

# Year 12 Newsletter- Half Term 6



## Welcome

***Looking ahead to the new academic year, we have a new team leading Aston Post 16:***

Mr Esberger - Assistant Vice Principal

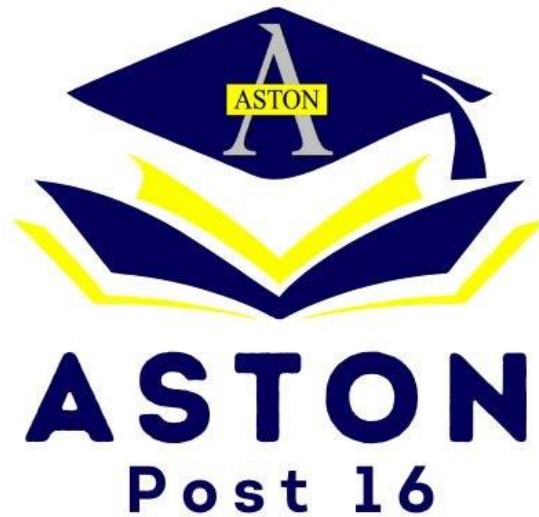
Mr Nicholson - Head of Post 16

Mrs Ward - Pastoral and Learning Lead

Mr Hall - Post-16 PSHE and EPQ coordinator

Miss Layden - Learning Progress Manager

We are looking forward to working with you in Year 13!



## Farewell to Ms Dwan



We would like to wish a fond farewell to Ms Dwan who is retiring after working at Aston Academy for 31 years, including leading post 16 for the last 10 years. Although Ms Dwan has had oversight for the current Year 13, she has always been there to support all students in Post 16 and will be sorely missed. We would like to thank her for all her work in Aston Post 16 and wish her all the best for her retirement.

## Post 16 Personal Development



On Wednesday 14th June our Y12 students participated in an **Army Resilience Day**. The day was aimed to develop our students ability to work through challenges both as a team and as an individual. In the morning session students had a talk with leaders from within the Army to talk about the importance of resilience and how we can work through challenges that may come in front of us. Students then completed 4 different activities and were awarded points for different skills including teamwork, communication, strategic planning and outcomes. The day was a huge success and the students were fantastic - Well Done Y12!

On Friday 14th July, Year 12 students volunteered at our annual **Summer Snowflake Fayre**, in support of Sheffield Childrens Hospital. Here, they ran various stalls and games for students in Years 7-11 to get involved in. There was a fantastic atmosphere throughout the day with lots of money raised for our Snowflake Appeal! A huge well done and thank you to the students that supported the event.

We also have an exciting new **careers hub** based in Post 16. Here you can find Mr Shaw and Mr Raymond who are able to provide advice on careers, apprenticeships and support with UCAS applications. We are also working closely with **Fraterno**, a local recruitment firm, who are supporting us with finding students part time employment and work experience opportunities.

We are working hard to support students in a range of personal development opportunities and are looking forward to the many opportunities available in the 2023/24 academic year.



## Post 16 Area Redevelopment

There are many exciting developments happening in our Post 16 areas over summer. In September 2023, we will have a new seminar room where we will be holding workshops and information sessions for Post 16 students. Supervised study sessions will also be timetabled in this room.

The pool table is being relocated to the current quiet room and this will become our new social room, available for students to use.

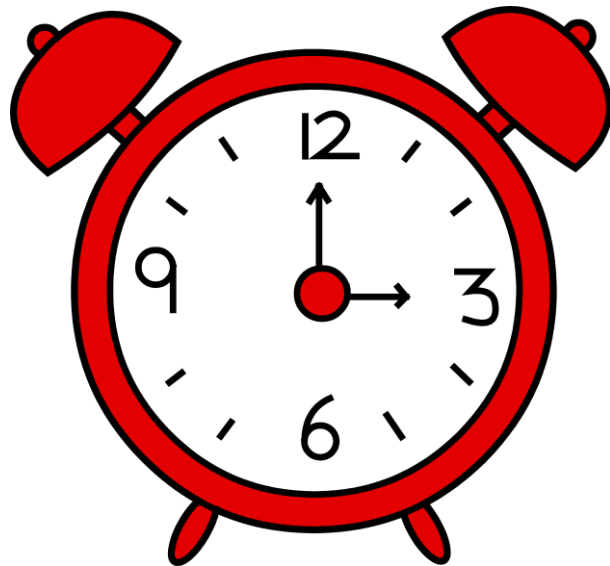
We are pleased to announce that our café area will be reopening in the Post 16 area. We will have a range of snacks, hot drinks and toast available to purchase during break and lunch times.



