



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



7 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

As I wrote in my letter to you on Wednesday, this week our thoughts and prayers have been with the families, staff and community of All Saints Catholic High School. I understand that incidents of this nature will be deeply distressing for our young people, their families and our staff. Please be reassured that safeguarding remains our highest priority. We are committed to the well-being of everyone at Aston Academy as well as the local community we serve.

Today the whole school has practiced our 'lock down' drill. This helps students and staff become familiar with one of the strategies we could use if we are concerned about the safety of our school community. I was extremely proud of how well the students responded to this drill. We also took time today to speak to all the students to remind them how we can safeguard each other and avoid any behaviours that may result in risk, harm or injury. I am sure as parents you have been doing the same at home this week. Any student who does not adhere to this faces permanent exclusion.

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 fifth non-negotiable is live marking.

Live marking and navigating the room refers to how a teacher supports students when they are completing the 'I do' part of the lesson- the independent task. A teacher will navigate around the seating plan, ensuring those students who need a bit more support in starting a task are seen first. Whilst navigating the room, teachers are checking the work of the students and intervening to either encourage a child to continue due to outstanding work, or to give feedback of how to improve. This is completed verbally or using a green pen there and then in the moment. By taking the live marking approach teachers are nipping misconceptions in the bud and not allowing students to go a full lesson without understanding how to complete a task or completing a task wrong. Please ask your child to identify some feedback they have had today in class (either verbal or in green pen in books) and what they did as a result of this.

This week it was wonderful to meet so many of our Y9 parents/carers and students at the launch of our KS4 subject options process. It is a very exciting time for our Y9 students as they begin to choose the subjects and specialise in the areas that they are most passionate about. I wonder what us adults would choose if we had the chance to go back and specialise in certain areas or follow our career dreams! [Here](#) is a link to the website that contains information about our KS4 subject choices. Even if your child is not choosing this year, it might interest you to read what's offered or to watch our subject videos.

Finally, good luck and safe journey to the students and staff who are visiting New York next week and over half term. What an amazing opportunity and adventure. We can't wait to see the pictures and hear the stories.



Resilience Pride Respect Ambition Responsibility

Be Exceptional

After the week our local communities have had, this weekend I hope that you can spend time with those most important to you. As we say to our students, it is everyone's responsibility to keep each other safe at home, school, work and in our daily lives.

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