE DEEP BREATHS SQUEEZE SOMETHING DRAW A PICTURE TAKE A BRAIN BREAK	STOP WHAT I AM DOING MAKE SENSIBLE CHOICES TAKE DEEP BREATHES ASK FOR A BREAK FIND A SAFE SPACE ASK FOR HELP

These are just a few of our interventions – I hope that this has given you a greater understanding of the work that we do in the Department to support our students.
If you would like to know more, please feel free to contact me.

Beverley Manderson

SEND Manager

beverley.manderson@oasisarena.org

ONLINE PARENT/CARER WORKSHOPS

Jointly run by Off The Record and Croydon Drop In

Join us online for the following workshops. Sign up via Eventbrite by scanning the QR code below. Cameras and microphones can be turned off.



Helping your Child's Behaviour (Primary age)

Wed 1st November 1-2 pm

Helping your Child with Anxiety and Worries

Wed 8th November 1-2 pm

Looking After Yourself for Parents

Wed 15th November 1-2 pm

Introduction to Autism

Wed 22nd November 1-2 pm

Introduction to ADHD

Wed 29th November 1-2 pm



Off The Record also run workshops for parents for support with **Self Harm** and **Emotionally Based School Avoidance** scan the QR code to the left to find out dates, times and how to sign up.



TALK TO US

OFF THE RECORD



Are you **OK**
Croydon?



You Talk,
We Listen
Croydon Drop In



FEMALE BOXING AND YOUTH WORK SESSIONS

Tuesdays 4-5pm
&
Sundays 12-1pm

Ages 11-18

GLOVES NOT GUNZ HQ
NORBURY PAVILION
CROYDON
SW16 3LX

VRU

MAYOR OF LONDON
VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT

REGISTER AT:
WWW.GLOVESNOTGUNZ.ORG



English as an Additional Language at Oasis Academy Arena



We have had great fun adding our new students to our Map of the World. This map shows where both past and present students have come from and represents the rich variety of culture that we enjoy in our academy.

In addition to this we have welcomed our latest cohort of parents and carers who are improving their English with us on a Wednesday morning. If you would like to be considered for a future course please email jenny.aarons@oasisarena.org.

Family Language (ESOL) Classes at Oasis Academy Arena



**A free Family Learning Course for
mums, dads and carers**



Start: Wednesday 20th September 2023

Finish: Wednesday 7th February 2024

Time: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

- *Improve your English**
- *Practice speaking and listening**
- *Find out how to support your child**
- *Make fun activities for home**
- *Work towards a reading exam**



Croydon Adult
Learning And
Training

Contact: Ms Jenny Aarons
Jenny.Aarons@oasisarena.org



CROYDON
STANDS
TALL



CROYDON STANDS TALL TRAIL

21 August - 27 October 2023

Get ready to explore the tallest
trail in town!