



# Aston Academy

## Specialising in Maths & Computing

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Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to take this opportunity to communicate what an excellent start to the academic year it has been across all year groups. Standards have been high and students have returned with enthusiasm to embark upon new programmes of study in Key Stages 3 and 4. We have also been particularly impressed with the transition that our Year 7 students have made. They have enthusiastically embraced change and new challenges and made an excellent start to their secondary school studies. This half term we are keen to establish successful routines with students and we have placed great emphasis on the importance of attendance and punctuality. Students should aim to attend each and every day and arrive at the academy by 08.30 in order to ensure a prompt and purposeful start to their first lesson at 08.40. We are also communicating the importance of uniform and equipment standards and expectations with our students and thank you for your support in ensuring that your children are suitably dressed and equipped for the school day. All trousers worn should be tailored and able to go over a winter boot at the bottom. They should not be made from skin-tight stretch material or denim-like material. All school shoes should be plain black and a full shoe. Further details regarding our uniform policy can be found in your child's planner or on the school website. Please also contact your child's Learning Progress Manager if you have any queries regarding uniform – contact details are available on the school website.

We also want to thank you and our students for your support and patience with the changes that we have experienced linked to travel arrangements. The MASS BRIGHTBUS Company ceased provision during the summer of 2017 and we have liaised constantly with SYPTTE and RMBC to try to ensure that the bus service needs of our students during morning and afternoon schedules are met in the new school year. The services currently in place have addressed some of the needs of our students, but not all and so we ask for your continued patience and support as we continue to negotiate with the bus services to ensure that the best provision is in place for our students.

Whilst Aston Academy does not have an obligation to provide transport for students that attend our academy we are all committed to safeguarding the health, safety and wellbeing of our students. In order to ensure that our students access the appropriate bus services we have a new queuing system on school site where students are directed and then escorted to buses as and when they arrive. Students are supervised until they all leave the school site and this ensures that any students that cannot access the school buses are directed to reception to contact parents/carers and or access any transport that we are able to provide in school. Linked to the ongoing liaison and contact that we have established with SYPTTE additional services have been provided at peak times. For the most up-to-date service provision please visit our website and click on the link on the main page – 'Important School Bus Information', where details can be found in the 'Update to bus information' document.



**All adults in school have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.**

There is also a link to the SYPTTE website that gives further information regarding obtaining bus passes and weekly transport tickets. Young people can obtain a First week child ticket on the buses for £6.00, which may be a cost effective way for your child to pay.

There is also the opportunity for some of our students to apply to receive a Zero Fare bus pass. In order to be eligible for this pass your child must travel more than 3 miles to school and/or may have restrictions on walking to school linked to a lack of direct access. To find out if you are eligible please access the following link, <https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/forms/form/282/en/zero> where you will be directed to an online Zero Bus Pass Enquiry Form. If you qualify, RMBC will ask that you complete an application form and you will receive notification of any decision made, usually via email.

In the meantime, if you have any comments to make regarding the SYPTTE service bus provision, please contact Ms Donna Jebson, either using the following email [donna.jebson@astonacademy.org](mailto:donna.jebson@astonacademy.org), or the academy contact telephone number highlighted at the top of this letter. Ms Jebson is in regular contact with SYPTTE and RMBC and she is passing on all comments and concerns that you may have promptly.

Once again, please accept our sincerest thank you for working in partnership with us and helping your children to make a positive start to the new school year. We look forward to communicating any further transport developments with you in due course.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsey Burgin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Mrs Lindsey Burgin

Assistant Principal