



ASTON ACADEMY Post 16 Prospectus

2025/2026



Your future begins with ACET Post 16



Principal's Message



I am delighted that you are considering Aston Academy as a potential place to spend the next stage of your education. I am confident that you will have a very enjoyable experience with us.

We are a friendly, welcoming and supportive community of learners. Our aim, in keeping with our mission statement, is that every student is enabled to “strive for excellence” and achieve their full potential.

You would be joining an inclusive Post 16 community that celebrate achievement, believe that every young person is unique and value the role personal development plays in education. Alongside a commitment to academic excellence, students are expected and encouraged to become fully involved in Aston Academy life.

Our Post 16 students benefit from the resources and teaching expertise of the wider academy, while enjoying their own Post 16 base located separately from the main academy buildings. This combination of familiarity and new challenges provides our students with a caring, yet dynamic learning environment.

The most successful students are those who involve themselves fully in a wide range of Post 16 enrichment opportunities. Our students are encouraged to act as positive role models to younger students.

We will not expect our students to achieve all of this alone. If you decide to study with us, you will receive high quality care, guidance and support in order to ensure that you fulfil your potential, enjoy your time with us and are suitably prepared for your next step.

We look forward to taking the next step of your education with you. My staff and I are excited by the prospect of working with you.

The combination of home, school and student here at Aston Academy will make a difference.

Best regards

Mr J Graham
Principal



Resilience



Pride



Respect



Ambition



Responsibility

Why choose us?

We know choosing where to study at 16 is an important decision. We genuinely feel we have the best post-16 provision in the local area. Aston students consistently achieve the best results in the local area. We combine this with a focus on personal development and students having an excellent experience in post-16. As an Aston Post-16 student, you will receive:

- 1) Five hours teaching per subject per week from experienced post-16 subject specialists
- 2) One hour of Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education per week covering study skills, physical and mental health, careers, relationships, first aid and adult life skills
- 3) A weekly briefing to keep you informed about upcoming events and opportunities
- 4) Termly academic mentoring with your personal tutor
- 5) Free appointments with trained careers advisors in the Post-16 area
- 6) Outside speakers on a range of post-18 options and careers
- 7) A week in the summer of Year 12 to do work shadowing
- 8) Personalised support to complete applications for university, apprenticeships and employment
- 9) An individual appointment with a member of the post-16 team to send university applications
- 10) The opportunity to gain additional qualifications including the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), Core Maths and Sports Leaders qualification
- 11) Informed advice for applicants to Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary courses
- 12) A free day visit to a university campus
- 13) A visit to UCAS Discovery in the Summer of Year 12 for all students to explore career options
- 14) Opportunities to be a literacy and mental health mentor for younger students
- 15) Lead fundraising for Macmillan, Children in Need and the Sheffield Children's Hospital
- 16) The chance to be a Post-16 Student Leader
- 17) Advice on gap years
- 18) A bursary scheme to support students who need financial assistance to access education
- 19) A post-16-only quiet study space, exam room, and 30 computers to use in study periods
- 20) A café, common room and pool room just for post-16 students



How do Aston students do?

We want students to enjoy their time with us and develop the personal skills to lead fulfilling adult lives. We also want our students to achieve the qualifications that allow them the widest choice of future careers and employment opportunities. We are proud that our results compare very favourably with our neighbouring post-16 providers. For more information, see <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/>

High grades and retention figures

In the most recently published results, students at Aston Post-16 achieved higher average grades compared to local sixth forms and colleges. Furthermore, a higher percentage of Aston students achieved AAB or above (this is a measure of how many students achieve the grades to attend the most prestigious universities). We are also proud that we had a significantly higher rate of students completing their study program than many local sixth forms and colleges at over 98%.

Destinations

We are proud to see our students go on to a range of exciting destinations when they leave us. Some figures from last year's Y13 students are below:

- 50% of went to university, 25% went to do apprenticeships and 25% into employment
- 97% of Aston applicants to university received offers.
- 77% of students gained a place at their first-choice course university
- 76% of applicants to 'Russell Group' Universities were accepted [compared to 56% nationally].



What about Personal Development?

We want our students to develop personally as well as academically while in post-16 education. Students' personal development is supported through the Tutor Time PSHE program as well as a range of optional extracurricular opportunities.

