

Email sent to Parents/Carers of students in Y7-Y13 on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024, at 12:26pm.

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope this letter finds you and your families well. As we prepare to start the new term, we look forward to welcoming all students back into the Academy on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January to begin lessons at 8:40am. To ensure school readiness for the 9<sup>th</sup> January we wanted to share some reminders to allow all students to make a positive start to learning in Term 2.

### **New Timetables**

Due to changes in staffing and groupings (in some subjects/year groups) all students in Y7-Y11 will be issued new timetables on Tuesday morning - they will be given time during Form period to copy these into their Planners. Changes to timetables will be live on Parent Gateway from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January or sooner - if there are any issues with this please wait until Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January to contact the Academy as no staff are available until then.

### **New Staff**

We want to take this opportunity to introduce the new staff joining Aston Academy from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January. We are excited to have such a strong team of staff joining the Academy to continue to improve the quality of education and experience for our young people.

Mrs Shirliff - Head of Faculty MFL

Mrs Cousins - Assistant Head of Faculty MFL

Mr Aloba - Head of Faculty Maths

Mrs Rhodes - Assistant Head of Faculty Maths

Mrs Hamer - Teacher of Maths (Part time, Post 16 Maths)

Mr Rubbo - Assistant Head of Faculty Science

Mrs Selby - Teacher of Science

Mr Birch - Teacher of Geography

Ms Dowling - Assistant Vice Principal for Quality of Education & Teacher of English

Mrs Adams - Assistant Vice Principal for Post 16 & Teacher of Dance and PE

We were also delighted to appoint Miss McKay, Mrs Robinson and Mr Eskandari as Teaching Assistants last term. They will add further strength to the SEND and Inclusion team and ensure students with SEND are supported with their learning.

The Reception team have also welcomed Mrs Milner as a Receptionist and Mrs Ashton as the Administration Manager.

### **Lost Learning Time**

The start of each lesson begins with a Do Now activity which focusses on retrieval of learning from the previous lesson(s). This is a crucial element of the lesson which is being missed by students when they are late to school and/or lessons - this will impact on their learning in that lesson and over time there will be gaps in learning in those subject areas.

As mentioned in the letter shared with you last term, there is a **big push on eliminating lost learning time and this will continue into Term 2**. We have seen improvements in punctuality, however there are still too many students late to school in the morning and late to lessons. Parents/Carers are being notified when students are late as they are issued a C3 detention for 2 or more lates to lessons or for arriving late to school (between 8:40-9:10). Please be aware that students arriving to school after 9:10am are issued a U code which counts as a half day absence in their overall attendance as well as a C4 detention - 1 hour detention the following day.

Please encourage your child/children to move with pace and purpose when setting off for school and whilst at school - moving from one lesson to another, to ensure they are not missing any learning.

### **Equipment**

To allow a seamless start to each lesson/form period, students are expected to have their Planner, exercise book and equipment on their desk as soon as they are seated in their classroom. Please speak to your child/children about taking responsibility for being equipped for school. You may need to check if they are fully equipped to allow them to make excellent progress in lessons.

**All students are expected to bring a school bag to carry their exercise books, equipment and PE kit (when required).** In the event that a student forgets to bring their bag, Year teams will be in touch with you to ask you to drop off the school bag at main reception. As all students are expected to take their exercise books home - to allow them to complete any unfinished work, complete homework or revise for upcoming assessments, it is vital that they have their school bag each day.

Students should also have the following equipment daily:

Planner

Pencil case

Blue/black pens

Purple pens

Pencils

Scientific calculator (we recommend Casio FX-83GTX or Casio FX-85GTX)

Eraser

Ruler (30cm)

Additional Recommended Equipment:

Highlighters

Colouring pencils

Protractor

A compass

Glue stick

### **Uniform**

The Uniform expectations are outlined in the policy

<https://www.astonacademy.org/attachments/download.asp?file=172&type=pdf>.

Those students/families who were given an agreed timeframe to address a particular uniform issue must have the correct item of uniform for Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January. Any uniform discrepancies will be addressed by the Year teams who will be in touch with you if the issue cannot be resolved/addressed immediately. Please ensure students have removed extra piercings (including tongue piercings and clear piercings), false nails, false eyelashes, jewellery before they arrive to school each day.

With the weather being cooler students **are allowed to wear a plain black V neck jumper/cardigan** (no logos or branding) under their blazer but **not** instead of their blazer. The blazer and clip on tie is a non-negotiable aspect of uniform which clearly identifies Aston Academy students - absence of either of these may result in the student completing their learning in Reflection until the issue is resolved.

As always, we look forward to students and staff rejoining the Academy following the Christmas break and we'd like to thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards

Mrs Saeed

Principal