

Aston Academy



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CEO: Mrs R Scutt BSc (Hons), PGCE

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Dear Parents/Carers,

A Christmas filled week comes to an end. Our students have enjoyed Christmas lunch with all the trimmings including Christmas crackers, our Christmas jumper day today and the wonderful Christmas Snowflake Fayre. A special thanks to Mr Sutcliffe and Miss Cocking for planning and running the event, very well supported by our fantastic PE faculty.

A highlight for me this week was my opportunity to join the partnership and networking meeting hosted at Aughton Parish Hall. It pulled together community leaders, charity organisations and professionals who work with adults and children in the local areas including Aston, Todwick, Swallownest and Aughton. It was an excellent opportunity for me to ensure that Aston Academy is represented in the community and fully inputs/supports community matters and initiatives. I hope that the meeting and our continued attendance at such events will bring collaborations and opportunities to our school that will benefit and support our students and the wider Aston community.

On Thursday we welcomed colleagues from Learn Sheffield into the academy again. You will remember that we are working with Learn Sheffield - they are independent partners who will assess and monitor progress made by the academy and highlight areas for further improvement. The visit this time focused on student voice with our Key Stage 4 and Post 16 students, our Science lessons/provision and Personal Development delivery during tutor time. I was delighted by the feedback which specifically highlighted the impact of the actions staff and leaders have implemented since September. To reach our goal of being the top school in Rotherham we also need development points; the feedback provided gives a clear focus on the points to improve upon - the work on these begins immediately, ready to assess during our next visit.

In our Y7-Y10 assemblies this week I spoke to our students about vapes and the dangers attached to these. I explained to the children that the evidence is very clear that if a child vapes, they become addicted very quickly. From our experience students who vape regularly attempt to miss lessons/truant, have poor punctuality/attendance, find it difficult to concentrate for 60 minutes or complete more challenging tasks. We will continue to educate about the risks and this week I have been reaching out to colleagues in the NHS and RMBC public health to offer support to any academy student who might need support if worried about vaping.

Next week will be a four-day week for all our students. *We break up for the Christmas holidays at 3.00pm on Thursday 19 December.* I hope that a four-day week will support full attendance until Thursday at 3.00pm. In the run up to Christmas we do not want all the hard work by students and staff around maintaining good attendance to drop. We have planned some great celebrations for our students and a few surprises for the form classes with the best attendance in each year group. The students must be 'in it to win it' meaning that they must be present to enjoy the rewards.

Have a wonderful weekend.

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

Best regards,

Mr J Graham
Principal



Resilience Pride Respect Ambition Responsibility

Be Exceptional