Tutor time PSHE program

Post-16 students attend one briefing (assembly) and two tutor time periods every week. In the briefings, we will inform students about upcoming school, national or international events and give advice and resources to support post-18 applications. In the tutor time periods, students will follow a detailed PSHE program covering the following themes:

- Y12 Half term 1: Personal and study skills
- Y12 Half term 2: Social inclusion
- Y12 Half term 3: Physical health
- Y12 Half term 4: Mental health
- Y12 Half term 5: Post-18 options
- Y12 Half term 6: Post-18 applications
- Y13 Half term 1: British values and citizenship
- Y13 Half term 2: Adult relationships
- Y13 Half term 3: First aid
- Y13 Half term 4: Adult life skills



Charity Fundraising

Aston Post-16 students take a lead role in a variety of fundraising activities in school. These include Macmillan Coffee Morning, Children in Need and the Winter and Summer Snowflake fayres. In doing so, students make a positive contribution to school and wider society. They also display effective communication and team work.

Post-16 Student Leaders

All students can join the Post-16 Student Leaders group. Student Leaders work with the Post-16 team to continually improve the experience of students in Post-16 based on feedback from fellow students. Student Leaders also represent the school at events such as Open Evenings.

Mentoring

Post-16 students can choose to mentor younger students to support their literacy and mental health. The mentoring program enhances post-16 students' communication and empathy, as well as supporting the skills of their fellow students.

Sports Leaders

Students on the Sport and Physical Education course can gain a Sports Leaders qualification from organising sporting events and coaching younger students.

Work experience

Post-16 students are encouraged to engage in work experience to gain insight into careers and develop skills required in the workplace. Help organising work shadowing will be provided in tutor time.

Trips

There are a range of trips available to post-16 students including a free UCAS event at Sheffield Arena, university visits and many other subject-specific trips.

What subjects should I choose?

One of the most enjoyable aspects of post-16 study is being able to choose 3 or 4 subjects to study in depth. The best advice is to choose courses which you will enjoy and in which you are also likely to be successful. Be open to considering new subjects you have not previously studied to broaden your education. Speak to your teachers and the Post-16 team for advice about subjects to choose.

Another consideration when choosing subjects is your future educational and career goals. Below are some suggested subject choices which are relevant for particular careers/jobs. If the subject is in bold, it is a required or highly recommended subject to choose for that particular course. Otherwise the courses are relevant to that career but are not necessarily essential. However, keep in mind that for many careers/university courses, admission teams are more interested in the grades you achieve than the courses in which the grades are gained.

For more information on the courses available including entry requirements , please see the Post-16 section of the website.

Career pathway	Suggested subjects
Medicine/Dental/Veterinary	Biology, Chemistry , Maths, Physics, Psychology
Nursing	Biology, Health and Social Care, Medical Science, Applied Science, Maths, Chemistry, Psychology,
Accountancy/Finance	Maths , English Language, Further Maths
Law	History, English Language, Sociology, Psychology
Civil Engineering	Maths, Physics , Chemistry
Biochemical engineering	Chemistry, Biology, Maths , Physics
Teaching	The subject you want to teach + English Language/Literature, Maths, Sociology, Psychology, Health and Social Care
Social work/care	Health and Social Care, English Language/Literature, Sociology, Psychology
Farming/environmental	Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Maths
Town planning	Geography, Maths, English Language
Architecture	Maths , English Language, History
Pilot/Aerospace engineering	Physics, Maths , Biology
Policing /prisons/Criminology	Sociology, Psychology, English Language
Computing	Maths , Physics, Further Maths,
Marketing/advertising	English Language, English Literature, Psychology,
Leisure/Sports	Sport, Psychology

How will I be assessed?

During your Post-16 courses, your progress will be assessed formally at least once a term in each subject. Depending on the course, this assessment will take the form of:

- Standardised assessments in exam conditions
- Standardised assessments in classrooms
- External exams (vocational subjects)
- Coursework units (vocational exams)
- Controlled assessments (in some A level courses including English Language, English Literature, History and Geography)
- Laboratory practicals (in some Science courses)

In addition to this, teachers will be assessing student progress using regular, informal methods including essays, classroom tests and homework

These assessments have several purposes:

- To assess student progress at various points of the course
- Inform predicted grades (submitted by teachers in Autumn of Year 13): these are used to guide advice of what post-18 options are suitable for students.
- To ensure students have a clear idea of their strengths and areas of development in each course
- To prepare students for the requirements of external exams

Trial exams

Trial exams are standardised assessments conducted in exam conditions (silence, timed, and in exam venues). They are designed to provide practice for external exams. All external exam regulations will be followed in trial exams. Students must be on time, fully equipped with everything they need for the exam including calculator if required. They will hand in phones and watches as required in external exams protocol.

Communication home

Each term, a letter will be emailed to inform parents/carers of their child's progress in their courses. The data will include the following for each course studied:

- Estimated grade
- Trial exam grade (during terms when students have completed trial exams)
- Character in the classroom score

An explanation of the data will be included in the letter. The Character in the Classroom score will provide information about the students attitude and commitment to learning.

