





## Year 7 Newsletter

Congratulations Year 7 on a fantastic 1st Year at Aston Academy!





Throughout your time at Aston Academy there will not be many school years where you experience as many new situations as you have this year!

Starting with the transition from primary school and your first day on Monday 5th September 2022, through to meeting all your new staff, joining new clubs and making new friends there has been so much to take in this year and you have handled this very well.

Year 7 is not only about your academic learning but supporting you to develop personally as you mature in to young adults. Its been amazing to see so many of you develop throughout the year with skills such as organisation, independence and communication.

Our **school core values** have been met by the year group consistently and as a year team we couldn't be more proud to stand with them in assembly each week and see them demonstrate these values to the rest of school.

**Resilience** - No students have had to develop this more this year than our Year 7s. To overcome the new experiences highlighted above shows the resilience they have. However, this does not stop as we enter Year 8. The work will get harder, children will have new opportunities presented to them and i encourage the year group to take these challenges on, do not give up, and if we get something wrong thats fine its all part of learning.

**Pride** - As a year group uniform, quality of work in books and organisation has been excellent. Please support your child to be successful by maintaining this in to year 8. Getting the small things right such as pride in our uniform and pride in the work in our books all adds up to making a big difference overall.

**Respect** - A consistent message to Year 7 this year has been around the respect they show to each other, adults in the academy and to themselves. Manners and respecting individual differences between students has been a key personal development area for the year group and it has been great to see them progress during the year.

**Ambition** - Throughout the year we have challenged the year group to 'not settle for average'. We encourage students to push themselves to be the very best they can be.

**Responsibility** - Finally we have challenged students to take responsibility during year 7. From day 1 where students tell us 'mum/dad packed my school bag' or 'Phone calls telling us students have lost items a week ago but not told anyone', we are developing our students ability to be responsible and take on these challenges themselves. Its been excellent to see this personal development in our students throughout the year.

Our final message is a huge thank you to the Year 7 parents and carers. We appreciate the move from primary school to secondary school is also a daunting time for you too but working together to support our Year 7 students is key to helping them achieve their full potential.

We hope you enjoy our end of year newsletter and look forward to working with you again in Year 8.

Thank you

Year 7 Leadership Team

## Celebrating Success



Year 7 students continue to succeed within and beyond the classroom. Over the course of the Summer Term we have been delighted to celebrate outstanding academic performances alongside extra-curricular successes on the stage, the sports field and in the wider community.

It is especially heartening to hear our students encourage each other - win or lose, we strive to be the best we can possibly be.

Our Year team and the PE and Music faculty could not be prouder of the many year 7 students who have represented our academy in team sports this year. The number of students representing the school this year has been fantastic!

Our year 7 Football team have excelled themselves this year, winning the Rotherham Schools Cup final against fierce rivals Wath Academy and reaching the Semi Finals of the South Yorkshire Schools Cup. A superb season for the team and hopefully they will go onto further success under new manager Mr Allan.

Our Y7 netball team were crowned Rotherham Champions at the annual Wickersley schools finals. The girls played superbly throughout the year and deserved their success!

The Y7 rounders team finished the season as the 4th best team in Rotherham and our Year 7 Girls team were crowned Rotherham Schools Futsall champions reaching the South Yorkshire finals.

Many of our Y7s were part of the Cheerleading team 'Aston Allstars' who came 3rd at the National Schools competition in their first season. A fantastic achievement.

A huge well done to the Key Stage 3 Music club who performed superbly all year including joining in the national One Voice event. This featured many of our Year 7 students. You will see more of our talented musicians throughout the year at school events!

A massive thank you to all students who have participated and represented year 7 this year and to all parents and carer's who have come to support our amazing students at these events.









Communication with the team







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.

**Uniform** - Any uniform related questions should be emailed to the [uniform@astonacademy.org](mailto:uniform@astonacademy.org)<sup>3</sup> address.

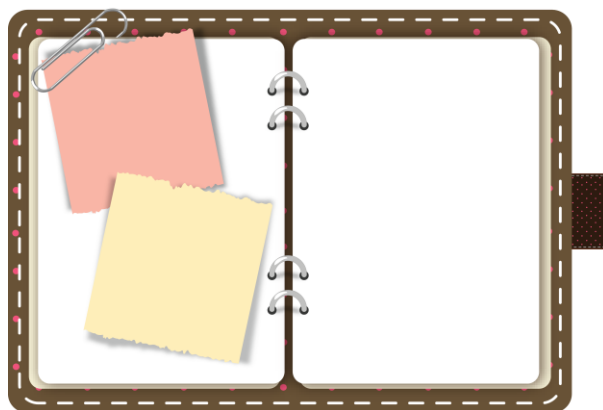
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## Meet the Team and Dates for your diary



To assist you in planning your family holidays and appointments please see below key dates affecting this year group. (Full term dates are available on the Academy website).

**First day of new academic year** - *Wednesday the 6th September 2023 - we welcome all students back into the Academy.*

**Inset Days** - *Friday 6th October and Monday the 8th January 2024 - No students will attend school, staff training will be underway.*

**Yr 7 Parents Consultation Evening** - *Monday 11th March 2024 - Please book online for appointments*

**Last day of the academic year for students** - *Sports day - Tuesday the 23rd July 2024*

## Be Safe - Water Safety



We know that the majority of our students are responsible, mature and capable of maintaining their personal safety. However, the summer holidays are approaching and our Academy's proximity to bodies of water such as Ulley reservoir and Rother Valley Country Park has prompted us to include some basic water safety advice for everyone in our community.

On our Academy's website, with this in mind, we have included:- a water safety video from the Canal and River Trust - and an associated booklet from the UK Environment Agency.

But in summary, please be aware of this basic water safety advice and brief your children:- **SAFE** - Stay Away From the Edge - when walking or spending time near open water - enjoy it but don't approach the edge.

Water may look tempting on a beautiful, hot day, but there may be many hidden dangers, and it can be easier than you think to be tempted or to fall in. We list some of these hazards below:

slippery rocks, glass, tin cans, sharp objects under the surface, fallen branches and thick weeds in the water, unseen fast flowing, deep, and very cold water, sharp objects under the surface etc.

If the unthinkable happens and a child does fall in or venture into open water without an adult present, please rehearse with your child: the bystander must not enter the water too. S/he should call the Emergency Services on a mobile 'phone (dial 999) and call an adult, then throw a life ring, if one is available – throw it sideways (like a frisbee) and aim it to land in front of the person.

Next hold one end of the rope - if fitted with one (most are to date) and lie down on the stomach so that the person in the water can't drag in the person on the shore. Bring the person in using the rope.

We will also be going through this key information in Assemblies before the end of term.

Meanwhile we share a link from the Canal and River/Waterways Trust - a video about water safety: <https://youtu.be/o5Yi69L-zxM> "



## Year Team Information for Year 8

As the year group move in to Year 8 there are some changes with link staff from September.

Mr Esberger and Ms Saccomando will no longer be working directly with the year group. Ms Saccomando will be Learning Progress Manager to Year 7 and Mr Esberger will now become Head of Post 16 at Aston Academy.

The link staff with the year group in Year 8 are:

Ms Booker - Assistant Vice Principal

Mr Staniland - Pastoral Learning Lead

Mrs Ellis - Learning Progress Manager

There will be a year team information evening in September to meet the year staff.