



## Year 8 - End of Year Newsletter

Good Afternoon Students & Parents/Carers

My name is Mrs Webster, and as the newly appointed Pastoral and Learning Lead for Year 8; I would like to introduce myself and the team who will be helping to support our young people as they transition from Year 8 into Year 9 in 2023-2024.

Next year, I will lead the team in driving forward academic progress and personal development, alongside Mrs Norman, who will work closely with parents and students in providing pastoral care. We are excited to work with the wonderful group of young people who are our current Year 8 students, in what will be an exciting and challenging year, as our students begin to think about their GCSE choices and future career aspirations.

We look forward to working with parents/carers to support our young people to make exceptional progress in their academic achievements, and also their personal skills, which at Aston Academy, we call our Core Values. These are Responsibility, Ambition, Respect, Pride and Resilience. Together we can make a difference!

## Celebrating Success

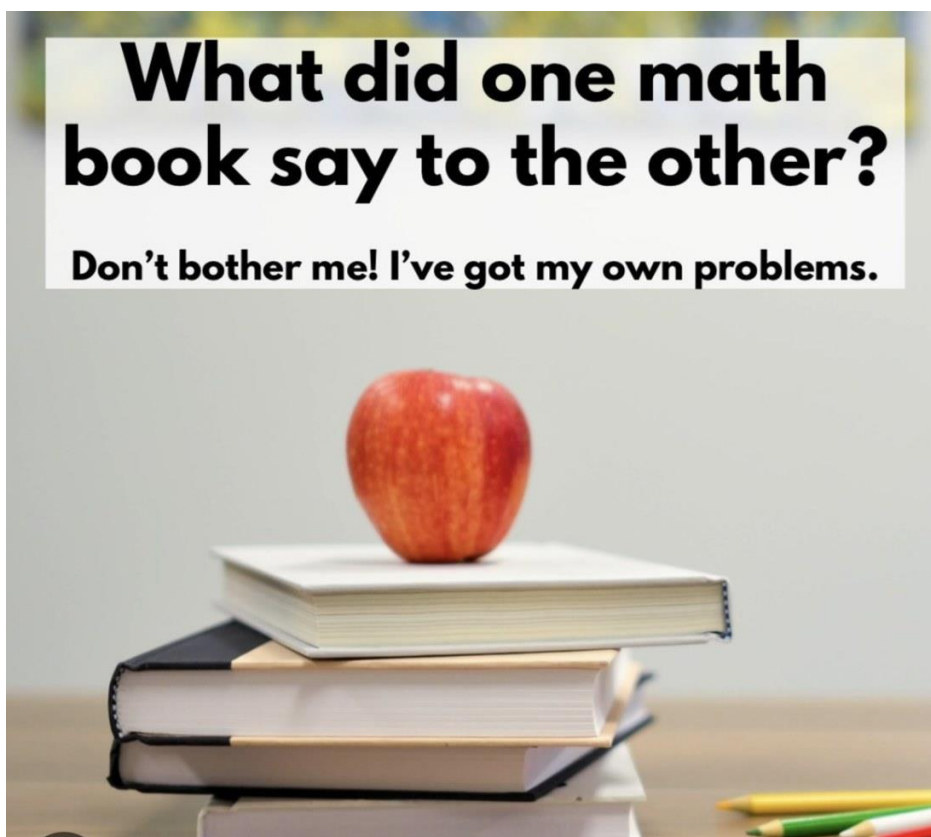


In Year 8, we are fortunate to work with an enthusiastic and talented group of young people. Many of whom have contributed greatly to the wider life of the school, representing the Academy in a range of extra curricular activities. We are delighted to share with you, just a few examples, of the many achievements of our students this year, which always make us so proud. Please enjoy browsing their successes and a very big '**well done**' to all students involved.