If you have any questions/concerns about your child's progress in post-16 at any point, please contact post16@astonacademy.org.



What is a post-16 day like?

PERIOD 1	8.30am	9.30am
PERIOD 2	9.30am	10.30am
BREAK	10.30am	10.50am
MOVEMENT TIME	10.50am	10.55am
PERIOD 3	10.55am	11.55am
TUTOR TIME & ASSEMBLY	11.55am	12.25pm
LUNCH	12.25pm	12.55pm
MOVEMENT TIME	12.55pm	1.00pm
PERIOD 4	1.00pm	2.00pm
PERIOD 5	2.00pm	3.00pm

Post-16 students usually choose 3 subjects, although a small number may choose to start on 4 subjects. In each subject, you will have 5 hours of lessons a week. Most students are therefore in subject lessons for 15 hours a week. They will also attend one 30 minute briefing and two 30 minute PSHE sessions a week. This means most students have 11 hours of 'free' periods a week. It is recommended that you complete at least 3 hours of independent study per subject per week. You can choose to use your free periods for study at home or school where we have laptops and a quiet study space to use.

Example timetable...

Period	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1		Biology	Maths		Maths
2	Biology	Biology		Sociology	
Break					
3	Sociology	Maths	Biology	Maths	Sociology
Tutor	Briefing	PSHE	PSHE		
Lunch					
4	Maths			Sociology	Biology
5	Sociology				

What will I need to do?

We expect all Post 16 students to:

- Attend all lessons on time with any equipment needed for their lessons
- Attend all briefings and tutor periods on time
- Attend all meetings with school staff on time
- Inform the school before each day you are absent via the school phone number 0114 2872171.
- Ensure that all work is completed to the best of their ability.
- Catch up on work missed due to absence and see your teacher if you need support
- Complete all homework and assignments on time
- Organise your work neatly and appropriately
- Be committed to at least three hours of independent study per subject per week
- Adhere to the Academy mobile phone policy
- Show respect for all Academy staff, students and facilities at all times

How should I dress?

Aston Post 16 students are not required to wear uniform but should dress appropriately for a place of education. Acceptable Post 16 clothing includes:

- Smart trousers, jeans, dress or skirt
- Smart shirt, blouse, polo shirt or T-shirt
- Smart shoes, boots or trainers; no stiletto heels or backless shoes.
- A bag which can hold three subject folders

Please also note:

- Only students participating in practical P.E. sessions are permitted to wear sports clothing
- Crop tops or low-cut tops must not be worn
- Hats, hoods and coats should not be worn inside the academy building
- Although Post 16 students are allowed piercings, they must be removed for practical lessons



Mobile Phones & ID Badges

Mobile Phones and Earphones

In line with the Academy policy, earphones are not allowed in lessons, or on corridors. We ask that Post 16 students are role models to students in Y7-Y11 and do not have phones out whilst moving around school, on corridors, or in lessons.

We do however, appreciate as young adults you may wish to use your mobile phone during break, lunchtime and free periods. Therefore, mobile phones are allowed in our Post 16 areas– common room, café, pool room and study room. We do however, ask you to be mindful that these are shared areas and be considerate of your fellow students.



ID Badges

When you enrol, we will produce a photo ID card for you. Students must always wear their ID lanyards. It is a safeguarding requirement that we know the identity of everyone in the building. If you forget your lanyard you must collect (and return) a temporary one from the Post 16 office. If you lose your ID badge, you will need to purchase a replacement at a cost of £3. This can be done in the Post 16 office.

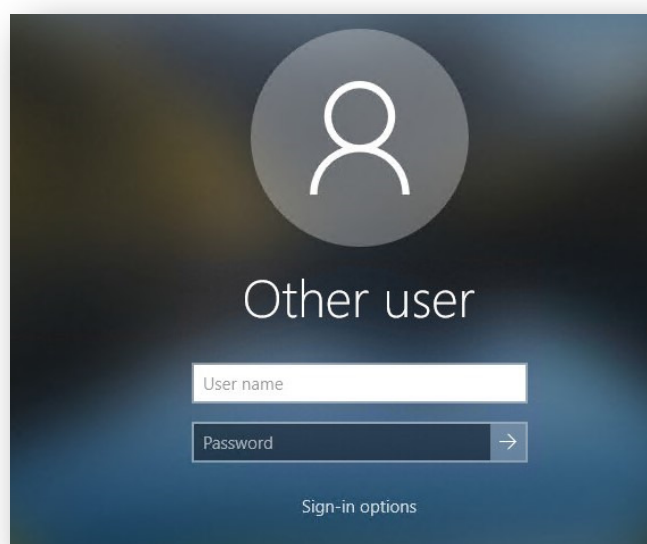


These badges will also give you access to the main reception gate and Post 16 entrance. This means you can use your ID badge to gain access to the school site at any point during the school day.

