



# Aston Academy

Principal: Mr J Graham BSc (Hons), PGCE  
Executive Principal: Mrs R Hibberd BEd (Hons), MA  
CEO: Mrs R Scutt BSc (Hons), PGCE

Vice Principals:  
Miss C Anyon BA (Hons), PGCE  
Mrs S Moore BA MEd  
Mr P Wilson BSc (Hons)  
Ms F Haywood BA (Hons), PGCE

Aughton Road  
Swallownest  
Sheffield  
S26 4SF

Tel: 0114 287 2171  
info@astonacademy.org  
www.astonacademy.org



11 October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another Friday arrives and the end of a busy but slightly shortened school week.

Our recent staff INSET day has allowed our teaching and pastoral staff to review and discuss the implementation of our new behaviour and rewards policy launched in September. It is important that staff have the opportunity to do this together. It is an opportunity to discuss, amend and critically review our consistency and provision around behaviour and rewards (including teaching and rewarding positive behaviours). Overall, we are delighted at how well our students have adapted to our expectations; it has certainly led to a much more productive, happy and rewarding learning environment.

To support staff conversations during INSET day we enjoyed a keynote speech from Tom Bennett. Mr Bennett is an author and education research expert and was appointed the UK government's advisor on school behaviour, or 'behaviour tsar.' It was a fantastic opportunity for Aston Academy staff to gain information and guidance from the very best in the business!

This week I have enjoyed meeting our Y11 parents and carers as we welcomed students and their families to our revision festival. An amazing turn out, with many more in attendance than expected. Students hopefully went home with lots of free revision resources and parents and carers gained some insight into the challenges ahead for our Y11 students (not to forget some exciting Prom updates!). Large parent turn outs have been a theme for the last few weeks; our Y6 open evening had the highest attendance in recent years, we had so many visitors we had to repeat the parent presentation three times in order to fit everyone into our hall! A first for Aston Academy. It is fantastic to welcome parents into the academy to meet and speak to our staff.

Coming up next week we welcome our Y10 parents and carers on Wednesday to give details about the week-long work experience that all our Y10 students will have an opportunity to take part in during the summer term. Work experience forms part of our careers and enterprise provision we offer all students. More details can be found on our [website](#).

I am also looking forward to welcoming Jake Richards MP into the academy on Friday to discuss education, government support and how the academy can support the community we serve. Throughout the term I will be reaching out to our MPs, councillors and community leaders to ensure that the academy engages fully with our community. An important part of that is you, our parents and carers. Visiting the academy on our information evenings, parent forums, school events or meeting school staff to discuss any aspect of your child's education; you are always welcome.

Our attendance remains just above national average but has dropped a little since my last letter, which is disappointing. I hope we can increase our attendance over the final two weeks of this half term before the children enjoy a week-long break. Below is the average percentage absence for each weekday. You can see that Monday and Friday are our lowest student attendance.

Please support us in changing this trend and ensure all students are present every day of the week.



Resilience    Pride    Respect    Ambition    Responsibility

**Be Exceptional**

**Monday - 7.7% of students absent**

Tuesday - 6.4% of students absent

Wednesday - 6.5% of students absent

Thursday - 6.7% of students absent

**Friday - 8.0% of students absent**

Finally, I have included with this letter, following World Mental Health Day, some useful tips and suggestions and a reminder to us all to look out for each other.

The combination of home, school and student will make a difference.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Graham', written in a cursive style.

**Mr J Graham**  
**Principal**