



**Aston Academy Year 10
NEWSLETTER, Half Term 6**

All the news from Year 10!



Assistant Vice Principal linked to Year 10 - Ms A. Booker

Progress and Learning Lead, Y10- Mrs. S. Flint

Learning Progress Manager - Mr. C. Risley

This half term at a glance...



Year 10 have had a very busy half-term and so in this newsletter you'll see how:

1. we've had a very successful exam season, in which students, for the first time, sat examinations of up to two hours in length, in very formal venues
2. we've had half the Year Group visit Chamonix, in Haute Savoie, in the French Alps.
3. we have also celebrated and recognised the amazing achievements and efforts of Y10 students at our Academy's Awards Evening very recently.
4. we include a reminder about the new school day next year....
5. ...and a reminder about how best to communicate with us
6. we had lots of Y10 students recognised and commended at our Academy Awards Evening
7. we have also agreed upon and can't wait to share with you: our Academy's 5 core values!
8. we offer some important advice/guidelines about water safety this summer
9. we inform you of the make-up of the Y11 Year Group Team of staff for next year

Y10 Examination Week



Examination week in Year 10 stretched from Tues June 27th to Mon July 4th. Students sat formal exams in English Language & Literature, Mathematics, Science, French or Spanish, History or Geography and RE. They got used to sitting long exams, in hot weather, in formal venues, where examination conditions prevailed - the perfect practice for Year 11 next year! Students rose admirably to the challenge and thank you, parents and carers for all your associated support!

Mont Blanc, Haute Savoie, French Alps. The highest mountain massif and highest peak (15,771 feet [4,807 metres]) in Europe. Located in the Alps, the massif lies along the French-Italian border and reaches into Switzerland. Our Y10s ascended this peak!

Chamonix - French capital of the Alps. Bienvenue à Aston Academy, Year 10!



The 140 participating students had an absolutely wonderful week. It's a long way to the South East corner of any large country (from the North West) and France is definitely no exception. Our students and staff had a long coach journey from Aston to Chamonix, but it was well worth it when they got there. The resort is beautifully placed near to the junction of France, Switzerland and Italy. Year-round cable cars take visitors up to several nearby peaks with absolutely breathtaking, panoramic views. One such ascent was thoroughly enjoyed by our Y10 students and their accompanying teachers, along with white-water rafting, swimming, mountain biking and general alpine pursuits.

Students shared 3 coaches, 5 different hotels, some spectacular scenery and a some very happy memories of an awesome (literally!) residential trip. Secondary school should be all about exactly this: a blend of classroom experiences, friendships, challenges, cultural encounters and extra-curricular enrichment.

I'm delighted to report that many students couldn't wait to tell me, on their return, how much French they'd tried to speak on the trip. Srijani Basu got the award for saying the most "Bonjours" and Liv Fields and Emily Stones report numerous successful dialogues, including ordering ice creams, talking to the locals and buying gifts/souvenirs around the Chamonix area.

Très bien, les filles!

Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to all the staff who travelled and took care of our students whilst abroad and all the parents/carers who supported their children in participating in such an adventure!

DfE - The school week to be 32.5 hours from September 2023 - a reminder.



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.org¹ 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

¹<mailto:info@astonacademy.org>

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.org² address.

Y10 students recognised at Aston Academy's Awards Evening



²<mailto:Attendance@Astonacademy.org>



1 - Aston Academy Awards Evening took place on Thursday July 13th - and wasn't it a superb event?!