How do I use school IT?

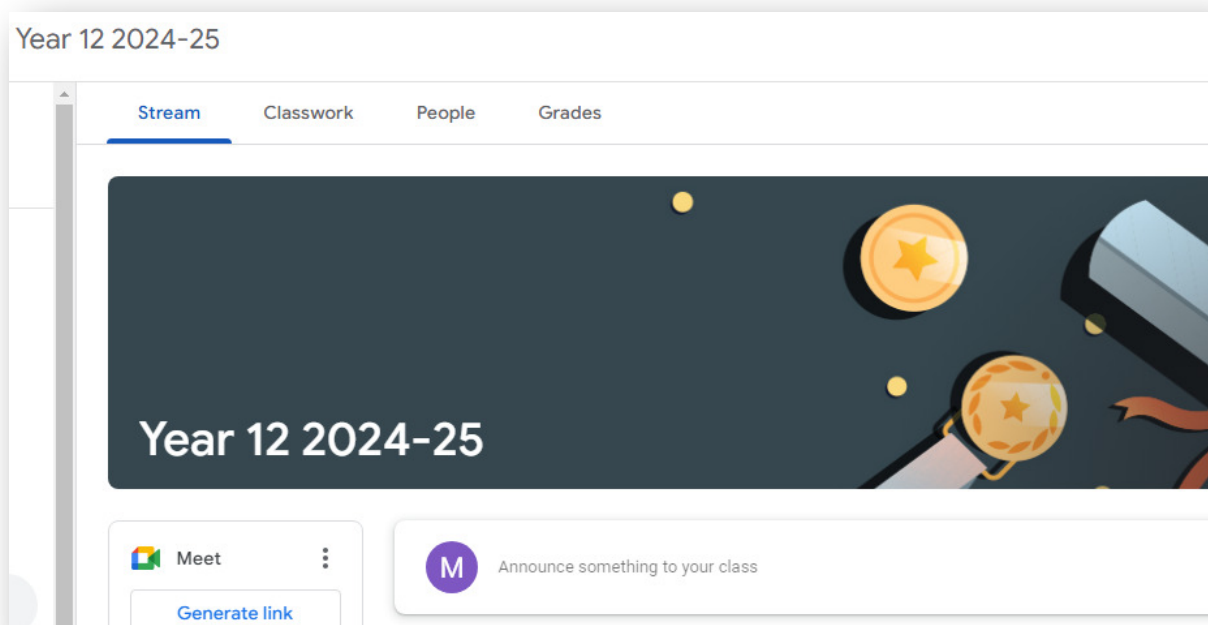
Network Login

All students will be issued with a network login so you can access all electronic services that support your learning at Aston Academy. Your network login is personal to you so please keep this private and do not share with others. Any teacher can reset your password if needed.



Google Classroom

While studying at Aston Post 16, students will be provided with a log in for Google Classroom. For each of the subjects you are studying you will have a Google Classroom page where you will find notices from teaching staff, homework and any information related to your subject. There will also be a Google Classroom for the whole year group. This is used by the year team to share any Post 16 specific notices such as guest speakers, assemblies and enrichment opportunities. We recommend students downloading Google Classroom as an app and turning on notifications to avoid missing on important information.



How do I pay for things?

The 16-19 Bursary Fund

The 16-19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to ensure students have the means to remain in education. Bursary funding can be used by eligible students for any costs related to their education including text books, transport to and from school, electrical equipment and school enrichment opportunities. More information will be provided to students at the start of each academic year with an application form available on the school website.

The Gateway app

We use an e-payment system for school related payments including purchasing food. Students that attended Aston Academy in Year 11 will continue to use their previous account. Students joining us from other schools will receive an activation letter at the start of term.

Post 16 Lockers

Lockers are available for all students, should you wish to hire one. These are charged as £10 —£5 deposit and £5 refundable on return of your key and clearing the locker. Payments can be made via Parent Pay. Once payment has been made, please see one of the Post-16 team in the Post-16 office who will allocate you a locker.



Will I have any careers support?

Post-16 education is an important time for considering future courses and careers. At Aston Post-16, students have access to two careers advisors, Mr Shaw and Mr Raymond who have an office in the Post-16 area. If students wish to book a careers appointment, they can do so directly with Mr Shaw or Mr Raymond.