### **1 - Sporting Stars**

*Did you know we have some up and coming stars in the world of Trampolining? TJ B, a Year 8 student at Aston this year competed in the Trampolining Nationals and was awarded 2nd place. This is an awesome achievement in a challenging sport. Well done TJ! Keep bouncing!*



### **2 - Magicians of Maths**

*This year, some of our top mathematicians have sat the Junior, Intermediate and Senior UKMT Maths Challenge. This is an invite-only competition; we are incredibly proud of all who took part, and we had some phenomenal results!*



*In the Junior Maths Challenge, in which Year 7 and Year 8 students took part; 30 students achieved a Bronze Award, 16 students achieved a Silver Award, and 4 students achieved a fantastic Gold Award. The 2 Gold students from Year 8 were: Liam N and Shreyas S. **Fabulous!** Shreyas also qualified to the next round of the competition, excelling yet again!*

*An ENORMOUS well done to all students involved.*



### **3 - Team Work Makes the Dream Work**

*Our Year Team and the PE Faculty could not be prouder of the many Year 8 students who have represented our Academy in a variety of team sports this year.*

*Our Year 8 Football Team have excelled themselves this year, overcoming stiff competition to get through to the South Yorkshire Cup Final and the Rotherham Schools' Finals. In both tournaments, they performed outstandingly, achieving 2nd place. Superb results which are testament to their hard work and commitment. Well done team!*

*Similarly the Aston Cricket Team have represented the academy at the Rotherham Indoor Cricket Championship. Not only winning first place, but maintaining an unbeaten track record throughout the whole of Year 7 and 8. An awesome achievement!*

*The Year 8 Cheer Team have tumbled, danced, and jumped their way to an excellent 3rd place in the Cheer Nationals Competition. An exhilarating experience and superb result. Well done everyone!*

*A big thank you to all students who have participated and represented Year 8 this year, and to all parents and carers who have come to support our students at these events.*



#### **4 - Musical Prowess**

*In Year 8, we have some exceptional musicians who have showcased their talents in a range of musical events and examinations. Many of our Year 8 students, as part of the Aston KS3 choir, recently took part in the 'One Voice' performance at Magna. They entertained parents and carers with 8 professional renditions of popular songs. KS3 and KS4 students in Music, Dance, Drama and Cheer and our Brass group have performed to local primary students in Year 5 and 6 Awards Evening including the KS3 Soloists Taiwanese performance. They have also performed for our older students in the School Snowflake Fayre.*

*Thank you to all of these students for contributing to our community and bringing the joy of music to our school day. We would also like to recognise and celebrate the success of some extremely talented individuals who have dedicated themselves to practicing and developing skills in a musical instrument. Congratulations to Beth H in Year 8 who successfully completed Grade 5 in Violin and Elizabeth C who achieved Grade 4 in Baritone. This is an amazing achievement; we are so proud of you!*

## **Behaviour & Attendance**



Behaviour and Attendance have a direct impact on student progress and achievement, so we are delighted to inform you that Year 8 has the second highest percentage for attendance when compared to the other year groups. It is wonderful to see our young people valuing the opportunities offered to them by attending regularly, demonstrating positive behaviour for learning and participating in a wide range of in class and extra curricular activities. In particular, we would like to recognise the 23 students in year 8

who have managed to attend every single day of the year. This is an excellent achievement, keep up the good work!

Also the vast majority of our Year 8 community who 'get it right' while they are at school too. They are polite, pleasant and treat each other and our staff with respect. We appreciate all their efforts and commitment to making life in school as happy as possible for everyone involved. So a huge well done to the 159 students who got over 200 achievement points this year, and a massive shout out to the 72 students who managed a complete year without even a single negative behaviour point. You should all be extremely proud of yourselves. Let's move together into year 9 with the same positive approach.

## 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

---

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

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@ 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@ 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<sup>2</sup> address.