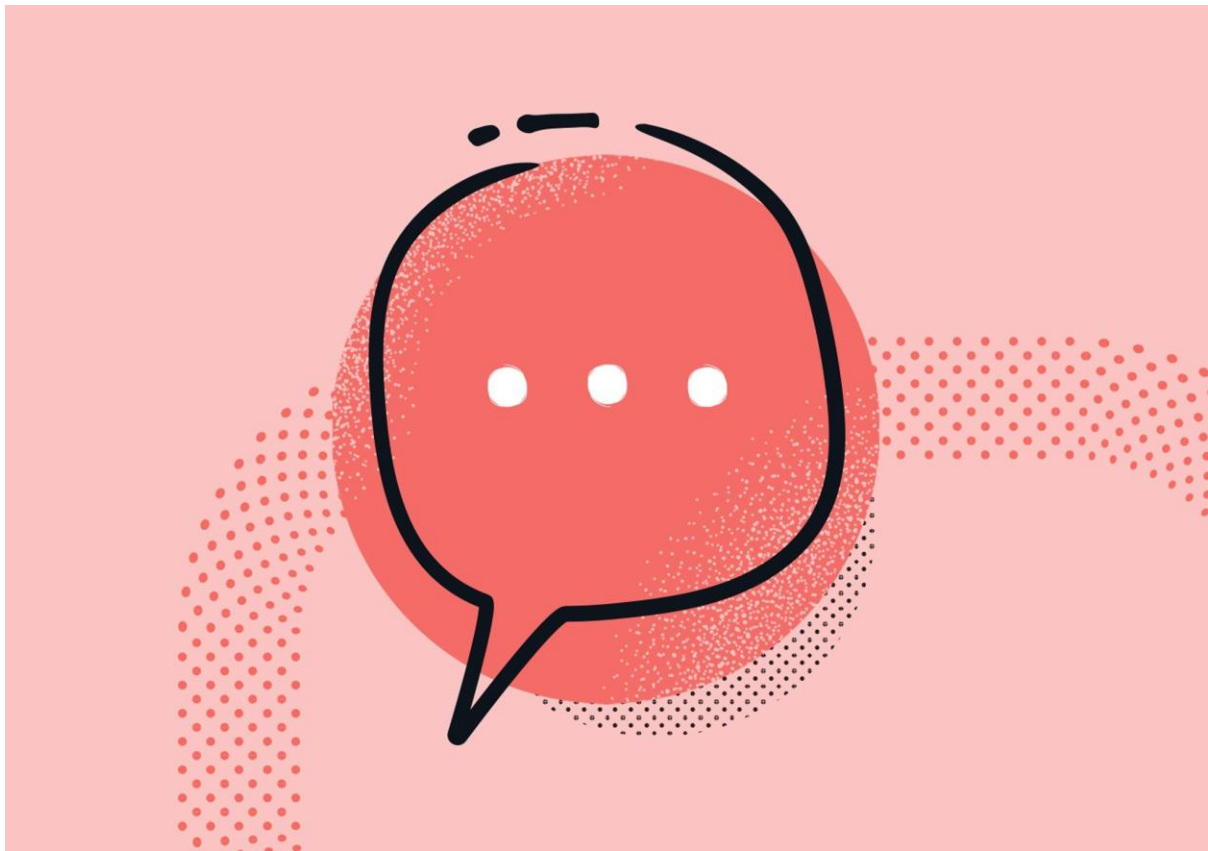
## DfE - The school week to be 32.5 hours from September 2023

The **Department for Education** has set the expectation that all state-funded mainstream schools should deliver **a school week of at least 32.5 hours by September 2023**. The 32.5 hour minimum expectation includes breaks and lunch times as well as teaching time.

Therefore, at Aston Academy the **start of the school day will remain the same at 8:40am**, break time will remain the same at 15 minutes, all lessons will remain 1 hour in length, lunchtime will remain 40 minutes in length but **Form time will increase by 10 minutes each day**. Therefore, **home time will be 3:10pm from September 2023**.



## Communication with Aston Academy



We are working hard to improve communication with parents and carers. The means of communication we are utilising at Aston Academy include :

**Email** - [info@astonacademy.org](mailto:info@astonacademy.org)<sup>1</sup> is an email inbox which is supervised by a group of staff who will ensure your query/concern is relayed to the most relevant person/department. Please ensure your query is specific so you can receive an appropriate response. Any general comments or opinions may not always receive a response.

**Telephone calls** - Due to teaching commitments staff may not always be able to respond immediately to your call. Therefore the Reception team will take the details and pass on to the relevant member of staff who will respond appropriately at their earliest convenience.

**Social media** - We have Facebook and Twitter accounts which are a means of sharing information. Any comments made on Twitter or Facebook will be monitored but will not always receive a response. Any specific queries requiring a response must be relayed through the [info@](mailto:info@astonacademy.org) email address.

**Face to face meeting** - If you would like a face to face meeting to discuss any ongoing concerns please email your request using the [info@](mailto:info@astonacademy.org) email address and the Year team will be in touch. In the event that parents/carers arrive at the academy without an appointment, staff may not be able to meet due to teaching and classroom duty commitments.

**Attendance** - If you are reporting an absence for your child or need to speak to the Attendance team please email via the [Attendance@astonacademy.org](mailto:Attendance@astonacademy.org)<sup>2</sup> address.

## Important Information

**For all students-** Please complete the Enrichment Week and Careers survey on the Year 12 2022-23 Google Classroom so we know your post-18 aspirations and where you will be and what you will be doing during the Enrichment week (the last week of term).

**For students applying to university-** It is recommended that you have registered on UCAS and completed all sections of your UCAS application except your Personal Statement and Choices (although you can be working on your personal statement). Use your UCAS application guide 2024 sheet and Guide to Post-16 Careers and UCAS booklet (see the post-16 team if you do not have these).

**Monday 17 July-Thursday 20 July: Enrichment week-** During this week, students should complete activities to enhance their applications to university, apprenticeships and/or employment. This may involve work experience, completing online courses, working on an independent project, wider reading/research relating to a preferred future course option or completing their university application. Lessons are suspended but students are welcome to use the post-16 area.

**Trial exam results-** Your trial exam results will be sent home during the last school week. We hope the trial exam experience was useful for all of you. Thank you for all the hard work and preparation you put into these exams. Whether you have achieved the results you wanted to or not, we look forward to supporting you to success in Year 13.

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<sup>1</sup><mailto:info@astonacademy.org>

<sup>2</sup><mailto:Attendance@Astonacademy.org>



## September 2023 Arrangements



We are looking forward to welcoming students back on **Wednesday 6th September 2023**. We will be sending home further information on start times prior to September.

We wish you a wonderful summer holidays!

The Post 16 Team