Careers talks

Careers talks are a key part of the tutor time program at Aston. These include talks from universities, apprenticeship providers, employers and former students. We aim to cover a range of possible careers including finance, law, healthcare and education so that students can make a more informed decision about their options when they leave post-16.

Careers within PSHE

In addition, careers advice embedded within the weekly PSHE program includes:

- How to create a curriculum vitae (CV)
- How to write a personal statement
- How to apply to university through UCAS
- How to search for apprenticeships
- How to search for employment
- How to gain work shadowing/volunteering
- The purposes and benefits of a gap year

Post-18 Careers Booklet

Students will receive a 40-page Careers Booklet in the summer term of Year 12 which provides detailed advice about the main post-18 options (university, apprenticeships, employment and gap year). It also contains example personal statements for a range of courses including Business, Engineering, Geography, Law, Psychology, Medicine, Nursing, Sports Coaching and Teaching.



How do I stand out?

Super-curricular activities are ways students educate themselves about their subject beyond the content covered by their subject curriculums. We encourage all students to engage in super-curricular educational activities to deepen and broaden their subject knowledge and demonstrate curiosity and enthusiasm for their subjects. Super-curricular activities are especially important when applying to competitive degree courses as they show genuine interest and motivation to study a subject in depth. There are a number of super-curricular activities we recommend:

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

MOOCs are free online courses which students can complete. They are often linked to universities or international companies. They allow students to learn from experts in their subjects. **Future Learn** and **edX** are two large providers of MOOCs. The summers before Year 12 and Year 13 are a good time for students to complete MOOCs.

Books

Reading books related to your subjects is a simple and effective way to deepen knowledge and demonstrate curiosity. See individual subject staff for recommendations.

Podcasts

There are likely to be podcasts related to all subject and future career options. Search for podcasts on areas of personal interest on a podcast provider on your phone or computer. These can be a good option if you prefer listening to reading.

Email subscriptions

Subscribe to latest research emails from Associations relating to your subject. For example, The British Psychological Society (BPS) sends free fortnightly summaries of recently published research so you can keep up to date with the latest research in your subject areas.

TED talks

Try the TED website/app – it showcases free 10-20 minute videos of talks from expert speakers from around the world relating to a wide variety of subjects and issues.



How do I apply?

Applying

Applications to enrol at Aston Post-16 2025/26 are open now.

If you are a Year 11 Aston Academy student, please apply by informing your tutor you would like to apply to Aston Post-16.

If you currently attend any other school, please email **post-16@astonacademy.org** to apply. In your email, please state that you would like to apply to study at Aston Post-16 giving your full name, current school and best phone number(s) on which to contact you.



Note: it is possible to apply to several sixth forms/colleges. If you are unsure about where you would like to continue your education, we recommend applying to Aston as this keeps this option available to you.

Pre-admission meetings

Pre-admission meetings to discuss course options with the Post-16 team will begin in January 2025. As long as you have applied using the ways stated above, we will be in touch.

Summer taster days

After GCSE exams finish, you are invited to attend a taster day where you can sample post-16 lessons and use the post-16 area. We will confirm the date of these taster sessions after your pre-admission meeting. Please try to keep the week following the end of the GCSE exam season free.

Enrolment

Enrolment onto study programs will take place in the first few days of September (date to be confirmed). This will involve meeting with a member of the Post-16 team and officially enrolling at Aston Post-16.

Key Staff

The Post 16 Team

Mr Wilson	Vice Principal
Mrs Adams	Assistant Vice Principal
Mrs Ward	Pastoral and Learning Lead
Mr Hall	EPQ and PSHE Coordinator

Additional Support

Mrs Barquero	SEND CO
Mrs Mawe	Examinations Manager

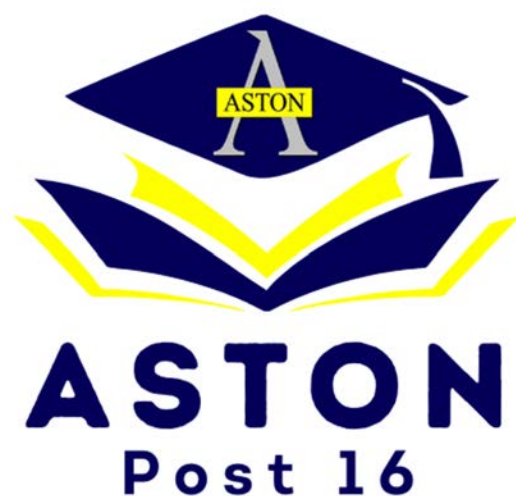
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