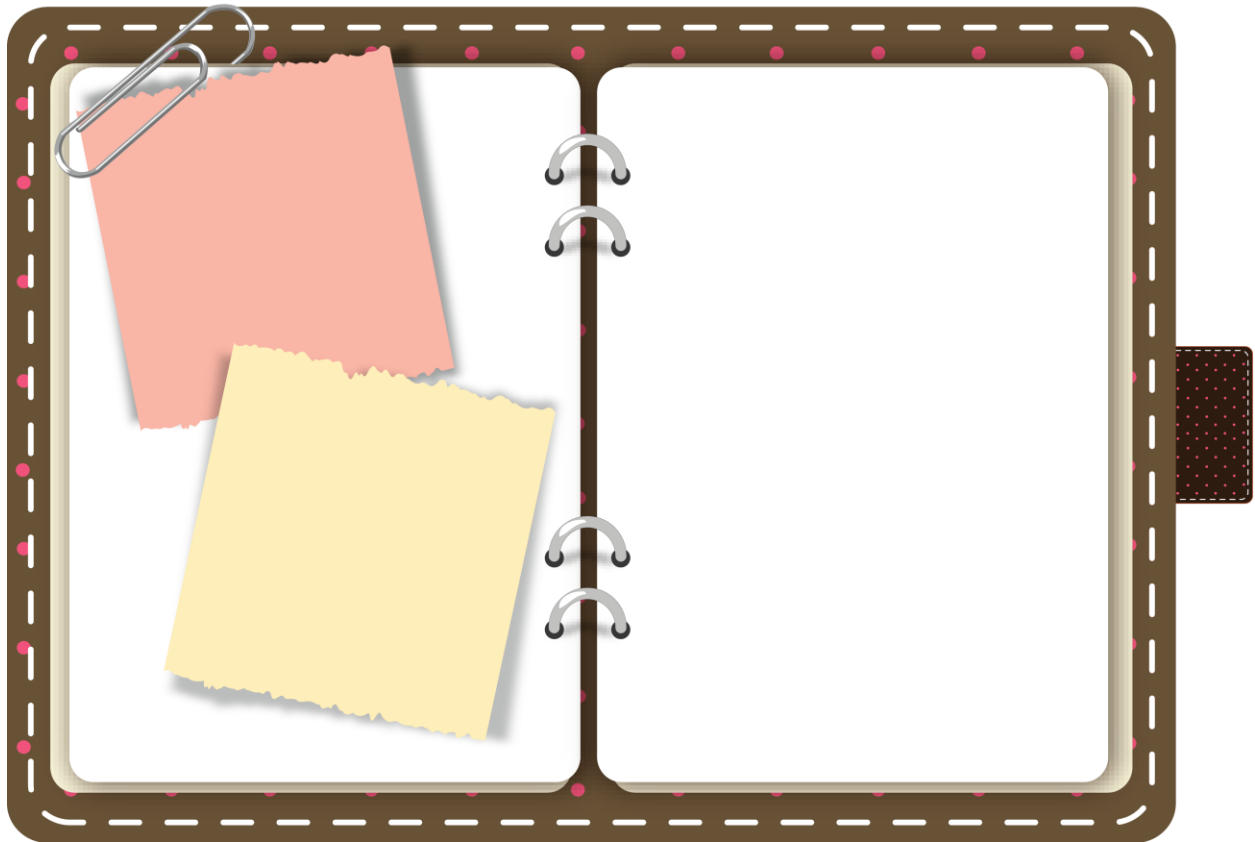
**Uniform** - Any uniform related questions should be emailed to the uniform@astonacademy.org<sup>3</sup> address.

---

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

<sup>3</sup><mailto:uniform@astonacademy.org>

## 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 the New Academic Year** - *Wednesday the 6th September 2023 - we welcome all students back into the Academy.*

**Inset Days** - *Friday 6th October 2023 and Monday the 8th January 2024 - No students will attend school, staff training will be underway.*

**Year 9 Parents Consultation Evening** - *Monday February 26th 2024*

**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> "