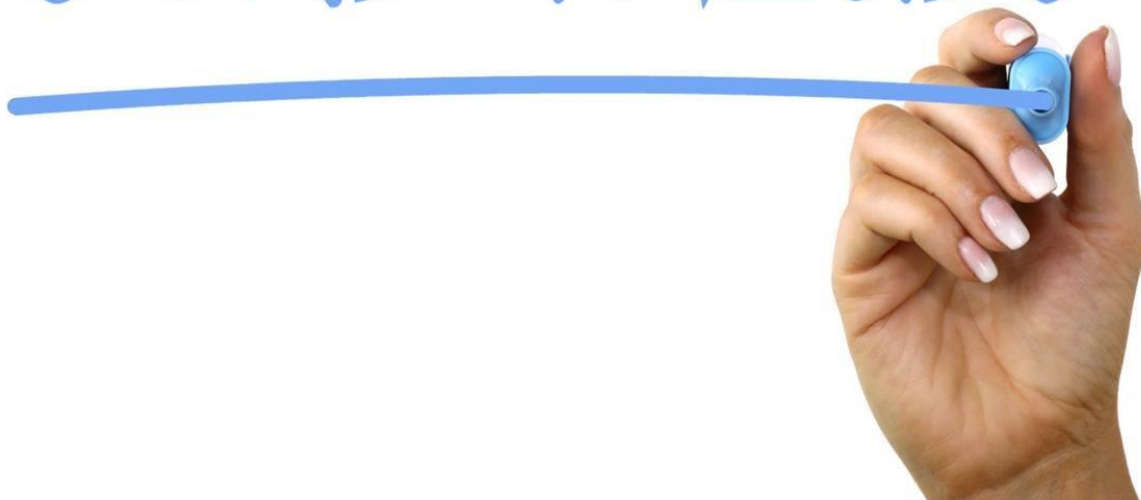
Not only did each Head of Faculty make an award for each subject in all 3 Key Stages, the choir sang a John Legend classic, 2 KS3 boys gave a piano recital, we had a violin soloist and our very own Mr. Scantlebury shared information about his "journey" - including a photograph of him with the late Queen Elizabeth II. We were treated to an inspiring address from one of our governors an former Aston Academy student: Mr. Luke Hague.

Congratulations to all Year 10 students who received an award: Emily Butterley, Lucas Goldson, Amelia Marshall, Grace Swain, Maisy Oldale, Ruby Lowe, Evie Smith, Tristan Craig, Trinity Hulley, Charley Kerry, Lewis Sturch, Karina Sayers and Byron Crookes.

Well done and a big THANK YOU for all your hard work and your consistent positive attitude. We are so proud of you!

Aston's Core Values - how we are supporting the personal, as well as the academic, development of our students...

CORE VALUES



2 - We have recently re-assessed the core values that we aim to instil in all Aston students: values that will serve our young people at school but also throughout their personal lives.

These are: Pride, Ambition, Respect, Responsibility and Resilience.

Please take some quality time over the summer break to discuss these with your child(ren) and how promoting such values could enhance their personal development.

Next year, we are excited to announce that students will be able to "collect" experiences associated with our core values and get recognition for their efforts. Please see our Personal Development Pledge below:

Resilience:

Attend an after school club for at least 6 weeks.

Read aloud in class so the teacher can identify you as a confident reader.

Achieve 100% attendance for at least 1 half term.

Pride:

Represent Aston Academy at a sporting or other event.

Attend the Proud Thursday table 5 times on 5 separate occasions.

Choose a piece of work that you're proud of and be able to talk in detail about it and explain why.

Respect:

Support with a litter picking campaign over a series of lunchtime after school sessions.

Help out a neighbour, a member of your community or extended family.

Evidence how you have shown consideration or value for a member of our Academy's community

Ambition:

Set yourself a target within a subject area and record it. Provide evidence of having met this target.

Demonstrate an improved score /percentage across 2 summative assessment tasks.

Attend a Careers event and be able to detail how it helped you plan your future.

Responsibility:

Volunteer in a tutor group with students younger than you (listen to them read or help them with a task).

Receive an email or a postcard home in which an adult praises you for showing responsibility.

Support with planning or delivering an Assembly for your Year Group.

PASS = complete 1 activity in each section

MERIT = complete 9+ activities across all 5 sections

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 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) Lie down on his/her 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> "

Time for change...



As our superb Year Group progresses from Year 10 into Year 11, it's time to wish them well and announce certain changes. Ms Booker will not be moving up with the Year Group into Y11, unfortunately, but will always be around if any student would still like a chat or some advice. She takes up a new position in the Academy as Assistant Vice Principal linked to next year's Year 8.

Mr. Risley has acted upon a personal ambition this academic year, to make a change within his career; deciding to train to become a teacher of PE, instead of a Learning Progress Manager. So he also leaves the Year Group, but will also be remaining at Aston Academy within his new role.

The pastoral Team next year in Year 11, therefore, looks like this...

Assistant Vice Principal linked to Year 11: Ms. L. Greaves

Pastoral Learning Lead: Mrs. S. Flint

Learning Progress Manager: Mr. P. Scantlebury

So, all that remains for me to say to everyone, is "Happy Holidays"! Stay safe and enjoy the 6 weeks. Thank you for all your hard work (students) and support (parents/carers) this academic year. Take care and best wishes. Ms. Booker.

