

Aston Academy

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Principal: James Graham BSc (Hons), PGCE

CEO: Rebecca Scutt BSc (Hons), PGCE

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Striving for **Excellence**
Empowering Achievement
Shaping **Learning**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Today is the end of our first half term of the academic year. We are delighted at the significant progress we have made together over the eight weeks, but remain extremely motivated to ensure the areas we have identified for development will continue to be our priority as we move into half term 2. In particular we have been very pleased with the level of student engagement, progress and attitude to their work. Here are a couple of things I am particularly proud of:

- Our student attendance has been its highest for six years and is above Rotherham and Yorkshire school averages.
- The work rate and resilience shown by our examination cohorts in Y11 and Y13. They have made a great start and after half term begin the first set of trial exams - we wish them the best of luck with these.
- My third proud Principal moment this half term is how our Y7 students have settled into the school - their manners and high expectations of themselves is something that shines out everyday.

It is a heartfelt thank you to you, our parent/carers for your support of our routines and high expectations of your child when they are at school. I would also like to highlight and thank the tireless work of our teaching and support staff. I am in a wonderful position to see daily the small and large things they do for the children that enable them to achieve, belong and thrive when at the academy.

At the end of a half term it is natural that we also think about development areas. We have still not been able to fully embed our new catering systems which mean that many parents are still finding difficulty accessing accurate account information for their children. Thank you for your patience with this and we know that Mellors catering company are working very hard to fix the issue for all parents. Our data and observations have shown that students are still missing chunks of learning due to regular toilet visits during lesson time. We are aware that for some this is necessary but for many these visits mean gaps in learning and disruption of classroom routines. Class Charts allows parent/carers to see logs of toilet visits so you can support with speaking to your child if you believe these visits to be excessive.

This week has been our first rewards week of the academic year and a huge number of students have been getting recognition for their hard work, attendance and positive attitude. We have had hot chocolate mornings, film sessions, quizzes, treats, certificates and each year group has enjoyed celebration assemblies. Students have won prizes including Just Eat and Amazon vouchers, chocolate and treats galore. You will remember that our rewards budget this year has been supplemented by our [easy fundraising](#) page.

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Already this page has raised over £531, with every single penny going into student rewards. If you have not signed up please follow the link and get started. Your support would be greatly appreciated. Please share with family and friends, it is easy to use and means we can afford more rewards, more often for more students!

At the end of a busy half term I thought it a good time to update you on our sports performances. Parents/carers may know that I am a huge sport enthusiast and certainly value the positive role it can play in a young persons life, wellbeing and sense of belonging when at school.

Our numbers taking part in football continue to go from strength to strength, we are proud to say we have teams available for boys and girls in all year groups (Y7 - Y11), with regular fixtures against other Rotherham schools. I am very much looking forward to watching the progress of our Y7, Y8, Y10 and Y11 teams who have all progressed to the quarter final stage of the Rotherham Cup. Hopefully some silverware will be coming our way soon!

We have made a very positive start to the Netball season this academic year. It has been really lovely to see lots of students attending, both old and new! All year groups have experienced success throughout our fixtures so far but a special mention goes to our Year 7 team who are currently unbeaten. Sport brings out many positive qualities and this season our netballers have shown great resilience and commitment. It has also been really special to have some of our wonderful Y11 Sports Leaders helping out with training this half term. We really appreciate their support and they have been excellent role models to our younger students.

Our aesthetic sports are an area that continues to grow. If you attended our Performance Showcase last year you will know how talented and dedicated these students are. Like in our Netball club, KS3 dance this year has been supported by a group of 5 amazing student coaches. Our dance troupes are learning a dance in preparation for the showcase in 2026. Our tumbling students who are attending the Gymnastics club have also started working on the performance piece for the Aston Academy Showcase. This year we have both a KS3 and KS4 cheerleading teams, due to the large number of students in attendance. Both teams have made a great start to the year developing their skills and working on perfecting the fundamental skills needed in a routine. The teams will start working on their routines for the Cheerleading Nationals competition after the October half term - it is wonderful that our students get the chance to compete and perform at a national level. An extremely popular sports club has been trampolining - the club has full sessions for both KS3 and KS4 students. The students are able to work through skills at their own pace from basic shapes and bounce technique to flips and somersaults!

I can't recommend enough the benefits of joining a club - this might be for competition or simple recreation, we have lots to choose from. Well done to students and staff involved. It is important to me that our students are proud of their school and community, knowing that our sports teams and groups can compete and win against anyone in Rotherham, Yorkshire or beyond. I have reported many times that the opportunities Aston Academy provides within and outside the classroom allow all our students to achieve, belong and thrive.

Below I have included again some very useful email addresses. Our telephone lines can become very busy at certain times of the day. An email often means that your query or information gets to the team much quicker meaning it will be actioned sooner also. Please try to direct correspondence through these channels if a phone call is not necessary at that moment.

Year Teams

- Y7: aa-y7leadershipteam@astonacademy.org
- Y8: aa-y8leadershipteam@astonacademy.org
- Y9: aa-y9leadershipteam@astonacademy.org

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- Y10: aa-y10leadershipteam@astonacademy.org
- Y11: aa-y11leadershipteam@astonacademy.org
- Post 16: aa-post16leadershipteam@astonacademy.org

Safeguarding

- aa-safeguarding@astonacademy.org

SEND and Inclusion

- aa-send@astonacademy.org

Attendance

- aa-attendance@astonacademy.org

We will enjoy a rest next week before looking forward again to a very busy half term 2. We have a number of important and exciting events coming up such as Y11 and Y13 trials exams , anti-bullying week, period 6 revision starting for Y11, trips, reading weeks, Y11 consultation evening on Monday 8 December, Christmas Snowflake Fayre and amazing Christmas rewards week.

Half term also provides an opportunity to update and correct any uniform issues and restock pencil cases. A reminder that from 8.10am – 8.30am each morning we have a stationery shop open that will sell black pens, pencils, rulers, white board pens. All items will be 10p. Students missing equipment will go to the stationery shop before 8.30am and purchase missing items. The charge will be taken from parent pay account. I would hope that £2 is more than enough to cover an academic year for lost or forgotten equipment items (that is 20 items). To ensure your child is able to access the stationery shop and be fully equipped each day please can you deposit £2 into the parent pay account titled – ‘stationery equipment’.

Have a wonderful half term with your children and my staff and I will be ready to welcome them back on Monday 3 November from 8.10am.

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

Have a wonderful weekend.

Best regards,



Mr J Graham
Principal

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