



Aston Academy

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5 September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back. I hope all our families and students have enjoyed a wonderful summer break and perhaps had the opportunity to visit other places, enjoy the outdoors or simply spend some time together.

It has been lovely to welcome the children back into school. A very warm Aston Academy welcome to our new Y7 cohort and their families. We very much look forward to getting to know your children and supporting them through secondary education.

I began writing the Friday Principal update this time last year and the feedback seems to have been positive. For those that may not have read or received it before, the idea is to strengthen the bond between home and school by sharing information. I try not to include the general information that will be communicated separately but instead share what has been happening within the academy that week; causes to celebrate, areas we are trying to improve and updates you may find interesting.

Within our staff body we speak about the importance of *'team'*. Everyone with a common goal and purpose - to provide the best possible experience, opportunities and education for our children. I hope the Friday update is a way of including our families in that team, on a journey together. At Aston Academy I want to foster a sense of *'belonging'* - a place everyone can feel welcome, part of and proud of.

This is a good time to thank our amazing site and premises teams who have worked tirelessly over the summer holidays to make some considerable changes to the academy. We have tried to listen to your feedback when choosing the structural work to complete in the summer. For example, we have completely renovated and refitted four toilet blocks, including all fixtures and fittings. We have created two brand new science labs and created more Science, English and RE classrooms. We hope this will provide the best environments to learn as well as creating a more logical flow of movement around the academy. We have also fitted four new water fountains in our student reception area.

Another considerable change has been our new partnership with Mellors catering. Mellors are now the suppliers of all our break and lunchtime meals. We are still in the process of fully implementing all their systems but already the feedback has been tremendous. New menus, more choice and exciting foods. I have attached examples of the three-weekly menu with this letter. We look forward to the partnership and can't wait for all their plans and systems to be fully implemented. If you wish to learn a little more about them, please click [here](#).

We have had an extremely busy summer and I hope you can see our desire and motivation to give your children the best opportunities to thrive while at school. Perhaps the highlight of the summer was celebrating the tremendous successes of our Y13 and Y11 students in their summer exams. We would like to congratulate all the students on completing their studies and beginning their next adventure.

We have had many successes across all subjects, but I have included a few maths and English headlines below -

1. The number of students achieving a grade 4 or above in English placed the school third overall in Rotherham out of 16 Rotherham schools.
2. The results for students achieving grade 4 or above in English were 7% above the national averages for schools in England.
3. Within Maths the numbers of students achieving grade 4 or above was above Rotherham local authority averages.
4. 5% more Aston Academy students achieved a grade 5 or above in maths than the average across all other Rotherham schools.



Resilience Pride Respect Ambition Responsibility

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5. More Y11 Aston Academy students achieved a grade 4 or above in Maths and English compared to the Rotherham local authority average and 5% more students left with a grade 5 or above in Maths and English compared to the Rotherham local authority average.

So, plenty to celebrate and for our students to be proud of. I would also like to praise the work, commitment and dedication of our Y11 teachers - the lessons plans, marking, revision sessions, phone calls, emails and weekend/after school boosters. A true team effort. Thank you.

Have a wonderful weekend, when it arrives and next week I will share some of the exciting things coming up this term, our first set of attendance figures and hopefully some causes for celebrations.

Below I have included some useful email addresses that you may want to take note of.

Year Teams

- Y7: aa-y7leadershipteam@astonacademy.org
- Y8: aa-y8leadershipteam@astonacademy.org
- Y9: aa-y9leadershipteam@astonacademy.org
- Y10: aa-y10leadershipteam@astonacademy.org
- Y11: aa-y11leadershipteam@astonacademy.org
- Post 16: aa-post16leadershipteam@astonacademy.org

Safeguarding

- aa-safeguarding@astonacademy.org

SEND

- aa-send@astonacademy.org

Attendance

- aa-attendance@astonacademy.org

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

Have a wonderful weekend.

Best regards,



Mr J Graham
Principal