



ASTON ACADEMY PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

With your commitment, we will make a difference

March 2024



Proud moments this half term...

Compared to Term 1, we have improved in the following areas:

- Overall attendance in all year groups, number of student rewards, student behaviour, less students persistently absent, student academic progress grades, more opportunities for our students/trips, Academy staff attendance, more staff qualified as mental health first aiders.
- Opportunity to thrive – trips, including New York and Ski trips, more extra curricular activities, stronger and more external support for student mental health.
- More competitions - sporting, academic and extra-curricular, competing against Rotherham, Yorkshire and national schools and a whole school showcase.
- Stronger communication and collaborations with our community, including our parents/carers, community leaders and councillors. Including face to face meetings, opportunities to visit the academy, weekly letters and information leaflets. We are trying to over communicate – make information available and our weekly progress, including our vision and aims shared

These and many other gains, small and large, mean that together the academy, student and home are making a positive difference. THANK YOU.

Highlights to look forward to...

- The beginning of our external summer exams for Y13 and Y11.
- Our consultation evenings for Y8.
- Hearing about the amazing Easter Ski trip.
- Continuing our drive to improve attendance in all areas, including reducing the number of students who have attendance below 90%.
- Continue to build links in our local community through student work experience, reward opportunities and provision for our students' community
- More external visitors, both community and educational

External visits – this term we have been delighted to work with Northern Education Trust and Learn Sheffield. Both have visited the academy a number of times to review, feedback and develop our provisions around:

- Science and PSHE curriculums
- Reading and reading provisions across all year groups
- Behaviour and attitudes – trends, positive impact and next steps
- SEND, adaptive teaching and inclusion for students in all year groups.

These visits will continue during Term 5.

My favourite piece of student voice from a Year 7 student...

"The best thing about stepping up to Aston Academy has been making new friends and learning lots of new subjects. We cover things in more depth and detail than KS2. I really like the after school clubs too, and I play for two teams."

ROTHERHAM HEALTHY HOLIDAYS PROGRAMME IS BACK THIS EASTER

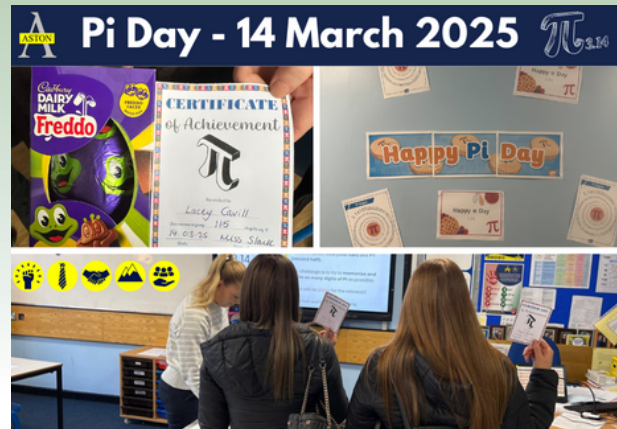
Early booking is recommended with Healthy Holiday providers. Please click [here](#).



Have a wonderful break. Thank you for your support, from myself and all staff at Aston Academy.

During the holidays, if you have a concern that is of a serious nature, which may have serious consequences, please email aa-safeguarding@astonacademy.org.

A SNAPSHOT OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS THIS TERM...



↑ ✈️ Departures

NEW YORK 2025



Aston Academy students went stateside in February 2025 with an incredible trip to New York City! A group of 45 students from Years 10-13 braved a midnight departure from school for the overnight trans-Atlantic journey - but their energy and enthusiasm never flagged. Within an hour of arriving at the Midtown Manhattan New Yorker Hotel we were soaking up the atmosphere in Times Square before grabbing some much needed pizza and heading to the summit of the iconic Rockerfeller Centre for incredible panoramic views of the city at night.

A packed few days followed, including a very moving tour of the World Trade Centre Memorial Museum, a walking tour of the financial district, Chinatown, Little Italy and the Brooklyn Bridge, plenty of shopping opportunities and some very welcome 'down time' in the beautiful morning frost of Central Park. A snowy visit to Lady Liberty made for some truly iconic photo moments.





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SOME LOVELY FEEDBACK FROM THE RECENT Y7 THEATRE TRIP

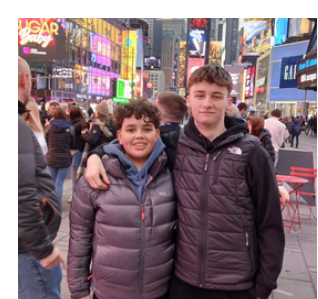
'They made no undue noise, joined in when appropriate and seemed to enjoy the performance. Very impressed!'

'The pupils were well behaved and it was lovely to see young people so engaged with live performances.'

'Their behaviour during the pre-show assembly, the performance itself and the post-show departure was exemplary and a tribute to the obviously caring accompanying staff.'

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