



# 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)  
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Dear Parents/Carers,

The week started with a very touching two minutes silence for Remembrance Day. I was joined around our poppy display by some wonderful Y7 and Post 16 students to pay our respects. Thank you again to the art team for making the display and educating students (and staff) on the many different victims of war.

A huge well done to our Y13 and Y11 students who have shown tremendous resilience in their November trial examinations. This has been an extremely tiring week for these students, and we are very proud of their output. Staff are determined to ensure that students attain the best outcomes possible. For example, Y11 staff have delivered 30-minute exam master classes before every trial exam this week; we are always looking for marginal gains for our students. This week during the French/Spanish listening trial exams we have hired 'silent disco' headphones for all our Y11 students. This ensures that the students' exam experience is the best it possibly can be by cancelling external noise and providing sound quality.

Our constant quest for school improvement continued this week as we welcomed colleagues from the Willow Tree Academy Trust into Aston to support with a review of our current provision for students with SEND. They visited lessons, looked at our curriculum, spoke to staff and analysed our data. I believe that it is our willingness to seek out excellent practice, collaborate and welcome feedback (positive and developmental) that will support us in becoming the best provision for your children in Rotherham.

It is Children in Need day today at the academy - thank you to our Post 16 students and Mr Hall for arranging lots of fun activities for our students to enjoy. The Post 16 students look great in their fancy-dress costumes and together we will raise some money for an incredibly important cause.

Next week I have the honour of leading our school assemblies. I will be discussing the theme of 'thinking big' and 'overcoming barriers' with all our students. I will also feedback to students on our recent student council meetings. Our student council meet each half term to discuss things that are positive at the academy and things that students would like to address; a great forum to collate student voice. Assemblies will definitely be the highlight of the week for me.

Finally, last week we launched an initiative called '*Proud Thursday*'. We have staff located in our student reception at 3.00pm on Thursday and as students leave, we are encouraging them to come and tell us about something they have achieved. This could be inside school such as a piece of work or something outside school. I have really enjoyed receiving e-mails from parent/carers or students stopping me and telling me all about fantastic achievements outside school. We are proud of our students and want to celebrate these things with them. We can post onto Facebook (with your permission) and include photographs on our reception television screens.



Resilience    Pride    Respect    Ambition    Responsibility

**Be Exceptional**

I look forward to seeing our Y11 students and parents/carers at our Post 16 Open Evening on Monday 18 November, starting at 5.00pm. Please come and visit us to discuss and learn more about our Post 16 provision for your child, rated 'Good' by Ofsted. We offer smaller classes with more support, staff that know your child and how they learn, a quick/easy application process and of course excellent Post 16 outcomes and transition routes into university or carers.

Have a wonderful weekend.

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

Best regards,

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

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