



# 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



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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you have had a successful week. It has been fantastic to see so many students get back into extra-curricular activities in the new year. That could be competitive activities such as our fantastic sporting successes in the Rotherham indoor athletics competition or the range of recreational clubs such as sign language club, games design club or origami club to name a few. Please encourage your child to take advantage of all the things happening after 3.00pm. In assembly this week our children have been reflecting and learning about Holocaust as part of the Memorial Day. I thought the video shown in assembly was a particularly good message about the power of our voices – you can watch it [here](#).

I have frequently mentioned in my Friday letters the lengths we are going to as an academy to ensure that we can identify areas to improve, but more importantly seek out the best possible advice on how to advance these areas and then work with the best practice currently in education. To this length we have again opened our door to educational experts this week to work with our leaders in behaviour/attitudes, curriculum and SEND.

This week we had two days from Learn Sheffield who worked with behaviour leads to look at the data we collect on student behaviour/attitudes. We worked on how we can use this effectively to track, support and intervene to better support our students. Today we are welcoming colleagues from another trust to work with our curriculum and SEND leads; this will be the first of ten working visits. They will visit classes, speak to our students and review our systems and processes in these areas. We want to offer the best opportunities to your children and strive to be the best secondary school in Rotherham. These and other collaborations will help us achieve this.

In my January Friday letters I have been explaining our lesson 'non-negotiables'. You will remember that these are key teaching techniques or tasks staff use in each lesson to promote knowledge and understanding. These are the routines and habits students experience every day to support learning. Our fourth non-negotiable is ERIC.

ERIC stands for Everyone Reading In Class and forms the basis of our Trust-wide reading strategy. Reading is a high priority at Aston Academy. ERIC is a key feature in all lessons. ERIC consists of nine reading strategies:

- 1) Predict
- 2) Empathise
- 3) Visualise
- 4) Infer
- 5) Skim
- 6) Question
- 7) Read closely
- 8) Scan
- 9) Reading backwards and forwards



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**Be Exceptional**

The strategies are covered across the curriculum and are actively taught in all lessons. ERIC logos are displayed on resources as a visual stimulus for students. Once per half term, we have 'Reading Weeks' and this gives teaching staff another opportunity to actively practise the ERIC strategies using a variety of different extracts, fiction and non-fiction, for the 'Do Now' task every lesson, every day. Please ask your child which ERIC strategies they have used in class today.

Next week I am very much looking forward to welcoming our Y9 parents and carers for the launch of the GCSE options process. This is always a very exciting time for our Y9 students, and we look forward to helping them make big decisions about the subjects they will study and perhaps pursue as a career. Our options evening is on Tuesday 4 February; we have two identical presentations, one at 4.15pm and the second at 5.30pm.

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 read 'J Graham', written in a cursive style.

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