



# Aston Academy

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

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9th December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

## Academy Improvement Term 1

As we approach the end of our first term of this academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to update you, our parents and carers, on some of the activities that the trust have been supporting the academy with to ensure that it continues to build upon the strengths that OFSTED recognised when they visited us this time last year, as well as addressing the areas for improvement they highlighted. By considering these areas, we are always focused on ensuring that the provision we offer our young people is strong, impactful and is based on sound educational research.

The trust strategic leaders and directors have been working alongside academy staff to review the curriculum offer to ensure that it is broad, balanced and ambitious with the intent that students leave us as confident, resilient and tolerant young adults who are fully equipped with all the skills necessary to take their place in modern society, whatever their chosen career path may be.

Our heads of faculty meet across the trust to share good practice and learn from and support each other. Our senior leaders are continually focused on academy improvement such as the implementation of a new assessment and reporting policy, which we have already received very positive feedback from parents and carers. We are now looking at reviewing the academy homework policy. If you wish to contribute any views to this process, then please do not hesitate to let us know, it would be greatly appreciated.

We also continue to work with academy leaders to ensure that reading development has the highest priority. Students in KS3 now spend time reading in lessons and have dedicated reading time in both their reading lesson and at least one tutor period per week. 'ERIC' (Everyone Reading in Class) is also a feature in all lessons in all key stages, teaching students the strategies needed to become fluent, confident readers.

Students in Y7 – 9 will now be completing two reading tests each year and we will continue to share these results with you. Teaching staff are fully aware of your child's reading age and use this information to support all students with their individual needs.

The 'Personal Development' of all our students is also a priority for us, whether this relates to careers, PHSE or RSE (Relationships and Sex Education). The trust leaders are working with academy staff to make sure we are not only compliant in these areas but that curriculum we offer is relevant and valued. The academy is working particularly hard to develop student resilience as we work towards a nationally recognised 'Resilience Award'. We will keep you informed about how we are getting along with this.



Resilience    Pride    Respect    Ambition    Responsibility

**Be Exceptional**

Prior to the summer holidays I wrote to share with you our new trust-wide 'Behaviour and Rewards Policy'. The aim of this is to ensure that all our students feel safe and well supported on a daily basis and that they are all able to learn without disruption and our teachers can teach without interruption. This policy has had considerable impact and is now allowing academy staff to focus on teaching and learning.

Our students have adapted well to the changes and can see the benefits of this new approach. We thank you so much for supporting academy staff too.

You will see from ClassCharts how many positive marks your children are achieving. When students do get it wrong, they are now very clear, as you are, about the consequences. Positive points overwhelmingly outweigh the negatives. We are enjoying celebrating the many achievements of our young people.

The mobile phone policy is now well established as is the uniform policy. Please continue to support academy leaders with all these areas so that they can spend the majority of their time focusing on curriculum, adaptive teaching, pastoral support as well as the learning of all our students.

The trust has also closely supported the work and development of our SEND and Inclusion staff. Cheryl Barquero, our trust lead, is now working in the academy four days each week to ensure that our students with SEND are supported closely so that they can succeed and prosper.

Regular external evaluations from 'Learn Sheffield' are helping us to consider and challenge our work as well as affirming the ways in which our academy is progressing.

The academy continues to go from strength to strength and we look forward to working with you all on this journey. We always welcome your feedback and support. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or wish to contribute ideas towards our onward journey.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and send best wishes to you all for the new year. We look forward to working with you in 2025.

Kind regards,



**Mrs R Hibberd**  
**Executive Principal**